

Clay County Ancestral

N · E · W · S



Our Musical Heritage



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- Remembering Charles House
- Newfound: The First Documented Neighborhood
- Honoring Clay County's World War II Veterans

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CLAY COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Clay County Ancestral News

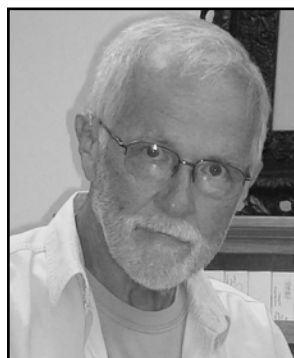
Fall & Winter 2015

Cover: Our cover features a 1917 photo of Englishman Cecil Sharp and his assistant Maud Karpeles who traveled the area collecting mountain songs. *See page 10 for the story.*

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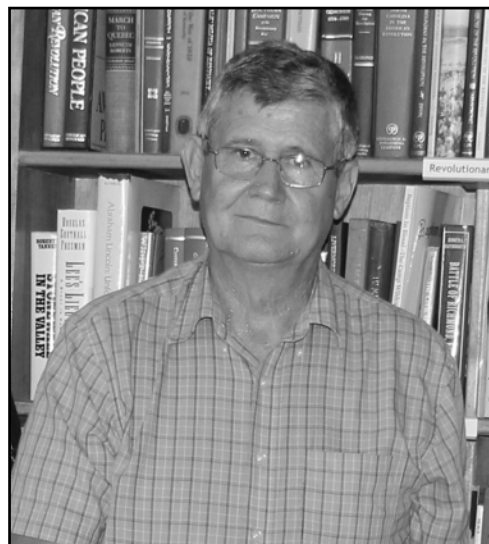
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Message From The President

It's been a very active and exciting time here at the Society since our last CCAN was published. Everyone who follows the Society on Facebook knows that we offered three successful programs this year for our members and the community at large:

- In April, we hosted Anne Shelby's one-woman show, "Aunt Molly Jackson: Pistol Packin' Woman" to an outstanding crowd.
- Our "A Tribute to WWII Veterans" on May 8th, the 50th Anniversary of V-E day, was a spectacular success. The Clay County Public Library's Community Room was filled to capacity and some attendees were happily forced to stand along the wall. Several veterans commented that this recognition was one of the most moving tributes that they had ever received.
- Our most recent program, presented by Sam Compton of The Boone Trace Society, was in conjunction with our quarterly membership meeting. Mr. Compton discussed efforts to preserve Daniel Boone's route through Eastern Kentucky and their work to educate the public regarding Boone's important contributions. Although the Trace did not go through Clay County most of our first settlers used the Trace to get here.



We're in the process of organizing our next Society program and will announce the details soon on our Facebook page that now has 2,600 followers. I'm simply amazed at how many people post queries asking for family information and share their own family pictures and research. For Society members who do not follow us on Facebook I would encourage you to become our friend at "The Clay County Genealogical and Historical Society."

If you are a Facebook friend, but not a member of the historical society, I would like to encourage you to become a member by completing the application in this issue. Membership dues are our main source of revenue. Your yearly dues make it possible for the Society to promote and preserve the history and culture of Clay County. Our membership has grown to over 460 members as of August of this year. We have members from every state in the union and a couple of foreign countries.

Finally, thanks to our volunteers who work unselfishly to assist anyone who seeks help at our society library; whether a member, or not they give their all to make sure visitors receive friendly, courteous, and helpful assistance. It is because of this hospitality and their knowledge of Clay County history and families that our visitors have nearly doubled from last year. From July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, our volunteers served 1,010 visitors compared to 597 visitors the previous year. This number does not include the hundreds of phone calls and emails from researchers seeking information.

We hope you enjoy this issue as much as we enjoyed collecting the articles and stories for your reading pleasure. We sincerely appreciate your continued support and encouragement.

M. C. Edwards
President

Clay County's Musical Heritage Part 1

Enduring Music From the Mountains



By Donald Sasser

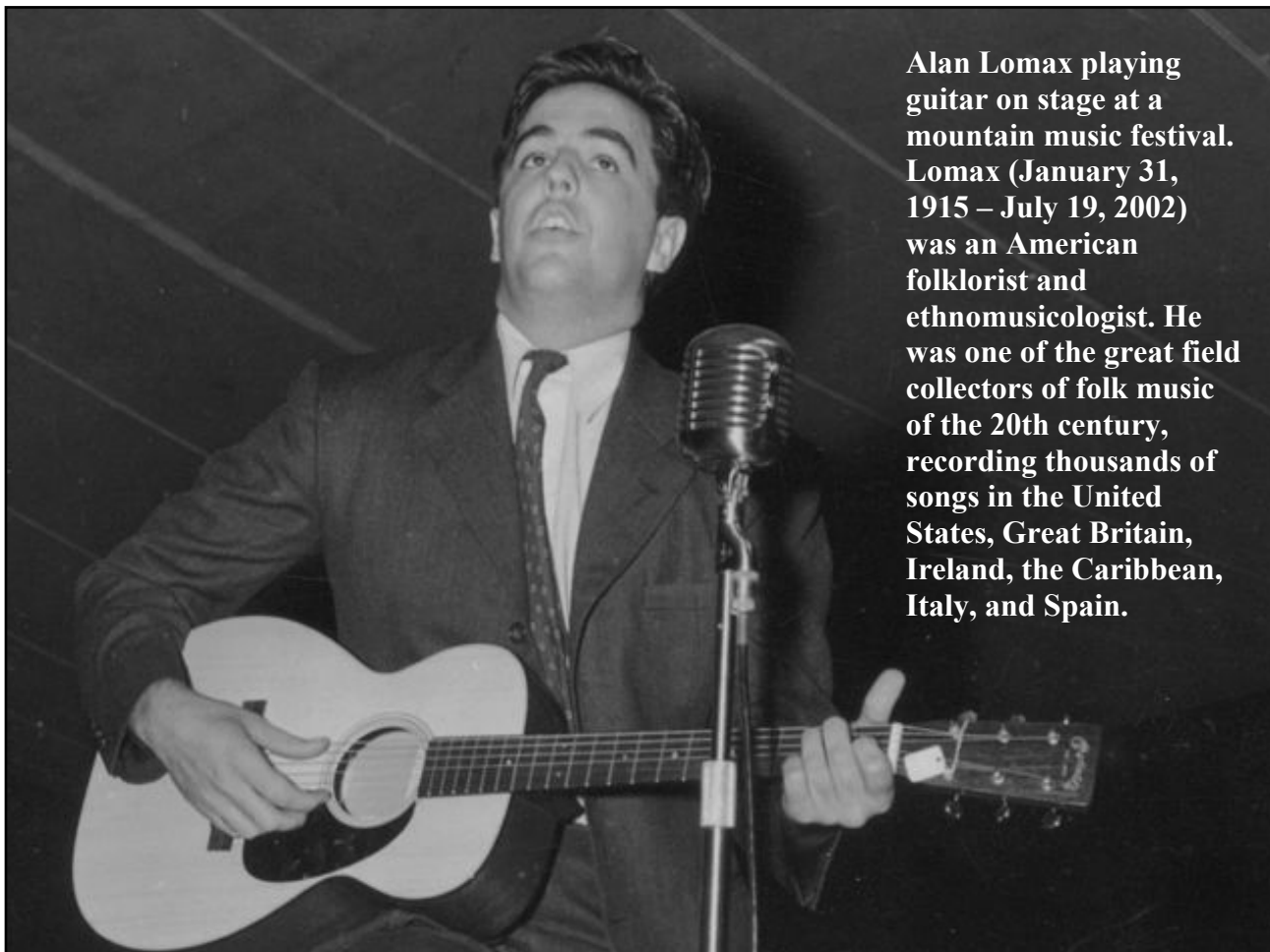
There have been several articles in the CCAN recently concerning Clay County's musical heritage: Aunt Molly Jackson, Spring/Summer 2010; Pleaz Mobley, Fall/Winter 2010; and Acme Records, Spring/Summer 2013.

Then there's "Old Joe Clark." Then there's this. What else is there? I'm offering this article in the hope that someone more knowledgeable than I will be prompted to fill in some of the many holes and

expand upon the subject. I am not particularly knowledgeable on either music, being completely non-musical myself, or on Clay County people and families.

I came to this subject through the back door. Like many people of my generation, I was taken by a song titled "The House of the Rising Sun" by a British group from Liverpool, the Animals (#1 for three weeks, August/September 1964). If you listen to it on a really good sound system, like an old Wurlitzer jukebox, it's a powerful piece of music. I had the opportunity to hear Animals vocalist Eric Burdon perform a few years ago at the Music Hall in Cincinnati and remained impressed.

A lady named Janene Simpson used to (and may still) maintain a mailing list for the annual Asher and Hendrickson Reunions in Pineville. For some reason she mentioned a book titled *Chasing the Rising Sun* (Simon & Schuster, 2007) a few years ago which intrigued me, and I promptly bought it. It is written by Ted Anthony, a reporter and editor for the Associated Press, and details his quest, spanning several years, to find the origins of this song. Originally, the prevailing story was that it was based on an old English ballad. (The music



Alan Lomax playing guitar on stage at a mountain music festival. Lomax (January 31, 1915 – July 19, 2002) was an American folklorist and ethnomusicologist. He was one of the great field collectors of folk music of the 20th century, recording thousands of songs in the United States, Great Britain, Ireland, the Caribbean, Italy, and Spain.

establishment believes everything is based on an old English ballad.) Anthony quickly discounted that theory. To make a book long story short, he never did determine where the song came from. The closest he came was that the first recording of a song like that was done by Tom Ashley in 1933. The song was known as “Rising Sun Blues” in the early years. Ashley claimed that he learned it from his grandparents when he was a boy and thought it was old then. He was born in 1895 in Bristol, Tennessee/Virginia. So, its origins are indefinite and that's the classic definition of a folk song, but the earliest known appearance was in the mountains where Tennessee, North Carolina, and Virginia meet. But Ashley's version bore only a basic similarity to the well-known version. The first recording of the familiar version of the song was done September 15, 1937, by a 16-year-old girl named Georgia Turner. Georgia recorded in Middlesboro, Kentucky for well-known folklorist Alan Lomax. Lomax (1916-2002) carried Georgia's version to the New York City folk music

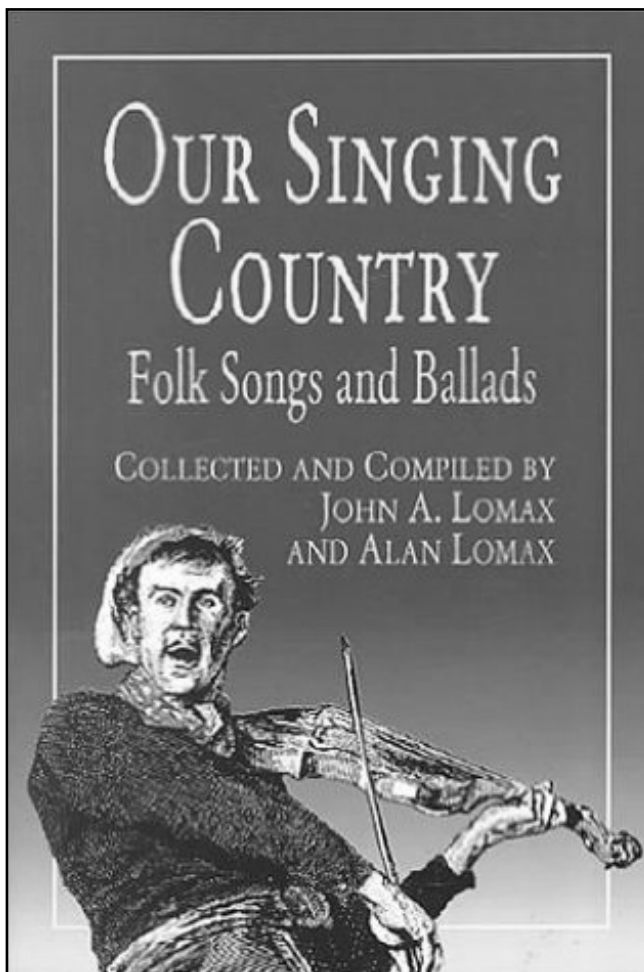
scene and from there it traveled to Liverpool. Aunt Molly Jackson was a prominent presence in that NYC folk culture. Alan Lomax recorded her multiple times in the NYC area starting in 1935. (He also recorded Pleaz Mobley at Renfro Valley in 1946, as well as Jean Ritchie from Viper in Perry County.)

In the same time period, someone sent me a link to four recordings by Leslie Countian, Farmer Collett. I learned by and by that those were also recorded by Lomax on his 1937 trip. Taking the two together, I became very curious about what else Mr. Lomax might have recorded. That was easy enough to find. He worked for the Library of Congress. Being a library they're kinda compulsive about documenting their holdings. He recorded 26 tunes in Middlesboro, but it was only one of several stops for Lomax in Kentucky. He spent September and October of 1937, traveling Eastern Kentucky in his Studebaker with wife, Elizabeth. Their purpose was to record folk music and they were armed with a Presto disk recorder,

an imposing 350-pound machine that cut a groove into an acetate blank. He did sessions at Pineville (162 recordings), Arjay (22), Harlan (56), Pine Mountain Settlement (52), Hyden (150), Middle Fork (in Leslie County; 75 recordings), Hazard (85), Mt Vernon (13), and Salyersville (95), plus four locations in Clay County (84) and one in Laurel (22).

One of the recording venues particularly grabbed my attention: Providence Church. I grew up across KY Highway 80 from Providence Baptist Church. It's located in Laurel County about four miles from the Clay County line via KY 80. Three people were recorded at Providence: Pete Steele, George Nicholson, and Sally Garrison. None of the names were familiar to me.

I learned that fiddler, George Nicholson, was the father of some of my neighbors and the grandfather of some of my schoolmates. That was a surprise to me because I had not known any of the Nicholsons to be musical. I later discovered that George's son Delbert (who lived in Oregon, well off the radar) was also a fiddler and son Lee played the banjo. George lived some two or three miles distant via Marydell Road (KY 1803), just across the line in Clay County. Sally Garrison was George's sister and neighbor in the Portersburg community. They likely chose this place to record because it was the nearest place on a good road. Kentucky Highway 80 between London and Manchester was paved well before this. George was in his eighties when he recorded and died just four years later, in 1941. It turns out Pete Steele was a banjo virtuoso who influenced later generations of banjo pickers, notably Pete Seeger.



*Lomax translated his collected material to print, and the product was published as **Our Singing Country** in 1941.*

He hailed from Woodbine in Whitley County and had spent eighteen years in the mines of Harlan County before moving to Ohio. Lomax traveled to Hamilton, Ohio, the next year and recorded him extensively. How he came to be at Providence this day is unknown to me.

My interest was reinforced when I read with fascination M C Edwards' article in the Fall/Winter 2011 CCAN about Clay County native Samuel Foster, who was with Custer's 7th Cavalry at The Little Big Horn. I'm fascinated with that episode for the usual reasons, and I found the story of the quest for Foster's grave similarly interesting because it was reminiscent of some of

my own cemetery excursions. The accompanying genealogy article by James Davidson was only mildly interesting to me until a name jumped out at me: Daw Henson. Daw married Samuel Foster's niece, Flora. So far as I know, I'm in no way connected to Daw Henson, but I knew the name from the book.

Lomax recorded two other versions of "Rising Sun Blues," both in Clay County. One of those was done by Daw Henson, among several offerings by him. The other was done by Bert Martin at the Horse Creek session. Henson's version was very similar to Georgia Turner's. He might have been credited by Lomax, if Lomax had not heard Turner a couple of weeks earlier. Martin's version was pretty much the same as Tom Ashley's. After his trip, Lomax translated his collected material to print, and the product was

published as *Our Singing Country* in 1941. What he published was often a collation of several versions he heard. In this case, he used Georgia Turner's version with three additional verses from Bert Martin. Bert was duly credited with 'additional stanzas'. They were:

"If I had listened what mamma said, I'd be at home today, Being so young and foolish, poor boy, let a rambler lead me stray" (verse 2).

"Fills his glasses to the brim, passes them all around, only pleasure he gets out of life is hoboing from town to town" (verse 6).

"Going back to New Orleans, my race is almost run. Going back to spend my days beneath that rising sun" (verse 8).

I assumed for a while that the Daw Henson on the recordings was the same person connected to Foster, but that may not be true. How many people could there be with that name? I learned shortly there were several. There were no fewer than four adult Daw Hensons in 1940 in Clay County and two in Knox County. There were two Daw (or Daugh) Hensons of similar age (born 1885 and 1886), one of who was Flora Foster's husband. One was the son of Daniel Henson and Mary (also named Henson). The other was the son of John Henson and Sylvania Eversole. One died in 1974, at the age of 88 (born 1886) and is buried at Goose Rock. The other died in 1946, at the age of 61 (born 1885) and is buried at the Engine Cemetery. Then there were two younger Daw Hensons, born in 1904 and 1907. They appear to be sons of the older two. Any one of the four could be the recording artist, but the one born 1907 is most likely because his grandmother Mary was living with him in 1940, and Mrs. Mary Henson sang in the same sessions. No doubt there are many people still around who knew one or more of these men and can sort them out, and perhaps they know about the music.

The recordings seem to be an eclectic mix of folk songs (that would include old English ballads), hymns, original compositions, and the popular music of the day. So, who are the other recording artists? In many cases, it's hard to tell:

1. There are two Bert Martins born about 1912, one the son of Letcher Martin and Lizzie Green, the other was the son of David Martin and Ida Stewart. He would have been in his mid twenties

when he recorded.

2. Ella Sibert is probably Mary Ellda Hoskins who married Pierce Sibert in 1909. She is a 49-year-old widow in 1940, and likely the same who died in Clay in 1971. She may have been a sibling of Boyd Hoskins.

3. Boyd Hoskins and his wife Sarah Belle Lewis were in their mid fifties when they recorded. His parents, General and Hailey Bowling Hoskins, are with them in 1930; his cousin George Britton, age 74, is with them in 1940.

