

# CCHGA Bytes

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## The Shooting of the Negroes at Harpeth Shoals, Cheatham County, Tennessee

contributed by Greg Poole

The most atrocious and cold blooded affair of the present war, is the shooting of some eighteen of the Negro cabin boys and cooks on steamers lately captured at Harpeth Shoals, Cheatham County, Tennessee. These men and boys were tied and taken to an open field near the Shoals, and were deliberately shot down in cold blood. Two of the negro servants on the Sidell, got in between the wheel and stern of the boat and let themselves down into the water, holding on to the rudder. They were discovered by the rebels, and several soldiers were ordered into a skiff, and rowing close up to the unfortunate Negroes, discharged the contents of their muskets at them literally blowing their heads into atoms.

The damnable villainy of such cold-blooded murder cannot but fill every heart with the fiercest indignation and will beget measures of the bloodiest retaliation.

The life of the chambermaid of the Trio was saved by Mr. Hurley, the clerk, claiming her as his slave, whom he was removing to Kentucky. And even with this pretext he had the greatest difficulty in saving her from death at the hands of the bloody-minded commander of the rebels, Colonel Wade.

We hope this scoundrel may be captured, and if he is, quartering would be a slight penalty for his villainous murder of these unoffending Negroes. His acts of barbarity have scarcely an equal in the history of the most savage warfare. The Ripley *Bee*, February 5, 1863

## Another Version of the Affair at Ashland

contributed by Greg Poole

A special dispatch from Ashland, Cheatham County, the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup>, contains the following particulars of the affair on the Cumberland River. Brig. General Forrest of the rebel army, with a force of almost four thousand men and twelve pieces of light artillery, attacked our relief and store ships coming up the Cumberland River, and succeeded in capturing five steamboats laden with valuable commissary stores, and the gunboat Slidell.

Several of the boats contained wounded soldiers who, in jumping from them while burning, were shot in the water. The Negro crews were stripped of their clothing, tied to trees, cowhided, and left to starve on shore. The steamers were anchored in mid-channel, and after being robbed of valuables, the officers and soldiers were stripped of their clothing, placed on shore and paroled. *The Daily Palladium*, January 17, 1863

October, November, December are designated **new CCHGA** members drive months.

New members joining CCHGA in October 2008 (for individual membership of \$20.00 or \$35.00 for family) will get 3 extra months and membership will run until the end of December 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](mailto:lisaewalker@bellsouth.net)

**From PALS** - contributed by Judy Mayo

The PALS Chapter mourns the loss of our beloved member Gerald Curtis who has been a faithful supporter of our work, especially the cemetery cleaning and the Cheatham County Museum. His courage and continued work for PALS and CCHGA during his illness has been an inspiration to all of us. We are grateful for the time we had with Gerald and for the stories we all shared. Wemiss you, Gerald. You kept us entertained every time we were together and things will never be as much fun at the PALS meetings as when you were such a special and important part of us!

*The PALS Chapter will have its regular meeting on Tuesday, September 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Earl and June Crouch Nixon. All members are invited to come and bring your ideas for a fall field trip and for another project for our chapter. You're encouraged to bring old items for us to see and that you might loan or donate to the museum.*

**CCHGA Yard Sale—We need volunteers to work!**

CCHGA will hold its annual yard sale on Friday and Saturday, September 26 - 27 in the vacant lot on Highway 49 across from the Dollar General Store. All members are encouraged to donate

items to sale at the yard sale! Money raised goes toward CCHGA office operating expenses. For more information contact the CCHGA office or R.D.Huffines.

*Donate items to sale at the Annual CCHGA Yard Sale!  
Bring your items to the CCHGA office!*

**Ashland City Fire Department** - contributed by Lisa Walker

Mon Night July 21, 1947

Meeting open 8:00pm by Chief Pace. 9 members present.

A. Elected H. J. Binkley Secretary

Elected Drivers

1. Audrey Cantrell
2. James Tucker
3. W. C. Jackson Jr.

B. Motions made & sec to set Fri nites at 7:30 as Fire Drill nights until further notice.

1. Age was set for active fireman 18—45
2. Pointees on organization
3. The need of cooperation

Meeting adjourned to meet again Fri Night July 25, 1947 at 7:30 PM

Settling the estate of Samuel Lenox (2/7/1864-10/9/1929) - contributed by Jim Lenox (jlenox1@yahoo.com)



JOS. A. BOILLIN, President

E. H. HARRISON, Vice Pres.

JOS. BOILLIN, JR., Secy. & Treas.

## HURST-BOILLIN CO.

(INCORPORATED)

WHOLESALE DEALERS IN

GROCERIES, FIELD SEEDS & PROVISIONS

CLARKSVILLE, TENN.

5.22.29

Dear Jim:--

I am enclosing herewith agreement for you to keep, as all have copies of same.

I am also enclosing a statement of your father's affairs to the present time. You will note the total receipts were \$724.34, the total disbursements \$656.20, leaving a balance in bank of \$68.14, with interest on Mortgage to be paid in August of \$45.00, leaving in bank at that time a balance of \$23.14.

