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OLD INNS OF EAST TENNESSEE

By MAXINE MATHEWS

There appears to be no difference in the terms: tavern, inn and ordinary. Lathrop says, however, that "the name tavern was usually given in New England and New York State; in Pennsylvania, inn was the more common; in the South, ordinary was the general term."¹ In the license grants the terms ordinary and tavern are most frequently used.

The taverns in East Tennessee sprang up early along the lines of travel.² "There was one main stage-route to Blountville from Abingdon. From Blountville there were three others, one going west by way of Kingsport and Rogersville; another by way of Jonesboro; and a third going into Virginia by way of Estillville, now Gate City."³

The routes by Jonesboro and by Rogersville and Kingsport joined at Knoxville. The line from Jonesboro went by way of Leesburg and down what is known as Limestone Valley.

Stage horses were changed at relay stands about ten miles apart. "The run of a driver was about twenty-five miles; the driver from Abingdon laid off at Blountville, another, taking the stage there, went as far as Jonesboro. The run from Abingdon to Blountville required three and one-half hours."⁴

The eagerness of the planters of the South to entertain guests in their homes made taverns less necessary than in the North. "One traveling between villages or on the frontier could always find entertainment in the homes of the people. Bishop Hoss says that 'Light, stranger, hitch your horse and come in,' was the salutation most used when anybody that was unknown by face rode up to the door."⁵ Francis Baily, the English traveler, says, "I have observed that there are few taverns in these newly-settled countries; but that almost all the farmers who live near the road

¹ Elise Lathrop, *Early American Inns and Taverns*, 1926, p. viii.

² See Phelan, *History of Tennessee, The Making of a State*, 1886, p. 174.

³ Taylor, *Historic Sullivan*, p. 228.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Williams, *The Lost State of Franklin*, p. 251.

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will take in strangers and travelers, giving them what is called 'dry entertainment,' that is, board and lodging but without any spiritous liquors."⁶

Notwithstanding this readiness of the people to entertain travelers, taverns sprang up in every village, "the rates fixed by public authority."⁷ The descriptions of the entertainment offered are often none too complimentary. One writer describes at length the poor accommodations, and characterizes the host "as a rule, a distiller of whiskey and kept a tippling house for the sale of his own beverages."⁸

Nevertheless, the tavern was one of the most important places in the town. It occasionally served as a meeting-place for the legislature as well as a lodging-place for the legislators. "When Greeneville was made the permanent capital of the State of Franklin in 1785 the senate met in one of the rooms of the town tavern. The backwoods legislators lodged at this tavern, or at some other, at the cost of four pence a day, the board being a shilling for the man and six pence for his horse, if the horse only ate hay; a half pint of liquor or a gallon of oats cost six pence."⁹

Among the early taverns in East Tennessee was the Deery Inn at Blountville, still well preserved. It is a large, two-story frame structure of unique carpentering. It stands near the center of the little town on the main street. The long, low porch extending the length of the front, supported by a number of square columns, reaches out to the street. In the center of the porch, just above the main door, hangs a large iron bell which has long since forgotten its original function. The bell bears the date 1810.¹⁰ In the old parlor stands a great white mantel. The scrolling of quaint design on the mantel and other woodwork shows that the hand of a master plied his tools there.

William Deery, the original owner and builder of the inn, was from Londonderry, Ireland. About 1813¹¹ he came to Blountville where he spent the remainder of his life, esteemed by all for his public as well as private virtues.

⁶ Francis Baily's Tour, Williams, *Early Travels in the Tennessee Country*, p. 417.

⁷ Williams, *The Lost State of Franklin*, p. 251.

⁸ Phelan, *History of Tennessee*, p. 174.

⁹ Roosevelt, *The Winning of The West*, 1889, I. p. 194.

¹⁰ Lathrop, *op. cit.*, says the date is 1806.

¹¹ See, Buckingham, *The Slave States of America*, 1842, II. p. 258.

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g of a State, 1886, p. 174.

