

CCHGA Bytes

The next CCHGA meeting is March 23, 2006 at the Cheatham County Public Library



2006 Officers

R.D. Huffines - President
Cleo Hogan - Vice President
Judy Mayo - Secretary
Betty Cannon - Treasurer

1856 - 2006
Congratulations to the County on its 150th Birthday!

Spring Social Update

Rick Hollis of Charlotte will be guest speaker for the CCHGA Spring Social on **April 27** at the Cheatham County Public Library. His topic is **Charlotte Patterson Turnbull**, a fresh look at the Iron Industry as it affected the Cheatham County area. Hollis is currently co-authoring a book on the Iron Plantations of Dickson County (including the Cheatham County forges) that should be available by the end of the year.

Hollis is a native of Charlotte and served as its Mayor (1989-93). He was instrumental in organizing the Dickson County Tourism Council, led the initiative for a new Public Library facility, guided the initial planning and funding process for a Local History Museum at Dickson, and chaired the Dickson County Bicentennial Commission. He was charter President of the Christopher Strong Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and founding commander of the Captain William H. McCauley Camp 260, Sons of Confederate Veterans. Active with the Dickson County Historical Society for more than 25 years, he routinely publishes newspaper articles about local history topics.

Refreshments will be served.

Historic Pleasant View Building

Opening for Business Again- *contributed by Lisa Walker Tinch*

On March 13, 2006, the corner of Highway 49 and Main Street in Pleasant View will be busier than usual when The Livery Stable Antiques opens for business.



The business, located in the historic Pleasant View Livery Stable building, is owned by new CCHGA members Tommy and Kelly Ellis. History states the Pleasant View building was a livery stable, seed, fertilizer and hardware store, later a garage and filling station, and also the home of Henry Chambliss who died in the late 1990's at the age of 100.

Visit the The Livery Stable Antiques which will be home to 32 booths of antiques with many dealers being Cheatham County natives.

Intersquad Football Game

- contributed by Lisa Walker Tinch

published in The Ashland City Times, Wed., May 2, 1956

Central High will end its spring football drills Thursday night at 7:30 with a game between the Red's and White's.



Coach Spangler divided the sides Monday and will be completely neutral for the contest as he put last years football captains in charge of the two teams. John Tucker will direct the Red's, while Hester Gibbs will guide the White's. Assisting Tucker and Gibbs will be Eldon Harris, Charles Boyte, Louis Evans, Larry Jones, and Douglas True. The game will be regulation, in every respect as officials have already been contacted. Coach Spangler doesn't know what to expect as he will have many boys playing who have only started this spring. He says: "The boys have worked hard," and he is enthusiastic over the way that the Freshman have looked up to this time. If the boys stay in good condition and all return in September we should have a fair season this fall.

The admission will be "free" Thursday night. Probably the starting lineup and substitutes.

News from the Communities - *contributed by Greg Poole*
Cheatham County 100 Years Ago, 1906

Mr. J.J. Bradley, one of Pleasant View's most prominent citizens died yesterday, aged 80 years. His death was caused by the infirmities incident to old age. Mr. Bradley was one of the leading merchants of Cheatham County, having been in the mercantile business at Pleasant View for about 24 years. He was buried at the Felts Graveyard with Masonic honors. *Nashville Banner*, March 18, 1906

Mr. John F. Murff and Miss Grace Lenox were quietly married at the home of the Rev. David W. Stack in South Ashland City yesterday in the presence of a limited number of friends. It was a Gretna Green affair. Miss Lenox is the daughter of Captain J.J. Lenox, one of the leading citizens of Cheatham County, while Mr. Murff is the junior member of the firm of Murff Bros., a leading firm of Ashland City. *Nashville Banner*, March 29, 1906.

The Negroes of Ashland City and surrounding county are stirred up over a woman claiming to have divine power to heal the sick and perform wonderful works. She preached Tuesday night to a large audience. She dresses in a peculiar manner and goes barefooted, thereby exciting the curiosity of the Negroes and drawing large crowds. She claims to have been in conference with Christ, thereby receiving the power to perform wonderful acts. *Nashville Banner*, March 29, 1906.

Kingston Springs Social News: Miss Minnie Baker, who was visiting the Misses Mabel and Rosa Marsh have returned from Nashville and Joelton. Mrs. C. Hayes has returned to Nashville. Miss Maggie Cunningham is here from Jingo visiting her sister, Mrs. L.W. Groves. Mr. and Mrs. J. Scott and family and niece, Miss Spann, are visiting relatives at Slayton, Tennessee. Little Rubie Pearl Marsh, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Marsh of Dog Creek,

visited Kingston Springs last week. Mr. George Greer and family left this week for Nashville, where they will make their future home. Mrs. Delia Hines of California is here to spend the summer. *Nashville Banner*, March 31, 1906.

