

CCHGA BYTES

The Newsletter of the Cheatham County Historical & Genealogical Association

Cheatham County History Center Hours

Tuesday 12:00 - 4:00

Saturday 10:00 - 12:00

Call the CCHGA office 615.792.3623
or email
cheathamcountyhistory@gmail.com

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 cchga007@bellsouth.net.

Upcoming Events

September 30 - 1:00 - 4:00 Booth at Community Enhancement Summit @ Ashland City National Guard Armory

October 7 - CC Public Library 50th Birthday Celebration & Cheatham County Museum Open House

October 12 - 6:30 CCHGA business meeting

October 14 - Adam Binkley Commemoration

October 14 - CCHGA will have a booth at Ashland City's Music on Main

CCHGA Program Meeting

November 9, 2017

Sheyegirl Coffee Co.

201 N Main Street

Ashland City, TN

6:30 p.m.



The musical group, **One Voice**, comprised of members Lisa Meyer - vocals; Kate Malchow - vocals, mandolin, guitar; Liza Bates - vocals, guitar, banjo and Jen Wilson - flute, sax, clarinet, will perform at CCHGA's next program meeting in November.

Their musical presentation will include songs from the Civil War featuring a Stephen Foster medley and a traditional hymn medley. In addition, they will also perform Dixie and The Tennessee Waltz. In between songs, the background history of the songs they sing and composers will be given.

The Memoirs of Ralph Spangler - Reminiscing About Yesterday

Interviewer: Gary Pace, Transcribed in 2010 by Betty Harris

Continued from June 2017 Newsletter

Alabama:

Sam and I went to Georgia, down in Athens. We went up into KY. We were offered a scholarship there. We were also awarded a scholarship to Vanderbilt. But our grades in Latin were not good and Vanderbilt told us we were going to have to come here for summer school and get those grades raised, "Otherwise, we cannot admit you."

Well I told Sam that they gave us the grade we got, so it wasn't any use trying Vanderbilt. So we went Alabama, and I don't recall if they even asked for a transcript or not. Alabama has always been a fine school academically and athletically. I guess they've been to more bowls than any other team in the United States, they won more SEC championships than any other school in the SEC, so for us to go to Alabama and get a scholarship there...we thought we were on top of the world. We went to Alabama and enjoyed it.

The coach there was Frank Thomas who coached Coach Bryant. We ran the Notre Dame Box. He had played under Knute Rockne at Notre Dame. The Notre Dame Box was a shifting formation. You came out of a tight T and you shifted right or left. Coach Thomas brought that to Alabama. He is considered one of the great coaches. We ran the Alabama Box and when I started coaching, we ran the Alabama Box a lot here. In Alabama, we never ran a play out of the T Formation. We would always shift. So when I got to Ashland City, I thought, why can't I run out of the T Formation some like I did in high school at BGA. So I did. It worked out fine because we sued two formations, but really it was only one formation because we would shift right or left. But that's how I came to use the T formation and the Notre Dame Box all as one offense.

When you are 17 or 18, you don't realize what coaches have gone through to get where they are. Coach Thomas, as I said, recruited Coach Bryant and put Alabama on the map where football is concerned. When Coach Thomas talked, he had our attention. Whatever he said, well, that was the only way it could be done, to our thinking. I had heard of Knute Rockne all of my life and Coach Thomas had played quarter back under Knute Rockne. I just thought he was something from heaven and he was the MAN. When he started saying "rabbit" I started jumping, and the other boys were the same....right, wrong or otherwise. Whatever Coach Thomas said, to us, it was RIGHT. There was never a question to ever arise to make us think any differently. Because of him, I would say he was very instrumental in getting me to go into the coaching field.

I will never forget some of the things I picked up in the pre-game meetings in the field house, off season comments, etc. He was the top of the line in the South Eastern Conference.

I started out as a third string boy. When I went there we had 90 boys out for football. There were two boys that had played two years before and were lettermen. To play the third string, I didn't realize it then, but that was pretty strong. Going against two boys that had lettered for two previous years and then having 90 out for practice, I don't guess third string was too far down the line. I played offense and defense. Now days, nobody knows what you're talking about when you say Notre Dame Box. Nobody uses it now, but what they are doing is calling Tiger Offense, or something. They are getting a similar look in a formation of the old single wing. They are putting a tail back there and the ball is being snapped back to him. Wild Cat.. Even the pros are doing it, I noticed that this week end while watching the games. They're not using the

man in the center all together. All colleges are going now to this Wild Cat formation. Now they're going with a three man front and a four man front.

