

CCHGA Bytes

June 2015

The newsletter of the Cheatham County Historical and Genealogical Association



July 9, 2015 CCHGA Meeting

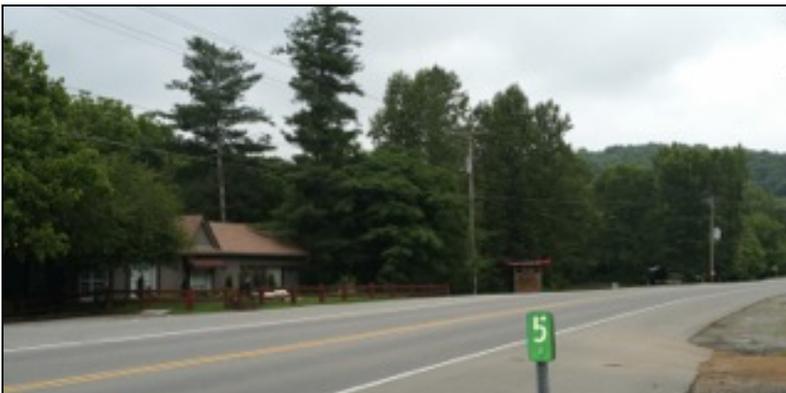
July's CCHGA meeting will be held at the Pegram Community Club at the Depot at 6:30. CCHGA member Chuck Neese will give a presentation on the history of the Pegram Depot and Community Center. If you would like to ride the van, please meet at the Ashland City Church of Christ on Cumberland Street at 5:45. Please call 615.792.3623 with questions!

Shacklett, TN - Submitted by D. J. Hutcherson

Driving through Shacklett on any given weekend during the summer, along the short stretch of road just east of the Harpeth River bridge, it's very easy to become distracted by what I have come to call the Shacklett Circus. There's a rainbow of bright colors made up of the hundreds of canoes, countless cars parked in fields and on the side of the highway, and an endless sea of people everywhere you look, temporarily making Shacklett a small city.

This boom in commerce and in the tourist industry partly driven by the success of the canoe outfits may seem to be a relatively new phenomenon to the town of Shacklett. However, this part of the town has a long history of being a center of business. Unless you are a long time local resident, you would never know that decades ago, that same stretch of road was home to a motel, a cafe/restaurant, a couple of Pan Am gas pumps, and an occasional overnight stay for Elvis.

Over 75 years ago, local resident Linton Ham saw the opportunity to capitalize on the increasing flow of traffic along the relatively new highway between Nashville and Memphis, Tennessee highway 70. In 1940, Ham's Motel and Cafe was built on the land where Foggy Bottom Canoe Rental now sits.



History Center Office Hours

(please call before traveling many miles due to staff is made up of 100% volunteers & schedules change!)

Tuesday – 12:00 – 4:00

Wednesday – 10:00 – 4:00

Friday – 10:00 – 12:00

Saturday – 10:00 – 12:00

By appointment – call 615.792.3623

History of Cheatham County

Submitted by Mary Sneed who found these 4 pages cleaning out her house, no other information is known

History of Cheatham County
Cheatham County was founded
in 1856 and was named
for Mr. Cheatham, speaker
of the house at that time.
It was made up of parts
of Davidson, Dickson, Robertson
and Montgomery counties.
It is bounded on the north
by Montgomery and Robertson
counties, on the east by
Davidson, south by Williamson,
west by Dickson and Montgomery
counties.
In 1900 there were 178,914 acres
taxed, 57 school houses, taxes
assessed to the amount of
\$1,083,164.00 and \$17,509.33
in school money. The county
has 30 miles of railroad.
Ashland City is the county seat.
It has two banks and two regular
hotels. The Ashland City Times
is published here. The village
had 350 inhabitants in 1900.
It has a fine High School.

