



CHRONICLER

PRESERVING OUR PAST



ISSUE 26, JANUARY 1, 2014

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

How did it get to be Christmas so quickly? That trick of the calendar that gave us only four weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas really gave the holidays the sense of an out of control train rambling down the tracks!

It has been an eventful year in Greenback as we get ready to see the new school building completed and opened. Most of us have a real shared history with some or part of that old school building. It is a part of our personal past and has been the cornerstone of the growth of the community for decades.

I'm so thrilled to see the sign on the property declaring with pride that it is one school! It is one of the things that I believe makes Greenback unique and is the way I wish all our schools ran. Say what you want about bigger schools and more scholastic opportunities, the most successful adults I know came from home, community and school environments where they couldn't just fall through the cracks. I wish the whole team who are moving into the new school much success at continuing to make sure each child that comes into Greenback leaves knowing that they were noticed, valued and found acceptance and caring from their teachers, staff and other students.

I am sorry that my other plans will prevent me from attending the Greenback High School Alumni Basketball Game on Saturday, January 4th. I was invited to via Facebook which is a great way to reach people fast – but for those of us not quite so “computer” addicted, it sounds like a wonderful time! Beginning at 4:30 pm, I understand there will be tours of the school, a meal available for \$6 and a donation to come to the games that will benefit the Greenback Basketball Programs. They are hoping to have enough former players to divide into age groups and will work out the number of quarters to be played based upon the number of people who return to play. What a great community event and a great way to celebrate the passage of a part of all our shared history. And there will be plenty of basketball and contests and cakewalks between quarters. If you would like to be involved with this event, my guess is that any of the basketball coaches can give you details, but Coach Jama Hammontree (wow that makes me feel old) is listed as the contact.

**NEXT MEETING: Saturday, January 18, 12:00PM.
Greenback Community Center. Potluck!**

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On behalf of the Greenback Historical Board of Directors and members, I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2014.

Teresa Goddard

ANNUAL MEETING

A pot-luck meal will be served at 12 noon on January 18, 2014, in the lower level of the Greenback Community Bldg. The meeting is open to the public and all are invited to participate.

Mrs. Ruth Howard Joseph, one of our first and most loyal members will speak to us on “Growing Up in Greenback” We have been looking forward to this for some time as Ms. Joseph has much to share with us. Her husband was a pilot in World War II, and she sometimes attends with Grace Black Henry when Ms. Henry is able. At one time, Grace's daughter, Melanie, researched the underground caves in the Greenback and Friendsville area. These were caves in which slaves used to escape northward.

Our Annual Meeting is the most important of the year, as it is required by our charter and we must report to the State Attorney General on the business completed. This year we will have election of officers whose terms are for two years and election of Board Members, whose terms are three years. According to our By-Laws Board Members must roll off once they have served two full terms. There is no restriction on the number of years an officer may serve. Shirley Hall and Carolyn Peck are

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PUBLICATIONS

Work continues on Volume III of the Greenback Heritage Scrapbook (1930 – 1960). A Scrapbook Committee meeting was held October 11th to review progress and the things that remain to be done. Some of that material is now in hand. This includes a write-up on the Merchants and Farmers Bank by Carolyn Peck and a nice history of the local Boy Scout activities by Colleen and Bob Ragain. Carolyn has also contributed a description of community activities during the period. We continue to receive very good family contributions as well. During the past few months we have acquired information on the J. B. Patterson family, the Akers family, the Ben Clark family and the Melton family. If you have family material you have not yet contributed please contact Betty Carroll or Paul Bailey to arrange to have it scanned. We would also appreciate any written contributions about the Greenback community you would like to provide.

Volume III looks to be a very comprehensive depiction of Greenback and its families in the mid-1900s. We encourage you to drop by the museum and look at the current draft. If you find errors, please note them on the pages along with your name in case we need to contact you with questions. Help us make this community history as complete as possible.

I would like to remind readers that we have the past three years of newsletter issues archived on the Historical Society website. If you are a new member or missed an issue for some reason, please go to www.gbhistorical.webs.com and click on the "Newsletter" link to find it.

