

CHRONICLER

PRESERVING OUR PAST



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Greenback Historical Society, Inc.
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QUILTS WITH A STORY

The Greenback Heritage Museum held its 8th Annual Quilt Show September 6th, 7th and 8th. There were old and new quilts dating back from 1885 to the present.

Oh how easy it is to go to a quilt shop today and purchase material for our modern day quilters. And yes, you will find pieces already cut out for you! There's quite a selection of colors and designs.

Like many ladies in 1930, Isophene Archer Blair did not have the luxury of visiting the many cloth shops we have now. One quilt in particular was submitted by Betty Blair, Isophene's daughter-in-law. It was pieced with old scraps from dresses, dish towels and any other items too small to be used for anything else. It was put together with Prince Albert tobacco sacks. Absolutely nothing went to waste! The quilt was later hand quilted and given to Betty and Bill Blair.

We had many older quilts holding special memories for the owners such as "The Old Thompson Family Tacked Quilt", which submitted by Dora Jane Thompson Satterfield. The quilt was made by her mother Bessie Peterson Thompson and grandmother Rebecca Peterson.

The "Dresden Plate" Quilt was a popular entry with many variations of the pattern. One special story included an entry from Gail Woods Skidmore. Gail entered a Dresden pattern heirloom which she did not even know existed until recently. This past May she had a visit from her cousin Roy Marshall who is the executor for her aunt Martha Jane Woods Phillips estate. Roy presented Gail with this quilt made by her grandmother Ruth Ailey Woods. Ruth was born in the late 1800's. She made this quilt around 1910 and gave it to Martha Jane. What a surprise for Gail to receive this treasure. The quilt was hand pieced and quilted from pastels and with an unusual border of ice cream cones.

Many modern patterns such as "Tumbling Blocks", "Potato Chip", "Monkey Wrench", "Chevy" and "UT" were shared.

The show even included wearable quilting! Donna Irwin Couture entered a very pretty and interesting "Animal Print" vest. Welcome back to Greenback, Donna.

The "Bookshelf Quilt" submitted by Christine Perkins was quite a conversation piece. While hanging alongside

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, October 13 at 2 PM at the Greenback Community Center.

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the bookshelf in the museum many had trouble distinguishing between the quilt and the real thing.

There were many beautiful quilted wall hangings displayed as well. Another precious story – "How I Survived Breast Cancer" was submitted by Gwen Driskill. Gwen shared through her wall hanging pattern how faith in God, hope, helping hands, good food, friends and family helped her through this very difficult time of her life.

Sheri Liles created her own design "Ghost Nuts Come from Ghost Trees". She used black walnut shells to form the faces of the ghosts. Each ghost represents a family member lost during her lifetime. Sheri also told her story of the 2017 Solar Eclipse through another wall hanging. It was the landscape as witnessed from her back yard. She enjoys doing landscapes as taught by John Campbell Folk School.

Our first place winner was Mary Farmer with her "Fall Harvest" quilt. Mary hand pieced and quilted her masterpiece of fall colors. Mary has that special knack of sharing stories of each of her quilts. Another one of her entries was an "Irish Lace" afghan. The wool used for this was from sheep raised by her granddaughter at the Venus Looking Farm in Greenback. Mary described the sheep as cream colored with red heads and legs and green eyes. The wool was sent to Oklahoma for cleaning then was spun into yarn. The second place winner was Mary Lynn Long. Mary shared the "Yo Yo" quilt made by a friend in 1980.

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QUILTS WITH A STORY (Continued from Page 1)

The pattern “Trip Around the World” was made of pastels and navy.

The third place winner was Amy Chaney sharing her quilted wall hanging “Spring Glory”. This hanging was machine pieced with spring colored bargello surrounding a trapunto cross in the center.

What a joy it was to have folks come in and share their many stories.

This quilt show was a very difficult one for our committee. We so miss our precious, dear friend and co-worker Betty Carroll. Betty was chairman of the museum board. She was one of the driving forces behind the formation of the museum and tirelessly devoted her time, resources and efforts in preserving our small town heritage and history.

The museum was very fortunate to have four of Betty’s own quilts entered in the showing. Two of which were quilted just in time for the show. The “Slice ‘n’ Dice” pattern with vibrant colors of purple, teal & beige. Another beautiful “Slice ‘n’ Dice” pattern with teal, orange and beige. Betty’s love and personality were greatly reflected in her quilting.



A tribute to Betty Carroll on display at the 2018 Greenback Museum Quilt Show. Picture by Sandra Kerr Tipton.

We thank each and every one that participated in the quilt show sharing with us 87 quilts. We look forward to seeing you again next year.

-Sandra Kerr Tipton, Treasurer and Acting Chairman, Greenback Heritage Museum



First place Quilt Show winner “Fall Harvest” by Mary Farmer. Photo by Sandra Tipton.



