19. WILLIAM JENNINGS **BRYAN COLLEGE, 721** BRYAN DRIVE. (M)

Conceived during the Scopes Trial, William Jennings Bryan Memorial University (now Bryan



College) was built in memory of Mr. Bryan, who defended the Bible at the Scopes Trial and died in Dayton five days later. Opened in 1930, the school is an accredited, nondenominational Christian liberal arts college. Plaques at the entrance to Mercer Hall list ten incorporators and founders associated with the Scopes Trial. The Bryan library contains special collections relating to W.J. Bryan, H.L. Mencken, and the Scopes Trial, and exhibits relating to the trial and Mr.

20. SAINT GENEVIEVE'S ACADEMY, 449 **DELAWARE AVENUE**

This Catholic school opened in 1891 with approximately forty students and was built as a boarding and day school



primarily for children of workers at the Dayton Coal and Iron Company. The Academy closed in 1896 because the company had difficulties, which forced many workers to move away. In 2004, the building was renovated to become a restaurant.

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT ALL OF THESE PLACES, PLEASE SEE THE BOOK. "A FIELD GUIDE TO THE SCOPES TRIAL" BY RANDY MOORE, AVAILABLE IN THE SCOPES MUSEUM OF THE RHEA COUNTY COURTHOUSE BASEMENT AT A COST OF \$20.00.





TENNESSEE

Rhea County Historical & Genealogical Society @rheacountyhistory • Rheacountyheritage.com PO Box 31, Dayton, TN 37321

-RHEA HERITAGE-SCOPES TRIAL



HISTORICAL TOUR OF KEY SITES

OF

SCOPES EVOLUTION TRIAL

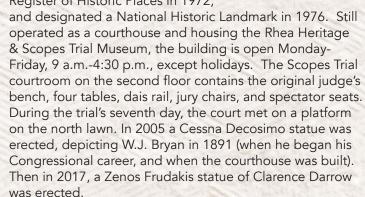
DAYTON - TENNESSEE

(M) = (METAL HISTORICAL MARKER)



1. RHEA COUNTY COURTHOUSE & MUSEUM, 1475 MARKET STREET. (M)

This Romanesque Revival/Italian Villa-Style Courthouse was built in 1891, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972,



2. F.E. (FRANK EARL) **ROBINSON HOME. 1534** THIRD AVENUE. (M)

The "Hustling Druggist" who was instrumental in initiating the Scopes Trial lived in this house on the corner of Market and Third Streets.

It was built by A.P. Haggard in 1910 and is still owned by Robinson's family.



John Scopes lived here on the North East corner of Market and Fourth Streets the year he taught

in Dayton. During the trial, residents included Scopes' father, columnist Bugs Baer, and (briefly), Joe Mendi, the chimpanzee. It is now the property of J. Shannon Garrison, Rhea County General Sessions Court Judge.

4. SITE OF RHEA CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, NEAR 232 FOURTH AVENUE. (M)

Twenty-five yards behind the buildings on this site was the school where in 1924-25 John T. Scopes coached football, basketball, and baseball and taught

mathematics, physics, and Chemistry. The building was used by Bryan University from 1930 to 1935.

Church Street and Third Avenue.

6. SITE OF LUKE MORGAN HOME, 191 SECOND **AVENUE**

The second lot from the South West corner of Walnut Street and Second Avenue is where Clarence Darrow and his wife, Ruby, stayed during the Scopes Trial. Morgan's son, Howard, was the first of John Scopes' students to testify during the trial.

7. TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 240 **FIRST AVENUE**

The church was organized when the Methodist Church in Rhea County "split" over the slavery issue in 1844. During the Scopes Trial, Reverend Howard G. Byrd was the pastor. Byrd accepted evolution, and urged his



church to support "true science." Byrd invited Unitarian preacher, Charles Potter, to speak at his church about evolution, and his congregation threatened to close the church. At that time, Byrd quit and left Dayton.

8. JOHN MORGAN **FURNITURE STORE,1402** MARKET STREET. (M)

John Morgan began this business in 1909, and the business is still owned and operated by the Morgan family.



