



# CHRONICLER

PRESERVING OUR PAST



ISSUE 28, JULY 1, 2014

GREENBACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
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## ICE CREAM CONTEST

It's hot, it's muggy and it's July. It must be time for the annual Greenback Historical Society Ice Cream Contest. People have been using frozen confections to beat the heat for a long time. As far back as the early Persian Empire, the upper crust at the Summer Palace would have servants scoot up to the top of nearby mountains and gather snow that would be mixed with fruit juices for a hot weather treat. I submit this as further proof that "it's good to be the King."

The "1%" in China are known to have enjoyed a frozen mixture of milk and rice around 200BC. The Chinese are also credited with the discovery of using salt to lower the freezing point of water; the basis of the ice cream freezer. The making of ice cream is one of the secrets Marco Polo is thought to have brought back to Europe from his travels to the Far East. Over time, almost every culture has put its own twist on frozen desserts resulting in the wonderful variety that we enjoy today.

This year's contest will take place Saturday, July 26, in the pavilion behind the Greenback Community Center. The prizes this year will be \$100 for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place. As in past events, the crowd will act as judges by tasting and marking ballots. Setup for the contest will begin at 1:00PM. Tasting and voting will run from 2:00PM until around 3:30PM. The winning entries will be announced around 4:00PM.

If you wish to vie for the cash prizes, you must fill out a CONTEST AGREEMENT form and submit it no later than 4:00PM, July 16. Forms may be obtained at the Greenback Museum or from the Greenback Historical Society website at [www.gbhistorical.webs.com](http://www.gbhistorical.webs.com). For more information, contact Contest Director Bob Anderson at 865-856-3202 or 865-335-3367.

The contest is open to all. This includes members, non-members, residents, non-residents, individuals and organizations. If you are not a "Maker" you are certainly welcome as a "Taster". There is no admission fee. Our goal is to make the Greenback Historical Society better known in hopes of attracting others who share our interest in the history of the town and the area.

*Paul Bailey*

**NEXT MEETING: Saturday, July 26, 2:00PM.**

**Greenback Community Center Pavilion, ICE CREAM CONTEST**

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## AT THE DEPOT

Early in the last quarter, there were weddings and birthday parties. Ron, Penny, and Wendy were happy with the fact that local people were using the depot. The Tennessee Historical Society gave Ron another award for the preservation of the property. When Ron was unable to go to Nashville to receive the award, Wendy and her family went in his place. The depot was fulfilling Ron's dream that it would be a meeting place for the community, an inspiration that others might become more involved in the community, and a park which honored his Greenback Cherokee grandchildren and his son Eric.

Then, on June 2, 2014, Ron Edmondson, 67, passed away at his home after a long battle following brain surgery. He left us with a jewel, memories, a place for the community, and the hope that his family and his community would take care to preserve that which he had started.

I first saw Ron, after many years, in early 2012. I had just learned that he had purchased the old Gourley Store, the Depot, and the acreage around and across from both. I was thrilled because I had heard that he wanted to restore it. I had just stepped down from my position as President of the Greenback Historical Society, but I was very interested in doing what I could to help.

Ron told me that he had been in the grocery business most of his life and he had bought the Gourley Place to clean it up, leave the old gas pumps in place, and possibly put a grocery store or even a craft shop there. He wanted to get

*(Continued on Page 4)*

A Scrapbook Committee Meeting was held on June 3 to discuss what is needed to finalize Volume III of the Greenback Heritage Scrapbook. Contributions continue to come in from area families as more people become aware of our scrapbook activities. It was proposed that the program for the October Greenback Historical Society meeting be focused on the scrapbook to bring everyone up-to-date on its status and to have the membership help answer remaining questions.

As announced in the October, 2013, issue of the **Chronicler**, we have been putting together a web site for the Greenback Heritage Museum. The site at [www.gbmuseum.webs.com](http://www.gbmuseum.webs.com) is now available for viewing. It provides an overview of Greenback, the history of the museum, the types of items on exhibit and features the annual quilt show and the Greenback Heritage Scrapbook. A map application provides potential visitors with driving directions to the museum from wherever they might begin their journey. Please visit the site and let us know if you have ideas on how to improve it. Also pass along the internet address to your friends and family living away from the area so they can learn about our community.

