

CCHGA Bytes

June 2008

R.D. Huffines - President
Earl Nixon - Vice President
Judy Mayo - Secretary
Betty Cannon - Treasurer

On June 23 at 6:00, the Museum Committee will be working at the museum. Please come by and help out. The Cheatham County Museum is located in the lower level of the Cheatham County Public Library.

If you would like to receive the CCHGA newsletter by email, please notify Lisa Walker by sending an email to lisaewalker@bellsouth.net. This helps cut down costs on mail-outs! Thanks.

Additional Cheatham County information is located on our websites:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tnccchga/>

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tncheath/>

<http://www.myfamily.com> (Note: you will need a log in id and password assigned to you. Please contact Lisa Walker at 615.202.5369 or send an email to lisaewalker@bellsouth.net.)



June 26 2008 CCHGA Meeting at the Cheatham County Public Library

Tom Forehand will be making a first-person, Robert E. Lee presentation for the Cheatham County Historical and Genealogical Association on June 26th in the Community Room at the Cheatham County Public Library at 6:30. He has written two books about Robert E. Lee--one book about Lee's humor and the other about Lee's tenderness. (The books are published by Pelican Publishing Company in Gretna, La.). If you are interested in hearing two of Tom's radio interviews, you will find them

at: <http://www.dixiebroadcasting.com/pelicanpages.shtml>

Tom was raised in Burns, Tennessee, and is a graduate of Montgomery Bell Academy (Nashville), UT (Knoxville), SWBTS (Fort Worth, Tx.). He has made Lee presentations at many middle Tennessee historical societies and Sons of Confederate Veterans camps, at the Southern Festival of Books (Nashville), at the CSX National Credit Association Convention (Nashville), at the Renaissance Center (Dickson, TN), at the First Annual Cumberland Civil War Heritage Days (Clarksville). In January 2008, he was invited to present "Lee" in Richmond, Virginia, at the Robert E. Lee Birthday Celebration (sponsored by the Friends of Stratford--Robert E. Lee's birthplace).

Tom currently lives in Montgomery County with his wife, Judy and two of his three children (Dana Carol, Thomas III, and Rebecca Lynn).



The meeting will start at 6:30. Refreshments will be served until 7:00. All members and guests are invited.

Genealogy: Where you confuse the dead and irritate the living

Chapter 12, The Transition, from "The Life and Times of Ann Walker Heathman"

- submitted by H. George Pitt

During the summer and fall of 1935 B.F. and I spent time together whenever holidays would permit; in fact, it began to be evident to both of us that the time we were apart was pretty sad and wasted. We corresponded daily and began to look forward to our life together.

I traveled to Ashland City by bus for the last part of my Christmas vacation in 1935. One night as we started out for the evening, B.F. made a mysterious trip by his office and opened the safe. I had been taught not to ask questions. Later in the evening as we sat down by the rushing waters of historic Sycamore Dam, B.F. gave me my lovely diamond engagement ring - what a precious and exciting time.

I passed my happiness on to the family the next morning at breakfast. I was to learn later that they already knew.

This is a good spot to introduce B.F.'s family, all of whom would be so dear to me in the following years.

His father was a most remarkable and versatile man. He was known fondly in local circles as Uncle Ben. To us he was Papa. Papa was trained as a mortician when he was in his early twenties. For a long time he was the only licensed embalmer in the area. By natural bent he was a gifted builder. He and the boys: B.F. Chambliss and Harwell, built many of the houses in the county.

At various periods he owned a hardware store and a flour mill in addition to his contracting and embalming business. Papa was a very spiritual man. He loved the Lord and spent many miles and hours preaching to the hill people who had little access to churches. Although he was never a wealthy man, he gave generously to worthy individuals and causes. I've been told that Papa was a natural musician and often preformed in local band concerts and minstrel shows. Papa had a wealth of anecdotes and impersonations with which he often entertained us around the table or fireside.

