

CHRONICLER

Preserving Our Past



Issue 39, April 1, 2017

Greenback Historical Society, Inc.
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www.gbhistorical.webs.com

A GREENBACK WALKING TOUR

It has taken a while to come together but we now have a guide for a walking tour of historical Greenback. Several years back, the Historical Society established a goal of assembling material which would allow visitors to find historical locations in the region. For the program at the Annual Meeting two years ago, President Shirley Hall divided the audience into groups with poster boards and marking pens to list various candidate sites in the area. Afterward, examples of such tours in other cities were found on the internet to guide us in our thinking.

Practical considerations led us to decide that two or more tours would be the best way to divide the effort. First: we had in hand considerable information in the form of pictures, maps and historical facts about early Greenback from the work done on the scrapbook. This was the “low hanging fruit” which would allow us to put something together in a relatively short time and became the basis for the “walking” tour. Second: “driving” tours introduce several complications that need to be considered. The list of potential sites is fairly large and needs to be winnowed down. We don’t have the kind of background information available for these sites that we have for the town so much research needs to be completed. Finally, we need to keep the length of tours short enough that visitors will actually want to undertake them.

At the 2016 Annual Meeting, Teresa Goddard presented a sketched map of Greenback sites to be considered for a walking tour. It was agreed that the scrapbook archive should be searched and pictures selected that could be used to show the buildings which occupied these sites through the years. At the following Quarterly Meeting in April, Paul Bailey presented a slide show of these buildings and asked for suggestions as to which pictures to use.

At this year’s Annual Meeting in January, Paul presented a prototype of the walking tour guide brochure. After incorporating suggestions from members who proofread the brochure, it was reviewed again at the March board meeting. Copies have been printed and are now available at the Greenback Heritage Museum for visitors who want to take the tour.

The brochure is based in large part on the scrapbook put together by Edwin Best, Sr. and preserved at the Blount

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, April 15, 2:00PM at the Greenback Community Center.

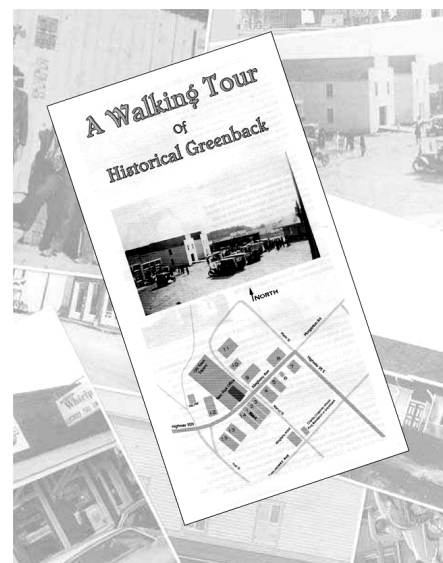
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County Library. Access to it was graciously made possible by his son, Edwin Best, Jr. It focuses on Greenback in the early 1900s and the exact location of most buildings is made possible through a copy of the Alleghany Town Company map and Best’s text which identifies the lot numbers on which they stood. Pictures for later years came from several scrapbook contributors and we appreciate their help as well.

The experience from putting together the walking tour guide should help us as we continue to work on driving tours. We certainly would appreciate any thoughts and suggestions that might come from those who use the brochure.

-Paul Bailey



Front panel of the walking tour brochure available at the Greenback Heritage Museum.

PUBLICATIONS

The "official" presentation of Volume III of the Greenback Heritage Scrapbook to the Greenback Heritage Museum and the Greenback Public Library took place at the end of January. Betty Carroll and Paul Bailey, representing the Greenback Community Club Scrapbook Committee, made the presentation to Sandra Tipton of the museum staff and Bambi Walker, Greenback Library Director. The event was reported in a very nice piece by Linda Braden Albert of the The Daily Times on Sunday February 5. For those of you who might have missed the printed article, a link to it can be found on the Scrapbook Page of the museum website at www.gbmuseum.webs.com. The Historical Society has donated copies of the scrapbook to the Loudon, Monroe County and Blount County libraries as well as the East Tennessee Historical Society. Thanks to Brenda Blair for helping with the distribution.

We are still accepting material for Volume IV which will cover the period 1960 up to nominally the end of 2000. At present, we expect to have a follow-on Volume V to extend beyond 2000. If you have family or community photos, documents or newspaper clippings, please leave them with Betty Carroll.

