

### 2012 CCHGA Officers

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*Welcome all new  
CCHGA Members!*

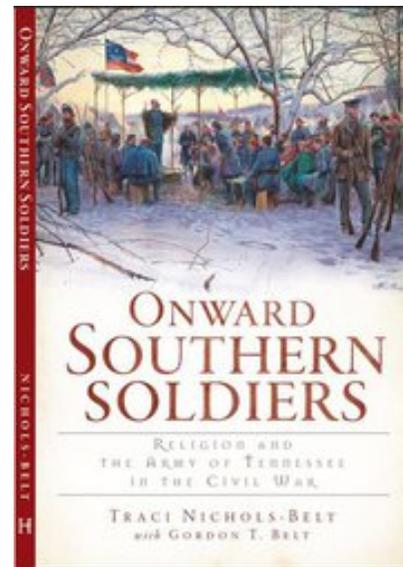
Mark your calendars for  
2012 CCHGA Meetings!  
All meetings are at 6:30 at  
the Cheatham County  
Public Library.

March 22 - Business Meeting  
April 26 - **Traci Nichols-Belt  
and Gordon Belt**  
May 24 - Business Meeting  
June 28 - **Meyers Brown from  
State Museum**  
July 26 - Business Meeting  
Aug 23 - Program Meeting  
Sept 27 - Business Meeting  
Oct 25 - Program Meeting  
Nov 15 - Business Meeting  
Dec - No meeting

CCHGA Editor: Lisa Walker,  
Cheatham County Historian,  
countyhistorian@bellsouth.net

April 26, 2012 CCHGA Annual Social and Program  
6:30 Cheatham County Public Library

At the **April 26, 2012 CCHGA Spring Social and Program Meeting**, we will be exploring "**Religion and the Army of Tennessee**" with **Traci Nichols-Belt and Gordon Belt**, authors of *Onward Southern Soldiers: Religion and the Army of Tennessee in the Civil War*. Their research focuses on the significant impact of religion on every rank, from generals to chaplains to common soldiers and uses diaries, letters, journals, and sermons. Books will be available for purchase. Refreshments will be served. All CCHGA members and the public are invited to attend.



Traci Nichols-Belt is an ordained and licensed minister and holds a master's degree in history from Middle Tennessee State University and a bachelor's degree in political science from Anderson University. During her academic career at MTSU, Traci worked for the Tennessee State Museum and wrote two National Register nominations for the Johnsonville Historic District in New Johnsonville, Tennessee, and the Historical AME Church and Cemeteries in Alexandria, Tennessee. Traci has also worked as a historical consultant and grant writer for the Clement Railroad Hotel and Museum in Dickson, Tennessee. Traci's article "Chaplains in the Army of Tennessee, CSA: Warring Disciples Carrying the Gospel" was published in the Winter 2004 issue of the Tennessee Historical Quarterly. Additionally, she wrote a review of Sam Davis Elliot's book, Doctor Quintard Chaplain CSA and Second Bishop of Tennessee for the Spring 2004 issue of the Tennessee Historical Quarterly.

Gordon T. Belt is an information professional specializing in local archives, historical research and government and public policy. He currently works as the library manager for the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and has written several articles for the First Amendment Center website on legislative issues and history. Gordon holds a master's degree in history from Middle Tennessee State University and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He is an active member in the Society of Tennessee Archivists and holds memberships in the Society of American Archivists, Special Libraries Association, National Council on Public History and the Tennessee Historical Society. Gordon is also the founding editor and publisher of The Posterity Project, an award-winning blog devoted to issues related to archives, history, civic responsibility and open access to public records in his home state of Tennessee.

Visit their website:

<http://posterityproject.blogspot.com/2011/08/onward-southern-soldiers-is-now.html>

## Cheatham County Central High School 1907 – 1950

(The following was written by Mrs. Effie Mae Barfield Fielder. Where there is an \* the information has been updated)

Cheatham County High School opened in the fall of 1907 and until 1912 was a three-year high school, grades 7 – 11. The building was located on Duke Hill behind the present Methodist Church and approximately 75 to 100 yards directly in front of the Charles MacMahan home. Mr. Z. A. McConnico was the first principal (1907 – 1911). The school was said to have had an excellent library, but the science lab was not too well equipped. Three foreign languages were taught: Latin, French, and German. Other subjects were English, literature, mathematics, science (including physics), history, geography, spelling, physiology, and public school music.

