



# CCHGA BYTES

Cheatham County Historical and Genealogical Association

P. O. Box 703, Ashland City, TN 37015

Phone 615-792-3623

cchga007@bellsouth.net

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

## 2003 CCHGA

### OFFICERS

R. D. Huffines  
President

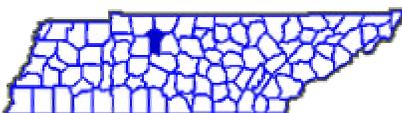
Earl Nixon  
Vice President

Jim Allen  
Secretary

Betty Cannon  
Treasurer

Many thanks go out to **Judy Mayo** and all the members who assisted her for working so hard on the annual meeting! Photos of the event can be found at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~tncchga/>

The Cheatham County Family History Book produced by the Cheatham County Historical and Genealogical Association and published by Turner Publishing Company is available through CCHGA at P.O. Box 703, Ashland City, TN 37015. Cost of the book is \$65.00 plus \$6.00 shipping and handling or \$71.00 total cost.



### To Whom It May Concern:

There will be a special called meeting of the board of directors for CCHGA and members, on March 27, 2003. Meeting will be held at 5:30 PM.

This will be before the monthly meeting, and purpose of meeting will be to consider changes, corrections, and deletions to current by-laws.

Meeting will be held in the CCHGA office. Regular meeting to be held after called meeting

Sincerely,

R. D. Huffines, CCHGA President

(Current by-laws are posted at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~tncchga/>)

**A Cheatham County Census Record (1891) - submitted by Greg Poole**

Continued from last issue

### District 1

R.T. Roger	George Douglass	Dick Taylor
George Taylor	Robert Demumbra	B.C. Crockett
J.W. Mayo	T.W. Walker	W.J. Edward
E.M. Elliott	J.M. Allen	G.M. Simpson
W.R. Simpson	F.M. Simpkins	J.D. Casey
J.W. Simpkins	W.C. Sanders	W.M. Simpkins
William W. Sanders	Lee Tyler	Josh Lenox
J.N. Arrington	J.E. Sanders	H.J. Binkley
W.J. Stewart	T.J. Miles	Paul Perry
A.J. Newland	William Eatherly	G.W. Read
Bud Shearon	W.H. Williams	Isaac Shearon Sr.
Isaac Shearon Jr.	T.F. Abernathy	A. Eastridge
J.B. Boyte	Ben Fikes	T.N. Perry
Mark Sanders	Dick Edwards	Nelson Edwards
Ephraim Boyte	John Perry	Eli Harris
George Shaw	John Patten	James Perry
Sol. Wall	B.B. Binkley	John Binkley
W.C. Hooper	R.W. Norwood	T.B. Gunn
James Johnson	William Boyte	David Newland
Henry Patterson	J.B. Smith Jr.	W.R. Hudgens
Robert Sanders	J.B. Krantz	E.N. Maxey
W.T. Sanders	J.W. Sanders	James Eatherly
Sam McMillan	Enoch Read	Thomas Work
James Shepard	Isaac J. Long	J.L. Hatfield Sr.
J.L. Hatfield Jr.	Will Knight	Abe Edgen

(This concludes District 1. We will begin District 2 next issue. ed.)

**Genealogical Notes - submitted by Greg Poole**

(Some Cheatham County obituaries from early Clarksville Newspapers)