The disbursements as you will note includes all the claims filed against your father's estate, which have all been paid, also insurance, interest paid on mortgage in January, the Cemetery Lot, Taxes etc., so everything has been paid that stood against your father except the old Murff matter. (We will discuss this when we are next together)

In the "Receipt" Column, you will note that only \$170.00 of Aunt Sallie's Loan was passed to credit of Administrator's account, the balance passed to my account as Agent to be applied on the tobacco barn, as per agreement.

We have had an unusually wet Spring, with very little tobacco put out anywhere in this section. Many plants are getting too large, but ours are not suffering. We have had land all ready for setting out tobacco for two weeks, but it has rained almost every day. I was up home Saturday night and Sunday morning and hardest rain of the season, and it has rained almost continually for two weeks. It has held up for two or three days however, and today the sun is shining brightly. If it does not rain tomorrow we will begin setting out tobacco on the sloping fields that drain better, and will sure be busy for several days. Ivie's force can set out about three acres a day so we will get out our crop by Saturday I hope. It will be considerably larger than last year, practically the same land as last year and in addition the lot up at the house both front and back which I had cleaned up of bushes, and in addition to this the two lots down on the pike. Have nice field of Timothy coming on for second year, and it is nice. This will give us considerable hay, which with Soy Beans we usually put out will give us plenty of hay, and I hope some to sell, depending on the corn crop. Last year we had only the Soy Bean Hay but it was nice, and very little corn, so I have been using more hay than usual trying to make the corn run us until early corn. I had two fields of very early corn planted up in the hollow at the old Sycamore tree close to where Ivie used to live. This is up nicely, and if the rains will let up for several days until it can be worked, will have a nice stand. This is early to begin feeding before other corn matures.

Also have lumber on the spot for putting up the barn. This is located where your father always wanted it, near the Sycamore tree in the forks of the creek, and Fred selected this also a few Sundays ago when we were down.

## Ashland City High School—1883

(The following is taken from a brochure advertising the school. It is the oldest information that I have found, and dates from 1883. ed.)

### Page 1

A school of science, Literature and Music, For Males and Females.

Located amid the finest Scenery of Middle Tennessee. Devoted to culture, progress, and higher education -- aims to be the cheapest in the South.

### Faculty

S.A. Link, A.M., Principal and Teacher of Latin, Greek, Chemistry and Natural Science.

Prof. R.S. Turner, teacher of Latin, English, History and Mathematics.

### Board of Trustees

J.J. Lenox, President

J.J. Lee, Secretary

T.H. Hale, Treasurer

T.J. Adkisson

G.L. Sloan

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### Location and Building

Ashland City is the county seat of Cheatham, situated on the North side of Cumberland river, eighteen miles below Nashville, easy access by boat, and daily stage to and from Nashville. This village is very pleasantly located in the midst of romantic scenery. Here the students have good health, fine Church and Sunday school privileges, with prayer meeting conducted in part by the young men of the school.

The school building is situated upon a fine eminence overlooking the town, is conveniently arranged, well furnished and capable of accommo-

dating over two hundred students.

### Course of Instruction

A thorough and extensive course of study is designed to afford such training to those who complete it as will prepare them to enter the advanced classes of the best Colleges and Universities, or to begin at once and successfully the practical work of life. No department in a regular course of study is neglected. While the students are encouraged to take the classics and mainly do so, Mathematics and Physical Sciences are not ignored. It is intended to give the student some acquaintance with the great facts and forces of Nature. A full mastery of English is insisted upon; and one of the prominent features is a thorough drill of young teachers in the Common School branches.

The Curriculum is divided into the following departments:

### Primary

This extends through the Third Reader, including instruction in Phonetics, Writing, Map-drawing and Elements of Arithmetic.

### Common School

Modern Geography, United States History, Intellectual and written Arithmetic, English Grammar, Elements of Agriculture, Geology of Tennessee, Physical Geography, Composition, and Theory and Practice of Teaching.

### High School and Collegiate

Latin-- Bingham's Latin Grammar, Reader and Caesar, Curtius or Sallust, Ovid, Virgil, Cicero, Livy and Horace, with Latin Composition, Mythology and Roman History.

Greek-- Harkness' First Greek Book, Goodwin's Greek Grammar and Reader, Anabasis, Greek Testament, Herodotus, Greek Testament and Homer.

Mathematics-- Ray's and Schuyler's Algebras, Chauvenet's Geometry, Schuyler's Trigonometry and Menstruations, Schuyler's Surveying, and Loomis' Analytical Geometry.

Physical Science-- Physiology, Geology, Chemistry, Zoology, Botany and Physics.

Some of the other studies are:

English Classics, Logic, General History, and Political Economy.

Students completing this course of study will be granted suitable Diplomas.

This school also has a department of Music, which under the control of a thorough and finished teacher, is intended to be one of the strong features of the Institution.

