



CHRONICLER

Preserving Our Past



Issue 31, April 1, 2015

Greenback Historical Society, Inc.
6725 Morganton Road
P.O. Box 165
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www.gbhistorical.webs.com

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Well spring is here! I hope everyone is enjoying our beautiful Dogwood and Red Bud trees. I'm ready to store those heavy sweaters and enjoy the spring flowers and being outdoors.

In 2009 we wondered what would become of the depot. As you drive past or visit today, isn't it wonderful to see our history preserved. The first draft of the historical marker for the founding of Greenback and the Greenback Depot has been put together. Paul Bailey has done a great outstanding job putting together simple facts easily read for each side of the marker. It will be placed in the rocked area next to the depot drive where it can be read from both sides from a vehicle. Plans for the driving tour hopefully will be finished in time for summer visitors to use for points of interest.

Hopefully, as a member of the Greenback Historical Society you have remembered to pay your dues for the year. Since many of our members have received their Chronicler Newsletter by email it is easy to forget your dues. The Chronicler is a way for new comers to our community to learn about local history and native Greenback people to reminisce by gone days. Dues are ten dollars per person or fifteen dollars for a family for a year. Betty Carroll, our treasurer, has an active roll if you have questions or inquires about dues.

The Annual Ice Cream Social is scheduled for July 25th! There are hopes for even more entries this year with lots of voters for their favorite ice cream.

Our Quarterly meeting is planned for Sunday, April 26 at 2:00 PM at the Community Center. Colleen Ragain, Roy Goddard, and Laura DelRio will speak about the little, unknown cemeteries' in the Greenback area. I hope you will mark your calendar and attend to take part.

Shirley Ridings Hall

ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

Our January Potluck meeting was a good one. The food was delicious, as always, and the meeting went well. We voted in Larry Skidmore and Roy Goddard as Directors, since Paul Bailey and Bob Anderson rolled off the Board. Our program was devised by Shirley Hall (President).

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, April 26, 2:00PM at the Greenback Community Center

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She set out poster boards, and we broke into groups to map out local areas, with points of interest and historical sites. Shirley really wants the Greenback Historical Society to complete our historical driving tour of the Greenback area, and I agree. It would be fantastic to have.

If you want to write up a blurb about a particular house, building, mill, cemetery, etcetera to potentially be included in the tour booklet/flyer (we have not decided the format, yet) let us know, or send it to me at colleenragain@yahoo.com. Just remember, the things we want to include should be 100 years old!

Colleen Ragain

PROGRAM FOR THE APRIL 26th MEETING

During our January Quarterly Meeting, Laura Del Rio and I (a couple of non-locals) heard about Old Piney Grove Cemetery, one we were unfamiliar with, so we went and found it. Then my dad (who grew up here) and I volunteered to help clean up the overgrown vegetation around a gravesite on a long-time local's farm. We got the story on it.

At our April meeting I will tell you what I know, share some pictures, and ask you about your cemeteries! Come join us on Sunday, April 26th, at 2 PM upstairs at the Greenback Community Center.

*Colleen Ragain,
Vice President*

The Greenback Heritage Scrapbook effort suffered a glitch in February when the hard disk on my primary computer failed. Fortunately, I had been doing frequent backups and nothing from the scrapbook or newsletter files was lost. It was a major annoyance and time delay however, since I had to rebuild the application environment from scratch on a new computer. These gadgets are wonderful tools for historical endeavors but they do fail from time-to-time. Keep your files backed up!

I would like to commend Larry Skidmore and his Calendar Committee from the Pine Grove Presbyterian Church on the excellent job they have done with their 175th Anniversary Calendar. It contains a very nice history of the church as well as a number of old and current pictures. I see a lot of scrapbook material in there.

Another wonderful recent contribution to the scrapbook came from Teresa and Roy Goddard with their Brickmill community history along with pictures of the mill in the 70s and 80s before it burned down.

The number of people receiving their newsletters via electronic mail has now reached 14. 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. If you would like to join the e-mail delivery list, send a message to paul.bailey@wildblue.net.