In college, Sam played tackle. He was then considered a large man because he was about six/two and weighed about 220. That would be considered a very small man today, but back then your line-ups were just not as large as they are today. The year before we went there, Alabama had played in the Sugar Bowl and lost to Duke.

We played with some of the greatest players. Harry Gilmer was one of the great ones. He was a personal friend of Sam and myself, and has been to Ashland City many times. After he graduated, the Red Skins drafted Harry. They paid him a bonus of a hundred thousand dollars and I remember saying, "Harry, (I didn't have a dollar, much less a hundred thousand) you never will spend all that money."

He laughed but went right ahead and played with the Red Skins for ten years and then went as an assistant coach to Norm Van Brocklin, and was later head coach with the Detroit Lions. Sam and I got to visit him when he was an assistant in the pros and also as head coach in the pros. As a matter fact, Harry came by about a year ago and we went to see Marion (Sam's wife) and just had a real, real good time and did a lot of reminiscing about yesterday. I would say that of all the football players I've ever seen, Harry Gilmer is the best football player. He did all the punting, and of course, back then you played both sides of the ball. When you quit running the ball offensively your ball would be turned over to your opponent and then you played defense. It wasn't a platoon situation back then, you played both ways. Harry did all the punting, all the passing and I never saw him throw the ball standing flat on the ground. Everything he threw, he was in the air during the throwing. I've never seen that since. He as on the kick-off team. He was the very best player I've ever seen and a very, very humble person. The only way you knew anything about Harry was to ask him a question, because he certainly wouldn't just come out and tell you. I remember one year he was here and he had this young man up at TN state. Of course, Coach Meredith played there and during those days, schools were not integrated. TN State was recognized as of the of the best schools in the country. Harry and I went up there to see this boy and while he was there he saw this other boy and liked his looks. So he said, "Coach Meredith, I like the looks of this other boy, what grade is he in?" I remember Coach Meredith said, "What grade do you want him to be in?" I can't remember whether he recruited him or not. Harry was not only a great football person, but one of the finest individuals you could ever meet.

To be continued in the next CCHGA Bytes.

Don't forget to renew your CCHGA membership for 2018!

Oct, Nov & Dec are current and new member recruitment months! The CCHGA membership application is located at http://www.rootsweb.com/~tncc_hga/cchga_app.pdf

Thank you Brenda Curtis for your recent donation of men's and women's period clothing! A far cry from today's clothing, this is not your every day wear and CCHGA member will enjoy for years to come.

A Brief History of the Nashville - Charlotte Turnpike

Submitted by CCHGA Member DJ Hutcherson

In 1804, James Robertson cut the path of what would later be known as the Nashville - Charlotte Turnpike, often referred to as the Charlotte Road or Charlotte Pike. At that time, Robertson owned several iron furnaces, including those in Dickson County near the town of Charlotte, which he named after his wife. The purpose wasn't to construct a turnpike road, but simply a road connecting Nashville and Charlotte.

Two years after Robertson had cut the path, the earliest mention of the road comes from The Nashville Impartial Review, dated July 12th, 1806, announcing various mail routes in Middle Tennessee, in this case the opening of a route between Nashville and Charlotte. Stages would "leave Nashville every Friday at 6 A.M., and arrive in Charlotte by noon." It took 6 hours to travel the 40 miles or so of the road at that time.

The next mention of the road being used as a thoroughfare for business or trade comes from an advertisement in The Arkansas Gazette of February 2nd, 1830. The ad itself is dated December 12, 1829, and announces the start of a stage line between Nashville and Memphis, with operations beginning in January 1830. The stage coaches would operate 3 days a week, with a one way trip between the two cities taking three and a half days (not taking into account broken axles, muddy roads, and other obstacles) It boasts "four horse Coaches, fitted up in superior style" for the passengers.

The Nashville - Charlotte Turnpike Company had been chartered sometime around 1829, and when this ad ran, the Company was owned by Jetton, Walker & Co.

