

HANOVER/BAILEY STATION – Jefferson County, Missouri

Bailey/Harrison/England/Donnell/Waggener families

By: Lisa K. Gendron

Bailey Station is described in local history books as being “situated on the St. Louis Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, 32 miles from St. Louis. The name of the town laid out at this point & post office is Hanover.” This property is located at the present site of Harrison Lake Rd. and old Hwy A, west of Festus.

The railroad was completed from St. Louis to DeSoto in 1857 and towns soon began cropping up along it. In an 1866 Jefferson Co. Leader newspaper, **William S. Howe**, Trustee, advertised that he would sell at public auction on Saturday, May 26th, 1866, lots at the town of Hanover. It stated that Hanover was the only station on the east side of the Joachim and because of the fine farming and fruit-growing country to the east and south of St. Louis, in point of business it had no rival. Terms were one-tenth cash, balance six months credit.

The station received its name in honor of **John M. Bailey**, an old resident of the neighborhood. The town was laid out on a portion of his farm. Mr. Bailey was born in October 14, 1820 to **Henry & Barbara (Drybread) Bailey**. John M. married **Nancy (Strickland) Donnell**, widow of **Robert Donnell**, and in 1846 purchased 140 acres of land, where Hanover and Bailey Station were later located. Mrs. Bailey died in 1859 and he then married Mrs. **Catherine (Hollensbeck) Burgess**. The Bailey's had one child who died as an infant. Mr. Bailey died October 11, 1909, aged 89 years. He was at his death the oldest member of the Masonic lodge in this county.

On the hill where Mr. Bailey resided was the cabin of Frederick Conner, one of the earliest pioneers of the county. Entries from 1810 and 1811 in the book Early Settlers of Missouri as Taken From Land Claims in the Missouri Territory by Walter Lowrie show **Frederick Conner** claiming several tracts or arpents of land along the Joachim. He also testified on September 9, 1806, that **James Varnum** and **Rufus Easton**, claiming 400 acres of land situated between the Joachim and Platin Creeks, built a distillery on said land in 1802, carried on the business of a distiller in 1803, and did prior to and on the 20th day of December 1803, actually inhabit said land, that the same was actually cultivated and a crop raised in 1804. Same, sworn the 24th of October, 1808, says that **James Varnum** raised a still house on the tract claimed in 1801, put it into operation and continued to inhabit and distill on the same until 1804, then raised a crop. This distillery was supposedly in the area of Hanover, where the townspeople later built a Masonic Hall.

The town of Hanover was built on survey 391, Township 40, range 5. and consisted of Center, First, and Second Streets as shown in the the Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Jefferson Co. MO dated 1876. At this point in time, Hanover was but the beginning of a town, with one store owned by C. G. Warne. By the end of 1866, there were two good stores in operation whose sales together amounted to nearly \$25,000 per year. During the wood shipment season, 43 railroad cars of wood were shipped each month. About 800 bushels of wheat and 500 bushels of corn were also shipped. The average amount of railroad charges on freight shipped amounted to \$200 a month and charges on freight received was \$150. Passenger fares amounted to \$220 per month.

Work had started on a building intended for a Masonic Hall, church and school house. No whiskey was sold in Hanover and church services were held regularly. The first Sunday School ever organized in the county is said to have been conducted in the neighborhood of Bailey Station.

The cornerstone for the Masonic Hall was laid on June 15, 1867. A picnic was held on this day to celebrate the event. A procession of citizens formed at the station house and headed by the Carondelet Brass Band marched to a beautiful grove near the site of the building. They deposited a tin box under the cornerstone containing a copy of the Jefferson Co. Leader, the Missouri Democrat, the Missouri Republican, a report of the trustees of the building, a list of the members of the brass band, and a list of Charter members of the Shekinah Lodge #256 A.F. and A.M. which was chartered Oct. 15, 1868 and was one of three lodges of Masons in Jefferson County. On March 26, 1884 the lodge moved to Limitville (now Festus) and held their first meeting there at the Christian Church.