The Historical Society website now seems stable after undergoing some disruptive upgrades by the service provider late last year. Updates have been made to several pages to reflect the upcoming events in 2017. Something of interest added to the Decoration Days page are cemetery locator links for Loudon and Blount Counties. The links are to *RootsWeb* sites at *Ancestry.com* and are the work of a group in South Carolina to provide GPS coordinates for most cemeteries to aid in genealogical research. In addition, there are links to aerial views of the individual cemeteries using Google maps. For some cemeteries, there are links to *Find-a-grave.com* with pictures of the headstones and inscriptions. There is also an indication of whether the cemetery is listed in the Robert McGinnis surveys. It's an interesting activity so take a look if you are interested in this kind of research. Their site is still under construction so there are some errors like cemeteries being shown in the wrong county, or identified with the wrong community, etc.

-Paul Bailey

MUSEUM MUSINGS

The Greenback Heritage Museum will host their 7th Annual Quilt Show September 7-9, 2017, from 9AM until 5PM each day. You are invited to enter your favorite quilts and compete for cash prizes to be awarded to the top three winners.

Quilts may be dropped off at the museum on August 31 through September 2 from 10AM until 2PM and on

September 5 from 5PM until 8PM. As in the past, quilts will each be given a number and piggy banks with the corresponding numbers will collect the votes in the form of pennies. The winners will be the ones with the most votes in their banks.

Pick up times after the show will be September 9 from 4PM to 5PM and September 14 from 10AM until 2PM. We are looking forward to seeing your entrees. To help speed up registration, entry forms may be downloaded from the museum web site at www.gbmuseum.webs.com. A flyer for the show may also be downloaded from there. Take one to show your fellow quilt enthusiasts. For further information, call Barbara Davis at 865-660-0123 or Betty Carroll at 865-856-3467.

As has become a tradition, there will be a Craft Fair held in the Greenback Depot across the street concurrent with the Quilt Show on Friday, September 8 and Saturday, September 9. For booth information, call Wendy Tittsworth at 865-548-3764. To entertain the guys, they can bring their old tractors for display in the vacant lot across the street from the depot on Saturday from 9AM until 5PM.

-Sandra Tipton and Paul Bailey

GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

The National Genealogical Society will hold a conference in Raleigh, NC on May 10-13, 2017. The theme is "Family History Lives Here". The website (<http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org>) contains a registration link. It also includes an online version of the program and a link where a brochure may be downloaded. Attendees may pre-register for meals, workshops and special events until April 27. On-site conference registration opens Tuesday, May 9, noon to 7:00PM. It is an opportunity to hear genealogy professionals from around the world share their expertise.

-Linda Cabe

A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

If you haven't already done so, now would be a good time to pay your dues for the present year. Individual dues are \$10 per year and families are \$15. They may be paid to Treasurer Brenda Blair by mail or at the next meeting on April 15. If you would like to join our esteemed organization, a membership application can be downloaded from our web site www.gbhistorical.com on the Membership page.

-Thank you. The Management

The annual meeting of the Greenback Historical Society was held on Saturday, January 28, 2017, at the Greenback Community Center. The meeting began at noon with a potluck lunch with 21 in attendance. The invocation was given by Roy Goddard. After lunch the meeting was called to order by President Shirley Hall.

The minutes of the October 22, 2016 meeting were read by Linda Cabe and were accepted to be filed for audit. The treasurer's report was given by Brenda Blair with an ending balance for 2016 of \$5,930.77. The Preservation Account had an ending balance of \$1,477.42.

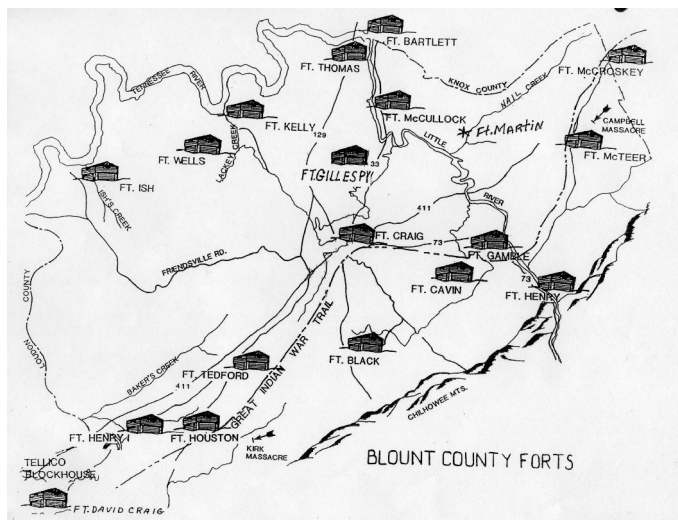
Program - President Hall introduced the guest speaker, Ken Cornett. He is a member of the Blount County Historical Society and has served as its president. He has also worked hard to establish the Blount County Museum. His presentation was on the Early Forts in Blount County and a map is shown below. Mr. Cornett has also written a book called "Udderly Blount: A Documentation of Dairy Farms and Milk Bottles in Blount County, Tennessee".