This was the first retail establishment in "North Dayton." The business rented its second-floor rooms to reporters (such as W.O. McGeehan of Harper's Weekly) during the Scopes Trial.

9. BAILEY HARDWARE, 1356 MARKET STREET, (M)

This building (built in 1909) has a loft known as "The Press Hall" which was used during the Scopes Trial as a place where many of the reporters worked and had their sleeping quarters.



THOMISON HOSPITAL.

Near the northwest corner of the intersection of West Main and Market Streets, Frederick Richard



Rogers worked at Robinson's Drug Store during the Scopes Trial, and then opened Rogers Pharmacy, which closed in 2004. Above the pharmacy was Thomison Hospital run by Dr. Walter Agnew Thomison (who first administered penicillin in this part of Tennessee), assisted by his father, Dr. Walter Fairfield Thomison, who was the attending physician for William Jennings Bryan at his death. Wilkey Barber Shop, now a parking lot, and adjoining the pharmacy to the West was where Bryan, Darrow, Scopes, and other trial participants visited during the trial. Also, on May 19, 1925, barbers Thurlow Reed and Virgil Wilkey helped stage a fake protest fight with George Rappleyea to promote the upcoming Scopes Trial. This event was held at the Courthouse and was done at the request of the Dayton Progressive Club president.





brought a chimpanzee named Joe Mendi to town, and after being excluded from Bailey's Boarding House, they stayed in this house on the North West corner of



11. HICKS LAW OFFICE, UPSTAIRS AT 305 EAST MAIN STREET

Scopes Trial prosecution lawyers Herbert E. Hicks and Sue K. Hicks (the original "Boy Named Sue" of the Johnny Cash hit song) had their law office upstairs in this building.



12. SITE OF F.E. ROBINSON'S DRUG STORE AND AQUA HOTEL, WEST MAIN STREET, (M)

The vacant lot which adjoins Community National Bank is the site of the drug store where the first local Plans for the Scopes Trial were made by F.E. Robinson, George Rappleyea, and others. Next



to Robinson's Drug Store was the three-story Aqua Hotel, where the following Scopes Trial participants roomed, ate, or conferred: Arthur Garfield Hays, Dudley Field Malone, Dr. John R. Neal, Judge John T. Raulston, William Jennings Bryan, and Clarence Darrow.

13. FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 1035 MARKET STREET, (M)

The current building on the North West corner of Market and California Avenues has



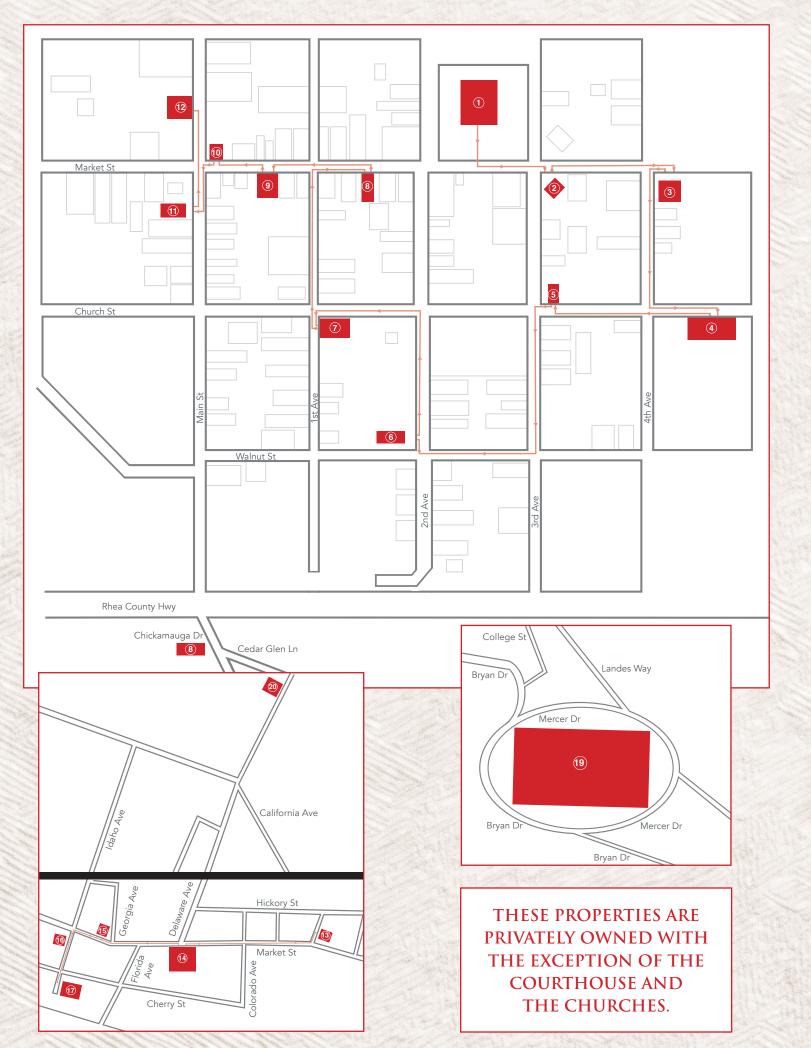
been renovated and expanded and does not look like it did at the time of the Scopes Trial. At this "Southern Methodist" church, William Jennings Bryan made his last public appearance when he attended the morning worship on Sunday, July 26, 1925, and was asked to lead in prayer.