4. Maynard Britton is undoubtedly the same person (born 1901 and died 1954) buried at Polly Marcum Cemetery. There may be a relationship to the Hoskins family. His father was Taylor Britton. He is listed as a stepson in the 1910 household of Frank and Flora (Marcum) Sizemore. He would have been in his mid thirties when he recorded. Maynard married Ada Hacker in 1921.

5. There are two possibilities for Howard B. Spurlock. One was born in 1892, died in 1974, and married to Effie Valance. He is also buried at Polly Marcum Cemetery. The other was born in 1907, the son of Dave Spurlock.

6. Roy Sibert was a teenager, the son of Delbert Sibert and Della Hoskins.

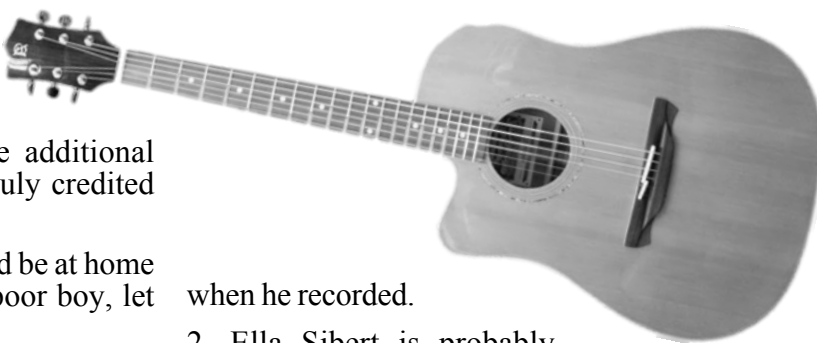
7. Mary and Cora Davis were teenagers, the daughters of James and Emma Davis.

8. Hulda Roberts was in her late forties, the wife of Dave Roberts. Her maiden name is unknown.

9. One Bill Bundy was born in 1885, died in 1970, and married Parlee. Another was born in 1919, and died in 1970. Another was born in 1909, whose mother was Augusta Bundy.

10. Rebecca Tarwater, Oliver Sibert, Viola Dotson, and Mae McNamara are mysteries, not to mention a Mrs. Cottongim.

Each of these people has a story and somebody knows it.





Georgia Turner was married three times, had eleven children, struggled with alcohol and poverty and died at the young age of 48 of emphysema.

Their story may not be dramatic, or it may be tinged with tragedy like that of Georgia Turner. She married three times, had eleven children, struggled with alcohol and poverty and died in 1969, at the young age of 48 of emphysema in Monroe, Michigan (which also happens to be the birthplace of George Armstrong Custer). Alan Lomax eventually (1959) assigned half the royalties from "Rising Sun Blues" to Georgia Turner. She collected a few thousand dollars for them in the last years of her life. It took Lomax years to find her. He finally found her with the assistance of Jim Garland. Jim was Aunt Molly Jackson's younger half brother and a folk singer of some note. There are several 1937 recordings of him at Pineville and Arjay (The other Garlands on the recordings are likely family members). Ted Anthony had a similarly difficult time tracking her down and was too late to ask her how she came up with her version of the song. By the time of the Animals' big hit, her younger children were aware of her connection to the song, but her contemporaries were skeptical. They could not believe she was connected to anything that big. There is a lot of that going around. It took the interest of outsiders like Lomax to validate Appalachian culture in the minds of many. Then it took the interest of British teenagers like the Animals and the Beatles to validate the power of American music. We thought the 'British Invasion'

was sending us something fresh and new, but at the core they were just recycling our music and sending it back at us. A lot of the really authentic and enduring stuff originated down "thar in the Hinterlands." Believe it!

Wouldn't you love to hear all these recordings? You would think that there were transcriptions commercially available of all the 800 plus recordings made by Lomax in 1937, but the best I can determine there is not. One reason may be the poor quality of the sound. Reportedly, Lomax usually placed the microphone too far from the performer, degrading the quality. If the Farmer Collett material I heard is a fair sample, the recording quality is indeed often poor. The Library of Congress will make transcriptions for you, but they are "pricey." The box set, *Kentucky Mountain Music* (Yazoo 2200, 7 CDs) has several of these 1937 field recordings, but only three are from the Clay County sessions, all by Daw Henson: "The Moonshiner" (disc 2); "Wallins Creek Girls" (Disc 4); and "Swafford Branch Stills" (disc 5).

Georgia's haunting 90 second acapella rendition of "Rising Sun Blues" is available on the CD titled *Alan Lomax: Popular Songbook* (Rouinder 82161-1863-2), now out of print and hard to find.

Alan Lomax Recording Sessions in Clay County:

Big Creek:

All sung by Britton Maynard with guitar

"Darling Cora"

"The Gambling Man"

"I Am a Man of Constant Sorrow"

"I Came to This Country, 1865"

"I'll Never Believe What Another Woman Says"

"The J. B. Marcum Song"

"Jake Leg Blues"

"Jake Walk Blues"

"Rocky Island"

"The White House Blues"

“We thought the 'British Invasion' was sending us something fresh and new, but at the core they were just recycling our music and sending it back at us. A lot of the really authentic and enduring stuff originated down ‘thar in the Hinterlands.’”

Billie's Branch:

Sung by Daw Henson:

“Clay County Election, 1933”

“Lady Margaret and Sweet William”

“The Rising Sun Blues”

“Wallins Creek Girls”

Sung by Daw Henson with guitar:

“Fare You Well, My Little Annie Darling”

“I'm Crazy Over You”

“The Moonshiner”

“The Swofford Branch Stills”

Played by Daw Henson on harmonica:

“Careless Love”

“The Fox Chase”

“The Train”

Sung by Mrs. Mary Henson:

“I'm Goin' Move When the Lord Says "Move"”

“The Murder of George Thompson”

Horse Creek:

Sung by Ellie D. Sibert:

“As I Came Through This Country in 1849”

“Come All You Young and Tender Ladies”

“The Cruel Mother”

“The Cruel Mother”

“Hand Me Down My Little Brown 'olice”

“Lady Margaret and Sweet William”

“Once I Had An old Grey Mare”

“Pearl Bryant”

Sung by Bert Martin with guitar:

“Cindy”

“The Peanut Farm”

“The Rising Sun Blues”

“The True and Trembling Brakeman”

Sung by Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Hoskins:

“The Death of Mary Jane Martin”

“The Gospel Train”

“Hold Fast to the Right”

“I'm a Poor Orphan Alone”

“I'm a Poor Orphan Alone” (with guitar by Bert Martin)

“Now I'm Saved”

“Oh, Lovely Appearance of Death”

“The Poor Wayfaring Stranger”

“The Romish Lady”

“The Rowen County Trouble”

“There Was a Little Family in Bethany”

Sung by Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Hoskins and Bert Martin:

“Praise the Lord, How Sweet the Promise”

Sung by Mrs. Boyd Hoskins:

“Come Ye That Love the Lord”

“Six Kings' Daughters”

Sung by Ma McNamara:

“Poison in a Glass of Wine”

Sung by Mrs. McNamara:

“Ladie Leroy”

Sung by Howard B. Spurlock with guitar:

“The Cowgirl”

Sung by Howard B. Spurlock and Roy Sibert:

“Ole Number Nine”

Sung by Oliver Sibert:

“Rang-dang-doo”

Sung by Rebecca Tarwater:

“Cripple Creek”

Manchester:

Sung by Ellie D. Sibert:

“A-strolling One Night Through New York Town”

“The Beauty Bride”

“The Little Mawhee”

“Since My Mother's Dead and Buried”

“A Song in Zion”

Sung by Mary and Cora Davis:

“Barbary Allen”

“I Want a Girl With a Pair of Big Blue Eyes”
Davis, Mary -- sound recording.

“Knoxville Girl”

“Little Mohee”

“They Say it is Simple to Flirt”

Sung by Mary Davis:

“Lonesome Jailhouse Blues”

“Crawdad Song”

Sung by Hulda Roberts and Ellie D. Siebert:

“Beautiful Home”

“Heaven Bells a-ringin” Roberts, Hulda -- sound
recording

Sung by Bert Martin with guitar:

“Bert Martin, Moonshiner”

“I'm A-goin' Out to the City”

“Stagolee”

“Whoa, Mule”

Sung by Bill Bundy with guitar:

“The Drunken Drivers”

“A Lady and a Lady Gay”

“Loving Henry”

“Poison in a Glass of Wine”

“The Wabash Cannonball”

“When I Was Young and in My Prime”

Sung by Daw Henson with guitar:

“Everybody Loves Somebody”

Sung by Mrs. Cottongim:

“The Blind Child”

Sung by Mrs. Viola Dodson:

“Erin Go Braugh”

Alan Lomax Recording Sessions in Laurel County:

Providence Church

Sung by Mrs. Lucy Garrison:

“The Arkansas Traveler” (sung and spoken)

“John Riley”

“No, Sir, No”

“No, Sir, No” (with fiddle by George C.
Nicholson)

“Oh, Daddy Come Make Your Will”

“Old Mr. Moore”

“Sourwood Mountain”

*Sung by Mrs. Pete Steele and Pearl Steele with
five-string banjo by Pete Steele*

“The Knoxville Girl”

Played by George C. Nicholson on fiddle:

“Blue Bonnet”

“Bonyparte's Retreat”

“Callahan”

“Old Joe Clark”

“Old Mister Moore”

“Ole Christmas”

“The Prettiest Little Girl in the County-o”

“Sally Goodin”

“Sourwood Mountain”

Clay County's Musical Heritage Part 2

Before Lomax There was Cecil Sharp

By Donald Sasser

Alan Lomax was a latecomer to music collecting in Appalachia. Several folklorists were trolling the mountains in the decade between 1910 and 1920. The most notable of them was an Englishman named Cecil Sharp (1859-1924). He and assistant Maud Karpeles (1885-1976) traveled to Asheville, North Carolina in mid 1916 and from there made numerous forays all over the Appalachian region. He did not have a recording machine, but just wrote the songs down. Karpeles did the words and he did the music. He had a particular interest in dance and described the dances in intricate detail. He delighted in finding a different 'country dance' in sharp contrast to Rev John J. Dickey. His premise was that many old songs and dances that had disappeared in Britain still survived in remote and primitive Appalachia. That premise proved to be correct, which is not to say that was the only source for Appalachian music.

Just shy of a century ago, in August 1917, two decades before Alan Lomax, Cecil Sharp was in Clay County. He spoke for himself, in his diary:

"August 9, 1917

Directly after breakfast — weather hotter than ever



Cecil Sharp and Dr Maud Karpeles collecting songs in Appalachia.

— we decide to go to Manchester by 2 p.m. train. Find we can get rooms — probably pretty bad ones — at Webb's Hotel. Pack directly after breakfast and finish up generally, wiring to Campbell and getting directions at P[ost] O[ffice]. Just catch train by the skin of our teeth and then for 2_ hours sway from side to side, the timbers of the carriage creaking like a ship's in a storm, and eventually lurch into Manchester in the middle of a terrific storm of thunder & drenching rain. Wait at station till over, and then walk to Webb's hotel, get rooms of sorts, settle in and then sally forth to present letter of introduction to Walker the banker. He out, but his wife does the honours, a nice buxom woman with many children. Supper & to bed. Fare just eatable, fairly clean.

August 10, 1917

Didn't sleep well as night very chilly with a dank, clammy mist which swept through the windows and wire door of my little out-house. No blankets, only counterpane sheet and cotton quilt. Dress with cold water and not too much of it, at 6 and breakfast at 6.45. Call on Mrs Broughton's sister — a nice woman but no singer. Make 2 or 3 blank calls and then on return make friends with Walker, Judge Lyttell and his father, Dr Manning etc and get hold of a singer, Ben Finlay who gives me a new Child Lizzie Wan, much to my delight. Unhappily he is leaving his home tomorrow for a few days. Am very asthmatic sneezy etc. Weather damp and hot in the day but very cold in the evening.

August 11, 1917

Wake at 6 after a very bad night. Cold mist etc much worse than previous night. I wake at 3 sneezing and wheezing. Burn powder but cannot get properly to sleep again. Am cold even under my three layers of bedding. After breakfast we sally forth to go up Little Goose Creek after Finlay but start wrongly directed and are wrongly directed all day and though we call at several places get no songs, nor singers and never get nearer than a mile and a half to Finlay's house. Weather very hot, roads very rough, and I sneeze and run at the nose and wheeze with asthma every yard of the 7 or 8 miles we cover! Return at 3, get some milk and then sleep. After tea to druggist to get remedies. Square in front of Hotel crowded with lorries, men on horse & mule back and women & children from surrounding creeks. Am feeling very seedy and a little feverish. Evident the cold nights here don't agree with me.

August 13, 1917

After breakfast, weather being very hot decide not to go out and stay at home and write letters to Grove, Tet etc. Maud goes prospecting up Beach Creek but returns at 12.30 empty handed with poor



Cecil Sharp and Maud Karpeles at the Berea, Kentucky railway station.

report as to the people. They are evidently sophisticated here and are rapidly giving up the singing of folk songs although the country is extremely primitive. I am afraid we shan't get much here. After tea we go along goose creek, call on Mrs Samples again and make friends with her mother Mrs Ellen Jones. These are real nice people but being "holiness" converts refuse to sing love songs. Tell us however of Mrs Polly Patrick a widow said to sing, and Mrs Cis Jones, Mrs Ellen's mother. Decide to follow them up tomorrow.

August 14, 1917

Maud not very well. This place is horribly insanitary and I am nervous about her. We go however to Goose Creek again, try Mrs Cis Jones with some result and then tramp 2 or 3 miles further on after the widow Mrs Polly Patrick. She sings some fairly good ones but owns she has not sung love songs for 25 years — "just like others about here" she adds ominously. Call on the Samples on our way back and at their suggestion on Mrs Cis Jones who they tell me used to sing Lamkin. She promises to study it and try to remember it for us. A very nice woman although an adherent of the Holiness sect. I am better — nights have been warmer, if days also — but I have a nasty hacking cough, throat rather than chest.

August 15, 1917

Got hold of Campbell the jeweller to look at the hinge of my trunk which is broken. He tells me he can do nothing without a casting which I can only get from the manufacturers. I accordingly write to Hartmann's for one. Spend the day making preparations for our journey to Onieda tomorrow. Maud is far from well and the heat and my cough does not make me feel very fit. Write a great many letters and pack my suit case with care as I may have to live on it for some time. Make friends with a Mr Glenn, a geologist, who knows the mountains very well and learn from him something about the more secluded and unsophisticated spots. He collects old weaving patterns. Shall be glad to

leave Webb's hotel for a while as the poor food, dirt and beastly manners of the travelling men who frequent the hostelry, especially in the matter of eating, rather get on one's nerves after a while.

August 16, 1917

Make a start in our jolt-wagon under the guidance of one William Sawyer at 8.15. The roads are just awful and the jolting indescribable! We first make a stop at Mrs Cis Jones who sings us a splendid version of Lamkin and several other fine songs assisted by Mrs Patrick and Mrs Nanny Smith who look in. Then we go on to Mrs Samples to say good bye. About half way a heavy rain comes on and Maud and I pay a call on Mr Jim Samples who sings us one or two nice songs and gives us dinner. Eventually after much jogging we arrive jolted, stiff & weary at Oneida. Miss Aldrich shows me my room, a very nice one and we settle in and make friends with the people here; Mr & Mrs Adams, the acting President, Mr & Mrs Walker, the business head are the chief ones. Food very spare & very indifferent. We shall find it hard to make a living if we stay long, but are lucky in having a friend in Miss Aldrich.

August 17, 1917

Breakfast at 5.30! and then start off, cross Goose Creek in a boat about 2 miles down the river and call on a Mr Geo Brewer, a garrulous old man of 70 who regales us with War Songs made by his father, but who knows nothing folk. Find people about here giving up folk-singing very much like the people about Manchester. Call on Mrs and her daughter Mrs Dora Robertson, nice people who give us dinner but utterly outside the folk-cult. Then to Mrs Sophie Annie Hensley and her daughter from whom we get good things including Johnnie Scot. On our return have to wait an hour or more to get ferried across Goose Creek! In the evening I address the students on the Campus and sing them many songs which seems to please everyone very much. Some of the students must surely know a good many songs.

August 18, 1917

After breakfast, singers begin to flock in as a result of last evening's talk. First a Mr Nolan worker at



Between afternoon tea and asthma attacks Cecil Sharp wrote of his unpleasant stay at the Webb Hotel.

the School who sings some and probably knows a good deal. Then 4 or 5 girls from whom I get something but not very much. This till lunch. Afterwards rest awhile as much as my cough will allow and then Miss Aldrich joins us at tea. We eat crackers from the Store here and marmalade a pot of which Miss A[ldrich] has given us. Maud & I then go out prospecting but get nothing — too weary to try very hard. Weather warm in day time but not unpleasantly so, and very cold at night. I use a double blanket and quilt which are none too much for warmth. Have a hot bath before going to bed. Find the scarce food rather trying. My cough is still troublesome and I have plenty of asthma.

August 19, 1917

Started off after Mrs Dan Bishop up Teges Creek directly after breakfast. Found her away on a visit and that we had had our trouble for nought! We called on Mrs Wilson hard by & found her nice though songless. Then we trudged up Crane Creek calling on innumerable Allen's but getting nothing, not finding even a trace of what we were looking for. Everyone said that no one had been practising these songs for years. Then up Doyle Creek to find Lloyd Doyle who again was away from home. We trudged home about 4.30 very weary & hot and more or less famished with our pencils & books unused! Maud made me some tea and I drank 4 cups. In the evening after dinner we sang a lot of songs to the students on the campus.

August 20, 1917

Started at 6.15 for the Hensleys only to find Mrs

Hensley in bed — too ill to sing, alas! Our bad luck follows us! Her daughter Sophie Annie gave us what she could but it was nothing of any great value. We watched her sister do her Toilet & her hair, carefully adding a long spray of artificial stuff to the bun at the back. This cannot be said to be a primitive country! Miss Aldrich had tea with us. Did very little in the afternoon but took down a few songs from the students in the evening. This one of the hottest days we have had for some time and I have a very bad attack of asthma after dinner. Certainly not from indigestion as I only had a few crumbs of corn bread and a baked apple & water. We are being starved here. Miss Aldrich asked us to supper at 8 and we were glad of something to eat to enable us to sleep.

