16 Winter Ridge Rd.,
Cedar Falls, IA., 50613,
5 January 1975

Dear Vance:

So, I've missed our correspondence too, but wotthehell, you're so busy you don't do genealogy any more and so you don't write. Wish that something else could be turned up on Honey Bill. If I only had the W.Co. deeds here to work with, I might turn up something--he got land somewhere or other, somehow or other, and it might be significant. There are other Robertses to track down too--especially John and Rebecca, whom I take to be Benjie's brother and wife. I'd love to take the deeds and a large map and go to work plotting holdings of all my kinfolk.

Which is why I"m writing. Betsy has been working deeds for Edmistons/Edmondsons, and I think we have some of the ownership of the lands around your place figured out.

It all starts in 1789, when John Edmiston (E-5) picked up 320 acres on Mill Creek from one Thomas Denton. In 1793, he picked up the other 320 acres of the same tract. This land would include, as far as I can tell: McKay and Feinhey, parts of the Herbert, Bell, Ir Miriam Fly Hildebrand, Harden D. Fly, and Charley Edmondson places, maybe more.

In 1798, John deeded the northern 320 acres to his son John, E-5-1, and the southern 320 to his nephew John Edmondson, E-2-1. Where John E-5 lived thereafter is a good question, since he seems to have had no other land and he died in Davidson Co in 1816--but all this land is W.Co. Might have lived with daughter Mrs. Samuel Bell, or with son David (who also died in 1816).

Anyway, John Jr. (E-5-1) sold off 100 acres of his 320 to JohnChamp in 1803. This is said to be by Mayfield's old station, wherever that was--probably the northern part of the tract, possibly on the D Co. side(interestingly enough, a kinsman, my uncle Thomas Edmondson, bought the Mayfield tract in 1813, and he certainly lived in D.Co. although not too close to the line).

John Jr. sold another 50 A in 1826 to his son Alfred. This I would think could well be McKay and Finney. Alfred got another 6¼ acres in 1828--adjoining Richard Herbert, so the Herberts were already west of the Edmondsons, I assume. By the way, Alfred's 50 A adjoined David Cummins, and the Cummins land was I am sure north of the tract. Alfred sold his 56¼ acres to his brother Hiram in 1830 when he took off for Kentucky. Description includes that it was south of David Cummins and northest of Richard Herbert(Herbert's N.E. corner mentioned).

Hiram picked up another 111 acres from his dad in 1830, also on Richard Herbert's line and lines of Andrew Crockett and Herbert Owen. This land I would take to be part of the present Herbert place. Some of it might be across the road, but I'd guess it's all west of same.

That leaves 52½ acres out of the original 320 for John Jr. He picked up another 96 in 1825 from Harry Smith. This was northerly, since it adjoined David Cummins again, and I expect it was the W. H. Williams place. The 52½ acres then had to be part of what is now the Charley Edmondson place.

it contained 164 1/2 acres for $4,407.29 1/4 to be paid in several payments. Hines has paid part of the amount and is willing to pay the balance as soon as he is able to get a deed to the property. Sharp has died some time since in Mississippi where he removed from Tennessee and carried most of his property with him. Ann Sharp is the widow of Sumner N. Sharp and Margaret and Louisa are his children. They are minors, Margaret is about 6 or 8 years old and Louisa is about 2 or 3 years old. Sumner has little if any property left in Tennessee. Hines wants a deed made out for the property. He has made many valuable and lasting improvements on the land.

Found in the loose records in Williamson County

Filed 1840 Margaret W. McCutchen married John McCutchen 27 January 1825 and became seized in her own right of 53 acres and 100 poles of land being part of a 220 acre tract belonging to the heirs of her father John Edmondson who died in 1826. The tract of land that Margaret got was too small for a farm and her husband was threatening to move to a new country to which she was opposed. To prevent moving, in 1827 she agreed to sell the land if John would take the money to purchase lands lying on the Harpeth between Williamson and Davidson Counties in a neighborhood where she desired to live. On Jan. 1829 they conveyed her land to John Edmondson for $450 and on Oct. 1829 purchased 48 acres lying on Little Harpeth and on Sept. 1829 he purchased from Samuel Allen another tract of 52 acres in Davidson County on Otter Creek. On 4 Feb. 1830 he purchased frpm Samuel B. McCutchen a tract containing 76 1/2 acres on Little Harpeth in Williamson and Davidson Counties. In Sept. 1830, John McCutchen died intestate leaving one child, John E. McCutchan who was born Nov. 6, 1825. When John died he left unpaid accounts on tracts of land. William H. McCutchen was appointed admr. of his brother , John's, estate. Margaret also owned a tract of land in Lincoln County containing 300 acres and which John sold to a Mr. Reed. She was alloted a dower in 1831. In 1837 her son, John E. McCutchen died intestate and she was appointed his admr.