Paul Bailey

RALPH HALL, WELL REMEMBERED

Ralph Hall, born September, 1933, descendant of early Greenback Settlers, had a long struggle with diabetes and complications and passed away at the age of 81, December 14, 2014. Ralph was the son of Gid and Mary Goddard Hall. His ancestors were among the first settlers of the Greenback area when the town was formed in 1870. Ralph's grandparents were William Stephen and Elizabeth Lane Hall; his great-grandparents William and Elvira Howard Hall. Ralph and his wife Shirley live on a portion of the old Lane Farm designated as a Century Farm. She has long been interested in genealogy and has traced this family background.

Ralph, who lived with his wife Shirley Ridings Hall just across the county line in Blount County, was a fifth generation farmer. As a man, active in both Blount and Loudon Counties, he served his community in many areas. He was a member of Bakers Creek Church and is buried in the Bakers Creek Cemetery along with many of his ancestors. He was Trustee of the Cemetery Board. Around the holidays, Ralph could always be seen with a "stash of pecans" sold as one of the fund raisers for the Maryville Lions Club. Ralph was very active in the Lions Club and

received the Melvin Jones award while serving as President.

Always active in agriculture, he received the Blount County first Young Farmer Award in 1956, and was a Board Member of the Blount County Farm Bureau. He loved the land and cultivated his Century Farm with dedication and excellent practices. Along with double first cousins, Roy L. Goddard and John R. Tarwater, he loved to visit other farms and often visited well known farms where molasses was being made, or where hay was being cut and bailed the old-fashioned way. They also loved to see old farm equipment displayed. These excursions were a special treat to the boys who had grown up together, though Ralph was the youngest of the three. Elizabeth Lane Hall and Margaret Lane Hall were sisters who married Hall brothers. Tarwater boys, John, Jack, and Joe Allen are deceased, leaving only Ben Lee Tarwater, who lives on Old Niles Ferry Road on a portion of land that was once the property of the Lane Family.

Hall served as President of the Fort Loudon Electric Company, which serves portions of Monroe, Loudon, and Blount Counties. A member of the Greenback Rescue Squad and the Greenback Historical Society, he also served as treasurer of "Happy Survivors" an organization founded by early graduates of Greenback High School. This includes members who attended High School at Greenback from 1929 to 1953. Each year another later class is invited to join when the "Survivors" meet "to eat and greet". The lobby of the Community Building can be heard soaring with laughter as the former graduates trade stories of the fun they had in the past. Many a young man remembers when they placed John Wood's buggy on the roof of the high school at Halloween, when they slipped away from school at noon to congregate in the Greenback Drug Store for one of their famous hot dogs, when a couple of the boys dropped rocks on the floor and claimed that the grade school children were throwing them through the open windows during recess or when one of their band imitated Principal Guy Sneed on the intercom and dismissed school for the day. They were caught by Principal Sneed and herded back into the classrooms.

Ralph could always be found with a smile on his face and an enthusiastic greeting, sometimes with an old tale or a new joke. He was always ready to help when needed. He will be sorely missed at this year's Happy Survivors and elsewhere. He always said "that he only wanted to serve." In speaking to some of his friends and cousins, I was told that Ralph was one of the nicest men

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IN MEMORIAM

Finger, Reba Lee Guider, 82, January 5, 2015.

Satterfield, Anna Lorraine, 85, January 19, 2015.

Cook, Sarah Louise Johnson, 86, January 21, 2015.

Bluford, Donald Hugh, 86, February 26, 2015.

Wilson, Nelse Curtis Jr., 84, March 14, 2015.

Lequire, Harlan "Luke", 75, March 21, 2015.

Cook, Lois, 84, March 24, 2015.

Franke, Robert D., 74, March, 27, 2015.

Pickens, Junior, 76, March 27, 2015.

Alexander, Janet Lynn, 68, April 9, 2015.

REFLECTIONS OF THE GREENBACK CLASS OF 1968

Math was one of my favorite classes in school. Unless I missed my count, only 27 of the 38 freshmen of the Class of 1965 made it to the Senior Class of 1968. Although 30 students graduated, three joined the class during high school. The Freshman Class was not exactly the copy of our eighth grade class because Glendale Elementary School joined our class making the class larger. This article will be one-sided memories as I saw them at the day and time. Out of all the students, I was the oldest. At the time of graduation, I was 21 years and five months. Memory has revealed to me that I could do something that all the other boys could not do!!!! I had been shaving since seventh grade.