14. SMITH'S CROSS ROADS, NEAR 799 MARKET STREET, (M)

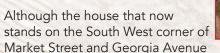
There is a historical marker on the South West corner of Market Street and Delaware Avenue at the Intersection of the Kiuka War Trace (Black Fox Trail) and the main north-south Indian Trail to the Great Lakes. Around 1822 Dayton was organized as Smith's Cross



Roads; in 1878 the Name was changed to Dayton. In the late 1830's when the Federal Government moved Cherokee Indians to the Southwest, their route came through this spot along "The Trail of Tears." On Highway 30 West, there is a Trail of Tears sign and a sign for the William J. Bryan Highway, designed as such by the Tennessee Legislature in 1937.



15. SITE OF F.R. ROGERS HOME, 711 MARKET STREET. (M)





is not the original Rogers house, the retaining wall bordering the property is original. The Rogers family temporarily moved out to let William Jennings Bryan and his family stay there. Bryan died in the Rogers house on July 26, 1925.

16. WALTER F. THOMISON HOME, 656 MARKET STREET, (M)

Now called The Magnolia House, a residential care facility, this 1890 Colonial Revival structure



was built by Dr. Walter F. Thomison for his sixteen-year-old bride, Ella Darwin. Ella was also the sister of J.R. Darwin. Dr. Thomison had Dayton's first drug store, was chief doctor for the Dayton Coal and Iron Company, and the local surgeon for the Southern Railway System. He was the attending physician at William Jennings Bryan's death and signed the death certificate. This is the original house, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997, and was inhabited by the Thomison Family descendants for ninety-nine years.

17. BROYLES-DARWIN HOME, 108 EAST IDAHO AVENUE, (M)

Built by S.D. Broyles in 1861, this is the oldest house in Dayton.
Broyles served in the Confederate



cavalry and was the first permanent resident of Smith's Crossroads, the predecessor of Dayton. The James Robert Darwin family bought the house in 1908, and boarded two reporters during the Scopes Trial. J.R. Darwin owned Darwin's General Mercantile in Dayton, and was the brother of Ella, mistress of Magnolia House. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

18. CEDAR HILL, OFF HIGHWAY 27 ON CEDAR GLEN LANE. (M)

Erected in 1929 by Dr. Walter A. Thomison and local businessmen, this was Dayton's first Hospital. From 1932-1938, it was used by



Bryan University as a women's dormitory, college dining hall, and kitchen. From 1938-1946, it was owned and operated as a tourist home and residence by Dayton attorney, Walter Michael and his wife, Anna B. Then, Mr. Sheble, from Iran, bought the building and rented some of the rooms. After that, Bryan College purchased the building and used it for married students and then as a women's dormitory. Now it is an apartment building.