



CHRONICLER

PRESERVING OUR PAST



ISSUE 25, OCTOBER 1, 2013

GREENBACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
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HEALING THE WOUNDS

The arrival of September in Greenback means Camp Meeting time. This year's meeting took place September 8-12 at the historical site on King Road about five miles north of the town. The speakers were Rev. Keith Ross, Rev. Rick Carnes, Rev. Ben Styles, Rev. John Faraone, and Rev. Larry Fowler.

As almost all of our readers know, the National Campground was formed soon after the Civil War in an attempt to heal the bitter divisions existing in the community that resulted from the conflict. The organizers included both Union and Confederate sympathizers and speakers were invited from the Christian denominations represented in the area. The annual event has taken place each year since 1873 and has continued the inter-denominational tradition. The site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 and more recently was awarded a Civil War Trails marker.

In 1932, Squire W. H. "Billy" Jones compiled a history of the campground from old records and notes which reveals some details that many may find interesting. Squire Jones was somewhat of a local legend in his own right serving as the Station Agent at the Greenback Depot for over forty years while finding time to marry around 3500 couples on the side. Below are some nuggets extracted from his manuscript.

The National Campground Organization was perfected and the first Camp meeting held in September 1873. The Organization was chartered under the laws of the State of Tennessee, and had full power and authority to enact its own laws to govern the Campground Campus, which composes about five acres, within which are two springs, a creek along one side, a woodland with big shade trees, a tabernacle shed and a boarding house, a Ministers Camp, making it an ideal place for a Campground location as selected by pioneer citizens more than half a century ago.

The incorporation in its early days was composed of its own Mayor, Policemen, and other officers and enacted its own laws, violators being arrested and sentenced, and this incorporation possibly continues under the laws even today, but is not observed as in the first years, because of various Peace Officers being permanently located in the vicinity, and always present on the grounds at the annual meetings. Among the many laws in effect at that time was one governing the use of intoxicants, which provided that any person entering the Campground enclosure in an intoxicated condition or bringing any intoxicating liquors on the ground or selling "biters"

**NEXT MEETING: Saturday, October 12, 2013, 1:00PM.
Greenback Community Center.**

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should be fined not less than \$2.00 or more than \$200.00. Another act provided that the ground improvements, shade trees, shrubbery and springs, with all other fixtures and everything appertaining thereto, were held sacred and dedicated to the honor and worship of Almighty God, and any person destroying, defacing, carrying off or using in any way other than according to the true meaning and design, should be fined not less than \$50.00 or more than \$1000.00. Many other acts provided fines for different offenses and the laws were enforced rigidly, an instance being recalled of a man entering the Campgrounds intoxicated, he was at once arrested and as a result it cost him a little more than \$100.00.

The Campground was not and is not now permitted for use for any other purpose than worship, religious purposes and educational meetings.

The first officers of the organization in 1873 were as follows: **President** - James H. Donaldson; **Secretary** - J. H. Williams; **Treasurer** - Andrew Carpenter; **Mayor** - James Matthews; **Policemen** - Geo. A. Alexander, J. B. Griffiths, Samuel Lane, William Fisher and C. J. Bright. **Trustees** - J. H. Donaldson, J. D. Alexander, J. C. Wyley, J. D. Griffiths, H. K. Hughes, Andrew Carpenter, W. H. Anderson, J. M. Blankenship, J. H. Williams, Hartsell Boring, C.P.T. Davis, and Calvin Mizell.

The surnames above are certainly familiar to those of us who grew up in the Greenback area. For the benefit of newer residents, they include an ancestor of our own Bobby Anderson and among the descendants of the Alexander family is Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander.

Finally, the history includes some direct transcripts from the minutes of early meetings of the officers which show the efforts they made to prevent old differences and recriminations from keeping them from their goals.

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In case you haven't yet seen it, an updated draft of the Greenback Heritage Scrapbook, Vol. III was recently placed in the museum. It has now grown to over 320 pages and as you can see, there is still a lot of work to do. Please take time to drop by and review it. If you spot any errors, note them on the page and identify yourself in case we need to ask questions of you. Most of the remaining work is in writing introductions to the various sections and providing clarifying information. Anyone who would like to contribute written information should contact Betty Carroll or Paul Bailey. All help will be greatly appreciated.