Some of the faculty members were very outstanding. Among them were: Mr. Albert Williams, a Vanderbilt graduate, who later became Judge Williams; Mr. John Neeley, also a Vanderbilt graduate; Mr. Willard Blue, who became a prominent Methodist minister; and Miss Grace Turner, a graduate of Randolph-Macon College. Three very capable local teachers should be mentioned: Miss Willie Bell Pardue, Miss Susan Pardue, and Mrs. Josephine Duke. “Miss” Josephine was the daughter of Professor Albert Link, one of the founders of Link School at Thomasville. Link School was a private school, the forerunner of the high school.

Mrs. Pearl Lenox Smith was the first and only graduate in 1909. Following is a list of all those who graduated from the old high school: 1909 – 1919. Graduation for the 1920 class was held in the new building.

1909	Pearl Lenox (Smith)
1910	Bettie Reeks, D. C. Pardue
1911	Katherine Jackson (Robertson), Blanche Lenox (McKnight), Grace Wilson (Wanous), Albertina Binkley
1912	(Became four year school) Helen Burkholder, Byrd Rhea, Hugh Binkley
1913	(All Boys) Bennette Brinkley, Theodore Boyd, Samuel Felts, Thomas Harris, Charlie Pardue, Robert Shivers, Vernon Smith, Otto Wilson
1914	Irene Shaw (Jackson), Jennie Jackson (Felts), Louie Moore, Willis West
1915	Lewis Sloan, Katherine Jackson (Felts) returned for 4 <sup>th</sup> year, Pauline Heathman (Gunn), Estelle Robertson, Gedie Shivers (Murphy)
1916	Agnes Brinkley (Frazier), Mary Fambrough (Reed)
1917	Denton Binkley, Maggie Patton (McWhorter), Thelma Stump (Fox), Mary Tennessee Turner (Sloan), Mai Wall, (St. Charles)
1918	Ira Dean Dozier (Shearon), Grace Hooper, Virginia Williams (Chambliss)
1919	Elizabeth Adkisson (Sloan), Virginia Pace, Adkisson Turner, Annie Myrtle Stump, Mary Pace
1920	Bessie Parrish (Jordan), Gladys Carter (Storrs), Lucille Heathman (Middleton), Floyd Jones, Hamilton Williams, Ira Sanders, Ervin Doughten

In 1916 the building burned. High school and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students met over Duke and Shaw Hardware Store, now Dollar General Store, and later in the court room of the Court House. During this period, 1916 – 1919, graduation exercises were held in the Missionary



Baptist Church located on the corner of North Main and Jefferson Streets. Grades 1-7 attended school in the three churches: Methodist, Church of Christ, and Missionary Baptist.

When the new building was completed in the 1920's the name was changed to Central High School. Perhaps the reason for the change was that there was a senior high at Pleasant View. The last class to graduate there was in 1926. In 1927 Pleasant View became a junior high, grades 1 – 10. At this time there was a junior high at Kingston Springs, grades 1-10. At some later date the school became Cheatham County Central High School.



The next building, the present elementary school, was completed in the summer of 1950 and opened that fall with Mr. A. O. Massey as principal. Mr. Massey became principal (Grades 1-12) in 1948 and served as high school principal until he retired in 1965.

The present school, located on High 12 north of Ashland City, opened in 1970 with Mr. Austin Baggett as principal followed by Mr. Nile Todd and Mr. Alvin Rose. Following is a list of all principals and the dates they served.