Craggie Hope. To the public and the patrons of the Craggie Hope Hotel Company. We have recently secured the services of Miss Maggie Webber for the session of 1906, and until further notice please address all correspondence to the above at 413 Woodland Street, Nashville. Craggie Hope will be open to guests on June 15th. Telephone 4346-6. *Nashville Banner*, June 15, 1906.

Kingston Springs Social News: Mr. and Mrs. Tom Meeks of Nashville visited here. Miss Lillie Dunn has returned from Dickson. Miss Dixie Moss and Miss Lula Rustling have returned from Burns. Miss E.M. Page is in Nashville. Mrs. O. Fulgrum of Dog Creek is home. Mrs. Arthur Beard of Burns is visiting her parents here. *Nashville Banner*, June 2, 1906.

The General Store of Smith and Binkley at Lockertsville was broken into and the safe blown open with dynamite night before last. The burglars secured about \$40 in silver, but overlooked \$100 in currency, which was in the safe. About 2 o'clock in the morning, a neighbor, Mr. Page was passing the store and heard the explosion. A man was standing in the door, evidently on guard, and Mr. Page, thinking it was the clerk, spoke to him, but was ordered to move on, or he would be shot. Page went to the home of Mr. Binkley, one of the owners, and they returned to the store, but the robbers had gone. For some days three strangers had been loafing about the place and are supposed to be the guilty parties. *Nashville Banner*, June 28, 1906.

The new Methodist church at Kingston Springs was dedicated Sunday. Rev. W.H. Johnson of Dickson preached the dedicatory sermon, Rev. W. Bouldin of Charlotte and J.R. Reeves of White Bluff assisted in the services. About 1,000 people attended the services to whom a splendid dinner was served. *Nashville Banner*, July 10, 1906.

Madame Dimell, one of the contortionists of an amusement company which exhibited in Ashland City last week, met with a painful accident tonight while being pinioned to a board by butcher knives thrown by her husband. One of the knives struck her foot, cutting off three of her toes producing an injury from which she will not soon recover. *Nashville American*, May 8, 1906.

Dempsey Demoss, one of Cheatham County's oldest Negroes died last Sunday at his home near Nashville. He was an old slave, who belonged to the late Mr. J.S. Demoss, who died several years ago. His body was buried Monday at the old Demoss burying ground by Mr. J.W. Demoss of West Nashville and Messrs. T.H. and R.C. Demoss of Dozier, Cheatham County, who are the sons of the late J.S. Demoss. *Nashville Banner*, July 14, 1906.

At a picnic given at Zion, in the Second District of Cheatham County, Saturday, Hershell England, aged 13 and Herbert Demonbreun, aged 14 years, engaged in a difficulty over some trivial matters, resulting in England stabbing Demonbreun in the left side, inflicting a wound which it is feared will prove fatal. England was arrested and was placed on a \$500 bond. *Nashville Banner*, July 30, 1906.

CCHGA Donations:
**Thank you
Tracy Robb!**

Two Cheatham County Legislative Petitions- *contributed by Greg Poole*

(The following petitions sent by Cheatham County citizens to the Tennessee General Assembly were the earliest found in the Legislative Petitions. ed.)

August 1, 1857. To the Legislature of Tennessee now in session, Greetings, we the undersigned citizens of Williamson County, State of Tennessee residing in the northwest corner of said county, respectfully pray the Legislature to change the lines of said county so as to include us in the bounds of Cheatham County, and becoming a part of said county.

Boundaries beginning at a stake in the east boundary line of Dixon County line and at the Williamson and Cheatham County corner thence south 45 degrees east with said county lines to the Williamson County corner, about 10 miles thence west until it will strike Dixon County line, cutting off a piece of Territory from Williamson County in the shape of a V, containing an area of about 25 square miles. Your petitioners will ever pray,

William Sears	B.A. Clardy
G.W. Clardy	R.P. Harrison
William R. Carroll	Thomas Wright
James McCrory	Thomas M. Hale
Isaac Greer	Thomas Jones
Lindon Nall	William J. Deal
William Thompson	D.T. Thompson
L.E. Thompson	E. McDonald
John J. Dortch	James T. Clary
John Roberts	John Underhill
Williamson Wall	H. Wall
J.T.H. Buttrey	John O. Lad
John H. Lad	William H. Lad



1859 To the Members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Tennessee, Gentlemen: Your petitioners, being citizens of Dickson County residing on the east bank of Harpeth River near its mouth, would most respectfully ask of your honorable body to so change the Boundary line between Dickson and Cheatham Counties so as to attach all that portion of Dickson County, situated on the east side of the Harpeth River to the county of Cheatham.