Catharine B. McCutchen, one of the 4 heirs of Robert McCutchen has conveyed her interest in said lands. On Oct. 10, 1829 Margaret purchased from Patrick H. McCutchen his interest in the land belonging to the estate of her son. Patrick H. was a brother of her husband John McCutchan.

Deposition of Martha G. McCutchan taken Sept. 1840. I was acquainted with John McCutchen. He was living at my house at the time he was married. He bought a negro boy after he married and William McCutchen afterwards got the negro. At John's death he had 2 negro girls he got from the estate of his wife's father. During his last illness, I was at John's house and heard Margaret, his wife, say to him, "There is your sister Martha, if you want to see her." I went to John's bed and he told me if anything should happen to him he wanted his property fixed so his wife could enjoy it.

This is where John Jr. lived. He sold the whole works, 174½ acres (which is 24 more than the deeds show he had) to Bacon John Edmondson in 1838, Bacon John being Charley E's grandfather. That deed reserves ½ acre for a graveyard, so the graveyard ought to be on Charley's place, but presumably near the road, unless some of Hiram's holdings went across the road. So, the graveyard on your homeplace near Charley's house could be the E-5 graveyard just maybe.

Hiram sold off 96 acres in 1838 to Jeremiah Primm, but this sounds as though it was on the west side of the road--adjoins Herbert, David Bell, and where John Edmiston lives (which may mean that it extended across the road--if the road was there then and not located elsewhere, which is possible of course). Hiram sold his other 71½ acres to Robert N. Herbert in 1839 when he went to Missouri. So that takes care of the northern part of the tract.

As for the ~~wourth~~ southern 320 acres, John E-2-1 sold off 200 of it to David Bell in 1818--but still had 220 when he died in 1826--and David Bell apparently had only 125 ± when he died. Youf figure that one out. It is not clear what happened to John's land after he died, but no doubt the kids got it somehow or other. There was a petition for partition, so a partition may be on record and not yet discovered. Could be the Bell line was readjusted at that point.

John's son William married a Winstead, of course, and he seems to have specialized in Winstead land, from the deeds. This I assume is the area of the John Koen farm and marks where he lived, and not in the family neighborhood.

Ergo, Bacon John must have gotten the remaining Denton land, and since he's buried on the Hildebrand place, that confirms it. He presumably had the Hildebrand place and the Harden Fly place, for a start. In 1851, he picked up 140 acres from William S. Holland which Elizabeth Edmondson allegedly deeded to Holland--she could be William's widow and this could be another hunk of E-2-1's original land. Somehow, your home place and Mr. Charley's were part of this holding too. Some of the additional land was probably picked up by Bacon John's children--we have not run deeds beyond 1851 as yet.

I add up about 400 A (412?) for all of those holdings, which is more than John E-2-1 had, I guess, but no need to track it further anyway.

So, there's some of the tangle undone on who lived where around you. Thought you might have fun knowing about it.

Wait a mo--that 140 acres to John E. from Elizabeth via Wm. Holland probably does not belong here. That's Elizabeth's son John, I'll wager, and it is probably part of William's land, maybe Winstead land. If we leave that out, we get:

320 orig. grant - 200 to Bell	= 120	or 220 if 100 to Bell
174½ from John E-5-1	= 294½	or 394½
10 from Samuel Cummins 1837	= 304½	or 404½

and that comes out pretty darned close to 412 for the Edmondson land you marked off. Close enough to call the thing pretty well solved.

Nothing to start another page with, except much good wishes and all that. Slow down and enjoy life! Come to Iowa!

Howard

16 Winter Ridge Road,
Cedar Falls, Iowa, 50613,
22 January 1972

Dear Vance:

Your very provocative letter came this morning, and I have been pouring over maps trying to figure things out. The 1878 map does not quite agree with your division of the properties, but I never did figure that the 1878 map was very accurate anyway.

Of course there's a problem in trying to figure out the original holdings when one has not collected all the family deeds--no way to tell what was picked up later and what alienated from the original holding. However, some few things look clear.

I hope you kept a copy of the map so I can refer to it by number. First off, #1 (McKay and Finney) I'll bet are right in that they had an original Edmondson house--only not the one they think it is. If the front part of #2 was sold by Hiram to Herbert, then #1 probably was the northern 320 of John Edmiston's (E-5) 640 he bought. He may well have built a house there, and if he did not, his son probably did, and his son was also John of course. Hence the confusion. In short, his original John Edmiston house was built by either the uncle or the first cousin of the John Edmondson who is the neighbors' ancestor.

