

# CCHGA Bytes

September 2014

The newsletter of the Cheatham County Historical and Genealogical Association

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## September 11, 2014 CCHGA Program Meeting

The Cheatham County Historical and Genealogical Association (CCHGA) will hold their monthly meeting September 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the community room at the Cheatham County Public Library. The speaker for this meeting will be Wayne Reid, Vice President of Centennial Medical Center- Ashland City. Mr. Reid is also a past president of the Cheatham County Chamber of Commerce.

A military veteran, Mr. Reid is interested in talking with other veterans. His interest in videography has brought about the recording of the stories of war veterans. He will be presenting a video interview recorded October 2013 with Mr. James Cripps, a veteran of the Vietnam War and a resident of Cheatham County.

The public is invited to attend this free program. Light refreshments will be served. Please contact the CCHGA office by calling 615.792.3623 with questions about this program.

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## Because we are growing and there is more interest in Cheatham County History!

The CCHGA office and the Cheatham County Museum are located on the lower level of the Cheatham County Public Library. Hopefully in the future, Cheatham County will also establish a Cheatham County Archives. In order to simplify our correspondence and in publications, we will call this area the "Cheatham County History Center."

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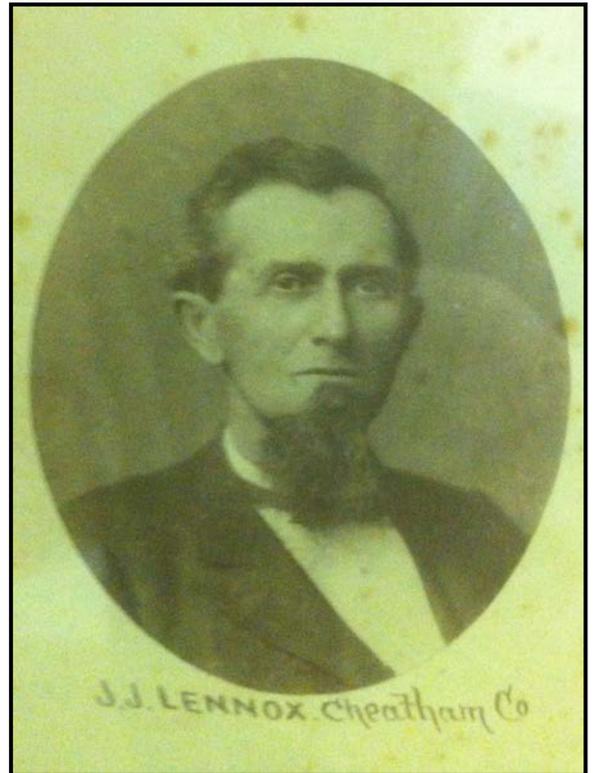
CCHGA will have their Fall Bake sale on Friday, November 21, 2014 at the Tucker-Empson Building starting at 10:00 a.m.! If you would like to donate items to sale or if you can work the bake sale, please contact CCHGA member Judy Mayo at 615.352.4408.

Visit CCHGA on Face Book: <https://www.facebook.com/cheathamcountyhistory>

## James J. Lenox – *contributed by Jim Lenox*

James J. Lenox was born in what is now Cheatham County, formerly Davidson, November 23, 1837. He was the son of James and Judith (Fuque) Lenox. He was reared on the farm, attended country school until sixteen years of age, and then Millwood Academy for two years. He then entered Union University, at Murfreesboro, and graduated from that institution in 1859. Began reading law in 1860, and began his law practice 1865. He was one of the leading lawyers and had a good practice in Cheatham and adjoining counties.

In 1860 he was united in marriage to Miss Harriet C. Peebles, who was born in Davidson County in 1843. By this union eight children were born, five sons and three daughters: James Kent Lenox (married Louella Graham), Samuel Jackson Lenox (married Tennessee Belle Hale), Mary Anna Lenox (married Dr William P H Lawrence), Charlemagne Baxter Lenox, (married Lena Virginia Singletary Adkisson), Lulu Lenox, (married Joseph Elbert Justice), George Washington Lenox, (married Rosa Madrigal), Commodore Vanderbilt Lenox, (married Annie Elizabeth "Nina" Boyte) and Gracie Lenox, (married John Frederick Murff).



