

# CCHGA BYTES

The Newsletter of the Cheatham County Historical & Genealogical Association

## CCHGA Office and Cheatham County Museum

Call the CCHGA office  
615.792.3623 or email  
[cheathamcountyhistory@  
gmail.com](mailto:cheathamcountyhistory@gmail.com) and leave a  
message if needed!

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  
[cheathamcountyhistory@  
gmail.com](mailto:cheathamcountyhistory@gmail.com).

**Please join us on  
September 9 at 5:30  
pm in the McCullough  
Meeting Room at  
Sycamore Square on  
Highway 49/Frey  
Street!**

Our past newsletters  
are located at [https://  
cheathamcountyhistory.  
weebly.com/cchga-  
newsletters.html](https://cheathamcountyhistory.weebly.com/cchga-newsletters.html)

CCHGA Members,

The **September 9 CCHGA** meeting will be held at **5:30** pm in the David McCullough Meeting Room at the Sycamore Square government complex on Highway 49/Frey Street.

*Lisa E. Walker*  
*CCHGA President*  
*Cheatham County Historian*

## CCHGA Notes:

- If you would like to assist in the office and museum or help with the quarterly CCHGA newsletter, please email [cheathamcountyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:cheathamcountyhistory@gmail.com). As the CCHGA reopens, we need volunteers to assist in getting everything back to pre pandemic order!
- If you have had a change in email address or physical address, please call the office at 615.792.3623 or email [cheathamcountyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:cheathamcountyhistory@gmail.com) so we can update our records.

## September 2021 Office and Museum Hours

September 1, Wednesday - 10:00 - 2:00  
September 7, Tuesday - 10:00 - 2:00  
September 8, Wednesday - 10:00 - 2:00  
September 9, Thursday - 1:00 - 4:00  
September 14, Tuesday - 10:00 - 2:00  
September 15, Wednesday - 10:00 - 2:00  
September 16, Thursday - 1:00 - 4:00  
September 21, Tuesday - 10:00 - 2:00  
September 22, Wednesday - 10:00 - 2:00  
September 23, Thursday - 1:00 - 4:00  
September 28, Tuesday - 10:00 - 2:00  
September 29, Wednesday - 10:00 - 2:00  
September 30, Thursday - 1:00 - 4:00

*Cheatham County Historical and Genealogical Association  
P. O. Box 709  
Highland City, Tennessee 37015  
615-792-3623*

TO: Mayor Kerry McCarver  
FROM: C.C.H.G.A. Board of Directors \*  
RE: Braxton Lee Homestead Property  
DATE: August 20, 2021

Thank you for working with our association on the possible relocation of the C.C.H.G.A. office and museum to the Braxton Lee Homestead property if the county obtains ownership of the real property upon which the homestead is located. The association dedicated the majority of the July meeting to a thorough, moderated discussion of the merits of relocating to the homestead. This culminated with a unanimous vote of the association membership at the August meeting to support this move. This memo is to provide you with formal notice of that vote.

The membership voted on this matter based on the following criteria as understood from our previous discussions:

- County government will ensure the physical space is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- The county will provide normal property maintenance as with other county buildings.
- The county will cover utility expenses.
- C.C.H.G.A. will cover costs for internet access and phone service.

We also recognize this is subject to action of the county commission.

Again, we appreciate your efforts in making this opportunity possible. We look forward to working together to make this transition work smoothly. Please let us know if you have any questions.

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\* Board of Directors

Liza Walker – CCHGA President; Rosemary Klein – CCHGA Secretary; Clay Walden – CCHGA member-at-large; Dreams McCool – PAIS;  
Mary Grey Jenkins – CCHGA founding member; Patrick Smith – Chairman of CCHGA Board of Directors

**The CCHGA Membership Form may be downloaded from <https://cheathamcountyhistory.weebly.com>**

## John Lewis Bell, Sr Contributed by Natalie Bell

According to his official death certificate, John Lewis Bell, Sr. (a native of the Bell Town community of Kingston Springs, Tennessee), died in service to his country, on March 26, 1944, in the U.S. Army's North African theatre of operation during World War II.

