

# CCHGA BYTES

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The Newsletter of the Cheatham County Historical & Genealogical Association

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## CCHGA Office and Cheatham County Museum

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

CCHGA newsletters  
are snail mailed or  
e m a i l e d t o  
membership in March,  
June, September and  
December.

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## CCHGA Notes:

- The museum has closed temporarily until we find a new location. We will continue to answer emails, phone calls, have programs and send out newsletters.
- If you have had a change in email address or physical address, please call 615.792.3623 or email [cchgaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:cchgaoffice@gmail.com) so we can update our records.

## 2023 CCHGA Officers

Lisa Walker, President  
Nicole Binkley, Vice President  
Dreama Davidson, Treasurer  
Lisa Walker, Assistant Treasurer  
Rosemary Klein, Secretary  
Jane Crisp, Assistant Secretary  
GeorgeAnne Raines, Member At Large

## CCHGA 2023 Meetings and Other Dates

- September 14 @ 6:30 McCullough Community Room
- October 12 @ 6:30 McCullough Community Room/  
Guest Speaker Eva Farley
- November 9 @ 6:30 McCullough Community Room
- November 21 Bake Sale @ Sycamore Square
- December - No Meeting

**Thank you Roy Miles for your recent  
donation!**

**Donations may be sent to  
CCHGA  
P.O. Box703  
Ashland City, TN 37015**

**October 12, 2023 Meeting - 6:30 McCullough Room Sycamore Square**  
***How to recognize and use wild plants that grow in Cheatham County***

Eva Farley grew up in Port Royal, TN in Montgomery County on a farm, and has always had an interest in plants and how to use them. Pursuing that interest to a professional level, she is a certified Nutritional Herbalist and is currently working on the Master Herbalist program. Some years back, she participated in a month-long survival course where she and her class lived off the land in the wilderness, using the Air Force Survival Manual as their guide. She carries a wealth of information and experience about how to recognize plants and use them in our daily lives. Her topic will be "How to recognize and use wild plants that grow in Cheatham County."

**April 11, 2024 Program Meeting - 6:30 McCullough Room Sycamore Square**  
***Ghosts on the Cumberland***

John Oliver, the President of the Trousdale County, Tennessee Historical Society, has written a book called *Ghosts on the Cumberland*. The book is a collection of stories that have grown up along the Cumberland River.

Articles below are taken from *The Deserted Sycamore Village of Cheatham County* with permission from Lois Barnes Binkley

**SYCAMORE LODGE NO. 225**

Article taken from *The Deserted Sycamore Village of Cheatham County* with permission from Lois Barnes Binkley

The Free and Accepted Masons, Sycamore Lodge No. 225, was formed in 1850. The Charter held its first meeting at Rose Bower, between Sycamore Mills and Pleasant View. Later the members met in the upstairs of the Union Church at Sycamore until March 1874, when they moved to Pleasant View and met wherever they could find a place. The upstairs of Woodson's Hardware was built for that purpose in the early 1890s. They met there until 1946, when the Free Order and Odd-Fellows disbanded and moved to Ashland City.

The charter members, before 1874, were: Alex Lowe, W.W. Williams, Henry Hyde, R.T. Barnes, P.H. Woodson, James Ryan, F.R. Harris, J.E. Turner, George W. Hunt, D.A. Wilkins, A.H. Williams, David

Cullom, and A.D. Smith. The wives of these men met at a separate time at the same place. They were known as Rebecca and Order of Eastern Star.

### “AUNT” FANNIE WILLIAMS MIDWIFE

Fannie Williams was the midwife to many families at the Sycamore Powder Mills.

“Aunt” Fannie was brought from Virginia to Tennessee as a slave, when she was a girl of 12 or 14 years of age. She had made the trip on horseback. She had six children: John Pope, Albert Darden, Benjamin Williams, Elizabeth Williams Parkerson, Isea Williams, and Maria Williams.

Theodore Boyd said that when he knew her, she was a widow living in a small log house which she owned, with a few acres of land, at the head of Rosebower Branch on the west side of the present Highway 49.

After World War I, there was a wholesale migration of people, white and black, from Cheatham County to industrial cities in the north. “Aunt” Fannie’s children moved out, but she stayed in Cheatham County. The last time Boyd saw “Aunt” Fannie was in 1925. He took a Kodak picture of her, a reprint of which is shown in this book. She was then in her eighties.

Boyd also related that he had been delivered by “Aunt” Fannie, while his parents lived at Sycamore. The nearest doctor lived two or three miles away. Still farther away some miles beyond the doctor’s home, another baby was due to be born that night about the same time as his birth. That was a rare coincidence in a small community with as tiny a population as Sycamore. His father got on his horse and rode for a doctor at what seemed the proper time.