It was in the Deery tavern that Featherstonhaugh¹² with his fists, and the probable aid of brass knucks, floored a man from Alabama "who wore two pistols and a dirk." Featherstonhaugh's vivid description follows: "I—saw I had to do with a bully. Great was the surprise—of the beholders when they saw me draw out a couple of instruments, the noble use of which was altogether unknown in the enlightened state of Tennessee—I served him upon his astonished optics with two straight forwarders right and left and down he went on the floor into an ocean of tobacco spit. From this moment I was treated with great deference—for when I approached the fire everybody retired a little to make room for me."¹³

Certainly no spot in Tennessee, and probably no place west of the Alleghanies, offers so much of interest to the student of history as does Jonesboro. Here very early inns sprang up, at least one of which, still standing, is rated among the most historic places in Tennessee. "In August, 1779, Robert Sevier obtained a license to keep an ordinary at the courthouse" in Jonesboro;¹⁴ and in 1781 James Allison secured a license "to keep a tavern at the courthouse for one year and have entered John Sevier and Valentine Sevier his securities for his performance of the same."¹⁵ The same record shows that a license was granted to Richard Minton to keep a tavern, also at seat of the courthouse.¹⁶

The rates prescribed for these early taverns contain many interesting items. "The February term, 1779, court made and entered record an order prescribing charges that tavern-keepers might exact from guests as follows: Diet 0 8s. 0: Lodging 1 night good bed and clean sheets 1s. 6d: Rum wine or Brandy 3L. 4s. 0: Toddy pr. quart and sprts of Rum therein 8s. 0. and so in proportion. Corn or Oats per gallon 4s. 0: Stabledge with hay or fodder 24 hrs. 4s. 0: Pasturage 24 hrs. 2s: Cyder pr. quart. 4s. 0: Beer per quart. 2s. 0: Whiskey pr. gallon 2L. 0: 0."¹⁶ For the year 1780 the following rates for tavern-keepers are prescribed: "A Dinner 20 Dollars, Breakfast or Supper 15 Dollars, Corn or Oats per Gallon 12 Dollars, Pasture 6 Dollars, Stableage 12 Dollars with hay or

¹² English geologist who made an excursion through the slave states in 1834 and 1835.

¹³ Featherstonhaugh, *Excursion through the Slave States*, 1844, p. 43 ff.

¹⁴ *American Historical Magazine*, 1900, V. p. 379. See also, Goodspeed, *History of Tennessee*, 1887, p. 898.

¹⁵ *American Historical Magazine*, V. 1901, p. 81.

¹⁶ Allison, *Dropped Stitches in Tennessee History*, p. 43.

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fodder Lodging 6 Dollars W. I.¹⁷ Rum 120 per qt. Peach Brandy
80 Dollars per quart. Whiskey per qt. 48 Dollars Norvard or
Taffia Rum 100 Dollars per quart."¹⁸ The May term, 1780 "or-
dered that the Tavern-keepers within the county shall Take and
Receive the following prices, to wit:

For good W. I. Rum, the quart.	40 Dollars
For good Rye Whiskey, pr. ditto.	20 ditto
For good peach or apple brandy pr. do.	30 ditto
For Continent Rum, the quart.	30 ditto
For Strong Beer, the quart.	5 ditto
For a Hott Diat.	12 ditto
For Brakefast or Super.	8 ditto" ¹⁹

The old Chester House in Jonesboro is still in use as an inn.
Although the date of its erection is uncertain, in 1799 it was "or-
dered by court that Wm. P. Chester have leave to keep a public
house in the town of Jonesborough and have given Wm. Sherman
and Dufty Jacobs his security in the sum of one thousand dollars."²⁰
There is, however, nothing in this to show whether the tavern
was the same as the one that now stands, but it is probably a part
of the present structure. The earliest mention of the Chester
House is perhaps found in the report of the missionary journey
of Brethren Abraham Steiner and Frederick C. De Schweinitz,
from Salem, N. C., into the territory of the Cherokees in 1799.
Their journal has this entry: "Jonesborough consists of one long
street, has nearly thirty houses and is growing as are all the towns
of the back country. The innkeeper with whom we stopped looks
after an apothecary's shop as well as the inn."²¹ "The Inn must
have been built some four or five years before that time,"²² and
Dr. Chester probably purchased it from a previous owner.²³

Dr. Wm. P. Chester was from Carlisle, Pa. and was the first
learned physician in this section. "He was the family doctor of
John Sevier."²⁴ Andrew Jackson was a guest of the inn while
holding court as superior judge and no doubt the inn was his

¹⁷ West India.

