



# CHRONICLER

## PRESERVING OUR PAST



ISSUE 51, APRIL 1, 2020

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

[WWW.GBHISTORICAL.WEBS.COM](http://WWW.GBHISTORICAL.WEBS.COM)

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The COVID-19 pandemic is changing all scheduled activities. In keeping with the requested self-quarantines and social distancing, the listed activities on the calendar are all postponed indefinitely. This includes our April 4 Quarterly meeting and the 5th grade field trip. Whenever we can meet again safely, we will announce new dates. Stay tuned and stay safe!

*Cindy Benefield*

### LOUDON COUNTY'S SESQUICENTENNIAL LOUDON COUNTY TURNS 150!

June 20, 2020 marks the day Loudon Countians will gather on the historic courthouse lawn to celebrate 150 years as a county. One of the youngest counties, Loudon was carved out of Blount, Monroe, and Roane Counties and was initially called Christiana. Interesting facts like this, prepared by historian Darrell Tuck, are being announced in each Loudon County school on Fridays to broaden students' knowledge of their home county.

Fifty years ago at the centennial a time capsule was buried at the courthouse. Bobby Anderson, his father Robert, Sr. and Bobby's daughter Robin all placed items in the donated casket that served as the 1970 time capsule. Hopefully, Mother Nature has been kind and the elements have not gotten to the initial repository. A new time capsule will be buried at the same spot June 20 and Bobby and Robin will be honored guests along with Harvey Sproul and others who participated in the ceremony 50 years ago.

The Greenback Historical Society is taking a major role in the new time capsule by making available to the public packets to include in the capsule that their families can open in 2070. For \$5.00 an acid-free archival envelope, paper, photo sleeve, instructions and fill in the blank information sheet will be included. The packets will be distributed through the 5 libraries in Loudon County during National Library Week which begins April 19 and can be returned to any of the libraries through June 13.

Part of the mission of the celebration is to honor and protect the rich history of this county. Joe Spence, who served as the county historian for 38 years, has long been a proponent of studying and preserving landmarks and historic properties.

**NEXT MEETING: To be announced.**

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In 1978 Joe received a grant to produce a Historic Loudon County Coloring Book. For the sesquicentennial, Chris Peterson, Digital Art and Design Teacher at Loudon County High, took on the task of updating the coloring book and including art work from student artists throughout the county. The Historic Loudon County Coloring Book will first be distributed through the public libraries and then through school libraries.

In conjunction with the 150th celebration the Greenback Historical Society has developed a very specific week-long local history unit to present to Fifth graders in order to ignite an interest in our rich Morganton/Greenback history. To add further incentive to learn about local history, Mayor DeWayne Birchfield is offering cash prizes for fifth grade essays on William Tecumseh Sherman. At graduation, seniors will receive an official Celebrate Loudon County 150 Years pin compliments of Bo Carey and Greer Furniture Store.

Further information can be found on social media.

**Facebook:** [150 years of LoCo](#)

**Twitter:** [@150yrsofLoCo](#)

**Email:** [150yearsofloc@gmail.com](mailto:150yearsofloc@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.150yearsofloc.com](http://www.150yearsofloc.com)

**Partnering with:** [www.news-herald.net](http://www.news-herald.net)

Activities will be planned through December 31, so stay tuned!

*Cindy Benefield*

**MUSEUM MUSINGS**

COME SEE OUR BRAND NEW LOOK! Thanks to Jennifer Hedrick, our newest board member who gave us many great ideas to update the displays in the museum including a variety of themed areas.

Among the things you will see is a panoramic view of downtown Greenback circa 1960, Greenback Public School yearbooks and local memorabilia.

Come take a trip back in time and enjoy our many items, some of which you never knew existed.

In conjunction with the Greenback Historical Society, a section has been devoted specifically for the Genealogy of our small town and surrounding area. You are welcome to use these albums inside the museum for research while in the museum. We welcome any information you have regarding the families of our area.

Please stop by at your convenience to help us identify individuals, buildings, and locations in the numerous photographs. We would appreciate the assistance. You can also view a short video of the history of Greenback created by Paul Bailey.

Many of these items can be found on shelving graciously donated by the Greenback Public Library.

Many thanks to our amazing volunteers without whom none of this would have been possible.

Museum hours are Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, 10:00am to 2:00pm.

*Sandra Tipton,  
Treasurer, Greenback Heritage Museum*



This section highlights the works of local artist David Campbell and his paintings of Greenback buildings. Picture by Sandra Tipton.

