

# CHRONICLER

## Preserving Our Past



Issue 32, July 1, 2015

Greenback Historical Society, Inc.  
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[www.gbhistorical.webs.com](http://www.gbhistorical.webs.com)

### APRIL MEETING SUMMARY

A Quarterly Meeting of The Greenback Historical Society was held on Sunday, April 26, 2015 in the Greenback Community Center at 2:00 p.m. with 18 members in attendance. The meeting was called to order by President Shirley Hall. Following the customary introduction, the minutes of the January 17 Annual Meeting were read by Linda Cabe and the Treasurer's report was given by Betty Carroll. Current balances of \$4,899.25 in the general fund and \$1,287.19 in the Preservation Account were reported.

President Hall thanked Larry Skidmore for getting the word out to newspapers and calling members to remind them of our meetings. She also thanked Paul Bailey for acting as an advisor to continue working on the Depot Historical Marker and helping with the Newsletter.

President Hall announced the activities of a committee putting together a walking/driving tour of historical sites around Greenback. She also indicated that the Depot Marker historical facts list discussed at the board meeting would be submitted as an initial draft for review by the state.

There were brief reports from some of the standing committees. For the Ice Cream Contest, Colleen Ragain announced that it will be held on Saturday, July 25. There will be a brief Quarterly meeting at 12:00 in the basement of the Community Center, set up will begin at 1:00 and the contest at 2:00 p.m. She stated there will be first, second and third prizes awarded.

Under Old Business, Colleen Ragain reported that the repainting of the quilt square for the Drug Store Diner was almost completed. Bob Anderson asked if we have any plaques or markers from the old school. President Hall stated she had been working with Principal Casteel and that he has some in storage.

Under New Business, Roy Goddard stated that one of our members, Esther Montgomery, is at Asbury Acres Retirement Center and is 102 years old. Carolyn Peck asked if the Scrapbook Committee was still accepting pictures for the scrapbook. Betty Carroll stated they were still taking pictures and articles.

Teresa Goddard reported people had been calling her asking when Decorations were to occur at local cemeteries. A list was compiled from knowledge

**NEXT MEETING: Saturday, July 25, 12:00PM at the Greenback Community Center**

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of those in attendance and it will be added to the Society website as a reference.

Betty Carroll thanked David Black for donating coverlets/quilts to the Greenback Museum. These were made in the 1920's and belonged to his parents, Carrie Pearson Black and Frank Black. Roy Goddard stated the Greenback High School Class of 1935 had engraved a list of student names on a square marble and that it was now on display at the Greenback Museum.

The program on small, unknown, local cemeteries was presented by Colleen Ragain, Laura Del Rio and Roy Goddard. As there was no further business, President Hall adjourned the meeting at 3:30 PM.

*Linda Cabe and Paul Bailey*

### BRICK MILL COMMUNITY HISTORY

The story of the founding of the Brick Mill community begins with Samuel Henry. Samuel was a soldier in the Revolutionary War from Hanover County, Virginia. His family was related to the famous orator, Patrick Henry who was from the same area. Samuel and his father were both members of the Hanover County Militia.

After the war, Samuel settled on land near the Little Baker's Creek and became a key figure in the settlement of the territory that would become Tennessee in 1796. Samuel set aside land for a church to be part of the Cumberland Presbytery. Part of his Revolutionary War land grant, Samuel earmarked the land before he had received legal title which was signed by Governor John Sevier in 1801. Baker's Creek Presbyterian Church was organized in 1791. **(Continued on Page 5)**

The Greenback Heritage Museum will host its 5th Annual Quilt Show on September 10, 11, and 12 this year. Quilts may be dropped off at the museum on September 3, 4 and 5 from 10:00 to 2:00. After the show, pick up time for the quilts will be 4:00 to 5:00 on September 12 or on September 17 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. As in past shows, each quilt will be given a number and assigned a piggy bank with the corresponding number. Visitors can put a penny in the appropriate pig to vote for their favorite quilt. Vote as many times as you like. Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 quilts. Go to the museum website at [www.gbmuseum.webs.com](http://www.gbmuseum.webs.com) for more information and to download entry forms. Also, you may call Barbara Davis at 865-856-3262 or Betty Carroll at 865-856-3467 with your questions.

Again this year, a Craft Fair will be held at the Greenback Depot concurrent with the Quilt Show. Contact Wendy Edmondson Tittsworth at 865-548-3764 for information about this event. Enthusiasts are invited to bring their "Old Tractors" to display at the vacant area by the Drug Store Diner on Saturday morning September 14th. Invite your out-of-town friends to visit Greenback and enjoy a wonderful end of summer weekend with us.