John L. Bell, Sr.'s death came one day after his mother, Lucy Bell, died back here in Nashville, on March 25, 1944.

The story of John L. Bell Sr.'s untimely death has been the subject of great lore among his descendants, as well as the descendants of his larger nuclear family (he was the oldest of five children).

However, no one alive today can explain why the WWII veteran died just one day after his mother died; at the time, each of them were on opposite sides of the world. Could the date of John Bell, Sr.'s death have been recorded incorrectly on his military record and/or death certificate? Descendants of John L. Bell, Sr., and those of his four siblings, count his death in WWII as one of the great calamities of the struggle to persist in early 20th Century-Bell Town, Tennessee.



"He (John L. Bell, Sr.) never should have been drafted," said namesake John L. Bell, Jr., the youngest of the fallen soldier's three children. "He was just 37 years old, and a widower with three young children when he was called to serve."

Bell, Jr. was just 10 years old when his father was killed. Now age 86, he has lived most of his life in Nashville. Jr.'s sentiment is echoed by other descendants of Sr. and his siblings.

Bell, Sr. became a widower in 1936, when his wife died, leaving him with three young children, ages 2, 4 and 6. At the time, he lived in North Nashville, and was working on the railroad. The death of wife (Eudora Adkisson Bell) prompted him to move back to Bell Town, and in with his mother, who would help raise his children. Then, suddenly Mother Lucy died March 25, 1944.

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**The October 14 meeting will be held at 6:30 in the David McCullough Community Room at Sycamore Square.**

Bell-At a local infirmary Saturday evening, March 25, 1944.  
**Mrs. Lucy Bell.** Survived by two daughters, Miss Emma Lee Bell and Mrs. Mary William of Nashville; three sons, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Bell, Nashville; Pvt. John L. Bell, North Africa; Pvt. Thomas Bell, England; one brother, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Stringfellow, Danville, Ill.; two sisters, Mrs. Sallie Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Len Knight; seven grandchildren, host of other relatives and friends. Remains will be at Bell Town Monday evening. Funeral Tuesday 11 o'clock, officiating Elder C. R. Hooten, assisted by Rev. Edmond and Rev. Turner, . Mrs. A. M. Winters in charge. Ashland City, Tenn.



**T. C. in Cheatham County.**  
 Special Dispatch to The American.  
**ASHLAND CITY, Tenn., Aug. 24.**—The Tennessee Central Railroad Company is making every effort to complete the road for operation in the neighborhood of this place, in as short a time as possible. About two hundred men are now at work on the road, including the Marrowbone Creek bridge, every available man being pressed into service. Two forces are working on the bridge, one on the piers, the other on the false work. Operations were not suspended Sunday, but work was carried on vigorously all day. A large force of men was brought down from the Nashville and Harrison line of the road, arriving Saturday evening on the steamer *Dea Dudley*, and were put to work Sunday. Chief Engineer R. F. Harwood is here, personally superintending the work. He will remain here for that purpose until the track is laid through this county, and until Marrowbone and Sycamore bridges are completed. The false work at Marrowbone and the piers for the steel bridge were finished Sunday, so that the engine and construction train can pass over.  
 The men at work on the Sycamore bridge, five miles below this place, struck for higher wages some days ago. Operations were suspended there until Monday last, when arrangements were made to resume. The work on the bridge is considerably behind, owing to the high water and washouts of last spring, but it is understood that the efforts of the company will be redoubled there and the bridge pushed to a finish at an early day. If the work is pushed from this time on, as is now being done, it will not be a great while until the road is completed and in operation through this county.

