



# CHRONICLER

## PRESERVING OUR PAST



ISSUE 53, OCTOBER 1, 2020

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

WWW.GBHISTORICAL.WEBS.COM

### DRIVING AROUND GREENBACK

Bob Ragain (Dad), Bob Anderson, and I drove around one afternoon. I had Dad get us from point to point and ask questions. I had Bob talk about what we saw, and his memories of the Greenback area. I took notes, asked questions, and recorded our conversation. We spent about 2 1/2 hours on our tour. We really entertained ourselves!

A small part of the conversation was in regards to the old home on the Anderson farm. Bob told us that in about 1922/3 Roy Clark built the house for the landowner. Then in the '40s, Sherman and Pearl Steiner bought it from Herb Fipps. Bob did not know when Fipps acquired it. The Steiners came from Muncie, Indiana and had two daughters, Jesse and Pearl (same name as her mom), who milked the cows. The Steiners built the block barn and brick silo.

In 1948 they sold it to a man named Clayburn. Then in May of 1951 Bob's dad, also named Robert Anderson, bought it from Clayburn.

On April 25th, 2010, a tornado came through the Greenback area and destroyed the wooden barn on the property, along with the old home place. Now, when you drive by, you see the loop driveway going nowhere, and the block barn and silos. No one was injured! The house was empty at the time.

This just goes to show, a lot can happen on a farm or any other place, over a span of years. The Historical Society has a committee working on a driving tour. We have made a lot of progress. There are still some people we would like to drive around and get "the tour" from. It would add some lovely detail to our Driving Tour.

Do you have any stories or history about Ben Hammontree's small engine shop, Ralph Gregory's TV shop? Do you know the timeline of ownership for the gravel company on Big Hill Rd? Contact me about these or any others you have some input on! It would be a shame to finish up the tour without all the good stuff for some of these obscure, local sites! Call, email, or write to me.

If there are any errors in the Anderson farm story, the fault lies with me. Let me know if you have a correction or an addition!

*All my best, Colleen Ragain.*  
(865) 740-5429, colleenragain@yahoo.com  
5905 Morganton Rd, Greenback, TN 37742

**NEXT MEETING: October 25, 2:00 at the First Presbyterian pavilion.**

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### ABOUT OUR OFFICERS

One hundred years ago the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution was passed giving women the privilege of voting. What a difference 100 years makes! Today educated and intelligent young women serve in all sorts of professions, both as paid employees and community volunteers. Some are working from their homes using computers and the internet. Fortunately, one of these has agreed and been elected to serve as GHS Treasurer.

Teresa King Black, descended from the Kyle Kings of Greenback, has returned to her ancestral home to be available to her parents and to serve their local community. Although Teresa grew up in nearby Maryville and graduated from Heritage High, she often visited her grandparents on their farm on Morganton Rd., played with her numerous cousins and friends and attended Vacation Bible School at First Presbyterian Church. Her only son, Blake, lives in Nashville and works for Tractor Supply. As with most of us who have gone to school, worked, or often visited in our Capital city. We have a special affinity for it.

Teresa graduated from the University of Tennessee with a B.S. in Business Administration, majoring in Accounting. She followed her chosen profession to Nashville as an Accountant with Service Merchandise for 32 years and later with Contemporary Christian Music. Wishing to come back to the Greenback area, she first secured employment as an accountant with Mastercraft and then continues her work with Smart Bank. Much of her work has been in the health field. She is familiar with both business and non-profit organizations, accustomed to working with rules, timelines, and regulations. Obviously, she is ended

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with the East Tennessee work ethic.

As Greenback Historical Society’s fiscal agent, she is responsible for deposits, withdrawals and reports. Even more important, she knows how to find out what she needs and how to locate it. She follows Betty Hall Carroll, our first Treasurer for many years, now deceased, and Brenda Tarwater Blair, now retired.

GHS has two accounts at Regions Bank, one which includes general funds, member dues, and other monies. A Preservation Account was established for the purpose of preserving artifacts, buildings, and landmarks of historical significance. Withdrawals from this account must be approved by a quorum of the Executive Board. Persons are encouraged to make donations or contributions to this account in memory or honor of a family member or friend. If they choose they may designate any such contribution to a specific purpose such as the expansion of the Greenback Heritage Museum. Donations to this account were recently used to finance the historical marker on the Greenback Depot Grounds. GHS is a 501(3 C) non- profit organization and donations are tax deductible. Donations or deposits may be mailed to Greenback Historical Society, P.O. Box 165, Greenback, TN 37742 Attn: T. Black.

