

# CCHGA BYTES

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The Newsletter of the Cheatham County Historical & Genealogical Association

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## CCHGA Office and Cheatham County Museum

Call the CCHGA office  
615.792.3623 or email  
[cchgaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:cchgaoffice@gmail.com)  
and leave a  
message if needed!

CCHGA newsletters  
are snail mailed or  
emailed to  
membership in March,  
June, September and  
December.

If you would like your  
newsletter sent to you  
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[cheathamcountyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:cheathamcountyhistory@gmail.com).

Our past newsletters  
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cheathamcountyhistor  
y.weebly.com/cchga-  
newsletters.html](https://cheathamcountyhistory.weebly.com/cchga-newsletters.html)

## CCHGA Notes:

- The museum has closed temporarily until we find a new location. We will continue to answer emails, phone calls, have programs and send out newsletters.
- If you have had a change in email address or physical address, please call 615.792.3623 or email [cchgaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:cchgaoffice@gmail.com) so we can update our records.

## CCHGA 2024 Meetings Held in the David McCullough Room at Sycamore Square at 6:30 pm

- January 11
- February 8 - Election of Officers held
- March 14
- April 11 - Program Meeting *Ghosts on the Cumberland*
- May 9
- June 13
- July 11 - Program Meeting - Roundtable:  
Stories with Cheatham County Residents
- August 8
- September 12
- October 10 - Program Meeting
- November 14
- December No Meeting

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

**Thank you Joni & Lee Kies and  
Diana & Jim Lenox for your recent  
donations !**

Donations may be sent to  
CCHGA  
P.O. Box 703  
Ashland City, TN 37015



### **Mayor Defeated In Ashland City - December 7, 1955**

ASHLAND CITY, Tenn. - Mayor F.C. Stratton Sr. was ousted and none of the six women candidates for aldermen was elected here yesterday in a citywide election.

Zollie E. Harris, 54, hardware dealer, defeated Stratton 162 votes to 115, in what local political observers called a "major upset."

Stratton had served as mayor for three consecutive two-year terms.

Aldermen elected were J. P. Gallaher, Carl Balthrop, J. J. Poole and J. M. Harris, all incumbents, and A. J. Groves and Lenox Murff.

Unofficial returns in the aldermen races were as follows:

First ward - Balthrop, 154; Gallaher, 138; Robert T. Hallums, 110; Mrs. Peggy Stratton, 49, and Mrs. Myrtle Tucker, 45.

Second ward - Poole, 147; Groves, 154; Mrs. Mary Allen, 45; Lee Baker, 90, and Mrs. Billy Hagewood, 53.

Third ward - Harris, 124; Murff, 92; Reeks, 71; Mrs. Marion Reeks, 41; Mrs. Helen Harper, 47; Carl Gupton, 87, and Carl Fizer, 40.

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*Ashland City Times*

*Ashland City, Tennessee - Wed, Dec 30, 2015*

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#### ***Marriage Licenses***

- *Landon Wade Belcher of Springfield and Tish Marie Bryan Roach of Pleasant View*
- *Joel Austin Borski of Kingston Springs and Amanda Leigh Craig of Kingston Springs*
- *James Dean Callis II of Joelton and Kathleen Dawn Clardy Daugherty of Joelton*
- *Robert L. Miler of Ashland City and Laura Michelle Simpkins Travis of Ashland City*

Ashland City Times - Wed, May 27, 2015

## Garden Club Celebrates Arbor Day

The First Saturday Garden Club joined other clubs in Tennessee by planting a dogwood tree for Arbor Day. Nine members of the club spent the day at the Senior Center at Ashland City planting a pink dogwood tree and cleaning and



Submitted photo  
Pictured on Arbor Day at the Senior Center at Ashland City are (back row) Liz Perry, Melissa Womack, Paulette Goddard, Christine Beard, Anne Cassista and Betty Harris; (kneeling) president Caroline Borum, Lindy Murff and Cindy Baum.

freshening the spring and summer garden that was started last year as its ongoing community project.

The club held a membership drive and tea on April 29. Nine members and seven guests attended.

Guest speaker and Master Gardener Dorthy Davis gave an interesting demonstration on garden art sculptures using everyday objects from around the house or found at yard sales or flea markets.

The next meeting of the club will be the annual flower show and bocce ball tournament at the home of Sarah Knestrick on June 6 at 10 a.m. and a meeting on June 29 at the Senior Center with a guest speaker from the Ornithology Society.

## **A Synopsis on the Military History of Thomas Washington “Yank” Hunter During the American Civil War**

Thomas Washington Hunter was born January 24, 1833, and died August 25, 1912. He enlisted in Company “G”, 42<sup>nd</sup> Tennessee Infantry Regiment from Cheatham County, Tennessee, in 1861. Governor Isham G. Harris issued a call for troops after President Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 troops to quell the forthcoming rebellion.