*Paul Bailey*

## MUSEUM MUSINGS

The Greenback Heritage Museum will sponsor its 4th Annual Quilt Show on September 11, 12 and 13, 2014. The show format will be much the same as in previous years. Quilts will be judged by show attendees and museum patrons by placing pennies in the piggy banks associated with each display item. Prizes will be awarded according to which entrees receive the most pennies. The show will run from 9AM to 5PM each day.

Drop-off and registration of quilts and wall hangings will take place on September 4, 5 and 6 between 10AM and 2PM. To help speed up registration, you can download ENTRY FORMS from the Museum web page at [www.gbmuseum.webs.com](http://www.gbmuseum.webs.com) and fill them out prior to arrival. Pickup time for the exhibits is 3PM to 5PM on September 13th. We are looking forward to seeing your prized quilt or wall hanging.

A Craft Fair will also take place across the street in the restored Greenback Depot concurrent with the Quilt Show. This year a special treat will be an "Old Tractor" Show located nearby on Saturday, September 13th.

*Barbara Davis and Paul Bailey*

## APRIL 27<sup>th</sup> MEETING

A Quarterly Meeting of the Greenback Historical Society was held April 27, 2014, at the Greenback Community Center with President Shirley Hall presiding. Sixteen members were present. President Hall described the results of the Directors Meeting that had taken place in March. One of the goals set for the year is to study the possibility of developing materials to support self-guided driving or walking tours of historical places in the Greenback area. A second major goal is to install the State Historical Marker approved for the Depot site. The marker is to have a very brief history of Greenback on one side and the history of the Depot on the other. A committee was named to develop the wording for the histories. The status of the quilt square on the Drug Store was discussed and it will be refurbished during the summer. Sites for additional quilt squares were proposed and will be investigated.

Plans for the annual Ice Cream Contest to take place this year on Saturday, July 26, were presented. Bobby Anderson will again be the coordinator of the event. The Quarterly Meeting will take place at noon and ice cream tasting will begin at 2:00 PM. Contest details and entry forms are available on the Historical Society website at [www.gbhistorical.webs.com](http://www.gbhistorical.webs.com) or at the Greenback Heritage Museum.

President Hall described the Grave Marker Dedication for William C. Carter which took place at Baker's Creek Cemetery. The details of events leading up to the dedication were described in the last issue of **Chronicler**.

President Hall then introduced John Cochran who presented the program for the meeting. Mr. Cochran discussed his recollections of growing up in the Morganton area. This included a bit about his genealogy, the farm and mill at Morganton and the various people that he remembered as having an influence on his life.

*Paul Bailey*



John Cochran reflects on experiences from his youth in Morganton at the April Greenback Historical Society Meeting.

## IN MEMORIAM

*Vaughn, Mary Lynn Maxwell*, 84, April 25, 2014

*Carver, "Bud"*, 85, April 27, 2014

*Hill, Blanche Ownby*, May 6, 2014

*Martin, Emma Lee*, 91, May 7, 2014

*Evans, Ellis N, Jr.*, 85, May 12, 2014

*Woods, Edgar P.*, 73, May 25, 2014

*Bell, Nancy Vineyard*, 81, May 28, 2014

*Edmondson, Ron*, 67, June 2, 2014

## HAPPY SURVIVORS

Eighty-seven former students of Greenback High School and their spouses met April 26, 2014, for luncheon and camaraderie at the Greenback Community Center. This annual get-together included alumni from 1930 to 1954

Roy Goddard, Ralph Hall, John Cochran, and Michael Casteel, Principal of the new school, gave short remarks. Hall announced that Bobby Brown had made arrangements for Mark Byerley to film pictures of the new school and frame those along with pictures of the old school. Happy Survivors had voted at the 2013 meeting to give these to the school. \$600 has been set aside for this purpose. If you have not donated and would like to do so, you may send a donation to Ralph Hall, 6013 Old Niles Ferry Rd, Greenback, TN 37742. Principal Casteel stated that these would be placed in the tunnel along with other plaques and awards from the old school. The meeting was followed by a tour of the new school under the direction of the Principal. Members were quite impressed with the facilities and that Greenback can now have a school building of which they can be proud.

