

CCHGA Bytes

The next CCHGA meeting is
November 15 at 6:30 - Cheatham
County Public Library



R.D. Huffines - President
Earl Nixon - Vice President
Judy Mayo - Secretary
Betty Cannon - Treasurer



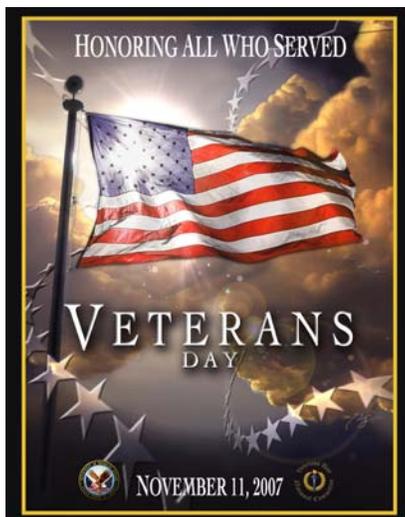
October,
November,
December and
January are
designated

new CCHGA membership
drive months.

New members joining
CCHGA in November 2007
(for individual membership
of \$20.00) will get 3 extra
months and membership
will run until January 2009.

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, or
Lisa Walker
(lisaewalker@bellsouth.net).



Cheatham County in the Twenties - contributed by Greg Poole

Ashland City: The farmers have finished housing their tobacco and are curing it. While some small crops were slightly damaged by frost, most of it was cut and housed. Wheat land is being prepared for sowing, but yet a very small acreage has been seeded. *Nashville Banner* September 17, 1920

Women Destroy Still: A large distillery on **Big Bluff Creek** in Cheatham County was destroyed by two ladies of that neighborhood. The ladies first found 12 barrels of mash ready for cooking, and a few days later found the large copper still and chopped it to pieces. *Nashville Tennessean*, September 29, 1920

Ashland City: The tax rate for Cheatham County for the year of 1920 was fixed at \$1.20 at the regular session of the quarterly court in Ashland City. *Nashville Tennessean*, October 6, 1920

Thomas J. Adkisson, 82 years of age, for 35 years a clerk and master of the Cheatham County Chancery Court died March 19, 1921 at his home at Ashland City after a short illness. He was a Confederate veteran. He served through the entire Civil War as a member of the 11th Tennessee Infantry and was a gallant soldier for the fight for the lost cause. The funeral was held at the home. *Clarksville Leaf Chronicle*, March 19, 1921

E.R. Dowlen, 492 Woodland Street, Nashville, died yesterday at a local infirmary. He was an employee of the National Casket Company and suffered a severe fracture of the skull at the hands of Charles Neely, a fellow workman on Wednesday of last week. The men had gathered at the factory and were talking and joking while they waited for 7 o'clock the hour, to go to work. Neely wore a pair of old work shoes from one of which a toe protruded, and one of the men told Mr. Dowlen that he would bet he could not pitch a block on Neely's toe. Mr. Dowlen responded to the banter by pitching a small block and missed the mark, but he so enraged Neely that he struck Dowlen with a stick fracturing his skull. He was 49 years old, and was born and reared in Cheatham County. He came to Nashville 18 years ago. He is survived by a wife and five children: W.H. and H.L. Dowlen, Mrs. Charles Mack and Misses Lucile and Mary Dowlen. He was a good citizen and a member of Tulip Street Methodist Church. *Nashville Tennessean*, July 28, 1921

A Pig Club - contributed by Greg Poole

A boys' pig club has been organized in Cheatham County with about 30 enthusiastic members, who are going to try the Poland China and Duroc Jersey pigs. The pigs have already been distributed. *Nashville Tennessean*, April 27, 1922



County Courthouse has Colorful History

- contributed by Lisa Walker

Printed in unknown paper, date unknown.

In preparing this story several people and groups were of invaluable assistance. We wish to acknowledge Design, Research Incorporated, James B. Hallums, Cheatham County Court Minute and Record Books, Goodspeed's "History of Tennessee," Wesley F. Walden and Associates, and Frances Landrum.

