

familiar with such academic endeavors knows that a thesis at the master's degree level, is not to be judged as an exhaustive example of research. Rather, it is to examine the graduate student's abilities to follow a reasonable scholarly form of presentation and the content need not indicate research into and based on original sources. Even though Mr. Merritt received two years of help from his high school students who 'assisted in gathering pertinent data.', the results were and are certainly worthwhile.

Anyway, in January 1989, I called Mr. Merritt to order ten of the histories so that I could give them to as many libraries. In the telephone conversation, I mentioned that there was a great deal more to the naming of Elizabethton, than was immediately apparent from whatever source he used. Mr. Merritt did not indicate any interest in the matter, so I just let it drop, as I knew from years of experience, how defensive many persons become when one discusses their written efforts. Whether or not this applies to Mr. Merritt, I have no idea. What I do know is that there is a more complete account of the naming of Elizabethton, Tenn., in the article I have written titled, "Elizabeth Taylor McNabb" than one is apt to find anywhere else.

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