Ester Montgomery, one of the original founders of Happy Survivors, celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. While she was unable to attend, Kenneth Smith arranged for her to tour the school by wheelchair a few days later. It was suggested that special thanks be given to Estelle Herron, Loudon County Mayor, and Bob Franke, Loudon County Commissioner, for all the help they had given to finally secure the new school.

Happy Survivors will meet again the third Saturday in April, 2015. Mark your Calendars and plan to attend. Two Additional classes will be included next year.

We missed Graham Cooper this year. Graham, the son of teachers G.D. Cooper and Carrie Murray Cooper had participated every year since the class of 1948 was added. He loved Greenback, the land and the mountains. He and friend Dick McAliley, each year as long as Graham was able, climbed to the top of Mt.

LeConte, the highest peak on this side of the Smokies. Dick was also no longer with us this year passing away on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Graham was blunt, a little "crusty" and fiercely independent, traits he inherited from his father and mother. He wanted no care other than that he received from his lovely and loving wife Thelma. Many of us did not see the softer side of Graham that is illustrated in the following letter:

Dear Editor: Once a poor little country boy had a dream. A dream, that to this little boy was an impossible dream. The little boy wanted to go to college, but how could this be. The little boy was very poor. There was no money for a college education and besides no one in the family had gone to high school, let alone gone to college. Still, he had a dream! Thanks to a handful of people, he was able to make his dream come true! September 10, 2013, saw the passing of one of these people, a Greenback leader.

In the early 1960's the little boy met a man named Graham Cooper, who gave the boy's family a rent-free house to live in and the little boy a job on his farm. This income allowed the boy to get the needed clothes and supplies to go to high school. Maybe Graham did not set out to fight dungeons and dragons, nor even to change the world, but he did make a difference in my life.

I have four high school yearbooks and a class ring due in part to the kindness of Graham Cooper. He was always kind and thoughtful to this little boy who came from the poor side of town. Never did he look down at me as if I were something less than a human being. Today I have a high school diploma and two college degrees due to people like Graham Cooper.

Once I was planting tobacco, one plant at a time, He saw a pile of plants and asked me why. I told him that I thought they were plants not good enough to plant, so I broke each one so I would know they were bad. He just laughed. Another time, I was working in the tobacco field. He asked if I had another speed. I told him yes, but it was even slower. I needed to make \$20 for school supplies. He gave me \$20.

Yes, Graham Cooper made a difference in my life. If you look into your life, I'm sure that you too could find a Graham Cooper who made a difference in your life.

*Richard Hill, 660 Sandy Shore Drive, Lenoir City, TN 37772.  
Class of 1974*

Reprinted by permission of Maryville Daily Times and Thelma Hammontree Cooper.

*Carolyn Melton Peck*

the state to straighten out the dangerous curve coming by the place. One day, while he was working there, Larry Alley, who owned the Depot, came by and told Ron he should buy the Depot. That began Ron's dream, and actually continued mine. I told Ron that I would do everything I could to get the property included on the National Register of Historic Places.

For several years, people kept telling me that they wished someone would do something about the Depot. We had completed a survey asking people if they would like to see the Depot restored, asking for suggestions as to its use, and stories about the Depot that they remembered. The response was positive and the results were shared with Ron. At the encouragement of Ethiel Garlington, East Tennessee Preservation Society, we had set up a Task Force, including Attorney David Black, County Commissioner Bob Franke, Rev. Ron Sabo, Mayor Tom Peeler, and Ethiel. The purpose was to try to design a business plan and try to see how the building and grounds could be purchased and how it could be maintained. I had approached Larry Alley but he did not want it placed on the National Register, and the price was too high for us to hope to raise the money. Ron's unexpected purchase was an answer to prayers.

Ron immediately began to clean up the land around the Depot and began to work on the building. He worked tirelessly to try to have the building open in time for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration in Greenback. While he hired young men to work, he did much of the work himself. He said that if he survived his surgery, he would do something for the community, tell everyone that he loved them, and that he would never cut his hair. He never failed to give me or everyone else he met, a hug! Along with his childhood sweetheart, Penny McLaughlin, and his daughter Wendy, he began to schedule events in the building, all the while working to authentically restore it.

