



CHRONICLER

PRESERVING OUR PAST



ISSUE 19, APRIL 12, 2012

GREENBACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Surrounded by history....

Lately I've been feeling like I've come full circle and that my great-great aunts, my grandmothers and grandfathers are looking out over me more than usual. Perhaps it started with being "elected" as President of the Greenback Historical Society. Or maybe it is simply the advance of life, from having a wedding to plan for or a house to move into or needing to find something profound (maybe just for myself) to write for the newsletter.

History was my favorite subject in school, so there is little wonder that I've come full circle back to its stories that become more personal with every day. I have to tell you that being a president of an organization filled with those community leaders that I spent my life looking up to is just a little frightening. So my first inclination is to scream "HELP" in all directions. Consider it done! I will need all your best thoughts and assistance to move us forward. I hope I'll do a job worth your confidence.

You'll find that I will tend to use this corner of the newsletter to talk directly with you and leave the announcements to other sections. Thank goodness for Carolyn and Paul who will try to keep me on task.

But one of the real reasons I'm feeling so full circle (and unfocused) is that I'm in the process of moving. Soon, I'll have a Greenback address for the first time since 1979. Most of the time I haven't been that far away, but now that it is about to change it seems like forever. It has made me wonder about the houses I see every day as I drive through our community and I wonder about the stories.

My house, which I will call the "Hale House" will be named in honor of my great-aunt Martha Goddard Hale and her husband Robert. Robert's father was a builder and my little "Hale House" was one of his last builds before he became ill. Built on the original property that my great-grandfather purchased from the

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 26, 2012, 7:00 PM
Greenback Community Center

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Montgomery's it was built for Aunt Martha and Uncle Robert. It has custom arches and we've just discovered that under the carpet is beautiful oak and heart pine. I feel as if Aunt Martha is with me as we walk through the house inspecting the floors after all these years.

Robert Ryan bought the house and land from Uncle Robert Hale after Aunt Martha died from a "minor" operation. In fact, as long as I've lived I've always know this house as the Ryan or the Alt's home until Daddy purchased it from the state when 411 was widened. It was only then that I realized just how closely it was tied to our family. Now moved to Goddard Lane, "Hale House" will soon be home. Aunt Martha's memory will reach out to me from inside these walls and on quiet evenings I can almost hear my grandfather yelling at the mules while he plows. Sometimes I can hear the hunting dogs that Daddy used to mimic for me when I was a little girl.

I've shared a bit about mine, and I'd like to know about your home too. Who was here before you? Home, it is much more than a house and much more that a family. It is the living and dying, the sacrifice and love of generations. Very few really get to understand it like those of us raised in Greenback. I hope to see you at our next meeting.

Teresa Goddard

PUBLICATIONS

The Greenback Heritage Scrapbook:

We are happy to report that Volume II of the scrapbook has returned from the printers and it is available for your use and enjoyment at the Greenback Heritage Museum and the Greenback Public Library. It was a long slog but we are pleased with the result and think that it helps satisfy our original goal of preserving unique information about the history of our area. I would like to thank the members of the Scrapbook Committee for their contributions and assistance. Especially, I would like to recognize Colleen Ragain for her help in scanning a large part of the material and the meticulous proofreading of the final draft. Many thanks also to Betty Carroll for coordinating the gathering of photographs and documents and cracking the whip to keep the rest of us focused on the task.

A first draft of Volume III (1930 – 1960) is now available for review at the museum. Our major emphasis will be on this volume for the next year. At our last committee meeting, plans were made to have another “Scrapbook Potluck” this summer to show off what we have accomplished so far and to provide an opportunity for the community to participate. This potluck has been scheduled for July 14 at the Greenback Community Center.

We are still looking for photos, newspaper clippings and documents from this period. Just to remind you, this era included the important historical events of the Great Depression, World War II and the Korean War and we are especially interested in related material. You can bring your contributions to the potluck or drop them off at the museum when convenient. Be sure to identify that it is for the scrapbook and provide identification so that we can get it back to you when we are finished scanning it.

The Society Website:

The end of February marked the first anniversary of our society website. We continue to get visitors from all over the US and a few from around the world. I hope some of you have found it useful and that you will continue to tell your friends and family about it.

Paul Bailey

GREENBACK LEGENDS

Grandpa and Grandma Finger bought the farm which was known as the Gilbert Blankenship Farm, which was an Indian Settlement. The bottom land was covered with Indian Relics. A Meal Rock, a huge variety of arrowheads was collected by Grandpa. The cave on the property had a number of Indian Signs in it. The Round Hill on the lower bottom was thought to be a burial ground. The hill which was cone shaped was called Potato Hill. Today most of it is covered by water.

John Cochran



Greenback Historical Society members line up for the “potluck” at the January 28, 2012, Annual Meeting while outgoing President Carolyn Peck and Board Member Marlene Lidstrom go over some last minute details.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness...That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted by Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed"

.....Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

Copies of the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution are on sale in the Greenback Museum. Proceeds go to the Greenback Historical Society, Inc. a tax exempt corporation.