2-
Pleasant View is another town
in this county. It has one bank,
and is a tobacco center.
Kingston Springs is a noted
summer resort on the North
Western division of the Nashville
Chattanooga and St. Louis
Railway. It has one bank.
Craggie Hope is a summer
resort. The charitable people
of Nashville have a Fresh Air
Camp for poor children, who
live in the city of Nashville.
Bright's Well is a fine mineral
well, and many people come
there from Nashville in the
summer. It is equal in medicinal
qualities to Dawson Springs,
Kentucky.
On the Cumberland River there
are two noted bluffs one sun
Rising Bluff a few miles east
of Ashland City. It has the
picture of the sun painted on
it which was thought to have
been painted by the Indians.
The other is Sidney's Bluff
which was named for a beautiful
young woman named Sidney
Gower. She fell in love with
a young man who was working
upon a wood boat, her family
not approving of their marriage
they jumped off the bluff
together, hence the name.
This bluff is opposite
Ashland City.
Cheatham County has two
rivers running in it, the
Cumberland and Harpeth.
Sycamore Powder Mills are
situated about five miles
from Ashland city. Blasting
powder was manufactured
there.
Mr. Adam Binkley was the
first settler in Cheatham
County that there is any
record of.
Cheatham County has some
very fine farming lands
both on Cumberland and
Harpeth river bottoms,
some of which produce ten
to twelve barrels of corn
to the acre.
Mostly corn and hogs are
raised, but wheat also is
raised in some parts of the
county and fine water can
be had. Some very fine
tracts of timber lands are
in this county; most of the
kinds of timber left are
oak, chestnut, birch and
hickory.
Cheatham County has a
Poor House and free ferry.
Most of its streams of any
size are bridged and its
roads are fairly good or could
be made good with very little
expense to the county, if
taken hold by people who
knew how to build roads;
rock and gravel being so
handy to make the roads
with and all over the county.
We could have roads equal
to Davidson County.

3-
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Louis Moore.

Cheatham County was founded in 1856 and was named for Mr. Cheatham, speaker of the house at that time.

It was made up of parts of Davidson, Dickson, Robertson and Montgomery and was surveyed by Col. Washington Shelton. It is divided into sixteen districts and is bounded on the north by Montgomery and Robertson Counties, on the east by Davidson, south by Williamson, west by Dickson and Montgomery Counties.

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Mostly corn and hogs are raised, but wheat also is raised in some parts of the county and fine tobacco is raised in the western part. All over the county fine water can be had. Some very fine tracts of timber lands are in this county; most of the kinds of timber left are oak, chestnut, birch and hickory.

Cheatham County has a Poor House and free ferry. Most of it's streams of any size all bridged and it's roads are fairly good or could be made good with very little expense to county, if taken hold by people who knew how to build roads; rock and gravel being so handy to make the roads with and all over the county.

We could have roads equal to Davidson County.

~Louis Moore.

My great Grandfather, Thomas Dudley Council, the second child of David Crockett and Priscilla Hunter Council, was born on 10 March 1843 and died on 29 June 1911. He was born in the part of Montgomery County that later became Cheatham County. He enlisted in the Confederate States Army at Camp Cheatham TN on 24 Oct. 1861 at age 18. I will tell about his War Record at another time. These are memories of Sarah Elizabeth Felts that he later married.

Sarah Elizabeth Felts, daughter of Henry R. Felts and Elizabeth Pace Felts was born on 20 April 1849 and died on 13 Sept. 1939. These memories were told to me by her grandson, Edwin Council. Ed's mother died when he was 7 years old so his Granny Council came to live with his family to help with the children.

