

Bio:

John Wesley Legg was the original owner of the Legg-England house, built in 1846, located at 8010 Rutledge Pike, Knoxville. The home served as an inn, tavern, and stagecoach stop — a key location because Rutledge Pike was a stagecoach route to Washington, D.C. When the Civil War came around, the home was passed to his daughter and her husband, Payne, and Mary Jane England. The house was rumored to be used as a hospital and a possible command post for either the Union or Confederate armies. No matter which it was, the family appears to be confederates, as a few of Legg's sons were a part of a raid where they stole multiple horses from Union men. There is also the incident of William, Adam, and James being suspected of shooting George Majors near his country home in 1865. The motives for this murder were partially for money and political revenge. The financial aspect may have been fueled by their father's issues with debt, as evidenced by a sheriff's sale of his property to John Tunnell.

Research:

- Built in 1846 for John Wesley Legg and the house served as an inn, tavern, and stagecoach stop. Great location because Rutledge Pike served as a stagecoach route to Washington D.C.
- Address: 8010 Rutledge Pike, Knoxville, TN 37924
- During the Civil war it was owned by his daughter and her husband, Payne and Mary Jane England (1836-1904). The house was rumored to be used as a hospital but I have not found any evidence to verify this.
- John W. Legg's sons were a part of a raid that stole multiple horses from union men. Three of them (William, Adam, and James Legg) were also suspected of murdering George Majors in 1865. George Majors was shot four times on his way to his country home 2 miles outside of Knoxville. Investigations led people to believe the motive for murder was partly money and partly political revenge
- John W. Legg was involved with a sheriff's sale which put up property for public auction to pay unpaid debts. From the article clipping he owed John Tunnell money.
- https://www.utdailybeacon.com/life_and_culture/arts/loss-of-fragile-15-will-collapse-knoxville-history/article_955ba868-3d66-5f5e-bf16-4e71bd613cf9.html

MR. AND MRS. PAYNE ENGLAND.

Payne England and his wife, Mary, died Sunday at their home at McMillan Station. The husband died at 3 o'clock in the morning and the wife at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and death dealt a double blow to the sorrow-stricken family. Mrs. England was 68 years old. The funeral services over the remains of the deceased will be conducted from the residence at 2 o'clock, Tuesday afternoon, and interment will take place in the family graveyard on the homestead.

The aged couple was well known throughout the county and had innumerable friends and acquaintances, all of whom will regret to hear of their death. They were members of the Methodist church and lived consistent, Christian lives. The husband was raised at New Market, but has lived at the present home for a number of years. The wife, whose maiden name was Mary Legg, inherited the Legg homestead from her parents and on this the couple were living. Their children are: Hugh L., merchant at McMillan; Benjamin R., bookkeeper for A. J. Legg, of Boston; Joseph S., contractor and builder, of this city; Ida Bell, wife of D. W. Brimer; Lula Ann, wife of J. W. Spradlin, a well known railroad contractor; Menerva Tennessee, Parlor Ohio and Jessie Josephine are single and live at the old homestead at McMillan.

Mrs. England was the last child of her family. She was a sister of Edward Legg, deceased, who represented

REBEL RAID INTO KNOX COUNTY. — During the past week two young men, sons of John W. Legg, a prominent citizen of this county, and young Johnson, son of Presley Johnson, made a raid into this county from North Carolina, and stole several horses from Union men. They started with their "booty" to North Carolina. Lieut. Gideon White, late of the 1st Tennessee Cavalry, with several men, have gone in pursuit, we learn from the Knoxville Whig of Thursday. We hope Lieut. White will overtake and slay the thieves. They were all guerrillas in the rebel army, and the worst class of men produced by the war.

Registers and Letter Received by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872. [Link](#)

SHERIFF'S SALE.
BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF
sale from the Circuit Court of Knox county, directed to me as Sheriff of said county, in the case of John Tunnell, Adm'r, vs. John W. Legg, I will expose to public sale, to the highest bidder, for cash, at the Court House door in Knoxville, on Saturday, the 10th day of June, 1865, all the right, title, claim and demand that John W. Legg has in and to a tract of land lying in the 16th civil district of Knox county, adjoining the lands of W. H. Carter, R. M. Epps, S. Croft and others.— Said property will be sold to satisfy a judgment recovered by John Tunnell, Adm'r against John W. Legg.
may 17 4w M. D. BEARDEN, Sheriff.

Sheriff's Sale, John Tunnel vs John W. Legg, 1865. [Link](#)

A Horrible Murder.

On Saturday last our town was startled with the news that George Majors, a most worthy citizen of this county, had been murdered about two miles from town. It appears that he left town Friday evening to go to his home in the country, and the next day he was found dead some distance from the road, in the woods. He had been shot four times. The general supposition at the time was that he was killed for his money. Some facts since learned, which it is not proper now to state, lead us to suspect that he was killed partly for the sake of money, and partly to gratify political revenge. We hope hereafter to be able to give more light on this subject.

Mr. Majors was one of our best citizens. No man enjoyed more of the confidence and friendship of his neighbors. He had always been true and loyal.

We trust the home guards in his neighborhood will keep a sharp look out for his murderers and robbers.

\$1,200 REWARD!

THE CITIZENS OF KNOX COUNTY

offer a reward of **TWELVE HUNDRED DOLLARS** for the capture of the murderer or murderers of George Majors.

Five individuals are suspicioned to be the murderers, who had been lurking about through the country at the time the murder was committed, viz: **ADAM LEGG, JAMES LEGG, WILLIAM LEGG, ELBERT STEPHENS**, and one other in company, whose name we are not able to give, but he calls himself a Texan ranger.

The above reward will be secured in the hands of J. C. My-natt, to pay over to the person or persons who may capture the murderer or murderers of George Majors.

WM. SMITH, Chairman.
J. L. BROWN, Secretary.
July 12-3m

Reward for Capturing the murderer(s) of George Majors, 1865. [Link](#)