I am much intrigued by the possibility of a cemetery there: didn't the Historical Society sleuths look for it? Chances are that there is indeed one there. John's land extended over to the Davidson County side, but he may well have built the house in the southern part of the property.

This would put John Edmondson's house (E-2-1) on #4, the Hildebrand place, which is logical, since the cemetery is there. Possibly John and Barbara Hayes are buried there, unmarked.

The David Bell land conceivably could have been Edmondson land, since David married a daughter of E-2-1.

#7, Blanche's place. What Hunt and Edmondson got married c. 1840? I have no record of same at all! Only Edmondson I have who married a Hunt was Samuel, and that was later than 1840, and I have no children for him (E-2-1-4-9, son of Wm. and Elizabeth Winstead). He's buried on the Koen farm. Of course he is Blanche's great-uncle, but did he leave it to her? It's Hunt land in 1878, by the way, with an S. E. Edmondson next door on #6--which is probably the same Samuel, or at least I don't know who else it might be. Wonder which Edmondson heirs sold #6?

1878 map has Currans in #8 and # 10 both. By the way, do you indeed know Mrs. Mayhew Jones and is she of these Currans? She hasn't yet answered my kindly letter.

13, 14, 15 may have been part of the original Edmondson land, or may have been bought by Henry Cummins E. I, if he bought. He's shown as living on #14 in 1878. His brother David seems to be on #12. Maybe H.C. bought that out too.

In 1878, it looks as though #15 were occupied by an Aaron family. Might be still Edmondson land, since Bacon John's sixth daughter Elizabeth married an Aaron. If so, it might indicate that indeed Bacon John had all the land on both sides of the road for quite a ways there.

I'd be very dubious that #17 has an Edmondson cemetery. No evidence at all that I have found to put them that far south. No early deeds for them in that area at all, as far as I know. In fact, all the first settlers are now

pretty well located, and there'd be no reason to go off down there, unless there was an early church or campground, of course.

As for #18, I wonder if that might have been Winstead land? In 1878, C. Edmondson is there, and this presumably is Charles S., son of William and Elizabeth Winstead, who is buried there with so many of his family. Incidentally, Betsy tells me that Flora Edmondson Ragsdale, who died not too long ago, inherited the land where Harding Mall is from Edmondson side. Funny, for that land is in the very area where Thomas and Robert Edmondson seem to have lived, but they're not her branch of the family at all, at all.

One other scrap: when Margaret Caroline Edmondson (or Carline M. on tomb, E-2-1-6-11) died in 1899, she willed her property, bounded by Phillips and Herbert, to Robert C. Richardson. I assume that Robert was a son of her sister (or grandson), Miriam Lewis Edmondson who married James H. Richardson. Must be son, grandson would be young. Sounds like somewhere near #2 of course.

Well, once the cemetery book comes out (if it ever does), I'll have some pleasant hours with it and then we'll know whose graves are missing. We've got the old cemetery on your homeplace in which to park someone or other.

Wish I could get microfilms of W-Co. deeds as I have been doing with Virginia county deeds. I'd have me a field day plotting all this stuff. I could buy them, I suppose, but yoicks! Besides, it's more a matter of curiosity now rather than something indispensable to my research on the family.

I've been prowling Halifax County deeds the past few days. Did not turn up anything of value to me. There is a large and lively Roberts family there, but not in any way demonstrably connected to mine, although there is a Francis Roberts who may be the same one who turns up in Charlotte Co. living not far from my Fuquas. Also, some of my Haleys, or relatives at least from the names, are there. Only about three vagrant Fuqua references, so no help on that line either.

I did turn up some Warrens, including a William Warren, so am sending you a copy of what I found (plus Vernon a couple of times). Betsy is a Warren descendant, so have been watching for them for her too. Did not notice any Marshalls, but was not watching for them either. If this William Warren is your friendly guardian to Honey Bill, there are loads of Robertses to choose from in the county. Have not tried to sort them out as yet.

If'n I were you, and if'n I were you and could find the time, I'd start out by finding when William Warren came to W Co., through deeds &c. If it was after 1804, when Honey Bill was born (or 1805 or whatever), I'd check W-Co. court order books to see if there is any record of guardianship or apprenticeship.

I'm off to Cumberland County next. Might turn up the Fuquas there. It's sure time-consuming to work through these microfilms, but lots of fun too. I keep noticing how often the deeds actually have genealogical information--and I think too few people seem to have worked with them much.

Nothing with which to start another page, I guess.

