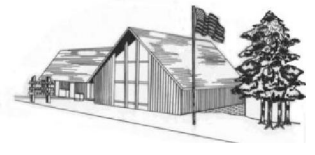


CHRONICLER

PRESERVING OUR PAST



ISSUE 47, APRIL 1, 2019

Greenback Historical Society, Inc.
6725 Morganton Road
P.O. Box 165
Greenback, Tennessee 37742

WWW.GBHISTORICAL.WEBS.COM

SUCCESS!

The Greenback Historical Society is out of danger! The January 12 annual meeting had 43 interested persons in attendance! The lure of good food may have been partly responsible, though most people were concerned to think that a community with such rich history would let this worthy organization die for lack of interest. The food tables were burgeoning with wonderful dishes and extra tables had to be set up for salads and desserts. After a greeting by President Shirley Hall and an invocation by Rocky Anderson, everyone ate to their heart's content. There was no program other than to identify folks willing to take leadership positions in the organization.

Prior to opening the floor for nominations, Paul Bailey gave an abbreviated history of the organization and highlighted accomplishments. The Greenback Historical Society was established in large part to support the Greenback Museum and the Greenback Heritage Scrapbook project detailing Greenback from its inception to the present. Three of the four anticipated scrapbooks have been completed and the fourth from 1960 to present is well underway. Additionally, the Society has sponsored Civil War Trail markers at Morganton Cemetery describing Sherman's Morganton Crossing and another at National Campground.

Two quilt pattern depictions have been installed on the side of the Greenback Diner and the Catlett barn on Hwy 411. Fundraising tours of the McCollum and Griffiths home places occurred and a walking tour of Greenback was completed. Currently paperwork has been submitted for the erection of a state historical marker at the Greenback train depot.

When the two vacant offices and two board positions were announced, the secretarial position was filled by Anita McCollum and the treasurer position was assumed by Susan Connell. Cindy Benefield moved from the secretary position to vice president. The two board vacancies were filled by Lanny McCollum and Colleen Ragain.

Another of the Society's objectives is to provide docent services to the museum and Phyllis Masingo, Anita McCollum, and Bill Evans have become active as new docents after the annual meetings.

With the stated mission of the Greenback Historical

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, April 13, at noon at Coytee Farms

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Society being "To preserve, exhibit, interpret and promote the memories, artifacts, events and stories about Greenback and the surrounding communities", the society is ready to continue to strive to meet these goals.

In this vein the next quarterly meeting April 13 will be held at Coytee Farm with Butch Davis providing a history of Coytee. The meeting is at 1:00 PM but Butch is firing up his barbeque and from noon to 1:00 PM, lunch will be available for \$10 with proceeds going to the Museum Restoration fund. After the program Lanny McCollum will take interested parties to the nearby Douthit family cemetery he has reclaimed and preserved. Let's keep our interest strong and have a large turnout for this fun and informative event!

Cindy McCollum Benefield

SALUTING VETERANS

The Greenback Historical Society is gathering information for the 4th Greenback Heritage Scrapbook which covers 1960-2000. The first three scrapbooks published can be enjoyed at the Greenback Museum or the library. If you are a veteran, serving after 1959, from the Greenback area and would share your info, we would like to recognize your service. Send your information to anitamccollum77@gmail.com. Please, include years of service, where you were stationed, rank, honors, etc. A picture in uniform would be ideal, but if not available, a civilian pic will do just fine.

Anita King McCollum

MUSEUM MUSINGS

A few changes have happened in the museum the past couple of months. First we want to thank Sandra Tipton for keeping the museum running smoothly the past year and half. In the passing of Chairman of the Board, Betty Carroll, Sandra stepped in and got things done. Effective February 1, Linda Berry assumed the chairmen position.

A Renovation/ Building Committee has been organized and they are in the process of having a structural engineer to look and evaluate the donated building adjacent to the museum. There has been a Fund Raising Committee appointed and the first fund raiser will be a Plant Sale and Bake Sale on May 4, 9:00 - 3:00 at the Greenback First Presbyterian Church Pavilion. The plant sale is being sponsored by Broadway Flower Shop and all proceeds will go toward the renovation project. There will be several hanging pots, ferns and other green and blooming plants to choose from. It will be a perfect time to purchase for upcoming Mother’s Day, Decoration Days or for planting. There will be several other fund raisers which will be announced at a later time.

The museum would like to welcome new volunteers: Judy Hudson, Anita McCollum, and Becky Mays. Thanks ladies for volunteering.