In 1860 J. J. Lenox commenced merchandising in a general store and in 1865 his store, building and goods, located on the corner of Main and Cumberland Streets were consumed by fire. He immediately purchased goods and opened a new store, and in 1868 formed a partnership with William W. Sanders under the firm name of Sanders & Co. A tobacco factory was erected in 1868 by J. J. Lenox and J. T. Edwards. For about three years, from 1873 to 1875, they manufactured plug and twist tobacco, and since then the factory was only used for prizing leaf tobacco and preparing it for market. In 1880 J. J. Lenox, Enoch Dozier and others erected a flouring-mill, sawmill and planing-mill, all combined. The capacity of the flouring-mill was fifty barrels of flour per day, the sawmill capacity was 12,000 feet of lumber per day, and the planing-mill was from 15,000 to 20,000 feet of dressed lumber per day.

The greatest pride in his life was his part in the building of the Tennessee Central Railroad through Ashland City and Cheatham County. He gave permission for the tracks to run through his property into Ashland City and donated the land for the train depot which was located about a quarter of a mile from the public square. There was a passenger depot and freight depot. He also donated the land for the Cheatham County High School.

In addition to being a lawyer, business man, farmer, and judge, he also represented Cheatham and Davidson Counties in the Tennessee state Senate from 1891 to 1893. J.J. Lenox was a leading member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. For 37 years; he was a steward of the church and the Superintendent of the Sunday school.

It is rumored that he died from a broken heart. He passed away on March 26, 1908 in Ashland City, 51 days after his wife of 46 years died.

a boom.

D. C. Cullom of Sycamore was in our burg last Sunday.

T. H. Hale has accepted a position as teacher at the Institute.

Mr. Tom Shivers went up to Nashville last Saturday night.

Several Bicycle riders, of Nashville visited our city last Sunday.

W. H. Hooper returned home last Saturday, greatly improved in health.

The Demosthenic Literary Society met last Friday night, after being closed for some week's

D. McGavoch of McWhirtersville, was in the city, during the past week.

Earnest Reding of this place is on a visit to friends and relatives in Nashville.

Bob Adams who has been very low with Billious Typhoid Fever is now improving very fast.

Mr. John Eatherly and S. H. Reeks paid a flying visit to the city of Nashville, last Saturday.

## Genealogy as a Hobby!

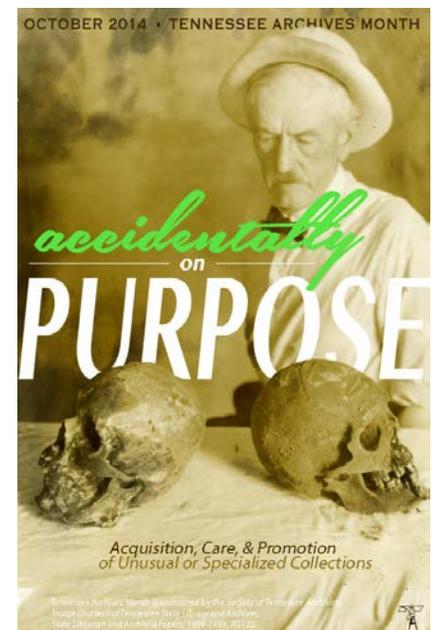
Genealogy is by far one of the most popular hobbies in the United States. Genealogy is more than just a hobby. It is one of the best ways to learn history and your family ancestry.

Genealogists' skill levels vary from a novice to professional genealogy gurus. Becoming a member of CCHGA does not require one to have an interest in genealogy, but having some knowledge of one's ancestry is valuable. You may want to gather documents for yourself, your parents, grandparents and possibly great-grandparents.

CCHGA has a team of members who can help you get started in your own research. Call the office at 792-3623 for an appointment to start. Many people's first question is 'How Do I Begin?' That question is easy.

Start with what you know, speak with relatives, start looking online, visit Libraries and Archives, become a genealogy volunteer. Finding a Family Bible can be a great resource for learning about your ancestry.

Be sure to contact the office to make an appointment and keep looking for updates on our posts.



## **Young Woman Receives Wound** – The Nashville Tennessean; January 31, 1907

Miss Ada Hudgens Says it Was Done by Douglas Tracy  
WAS MYSTERIOUS Individual

Suitor, Said to Have Been Given to Writing Threatening Letters to Rivals, Home Address in Nashville Proves to Be a Vacant Lot.

A strange story is reported here. Miss Ada Hudgens, aged 24, daughter of a prominent farmer and the niece of J. E. Hudgens, County Court Clerk, was discovered in the yard of her father's home this morning in an apparently unconscious condition with a knife wound in her neck which she stated had been inflicted by Douglas Tracy, a suitor whose proffer of marriage she had rejected. She also stated that she had been assaulted with a rock. So far as can be learned no person except Miss Hudgens has ever seen the alleged assailant.