- Barton, Dawin E.** Aged 82 years. Died July 9, 1865 in Cheatham County. *Clarksville Weekly Chronicle*, July 14, 1865
- Barton, Lemuel** Aged 70 years. Died July 6, 1865 in Cheatham County. *Clarksville Weekly Chronicle*, July 14, 1865.
- Barton, Robert** Aged 72 years. Died January 7, 1862 in Cheatham County. *Clarksville Weekly Chronicle*, January 31, 1862
- Bigger, Eliza** Mrs. Eliza Bigger, aged 61 years, died April 14, 1869 suddenly. She lived on Paradise Hill Turnpike, near the Cheatham County line. *Clarksville Weekly Chronicle*, April 17, 1869.
- Collins, Anthony** Anthony Collins, aged 64 or 65 years old, died December 5, 1860 in Cheatham County. *Clarksville Weekly Chronicle*, Dec. 7, 1860.
- Davis, J. Benjamin** J. Benjamin Davis, aged 35 years, died October 19, 1887, of consumption at Pleasant View. He was a brother to Joseph Fowlkers. Interment was at Little Hope Baptist Church. *Clarksville Weekly Chronicle*, Oct. 22, 1887.
- Evans, F.S.** Dr. F.S. Evans, aged about 35 years, died August 7, 1866, of flux in Cheatham County. *Clarksville Weekly Chronicle*, Aug. 10, 1866.
- Gupton, Abner** Abner Gupton, aged 102 years, died August 26, 1859 in Cheatham County. Interment was in the family burying ground. *Clarksville Jeffersonian*, September 14, 1859.
- Gupton, Robert** Mr. Robert Gupton died October 22, 1866 at his home in Cheatham County. *Clarksville Weekly Chronicle*, Oct. 26, 1866.

To be continued next issue

**Life at Sycamore Mills: Oral Interviews with Three Residents - submitted by Greg Poole**

*(The following three interviews were conducted by Louise Davis, a historian and writer for the Nashville Tennessean. Although written in shorthand, these notes provide interesting glimpses into life in the Sycamore community. The three interviewees were: Mrs. James Frazier, Harry Nichol and Jess Darrow. ed.)*

**Mrs. James Frazier**

From my childhood, my earliest memories were of big wheels turned around in big wooden tubs, making sulphur, which was ground up fine.

Major (Edward Castner) Lewis died February 13, 1917. Samuel D. Morgan, was the contractor. He was the same person who built the Tennessee State Capitol.

Vanderbilt chemistry classes visited Sycamore regularly to see how powder was actually made.

At its peak, 100 families lived there. One school was nearby, Millwood Institute, located 4 miles from Sycamore. They were going to make it a military academy...got one building finished...Civil War came along...stopped all work...then workmen lived there...

Sweet potatoes and turnip greens for the workers grew in the fields back of the charcoal kiln...charcoal baked just like bricks in a kiln...she and her sister would pass the charcoal kiln to go to the commissary... would select sweet potato, give it to the old Negro at kiln...he would then bake it, and ready for us when we came back through...turnip greens and sweet potatoes were free to all the workers.

One old mule named "Mollie" carried soda to the charcoal house...would stop at sulphur house, then all along the narrow-gauge track, stop at each place for loading and unloading...he did not have to have anyone to guide her.

In the terrible blow of 1898, one man was killed, five hurt. Our house shook, the explosion was heard all the way to Nashville...doors blew open, windows broke, blew roofs off..."Mollie" was blown into the sweet potato patch. There were so many blows in the houses where powder was stored, they had tin roofs that would blow off. Major Lewis had that worked out, where each roof had hinges, when it blew, it just blew against the rock wall, and did not blow off.

The company used to have a six mule team on steady route between Sycamore and Nashville. Would drive to Nashville one day and return the next. After 1896, the company began hauling it to Ashland City, and from there by the company's own boat. I used to come up river on the boat. I remember the beautiful bluffs. My father used to say they wouldn't even find a tiny piece of them if that boat blew up...but I never felt danger.

I remember the workers' houses were in lines on a perfect square...Methodists and Christian congregations had services in the same church...they were called "distracted meetings" because of the shouting.

Major Lewis' father came to Tennessee in 1832 to work with Montgomery Bell and others in the iron works...made short cannons, mortars for the navy...The union army captured Lewis and made him watch the burning of his iron works. This made his son (E.C. Lewis), then aged 14, so angry that he threatened reprisal, talked boldly. The Union officers came and asked for "Stickly" Lewis, they wanted to arrest him as a spy. They told his parents to get him out of the area, so they sent him away to school. He eventually graduated as a civil engineer. He won the nickname "Major" that stayed with him all his life...Seemed right for him.