Henry R. Felts did not own slaves but his children played with the children of the slaves owned by their neighbors. The children loved to play "church" One of the children would preach and some would then profess their religion and get saved. Then they would all go to the pond for the baptism. One day the child who was pretending to be the preacher held one of the little slave girls under the water a little too long. When she came up, she cried, "I ain't never gonna 'fess no mo"

Once the Felts girls went to a neighbor's house to visit. The slave children's faces were greasy. The neighbor said, "Go wash your faces, they're plum greasy from eating that meat. When they were playing later in the yard the slaves said, "She just telling that. We don't never get no meat. She rubs bacon on our faces. When she does that I feel like grabbing that bacon rind and eating it"

Sarah Elizabeth Felts Council had some bitter memories of the Civil War. Once some Yankee soldiers came to their house. They needed fodder for their horses so they spread it over the barnyard and what their horses didn't eat was trampled underfoot. They took the hams from the smokehouse and made the women cook them a meal, then took the rest of the meat with them. Another time some men of the neighborhood heard that there was salt available. Salt was hard to get and they needed it to preserve their meat for winter food, so a group went and got a barrel of salt. As they were bringing it home on a sledge they met some Yankee soldiers who took their salt. They also took their horses so they had to walk home.

Sarah Elizabeth Felts would sing this song:

My homespun dress is plain I know,

My hat's palmetto too,

But then it shows what Southern girls for Southern rights will do

Hurrah, hurrah, for the Southern girls.

Hurrah for the Southern rights so true.

Hurrah, hurrah, for the bonny blue flag and the eleven stars so true.”

Sarah Elizabeth Felts was 16 at the close of the War. The Rebel soldiers would walk by the Felts place on their way home. One day the Felts sisters were working in the fields and could see the men as they straggled by, war worn and weary. Perhaps the girls would smile as a handsome fellow passed on the road. One day as they were working they looked up to see a soldier slowly passing. Sarah Elizabeth remarked, “Here comes my Rebel”. Imagine her surprise when this soldier turned into their drive!! Her sisters teased her and she was so embarrassed that she didn’t want to go to the house when it came time for dinner. The young man was sitting on the porch talking to her father and probably was invited to stay to eat. It is not known whether she had met Thomas Dudley Council before this incident or not. I have not been able to find where the Felts property was in relation to the Council property. Perhaps this was the beginning of the romance that led to their marriage on 9 January 1867.

Some stories about Thomas Dudley Council during the Civil War. Once he wanted a break from the war so went and sat under a tree. Just as he got comfortable a cannon ball came whistling through the top of the tree. He decided quickly he had better move on further back. There is another story that once when he was in the woods he heard some Yankees coming so he crawled into a hollow log. The Yankees sat down on the log and ate their lunch. He said he thought sure that they would hear his heart pounding and catch him.

Because as his experiences as a Prisoner of War, Thomas Dudley Council would not let his children have a caged animal for a pet.

Contributed by Sarah Harris Andrews daughter of Novella Council Harris, whose father was William Wallthall Council, son of Thomas Dudley Council.