We welcome Teresa to our organization and look forward to working with her.

*Carolyn Melton Peck*

*SOMETHING NEW:* Alongside the sweater in the picture is the new Greenback School 2020 Yearbook donated to the Greenback Heritage Museum by Robin Cagle, Business Technology Teacher at Greenback School...A Special Thank You.

Things are a little slow during the pandemic. The museum is only open on Tuesdays 10:00 to 2:00 or by appointment. We are practicing social distancing. Masks are optional. Special thanks to the volunteers who are willing to help keep the museum open.

The Annual Quilt Show is cancelled this year. However, we are planning to have it on March 18, 19 and 20. (2021) as we celebrate our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Details to follow.

We are deeply saddened that one of our volunteers Catherine Cheatham passed away in August as a result of an automobile accident. Catherine loved stopping by the museum to visit even on the days she did not volunteer. She was active in the Greenback exercise class and the Food Pantry. She will be greatly missed.

The Genealogy section is growing, thanks to Anita McCollum. Still looking for families to share their ancestry with us.

Praying for a better 2021!!

*Sandra Kerr Tipton*

**MUSEUM MUSINGS: SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW**



**SOMETHING OLD:** A 1940 Greenback High School Sweater donated by Bertha Alexander Albaugh displaying one of the 59 Commemorative Sesquicentennial pins featuring the Cupola of the Loudon County Courthouse, given to each of the 2020 Greenback Graduates by Bo Carey of Greer Furniture, Loudon.

**PUBLICATIONS**

The Chronicler is issued once a quarter by the Greenback Historical Society, usually approximately 10 days to two weeks prior to the regular or annual meetings. If you wish to submit an article for publication, the deadline for submission is usually about the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the month of the meeting (eg. 9/15/20 prior to the meeting 10/11/20.) Printed or E-Mailed copies are sent to the members around the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.

If you would like to submit an article for publication or a Letter to the Editor, these should be sent to the Editor, *CarolynPeck83@Outlook.com* or mailed to Carolyn Peck, 600 Donaldson Light Lane, Lenoir City, TN 37772. Articles are limited to approximately 500 words; Letters to the Editor approximately. 250 words. Both are subject to editing. Submissions must be signed, listing writer, phone number, and address. Articles solicited by the Editor may be longer at the discretion of the Editor and Publisher.

*Carolyn Melton Peck*

*Reagon, Frances, 80, July 2, 2020.*

*Robbins, Wayne Caryle, 85, July 2, 2020.*

*Price, Bessie Lee, 82, July 15, 2020.*

*Beals, Catherine Stout, 94, July 24, 2020.*

*Clark, Bobbie R., 81, July 24, 2020.*

*Munsey, Shawn Dwight, 50, July 26, 2020.*

*Masingo, Jerry Lee, 73, Aug. 1, 2020.*

*Carver, Betty Ruth Peterson, 88, Aug. 7, 2020.*

*Downey, Gregory Raylee, 28, Sep. 9, 2020.*

*Paxton, Kenneth Lee, 95, Sep. 11, 2020.*

*Spires, Dowell Marvin, 82, Sep. 12, 2020.*

*Whitehead, Margaret Jo Williams, 68, Sep. 13, 2020.*

*JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG, 87, Sep. 18, 2020.*

*Shannon, Shirley Ella, 80, Sep. 21, 2020.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**From the July Meeting at Craig's Chapel:** Lanny McCollum presented a National Register plaque to Rev. Estell in the name of Ruth Naomi Joseph who was a GbHS member and is buried in the cemetery. It was graciously accepted and she took it to show her congregation.

\* Thanks to John Cochran for donating a 1966 National Harvester Club Tractor in order to raise funds for the Historical Society supporting the restoration of the John Best Store and the Old McCall Hardware. A committee of volunteers is needed to determine how to best use it. John will serve on that committee.

\* Gail Woods Disney Skidmore announced that she is donating a check for \$6,800 from money saved from Mike Disney's medical treatment fund. She is kick-starting/boosting the preservation fund earmarking it for the museum.

\* We need a GbHS banner for activities such as the parades and as an advertisement for the group. A Committee is needed to design a flag/ banner for our club.

\* To follow us on Facebook, search "Greenback Historical Society" while in the app. We currently have about 650 followers. People seem to be enjoying it.

