

### CCHGA Officers

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

October, November, December and January are designated new CCHGA membership drive months. Join CCHGA in October 2004 (for individual membership of \$15.00) and your membership will run until January 2006.

Your membership will include CCHGA's monthly newsletter and help go toward funding the new Cheatham County Museum.

If you have any questions, please contact the CCHGA office at 615-792-3623, Betty Cannon at 615-792-5205 or Lisa Tinch ([ltinch@bellsouth.net](mailto:ltinch@bellsouth.net))

### CCGHA 2005 Membership Drive

If you are currently a CCHGA Member and you refer 2 or more new members (new = never been a member since CCHGA was established) who join CCHGA and pay their annual dues between October 1, 2004 - January 31, 2005 in full, you will receive a certificate good for ½ off of your 2006 membership dues.

There is a "referred by" line on the membership application (download [http://www.rootsweb.com/~tncchga/cc\\_hga\\_app.pdf](http://www.rootsweb.com/~tncchga/cc_hga_app.pdf)) for your referral to write in your name.

Make sure to mention to them that it is important that they list you. You may also advise the President or Member Committee of any new members that you have referred to our association.

Exciting things are coming in the future. CCHGA is leading the establishment of the Cheatham County Museum in the lower level of the Cheatham County Public Library.

Dear Friend:

We haven't seen you for a while at our meetings, and hope you are well.

As you may have heard, we are closing in on having a Cheatham County Museum! Our last few meetings, and those upcoming, are helping us develop plans for our museum, and we are looking forward to your participation in planning and execution of those plans.

Our long-time members are all busy folks, but we hope you will find time to come celebrate these milestones in our Association at our regular meetings. Won't you put the Fourth Thursday evening on your calendar, and come join us at the Library, and join in the development of this objective of our Association.

If there are some permanent conflicts with your other activities, please let us know, so we can schedule another meeting to allow participation! We want to hear from you. We look forward to seeing you very soon!

Yours truly,

R. D. Huffines, President

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\*\*\*\*\*NEXT CCHGA meeting will be NOVEMBER 18, 2004 at the CHEATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY at 7:00\*\*\*\*\*

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### CCHGA Christmas Home Tour



Pleasant View, TN: Sunday, December 5 from 1:00 to 5:30. Contact Thelma Heflin for information at 792-4106.

## Two Cheatham County Musical Celebrities – Contributed by *Greg Poole*

**Gene Allison**, was born Versle Eugene Allison, August 29, 1934 at Pegram, Tennessee. When he was 7 years old, his family relocated to Nashville. He grew up singing in church and began working with professional quartets including “The Fairfield Four” and the “Skylarks.” He was still in high school when the “Fairfield Four” leader Sam McCrary used him as a session singer.

His first hit was “You Can Make It if You Try,” recorded in 1957. This song was a top 5 hit on *Billboard’s* list of top 40 popular songs. In 1958 Allison used the proceeds from the song to lease a restaurant at the corner of 17<sup>th</sup> and Charlotte Avenue. Gene’s mother took charge of the restaurant, which stayed in business for about ten years. He had some success with two other singles, namely, “Have Faith” and “Everything Will Be Alright.” Both songs charted in the R&B Top 20. Allison’s success faded in the 1960s, but he continued to record for several independent labels. Gene Allison died on February 28, 2004 in Nashville. His hit, “You Can Make It If You Try” was recorded in 1964 by the rock group, “The Rolling Stones.”



NEXT **CCHGA meeting** will be **NOVEMBER 18, 2004** at the **CHEATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY.**

**Redd Stewart**, was born Henry Ellis Stewart in Ashland City, Tennessee; the son of musical parents and reared in Louisville, Kentucky. He learned to play the banjo, piano, fiddle and guitar as a child, and then dropped out of school to perform in local bands. In 1937, Pee Wee King came to Louisville to play on WHAS and signed Redd as a musician with the Golden West Cowboys. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Redd was drafted into the United States Army and was sent to the South Pacific. While stationed there, Redd wrote “A Soldier’s Last Letter,” which Ernest Tubb recorded in 1944, making it a No. 1 hit on the country charts and crossing over to the Pop chart Top 20.

