

# Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem

## Member Biographical Sketch

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1. How did you become interested in Sherlock Holmes?

My first Sherlock Holmes story to read was The Red-Headed League. I also read a scholarly work titled Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street by William S. Baring-Gould.

2. What is your favorite story or stories?

BLUE, CROO, HOUN, MUSG

3. Who are your favorite characters other than Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson?

Violet de Merville, Henry Baker, Lucy Hebron, Patrick Cairns.

4. Share something about the Nashville Scholars monthly meetings.

I like the fellowship with kindred souls.

About the first Scholars Meeting I ever attended.

Like many others I read Ken Beck's piece in the January 4, 1979 Tennessean and I called John Shanks about joining. He told me Hap Cavett (who lived near me) had also expressed an interest and suggested we come together. We missed the first meeting but made the second one at the Showboat Lounge in Madison.

### Biographical Sketch

I was born in Nashville's old Protestant Hospital for a cost of seventy dollars total- including delivery and seven nights stay. I remember when Nashville had street cars. I am almost as old as Dick Renfro and that's saying a lot. When I was a kid Basil Rathbone was Sherlock- in black and white. I would see him at the Fifth Avenue, the Princess or the Knickerbocker, all gone the way of the hoop skirt.

At some point Shanks moved away and the group had petered out by the mid-eighties. It wasn't until Gael brought it back to life that my wife Mary Jane started coming with me. We were active through the nineties when we fell by the wayside. Mary Jane died in 2011 and I just recently got back into Sherlockiana.

My life has been a varied one. I worked for seven different circuses starting in 1959 as an advance man. I was running the Texas Prison Rodeo when I met Mary Jane and in 1971 we took out a magic show playing schools in the South for three years; we then settled down and I went back to school for a

masters and taught school for eight years, during five of which I was a rural school principal (elementary, my dear). Mary Jane worked in hospitals most of her life and retired from Vanderbilt as Administrative Assistant of Surgical Research. I finished up my working life as a probation officer for the state. We have one son- John, now fifty, who lives with me and helps me since I spend most of the time in a wheelchair.