August 21, 1917

Directly after breakfast — at 6 a.m. — tramped off 5 miles to Teges Creek to make another shot at Mrs Bishop. This time found her at home. Got there at 8, stayed 2 hours and returned by 11.30 in time for dinner — good walking considering state of roads and great heat. Rested after dinner, wrote up books, entertained Mrs Adams at tea, then wrote up books again till supper. After supper George Gibson, stone-mason, came in and sang me two good songs. Then set to work to pack ready for early start tomorrow for Manchester. Have decided there is no useful purpose to stay at Oneida any longer.

August 22, 1917

Started off walking to Manchester 14 miles at 7 a.m. after saying good bye to the staff and depositing our suit cases on the Mail-Hack. Weather sultry but no sun, one or two showers on the way. We called on Jim Samples but he was out. Some school children, as we left the Samples, called out "we can sing", so I took down a couple from them and would have got more but the school



Cecil Sharp and Polly Patrick, Harts Creek, Clay County, August 1917.

bell rang and they scampered off. We then called at the School, sang them a couple of songs & made a little speech. Called on Polly Patrick and had a pipe with her and a vivacious talk — no songs but arranged to meet her and Mrs Nanny Smith on Friday. Called on Mrs Cis Jones who promised to sing us some more on Friday. Got back to Manchester at 3.30 pretty hot & tired. Directly after our arrival a very heavy shower with thunder — we were just in time to miss it. The smells and greasy food seem worse than ever!

August 23, 1917

Had a very bad night with much asthma — burnt my powder 3 times. Three separate thunder storms in the

night, with deluging rain, a good deal of which poured into my room but happily missed my bed! The air so steamy & thick there seemed nothing to breathe! After breakfast we slopped through the mud & mire to Harker's[?] creek after Ben Finlay who sang us very little alas. Got back to dinner and didn't go out again but wrote up our books etc. Met rather an interesting man, Campbell, at the hotel who strongly advised Leslie County and agreed that Clay Co[unty] is anything but primitive. He is a deputy collector and has toured this part of the mountains for 30 years or more.

August 24, 1917

Another very bad night, similar to the previous one, and for the same reason viz thunderstorms! Felt just awful when I rose but improved as the day went on. Campbell the jeweller came to do my trunk which I had to empty at 8 a.m. The new part arrived from the Hartmann people last night. We got away soon after 9. Mrs Cis Jones sang us Musgrove and Lover's tasks — the latter a new "child". Then on to Mrs Polly Patrick who with Mrs Nanny Jones sang us several. Had dinner with them at 2, and got back to Drug Store at 4.30 where we regaled ourselves on grapejuice — Maud is fast becoming a toper. In the evening sang some songs to the Webbs, Patterson and Ralston

etc. A really lovely day with fresh air, fleecy clouds, just like an English summer's day with S.W. wind. Quite cold in the evening.

August 25, 1917

Slept much better — night quite cold, no rain and fairly clear. Finished packing and then caught the crazy train at 9 for Barbourville where we arrived at 11.30. Lunched at Hotel then to Mrs Broghton who sang us several songs. Saw Mrs Poff and Mrs Sudie whose husband has more or less recovered and was away at his mother's. Caught the 4.10 train for Pineville and reached Continental Hotel at 5.30. Did some shopping, unpacked, had dinner, sat outside on the verandah, then walked out to see the shops! Nice to find ourselves in civilization again and to have warm baths before going to bed. Not very good rooms as they are hot getting the afternoon sun, which, though the nights and mornings are cool, is still very powerful."

Apparently the Webb Hotel had not changed much since Dickey's day, two decades previous. It is fair to note that Sharp was a long standing strict vegetarian. The following excerpts from his correspondence demonstrate his mixed feelings about Clay (his descriptions of Harlan and Hazard were not any kinder):

Sharp Correspondence, Letter to Miss Scovill, 23.8.17.88:

We are having a very hard time of it. We have been outside the bounds of civilisation now for upwards of three weeks, and the bad food, smells, dirt and general discomfort is beginning to tell on both of us. So we are going on Saturday to Pineville for work and where we can get comparatively decent accommodation and there we shall recuperate for a couple of days. But I grudge every day spent in a place where I can't collect. We are getting plenty of songs, but, of course, get many duplicates now which make the sport rather less exciting. But I just love the people and the talks I have with them in their cabins, and it is a relief to get to them and to enjoy their society



Cecil Sharp

after the kind of people we meet in bad hotels, such as the one I am writing in now at Manchester. This is supposed to be a thriving place where they have found coal and are looking for oil, and everyone is on the make, and the speculative positions attract the second-rate business and financial men from all parts of the country, who settle here like flies on carrion gloat and buzz over it too. There is, of course, no manner of reason why those who do useful work, develop resources, and supply the wants and needs of people, should become vulgar in the doing of it, but

somehow or other it happens so only too often. The contrast between the mountaineers and these bounders is the difference between night and day. I wish you could see me with Mrs Polly Patrick, aged 45, who smokes a pipe and, of course, sings. She has been married three times but was born Patrick and still is Patrick. The first husband, Hobbs, was a good sort in his way, she said, but killed a man and had to go to the Penitentiary, so she took up with one Baines, who was a rotter, and whom she sent about his business in three months. The third one, Burns, was better but a slacker and wouldn't work so she kicked him out and for the third time paid 2 dollars to get her old name, Patrick. As it costs 2 dollars apiece to alter the names of the children, they remain with their father's names. You had better not tell this story to your mother. She is a very nice and capable person with a fund of racy expressions which delight me. Talking of England, she said she would like to go there 'if it weren't for that big river I'd done bin' ... The heat has been awful and we get home pretty tired after a long day's tramping. On Sunday we trudged 13 miles, Monday 7, Tuesday 9, Wednesday 16 and Thursday (today) 8, all over the worst and most uneven of roads. But we are both fairly fit, though sooner or later we shall have to go back to the Grove Park Hotel and wash and feed up for a while. At the present moment I can scarcely look at food, as I suspect anything contains hog's grease or something diabolical.

Sharp Correspondence, Letter to Mrs Storrow, 26.8.17.89:

The hotel we stayed at in Manchester, Clay Co. Ky, for 10 days was one of the worst I have yet struck. Manchester, though the County Seat, has no made-roads nor water (except very doubtful wells - shallow at that) and no system of sanitation. The hotel faces a vacant square with a dry creek running across it, covered with large boulders. Residents just throw the contents of their dust bins out upon the street where the hogs, which are numerous, eat of it what they can. As for the hotel it was just indescribable - the smells and the flies and the greasy, ill-cooked, ill-served food. The last day or so I practically gave up eating for I suspected anything put before me. Even the stewed apples had hog's grease mixed up in them, and the bread was made with lard. People in these parts will eat anything so long as it is greasy enough.

We have made friends with some really nice people ... there was a Mrs Jones whose clothes never met in the middle by some inches and who apparently wore no underclothing. She and her two daughters and granddaughters all sang to me and gave me some splendid songs. She always insisted on embracing Maud round the neck and kissing her on the lips every time we paid her a visit. She was a Holy Roller i.e. member of the Holiness Sect - and was 'saved' and by rights oughtn't to have sung love-songs at all, but she did so out of sheer kindness and good nature because she said she saw we wanted the songs and was quite sure we should make no bad use of them ... On one occasion when we were walking from Oneida to Manchester - 14 miles - and had just come out of a cabin with some songs, a group of children seated under a tree called out, 'We can sing you some.' So we sat down and they sang till the school bell rang when they all scampered off.



The People and Songs of Clay County

Based on the diary, these are the people Cecil Sharp collected in Clay County in August of 1917, and the songs they gave him. Diligent research might turn up more. The various Misses are probably students at Oneida Institute. Sharp's reference to 'child' songs refers to a collection of 305 ballads collected in the 19th century by Francis James Child, and originally published in ten volumes between 1882 and 1898, under the title *The English and Scottish Popular Ballads*. The number the song was given by Mr. Child is listed in parenthesis for songs in that collection.

Polly Patrick:

"The Cruel Ship's Carpenter"
 "The Lonesome Grove"
 "The Daemon Lover"
 "The Brown Girl" (295)
 "True Lover's Farewell"
 "Wife Of Usher's Well" (79)

Polly Patrick & Nannie Smith:

"Hicks Carmichael" (execution song)
 "Young Beichan" (53)
 "Flowers In The Wildwood"
 "Sweet William And Lady Margaret" (74)

"The Drunkard"

"Banks of Sweet Dundee"

"Lord Bateman"

"Jesse Coles" (execution song)

"Golden Vanity" ("The Green Willow Tree")

Cis Jones:

"Barbara Ellen" (84)

"The Lovers' Tasks"

"Lamkin" (93)

"Locks and Bolts"

"Young Beichan" (53)

"Lord Thomas and Fair Ellinor"

"The Elfin Knight" (2)

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"Little Musgrave and Lady Barnard" (81)

"Lord Bateman"

"Poor Goins"

George W Gibson:

"Shooting Of His Dear"

"The Wife of Usher's Well" (79)

Florence Samples:

"The Old Time Religion"

"Sinner Man"

"Not Made With Hands"

"The Gambling Man"

Jim Samples:

"The Cruel Ship's Carpenter"

"O Dear Me"

Ben Finlay:

"Sir Hugh" (155)

"Chickens They Are Crowing"

"Lizzie Wan" (51)

"The Boy On The Land"

"Eliza Jane"

"Shady Grove"

"Sourwood Mountain"

John S Nolan:

"My Parents Treated Me Tenderly"

"Murphy's Burn"

Sophie Annie Hensley:

"The Wagoner's Lad"

"Wild Bill Jones"

"The Daemon Lover"

"Flora Dean"

"False Lover's Farewell"

"Lady Barnard and Little Musgrave" (81)

"Sweet William and Lady Margaret" (74)

"Little Sir Hugh" (155)

"My Parents Treated Me Tenderly"

"The Cruel Ship's Carpenter"

Mrs Dan Bishop:

"Sweet William"

"Caroline of Edinboro' Town"

"Earl Brand" (7)

"Lady Maisry" (70)

"Sir Hugh" (155)

"Banks of Sweet Dundee"

Miss Lizzie Abner:

"Swing a Lady"

"Black Girl"

"Moonshiner"

"The Hog-eyed Man"

"Cripple Creek"

Miss Susan Moberly:

"Fiddler a Dram"

"Shooting of His Dear"

"The Farmer's Curst Wife" (278)

Nancy Alice Hensley:

"Little Sir Hugh" (155)

"Johnie Scot" (99)

George Brewer:

"Civil War Song"

"The Dram Song"

Miss Martha Baker / Sudie Turner / May Martin:

"John Hardy"

"The Cruel Ship's Carpenter"

One Hit Wonders:

"What are Little Boys Made of"
- Ellen Jones

"If I Had Wings" - Ada Gay

"Hold on" - Oneida Institute Girls

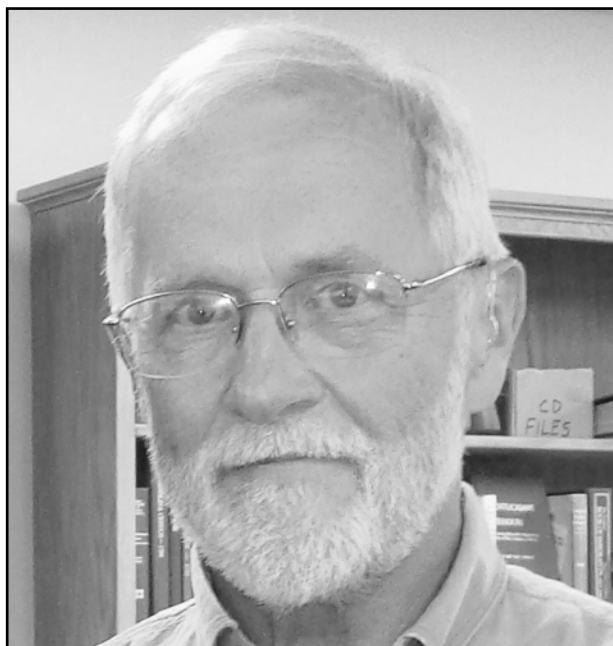
"The Daemon Lover" - Miss May Martin

"Lady Margaret and Sweet William" (74) - Miss Silvaney Haskins

Words and music can be found in "English Folk Songs from the Southern Appalachians. Collected by Cecil J. Sharp" (2 volumes, 1932. London: Oxford University Press). Multiple printed editions are available.

The popular folk song, "Pretty Polly," is a variant of "The Cruel Ship's Carpenter."

(Editors Note: The Historical Society has *Kentucky Mountain Music, Classic Recordings of the 1920s and 1930s* (Yazoo, 2003) that includes Daw Henson's recording of "Swafford Branch Stills." The 7-CD set contains 167 performances and is available for visitors listening pleasure.)



Charles House (1943 - 2015)

By Mike and LaBerta White

We lost a man of incredible talent and vision when Charles House quietly passed from our world on July 29th. The former president of the Clay County Genealogical and Historical Society had lived 72 full years – years packed with adventure and travel and love and family. He was an original “renaissance man”: an artist, musician, journalist, author, boat builder, bridge inspector, photographer, birder, graphic designer, and a staunch Democrat. He was also a good friend.

One of the first children to be born at the Oneida Mountain Hospital in Clay County, Charles was the second of three children born to James Ballard “Hoosie” House and Catherine Goins House. A veteran of the US Navy he was attached to Squadron VAW-33 in NAS Quonset Point, Rhode Island, and served as a navigator on an AD-5W Skyraider, Russian submarine hunter that carried out missions from the aircraft carrier Intrepid, now a museum in New York City.

Upon his return from the Navy, he graduated from Eastern Kentucky University in 1970 with a degree in fine arts. He liked to say “that degree and a quarter could get you a cup of coffee” so being the musician that he was, he chose to play drums in several popular area bands before becoming a social worker in about 1973. He left social work for journalism and in 1981, was the

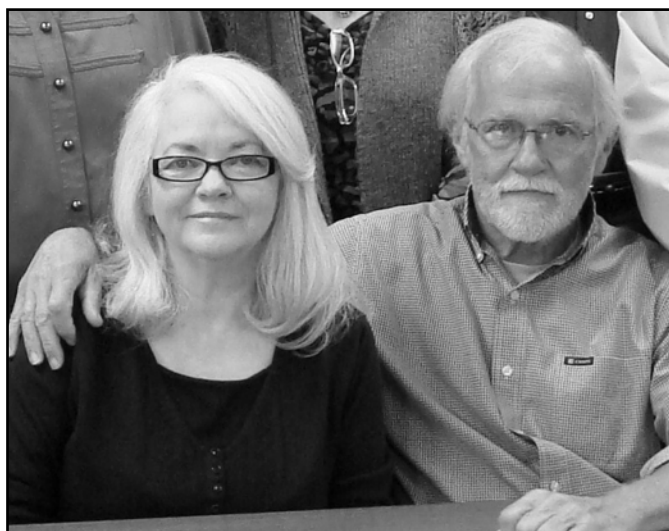
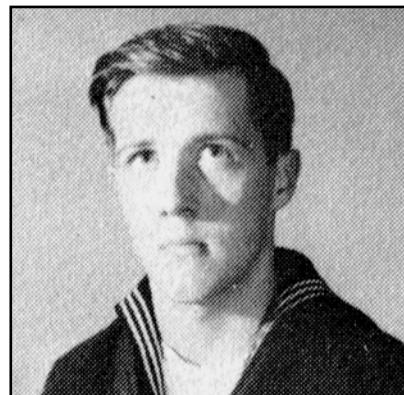
Remembering Charles House

editor of *The Sentinel-Echo* in London, Kentucky, when Al Smith, founding host of KET’s Comment on Kentucky, and co-chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission under Presidents Carter and Reagan, purchased the newspaper. According to Smith, Charles and Al shared similar political views and formed a friendship that lasted for decades. After eight years as editor, Charles left *The Sentinel-Echo* and worked for a time as director of tourism for the Laurel County Chamber of Commerce. He and his wife, Nora, then moved to Florida, where he worked at a local newspaper in Apalachicola. There he developed an interest in sailing and being unable to afford a boat, he said, built an 18’ sailboat from plans. They learned to sail in Apalachicola Bay on that boat and then moved up to a larger boat which they sailed from the Panhandle of Florida, south to Sarasota. In Sarasota, he rebuilt an even larger sailboat which he and Nora and their son and a dog lived aboard and cruised on for more than three years before he FINALLY put that art degree to work by opening a graphic design studio and teaching graphic design at Manatee Community College. They lived in Sarasota for 18 years before moving back home to Clay County in 2006.

In 2007, while researching and writing books on Clay County history, Charles, according to him quite by accident, became president of the historical society and for seven incredible years was a tireless leader who worked to revitalize the Society and give it a prominent and lasting position in the community. During those years, with Nora by his side, he envisioned and created the Goose Creek Salt Works Pioneer Village, transformed the *Clay County Ancestral News* into a highly respected genealogical and historical publication, and expanded the Society’s collection of books and materials into an impressive and valuable library, especially with the addition of Clay historian, Jess Wilson’s lifetime of work. He worked with Mayor Carmen Lewis and the City of Manchester on several projects and created a

*I do not claim that my family has any greater significance in the making of Clay County than others, but I have tried to find what contributions members of my tribe has made, to illuminate their lives for better or worse, and to flesh them out in a way that will make a readable story that will help all us Clay Countians understand why we are what we are, the way we are, and what we intend to do about it as we enter our third century. - Charles House, *Blame it on Salt**

Right: Charles House, veteran of the US Navy.



Nora and Charles House.

history pavilion in downtown Manchester, sponsored by the historical society, to always remind Clay Countians of their special history, and the list goes on and on. In 2013, he was acknowledged by the Kentucky Historical Society and received their prestigious Award of Distinction for his work on Clay County history (see *Clay County Ancestral News*, Spring/Summer 2014).