Date	Principal		Date	Principal
1907 – 1911	Z. A. McConnico			1945 – 1946
1911 – 1913	Albert S. Williams		1946 – 1948	R. E. Womack, Jr.
1913 – 1914	W. E. Everett		1948 – 1965	A. O. Massey
1914 – 1915	Willard Blue		1965 – 1967	Don Johnson
1915 – 1917	W. W. Turney		1967 – 1968	Thomas M. Capley
1917- 1922	G. M. Middleton			(Killed in car wreck Dec 1, 1968)
1922 – 1923	L. R. Wheeler		12/3/1968–5/1969	Ralph Spangler
1923 – 1924	A. T. Jackson			
1924 – 1925	H. D. Hunter		1969 – 1971	Austin Baggett
1925 – 1926	W. A. Lamb		1971 – 1976	Nile A. Todd
1926 – 1927	J. L. Hobgood		1976 - 1989	Alvin Rose
1927 – 1933	J. J. Hendrickson		*1989 – 1996	Tommy Pardue
1933 – 1935	Harry L. Law			*1996 – 1998
1935 – 1941	J. A. Barksdale		*1998 – 2005	Cheryl Richardson
1941 – 1943	J. H. Banks		*2005 – 2008	Teresa Leavitt
1943 – 1945	H. T. Nance		*2008 – 2010	Daniel Newton
			*2010 – Present	Glenna Barrow

**\*The names of principals from 1989 – present have been added to the list!**

Sometime during the time Mr. Hendrickson was principal (1927-1933) the high school was accredited and became a member of the Southern Association (either in 1930 or 31) and has remained so.

The first year book was a paper back booklet called The Bee and was sponsored by Miss Eloise Hunter in 1944. Mrs. Gladys Jackson sponsored the first ECHO probably during the late 40's.

Apparently there were no school colors in the early years, only class colors. Some year prior to 1923 purple and gold became school colors. Later they became maroon and white, and at present they are red and white.

Each senior class adopted a class flower, class colors, and class motto. Commencement week consisted of the Commencement sermon delivered on the Sunday preceding graduation with the three churches at the time rotating in choosing one of their outstanding ministers to deliver the sermon. Also during Commencement week there was a class play and class night during which the class history, class prophecy, and class will were read. Graduation night ended the week.

The first and only mascot has been Cubs. The date adopted is not available at this time.

The first gym was built just back and to the right of the 1920 building. It was constructed from surplus World War I buildings from DuPont (Old Hickory) about 1922 or 1923 and was heated by coal stoves. This was replaced in 1957 by the gym that is now the elementary gym.

According to Dr. D. F. Adkisson, a 1930 graduate, the first transportation furnished by the county was a horse drawn carriage driven by Mr. Ewing Sanders. It brought in high school students from Bethlehem. The date was approximately 1921. Prior to this time students who didn't live in Ashland City either boarded in private homes, drove a horse and buggy or rode horseback. At least two students rode the train.

The next mode of transportation, (approximately 1924 or 1925) was a truck with a cab and the bed enclosed with a long plank seat on either side. One of the first to drive a truck was Mr. Hammond Sanders. Another early driver was Mr. Joe Williams. By 1926 school buses were beginning to be driven in the county.

The above mentioned bussing dates are approximate.

The following information concerning the athletic program was obtained from the most reliable information available. Some dates are only approximate.

Prior to 1921 Cheatham County Central had no organized sports. Basketball became THE sport in 1921. The early games were played on an outdoor court, and later the auditorium was used as a gymnasium. As indicated earlier the first gym was not built until 1922 or 1923.

In the fall of 1921 Mr. F. G. Sorrells became both boys' and girls' coach, and by 1927 and 1928 the boys' team became Middle Tennessee Champions. Mr. Jack Glover (now doctor) and Robert Fort coached during the 30's and 40's. Mr. H. T. Nance served as both principal and boys' coach in the middle 40's.

A girls' basketball team was organized in 1921 or 1922 and by 1923 was competing with other area teams. By 1927-28 under Coach Dan Robison they had developed into a strong team. Miss Sadie MacMahan became girls' coach in the late or middle 40's.

In 1928, approximately, a football team was organized with Mr. Dan Robison coaching. Mr. J. B. Aiken became coach in 1930, followed by Mr. Archie Grant in 1935. From 1938 to 1950 football was dropped. In the summer of 1950 Mr. Paul Jones was hired as coach, followed by "Coach" Ralph Spangler in 1951. The rest is comparatively "modern history".