Students will have an opportunity of taking a full course and graduating in music.

### Expenses

The rates are perhaps the lowest in the South. We defy competition.

Tuition in Primary Department per month.....\$1.50

Tuition in Common School Department per month.....\$2.00

Tuition in High School and Collegiate Department per month.....\$2.50 to \$3.50

Tuition in Music.....\$3.50

Matriculation fee per term..... \$.50

Board, including lights and fuel per month.....\$9.00

Tuition payable monthly.

No deductions except in case of protracted sickness.

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### The Methods of Instruction

Are designed to be such as will cultivate to the fullest and best extent

## Ashland City High School—1883 - contributed by Greg Poole and Lisa Walker

### Literary Society and Library

There is in connection with the school a large Literary Society, and a growing Library of well selected books.

In addition all the school is required from time to time to take part in Rhetorical exercises.

### Success

The school in three years work has taken a place among the most flourishing institutions of the land.

It has enrolled during the past year, one hundred and fifty-three students.

The marvelous cheapness of the school-- making higher education possible to all-- has attracted a number of young persons who are educating themselves.

These are good material. To all such the doors are open wide.

### Explanation

To such as are unacquainted with the teachers we would say that the Principal, though a native of Tennessee, took the Classical course and has received the Master's degree in Ewing (Ill.) College-- a school known in several States as rigid in its requirements of scholarship. After considerable experience in teaching, and after having visited and looked into the workings of the best Schools and Colleges of St. Louis, Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee, he feels warranted in claiming to be fully prepared to conduct young men and ladies through an extended collegiate course.

Prof. Turner has achieved the highest success as a teacher, both in Kentucky and Tennessee-- has attained a reputation for insisting upon order and thoroughness; is full of enthusiasm for his work, and infuses the same spirit into his students.

### Calendar

School year begins Monday, September 3, 1883

Fall term, four months. Spring term,

six months

Christmas holidays one week

For further information, address

S.A. Link

R.S. Turner

Ashland City, Tenn.

### News from the Communities

contributed by Greg Poole

Near Ashland, Cheatham County, Tennessee. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, Thomas Young, aged 15, drowned himself in the Cumberland, because his stern parents would not allow him to visit his girlfriend. *Morning Republican*, April 14, 1869

## Ku-Klux Outrages in Cheatham County—contributed by Greg Poole

The Ku-Klux are carrying things with a high hand in Cheatham County. On the night of January 28<sup>th</sup> a company consisting of about twelve masked men went to the house of Mr. John Davis, living some five miles from Kingston Springs, and demanded entrance. Mr. Davis refused; but upon their promising not to hurt him, he opened the door. Oscar Davis, son of the former, and Mr. Samuel Finley were the only inmates of the house.

The ruffians asked Finley if he had not been a Federal soldier, and upon his replying in the affirmative,

they told him they had been looking for him for eight years; that he had shot one of them at Shiloh; that their ghostly companion had been scratched out of hell, where he had been for eight years "eating dead Yankees." They then took Finley into the woods, and asked him how he preferred to die. He told them if he was to be murdered it made but little difference how. They made him stand at ten paces off, and fired three shots at him, none of which took effect. They then set upon him and whipped him very severely. While this was going on, another portion of the gang was whip-

ping Mr. Davis, and the rest were whipping his son Oscar. On their way to Mr. Davis's they took a colored man named Lewis Hannah out of his house and whipped him severely. All the parties were enjoined not to give publicity to these outrages on penalty of being again visited.

Mr. Finley, who had been in the Union army, had lived for some time in Cheatham County, while Davis and his son have lately emigrated thither from Pennsylvania. *Milwaukee Sentinel*, February 14, 1871

The next CCHGA business meeting is September 25, 2008 at the Cheatham County Public Library

**2008 CCCHA OFFICERS**

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

The next Cheatham Museum Board meeting moved to September 8, 2008 due to the Labor Day Holiday!

**CCHGA Office**

Phone 615-792-3623  
cchga007@bellsouth.net  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~tncchga/>

## Chittlin' Cookin' Time In Cheatham County

**1941**

contributed by Lisa Walker

There's a quiet and peaceful county in the state of Tennessee  
You will find it in the book they call Geography  
Not famous for its farming its minin' or its stills  
But they know there's chittlin' cookin' in them cheatham county hills

When it's chittlin' cookin' time in cheatham county  
I'll be courtin' in them cheatham county hills  
And I'll pick a cheatham county chittlin' cooker  
I've a longin' that the chittlin's will fill

There's an art in chittlin' cookin' and all good chittlin cooks  
They must master it by practice cause it ain't reknowned in books  
In the hills of cheatham county in sunny Tennessee  
When chittlin's are in season is where I long to be

Of all good things put be for me  
I think chittlin's are the best  
And when I press that dying pillow  
Let chittlin's be my last request

Cheatham County Historical and Genealogical Association  
P. O. Box 703  
Ashland City, TN 37015