Joyce Leo spoke at our Annual Meeting that was held on January 28, 2012. Ms. Leo is the co-author of the book "Catching the Dream", an anthology of poetry inspired by Susan Boyle

At the business meeting, the Treasurer's Report showed that we had a balance of \$1,984 in our account. We will need to use that to purchase four copies of Volume II of the Scrapbook for our surrounding counties and for any on-going expenses for the organization. We also have \$1067 in our Preservation Account at the end of 2011. This is the account we set aside from the proceeds of our Open House at the McCollum House and a few donations, which have been made in memory of former residents of Greenback.

Teresa Goddard was elected President and Chairman of the Board. Shirley Hall was reelected Secretary and Member of the Board of Directors. Carolyn Peck was reelected for an additional three-year term to the Board of Directors. Betty Carroll was reelected Treasurer. Colleen Ragain, Vice President's term does not expire until January 2013.

Members present paid their annual dues. For those not present, dues may be mailed to Greenback Historical Society, Inc. P.O. Box 165, Greenback, Tennessee 37742. Family \$15.00. Individual \$10.00. The next Quarterly Meeting is April 26, 7:00 P.M. at the Greenback Community Center.

I have enjoyed being your President and I appreciate all the cooperation that I have received from the members of the Society and the Board of Directors. I am looking forward to working with a new President who has new energy and ideas.

Carolyn Melton Peck

"We are confronted by insurmountable opportunities"

anonymous

IN MEMORIAM

Russell Brian Ragain, Age 55, Died 2/4/12

Roy M. Brooks, Age 76, Died 2/12/12.

Roy Brooks was one of the first Incorporators of the Greenback Historical Society in 2006 and has served as a member of the Board of Directors since that time. He was a descendant of early settlers in the area and has been a great source of information to us in compiling information for Greenback History in the *Greenback Heritage Scrapbook*, the Greenback Heritage Museum, and the Historical Society Newsletter. More information about Brooks is published in ISSUE 9 of the *Chronicler*. Brooks furnished several of the "Greenback Legends" articles.



Roy M. Brooks as he appeared on a WBIR, Channel 10, Newscast in 2010. He explained to TV viewers how Greenback got its name. The video segment was filmed in the Greenback Heritage Museum.

Louise Hammontree Linginfelter, Age 78, Died 2/8/12

Mary Ellen Downey McGill, Age 92, Died 3/3/12

Mildred Kerr Rogers, Died 4/9/12

We have Yearbooks in the Museum from the year 1938 to 2008. We also have pictures of classes of years ago, and pictures of our athletic teams. When I am working in the museum, I always point out the girl's basketball uniform of the 1930's when our girls won the state tournament. I remember how proud my father was of those girls, even though we were new to the community and he was not coaching then.

While we remember all the funny and special times of our youth, we stop occasionally to look at today's young people and we swell with pride at their accomplishments. As spring has arrived, our teenagers will be celebrating their academic achievements, their sports achievements, and other individual awards. Brent Tally has accepted an offer to play football at Maryville College. Some have received academic scholarships and as graduation approaches. I'm sure we will learn of more.

This year, however, we have two young ladies who have achieved national recognition, and to those we need to give special recognition.

Laurel Wright, 16, won the National Texaco Showdown title for "Best New Act in Country Music" in January of this year. In addition to the title, she was awarded \$100,000. The Texaco Showdown, now in its 31st year, is the oldest and largest country music talent show in America. Performing at the Ryman Auditorium, Laurel received loud applause and a standing ovation from the audience. Among other country music artists who have won this award are Martina McBride, Garth Brooks, Blake Shelton and Johnny Burford. Burford was the 2011 winner.

Laurel, the daughter of Lori and Ronnie Wright, attended Greenback High School, and is now being home schooled while working on her craft and on her debut album at Mojo Records in Greenback. The record company is owned by her manager, Lowell Molen. Those of us who have heard Laurel perform locally will now look forward to seeing and hearing her perform on the professional stage. We wish her the best.

Kim King, daughter of Mark and Sandy Maxwell King, is a senior at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and President of the UT Equestrian Team. She has progressed through district and regional competitions and has now qualified for the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association National Equestrian Finals. Kim came in fourth in the Western Division of the semi-finals. The Intercollegiate Association was founded in 1975. No other UT student has ever progressed to the Nationals.

She will be one of 12 riders in her division in the Nationals to be held May 24 and 25th in Raleigh, N.C. Rather than the shows of which we are more familiar, when the rider enters his or her horse that is trained to show, this competition is focused on the riders. The horses that they ride are selected from a group at random and the rider is not allowed to ride the horse prior to the competition itself.

Carolyn M. Peck

**Western Electric
Sturtevant
Vacuum Cleaners**

The Clean Way to Clean

The elements of the successful vacuum cleaner—the motor and the fan—now available in one machine.

The Combination of Perfection:

- The Western Electric Motor
- The Sturtevant Suction Fan

Your selection can now be easily made with absolute assurance of satisfactory operation. You can secure the product of over thirty years of manufacturing experience.