¹⁸ Old Record, Washington County, year 1780, p. 137.

¹⁹ *American Historical Magazine*, 1901, VI. p. 61.

²⁰ February Term 1799 of County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions held for
County of Washington, Record book No. 6, Jonesboro.

²¹ Williams, *Early Travels in The Tennessee Country* p. 450.

²² Miss Miriam Fink, Jonesboro, Tennessee, personal correspondence.

²³ Conclusions of Miss Martha Baxter, Jonesboro, who had done some valuable
study on historic places in Jonesboro.

²⁴ Williams, *Early Travels in The Tennessee Country*, foot note, p. 450.

stopping-place when going to and from Washington. In 1832 on a journey from Washington to the Hermitage, Jackson stopped at the Chester House. On the long front porch, a great reception was given in his honor.²⁵ Although the building was originally constructed of logs it has been considerably changed in remodeling. The frontage was largely as it is at present.

One of the great historical landmarks of the country is the old Devault Inn located in the little village of Leesburg, a few miles west of Jonesboro.²⁶ Leesburg was situated on the old Memphis-to-Washington stage road, which was formerly the most traveled road to all points east, especially for statesmen and other officials on their way to Washington. In the journal of Steiner and Schweinitz is found the following entry for November 3, 1799. "We came to an entirely new place, Leesburg, or New Washington, which, for the short time of its existence, is not insignificant."²⁷

This fine old tavern was built in 1821 by the grandfather of Russell DeVault, the present genial owner, who takes great pride in showing his visitors through. It is a large brick building, still in a fine state of preservation. The front of the building is in practically the same condition as when the tavern was at its height of usefulness. A small porch with an overhead balcony is the main entrance. The railings around the porch are hand-carved. Unique arches and quaint columns are suggestive of Colonial days. The inside of the house is finely finished with lavishly decorated hand-carvings. There are handsomely finished mantels encircling large fireplaces. The doors contain the original strap hinges. The original bar remains; a small enclosure with a wooden hand-made screen in front which can be raised or lowered. Across the road in front of the house is a large spring with a brick springhouse that rivals the tavern in respect to age. Just above the spring stands a giant oak tree which my host said was known from Maine to California.

Mr. DeVault has many interesting documents and curios. Only a few can be mentioned here. One of the most interesting is a mail pouch made of blocks of wood and used in the days when the stage coach was the only means of mail service. Among the documents is an old school contract dated September, 1821. It reads

²⁵ Allison, *Dropped Stitches in Tennessee History*, p. 127.

²⁶ Deed Book No. 9 p. 1. Registry at Jonesboro. See also, Williams, *Early Travels in The Tennessee Country*, foot note, p. 451.

²⁷ Williams, *Early Travels in The Tennessee Country*, foot note, p. 451.

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See also, Williams, *Early*

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in part: "This article of agreement entered into by William Rus-
sell (the present owner's grandfather) who binds himself to teach
school in the district for one year for the sum of eight dollars.
One-eighth of this is to be paid in cash; the remainder to be paid
in grain at the following prices: Four shillings for wheat, three
for rye, two for corn, one and six pence for oats. One-fourth part
shall be paid at the end of six months, the remainder at the ex-
piration of the school. Also we do bind ourselves to furnish a good,
comfortable house and provide wood for school to hold five days a
week, otherwise make up lost time. Also, we, the undersigned,
do bind ourselves to prevent the children from barring the door at
Christmas. The grain above mentioned to be delivered at the said
Russell's house or at Stevenson's Mill as the said Russell may
direct." Then followed the names of the parents and children
entered, several entering "one and one-half."