The road to graduation was not always easy for me. I actually started with the Class of 1967 but failed the first grade due to medical problems. After waiting two years I should have started with the Freshman Class of 1965. Upon returning to school I was placed in Special Education. Special Education Teachers, Sara Brakebill and Lela Hiltbrand enabled me to be "mainstreamed." I thought it was especially nice of them to attend my graduation. James McGhee, Principal, told me that night that if I forgot part of my Valedictory Speech, not to try and go back to it. Just go forward as no one in the crowd except me would know that I left out a portion. I never forgot this advice. A few good teachers gave me an extreme desire to go to college. The most important part of my education came when Ms. Thelma Cooper, English Teacher, taught me to love poetry by showing me that poems have mathematical structure. This have applied to many other aspects in my walks of life. (Ed. Note: What an accomplishment to begin Special Education and graduate Valedictorian of his Class. No wonder

that Ms. Brakebill and Ms. Hiltbrand returned to proudly attend Richard's graduation).

Looking backward is not always easy, but the years did mean a lot to me. All the fun we had going on yearly trips to fun parks in Knoxville and Chattanooga were the highlight of elementary school days. One of the trips took us to the TVA and I Fair in Knoxville. A thunderstorm caught several of us on the Mouse Roller Coaster Ride. We were trapped on the ride because it shut down when the storm started. We got very wet. We also ate lunch on the bus and we left that school bus in a mess!

I started my freshman year playing football, but the school started a program that allowed students to work after school. Four of us cleaned the school each evening. Once Jim Amburn, who was not a member of our class, and I were cleaning the study hall; Shirley Yates and Sue Murphy were cleaning the cafeteria. A partition wall divided the study hall from the library. James climbed over the wall and lay down on the floor. I ran up and down the hall and got my face red. Then I ran into the cafeteria and told them that James had fallen over the wall and hurt himself. We ran to the study hall. The library door was locked. I climbed over the wall and unlocked the door. James jumped up and yelled Surprise!!! The girls were not happy with us for tricking them.

During our freshman year, the football Coach, Bill Cochran, taught the Science Course. The first time he called the roll, he called by saying the last name first like Hall, Joe; Franklin, Jean; and so on. Everyone laughed out loud when he called Riden, Pearle, and he never called the roll that way again. One day in our sophomore year, we were studying tapeworms. We had to dissect the worms. The class happened to be just before lunch. When we went to lunch, we had flat noodles that looked a lot like tapeworms and no one there wanted to eat them so I got a lot to eat that day!

The following are stories that I can remember from the best days of my life. My grandmother on my mother's side of the family lived to be very old. She lived by herself in an old two story house on a lonely hollow road. She was hard of hearing, so my cousin and I used the fact to convince folks that the house was haunted. For example, we ran a fishing line from a fence post across the road to an upstairs window. We put a white sheet on a hangar and tied it to the fishing line so that we could reel it up through the window upstairs. Larry and Joe would get some of the girls in the car after a football game and bring them down the hollow road. Then Larry would pretend that the car had died and would not start. We would go into our act. We had fun doing this for a couple of years and frightened a lot of teenagers with the "ghost". No one ever figured out the ghost was me and

Grandmother never heard any of this!

Coach Anderson was in the barber shop getting a haircut. He always wore a flat top. When the barber finished and turned him around to the mirror asking if it was O. K. Coach was not pleased and told him it was a bad haircut. The barber turned him back around and cut off all his hair. I was in Coach's Health Class. He did not like that I was in the Barber Shop that day! One Halloween some boys got an old outdoor toilet and put it in the school parking lot. One of the teachers put an Out of Order Sign on it. It was a big thing back then to turn over outdoor toilets on Halloween.

Junior and Senior years saw success in sports. The football team won most of their games. I always worked in the Concession Stand during games. People showed a lot of support for the sports program. We enjoyed the ball games. Unfortunately one of the basketball players, Johnny Griffiths, was killed when returning from one of the games. Johnny was not in our class but I am sure that his death touched all of our lives. So many times, young people think that nothing bad can happen to them. I remember watching him play that night.