Comme toujours,

Howard

16 Winter Ridge Road,
Cedar Falls, Iowa, 50613,
8 January 1972

Dear Vance:

I'm glad you like the Edmondson article: I'm still not at all sure that I do, but I keep looking at it without finding ways to change it. Seems that there ought to be so much more to say, for one thing, and then too, I think the ending is rather purple--but how do you end it affirmatively?

Enjoyed your reminiscences about the local Edmondsons very much. They do sound familiar. Would be fun to see them and their family albums and see if by any chance they look like us at all. Not that my bunch look alike by any means, but there are some physical traits that seem to be present for the three generations for which I have pictures. I'm supposed to be kind of Edmondson-looking myself, but not entirely. Nonetheless, I have passed for one of my uncle's sons when in Springfield. I've seen pictures of the Little Harpeth Edmistons, and they don't look like us at all. On the other hand, the late J. Howard Edmondson of Oklahoma, former governor, had our look--but then he was descended from Lt. Robert and thus definitely of my branch.

Of course too I'd like to have a chat with Miss Blanche and with Harden Alley. Some time when you're talking with the latter, ask her what she knows of her uncles Thomas and John. You'll note they're both very blank in my write-up.

I suppose that your family home might be a house built by E-2-1-6, Bacon John, if the first Henry Cummins lived there. Henry was eldest son of John, and would be the logical one to inherit. Unless it was a Cummins place and came to Bacon John from his wife, or to Henry from his momma. On the other hand, the Bacon John house ought to be on the Harden Edmondson land--or the Meriam Fly Hildebrand land, since the family is buried there. I've got to get the exact location of those houses pinned down some day. Can you give me a quick sketch?

I would assume the other Edmondson house ought to be William who married the Winstead--and he would presumably inherit the home place, where old John lived. I doubt that John's house would survive, of course.

Wait a mo--I note that my write-up on Henry Cummins says, from Goodspeed, that he had 180 acres on which he settled in 1856. So maybe he bought it, and the old house is not Edmondson after all. What sayeth the old map?

Yup, J. Edmondson is up the Edmondson Pike a ways, and H.C. is quite separate, somewhat north of Liberty Church. Is this your place? I also note a D.E., which I assume would be David Cummins, down the Pike a ways. And where's the John Koen farm where the other ones are buried? Is this where S.E. Edmondson is shown, still farther south on the Edmondson Pike?

Incidentally, I still don't know why there is an Edmondson branch shown quite a bit east of the Edmondson Pike on my topographical survey map. Looks purty far away from the holdings to have the family name, and I don't know of anyone else over that way.

Returning to a bit above, Bacon John must have gotten the home place of old John--from all I can tell from the deeds, it ought to be on the Edmondson Pike right towards the border of the counties, since the other original 320 out of 640 ended up mostly in Davidson County. I need to work out a scale of how big 640 acres is by the top. surv. map standard and see what fits on that. Some of the northern 320 was in Williamson County--it came to HiramEdmiston and he deeded it to Robert Herbert in 1839.

Did you ever look at the cemetery that's down Arrington way, south of where

Benjie Roberts lived, on a Patton place, I think. It's on the road that goes south from Arrington (not the one that turns west to go to Roberts'). John W. Covington told Betsy that he remembered it as the Couch place, and we've just found a Couch connection--a Buchanan girl married a Parker, from which a Parker girl married a Couch. Might be it's a Buchanan cemetery, although my feeling is that the Buchanans were probably also buried at King's Chapel, dammit. (How about an archeological dig some time at King's Chapel to unearth tombstones?). A Couch girl married a Curran, and from that came Mrs. Mayhew Jones who may live near you and be known to you. I've written her to ask about the family, but no reply as yet.

Your social life during the holiday season sounded frenetic. We've been much more sedate, although we did have a party early in December for 70 or so people. Quite a blast, if I do say so. The week after Christmas we seemed to be going out a lot, which pleased the grannies no end. Nothing much doing this month, but next month will be a fearfully busy one with concerts--there are no less than four during the month which are my responsibility. I'll really be pushed on one (Feb. 15), for I'm supposed to be in Kansas City from the 12th to the 14th, and so will have to rush to have things done before I leave. Going down to a conference. Join me!

Got me the complete recording of Die Meistersinger from Santy Claus, and Wagner's great sonorities are accompanying the clack of the typewriter. Very satisfying music.

So it was below zero last week, and we've got snow on the ground (and probably will have until March or April now), and so your climate is better. Well, it is tempting--but it isn't just the climate that is tempting about Tennessee. I could give you a long list, with certain priorities, of the temptations. BUT...

Well, you haven't got time in your busy schedule to read my maunderings much further. Hey--what ever happened to that lovely Dane line at the bank? Always such a great surprise to pick up the phone and find it's you. You ought to try it again some time, but not on Tuesday nights. That's bridge night usually.