In August of 1868, **W. S. Post**, D.D. advertised that he would be conducting a high school at Hanover the following September. All of the branches usually taught in the seminaries and colleges of our land were to be included in the course of studies to be pursued at Hanover High School. Politics and sectarianism were to be entirely ignored. The advertisement stated that the terms for tuition would be announced to the public in a short time and that boarders could find accommodations among the citizens of Hanover until a boarding house could be erected. Inquiries in regard to the enterprise were to be directed to Messrs. **Bailey, Warne, Crawford, Whitehead, Jennings, Baker, Warner, Lee, Palmer**, or any other people in the vicinity of Bailey's Station.

Three years later, **E. A. Angell** advertised that he would open a select school at Hanover on February 6, 1871. He stated that he hoped to see his old pupils and many more. Tuition at that time was \$12 per term of three months.

At some point in time, a separate building was built for the Bailey School. It continued to be used until December 1942, when it burned. The children then attended the Festus School. The Bailey school property was bought by **Richard Turley** in 1949.

Hanover made the news often in the 1870's. Several robberies of homes were reported. In 1872, the house of Mr. **S. Null** was entered while the family was at church and a watch and coat were stolen. Mr. **England** had \$75 taken from his house at Hanover.

In March 1875, 200 cords of wood belonging to the railroad company at Bailey's Station were burned. The wood was stacked up close to **Esq. Palmers** store and it was only by the extraordinary exertion of the few men present that the building was saved. Sparks from a passing locomotive ignited the wood. In June of the same year a blind horse fell into the railroad cattle guard just above Hanover and could not get out. The southern bound mail train was delayed while the train men worked on pulling him out. It was some time before the horse found out it could get up and walk.

Hanover was the shipping station for the American Plate Glass Co. of Crystal City. The glass company prohibited the sale of intoxicating drinks on their land, and as they owned the land for a good distance around the plant, they were able to control matters near them. However, in 1875 it was reported that a saloon had opened at Hanover, and was causing considerable loss to the company in spite of the vigilance of the Superintendent.

Perhaps the most spectacular of events concerning Bailey Station and the railroad were several train wrecks which occurred there. In 1914 or 1915, a southbound train carrying construction equipment brought down a bridge crossing the Joachim. A crane being carried on one of the cars struck the beam at the top of the bridge and the bridge collapsed. No one was injured in this wreck. That was not true of the wreck which occurred in June of 1938 however. The fast mail train No. 7 attempted to cross the trestle just south of Bailey Station through flood waters which completely covered the tracks. According to officials, the area received 7.84 inches of rain in a period of twelve hours. The resulting flood inundated the tracks for almost a mile at the point of the track and washed the trestle away. The engineer, **W. W. Malloy** was proceeding slowly through the waters when the 215 ton engine and part of the mail and baggage cars toppled into the water and were submerged. The expressmen and baggage clerks were able to race through the rear cars to safety but the engineer was unable to escape the wreckage and drowned. His body was recovered by divers later that day. The fireman **C. T. McRill** managed to get out of the cab and as he rose to the surface, became entangled in the telegraph wires. He finally freed himself and hung onto a small tree for four hours until rescuers got to him at sunup by boat. The chief cook awakened the sleeping passengers and they huddled at the exit of the Pullman car, unable to help themselves or heed the cries of the fireman. The **Alvin Son** family built a platform on the side of the bluff and approximately 65 passengers were taken to safety.

The local agent for the Railway Express Co., **J. S. Withington**, swung onto the railcars by rope in order to get the pay checks for the railroad and shop men. He retrieved them, even though they were soaking wet. The National Guard was called to keep the thousands of spectators away from the scene and protect the possible looting of the mail and express cars. An 82 years old spectator from St. Louis fell from the bluff overlooking the wreck and broke his neck.

Repair crews were called from St. Louis and Poplar Bluff early Saturday to repair the damage. The engine was buried in the mud, the track for several hundred feet was washed away, as well as the trestle, rails were bent, ties had floated away with the current and the ground supporting the tracks was completely washed out. By working without stopping, the damage was temporarily fixed for traffic by the next day.