For the past several months neighborhood suitors of the young woman, who is pretty and highly thought of, have been in receipt of threatening communications purporting to have been written by the man Douglas Tracy. The letters were mailed to Ashland City from all points of the compass, one from Ontario, Canada, several from points in Texas, others from eastern and western States and one from Nashville. The letter mailed from Nashville to one of the suitors threatening dire things if his attentions to the young woman were not discontinued held an endorsement of Postmaster Wills on the back saying that it had been mailed from Nashville at the request of the writer in Ashland City.

Several days ago George Peasley, one of the suitors, received a letter from the mysterious Tracy and thereupon went before a Justice of the Peace and took out a warrant which was placed in the hands of Sheriff Harper for execution. Sheriff Harper inquired in Nashville at the B. H. Stief Jewelry Company for the man who it had been reported was employed by that company as a traveling salesman, but found that no such man had ever been connected with the house. Further investigation was made and upon the residence address of the alleged Tracy being visited it was found to be a vacant lot on Arthur avenue.

The matter had progressed thus far when the alleged assault was reported. The young woman was found in the yard near the farm house shortly before noon to-day, and upon an examination it was discovered that she was suffering from a slight wound in the neck, just above the breast bone. The wound had evidently been made by a small knife.

Physicians were summoned, and after she returned to a normal state she stated that she had been assaulted by Tracy with a knife and later with a rock. An examination was made for the bruise left by the rock, which she said produced unconsciousness, but none was found. Miss Hudgens, it is said, was asked about Tracy and she stated that he was about 35 years of age, of

low, slender figure, small feet, piercing eyes, heavy, dark mustache, and dark hair, intermingled with gray, and according to his own statement, was of Spanish and Italian descent.

She stated that she met the man five years ago, near Sycamore, in Cheatham County. He had told her that he was visiting in the vicinity. Several times before the first meeting she stated they met at church, and after an acquaintance was established and after she had removed to her present home, she met him in Ashland City and one time in Nashville. He was ardent in his attentions and very demonstrative. On several occasions when she refused his attentions, he, according to Miss Hudgens, threatened her, and for years had written her letters warning her against receiving the attentions of other men.

The threats were not confined to Miss Hudgens, but were sent broadcast among the young men of the neighborhood who paid her attentions, and it was as a result of one of these received by Goerge Peasley that the investigation, which resulted in nothing, was instituted by the Sheriff.

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**Mr. Hadley Williams, Jr.** - Continued from June 2014 CCHGA Bytes

Growing up in Ashland City, everybody was happy and honest! No one locked their doors. There was no robbing or breaking in to houses like there is now.

Mr. Hadley had his first coca cola at the age of 4 or 5 at Nell McMillon's store on Cumberland Street. He remembers her fondly, she did not discriminate.

At the Klondike, he remembers they had the best bologna sandwiches and would hang bananas from the ceiling. Blacks were allowed to buy food there but could not eat in the building.

When he was around 13, he worked at Tucker's Mill run by B. F. Heathman. They made cement blocks. W. B. Lockert, Paul Robert Gupton and Jimmy Lockert also worked there after WW II. He helped make the blocks to build Franceway Stratton's Ford Dealership which use to be where present day McDonalds is located.

When he was 16 or 17, Mr. Hadley bought a 1936 Ford from Mr. Charlie Shoemake. He recalls Mr. Shoemake driving a Model T out on the Cumberland River when it froze.

Working in Ashland City, the main industry was either working at the sawmill or making whiskey. He remembers his father in the back of Sam Reeks' store in the middle of the summer wearing a coat to sale whiskey. At the sawmill, Mr. Hadley carried cross ties and was paid \$3.00 a day.

Even at a young age, Mr. Hadley was an entrepreneur. There was a beer joint at the end of Stratton and Bell Street.....*to be continued*

## Was it Providential?

*The Dollar Farmer: Ashland City - August 2, 1888*

We have heard several additional incidents connected with the Mt. Hermon church disaster, which we may notice hereafter. Balthorp, the one legged postmaster at Henrietta, figures in one of them.

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The protracted meeting of the Close-Communion or Hard-Shell Baptists at Mount Hermon Church on the Montgomery county line, not far from Henrietta p.o., Cheatham county, was suddenly brought to a temporary close on Sunday week last (there were nearly a 1000 souls on the ground) by the giving way of the basement pillar upon which rested the girder supporting the post reaching from floor to ceiling that upheld the girder upon which the brick stove pipe flue was built.

When the floor gave down the top of this post canted over against the wall; the stovepipe fell with a loud clatter; and the bricks of the chimney flue battered down upon the ceiling as though the second advent had just arrived.