Charles was the author of several books, including two local history books, *Blame it on Salt* and *Heroes and Skallywags*. He wrote a biography of Henry Faulkner, well known Lexington artist with ties to Clay County, published by University of Tennessee Press; a novel, *Sailing on Down the Pike*; and a collection of essays titled *One With the Fox*. With Nora House, they jointly edited *Dickey in Clay*, based on the interviews of Rev. John J. Dickey from the Clay County portion of his famous diaries recorded in the late 1890s. All

his books are still available to be ordered from Amazon or the historical society.

Charles was responsible for a renewed interest in historical society projects and a record growth in membership, but probably his greatest gift to the Society and to all of Clay County will be the books he painstakingly researched and wrote about Clay County history. *Blame it on Salt* and *Heroes and Skallywags* will be his true and lasting legacy. We will enjoy his books, refer to them, and appreciate them even more in the decades to come and, in doing so, honor the man who humbly devoted himself to telling our story and making us proud of our accomplishments when we had almost forgotten to be proud. Perhaps his friend Al Smith said it best: “.... he brought his love for the area, the skills of a professional writer, and much more than a sentimental attachment which too often colors the efforts of local historians. I have known several fine Kentuckians who have written about their home communities, but none have done it better than Charles House.”

We are forever grateful for his time at the historical society and the mark he left on our organization – the society will never be quite the same without him. Charles’ last CCAN article, “Granddaddy and the Fesser,” written a few weeks before his death, appears in this issue. We think it is one of his best.

Charles was admired and respected by the people of Manchester and Clay County for his remarkable intelligence, his passion for history, and his work to make the county a better place by honoring its past. The Historical Society has lost a great friend and supporter, and Clay County has lost a great man.

Granddaddy and the Fesser

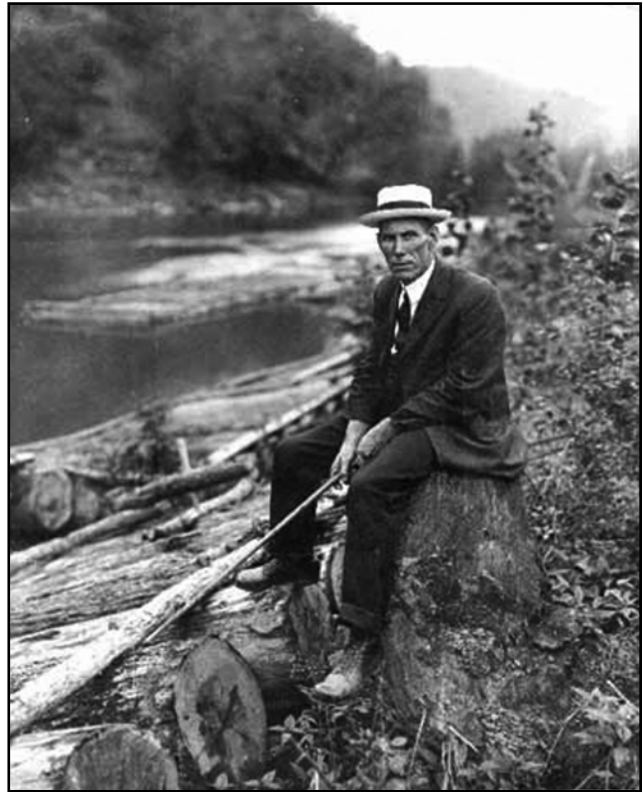
The high-flying James Anderson Burns and the man who kept him attached to earth.

By Charles House

Professor James Anderson Burns bored with a big auger. He thought big, achieved big and got big credit for it. But long before the accolades stopped, the founder of the Oneida Baptist Institute was taking money from the school rather than contributing to it to support a questionable lifestyle in the north. To staunch the outflow of cash, and to prop up Burns' national reputation as the legendary "Burns of the Mountains," the hand-wringing Board of Directors turned to an unlikely source who was toiling away in the shadows as little more than an under-appreciated flunky, my much put-upon, overworked, immoderately modest, sickly but morally strong, baseball-loving granddaddy, Charles Goins. It took years for the Board to admit it, but they finally had to agree that they picked the right man for the job.

Granddaddy Goins was an early student at OBI. He not only managed to drag himself out of ugly poverty by attending the school, he became a teacher there, served as Professor Burns' right hand man and chief apologist, and eventually became president. Granddaddy's makes for a good story, better, I think, than the versions contained in several books and articles on Burns and his school. In Granddaddy's letters and diary entries we have a richer version of the story, one that reveals some of the human frailty we know is always just below the surface of exalted persons but is often glossed over.

This is not to diminish James Anderson Burns. That the man was a rough-hewn genius there can be no doubt. Throughout the 1890s Burns, who was unschooled himself, taught at various schools around Clay County, including Crane Creek, a school with a notorious reputation owing to its being in the neighborhood of the Baker/Howard feud, then in its heyday. Big, rough-looking Burns was just the man to keep the children of the feudists in order, clan leader Bad Tom Baker thought. Between Baker's reputation and Burn's



Professor James Anderson Burns on the South Fork of the Kentucky River, near his beloved Oneida Baptist Institute.

toughness with handling big unruly students, Burns was said to have succeeded at Crane when no one thought it was possible.

But he seemed to have been fated to start the more ambitious school at Oneida. Burns' lofty ambitions in this vein were shared by H. L. McMurray, a Baptist preacher he met while teaching for a while at Berea College. McMurray agreed with Burns that educating mountain youngsters in a religious oriented school was the one sure way to end feuding. But would the feuders? When a group of about 50 known feudists and their friends met at an old mill at the mouth of Red Bird in 1899 to hear what this Burns feller

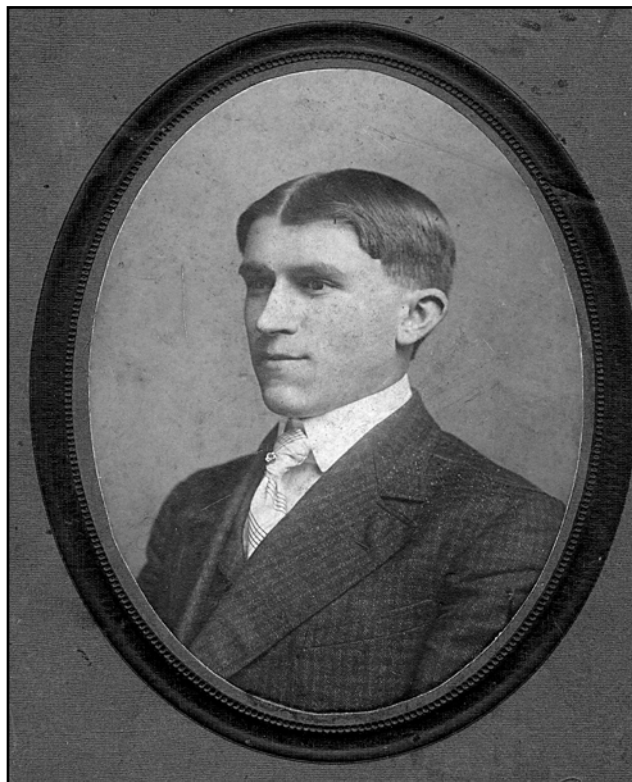
had to say about it the outcome was by no means certain. Emerson Hough wrote of the meeting for "American Magazine" in 1912 and quoted Burns thus: "'I didn't know what they were going to do,' said Burns, 'but I was right glad when Lee Combs got up, and when Dan Burns got up too, and they met in front of me. They did not draw, but they shook hands. Then I knew that Oneida College was going to be a success.'" Lee Combs was Kentucky Governor Bert Combs' grandfather. Looking at a picture of the long, lean, no-nonsense-looking "noted feudist" in "Dawn Comes to the Mountains" you can understand Burns' apprehension.

By the time of that fateful meeting Burns and McMurray had had some experience with a fledgling Baptist school, having taught at one at Burning Springs. The two preacher/teachers had been recruited by a group of local citizens who were attempting to establish a more ambitious school based on an academy they had started several years earlier. In 1898 Methodist preacher John Jay Dickey, who was attempting to start a rival school at Burning Springs for his denomination, reported in his famous diary that Burns and McMurray were being perceived as trouble makers. He said the supporters of the Baptist school were "all torn up over the conduct of Reverend Burns . . . and McMurray who have been preaching Calvinism without galvanizing it."

It would be hard to determine who was happiest when Burns and McMurray left to establish their school at Oneida, them or the friends of the Burning Springs school.

Most of the written accounts establish that Burns was a charismatic and forceful speaker, something that belied his background and lack of formal education. In the numerous photos of him I've seen he is a big, raw, intense-looking man you wouldn't want to cross. Given his background he probably had something of a rude accent at first. Yet he became an eloquent speaker, and he mixed smoothly in with polite northern society charming rich ladies wherever he went, wrestling money from tight-fisted conservatives even during the depression. He became known as "Burns of the Mountains" in newspaper and magazine articles from coast to coast.

He had a mercurial side that could be forehead-slapping exasperating to his cohorts, yet he inspired a loyalty in Granddaddy Goins that was



Charles Goins, president of Oneida Baptist Institute from 1934 to 1941.

a thing to behold. Granddaddy often jeopardized his own job security by defending the moody and often absent Burns to the Board of Directors who were reluctant to send him money for they knew not what. For if it were true that he raised an amazing amount of money for the school, in later years he made financial demands for his own use that Granddaddy tried to defend to the Board while at the same time writing firm, scolding letters to the professor.

Burns was aloof and remote from the students, yet he was thought of as a sort of god when he deigned to come in from the Chautauqua circuit for a visit. In the Foreword to "Dawn Comes to the Mountains," Gov. Bert Combs remembered when he was a student that Burns was supposed one morning to make a rare appearance before them. "We students were told to scrub ourselves especially hard that morning and were then assembled in chapel with faculty members to await his presence. He arrived within a few minutes dressed in a frock coat and striped trousers and took his seat on the rostrum. But he didn't speak. He looked slowly around the room, got to his feet, and walked out without uttering word. We heard



Saul Houchell, 5th President of OBI and Charlie Goins after a successful fishing outing.

later that he was displeased about the absence of a certain faculty member." Combs never saw him again.

And, finally, he became something of a scoundrel, and was often out of sorts due to nervous breakdowns and other such euphemisms employed by his apologists and biographers, which sometimes meant nothing more than being drunk, according to Grandmother Goins, and Granddaddy's diary. Grandmother had told me on several occasions of caring for the aging Burns when he resided in Anderson Hall.

In "Dawn" Grandmother is quoted in a caption under a photo of Burns. "I cooked more meals for Professor Burns than anybody else who ever lived in Oneida," she said. "He would come down, when he was going to have some of these big, rich people come. He'd say I want you to cook a meal for so and so and I never refused him in my life . . . Professor Burns got to be a better looking man as long as he lived, or else I got to love him and looked over his ugly faults." In Granddaddy's diary, sprinkled amongst the many notations of Burns's excellence, was an occasional entry like "Burns D" or "Burns drunk."

But all that comes later, after the emperor began to believe his press clippings and to try to make the world fit into his orbit rather than the other way around. For the first 25 or so years the record is clear that the man was a giant, a tireless campaigner for his dream, fund-raiser extraordinaire, and a true original. And there is no doubt that he accomplished more than those skeptical old feudists would have dreamed, even if the violence was to continue for many years. For all the consternation he caused during his later years no one would have thought it wasn't worth the experience of having known him.

By all accounts Burns was a prodigious worker. To get the school up and running required his renowned physical strength as well as his will. He is credited with building the first building on campus almost single handed. In addition to the physical duties he was teacher, administrator and spiritual counselor. And he would turn out to be a first class public relations man as well. In one important way Burns and McMurray were able to take a negative and turn it into a positive. Clay County's national reputation as a center of clan vendettas played right into their hands because it was ready made publicity. They wasted no time capitalizing on it. They seem to have realized right off that not only were the local people tired of the feuding, but so were the people reading about it far beyond the borders of Clay County.

On an early, fateful trip to Louisville, they visited a large Baptist Church where Burns was able to show the power of his oratory. The church elders voted to give the school \$70 a month, a grant that was to last indefinitely. To Burns, that meant the difference between success and failure. The next year, 1901, Burns was able to secure from Dr. and Mrs. J. B. Marvin in Louisville a check for \$5,000 for the building of the first substantial structure on the campus. "This was more money than I ever dreamed of having," Burns was quoted, and he and McMurray put the money to good use. The resulting Marvin Hall, a handsome brick structure on the hill above Oneida dominated its surroundings like an elegant swan looking out over a brood of ugly ducklings.

And so it went during the first few years, with Burns ranging wider and wider, telling the story of the school on the northern Chautauqua circuit, enticing small and not so small sums from enchanted city folk. Donation by donation the campus grew. By the time Granddaddy Goins came

in to keep the books in 1909 the name had been changed from Mamre Baptist College to the Oneida Baptist Institute, and its fame had grown not only around the state and country but, in a more difficult sell, around Clay County, too. If you wanted to get yourself educated in Clay County, it was thought to be the best show around.

The stock crash of 1929 was welcomed less at the school than elsewhere in Clay County, where many were so poor they hardly noticed the depression. It meant a great deal to Oneida, however, because it threatened to dry up rich veins of cash from those whom the crash most affected. Though the official record says Burns returned to active daily management of the school in 1928, that doesn't seem to be the case according to Granddaddy's letters. In 1929 Burns was up north somewhere, and apparently had been for a while. By that time, instead of Burns sending money down to the school, he was asking for increasing amounts to be sent to him. In his absence Granddaddy had to do Burns' bidding with the Board. In April of 1929 the Board had voted to limit Burns' allowance to \$250 a month because of belt tightening. Though Granddaddy had managed to get the Board to allocate Burns more money for a while, they later voted to make him live strictly within the \$250 a month . . . wherever he happened to be.

In a letter of January, 1930, Granddaddy wrote to the "Fesser," as he always addressed him in letters, to tell Burns that, though the Board held the professor in the highest regard, they found themselves aghast at a new financial package he has asked them to approve. "This contract is such a radical departure from the general order of things," Granddaddy wrote, "that it has taken them off their feet and left them suspended in an atmosphere of uncertainty and apprehension."

Granddaddy could sling metaphors with the best of them, but he was always in his letters self effacing . . . up to a point. In a February letter to the Fesser he offered to advise the Board on Burn's demands but assured him that his advice would be "useless if not unwelcome, and besides I am not



Village of Oneida, Kentucky.

at all sure what I would do if it were my problem." He tells Burns that he hopes he will not continue to have to be a buffer between him and the Board. "I claim no authority, have never claimed any, and do not wish to claim any ever, except to obey orders from the proper authority."

And that seemed to be the crux: who, exactly, was the proper authority? By January, 1931, things don't seem to have improved much in Burns' relationship with his Board. "Wilson [a board member] continues to write the most scathing denunciations of you possible," Granddaddy wrote to Burns, "and has begun to turn his guns upon us as parties to your 'conduct' as he calls it." Granddaddy went on to explain the dire circumstances the school was in, not the least of which was Burns' "conduct," and offer bits of advice all the while proclaiming intentions to always yield to the wishes of the Fesser.

A lively correspondence apparently continued between Granddaddy and Burns, though I was unable to determine just where Burns was at any given time. He seems to have vanished from time to time leaving his underlings to wring their hands and gnash their teeth and await instructions. Granddaddy urged cooperation. "If the school survives much longer this crisis it will do so by all pulling together," he wrote. "May we hope to have something definite from you soon? Outline your program and see if they OK it. There will be ample time for some of these bolshevists to raise the devil and torment the lives out of men after your recommendations have been vetoed."



Class in session at Oneida Baptist Institute.

The professor's ego seemed to have needed some stroking after such letters. In a subsequent letter Granddaddy wrote: "You are the first power in the school, have always been, and always will be as long as you live, and possibly long after you are dead. Whatever you recommend to the Board, the Board will do. You have a broader view of the field than we do here. My suggestions may not fit into your ideas at all. You will always be the hero of Oneida and a good deal of a martyr with many. Everybody loves you and always will, whatever may be said, written or done. The criticisms that count for anything against you here are your extravagant uses of money as it appears to some."

This seems a bit disingenuous since we have just seen that the Board was being balky at times, and downright treasonous at others. Anyway, Granddaddy went on to explain that his correspondence with Burns was the Board's business, too, and that he felt the Board had a perfect right to access the books at anytime. "The question came up a few days ago about how much money had been issued in your name during the past year. All told, it amounted to about \$9,000. The Board, as I interpret their feelings, are glad to allow you generous living expenses, a regular allowance, but more than that is granted very reluctantly. They do not feel that you are physically able to carry on these intensive campaigns and are hopeless of results. Maybe a glad surprise awaits us all."

Granddaddy then finished with a suggestion.

"As soon as you can wind up the project in which you are now interested, either come home and help us thru the remainder of the year, or go to some quiet resting place where you can live on a moderate sum."

Obviously Burns had not come back to take over the reigns of the school as the genteel versions of Oneida history has it. By the tone of these letters it is clear that the Board considered him more of a liability than a positive force for helping the school through the depression and wanted nothing so much as to put the old war horse out to pasture. Later that year Granddaddy writes to Burns, unsure, apparently, that the letter will reach him. We can almost hear the frustration as he writes, "We are somewhat at a loss to know just where to mail your check."

In January 1932 the situation seems to have entered the realms of the absurd. Granddaddy writes to assure Burns that no one "connected with the school expects or desires you to go into the field and lecture. We feel that you are no longer equal to the task physically. Maybe I can explain by contrast: When I am off a day there are questioning looks and doubtless remarks made; but not so with you. If you write an article for the Mountaineer once a month and to such friends of the school as you care to, everyone feels you have done your month's work.

"And such a thing as you having an enemy living in Oneida is wholly and absolutely inconceivable, unthinkable, to me. I do not believe there is a citizen of this town that would not freely give you their last crust of bread in his kitchen, or the last coat of his belongings and feel like a hero for doing so. I am dreadfully afraid it is the other way around, Fesser, that you have become unfriendly, unsympathetic with us, products of your own making, children of the travail of your own soul and body.