During our Junior Year, five boys were the only members of our geometry class. Jerry McNabb was the new math teacher. His desk was in the corner of the room. One day Larry had a fire cracker. He asked Mr. McNabb to light it for him. Larry had the fire cracker cupped in his hand and no one but me saw that he had removed the wick. When Mr. McNabb lit it, he threw it on Mr. McNabb's desk. Mr. McNabb was a large man but he had no trouble getting out of the room that day!

Two Beta Club trips took a bunch of small town teenagers to the big city of Nashville, Tennessee. The first trip was the first time I had ever eaten in a restaurant. I did not know that the greenery on the plate was for decoration. I ate it. Everyone got a big laugh out of that! During the senior trip some of us were walking down Fifth Avenue. Someone said Richard is old enough to buy beer, but they knew that I wouldn't do that. However, we did buy some itching powder and put in some of the girl's clothes.

At this time, I would like to remember the ones that I have heard that have passed away; Larry Carpenter, Jake Chapman, Tommy Shudan, Billy Norton, Darrell Steele, Linda Belcher, and Pearle Riden. We sadly miss every one of our friends. Their memories will live on.

For the Class of 1968, the Senior Prom is over. By the way, my date for the Senior Prom was the Prom Queen. The Senior Play has dropped its final curtain. We are ready for the rest of our lives. These were the

thoughts of 30 teenagers when on Honors Day we all left the school grounds and marched on the little town of Greenback, but there was nothing little about our DREAMS.

The class of 1968 is now a part of history. The wide eye of the wonderment of youth is gone, but life lives on.

Richard Hill

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN???

- Your Mom wore nylons that came in two pieces?
- You got your windshield cleaned, oil checked, and gas pumped, without asking, all for free; and you didn't pay for air and got trading stamps to boot?
- Laundry soap had free glasses, dishes or towels hidden in the box?
- It was considered a great privilege to be taken out to dinner in a real restaurant with your parents?
- They threatened to keep kids back a grade if they failed and they did it!
- When a quarter was a decent allowance?
- When a '57 Chevrolet was everyone's dream car...to cruise, peel out, lay rubber, or watch submarine races and people went steady?

Linda Cabe

APRIL 1865...There is some disagreement about the exact date, but 150 years ago last week, Confederate General Robert E. Lee, surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant, bringing to an end the bloody conflict. So many stories and legends about the Civil War also known as the War Between the States, exist. Some are true; some exaggerated; some are myths; but all agree that it affected all Americans then and later.

IT'S TAX TIME!!!!

April, one of our favorite times of the year!!!! The snow has finally melted; the ice has gone away, the daffodils, redbuds, and early spring flowers are blooming, and most of us have celebrated Easter. We should be happy and grateful but it's APRIL 15TH!!!!!!

GROAN, GRIPE, MOAN.....APPLIES TO MOST OF US.

We may be divided into those compulsive types.... the early filers. Those who have kept meticulous records throughout the year and are among the very first to get their forms in the mail or on line. Or, we may be early filers because we are anxious to get that refund which we have been contemplating ever since we celebrated New Years Day. Whether we think of the refund as a gift from government, our annual savings account, or a reminder that we may have withheld too much, it is fun to look forward to an expected lump sum.

Then, there are the procrastinators. These may include those who never get anything done until the last moment, who drive to the post office around 11:00PM to be sure their return is postmarked on April 15th. It may also include those who have to pay Uncle Sam and either aren't sure how they are going to scrape up the dough or who believe that "Uncle" really doesn't have a right to THEIR MONEY. It may include those who filed an extension for whatever reason. It may even include those who keep that cash until the last moment, believing that they can better invest it or spend it than the U.S. Treasury, as instructed by Congress, the controller of the national purse.

We even have a few who say that they gratefully pay their "fair share" showing their gratitude for living in a free country and being more prosperous than the majority of citizens of other countries. We have a few ungrateful who complain that the government should give them more!!!! Or certainly take less!!