You know, you sound in your letter as though life is just a wee bit too routine for you right now: me too.

Best,

Howard

Beech Grove Farm
Brentwood, Tennessee 37027
January 18, 1972

Howard V. Jones
18 Winter Ridge Road
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Dear Howard:

Enclosed is a sketch that may or may not be of some help and interest.

Sizes of tracts are not exact. Have noted in margin acreages as I would judge them to be. Of course, some, I would just have no way of knowing; others I am fairly certain of.

Yes, the routine does become routine, doesn't it?

Believe you asked somewhere along the line about settlement of an estate after death of wife. If she is left a life estate, there will be a second settlement at her later death. This time, for a division among the children. There should also be a settlement when the husband dies, the first one.

See you,

Key to Map

1. McKay and Finney live here. They claim that it is the old Edmondson place and that the original house was there. They bought the place in 1930's and claim that the old log house was there then. They also claim that there is a cemetery on the place. I have never seen it.

2. Herbert place. They have been here since early 1800's. Would say that land along Edmondson Pike is the part of the place bought by Robert Herbert from Hiram Edmondson.

3. Bell place. Home of David Bell, relative of Edmondson. I asked Harden if she had ever heard that the Edmondsons and Bells were kin. She said, "Oh, yes."

4. Miriam Fly Hildebrand place. The John Edmondson cemetery is on this place.

5. Sold by Edmondson heirs.

6. Sold by Edmondson heirs.

7. Blanche Edmondson place. This was originally a part of the Hunt place. Went into Edmondson family upon marriage of Hunt and Edmondson in 1840, I believe.

8. Hunt place. Still in family and owned by cousins of mine who are Hunt descendants.

9. Sold by Edmondson heirs.

10. Known to be as Curran place. May have been owned by someone else before, like the Hunts. The Currans were close to the Edmondsons.

11. My place. Was part Fly, Hamer and Primm. All local names of note.

12. Billy Still. He is son of Annie Edmondson Still. Her share of her father's estate, he being Henry Cummins Edmondson. Home of Mr. Bulleye.

13. Our homeplace. Came into our family from Sarah Edmondson Caldwell. Has old log house and reputed to have been home of first Henry Cummins Edmondson.

14. Harden Edmondson Fly place.

15. The Charley Edmondson place. I distinctly remember that a part of the house was log. Maybe two rooms.

16. W. H. Williams place. Reputed to have originally been Edmondson place.

17. Somewhere up in here there is an old old old cemetery with no tombstones, which is reputed to be and Edmondson cemetery. May be; couldn't say.

18. The Charley Edmondson place in the vicinity. John Koen farm.

Note: On our homeplace there was an old old cemetery. No one ever knew who was buried in it. It was very close to Mr. Charley Edmondson's house.

Beach Grove Farm
Brentwood, Tennseeee 37027
January 3, 1971

Dr. Howard V. Jones
18 Winter Ridge Road
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Dear Howard:

Thank you for the Edmondson article. I think that it is great. You did a commedable job in restraining yourself from getting into Edmondson genealogy.

Having been reared in the midst of Edmondsons, I can especially appreciate the part about their temperaments. I can assure you that old characteristics come down to present generations. I remember Mr. Henry well -- the grandson of the first Henry Cummins. He was okay, but kept the most trifling bunch of "niggers" you ever saw. He never could get white people to work for him because he paid so little. His wife, Miss Blanche, his second cousin, I believe, is still very much around. She was the mean one. Lord! However, I do believe that she has mellowed with age, at past 80 she should. She is still very active in community affairs and spends at least 12 hours a day on the telephone, gathering the gossip.

I also remember Mr. Charley well. They lived on the hill behind us. He was Mr. Henry's uncle, I presume, since they always called him "Uncle Charley." I used to visit there regularly as a child, especially on Miss Fannie's baking days. She used to bake cakes and pies and Mr. Charley would take them to town and sell them. They were real fine people, but not very prosperous. Mr. Charley used to borrow equipment from Daddy all the time. He borrowed one piece of farm equipment, corn planter, or some such, once and kept it so long that he claimed that it was his. Daddy went along with him; and when he wanted to use his corn planter, he would "borrow" it from Mr. Charley. I suppose that it was sold as a part of his estate after he died.

I also remember Miss Martha well. She was Mr. Henry's step mother. I have forgotten her husband, Mr. Henry's father. As a matter of fact, I never knew until I read it in your notes. He was known locally as Bulleye and to me as Mister Bulleye. He must have died before I was born because I do not remember him, but stories about him are legion. He was noted for his temper and violent nature. I have heard Mamma tell a hundred times of how jumped up and down on his first wife's grave and "cursed God."