Second place winner “Yo-Yo” by Mary Lynn Long.

HALLOWEEN IS COMING

The last Saturday of October is the traditional date of the Halloween *Trunk or Treat* event for kids in downtown Greenback. Setup begins at 4PM and the goblins roam from 5-8PM. Contact Colleen Ragain at 865 740 5429 or Laura at 865 384 0881 to find out how you can help.

IN MEMORIAM

McBride, William Larry, 77, July, 6, 2018.
Brown, Mable Costner Love, 82, July, 13, 2018.
Morris, Nancy Jean, 74, July, 18, 2018.
Sharp, Jack D., 85, July, 27, 2018.
Patty, Mason Henry, 66, July, 28, 2018.
Potter, Johnny, 79, July, 30, 2018.
Isbell, Homer Laughlin, MD, 96, Aug., 3, 2018.
Housley, Betty Morton, 89, Aug., 7, 2018.
Long, Frank, 81, Aug., 18, 2018.
Hall, Parks Howard, 84, Aug., 20, 2018.
Coppenger, Clarence Howard, 70, Aug., 24, 2018.
Brock, Stan, 82, Aug., 29, 2018, Founder of RAM.
Tullos, Robin Compton, 64, Sep. 5, 2018.
Ramsey, Betty Ruth, 84, Sep. 6, 2018.
Wright, Ronald Lee, Jr., "Big Ron", 51, Sep. 12, 2018.
McJunkins, Coleman Alexander, 24, Sep. 14, 2018.
Chandler, James Earl, 70, Sep. 25, 2018.
Lewellyn, William W., "Bill", 96, Sep. 28, 2018.
Bradley, Frank Taylor, 78, Sep. 29, 2018.

VOICES OF THE VALLEY: BLACK VOICES OF A COMPANY TOWN CALLED ALCOA

On July 26, the one-Act Play by Joyce Leo, Greenback Historical Society Member, was presented at the Maryville Friends Church in Maryville. The play was based on over 60 interviews conducted by Shirley Carr Clowney, Alcoa Historian, and Susan Ambler, Maryville College Sociology Professor. Original Music was created by Larry Erwin, director of Multi-Cultural Affairs and Gospel Director, Maryville College.

The play opened with the sound of African Drums announcing the arrival of Shaman, played by Robert Darrell Orange. Following the Shaman, eight characters spoke of the different times in the development of Alcoa. "Big Mama" played by Lucinda Mynatt Williams, was a big hit as she described the founding of Alcoa in 1913 She was followed by Jake Parson, Potboiler Man, who told of Alcoa officials who came to the cotton fields of Mississippi to recruit black men to work in the hot boiler 108 degree boiler rooms at the plant. Cato Clowney, who spoke of the early times in Alcoa, where they had housing and food. By WWII, Veteran Paul Sudderth, spoke movingly of being able to fight for his country as an equal only to be segregated upon his return home. Lula Banks, Teacher, and Martha Burns, Activist, told of their times through schools which were at first segregated and then combined. Musician, Bill Kern, Stanley Young portrayed how music filled the soul and helped to heal the people. After the benediction by the Shaman, members of the

audience were encouraged to share refreshments and conversation.

Brenda Blair and I attended the play, which was a success, playing to a full house on a hot summer evening. It gave those who were younger insight into the Blacks who helped to build the plant and the community and to bring some sense of prosperity to our section of East Tennessee. We reminisced about some of the people of the older generation in Greenback who worked in the potboiler rooms alongside their black brothers. Of how, the work bus later transported workers to the three shifts at Alcoa; how, during the war years, those who did not have cars, were able to catch the work bus to Maryville. I remembered how the Black children attended Craig's Chapel School and Church and how they were missed when they went to Alcoa. Alcoa and the people who worked there certainly brought employment to many during the early years, into the "Great Depression" and beyond.

Congratulations, Joyce! We are proud of you! Thank you, Friends Church for making your facilities available.

-Carolyn Melton Peck

CHRISTMAS IN JULY; SOLDIER BOXES IN SEPTEMBER

On July 21, at the Greenback Community Center, Pine Grove Presbyterian Church and the community of Greenback, held an event meant to raise awareness and donations for Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes. Donations were brought for personal hygiene items, soap, deodorant, fingernail clippers, washcloths; school supplies, such as chalk, colored pencils, calculators, and small toys, such as jacks, marbles, cards, small stuffed animals, jump ropes. Clothes such as gloves and hats.

On September 8, a follow up for the community of BOXES FOR SOLDIERS, was held at Pine Grove Church. These are usually filled with small personal items that soldiers may need on the battlefields.