"I am enclosing your weekly check. Sincere good wishes come with it."

This sort of thing went on for several letters, but to continue with the letters would do little more than to offer them as entertainment. They weren't written as entertainment, nor was Burns' straits

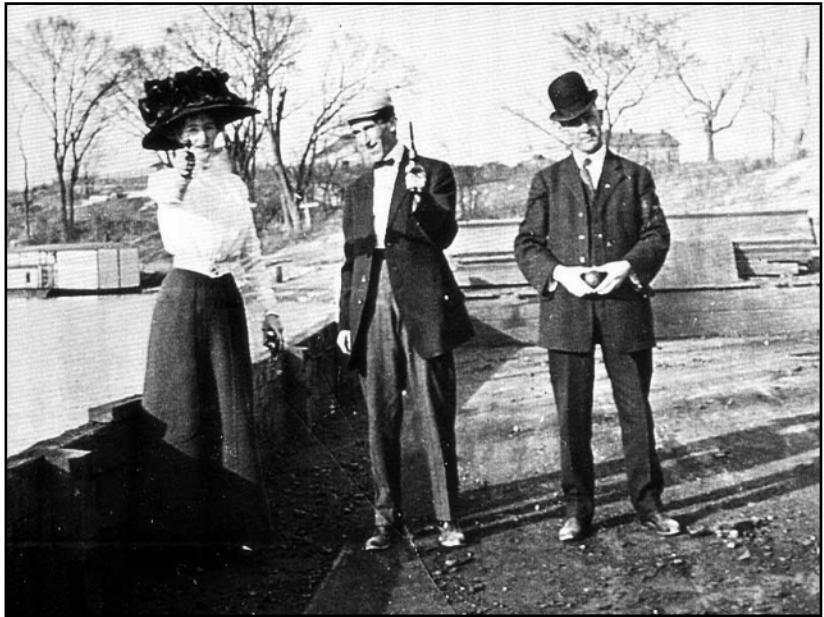
funny. He seems to have been in the grips of a genuine mental malady. For Granddaddy's part, he seems to have been stretched to the breaking point on several occasions as he struggled to keep the ship afloat while reassuring the professor that he remained the captain.

Granddaddy's diaries offer a different perspective of his tenure as Burns' "assistant," and of the period between 1934 and 1941 when he was president, having succeeded the storied Burns while Grandmother sometimes took care of the ailing old man tucked away in his room at Anderson Hall. Whereas I believe the letters were meant to be part of the public record at some time – and hint at studied sentence writing that might one day be second guessed – the diaries are free of any hint of wit or ego. There are few metaphors in the diary entries; everything is literal to a fault.

"The Board says I must not resign the office," he says in a January 20th 1932 entry. "Considerable confusion over Mr. Burns actions." And four days later: "Doc, Feltner and Robert asked for a vote of confidence [for Granddaddy]. Received unanimous vote." In mid February he wrote, "Wrote letter of protest to Mr. Burns at night . . . What a Man! Alas!" And on March 1: "Wrote Mr. Burns at night. Bed at 10:00. Unhappy – School affairs in a mess."

Things began to get ugly, although the precise reason isn't given. On March 13th he "received threatening note from "Bell Gang" [whoever they were]. Wrote Burns and speech for Chapel next day on note received. Tired, unhappy and disgusted." And three days later, "Received a 2nd threatening note. Visited Irvin – borrowed a gun. Don't mean to be annoyed overmuch."

I must say I was surprised to read this entry, about Granddaddy reacting to a threat with a threat. In any photo you look at, in any reference to him you read ("a mere wisp of a man," Preston Keith said in "Goose Creek, River of No Return"), Granddaddy is the last person you'd suspect of carrying a gun to a meeting. Then I remembered a photo of him taken while he was in business



Charles Goins (center).

school in Bowling Green in 1911. There he was posing jauntily with a couple of friends, a cocky grin on his thin face and a pistol in one hand, aimed at the camera in jest.

So, not only was he not a man to back down from his convictions, he wasn't a man to trifle with. But the strife was taking its toll. The day after the meeting that held potential for gun play he received a telegram from Burns ordering him to cancel a real estate deal the Board had recently made to purchase two plots of land for the school. They had agreed to pay \$8,000 for one plot, and \$5,500 for the other. This would appear to have been a significant outlay for those days of severe belt tightening. But the Board thought they needed the land, and they must have been serious about it. Granddaddy left school a day early on his horse, Bess, and rode to Manchester, intending the next day to go to London and catch a train for Dayton, Ohio to see if he could reason with Burns.

In Dayton the eye to eye meeting seems to have been amicable. In his March 24 entry Granddaddy notes that he played cards with Burns wherever the Fesser was quartered. But three days later, back in Oneida, he received a letter from Burns, the contents of which could not have been reassuring. "Letter from Burns," Granddaddy writes tersely. "Decided definitely not to return to Oneida." Though it's not certain, I believe this referred to Granddaddy intending not to return, not Burns.

The extent of this daily drama, infighting, huffing and puffing is not revealed in the published versions I have read of Burns and Granddaddy's tenure at Oneida. Burns, except for his "nervous breakdowns" was above reproach. This alternative version, if you will, seems to me to offer a truer glimpse into the building of an institution, seems more lifelike, and has more lessons to teach than the standard sanitized fare you usually get. I for one am grateful for Granddaddy's frank reports, and I would think others would be, too. It doesn't in the least tarnish Burns' remarkable record, just makes him a real life genius instead of a plastic one. If a man has warts, not mentioning them won't make them go away. Acknowledging them will steal their negative power.

There is a passage in Darrell Richardson's book about Burns that stands out for me, a small but significant matter that shows the essential Burns in a clear light. A poor black man named George H. Woodson had heard him speak in Iowa in 1915 and had been so moved that he asked Burns how much it would take to fund one student for one year. Burns told him it would take \$91. A few weeks later Burns received in the mail a check for \$91 from Woodson. "Since I am a Congregationalist and you are a Baptist, we will split the difference on the measure," Woodson wrote, explaining that he had solicited donations for the school. In a hand-written reply Burns wrote: I can never tell you how grateful I am for this timely assistance. Will you express my gratitude to the friends who contributed? Yes, I am a Baptist and you are a Congregationalist. But let's not split the difference. Let's combine and forget it. The time is fast approaching when difference shall be no more. I am white. You are black. Neither of us was consulted. The Lord made us what we are and He will make us what we shall be. Let us trust Him. You have made for yourself

a large place in the hearts of Kentucky mountaineers . . ."

Spoken like a true Calvinist.

He would give credit to the Lord in the matter but if it hadn't been for Fesser Burns I might not be here, and I, for one, am for giving him credit. For it was Burns who had solicited the money when on a New York speaking trip for the first public hospital in Clay County, the place where I along with countless other Clay Countians was born..

Granddaddy seems to have felt liberated when he left Oneida in 1932. He enrolled at Union College in Barbourville along with his daughter – my mother – Catherine, and had a lark by the sound of his diary entries. Though he was by then 50 years old he seems to have enjoyed college as much as anyone just out of high school. It was all above reproach, of course – no hi-jinks for Granddaddy – but his love for study was evident.

Just as he had for the past four years at Oneida he commuted to Manchester and the rest of the family on weekends, only now instead of an arduous three or four hour journey by horseback he could ride the train from Barbourville directly to Manchester or Garrard, then walk to the little farm on Town Branch. By this time the family had grown to eight children. In addition to Mama, there was Layman, born 1916; twins Leslie and Laddie, 1918; Clabe, 1922; Lou Lyttle, 1924; Saul, 1926, and Evelyn, 1929. Grandmother and the kids stayed back at the farm; Mama and Granddaddy lived it up in their respective rooms at Union.

In July Granddaddy took a test for supervisor of county schools, passed and was hired by Baxter Bledsoe, superintendent of Clay County schools. He assumed his duties July 19th, and thus a new chapter in his academic life was begun. For the next year and a half he daily visited schools from

When he resigned due to ill health in 1941 Goins said, "Seven years have passed and the work still survives. Does God not quite often select the weak things of earth to confound the mighty? I accepted the office of president with fear and trembling, knowing that no one could fill Burns' shoes. Yet the school has grown, we've stayed out of debt, added to our endowment and made considerable improvement on our plant." His last request to the trustees was that they name his long-time friend and classmate, Saul Houchell, as the next president of Oneida Baptist Institute, which they did.

one end of the county to the other, small rural schools that have long since passed into history with names like Slick Rock, Pin Hook, Urban, Pigeon Roost, Root's Branch, Crawfish, Engine, Upper Buzzard, Wild Cat, Tanyard, Silvermine, Hector, Flat Woods, Antepast, Bar Creek, Dripping Springs, and that many more with less exotic names. Some were remote and difficult to travel to, exactly like the Kentucky school in Jesse Stewart's famous novel "The Thread That Runs So True." In these places Granddaddy, like Stewart, stayed for the night at the homes of area residents, which is just the way things were done in those days. His diary entries in these days were dryer than ever, and no details were given about his duties as supervisor of schools. He seems to have taken the job seriously, though, for at one point he traveled to Frankfort with Bledsoe to confer about the poor grades Clay County students were posting.

In early January 1934 Board members at Oneida waved the vice-presidency carrot at him and convinced Granddaddy to return to the school. On January 7, he headed out despite a flood which covered many roads and bottoms. In the past this trip had usually been made by horse or mule back from Manchester via Beech Creek to Goose Creek and on to Oneida by the slough that served as a road hugging the west bank of Goose Creek. By 1934 the so-called "Laurel Creek" route had been graveled and permitted car travel at times. On this occasion his son Leslie managed to get Granddaddy to the Hensley post office, and from there he walked the last few miles, arriving at his old office at suppertime. His only diary comment upon reaching the school was "Mr. B. not well."

He found the "workers and work disorganized. Heartless. Morale low" but went to work. "Everyone seemed cheered and glad for me to be back," he wrote in his diary. One entry read: "Doc (his half brother, board member Dr. Preston Jennings Jones) and Fesser in. Both very kind to me for a change." It was back to a routine he had grown to accept as normal: long work days at the office, writing letters in his room at night, playing



Goins and students at Oneida Baptist Institute.

solitaire, writing articles for the "Mountaineer" (sometimes in place of Fesser's when he was balky), attending trustees meetings, worrying about funding. Even going home on weekends was much as it had been; at this late date it seems he rode a horse or mule more often than he traveled by car, which was always an iffy proposition.

Being back at Oneida this time seemed to suit Granddaddy better than it had before. Life was good during the week, and for Grandmother at the home place on Town Branch. Granddaddy was named president of the school that year, something for which it seems he had been grooming himself since he first entered the school over a quarter century earlier.

As for Fesser Burns he seems to have just faded away as old soldiers are said to do, under the care of Grandmother Goins in the final years of Granddaddy's presidency. It was an odd relationship, one not known to the official version of Burns of the Mountains that was established in works such as Darrell C. Richardson's "Mountain Rising," the story of the founding of the school; Burns' autobiography "The Crucible"; the book "Dawn Comes to the Mountains"; magazine articles by the novelist Emmerson Hough; the writings of former OBI president Barkely Moore; and the writings of Granddaddy Charles Goins himself. But it is only in the writings of Granddaddy Goins that the full measure of the man himself was realized, for better or worse. I'm thinking for better.

Note: The basis for this article is to be found in the author's "Blame it on Salt." For much more detail regarding Professor Burns and Granddaddy Goins' family during this time refer to the book.

“Flo’Tucks” vs. “O’Tucks”

Little Beech Creek Chronicles - Part 13

By L J Smothers

A few years ago I wrote a story for this magazine called “The O’Tucks” about the almost biblical migration from Southeast Kentucky to the “Queen City” (Cincinnati), and her able sisters in the “Buckeye State.” The reason for the exodus was jobs and the reason for jobs was war. The multitude, in their pasted-together transportation, would follow US Route 25 through London, Winchester, Paris, Piccadilly, and Covington without hearing a cockney accent or seeing a “bobby on a bicycle” (These hamlets were Commonwealth towns, so named by our European fore-bearers). Their modern Conestogas would be “bailey-wired” Model T’s; 8 cylinder leviathan Packards (running on 3); and the occasional “Hell on Wheels” homemade “Red Light” trailers. Whatever they were, they were “stretched to the gills” -- pilgrims bound to the roof, tied to the running boards, and packed in like Gloucester red sardines.

Like Steinbeck’s Joad family, their destination was the land of milk and money and the honey pot was Hamilton and Butler Counties in Ohio, the Midwest capitols of munition plants, where work meant three shifts a day, seven days a week, and a healthy paycheck -- for the depression era. One of the biggest employers was the Estate Stove Company in Hamilton, Ohio where my mother, along with my aunts and uncles, made everything from land mines, battleship turrets, electric submarine engines, and the Singer Sewing Machine, to Model 1911 A1 semi-automatic pistols (I have an article from the 1945 Cincinnati Enquirer about this item from the Hamilton County Library). My dad worked for the Victor Transit Company as a truck driver, and he flew the US Mail in a Stearman biplane until the “Screaming Eagles” sent him to war.

Some of these folks worked all week and returned to Kentucky to share their factory bounty, then quickly “hightailed it” back on the “Royal Road.” Some decided to settle down near their jobs



Karl and Eris Marcum Smothers with their son L.J. at the Butler County Airport, Hamilton, Ohio in 1946.

in Fairfield, New Miami, or Hamilton inside Butler County. My grandparents decided to “transpot” (I made that word up, or rather my grandpa did) themselves to High Street near the Miami River in Hamilton and on occasion would return to Manchester to see their kin. Some would never leave, for like the earlier doughboy’s refrain, “How you gonna keep em’ down on the farm after they’ve seen the green?” Some came back to Kentucky, and some did not. In fact, the majority stayed to dot the “I” and became “Buckeyes.”



US Route 25 near Lafollette, TN in the Cumberland Mountains.

There is an old story about those souls. They say there were piles of boots on the Kentucky side of the Ohio River. This is where the day shift left their boots for the northbound night shift, and it would be reversed the next morning. "Man, oh Manishevits," you had to love those people!

When the war ended, the government told the "Rosies" that they would be laid off; without compensation and without a "by-your-leave." The factory managers would say, "Now go home, make babies, and listen to your soap operas . . . make your faithful man happy." Infidelity, according to the government, was a 50-50 affair during the conflict. I mean, "C'mon these people were human."

In the early fifties, some of the Clay County refugees decided to go south. Following the same Route #25, they went toward another "Mecca," the state of Florida. Our "Little Beech Creek," caravan followed and consisted of a 1930 somethin' straight 8 Hudson, a '39 Dodge pickup, and eight people (including Samples, Dezarns, Marcums, and Smothers). The smallest, a boy named L.J., spent the ride in the shelf of the Hudson back seat window. After they crossed the Tennessee line, they switched to Route #11 avoiding and out-running the local constables because they had no plates or a pink slip for the Dodge. After motoring through a myriad of backwater towns and roads in "Jawja," they found Route 441 and dove into the middle of the Sunshine State. Following instructions from other pilgrims who had worked their way south, they inquired frequently at farms, grocery stores, and 6-stool diners. Their cuisine was bologna sandwiches, soda pop, crackers, canned "anything" soup, and the occasional apple orchard. They used corn crisps for fire starters and developed a hobo attitude. There was no money

to waste on roadside inns, they had brought along canvas tents, blankets, lanterns, and pistols. They used a native form of citronella for "skeeter" repelling and a sip of corn to keep their 'spirits' up. Just south of Gainesville, Florida they "lighted" upon the city of Micanopy, in Alachua County. Here they stopped and for the next year or so, became "pickers." They picked walnuts, pecans, and any type of fruit in-season.

My family lived with another family inside a large open-air house with a wraparound porch and



Delinquent Dodge pick-up left behind by the pickers from "Little Beech Creek."

a unisex outhouse. Uncle Bud told me that the house was haunted by some very devious "un-dead injun" characters. Because of the heat, I spent my nights sleeping on the porch with some other kids. It was very spooky, and on one or more occasion I saw red eyes and heard the wailing of dead Seminoles around moss-hung trees. There was a big monster in the front yard, and if you squinted really hard, you could see its form sometimes at night. It turns out, it was the delinquent Dodge, or maybe it was Osceola. It could have been Chief Micanopy or a six year old's imagination. We moved into another smaller house, and this time it was with our Beech Creek family only. The Dodge gave up its ghosts and settled down in the side yard. We left Micanopy after a few years and migrated to Miami, Florida -- a nice quiet little town to grow up in...and then it wasn't.



In those days, Micanopy was a “going concern.” People who worked at the University of Florida lived there and there were ample jobs for the multitudes. With Florida growing by “leaps and bounds,” the small cities started to wither and young folks started moving out. Like its futuristic brother, the “Pipeline”, Eisenhower’s pet project, “The American Autobahn,” was being built at a rapid pace. Soon, a man named “Walt” and his pet mouse would literally buy up central Florida. Micanopy was by-passed with a new term, “Motel, next expressway exit,” and the interstate ribbons of asphalt and concrete were moving faster than General Sherman’s March to the Sea. The little town of Micanopy quietly surrendered...to itself.

About 15 years ago I watched a movie called “Doc Hollywood” with Michael J. Fox. The credits read that it was filmed in Micanopy, Florida. I immediately took off for my former abode and discovered that nothing had changed. I visit it now and then. It is a quiet little town inhabited with some very nice folks, indeed. I finally found the haunted house again (with the help of some realtors), and I found the left-behind Dodge pickup. I think (see the photos).

I would recommend the little town if you are going to Disney World, or if you would like to step back into the 1950s. The antique shops and “objets d’art” will make your curio palate drool

Micanopy pickers haunted house.

and your yearning for a beer from the sky blue waters of Tomahawk, Wisconsin, go into serious overdrive (Alachua is not a dry County). How to get there? It’s easy, if you just follow the signs and take I-75 Exit #374 to Micanopy. If you are a wise guy, lip flapper, or think you are God’s gift to the planet, just keep on drivin’ ‘cause one thing the town don’t need and don’t tolerate is a flatulent, horse’s back end.