**Home School Group:** Stephanie Bowling was the liaison between her home school group and The Historical Society Tour Committee. A fun filled tour was planned and executed. The morning of July 21st saw a small caravan of six cars touring historical sites around Greenback. The first stop was The Greenback Heritage Museum, then on to Craig's Chapel, The McCollum Farm, Morganton Cemetery, The National Campground Church, and The Depot. About twenty five people enjoyed Cindy Benefield's brownies and learning about farm life in the 1860s. Larry Benson and Judy Hudson at The Griffiths House were in

period costume and gave a detailed account of one family during the Civil War. The kids did a little exploring at the National Campground. Lanny and Anita McCollum navigated the group. It was such a pleasure meeting these inquisitive young students!

**GraveConcerns News:** Thanks to Conchita Wampler for weed eating at the cemeteries while Lanny recovers from knee surgery. We're now to the "maintaining" stage for all the pioneer cemeteries we tend, with the exception of Howard's in Citico. Clearing there was put on hold due to surgeries.

*Anita King McCollum*

## OCTOBER MEETING

Members of the Greenback Historical Society are meeting at 2:00 PM, Sunday, October 25 for their quarterly business meeting at the First Presbyterian pavilion 6790 Morganton Road. At 3:00 PM Colleen Ragain will lead a caravan on one of the driving tours her committee has been researching and preparing. Members of the Loudon County Historical Society are invited to join the caravan and see fall colors and historical sites on this side of the river. Future meetings will explore more of the routes. Y'all come!

*Cindy Benefield*

## 2020 NOLA MELTON ELAM WINNING ESSAY *THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. FRED DALTON THOMPSON*

For any criminal fiction or legal drama TV enthusiast, it is hard to deny the riveting nature of productions like the well-known show "Law and Order" that create characters who command the attention of a courtroom with the mere sound of their voices and serve justice with great fervor (*Ranker.com, 1*). One such character is District Attorney Arthur Branch, for example, portrayed exceptionally well by Mr. Fred Dalton Thompson, an individual already very familiar with the world of politics (*CNN.com, 1*). In real life, Mr. Thompson was a unique force in the political sphere, serving as a Tennessee senator, assistant to the U.S. Attorney, and a key player in the Watergate and "Triad Management" political ad investigations (*The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica, 1; Graves, 1*). Born on August 19, 1942 in Sheffield, Alabama and raised in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, Thompson was a well-loved individual that stood on straightforward yet strong values and enjoyed life's simple pleasures (*The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica, 1; Zarroli, 1*). In a statement from his family on NPR.org, "Fred once said that the experiences he had growing up in small-town Tennessee formed the prism through which he viewed the world...Fred stood on principle and common sense. Fred was the same man on the floor of the Senate, the movie studio, or the town square of Lawrenceburg, his home." (*Zarroli, 1*). It is obvious that Thompson made his own unique

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mark on the world utilizing his excellent acting abilities, various periods of political participation, and also his involvement in political scandals.

First Mr. Thompson found his niche for acting, unlike many others that pursue careers in the film industry intentionally, simply by a chance opportunity. According to *Encyclopedia Britannica*, while still working as an attorney in 1974 at a private Nashville firm, "He [Mr. Thompson] represented the former chairperson of the state parole board, Marie Ragghianti, after Ragghianti was fired by Gov. Ray Blanton for refusing to grant early releases to inmates who had bribed members of Blanton's staff" (*The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1). After Ragghianti's inspiring story of defiance against corruption was discovered, filmmakers decided to turn her testimony into a movie called "Marie" in which Mr. Thompson was chosen to portray himself (*The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1). When people witnessed his natural aptitude for acting and his impressive on-screen presentation, Thompson was given many other opportunities including secured roles in many popular movies and TV shows like the aforementioned "Law and Order" as well as "Die Hard 2" and "Cape Fear" (*The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1). Mr. Fred Thompson broke the mold, so to speak, when he proved to so many that it is achievable to successfully pursue both artistic and career-based aspirations, much like the late Ronald Reagan did in his time (*IMDB.com*, 1).