Area resident Junior Banks has donated a cannonball that he found by the Little Tennessee River about 40 years ago to the museum. He believes it to be from the Fort Loudoun era in the mid-1700s. It is one of two that he found in the same vicinity around the same time. The other he donated to the Fort Loudoun State Historic Park. A full article describing the donation may be found in The Daily Times June 28, 2015, edition.

*Sandra Tipton and Paul Bailey*

## **ICE CREAM CONTEST**

The 2015 Historical Society Ice Cream Contest will take place Saturday, July 25, in the pavilion behind the Greenback Community Center. The prizes will again be \$100 for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place. As in past events, the crowd will act as judges by tasting and marking ballots. Setup for the contest will begin at 1:00PM. Tasting and voting will run from 2:00PM until around 3:30PM. The winning entries will be announced around 4:00PM. Members and interested visitors are encouraged to come early and attend the Quarterly Meeting which will take place from 12:00 until 1:00 PM in the Community Center basement meeting room.

If you wish to vie for the cash prizes, you must fill out a CONTEST AGREEMENT form and submit it no later than 4:00PM, July 16. Forms may be obtained at the

Greenback Museum or from the Greenback Historical Society website at [www.gbhistorical.com](http://www.gbhistorical.com). For more information, contact Contest Director Colleen Ragain at 865-740-5429.

The contest is open to all. This includes members, non-members, residents, non-residents, individuals and organizations. If you are not a "Maker" you are certainly welcome as a "Taster". There is no admission fee. Our goal is to make the Greenback Historical Society better known in hopes of attracting others who share our interest in the history of the town and the area.

*Paul Bailey*

## **TRIBUTE- ROBERT FRANKE**

Robert Franke 100 Southshore, Greenback died unexpectedly on March 27 while he and his wife, Carolyn, were visiting in Indiana. His funeral at the First Presbyterian Church in Greenback the Thursday before Easter was widely attended by area residents who loved and respected him and represented by those from every area of Bob's life. Stephanie Myers of the News Herald and Melanie Tucker of the Daily Times did excellent jobs of covering the many achievements of Bob's life, which I will not repeat here.

What I remember most about Bob and Carolyn when they came here to retire in beautiful Foothills Pointe Development on Tellico Lake was that they came here to be one of us. They joined the local church where Bob taught a Sunday School Class and Carolyn sang in the choir. They ate in the Drug Store with us and listened to the "old Timers" reminisce; they joined in our dreams. They did not try to change us to be the same as others in places where they had lived but instead, looked for ways to serve. At the encouragement of "Shag Hudson" and others, Bob ran for County Commissioner. He went door to door meeting people and talking to them about what they wanted for our area. We should ever be grateful for all that Bob did to help us get a new school, one we had been trying to bring about for years. He was proud to be instrumental in bringing a new business on Tellico Lake to build internationally famous yachts. Although the slowdown in the economy brought a temporary halt to the business, I understand that it is reviving.

Less well known, he served on a Task Force to help make a business plan for the Depot and to help others know of our interest in restoring it. He supported Carolyn in her interest in the Greenback Heritage Museum where she is a member of the Museum Committee and as an Innovator in the application for Charter of the Greenback Historical Society.

He left us far too soon, but he left fond memories and a mark on the Greenback and Loudon County communities. He will certainly be a well-known part of our history, one of the jewels we will long honor and remember.

*Carolyn Melton Peck*

## IN MEMORIAM

*Patty, John F., 66, April 14, 2015.*

*Tarwater, James Don "Duck", 62, April 20, 2015.*

*Hall, Helen Peters 99, April 24, 2015.*

*Spires, Jimmy Wayne, 75, April 24, 2015.*

*Wilson, John (Johnny) 20, April 28, 2015.*

*Johnson, Elva Dean Bradburn, 72, May 7, 2015.*

*James, Tammy L. 52, May 7, 2015.*

*Manuel, Christie, 30 May 7, 2015.*

*Manuel, Cody, 13, May 7, 2015.*

*Manuel, Christopher, 8, May 7, 2015.*

*Manuel, Gavin, 1, May 7, 2015.*

*Steele, Ellen Ruth, 85, May 8, 2015.*

*White, Alva Mae Murr, 95, May 21, 2015.*

*Breazeale, Jeff, 59, June 2, 2015.*

*Sands, Earl, 92, June 30, 2015.*

*Green, Elizabeth Hartsell, 89, July 7, 2015.*

## THE QUEEN'S ENGLISH

To many outsiders it sounds strange or even uncultured, but what many in the mountains and foothills of East Tennessee and North Carolina speak were spoken or written by the Queen of England centuries ago. Queen Elizabeth I and such writers as Sir Walter Raleigh, Marlowe, Dryden, Bacon, and Shakespeare used words which are commonplace in the Great Smoky Mountains and the coves and hollows of Blue Ridge and the Tennessee Valley below. A portion of these from the Elizabethan Era are shown below.

