

**CHRONICLER**  
**Preserving the Past**  
**Issue 15, April, 2011**

**Greenback Historical  
Society P.O. Box 165  
Greenback, Tn. 37742**

**FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT**

March certainly blew in with a vengeance, but it proved again how resilient and how blessed is the community of Greenback. Many things for which we are to be grateful: no serious injuries, the recently restored McCollum House and the historic Greenback Depot were not destroyed, the Greenback Heritage Museum and the Community Center suffered no damage. I'm sure we will have many stories about this later.

From Maryville College football players to Loudon County High School students to residents of Loudon, Lenoir City and Maryville many volunteers came to help.

Congratulations to Tim Grindstaff and Dean Stone as they received awards from the Tennessee Historical Commission; Tim for restoration of the McCollum House and Dean Stone for the publications of Snapshots of Blount County. The sixth and final edition of Snapshots chronicled the history of the development and subsequent operations of Alcoa. Since many of our residents worked at Alcoa over the years, this will be of interest here.

We are fortunate to have Stone as our speaker at the April Meeting. Since a portion of our community has been taken from Blount County and a portion remains in that county, all of the Snapshots should be of interest to us. Mr. Stone has been a member of the Tennessee Historical Commission since 1996. A veteran of WWTI, Stone returned to his native Blount County where he has been a journalist for 60 years, a number of those he served as Editor of the Daily Times.

**ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB**

The Greenback Historical Society established a text website recently to explore additional approaches for communication with the membership and the community. It is intended to provide a source of information that can be accessed from anywhere at any time. At the present time it includes an overview of the history and purpose of the Historical Society, a calendar of events for the coming year, information about membership, links to other relevant sites, and a means of contacting us with questions. We encourage everyone to take a look and get back to us with your suggestions on how to make it better.

We hope that you will make friends and family who have roots in Greenback aware of the site so that they can reconnect with their heritage. For you who are new to the area, pass along to those you left behind so they can have some insight to the place with the funny name where you live now. The site is located at <http://www.gbhistorical.webs.com> . It appears to work with all the Internet web browsers to date. If you have problems, please contact Paul Bailey.

Next Meeting April 21,7:30  
Dean Stone

**INSIDE:**

**P.2 From the Scrapbook**  
**P. 3 Annual Meeting**  
**Greenback Depot**  
**P. 4 & 5 Trigonía**  
**P. 6 Upcoming Events**

## FROM THE SCRAFBOOK

We encourage everyone to stop by the museum and review the draft version of Volume II of the Greenback Heritage Scrapbook (1900-1930) Please help us to spot any errors or omissions so that they may be corrected before the final version is completed. Progress has been slow this quarter due to a computer meltdown around the first of the year but fortunately no material was lost. Things are back to running now and we have been getting back to work.

We are still accepting material for Volume III (1930-1960) and Volume IV (1960-Present). A good start has been made on Volume III and it will become our focus once the second volume goes to the printer.

Unfortunately many of the community were witnesses to history as a tornado roared through out neighborhood. The event will be documented in Volume IV of the scrapbook. Please share with us your experiences, photos, and clippings. If you have questions, please contact Paul Bailey or Betty Carroll.

Paul Bailey

## MUSEUM MUSINGS

Thelma Cooper, our correspondent from the Museum Committee, has taken a leave of absence. If one of the volunteer docents from that committee would fill this need, please contact Betty Carroll or me.

I was working in the museum on April 1, and took some time to view the DVD on *An Interview with Gene Black*. I found it interesting that it covered scenes from the Black farm, the Oakland Church and Cemetery. Gravestones in the cemetery were shown and David even rang the church bell. Windows in the church showed names of Blacks, Thompsons, and WTC Pugh. I enjoyed the scenery and the big old tree where David Black, Tom Black, David's father, and Sam Black, David's grandfather have carved their initials with the date. Since we are featuring Trigonina in this issue perhaps you might enjoy watching this.