For those who were unable to attend or participate, donations for Christmas Child Shoe Boxes may be made to Pine Grove Presbyterian. Contact: Amanda Mardis. The contact for the Soldier Boxes is Melinda Brooks.

-Carolyn Melton Peck

THE JOHN R. BEST COLLECTION

One of the largest and oldest collections at the Greenback Heritage Museum is that of items from the John R. Best General Merchandise which operated under his management from 1908-1949. Edwin and Caroline Best recently contributed additional items: a Ferry Morse seed display box, a US Long Tom toy cannon, playing cards, and two cigar boxes of cancelled checks and documents. Previously the Best family had donated a wealth of items to the museum including merchandise from the store, display cases of turn of the century medicines, military uniforms, an early telephone, cookware, and 1930 ceramic temperance dolls.

The newly donated checks chronicle business from 1916-1918. The checks are drawn on the Bank of Greenback and many are written in pencil. The checks are all printed and signed Jno. R. Best. (Guess like texting shortcuts today, that H just took too long to put in John!) The checks are rubber stamped by Jo H. Anderson, Cashier. Some have a large NP stamp indicating "No Protest" for their payment. Checks are written to individuals and businesses alike. There are checks to literary, political, and religious publications for yearly subscriptions. B.H. Kinser sold the store beans for \$7.20 and \$51.50 and \$60.75 were paid to Morganton Milling Co. and Trigon Mills respectively. The providers tell the story of what top sellers were during that period. Coffee came from the Ouerbacker Coffee Co. in Louisville, KY and the Levering Coffee Co. in Baltimore, MD. Hats were provided by S.C. Dismukes Hat Co. of Knoxville and Swan-Abrams in Louisville. On many checks there is evidence of discount for prompt payment. A check to Strauss Bros. (as in Levi-Strauss) was routed through Nashville and Louisville, KY before clearing The First National Bank of Chicago. From stamps on the back of the check, it was processed by T.G. Garrett, Isham Bridges, H.K. Rose, and H.A. Howland. In this day of electronic banking, it is interesting to see the amount of personal accountability there was in 1917.

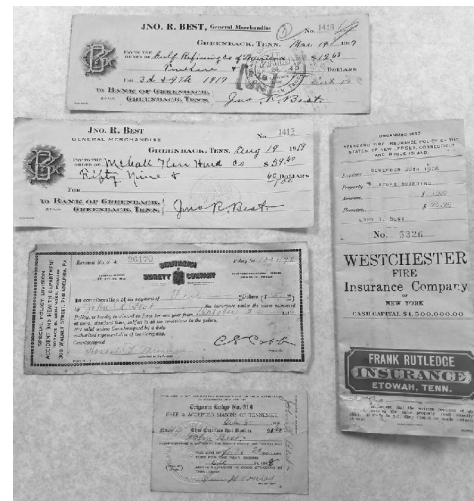
The cigar box also contained an insurance policy from Southern Surety providing a year of coverage for the princely sum of \$5.00. This policy was likely for accidental injury in the store as it was part of the Special Policy Division. In 1927 Frank Rutledge Insurance in Etowah underwrote a fire policy from Westchester Fire Insurance of NY. \$1500 of coverage cost \$26.25 for the year.

The policy has interesting exceptions. It would be void if the business operated after 10PM at night, if it were closed for more than 10 consecutive days, or "if there be kept, used or allowed in the above described premises, benzene, benzole, dynamite, ether, fireworks, gasoline, Greek fire, gunpowder exceeding 25 pounds,

naphtha, nitro glycerine, phosphorus, or petroleum or any of its products of greater flammability than kerosene oil of the US standard. Kerosene may be used for lights and kept for sale in quantities not exceeding 5 barrels provided it be drawn by daylight or at a distance not less than 10 feet from artificial light." Though the list of forbidden substances is lengthy, one has to remember fire was the leading cause of building destruction at the time. Greenback had already been ravaged by fire in 1903 and 1917. The 1917 fire destroyed the first John R. Best mercantile, but Mr. Best determined to stay in business and remained so until closing in 1949.

These items and much more are available for study during new museum hours, 10am to 2pm Tuesday, Friday and Saturday or by appointment.

-Cindy McCollum Benefield



Some of the documents in the John R. Best Collection. Photo by Cindy McCollum Benefield.



Betty Carroll and Edwin Best Jr. examine the contents of the cigar box containing business documents from the John R. Best General Merchandise store at the time they were donated in July, 2017. Photo by Paul Bailey.

We put out a call for other intrepid travelers, and heard nothing back, so Bob Ragain (Dad) and I set out to go do the Brushy Mountain Prison Tour, on a Saturday, shortly after it opened to the public. We like to drive around and camp out in that area, and having been past the prison lots of times, this sounded like fun! We drove up into the parking area, and saw about fifty people standing around outside the ticket office, and decided to move on to something else. We made plans to go back at a later date...