Redd appeared on the Grand Ole Opry until 1947. A year earlier, he and King wrote their first major success, “Bonaparte’s Retreat,” which was Kay Starr’s launch pad to stardom. Redd signed a lifetime exclusive songwriting contract with Acuff-Rose Productions. In 1948, King and Stewart wrote his most popular song, “The Tennessee Waltz.” They decided to write the song after hearing Bill Monroe’s “Kentucky Waltz” on the radio. In 1947, King, Redd and the ban moved to WAVE Louisville, where they had a weekly radio show and then later in the year, they transferred to WAVE-TV, where they had a television show until 1957. In 1951, Patti Page took “The Tennessee Waltz” to No. 1 on the Pop chart. It went on to sell over 1 million copies. The following year, “You Belong to Me” became a hit for Jo Stafford.

In 1965 “Tennessee Waltz” was officially proclaimed by Governor Frank Clement as the Tennessee state song. In 1972 Redd was inducted as a charter member of the Songwriter’s Hall of Fame. On August 2, 2003, he died at the Baptist Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee. In 2004, Redd Stewart was inducted into the Country Legends Hall of Fame and the Traditional Country Music Hall of Fame.



## A Letter from James Watts to Anna Berry Howe, 1851 - Contributed by *Judy Watts*

(This letter is from James Watts, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Betsy Jones Watts, to his aunt, Anna Berry Howe. These families were living in Davidson County, now Cheatham in the early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This letter gives an interesting commentary on the times and area before Cheatham County was created. By 1840, the Watts family had moved to the Thomasville area of what became Cheatham County. This family may still be found in Cheatham, Robertson, Montgomery and Davidson Counties. Again, much appreciation is due to Judy Watts, a descendent, who gave the transcription of the original correspondence. ed.)

Robertson County Tennessee  
September 10, 1851

Dear Aunt: I take the opportunity writing a few lines to inform you that myself and Elizabeth both have just got up out of a spell of the fever and just so we can begin to go about the room and the rest of the family is all well. Mother have been bad off with fever but is at present in as well as she has been in a good while. The rest of her family is all well. The relations at present are well as far as I know at present time. Hoping that these few lines will find you and all the relations in joy of good health. Mother had a letter in the spring which afforded her pleasure to hear that you were all well. Mother made me promise to write to you long since but the fashion? is in me and more thru neglect than anything else for it is not because I do not like to hear from you. We have had a great deal of sickness in our country and a good many deaths but no deaths among the relations except Cousin Joseph Felts' little helpless boy that lived at his grandmothers. He died this spring.

We have had fine crops of wheat and oats. Corn crops will be light here owing to the long drought. Our corn in this particular neighborhood is as good as any where I know of. Old corn has been worth from \$2 to \$2.50 per barrel all this summer. Bacon and lard scarce and the bacon worth from 10 to 12 ½ cents per pound, lard from 10 to 15. Very scarce. Flour worth \$4 to \$4.50 per barrel. There is a good many people talking of moving from this county to your state (Illinois) this fall. On the search of Egypt. I hope they may find it. Miles Harris starts Monday morning. Dempsey Morris' wife had been confined to her bed for 15 months tomorrow with disease. It seems to be unknown as the doctors seem most all to differ. She is now in all appearances no worse nor no better for 12 months. Old Tommy Eaton's wife died this spring and he sold his place to the Cato's and is going to leave that section this fall. So I learned at Nashville a few days ago from Lewis Williams.

A few years have changed our country more especially about Nashville. The wire bridge which hangs over the river on 16 long strands of wire made of many small ones the bottom of which is much higher than the top of the old one is to be torn down soon by a decree of the court. There is strong talk of rebuilding upon the same place of the new one. I think they will.

