

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

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 cchga007@bellsouth.net.

Condolences to the families of the following CCHGA members who have died recently:

Senator Douglas Henry

Sydna Dunn Allen

Bob Stephens

Jan Duke



At the February 2017 CCHGA meeting the election of new officers was held. In the photo left to right: Clayton Walden - Member At Large, May Lingner - Assistant Secretary, Lisa Walker - Treasurer, Patrick Smith - Vice President, Gary Chance - President & Assistant Treasurer. Not pictured Judy Mayo - Secretary.

Upcoming Events

April 13 - CCHGA Spring Social at the Cheatham County Public Library. More information on page 2.

April 22 - CCHGA will have a living history booth at Ashland City's River & Roots Festival at Riverbluff Park. Stop by from 9:00 - 2:00! More information at <https://www.facebook.com/ashlandcitytnevents>

May 11 - CCHGA meeting 6:30 at the Cheatham County Public Library.

June 8 - CCHGA meeting 6:30 at the Cheatham County Public Library.

Digging History The Old Link School Site

**April 13 CCHGA Spring Social Meeting
6:30 Cheatham County Public Library**

The Cheatham County Diggers will be presenting at CCHGA's annual Spring Social.

Everything has a story and what comes out of the ground tells the story. Nick Humphrey started detecting in 2008 and it soon became a hobby. He established Cheatham County Diggers in 2015 with his young son Robert and in 2016 was joined by his friend Jeff.

With over 30 digs under his belt, his favorite dig is the old Link School site. Professor S.A. Link established the Link School in Thomasville, TN around 1900. 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, Arithmetic and Physiology. This formed the basic organization of the first public high school, in Ashland City, a few years later. This pioneer, private school lasted until 1907 when a state funded school appeared in the county. The building then became an elementary school until the mid 1940s and was later torn down.

Nick states that holding the past covered in dirt makes you really appreciate the history of what had taken place on the site. He is happy to find Cheatham County history, one hole at a time.

Please attend and hear about the Link School, digging up history, view the artifacts and enjoy light refreshments April 13 at 6:30 at the Cheatham County Public Library.



Left to Right:

- Robert Humphrey shows a jack found at the Link School site.
- Nick Humphrey digging.
- Glasses found at the Link School site.
- Ms. Josephine McMahan, granddaughter of S. A. Link looks over items found.
- Ms. Josephine and Nick sharing stories.

CHEATHAM COUNTY.

**A Short Session of the Circuit Court—
Busy Farmers—Hon. John F.
House Among His
Constituents.**

To the American.

ASHLAND CITY, June 23, 1877.—Monday last, the Circuit Court for Cheatham county met at Ashland City, Judge James E. Rice presiding. Present: Hon. T. C. Morris, Hon. Jake Leech and Mr. Grigsby, attorneys of Charlotte; J. J. Lenox and S. D. Power, of the Ashland bar; and Col. Jo C. Stark and Gen. John E. Garner, of the Springfield bar.

By the way, Gen. Garner is the only living lawyer who was present when Hon. W. W. Pepper as Judge, A. J. Bright as Clerk, and E. G. Murphrey as Sheriff, in October, 1857, organized the first Circuit Court for Cheatham county at Sycamore Mills. Gen. Garner also made the first speech ever made in said county by an attorney, which was done on the trial of the case of Persons vs. Turner at Ashland, February, 1858. Hon. Jas. E. Bailey was opposing counsel in that case.

Well, last Monday found the farmers extremely busy in their crops—their wheat ripe enough to cut and their tobacco and corn pressing them. Accordingly, Judge Rice and the lawyers concluded to have a short court, which they did, by continuing all the docket, except the cases of two African gentlemen who had broken into jail. They were tried, and the jail emptied, and court adjourned Tuesday.

There was one other attorney present and he was from Clarksville. But he was not there to practice his profession, but merely to "circulate" among his constituents. I refer to the Hon. John F. House. He was called on for a speech, and for nearly an hour he "gave an account of his stewardship," and entertained and delighted "the sovereigns," as House only can. I had intended to report his speech, but beg to be excused. The fact is, nobody can properly report John House. And he himself is to blame for it, for he so magnetizes you that you are carried away by his eloquence and cannot think of stopping to get the thread of his argument and his appeals.

