

Chronicle

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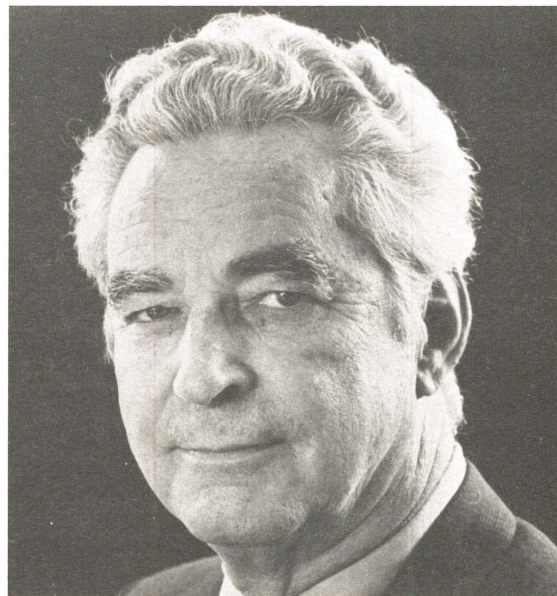
Special Issue
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Friends Recognize Robert A. McGaw

The matchless assembly of Tennessee maps collected by James Kelly and listed here is presented to Vanderbilt by the Friends of the Library and by friends of Robert Armistead McGaw. The gift comprises one hundred and twelve items of eighteenth and nineteenth century cartography - maps showing physical configurations, natural resources, geology; maps before and after statehood; maps of Indian districts, of military dispositions, of urban settlements; printed maps, manuscript maps, pocket maps, wall maps; maps in English, maps in German, maps in battle ink. And more. And all, maps of Tennessee.

Bob McGaw has had many successful careers. He was a conspicuous leader in high school and president of his freshman class at Vanderbilt. He has been a journalist, editor, author, administrator, historian, gardener, lover of trees, master of impeccable ceremony, and for his last fifteen of thirty-one years at Vanderbilt, Secretary of the University. He has had other large preoccupations, too, with many genial and aesthetic dimensions of our common life. He has been a museum trustee, member of historical societies, state historical commission chairman, devotee of pre-Columbian archaeology, a craftsman in wood, a master craftsman in words, and much more, and always with a sense of heritage, a sense of perspective, and a sure purpose.

Maps are marvelous. In World War II, Bob McGaw was a United States Marine. He flew the Pacific as navigator, successively for three



generals of the Corps. He guided his plane to four landing fields in Australia, to five in China, but mostly to landings on thirty-seven small islands in the world's largest ocean. Life depended on maps and charts. Bob McGaw mastered the charts of the Pacific, even as he has understood the history of Tennesseans and the Tennesseans of history. He understands these old maps as vivid snapshots, but also as records of striving, illuminating the maturing of his state's life and land. This collection gains lasting distinction by association with his name, and is given to Vanderbilt in his honor with affection and gratitude.

Alexander Heard
Chancellor Emeritus



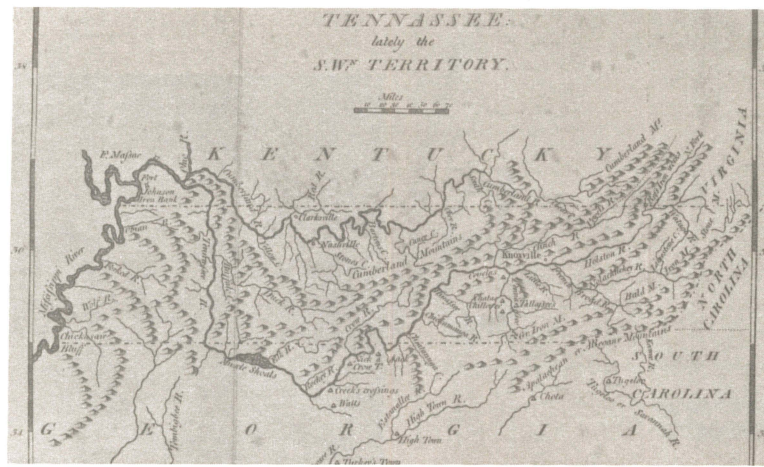
On Maps and Map Collecting

I bought my first antique map of Tennessee in July 1977. It was Carey and Lea's 1822 map, published in Philadelphia, with original hand-coloring. Its beauty appealed to me and the population tables printed beneath the map proper, especially those giving the number of slaves and free blacks by county in 1820, intrigued me. Soon I learned that Ann Wells was selling Tennessee maps. A perusal of them convinced me that no where is Tennessee's dramatic development from wilderness to frontier to settled state more poignantly demonstrated than in its maps. I was pleased to further discover that the prices, even for the best and rarest material, were reasonable compared to other fields of collecting. Having come to appreciate the significance of Tennessee maps, and ascertained that material was available and affordable, I began forming a comprehensive collection once I was assured by the director of the State Museum, my new employer, that the systematic collecting of maps was a library rather than museum function, and so did not conflict with my duties.