Next, Thompson was very successful and made a noticeable impression during his time in politics. In his early adult life, Fred obtained a bachelor's degree in both Political Science and Psychology from the then Memphis State University and later went on to pursue a law degree from Vanderbilt University (*The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1). In 1969, as reported by the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Thompson was appointed as an assistant of the U.S. Attorney, but relinquished his position to work on the fruitful campaign trail of Senator Howard Baker (*Editors of the Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1). After the surprising discovery of his acting ability following the filming of Marie Ragghianti's court case, he spent a brief period of time in the film industry and garnished much popularity and success there, starring in over 20 films (*Johnson*, 1). However, eventually, Mr. Thompson was ready to move onto a different season of his life, so he decided to step back into the political arena to serve others and try for a seat in the U.S. Senate to represent his cherished home state of Tennessee (*Johnson*, 1). Author Lucas L. Johnson II says, "His rise to the Senate was atypical. He'd never held public office, but he overwhelmingly won a 1994 special election for Al Gore's old Senate seat after connecting with voters while crisscrossing Tennessee in a red pickup truck" (*Johnson*, 1). What a precedent to set and a statement to make! Johnson also pens, "Thompson commanded audiences with a booming voice, outsized charisma and a 6-foot-6-inch frame," proceeding to quote U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander, "Very few people can light up the room the way Fred

Thompson did" (*Johnson*, 1). It was clear that Thompson had captured the hearts of Tennesseans who identified with his authenticity, simplistic approach to politics, similar upbringing, and overall highly captivating yet personable demeanor (*Zarrol*, 1). After going back and forth from acting back again to politics, Thompson's last political hoorah came when he decided to enter into the 2008 presidential race that subsided "after [he] finish[ed] third in the South Carolina primary" (*The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1). Overall, Mr. Thompson "had a deep love for and connection with the people across Tennessee whom he had the privilege to serve", making him both successful and beloved, which cannot be said of every politician who seeks to represent his or her state in the U.S. Senate. (*Zarrol*, 1). Mr. Thompson definitely had something special that set him apart as a politician.

Finally, Mr. Fred Thompson is well known for his involvement and incredible influence in many political ruckuses. For example, according to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, "In 1973 Thompson made headlines as the minority (Republican) counsel at the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities (the Watergate Committee) when he asked former White House staffer Alexander Butterfield about the existence of recording devices in the Oval Office" (*The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1). Because of Thompson's realization and critical thinking, the committee was able to reach a turning point in the investigation. Soon, the ugly truth about Watergate was brought to the light and exposed when officials discovered Nixon's "Secret Taping System" which led to the President's eventual resignation (*Johnson*, 1). In response to the scandal, Thompson stated, "Watergate was not a monumental shock to my system... Once you have practiced law and been involved in politics, you are not disabled by the discovery that people-even good people- do bad things" (*Gill and lessen and Johnson and Jones*, 1).

Unfortunately, Thompson's words seemed to challenge his own life later concerning his association with the "Triad Management" election ad operation (*Graves*, 1). To explain, in 2007, Mr. Thompson sponsored an investigation involving the "U.S. Senate Governmental Affairs Committee... into [the] 'illegal or improper activities in connection with 1996 federal election campaigns' but he refused to force key individuals to answer questions about the multi-million dollar election ad operation known as "Triad Management" (*Graves*, 1). It became apparent that the "Triad Management" had been given millions of dollars from the "Economic Education Trust" which in turn was used to advertise support for conservative political figures including those highly favored by the Koch family who the U.S. Senate Investigation Committee also believed to have contributed to the campaign as well (*Graves*, 1), Thompson was criticized for supposedly failing to lead effectively in his position and appeared to "help... protect the

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Koch's back" by not pursuing further questioning of these individuals (as well as other key choices) who were obviously entangled in the affair (*Graves, 1*). In hindsight, Thompson was correct when he remarked that even the best individuals fall short at times. So, keeping that in mind, while his bias in the investigation is questionable, it is unfair to judge Mr. Thompson's entire character by one apparent shortcoming in his political career.

In conclusion, Mr. Fred Thompson will be remembered for his talented acting, authentic political disposition, and both his positive and negative contributions to criminal political investigations. Sadly, Mr. Thompson passed away in 2015 from a bout with lymphoma, but his legacy will most certainly live on (*Boucher and Garrison, 1*). When reflecting on the life of such a vibrant individual, it is apparent that there is so much to be learnt. From his atypical route to Hollywood, Mr. Thompson displayed that it is never too late to follow one's dream, and to say yes to the call when that spectacular new opportunity may arise (*The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica, 1*). In regard to his political career, Thompson inspired others to stand up for others and what is right, despite the opposition that may arise, when he represented Ms. Raghianti (*The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica, 1*). Additionally, in his involvement in the Watergate investigation, Mr. Thompson demonstrated the importance of critical thinking and problem solving in collaboration with others to find solutions to unpleasant problems (*The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica, 1*). Even in his shortcomings concerning the "Triad Management" operation, it is an example that everyone is capable of failing, so it is wise not to put it above oneself to fall (*Graves, 1*). It is incredibly important to learn from those in the past, so that one may examine the condition of their own heart to push forward for the best in oneself and in the world.