*Arn (for iron)* she has to arn the clothes. The arn bar is heavy.

*Arter (for after)* "Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of water. Jack fell down and broke his crown and Jill came tumbling arter"

*Ast (for asked)* He ast directions from that feller down there.

*Ball (for bullet)* The ball went "plumb through" the deer's body.

*Bile (for boil)* She will bile the water. The bile on his

*Chainy (for china)* She set out her finest chainy. "I wouldn't do that for all the tea in Chainy."

*Claphat (for hasty)* He always acted in a claphat manner.

*Drap (for drop)* He drank every drap of the milk. Don't drap the bundle.

*Fit (for fought)* They fit until they were "plumb wore out"

*Fitten (for fit)* This food "ain't" fitten to eat!

*Git (for get)* He doesn't like to get up in the morning.

*Git shev of (for get rid of)* The farmer decided to get rid of all his sheep.

*Hit (for it)* He is sure of hit.

*Jine (for join)* He is going to jine the army.

*Lavish (for abundance)* The fields produced a lavish plenty of grain.

*Learn (for teach)* You have to learn a child to read.

*Mought (for might)* I mought make a stew today.

*Nary (for not any)* He owns nary a thing except for the clothes on his back.

*Obleege (for oblige)* I'll be glad to obleege you if I can. Much obleeged for the ride.

*Peart (for feeling well)* Mandy is feeling right peart today.

*Pizen (for poison)* Be keerful (careful) of that pizen ivy.

*Recken or reckon (for believe)* I reckon we'll go to town Saturday.

*Salet (for garden greens)* eg. Turnip greens. I'm going to cook up a mess of salet for dinner.

*Slue (for a lot)* We caught a whole slue of fish.

*Smidgen (for a little bit)* Use just a smidgen of salt.

*Tee-toncey (for tiny)* I'll have just a tee-toncey piece of that pie.

*Anonymous*

## ABOUT THE NORWOOD INN

The Calhoun Treaty, also known as the Hiwassee Purchase, concluded on February 27, 1819, officially opened the land west of the Little Tennessee River and North of the Hiwassee to white settlers. A road across Cherokee lands that had been negotiated in the 1805 Tellico Treaty was in existence and being heavily used by 1820. John Norwood Jr., a Maryville innkeeper, was quick to notice the opportunity and purchased land near the route that later became known as the Niles Ferry Road. Prior to selling his establishment in Maryville around 1821, he went about constructing a traveler's stop

in 1820 known as the Norwood Inn. As area historians have pointed out, its location was approximately equidistant (14 miles) from Maryville, Madisonville and Loudon. Stagecoach stops during that era were usually spaced about fifteen miles apart so that fresh teams of horses could be exchanged and passengers refreshed before continuing their journeys. Depending upon conditions, five or six miles per hour were about all that travelers could hope for.

The building that Norwood constructed was considered quite elegant for the frontier of that time. It was of a style very common in Tennessee in the mid-1800s only on a larger scale. The main structure was two stories with large fireplaces at each end and two front entrances. An ell in the back contained dining rooms, a kitchen, pantries and more fireplaces. In all, the original building had eight rooms. Blount County Court records show that Norwood initially purchased furniture consisting of fourteen beds, ten bureaus and ten tables in 1819. Of course other furniture was added over time.

John Norwood died in 1826 and his son, John Norwood III, bought out the other heirs and continued to operate the inn until his own death in 1840. John III's brother, Wesley, then purchased the estate and continued as innkeeper. During this time, the business flourished and he added additional rooms to accommodate the increasing number of travelers. The addition consisted of a single story with three large rooms connected to the left side of the original structure. Each new room had its own outside door and its own fireplace. Wesley also acquired a lot more land and slaves during this time and his "plantation" grew to about 1200 acres.

