

RE: ELIZABETH TAYLOR McNABB

TO WHOM IT MAY BE OF INTEREST OR CONCERN:

A written account substantiating the attached article concerning Elizabeth Taylor McNabb and the naming of Elizabethton, Tenn., was in existence as late as 1936 and still may be someplace. My grandfather, Walter Scott McNabb, who had lived in Hansford Co., Texas since around 1898; had been elected County Clerk for 8 years in 1906, as he was a graduate of Abilene Christian College; was President and principal owner of the first bank in Hansford County; and who owned several mineral rights to oil and gas lands in central Texas, was killed in an automobile accident, in 1936.

During the chaos that ensued from something so unexpected, the family members failed to ensure the security of my grandfather's huge office safe. Sometime after the funeral, when the family members went to the office to open the safe, they found it unlocked and completely empty. The County Sheriff, Hix Wilbanks, and his deputies never found a clue as to who might have robbed the safe. There were several good suspects as a number of people owed my grandfather considerable amounts of money and the signed notes attesting to their debts, were in the safe.

My grandfather had always had a knowledgeable interest in the McNabb Family History. He had employed several genealogists over the years and had a number of notebooks filled with family information, along with carefully filed photographs. Thus, from a close association with my grandfather and the freedom to read through all of the notebooks, plus the encouragement of both my grandfather and my grandmother, I became something of an 'authority' on the McNabbs and the McNeills. The latter being my grandmother's family who came from the Isle of Tiree, Scotland to New Brunswick, Canada, in 1825. The account of the naming of Elizabethton, Tenn. was a part of the written information in one of the notebooks. HOWEVER, it is doubtful that I would have remembered the account so clearly except for an incident at the public school I attended when I was 14 years old. Like all students of the time, I was assigned to give a talk to the class about something of interest. In an attempt to impress a certain young lady named Elizabeth, who was in my class, I read up on the account in my grandfather's notebook, concerning the naming of Elizabethton, Tenn. Additionally, I could fairly well describe Elizabethton from what I had been told by my grandfather, my grandmother and my mother, Viola Craig McNabb Davidson, who as a teenage girl had attended Ward-Belmont College, a young ladies finishing school in Nashville, Tenn. On occasion on trips to Nashville, my grandparents and my mother-to-be, would continue on to Elizabethton, Athens and Cleveland, Tenn. before returning to Texas.

In 1988, I read Frank Merritt's Master's Thesis, THE EARLY HISTORY OF CARTER COUNTY, which, as a university professor who had been on many examining committees for both masters level and doctoral level research papers, I thought was very well done. Anyone

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