



CHRONICLER

PRESERVING OUR PAST



ISSUE 30, JANUARY 1, 2015

GREENBACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
6725 MORGANTON ROAD
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OCTOBER 2014 MEETING

The fourth quarterly meeting of the Greenback Historical Society took place October 17 in the Community Center. President Shirley Hall called the meeting to order and after the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, the following reports were made. In the absence of the Secretary, minutes of the July meeting were deferred to the next meeting. Treasurer Betty Carroll reported that the balance in the general account was \$4,421.54. The balance in the Preservation Account is \$1,262.13.

President Hall reported that response to the E-mailing of the newsletter was positive and that this would substantially cut our expenses. We need to have a Membership Drive. She appointed Bob Anderson Chair of that Committee, and asked that he be assisted by Paul Bailey. The membership list has been revised to reflect the current membership. President Hall and Wendy Tittsworth have met with a committee to make a final decision on the location of the historical marker on the depot property where it can be easily read from either direction.

Vice President Colleen Ragain announced that the Annual Meeting will be held on January 17 at noon at the Greenback Community Center. This will be pot-luck. At that time, there will be an election to replace Board Members Bob Anderson and Paul Bailey whose terms expire in January 2015. According to the By-Laws, neither will be eligible to be reelected at that time. Laura Del Rio's term also expires. She is eligible to serve an additional term, if reelected. Dues will also be due at that time and a quorum will be needed to complete the election. Officers were elected in 2014 for a term of two years. The next Election of Officers will be held in January 2016.

Committee reports included a report on the Ice Cream Contest by Bob Anderson and Greenback Halloween by Colleen Ragain, both were successful. Carolyn Peck asked that the Deadline of December 15 be met for contributions to the Newsletter.

Paul Bailey presented a program on the Development and Progress of the Scrapbook. He passed out comprehensive information on the subject. More information on this will be covered in the Publications Section of the Newsletter. His presentation was followed by a round of applause for

**NEXT MEETING: Saturday, January 17, 11:00 AM.
Potluck at the Greenback Community Center**

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his presentation as well as appreciation for all the work, effort, and expense he has contributed to the Scrapbook and to the newsletter and website.

The Meeting was adjourned. After refreshments, President Hall asked that members meet in small groups to discuss appropriate destinations to be shown on a tour of Greenback Historical Sites.

Carolyn Melton Peck

ANNUAL DUES

Annual Meetings are required by the Tennessee Charter for non-profit organizations as well as the Federal Exemption under the 501 3 C designation of the IRS. It is necessary to have a quorum for votes in this meeting, so your attendance is important. This year's meeting will be on January 17, 2015, at the Greenback Community Center. Dues are \$10.00 for individuals and \$15.00 for families. Dues may be paid to the Treasurer at this meeting or mailed to Greenback Historical Society, Inc. P.O. Box 165, Greenback, TN 37742.

Tax Free donations may be made to the Preservation Account in memory or in honor of someone of your choice at any time to the Treasurer. These donations may only be withdrawn with the approval by a vote of the Board and are to be used for the Preservation of Buildings, Land, or Articles of Historic Significance.

The program for the October 5 Historical Society meeting focused on the Greenback Heritage Scrapbook. Paul Bailey discussed the goals of the project and covered the early work to define the content and structure of the scrapbook. He then described how this work led to several decisions which were made regarding the format and layout of the printed volumes that we see today. A peek at what goes on behind the scenes was presented to give the audience an idea of how information is gathered, processed, cataloged and archived so that it may be preserved for use in the scrapbook and eventually, other projects which the Society may wish to undertake.

Paul next reported on the status of Volume III and highlighted the sections that needed additional work. A “wish list” of pictures and other material pertaining to the 1930-1960 era was presented. The program then moved to an informal discussion of old pictures. Meeting attendees were able to identify many of the people in the photographs allowing the information in the scrapbook to be more complete.