Paul Bailey

MUSEUM MUSINGS

Dorothy Gregory Sutton recently donated an item to the museum which brought back memories for many people. It is a car speaker from Greenback's one and only drive-in theater. Located on Highway 95 on what became known as the John M. Hutton farm, it was just south of the pond which is now on the east side of the highway about a quarter mile from Highway 411.

At that time (the early 50's) the property was owned by the Earl Hall family. Earl and Blanche were Betty Carroll's parents. Blanche, (then a widow) needed a little extra income so she signed a deal with a company owned by Gault Brown of Madisonville to build the Greenback Drive-in Theatre. Gault and his wife Dovie owned the Hollywood theatre in downtown Madisonville as well. Betty has many fond memories of the drive-in with her family living so close by. Did she ever peep out her window and enjoy a free movie?

Felix Daniels worked at the drive in. Two of his jobs included working concessions and tending the reels for his boss. Wayne Tipton remembers that on Friday nights you could take in a car load of people for a small price. Max Davis from Binfield would drive his father's big long Chrysler and they would cram it full with about 15-20 boys. Once inside, they would get out and sit on the ground to watch the movie. Several remember someone who came to the movies on a John Deere tractor on occasion but we can't recall exactly who.

Thelma Cooper recalls "the movie drive-in in the cow pasture" as a wonderful addition to the Greenback community. She and Graham attended several movies along with daughter Michelle as a toddler sleeping in the back seat. One of her favorite movies was "The View from Pompey's Head" starring Richard Egan and Dana Winter. Pompey was a small town where the characters lived along with several other narrow-minded people. Thelma calls this time a "nice block in her life".

Curtis Yates remembers the wonderful western and war movies he viewed at the drive-in. One in particular was "To Hell and Back" starring Audie Murphy as himself. This was around 1956. Curtis says back then it was "no money, no car", so a bunch of boys would slip in behind the old barn nearby and watch for free.

I remember driving my dad's 1950 pick-up truck (with no driver's license) to see Elvis Presley's first movie "Love Me Tender". Also in the early 60's, I attended a particularly scary movie with Betty Ann Pittman where all of a sudden someone dressed up as a gorilla started going from car to car scaring everyone out of their wits.

Curtis confirms my memory of dancing at the theatre and reminded us of the rock n roll shows they had there occasionally. Lots of folks remember the drive-in but no one remembers the exact opening and closing dates.

Sandra Kerr Tipton



Museum docent, Linda Bailey, displays the car speaker from the Greenback Drive-in Theater that operated in the 1950s and 60s.

EAST TENNESSEE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

On November 7th, 8th, and 9th, the East Tennessee Preservation Conference was held at the Chilhowee Club adjacent to Maryville College. At the Awards Dinner on the 9th, Ron Edmondson was given an award for preservation of the Greenback Depot and Earl Alexander for the donation of Fowlers Mill to ETPA.. Also awarded was Dean Stone for a Lifetime of Preservation. The awards were engraved on plaques of Tennessee Pink marble, presented by Scott Brooks, ETPA President. The Depot has recently been approved by the Tennessee Historical Commission for placement on the National Register.

Keynote Address "This Place Matters" was given by Kreis Beall, Blackberry Founder and Director of Design. Also present was Patrick McIntyre, State Historic Preservation Officer. East Tennessee Preservation Alliance represents 16 East Tennessee Counties, according to Director Ethiel Garlington. Included in the goals of the organization are the identification and preservation of historical properties, artifacts, and raising awareness of the significance of historical sites in our area. Board members from the 16 counties include Joe Spence and Linda Garner, Loudon County, and Carolyn Peck, Greenback. One of the pending projects is the revitalization and preservation of downtown Lenoir City through the Main Street Program, chaired by Barbara Garrow, ETPA Board Member.

Carolyn Melton Peck

AT THE DEPOT

Downtown Greenback is picking up activities! Vendors exhibited and sold crafts at 15 stations at the Thanksgiving Christmas Craft Show. Butch Davis fired up his chuck wagon and sold burgers and beans. Much is centered at the depot, but the City of Greenback is joining in as much as they can. The highlight of the last quarter was the Christmas Tree Lighting and Services. Local ministers, Reverends Ron Sabo, David Bell, and Tyson McKeehan spoke at the tree lighting and the streets rang with carols led by Robin Cagle. Children in the audience joined in. This lovely service is beginning to be one to which citizens look forward and plan to include in their Christmas Festivities each year.