The steam cars is running to Nashville every day. The road will soon be complete from Nashville to Charleston, South Carolina. It has a good affect on our state. Our new state house is in rapid progress. When done will be, no doubt, the finest building in the United States. Macadamized roads are great coming in Davidson County. There is one from Nashville by Hyde's Ferry. The road is to run to the Sycamore waters by Edmund Hyde's and Hickman Ferry and down the river near ----- Eaton's place. The road is finished to Edmund Hyde's or below so I am told. I would like to know how far the railroad that is expected to run threw your state will come from your place. Please write me. I want you to come and see us all if you can. Tell the children that they must all come and see us all and one thing sure I want you and them to write often and I will I think write ones't every month if no more and you may expect it sure if nothing happens and I keep a living. I would like to hear if there are any Sons of Temperance in your town or neighborhood and if any of the boys or Mr. Lee belong to the order.

I would not wish to worry you with a long letter but as there is a good deal that you may not be able to read it will not be so long.

Let me know something about the prospect of pork in Illinois and if hogs are plenty and also beef cattle and the supposed price. Pork in Tennessee is bound to be high if there were plenty hogs owing to the scarcity of corn. As it is hogs and corn both scarce we will be obliged to go abroad for meat we have a short supply unless the railroad supplies us from East Tennessee. We had to bring hay from Cincinnati and corn from Ohio last year by way of steamboats. Where the people on White's Creek is to get corn is yet to be told. Some of the best land won't make half crops and sometime there oat crops were good and the first crops of hay.

Thomas W. Felts and wife have both been like to die this spring but have partially recovered. Uncle Howell Harris, Aunt Polly passed my house this spring, both well and well pleased with their move. I don't recollect of hearing of Uncle Mayfield's health some time but when I did his health had improved. I am obliged to come to a close for the (unreadable). I wish to be remembered to you all. James Watts.

## News from the Communities - Contributed by *Greg Poole*

**Cheap Hill:** Complaint is being made of serious misconduct on the part of irresponsible young men at Cheap Hill near Ashland City. A tent meeting is in progress there, services being conducted by Evangelists King and Lousy and large crowds are in attendance, chiefly people living within a radius of 5 miles. Bridles, saddles and harnesses belonging to these visiting worshipers have been found cut to pieces while the owners were attending services in the tent. There is much indignation over these outrages and the citizens are quietly investigating their source. *Nashville Banner*, September 6, 1911

**Thirteenth District:** Squire William Johnson of the 13<sup>th</sup> District of Cheatham County, died of old age. He was next to the oldest citizen of Cheatham County, being 99 years of age. *Nashville Banner*, September 9, 1911

**Thomasville:** Creation of an Odd Fellows Lodge at Thomasville, 1911.

This lodge shall be known as the Thomasville Lodge No. 258 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The lodge met on Thursday night of each week. The charter members were: W.D. Hicks, J.F. Pennington, R.J. Pennington, T.T. King, W.R. Harris, G.L. Jackson, R.A. Evans, T.E. Walker, A.D. Shearon, T.A. Lipscomb, T.R. Basford, J.E. Wilson, J.J. Boid, W.B. Winters, J.T. Winters, J.B. Basford, B.W. Watts, N.W. Watts, N.H. Watts, L.W. Watts, J.T. Walker Jr., J.L. Hudgens, C.W. Bracy, W.E. Allen, G.O. Nichols, E.B. Nichols, Griff Nicholson, W.F. Lawrence, C.M. Hunter, J.T. Suell, S.H. Swah, J.W. Pace, C.C. Page, T.J. Page, W.C. Owen, J.D. Mosier, B.C. Browning, B.F. Hyde, C.J. Winters, W.J. Fox, W.H. Hewett, J.F. Head, R.J. Walker, J.T. Walker, C.R. Lawrence, Jim Moore, W.T. Price, J.T. Morris, A.P. Pace, J.R. Barnes, Robert Hewett, W.S. Baggett, J.W. Deckard, E.N. Morris. From "The By-Laws of the Thomasville Lodge, No. 258, Thomasville, Tennessee." *Thanks to Judy Watts, Nashville, Tennessee for the contribution.*

