

CHRONICLER
PRESERVING THE PAST
ISSUE 17, October 1, 2011

Greenback Historical Society
P.O. Box 165
Greenback, Tn. 37742

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Fall descended as quickly as tornado season

Hot, hot summer came, and people were still trying to repair roofs and storm damage. It seems this year will always be remembered for the weather and the economy.

In spite of that, some pretty exciting things have happened as Greenback keeps making some progress. The Loudon County Commission has voted to build the Greenback School. We need to express our appreciation to Robert Franke Commissioner, and Lisa Russell, School Board Member for all their hard work, as well as many other persons, too numerous to mention.

Descendants of William H. Hall, Confederate Soldier, placed a marker in Pine Grove Cemetery in his honor. He had disappeared many years ago. The family researched his history and found information on his enlistment. The marker is placed in the cemetery next to that of his wife. Greenback Historical Society served refreshments to the descendants at the Community Center afterwards.

Pine Grove Church sponsored a Walk for a Cure for ALS in honor of Janie Berry on September 24. Commonly known as Lou Gherig's Disease, there is currently no known cure to this aggressive disease.

Late September, the Hwy. 411 Flea Market, which extends into Georgia, began its open-air sales; Then, on October 1st, an Antique Sale on Hwy. 411 N. opened through the first three days of October.

Looking forward, the Museum is planning their second annual Quilt Show. Agreements to show were made in September, and Quilts will be set up the first week of October to be shown October 6, 7, and 8th. Prizes will be awarded this year to exhibitors and those viewing the exhibits may vote for their favorites at one cent a vote. Jars will be placed by the quilts for this purpose. Questions about this exhibit may be made to Barbara Davis, 856-3262 We still need a Correspondent for Museum Musings.

October 29, Halloween will be celebrated in downtown Greenback. Several adults began this practice three or four years ago and it has steadily grown. If you wish to participate, put on your best costume, bring some treats for the kiddies and just show up between 6 and 8 on the Saturday before Halloween.

A number of persons have completed the Depot Survey. Surveys are still available in the Museum and other businesses in town. If you haven't turned one in, please leave it at the Museum, bring it to the meeting, or mail it to us. The Preservation Fund reached \$1067 at the end of September. Donations may be made at Peoples Bank, mailed or given to the Historical Society.

Carolyn Melton Peck

Next Meeting: Oct. 20

Roy Goddard, Growing.

Up in Greenback 7:30 PM

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PUBLICATIONS

As threatened in the last newsletter, I am changing the emphasis to reflect the fact that the Greenback Historical Society has more information and archive activities than the Heritage Scrapbook project. We may be trying out suggestions for a new title. In the meantime, suggestions have been “The Print Shoppe” or “Paul’s Postings”. Let us know which you prefer or give us a more clever suggestion. In this issue, I would like to briefly describe some of our products.

The Quarterly Newsletter: The “Chronicler” is published every three months to remind members of the quarterly meeting. It is compiled and edited by Carolyn Peck with content supplied by various members. The newsletter strives to keep member informed about ongoing activities and issues as well as presenting glimpses of the Greenback of years past. Having been a newsletter editor in the past, I can appreciate what a difficult job it is. We should all be grateful to Carolyn for taking on this task and producing this high quality periodical.

Brochures: From time to time the organization needs to create information pamphlets in connection with some of our activities. An example is the brochure describing the renovation of the McCollum House that was distributed during the Open House event last December. More recently, Colleen Ragain has produced a new brochure describing the Greenback Historical Society in hopes of attracting new members. Copies of these are available at the Greenback Heritage Museum, and various other locations in the city.

The Greenback Heritage Scrapbook: As most of you already know, the scrapbook is an ongoing project begun by the Community Club. When finished, it will be made up of four volumes, each covering a particular period in Greenback’s history. Volume I covering 1800-1900 has been published. Volume II (1900-1930) is nearly complete and Volume III (1930-1960) is about halfway complete. The historical society joined in this effort to help in the printing and binding and to make copies available to other libraries and historical organizations.

Video Compilations: Video disks and tapes provide a convenient way of presenting aspects of Greenback history to our museum visitors and are useful as displays at special events. It is our hope to utilize much of the unique information in the scrapbook material in video format in the future. Some of the items presently available at the museum include: interviews with members of the Black family contributed by David Black, Bobby Andersons’ presentation on the National Campground made to the Historical Society of Loudon County and contributed by Jerry Heaton, an overview of the Historical Scrapbook project by Paul Bailey, and Memories of the Evans Family, contributed by Owen Evans. The most recent video is a collection of scenes from last July’s Ice Cream Contest. Hey, it might be of historical importance someday.