Your petitioners at the session of 1857 and 1859 made application to the Legislature of Tennessee praying to be attached to Cheatham County through their representative, but from his negligence either wilfully or unthoughtfully, the petition was not brought before the Legislature until it was too late to act upon it.

This neglect on the part of our very Honorable Representative, though a small matter to him, is nevertheless a great grievance to your petitioners. To show you the justice for our petition, we would state first, that we are during Winter months and high water so himed in and water bound, that it is almost impossible to attend or get to our present county seat. Second, were we attached to Cheatham County, the most remote one of your petitioners would be within Two hours easy ride of Ashland City, the county seat. Third, situated as we now are, it is a hard days ride during Winter months and high water to cross the Harpeth and reach our present county seat. Fourth, knowing that the Legislature is intended for the general good of all, the few as well as the many, and we having but few, and that by attaching us to Cheatham County, you would confer on us an invaluable benefit without inflicting the remotest injury to anyone else.

This being the simple facts of our case, we do hope you will regard our petition favorable and attach us to Cheatham County, where geographically we naturally belong.

A.N. Stroud	George W. Hiland	Wesley B. Harris	Henry Stewart
John White	William C. Smith	M. Hiland	A. X (his mark) Pack
Israel McLaughlin	J.B. Russell	Isaac Russell	William Weakley
Israel McLaughlin Jr.	G. McLaughlin	Burrell Jackson	J.T. Collier

Today's Picture of County School Transportation

- contributed by Lisa Walker Tinch
Published in The Ashland City Times, Wed., May 2, 1956



Today's picture of the Cheatham County Schools transportation system is in contrast to the early methods of transporting pupils to school.

One of the earliest public school conveyances was a covered wagon drawn by horses. This wagon type of transportation was started around 1920 and served the area Bethlehem. A little later, a truck with seats made of rough lumber replaced the wagon and the route was extended to the Bearwallow area. Year after year other trucks and buses were added to other areas of the county.

As schools were consolidated and more of the county was being served, still more buses were added. These buses were privately owned and the school Board paid the owner and the driver of the bus on an annual bid basis.

The Board of Education purchased the school buses in the early 1940's, Drivers were hired to drive the buses and the county paid for the upkeep of these buses which were serviced and repaired at the local garages and service stations.

Another change came about when the county highway department moved over and permitted the bus repair work to be done in their quarters. At this time each driver was responsible for the repairing of his bus, with one of the drivers as 'main mechanic', and the gasoline was purchased from the Highway Department.

More progress was evident when the buses were serviced and repaired in one of the Cheatham County Fair Buildings located on the campus of the Ashland City School, and a fulltime mechanic was employed. This shop was moved into the old cannery building just behind the High School Building. Gasoline tanks were secured and placed near this shop for the convenience of the drivers.

At present the county has a fleet of 22 school buses and a well equipped garage which is located near the school, but away from the play area. Every section of the county is being served with these buses.

The present list of drivers of the school buses include: Louis Dozier, W. E. Mayo, Elmo Carney, Dan Jenkins, Doris Winters, R. D. Drake, B. W. Read, Earl Johnson, Leslie Lovel, Dorris Weakley, Elias Harris, Sidney Fambrough, Elva Binkley, J. A. Whited, Doris Sawyer, Horace Street, Cliff Butler, Fred Shearon, John Henry Greene, Tom Bell and Theodore Stringfellow, and Mechanic Lewis Perry.



Condolences to CCHGA member **John Haywood** on the death of his mother, Georgia Nicholson Haywood.



Thank you CCHGA member **Mary Ellen Lewis** for sending some old photos to be published in celebration of Cheatham County's 150th birthday! If you have photos which can be identified and would like to publish in local newspapers, please contact Lisa Walker Tinch, Cheatham County Historian, at countyhistorian@bellsouth.net or call 615.202.5369.