By the 1840s, at least 2 tollgates had been established on the Turnpike. The first was located 6 miles or so from Nashville on top of the first of several ridges known as Sullivan's ridge. Samuel Adkisson, the engineer who had built the tunnel at the Narrows in 1818, operated the 2nd tollgate located near his home on Dog Creek. This would have been located near modern day Dog Creek Cemetery.

With the advent and rapid construction of railroads by the 1850s, the use for turnpikes in Middle Tennessee waned, and the use of stage coaches as a means of transportation became an inconvenience. The Nashville & Northwestern Railroad had been completed from Nashville to Kingston Springs by the beginning of the Civil War, and on to Dickson in 1863. The trip from Dickson to

**Nashville and Charlotte
TURNPIKE;
Notice to Contractors.**

SEAL^d proposals will be received until Saturday 10th February, for constructing that part of said road, from the termination of the fifth mile to the top of the hill about one mile beyond Elijah Robertson's, being five miles and five eighths, either for the whole, or in sections of one mile, or more. Said road to be well graded thirty feet wide, with sufficient ditches on each side, and covered with broken limestone, twenty feet in width and nine inches in thickness, or its equivalent so that each mile shall contain 79200 cubic feet of stone, and no part of said road as far as the foot of the hill, to be more than three degrees above a horizontal line—to have sufficient culverts and stone bridges, with stone arches and parapet walls, across the branches of Fletcher's and Overall's Creeks, being five in number, and the workmanship to be equal to the bridges on the Gallatin road, to make embankments at Hillborough above high water mark, and in every respect to be a McAdamized Turnpike of the best construction and fully equal to the Franklin road. That part from the foot to the top of the hill to be graded at such a degree as the Directors may require, and about one third of it to be McAdamized, the balance to be merely graded. All of said road will be required to be completed within the space of two years. Contractors will be required to take a portion of the amount of their bids in the stock of said road, and give bond and approved security for the faithful performance of the work—they will be paid as the work progresses, and be under the supervision of the President and Directors, or a committee appointed by them, and to be docked for any deficiency in their work, in the judgment of said President and Directors. They will be required to tend and keep in good order said road or part thereof, after the metal is put on, until the gate is erected &c.

Proposals to be addressed to the undersigned, and left at his office on Union Street, opposite the Union printing office.

BENJAMIN SHARPE, Secretary
to the Board of Commissioners

Jan. 29, 1830.—eo3L

Nashville took only 3 hours or so by train, compared to the 6 hours it took by stage.

STAGE LINE,
FROM
NASHVILLE TO MEMPHIS.

THE United States' Mail will be carried from Nashville, via Charlotte, Reynoldsburgh, Huntington, Jackson, Bolivar, Summer-ville, and Raleigh, to Memphis, after the first day of January next, in four horse Coaches, fitted up in superior style for the accommodation of passengers, and will run through the whole line in three days and a half, three times each week—leaving Nashville on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at one o'clock in the morning; and leaving Memphis on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 12 o'clock, M.

R. JETTON, J. WALKER & Co.
Dec. 12, 1829. 1-8w [\$5 62½]

From the late 1860s up until the turn of the century, those still making the journey along the road could stop for a rest or an overnight stay at Nichol's Inn, operated by Lydia Nichols, whose husband was killed fighting for the Confederacy during the Civil War. The large orchard that surrounded the Inn was famous for its apples and pears. The structure still stands to this day on Old Charlotte pike, one mile from the first climb up Sullivan's Ridge.

The entire length of the road was still traversable as late as the 1920s, but with the construction of the Memphis -Bristol highway, sections were cut off or closed, an example being the section that had ran along Dog Creek Road.

Sources:

1. "West Nashville, Its People and Environs" by Sarah Foster Kelly, 1988
2. The Economic & Social Beginnings of Tennessee" by Albert C Holt, page 303
3. The Arkansas Gazette, February 2, 1830
4. The Daily Republican Banner (Nashville) February 6, 1830
5. Early North Carolina & Tennessee Land Records, ancestry.com

Holly Spann sold photos at the Ashland City Farmers Market and donated the proceeds to CCHGA. THANK YOU HOLLY FOR YOUR DONATION TO CCHGA!

<http://www.facebook.com/cheathamcountyhistory/>



Railroad cars were used on Pond Creek for getting logs to the Cumberland River, probably in the late 1800s when they still used oxen to get the logs out of the woods. Logging was a big business on Pond Creek and lots of other places. The photo belongs to Marie Murphy Garland, PALS Chapter member, and it came from the Jim Murphy family.