**OUT THEY GO...THE LAST OF THE '74s**

OUR ENTIRE '74 INVENTORY WILL BE OFFERED FOR

**\$150**

**OVER FACTORY INVOICE**

Here are two examples:

<p><b>Brand New 1974 DODGE</b>                  1 1/2 TON PICKUP</p>  <p>Includes V-8 and overdrive, 3800 engine, dual carb, lockup, running, long wire lift &amp; steel case, dual tie rods</p> <p>Factory Price ..... \$2817.00                  Invoice ..... 1700.00                  Tax ..... 100.00  <b>Total ..... \$3078.62</b></p> <p>SEE THE LISTING TO CHECK CREDIT LIMITS AND RATES</p>	<p><b>Brand New 1974 OLDSMOBILE</b></p>  <p>Includes carb, power top, air, 2000 cc engine, side lights, radio, safety, tires, lock up, P.D.A.</p> <p>Factory Price ..... \$2800.00                  Invoice ..... 1300.00                  Tax ..... 50.00  <b>Total ..... \$2802.52</b></p>
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**BALTHROP MOTORS** Inc.  
 ASHLAND CITY, TENN. 244-3927

The\_Tennessean\_Tue\_\_Aug\_25\_\_1903

The\_Tennessean\_Wed\_\_Oct\_23\_\_1974

**Death Claims Young Mother  
January 29, 1931 - Ashland City Times**

Mrs. Mary Pardue Denton, Wife of J. D. Denton, keeper of Lock B. at Hickory Point died at the Clarksville hospital on Friday of last week.

Mrs. Denton was 34 years of age and was a daughter of A. J. and Mrs Frances Gupton Pardue. She was married to Mr. Denton on April 15, 1917 and to them four sons and one daughter were born, all of whom with her mother, one brother Willie Pardue and one sister, Mrs. Macon King survive her.

The burial took place in the Pardue Cemetery near Henrietta on Saturday, funeral services being held at the grave conducted by Rev. Hasting, pastor of Mt. Herman church.

**Petway News  
January 29, 1931 - Ashland City Times**

- Petway, Jan 28 - Mrs. Shelby Gregory and daughter Mildred of Old Hickory are the guests of her parents Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Hamilton
- Ralph Pack of Nashville was a guest of friends here
- Roy Bumpus of Nashville is here visiting his grandmother Mrs. Alma Harris.
- Mrs. Rufus McLaughlin was in Ashland City one day this week on business.
- Earl Johnson of Amanda's Chapel visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs Jas. Anderson

To make an appointment to visit the CCHGA office and Cheatham County Museum, please leave a message at 615.792.3623 or mail [cheathamcountyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:cheathamcountyhistory@gmail.com).

**August 26 CCHGA Workshop**

On August 26, several CCHGA members met to discuss office procedures and assistance with upcoming projects. In the photo: Rosemary Klein, Natalie Bell, Lisa Walker, Clay Walden, Bobby Lee and Dave McMahan



Check out the Tennessee Historical Commission's website <https://www.tn.gov/historicalcommission/state-programs/tennessee-historic-cemetery-preservation-program/tennessee-historic-cemetery-register-and-gis-map-of-the-state-s-historic-cemeteries.html> concerning Tennessee Cemeteries.



CCHGA members are encouraged to submit information for Tennessee 225: Commemorating 225 Years of Tennessee Statehood <https://www.tennessee225.com/>. Submit an untold story that showcases something special about Cheatham County and get a free limited-edition poster that celebrates one of three grand divisions. Follow @Tennessee225 on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) to stay up-to-date on #TN225 happenings.



### **Timothy Demonbreun Heritage Society**

New CCHGA member Sue Ellen DeMontbreun Watts is President of the **Timothy Demonbreun Heritage Society**. Cheatham Co, TN is where many descendants of Timothy Demonbreun's son John Baptiste children lived. CCHGA and the Society will be sharing newsletters. A copy of the August 2021 Society newsletter will be located in the vertical files in the CCHGA office.

Email: [cchga007@bellsouth.net](mailto:cchga007@bellsouth.net) or [cheathamcountyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:cheathamcountyhistory@gmail.com)  
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/CheathamCountyHistory/>  
Website: <https://cheathamcountyhistory.weebly.com/>  
Instagram: [@cheathamcountyhistory](#)

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