Committee Reports

Walking Tour - Paul Bailey reported on the status of the tours and passed around a prototype of the walking tour brochure. It is close to being ready for the printer and copies will be placed in the museum to guide visitors who wish to take the walk.

Scrapbook - Paul Bailey announced that Volume III Scrapbook from 1930-1960 was completed and a copy was brought to the meeting for members to see. Volume IV is now being worked on and this book would cover 1960-2000. The period after 2000 will have to go in another volume due to the amount of material to be included.

Historical Marker - Cindy Benefield said that the text has been formatted to fit the state requirements for a two sided marker. Several other things have to be done before the



A map of the early forts in Blount County, Tennessee, courtesy of Ken Cornett.

application is ready to be sent to the state. These include getting a Letter of Consent from the property owner and an exact location of where the marker is to go with the precise GPS coordinates.

Other Markers - Oscar Lidstrom reported the Assistant Director for State Programs had sent him an email that stated the Norwood Inn and Militia Springs Markers would be replaced within this year, hopefully by June 30.

Old Business

Ration Cards - Brenda Blair reported on the status of the collection of World War II Ration Card Applications and made a motion that the Ration Cards that were purchased from the Sparkly Pig for \$475 be donated to the Greenback Heritage Museum. The motion carried.

New Business

Colleen announced the dates for the quarterly meetings for 2017 are:

- Saturday, April 15 - 2:00 p.m. - Upstairs of Community Center
- Saturday, July 22 - 12 Noon - Downstairs of Community Center with the Ice Cream Contest to follow at 2:00. Setup at 1:00.
- Saturday, October 21 - 2:00 p.m. - Upstairs of Community Center
- Saturday, January 20, 2018 - 12:00 Noon - Potluck Lunch

The Halloween Trunk or Treat will be October 28, 2017.

Election of Directors - The Nominating Committee consisted of Colleen Ragain, Cindy Benefield and Betty Carroll. The Slate of Director Nominees presented by Colleen were:

- Larry Benson to replace Penny McLoughlin
- Barbara Davis to replace Teresa Goddard
- Brenda Blair was asked to serve a second term.

It was moved to accept this slate of directors and the motion carried. The meeting was then adjourned.

-Summarized from Minutes provided by Linda Cabe



Guest speaker Ken Cornett and President Shirley Hall display the cover page of Volume III of the Greenback Heritage Scrapbook.

HAPPY SURVIVORS

The Greenback Happy Survivors Committee has planned an Annual Meeting at the Greenback Community Center. All who attended Greenback High School from 1924 to 1965 are invited to attend. Former teachers are also welcome.

The reunion will be on Saturday, April 22, 2017, at 11:30 AM.

Reservations may be made payable to Greenback Happy Survivors in the amount of \$15 per person.

Mail to: Darlene Kerley
268 Royal Oaks
Maryville, TN 37801

RSVP by April 8, 2017 to
Darlene Kerley at 865-983-7387

GREENBACK'S CONNECTION TO "A BOY NAMED SUE"

Not many people know there is a connection between Johnny Cash's "Boy Named Sue" and Greenback.

First recorded on Cash's *Live At San Quentin* album, "Boy Named Sue", extols how hard it is to be a boy with a girl's name and how mad he was at his father for naming him Sue. The Sue referred to is Sue Kerr Hicks, who became a judge and participated in the famous Scopes (Monkey) Trial in Dayton, Tennessee where a teacher was accused of teaching evolution.

Sue's mother, Susan Cotharp Hicks, died 2 weeks after her son's birth and his father, Charles Wesley Hicks, named him Sue after his mother. All three are buried in Madisonville. Sue's first cousin Charles "Clue" Hicks was married to Euphemia McClain Hicks, who was the aunt of Ruth Griffiths McCollum. So, it's a bit of a stretch, but there is a tie!