The Norwood enterprise continued to prosper until the Civil War when outlawry and guerilla raiders ended much highway travel. Something happened at the inn during this time which caused the Norwoods to flee to Indiana. According to the account presented by Inez Burns in her *History of Blount County*, Wesley Norwood returned to work his plantation following the war but the generally depressed climate for travel made operation of the inn unprofitable. Burns states that Norwood eventually retired to Maryville and died at the age of ninety-five. Norwood descendent Wilma Ruth Henry Dunn, however, paints a darker picture of Wesley Norwood in her family history compilation "From These Hills."

In the late 1800s, the building fell into disuse and deterioration and as with most such buildings took on the reputation of being haunted. According to traditional lore, a man named Thompson was killed there in 1828 by a Henry Lunsford who fired a shot through a ventilator that was part of the chimney.

Lunsford was hanged September 26, 1828, in Blount County for the murder. This is the event that is most often quoted as the source of the "haunting." In the early 1900's, the inn was sold to Andrew and Bet Dixon. According to a Tennessee Historical Marker on Highway 411 (that went missing in 1989) the building that had been the inn was torn down in 1937. The Dixon family later constructed a house on the site.

Recently, Oscar Lidstrom has explored getting the historical marker replaced. For reference, the site is about 1.3 miles west of the intersection of Highway 411 and State Highway 95. Oscar has contacted state officials and supplied the relevant information as to historical importance, street address and coordinates. He has also been in touch with people familiar with the history of the property and has talked to the current owner as to where the marker should be located. Recently, he received word that the Norwood Inn marker is on the list for replacement but its priority for the new fiscal year is not yet known. It will be a while before this year's funding allocation is finalized but we remain optimistic that within the next year or two the location of an early East Tennessee landmark will again be designated.

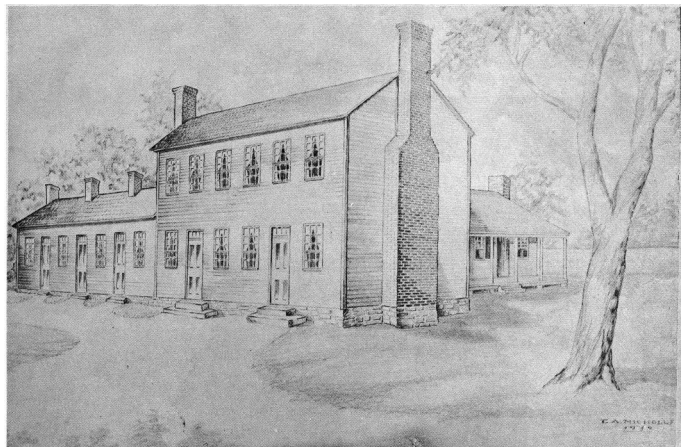
*Paul Bailey and Oscar Lidstrom*

#### *Sources:*

*History of Blount County, Tennessee: from war trail to landing strip, 1795-1955.* Inez Burns, 1957.

*Tizzy's Corner, Maryville Enterprise*, February 31, 1962, page 7.

*From These Hills*, Wilma Ruth Henry Dunn, Self-Published, June 1990.



The Norwood Inn as captured in an ink drawing by the late artist E. A. Nichols around 1939 using earlier pictures of the structure. This picture appeared in the Loudon County Herald Loudon County Centennial Edition, June 13-20, 1970, and the article is in the Greenback Heritage Scrapbook.

As early as 1792, Samuel had built a fort, Henry's Station, and had planted crops on his land. Blount County was established by an act of the Territorial Assembly, passed July 11, 1795. Governor William Blount made many appointments to establish the county government. Samuel was appointed as one of the seven commissioners whose job was to locate the county seat and superintend the erection of county buildings.

In addition to his civic duties, Samuel constructed several mills in the area. He obtained his first permit to build in 1795. He built the "Brick Mill" not far from the Baker's Creek Presbyterian Church on the banks of the Little Baker's Creek in 1815. The Brick Mill was a three story building with the lower part made of solid red brick. The two upper floors of the structure were made of wood. The Mill was powered by an overshot water wheel. The mill race brought water from Little Baker's Creek to the mill. Samuel obtained a permit to install special stones for grinding wheat. And the large structure became one of the centers of commerce for the budding community.

Samuel, who died in 1824, and his sons expanded the Henry businesses with a wagon trade going as far as Atlanta, Georgia. The mill was located on the federal highway that is now known as Old Niles Ferry. This road was the main source of overland transportation in the area. When mail routes were established, the "Brick Mill" became a stop on the regular mail route. It was an ideal location because of its access to the road and because it was one of the centers of commerce for the community and a gathering place for citizens of the area. It is no surprise that "Brick Mill" became the formal name of the community since the mill served as a key landmark for travelers.