"The dominant characteristic of the Cheatham County Courthouse is its rich diversity. Nowhere in the region is there a building which contains as many complimentary and conflicting functions.

These range from historical, governmental, financial functions to a role serving as the center of social activities. Older Cheatham County residents enjoy the use of the lobby in the courthouse for checker tournaments and the outdoor croquet court is used almost daily. Children frequently play on the sidewalks around the courthouse.

Being the center of government and a wide range of other activities, the development of functional, as well as historic characteristics, presented a challenging task. The courthouse and grounds have been and remain to be the focal point of the Cheatham County area, both socially and governmentally."

- Design Research Incorporated

The county officials elected on may 15, 1856 were Samuel Watson, county judge; W. W. Williams, county court clerk; George W. Harris, register; F. S. Evans, trustee; and E. G. Murphey, sheriff. G. W. McQuarry was later elected surveyor by the court. After holding two sessions of the county court at Sycamore Mills on May 5 and June 2, 1856, the court met at Forest Hill (now in Ashland City), one mile south of the present courthouse, between July 7, 1856, and October 5, 1857. The seventh session of the court, on Nov. 2, 1857, marked the first time the county court met in Ashland City, where all subsequent sessions have been held.

The Quarterly Court, in regular session, ordered the county commissioners appointed to lay off the county seat and to procure plans and determine the cost of building a courthouse building and jail in Ashland City. The county court appropriated \$2,000 for the construction of the courthouse in 1857, with the total not to exceed \$6,000. The funds were raised from the sale of town lots in Ashland City.

A two-story frame structure to serve as the courthouse was built in 1858 on the corner of Main and Cumberland Streets. This was the courthouse until 1869. The original later turned into the old Central Hotel. In 1868-69 the county court appropriated \$12,000 for a 300 foot by 600 foot lot in downtown Ashland City. This site and building remain the permanent location in the community.

The brick structure, classic Georgian with Ionic overtones in style, with simple and direct lines, and an open X plan was built. The building was 42 feet by 48 feet with large high arch windows and beveled glass doors. The center hall contained a large stair which lead to the upper court room on the second floor.

The podium, judge's bench and witness box were located in the front of the building with the jury box on the left hand corner of the room. The court room had two aisles and three rows of seats, as now, with two small meeting areas on each side of the stairs to the rear of the room. There were four large wood burning stoves located in each corner of the court room.

The first term of court was held at Sycamore Mills, beginning on the third Monday in Oct., 1857, with Honorable Wesley W. Pepper, Judge, presiding.

The second term of this court was held at the present Ashland City in February, 1858, and Judge Pepper continued to preside at its session with one or two exceptions, until June, 1860, after which Judge T. W. Wisdom presided until its business was suspended in October, 1861, by the Civil War.

This court convened again, in pursuance of law, on the third Monday of June, 1865, with Judge Wisdom presiding. A grand jury was selected and this branch of civil authority was again restored. At the next term, held in October, Judge John Alex Campbell presided, and continued to preside until February, 1867.

Due to the community growth, expansion and needs, the county court authorized and issue in the sum of \$25,000 for the repair, rebuilding and only major addition to the building. Four major rooms, two vaults, stairs and a large vestibule were added.