Letter to the Editor – *contributed by Lisa Walker Tinch*
published in The Ashland City Times, Wed., May 2, 1956

Word comes to me that my old home county of Cheatham is celebrating its one hundredth anniversary. As an old ex-citizen of Cheatham, who spent many of the most active years of his life in Cheatham, and who still has a number of friends and kinsmen within its borders, I rejoice with you in the multitude of blessings which a Creator has lavished upon you and your forefathers in the century of your existence as a county. For about a third of that century, I was a recipient of those blessings. Although the proverbial wolf was some times howling around my domicile, and frequently sniffing around my door, those were happy years. Like most all other doting husbands I had married the best and sweetest little girl in the county, and we, with the children God had given us, were quiet happy. Cheatham county was our home, and we never thought of any other until we were middle aged; and even after we changed homes we never ceased to love old Cheatham.

I am confident that the greatest happiness that comes to most individuals is the satisfaction of knowing that he had made at least a small contribution to the advancement of his home community that through his labors that community has been made a better place in which to live. While a good many years of my life in Cheatham were devoted to farming and church activities, during which I trust I did some little good, my most worthwhile contribution of the welfare and advancement of the county was in the educational field. I began teaching in the fall of September. I taught nineteen years, in nine different communities, and in six civil districts. Two of the schools, Sweet Home, and Bearwallow, I taught only one year each. Six of them I taught two years each, and one, Cheap Hill, I taught five years. If I possessed any outstanding attributes they were strict discipline, coupled with kindness, aptness to teach, a genuine love for teaching, and honest work by teacher and pupils. Although my qualifications for teaching would be considered inadequate for the present day, I take pride in the fact that my reputation was second to none in county when I left Tennessee. Teaching has always come natural with me. I came of a teaching family on my mother's side. My grandfather, Wash Justice, taught school in Nashville when a young man. He had some brothers who were teachers. Once upon a time some man pointed to a school building on the road between Cheap Hill and Neptune and said the house was built especially for Uncle Elbert Justice, my grandfather's brother. My mother was a very successful teacher in her younger days.

Fifty years ago teaching was not a paying position by any means. Salaries ranged from ??? to forty dollars per month, and assistant teachers received even less. Some years later salaries were increased to fifty dollars for principals of two-teacher schools. Fifty dollars was the highest salary paid country teachers when I left the county the last of 1916. Terms were about five months.

Back when I began teaching most school houses were uncomfortable, and poorly furnished - inadequate lighting and poor ventilation, no modern furnishings or conveniences what-so-ever. The curriculum or course of study was largely elective, resulting in multiplicity of classes and much unnecessary work for the teacher. It was before the day of the Uniform Text-book Law, and all sorts of books were brought to school by the pupils. But there was one redeeming feature: we had McGuffey's readers, Ray's arithmetic's, and a few other good text books. How we accomplished as much as we did is a wonder. But we did the best we could with what we had.

I close with the words of a great Tennessean: "May the spirit which sustained our ancestors through the vicissitudes of fortune ever animate the future generations of Cheatham countians, and may the glories and virtues which they inherit from the past be their inspiration for the future."

G. W. Mitchell

Champion for Unusual Names - contributed by Lisa Walker Tinch
Published in The Ashland City Times, Wed., May 2, 1956



The writer of the article below thinks Cheatham County may be the champion in the state for names, unusual. Fred Boyd is the composer of the article which should give Cheatham County this distinction;

The name of the county itself Cheat'em is suggestive, and then we have a name for every type of person. If one loves pleasing scenery, what more suitable place could be found than Pleasant View; to the quiet family man we have Sweet Home; if one takes to the higher altitudes we can give them, Mt. Zion, Sunrise Bluff, Sidneys Bluff, or Pinnacle. For those wishing to be near sea level, we recommend Water Valley. If the prospective settlers love animals and likes to see them in action, we have Possum Trot, bear Wallow and if he brings along a dog we can supply Marrowbone. For the Woodsman we suggest Poplar Ridge, Hickory Ridge and Sycamore, and for those on a diet we suggest Half Pone. Bachelors would like to visit Lillamay and then go down to Petway perhaps but if of Scotch nature they would prefer Cheap Hill. If despondent we suggest one take New Hope, and for drinking water we have Good Springs, Blue Springs, Sulphur Springs, and Kingston Springs. However if stronger drink is preferred we have, Whiskey Hill and Still House Hollow, and for the total abstainer Dry Fork, would be ideal. To take care of the different dispositions we have provided Happy Hollow, and Fussy Road, all horse traders know Slick Hollow. If one's name is either, Dowlen, Binkley, Harris, Thomas, Chapman, or Lockert, we can send them right on to a place bearing their name.

CCHGA BYTES

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