The Society Website: The motivation for the website is three-fold. First, it can help us and our activities to become more widely known, Second, it provides a way of distributing the newsletter that doesn’t require postage, and finally, it provides a way of reaching those people who have Greenback roots but live too far away to be active members.

So, how is it working out? In the past month, we have had 141 visitors from 13 states and five countries. Tennessee visitors come from Knoxville, Johnson City, Crossville, Cookeville, Jackson, and Madisonville. We seem to be pretty popular in Georgia, Virginia, and Florida. Most people find us by following the link from the City of Greenback website or the link from the Greenback page on Wikipedia. Internet searches on Google, Yahoo, and Bing also provide a number of connections. It is not possible to know why people visit, whether they want to know more about the historical society or are they just curious about this weirdly named place called Greenback. If you want to visit, we are *at* <http://www.gbhistorical.webs.com/>

Paul Bailey

APPALACHIAN QUILT TRAIL

Our second Appalachian Quilt Trail Plaque is now finished and thanks to the Catlett and Wilcox Families is located on Catlett's Barn, 6406 Hwy. 411 South, Greenback. The pattern, Wade's Bow Tie, is a family heirloom. Grandmother, Lissie Jane Birchfield, made this quilt for Wade when he was baby. Unfortunately Wade died at 26 months and never got to use the quilt. The quilt was then passed down to Janie Cattlett Wilcox. The barn was built in 1942 by Cas Woods and later sold to the Catletts. It has recently been repainted and landscaped to allow parking.

The quilt plaque was sponsored by the Greenback Historical Society and painted by Colleen Ragain. It has been approved by the Appalachian Quilt Association as a Wayside Exhibit and will be included in the next publication of the map and brochure of the Association. The Association begun in 2006 in Virginia and has featured the trail from Virginia through North Carolina and Tennessee.

JULY MEETING

The Ice Cream Contest appeared to be a success. Eight Entrants provided ice cream of eight different flavors and the crowd seemed to appreciate the effort. Bob Anderson, Banana Cream, took first prize, a luscious Blueberry Cheesecake came in second, and Katherine Ragain came in third for a delightful Peppermint. We also had delicious Butter Pecan, Maple Walnut, Chocolate Mocha and Vanilla Cream. A refreshing Lemon by Tracie Littleton of Loudon brought up the selections. 54 Tasters voted. The results were close and the ballots were counted and recounted by Gail Disney and Carrie Coad. The crowd encouraged us to do this again next year, and gave us donations of \$425 so start thinking about your recipes, as we want your participation.

Terri of the Quilt Shop made the highest bid of \$226 for the lovely birdhouse that is now displayed at the shop on Hwy. 411 S. It was donated by Jonathan Bailey and is made of Aspen Wood It resembles an Acorn and is skillfully crafted. Bailey, who lives in Guffey, Colorado, works in wood and metals He is the son of Paul and Cheryl Bailey.

Mayor Tom Peeler had resigned as a member of the Board of Directors. We will miss him but recognize that he is involved in not only work, but also many projects. Laura Del Rio was recommended to fill his unexpired term of the remainder of 2011, 2012, and 2013. She was elected by the membership.

IN MEMORIAM

Beulah Jean Orr Tarwater, 78, August 9, 2011
Joyce Long McCollum, 69, September 9, 2011

SHERIDAN'S MEN

SILENT AUCTION

Mort Kuntsler, historical artist, was known as one of America's foremost 20th century artists for 30 years. He had done many paintings and prints during that time focused mostly on the old west, cowboys and Indians and growing towns of the time. "Sheridan's Men" was one of a few he did for the CBS Mini Series "The Blue and the Grey".

"Mort Kuntsler is the foremost Civil War Artist of our time, if not all time. To study his paintings is to simply see history alive." States Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr., Civil War Historian and author of "Stonewall Jackson, The Man, The Soldier, The Legend".

Brig. General Philip Sheridan 1831-1888 was one of the foremost Union Generals of the Civil War. He fought with the Army of the Cumberland in Murphreesboro and Chickamauga and on Missionary Ridge at Chattanooga Later he commanded a force on Shenandoah.