Suffice it to say, then, that he held his audience spell-bound during the hot hour of a monstrous hot day. He told them all about the Electoral bill and the Louisiana frauds. His manly, patriotic course as a representative of the people met the cordial, hearty and universal endorsement of the good people of Cheatham county. And that is all right.

But there is something still better in the way of news. And that is this: Everywhere the people of Cheatham county, both white and black, are hard at work in their crops, determined to practice the time-honored maxim, that "by industry we thrive." Good luck to them. Yours, as ever,

E.

Publication title: The Nashville American (1894-1910); Nashville, Tenn.

First page: 6

Publication date: May 13, 1905

LINK SCHOOL.

THOMASVILLE, Tenn., May 12.—(Special.)—Two of the finest entertainments ever seen in this region were given by the Link School Wednesday and Thursday evening. The school has ended with good spirits and a fine outlook.



Milton B. Knight
Cheatham County Sheriff

Publication title: Daily American (1875-1894);
Nashville, Tenn.

First page: 3

Publication date: Jun 26, 1877

The Memoirs of Ralph Spangler

Interviewer: Gary Pace, Transcribed in 2010 by Betty Harris

Now, first of all, I didn't want to do that because I stayed in the high school gym or football field or base field every minute that I had. So I was not interested in BGA and did not want to go there. But anyway, my father told Mr. Briggs that he would bring me and my mother to BGA when they went to Franklin. The more they saw of the school and talked with Mr. Briggs, the more they liked. So they said, "This might be the place for Ralph, Jr. to go." They came back home and decided to send me over to BGA. So I went. They carried me over and I stayed a week. Well back then the private schools, BGA, Castle Heights, Columbia, Military Academy, Baylor, and McCaulie, couple play post graduates; meaning if you graduated from a high school you come to BGA and play another year or if you played four years at BGA and wanted to play another year you could be a post graduate and play. There were in the old days what they called the Mid South Association. It was a very, very tough league because of all these post-graduates.

Anyway, they started fall practice a week early and we stayed in the dormitory. After a week, all I did was hold a dummy. I don't think they even knew my name. So after being there five or six days, I said, "I'm going to Manchester. I'm going back where I can play and know the coaches and the coaches know me." So I got on the Franklin Urban, which was the bus line to and from Franklin and got to Nashville and went to the Greyhound Bus Station and got on the bus to Manchester. The bus stopped in Murfreesboro for a short stop, so I called my daddy and said, "Daddy, I'm in Murfreesboro." He couldn't understand why I was in Murfreesboro. I said, "Well, I don't like this place. The coaches don't know me. I don't know them. All I've done is hold a dummy and I'm coming back to Manchester."

Dad said, "I'll meet you at the bus station." So he met me, and when he met me he didn't have a smile on his face. But he said "Let's go over to the restaurant and have something to drink." And we did.

I can just see him right now. I remember he had on a white shirt, short sleeves, and in the left side pocket he had a piece of paper. He said, "Now, tell me your problems." So I told him my problems. He said, "I've talked with the coaches on the phone since you called me. I've gotten you a ticket and here is your ticket to go back, and they will meet you in Nashville."

I didn't even get to talk with my mother. I think if I had gotten to see her I could have persuaded her to let me stay. But anyway, I got on the next bus and the coaches from BGA met me and carried me on back. And every day got better and you could have not run me way from BGA come my next three years. It was quiet an experience. I entered BGA in '42 and I was there for four years.

I was teamed with my good friend and close friend, Sam Reeks. At that time you never knew whom you were gonna room with because you didn't know any of the boys, so they just assigned you a room mate and you just went from there. Sam was my room mate and we became friends and that's why I'm in Ashland City now. It was because of Sam.

My coaches there were beyond their time. I wasn't that good of a football player, but I was well versed in the game because of them. As a matter of fact, we were the first team in the whole state to run the T formation. I remember Coach Akin took two of his assistants and went up to look at Delaware's T formation. They came back and brought it to BGA and I remember on

Sunday afternoon after they had gotten back, he called me over to his home and said, “I want to talk to you about your offense.”