He was quite unaware of any competition for the doctor’s services, until he was told that the doctor had been called on another obstetrical case. By riding a few more miles he might have been able to get another doctor, but it seemed likely that any such delayed help would arrive too late. Meanwhile, his mother had not been left alone. A black woman, “Aunt” Fannie Williams, had been called in to make preparations for the doctor, and to assist him. When the doctor failed to appear, the entire responsibility for Boyd’s birth fell on “Aunt” Fannie.

He was told later that she managed as successfully as a doctor. Theodore Boyd was born without the assistance of a doctor.

“Aunt” Fannie continued through her long life to attend local births and she became the best-known midwife in the community. Most often she assisted a doctor, but there were several occasions she had to handle alone.

“Aunt” Fannie cooked for the farm hands at Millard Williams’ for 17 years. Verner Binkley said he had eaten her cooking many times, and it was the best cooking he had ever eaten. John Patterson said that when “Aunt” Fannie came over the Blue Ridge Mountains, her owner let her pick up all the chestnuts she could carry on horseback. She was probably a frightened young lady, having to start out all alone not knowing where her home would be, plus having to start out at such a young age. She had been sold three times as a slave. The first time she remembered very distinctly. While she was on the slave auction block in Virginia, she remembered a little black lady kneeling and weeping at her feet. She would tell in later years that this must have been her mother. Many thoughts must have gone through her mind, “Will I ever see my family again” She probably longed for them many times, but she had to grow up the hard way.

“Aunt” Fannie was known as the best midwife for the community. “Aunt” Fannie could be seen all hours of the night, with her little lantern going over the hills and hollows of Cheatham County. She delivered many white children in this county. Some of these “babies” are still living and remember her very well.

“Aunt” Fannie lived to be 101 or 103; she didn’t really know her age. She married two times and lived at her little stick-and-dirt-chimney house on Rosebower Branch. She died sometime in the 1940s and was buried in the black cemetery just up from her little house on Rosebower Branch.

She attended church services at Mt. Lebanon until she was too old and feeble to attend. The church burned sometime ago, but the tall oak trees are still standing.

## **South’s Grocery Serves Community 55 Years**

**continued from last newsletter**

**June 11, 1948**

**Gordon H. Turner Staff Correspondent**

### **People and Scenes**

Neighborhood Notes: Griffintown is 13 miles north of White Bluff... Earl Hall’s big country store on way out. In road forks, does a huge business in general merchandise..Passed Jess Montgomery’s

Harpeth River farm and home. Several boats on racks being painted and loads of fishing poles. Was told that Nashville Federal Judge Elmer Davies comes here to fish a lot. ..Old Stringfellow iron bridge crosses beautiful Harpeth River. Cheatham county begins on north side. Have seen no finer young corn than in these bottom lands... Perry Corlew building new concrete block store as start up into hills again...Passed farm and home of E.B. Griffin. He once worked for H. G. Hill in Nashville and was conductor on old street cars there. Returned here and now reputed to be “workinest man” in these parts. Finest garden we have seen. He won Cheatham County’s first place in Tennessee contest last year. Garden we saw will push somebody for state’s top place right now...This section has a lot of deer. Farmers say plentiful, even outside nearby game preserve. Dogs run all time, in spite of efforts to stop, but little or no harm ever done. Local people co-operate heartily with game wardens to enforce protection laws...Passed home of M.C. Griffins, parents of 12 children.

### Some cemeteries from “*Tombstone Records*” continued

1. Joseph John Bradley Cemetery: Recorded in April, 1986. The cemetery is located in a grove of cedar trees ¼ mile southeast of the intersection Hwy. 49 and Hwy 41-A in Pleasant View, TN. (TR) (No. 62)
2. Greer Cemetery: Recorded in 1980. The cemetery is located on Popular Creek Road in Davidson County 2 miles going west from McCrory Lane on a hillside above the creek and is located under a power line. (TR) (No. 65)
3. Greer-Sawyer Cemetery: Recorded in 1980. The cemetery is located on Popular Creek Road in Davidson County on the right 1.3 miles going west from McCrory Lane. (TR) (No. 66)
4. Bob Greer Cemetery: Recorded in September, 1980. The cemetery is located at the end of Morton Hill Road where Old Harding Place crosses the river about 1.5 miles downstream at the top of a knoll. (TR) (67)
5. Henry Cemetery: Recorded in 1980. The cemetery is located in a field off of Hwy 70 across Hannah Ford Road. (TR) (No. 70)