### **Harry Nichol**

My family was originally from New England...I remember the hum of the mills was like music...so peaceful...The mills never stopped except from Saturday midnight to Sunday midnight...the mules stopped then too...They cooked sulphur in great vats...put saltpeter in...then in the kegs...Mollie carried it to the next place, the charcoal house...until finally it reached the press house...made buck shot, duck shot.

The mill wheels were 2 enormous iron wheels, higher than a man's head...connected by a bar of iron 4 feet long...rims 2 feet wide...wheels were part of 8 pairs...made in Woolwich, England...for Confederate States...they ran the blockade, coming into country at port of Mobile, on the steamer "Spray." They were sent to Augusta, Ga., and were used by the Confederacy from that time to the end of the war.

### **Jess Darrow**

I am 69 years old. I was blowed down once, but not killed, just blowed out of my mind. I worked in the press house. My father worked there 35 years. My sister's husband was killed there in the big blow of '97. I remember the big blow of '97...We lived in a house on the farm across the field...a big stone blew through the roof...It would have blown our house down, I guess, except that bluff shielded it.

When I grew up everyone was happy...we worked for \$1.50 or \$2.00 a day, but you could get a sack of flour for .40 cents and a pound of bacon for .5 cents.

Our quaint little school was on the hill with gingerbread trimming around the windows and doors. On the other side of the valley is a ridge where old Millwood Institute building is still standing...It has been used as a home for years...Mr. Littlefield lives there now.

In one big blow, a brick building was destroyed...left a hole in the ground big enough to put a building in...brick flew in all directions.

We had a grist mill and a ice house, between rock pillars...we supplied ice for all the neighborhood...a footbridge across the creek let children cross over to school, which sat high on a hill, across the road...Jack Boyd, a lawyer, says he used to have a pop stand on Sunday afternoons down by the bridge that Major Lewis built...Nashville Sunday picnickers would come by the hundreds...Then later, in the 1920s, swimmers would come and swim under the bridge...farmers from 15 miles around would come stand on the bridge and bank to watch women in bathing suits...best show in the county...now in Ashland City they can see women in shorts any day.

They had a big blow one day, a man was blown across a field...when they got to him, he was sitting on the ground, in a daze...half his chin and mouth were gone.



*The cotton dress and bloomers pictured above date from 1900 to 1920.*

(The following letter was sent by Samuel W. Adkisson of Cheatham County to Governor Andrew Johnson. Samuel W. Adkisson, 1803-1875, was a Virginia-born mechanic, farmer, stonecutter, and turnpike builder. At an early age he helped build the tunnel through the Narrows of the Harpeth River. In 1860 he claimed \$5,000 real and \$35,000 personal property. Although Adkisson and his wife, Virginia-born Nancy Forian, 1815-1866, had six children, probably only two, James, born ca. 1845 and Samuel, born 1852, were at home in 1863. Thomas J., 1837-ca. 1886, was a Confederate soldier in Company E, 11th Tennessee Infantry. ed.)

Cheatham Co., Tenn. January 16th,  
1865, 20 miles west of Nashville on the  
Charlotte Pike,

To Govr. Johnson,

Dear Sir, I hate to aske favours or to intrude on the time or attention of others, & have not been to see you but once in 3 years & then to let you know about some bridge irons and timbers that was in Harpeth River near my place.

Though as some of the U.S. Solgers have commenst taking my crop & stock again, I have concluded to let you know alittle as to how I have acted and been treated for the last 3 years. When Govr. Harris left Nashville, I put my self to some trouble & expence in trying to get my friendes to submit to the laws of the U.S. or go South, & have continued to do so, & there was little or no damage don near me untill last December. I have taken 2 oathes & given one bond for \$5,000, with security, for good behaviour, for which they gave me an obligation for full protection or pay for the damage don me. signed by you and Genr. Rosecrans. I think if you put your name to such a paper, I think you should know how some others have been acting, & will state some of the facts for you to think about, (I had heard that many others both black and white was intruding on you & I thought I would not.)