Shel Silverstein actually wrote the lyrics after hearing Judge Sue speak at a judicial conference in Gatlinburg. Other than being inspired by the name, not much else in the song rings true to Sue K Hicks who never tried to exact revenge on his father. In 1970, Hicks noted, "It is an irony of fate that I have tried over 800 murder cases and thousands of others, but the most publicity has been from the name "Sue" and from the evolution trial. I was named Sue for my mother who died after childbirth." (New York Times, July 12, 1970).

In the picture in the next column, Euphemia is shown with her siblings and mother.

-Cindy McCollum Benefield



Starting at the lower right and proceeding clockwise: Lucy Howard McClain (Mother) (Cindy Benefield's great-great-grandmother; Cindy has her turkey platter). Next is Mary Louise McClain (also called Lucy) who married Bert Griffiths. They had 4 daughters: Margaret (Montgomery), Ruth (McCollum), Bessie (Vining), and Nancy (Jackson). Third is Euphemia (Famy) McClain (Married Charles McClure (Clue) Hicks, their daughter Sonia Novak was a novelist, poet, contributor to Good Housekeeping and other publications). Fourth is Minnie Elvira McClain (Married Rueben Harrison Hyatt of Bryson City.) Fifth is Benjamin Alexander McClain.

IN MEMORIAM

Yates, Elizabeth Jo, 91, Jan 13, 2017.

Duckett, Steve, 62, Feb 4, 2017.

McCowan, William "Bill" 62, Feb 4, 2017.

Abbott, Darren Lynn, 43, Feb 24, 2017.

Brown, Bobby G., 82, March 1, 2017.

Johnson, Betty Jo Wear, 87, March 2, 2017.

Swofford, Gladys Garren, 90, March 5, 2017.

DeMarcus, Mack, 78, March 6, 2017.

Evans, Rev. Owen C., 89, March 10, 2017.

Cooper, Max, 79, March 11, 2017.

Bryant-McCollum, Betty Jo, 81, March 12, 2017.

Myers, Loyd (John), 69, March 14, 2017.

McGhee, Hugh, 82, March 16, 2017.

Ownby, Dorothea, 82, March 16, 2017.

Walker, Joe, 82, March 16, 2017.

McKee, Stevie Ray, 49, March 17, 2017.

Delmar, Steve, 67, March 24, 2017.

McCammion, William "Bill" C., Sr., 88, March 24, 2017.

DeMarcus, Jo Ann, 76, March 26, 2017.

Raines, Roy L., 72, March 29, 2017.

It was a dreary morning as Glenn Wear came in after checking on the animals. After washing his hands in water dipped from the bucket by the sink, he sat down at the kitchen table for breakfast. On the table was a platter of fried sausage, a bowl of gravy, a pad of butter churned from buttermilk, a honey jar from the bee hives of his friend Gene Tarwater and a plate of piping hot biscuits. Glenn smiled in pleasure and looked forward to the two soft-boiled eggs in the egg cups on his plate.

Glenn cracked open the eggs and jumped up from his chair. Holy -----! Woman what are you doing, trying to poison me! Bright green egg yolks were running onto his plate. His brow wrinkled up in his agitated surprise as Nell, his daughter Carolyn, and his Mother-in-law, Mrs. Anderson began to giggle!!! Nell said, "Clarence really got it to you this time", she laughed over her giggles. Mrs. Anderson brought him a fresh plate with at least one egg cracked and showing a warm yellow yolk! "I'll get that Clarence" said Glenn, but since neither Clarence Long nor Clarence Melton raised chickens, Glenn wasn't sure for some time who played the joke on him. The joke was passed around town until someone like P.K. Greenway could think of a new one!

During those days there was no television, no movies, and no entertainment except "Jack Benny", "Fibber McGhee and Molly" "Jackie Gleason" and other comedies on the radio...if you had one you could hear over the static. The men on town amused themselves by playing pranks and jokes on their friends.

-Carolyn Melton Peck

NOLA MELTON ELAM AWARD

Greenback High Students have again been encouraged to enter an essay contest. The subject this year is President James Madison, known as the "Father of the Constitution" and Fourth President of the United States from 1809-1817. He was one of the authors of the Federalist Papers. While he was a scholar, who opposed war, he is often quoted on the need for a well-armed Militia. The War of 1812 occurred during his tenure.