Cheatham County Public Library Celebrates 50 Years of Service to the Community

Can you imagine our community without a library? At one time for Cheatham County, that was indeed the case. Over the course of a half-century, the Cheatham County Public Library has transformed from just a dream and an idea in a community that only had occasional visits from a bookmobile, to the state-of-the-art facility it is today.

The following excerpt from the “Our History” section of the library’s website tells the story of the humble beginnings of our library, and how it grew to become one of the most valuable resources of our community:

“The first meetings with county officials to explore the needs and the possibility of a public library in Cheatham County took place in 1955. The idea was met with much enthusiasm by members of the community. The Federal Library Service Act was already in place at that time, and provided for a two year demonstration of library services to rural counties which were not a part of the State Regional Library System. Federal funds would be appropriated during each of the two years for operational expenses, with the understanding that at the end of that cycle, the county would be required to appropriate local funds to pay expenses in order to continue receiving regional service.

In 1961, at the request of Jack Boyd, local attorney and clerk of the Tennessee Supreme Court, representatives of Cheatham County visited the Lions Club to discuss the possibility of a public library. Those representatives included Jimmy Lockert of Lockert Drug and his father, who was a member of the county court and the state legislature, Mary Nelson Bates, Assistant Director of the Tennessee State Library and Archives, and Mrs. Julia Martin, Director of the Warioto Regional Library Center in Clarksville, Tennessee. There were discussions about the location of the public library being housed at the Cheatham County Courthouse, however, it was agreed by Judge Neil Robertson, County Judge, Mary Elizabeth Jean, home demonstration agent, and Mrs. Bates that the current courthouse construction at that time would prevent successful operation of the library.

In April of 1962, Mrs. Bess Jordan placed a phone call to Mrs. Bates expressing the community’s continued enthusiasm for a public library. It was then that Mrs. Bates met with Jaycee member Roger Binkley to ask for <http://www.facebook.com/cheathamcountyhistory/>

his assistance in bringing awareness of the Tennessee Regional Library System and the library demonstration to the local citizens and civic organizations to formalize a plan to present to the county court. This was followed by submission of applications to the state and the formalizing of a court-appointed library board. In April of 1963, after a series of meetings with Mrs. Bates, Jack Boyd, Jaycees President Grant Winters, and local attorney Bill Baker, the application was presented to the county court. Judge Neil Robertson submitted the application to the Warioto Regional Library Center, and on April 8, 1963, the county court appointed Cheatham County's first library board, which consisted of Mrs. Mildred Mays of Kingston Springs, Mrs. Helen Robinson of Pegram, Mrs. Mildred Morris of Ashland City, Mr. Bill Ellis of Pleasant View, Mr. Roger Binkley of Ashland City, Mrs. Effie M. Fielder of Ashland City, and Mr. Dennis Blankenship of Ashland City. Because this was a new board, there were no appointees to the Warioto Regional Library Board.

Funding only allowed to two applications to be accepted in 1963, and Cheatham County's was the third to be received. This meant that Cheatham County would have to wait until the 1965 cycle; however, it put Cheatham County in first position for application for the 1965 cycle. In a March 12, 1965 letter to Judge Neil Robertson, Mrs. Bates, who was now under the title of TSLA Director, advised that the Cheatham County Court should appoint two members to the Warioto Regional Library Board. The board and Regional Librarian, Mrs. Julia Martin, would then meet in May to plan for the "library demonstration".

In July of 1967, it was noted that Cheatham County no longer came under the regulations as a demonstration county because an appropriation was made by the county which qualified it until 1972. The sum of \$4,000 was allocated for library operating expenses and for appointing the library board. At this time, Cheatham County became part of the Tennessee Regional Library System. A meeting was held on September 7, 1967 at Judge Jimmy Lockert's courthouse office for the purpose of forming the library board and to discuss the purchase of new bookshelves, book ends, and library supplies with the county appropriations. A group of the county's citizens attended this meeting along with Glover Dale baker, James Dowlen, J. C. Balthrop, Judge Jimmy Lockert, Mrs. Julia Martin, and Mrs. Briggs. Eleven Shelves were ordered and 1,200 books were readied to begin the library. Other items up for discussion were salary and hiring of the new librarian.