Well back then, you either ran a single wing, a double wing, or short punt, some kind of a box formation, but had never hear of the T formation. He called three or four of the other boys and showed us what the T formation was like...how you lined up. We were just amazed at the formation. Of course, the next year in '45, we went undefeated. It was because of the T formation. Schools would run a 6-2-2-1. That was the start of the T formation for me. I played half-back and Sam played tackle. That was my senior year and the last game, they had scheduled it in Manchester, so here we go to Manchester and Manchester had lost only one game. The people really came out to see us play, and with me being a Manchester boy, that want to see what I was doing and how I was doing. And I guess that was the worst game I every had in my life. I fumbled the ball. I didn't make any yardage running the ball and it was just a bad night for me. But we won twenty-six to zero. So that's all that really mattered.

Having that good year helped me get an SCC scholarship which I would not have gotten if I had gone to Manchester. I guess you can say that I owe Battle Ground Academy for my being around the game of football, basketball, and baseball. I played all three sports there. I'm very appreciative of what they taught me academically and athletically. Ultimately, I owe my career and all this to my father and my mother, because they saw that was a lot of future in BGA scholastically and academically that I didn't see. I saw the coaches in Manchester and when I'd get out of calls, I'd go and watch the coaches and what have you. But I owe all my successes to BGA because they started me out.

As I said, the coaches were beyond their time. We had three excellent coaches: JB Akin (which was the head coach), James Shaw (who was an assistant coach), and Charles Rayburn (who was another assistant coach). I owe a lot to them.

J. B. Akin was not only the head football coach, he was also the basketball coach. We played as I said before, in the Mid South Football Association. It was real tough. It had Baylor, Chattanooga, and Swaney Military Academy. You had McCaulie, Tennessee Military Institute, Columbia Academy. You had Morgan Prep. You had Castle Heights. You had MBA. so you can see all of those schools with their post graduates, really you were playing freshman football. Some of these schools no longer exist. Well McCaulie, Baylor, Chattanooga are still at the top of the league. However Columbia Military Academy, Castle Heights over at Lebanon are all no longer. MBA certainly is still in existence. There were two other schools in Nashville that do not exist today: Duncan Prep and Wallace Prep were also in it. So it was a real tough league.

Dr. Dee Baker was also from Manchester. (Gary Pace's daughter used to work for him, and he told Gary that he and Coach were next door neighbors and he used to “shag balls” for Coach.)

To this Coach replied, “Well you know, I was, I guess 10 and he was about 6. So that was a huge difference in age between Dee and I. So anything we wanted done and didn't want to do, Dee was there and we put him on the run. But Dee and I were close friends and certainly enjoyed each other. Later, when he came to Nashville to practice, he was my doctor and also my mother's doctor. Of course your daughter was there and that was the first time I came to know her and that was because of Dr. Baker.”

Sam Reeks was responsible for my coming here. He graduated before me in December and he called me one day. They had hired him to be the head football coach for the high school. That was in 51. Mid spring, Mr. Reeks gave him the opportunity to come into the store with him and

Sam called me and said, "Dad wants me to come into the store as a partner. Come down here and get me out of a spot and take this job."

I said, "Sam, I'll be looking for a job before I come to Ashland City. Nothing there attracts me because I'd been down to Ashland City on some weekends while we were at BGA. Anyway, he said, "Just come and stay 'till Christmas." I guess I thought I was going to get a big time job. So I said, "Ok I'll just come and stay till Christmas."

I guess no other teacher has ever arrived in AC the way I come to Ashland City. Sam called me and, gosh, I was just out of college and I didn't have an automobile. So I hitch hiked from Manchester to Nashville. I called Sam and said, "Sam, I'm in Nashville. Come get me."

He said, "I can't come get you. I'm in the store and it'll be 6:00 before I can get away."