Still standing in old Kingsport is the old Netherland Inn. Built
soon after the Revolution by Richard Netherland a native of
Virginia,²⁸ it was probably often frequented by notable personages
traveling through the country. Featherstonhaugh stopped at
Kingsport in 1834,²⁹ no doubt at the Netherland Inn.

The old Rogers Inn in Rogersville was for many years one of the
outstanding taverns in East Tennessee. Two wings of the original
structure still stand.³⁰ Joseph Rogers, a native of Ireland, founded
Rogersville in 1786 and became the first proprietor of the Rogers
Inn, "which was well known to the numerous traveling public as
one of the best public houses between the Alleghany and the
Cumberland Mountains. It was a favorite house with General
Jackson while he was a practicing attorney in this portion of the
State."³¹ Joseph Walker Rogers, ninety-eight years old, now living
in Rogersville, was born in the old Rogersville hotel in 1831.³²

Featherstonhaugh stopped at Rogersville in 1834. "I took a
peep at the dinner-table. Before us—was a nasty-looking dish
with quantities of coarse onions; but everything looked so dis-
gusting and filthy that I could not make up my mind to sit down

²⁸ A. B. Rogan, Rogersville, Tennessee, personal correspondence, also Lathrop,
Early American Inns and Taverns, p. 298.

²⁹ *Op. cit.*, p. 45.

³⁰ The Kingsport Times, Feb. 24, 1929.; see also The Rogersville Review, April
15, 1926.

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² *Ibid.*

and preferred to go without any dinner.³³ No mention is made of the name of the inn, however.

Several interesting incidents are told concerning the old Rogers Inn. One mentioned by Lathrop,³⁴ and told by old residents of Rogersville concerns Andrew Jackson who it is said boarded at the Inn. A stylishly-dressed young gentleman drove up in his sulky and inquired if he could be given a private apartment. As none was to be had, Mrs. Rogers was at a loss as to where she could put the young man. Whereupon Jackson conducted him to the corner-crib "declaring he would kill him if he ventured out before breakfast time."³⁵ It is also told that Mrs. Rogers in an effort to stop card-playing would smoke out the players by putting red-pepper on a hot oven door, or by "placing a kettle of burning feathers beneath the room."³⁶

A favorite stopping-place was the home of Thomas Amis who, in 1781, came to Hawkins County from North Carolina and settled about three miles above Rogersville on the old stage road. Brother Martin Schneider, a Moravian on a mission to the Cherokees in 1783, stopped with Captain Amis.³⁷ Williams says that Amis operated a tavern, and quotes from Bishop Ashbury's journal, "we were well-entertained (at the Amis Tavern) for our money."³⁸ He rebukes Amis for boasting that he made three-hundred pounds per annum by the brewing of liquor. Amis also entertained Andrew Jackson, John Sevier and other notable travelers. The diary of John Lipscomb of North Carolina, states, "Came to Captain Thomas Amis—where we had an exceeding good dinner."³⁹ The Amis house may be seen to-day in a fine state of preservation.

In 1823, ex-Governor Joseph McMinn of Tennessee did not deem it below his dignity to keep an inn at Rogersville. A traveler of that period describes him as "bustling about the tavern, administering to the entertainment of guests of every degree." The tavern was not named, but it was probably identical with the Rogers Inn.

³³ Featherstonhaugh, *op. cit.*, p. 45.

³⁴ *Early American Inns and Taverns*, p. 298.

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 299.

³⁷ Williams, *Early Travels in The Tennessee Country*, p. 251.

³⁸ Williams, *The Lost State of Franklin*, p. 308 f.; also Williams, *Early Travels in The Tennessee Country*, p. 330., pp. 291 ff. Miss Anne Amis, Rogersville, Tennessee, says Thomas Amis never kept a tavern.

³⁹ Bass, "Half An Hour With Some Early Visitors to Tennessee," in *American Historical Magazine*, 1900, V. p. 523.