In December of 1878, **Stoke Waggener** and **Clark Berry** bought the stock of Donnell and Company at the brick store in Hematite. The store, Waggener and Co., located at Hanover, was robbed in April, 1879 of five or six hundred dollars worth of goods. The building was a two story frame, with an outside stairway. The thieves got up into the upper story and made a hole through the floor and ceiling, through which they conveyed the goods, clothing, boots, shoes, and a general assortment of dry goods. A \$100 reward was offered for the capture of the thieves. **Roe Whitehead** and **Clark Berry** got on the track of one of the thieves and traced him to Maxville where he was caught and two valises of goods taken from him. The remainder of the goods was found stowed away in a culvert near Hanover. By October 1, 1880, the store had moved, and it was reported that the store of Stoke Waggener & Co. in Limitville was ready for the roof. On September 19, 1883, The Democrat stated that a new postoffice had been established at Limitville and was called Festus, with **S. T. Waggener** as postmaster.

A big draw to the area known as Hanover/Bailey's Station came about in 1894 when Harrison's Lake was built. **George Franklin Harrison**, who supervised the damming of the spring that formed the lake and did a large part of the manual labor, was born August 6, 1861. His parents, **William Jefferson Harrison** and **Ann C. England**, (daughter of **James Ross England** and **Margaret McCormack**) moved to the property where the lake is now located when George was a year and a half old. George's mother had inherited part of the England property located near Hematite from her father **James Ross England**. George's father decided to buy the rest. It amounted to 286 acres in all.

As a boy, George went to school in a little log cabin. Every now and then, however, the school would change its location and he and his brothers Clark and Ed finally wound up having to walk more than three miles into Hematite to school and three miles home. As he got older, he became more adventuresome and decided to become a silver miner. His father Wm. J. had made the same decision in April 1878 when he and **Wm. Gouly, Scribe Posten, Jesse Waggener**, and **Peter Brands** traveled to the Black Hills to work the mining claim they had there. George went to New Mexico, braving attack by Apache Indians and sleeping out of doors. His camp was made on the side of a mountain at a height of 11000 feet, with an Indian camp right above them at 12000 feet. Mr. Harrison was one of the lucky ones who found silver. He had a nice sized mine near Kingston, N. M. and was offered \$10,000 for it, but decided not to sell. Not long after the offer, a spring was accidentally opened up and flooded the mine. He decided to pack up and go home. He came back to Jefferson Co., and after working for a short time in a dairy, decided to go back to the farm. He persuaded his father to go into the dairy business with him and bought 100 head of cattle. Theirs was the first dairy in this area to ship milk by train. After George's father died, he sold the dairy and took up the gravel business with his brother Ed, while his brother Clark ran the farm. They remained in this industry for 40 years.

In an article from The Democrat dated August, 1949, Mr. Harrison recalled that Festus was small compared to Bailey Station (in his younger years) and could never have approached Bailey Station in the amount of excitement. Gambling and Saturday night shooting matches were a common thing.

After a suggestion by **Pete Schaefer** to dam the spring to form a lake, Mr. Harrison began the work and soon stocked it with fish. The lake was popular with people from all over the country and was open to the public for many years. The Harrison family held an annual fish fry and reunion for quite a few years. There were more than 1000 people at one of these and all were served with fish from Harrison's lake. The lake is now privately owned and no longer open to the public.

George Harrison married **Jessie Smith** in 1920. He died April 24, 1951 at the age of 89 years, and was buried in the England/Harrison family cemetery on the farm near Hanover.

The Englands were a very prominent family in the area of Hanover and Bailey Station. **James Ross England** was born in 1809 and came to Jefferson County from Washington County, Missouri, where he had served an apprentice in the tanner's trade. He settled on a farm on the Plattin, and married his wife **Margaret McCormack**, a granddaughter of **Peter Patrick McCormack**. James moved to Bailey Station late in life and died there in 1866. He and Margaret had eight children, six of whom lived to maturity. They are as follows:

John A. England b. 1837

James McCormack England b. December 4, 1835 married **Elizabeth Waggoner**

Laura Catharine England b. January 1, 1839 married **Eli Foster Donnell**

Ann C. England b. 1840 married **William Harrison**

Benjamin F. England b. March 1843 married **Amanda Weaver**

Sarah C. England b. 1846

Charlotte England b. 1847

Enoch Ross England b. 1849 married Ellen A. Lee

James McCormack England went to California by oxcart when he was seventeen years old to seek his fortune in gold. He remained there for four years, and then returned to Jefferson County where he became a prominent farmer and businessman at Hematite and Bailey Station. He owned the White Rock Mill at Hematite for many years. He was also in various merchandising enterprises. He began merchandising at Hematite in about 1865. He built a new brick store in Hematite in 1875, Mr. Donnell occupying the old store. He bought the store back from Mr. **T. N. Donnell** at Hematite in June 1877. It was robbed in December 1878 and also in 1880. In January 1881 Mr. England quit the merchandising business in order to give all of his attention to his mill. He went back into the mercantile business at the old brick store sometime before 1888, having sold the mill. He held the position of postmaster in Hematite for sixteen years. Mr. England married **Elizabeth Waggoner**, daughter of **R. G. and Mary Waggoner**. Their children were; **Mary Alice, Margaret Belle, James Ruben, Richard Edmund, Ella Florence, Lettie Lee, John Waitt, William Ross, and Minnie Agnes England**. Mr. England died in 1904.

Laura C. England married **Eli Donnell**, son of the **Rev. James Donnell**. Laura and Eli's children were; **Margaret Alice, Lelia Jane, William Foster, James Theodore, Cynthia Catherine, Alta Ann, Jesse Franklin, Edwin Clarence, and Newton Ross Donnell**. The following excerpt is from Goodspeed's History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington Crawford, & Gasconade Counties, Missouri 1888.

Eli F. Donnell, farmer and dairyman of Joachim Township, was born in Plattin Township in 1881, and is the youngest of five sons and three daughters of **James and Jane (Staples) Donnell**. Mr. Donnell was born in North Carolina in 1786, and moved with his parents to Middle Tennessee when a boy, and when still young he and two brothers, **Eli and Thomas**, came on horseback to what is now Washington County, Mo., soon after 1800. There James was married, and there Thomas remained and established a Presbyterian Church at Caledonia, the first one of that denomination west of the Mississippi. He was a minister and farmer. The two other brothers removed to Jefferson County, where they have left many descendants who have become some of the best citizens of Jefferson County. James first settled on the Joachim in Valle Township, afterward in Plattin Township, near Rush Tower, where he spent the remainder of his life, as one of the foremost farmers and influential citizens of Jefferson County. He died March 5, 1845. He was for many years a Methodist minister, an esteemed citizen, and was a soldier in the Black Hawk War. It is supposed that his father was a soldier in the War of 1812, and that his grandfather was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. The mother of Eli F. was born in one of the Eastern States in 1792, and removed with her parents to Indiana and from there to Jefferson County, at an early day. She died in 1889, when our subject was quite young; and after his father's death Eli F. was thrown upon his own resources. Having received the rudiments of an education, he worked at such work as he could obtain, and hauled lead from the mines in Washington County to points on the Mississippi River with three yoke of oxen. At the age of twenty he crossed tile plains to California, being about six months on the road. He spent about three and a half years in this State, two years in the mines and one and a half years engaged as a general provision merchant, making considerable money, but lost it by his generosity to others. In 1855 he came to Jefferson County, via New York and Central America. He soon after made a trip through Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and the Territories. April 9, 1856, he married Miss **Laura England**, a native of Plattin Township, and the daughter of **James and Margaret England**. She died December 11, 1884, leaving seven children: **Lelia, now Mrs. Charles Jarvis; William Foster, of Wichita, Kan.; James Theodore, also of Wichita, Kan.; Cynthia C., now Mrs. Oscar**

Ogle; Alta Ann, Jesse and Newman. When first married, Mr. Donnell settled on the Plattin, where he lived until 1868. He then formed a partnership with B. F. England, his brother-in-law, and purchased a large tract of land at Rush Tower. He then engaged in the wood business, also merchandising and farming, which he followed for two years, when Mr. Donnell withdrew and moved to Hematite, where he followed merchandising for about two years. He then retired to his farm, one and a half miles north, where he has since made his home, and is quite extensively engaged in the dairy business and stock raising, for many years buying and selling stock, horses, mules, cattle and sheep throughout Southeast Missouri and Northeast Arkansas, taking as much stock from that country as perhaps any other man. He has 590 acres on the line of the Iron Mountain Railroad-one of the oldest farms in the county, and has not changed hands hut few times. He has never aspired to office, although often urged to accept the county judgeship. but as often refused. He is a member of the school board, and a liberal supporter of all charitable and public enterprises. In politics a Democrat, his first presidential vote was for Buchanan, in 1856. He was a stanch Union man during the war, and several relatives on his mother's side were in the Union Army and several on his father's side in the Confederate army during the war. Mr. Donnell has been a Master Mason for many years, is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, as was his wife also, and has one of the finest farms in the county.