And one more thing... my grandma, Mary DeZarn Samples, very early-on told me, “Don’t be afraid of the night. It’s the living, not the dead, that give you a worry.”

A shout out to historian Harold Goins, for info on the Ohio side of the migration. Thanks to the Butler County Historical Society and especially Marlene Carmack for her spot-on research on the O’Tucks. Thanks to Leslie R Miller and “Katie” at the Kentucky Historical Society for the records help. And, finally I also want to thank the gracious folks of Micanopy, Florida. You just have to visit their Fall Harvest Festival.

Till next time...if there is one.

(Editor’s Note: “The O’Tucks” by L. J. Smothers appeared in the Clay County Ancestral News, Fall/Winter 2011.)

Society Hosts “Aunt Molly Jackson”

The Clay County Historical Society hosted an exciting event on April 16th as author, playwright, and storyteller, Anne Shelby, presented her popular one-woman show, “Aunt Molly Jackson: Pistol Packin’ Woman,” to a full house.

The program included songs and quotations from the fascinating “Aunt Molly” who was born Mary Magdalene Garland on Sextons Creek in Clay County, in 1880. In the 1930s, she was one of the most famous Kentuckians in the country. Known as the “Coal Miner’s Wife” and the “Pistol Packin’ Woman,” she became a national spokesperson for striking Kentucky miners and their families.

Anne Shelby’s touching presentation described Aunt Molly’s years in Kentucky coal camps as midwife, folk musician, and union activist, and her time in New York where she was a friend to some of the most famous folk singers in America, including Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger.

We thank Anne for the tremendously enjoyable afternoon with “Aunt Molly.”

Anne Shelby is the author of ten published books, including poems, stories, and award-winning books for children. She is also a playwright and storyteller. Anne presents “Henry Faulkner: Kentucky Artist” as a member of the Kentucky Humanities Council Speakers Bureau. Her “Aunt



Shelby as “Aunt Molly”.

Molly Jackson: Pistol Packin’ Woman” is a Kentucky Humanities Council Chautauqua Character. Anne has lived in Clay County for the past twenty-three years, at her family’s homeplace on Teges Creek.

Volunteers Take Part in Bible Reading

(Left to right) Michael White, Danny Finley, M. C. Edwards, Paul Smallwood, Bonita Charles.

On New Years Eve 2014, volunteers of the Clay County Genealogical & Historical Society participated with members of area churches in a historic public reading of the Bible in downtown Manchester. The reading began at 9:00 am on December 31st and continued around the clock for 74 hours and 50 minutes. The entire Bible was read from cover to cover in 20 minute intervals by approximately 240 volunteers. Historical Society volunteers who participated in the reading were M.C. Edwards, Bonita Charles, Danny Finley, and Michael White.



The Bible used for the reading was entrusted to the Society and has been encased in a cherry wood box handcrafted by Paul Smallwood. A brass plaque commemorating the event will be added to the box. The Society thanks Paul for his generous donation of the beautiful box.

The Clay County Genealogical and Historical Society was honored to have taken part in this historic event.



Edmond Frederick monument.

Frederick Family History in Southeastern Kentucky

By James Clark

In late 2014 and early 2015, I was involved in the research of my Frederick line in Knox County, Kentucky. I had finally found the proof I needed to obtain a military marker from the Department of Veterans Affairs for my great grandfather, James Ray. He had served with the 49th Mounted Infantry Regiment, Kentucky Volunteers in the Civil War. He had married Martha Frederick, the daughter of Edmond Frederick in 1866 but only lived until 1871.

While doing the research on James Ray, I expanded my search to include his brother-in-law,

Levi Frederick, who was about the same age as James. I had never found a death date or place for Levi, so I searched for him in Fold3 on Ancestry. I found Levi and learned he had served with the 7th Infantry Regiment, Kentucky Volunteers and died of Smallpox in 1863 at Milliken's Bend, Louisiana. While conducting the research on Levi, I found that his father, Edmond had also served in the same company and regiment with Levi. I was amazed to learn of Edmond's service, because he would have been 55 years of age at the time of his enlistment.

I could not obtain a military marker for Edmond or Levi because Edmond already had a headstone

on his grave and Levi is buried somewhere in the Deep South, in a grave marked "Unknown."

Because I was having such good luck on the Fredericks, I began expanding my research to include all of my Frederick relatives. I was beginning to find lots of information on Fredericks from other counties and states. A couple of those trees on Fredericks were close to Knox County, Kentucky. One referenced "Men, Women, Events, Institutions and Lore of Casey County." By W. M. Watkins. Therein, I found a Jeff Frederick had married a half Cherokee Indian girl in Whitley County, Kentucky some one hundred and fifty years ago and their descendants were in Casey County, Kentucky. Since the book was written about 1939, a little math placed the marriage date at about 1790. I knew this couldn't be correct because Knox County was formed in 1799 and Whitley was formed from Knox. Then I found another statement in a different tree, which claimed, Jeff Frederick was the first Frederick to settle in the area. I already knew that my Frederick ancestor, John Frederick was counted in the 1820 Federal census in Knox County, so I looked for Jeff Frederick in Knox but found no record. I then searched Frederick with no given name and found a Stephen Frederick in the 1820 Federal census and he was the only other Frederick on the 1820 census in Knox County.

Stephen was living on the Southeast side of the Cumberland River, which was near the Whitley County line and John was living on Stinking Creek, which was closer to Barbourville, the county seat. I looked at both of these families and found they were almost the same. Both Stephen and John were age 26 thru 44. In August of 1820, Stephen and his wife were the parents of 5 boys and 2 girls, while John and his wife were the parents of 4 boys and 2 girls.

In the past, I had luck filling in the years between the census with information from the county tax rolls, so I started looking for the Knox County Tax Rolls and found the 1800 to 1810 on the net. As expected, there were no Fredericks listed. I then found the tax rolls from 1800 to 1840 for a nominal fee. I purchased the DVD containing those rolls and began scanning them for the name of Frederick and any apparent variations of the name.

To my surprise, there were three Fredericks counted on the 1818 Knox County Tax Roll.

Stephen, who had 1 horse and his land, was valued at \$25.00. John, who had nothing and Phillip, who also had nothing. Phillip was not listed again on the tax roll until 1825. This tends to indicate that Stephen, John and Phillip are related and may be brothers or at least cousins. Additional research has shown that all three men were born in North Carolina.

Stephen and John were both on the 1819 roll and each had land valued at \$35.00. The cost of an acre of land at that time in Knox County was about \$2.00 per acre with the land being rated as 1st rate, 2nd rate and 3rd rate. Both men were again listed on the 1820 roll but then Stephen was the only Frederick listed on the 1821, 1822, 1823 and 1824 roll.

On 4 Jun 1821, John Frederick apprenticed out two of his sons to learn the art of farming.

William, who was age 11 was apprenticed to William Vannoy and Henry, who was age 14 was apprenticed to Samuel Vannoy. The Apprenticeship to last until each child reached the age of 21.

Children could be apprenticed out to learn a trade in different ways. The parents of the Child could pay the person to train the child or the court could order the apprenticeship because of the need of the children, due to poverty or the loss of one or both of the parents. It appears that John had become ill and could no longer provide for all of his children and that he died between June and November 1821.

On 5 Nov 1821, the Knox County Court ordered that John's youngest child, Levi Frederick, age 5, be apprenticed out to John Cain to teach or came to be taught the said Levi Frederick reading, writing and common arithmetic, including the rule of three.

In 1825, the Fredericks listed were Stephen, John (oldest son of Stephen) and Phillip. Stephen had 1 horse and his land was valued at \$50.00 while John and Phillip were listed with nothing. It could be that, Phillip had pushed on to another location or to Casey County in 1819.

Stephen is the only Frederick listed on the 1826 roll and he has 2 males in his home who are over the age of 21. (John and Stephen Jr.) In 1827, no Frederick listed. Stephen is listed in 1828 with 1 horse and land valued at \$35.00. In 1829, Stephen

is listed with 1 horse and land valued at \$30.00. Stephen Jr. is listed with nothing, as were John and Henry. William was listed with 1 horse and land valued at \$40.00. Henry and William are sons of the deceased, John Frederick.

During the 1830 Census, Sely Frederick and her family were living in Knox County, Kentucky where they were farming. The family consisted of 1 female age 40 thru 50. 3 males age 20 thru 30 and 1 male age 10 thru 15. This census indicates that Stephen Frederick has died and his wife, Celia (Sely) and 4 of her 5 sons remain in Knox County.

In 1830, Stephen (probably Stephen Jr.) has 1 horse and land valued at \$50.00. William has 1 horse and land valued at \$50.00. Henry lived on Stinking Creek and his land was valued at \$200.00. This is the last record of both Stephen and Henry in Knox County. John and Edmond were listed with nothing.

In 1831, John and Edmond are listed with nothing. Soon after 1831, John and his family move to Whitley County, Kentucky where they appear in the 1840 Federal census and thereafter in Casey County, Kentucky.

The 1832 record was lost. In 1833, Edmond has 1 horse and land valued at \$50.00. In 1834, William has 1 horse and land valued at \$150.00 and he lived on Stinking Creek. In 1835, no Frederick listed. In 1836, John had nothing and Edmond lived on Moore's Creek and his land was valued at \$130.00. In 1837, William listed with nothing and Edmond listed with land valued at \$100.00. In 1838, William and Edmond are listed with nothing. In 1839, William, Edmond and Levi were listed with nothing. Edmond was the eldest son and Levi was the youngest son of John Frederick.

Research in Casey County, Kentucky.

Phillip did indeed leave Knox County and continue on to Casey County because Phillip married Anne Elliott on 16 Jul 1826 in Casey County. His first wife must have died during the move from North Carolina to Kentucky.

Phillip is listed on the 1827 Casey County Tax Roll. He has 50 acres on Fishing Creek. In 1828, Phillip paid 1 poll and listed with nothing. Phillip was not listed on the 1829 roll and the 1830 roll could not be read because of the poor condition.

During the 1830 Census, Phillip and his family

were living in Casey County, Kentucky where he was farming. The family consisted of 1 male age 40 thru 49 (1781 – 1790), 1 male age 15 thru 19 (1811 – 1815) and 1 male age 10 thru 14 (1816 – 1820). 1 female age 30 thru 39 (1791 – 1800) and 1 female age 10 thru 14 (1816 – 1820).

Phillip received a 150-acre land grant based on a 21 Jul 1830 survey. The land was located on the Knob Creek watercourse. Book A-2, page 213. Stephen Frederick (probably Jr.) joined Phillip in Casey County, because Stephen received a 50-acre land grant on the Knob Creek watercourse on the same survey date. Book A-2, page 162.

In 1831, Phillip has 150 acres of land on Knob Lick Creek, which was valued at \$75.00. Stephen Frederick is also listed with 50 acres on Knob Lick Creek, valued at \$25.00. Listed next to him is, Celia (Sely) Frederick with no land and next to her is William Frederick, who paid 1 poll.

This tax information further indicates that the father of Stephen Jr. died in Knox County and that his widowed mother, Celia (Sely) is living next to his family.

No tax book for 1832. In 1833, Stephen paid 1 poll, has 48 acres of land and 1 horse and his land is valued at \$30.00. Philip paid 1 poll, has 140 acres of land valued at \$50.00. William paid 1 poll, has 50 acres of land valued at \$50.00. No tax book for 1834. In 1835, William paid 1 poll. Stephen paid 1 poll, has 1 horse and 50 acres of land valued at \$100.00. No tax book for 1836. In 1837, Phillip paid 1 poll, had 1 horse and 75 acres of land valued at \$75.00. George Frederick paid 1 poll. (This George Frederick fits as one of the sons of Phillip Frederick) In 1838, Stephen paid 1 poll, has 1 horse and 80 acres of land. George paid 1 poll. No Frederick was listed on the Casey County Tax roll for the years 1839 through 1840.

During the 1840 Census, Phillip (1781 – 1790) and his wife (1791 – 1800) were living in Liberty, Casey County, Kentucky. 1 person was employed in Manufacture and Trade and 1 person was employed in Agriculture. Neither Phillip nor his wife could read or write.

No Frederick listed on the Casey County Tax roll for the years 1841 thru 1848.

In 1849, David paid 1 poll.

During the 1850 Census, Celia (Sely) Frederick was listed as an 80 year old widow. She was living

in the household of her 40 year old daughter, Celia Brown, in Casey County.

During the 1850 Census, Phillip and his wife were living in Marion, Decatur County, Indiana where he was working as a Laborer. (I am not sure this is the same Phillip in Casey County but he fits).

In 1850 and 1851, no Frederick listed. In 1852, David paid 1 poll and two William Fredericks each paid 1 poll. In 1853, Stephen paid 1 poll. David paid 1 poll and William paid 1 poll, had 1 horse and 30 acres of land. In 1854, Stephen paid 1 poll, had 100 acres on Knob

Lick Creek and his land was valued at \$100.00. David paid 1 poll. In 1855, William paid 1 poll, Stephen paid 1 poll, had 100 acres on Knob Lick and his land was valued at \$100.00. David paid 1 poll and had 25 acres of land. In 1856, William paid 1 poll, had 1 horse and land valued at \$70.00. Stephen paid 1 poll and had 100 acres on Knob Lick Creek. In 1857, Stephen paid 1 poll, had 75 acres of land on Knob Lick Creek valued at \$50.00. Elizabeth Frederick is listed next to Stephen and she has 75 acres of land. In 1858, William paid 1 poll, had 1 horse and 55 acres of land. In 1859, Stephen had 1 horse, 2 head of cattle and 4 hogs. William paid 1 poll.

During the 1860 Census, Phillip was 73 years of age and listed as a "Pauper" in the census. He was living with the family of 45 years old, Austin Elliott and his 37-year-old wife, Christina. No doubt, Austin is somehow related to Phillip's late wife, Anne Elliott. Living near by was the family



James Ray monument.

of 75-year-old Willis Estes and his 65-year-old wife, Eady. Casey County marriage records list Eady as a Frederick, so she may be a sister of Phillip?

In 1860 and 1861 David and William are living on Knob Lick Creek. Things are mostly the same from 1861 thru 1866. The only Fredericks listed were William, David and Stephen, living on Knob Lick Creek.

So far, no record of a Jeff or Thomas Jefferson Frederick has been found on any

official record in either Knox or Casey County, Kentucky. Stephen is the only name that has been found. It is difficult to understand why no reference to Jeff Frederick has been found. In his 1939 book, W. M. Watkins wrote that Jeff Frederick had married a half Cherokee Indian girl and their descendants were in Casey County, Kentucky. Subsequent investigation disclosed Mr. Watkins should have had first hand knowledge of the Fredericks in Casey County because he was one of their descendants.

Most of the trees on Ancestry have listed his name as Jeff or Thomas Jefferson Frederick, with a few using Stephen.

There is somewhat of a precedent for the name of Thomas Jefferson Frederick, because Stephen's son, John, named one of his sons, Thomas Jefferson Frederick and in another instance of the name, Levi Frederick named one of his sons, Thomas Jefferson Frederick.

The Flavor of the Mountains

The hills hold a heap of unusual folks, and Jim can tell stories about them all.



By Joe Creason

This is a reprint of an article that appeared in the Courier-Journal Sunday Magazine in 1961. It was donated to the Historical Society by Elsie Wilson Phillips in honor of Frank and Mandy Wilson.

James "Jim Dangar" Davidson rubbed the stubble of beard on his chin with his hand and gazed thoughtfully at the hills that surround his Clay County home.

"They've told you I'm a story teller, have they?" he began finally in a slow voice that dripped with the unmistakable twang of one born and reared in the Kentucky mountains.

"Well they's been a heap of unusual people here in these hills. If you want, I'll tell you about some of 'em.

"I recollect a tale about Phil Wilson, who was a log rafter, the first time he ever went all the way down the Kentucky River to Frankfort on a raft. After they had sold the logs, the rafters went to a fancy hotel and ordered a big beefsteak

supper. It was the first time Phil ever et in a place like that and the piece of meat they brung him were purty much on the raw side.

" 'What's wrong with this meat?' he asked the girl who brung it.

" 'Nothin' wrong with it,' she said, 'it's good rare beef.'

" 'Then take it right back to the cook stove,' Phil told her, 'and rare it agin' "

By then Davidson was warmed up, and the tales came on in rapid order. For Davidson, known all across northern Clay County simply as "Jim Dangar," is a storyteller in the finest mountain tradition, a man with a phenomenal memory for people and events, plus the unconscious ability to weave tales together into an orderly pattern.

Sword Pistol

"I was tellin' you about Phil Wilson," he continued. "Well, he was a jack-leg at doin' lots of things, and one day a man left a fine pistol with him to be fixed.

"Phil het up the barrel and began to hammer on it. Purty soon the barrel was twict as long as before and kinda sharp-pointed on the end, and the bore was so little that a cartridge wouldn't go in it.

"When the owner came back, he about had a fit.

" 'Don't carry on so,' Phil told him. 'This here pistol maybe won't shoot as good as before, but now you can use it to punch 'em to death.' "

Davidson's language is flavored strongly with quaint and colorful words and phrases that

had their roots in the Elizabethan England of his forefathers. When Jim Dangar says "quar" for "queer," "keer" for "care," "wrop" for "wrap" or "fur" instead of "for," he is using the language of 16th Century England which has been preserved in the fastness of Eastern Kentucky.

A farmer and timberman all his life, Jim Dangar lives only a few miles from where he was born. For years he worked as a handyman for the Frontier Nursing Service at its Brutus Center, which is directly across the deep-rutted dirt road from his house in the valley of Bullskin Creek, 6 miles east of Oneida.

Jim Dangar, who doesn't narrow his exact age down any more than to say he's been "75 for several years now," has lived with his wife in semi-retirement for some time.

Telling stories has become almost a way of life to him; the visit of a stranger is an eagerly awaited treat.