The museum has added a Genealogy section. Due to lack of space, we will start with a small section for family tree notebooks. Thanks to Anita McCollum for starting this section by bringing in the McCollum family tree and the First Families of Tennessee notebooks and a First Families of Tennessee application. If interested please stop by and pick up an application.

We are so proud of our latest addition to the entrance of the museum. Thanks to Roger Payne and Bob Martin, we now have a wooden safety handrail on the handicapped ramp.

If you are interested in volunteering at the museum please stop by on a Tuesday, Friday or Saturday between 10:00 and 2:00 or call Linda Berry at 865-724-5313 or Sandra Tipton at 865-789-0026.

Linda Cabe Berry

GRAVE CONCERNS

GraveConcerns is a growing group of people that restores local cemeteries. Restoration Includes clearing brush, cleaning and repairing headstones, and in some cases clearing a trail to get into the cemetery. The family cemeteries that have been restored in the past year are Blankenship, Douthit, McCollum, Sinking Creek, Tipton, and Wear (Riverbend). Jena Cemetery, sometimes referred to as Old Pine Grove, is next on the list. These are private cemeteries that have been neglected because the

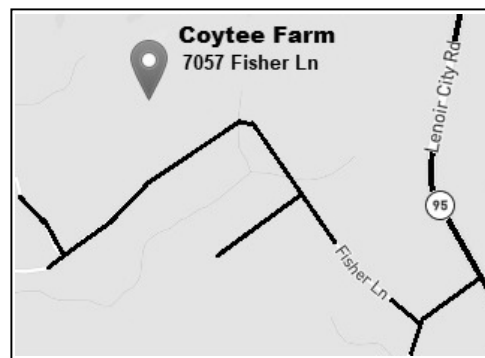
descendants are unaware of their existence, have moved out of town, or the entrance is gated. Permission must be/has been attained to start/continue work. If you would be willing to dedicate a couple of hours each growth month, to help maintain one of these pioneer cemeteries, please, call Lanny McCollum at 865-405-0968. Don’t let them become wilderness again! Books by Robert McGinnis containing cemetery data from Loudon and Blount counties are available in the Greenback Museum. A good source online is *Find A Grave*. If you had family in our area prior to 1950, you may have a relative buried in some of these graveyards.

GraveConcerns. . .keeping history alive, one cemetery at a time.

- Anita McCollum



Wear Cemetery after restoration. Picture by Lanny McCollum.



Finding Coytee Farm. **Hint:** It’s not on Coytee Rd. Go north on Hwy 95 past the old Centerville Store. Take the next left Axley’s Chapel Rd. Take the first right Fisher Ln. Go to 7057 Fisher Ln.

IN MEMORIAM

Blair, Betty Lou Carver, 83, Dec. 30, 2018
Hawkins, Justin Sherel, 23, Jan. 1, 2019
Law, Henry David, 88, Jan. 12, 2019
Thomas, Bettye Sue Millsaps, 87, Jan. 3, 2019
Brookshire, James Donald, 86, Jan. 4, 2019
Fowler, Charles "Jeff", 58, Jan. 10, 2019
Bell, Shirley Jean "Pete", 81, Jan. 14, 2019
White, Irene Caylor, 89, Jan. 19, 2019
Tiech, Anna Louise Daughtery, 62, Jan. 27, 2019
Helmick, Emily Rae, 13, Jan. 31, 2019
Forkner, Samuel Franklin "Frank", 81, Feb. 12, 2019
Spires, Harrison F., 82, Feb. 17, 2019
Hurst, Blanche Harrison, 90, Feb. 18, 2019
Fraggasso, Karen Jeanette, 54, Mar. 2, 2019
Kimbrell, Joey, Jr, 36, Mar. 7, 2019
Wallace, Brenda Marie Murr, 75, Mar. 8, 2019
Best, Mamie Sue Bradley, 95, Mar. 8, 2019
Stinnett, Earl J., 89, Mar. 17, 2019
Summers, Burl Edward "Granddaddy", 89, Mar. 18

GREENBACK SCHOOL

Greenback School's first three months of 2019 have been very busy! We welcomed a new faculty member, Heather Stevens as our health science teacher. Stevens has a wide range of credentials and experience and is enthusiastic about our school. Guests from The New Teacher Project, Loudon County principals, and central office staff visited our English and history classes on January 10. The TNTP is a non-profit organization that supports high quality education and partners with teachers to achieve this goal. On National Law Enforcement Day, we especially thanked our SRO Officer Palmer for all he does for Greenback. All current seniors who had scored a 21 or higher on their ACT, a 35 or higher on the ASVAB, and/or met their Life Skills were recognized at a luncheon at our community center sponsored by Mayor Birchfield. Congratulations to our elementary students whose photographs were chosen to be in the 2019 4-H calendar: Justin Lett, Marlee Ownsby, Avery Reagan, Austin Ferguson, and Whitney Whitehead.