As keeper of the Historical Society webpage, I have noticed that a significant number of the visits to our site originate as "Google" type searches looking for the Greenback Heritage Museum. After talking with the staff, we will be setting up a separate site that focuses entirely on the museum. In the coming months, we will be adding information about its operation and exhibits. This will provide a location where potential visitors can find driving directions, hours of operation, a sample of things on display and information about special events like the recent Quilt Show. The address for the site will be <http://www.gbmuseum.webs.com>. Check it out in a few weeks.

Paul Bailey

MUSEUM MUSINGS

2013 Quilt Show Edition

The Greenback Heritage Museum held their third annual Quilt Show September 5-7, concurrent with a crafts show in the Greenback Depot. This year there were 52 entries from exhibitors with most from Greenback, Maryville and Lenoir City. Barbara Davis, chairman of the Quilt Show Committee, estimated attendance at around 290.

The wide variety of exhibits included the very oldest and the most modern of styles. Several new and unique items were on display this year including a very old quilt which contained material from Civil War uniforms.

People attending the show were encouraged to vote for their favorites by dropping coins into numbered piggy banks matching those of the exhibits. The winners were determined by counting the money in each bank. This year's winners were:

1st place: Royce Jackson of Maryville. She received a floral arrangement from Broadway Flower Shop in Lenoir City.

2nd place: Eva Lee Bracken of Greenback who won a gift certificate from Mountain Creek Quilt Shop in Greenback.

3rd place: Gaye Ann Beaty. This entry was a very old "postage stamp" quilt made up of ½ inch squares of material.

4th place: Alma Swaney of Maryville.

The Quilt Show Committee wishes to express their appreciation to all the exhibitors and they hope to see you back next year. Hopefully, the new museum web page will be finished in a few months and information about the show will be available several months in advance.

Paul Bailey and Barbara Davis



A few of the quilts on display at this year's show at the Greenback Heritage Museum.

AT THE DEPOT

We just received notification today! The Tennessee Historical Commission approved the application to place the Depot on the National Register of Historical Places. The application will now go to the National Register for their approval. We appreciate all the work Heather Bailey, East Tennessee Development District, Ethiel Garlington, East Tennessee Preservation Alliance and Penny McLaughlin did on this application.

In conjunction with the Museum Quilt Show, there was a three day Arts and Crafts Show in the Depot. In November, there will be another Crafts Show and Mart in cooperation with the Christmas Parade and the service commemorating the Lighting of the Christmas Tree will also be held at the Depot at 6:00PM that evening.

Many thanks go to the city and to Ron Edmondson for making our downtown a center of activity in the Christmas season.

Carolyn Melton Peck

At 12:45 OF July 31, the rain quickly came down in torrents and the Board of Directors of the Greenback Historical Society feared the Annual Homemade Ice Cream Contest was in serious jeopardy. Scheduled to begin “set up” in the Greenback Community Center Pavilion, members scrambled to salvage papers and decorations. Within 30 minutes, the rain ceased and clean up began. In spite of the rainy weather, The third Annual Ice Cream Contest started on time at 2:00 PM when President Teresa Goddard announced that “tasting time begins.”

Guests began tasting such exotic flavors such as Pineapple Coconut and good old fashioned Banana. When the cups were filled and the visitors made their votes, ballots were counted and Pineapple Coconut, submitted by Chip, Joy Miller and eight year old Courtney won first prize. Second Prize went to Tracie Littleton for Cookies and Cream. Tracie has competed each of the three years and began planning for the next competition immediately. Third prize went to Laura Del Rio for Almond Joy, an ice cream which was truly a “joy”. Grandfather, George Miller, proudly applauded young Courtney as she returned the prize money to the treasury of the Historical Society to be used in other projects.

The Board of Directors set the regularly quarterly scheduled meeting of the Greenback Historical Society to 1:00 PM on October 12 at the Community Center. This is a change from the nighttime meeting which is sometimes difficult for some to attend. Deadline for contributions to the newsletter was set for September 15. Contributions for inclusion in the October Issue should be sent to Carolyn Peck, 600 Donaldson Light Lane, Lenoir City, 37772, or E-Mailed to CarolynPeck@ymail.com.