Carolyn Peck

*A Vision only works if it is kept Alive. Elizabeth Jeffries*

## IN MEMORIAM

Shirley French Corbett, 62, March 23, 2011

Margaret Ellen McCall, March 27, 2011

## ANNUAL MEETING

Around 30 people attended the meeting on January 22, 2011. After a delicious meal, the meeting was called to order by President Carolyn Peck. Minutes of the Annual Meeting in January 2010 were read and approved and the Treasurer's Report showed a balance of \$2574 as of December 31, 2010. Peck gave a short summary of the 2010 activities. Paul Bailey, Publications Chair, reported that the Vol. II and Vol. III drafts of the Scrapbook were shown on a table at the right, and asked that people attending look at them noting any corrections which should be made and notify him of any additions they have.

Membership Chair, Shirley Hall, reported that we now have 55 members. Brochures about the organization and applications for membership are also available on the table. At this time, Hall, who is chair of the nominating committee stated that three Board Members terms are expiring, Sandra Tipton, Barbara Davis, who filled Carolyn Franke's unexpired term in 2010, and Roy M. Brooks. Barbara Davis, Roy M. Brooks, and Marlene Lidstrom were recommended for new three-year terms to begin in 2011 and expire in 2014. The three were elected. Officers were elected for two-year terms in January 2010 and will continue to serve an additional year.

In the absence of the Vice-President, Peck presented a proposed schedule of meetings for the 2011 -year. A Fund-raiser of chili or bean supper will be held March 18. *(This was later postponed until May of this year due to conflicts in scheduling)*

Peck also told of a grant proposal for a Music Performance and competition. If this is approved, in April, the Board will need to vote on whether or not to accept. Other business included a report on the Task Force which is studying a possible business plan for the Depot. If we decide to pursue the possibility of saving the depot, it will need to be purchased from the present owner, plan for restoration, and on-going maintenance. This is, of course, a long-term project with no guarantee of success. It is one, however, many residents of the area have expressed a desire to see accomplished. After discussion, the members voted to continue to pursue the study.

Ethiel Garlington, Director of Field Services for Knox Heritage and staff services for East Tennessee Preservation Alliance, spoke to the group and showed a slide projection program of buildings preserved in Knoxville and surrounding counties. Members were impressed by the creative ideas used to fund and restore these projects.

## GREENBACK DEPOT SURVEY

It was suggested by some of the members that a survey be made of residents of Greenback and the surrounding communities to see if people in the area were really interested in saving and restoring the depot. A survey has been prepared and will be placed in strategic locations in the community. We will announce the results at the July meeting. If anyone is willing or interested in helping, please contact one of the Board Members.

**GROWING UP IN TRIGONIA (Cont'd from Issue 14)**

A big attraction for us kids each Saturday was to ride with the mill tenant's children (Luke Keener) on the back of the open bed "Trigonia Flour Mill "Truck to Greenback for the Keener's weekly supply of groceries. Sometime he would trade meal or flour as part of his pay to the store owners in exchange for groceries. (Today, Keener would probably be cited for abuse since we were not supervised and oftentimes walked around on the mostly open bed of the moving truck). But to go to Greenback was a highlight for us and no one was ever injured. Trigonia Mill was a busy place in those days. Farmers would raise com and wheat which would then be traded for ground corn meal and flour for their families. The balance of their crops were sold to the mill where it was ground, bagged and trucked to local grocery stores.

We had a public school in Trigonia, grades 1-8 with two teachers. The two teachers that I remember best were Ann Rowland and Bess Chapman. Bess' husband, John had the first automobile garage in Trigonia (that would have been in the late 40's) Our school was a four-room building which stood where the present Oakland parsonage is located. One part of the building was a large auditorium in which we had assembly and at other times we would play games. We had no water at the school and the kids were required to walk about 1/4 mile down a steep hill to a spring and carry water back to the school. In the winter we kept warm around a large pot-belly stove. The students cut a lot of the wood for burning and of course, all the kids walked to school, some for miles. At one time, this building was a boarding school with a separate dormitory. During my childhood, this old dormitory still stood in its ramshackled state a 100 yards or so behind the school building.

The school building and definitely not the dormitory were inhabitable by today's standards, but all the community children went to this school until about 1946-47 when buses became available to transport all of us to Greenback or Vonore Public Schools. Our bus driver was Mr. Ben Hammontree, from Greenback, a man I remember fondly. Although his steely glare directly at you through his rear view mirror created a moment of terror and certainly changed your bad behavior to good.