The students who enter must submit an essay of 1500 to 2000 words on the subject and be recommended by their teacher. Essays must be submitted to Carolyn Peck no later than the first of May, 2017. Teachers will set the deadline for submission to him or her. Applications must be accompanied by typewritten or computer formatted essays and students need to give permission to use the winning essay in the newsletter and/or give the essay verbally at a quarterly meeting of the Greenback Historical Society. Judges are Thelma Cooper, Paul Bailey, and President Shirley Hall of the local historical society. An award of \$1,000 to the student and \$100 to the teacher will be presented at

graduation on May 12.

Nola Melton Elam was a citizen who was a mother, a housewife, a teacher, and first woman bank president in the State of Tennessee. She loved Greenback! It is our intention to continue these awards and, in the future, to choose subjects who have ties to East Tennessee.

-Carolyn Melton Peck

CAROLYN'S CORNER

Sometimes things don't go as planned but turn out fine anyway. I left McGhee-Tyson on March 9, fully planning to return by the 25th of March in time to see the *Tanasi* play and finish the newsletter. My daughter was planning to arrive in Williamsburg on the 22nd and drive me home in my car which I had left at my son, Craig's home. By the time I got there, she had changed her arrival time from the 22nd to the 29th. My grandson attends South Carolina University and although I did not know the reason, the family had tickets to the NCAA Tournament. As South Carolina kept winning, they kept staying!!!!

Craig and Stephanie are both working long hours. Craig has had a Radio Shack Franchise for years, but since Radio Shack declared bankruptcy, he now has two stores of his own called Gizmo's. On Saturdays, he is teaching a class, pro bono, to anyone who wishes, mostly children but some adults. One of the first things they did was to learn to make robots. I met a teacher from William and Mary and a seven year old child, who has been coming for two years and is still excited to be there!!!! While I was there, Craig began an afternoon advanced class for which he charges each session.

Stephanie, his wife, an Esthetician, has her own shop, but works one day a week in the Office of a Plastic Surgeon, and has now developed her own brand of teas for sale. Cody, Craig's adult son, came to Sunday breakfast, cooked by Craig, a family tradition. But the most fun of all was getting to spend two Sunday Afternoons with great grandson, Anthony Peck, 5, who read two of his schoolbooks to me and joined me in a game of Tic-Tac-Toe.

Cynthia finally arrived on March 31, after spending time covering duties for her male employee who had a baby (Paternity Leave). I do not get to see them often enough so you will not be inflicted with my family get-togethers too often.

I now know why I have had so many computer problems!! My email provider has been hacked at least three times in the last six months and I have been "hashed." Yahoo had secret system software files stolen at least twice.

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Stamp

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Colleen Ragain, *Vice President* 865-740-5429

Linda Cabe, *Secretary* 865-856-6412

Brenda Tarwater Blair, *Treas.* 865-856-2394

Cindy McCollum Benefield

Larry Benson

Brenda Tarwater Blair

Barbara Davis

Laura Del Rio

Roy Goddard

Kitty Ragain

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CAROLYN'S CORNER (*Continued from Page 5*)

In response to that, they have "hashed" those that they suspected may have had their account information stolen. Being "hashed" means that Yahoo has blocked entry until an owner establishes new passwords. It also means they have blocked all the security questions and answers to use to bypass the old passwords. They sent me one whole page of things to do last week. If you have email with Yahoo, you may want to check if they have notified you as well.

Cindy's article about the "Boy Named Sue" got me to thinking about my own family connection. My family on both sides were closely tied to Judge Hicks and his wife, Reba. They were friends to the McSpaddens, my mother's family, and my father dated Reba when they were younger. Judge recommended me to become the County Director of the Monroe County Welfare Department in 1966. I have heard the "Boy Named Sue" story for most of my life. According to our version, Cash met Sue Hicks in Gatlinburg before he recorded the song! That story may be simply myth, however.

-Carolyn Melton Peck

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 14, *Good Friday.*

April 15, Greenback Historical Society Quarterly Meeting, 2:00 PM at the Greenback Community Center. Open to the public.

April 16, *Easter*

April 17, *Make the IRS Happy!*

April 22, *Happy Survivors. 11:30 AM Greenback Community Center. See article in this issue for details.*

May 2017, *National Preservation Month.*

May 12, *Greenback High School Graduation. Nola Elam Award Presentation.*

July 22, Greenback Historical Society Quarterly Meeting and Ice Cream Contest. Noon, downstairs at the Greenback Community Center.

Aug 20, *Historical Society of Loudon County Meeting. 3:00PM, Greenback Community Center. Hosted by Greenback Historical Society. Program by Paul Bailey.*