The October issue of the Chronicler was the first in which we offered the option of E-mail delivery. We now have twelve members signed up to receive their newsletters using this method. The electronic document arrives in Portable Document Format (PDF) and is identical to the print version. Most computers and tablets come with PDF readers installed and hardcopies can be made by those which have printers attached. Postage for the newsletter is one of the largest recurring costs that the Society has. If you would like to join the e-mail delivery list, send a message to paul.bailey@wildblue.net.

Paul Bailey

GREENBACK LEGENDS

Each Christmas Ebenezer Scrooge returns to the public mind as the ultimate skinflint. Having often wondered where the word “skinflint” came from, this year I consulted the Great Google to find out. As you would expect from Google, there were a multitude of viewpoints on its origins, some of which are quite ancient. Boiling it all down, the term basically refers to a person who always tries to get every advantage from a bargain or situation even to the point of impossibility, such as “skin from a flint” or “blood from a stone.”

Every community has a few ultra-frugal citizens and Greenback is no exception. The person I recall was a member of one of the area’s oldest and most respected families. In order to protect the innocent, I will just refer to him as “Bill.” When I was seven or so, we moved from Blount County to a farm on Highway 95 about a mile from Centerville. Quite often I could hear a very old car sputtering its way up the hill heading toward the Centerville Cash Store. Upon reflection, it was probably

a Model A Ford but to a young boy it seemed to be the oldest car in the world. I remember I could always hear it before I could see it. One day I was outside with my father when we heard the car coming back from the store. “Watch this”, said my father. The car began to speed up as best it could and just as it reached the top of the rise, it went silent. Bill had turned off the ignition and the car started picking up speed as it rolled down the hill. According to the neighbors, Bill almost always did this and could make it the two miles or so back home most days without restarting the engine. Perhaps he was just an environmentalist before it became “in vogue.”

Bill’s car also came equipped another feature which helped stretch his gasoline dollar. Installed in the trunk was a rubber hose and a jug. As the stories go, he could often be seen standing by his car alongside the road. When another driver happened along, Bill would flag him down and explain that he was out of gas. Could he “borrow” a little gas...just enough to get him to the store? If the hapless driver agreed, out came the siphon hose and the jug. According to legend, on at least one occasion Bill’s gas tank overflowed when he attempted to pour in the contents of the jug.

That’s not to say Bill didn’t have a generous side; at least in his own mind. When a local church was putting on an addition, the members asked each of the farmers in the area to donate a tree for the lumber. When Bill was asked, everyone was surprised to hear that he had a fine tree they could have. When the church crew arrived to cut the logs, they were led back up into the knobs where there was indeed a fine tree...whose base was in the bottom of a deep sinkhole. It turns out that Bill had sold his timber to a lumber company some years earlier and even the professional lumberjacks hadn’t been able to cut that tree.

If Bill had ever met Ebenezer in the Skinflint Super-Bowl, he probably would not have had the experience or sophistication to prevail. However, I think he could have held his own for a quarter or two. He would have done pretty well for a country boy from the Red Knobs of Loudon County.

Paul Bailey

ABOUT OUR DIRECTORS

Penny Clark McLoughlin was elected to the Board of Directors in January 2014 to serve a three year term. Although she is not a native of Greenback, she became interested and very involved in the restoration of the Depot and thus in the interest of preserving the city of Greenback. Penny and Ron Edmondson, who purchased the Depot, had been childhood sweethearts in their early years. Both had since married and had children but revived their interest in their later years. Penny and Ron made several trips to see other L&N Depots and to research the process and information required to secure authenticity and to get the structure placed on the National Register of Historical Places. She aided Ron by compiling and keeping a file on this information and all other information that they secured. Many days during the reconstruction Penny and Ron could be found in the Greenback Drug and Diner around lunchtime.