B.F.'s mother, Maude Chambliss Heathman had died at the age of fifty-two before I knew the family. Her sweet personality, loving nature and industrious habits left an imprint on her family that was often evidenced in their behavior, conversation about her, and her keepsakes that they cherished. I have often wished that I might have known her.

Papa's mother Mammy Heathman (Emma Ned Etta Cage Heathman), was a loved and honored member of the family until her death in the summer of 1936.

B.F.'s sister, Pauline, and her husband, Noble Gunn, had come to live in Ashland City during her mother's illness. After her death they continued to live there, making a home for Papa, Mammy and the boys.

Pauline and Noble's children - Anita, Pat, Ben and James were handsome, smart and well behaved. They seemed much like B.F.'s brothers and sisters. Chambliss, three years younger than B.F., made the tenth member of the family that I was soon to join.

Harwell, three years older than B.F. and his family, wife Lillian and their children Jimmy, Jean, Maude Ann and Edward, lived over the hill. The families were loving and close-knit.

When the time came for me to leave for Mooringsport and classes as usual, something happened that I still have trouble believing. I received a telegram from Mr. Walker, my principal. He said he would teach my classes if I wanted to stay two more days. I was delighted. Mr. Walker had taught for Mr. Middleton in Ida when B.F. was going to high school there and I think he was really interested in our courtship.

The wonderful Christmas vacation came to an end as all things must. I boarded the bus and left for Mooringsport to show off my diamond ring and resume my job.

Glennie had come to Mooringsport to teach in 1935-36 and we enjoyed rooming together at the home of Gladys and Aston Chichester.

February 22 was a long weekend for government employees. B. F. and I met in Memphis and were married. A cousin James Carl Chambliss, who was a medical student there, and a friend Mary Ethel Tucker, who had traveled to Memphis with B.F. were our witnesses. We knew a Presbyterian minister, Dr. Millard, who had formerly served a church in Louisiana. This provide sort of a compromise for us, a Baptist and a Methodist. We shopped for a wedding ring and

license and were married at the Manse on February 22nd. We sent a telegram to the folks at home and joyfully found a place to share our wedding supper: Porter House steaks for less than a dollar each. On Sunday we returned to our respective jobs. It would be an accurate statement to say that my heart was not in my schoolwork- not completely anyway. Early in March our friends gave us a lovely bridal shower. I received many beautiful dishes, silver and linens to be packed for my move to Tennessee early in June. It was fun and exciting, but not without a note of sadness. My heartstrings were firmly attached to the folks at home. They hated to see me leave, AND I had mixed emotions.

In mid April B.F. came to Memphis and I met him there for Easter weekend. Our house was being built and he was busily getting our furniture. We were to occupy all but the display room of the house that was his dad's partner's mortuary. This gave us a living room, bedroom, kitchen, dining room and bath. The display room was for caskets, but this did not disturb me since there was a separate rear entrance for the bereaved families to enter and select a casket.

B.F. made our big kitchen cabinet and corner cupboard for dishes. They are still strong and white in our basement laundry today. He bought our stove and refrigerator, bedroom suit and furniture for the dining room. I was so excited as I read B.F.'s letters describing the things he had bought or made for our house on Cumberland Street.

By early April it had been confirmed that we would need a baby bed before the snow flies in the fall. Pauline had a well used one so that was no problem. I felt great and we were happy. The Lane Cedar chest that B.F. had given me for Christmas was full and the trunk that had carried me to Liddeville in 1929 was loaded to go to Ashland City in 1936.

B.F. was in Mooringsport for commencement exercises. I said my goodbyes and we home to say goodbye to my family and load our 1936 Ford and I do mean load it. Even after shipping the trunk and boxes we had a load. We left early Sunday morning. This was a day of mixed emotions; leaving my life-long home and family to begin a new life in another state with the man I loved. There was sadness but I was excited and very happy.