At least two families held their Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners at the Depot. They said it was a great place to let children run and play and the family could enjoy watching them while they shared their meal.

Roy and Cindy Barner invited everyone to the Lord's Picnic from 1:00 to 8:00 PM on December 21.

Free food and clothing were provided to all and music was provided by the Lackey Family, Soul Winners, Anchor Holds, and Raymond Wood. This was the second time the Barners had sponsored this event in the month of December.

January follows with a surprise birthday party, a wedding shower, and an anniversary party, according to Penny McLaughlin who schedules events for the site. According to Penny Mc., April is filling up fast with wedding showers and other parties. You can contact Penny at 865-282-0809.

Carolyn Melton Peck

Annual Meeting (Continued from Page 1)

are ineligible to be reelected to the Board, as they have both served two full and one partial term. Teresa Goddard has served one partial term of two years which is now up.

All the present officers have served two years or more and must either be replaced or reelected. Linda Cabe, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee will report to the membership and nominations may be taken from the floor if someone is interested. A Quorum is required for business to be concluded. A Treasurer's Report is required and a 990N sent to the Internal Revenue Service once this is approved. Greenback Historical Society, Inc. is a 501 (3) C, Corporations and is tax exempt.

2014 Annual Dues are now due...\$10.00 for an individual and \$15.00 for a family. Donations may also be made to the Preservation Account either to the Treasurer at this meeting or directly to the Preservation Account at Regions Bank. We encourage you to consider donations to this account in memory or honor of your relatives or friends.

Carolyn Melton Peck

IN MEMORIAM

Wear, Carl "Buck", 81, September 26, 2013

Bradshaw, Charles Thomas, 63, September 29, 2013

Summey, Gayle Orr, 71, September 29, 2013

Wolfe, James Harold, 81, October 9 2013

Hammontree, Hazel Louise Dixon, October 11, 2013

Evans, Mildred M. Giffin, October 13, 2013

Handley, John Eugene, 67, October 31, 2013

Dixon, Thomas Clinton, Jr "T.C"., 73, October 31, 2013. One of our staunchest supporters, responsible for much of the printing of our brochures and other documents. We will miss him.

Burdick, Madeline, November 1, 2013

Charles, Betty Morton, 78, November 11, 2013

Bluford, Mary Ruth Keys, 81, December 3, 2013

Lillard, Marcella McGill, December 9, 2013

Hammontree, Mary Ryan, December 15, 2013

Evans, June, 83, December 18, 2013

McCall, Nannette Garner, 92, December 19, 2013

January 4, the basketball teams of Greenback held a dinner and alumni games, the final games to be held in the old gym. The dinner was good but the games were hilarious and the gym was packed. Old friends and new ones met in the crowd and many games went on in addition to the "main event." Terri Johnson modeled her gym suit and comments were made about the "old folks". I wore my old school sweater which I believe is about 67 years old. I played from 1944-48. The first two years my father C. L. Melton, local banker, was Coach of the girl's team because the school was unable to hire one. G.D. Cooper, the Agriculture Teacher, coached the boys. Neither coaches were trained but they gave their all while many were off to the war. By 1946, our new principal, Elmer Raper, coached both teams.

Awards were given to Alfred Hammontree for the oldest basketball player present, to his wife June for being the oldest alum, and Thelma Hammontree Cooper for the oldest Cheerleader present.

What would a Greenback Basketball game be without a fire alarm? Although the Fire Department checked, the gym did not have to be evacuated, much to the gratitude of Mike Casteel, new Principal, Angie McJunkin, Coach, and all the sponsors of the night. Alma Roberts said that she had never seen the gym so packed. With that crowd, evacuation might have been difficult although I have no doubt that the fire department and the school officials could have accomplished it in an orderly manner.

AND THE WINNERS WERE:

The Black Team for the boys made up of current players won over the Orange Team made up of alums as should have been expected.

