

# CCHGA BYTES

The Newsletter of the Cheatham County Historical & Genealogical Association

## Cheatham County History Center Hours

Tuesday 12:00 - 4:00

Wednesday 10:00 - 2:00

Saturday 10:00 - 12:00

Call the CCHGA office 615.792.3623  
or email  
[cheathamcountyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:cheathamcountyhistory@gmail.com)

CCHGA newsletters are snail mailed or emailed to membership in March, June, September and December. If you would like your newsletter sent to you in an email, notify us by sending an email to [cheathamcountyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:cheathamcountyhistory@gmail.com).

### 2019 CCHGA Officers

Lisa Walker  
President

Patrick Smith  
Vice President

Rosemary Klein  
Secretary

Gary Chance  
Treasurer

Lisa Walker  
Assistant Treasurer

Clay Walden  
Member at Large

## July 11 @ 6:30 PM Program Meeting CCHGA's Clay Walden Honors Cheatham County Veterans and Middle Tennessee with WWII Presentation

To honor the 75th anniversary of D-Day 6 June 1944, the largest amphibious operation sometimes known as the turning point of WWII, Clay Walden, a 4 year member of the Cheatham County Historical & Genealogical Association, will host an overview program of WWII. Highlights of the WWII program will:

- honor those who served during World War II and their families back home supporting the war needs;
- discuss soldiers training and maneuvers in Middle Tennessee during the period 1941 - 1944 and
- also discuss soldiers fighting major battles on foreign soil during WWII.

Mr. Walden served 26 years of active duty in the U. S. Army during the period 1965 - 1995. Tours included Vietnam and Desert Storm. He is a proud member of CCHGA, and thankful for the opportunity to be a part of CCHGA's veterans' "Wall of Honor". He is also proud to be a veteran working on the future Cheatham County Veterans Park, which will recognize all of our great heroes.

For 50 years, Mr. Walden is married to Katheryn Harrison Walden. He is a member of the Sycamore Chapel Church of Christ and has been a resident of Pleasant View, TN since 1990.



James Thomas Stack  
WWII  
Tail Gunner with 321st Bomb Group

## T.C. in Cheatham County, Special Dispatch to The American.

The Tennessean-August 25, 1903

ASHLAND CITY, Tenn., Aug. 24 - The Tennessee Central Railroad Company is making every effort to complete the road for operation in the neighborhood of this place in as short a time as possible. About two hundred men are now at work on the road, including the Marrowbone Creek bridge, every available man being pressed into service. Two forces are working on the bridge, one on the piers, the other on the false work. Operations were not suspended Sunday, but work was carried on vigorously all day. A large force of men was brought down from the Nashville and Harriman line of the road, arriving Saturday evening on the Steamer Bob Dudley, and were put to work on Sunday. Chief Engineer R.F. Harwood is here personally superintending the work. He will remain here for that purpose until the track is laid through this county, and until Marrowbone and Sycamore bridges are completed. The false work at Marrowbone and the piers for the steer bridge were finished Sunday, so that the engine and construction train can pass over. The men at work on the Sycamore bridge, five miles below this place, struck for higher wages some days ago. Operations were suspended there until Monday last, when arrangements were made to resume. The work on the bridge is considerably behind, owing to the high water and washouts of last spring, but it is understood that the efforts of the company will be redoubled there and the bridge pushed to a finish at an early day. If the work is pushed from this time on, as is now being done, it will not be a great while until the road is completed and in operation through this county.

### A JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER EXPEDITION - GIDEON H. LOWE

On Friday, the 10<sup>th</sup>, December, 1847, having completed our boat, we started from Lowe's Wood Yard on Cumberland River thirty-five miles below Nashville; river high and rising fast. Here, perhaps, it may not be amis to give a description of our boat.

It is 32 feet in length, 12 feet wide and 7 feet high, with a brick chimney and two fire places. A partition making a parlour of 16 ft. by 12 ft. wide, the balance a kitchen.