He was especially proud of the replica of Firekiller, son of Nancy Ward, who was born in Morganton. He loved the historical significance and the name Cherokee associated with Greenback School where his grandchildren were attending. Later, he placed a brass replica of an Elk in the park next to the depot, in memory of his son Eric, who died in 2013. He continually asked people of the community for their opinions on his projects. At one meeting, including members of the Greenback Historical Society, he particularly wanted opinions on the replacement of the roof. Because of original structural requirements for a slate roof, the group encouraged Ron to paint the metal roof grey as nearly as possible to the color of the original roof.

Penny and I began to gather information for the application for the Tennessee Historical Commission in preparation for an application to place the Depot and Property on the National Register of Historical Places. With the aid of Heather Bailey and Dan Brown, Tennessee Historical Commission, and Ethiel Garlington, East Tennessee Preservation Alliance, the application was completed and the Tennessee Commission approved it November, 2013. The National Commission placed it on the National Register in January, 2014. Work is still underway to place an historical marker in the small park adjoining the property.

On the afternoon of June 8, 2014, a gathering of friends and others who admired Ron and appreciated all he had done for the community, was held in the Depot. It was a casual affair, just as Ron would have liked. Daughter Wendy Edmondson Tittsworth and childhood sweetheart Penny McLaughlin lit two large candles in Ron's memory, and the young grandchildren lit smaller ones. After a scripture reading, Wendy gave the eulogy including her memories of her father. She said that her father hoped that the family would continue the work that he had started. The depot represents the fact that Greenback was built due to the railroad and even though trains no longer pass through, it still is the one building which best stands for our past.

Both Wendy and Penny are now members of the Board of the Greenback Historical Society. Wendy was elected in 2013 and Penny in 2014. With their help, perhaps the local historical society can continue to lend its support.

*Carolyn Melton Peck*



Ethiel Garlington, Ron Edmondson and Clayton Pangle at a meeting with Greenback Historical Society and East Tennessee Preservation Alliance members in the unrestored Depot in 2012. The decision to paint the roof grey was made at this meeting.

Benjamin C. Clark, Jr. has donated to the Greenback Heritage Museum a collection of pictures of Tallequah Farm, Niles Ferry, and copies of articles he has written for *Tennessee Ancestors*. Benjamin is a scholar and if I have made errors in this article, I am sure that he will graciously correct me and for that I will be grateful. Benjamin attended Greenback School from the second through the eighth grade, Tennessee Military Institute in Sweetwater, and Duke University. (Although I do not think Benjamin remembers this, my husband, Claude Peck, took Benjamin for a visit or tour of TMI before he enrolled there).

These pictures were originally donated to the McClung Historical Collection and Benjamin has received permission from Steve Coltharp, Museum Manager, to place them in Greenback Heritage Museum and to use them in the Greenback Heritage Scrapbook. Other than that, they cannot be scanned or distributed so we need to carefully respect their wishes. They have been placed in a notebook and labeled for their protection. If other persons have additional pictures of the farm, the ferry, the house, the family or other pertinent documentation, please contact me at (865) 986-1681, or Ben C. Clark, Jr. (404) 377-1864 or 1047 Oakdale Rd., NE, Atlanta, GA 30307-1213.

My interest in the house came from the time of my childhood as I remember crossing the ferry and later the toll bridge to go to my grandparents' homes in Monroe County. The ferry was exciting and Claude "Tubby" Hammontree operated it for many years. The toll house at the end of the bridge was manned by one of the Niles Family, John, I think. It is one of the few toll bridges in the country which had the toll removed, I am told, when the bridge was paid for. If someone wants to do further research on this, it would probably be a fascinating story.

The McGhee/Niles/Foute/Clark House was originally built for John McGhee's daughter, Margaret, and she named it and the surrounding land Riverside. As a very young man, Ben Clark, Sr. had admired it, and wanted to own it someday. When he did eventually do so, he renamed it Tallequah, the Cherokee name that we later came to know as Tellico. The picture of the house shown in the collection is the last picture before TVA dismantled the house to make way for the Tellico Dam. Many changes and modifications had been made over the years. I visited in the house several times and it was a lovely, lovely place. Mrs. Clark, the former Frances Foute, taught school and my Mother, Nola McSpadden Melton Elam, often mentioned to me that she was her favorite teacher. Ms. Foute could not have been very old at the time as my mother finished school at age 17 to marry my father.