My first goal was to acquire a fine example of every map of Tennessee printed in the eighteenth century. Of course there were earlier maps which showed the area that would become Tennessee, but I confined myself to collecting maps in which Tennessee has been more than incidentally included, or in which something important about Tennessee has been indicated. I never confined myself to maps of the whole state. Three of the eighteenth century maps are of the Cherokee settlements in East Tennessee. The earliest, but most common, was published in the *London Magazine* in 1760. Much rarer, and my first im-

portant purchase, was Lieutenant Henry Timberlake's *Draught of the Cherokee country*, drawn in 1762, published in Timberlake's journal in 1765, and in another atlas in 1768. Rarer still is the map of the Cherokee towns published in Mante's *History of the Late War* in London in 1772. I got it from Harry Stern, a map dealer in Chicago, and I know of no other copy in Tennessee. Like the Timberlake map, it shows Britain's Fort Loudoun in East Tennessee, the existence of which at first prevented and later precipitated the Anglo-Cherokee War of 1760-61.

The collection includes a superb example of Daniel Smith's 1794 *Map of the Tennessee Government*, considered to be the first map of Tennessee *per se*. Also included are Smith's 1796 *Map of the Tennessee State* and all of the different variations of his map issued between 1795 and 1810. Of these the rarest is that issued by Gilbert Imlay which is still in the original bound atlas. Two of the eighteenth century maps are primarily of Kentucky, but in each the Southwest Territory is significantly represented, and the early date makes them important. There are two maps of the entire Southeast in which Tennessee might seem to be merely incidental, but on one East Tennessee is called the "Country of Frankland" while on the other it is the "State of Franklin." Frankland was *de facto* independent for a time because Congress refused to acknowledge it as a state. Its name was changed to Franklin in the hope that the notoriously vain Benjamin Franklin would help to persuade Congress to recognize it, but he did not. Franklin had ceased to exist when these maps were published in the 1790's, but the collector soon



discovers that there was a lag between events on the frontier and the reflection of those events on maps published in Philadelphia and London.

Occasionally a publisher did not care about the accuracy of his maps and was interested only in sales. One map in the collection, published as late as 1809 in London, shows Middle Tennessee and East Tennessee as a non-existent "State of Cumberland" while present-day West Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi are called "Tennessee"!

It was 1985 before I had acquired every printed eighteenth century map of Tennessee, and the last to be acquired was the rarest. In 1796 Revolutionary France sent Victor Collot to spy on Spanish installations in America. He drew a plan view of the Spanish fort at what would become Memphis. It was not published until 1826, in an edition of two hundred copies in French, and one hundred in English, of which this is one.

From 1977 to 1986 dozens of maps were acquired documenting Tennessee's growth from 1800 to 1861. One charts the length of the Cumberland River for purposes of navigation. One of the most obscure is from Drury's *A Geography for Schools*, published in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1822. Ann Wells was surprised to learn of its existence when she was compiling her checklist of Tennessee maps from 1820 to 1830. She has been one of my principal sources. So was the late Stanley Horn, whose manuscripts and library are also at the Heard Library. In 1979-80 I visited him about every other Saturday and never came away empty-handed, but if I got too greedy and wanted to buy too many maps at once, he rose slowly and put the maps back into the drawer of the highboy. In 1981 I purchased thirty maps from a Knoxville collector. About

half were ones I did not have. I quickly disposed of the duplicates. There are several traveler's pocket maps in the collection including one entitled *Neueste Carte von Tennessee*, published in Maastricht in 1845, for German-speaking emigrants. Particularly rare is a pamphlet with map published in Bamberg, Germany, in 1846, promoting a colony called New Bamberg near Dover, Tennessee, which seems never to have come off.

Several other maps are contained in reports on Tennessee's natural resources issued in the 1830's and 1840's by Gerard Troost, the first State Geologist. The 1860 *Nashville Business Directory* has as its frontispiece a Street map of Nashville, then the most cosmopolitan city in the South except New Orleans, as it looked on the eve of the Civil War.

A 1861 bird's-eye view of Kentucky and Tennessee, looking south from Cairo, Illinois, shows the smoke of battle over Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, although engagements were not fought there until February 1862. Perhaps this particular copy of the map was held back and not issued until early 1862. The collection includes a plan view of Fort Henry drawn in pencil by Alexander Simplot, an artist for *Harper's Weekly*, the day after the fort unconditionally surrendered to U.S. Grant. From 1863 is a manuscript map, drawn on oilcloth by Captain Edward Sayers, Chief Engineer to Polk's Corps, showing the location of Confederate depots and signal stations in southern Middle Tennessee from Franklin to Shelbyville. Also from 1863 is a Confederate imprint map, published in Augusta, Georgia, showing the environs of Chattanooga and the dispositions of the Union and Confederate armies.

Continued overleaf



I made little effort to acquire every Tennessee map from 1865 to 1900, and none to acquire those after 1900, though some came my way nonetheless. Many of these later maps are repetitive or identical because the State's towns and transportation network were fairly well established by then. Instead, I directed my efforts to acquiring booklets and tracts containing maps which reflect the "New South" philosophy of industrial development. Included are maps of the Sequatchie coal fields, the Middle Tennessee iron fields, and promotional tracts for proposed new towns such as Kimball, Marion County, and Cardiff, Roane County. Also included is a panorama of Nashville in 1888 in which every building is individually rendered. Some years ago First

American Bank reproduced the map as a print. Governor Alexander reproduced two of the maps in this collection as Christmas presents--the 1805 map from *Carey's American Pocket Atlas* and Carey's larger 1814 map.

Of course I have a sense of loss at being parted from the collection, but it is tremendously gratifying to me that it is being kept intact at my *alma mater*, and that it is being acquired in honor of so estimable a man as Bob McGaw, whom I have known almost from my first day in Nashville seventeen years ago.

James C. Kelly

M.A. 1972, Ph.D. 1974

Friends of the Library

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