The U.S. solgers have taken or distroyed the most of 3 of my crops of corne, fodder, hay, oates, potatoes & turnipts, about 120 hogs, 4 mules & horses, some sheep & cattle, fowls, 3 bird guns, & other things. My fences have been burnt to the ground 5 times, parte of my slaves was made to leave me & work for the government. Of the 8 slaves that went to Nashville 7 is dead, & the other one wants to returne. 3 times my self and familey was made to leave the house about mid night in December 1863, & to stand about 2 houres on the cold wet ground, & 2 of us sick with phisick in us, my house has been robbed 5 times & I got back what little of what was taken. & I had to send my wife and children, mares and colts over the Cumberland River, & my wife health & mind has remained in abad condition & she with doctors in & out of Nashville, most of the time. At one time they put fire to my house, & swore they would burn us or get \$5,000, which put my wife & children nearly to fits. At another time they took me & parte of my children in the darke & shot at me, & treated my badley other ways. On the 30th of Nov/63 they bought 20 of my cattle, & gave me written orders to keep them. They then took all my oates, hay and fodder & left the cattle with me to Starve. Last fall the drovers put the beef cattle in my farme 5 times & distroyed part of my crops. I have fed many of the U.S. solgers & there horses at different times, at one time they remained 5 days due to high water.

For all of which I have received but \$125, & one little brokendown mule, though I am glad to say that the most of the U.S. solgers & officers that I have seen have treated me as kind & as well as I could expect & I hope you will do the same. Though it is not my wish to produce any more illwill or contention, for I can work & live on but alittle & will try awhile longer to comply with my oath & to get others to do so, & I think it would be well for maney others north & south to remember they are but vain men like my self, & subject to the power & will of God. Pleas forgive errours & what you may think amiss,