We have a flag staff 18 feet high with a beautiful flag, with Bethel in large characters inscribed upon it; which is the name of our boat.

Edmond W. Vaughn, a member of Mt. Baptist Church, sixty years of age who is an old river man, is with us. We find that the Bethel is easily managed, and quite comfortable. Nothing of importance today, landed at night, having floated 18 miles.

After family prayer, retired to bed, slept comfortably.

**Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup>.** After morning prayer, we started, river still rising rapidly, drift wood running at such a rate that caused the navigation to be somewhat difficult, floated some 20 miles, disappointed in not being able to reach Canton, a small village on the river, where we expected to reach on Saturday.

Passed a pleasant night on board the Bethel.

**Saturday, 12.** River still rising rapidly.

Started, but finding it finding it dangerous on account of the drift wood, and raining. We hauled too; for the night.

**Monday 18.** Raining, river still rising. Drift running, high wind unsafe to put out.

Visited a family on shore, found them all religious; had a conversation with them, induced the man to accompany us to Bethel. Sold him and others who were present, sixty vols. Feel that the Lord is with us, and that he will prosper and bless the expedition.

**Tuesday, 14,** Snowing this morning. River very high and still rising, winds high. Compelled to remain where we are.

An old gentleman who lives in the neighborhood, and who has a large family of children, all religionles, with his son a lad, 15 years old; visited us. The old man who doubt is more than sixty years of age, spoke of his great love for reading; and the pleasure and instruction he derived from the same. Said he had "the Arabian Nights Entertainment" and that he received much moral instruction from reading it.

We proposed to change the character of his reading. Read to him the tract, Do you want a friend; he paid the most strict attention, and it was evident from his seriousness that he was much affected. He remained with us some time; and after purchasing.

Hall's scrip. H's "Baxter's Call", A's Alason two pact. Tracts and his son some four small vols, they left.

And we have made it a special subject of prayer that God's may bless the effort to the salvation of that man and his family.

**Wed. Morning, Dec. 15** deep snow, still snowing, river continues to rise slowly. Very high, danger of a general overflow.

**Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup>.** River yet rising, ceased snowing, but cloudy, cold and dreary. The inhabitants on the river, moving their families to the high land. Put out at 1 o'clock, landed at Canton at 5. Wind, high banks overflowed, saw a large house floating down the river since we landed. The inhabitants alarmed.

**Friday, 17, 1847.** Canton, small village on Cumberland River, Trigg County, Kentucky.

Heretofore been famed for intemperance and all manner of dissipation; two of the principle citizens infidels. Yet there are some excellent men here.

Circulated a goodly number of vols, and tracts. Sold Nelson and Evidences to one of the infidels, had a long conversation with him, prevailed on him to attend preaching today, seemed to be interested. Had a temperance lecture tonight. Got eight petitioners for a charter to organize a Division of the Sons of Temperance.

**Sat. 18<sup>th</sup>.** River yet rising, great destruction of property, fence rails, steam boat wood, corn fodder and houses still floating down the sea of waters that surround us.

Preached today at 11 o'clock. Much seriousness in the congregation, our infidel friend with us. Great excitement on the subject of Temperance – Another lecture to-night; seven others joined the petition for a Charter. Among whom was one of the liquor sellers of the , and one

of the infidels a man more than 70 years old who had always opposed the T. reformation; and had been a regular drinker, and has great influence.

**Sabbath 19<sup>th</sup>.** Preaching today at 11. Also at night. Congregation greatly increased, evidently deep concern among the unconverted; which was manifested by some in designating themselves publicly as seekers of Religion.

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup>.** Left Canton early this morning. No abatement to the waters, but increasing wing blowing hard waves; and drift running. Stopped 2 o'clock at a small place called Rockcastle; having floated some seven miles. Here we distributed some forty vols – First flat boat we have seen is here; a family going to Texas, old them some books and had a long conversation with them; found them all religious.

**Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup>. December 1847.** Started early, clear and cold. The whole country overflowed. Waters still increasing. The old settlers have no recollection of the rivers ever having been so high before. Property of every description passing.

Landed at a new place on the river. Co., Ken., called Dyersburg. Nearly all under water. Citizens in deep distress. Find the people wicked. No plan of worship. One young man enquired for playing cards. Said he wanted them merely to kill time. We gave him a close lecture on the shortness and importance of time, which we trust had a good effect. We sold him several volumes, and among the

**Wednesday Dec. 22, 1847.** Put out early this morning, very cold, wind blowing. Landed at Smithland, mouth of the Cumberland River at 3 o'clock; find the front houses on the river in the upper part of town, some three feet above water. While the back lands lower part are under water; the rivers still rising – The Ohio, is not so full as Cumberland. Distributed some 60 vols., and many this evening.

**Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup>.** River still rising, great confusion with the citizens; moving to and fro, seeking dry land. We commenced visiting from house to house, distributing the precious truth. We find the people are very wicked in general, yet there are some devout followers of the meek and lowly, even here.

We met with one man who keeps a book store, and sells the yellow covered trash; who was opposed to our selling books here, said he would put the law in force against us if we continued to sell.

We applied to the legal authorities and obtained written permission to continue. We have done so and find no further obstruction.

The Lord is for us, and who can be against us.

Walked down the street this evening, delighted to find groups of the people gathered together reading our books – an old man who was much engaged reading Baxter's Call, said to us, he was glad we came here for he had not witnessed so much reading in Smithlands for years. We feel encouraged. The Lord is evidently with us. And will prosper the enterprise.

**24<sup>th</sup>, December, 1847.** Find the people here very vain and wicked, busily engaged all day in visiting from house to house, distributing books, and conversing with the people, hope and

believe we have effected some good. We put 40 volumes in circulation today. River yet rising, and snowing again.

**December 25<sup>th</sup>, 1847.** Greatly annoyed through the whole of the last night, by the noise and uproar of the giddy, vain and wicked crowd who thronged the lane and very narrow street of Smithland in pretense of commemorating the birth of the Savior of the World.

But alas: They knew not what they did. Amid all their outrage and profanity, the Bethel, seemed to be a sacred place in their view, for no one of any indignity to its inmates. One young man, a sailor who left his home in New York when a little boy and went to sea and has never yet returned; called at a late hour of the night, with whom we had a long and serious conversation, and we are not with hope that the effort will be blessed to the salvation of his soul. This shall be our humble prayer. He purchased 5 vols. And left evidently deeply impressed upon the subject of his son's eternal destiny.

The Courthouse and all the churches, in the place surrounded with water; no place for preaching. Ceased snowing; very cold. The river still rising.

**Sabbath, Dec. 26.**

Very cold. Went four miles into the country, and preached to small congregation, evident signs for good. The people are unaccustomed to hear preaching; there is no church of any denomination within miles of this place, between the and Cumberland Rivers, consequently this is great destitution in that section of country. Greatly delighted, find the rivers slowly falling on our return from country.

To be continued in September Newsletter



The Braxton Lee Homestead Foundation, formed in June 2018 is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of Braxton Lee's original homestead in Ashland City, TN.

The Foundation's vision encompasses purchasing this 57 acres and the 208 year-old historic home it surrounds and includes establishing the Heritage Park at the Braxton Lee Homestead as beautiful environment for all ages. We want to bring the community outdoors to explore nature trails, learn old and new agricultural

practices in the community gardens, and enjoy sharing or learning at our outdoor artisan and cultural events with musicians, artists, and craftspeople.

Future plans include the construction of the Heritage Event Center at the Braxton Lee Homestead. Built as a barn style design, the Center is planned to be a large capacity venue with a commercial kitchen. We envision the center being offered for meetings, retreats, community gatherings, concerts, farm-to-table dinners, local history workshops and exhibits as well as other public events on the Homestead.