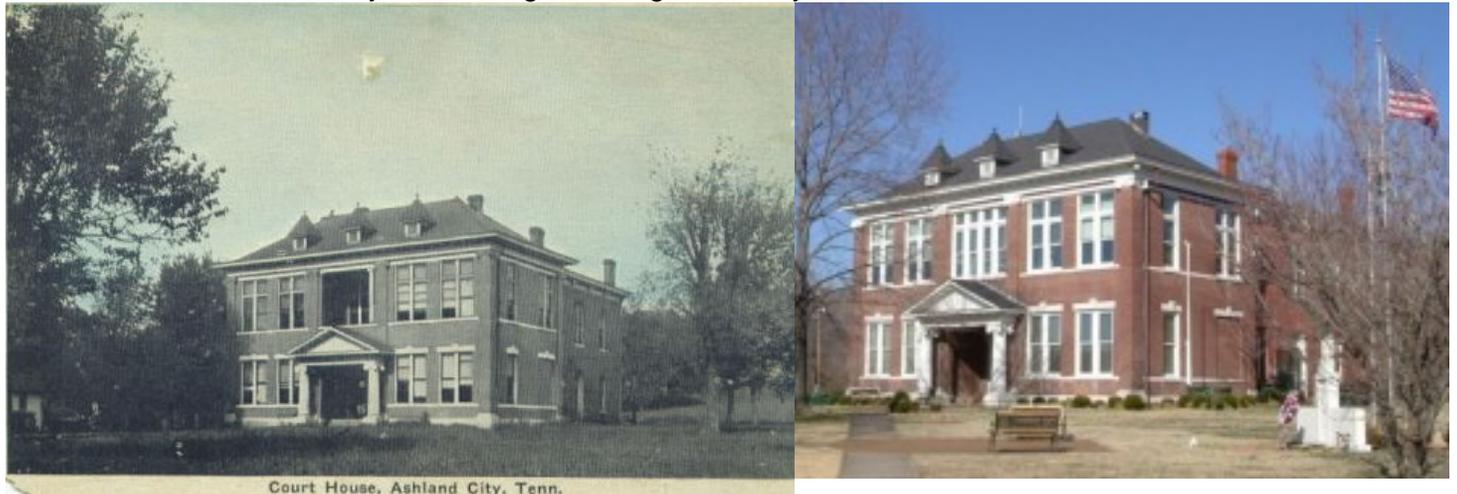
The addition – early 1900 Gothic composite in design – made a lasting change in the Courthouse Square. A small, indented porch located over the entry originally this space was sealed off in when the County School Board occupied all upper offices.

Several minor changes have made over the years, starting with the addition of the toilet facilities in 1937 at the rear of the building. The open halls on each side were ceiled off to provide additional needed office space; the left in 1941 and the right in 1970.

The earliest available picture (date unknown but very old) shows a wooden fence around the building. Ruhland Sloan remembers that in the 1900s, the entire courtyard was enclosed by a wire fence with four stiles (a set of steps for passing over a fence) – one in front, one at the back and one on each side. People living on Sycamore and Frey Streets pastured their cows in the courtyard.

The four original large downstairs rooms were, and are today, offices of county officials. They were heated by wood burning fireplaces. An early official has been quoted as saying that “due to the thickness of the walls it took only a small amount of wood to keep the room warm all day.”

On Dec. 12, 1976, the courthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior. It is hoped that one day in the not-too-distant future, a federal grant will be made available to restore the stately old building to its original beauty.



Court House, Ashland City, Tenn.

Next CCHGA meeting is November 15, 2007 @ 6:30.

No December meeting!

W. F. Sills Recalls Memories of Ashland City of 1899

– contributed H. George Pitt

Oct. 23, 1947
Ashland City Times

W. F. Sills, father of Mrs. Sam Brandon, who has been visiting his daughter for the past three weeks recalled for us a few memories of our city and county forty-eight years ago.

Mr. Sills, a retired lumber man, said he spent the year 1899 in Ashland City buying ties and lumber for Ayre-Lord Tire Co. He paid as high as 26 cents for ties and bought only 6 x 8 with two classes, first and second. First's were 26 cents and seconds averaged 10 cents each. He recalls that he hired a horse from J. C. Chambliss at \$1.00 per day, until he brought his own [?Jeff Davis?] saddle horse here. He could ride to his home in Linton, Ky., in one day on his own horse.

Mr. Sill said that he remembers that he boarded at the Old Brinkley Hotel that stood where McClures store now stands. The Court house was the only brick building in Ashland City. The main streets were only dirt roads and houses were few and far between.

Mr. Sills worked in lumber most of his life. He retired in 1930 after successfully operating a partnership tie business with his brother-in-law Mr. Bartee.