I was much saddened by the fact that TVA took the

Tallequah House, the first one to be dismantled to make way for the Tellico Dam. I was also impressed that Ben C. Clark, Sr. secured bricks from the house to build another house in Maryville, though not a replica of Tallequah. The house was across from those of our close friends, Dr. and Mrs. Ted Flickinger and Ted and Trula Ware. I visited him there at least once. My husband, who was an enthusiastic gardener, much admired Mr. Ben's flowers and yard. Claude, also a graduate of the University of Tennessee, School of Agriculture, greatly admired Mr. Clark's innovations on the farm, including irrigations projects.

In the articles which are included in the collection, one about the lives and times of the Foute Family published in the December Issue of *Tennessee Ancestors* in 2007, and one about the Ferry and the Lands and Roads of the Cherokee, published in the December Issue of *Tennessee Ancestors*, 2012, include not only the history of the land and its use, but genealogical information which might be of interest to the McGhee/Niles/Foute/Clark descendants and perhaps others who may have been mentioned. Robert McGinnis, one of our members and present Curator of James White Museum, tells me that he is related to the Niles and the Foutes, so he may have more information to add to the history of the house, land, and the ferry.

The earlier Issue which covers much of the information about Dr. E.J. Foute and his early career as a doctor has a notation about Johnnie Gates Foute (his wife) which our readers may find especially interesting. She was proud of her Confederate Heritage and was one of the Charter Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Capt. W.Y.C. Hannum Chapter. For some time she held monthly meetings at their home at Tallequah.

Also included is a copy of an article from *Valley So Wild* by Alberta and Carson Brewer, which was written about the Foute/Clark Family.

Carolyn Melton Peck

Sources:

*Monroe County, Tennessee Heritage, 1819-1997.*

*Tennessee Ancestors, Volume 23, December, 2007, Volume 28, December, 2012.*

*Valley So Wild*, Alberta and Carson Brewer.

Conversations with Ben C. Clark, Jr.

Memories, 1931-1976 Carolyn Melton Peck.

Robert McGinnis, James White Museum.

## CAROLYN'S CORNER

I'm not sure whether to express my sorrow or gratitude this issue. I've covered the loss of two very special people and the gratitude that we owe them for all they shared with us. Most of the time I try to share information that is funny,

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Stamp

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inspiring, informative, or uplifting for us. It was a sad time for me. I also lost two other classmates, Junior Evans and Marilyn Maxwell Vaughn, both of whom will be sadly missed.

I hope that we can keep Ron's memory and vision alive in gratitude for all he has done for Greenback. I hope that we can keep Graham's memory alive by reaching out to help others as he has done.

This issue I tried to find someone from the Class of 1956 to write about their memories of their four years in high school. So far, I have not been successful. I feel sure that there is someone or "someones" in that class who remember the years fondly or not so fondly and would be willing to share with us. Even though the class did not have a year book, they have published a record of one of their reunions which is in the Greenback Heritage Museum.

See you at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Ice Cream Contest on July 26<sup>th</sup>!!!!

*Carolyn*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- July 22 *ETHS Brown Bag Luncheon, 601 S. Gay ST., Knoxville, Knoxville Freedman's Mission Historic Cemetery.*
- July 26, *Greenback Historical Society Quarterly Meeting, 12:00 PM; Downstairs Community Center.***
- July 26, *Annual Ice Cream Contest, Community Center Pavilion, 2:00PM. Contact Bobby Anderson 865-856-3202 for information.***
- Sept. 11-13, *4<sup>th</sup> Annual Museum Quilt Show, Greenback Heritage Museum.*
- Sept 11-13 *Depot Craft Show and Exhibits. Contact Brook Talley*
- Oct. 5, *Quarterly Meeting, Greenback Historical Society, Greenback Community Center, 2:00PM. Greenback Heritage Scrapbook status report, picture and memories sharing. Bring yours to share.***