The Brick Mill community had several active organizations including a school that was near Baker's Creek Church, a home demonstration club and a community club. As the community grew, businesses grew with it including a general store across Little Baker's Creek that included a barrel gas tank with a hand pump and a store at the corner of Brick Mill Road and Highway 411 which was run by Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Dake. Telephone service was installed in the community in 1949 -1950.

The Brick Mill continued to operate until approximately 1960, grinding wheat and corn for families in the Brick Mill Community and beyond. In the later years, the mill was open as needed with James and Georgia Stevenson being the last to operate it. It has often been said that they would walk across the road to open the mill when a customer arrived. When the mill closed it had operated for well over well over 150 years. Even after it was no longer in operation, the Brick Mill continued to be a key landmark that reminded the community of their history. In the mid 1990's the water wheel was sold and the drive gears and power drives were sold for scrap. The Mill was destroyed

by fire soon after the sale. This was a tragic end to such an important historical community landmark.

*Teresa and Roy Goddard*



The Brick Mill around 1980. Photo by Teresa Goddard.

### **CAROLYN'S CORNER**

In June, The Daily Times reported the death of Jim Ed Brown, stating the Grand Ole Opry loses another member of the family. July always brings back fond memories of Hillbilly Homecoming in Maryville. In 1960, Jim Ed, Maxine, and Bonnie Brown were headliners in the Festival. At the time, "The Three Bells" was high on the list of most popular country and western songs. It was different from most of the twangy mountain songs of the time or the early rock and roll music of Jerry Lee Lewis, and had a softer, sweeter sound. When I want to pull out some of my old records, "The Three Bells" is still one of my favorites. The Browns were admitted to the Music Hall of Fame this year. Though this is usually in October, Jim Ed's medal was delivered to him in the hospital.

Like many of our area, they grew up on a farm in a rural area and sometimes had to do without plumbing and electricity. We loved having them here as they were people who reminded us of our neighbors even though they were at the top of the charts. . Bonnie, who was married to a physician and had begun her family, soon left the group to be a Mother and Homemaker. Maxine left a little later to do the same, so Jim Ed became a solo performer. We saw him a couple of times at the DJ Convention in Nashville, and occasionally heard from Maxine, but had no further contact. At times, he teamed up with Helen Cornelious for duos but most of his career he was a soloist. He hosted several shows on GAMC or CMT over the years.

In the same month, our own Jeff Breazelle, died after being hospitalized for several days due to injuries sustained in a car accident. Jeff, who won the talent show at Hillbilly Homecoming when he was seven, later

*(Continued Next Page)*

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Stamp

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toured with several artists, but returned to his home in Maryville to open Two Doors Down on East Broadway. Jeff, Sr., owner of Byrnes Drug Store and my husband Claude worked together to help with Hillbilly Homecoming, and I remember Jeff and my boys running around on the grounds of Maryville High School prior to the shows.

Hillbilly Homecoming gave way to the Dogwood Arts Festival sometime in the late sixties, so I am glad to see the many activities that Maryville and Alcoa have developed for the summer and fall months. We have so many talented people in our area. It is good to see them blossom.

We just celebrated July 4, 2015, the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Whether you celebrated at the Greenback Parade, Alcoa's Freedom Fest, Rocking at the Docks in Lenoir City or simply celebrated with your family and set off fireworks at home, I hope you enjoyed the freedom you have to do this.

*Carolyn*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**July 25, 12:00PM. Quarterly Meeting Greenback Historical Society. Lower Level, Greenback Community Center.**

**July 25, 2:00PM. Greenback Historical Society Annual Ice Cream Contest. Community Center Pavilion. Free to the public.**

August 7, 5-9 PM, *The Salvage Show, 619 N. Broadway, Knox Heritage, Artists and Craftsmen make functional and design pieces from architectural salvage. Open and free to public.*

August 16, 3:00 PM. *Loudon County Historical Society, United Methodist Church, Lenoir City.*

**Sept 10-12, Museum Quilt Show. Greenback Heritage Museum. See MUSEUM MUSINGS this issue.**

Sept 26-27, *Pine Grove Presbyterian 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.*

October 9, 2:00PM, *Unveiling of Sam Houston statue. Maryville Municipal Building.*