We arrived at our new home after midnight. Family and friends had everything in place, even bacon and eggs in the refrigerator; but, would you believe, we showed up a Pauline's for breakfast. I shall always remember preparing breakfast on Tuesday. I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I would cook breakfast every morning for the rest of my life. Somehow it hit me like a ton of bricks and I have done just that, but I soon learned to take it in stride - no big thing.



On the second row on the right is Ann Walker Heathman. Also in the photo is future Ashland City doctor J. P. Glover and his future wife Frances Nicholson. On the front row next to Miss Nicholson is Mrs. Pinky Hudgens Christian who was in Pauline Heathman Gunn's first class at Possum Trot School.

A Brief History of the Marrowbone Community— *submitted by Greg Poole*

Immigrants landing in Pennsylvania, Virginia and the Carolinas eventually traveled through the dark forests of Kentucky, through the Cumberland Gap or Northern Georgia into the hills and plateaus of Tennessee. They traveled with oxen pulled wagons, carts and pack mules. The weary settlers finally reached the beautiful hills and valley of the Marrowbone lying between two steep hills with flat ridges. Marrowbone Creek meanders through the valley. In places it is shallow enough to walk across, in other places deep enough to swim. It served as a summer bath for dusty youngsters and hard working farmers. Children could skate on the ice which formed in the winter.

A narrow dirt road followed the creek, perhaps a buffalo or Indian trail in the beginning. It was dusty in dry weather or covered with mud when rain came and the creek was up, causing travelers to go around, cross over sand bars, or trek through fields. In the 1930s a new road was built above the flood area.

The earliest settlers to arrive were Timothy Demonbreun, John Stump, Enoch Dozier, John Hamilton and Braxton Lee. Some had been granted many acres of land in the Marrowbone area by North Carolina for war service. They sold some of this land to other settlers. Wilson Crockett, who fought in the War of 1812, was given a grant in 1817 for "land on the waters of Marrowbone Creek." Other early settlers were William Crockett, William Catoe, John B. Demonbreun, Jacob Bennett, Joseph Simpkins, Elijah Carney, Vincent Carney, Thomas Farmer, Thomas Williams, William Cagle, John Casey, Thomas Hickman, Asa Adcock, Elizabeth Bennett, the Reeves and the Abernathys. Others were John Carney, William Carney, Jess T. Carney, Joshua Carney, Asa F. Carney, Ennis Braxton Carney, the Taylor's, the Johnson's, Dennis Dozier, Cordy Peoples, Wilson Gower, Robert Heaton, George S. Allen, Green Allen, and Jacob Maddox Mayo.

When they came, they found dense virgin forest and the lumber from these forests provided homes, barns and a source of income. Numerous sawmills in the area were put to work supplying nearby Nashville with building material and walnut or cherry for fine furniture. Thousands of crossties were produced to build the Tennessee Central Railroad in 1901. A.J. Mayo furnished many walnut logs from his place on Hydes Ferry Turnpike and Marrowbone Creek. In 1904 Mr. Mayo leased 165 acres to J.R. Henderson for prospecting, mining, developing ores and other minerals. The lease was sold to the Nashville Carbon and Oil Company in 1914, who later sold it to Durbon Paint Manufacturing Company until 1920.

When Cheatham County was formed the Marrowbone area was taken from Davidson County and designated as part of the new county.

On March 24, 1914, A.J. Mayo gave six acres of land, close to the road, to the Cheatham County Board of Education for a school. This school closed in 1956 when students went to Ashland City schools.