**Ashland City:** At the last session of the Cheatham County Court, \$2,000 was appropriated for the purpose of constructing a bridge over Dry Fork Creek on the Hyde's Ferry Pike between Nashville and Ashland City. This ford has long been a source of much annoyance to the heavy traffic on this pike. The recent high water which cut off traveling on this road for nearly a month served to emphasize very forcibly the need of a bridge at this place. *Nashville Tennessean*, April 13, 1922

**Ashland City:** The body of James Farmer, 85, who died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Jim Williams in Nashville was brought to Ashland City to the home of his daughter, Mrs. Eph. Clark. Burial was at the Forest Hill Cemetery, Wednesday. He is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Jim Williams and Mrs. Will Williams at Nashville, Mrs. Eph. Clark of Ashland City and one son, William Henry Farmer of Woodford, Tennessee. *Nashville Banner*, January 23, 1920.

**Ashland City:** Our town was thrown into a state of excitement this morning when it was announced that there had been a jail delivery last night. J.M. Stewart, who was serving out his term for selling whiskey in violation of the Four Mile Law, and a Negro for disturbing a religious assembly escaped. Stewart was arrested last June and made his escape and was re-arrested in January last in Robertson County and was fined \$100 and sent to jail for 30 days. *Nashville Banner*, May 21, 1885

**Ashland City:** Major John Tyson has just returned from Evansville where he went to buy wheat. He will soon put his mill to full capacity.

Our merchants are laying in large stocks of goods and preparing for the spring trade.

Our clever and good-looking County Clerk, T.A. Turner and his estimable wife and daughter, Miss Mattie, went up to take in Nashville. *Nashville Banner*, May 21, 1885

**Ashland City:** Ashland City was this afternoon put in telephonic communication with Nashville.

The Hon. G.W. McQuary (ex-representative from Cheatham, Dickson and Houston Counties) died at his residence near Ashland City and was buried here today by the Masonic order. Mr. McQuary was an old and faithful public servant of Cheatham County almost from its organization. He was for eight years county surveyor, 12 years court clerk and two years representative in the legislature. Rev. I.B. Walton preached the funeral.

In returning from the burial, the horse of G.W. Winters of Ashland City became frightened and ran away with the buggy and threw Mrs. Winters out and bruised her up quite badly. Though no bones were broken, Drs. Walton and Dozier attended her. At this writing she is resting easy and no serious consequences are apprehended. *Nashville Banner*, June 7, 1885.

**Pleasant View:** General Anderson of Pleasant View runs an accommodation wagon from Nashville to Pleasant View twice a week. *Nashville Banner*, March 21, 1885

Duke & Shaw Registry of Funerals, Ashland City 1912-1938 – transcribed by *Greg Poole*

*Continued from last month*

257. Osborne, Edna Ordered by H.M. Osborne; 3 years old; flue; died March 2, 1920; buried Marcy 3, 1920
258. Binkley, G.W. Ordered by John Binkley; 86 years old; tuberculosis; died March 3, 1920; buried March 4, 1920
259. Osborne, Douglas Ordered by Frank and H.M. Osborne; 8 years old; flue; died March 9, 1920; buried March 10, 1920
260. Infant of John Justice Ordered by L.A. Hollis; still born; died May 3, 1920; buried May 4, 1920
261. Biggs, ----- (No first name given, ed.) Ordered by J.L. Moore; died May 8, 1920; buried May 9, 1920
262. Paschall, Mrs. Nancy Ordered by Mrs. Demoss; 67 years old; indigestion; died May 31, 1920; buried June 2, 1920
263. Elliott, Mrs. Jim Ordered by J.B. Jarrell; 57 years old; heart failure; died September 29, 1920; buried September 30, 1920
264. Rose, ----- Mrs. Ordered by W.C. and H.J. Rose; 93 years old; no cause of death given; died November 5, 1920; buried November 6, 1920
265. Rose, W.C. Ordered by H.W. Mayo; no age or cause of death given; died November 20, 1920; buried November 21, 1920
266. Rhea, L.A. Ordered by Dr. Med Cullum; no age given; heart failure; died November 26, 1920; buried November 27, 1920
267. Gupton, Rose Ordered by Cooper Gupton; 17 years old; typhoid fever; died November 28, 1920; buried November 29, 1920