To be continued in the June 2017 CCHGA Bytes. On October 30, 2016,

Williams Cemetery on Highway 12 Ashland City

CCHGA members Charla Murphy from Illinois and Lisa Walker visited the "Old Doctor Glover" home on Hwy 12 going toward Nashville. Alan and Darlene Hamilton Baxter live there now. There is a cemetery behind their house which they have been cleaning.

Charla's Notes:

- Crockett, Wilson 12 Feb 1829 Warrant No. 9019, 300 acres of Marrowbone
- Warrant No. 17446 by No. 1203

James Crockett assignee of Wilson Crockett 120 acres on Marrowbone Creek & bounded...N. bank of said creek on east boundary line of William Hollis 640 acre tract... the meanders of the Cumberland River Bluff...to stake in Alexander Lewis west boundary line of 50 acre tract...stake in Binkley's line...18 May 1843

- 1850 Davidson Co. TN Federal Census

18/18 Wilson Crocket 61 Ky

19/19 W. B. J. Crocket 24 TN

Jane 21

M.J. 4 (f)

- 2 doors down from Wilson Crockett in the 1850 Davidson County, TN Federal Census:

20/20 William C. Cato 42 TN

Martha 29 (Martha Jane Peebles 1821, married 6 Jan 1839 William Cato Davidson)

Wm. 7

Thomas C. 6

(Thomas Cato married Sarah J. Lenox 10 Oct 1864 Cheatham Co)

Nancy 3

Rob 6/12

Lisa's Notes:

- Martha Peebles Cato was given 14 acres of land on Bull Run C., adjoining Thomas Simpkins, from her father Cordice "Cordy" Clifton Peebles 10/22/1866. Her mother was Elizabeth Lenox Campbell. She married William H. Cato on January 6, 1839 in Davidson County, TN.
- Martha Peebles Cato and William Cato had the following children: William Roland Cato, Thomas C. Cato, Nancy Cato, Martha Ann Cato and Elizabeth Cato.

Williams Cemetery Transcription

Row 1 left to right

Martha A. Lawrence wife Wm H. Cato
(no birth date) Died June 25, 1884

W. R. Williams (Broke off at top)
Born 25 Dec 1874
Died July 9 1881

In Memory of William H. Cato
9 Mar 1808 - 26 Feb 1873

In Memory of Thomas C. Cato
Born Ma? 20, 1815 (broken through
date) Died 18 Dec 1867

W. R. (Broken) Williams
Born Oct 1 1848
Died Aug 16 1881

Row 2 right to left

Footstone M. C. B. M E. B.

Headstone In Memory of Malinda C.
Bennett Born Dec 11, 1815

Departed this life August 11, 1841 also
(sic) her daughter Mary Elizabeth also
departed this life August 11, 1841

Martin Van Buren son of Mary and
Wilson Crocket was born April 16, 1838
He departed this life June 9th, 1838
Aged 2 months and 1 day

Female Child 2nd row for right

Row 3

(Footstone with trees growing around
it)

NSA

JOHANN JACOB BINKLEY - submitted by Charmaine Cochran Jamieson

According to ancestry.com, JOHANN JACOB BINKLEY, was born 1 Aug 1772, Monocacy, Fredick County, Maryland, USA. He died 15 December 1845 in Robertson or Davidson County, Tennessee. According to this same source, Johann ADAM BINKLEY (1744-1837) was his father, and Maria Magdalena Weller (1744-1826)`was his mother. Jacob Binkley went to Robertson County near Springfield, Tennessee. (p. 130, of Historical Facts of the Binkley Family, from the DAR publication, Tennessee Records: Bible Records and Marriage Bonds). Jacob married Miss Frey and they had 14 children. Jacob's younger sister, Catherine, married Henry Frey and his youngest sister, Sarah, married Peter Frey.

Johann Jacob Binkley had an older brother named Johann Jacob Binkley, born in 1767 and died in 1772. Jacob "Jake" was the first surviving son of Adam Binkley.

Adam Binkley was 27 and Jacob's mother, Maria was 27, when Jacob was born. John Jacob had eight sons and six daughters between 1792 and 1831.

To be continued.

**Cheatham County Historical and Genealogical Association
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