The Orange Team of alums won over the Black Team of girls.....what a surprise!!!!

According to Principal Casteel, this will not be the final farewell. When the new school opens January 21, there will be a procession of students from the old school to the new beginning with the kindergarten students and ending with high school seniors. This will be followed by a tour of the new school by anyone who wishes to attend. Norma Peeler said that it takes about an hour to tour the entire school. After years of cramped quarters, numerous additions and a maze of offices and classrooms, we can hardly believe our eyes. We not only have new walls, safer environment for our children, and better utilization of space, we have the latest in equipment and technology. To whomever we owe this miraculous change, Bob Franke, County Commission, Lisa Russell, School Board Member, Tom Peeler, Mayor, Loudon County Commission and our many supporters and advocates, you have our gratitude.

This is the beginning of a new exciting era for Greenback School and a farewell to the old which had its first high school graduates in 1929. Happy Survivors of the Greenback School will continue their annual celebration and remembrance on the third weekend in April. This group started by Esther Montgomery, John Allen Kerr, Fred Fipps, John Cochran and others is open to all alums who attended classes through 1929 to 1954. Additional classes are invited each year according to Roy Goddard, President.

We may have tears in our eyes as we lose the old buildings that hold so many of our childhood memories, but we have pride in our hearts that Greenback School will still stand for the love and caring that the teachers and the community have always held for our school.

Carolyn Melton Peck

HEY MA! THE ROLLING STORE IS COMING!

In the first half of the 1900s after country roads improved and trucks became affordable, the "Rolling Store" was a common sight in the rural areas of east Tennessee and other places in the South. During the Depression when cash was scarce, farmers often bartered chickens and eggs with these merchants to obtain the essentials such as salt, sugar and coffee. Later during World War II when gasoline was rationed and people were less mobile, the stores stocked a more complete inventory of goods. If the store did not have an item needed by a customer, the merchant often put it on a list and would have it when he returned on the route the next time.

Old school buses were a favorite platform for rolling stores as were two-ton trucks with custom beds and housing. The seats were removed from the buses and shelves and bins were installed on both sides of the aisle. The trucks were outfitted inside in a similar way. Chicken coops were hung on the outsides to hold the fowl accepted in trade.

In other areas of the South, rolling stores were sometimes called "Huckster Trucks" but their operations were about the same. Rolling stores were very often owned by the operator of a conventional grocery or general store which was the source of their inventory. In some cases, the fixed store operators would provide transportation to rural families to come to the store to trade their farm products rather than run a rolling store. Saturday morning was often the time patrons and their trade goods were picked up along the back roads for a trip to the store. In the afternoon, the trucks returned the shoppers to their homes.

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150 YEARS AGO: SHERMAN COMES TO MORGANTON

The previous issue of the *Chronicler* presented a synopsis of 1863 Civil War events in the area of East Tennessee that would become Loudon County and Greenback. In mid-November, Confederate General James Longstreet and his army had left North Georgia on a mission to retake Knoxville and secure the vital railroad route between Georgia and Virginia. They arrived by train near the town of Loudon on November 13 and quickly constructed a pontoon bridge over the Tennessee River near Huff's ferry. The Confederates surprised the Union forces under General Ambrose Burnside stationed across the river from Loudon and in Lenoir's Station and pursued them toward Knoxville. Various skirmishes took place along the route with the major encounter occurring on November 16 near Campbell's Station but the Union forces were successful in escaping on to Knoxville.

To the south, US General Ulysses S. Grant took command of the army defending Chattanooga and defeated the forces of CS General Braxton Bragg at the battle of Missionary Ridge on November 25. Bragg's forces retreated into Georgia and Bragg himself resigned his command soon after. On very short rest, the troops under US General William T. Sherman were ordered north to pursue Longstreet's army.