Several men from the Marrowbone fought in the Civil War, Joshua Carney had three sons return, one of them because a Bible in his pocket stopped a bullet meant for his heart. Jesse Davis, W.W. Carney, Spencer and Sam Demonbreun sacrificed their lives. During World War II, thirty-one Marrowbone men served in the armed forces. They were: Wilson and Roy Carney, Lewis and Clay Carney, Aubrey and James Goldtrap, Clayton and Marshall Johnson, Frank and Jim Leslie, Charles and Fred Neuman, William and Arnold Simpkins, Clyde and Hugh Dozier, Herbert W. and Charles Taylor, Jeff, Jim, Mary and Paul Garner (Paul was killed in service), Bruce Hutton, Herman Taylor, Kenneth Wayman, Tom Williams, Herbert Biggs, John D. Davis Jr., Elmer Allen and Albert Brizendine. Some continued to serve their country in wars after World War II. Jesse Ray Mayo and Robert Taylor were in the Korean War. Donald Edward Mayo is a veteran of the Vietnam War. Others not mentioned here are unknown to the writer.

The beautiful Marrowbone Lake was completed in 1942. It is at the headwaters of Big Marrowbone Creek, Little Marrowbone Creek and all their tributaries.

Four churches were established early in the Marrowbone Valley. On December 21, 1839, Asa F. Carney transferred to John Demonbreun, Dennis Dozier, Cordy C. Peoples, Wilson Gower and George S. Allen, trustees for Charity Meeting House on Marrowbone Creek, one and a half acres for use by any church. The transfer also says "including said meeting house or church" which indicates a church already existed. Robert Heaton started many churches in Cheatham County and kept a journal of baptisms he performed at the Charity Church in the early 1800s. A copy of his journal is in the Cheatham County Historical Association Library.

The Union Church included the Freewill Baptist, the Methodist Episcopal and the Church of Christ. Around 1950, members of the Church of Christ decided to build a church on property given by William W. Simpkins.

In recent years Marrowbone may have become the fastest growing community in Cheatham County. In 1994 the city limits of Ashland City was extended to the Davidson County line, and in 1999, Highway 12 South became a four-lane highway. Submitted by Elwin Mayo Norris (*From Cheatham County, Tennessee: History and Families*)

William H. Lovell

It is not to the soldiery, with its pomp, parade, glitter and clash of arms, not to the politicians, with their noisy oratory and fiery declamations and invectives, that American liberty will owe its preservation and perpetuity, but upon such a person as one of whom we now write.

William Harrison Lovell was born on Sam's Creek, in Davidson County, Tennessee, May 14, 1810. (The territory is now a part of Cheatham County). His father, John Munroe Lovell, was born, September 1, 1777 in North Carolina, and moved to Davidson County about the commencement of the present century, and settled, after marrying Susanna Pack in 1808, on Sam's Creek. He resided there about two years, then moved to Pond Creek, and lived there until his death, which occurred in 1856. He was a justice of the peace, a representative farmer, a member of the Methodist church, and a good man.

William H. Lovell resided with his parents until 1833, when, on April 4, he married Miss L. Ruhama House, daughter of John C. House Esq., who came to Davidson County in 1814 from near Raleigh, North Carolina. She was born September 13, 1813. About two years after their marriage Mr. Lovell made a purchase of a portion of his present homestead, and they moved to the place on the waters of the Harpeth River where, after forty-five years of useful and contented life, they now reside.

To the small farm of ninety-three acres with which he commenced his home life, Mr. Lovell has from time to time added in various ways, until his real estate at this writing amounts to about two thousand one hundred acres.

Mr. Lovell has always been an admirer and ardent supporter of the political doctrines of Jefferson, Jackson and other champions of the Democratic Party, and cast his first vote for Andrew Jackson in his first candidacy for president. He was elected justice of the peace, and held that office for several years, and has, from time to time through his whole life, held various other offices and positions of honor and trust.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Lovell have for over thirty years been consistent and active members of the Methodist church, and have always liberally aided the causes of Christianity and morality. Their children are: Susan P., who married Rev. John A. Cox of the Methodist church (he died in 1874, leaving several children); Thomas R. (deceased); William W. (deceased); Caroline T.; Charles B., who served throughout the late Civil War in the Confederate service; John H., Carroll M., who graduated in medicine at Vanderbilt University, and is now a rising physician; and Nancy E.