**ARE WE THERE YET?**

Here is an update on the driving tour. It might be a little ambitious, but there are 62 places on our list to potentially include on the Greenback Historical Society's "Greenback Historical Driving Tour". We have about a third of it completed, except for photos. 28 done, 38 left (these numbers are subject to change). The "done" part means we have a description/history, driving instructions, and an address, if there is one available. I have a list of the remainder for us to work on, and if anyone has a special interest, or knowledge of a particular place, contact me. I would be delighted to have your input! At this time, I have Judy Hudson, Carolyn Peck, Larry Benson, and Oscar Lidstrom on my committee. There are some very interesting places in our local area. I am sure people will have fun tracking them all down!

*Colleen Ragain  
865-740-5429  
colleenragain@yahoo.com*



In the clothing section, various ladies garments, accessories, and pictures are brought together in one common area. Picture provided by Sandra Tipton.

## IN MEMORIAM

*Nelson, Richard, 80, Dec. 19, 2019.*

*Britton, David Wayne, 62, Dec. 28, 2019.*

*Carey, Naomi Ann "Cookie", 75, Dec. 29, 2019.*

*Ferguson, Mary Juanita, 66, Jan. 2, 2020.*

*Hatcher, Alma Sue, 75, Jan. 3, 2020.*

*Best, Joyce, 80, Jan. 8, 2020.*

*Hawkins, Nellie Sarah, 85, Jan. 15, 2020.*

*Traylor, William Burl, 69, Feb. 5, 2020.*

*Beal, Janet "Pug" Elaine, Feb. 6, 2020.*

*Hall, Jerry (Herman), 59, Feb. 14, 2020.*

## COMMITTEE PROGRESS

**The Advertising Committee** has set up a Facebook page for our club. It's easy to find, just search for "Greenback Historical Society on Facebook." Remember to like our page. Thanks to Gail Galyon and Jimmy Stinnett for this new effort to inform the membership.

**The Driving Tour Committee** has made an extensive list of several historical sites in the Greenback area and continues to work on specific information for each. If you have information that should be included, contact Colleen Ragain, Judy Hudson, Larry Benson, Carolyn Peck, or Oscar Lidstrom.

**The Genealogy Committee** continues to gather family ancestral charts and stories. Please, contact Dotty Neslen, Anita McCollum, Jerry Thompson, or Susan Breazeale so that your information can be added.

**The Hospitality Committee** Chair is Sharon Boring. If you would like to help at any event, let Sharon, Teresa Queener, Jane Franklin, or Shirley Hall know.

**Interviews of Senior Members** are being conducted by Jane Franklin. Many interesting stories have been recorded and more interviews are scheduled. Contact Jane if you know of a senior with stories to share.

**The Outreach Programs Committee** is presently working on a fifth grade social studies unit to present at Greenback School during the first week of May. The unit is to include a take home Greenback History Brochure, a field trip of five local sites on the National Register of Historic Places, and a week's worth of fun class activities. Nick Perkins is cooking up some Civil War rations, Judy Hudson has sewn some authentic settlers' attire, and Dotty and Anita are helping students track ancestors who were involved in the historic events of our state. Lanny McCollum and Jimmy Stinnett plan to serenade the group with songs from the War of 1812. Mayor Birchfield has donated \$100 for

fifth grade essay winners. This should be a good way for students to end the school year!

**Program Planning Committee** - Vice President Cindy Benefield has planned the April 4th meeting around Craig's Chapel which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Our club has purchased a plaque that identifies this site as being recognized by the National Park Service as a historic place worthy of preservation. The plaque will be presented to members of the church at our April meeting. \*If you would like to serve on the program planning committee, please, contact Cindy.

**Paul Bailey** continues to work on Scrapbook #4 that covers 1960-2000. Visitors to the museum are finding the first three invaluable!

*Anita King McCollum*

## GraveConcerns

GC will continue maintenance on five family graveyards this spring and summer. Two more may be added. Thanks to Dotty Neslen for her donation that will cover expenses for the new mowing season. Below are photos of the Wear family cemetery that show the work we do. See if you can figure out which is before and which is after.



## CLASS of '69 REUNION

And just like that 1969 was 50 years ago!

Greenback High School's Class of 1969 celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year class reunion at the Greenback Community Center on November 16, 2019 at noon.

With the great music of the 60's playing in the background--compliments of John Hollingsworth, Kathy Ryan's husband -- the fun began with "so glad to see you" hugs and lots of laughter. Of the 36 graduates (5 are deceased), 21 were able to attend.

Special guests were: James L. McGhee (principal), Barbara McGhee and Thelma Cooper (teacher). After a welcome, the group enjoyed a great meal prepared and catered by Tammy Tallent, owner of the Greenback Drug Co. and Diner. Delicious desserts were made by Jane Franklin.

After the meal everyone checked out the photo displays and other memorabilia, sharing stories and special memories.

Thanks to all who willingly worked to make this walk down memory lane such a success!