When you donate to the Braxton Lee Homestead Foundation you are joining with others to create a legacy in Cheatham County to leave for future generations.

### **Mark your calendars for upcoming CCHGA Meetings and Events!**

- June 1, 2019 - Museum Work Day 10:00 - 1:00
- July 11, 2019 / Program Meeting/6:30 pm/Cheatham County Public Library
- August 8, 2019 - Business Meeting/6:30 pm/Cheatham County Public Library
- September 12, 2019 - Business Meeting/6:30 pm/Cheatham County Public Library
- September 15, 2019 - Living History Cemetery Tour at Forest Hill Cemetery
- October 10, 2019 / Program Meeting/6:30 pm/Cheatham County Public Library
- November 14, 2019 - Business Meeting/6:30 pm/Cheatham County Public Library
- November 22, 2019/ Tentative Fall Bake Sale
- December/Office Closed/No meeting

### **Lee's Grocery and Bait Shop Submitted by Bobby Lee, CCHGA member**

Bobby Lee was born in a small house at the Mouth of the Harpeth River in November of 1942. Daddy later bought a large two story house that sat on the rise where the Corp. of Engineers day use area is now located. Cheatham Dam was under construction and the Corp. thought it was such a nice place they would like to build a recreation day use area there. After threatened with condemnation, Daddy decided to sell to them.

On 4/16/1949 we purchased, from Mary and J.H. (Hanie) Christy, what would become Lee's Grocery and Bait Shop. The Christys had been in the automotive repair business and the building had two huge wood doors that opened into what we later called the "blue room" for work bays. We took them down and framed the front in. I think Ed Speight did the work. We bought small parcels of land from Mrs. Edna and Mr. Weldon Gibbs and Mr. Daily Hall to make up the approximate seven acres we owned. Our water was from a well on the back porch. There was a rope with a pulley attached to the ceiling and a torpedo looking well bucket that you lowered in the water through the casing, pulled up the full container and emptied in your water bucket. The outhouse was behind the house.

We lived in rooms behind the store. There was a back door in the living room and the house was open underneath. One night there was a terrible dog fight under the house. Jack, our dog, who was a good squirrel and guard dog, was in a fight with Alvin Dozier's curs. Mr. Alvin and his family lived on Mr. Sherrill Dozier's place (now Bro. Goodpasture's). Daddy was so mad he got his pistol, which he called an "owl head". He was standing in the door yelling and shooting, I don't think he hit any of them but he stopped the fight and I don't remember them coming back.

We put running water in the house from a new well that Mr. England dug for us. The well was about 40' deep with 32' of standing water. He said he hit a "gusher". I think Mr. Melvin Edgin "switched" for the location. It was a really good well. We started out with jet pumps and did all of the repair/maintenance ourselves. When the submergible pumps came along they gave better service but were more difficult to pull out of the well.

Daddy added two bedrooms and a bath with a basement underneath. Ed Speight built Mom's cabinets. We hand dug the septic tank hole with a slip scraper and the jeep and laid concrete blocks for the septic tank. Mom had a wringer washing machine with two galvanized tubs on a stand in the basement and a clothes line in the back yard.

The first fish pool was along the side of the house; we later added a minnow pool across the back and another fish pool on the lower side next to the worm shed and covered it with a roof. We kept the fish alive, if possible. The catfish sold for .40 cents lb., buffalo .35 cents lb. and carp .25 cents lb. Many times we had two water facets running constantly, one on the fish and one on the minnows. We never ran out of water.



### **Lee's Grocery & Bait Shop**

Story to be continued in September Newsletter

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



**The house the Lee family lived in. It was torn down by Mr. Ollie Dozier after they moved.**

Email: [cchga007@bellsouth.net](mailto:cchga007@bellsouth.net)

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/CheathamCountyHistory/>

Website: <https://cheathamcountyhistory.weebly.com/>

**Cheatham County Historical and Genealogical Association**

**P. O. Box 703**

**Ashland City, TN 37015**