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The journal of Steiner and Schweinitz (Dec. 20, 1799) states, "We came again in Hawkins county to the great Kentucky and Cumberland Road—and—to the house of Jacob Klein, a German, who conducts a very good Inn and has a good stabling and fodder for horses."⁴⁰ This was about twelve miles from the present Kingsport.⁴¹

Standing somewhat off the road between Washington College and Limestone is the old Broylesville Inn. It was opened by Adam Broyles, who, in 1825, married Nancy Doak, daughter of Samuel Doak, the beloved founder of Washington College. It is said the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Broyles attracted many notable guests, among them Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk and Aaron V. Brown. In front of the building stands the old "upping block" upon which the passengers mounted the stagecoaches.⁴²

The Bean's Station Tavern was built before the close of the 18th century and was one of the most important hostelries between New Orleans and Baltimore. It was located at the intersection of the Baltimore International Turnpike and the Louisville and Charleston Turnpike (to-day the intersection of the Lee Highway and the Buffalo Trail). Its builder was Thomas Whitesides, and for some years it was called the Whitesides Tavern. The first building was of wood. In 1813 Mr. Whitesides built a three-story brick building. A few years ago it was partly destroyed by fire. A part is still standing and is used as a boarding-house. It was an important center until the coming of the railroad in 1858. Many distinguished men stopped there. "Henry Clay's name was on the register more than once, as well as those of Andrew Jackson and James K. Polk."⁴³

A Captain Bell once kept a tavern at Bean's Station at the time "the thoroughfare from all East Tennessee, North and South Carolina and Georgia was by way of Bean's Station through Cumberland Gap to Kentucky."⁴⁴ Connected with this tavern is an interesting incident concerning President Jackson while he was on his way from Washington to the Hermitage.⁴⁵

⁴⁰ Williams, *Early Travels in The Tennessee Country*, p. 523.

⁴¹ *Ibid*, foot note, p. 524.

⁴² This information from the late J. Fain Anderson, Washington College, Tennessee.

⁴³ Mrs. Catherine A. Miller, Morristown, Tennessee, personal correspondent; also Lathrop, *Early American Inns and Taverns*, p. 299. Mrs. Miller thinks it likely the Duke of Orleans, afterwards King of France, stopped at this Inn in 1797.

⁴⁴ Allison, *Dropped Stitches in Tennessee History*, p. 125.

⁴⁵ *Ibid*.

On the Newport-to-Knoxville highway, one mile from Newport, stands an old two-story frame house with a rock foundation. It is known as the old William Wilson House, and is more than a hundred years old. It was once considered one of the best taverns in the country. Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk and James Chamberlain Jones often stopped there.⁴⁶

An inn that must have had its share of interesting visitors was known as Old Tavern, located at Panther Springs, a little settlement west of Morristown, and "on the stage coach line from Bristol to Knoxville. . . . The stage coach came once weekly bringing with it not only interesting travelers, many of whom stopped at the tavern, but also the weekly mail. The tavern, a low frame building with a half-story overhead, consisted of three rooms and a small hallway. The great living-room . . . boasted a wide open fireplace with andirons, and savory cooking in the rear kitchen was achieved over a similar opening. . . . The tavern was located in the exact spot where the family of the Rev. W. L. Jones now resides. . . . It had long been in disuse as a hostelry at the time of the Civil War."⁴⁷

At Dandridge, one of the oldest towns in the State, James Roddy was the first hotel keeper. Official records of Jefferson County for the year 1800 include the following: "James Roddy hath obtained leave to keep an ordinary at his own house and hath entered into bond with Mordicae Mindingall security."⁴⁸ A list of prices allowed under the arrangement follows:

Breakfast and supper each09
Dinner10
Lodging06
Brandy, half pint08
Whiskey, half pint06
Cider, quart06
Rum, half pint06
Gin, half pint06
Wine, half pint10

⁴⁶ Mr. C. B. Mims, Newport, Tennessee.