She is a craftsman and is interested in handiwork, which she has exhibited and sold in Crafts Shows at the Depot. She also cooperated with the Museum in helping to present their Quilt Shows. As a Director, she is responsible for writing the newsletter articles AT THE DEPOT and serves on the Committee which is working on placing a historical marker on the depot property.

We are fortunate to have Penny and her continued interest in the Greenback Historical Society.

Carolyn Melton Peck

IN MEMORIAM

Clabough, Mearl Faye Holder, 87, October 5, 2014.

Hammontree, Ella Sue, 79, October 5, 2014.

Jones, Norma Amburn, 92, October 5, 2014.

Huskey, Linda Kay, 60, October 13, 2014.

Kirkland, Pearlie Marie Riden, 66, October 15, 2014.

Beeler, Mary Nell, 82, October 22, 2014.

Johnson, Rachel Ardella Handley, 85, October 22,
2014.

Lequire, Julice, 68, October 28, 2014.

Maynard, Wanda Faye, 67, November 14, 2014.

Chapman, George Richard, 68, November 16, 2014.

Brooks, Mary Evelyn, 83, November 29, 2014.

Hall, Ralph Goddard, 81, December 14, 2014.

Rhyne, Jay W. Jr., 78, December 30, 2014.

Spangler, Earl Franklin, 85, December 30, 2014.

GREENBACK CHRISTMAS SEASON TAKES OFF

A flurry of activities kicked off a joyous Christmas season in Greenback on Saturday, November 29. The day began early at the Community Center with a "Christmas With Santa" breakfast fund raiser for the Empty Stocking Fund. A \$5 pancake breakfast provided by Pine Grove Presbyterian Church was enjoyed by 90 participants and raised over \$700. Both young and older spent time with Santa and took advantage of the photo opportunity.

Santa took a brief rest and then was off to the annual Greenback Christmas Parade at 11:00 am.

A crowd of 500+ viewed 19 antique cars, 28 horses, riders and carriages, 7 floats, a variety of rolling mechanical devices and several organizations and groups. Santa handed out treats in the town center and visited with many eager children. The crowd dispersed to shop at the craft fair in the depot and attend family gatherings or a multitude of other holiday activities.

Many returned to participate in the Christmas tree lighting a 6:00 pm at the depot. The windy weather necessitated moving the program indoors. The welcome by Mayor Tom Peeler was followed by a prayer by Rev. Tyson McKeehan. The group enjoyed Christmas caroling led by Eye2Sky the Band and a solo by Robin Cagle. Rev. Ron Sabo narrated the Living Nativity directed by Joe and Jan Cope and presented by Baker's Creek and Pine Grove Presbyterian Churches in a lovely, rustic setting on the lower level of the depot. After the benediction by Rev. David Bell, the group moved outside for the conclusion of an inspiring evening with the lighting of the Christmas tree by Johnnie Myers.

Gail Skidmore



Looking a bit like the Charlie Brown Christmas tree after enduring the storms of December, the Greenback Community tree awaits the New Year.

A seminary professor was vacationing with his wife in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. One morning they were eating breakfast at a little restaurant, hoping to enjoy a quiet family meal. While they were waiting for their food, they noticed a distinguished looking, white-haired man moving from table to table, visiting with the guests. The professor leaned over and whispered to his wife, "I hope he doesn't come over here." But, sure enough, the man did come over to their table.

"Where are you folks from?" he asked in a friendly voice. "Oklahoma" they answered. "Great to have you here in Tennessee", the stranger said...."What do you do for a living?"

"I teach at a seminary", he replied. "Oh, so you teach preachers how to preach, do you? Well, I've got a really great story for you." And with that, the stranger pulled up a chair and sat down at the table with the couple.

The professor groaned and thought to himself, "Great, just what we need....Another preacher story!"

The man started, "See that mountain over there", he said, pointing out the restaurant window. "Not far from the base of that mountain, there was a boy born to an unwed mother. He had a hard time growing up because every place he went, he was always asked the same question, "Hey boy, who's your daddy?"