Ann C. England married **William Jefferson Harrison** in 1859. Two articles in The Democrat suggest that William spent some time out west.

Jefferson Democrat Nov. 1877

We are informed that **W. J. Harrison** brought back from the Black Hill's some specimens of gold gearing quartz, from a lode in which he has an interest, that is very rich, and that he calculates on going back to the Hills in the spring - his partners holding to, and working the claim. From what we hear of it, it must be a very rich claim, and will doubtless prove remunerative to its owners.

The Democrat, April 26, 1878

William J. Harrison and **William Gouly** started back for the Black Hills Tuesday morning to work the mining claim they have there. **Scribe Posten, Jesse Waggener,** and **Peter Brands** accompany them.

Ann and William J.'s children were **James Edwin, George Franklin, Charles R., Emma Dell, Oscar Clark and M. Eleanor Harrison.** Ann and William are both buried in the England/Harrison family cemetery.

The following is an excerpt from Goodspeed's History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington Crawford, & Gasconade Counties, Missouri 1888

William J. Harrison, farmer, stock-raiser and dairyman, of Jefferson County, Mo was born near De Soto in 1833, the son of **George W and Jemima (Null) Harrison** The father was probably born in Georgia in 1807, and when a boy was brought by an uncle to Missouri, where he spent the remainder of his days in farming and stock-raising and died in 1855, while managing a store to supply the men employed in building the Iron Mountain Railroad. The mother was born in 1813, and died in 1859. She was a daughter of **William Null**, who was an early and well-known citizen of Jefferson County, Mo. Wm. J. received but few early educational advantages, and in 1859 was married to Ann C., daughter of **James R. and Margaret England.** Mr. England was born in Tennessee, but, when a boy, was brought by his father to Missouri. His wife was a native of Jefferson County, and a daughter of **James McCormack.** Mr. Harrison and wife became the parents of six children, three of whom are living: **James Edwin, George Franklin and Oscar Clark.** Mr. Harrison first settled near Valle's Mines where he lived until 1864. At this time he made an extended trip through Colorado, Idaho, Washington Territory, etc., having been absent sixteen months. After his return he settled on his present excellent farm of 250 acres. He is a Democrat in politics and cast his first presidential vote for Buchanan. He and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

Benjamin F. England and his brother **James McCormack England** began managing a farm at Bailey Station in 1860. The following year Benjamin and a partner opened a merchandising store at Bailey, ran it for two years, and then moved it to Hematite. He married **Amanda C. Weaver**, daughter of **William B. Weaver** in 1863.

Their children were **Edward F., William R., Lottie Bell, Laura Etta Oscar Hart, and Margaret Hoyd England**. Mr. England moved to Rush Tower in 1867 and became one of the principal landowners and businessmen there.

Enoch Ross England and his wife Ellen had two sons, **Charles C., and Robert Sidney England**. Ross was Postmaster of Hanover, Jefferson County, Mo. in 1871. He committed suicide and is buried in the England family cemetery. The following account appeared in The Democrat, on December 3, 1880.

Died: ENGLAND Nov., 1880 **Enoch Ross England** of Hematite, MO

He was at Tanglefoot, near Crystal City at the time, in **Ches. Parker's** saloon, and at about 4 p.m. went up stairs to go to bed. He took his boots and coat off and got in bed, placed a revolver to his head and fired, the ball striking his temple and killing him instantly.