So we took the back roads over to Rocky Top (which used to be Lake City, which used to be Coal Creek) and went to a museum Dad had looked up. It was the Coal Creek Miners Museum. It is at 201 Main Street, Rocky Top, TN 37769, and is open every day but Sunday from 10 to 4. It is in an old bank building, and the docent was very well versed in the history of the area. There are walls of enlarged pictures, in chronological order, and artifacts from the mines. The docent walked with us and gave us the story, and she was good at it! Probably my favorite thing was the diorama in relief. It gave us an excellent visual of the area we had just driven through to get to the museum, and pointed out the mines, and where the Coal Creek War and the mining disasters occurred. There are copies of letters from trapped miners to their families. There is the option to see a brief movie, and a local book of history available for purchase.

And last but not least, out the back door of the museum is a Barbecue place in an old home, and they serve excellent food (and wear funny BBQ style T-shirts).

I would highly recommend a visit. Dad and I will undoubtedly go back and drive around some more of the back roads, in order to see some of the areas pointed out on the diorama in the museum.

*-Colleen Ragain
VP Greenback Hist Soc.*

OCTOBER QUARTERLY MEETING

The next Quarterly Meeting of the Greenback Historical Society will take place on October 13 at 2:00PM at the Greenback Community Center. GHS member Tim Grindstaff will speak on the Restoration of Historical Residences. Tim is known by many for his work in restoring the McCollum House on Morganton Road.

-Paul Bailey

GREENBACK HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1962 REUNION

Members of the Class of 1962 will get together on Saturday, October 6 at 11AM in the Greenback Community Center. A buffet lunch will be served around noon. Video slides of class members and families will be shown and a special guest will be honored. Tall tales of yore will be spun, old friends will visit and pictures will be taken. Hopefully, we old codgers can withstand the excitement.

-Paul Bailey

CAROLYN'S CORNER

I guess that it is only because I am getting so much older, but, for me, two very special people are on the IN MEMORIAM list this issue. Homer Laughlin Isbill, what a loss to the community. Homer delivered more than 1500 babies in and around Blount County and I am sure that some of those were Greenback babies. He helped Lynn Curtis with my last one, I know according to the Daily Times, he administered anesthesia to more than 39,000 patients. At least two of these were Claude and me. But more than that, he was my friend!!!! Homer and Betty played cards with us, went to church with us, and shared our lives when we lived in Maryville. I thought that he was the best looking and Betty the most beautiful of any couple I had ever seen. To me, there was no couple more beautiful on the silver screen, but more than that, they were both caring, kind, and loving. They clearly loved one another shared that with the rest of us and served as models for us all.

Stan Brock, the founder of Remote Area Medical Services, settled in our area and organized the service which was so badly needed in the Appalachians. He had made his fortune and chose to share with others. His corps of Dentists, Doctors, Nurses, Optometrists, and other medical personnel would set up shop in Knoxville and the other larger cities in the area to furnish free care to those in need. People would sometimes come in the early hours of the morning to stand in line to get an abscessed tooth repaired. In time the service would expand to other towns and cities. While Stan was not my personal friend, I often came in contact with him and his crew as I worked around the Appalachian area. I understand that his work will continue and I certainly

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Stamp

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hope that is true. For those who could barely, if ever, afford medical attention; dental, hearing, and vision were the first to go.

As Florence spread though the Carolinas and further west, I began to wonder if the water might come tumbling down the Great Smokies into Tennessee. So far, the flooding has not receded. I was pleased to see that the Times had devoted a section for the evacuees, giving all sorts of information to those who needed to find lodging, food, a place for their pets, their children and themselves.

I was able to go to the Quilt show on the last day. Sandra's article is interesting and well written. While there, I was able, with Sandra's help, to see Lucy Paige and two nieces, Merry's daughters. Lucy is the youngest daughter of June Akers Paige and Bob Paige, both of whom are now deceased. It was delightful to be able to tell them where June grew up in Greenback, of the older brick house off Niles Ferry Rd., and other landmarks. Lucy remembered the house Bob and June built near Old Hickory Brick Mill.

Carolyn

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 13, Quarterly Meeting. 2 PM upstairs in the Greenback Community Center. Public is invited.

Oct. 20-21, Ft. Loudon 18th Century Trade Faire. \$10 admission.

Oct. 21, Hist. Soc. Of Loudon County meeting. 3 PM, Trinity United Methodist Church, Lenoir City. Speaker: Dr. Aaron Aster on pre-Civil War slavery in Loudon County.

Oct. 27, Greenback Trunk or Treat, 4 PM setup, 5-8 PM kids roam in the downtown area.

Jan. 12, 2019, Greenback Historical Society Annual Members Meeting and Potluck. Noon, Greenback Community Center. Public is invited.