In February, one of our teachers, Laura Overholt, was awarded a Coordinated School Health mini-grant. Another teacher, Angelica Lund was chosen Loudon County's Teacher of the Year. Emily Fipps placed first in public speaking at the Tennessee Valley FFA sub region. Ashley Hayes was selected as Project ABLE's outstanding employee. Girls who were selected, based on grades, attendance and interest in engineering, were invited to visit the Y-12 National Security Complex and to participate in the 2019 "Introduce a Girl to Engineering". Senior night for basketball was held on February 4th. Basketball seniors were: Blake Morton, Amos Lawson, Brock Robinson,

Tyler Cullen, Michael Severance, Madison Powers, Natalie Pollard, Mahogany Presnell, Katelin Lemons, and Taylor Cope. Seniors from our cheer squad were: Peyton Theisen, Kennadi Williams, Hannah Wiltfang, and Emily Sliger. We will miss these seniors as well as all the senior class. Our student technology team will be sharing their skills this semester. This team includes, Seth Eddins, Dennis McKee, Hannah McCloud, and Emily Sliger.

Our Talent Search students, Emily Miller, Dana Ford, Cierra Chandler, Amanda Spafford, Rebecca Wilson, John Reed, and Antonia Birchfield toured colleges in Middle Tennessee through the Hiwassee College Educational Talent Search program. Most of our Greenback students live near our beautiful lakes, so check out the boat safety classes sponsored by Mr. Williams and taught by the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency. Sign-ups are for ages 12 and up. The winner of the 2019 Loudon County Distinguished Young Women's Pageant Was Greenback junior Grace Shockley and runner-up was Rebecca Moffett also a junior at Greenback. Student Bryson Watkins was recognized by Loudon County Sheriff Tim Guider for being alert and knowing what to do when he saved a fellow student's life. We are excited about a fundraiser for our Middle and High School softball teams. East Tennessee Championship Wrestling came to our school March 29th. Our carpentry students created an amazing kitchen island and won the highest silent auction bid at the Blount County Building Association's "Battle of the Build". Congratulations to our Miss Kaci Herron for being crowned "Teen Miss Shining Star", we are proud of you.

Yes, Greenback has been busy these past three months, and I am sure the next three will be just as eventful.

Emily Miller, Greenback High School

RECOLLECTIONS OF FIRST GRADE IN GREENBACK SCHOOL 1949-50

I'll warn you right away that my daughter, Kristi, claims that if I don't know something, I just make it up - so I'm hoping my memory serves me well on most of this. I will welcome corrections and added recollections from readers who will share their memories.

My first grade class was the largest post-World War II first grade class at Greenback -too large for one classroom—so they divided us up. Miss June Akers taught one section at the school house. My class was taught by Mrs. Elizabeth Beals at the Greenback First Presbyterian Church (where I went to church), since there was not an extra classroom available at the school. We met in a room under the staircase - a large

Continued on Page 4

room as I remember it - that has since been divided into smaller Sunday School classrooms. I thought it was neat to be able to get a school book on Sunday to take home if I needed to or leave homework I had done on the weekend to be there for Monday. We had to buy our school books back then since the school did not provide them.

We spent most of the day on the school bus. I caught the bus across the road from my home on 411 highway at 7:15 am; got to school in plenty of time to play games in the gym –mostly a game we called “school” which involved moving up one row of the bleachers as you progressed through school –or let the high school girls help me fix my hair and cut up with me. I remember that I had a crush on a high school boy, David Kerr, and how disappointed he was in me when I tried to get a coke out of the machine with a penny instead of a dime and jammed the machine. When it came time to start school, my class got on the bus and went to the church for morning classes. Mrs. Beals had a devotion each day and taught us Bible verses. I remember Psalm 23:1, The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want, and thinking it surely didn’t mean I didn’t want the Lord for my shepherd, but couldn’t get an adult to explain it so I could understand. It was years before I realized it meant I would not be in want. Oh, the workings of a young child’s mind.