I remember during recess at Trigonia School, a group of girls, 5-14 years old, practiced singing atop a huge rock formation near the church, and when we thought we had perfected our skill, we invited two teachers to be our audience. The boys would have no part of the singing, but they did organize a game of baseball, crack the whip, or play ante-over the two story school building for their recess breaks. We hung the United States Flag religiously every day and standing at attention sang the National Anthem at the beginning of the school's day. During the war years, WWII, I remember we would be so excited when someone, some agency, would bring small amounts of food for handout.. it seemed to be mostly prunes, ugh!! We all brought packed lunches, meager as they were, or we were allowed to race to our nearby homes for lunch if we could return by the required time.

**GROWING UP IN TRIGONIA**

(cont'd from P.4)

We were a happy, carefree bunch of children who did not know we were missing anything.... And in retrospect, we were not. Neighbor helped take care of neighbor, children were to be seen, not heard in adult gatherings, and we were taught respect for each other and our elders, to love and care for animals, and if we properly tended the earth (our farms) we could grow most of what we needed to eat and could sell the rest to meet our simple needs.

We purchased items not grown on the farm from a rolling store (a large covered truck with lots of supplies) Mom would take eggs and trade them for items we needed. We raised most of what we needed except salt and sugar.

Farming was what most people did during that period and filling silos or thrashing wheat was a big operation where farmers would gather and pool their farm equipment in order to complete these tasks. The wives cooked the noon meal for all the workers, sometimes as many as 15 to 20, and J.R. and I would help, or hinder. One act which petrified us was to watch Mom ring the chicken's neck, (a way of slaughter), and for the harvest crews, Grannie Murr usually fixed chicken 'n dumplings.

We had a blacksmith shop located in the center of Trigonía. This was a very active place and almost anything could be fixed there.

During the Civil War, there was also a post office created from the Maryville route to contact frontier outposts of Brick Mill, Morganton, Trigonía, and Coytee; mail was delivered by horseback. Trigonía Post Office was closed in the early 1900's when the new rail line was built and McGhee Station Post Office was established. However, my Dad still carried the mail from McGhee Station to what was still called the Trigonía Post Office. This was before my time, but I certainly remember our mail carrier, Mr. Lane, from Greenback. We oftentimes would wait for him to arrive at our mailbox and he always took time to chat with us and was as happy as we were when we received some most welcome mail.

I am so proud today, Trigonía is still a thriving, loving community and that Oakland Church is still a place of worship for descendants of the original founders who continue the Lord's work and encourage newly-created subdivision families to join them in their pursuit of salvation.

Tina Pugh Sanders (with input from J.R. Pugh)

**IN MEMORIAM**

Willie Ruth Dixon Hudson, 94, March 14, 2011. Widow of J.G. (Shag) Hudson.  
Dollie Millsaps Kirby, 82, January 13, 2011. Wife of Wilford Kirby.  
Samuel W. Dunn, 72, October 18, 2010, widower of Colleen Wear Dunn

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 11, 2001 Board Meeting 7:00 P.M Museum

**April 21, 2011 Greenback Historical Society, Quarterly Meeting , 7:30 P.M.  
Greenback Community Center, Dean Stone. Maryville Times**

April 23 , 2011 Happy Survivors, 11:30, Greenback Community Center For reservations  
Contact Ralph Hall, 856-3419 Greenback High School Classes 1924-58

May 16, 2011 Board Meeting 7:00 PM Museum

June 20, 2011 Board Meeting 7:00 P.M. Museum

July 18 Board Meeting 7:00 P.M. Museum

July 30, 2011 Greenback Historical Society Quarterly Meeting, 2:00 P M  
Greenback Community Center Lower Level; Ice Cream Contest

Greenback Historical Society, Inc,  
P.O. Box 165  
Greenback, Tennessee, 37742

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Carolyn M .Peck, President 986-1681

Colleen Ragain, V. President 740-5429

Shirley Ridings Hall, Secretary 856-3419

Betty Hall Carroll, Treasurer, 856-3467

Robert Anderson

Paul Bailey

Roy M. Brooks

Barbara Davis

Marlene Lidstrom

Tom Peeler

## Supporters

City of Greenback

Kizer-Black. Attys.

T.J. Dixon, Printers

Cpeck, Inc./ Accurate Primers, Logo