Write for Bulletin No. 8260

Western Electric Company

An ad for an early 1900s vacuum cleaner.

Get a move on, children, it's time to make this old house sparkle. Your Dad took down the Warm Morning because it's warm enough that we won't have to have a fire until winter. Joe, you clean out the fireplaces and take out the ashes. Don't just dump them any place; put them over there by the fence where I'm making compost with our kitchen scraps.

We'll start at the top and move down. Shirley, you take that old broom, put a towel around the top and sweep down the ceilings and get all those spider webs out of the corners. While she's doing that, Mary, you can take down all the curtains and I'll put them in the wash. Open the windows and let the fresh spring air in the house. It'll get all the old coal and wood smell out.

You children need to clean out your clothes cabinets. Ain't it nice that your Dad made each one of you a clothes cabinet so you can hang the best ones up and won't have to store your clothes in boxes. Be sure to put your woolens in the cedar chests and put some moth balls in there or you'll have holy sweaters come fall. If there are any too small for you, put them in one of those pretty feed sacks and we'll take them over to the church for someone who can use them.

Joe, you've got good strong arms, you can clean the dining room wallpaper with Climax. It is all sooty and grimy so you need to run that sticky Climax up and down the walls to pick up all the dirt. Be careful not to streak it, now. Once you finish that, climb up and clean those light fixtures. We've got some good brass polish to use on those. Give me the globes and I'll wash them while I'm cleaning the kitchen.

Shirley and Mary, you can dust all the baseboards and doors. Miz Wear has one of those new-fangled sweepers that she can plug in the wall and pull around to get that dirt. It looks like a big old can that you can drag around as you clean. Maybe your Dad will let us get one when he sells off some of the cattle. I sure am glad that we have electricity now. Down in the country they haven't got it yet, but I hear the REA may be going to come and bring some. If they do, we may have to keep some of the workers and their families here because the boarding house will only be able to keep a few.

I finished washing the lace curtains. I was real careful using that washing machine we got for Christmas. Aunt Bess was using hers and caught her arm in the wringer, Might near broke it off before she could get the thing

turned off. Joe, if you've finished putting the drying frames up, we can stretch the lace curtains.

Mary, you and Shirley can wash the windows now, one of you on the inside and one on the outside so you can see any spots you missed or smudges you made. If you put some vinegar in some warm water and then shine them with old newspapers, they will sparkle like new. There is nothing I like better than pretty clean windows. While they are doing that Joe, you wash down all the porches. You'll have to carry water from the well but they will look so nice 'cause you do the best job of anybody!

By that time, I should be done in the kitchen. We'll get a snack and then start on the floors. It takes everybody to do that. These old knees don't work so well anymore but I can still get down. Everybody put on their rubber gloves. Wipe the floors clean with white gas and dry them off. If you see some heel marks take some wax and steel wool and rub those off. Then we can put a good coat of paste wax on the floor and shine them up real good. Remember Mary, how I used to pull you around on the floor on a blanket to make those floors shine?

Just look! We put the rugs down after we beat the dust out of them and the curtains up after they got dry. Isn't this the cleanest house you've ever seen? We even got a new Sears Catalog so we put the old one in the outhouse. Always remember, children, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness" and don't you ever forget it.

Carolyn M. Peck

This is not based on any one family but is a compilation of housecleaning in houses at the time.



A wringer washer from the 1930s.
Library of Congress Archives.

April 12, 1861 4:30 AM, On the wires:
 "South Carolina Shore Batteries under the command of General Pierre G.T. Beauregard, opened fire on Fort Sumter, a federal installation in Charleston Harbor. At this hour, the Fort continues to be bombarded. There is no official word yet from President Lincoln regarding the attack." " At 2:30 P.M. today the Stars and Stripes were lowered within Fort Sumter. In its place rose a white bed sheet signifying the Fort's surrender. Major Robert Anderson, Commander of the Union Troops, has agreed to evacuate the Fort tomorrow, Sunday, the 14th. More to follow"

April 15, 1861, On the wires:
 "President Abraham Lincoln calls for seventy-five thousand volunteers to join the army. They will serve for three months to repossess the forts and places and property of the United States which have been unlawfully seized."

THE CONFLICT BEGINS!!

Carolyn M. Peck

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 20 12:00. *Sr. Citizens. Greenback Community Center, Pot-luck*
- April 21 *Happy Survivors. Greenback Community Center, 11:30-2:00. Reservations: \$15 ; Ralph Hall, 6013 Old Niles Ferry Pk. Greenback 856-3419*
- April 26 *Greenback Historical Society Quarterly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Greenback Community Center. Mrs. Johnny Hammontree Myers will speak on "Growing Up in Greenback."***
- June 24 *Hist. Soc. of Loudon County. Gail Thomason, "Writing Your Memoirs". Trinity Meth. Church, Lenoir City.*
- July 14 *Heritage Scrapbook Potluck. Greenback Community Center. 11:00***
- July 28 *Quarterly Meeting and Ice Cream Contest. Community Center Lower Level and Pavilion. 12:30 – 3:00PM.***

Stamp

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