Upcoming CCHGA Meetings

06/11/2015 – Business Meeting 6:30 at the Cheatham County Public Library

07/09/2015 – **Program Meeting – At Pegram Community Center/Depot Station 6:30**

08/13/2015 – Business Meeting 6:30 at the Cheatham County Public Library

Thomas Dudley Council's Civil War Record

Thomas Dudley Council, second child of David Crockett and Priscilla Hunter Council was born in Montgomery County, Tennessee on 10 Mar. 1843 and d. 29 June 1911. He enlisted in the Confederate States Army at Camp Cheatham, TN on 24 Oct. 1861 for one year. He was a Private in Co. G 42nd Tennessee Infantry. The 42nd Regiment, Tennessee Infantry was organized on Nov. 28, 1861 with five Tennessee Companies and 5 Alabama Companies. It surrendered on Feb. 16, 1862 at the battle of Ft. Donelson., Ky. The exchange was made at Vicksburg, Mississippi on 20 Sept. 1862 and the Regiment was reorganized on 29 Sept. 1862. The Company H records say that they were surrounded by the enemy and that this company was in prison for seven months at Camp Douglas, Illinois. I am assuming that Company G and Thomas Dudley Council went to Illinois also. When the Regiment was reorganized, 5 Alabama companies were separated to form another group and four Tennessee and a Florida company were transferred to this command and completed its reorganization. In March 1863 several regiments of Tennessee Infantry were consolidated into one field organization. General Walthall was the commanding General. Thomas Dudley Council was in Quarles Brigade. George Pardue was Capt. of Co. G. Other officers were 1st Lt. Cage, 2nd Lt. George Weakley, Capt Walton, 2nd Lt. George Mallory and 3rd Lt. Robert Weakley. After the reorganization they went to Jackson, MS and then to Holly Springs, MS staying there 14 days. Then they went to a camp near Port Hudson, Louisiana. The 42nd Regiment fought at New Hope Church, Georgia, and all around Atlanta. Thomas Dudley Council was wounded in the left breast by a minie ball in the Battle of Franklin, TN where he was captured on 17 Dec. 1864. His name appears on the Roll of Prisoners of War in Nashville, TN which were captured by forces under the command of Major General Thomas, commanding the Department of the Cumberland and forwarded to Capt. S. E. Jones. He was taken to the U. S. Army General Hospital in Nashville, TN on 26 Dec. 1864 from Franklin, TN. The diagnosis was "Convalescent" so he was transferred to the Provost Marshall on 3 Jan. 1865. He arrived at Louisville, KY on 5 Jan. 1865 and was taken to Camp Chase, Ohio on 9 Jan. 1865. He arrived at Camp Chase on 11 Jan. 1865. He was paroled at Camp Chase, Ohio and transferred to Point Lookout, Maryland on 17 Feb. 1865 for exchange. He was incapacitated for quite a while. He was treated by Yankee Doctors and didn't know any of their names. His name appears on a register of General Hospital, Howard's Grove, Richmond, VA dated July 26, 1865. Medical Card #1135749. He took the loyalty oath before the governor in Nashville, TN in order to keep the Federal soldiers from destroying his father's property. G. W. Weakley made an oath that he was 1st Lt. of Co. G and that T. D. Council belonged to this Company and as a soldier there was none truer or better. (Microfilm Roll # 280 Compiled Service Records of Confederate soldiers, State Archives, Nashville, TN)

It is interesting to note that T. D. Council named his oldest son (my grandfather) William Walthall Council after General Walthall. General Walthall had a home in Holly Springs which I took a picture of when we visited there several years ago. ~Sarah Harris Andrews

Article II (Purpose, Business and Function) Sec. 2 (at the end)

Current reading:

The Association will disseminate historical material in the newspapers or otherwise; by holding meetings with pageants, addresses, lecturers, papers and discussion; by marking historic buildings, sites and trails and by using the media of radio and television to awaken public interest.

Proposed change in bold italics:

The Association will disseminate historical material in the newspapers or otherwise; by holding meetings with pageants, addresses, lecturers, papers and discussion; by marking historic buildings, sites and trails and by using *any available media to promote public interest.*

Article III (Duration)

Current reading:

Sec. 1 The duration of this organization is intended to be everlasting. However, in recognition of the fact that events sometimes preclude perpetuation, a separate provision is included herein for dissolution in the event of the necessity for such an occurrence.

Proposed change in bold italics:

Sec. 1 The duration of this organization is intended to be everlasting. However, in recognition of the fact that events sometimes preclude perpetuation, a separate provision *is* included herein for dissolution in the event of the necessity for such *action.*

Article IV (Meetings)

Current reading:

Sec. 1 Meetings will be held monthly except in December.

Proposed change in bold italics:

Sec. 1 Meetings will be held monthly on the second Thursday except in December. No meeting will be held in December.

Sec. 2 Additional Meetings.

Current reading:

a. Membership meetings may be called by the President at any time, or upon petition in writing of 10% of the members. A notice of special meetings shall be mailed to each member at least five (5) days prior to such meetings when possible; otherwise, telephone communication will be utilized to advise local members.