He taught school from 1866 to 1896 before going with the tie firm that sent him to Cheatham County.

Mr. Sills with his wife and daughter, Miss Cornella Sills have returned to their home in Murray, Ky. after a visit here with his daughter.

(If I remember correctly, McClures is the building now occupied by attorney offices on the northwest corner of Main and Cumberland Streets. J. C. Chambliss, pres. of the Ashland City Bank lived in the two story house only a few doors west, toward the river, on Cumberland Street, on the north side. J.C. Chambliss was the great grandfather of local attorney Sam Balthrop – George Pitt.)

Cheatham County Social News - contributed by Greg Poole

Ashland City Times, October 22, 1922

- Mr. and Mrs. Lucian A. Hollis of Neptune were in Ashland City this week.
- Miss Estelle Henry of Pegram was in Ashland City on Thursday.
- Rev. J.M. Putnam left Tuesday for Fayetteville to attend the Methodist Conference.
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Herald and little daughter, Dorris, of Bethel were in Ashland City Thursday.
- Rev. Lawrence Hosale and family have removed to Ashland City. Bro, Hosale has been placed on the superannuated list on account of his health.
- The Pleasant View PTA is preparing for an old time Negro Minstrel Show, the date of which is Saturday night, October 28th. The best of the town is taking part in the program and an entertainment of high class is assured.
- Mr. George Mantlo and Miss Belle Felts were united in marriage Sunday afternoon, the ceremony being performed by the Hon. V.A. Bradley at his home near Pleasant View. Mr. Mantlo is a well known citizen of Springfield, and his bride is a popular young lady of Pleasant View. They will reside in Springfield.
- Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Glasgow were hosts of a 'possum hunt Saturday at their home near Ashland City. Those taking part in the hunt were: Miss Thelma Hooberry and Floyd Jones of Kingston Springs, and Mr. and Mrs. Rodger King, Mrs. Ella Rollins of Nashville, Mrs. Eddie Pardue and daughter, Lena Henry Glasgow and John Goldtrap.

MOUND BOTTOM PRESERVED: YESTERDAY AND TODAY

- contributed by Greg Poole

Continued from last month

The next effort was conducted by the S.I.A.S., the Southeastern Indian Antiquities Survey. Incorporated February 14, 1967 and headed by Robert Ferguson, a major project of the organization was the purchase and development of Mound Bottom as an educational center. Named the Southeastern American Indian Center, plans called for a museum, research buildings, facilities for an archaeological field school, reconstructed "temple" and houses, trails, picnic areas and what appears to be a vehicular bridge spanning the river.

Ferguson, a senior producer at RCA recording studios enlisted the aid of many country music stars including Porter Wagoner, Dolly Parton, Mel Tillis, and Johnny Cash. A goal of raising \$500,000 was set by Ferguson with \$60.00 marked for acquisition of the property and the remainder was to cover construction and operating costs. Horace Street, the owner of the site, had agreed to sell with S.I.A.S. holding an option to buy in 1969.

Through a course of events, their project died out. The Tennessee Division of Archaeology was created in 1970, largely as a result of lobbying efforts by the S.I.A.S. After Ferguson left Nashville to pursue other career opportunities in Mississippi, it was only logical that the Division of Archaeology assume the project to acquire the Mound Bottom site. This resulted in the 1973 purchase of Mound Bottom by the State of Tennessee. Since this time, Mound Bottom has been held as an undeveloped archaeological preserve.

Some say all things happen for a reason. In the case of plans for the Southeastern American Indian Center and the previous effort in the 1930's, this may be true. Although well intended, both plans contained elements that would not be consistent with today's archaeological or cultural resource management standards. For example, current Tennessee state law makes it illegal to display human remains, whereas in 1936 this type of exhibit was proposed. Current preliminary proposals for Mound Bottom call for all facilities to be located across the river from the mound center on a state owned 50 acre tract known as the Gossett tract, adjacent to Scott Cemetery. No development will take place on the Mound Bottom site itself. Preliminary proposals also call for a foot bridge across the river to provide access. In plans of 1969, all the facilities and parking were planned to be located directly on the archaeological site itself with a reconstructed "temple" on the primary platform mound; clearly unacceptable by current standards.