After morning classes, we got back on the bus and rode to school for lunch. The lunchroom was in the basement under the library. Mrs. McTeer was the manager. I always thought the food was good except slimy okra mixed with sweetened tomatoes. She insisted we try everything. We could buy an extra milk for a penny during one period of time. After lunch, we got back on the bus and back to church for the afternoon. We had classes and recess. Where the former manse sits now was a very large pile of sawdust-I think from one of Mike Disney’s grandfather Leon Hammontree’s sawmills. We played in it a lot. There was a rough gravel hill from the sawdust pile to the church at that time. One of us would fall and skin our knees almost every day. We played “London Bridges Falling Down, “Drop the Handkerchief” and “Mother, May I”, plus jumping rope to cute poems I can’t remember now.

When it came time to go home, we rode the bus back to school and located the right bus to take us home. I wonder how many of us got hopelessly lost in all those bus transfers. It’s a wonder we learned anything. At the beginning of second grade under Miss Mary Watt, I was embarrassed to learn that I did not know how to write my numbers to 100 as my boyfriend John Teffeteller could. I went back to Mrs. Beals and asked, “Why didn’t you teach me how to count to 100?” Her reply was,

“Your little group was getting along so well that I decided not to bother you with that.” Of course, I learned lots of other things and quickly caught up on my counting. Another embarrassment was that I was required to put a penny in the penalty jar one day for saying a bad word. I didn’t know I said a bad word, but to one of the students, I had; so wise Mrs. Beals saw that I went along with the rules. Strange what we remember so many years back.

We got to go to school assemblies in the auditorium. I loved when Homer Hammontree did bird-call imitations, sang with us and told Bible stories. We got to see the senior class walk in wearing their robes and helped make a long daisy chain to reach the length of the aisle on both sides. I heard the valedictorian give her speech and told Mr. G.W. Sneed as we left the auditorium that I was going to be valedictorian when I graduated (and I was!). He reminded me of that years later.

Growing up in Greenback, playing with my brother, Dickie, and friends in the woods, making play houses among the rocks and playing in the creek bring many happy memories. I’m so fortunate to have grown up here and have the opportunity to grow old here still among my friends and family.

Gail Woods Disney Skidmore

NOLA MELTON ELAM HISTORICAL ESSAY: 2019

An award for an essay on an historical figure or event is given each spring to a student at Greenback High School in memory and honor of Nola Melton Elam. Subjects are chosen by Carolyn Peck to have not only an historical effect on our nation or region but also to have some connection to our area. The first time this award was given the subject was Sam Houston “the Raven” whose family settled in the Baker’s Creek area. In 2017 the subject was President James Madison, known as the “Father of the Constitution.” In 2018, the subject was Congressman Sam Talifferro Rayburn, who was born in Kingston and was a relative of Greenback’s first lady Minnie Tallifferro McTeer. This year the subject is Senator Howard Baker, Jr., born in Huntsville, Tennessee, a prominent Republican under the administration of President Ronald Reagan.

Essays must be approved by Teacher of English and History Ms. Judy Hawkins or Robin Cagle and submitted by April 27, 2019. A committee of the Greenback Historical Society; Paul Bailey, Thelma

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Cooper, former English Teacher, and a third member of the Greenback Historical Society, appointed by President Shirley Hall, makes the final recommendation. An application for entry obtained from the teacher must be signed by the applicant's parent or guardian and permission given for publication in the GHS Newsletter. The award is given annually by a descendant of Ms. Elam.

Carolyn Melton Peck

GREENBACK LEGENDS: "Uncle Dave Cabe"

In 1988 I initiated a "local folklore" project with my fourth grade students at Greenback School. To kick off the project, I sat down with Fred Fipps in his home and asked him to share some Greenback stories. Fred Fipps was a master storyteller. He once told me, "Well, there's a little truth in every story."

Showing me pictures, he said: "There's Dave Cabe with his beans 23 feet high. See 'em hangin' up there? Somebody asked me how he picked them and I said, 'Why, he picked 'em with a helicopter.' (Hee, hee, hee) And Dave had a punkin vine, he had 13 punkins on it, and right there they are. I knowed nobody wouldn't believe how big they were, so I went over there and made a picture of it. The biggest 'en weighed 138 pounds. I'll tell you how he done it. Well, he got him a bucket and put some fertilizer in it and water. Then he got him a yarn string and put down in the bucket and split the vine right down next to the punkin' and he run that yarn string over to it and it just sucked ever bit of that fertilizer outta the bucket! Why, Dave knowed a lot of things."