Proposed change in bold italics:

a. Membership meetings may be called by the President at any time, or upon petition in writing of 10% of the members. *A notice of special meetings shall be provided to each member at least five (5) days prior to such meetings when possible by e-mail or telephone to advise local members.*

Article V (Board of Directors)

Current reading:

Sec. 1 The Board of Directors shall be made of up the three (3) founding members (Betty Cannon, Thelma Heflin, and Mary Grey Jenkins), unless membership is terminated for any reason. Additionally, the current President of each established Community Chapter will automatically become members of the Board of Directors upon election and so serve until their term expires. All elected officers of the Association shall become members of the Board with the Secretary of the Association serving as the Secretary of the Board. The immediate Past President of the Association will be elevated to the Board upon conclusion of their term of office and will serve until the current retiring President assumes that position.

Sec. 1(a) One member will be elected from the general membership to the Board of Directors at the annual election of officers meeting in February of each year. The number of Board Members shall be no less than seven or more than eleven.

Proposed changes in bold italics:

Sec. 1 The Board of Directors shall be made of up **the two (2) remaining founding members (Betty Cannon, and Mary Grey Jenkins)**, unless membership is terminated for any reason. Additionally, the current President of each established Community Chapter will automatically become members of the Board of Directors upon election and so serve until their term expires. All elected officers of the Association shall become members of the Board with the Secretary of the Association serving as the Secretary of the Board. The immediate Past President of the Association **shall remain a regular member of the Board upon conclusion of their term of office and will serve until the next president retires and assumes the position of past president.**

Sec. 1(a) One **at-large board** member will be elected from the general membership to the Board of Directors at the annual election of officers meeting in February of each year. The number of Board Members shall be no less than seven or more than eleven.

Article VII - Membership and Dues

Current reading:

Sec. 2 Membership dues shall be established by vote of the membership present at the monthly meeting in February of each year.

Proposed change in bold italics:

Sec. 2 Membership dues shall be established by vote of the membership **at a regular business meeting on the recommendation of the Finance Committee.**

Additional section:

Sec. 4 A member of the Association may be removed for just cause by a majority vote of the officers and members present at any regular meeting of the Association.

Article VIII (Officers and Duties)

Current reading:

Sec. 6(b) A Treasurer’s report shall be given at the bi-monthly business meetings as well as an indication of Application of Renewal of the Certificate of Existence/ Authorization with the Secretary of State and Certificate of Tax Clearance with the State of Tennessee Department of Revenue at the meeting in February of each year.

Proposed change in bold italics:

Sec. 6(b) A Treasurer’s report shall be given **at every regular business** meeting as well as an indication of Application of Renewal of the Certificate of Existence/ Authorization with the Secretary of State and Certificate of Tax Clearance with the State of Tennessee Department of Revenue at the meeting in February of each year. **The treasurer shall also report to the membership proof of the annual report to the State of Tennessee before June of each year.**

Article IX (Standing Committees)

Current reading:

Sec. 1 Standing Committees shall be appointed by the President as needed and shall

include the following:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| MEMBERSHIP | GENEALOGICAL |
| FINANCE | HISTORICAL |
| PROGRAM | ARTIFACT |
| BUILDING AND GROUNDS | |

Proposed change in bold italics:

Sec. 1 Standing Committees shall be appointed by the President as needed and shall

include the following:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| MEMBERSHIP | GENEALOGICAL |
| FINANCE | HISTORICAL |
| PROGRAM | MUSEUM AND ARTIFACTS |
| BUILDING AND GROUNDS | COUNTY ARCHIVES |

Current reading:

c. Program Committee – It shall be the responsibility of the Program Committee to provide for entertainment, including, but not limited to, lectures, debates, speeches, instructional programs, show and tell programs, social affairs and such other activities deemed appropriate and applicable and in the best interest of the Association and its’ membership and in accordance with the purpose of the Association indicated in Article II.