- Grace Shockley, Greenback High School, April 2020

*Editor's Note: In the interest of space, the references have not been printed*

## CAROLYN'S CORNER

In this graduation season, our circumstances have been somewhat more difficult; our lives not so comfortable or rewarding as we would have wished. Nevertheless, we have much for which to be grateful. I am told that our principal worked very hard to have a graduation ceremony in a setting that could be a good remembrance for our graduation and allow as many as possible to practice "social distancing" and celebrate with our seniors.

Ten years ago my grandson graduated from Fort Union Military Academy at its 110<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony near Charlottesville, VA. Our family was so impressed by the speaker and his advice to the students that my son made plaques to hang on his wall and mine. Three points: "DROP YOUR ANCHOR" Most of us have an anchor of guilt, unfulfilled desire, or something in our

lives that we wish we could change. LET IT GO!!!  
2. "FIND A MENTOR": Look for someone whom you admire whether personal or professional and ask for their advice. USE IT!! 3." GET OUT OF THE BOAT." Procrastination only holds one back. GO, FULL SPEED AHEAD! By Dr. David R. Barrett, President/CEO Barrett MGT, LLC, FUMA Board of Directors, Former President, FUMA; Former Parent.

Another real inspiration to me was the decision to once again hold the National Campground Meeting. After the War Between the States, commonly called the "Civil War", our country was divided and sometimes filled with animosity and hate. In 1873, Ministers from Presbyterian, Quakers, Methodists, and Baptists gathered to join and worship together in an effort to mend the angers and hurts of the day. In no other area has the quote "fathers against sons, and brothers against brothers" been more accurate. Former Chairman, Robert Anderson, often said, "It didn't matter which side one was on, everyone suffered." Tennessee was the last to secede and the first to rejoin the Union. Since that time, services have been held at the campground. Greenback Historical Society placed a marker at the entrance of the Campground site. Due to the Covid Virus, committee members had planned to cancel 2020. Chairman Guider said he felt called to continue. Once again, we need to feel the healing power of the "Spirit" and, we do not want to break the chain of 147 years of worship and brotherhood. There are several articles about the Campground in the early issues of the Chronicler if you wish to know more.

A few years ago, with the help of Anita McCollum, I prepared a scrapbook of all the issues of the Chronicler and gave it to the Museum. It is filed there today. I do not have an extra copy of the July issue. I hope someone will add it.

September 17 was Constitution Day. It just slid by with little notice in radio, television, and newspapers. Surely, the U.S. Constitution is as much to be celebrated as our Declaration of Independence. The Constitution was actually completed in 1776 and signed on September 17, 1777. In the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, our Senator Lamar Alexander introduced a bill, which passed, requiring schools to set aside one day to study the Constitution. There were no enforcement provisions so some did; some did not. Senator Alexander was awarded the first James Madison Award in 2016. Always interested in education, one of the most notable bills which he introduced was "No Child Left Behind." In his last term in the Senate, he resigned his position as the third most powerful senator to focus on education. He

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

Stamp

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was a former Secretary of Education under Richard Nixon. He does not plan to run for the Senate again.

October is designated as Quilting Month by McMinn County Museum and others. Since our Museum has cancelled our Quilt Show, I contacted McMinn to see what they are doing. Through the help of McMinn County and the Mayfields, the museum in Athens was placed on Madison Ave. when the McMinn County School was opened on Congress Pky. McMinn, also, has cancelled their quilt show. Ordinarily the McMinn County Quilting Association meets there on Saturdays with their machines and works together. They are specifically working on quilts to send to veterans. They have also included the interest of students to make quilt squares to include in the Veterans Quilts. I understand that the Quilting Association will meet there at least one Saturday to include the students' squares. Like our Museum, McMinn Heritage Museum is open only on Tuesdays.

Since it is one of the older and larger museums in our area, it would probably make a good field trip once we have passed this terrible virus. They usually have a big dinner in November for fund-raising purposes. That, I understand will only be on-line.

*Carolyn*

AMISH PROVERB: *"Never look down upon another unless it is to offer a helping hand"*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Oct. 25, *Greenback Historical Society meeting at the First Presbyterian pavilion at 2:00 PM followed by a driving tour led by Colleen Ragain at 3:00PM.*
- Oct. 31, *Downtown Halloween: Bring your "kids" and your treats Check City Hall for more details; 856-2224.*