Mr. Bulleye's three children were reared by Miss Sallie Hardeman, whom I also remember well. She must have been kin to Mr. Bulleye's first wife. I have also heard Mamma say that Mr. Bulleye begged Miss Sallie to marry him, but she would not. Mamma quotes him as saying something to the effect that he loved Miss Sallie, but slept with Miss Martha, his second wife. As I remember her, Miss Martha, she sat around reading the Bible most of the time.

Let me also point out that one of the finest people I ever knew was an Edmondson, she being Harden Edmondson Fly Alley. She was Mr. Henry's sister. She is past 80 now too and was up to see my new house not long ago. She said she did't know whether she could make it up the stairs or not. I told her that I would carry her if I had to so that she could see it. Her husband died when her only daughter was 18. The two of them went to nursing school together and became registered nurses. My family has always been of

the opinion that either of them could raise the dead. To this day if one of us is sick, we will call one of them before the doctor.

As for the Edmondson homes, this one down here on Edmondson Pike would have been as fine as the one on Old Hickory Blvd. if it had ever been painted and had a porch. Of course, now it has been vacant for years and completely vandalized. I suppose that it is beyond restoration.

Our homeplace was an Edmondson home. I believe that the first Henry Cummins lived there. It came into my family through Miss Sallie Edmondson Caldwell. I guess she was a sister to Mr. Charley and Mr. Bulleye. Incidentally, you do realize that when I use "Miss" that it refers to what I was taught to say rather than marital status. The old part of the house is a story and half log. It is typical of the kind of house that was built in early 1800's. Wonder which one of the Edmondsons built it. Daddy tore the old chimney down and built a rock wall. The old spring house is in a terrible state of disrepair, but is a work of art. The old smoke house is two stories and rapidly deteriorating. If I could have, I would have restored that place to its original state. It belongs to my sister, and she does not appreciate anything that does not have a dollar sign in front of it.

Thank you for the Vernon material. All the names are familar.. Maybe we will find a connection there.

I sure am glad that 1971 is past and gone. The closing days were hectic. Between Thanksgiving and New Years I attended 9 cocktail parties, 10 parties, 6 suppers, 5 meetings, and held 2 classes. That is an exact tabulation. One party was non-alcoholic as were two of the suppers. One cocktail party was all Black except for me and a couple of others that I have my suspicions about. Two parties were in Chattanooga; the rest were in the environs. One party was black tie. Otherwise, they were all the same, with each trying to be more like the others. I'd like to do something different for a change.

The house proceeds slowly. The upstairs is complete, and I have moved in some things. Hopefully, the rest will be complete by the end of this month. If not, I'll be in a tent.

The Historical Society meets tonight. I'm considering not going since I have done so little on publications.

Do think about coming to Middle Tennessee again. We would be glad to have you.

Sincerely,

Vance

I did go to the meeting. It was pretty good. Show + tell
I'll try to put a recap in the next News letter. Next
month is "tall tale night."
Temperature here has been below freezing only some five
or six times. No snow. 60's + 70's common for December. Unusual
warm. Sound tempting?

18 Winter Ridge Road,
Cedar Falls, Iowa, 50613,
6 May 1971

Dear Vance:

You must be too busy--I never hear from you any more. Have you started The House? If so, I can understand that you are indeed busy. But if you're just being busy helping your old ladies clip their coupons, why take some time off and chase an ancestor or two.

Nothing particular to report from here. Bits and pieces continue to fall into place, but on collateral lines. No new ancestors in a long while now. Stephen Fuqua seems to be the one Fuqua never mentioned in any official documents. Maybe he dion't have any parents.

Need some help that you might be able to give off the cuff. The will of Thomas Edmondson, Davidson County 1824, describes the place where he lives as adjoining the great road, with a line with John Topp and a line with James McCutchen. His property also straddles a creek, but it doesn't say which one. I'm curious to know where Uncle Tom lived. He was an early settler--came with Robertson in fact and signed the Cumberland Compact. A son is found in 1850 living in D-Co. Subdivision #2, whatever or wherever that is. This family did not stay around the county much, either county. Tom seems to have owned land in the Arrington Creek area too, according to the recently published tax lists. If I read those right, when it says O-W and-D-B, that means the owner doesn't live there.

Incidentally, those tax lists show two John Edmondsons on Mill Creek, John Sr. and John Jr. One is the one who married Barbie Hayes, probably John Sr. The other is a son of another John Edmondson, and a first cousin to John=Hayes. The latter is Betsy Ragsdale's ancestor.