We are fortunate to have a 1982 print from this painting available in the Greenback Heritage Museum. The framed print, that is under glass, also has 16 commemorative U.S. Postal Stamps Colleen Ragain has donated this print for Silent Auction. The painting may be viewed and bids may be placed until the end of this year at the Museum throughout the remainder of this year. Proceeds go to the tax-exempt Greenback Historical Society, Inc. On-line prices for Kuntsler Prints vary from \$50 to \$250

Kuntsler had not focused on the Civil War until 1988. When at Gettysburg to research a painting of Pickett's Charge for the 125th anniversary of the Civil War, he discovered the real historical interest of many in the war. He, since, has become famous as a Civil War Painter, his first major canvass being "the High Water Mark".
Sources: Framing Art, Wikipedia, "Warriors of the North"

GROWING UP IN THE MEADOW COMMUNITY

What great memories come to mind when we think of life, as we knew it growing up in the Meadow Community. Once known as Cloyd's Creek Community, it changed its name when the L&N Railroad set up a station in 1888 so that it could run its trains from Knoxville to Atlanta. After many suggestions from authorities, Washington approved the name of Meadow. You could catch the train at 10 AM and return at 4 PM. It was a quaint little place. It was the place that we call our childhood and the place where we experienced "the good life".

Most families were large and self-sufficient. Farmers we were, using plows drawn by horses or mules, you would find us growing almost everything we needed. Corn, green beans, potatoes, cabbage, and okra were all on the seasons planting list. We canned our own jellies and jams to be eaten on the hot homemade biscuits that we enjoyed each morning. Watermelon, cantaloupe, peanuts, and popcorn were also produced.

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GROWING UP IN THE MEADOW COMMUNITY

The things we did not grow such as bananas were purchased from Knoxville Farmer's Market. We raised our own hogs so we had plenty of sausage, bacon, and ham. The fat was rendered in large black kettles and stored in large cans to flavor our cooking. Our milk came from our own cows. Water came from springs, wells, or cisterns. We all drank from the same bucket of water and from the same dipper.

The small town centered around the activities of the two main churches, Meadow United Methodist Church and Cloyd's Creek Presbyterian. People walked to church each Sunday morning and again in the evening. There was a large group of teenagers who met on Sunday evenings at the Cloyd's Creek Church. Ben and Mae Talbott were the youth directors. It was a Sunday afternoon ritual to have a pick-up football or baseball game in the field in front of the Messler's home. We always looked forward to Easter. Someone would host the annual egg boil where everyone brought eggs to boil in a black wash pot over an outdoor fire. The eggs were used for various fun games. Christmas caroling and the annual Christmas Play were major events that we all participated in during the Christmas season. If you were old enough to talk, you had a speaking part. The girls would draw names and exchange gifts. Treats of fruit, nuts, and candy were distributed in brown paper sacks. Money for Christmas presents came from tobacco sales in the fall.

Other fond memories are of our school attendance at Meadow School. All of the students walked to school and walked home to eat lunch and then back again. Mrs. Messler would make hot soup for those who did not go home to eat. Two students would walk to her house and bring it back. There was one teacher for six grades. Because there was no indoor plumbing, there were two outhouses for personal business, one for girls on one side and one for boys on the other. Drinking water was drawn from the well. Once you finished sixth grade, you could now attend Greenback Public School. (Ed. Note: I have read that many students rode the train to Greenback School)

During our days in the Meadow Community, there were two grocery stores, four school houses (one at a time), a post office, a brick plant, and three marble quarries. The quarries have produced marble that was used in the Cathedral of St. John Divine in New York City. Two huge black marble pieces were sculptured become the lions that guard the entrance to the New York Public Library.

Families were used to working hard so when Bible School came along many children got a break from working to attend the weeklong event. From 9 am to noon, we participated in Bible drills, Bible reading, crafts, singing, and of course games and refreshments of Kool-Aid and cookies. Other summer activities consisted of swimming on hot days and playing baseball in Quince Robinson's field or at the Marble Hill old schoolyard.

Small town rural living in the Meadow Community has given us some terrific memories. It was such a great place that we chose to raise our families here and remain residents today. Frances Kizer and Dorcie Carver (sisters from the Walden and Margaret Alexander family)

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 6,7, 8 Quilt Show, Museum and Community Center. 10AM to 5PM

**OCTOBER 20 QUARTERLY MEETING GREENBACK HISTORICAL
SOCIETY 7:30 P.M GREENBACK COMMUNITY CENTER
ROY GODDARD, GROWING UP IN GREENBACK**

October 29 Halloween in Greenback . 6:00PM to 8:00PM Morganton Rd. Center of
Town

November 21 Board Meeting 7:00 Museum (if needed)

**JANUARY 21, 2012 ANNUAL MEETING 11:30 A.M. GREENBACK
COMMUNITY CENTER, POT-LUCK**

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

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
Carolyn M. Peck, President 986-1681
Colleen Ragain V. President 740-5429
Shirley Ridings Hall 856-3419
Betty Hall Carroll 856-3467
Robert Anderson
Paul Bailey
Roy M. Brooks
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