Free Paint Job

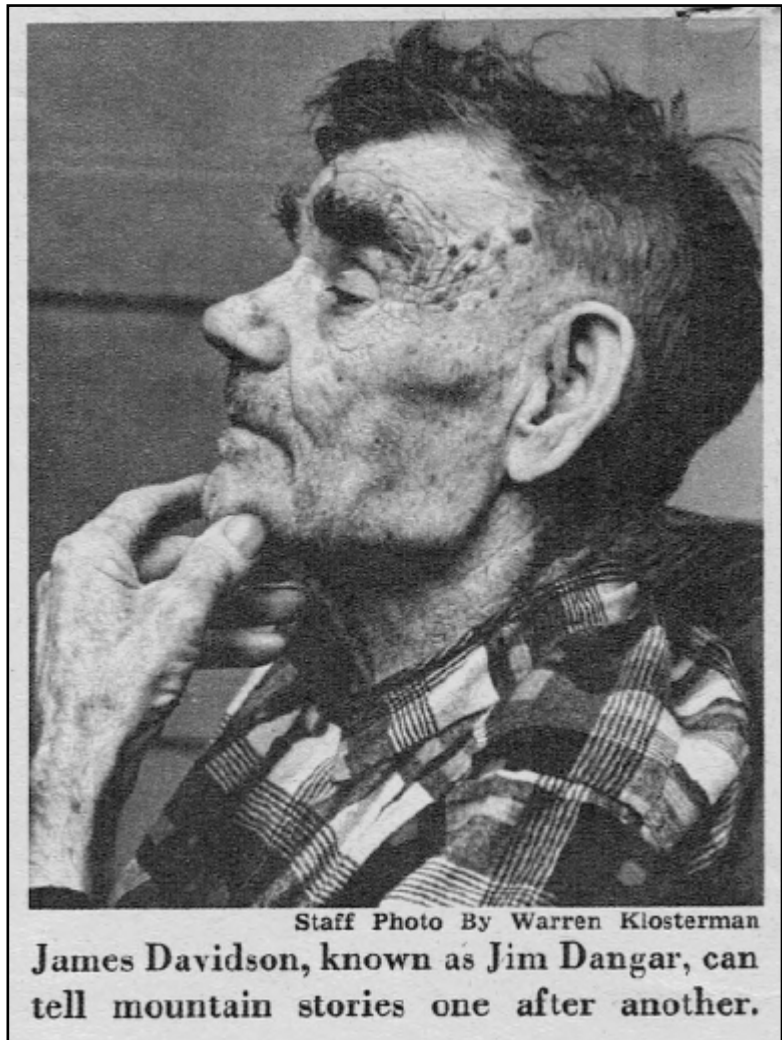
"One of the smartest and at the same time the meanest men I ever knowed," he started again, "was a feller who lived on Red Bird River.

"This feller needed his house painted bad,

and he had one of his girls get in touch with a painter. Just before the painter got there, him and his old woman left home and stayed away till the job was nearly finished.

"Then he came back a-snortin' and roarin'. 'I didn't tell you to paint this here house,' he told the painter. 'I'm a mind to law you if you don't git that paint off this house right now.'

"Well, the pore painter didn't know which way to jump, so he leaped on his horse and never did come back."



Being an old-timer, Jim Danger remembers when the law was far away in the mountains, and when violence was common.



"They was this one man who was so mean the high sheriff nor nobody would cross him," he related. "Even his wife couldn't git along with him and finally she took him to court.

"The day of the trial, he was waitin' in town when his wife came ridin' in seated on a horse behind another man. Soon as he seen her, he whipped out his pistol, but couldn't sight on her because she was behind the other man.

" 'Old man,' he called out, 'I can't shoot around you to get at her, so I'll have to sight right in on you.'

"Well, sir, he up and fired and the bullet went clean through the man on the horse and striked his old woman and she fell off dead.

" 'Don't guess,' he said as he seen her fall, 'we'll be havin' no trial today.' "

A dynamiter is something of a favorite central figure in several of his tales. Without any urging he went on to tell a couple of them.

Hold That Dynamite

"Onct they was a man over on the Middle Fork who was a great hand for dynamitin' fish. Since he knowed all the law people, a new game warden was appointed and sent in to git the goods on him.

"The warden asked him if he knowed how he

could git a mess of fish. 'Only way to git fish is to dynamite fur 'em,' he was told.

"So off to the river they went. The man lit a big stick of dynamite and suddenly handed it to the warden.

'What ought I to do with this?' the warden asked him. 'You kin throw hit or hold hit, jist as you see fit,' the man told him.

"Well, he throwed the dynamite in the river and the awfulest lot of fish you ever seen come up.

" 'Now if'n I was you, I wouldn't tell nobody about this dynamitin' you done,' the man told the warden as he was gatherin' up the fish. 'Hit's agin the law, you know.' "

Jim Danger paused once again, but only long enough to clear his throat.

Doggone Mutt

"This same feller," he followed up, "had a little dog he teached to run and git sticks and things he throwed out. One day he had the dog with him at the river when he lit up a stick of dynamite and throwed it in the water. No sooner had it hit the water, than his dog swimmied out and brung it back.

"The feller started runnin' and yellin' for the dog to drop the dynamite, but the pup stayed right at his heels.

"You know, I never did learn how that one come out."

And so it went for hours.

My Relationship to James “Jim Danger”

By Elsie Wilson Phillips

You may find this a little confusing at first, but this is my relationship to James “Jim Danger” Davidson:

James “Jim Danger” Davidson son of
Samual “Sam Danger” and Deliah Jane Begley
Davidson son of
Robert and Nancy Hacker Davidson son of
James A. and Rhoda Morris Davidson son of
Robert “Bearhunter” and Elizabeth Smith Davidson
son of
Daniel and Margaret Miller Davidson

“Jim Danger” Davidson was married 1st to Martha Burns daughter of William Pen and Nancy Jane Martin Burns. 2nd wife was Emily Napier.

“Jim Danger” had a sister Elizabeth born 1870 and died 1925 who married Palis Bowling. After Elizabeth died, Palis Bowling married my grandmother, Sylvania Davidson Wilson after my grandfather was killed in 1918. My grandmother and Palis Bowling married in 1927. That makes “Jim Danger” Davidson the brother-in-law of my step grandfather.

“Jim Danger” was a close friend of my father, Frank Wilson. I remember as a child, “Jim Danger” visiting our home on Dry Branch and he and my father sitting in front of the fireplace and Jim telling my father stories. Jim certainly was a “Story Teller.”



*Pallis G. Bowling and second wife
Sylvania Davidson Wilson.*

Pleaz Smith Family

Pleaz Smith (b. 3/23/1883), his wife, Anna Lee Edwards Smith (b. 9/4/1884), and his sister, Kitty Smith Swafford (b. 1/10/1890), who married Radford Swafford.

Pleaz and Kitty were the children of William Smith and Mealie Jackson Smith. Anna Lee was the daughter of Andy (A. J.) Edwards and Fannie Mills Edwards.

Pleaz and his family lived their lives in Clay and Knox Counties.



*Photo submitted by Mildred Edwards
(mildrededwards@yahoo.com).*

Newfound: The First Documented Neighborhood

A thirty year relationship with Clay County grows from Dr. Brown's work

By James C. Davidson

Without a mention of their true neighborhood or names, the 1940s residents of Newfound, in Clay County, Kentucky, may be the most analyzed group in the nation. They certainly were a part of the longest running socio-economic study ever undertaken. Their daily lives were observed by James Stephen "Jim" Brown during visits between his school and work. The soon to be Dr. Brown was gathering information for his Harvard PhD dissertation. After compiling his observations, others continued the study for five decades. They kept in contact with many of the Newfound residents throughout their life and continued the study with several of their children. Most of the genealogy had to be compiled as part of the study. This and extensive question and answer sessions were necessary to fully understand the connections between the people. All of the compiled information and results remained anonymous - until now.

The original concept for this article arose out of curiosity. Until 1988, the content of Dr. Brown's work was available only to a few scholars and students. Word-of-mouth created a legend about things the residents of Newfound did to, or



Oldest surviving house in Newfound study area. The Benjamin Logan Allen home at Trixie. Built prior to Civil War; exact date is unknown.

said about, each other. As a product of the neighborhood, I thought it would be interesting to see if it was possible to determine the actual places and names. Much of that fact-finding trip will not be repeated here due to the detrimental impact some of the study comments may still have. Instead, this will be a compilation of what hopefully will be some interesting stories and observations taken from the published version of Dr. Brown's study titled, *Beech Creek: A Study of a Kentucky Mountain Neighborhood*.

The study used Beech Creek for the location name instead of Newfound. It also included the adjoining communities of Laurel (Trixie), Flat

Rock (Mistletoe in Owsley County) and some of Johnson's Bend (Bishop Bend), and Popular (Allen). There are a few other areas mentioned briefly. The names Dr. Brown chose for the people studied will not be used here. Instead, actual names will be used. Some of the family surnames in the study are Bishop, Allen, Baker, Couch, Colwell, Clark, Fox, Gilbert, Hacker, Ledford, Riley, Robertson, Sandlin, and Wilson. There were others but to a much lesser extent.

Dr. Brown observed, "Early history in the minds of the Beech Creek [Newfound] people is a web of personalized, localized events, little concerned with events of the outside world. Their bonds made their lives and behavior closely interdependent and intense into their minds in some form and some degree." He also noted that all families in Newfound and the other studied areas are related in some way, whether by blood or marriage. Seventy-five percent were close blood relatives, meaning closer than third cousins. They used terms such as "people" or "relatives" to signify they are connected, but further than third cousins.

Dr. Brown was told the first settlers in Newfound were the Samuel Bishop family. The first in Trixie and Allen were Adoniram Allen and some of his children and grandchildren. Most of the informants did not know there was a Samuel Bishop, Sr. and Samuel Bishop, Jr. and often combined the details of both into one person. Local genealogists made the same mistake until about thirty years ago. They also did this with the many Adoniram Allen's, not realizing how many different ones there were during the prior 130 years. This caused the residents and Dr. Brown to believe some of the Allen's were not closely related. Regardless, all of the "sets" descended from Captain Adoniram. "Set" was used by people with the same last name that thought, or wanted to believe, they were not related to others with the same last name.

According to Dr. Brown, in 1810, only six



Money and the best farm on Newfound did not buy James H. Ledford a "high class" ranking with his neighbors.

people lived on Newfound Creek, all Bishops. This was Samuel Bishop, Sr., his wife Rachel (maiden name still unknown), and children Samuel, Jr., Kezziah "Kizzie", William, and Rachel. In 1850, there were 26 families, nearly all Bishops. By July 1, 1942, there were 77 families with 184 people living in the Newfound and Wolfe Branch area and hardly any were Bishops. Trixie had 26 families, with 132 residents. Mistletoe had 12 families, with 74 residents. These totaled 390 for the entire study area. Today, Newfound may have a half-dozen permanent households with less than a dozen residents. The other areas retained only a slightly better percentage. The rapid decline in population and migration into the industrial cities in Southern Ohio is why the study was so important to future researchers. This happened throughout Appalachia, but was not as well documented as it was here.



Dr. Brown. (University of Kentucky Archives)

The amount and quality of detailed observation Dr. Brown gathered is incredible. The local characteristics, mannerisms, and slang were easily noticeable. The study also included every imaginable thought and statistic, such as the different sources and amounts of income, down to the value of everything they owned, including the clothes on their back. He even gave specific details about the sleeping arrangements of the family members. The most mundane and minute details were counted and analyzed. An original plan was to study how an individual is bound to the neighborhood, the conjugal family, and the family group. Intended or not, the study was one of the first to document the decline of the family farm and its importance as a source of income. Forest work was the most important local source of non-farm income during the study. In 1942, the average timber related income was \$1.75 a day. About one-fifth of the total income into the area came from some form of government aid. One-third came from forms of aid and/or government work programs, such as the WPA, CCC, or mail workers.

The study continuously mentions the isolation and how some families less than two miles apart rarely saw each other due to mountain and river

barriers. However, Kizziah Bishop, a first generation settler on Newfound, managed to make contact with Gabriel Jones from the actual Beech Creek. They married and left Clay County in 1844, migrating to Washington State one hundred years before the study. They helped establish the first American settlement north of the Columbia River, now known as Puget Sound (see CCAN, Fall & Winter 2009, for more about them).

As it is today, Dr. Brown noted, "Vicious gossip was common. Nearly every family seemed eager to slander another family." He provided plenty of opportunities for the scandalmongering as he tried to visit everyone in the study area, staying overnight with several families. There were at least four he stayed with most often; the first being his sponsoring family, Elisha Monroe and Mary Jane Gay Bishop. Most of the stories collected were obviously told by them before their deaths in 1947. Others were Allen and Lucy Allen Bishop, Isaac and Margaret Bishop Gilbert, and James and Esther Bishop Colwell, who he used when describing the typical family's daily life in complete detail. Dr. Brown made every effort to avoid carrying the gossip and tales between households and individuals.

One of the earliest bits of handed-down history, or gossip, was about the split of third generation brothers. After the death of Samuel Bishop, Jr., problems developed between his sons, Elisha and William S. Bishop. Dr. Brown was told that all the Samuel Bishop, Jr. heirs gave their part of the land inheritance to their brother William S. Bishop, in exchange for an agreement that he take care of their mother, Mary "Polly" Abner Bishop. William's wife, Susan Leanor Barrett Bishop, was mean to Mary, once tossing hot coals into Mary's lap. Elisha Bishop's wife, Amy Johnson Bishop, who supposedly witnessed the incident, nearly killed Susan during a physical altercation over this. William later came up behind Elisha at an election and hit him over the head with a gunstock. Elisha then beat William severely. The escalation of this

led to the development of separate cemeteries for the Bishops. The initial one was the Bishop Cemetery at the mouth of Newfound. The property was owned by the feuding brother's cousin, William Burns Bishop. He would not allow anyone in the William S. Bishop line to be buried there. Cousins in the Elisha Bishop family were allowed to be buried there. William and his descendants would be buried in the Laurel Point Cemetery at Trixie. The inability of the brothers to get-along continued down the generational line. Today, many descendants from one of the brother's line barely know descendants of the other brother. The one glaring exception would be those descending from the marriage of Elisha's son Alexander and William's daughter Easter. Yes, that's right, they were first cousins. I'll use that fact to explain some of my undesirable traits.

The Bishops were not the only ones that could not get along. The conflict between the Alfred "Fox" and Elizabeth Bowling Baker family and the Couches was well known. The Couches burned the Bakers' fences and also tried to burn their barn. Alfred reported the Couches for moonshining and led the raid against them; this despite the fact that Alfred was also a "moonshiner." He managed to get several Couches put in jail. One of the Couches shot at Alfred from ambush. Some informants told Professor Brown that Alfred kept the whole creek in an uproar. However, other informants told him the Couches were considered savages. The difference in opinions is indicative of the bonds families had with each other, and the leaning of the person providing the information. How much is true and what is inflated will remain unknown. During the conflict, one of the Baker girls married a Couch. Elizabeth tried to kill her future son-in-law when she discovered the daughter had been secretly courting him. The daughter wrestled the pistol from her mother's hand and prevented the shooting. The daughter and her father fought many times before the couple eloped. Time healed their disagreements and the fussing ended after some of the Couches moved from the area and Alfred



Alfred "Fox" Baker and his wife Elizabeth Bowling Baker.

died in 1948.

Another incident involving Alfred "Fox" Baker started over the first post office at Newfound. Mary Jane Gay Bishop was trying to become the first postmaster. Alfred conspired with Mary Jane's brother-in-law, Alexander Bishop, who did not like her "uppity ways," to keep her from getting the job. Alfred ended up getting the job, which went to a son after his death. Another son later became postmaster at Trixie. After Alfred and Alexander conspired, Alfred tried to claim Alexander's land and they became enemies to their end. Alexander also did not speak to his brother, John Bishop, for many years because of a bitter dispute. John sold his property and moved to Jackson County, Kentucky in 1890, because of the conflict. There is no mention of what the dispute was about. After not getting the postal job, Mary Jane accused the Bakers of keeping an open house of sexual indulgence (this was a common theme among informants). For many years, Mary Jane was a bitter enemy of her sister-in-law, Mahala "Haley" Fox Bishop. They supposedly carried pistols and routinely said they intended to kill each other. Later in their lives, they became the best of friends. Dr. Brown felt Mary Jane Bishop and Alfred Baker were the cause of an abundance of gossip in the area. He noted that while the families of Newfound did not get along, the families of Trixie did.

A common recipe for disaster was when it became necessary for two families to live together. It was noticed that two families could not live peaceably in the same household for more than a year, even if they were closely related. One informant said, "Two families can't do no good together."

An extensive study involved how often people visited each other. He noticed the closer the kin, the more often the visits. Additional observations he made involving family life included, how young married individuals were criticized for leaving their own home and going to their parent's home more often than what the neighbors perceived as normal. This was especially true for females. It was determined that 62% of the families were closer connected to the husband's family while 38% were closer to the wife's family. Individuals who remained unmarried were looked on as odd and unusual. Twenty-two percent of the marriages were between second cousins or closer. Only 54.5% were no kin whatsoever. The youngest child had a special status in the family. The parents and siblings often gave them special attention, even after they were grown.

Even the families where the husband was dominant in the household and those where the wife was the dominant one were counted. There were twice as many dominant husbands than dominant wives. One household was noted where the husband thought he was the dominant one but everyone in the neighborhood knew the wife actually was. The husband said, "Some of 'em might say I wasn't the boss, but I am. [The wife] never tries to boss me." The rest of the neighborhood thought otherwise.