Caroline married J.A.J. Shelton, who was in the Confederate service in the late war, and was killed at the battle of Atlanta, Georgia in 1863. Mrs. Shelton died in 1862, leaving two children, Emma and Ida, who were taken home by Mr. and Mrs. Lovell, and cared for and reared as their own children. *From Clayton's History of Davidson County* (Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis and Company, 1880) pg. 487

Judge Nathaniel Baxter

Nathaniel Baxter was born November 13, 1812, at the Narrows of the Harpeth River, in that portion of Davidson County, Tennessee, now included in Cheatham County. He is of honorable English ancestry, his great-grandfather emigrating to Maryland in the early days of that commonwealth. From thence his descendents went to Virginia and North Carolina. In this latter state, Jeremiah Baxter, father of Nathaniel, was born in 1777. He removed to Davidson County in 1809, and settled near Nashville. After two years' residence, he removed to that place where Nathaniel was born, and died in 1833.

Nathaniel moved with his parents to Maury County in 1831, and attended Jackson College in that county, during the years 1834-1835. In 1836 he commenced to read law in the office of Hon. Edmund Dillahunty, a sound lawyer and distinguished judge.

In July 1836, Mr. Baxter enlisted for six months to serve in the Seminole Indian War in Florida, from which he was mustered out and returned to Tennessee in the spring of 1837. In September 1837 he was licensed to practice law, and only a week later married Miss Martha O. Hamilton, daughter of William Hamilton Esq. of Nashville.

On January 1, 1838, the young attorney opened an office for the practice of his profession in Columbia, but removed, May 1st, to Lewisburg, Marshall County, where he resided until the fall of 1842, losing, in 1839, his wife, who left an infant child, and marrying, in 1842, his present wife, Miss Mary L., daughter of Dr. John R. Jones, of Duck River.

In 1847, he moved to Nashville, and in 1852, he was offered the appointment as attorney-general for the judicial district including Williamson, Davidson and Sumner Counties. Instead he accepted a judgeship position

in the Circuit court of the same district. In May, 1854, he was elected for another eight years. After the war, Judge Baxter returned to Nashville and engaged again in the practice of law, continuing until the close of 1868. In 1870 he was re-elected circuit judge, and held that position until his term expired in 1878. Defeated for re-election, he returned to the practice of the law, in which he is now engaged. From *Clayton's History of Davidson County* (Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis and Company, 1880) pg.394

Jesse Henry Jordan

The paternal ancestry of Dr. Jesse Henry Jordan were Irish. They came to this country at a very early day and settled in Davidson County. His grandfather, Meredith Jordan, immigrated to Tennessee from North Carolina, settled within ten miles of Nashville, and engaged in farming. His father, Benjamin Jordan was married to Miss Louisa Brown. Their children were eight in number.

Jesse H., the youngest son, was born in Davidson County, March 24, 1838. His advantages for an education were not of the best, but by dint of hard study he was enabled to graduate at the Nashville University in 1864, with the degree of M.D. He began the practice of his profession at Sam's Creek, Cheatham County.

In November, 1865 he was married to Miss Nannie, eldest daughter of W.D. and Elizabeth (Cato) Simpkins. His first wife dying two years after marriage, he married for his second wife her sister, Miss Bettie Simpkins, September 28, 1869. Their children are: H. Shelby, Nannie B., Leslie, Willie D. (deceased), and an infant son.

W.D. Simpkins died May 13, 1871, at the age of fifty-five. He was the son of Orman A. and Nancy Simpkins, who were of the earliest settlers. Mr. Simpkins was a farmer and dealer in livestock. He was a most enterprising and public-spirited man, and successful in all his undertakings. From *Clayton's History of Davidson County* (Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis and Company, 1880) pg. 495

To forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without a root. – Chinese Proverb

CCHGA BYTES

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