Today, 75 years after the first mention of preserving Mound Bottom, a project is underway to develop the site into a state archaeological park as part of a new state park unit.

Thinking about doing some early Christmas shopping? Give a CCHGA membership!
Applications are located at: http://www.rootsweb.com/~tnchga/cchga_app.pdf



Club Camp - contributed by Greg Poole

About 50 boys and girls from all over Cheatham County had the time of their lives last week while on Club Camp at Sulphur Springs. The days were full of good things from morning until night and when the time came to break camp all voted it the best camp that has ever been put on in the county. The following Ashland City merchants helped the camp by various donations: J.F. Tucker, T.J. Stump, W.H. Harris, S.A. Reeks, Justice Drug Company and J.C. Nicholson and Co. Ashland City *Times* August 7, 1925

County Court Clerk C.L. Teasley left Thursday night for Roswell, New Mexico, where he will spend several months in the interest of his health. He will probably be gone for several months. During his absence, Mrs. Teasley, who was elected Chief Deputy Clerk will be assisted in the office by Esq. J.J. Nicholson. Ashland City *Times*, August 7, 1925

News from Neptune - contributed by Greg Poole

Misses Lola Smith, Elizabeth Harris and Georgia Carter of Ashland City and Miss Jonnie Gupton of Bethel spent last week with Misses Christine and Imogene Jordan.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Hogan of Barlow, Kentucky were here Tuesday to see their old home place. They have been away 32 years. Ashland City *Times*, August 7, 1925

The Death Record - contributed by Greg Poole

Rose Albritton, the wife of Will Albritton died at their home in north Ashland, Tuesday, of tuberculosis. She was 36 years old. She is survived by her husband and several small children, one of which is only a few months old. The funeral was conducted by the Rev. T.C. Lackey, with burial in the Gibbs Cemetery near Greenbrier. *Ashland City Times*, July 23, 1926

Charlie E. Allen died at his home at Lockertsville on Thursday. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Allen of Cheap Hill and was about 34 years old. He was a veteran of World War I, and was at the front when the Armistice was signed. He is survived by his parents, three brothers, a wife and two small children. The funeral was conducted by the Rev. J.E. Hudgens and the Rev. C.P. Givens. Burial was in the Fox Graveyard near Thomasville. *Ashland City Times*, September 30, 1926

Nannie Colman Bradley died Monday at her home in Pleasant View in the 90th year of her age. She was called "Aunt Nannie" and came to Tennessee in 1846. She was born in Virginia and when she was 8 years old, she came to Tennessee in a farm wagon. She settled at Pleasant View. At the age of 18, she married B.H. Bradley, who died many years ago. She was a member of the Methodist church. One of the vivid memories of her life was when she saw the first train arrive in Nashville, after she had ridden 30 miles through the unbroken timber with a party of friends for the purpose. She suffered from a fall and a broken hip, which was the cause of her death. She is survived by one son, Verner A. Bradley, State Superintendent of Feeds, Fertilizer and Dairies. The funeral was held at the Pleasant View Methodist Church, conducted by the Rev. E.U. Robinson and the Rev. R.E. Justice. Burial was in the Pleasant View Cemetery. *Ashland City Times*, July 29, 1927

Thomas Jefferson Batts, aged 72 years old, a retired farmer, merchant and tobacconist of Henrietta, died Sunday soon after he had returned from church services. He had been suffering for a number of weeks with heart disease. He was a native of Cheatham County. He had been a resident of Henrietta for 35 years. For the last 30 years he had been engaged in farming, the mercantile business and a dealer in tobacco. He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Charlie Jarrell, Detroit and four sons, Charles, Homer, and William Batts of Henrietta and Arnold Batts of Clarksville. The funeral was conducted at the residence by the Rev. A.E. Clement with the burial in the family cemetery. *Clarksville Star*, May 31, 1929.

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/>