My guess is that there was a cluster of Edmondsons in the Mill Creek area in both counties--John=Hayes, the elder John followed by his son John Jr., maybe Thomas, maybe Robert (the latter two on the D-Co. side).

Do you know, did something peculiar happen in 1807 with land grants or some such? The tax lists for that year suddenly torn up Edmondsons with much larger acreage than before: e.g., my William and his 320 acres on Arrington are quite steady (I note also a William with land on Mill Creek, and later one on W. Harpeth, which may be my boy too), but in 1807, a William Jr. is listed with 3720 acres! A Robert appears with 1280, then diminishes the next few years to 200 on Duck River (wherever that is--where is it?). Edmondson & Buchanan have 2000. Wot gives?

Where's Harpeth Licks; or Lick Creek? I find a David Edmondson there, probably the son of elder John of maybe Mill Creek.

Incidentally, the land that Thomas had on Arrington Creek I figure is just north of my Willie's. The Rodham Tulloss place, to be exact. That seems to have been a Berry place earlier, and in 1870, Thomas E. and Thomas Berry are shown with 1600 (Thomas had 840 before that), and then Thomas vanishes from the lists.

While I'm rattling, let me also point out another Thomas Edmiston on Little Harpeth. That's the one who built the house that is now Betsy's church.

There's also Samuel Edmondson (Edmiston) on Little Harpeth--I think that's Hillsboro Pike. His son's house is still there somewhere. Near Harpeth Presbyt.

Oh yes, and there's a John Edmonoson on Nelson Creek. He's still another John, and he lived in Kentucky and never came here, if I'm right. He's a brother to Samuel of Little Harpeth.

By the way, Harpeth Licks seems also to be on Grove Creek.

One other thing: G. William Boyd is listed, who must be William G. Boyd, brother-in-law to my Willie Edmondson. He seems to have had land on Little Harpeth, on Arrington Creek, and on Nelson Creek, and seems to have lived on Little Harpeth. I Wonder if any of this came from his father Robert, d. 1793. I wondered where the Boyds were and how my Wm. came to find Frances Boyd to marry her. Maybe they met on Arrington, but since the marriage was prior to 1793, I rather doubt it.

My, how I do run on.

One last thing: when you have a chance, tell me about your Williams line. I think I mentioned a long while back that I had discovered a Williams ancestress, and so I'm poking at Williamses from time to time. Might as well have yours in mind and on file too, in case I turn up something useful for you.

Incidentally, Betsy Ragsdale has her Warren line back to one Nathaniel Warren now. Know anything about him? He seems to have been Rutherford County at the end.

Write when you have time. Better yet, come see us. It's warmer now--in fact I went swimming today. I don't seem to be making trips anywhere these days; oh yes, I will be in Madison, Wisconsin, next weekend. Hoping to have time to poke into the historical library there, but may not. This meeting has a way of tiring one up night and day--probably won't even hit the hot spots, such as they are (and they're not much). Whoever said that virtue was rewarding?

As ever,

Howard

Beech Grove Farm
Brentwood, Tennessee 37027
May 19, 1971

Howard V. Jones
18 Winterridge Road
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Dear Howard:

Thank you for your recent letter and the others that I have failed to answer. You are right life is hectic as usual.

I do know the answers to some of your Edmondson questions, but will defer answering until I have more time.

Isn't it about time for another visit? Was last September, wasn't it. We need to explore the area for Edmondsons. One thing I am particularly interested in is our homeplace, which was originally an Edmondson place. It looks like it was built in the early 1800's. It was a part of the John Edmondson (married Barbarba Hays) tract, but according to family tradition, it was not their first home. It may have been built by John, Jr.

I would have liked to restore the homeplace to its original state -- expose the logs, tear off additions, etc. instead of building, but it belongs to my sister, who is not very cooperative. So, I had to give up that idea.

Meanwile, my own building project is proceeding. The foundation has been poured. The exterior should be done by mid-July. It will be early fall before the interior is done since I am using native woods there. As I may have told you, I am using my own lumber that came off the farm -- walnut paneling in library, cherry paneling in dining room, catawba paneling in kitchen and breakfast room, and the floors will be ash. The lumber has been cut and is at the saw mill. It will have to cure before it can be used.

Was in New York in February and April; otherwise, no trips and none planned.

Have received another promotion at work -- Vice President and Senior Trust Officer. The Senior Trust Officer part is new.

Civic activities include appointment to the Williamson County Zoning Board.

You really should plan a trip to Tennessee this summer. Don't you all usually go to Missouri (or is it Indiana?). You'll be right close.

More later.