⁴⁷ Morristown *Gazette and Mail*, February 15, 1929. Mrs. Kate Caldwell, 88 years old, and now living in Morristown, taught school in this tavern during the Civil War. "Her grandmother Eckel, riding horseback with her husband from Washington, D. C., to a prospective location in Jefferson County," stopped at this tavern in 1800. Morristown *Gazette and Mail*, February 15, 1929.

⁴⁸ Quoted in Knoxville *Sentinel*, April 30, 1928. Courtesy of Mrs. Minnie Doty Goddard, editor of Dandridge *Banner*.

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February 15, 1929.

Courtesy of Mrs. Minnie Doty

Corn or oats, per gallon.....	.06
Hay or fodder, per horse.....	.06
Good pasture, per night.....	.06 ⁴⁹

A short while after the opening of the Roddy House, John
Crockett, father of David Crockett, opened a tavern, "eight miles
east of Dandridge on the road from Knoxville to Washington."⁵⁰
"His tavern was on a small scale as he was poor and the principal
accommodations which he kept were for the waggoners who traveled
the road."⁵¹ Jackson stopped at both the Roddy and Crockett
Taverns as he traveled from Knoxville to Jonesboro.⁵²

The Brazelton place, four miles from the present Jefferson City,
"was a favorite stopping-place of Sevier and other travelers."⁵³
Steiner and Schweinitz stopped there in 1799.⁵⁴ Mr. Brazelton
was a Quaker, and the place was called Friend's Station. F. A.
Michaux's description, in 1802, says, "I stopped the first day at
a place where most of the inhabitants are Quakers who came
fifteen or eighteen years since from Pennsylvania. The one with
whom I lodged had an excellent plantation, and his log-house was
divided into two rooms, which is very uncommon in that part of
the country. Around the house magnificent apple trees were
planted which proves how well this country is adapted for the
culture of fruit-trees. . . . At the same house where I stopped there
were two emigrant families, forming together ten or twelve persons,
who were going to settle in Tennessee."⁵⁵

Knoxville, of all the villages which sprang up along the lines of
travel, was, perhaps, the most important and had a number of
places of entertainment for its guests. The Chisholm Tavern was
no doubt the first in Knoxville.⁵⁶ It was built by John Chisholm,
an intimate friend of Governor William Blount. The old wooden
building is still standing.⁵⁷

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

⁵¹ *Life of Colonel Davy Crockett*, 1869. p. 26.

⁵² Another house in Dandridge in which Jackson was entertained is still operated
as a hotel. It is now known as the Shephard Inn. It was built in 1820 by Shad-
rack Inman. See, *Knoxville Sentinel*, April 30, 1922, by Minnie Doty Goddard.

⁵³ Williams, *Early Travels in The Tennessee Country*, foot note, p. 453.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 453

⁵⁵ F. A. Michaux's "Travels to the West of the Alleghany Mountains," in
Thwaites, *Early Western Travels*, 1748-1846, 1904. III. p. 267 ff. Michaux was
a distinguished French botanist.

⁵⁶ Ramsey, *Annals of Tennessee*, 1853, reprinted, 1926, p. 560; and *E. T. Hist.*
Soc. Pub., I, 61.

⁵⁷ Mrs. Catherine A. Miller, Morristown, also Miss Kate White, Historian of
the Daughters of American Revolution for Tennessee.

In 1794 "the house in which the Assembly held its sessions . . . was occasionally the large room of Carmichael's Tavern on Cumberland Street."⁶⁸ "Mr. Stone kept a tavern on what is now known as Park's Corner."⁶⁹ It was here that Brethren Steiner and Schweinitz stopped on November 6, 1799, and wrote in their journal that they were received in a courteous manner.⁶⁰ These taverns are now no more.