*Jerry Franklin*



*First Row: L to R: James L. "Hank" McGhee, Barbara McGhee, Thelma Cooper, Linda Cabe Berry.*

*Second Row: Darlene Rogers Chapman, Pat Ramsey Self, Pat Hill McIntosh, Terri McCollum Johnson, Gaye Long Cope.*

*Third Row: Kathy Ryan Hollingsworth, Dora Jane Thompson Satterfield, Jerry Gregory Franklin, Joanne Heaton Greenway, Ronnie Goodwin, Alma Pritchett Evans, Wayne Parks.*

*Back Row: Don Franklin, Chucky Hammontree, Roger Scott, Bobby Ritchey, Stanley Dotson, James Amburn, Ronnie Lett, Leroy Johnson. Picture provided by Linda Cabe Berry.*

## ONE HUNDRED YEARS OLD!

Janet McKnight owns The Home Décor Store, in the building at 6710 Morganton Road, in Greenback. From the records available, it was built in 1920, which makes it 100 years old this year! Janet is the fifth owner in these 100 years. The building is very interesting, and it is obvious that Janet loves it. You should definitely stop by and take a look around.

The outside of the building is clad in metal, which is interesting to look at, but also makes it nearly impossible to see what the walls are made of. Janet believes they are poured concrete, not brick, and if the "built by" date is accurate, it was built before Greenback Brick Company came into existence in 1923.

Inside, the flooring is original heart-wood pine. Janet has been told by more than one person that "they" used to swab it down with creosote! When she bought it in 1997, she belt-sanded the floor, and put a "gym floor finish" on it. This finish is clear, so the wood is visible. You can still see some of the black in the deeper grooves in the wood. The ceiling is of two heights, with the front half of the store being much taller. This front half has a drop ceiling, which she is not fond of, but behind/above the drop ceiling, at about 20 feet in height, there is original, green-painted bead board. You can see this same bead board on the ceiling of the back section of the store, at about 12 feet in height.

The store "front" is not all there is to the building. She had some internal rooms built, for an office, and a bathroom. She had the furnace currently used for heat and air enclosed, also. Behind the store, and to the right is the old coal furnace, enclosed in its own small, attached building. There is a loading dock on the left side of the store, as you face the building. Just before you get to the loading dock, is a section hidden behind decorative concrete block, with large windows hidden from view. These windows are not visible from inside the store. Behind the store are two sections of building, not quite as large as the "store" section. The section closest to the store is more finished inside than the further one, and they each have their own purpose for Janet.

Besides the original floor and ceiling, there are some beautiful shelves along two walls. Part of one section had been removed before she acquired the building, but the upper, decorative part of that section still remains. The rest of the shelves are intact. The counters near the register are also pieces from the store that she rearranged, and put modern counter tops on. The large wooden shelf to the left as you enter also came with the store.

You should definitely pop in for a look at this neat old building, part of Greenback's history! Her hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10-5, and Friday, Saturday 1-5.

*Colleen Ragain*

## ABOUT OUR OFFICERS

When we reorganized in January 2019, we needed some new officers who were really interested in our original vision and in new ideas and enthusiasm. Vickie Gunnels nominated our new Secretary, Anita King McCollum. Anita was approved by the members and what a find she was!

Anita was born in the fall of 1954, daughter of Frank and Imogene "Jo" Byrd King. She was the baby of the family, somewhat of a tomboy, energetic, rode horses at age two, and one of the first females to barefoot water ski on Tellico Lake. She graduated from Greenback High School in 1972 at the age of 17. She first attended East Tennessee State and then transferred to UT, to study Liberal Arts and Education. She secured a position teaching Reading at Greenback School. Anita had married her high school sweetheart, Randall Stinson, and after having been married for five years and after beginning her new job, she became pregnant. She was fortunate enough to be able to stay home with their three young children Cole, Aaron, and Rebecca Jo until they were in school. She had received her Master of Science Degree.

In 1987, she married Lanny McCollum and wanted to pursue teaching again but learned that a position was difficult to obtain at the time as most of the teaching positions were filled. The Blount County superintendent encouraged her to study Elementary School Counseling as this was a new program coming to the school systems and it might be easier to find a position. Taking this advice, she added an elementary guidance counseling certification, and was quickly recruited for an opening at Pigeon Forge Middle School. Even though it was a long drive to Pigeon Forge from Greenback, she came to love the school, the area, the other teachers, and the students.

She continued as an Elementary School Counselor for 14 years, and then wanted to return to the classroom. Classroom assignments over the years included 6, 7, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades for math, science, English and social studies. She was chosen Teacher of the Year in 2002 at PFMS.

Aaron and Rebecca Jo graduated from Greenback School, but Cole rode with her to Sevier County High School. Cole wanted to study Latin and enroll in AP courses, which were available at Sevier County because he wanted to become an attorney, a goal he accomplished.