Once the Company was formed it was sent to Camp Cheatham near Cedar Hill in Robertson County on or before October 1, 1861. It was later moved to Camp Duncan (fairgrounds) in Clarksville, Tennessee. The Unit was again moved to Fort Sevier overlooking the Cumberland River, just below Clarksville. On February 13, 1862, it was ordered to Fort Donelson, Dover, Tennessee, when the battle for that place had begun. The Company was landed from the Steamer *General Anderson* under a shower of shot and shell from the enemy. Having fought in a cold rain and snow without the comfort of proper clothing, blankets or shelter, and overwhelmed by Union forces, the Company surrendered on February 16, 1862.

After the surrender, the privates were sent to prison at Camp Douglas, Illinois, and the officers to Johnson Island. Held prisoner until September 1862, he was exchanged at Vicksburg, Mississippi. His Regiment was then reorganized at Clinton, Mississippi, in September of 1862. From Clinton he, with his Unit, was ordered to Corinth, Mississippi to join General Van Dorn, who was about to attack the enemy there but only reached Holly Springs, Mississippi, as Van Dorn had been defeated and was in retreat. From Holly Springs he was ordered to Port Hudson, Louisiana, in October of 1862. He, with his Unit, sustained the severe bombardment of March 1863 by Commodore Farragut.

From Port Hudson he went to Jackson, Mississippi, in April of 1863 by way of Brookhaven. He was detoured to the Southern Railroad as Jackson had been captured by General U. S. Grant. His Unit, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Tennessee was the first command to enter Jackson after General Grant had left that place to besiege Vicksburg.

He and the Unit were then placed in General W. W. Loring’s Division and served through the Mississippi campaign with General Joseph E. Johnston’s Army of Tennessee, taking part in the engagements around Jackson from July 10 to 16 of 1863. After the retreat from Jackson, he was ordered to Mobile, Alabama in of September of 1863. From Mobile he once again joined the Army of Tennessee and arrived at Missionary Ridge in November of 1863. Although ordered into battle, it was too late as the Confederates had been defeated. He retreated with the Army to Dalton, Georgia, and was placed in General John C. Breckinridge’s Division. He was later ordered back to Mobile on January 14, 1864, arriving on the 21<sup>st</sup>. He was there assigned to General Leonidas Polk’s Army in Mississippi to meet the advance of General W. T.

Sherman. He joined Polk's Army at Brandon and was placed in General Samuel G. French's Division. Retreating with Polk's Army to Meridian, Mississippi, he was again ordered to Mobile, Alabama. From Mobile he was ordered to the Army of Tennessee one again, arriving in May of 1864. He took part in the Georgia campaign under General J. E. Johnston and J. B. Hood being in the engagement of New Hope Church, May, 1864; Pine Mountain, June 15; Kennesaw Mountain, June 28; Smyrna Depot, July 4; Peachtree Creek, Atlanta, July 20; and Lick-Skillet Road, Atlanta, July 28<sup>th</sup>.

From this time he continued with Hood's Army (Hood had replaced Johnston who had been removed from command by President Davis) to the end of the Georgia campaign. The troops went to the Alabama line, crossed the Chattahoochee River at Pumpkin Town to Big Shanty and captured the Union garrison at Acworth. He then proceeded to Resaca, Georgia, thence to Dalton and was engaged in the destruction of the railroad until the surrender of Dalton on October 13, 1864. He was with General Hood during the Tennessee Campaign, taking part in all the battles of that Army. His Unit was in the battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864. They then moved on to Nashville to take part in that battle on December 16, 1864, and retreated with the Army, after the defeat, to Tupelo, Mississippi, where he remained until ordered to North Carolina to join General J. E. Johnston's Army. He took part in the battle of Bentonville, North Carolina, on March 16, 1865, and was surrendered with that Army.

After the surrender of all Confederate forces, Thomas Washington Hunter was paroled and signed the oath of allegiance which forevermore earned him the nickname of "Yank" by his friends and neighbors.

Thomas "Yank" Hunter is buried in the Wall Cemetery located within the Lockwall Development off Sweethome Road in Chapmansboro (Cheap Hill) Tennessee.

It may be noted that "Yank" Hunter's granddaughter, Dean Martin of Knoxville, Tennessee, may possess the only photo know to exist of "Yank" Hunter with his wife and children.

David B. Close  
Ashland City, Tennessee

## 2023 Mistletoe Trail

The Cheatham County Historical & Genealogical Association participated in the 2023 Mistletoe Trail contest held in Ashland City at Riverbluff Park, CCHGA won \$250.00 for Best Representation of Charity. Thank you to Mary Grey Jenkins, Dreama Davidson, Lisa Walker, George Anne Raines, Nicole Binkley, Rosemary Klein, and Bobby Lee for making the decorations and decorating the tree. Photo: Dreama Davidson, Mary Grey Jenkins and Lisa Walker accept the check.