December 10, 1880

Mr. England was well known through the county and was generally supposed to be in good circumstances. It was known that he owned a good farm and had a comfortable house in which he lived with his wife and their two children; that he usually went well dressed and appeared at peace with himself and every one else, and never had a harmful word to say of any one; and when life was so pleasant we could not think of any reason why he should be tired of it. We are yet in the dark as to his reasons - if he had any - for the fatal act. He was at the residence of **Charley Parker**, near Crystal City, appeared perfectly calm and in possession of his right mind. He complained of a headache and asked permission to lie down. Mr. Parker took him upstairs and showed him a bed. He immediately began undressing and Parker retired. In less than two minutes Parker heard the report of the pistol upstairs, and on rushing up, found England on the bed with a pistol in his hand and a bullet hole through his brain, drawing his last breath. He had placed the pistol to the left side of his head and pulled the trigger, and the deathly missile did its work surely and swiftly. It is a sad thing to his many relatives and friends, and must be especially so his wife and children.

A year later, Ellen married **Stokely T. Waggoner** at the home of Mrs. **Cynthia Donnell**. Cynthia and **Oscar Donnell** raised Ellen after her mother died when she was two years old. **Charles C. and Robert Sidney England** bought the shares of **Stokely & Horace Waggoner** of Waggoner Store Co. in 1908.

Stokely, Horace, and Elizabeth Waggoner, who married **James M. England** were brothers and sister. Their parents were **Rueben G. and Mary Moore Waggoner**. The following obituary is from The Democrat.

WAGGENER - Died December 24, 1884, Mr. **Reuben G. Waggoner** of Plattin.

Mr. **R. G. Waggoner** of Plattin, fell into the fire one day recently and one leg from the knee down was badly burned. He is over 87 years of age and has been feeble for a long time. His recovery is thought to be impossible.

An Old Democrat

(St. Louis Republican, reprinted in the January 21, 1885 issue of Jefferson County Democrat)

Hon. **J. H. Waggoner** of Rush Tower, Jefferson County, who was a member of the Thirtieth General Assembly, is on the way to Washington to spend the Winter there. He was in this city yesterday and gave the particulars of the death of his father, Mr. **Reuben G. Waggoner**, the oldest man in Jefferson County, who died on Christmas Eve at the age of 87 years, 5 months, and 17 days. He was born in Culpepper County, Virginia. He served in the wars of 1812, having enlisted in his seventeenth year, in 1814, and was in one or two battles and several skirmishes, in one of which he was wounded in the foot by a musket ball. He was an own cousin of **Gen. Edward Pendleton Gaines**, the hero of Fort Erie, their mothers being sisters. Mr. Waggoner followed flatboating on the Ohio and Mississippi, between Louisville and New Orleans, from 1823 to 1830. He would take his boat down to New Orleans, sell out boat and cargo and then walk back to Louisville. When steamboats began to run he was a pilot from Cincinnati and Louisville to New Orleans, up to the fall of 1841, when he moved to Rush Tower, Jefferson County, 40 miles below this city, where he died. His death was occasioned by an accident. On the morning of the 18th of December, he rose out of his chair, and as was his custom, looked at the clock on the mantelpiece, and leaning forward with his left hand on the mantelpiece, holding his cane in his right hand, he slipped and fell with his knees and feet almost in

the embers of a very hot fire. The burns and the shock caused his death in six days. He never suffered a moment from the effects of the burn, and was perfectly conscious until he died. There was no one present when he fell, and when found, he was lying unconscious. He was taken up and placed on the bed, and on recovering his senses, he exclaimed, "Catch me! Don't let me fall in the fire!" He leaves an only brother, **Stokley T. Waggener**, living in Russellville, Ky., who is two years his junior. He leaves a family of six sons and three daughters. The old gentleman cast his first vote for James Monroe for President, and voted for Gen. Andrew Jackson in the presidential elections of 1824, 1828 and 1832, and he has voted the solid Democratic ticket ever since.

The Waggener's had twelve children, nine were living at the time of Mr. Waggener's death in 1884. Eleven of the twelve are as follows:

James Henry born April 20, 1839

Elizabeth born December 22, 1840

Richard Andrew born 1842

Rueben Garnett Jr. born 1845

John Edmund born December 23, 1847

Stokely Thomas born November 4, 1848

Jessie David born December 30, 1850

Frank Southern born January 16, 1855

Mary Lily born August 30, 1857

William Horace born April 27, 1859

Alice Harriet born October 15, 1855