The first library board meeting was held on September 12, 1967, with all members present. Applicants for the new librarian position were discussed and by the evening's end, Jackie Strunk of Ashland City was hired at a salary of \$250 per month. The library's hours of operation were also set at that meeting, which were 8:00 am to 4:00 pm daily, except on Wednesdays when the library was closed. Cheatham County Public Library opened its doors for the first time on October 7, 1967, in a single room on the second floor of the Cheatham County Courthouse. The room had eight shelves of books, and the first patron to check out a book was named "Parker Cashdollar", and he checked out a book entitled "How the Millionaires Made Their Money" (yep, true name, true story)! In its first year, the library circulated 4,616 books. Library books were supplied by the Warioto Regional Library Center, and six bookmobile stations were set up in the county in the locations of Allen Brothers store at Cheap Hill, Nicholson's Store at Pleasant View, Perry's Store at Mt. Zion, Bank of Pegram at Pegram, Bank of Kingston Springs at Kingston Springs, and Herbert Dozier's Store at Greenbrier. An average of 60 books was left at the stations on each visit.

In 1971, the Cheatham County Public Library relocated to a house on Elizabeth Street in Ashland City, with a five year lease from the Board of Education Office. The location was then known as "the Grey Palace." Jackie Strunk's tenure of thirteen years as the first librarian ended at that location. Jean Hill followed as librarian for a period of one year, after which time Glenda Jacoway became librarian in 1981. In that year, the Cheatham County Commission approved \$57,750 to purchase a new building for the library and in December, it moved to 610 North Main Street in Ashland City, to a building previously owned by L. J. Matlock. The library had grown substantially during this time and held a high rate of circulation (3,350 books) which was a great number considering the county's small size. Ruth Proctor and Janice Pate were hired during this period and remained the core support staff for Mrs. Jacoway for many years. During the time at the Main Street location, Director Jacoway created and implemented many innovative library programs, and the Cheatham County Public Library Continued to grow.

In the late 1990's, The Ruse Tucker family sold their home-site located at 272 Frey Street in Ashland City to the county in the hopes that the county would someday do something "good" with the land. As the Cheatham County Public Library continued to grow beyond the capacity it could hold at the Main Street location (now affectionately known as "Jacoway's Hideaway"), that "hope" for something "good" became a reality, and on September 10, 2001, ground was broken for the county's new 10,000 square-foot Cheatham County Public Library at the old Tucker home-site on Frey Street (now known as 188 County Services Drive). The new building was financed by Cheatham County, constructed by KayDon Construction, designed by John Werne III, architect, and furnished by the Friends of the Library.

Opening day at the new Cheatham County Public Library took place on May 6, 2002, with open house ceremonies on May 30, 2002. Many residents of the community, board members and supporters, as well as state officials, including Secretary of State Riley C. Darnell, and State Librarian and Archivist Dr. Ed Gleaves, attended the ceremonies.

Director Jacoway brought many programs already in place at the prior location with her to the new facility. These included Story Time, which was led by Dinise Ohlman until May of 2000, and then by Children's Librarian Susan Scholma. Summer Hour, created to provide summertime structure to elementary school aged children, which evolved into the Tennessee State Summer Reading Program, and includes professional guest performers, games, activities and reading logs to keep track of how many books the children have read and to determine the top readers for awards and prizes. The Friends of the Library support the library by paying talent fees for the performers and purchasing other materials for the program. Director Jacoway also created a book club for adults in the community called "Book Worms", which still meets the first Tuesday of every month at the library.

In July of 2006, Glenda Jacoway retired after 26 years of service to the library. Director Jacoway's passion for and devotion to the Cheatham County Public Library has brought it to the wonderful, historical, and resourceful facility it is today."

On Saturday October 7, 2017, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, the Cheatham County Public Library will celebrate its 50th Birthday. The Cheatham County Historical and Genealogical Association, which is located in the lower level of the library building, along with the Friends of Cheatham County Public Library, will be assisting with the event, which will include birthday cake, and an open house with library and museum tours. The day will also highlight the grand opening of the Friends of the Library Book Store, which is also located in the lower level of the library. I hope that you will join us on that day, in celebrating our library's amazing history!

~ May Lingner, Library Director, Cheatham County Public Library

Please visit our website at: <http://cheathamcountyttn.gov/community/library/> Or find us on Facebook.



Cheatham County Historical and Genealogical Association

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