## **Town Hall May Become Bridge Club Quarters**

By PAUL PAGE (Banner State Editor)

Ashland City - Starting next year, the meeting of the Tuesday evening bridge club may be held at the city hall.

It's almost for certain that they will be if the six women seeking city council posts in the municipal election here Saturday are victorious. "It would be that way," said Mrs. Billie Hagewood, wife of Rep. Cliff Hagewood. "The council meets on the same night we play bridge. But of course, our civic duty will come first."

The six young women, all members of the Parent-Teachers Association and active in community affairs, had no idea last summer when they were chatting at a dinner that their conversation would bring them into the political arena.

The dinner was at the home of Hagewoods. Several of the women began discussing some of the problems of municipal government and questioning the men as to why certain changes weren't made.

The men made careful mental note of the remarks and when time came for candidates to be qualified, who should be listed on the petitions but: Mrs. Billie Hagewood; Mrs. Peggy Stratton, wife of Frank C. Stratton, Jr., and daughter-in-law of the mayor; Mrs. Myrtle Tucker, wife of James Tucker; Mrs. Mary Allen, wife of C. L. Allen; Mrs. Marion Reeks, wife of incumbent councilman Sam A. Reeks, Jr., and Mrs. Helen Harper, wife of Attorney Vincent Harper.

Mrs. Reeks, president of the Parent-Teachers Association, is running in the third ward with her husband. However, since two aldermen are elected from each ward they aren't exactly opponents. But Mrs. Reeks makes her position plain. "I'm voting for all the women." That means her vote will go to Mrs. Harper, leaving Hubby Sam, a merchant, to fend for himself. Reeks, a former Austin Peay and Alabama footballer, was just smiling all the time. But you couldn't help but get the idea he didn't disapprove of the women candidates.

The women admitted they had given little thought to campaigning. However, Mrs. Nell Harris, editor of the Ashland City Times, declared "We usually vote

about 250 people in a city election, but this time I believe we'll have 500." Ashland City's population is about 1,250.

"Everybody's been talking it up the last few days but none of us has really solicited any votes," the women said. Just the same, they agreed that if elected they would gladly take office "and run things the best we can." They would serve for two years and draw no pay. "One thing I want is a good garbage collection system," one of them said. "And I want a city sewerage system," said another. "You'd be surprised how many people don't want to spend the money for sewers." Another declared "I know very well that I'm qualified to hold office. Anybody who can run a household on the money I get certainly could hold down that job." "I think there ought to be a subsidy for housewives," declared another. "They do more work than anybody and get no money for it." she added. "I'm going to suggest it to Governor Clement in the next legislature."

The prospective "alderladies" already have been at work on civic improvement through PTA activities. Mrs. Reeks said funds provided by the PTA have made it possible for the high school library to meet SACSS requirements. The PTA also has provided money for playground equipment at the elementary school. The money came from PTA musicals, Christmas card sales, food booth at the county fair and other projects.

By the way, couple of fellows are running for mayor in the election Saturday. They are the incumbent, Frank C. Stratton, Sr., a real estate dealer, and Vollie E. Harris, a hardware dealer.

Aldermanic candidates, with two to be elected from each ward, are as follows:

First Ward - Carl Balthrop, auto dealer, J. P. Gallaher, insurance agent, the incumbents, Mrs. Stratton and Mrs. Tucker.

Second - Mrs. Allen, Lee Baker, of Land Boot Co., A. J. Groves, associated with a railway tie company, Mrs. Hagewood and J. J. Poole, a state employe and incumbent.

Third - Carl C. Fizer, Cheatham Dam employe, Carl B. Gupton, insurance agent, Mrs. Harper, J. M. Harris, garage operator and incumbent, Lenox Murff, florist, and a certain Mr. and Mrs. Reeks.

- Email [cchgaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:cchgaoffice@gmail.com) or call 615.792.3623 if you would like to purchase a copy of *The Cheatham County History and Families* book.
- CCHGA made over \$1,900.00 at the November Bake Sale!
- We currently have 173 members from 16 states
- Please rejoin CCHGA in 2024. The membership form is located at [https://cheathamcountyhistory.weebly.com/uploads/1/1/7/9/117977532/cchga\\_membership\\_application\\_form\\_-\\_2024.pdf](https://cheathamcountyhistory.weebly.com/uploads/1/1/7/9/117977532/cchga_membership_application_form_-_2024.pdf)
- **April 11, 2024 Program Meeting** -John Oliver, the President of the Trousdale County, Tennessee Historical Society, has written a book called *Ghosts on the Cumberland*. The book is a collection of stories that have grown up along the Cumberland River. One of the stories comes from Cheatham County. The program meeting will be held April 11 at 6:30 in the David McCullough Room at Sycamore Square.

**Cheatham County Historical and Genealogical Association**  
**P. O. Box 703**  
**Ashland City, TN 37015**