The observations of Andre Michaux on his journey in Tennessee in 1785 contains the following item: "We alighted at Knoxville at the house of one Haynes, the sign of General Washington, the best inn in the town. Travelers and their horses are accommodated there at the rate of five shilling per day."⁶¹

Adam Hodgson, the English traveler of 1819, 1820, and 1821, stopped at Ray's tavern, "which being built of bricks and divided into convenient rooms appeared like a palace after our late accommodations."⁶² This was one of the first brick taverns. The Ray referred to was Archibald Rhea, a prominent figure in early Knoxville. One of the advertisements of the Rhea Tavern assured all who might call at the hotel the proprietor's personal attention in order "to render their situation easy and comfortable."⁶³ This inn was probably built about 1797,⁶⁴ and "the old Lamar House on the corner of Cumberland and Gay Streets marks the line of succession."⁶⁵ It is said that the Duke of Orleans and his brothers were entertained there.⁶⁶

The Bell Tavern and the Globe Inn were also opened early in Knoxville, the one known by the sign of the bell, and the other by the sign of the globe.⁶⁷

One of the early Knoxville taverns advertised its rates as follows: "One shilling for breakfast, one shilling for supper, and one and six-pence for dinner; board and lodging for a week costing two dollars, and board only for same space of time nine shillings."⁶⁸

⁶⁸ Ramsey, *Annals of Tennessee*, p. 630.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

⁶⁰ Williams, *Early Travels in The Tennessee Country*, p. 454.

⁶¹ *American History Magazine*, 1900, V. p. 104.

⁶² Adam Hodgson, *Travels in North America*, 1823, p. 202.

⁶³ The *Knoxville Register*, 1817, quoted by Dr. George F. Mellen, in *Knoxville Sentinel*, March 29, 1917.

⁶⁴ Mrs. Catherine A. Miller, Morristown.

⁶⁵ The *Knoxville Sentinel*, March 29, 1917.

⁶⁶ Mrs. Catherine A. Miller, Morristown.

⁶⁷ The *Knoxville Sentinel*, Mar. 29, 1917, special article by Dr. G. F. Mellen.

⁶⁸ Roosevelt, *The Winning of The West*, 1896, V, p. 244.

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1823, p. 202.
 George F. Mellen, in *Knoxville*

article by Dr. G. F. Mellen.
 , p. 244.

The David Campbell Station, out on the Kingston Pike from Knoxville, was also an early inn in 1790.⁶⁹ Featherstonhaugh stopped there in 1834, where he met President Jackson,⁷⁰ to whom he introduced his son, embarrassed because of the son's dirty appearance. Jackson's reassuring comment was, "My young friend don't be ashamed of this, if you were a politician you would have dirty work upon your hands you could not so easily get rid of."⁷¹

In 1799 Steiner and Schweinitz stopped for the night at Southwest Point (now Kingston), lodging at an inn belonging to Major Thomas King. The brethren were not very well pleased with the accommodations, and described the furnishings as "consisting of several beds of boards, along the side of the hut, already occupied by travelers as sleeping-places, a table on which there was brandy and chairs about it occupied by card-players."⁷²

This paper makes no pretense of covering the subject in its entirety. Only a few interesting old places have been treated. The tavern held a position of consequence in the national life. Up until the coming of the railroad its importance increased as a "factor in the affairs of the people and as an essential element in the making of any journey. . . . In those days of few newspapers and fewer mails the arrival at a tavern of two or three strangers from some distant city was an event of real importance to the inhabitants. . . . Many of the countrymen and settlers . . . could be found at the taverns . . . on the occasion of the arrival . . . of stage coaches . . . when the scene before the inn was one of almost incredible animation, noise, and confusion."⁷³ The taverns became the social centers where people gathered "to learn from the travelers what was happening in the great world beyond the mountains."⁷⁴

⁶⁹ Miss Kate White, Knoxville, Tenn.

⁷⁰ Featherstonhaugh, *Excursion Through The Slave States*, pp. 45, 46.

⁷¹ *Ibid.*

⁷² Williams, *Early Travels in The Tennessee Country*, pp. 499, 500. Williams thinks the description is exaggerated. See *Ibid.*, footnote, p. 500.

⁷³ Dunbar, *History of Travel in America*, Vol. I, p. 212, and Vol. II, p. 729.

⁷⁴ Roosevelt, *The Winning of The West*, 1889, I, p. 219.