Carolyn Melton Peck



Some of the “tasters” at the 2013 Greenback Historical Society Ice Cream Contest.

HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL

This is the 6th annual Halloween Festival in Greenback and the call is out for more people to come out and set up to give out candy. This has become a much anticipated event in our community, providing a safe, fun environment for children and their families to enjoy this holiday together. We have a food vendor and a "Canoe ride" and hope to attract others. Setup will begin at 4 PM and trick or treating will run from 5 until 8 PM.

This event is at risk of being discontinued if more people don't volunteer to help out and participate. The first five years have been generated by the same four people who have done all the work and provided all the decorating and hard work behind this event. Yes, it is a lot of hard work and currently requires 8-10 hours of set up as well as the same amount of time to take everything down and pack it away. This also means we only have 4-5 people giving candy out. This, of course, does not include the time and energy in providing the Haunted Trailer which is sponsored and hosted by the "Sports Car Emporium" of Greenback. We need more exhibitors even if it is just people with decorated tables passing out candy. We should be able to line the length of the street in downtown Greenback.

We have police support for traffic control and we hold the event on the last Saturday of October to make it convenient for everyone. If anyone wants to set up more than just a table but is looking for suggestions, I have plenty.

This is a once a year holiday enjoyed by all and will hopefully continue for years to come. Help keep the Greenback Halloween Festival a tradition for many years to come. For more information on how you can be a part of this event, contact Laura at 865-384-0881.

Laura Delrio

IN MEMORIAM

Russell, Charles David, May 5, 2013

Ledbetter, Lucille Melson, 73, June 28, 2013

Roach, Berniece, "Bunny", 68, July 2, 2013

Wagner, Carole Ann Skidmore, 59, July 21, 2013

Byerley, Seth Joseph, 30, July 23, 2013

McCall, Bobbie Jean Chambers, 73, August 21, 2013

Dobson, James Milton (JD), 75, September 1, 2013

McCall, Harriet Elizabeth, 97, September 2, 2013

Ray, Fred, 94, September 7, 2013

Cooper, Graham Dinwiddie, 83, September 10, 2013

Clark, Judy, 73, September 13, 2013

Booth, Calvin G., 87, September 17, 2013

ABOUT OUR DIRECTORS

After seven years of our organization, we finally have a Hammontree on our Board! Ron, son of Charlie, grandson of Fred, great grandson of Harve, and great, great grandson of James, became a member of our Board in January of this year. Although he grew up in Maryville, he and his wife Charlotte, have lived here for the past 30 years just off Morganton Road, in Greenback. The address has recently been changed to Kirk Road but their house has not moved. If you need to write to him, try P.O. Box 100

Ron is Executive Director of TWDRA, a position of with a lot of responsibility. He has served on numerous Boards, in many organizations, in many capacities so we are fortunate to have his experience and networking on our Board. Related to Historic Preservation is also his service on the Sequoyah Museum Board.

Ron and his wife Charlotte recently celebrated their 50th Anniversary. Since their three children, Ron, Jr., David, and Chuck are adults with homes of their own, Ron tells me that they are planning to downsize. Having chosen that course myself, I suggested that they think carefully because there comes a time when their seven grandchildren may need sleeping facilities.

The nine member board serves as the Executive Board of the Greenback Historical Society. Members serve for three year terms and are required to rotate off after serving two full terms. Since the Board is responsible for most fiduciary decisions, and 50% of the membership of the Board is required for a quorum, attendance and responsibility is quite important.

Carolyn Melton Peck

MORE AWARDS

In our January Issue, we reported that David Black, Atty. had been selected as East Tennessee Regional Attorney of the Year by his peers. That wasn't the end!!! David and his wife, Martha S.L. Black Atty, both of Kizer and Black, Maryville, have recently been named to the 20th edition of "The Best Lawyers in America."

Our professionals are to be honored, but our youth follow in their footsteps, though in other fields. A group of Greenback High School students won first place in an international competition with their original video on East Tennessee Caves that were used by the Underground Railroad during the days of slavery.