On November 17, CS General Longstreet began gathering his forces for the siege of Knoxville. Several earthen forts were located around Knoxville. Longstreet focused on one located on a hilltop west of the city that had been constructed by the Confederates when they had first occupied Knoxville. Intelligence provided to Longstreet indicated that the ditch surrounding the fort was shallow and that troops should be able to quickly scale the walls. At 3AM on November 29, the rebels quietly grouped for a surprise attack on Fort Sanders. They quickly learned that the fort was much better defended than they had been led to believe. Trip wires had been strung between stakes and stumps on the approach to the ditch and the ditch itself was very much deeper and wider than reported. Water poured down the sides of the wall had frozen in the night, making it difficult for the attackers to scale. As hundreds of his soldiers died, Longstreet realized that the attack had failed and ordered his forces to retreat. A couple of days later he received word of the Confederate defeat near Chattanooga and decided to give up his siege of Knoxville. He moved his army north to near Rogersville where he spent the winter.

As Longstreet was attacking Knoxville, US General Sherman was heading north. In Loudon, CS General Vaughn upon learning of Sherman's rapid advance, began moving his troops and supplies out of the city on December 1 and crossed the Little Tennessee at Motley ford with 300 wagons on the way over the mountains to Murphy, North Carolina.

On December 3, General Sherman's force of about 36,000 arrived in Monroe County across the Little Tennessee from Morganton. Recent rains and near freezing temperatures had left the water too high and too cold to be forded. A work-party of fifty or so troops was ferried across the river and began tearing down buildings in the town in order to use the lumber to build a bridge. Captain Audenried and a force of the 3rd Ohio Cavalry also crossed and made their way toward Maryville in an attempt to contact General Burnside in Knoxville. The next day, Sherman began to move the main body of his army across the temporary bridge and up the Morganton Road to Maryville. About five miles east of Morganton he learned that Longstreet had left Knoxville. He ordered most of the troops to halt where they were and camp along the road while he took a company to Knoxville to meet with Burnside. For three days or so, Sherman's troops bivouacked along Morganton Road including the site that would become the town of Greenback many years later. During their stay, the troops foraged for food and firewood in the surrounding countryside. Many rail fences were destroyed and much of the livestock and foodstuffs needed by the citizens for the winter were confiscated.

Sherman returned to his army on December 7 and began to move most if it back to Chattanooga. He sent two divisions to Knoxville as a precaution in case Longstreet should return. On the way back south, his army spread out and ransacked Monroe County which had been one of the few East Tennessee counties to vote to secede. He also burned the Niles Plantation and a girl's school along the river a few miles south of Morganton. This was a preview to what he would do in Georgia and South Carolina the next year in his infamous "March to the Sea."

Following the victories by Grant at Vicksburg and Chattanooga, President Lincoln decided he had finally found his man. Grant was promoted to Lieutenant General and commander of all Union Armies. Early in 1864, he was facing Robert E. Lee in Virginia. Sherman succeeded Grant as commander in the western theater and quickly began the push to Atlanta. Even though the South was severely wounded after the campaigns in East Tennessee, the war dragged on until April 1865 and the suffering in what would become Loudon County and Greenback continued for a much longer time.

More details of the Civil War in the Greenback area can be found in Volume I of the Greenback Heritage Scrapbook at the Greenback Heritage Museum or the Greenback Public Library.

Paul Bailey

Sources: Gerald L. Augustus, *The Loudon County Area of East Tennessee in the WAR 1861-1865*. Turner Publishing Company. John McDonald, *Great Battles of the Civil War*. MacMillan, USA. *Knoxville News Sentinel*, November 24, 2013, Special Feature

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Stamp

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Rolling Stores (Continued from page 4)

Rolling stores continued to operate in certain areas well after the end of World War II. However, as gasoline and automobiles became more plentiful they gradually faded from the scene. *Paul Bailey*



Floyd Myers and Junior Sparks, operators of the Simms Rolling Store which traded in the Greenback area in the 1940s. Picture from the Greenback Heritage Museum.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 18, Annual Members Meeting. 12:00PM.

Greenback Community Center. Potluck.

Program: Ruth Howard Joseph: Growing Up In Greenback.

Jan. 21, *New School Opening, Processional and Tour.*

April 19, *Happy Survivors, Noon. Greenback*

Community Center. Reservations Needed.

Contact Ralph Hall 856-3019.

April 21, Quarterly Meeting, Greenback Historical

Society, Greenback Community Center,

7:00PM.