Proposed change in bold italics:

c. Program Committee – It shall be the responsibility of the Program Committee to provide for entertainment, including, but not limited to, lectures, debates, speeches, instructional programs, show and tell programs, social affairs and such other activities deemed appropriate and applicable and in the best interest of the Association and its’ membership and in accordance with the purpose of the Association indicated in Article II. **The program committee’s duties will also include publicity of these events and outreach to help promote the public’s interest.**

Current reading:

d. Building and Grounds Committee – It shall be the duty of the Building and Grounds Committee to involve itself in the search for and procurement of a structure or site for the location of a museum for the housing of artifacts and documents related to the history and genealogical papers generated by participating members and citizens wishing to have such items included therein; to inspect and recommend sites, buildings, residences and items of interest for documentation as historical entities to be marked and preserved for the interest and enjoyment of future generations and membership of this Association.

Proposed change in bold italics:

d. Building and Grounds Committee – It shall be the duty of the Building and Grounds Committee to inspect and recommend sites, buildings, residences and items of interest for documentation as historical entities to be marked and preserved for the interest and enjoyment of future generations and membership of this Association **and to inspect current facilities for needed repairs and/or maintenance and report these to the proper authorities.**

Current reading:

e. Genealogical Committee – It shall be the responsibility of the Genealogical Committee to:

- (1) Review and recommend items of genealogical research for inclusion and preservation in the records of the Association for information and enjoyment of the membership of this Association and future generations of Cheatham Countians;
- (2) Assist and provide expertise and assistance in such genealogical matters to those interested in and involved in researching their own background and history and;
- (3) Recommend and/or provide publications, manuscripts, pictures, maps and assorted materials related to genealogical matters.

Proposed change:

(1) Review and recommend items of genealogical research for inclusion and preservation in the records of the Association for information and enjoyment of the membership of this Association **and the public, benefitting both current and future generations whose genealogy links to Cheatham County.**

Current reading:

f. Artifact Committee – It shall be the responsibility of the Artifact Committee to establish procedures for the review, research and documentation, acceptance and display of items presented to the Association for inclusion in the records of the Association or other suitable location for public display.

Proposed change in bold italics:

f. Museum and Artifacts Committee – Upon dissolution of the museum charter, it shall be the responsibility of CCHGA’s Museum and Artifacts Committee to:

- (1) establish procedures for the review, research and documentation, acceptance and display of items presented to the Association for inclusion in the museum and/or alternate locations for public display;***
- (2) Record, catalog and photograph artifacts donated for the museum;***
- (3) Arrange tours of the museum.***

Current reading:

g. Historical Committee – It shall be the responsibility of the Historical Committee to:

- (1) Review, research, document and publish accurate, factual and legendary information to members of the Association and the public in any manner deemed appropriate and suitable regarding the history of Cheatham County, to include matters occurring presently and in the future of historical significance; and
- (2) Seek out suitable storage space for housing donated artifacts and/or articles of historical significance, and to collect the same once space is available.

Proposed change:

Remove (2) as these are duties under the Museum and Artifacts Committee.

Addition of County Archives Committee and it’s description:

- g. County Archives Committee – It shall be the responsibility of the County Archives Committee to work with county officials toward preparing the county’s public records to be made available for public access per local, state and federal regulations and guidelines. This committee will make requests or recommendations to the necessary parties for equipment and usage of any funds granted or designated to be administered by the Association for this purpose.***

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On the signature page, there should be a date line.

Websites of Interest

CCHGA Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/cheathamcountyhistory>

Tennessee Archives Directory: <http://tnsos.net/TSLA/archives/index.php>

CCHGA BYTES

Cheatham County Historical and Genealogical Association

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<http://www.rootsweb.com/~tncchga/>