Devlin Plemons won the FLEC Youth writing Contest and made a trip to Washington D.C. as a result. Devlin is Editor of the 2013 Bicentennial Annual at Greenback. If you have not seen that, it is a spectacular edition, one of which the school should be proud. Laurel Wright,

who last year won the Texaco first Place Award for rising young Star, is entered into the completion for American Idol. Although she is sworn to secrecy, the grapevine has reported that she made the first cut. This summer Laurel performed at the benefit UPS held in Greenback and recently opened for one of the main acts at the Tennessee A&I Fair.

Carolyn Melton Peck

Healing The Wounds Continued

Whereas, as our meeting is called for the purpose of building up the Great Redeemer's Kingdom on earth that as a board of trustees we will refrain from any remarks, act or acts, foreign to the great work in which we are engaged:-

Whereas, a few well disposed Christian men conceived the idea in the year 1873, to hold a tabernacle meeting in Loudon County, Tennessee and in order to promote the cause of our Great Redeemer and unite the different denominations in Christian fellowship, also to allay the feuds engendered by the late National difficulties (Civil War) and in September 1873, held a meeting with temporary fixtures in a tent, the public seeing the object and success of same, came forward and subscribed hundreds of dollars to make it a permanent place for yearly worship, placed it in the hands and under the management of the board of trustees who expended the same in purchasing several acres of land and erecting thereon a commodious tabernacle shed building for the continuance of Campmeeting.

With this year marking the 140th anniversary of the founding of the National Campground, it is hard to not be impressed by how well their objectives have been met.

Paul Bailey



The crowd on the last Sunday of the National Campground Tabernacle Meeting in 1923. Photo provided to the Greenback Heritage Scrapbook Project by Linda McCarter Cook.

150 YEARS AGO: THE CIVILWAR IN EAST TENNESSEE

Blount County was very fortunate during the first two years of the Civil War to have avoided the devastation seen in the western part of the state and in Virginia. However, one hundred and fifty years ago this Fall, the area of East Tennessee that would become Loudon County and Greenback experienced its greatest amount of military activity. There were no battles on the scale that took place in other locations but events here had direct bearing on what happened elsewhere.

By the end of the summer of 1863, the South had recently suffered major defeats at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and Vicksburg, Mississippi. The Confederate Army of Tennessee's usually ineffective commander, General Braxton Bragg, had managed a victory at Chickamauga in northern Georgia largely with the help of reinforcements from the Army of Virginia and the remnants of the Army of Mississippi.

Many of the rebel troops defending the vital railroad supply link that ran through East Tennessee to Virginia had been stripped away earlier to support Bragg's army leaving only a skeleton force to guard the important bridges. In August and September, US General Burnside invaded East Tennessee from Kentucky and captured Knoxville. CS General Buckner retreated from Knoxville and burned the bridge at Loudon to prevent its use by the advancing Union soldiers. Locomotives and railcars were run off the remains of the bridge into the channel of the Tennessee River to prevent steamboats from passing that point. The Confederates then retreated to the Hiwassee River to regroup. Meanwhile, both sides had sympathizers keeping watch on the river crossings for signs of movement.

By the end of October, Federal troops were holding positions across the river from Loudon and in Lenoir's Station while the rebels were using cavalry to scout the area around Morganton and Unitia. On October 30, CS General Vaughn's cavalry ambushed a Union scouting party near Unitia resulting in two killed, five wounded and fifteen prisoners. No rebel losses were reported. The favor was repaid a few days later when US cavalry scouts ambushed CS Colonel Dibrell's brigade as it attempted to ford the Little Tennessee south of Niles Ferry. Confederate losses were 30-40 killed, captured or drowned.

Following the victory at Chickamauga, CS General James Longstreet had pressed Bragg to go after the Union forces while they were in disarray but Longstreet was rebuked. Entire books have been written on Bragg's incompetence but there is not time to go into that here. Several weeks passed and it was learned

that US General Ulysses S. Grant, fresh from his success at Vicksburg, was coming to take command of the forces huddled in Chattanooga. Meanwhile, Bragg finally agreed to let Longstreet move his army north to try to retake Knoxville. Both men were more than happy to part company and the War Department in Richmond wanted Longstreet back in Virginia.