Yours very Respectfully, S.W. Adkisson, A mechanic

## Forest Hill Cemetery

Continued from last issue

Barnes, Edna H. b Aug 1, 1914 d April 21, 1976, same stone as Joseph R. Barnes (3,-,-)  
Barnes, Joseph R. b June 7, 1912 d June 1, 1983, Father, same stone as Edna H. Barnes (3,-,-)  
Batey, Dorothy Mae b May 15, 1934 d Oct 30, 1969, In Loving Memory, Mother, FS/sister Batey, Johnny Milton b Nov 17, 1929 d Aug 25, 1973 (3,-,-)  
Batts, Annie b May 28, 1872 d Nov 12, 1954 (2,-,-)  
Batts, Travis Earl FS/b Aug 30, 1938 d March 12, 1975, PFC US Army (3,-,-)  
Batts, Verner E b 1910 d 1967 (3,-,-)  
Beal, Wesley Allen b July 19, 1961 d July 24, 1997, In Loving Memory (3,-,-)  
Beckenbach, Tommy Joe b Aug 2, 1937 d Sept 12, 1992 (3,-,-)  
Belcher, Donnie, Jr. b Sept 28, 1981 d June 11, 1989, We miss you dearly (3,-,-)  
Belcher, Orvel D. b Feb 28, 1916 d July 23, 1993, CPL US Army WWII (3,-,-)  
Bell, Margaret Gibbs b Sept 28, 1900 d Nov 10, 1989, same stone as Mamie Gibbs Forline (3,-,-)  
Bellamy, Lee Emerson b May 15, 1927 d Dec 2, 1978, same stone as Roberta Rollins Bellamy (3,-,-)  
Bellamy, Roberta Rollins b Jan 12, 1926 d June 16, 1992, same stone as Lee Emerson Bellamy (3,-,-)  
Benedetti, Thomas F b Aug 4, 1898 d Nov 1, 1978, PVT US Army WWI (3,-,-)  
Billingsley, Margaret L. b. Dec 30, 1927 d. Sept 30, 1976, same stone as Tom Billingsley, FS/ Margaret L. Withrow, same dates (1,B,24)  
Billingsley, Tom B. b. May 10, 1925 d. August 18, 1963, same stone as Margaret Billingsley FS/Tom B. Billingsley, TN, SP3 US Army, same dates (1,B,24)  
Binkley, Albatina Laid to Rest on June 20, 1928 (1,-,-)  
Binkley, Alford b. June 13, 1904 d. July 2, 1905 (1,-,-)  
Binkley, Alice A b 1886 d 1978, FS/AAB, same stone as Louis N. Binkley (3,-,-)  
Binkley, Allen F. B Oct 29, 1883 d Dec 2, 1968, same stone as Lenora Stewart Binkley (3,-,-)  
Binkley, Cecil 1914-1992, FS/CB, same stone as Jerry Baxter Binkley (3,-,-)  
Binkley, Ella May b Oct 20, 1898 d March 22, 1960, In God we trust, same stone as Taz M. Binkley (3,-,-)  
Binkley, Elsie B. b Feb 7, 1915 d Nov 21, 1988, FS/EBB, same stone as Odell H. Binkley (3,-,-)  
Binkley, Emma Cochran b 1888 d 1979 (3,-,-)  
Binkley, Etha Linda b Aug 17, 1947 , "Infant" (3,-,-)  
Binkley, H.H. B. June 1, 1868 d. April 16, 1918, "Holy Bible Book Divine, precious treasure thou art mine" (1,B,15)  
Binkley, Mrs. Hattie b. Sept 19, 1870, d. August 28, 1946 (1,-,-)  
Binkley, J. Randolph b. Oct 3, 1918, d July 13, 1967, same stone as Lula Binkley, FS/J. Randolph Binkley, TN, CPL 411 ORD MED MAINT CO, same dates (1,A,12)  
Binkley, Jerry Baxter 1904-1968, FS/Feb 5, 1904 Sept 2, 1968, TN PFC US Army WWII, same stone as Cecil Binkley (3,-,-)  
Binkley, Jesse E. b. Dec 23, 1888 d. Jan 3, 1924 (1,-,-)  
Binkley, John R. b 1866 d 1943, same stone as Laura D. Binkley (2,-,-)  
Binkley, Laura D. b 1863 d 1951, same stone as John R. Binkley (2,-,-)  
Binkley, Lawrence "Cap" b Sept 27, 1915 d Nov 20, 1987 (2,-,-)  
Binkley, Lawrence E., "infant Lawrence E. Binkley" Sept 28, 1945 (2,-,-)  
Binkley, Lee W b 1887 d 1966 (3,-,-)  
Binkley, Lenora Stewart b April 16, 1881 d Nov 17, 1967, same stone as Allen F. Binkley (3,-,-)  
Binkley, Louis N. b 1888 d 1966, FS/LNB, same stone as Alice A. Binkley (3,-,-)  
Binkley, Lula Morris Taylor b. July 2, 1907 d. July 13, 1967, same stone as J. Randolph Binkley (1,A,12)



Continued next issue.....

**March 27, 2003 - CCHGA Meeting – 6:00 at CCHGA Office**

**Encourage your family and friends to join CCHGA!**  
**CHEATHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION**  
**P O Box 703**  
**Ashland City, TN 37015**

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- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15.00/year | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25.00/year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime \$100.00       | <input type="checkbox"/> 80+ Free            |

Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: include wife's surname before marriage if applicable. \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: HOME \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIFIC CHAPTER DESIRED:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ashland City                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Kingston Springs | <input type="checkbox"/> Pleasant View   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pond Creek & Lillamay/SamsCreek (PALS) |   | <input type="checkbox"/> At Large Member |

**Make checks payable to CCHGA**

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Ashland City, TN 37015**