6. Mitchell Cemetery: Recorded in 1980. The cemetery is located in Davidson County on South Harpeth Road 2 miles south of the intersection with Poplar Creek Road. (TR) (No. 71)
7. Jackson Cemetery: Recorded on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1984. The cemetery is located on state Hwy. 250 on the left 5.3 miles from the intersection of Hwy. 49 and Hwy. 250. It is enclosed by a fence, is well maintained and is very close to the road. (TR) (No. 73)
8. Miles Cemetery: Recorded on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1984. Cemetery is located near the intersection of State Hwys. 49 and 250. From that intersection, go south on 250, but take the first gravel road to the left. Cemetery is about .5 miles at the end of the gravel road, in the woods. (TR) (No. 76)
9. Gallaher Cemetery: Recorded on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 1984. The cemetery is located off Hwy. 12<sup>th</sup> south of Ashland City .2 miles down Thompson Road. It is on the right, is enclosed by fence, is visible from the Thompson Road, and is well maintained. (TR) (No. 82)
10. Speight/Yeates Cemetery: Recorded on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1984. The cemetery is located on Primm Road 3.2 miles from the intersection of Primm Road and state Hwy. 250. It is not maintained and is located to the left at the end of a gravel road on what was then the R.I. Weakley property. (TR) (No. 96)
11. Ross Cemetery: Recorded on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 1986. The cemetery is located in a field on the right-hand side of Hwy. 12 approximately 2.1 miles south of Ashland City. It is enclosed in a fence, is well maintained, and is visible from the road. (TR) (No. 99)
12. Boyte Cemetery: Recorded on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1985. The cemetery is located off Hwy. 49 on Bobbitt Drive in a field reached by a private gravel farm road to the left. It is not visible from the road and is not maintained. (TR) (No. 103)
13. Brinkley Cemetery: Recorded on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1985. The cemetery is located on Hwy. 12 north of Ashland City, on the left-hand side of the highway, 1 mile before the Marks Creek bridge. It is not maintained. (TR) (No. 104)
14. St. Paul A.M.E Cemetery: Recorded on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1986. The cemetery is located at the St. Paul A.M.E. Church on Turner Street in Ashland City. (TR) (No. 106)
15. Slave Cemetery: Recorded in July, 1986. The cemetery is located .8 miles due south of the Neptune Community at the intersection of Old Ferry Road and Page Road. There are no marked graves. (TR) (No. 110)



16. Batts Cemetery: Recorded in July, 1986. The cemetery is located off Buck Hollow Road near the intersection of Buck Hollow Road and Isaac Clinton Road on Gray Sexton's farm just above Dry Fork Creek. (TR) (No. 111)
17. Johnson Cemetery: Recorded on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1986. The cemetery is located on Sears Road ¼ mile north of the intersection of Sears Road with Gourley Road. (TR) (No. 112)
18. Jones Cemetery: Recorded on July, 1986. The cemetery is located .7 miles north of Bethel Free Will Baptist Church on Jones Road behind the Church. (TR) (No. 115)

Demonbreun Cemetery  
Submitted by Sue Ellen Watts

When Terry Durard went to the old Demonbreun Cemetery near Big Marrowbone Creek to place some Mother's Day flowers on his ancestors grave last May, he was dismayed to find a huge tree had fallen across it. Duard was there to honor Elizabeth Bennett Hensley Durard, who died in 1856. He descends from Elizabeth and her husband Joseph Durard.

Elizabeth is the mother of Timothy Demonbreun's acknowledged but illegitimate children, John Baptiste, William and Polly. She is also the mother of Felix, whom Timothy was thought to have acknowledged as his child, but who was omitted from Timothy's will. After bearing Timothy's children, Elizabeth married Joseph Durard a longtime friend of Timothy's. Elizabeth and Joseph then had several children together.

Elizabeth died February 13, 1856, Cheatham County Tennessee She is buried in the Demonbreun Cemetery (also known as the Carney Cemetery) near Ashland City TN. Members and descendants of both families have lived in the area for almost 200 years. The cemetery holds special meaning to many descendants of Timothy Demonbreun, and Elizabeth Bennett Hensley Durard.



The huge tree stood only one or two yards away from Elizabeth headstone. The roots lifted Elizabeth headstone slightly but did not appear to damage it. However, at least one smaller footstone was broken. Durard has been in touch with cemetery trustees and has received permission to work on removing or cutting back the remaining stump and roots. He is a lifetime member have the Timothy remembering Historical Society. He is keeping the TDHS members apprised of his progress. More information will be included in a future newsletter.

### **The Timothy Demonbreun Historical Society**

Today, there are many descendants of Timothy Demonbreun, Revolutionary War Patriot, and The First Citizen of Nashville, who live in Cheatham County and surrounding counties. But, many do not know that they are Timothy's descendants. If your ancestors are early settlers of Cheatham County there is a strong possibility that you may be. The best way to find out is to go to the Timothy Demonbreun Heritage Society website ([timothydemonbreunsociety.com](http://timothydemonbreunsociety.com)).

Fill out the "contact us section" at [timothydemonbreunsociety.com](http://timothydemonbreunsociety.com) and send us a message letting us know you need help determining if you are related to Timothy. A society member will contact you.

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**P. O. Box 703**  
**Ashland City, TN 37015**