Judy Hudson,

From interview with Fred Fipps, April, 1988

CAROLYN'S CORNER

When I was a sophomore in College, I played the role of the Shakespeare's Melancholy Jacques (it was a girl's school). These words keep running through my mind: "All the worlds a stage and all the men and women merely players; they have their entrances and their exits. One man, in his time plays many parts....."

The bank, Merchants and Farmers opened in the Depression Years after the Greenback Bank failed. I think that C.O. McCall was the first Cashier but he had a hardware store to take care of. My father had been a teller at one of the banks in Madisonville, sometimes referred to as "The Sloan Bank." It closed also and

my father lost his job. We moved, as did many young men at the time, to "Deetroit" After a short time there, some of the stockholders recruited my father to become the Cashier at Merchants and Farmers Bank and we moved to Greenback. Merchants and Farmers has had many different stockholders and names over the years and is currently Regions. It is closing April 5th. From the time I was four, it has been "MY BANK".

Then, one morning in March, I looked out my dining room window across the cove toward the cabin my father had owned. It was on the property my father and Dr. Alexander had bought before the Fort Loudon Dam closed in August of 1943. It was the only building left on the cove to remind me of my father. It had been remodeled a few times over the years, but never torn down. And now it is gone!!

As I drove down the East Coast Parkway, I suddenly noticed that the old Boarding School House is gone, one of the many spots to remind us of a time gone by. As I looked across the Little Tennessee River toward Morganton, I could only see where the Niles Ferry used to be and the gracious old house that belonged to the Foutes and the Clarks.

April is Holy Month and there are so many Decorations at cemeteries taking place now and in May that it is difficult to name them all. Catch up with your relatives and if you have special memories, legends, or childhood stories, share them with us. If you do, we will try to share them in future issues of the CHRONICLER. Each of us has a special interest that we like to share so we might like to share more of yours with our readers.

When you are in town, stop by the Library or the Greenback Heritage Museum and look at the three completed GREENBACK HERITAGE SCRAPBOOKS. The Scrapbooks are Not For Sale but you might like to get a copy of Edwin Best's A PLACE CALLED GREENBACK'. While you are there you might find time to sign up to be a volunteer or docent. If you are hungry, you might try the tasty menu at the Greenback Diner, next door, in business since 1923. Cross the street and see the Greenback Depot, now on the National Historical Register. As many have said, "Greenback is a Family Town." When Hilary Clinton wrote "It Takes a Village", I thought she must have visited Greenback at one time in her youth.

Carolyn, (865) 816 0947

CarolynPeck83@ Outlook.com

Greenback Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 165
Greenback, Tennessee 37742

Stamp

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr. 3, ISAAC ANDERSON and THE PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDERS OF EAST TENNESSEE, Dr. Aaron Anderson, Brown Bag Luncheon, Noon, East Tennessee History Center, 601 S. Gay St. Free. Open to the Public.

Apr. 5, Regions Bank Closes.

Apr. 13, GHS Quarterly Meeting: Coytee Farms Noon Meal \$10 (Proceeds go to Museum Renovation) Program: 1:00 PM, History of Coytee, Butch Davis; Guided tour to follow if interested; Douthit Cemetery, Lanny McCollum.

Apr. 19, GOOD FRIDAY

Apr. 21, EASTER

Apr. 27, HAPPY SURVIVORS, 11:30 AM Greenback Community Center. Reservations: \$15.per person. Classes attending Greenback High School 1924-1967. Teachers are welcome. Mail Reservations to Gail Hutton Webb, 1622 Aberdeen Dr. Alcoa, TN 37701-6805. Phone 865 548 9610.

Apr. 27, ENTRY DEADLINE: Nola M. Elam Essay Contest. Contact Judy Hawkins, Greenback High School.

May 2019, National Preservation Month.

May 4, Plant Sale, Bake Sale & Silent Auction at the Greenback 1st Presbyterian Church Pavilion. Plant Sale Sponsored by Broadway Florist; Proceeds go to Museum Renovation.

May 7, An Evening With Ron Chernow, Author of Book, ALEXANDER HAMILTON, 8:00PM Tennessee Theatre.

May 10, Graduation, Greenback High School, 7:00.

June 2019, National Dairy Month.

June 15, Annual Ice Cream Contest: Free. Donations go to GHS Preservation Account. Prizes for ice cream winners: \$75 First; \$50 Second, and \$25 Third. Applications may be secured at the Museum, or the Library or the GHS web site www.gbhistorical.com.

July 4, Greenback 4th of July Parade. Downtown.

July 13, GHS Quarterly Meeting, TBA.

Aug. 8, Black Independence Day.