Vance

18 Winter Ridge Road,
Cedar Falls, Iowa, 50613,
17 October 1970

Dear Vance:

Seems as thought I can't go to the mailbox these days without finding another pacquet from you. Gaez, but this is too much! I keep muttering to myself "Good old Vance."--but he's not old, not a bit of it, come to think of it.

The Hetty McEwen thing came in this morning. I must confess that this is the third or fourth copy I have gotten of it--and no two of them are exactly alike. Each one has significant variations, and yours is no exception--where did you find it? I might add that it is not the most trustworthy document in the world--it has thrown off generations of researchers about the wife of Col. William Edmiston, who apparently was not and could not be Martha Campbell. Mrs. McEwen got her grandmothers mixed, is my best guess. She also got the wrong Thomas down for the son of Col. William. Capt. William's son was the literary gentleman mentioned--the one who lived on Little Harpeth. The Colonel's son stayed happily in Virginia. I had also seen the poem before--my, ain't that the purtiest pome you ever did hear? Those glorious rhymes for McEwen! It's a classic.

I am sending along some stuff with this, with the plea that I indulge myself on your thermofax a bit more. What I am sending:

1. The last part of the E-5 line, John Edmiston family. I have been making a carbon of this for Betsy Ragsdale too, and with characteristic ingenuity, I left out a carbon for pages 7 and 8. So, would you be good enough to make copies of pages 7 and 8 and see that Betsy gets them sooner or later? Otherwise do what you want with E-5, but I thought you ought to have it. In fact, I want you to have my Edmondson stuff if for no other reason than to help you know what I've got. And besides, with your interest in Williamson County families, you ought to have it all. They are your neighbors, some of them.

Please return these

2. My write-up of William Edmondson, made before my trip and already a bit out of date. A copy of this has been sent to the Historical Society too. Betsy might like a copy of this.

3. The write-up I did a year or more ago about Virginia Edmondsons, and which appeared in that well-know publication, the Edmondson Family Association Bulletin. Betsy most certainly would appreciate a copy of this.

You'll note, if you have patience and time to read all the junk, that we overlap with about any family in Wmson Co you want to mention. How great it would be if one of your ancestors turned up in these pages, but I think you have your Tennessee people well enough spotted so that won't happen.

At a later date, I'll send the E-2 and E-1-4 lines too, and the K-1, since they are all local.

ELI LILLY AND COMPANY

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46206 · TELEPHONE (317) 636-2211

December 16, 1969

Mr. T. Vance Little, Trust Officer
Commerce Union Bank
400 Union Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Dear Mr. Little:

It was nice of you to take the time to provide me with the material on the Edmondson family. Copies were left with my uncle Saturday morning. As I mentioned on the telephone, he has been working on the history of our family a good many years.

Contrary to the information I gave to you recently, I now find that my relationship to the Little family began with my great grandfather, Benjamin G. Edmondson. On October 20, 1853, he married Mary Ann Little, daughter of Samuel Little of Plainfield, Indiana. They made their home in Clayton, Indiana.

For obvious reasons, I would be very much interested in your findings. Perhaps, you may find that our particular Edmondson tribe is related to you through the Little side of the house. This would be a strange turn of events after all the years of referring to your Edmondson friends as "cousins."

Yours truly,

L. R. Edmondson

L. R. Edmondson
Manager, Real Estate

bw

Mrs. Still

Mrs. Annie Edmondson Still, 91, of 387 Barrywood Drive, died Sunday at Imperial Nursing Home after an extended illness.

Services were held today at Woodbine Funeral Home with the Rev. Paul Durham officiating. Burial was in Sneed Cemetery, Old Smyrna Road.

Born in Williamson County, Mrs. Still was a daughter of the late Lucrecia Hardeman and William H. Edmondson.

She was a graduate of Martin College in Pulaski where she taught piano for several years in her early life.

In 1915 Mrs. Still was married to Henry North Still who died several years ago. She was a member of Liberty Methodist Church and of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. R.T. Presley; a son, William T. Still, Sr.; a sister, Mrs. C.E. Alley, all of Nashville; five grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

STILL, Mrs. Annie E.—Age 91 years, July 31, 1977 at a local infirmary. Survived by daughter, Mrs. R.T. Presley; son, William T. Still, Sr.; sister, Mrs. C.E. Alley, all of Nashville; five grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren. The remains are at the Woodbine Funeral Home, 3620 Nolensville Road, where services will be conducted Tuesday morning, August 2, at 11:00 o'clock by Rev. Paul Durham. Interment Sneed Cemetery, Old Smyrna Road. Pallbearers, William T. Still Jr., Fred Hollenbach Jr., Ray Presley, Jack Harrison, Richard Sinner and Ronnie Presley. WOODBINE FUNERAL HOME, Directors, 832-1948