Source of Information: Mrs. J. N. Gunn, "Miss" Pauline, moved here from Pleasant View in 1908. I (Mrs. Effie Mae Barfield Fielder ) am indebted to her for most of the information from 1907 until the building burned and for the list of graduates from the first year 1909 – 1920.

## *Fannie Lou Barfield*

**Fannie Lou Barfield** was born November 16, 1903 in the Cub Creek Community across the river from Ashland City. Her father was **James Dempsey Barfield** and her mother was **Margaret Ann Pernell Barfield**. They moved to Ashland City when she was about 5 years old and she started school at 6 years old in the old school building on the hill behind the Methodist Church. I think Mrs. Ada Duke was her teacher.

When she was 8 years old, her sister **Effie Mae** was born. Before she (EFB) was old enough to start to school the school building on the hill burned and all the students were forced to go to different church buildings for their schooling. Fannie Lou went to the Methodist church and her sister to the old Baptist church in the northern end of town.

A new school building was completed in 1919 and was attended by all grades 1-12. She graduated from high school in 1923 and began her teaching career that fall. She completed her education by going to summer school at Ausin Peay College in Clarksville where she earned her B. S. degree.

She taught in several elementary schools in the county, including Cheap Hill, Neptune, Petway, Greenbrier, Bearwallow, Marrowbone, Ashland City and central High School. In Ashland City Elementary she taught the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. In high school, she taught her favorite subject.

At the age of 14, she was baptized into the Ashland City Church of Christ where she was a member for almost 77 years.

She and her parents lived in at least 6 rented houses in Ashland City, all of them on Main Street in the southern part of town. Her father was a rural mail carrier (Route 4 across the river and Route 3 north of Ashland City). He finally built a house on Lowe Street where she lived until the early 50's. She built a home at 105 Stratton Blvd. where she lived until the latter part of 1994.

She began to have health problems which were hidden from her sister for some time. She fell countless times and was unable to get up on her own. She eventually went to the local hospital with a broken pelvis, then to Kountry Manor, a residential home for the aged. She fell again and broke the other side of the pelvis, and returned to the hospital where she died of heart failure January 31, 1995. Her funeral was conducted by Brother Dan Harless, Jr. at Boyd Shearon Funeral Home on February 2. She was buried in the Barfield lot in the Forest Hill Cemetery.



Fannie Lou (age 12) and Effie Mae Barfield (age 14 months)



Written by Effie Mae Barfield Fielder, 1995.

**The CCHGA office needs volunteers to assist in running the office! Please call 615.792.3623 or email [cchga007@bellsouth.net](mailto:cchga007@bellsouth.net)**

## **The Link School** (from the CCHGA office files)

In 1900, a young farm boy persuaded Professor Samuel Albert Link, an experienced educator, whose family home was in Thomasville Community, to start a high school there. An elementary school, had been in existence for several years but many students desired higher "book learning".

That fall, twenty students began attending classes in Professor Link's room at his parents' big, log home. By Christmas, the room had to be enlarged to take in more pupils. Small tuition fees were charged but students sometimes traded work on the Link farm for "schooling".

By the fall of 1902, a two story frame building was constructed, with volunteer labor, on land belonging to William Booker Link. The site was on the hill opposite Mallory's Church.

Here students from a three county area were given religious, moral, and strong academic training in a core of subjects such as English, Latin, Greek, History, Geography, Algebra, Geometry, Mental Arithmetic and Physiology. This formed the basic organization of the first public high school, in Ashland City, a few years later.

The Link home served as a boarding house for many students. The school was from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with one hour free for lunch.

Sterling C. Brewer, son of the Rev. Sterling Brewer, a Methodist circuit rider, was married to Link's sister, Maizie, and became a teacher and assistant principal soon after the school opened in 1900. Seven other teachers shared the instruction of academic subjects as well as music and elocution for those desiring them.

This pioneer, private school lasted until 1907 when a state funded school appeared in the county.

The Link School had such a lasting influence on the lives of its 150 pupils and the community that even now, some 85 years later, reunions are held at Mallory's Church in praise and memory of its teachers and students.

**Visit CCHGA website: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tncchga/>**

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## **CCHGA BYTES**

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