After 32 years of marriage to her second husband, Lanny McCollum, both retired. She and Lanny became interested in clearing old, neglected graveyards which complimented her interest in genealogy. Not only have

these interests served the Greenback Historical Society well, she is currently chairing a mini project in history for fifth graders. (More about this later).

*Carolyn Melton Peck*

## CAROLYN'S CORNER

So many things are going on this quarter that I hope that we have covered them all. I'm keeping this short because there is so much more for others to cover.

The Nashville and Middle State Tornados. It made me remember the ones which hit have hit our area, but none so fierce that it had 200 mile an hour winds. Or covered a 50 mile radius. Nevertheless, ours were difficult. Greenback's (at least two that I remember, and one in Lenoir City that came over my porch but did not set down.) Another that came over my yard in Englewood and turned a church completely around not too far from my house. Since I was a part of Civil Defense, at the time, those stick in my memory, as well as one in Etowah, a couple in Bradley County, and one in Polk. None even slightly compared with these in Middle Tennessee. Those of you who attended Tennessee Tech may know students who were there with you, but it appears the University was not hit. The old Donelson Christian School was completely demolished. If anyone has pictures of Rosa Parks Blvd. and Jefferson Ave. In downtown Nashville, could you share with me? Since writing this, I have learned from my grandson who lives in Nashville that the downtown in Nashville was not hit as badly as I thought, not so much demolished, as damaged. He told me that the Volunteer State was living up to its nickname.

The new COVID-19 virus has everyone a little on edge because we do not know exactly how to handle it. It made me remember a sign that used to be in the hall in the old Greenback School. "If you haven't used soap, you haven't washed your hands." I do not know if it made an impression on the students, but I remember it every time I wash my hands. I do not know, either, if the sign is in the new school. If not, it is good advice. Even though children are considered at low risk, we love them and they are our children. As for the elderly such as me, the best advice seems to be, "stay out of crowds, wash your hands, and keep your hands off your face"

I am delighted to know that the Greenback Fire Fighters now have a "nobble", a deep vein finder. For those of us who sometimes require transport, this is a

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

Stamp

#### **Officers and Directors**

Shirley Ridings Hall, *President* 865-856-3419  
Cindy McCollum Benefield, *Vice President*  
Anita King McCollum, *Secretary*  
Teresa Black, *Treasurer*  
Paul Bailey  
Larry Benson  
Barbara Davis  
Lanny McCollum  
Colleen Ragain  
Kitty Ragain  
Jimmy Stinnett

#### **Supporters**

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#### **CAROLYN'S CORNER** *Continued from Page 5*

welcome addition. Our fire fighter volunteers and EMT's do not always receive the appreciation which they deserve. Perhaps when we see them, we might add the words "Thank you for your service" just as we are using these more often for our servicemen and women and for our law enforcement. They all keep us safe! And what about those who get out in the middle of the night, the rain, sleet, snow or cold, to make sure that we have light or heat, or air conditioning? Or who go to Putnam County or Nashville to help clear the debris or restore the power and water? By the way, do we have room to add a segment on these to our fifth grade project?

I see an addition to the fifth grade project is an essay on General Sherman, an award to be offered by Mayor Burchfield. Perhaps a field trip to the Morganton Cemetery near where the National Civil War Marker is located might be appropriate. If not by the school, maybe by the parents. As parents, we are still responsible for teaching our children and grandchildren the history of our great country.

*Carolyn*

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**April 4,** *Greenback Historical Society Quarterly Meeting, Dr. Willa Estell, "The Past and Future of Craig's Chapel Church".*

April 17 through 24 *National Library Week.*

April 20, *2020 Deadline for Nola Melton Elam Essay. Submitted by GHS Teacher to Carolyn M. Peck, 600 Donaldson Light Lane, Lenoir City, TN 37772. Subject: Senator Fred Thompson.*

TBA *Happy Survivors, Classes through 1924-1968. Greenback Community Center. Reservations: \$15.00 per person. Send to Linda Cabe Berry, 1340 Cabe Rd. Greenback, TN 37742.*

May 1, *5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teaching Project, Contact Anita at anitaMcCollum77@gmail.com.*

May 8, *Greenback High Graduation 7:00 PM.*

**June 13,** *Annual Ice Cream Contest, Greenback Presbyterian Church 2:00 PM (If possible)*

June 20, *Part of Loudon County's Sesquicentennial Celebration. Opening of the Time Capsule at Loudon County Courthouse.*

**July 11,** *Greenback Historical Society Quarterly Meeting, Time and Location TBA.*

**Oct. 18,** *Greenback Historical Society joint meeting with Historical Society of Loudon County, Greenback Community Center, 3 PM. (If Possible)*