

Transcriber's Notes - Cynthia House, Suwanee Creek Chapter, NSDAR

The Dortch Farm Journal contains information that George W Dortch helped build a church in Henry County , Tennessee for The Seventh Day Adventist. George was hands-on in obtaining land near Springville Tennessee, participating in the construction of the church, getting windows for the church from Paris Tennessee and building the benches for his parishioners to sit on. He was involved in purchasing/raising money for a stove for the church.. The journal does not mention the exact location of the church. George and his wife, Allie, had important leaders of the early church stay at his home, Bro. Fulton is mentioned frequently. George and his family attended Sabbath School and attended prayer meetings.

His journal mentioned canvassing which he did on occasions. He helped raise the tent for revivals. He participated in encouraging membership for the church. He mentioned a trip to the state capital to introduce a bill for the Seventh Day Advitist to have the right to worship on Saturday, not Sunday.

He made an entry stating he was arrested for working on a Sunday, he did have a trial in another county for concerns he would not receive a fair trial in Henry County. He did not mention the county of the trial. He was cleared on all charges, per journal entry.

George was a very hard working farmer. He grew corn, oats, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes and watermelons just to name a few crops. George also planted fruit trees of different varieties. Allie, his wife had a garden near their home, as well.

George and other family members made extra money for making RailRoad ties.

George's entries always include a weather forecast. Other entries were helping neighbors raise homes, barns and build corn cribs, as well as mending fences, creating roads and retrieving tree logs from Big Sandy; these logs were used for homes and railroad ties. In the year 1889 , his son Dudlie was "in charge of the journal entries.

The journal mentions the death of his son Freddie and the birth of another son Ullie.

The farm journal was a historic look at life in Henry County Tennessee.