During November 10 and 12, an advance party of Confederate cavalry crossed the Little Tennessee at Niles or Motley's ford and were led by a southern sympathizer up Chilhowee Mountain to Montvale Springs. The group attacked US General Sanders' pickets near Maryville. The rebels retreated by way of Montvale Springs and Sanders moved his main camp across Little River to Rockwood.

On November 13, Longstreet's army arrived by train near Loudon and constructed a pontoon bridge across the Tennessee River near Huff's ferry. At the same time, CS General Wheeler crossed the main body of his 4000 cavalymen at Niles and Motley's fords on the Little Tennessee. The next day Wheeler attacked the camp of the 1st Kentucky Cavalry at Maryville and drove them toward Rockwood. He was unaware that he greatly outnumbered the Kentuckians and did not press the attack which allowed them to escape into Knox County. Wheeler then turned to his main objective which was the fortified hills on the south side of the Holston River across from Knoxville. After a couple of days, he was unsuccessful in his attempts and rejoined Longstreet's forces by fording the Holston River near Louisville. Longstreet moved on to Knoxville and began its siege on November 17.

Meanwhile, to the south in Chattanooga, US General Grant quickly took the situation in hand and defeated the Confederates at Missionary Ridge on November 25 and pushed them back into Georgia. Any advantage gained in their victory over the Federals at Chickamauga was lost and CS General Bragg resigned his command soon after. Where Bragg had been reluctant to engage following battles, Grant was quite the opposite. After a very short rest from the recent action, Grant dispatched General William T. Sherman's army north on November 29 to track down Longstreet.

Having lost communication with Bragg after his defeat, Longstreet began looking over his shoulder and decided to give up his attack on Knoxville to avoid possibly being trapped. On November 29, he ordered his supply wagons around Knoxville and toward Rogersville where he eventually wintered over before returning to Virginia.
In the next Issue: Sherman comes to Morganton.

Paul Bailey

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Stamp

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Supporters

City of Greenback
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ANNUAL MEETING

We will be electing officers and replacing two Board Members in January. It is important to have your representation. If you have suggestions, Linda Cabe is Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Watch for time and date to be announced. A Quorum of the Membership is required to take actions to approve the election and the Annual Financial Statement. The Annual Meeting is required by our Charter and we must report our Financial Statement to retain our 501(c)-3 (Tax Exemption).

Other Upcoming Events: Of Sword and Pen: Pivotal Moments In Civil War East Tennessee: Open through October 13th, 2013. Museum of East Tennessee History, 601 S. Gay St., Knoxville

The Advocacy Committee of the East Tennessee Preservation Alliance will be considering nominations for Awards to be given to individuals or groups at the Fall Conference. If you have suggestions, contact Carolyn Peck, 986-1681 or E-Mail CarolynPeck@ymail.com no later than October 13th.

Carolyn Melton Peck

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct. 9. *Noon. Brown Bag Lunch, Melungeon DNA Project, Jack Goins. ETHS Auditorium, 601 Gay St. Knoxville, TN.*
- Oct. 12, 1:00 PM, Greenback Historical Society Quarterly Meeting. Greenback Community Center. Admission Free; Open to the Public. Program: History of the Federal Reserve.**
- Oct. 26, *5-8 PM, Halloween Festival, (See Article Page 3)*
- Nov. 7-9, *East Tennessee Preservation Conference, "The Power of Place" Maryville College, Maryville, Tennessee. To register for full conference or partial sessions, call ETPA, Knox Heritage, 865 525-8008.*
- Nov. 13, *Noon Brown Bag Lunch Lecture, Scots-Irish. Ron Jones, ETHS Auditorium, 601 Gay St., Knoxville, TN.*
- Nov. 30, *Greenback Christmas Tree Parade, 11:00 AM, Downtown Greenback*
- Nov. 30, *Christmas Tree Services 6:00 PM At the Depot. Morganton Road Downtown/ Followed by Christmas Tree Lighting, Across the Street.*