"He would hide at recess and lunch time from the other students. He would avoid going in to stores because that question hurt him so bad. When he was about 12 years old, a new preacher came to his church. The boy would always go in late and slip out early to avoid hearing the question "Who's your daddy?"

"But one day the new preacher said the benediction so fast that the boy got caught and had to walk out with the crowd. Just about the time he got to the back door the new preacher, not knowing anything about him, put his hand on his shoulder and asked him "son, who is your daddy?" The whole church got deathly quiet. He could feel every eye in the church was looking at him. Now everyone would finally know the answer to the question 'Who's your daddy?' This new preacher though sensed the situation around him and using discernment that only the Holy Spirit could give, said the following to that scared little boy.' Wait a minute, I know who you are! I see the family resemblance now, you are a child of God.'

"With that, he patted the boy on his shoulder and said, 'Boy, you've got a great inheritance. Go and claim it.'

"The boy smiled for the first time in a long time and walked out the door a changed person. He was never the same again. Whenever anybody asked him 'Who's

your Daddy?' he'd just tell them, 'I'm a Child of God.'

The distinguished gentleman got up from the table and said, "Isn't that a great story?" The professor responded, that it really was a great story!

As the man turned to leave, he said, "You know, if that new preacher hadn't told me that I was one of God's children, I probably never would have amounted to anything!" And he walked away.

The seminary professor and his wife were stunned. He called the waitress over and asked her, "Do you know that man who just left that was sitting at our table?" The waitress grinned and said, "Of course. Everybody here knows him. That's Ben Hooper. He's Governor of Tennessee!"

"That's a true story, with a tremendous lesson in it", said the visiting minister.

Ben Hooper was born in 1870, not 1970, a much less tolerant time than the 1970's. He died in 1957, the illegitimate son of an unwed mother; but the honored and respected former Governor of Tennessee.

He was 12 in 1882, when that preacher caught him on the way out of church and asked him "Who's your Daddy?" In 1911, the people of Tennessee elected him governor. He was 41 years old.

It must have been many long years later that he told the story that morning. He was distinguished, white haired, he must have been quite a man for that waitress to remember him as the Governor of Tennessee; his term ended in 1915.

Carolyn Melton Peck

GHS CLASS OF '64 REUNION

On November 8th the Greenback High School Class of 1964 celebrated their 50th Class Reunion at the Greenback Community Center. The class graduated 43 members. Twenty three alumni attended with 21 guests accompanying them. Guests of honor were the Class Sponsors, Mrs. Thelma Cooper and Coach Richard Anderson. Members of the class attending included: Peggy Selvedge Scott, Harold Carpenter, Linda Byrd Rose, Joe Allen Berry, Bonnie Ellerbee Keeble, George Woods, Garfield McCarter, Larry Huskey, Gale Patterson Malone, Dallas Scott, Judy Harvey Skidmore, Larry Stinson, Wayne Hutton, Marsha Peterson Taylor, Gerald Thompson, Homer Kiser, Patsy Norton Thomas, Henry Brannon, Class President Dorothy Jones Jones, Class Vice President Eddie Cope, Class Secretary/Treasurer Linda Hill Morgan, Class Reporter Ronnie Belcher, and Class Parliamentarian Carroll Latham.

Continued next page

In addition to local attendees, others came from Crawford, Cookeville, Hixson, Knoxville, LaFayette, Lenoir City and Morristown, Tennessee; LaGrange and Snellville, Georgia; Fayette and Tuscaloosa, Alabama; and Gainesville, Florida.

A white rosebud was displayed in memory of each of our eight classmates who are now deceased: Becky Best, Tommy Cable, Douglas Cruze, Barbara Ford, Bobby Hunt, Marsha McMillian, Lynda Marsh and Mildred Milsaps.

The evening began with a tour of the new school facility with Jerry Masingo guiding the tour.