*Continued Next Month.*

The Hallums Family Bible Record - Contributed by *Judy Watts*

*(The Hallums family bible was owned by Cecil Watts. At his death in 1990 it was given to Mr. James B. Hallums, County Historian of Cheatham County.)*

John Stewart Hallums, son of J.B. and Lucy Hallums was born 20-1852  
Charles Robert Hallums, son of J.B. and Lucy Hallums was born April 3, 1854  
Martha Amanda Hallums, daughter of J.B. and Lucy Hallums was born Nov. 30, 1856  
Lucy Virginia Hallums, daughter of J.B. and Lucy Hallums was born May 22, 1859  
James Baker Hallums died Wednesday, May 16, 1889  
Lucy Hatch Fentress died Saturday 7:20 A.M., March 12, 1898  
William Edward Hallums died Oct. 8, 1845  
Nancy Jenette Hallums Watts died Saturday about 6 P.M., Oct. 24, 1874  
Lovie Mortimer Hallums died Thursday 1 P.M., July 3, 1879  
John Stewart Hallums died Tuesday 10 P.M., Dec. 22, 1891  
Lucy Fentress Watts, daughter of F.M. and W.J. Watts was born July 18, 1876  
Jennie Hallums Watts, daughter of F.M. and W.J. Watts was born June 11, 1881  
James Baker Hallums was born June 6, 1811  
Lucy Hatch Fentress, wife of J.B. Hallums was born April 20, 1819  
Mary Eliza Hallums, daughter of J.B. and Lucy Hallums was born May 2, 1840  
William Edward Hallums, son of J.B. and Lucy Hallums was born May 11, 1841  
James Joseph Hallums, son of J.B. and Lucy Hallums was born Feb. 1, 1843  
Nancy Jane Hallums, daughter of J.B. and Lucy Hallums was born Dec. 18, 1845  
Lovie Mortimer Hallums, son of J.B. and Lucy Hallums was born April 3, 1847  
Welthy Jane Hallums, daughter of J.B. and Lucy Hallums was born June 20, 1849  
Mary Eliza Hallums Matthews died Sunday, 8 A.M., Dec. 9, 1894  
Martha Amanda Hallums died Sunday 9:45 A.M., Oct. 30, 1889  
John H. Walker DOB Jan. 26, 1880; Died May 31, 1969  
Tennie Watts Walker DOB June 11, 1881; Died May 14, 1965  
Cecil Walker DOB Sept. 30, 1904; Died July 4, 1990  
Lavon Walker (wife of Cecil) DOB 1901; Died 1940  
Louise Walker (wife of Cecil) DOB 1919; Died 1943?



**CHEATHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION**

**PO Box 703, Ashland City, TN 37015**

**615-792-3623**

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

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

- Individual \$15.00/year       Family \$25.00/year       Donation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lifetime\$100.00       80+ Free

The months of October, November, December and January are designated membership drive months. All renewals should be turned in no later than January 31. Make checks payable to CCHGA

I was referred by CCHGA member: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: (If family membership, please include wife's surname before marriage if applicable)  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

PHONE: HOME \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIFIC CHAPTER DESIRED:

- Ashland City     Kingston Springs     Pleasant View  
 Pond Creek & Lillamay/SamsCreek (PALS)     At Large Member

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## **CCHGA BYTES**

*Cheatham County Historical and Genealogical Association*

**P. O. Box 703**

**Ashland City, TN 37015**

November 18, 2004 - 7:00 PM CST  
CCHGA Meeting  
Cheatham County Public Library