Wherever we fall, we all love to gripe! It is part of the cultural way!!! Have fun with your refund, write your check, cash your windfall, or smile like a Cheshire Cat because you are one of the smart few who came out exactly even, but don't forget to complain. It is your right and your duty! After all you live in the "land of the free and the home of the brave"

Thank goodness! April 15th only comes once a year!!!!

Carolyn Melton Peck



RALPH HALL (Continued from Page 2)

they ever knew. He was kind but he was fun; He was popular, but not "uppity." He was friendly and courteous. Goodbye, Old Friend, "Til We Meet Again." *Carolyn*

CAROLYN'S CORNER

As I have, a number of my friends and neighbors have struggled through the difficulties of a bitter cold winter, frozen pipes and damage to property, houses, vehicles and even loss of computer services, records or our favorite TV Programs. Some of us have dealt with allergies brought about by pollen, dust from inside repairs, and many have suffered with increasing arthritis brought on by the loss of electricity and the winds that accompanied the ice and snow.

I hope that the readers will forgive me as this is going to be very personal this issue. The last few months have occasioned the loss of four very close friends, Donald Bluford, Ralph Hall, Robert Franke, and lastly Janet Alexander. Each one of these always met me with a hug, or a smile, or a word of encouragement through the many years that I have known them. They will be sadly missed!

As I began to feel sad or tempted to complain, I awoke every morning to Hallerin Hilton Hill admonishing me to think of three things for which I am grateful!!! There are so many!!! Gratitude to my children, Chris for taking me to visit at Christmas and see the wide-eyed wonder of a four year old on Christmas Morning. He then drove me to Charleston, S.C. to visit a city I had never seen and join with my other family members for New Year's week. Gratitude to grandson Cody for driving me from there to Virginia to stay with my other son, Craig and daughter-in-law, Stephanie, through the winter months, and then to my daughter Cynthia for driving me home and helping me deal with fourteen leaks in frozen plumbing! To daughter-in-law Radka for coming with Chris from Atlanta to check on me, clean my house, and do many of the chores I am unable to do.

Gratitude for coming home!!! Gratitude to my neighbors, "Kat" and Dave Miller, without whom I might not be able to stay at home. For seeing friends who seemed to have missed me, for turning on my water, fixing my flat tire, taking care of my washer that wouldn't drain, and laughing with me over the little things that really didn't matter nearly so much as it

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Officers and Directors

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CAROLYN'S CORNER (Cont. From Page 5)

seemed at the time; for caring as is so common with the people of Greenback. Importantly, gratitude to the plumbers and Mike and his crew for coming to my rescue and repairing the walls and holes in my house and cleaning up afterward.

And then there is gratitude to Loudon County Road Commission for removing the tree that blocked the upper road and driveway and to Jim Amburn and his father for cleaning up the tree that blocked the lower drive and the yard that had begun to look like a jungle while I was away.

How grateful I am for being born in America!

And most of all, celebrating the Resurrection of Christ and the forgiveness of my sins!!!! I have reflected a lot over my lifetime during the last few months. I know that I could have been a better daughter, a better wife, a better mother, a better supervisor or boss, a better friend, and certainly a better Christian, but I know that God loves me anyway.

Carolyn Melton Peck

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 16, Noon, East Tennessee Historical Society, 601 Gay St. *A Piano Love Affair.* Charles Brakebill, Madisonville Native and Retired President of Development, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

April 25, 11:30 AM. *Happy Survivors, Classes of 1924 -1963, Greenback High School. Greenback Community Center.* For reservations contact Jimmie Lynn Bluford Delozier, 107 Mesa Rd. Maryville, TN, 37804. \$15.00 per person.

April 26, 2:00 PM. Greenback Historical Society, Inc. Quarterly Meeting, Greenback Community Center. Open to the public.

April 30 to May 3, *Blue and Grey Reunion and Freedom Jubilee. Blue and Grey Dinners; Tour Civil War Forts, 1860's Baseball Game, Cemetery Tours, and Civil War Expositions.* For further information, contact East Tennessee Historical Society, Inc. P.O. Box 1629, Knoxville, TN 37801.

July 25, 2:00PM. Greenback Historical Society Annual Ice Cream Contest. Community Center Pavilion.