Great was the panic that ensued. The walls of the house, 30x40, being built of logs, weatherboarded, was of course firm as rocks of ages; but then the big crowd of people inside didn't think of that in their fright; and they rushed pell-mell for the doorway, falling down, falling over each other, overturning the benches and themselves; skinning shins, spraining ankles, wrenching bodies, damaging bonnets, tearing skirts and ruining dresses – for, except the two he fellows in the pulpit, they were all women; the men having magnanimously denied themselves, sacrificed themselves as it were, to allow the women to have the whole house to themselves, to be saved, while they staid out of doors, to be damned, in the cool: chatting, smoking and chewing the cud of contentment that their lives had not fallen, after all, in such a very bad allotment.

The men startled from their sinful complacency by the racket in the church hastened anxiously to the rescue of mothers, wives, and sweethearts.

When it was finally ascertained that no serious damage had been done to to life or limb, there was first a great thankfulness; and then some of the ludicrous features of the catastrophe came to the front.

The first rumor was, that one woman had jumped out of a window, and her arm was broken. But this proved not to be so; for the only woman who made her exit through a windows was one helped out by our Benjamin Franklin King, candidate for county assessor, who wasn't exactly electioneering on Sunday, but was "zhoost lookern aroun" and exhibiting himself; - doubtless hoping that when election day came they would think that a man of such fine proportions, such a proper man physically, must be

the right man for the county assessorship, and therefore they would vote for him. His gallantry in getting the lady out of the window ensures him a big vote in the Henrietta neighborhood. Mark what we say.

The most laughable thing after all, was the frightened exit of Jupiter-Ammon Burton, the preacher, who made a circus-like jump, a regular gymnastic leap, from a window near the pulpit, landing ten feet out from the walls, where like a brand from the burning just rescued, he lay panting with exhaustion, until relieved and soothed by some of the naught men-sinners who had escaped the drippings of the sanctuary by enjoying themselves on the outside rims of grace.

Jupiter-Ammon has last cast a little by his ground-and-lofty tumbling. Many think if he had used his senses; had not acted like a woman; had bravely stood up taking in the situation and how little the danger really was, that there was really no great cause for alarm, might have stilled the panic, and saved many from damage.

Being women the chances are that some of them will long suffer from the affright alone.

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### **Chancery Sale** - *February 24, 1881*

In obedience to a decree of the Hon. Chancery Court of Cheatham County, Tenn., at its September term, 1880, in the cause of Gad E. Harris vs. Thos. and J. W. Walker. It will on Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1881, at the Court House door in Ashland City, Tenn., sell publicly to the highest bidder on a credit of 6 and 12 months, a tract of land lying in the 5<sup>th</sup> civil district of Cheatham county, Tenn., containing one hundred acres more or less, adjoining the lands of G. W. Maxey on the North, Owen on the South, Shearon on the East and J. J. Lenox on the West, a more particular description of said land will be given on day of sale. Said land will be sold to satisfy a judgment and cost which Gad. E. Harris obtained against Thos. and J. W. Walker, and will be sold free from the right of redemption.

JNO. J. LEE, C & M

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**Would you like to volunteer at the Cheatham County History Center?**

**Send email to [cchga007@bellsouth.net](mailto:cchga007@bellsouth.net) or call 615.792.3623!**

## CCHGA NEEDS OFFICE VOLUNTEERS!

In case you are wondering what we have been doing since early voting is over, we have some updates for you. There was so much interest in the downstairs of the Library regarding Archives, Historical, Genealogical, and the Museum, we wanted to let everyone know what we are planning.

First, we are working to have the office open more. In addition to all day on Wednesday from 10:00-3:00, we are opening on Tuesday afternoons from 12:00-3:00; Friday and Saturday from 10:00-12:00. If we get so many volunteers, we will open another day as well. One objective in our five-year-plan is to open the office five to six days a week. CCHGA is also partnering with the Cheatham County Public Library to help host the Fall Festival on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Many volunteers can help with outside events and give tours inside of the History Center.

We also need volunteers to help with historical and genealogical research. Research is needed to help identify doctors, dentists, teachers, schools, cemeteries, military sites, and churches in the county. In addition to historical research, volunteers are needed to help complete family trees back to the Revolutionary War Era. Another part of our five-year-plan is to reinstate a Daughters of American Revolution Chapter in this county. Only twelve members are needed to reinstate a DAR chapter. Perhaps a SAR (Sons of American Revolution) Chapter can be started as well.

As you can see, there are MANY different ways volunteers are needed to help make the History Center a more inviting place for visitors and for research. **If you already know of a few hours a week, or month, where you would be willing to volunteer, please call the office at 615-792-3623. And leave your name, telephone number, email address; day and time you can volunteer; and what job you are volunteering to do.**

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## CCHGA BYTES

Cheatham County Historical and Genealogical Association

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

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