The class enjoyed reviewing a variety of memorabilia. School day memories were also shared by some of the classmates.

A delicious evening meal was catered by the Mountainview Order of the Eastern Star.

Lovely Fall floral table arrangements were donated by fellow classmate Garfield McCarter and wife, Pat. These were given as door prizes to lucky attendees.

Dorothy Jones and Joe Allen Berry



Class of 1964 Reunion

Front Row L-R - Henry Brannon, Linda Byrd Rose, Thelma Cooper, Sponsor, Ronnie Belcher and Harold Carpenter.

Second Row - Bonnie Ellerbee Keeble, Patsy Stallons Thomas, Gale Patterson Malone, Linda Hill Morgan and Marsha Peterson Taylor.

Third Row - Richard Anderson, Sponsor, Gerald Thompson, Peggy Selvidge Scott, Dorothy Jones Jones and Judy Harvey Skidmore.

Back Row - Carroll Latham, Homer Kiser, Larry Huskey, Larry Stinson, Eddie Cope, Joe Allen Berry, Wayne Hutton, Dallas Scott, Garfield McCarter and George Woods.

PINE GROVE TO CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY

Pine Grove Presbyterian Church is working on a publication to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the

church which they hope to publish in early 2015.

It will contain pictures, memories, history, etc. If you or any of your family have information or pictures related to the church, they would appreciate having them. Although Pine Grove Cemetery is not owned by the church, it is closely related and holds the remains of not only the members, but of many other community members.

To submit these or for more information, as soon as possible, please contact Larry Skidmore, 865-661-7046 or E-Mail ldskidmore@aol.com.

Larry Skidmore

CAROLYN'S CORNER

Editor's Note: The preceding "true" story about Ben Hooper was given to me by a neighbor of my son's when I visited in Virginia earlier this year. According to the neighbor, a Minister from Oklahoma who was in seminary there and who taught at Phillips University told this story. He had visited in Gatlinburg shortly after WWI. I checked with Snopes and the internet to see whether or not this is a true story. Snopes could neither confirm nor deny it. A few months later, I checked again and found a slightly different version of the story, attributed to a Rev. Fred Craddock of Georgia. In this time of the Birth of Jesus and the beginning of a New Year, it seemed a great time to share a story of faith and one of hope and new beginnings. It has the added taste of history that one of our great governors gave us.

At any rate, the following facts are true. Ben Hooper, was born Bennie Walter Wade 10/13/1870, in Cocke County near to Newport. He was the illegitimate son of Sara Wade and Dr. Lemuel Washington Hooper. After the death of his mother's father, he was placed in St. John's Orphanage in Knoxville. Dr. Lemuel learned of his son's whereabouts. He and his wife were childless and they adopted Ben and brought him home with them. Ben professed his Christian Faith and was baptized at age 15. He is known to have referred to himself as a "Child of God". After graduating from high school, he attended and graduated from Carson Newman College and later studied law. He fought in the Spanish American War.

A Republican, he became interested in politics and served in several different capacities. He served as Governor of Tennessee from 1911 to 1915. In 1953, he served as Vice-President of the Tennessee Constitutional Convention. Although a member of the minority party of the time, he was one of the most popular of Tennessee Governors and continued to be a respected statesman. He died in 1957.

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Stamp

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UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jan. 17, 2015, *Annual Meeting, noon, Greenback
Community Center.***

April, 2015, *Quarterly Meeting, time TBD.*

CAROLYN'S CORNER Continued

Each time I check for the veracity of this urban legend, I find more information on this interesting figure in Tennessee history. Perhaps, as I have, the reader may be encouraged to learn more about this interesting man who struggled through adversity to become one of our most respected forebears.

Carolyn

Sources:

Tennessee State website.

Governors of Tennessee.

The Unwanted Boy, autobiography, published posthumously in 1963.

Tennessee Historical Society, 1990; 1998

Snopes, website: August, 2014; October, 2014