Dr. Brown noticed the study informants continually classified and morally evaluated each other. Out of curiosity, he asked everyone to give their opinion of the other individuals and families and if they considered them high, intermediate, or low class people. After placing them in their respective category based on consensus beliefs,

he made some interesting observations. He gathered all the marriage details and noticed most individuals married within their class. There were a few marriages between the high and intermediate, but none between the high and low classes. When there was a marriage between an intermediate and another class, it was nearly always with the low. He also noticed that when families visited others it was predominately within their class. The higher the class, the more land and buildings an individual owned. The lower the class, the more livestock and savings an individual possessed. Families often judged each other based on their personal and property appearances. A common phrase was "they're good clean people." A personal observation of the quality of an individual's home, graded from best to worst, did not necessarily follow their class position. This comparison was evenly split across the ranges. He saw the same virtues in the communities as was the common belief at the time, being that the upper class families placed a higher value on achievement, industriousness, punctuality, thrift, and honesty. A depressing observation was, "The lower classes confined their radio listening to hillbilly music and news. The high classes read newspapers and magazines." If that remains true today, that places me squarely in the low class. I'll use that as the reason for the remainder of my undesirable traits.

A quote in the book stated, "Economic achievement was not the sole criterion of class status is indicated by the fact that some intermediate-class families owned more property than some high-class families, and some low-class families had more income than some intermediate-class families." A good example of this was James H. Ledford. He was classified as intermediate, but his "farm at the mouth of Newfound was considered the best in the area." He consistently reported one of the highest cash and asset values in census records. Apparently, this did not buy him high-class status. The fact that he was not an original resident or did not marry into the area may

have held him back.

In a very short sentence, Dr. Brown mentions that illegitimacy was not a common occurrence in the study area. However, the book is peppered with the names of those having affairs and illegitimate children. Some had several children out of wedlock, the highest number being five. Of the three classes, those families considered high and intermediate did not have any illegitimate children of girls eighteen years or older. The low class had 33, of whom six girls had ten illegitimate children. Also, ten of the 25 low-class families either had a husband or the wife who was accused of sexual irregularities. The high class individuals were the most likely to criticize the irregularities. A personal observation was that the low class men were having affairs while the high class men were simply helping their illicit partners. There was one woman in particular who had continuously accused many in the neighborhood of having illicit affairs. Everyone was shocked when it was discovered the “uppity” woman and a high class man had been much more than friends, undetected for several years. This tarnished both their reputations. In her later years, the woman became an invalid. Her sickness was widely interpreted as punishment for her past wickedness.

Religion, while very important to some, was not a high priority to most. Dr. Brown said, “There was no organized church on Newfound in 1942.” Baptist would have been the predominant belief, but thanks to the Couches who had recently moved into the neighborhood, Holiness was starting to appear. Naturally, those who did not care much for the Couches also did not welcome their brand of faith. According to Dr. Brown, “Residents recalled when a Holiness meeting was panicked by the announcement that a couple sticks of dynamite were about to explode under the floor - this was untrue.” Also, “They recalled when an old reprobate agreed to be baptized but then refused because he would not enter the water after people he considered “trash” was baptized in it.”

As Dr. Brown observed in another part of the study, and it fits well here, a common saying was “ain’t that a sight.”

There were two specific discussions in the book that could shed new light on stories the locals have heard for many years. Both involve rock cliffs. One is above Newfound Creek and the road in a location referred to as the “Bill Cliff.” This is where William S. Bishop hanged himself in 1888 (this has been referred to in past CCAN issues). One version is that it happened due to his suffering severe depression after the loss of a son, William, Jr., during the Civil War. William, Sr. and several of his sons were in the war. However, the hanging would have happened 25 years after the son’s death. That is a long time for the sickness to cause suicide. Another version claims it arose from his wife’s constant harassing. Supposedly, she sent him after firewood and he did not return. By most accounts, the wife was not remembered for her good demeanor. Informants during the 1942 study said that Bill hanged himself because of the embarrassment one of his sons was causing at the time. Informants said the son “was widely known for his sex affairs and drinking orgies.” This version is rarely repeated today, but must have been the most common at the time. Either way, depression played a big part.

The other discussion involves an iconic symbol that is still visible. Traveling north on Highway 11 between Crane Creek and Teges Creek there is an area the locals refer to as “the Crane Cliff.” The road was created by blasting rock from a steep hillside high above the river. About half way around the cliff, protruding out of the rock about 100 feet above the road is a steel drill bit that was used to bore holes in the rock so that it could be blasted. Who stuck the bit in the rock has been an argument reaching folk lore status. Many local men have made claims that they did it. Just prior to the study, many Newfound residents worked on a WPA project that built the new road from Oneida to the mouth of Road Run. The “Crane

Cliff” would have been part of that project. Josephus “Seif” Allen told Dr. Brown that he and Asberry Sandlin did much of the rock face drilling and blasting. This information appears to dispute the later claims; including the claims of those who were too young to have worked on the project.

About half of the residents left the study area at the beginning of World War I. Another wave left during World War II to work in the munitions plants in Southern Ohio and Indiana. Mostly the younger people started relocating to the north, taking jobs there. As their living conditions improved others saw this and followed the pattern. The trend continued into the 1970s, when hardly any were left. Warren, Butler, and Hamilton Counties in Ohio and Fayette County in Indiana have huge numbers that can trace their ancestors back to Clay County. Deerfield Cemetery in South Lebanon, Ohio, has so many people buried there originating from the study area, a genealogist could spend more time researching it than the local ones.

Newfound is now a ghost town of its past. A

very small number live there who descended from the original families. People from other states with no connection to the area have started buying the property and some do move there. It is very unlikely that it will ever be populated as before. If not for the monumental study of Dr. Brown, and his followers, the lives of the people would have been as shallow as the location.

James S. Brown, *Beech Creek: A Study of a Kentucky Mountain Neighborhood* (Berea, KY: Berea College Press copyright 1988) 297 pages.

Henry (H. B.) Banks and Charles C. Bishop, *Newfound Creek and a One Room School Teacher from Burning Springs* (self-published copyright 1998) 169 pages.

Dwight B. Billings and Kathleen M. Blee, *The Road to Poverty: The Making of Wealth and Hardship in Appalachia* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press copyright 2000) 434 pages.

John Cheves and Bill Estep, *Five part series about Harry Monroe Caudill* (Lexington, KY: Lexington Herald-Leader December 16-23, 2012).

Log house photo courtesy of Janet M. Bebout, taken circa 1975.



All membership payments are due on January 1, 2016.
Membership runs from January – December. Please note that
yearly dues are \$20. Thanks for your continued support!

Quarterly Membership Report August 14, 2015

Members:

Lifetime	42
Exchange	14
Honorary/Complementary	19
New Members	103
Renewals	285

Total 463

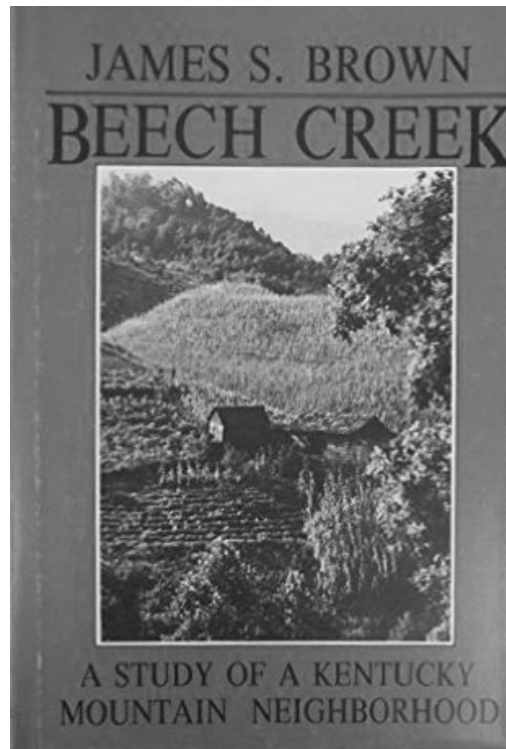
Jim Brown and a Remote Mountain Community

By James C. Davidson

When James Stephen “Jim” Brown first met the residents of Newfound in Clay County, Kentucky, one could not imagine the impact his study would have on them or on an even larger group of scholars, students, and writers. His book, *Beech Creek: A Study of a Kentucky Mountain Neighborhood*, started in 1942 as a doctoral dissertation for his Harvard PhD thesis. The original unpublished title was “Social Organization of an Isolated Mountain Neighborhood.” It

remained one of the most important works for students of Appalachian studies for over three decades, despite being unpublished. The work was a goldmine for those interested in migration patterns, as Newfound experienced outward movements of its residents similar to other Appalachian communities during the period. It described the daily lives of the people in and around Newfound and was used by others as a description for the 1940s diverse and changing forms of Southern Appalachian rural life. This important composition would not have been possible if it were not for the casual friendship of the author and the widow of a Newfound resident.

James Stephen Brown was born in a coal mining camp at McVeigh in Pike County, Kentucky, October 20, 1916. He later lived in Perry County,



Beech Creek Book – The book that detailed the daily lives of the residents of Newfound in the early 1940s.

Kentucky; Clay County, West Virginia; and Morehead, Kentucky before moving to Berea. There he attended Berea College, where he received his Bachelor’s Degree in Economics. He went to Yale University for their graduate program but quickly dropped out. Economics was no longer his preferred field of study. Due to an interest in rural sociology, he decided to reenroll, but in the study of sociology. At the time, Harvard University had a better sociology department, so he changed schools. In 1946, James Brown started working at the University of Kentucky as a research assistant and later served as a member of the faculty in the Department of Sociology until

his retirement.

He received his PhD from Harvard in 1949 after the doctoral work was completed. In the accompanying article he is referred to as Dr. Brown.

As Dr. Brown was preparing for his doctoral dissertation, “Structural Functionalism” was the prevailing theoretical orientation of sociology at the time. There had been many failed studies of communities around the world attempting to prove the existence of a true neighborhood, which was a big part of the theory. To perform the study, Dr. Brown needed to find a community that existed in relative isolation. His first choice for the study location was Cutshin Creek in Leslie County. That

location did not materialize because the family that was to sponsor him became unavailable. Without a place that provided food and shelter, he could not sustain himself while the data was being collected. After it looked like it was failure from the beginning, Dr. Brown expressed his dismay to friends. One close friend was Birdena Belle Russell Bishop, at that time a teacher at the Pine Mountain Settlement School. She was the widowed wife of James Monroe Bishop.

James Monroe Bishop, son of Elisha Monroe and Mary Jane Gay Bishop, was a Newfound oddity. He managed to get a college education and became a teacher. At some point, he met Birdena Belle Russell, who was born in Gillespie, Macoupin County, Illinois. They were married in Clay County, Kentucky in 1923. In 1930, James was teaching in Chicago. Shortly thereafter, the family was living in Berea, Kentucky, where James was again teaching. In October of 1933, he died unexpectedly. Birdena continued to live around Berea and attended classes at Berea College and at the University of Kentucky. She was a classmate of James Stephen Brown while he was also living in Berea and attending the University of Kentucky. They stayed in contact and continued to be friends for many years.

Birdena told Dr. Brown about her husband's family in Clay County and thought the Newfound community where they lived was a perfect fit for the study. She offered to contact them and ask if they would be a sponsor while the study was being performed. Thankfully, they agreed. To encourage the residents to answer his questions honestly, Dr. Brown assured them he would use pseudonyms for all names and locations. For the study, he formed three distinct boundaries: the area of Newfound Creek would be named Beech Creek (It is unknown if he was aware there was an actual Beech Creek community in Clay County, which caused some confusion to others reading the documents later); the adjoining community of Trixie would be named Laurel (Laurel Point is within this boundary); and, part of the Buffalo area, specifically Mistletoe and Whoopflarea, would be named Flat Rock. Other

communities he named but lesser studied were Johnson's Bend (Bishop Bend), Popular (Allen and Teges), and Buck Creek (Bullskin).

Dr. Brown quickly observed, "Beech Creek's isolation has broken down more slowly than that of many other parts of the mountains, and consequently its integration into the main streams of American life has not been complete." He also stated, "The chapters in this introductory section, present the general historical, geographical, physical and economic setting of the Beech Creek neighborhood, with the Kentucky mountain region as a whole, Beech Creek shares (1) rather late settlement by people from Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina with predominantly English background; (2) Protestantism, with the Baptist creed preeminent; (3) an economy of subsistence farming, with relatively small, self-sufficient units; (4) an emphasis on the family which permeates the whole society; and (5) a development which, because of geographical and cultural isolation, tended in a different direction from other parts of the state and the nation." This may be the first of many studies of our area attempting to determine why we are "different." Many believe this was the first rural sociological study that confirmed the existence of a "neighborhood."

In the *Beech Creek: A Study of a Kentucky Mountain Neighborhood* afterword, Thomas R. Ford wrote, [Dr. Brown] "explained his work to the residents as 'sort of a history' of the community that would help him finish his school work. Some thought he might be a German spy despite the fact no military secrets existed in the entire area. He lived with several families during the study. He bought a lock box in which he stored his notes. All writing was in short-hand so others could not read it. The data collection phase continued for two years." He also said, "Beech Creek is not another romanticized view of happy mountain natives who lived simple and carefree lives before being corrupted by contact with urban industrial society."

Dr. Brown noted, "The Beech Creek community continued to be a self-sufficient economy for many

years after other sections developed specialized economies closely integrated with national and even international events.”

In the book’s preface, John B. Stephenson, a sociologist, scholar of Appalachia, and President of Berea College from 1984-1994, says, “The work led to numerous other studies of the Beech Creek neighborhood and its people by several generations of social scientists since. Brown saw and reported culture traits and living patterns and the intricacies of human relationships with the keen eye of an anthropologist. Social demographers, scholars of the community, family sociologists, rural sociologists, theorists of social change, anthropologists, and representatives of many other fields of study have continued the original study.”

Dr. Brown’s original dissertation was circulated among scholars and widely cited. There were many works done by others that either started as a result of his work or relied heavily on it. The original notes were shown to and discussed with students by their teachers, some of which studied them in depth. During 1961-1963, some followers of the study tried to contact those that migrated out of Beech Creek. At that time, only one-fourth of the original study residents still lived there. Eighty-five percent of the original residents still living were interviewed. Students, many who were not born when the original study was done, formed the “Beech Creek Studies Group” and continued the research into the early 1980s. Two of the group members, Dwight B. Billings and Kathleen M. Blee, were interested in the historic transition from a pre-capitalist to an industrial economy. In 2000, they wrote, *The Road to Poverty: The Making of Wealth and Hardship in Appalachia*. In addition to Dr. Brown’s study material, they also compiled additional data covering 1850-1910. The book may be the best to come about as a result of Dr. Brown’s original study and both a part of the longest continuing social study in the nation.

Another related book that deserves mention here is, *Night Comes to the Cumberland: A Biography of a Depressed Area*, written in 1963 by Harry K.

Caudill. He also attempted to explain “why we are the way we are.” The book refers to many events in the early 1900s. Southeastern Kentucky readers could easily imagine he was describing their surroundings at any moment up to the present. For them, it would appear little has changed over the last 100 years. That was a major point of his book. He believed our sorry condition was the result of outside interests raping and stealing our resources and leaving us unable to take care of ourselves. The book appears to rely on the “Beech Creek” work, especially regarding the loss of the mineral and hardwood resources to large entities from outside the area. Later, he believed children from Clay, Leslie, and Elliot Counties were at the bottom of the barrel thanks to rampant breeding among stupid people (his words not mine). Caudill also wanted the men to be sterilized and an Army base established so new sperm could be brought in to impregnate the local females. This would improve their intelligence. Some referred to Caudill’s book as “Night Comes to the Chromosomes.” His beliefs were known as the Eugenics Theory. He certainly did not get any of that from “Beech Creek,” as Dr. Brown admired the people of Beech Creek and was amazed at how they coped with daily life dealing with events surrounding them and how they took “in stride” the tragedies bearing upon them. They did not blame outsiders for any of their hardships. The people in the study also admired Jim Brown. They remember him as a good person that really cared about them. None had anything bad to say about him. He became personal friends with many of the study participants and continued those friendships for many years. He continued the studies into the 1970s.

Dr. James Stephen Brown died October 28, 1999, and is buried in the Berea Cemetery. The impact of his work is unmeasurable. Nearly all the people of Newfound and its surrounding communities that participated in the study are now deceased. None ever knew how important their mundane daily life would be to future scholars or how famous they would become, even if they are being remembered under assumed names not of their choosing.



City Supports Society

The Clay County Historical Society survives on membership dues, book sales, and donations, so we were thrilled when the Mayor of Manchester, James Ed Garrison (left), stopped by the office in April to present a \$1,000 check to President M. C. Edwards!

Thanks to Mayor Garrison and the City Council for supporting our efforts to preserve and promote the history of Clay County!

Clay County Genealogical and Historical Society 2015 Officers

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1st Vice President MAGGIE BOWLING
Manchester, KY
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Librarian MILDRED EDWARDS
Manchester, KY
mildrededwards@yahoo.com

The office is located on the second floor of the Clay County Public Library in downtown Manchester. Enter from the rear of the library. A sign is on the door.

Breaking Up A Still



United States Marshall, Steve Hensley (far left) is shown “breaking up a still” in Clay County in 1942. A native of Oneida, Steve (1898-1943) married Mallie Gilbert (1901-1974) in 1918. Photo courtesy of Don and Janet Hensley.



CCHS Welcomes New Lifetime Members

Welcome to our Newest Lifetime Members! Jim and Maxine Cass have been members of the Clay County Historical Society for many years and frequently attend Society programs and events.

In this photo they are shown with the monument erected in their honor at the Camp Wildcat Civil War Battlefield.

Thanks to Jim and Maxine for their continued support!



Queries and Thanks

October 11, 2014

Maggie,

Thanks so much for your help with the papers that Linda and I needed. These will be a great help. When I'm at Big Creek I'm going to come in and meet you and Bonita. The CCHS is lucky to have you! Again, thanks! I really appreciate you and your time.

Velma Sizemore Julian

Clayton, OH

October 20, 2014

LaBerta,

Words cannot express my appreciation for your kind, diligent efforts in the past weeks in my quest for Cornett information and gravesites. You blessed our lives in a personal and genealogical way. I will remain in touch about information on my Pigg ancestors.

Vi & Charles Zeeck

Lubbock, TX

February 2, 2015

Thank you for all your dedication and hard work! I am listed as #7 of your members, Deena Thompson. I've been married to Glenn Pace for

20 years now. I worked at Oneida Baptist Institute for several years. I believe you have one of my prints of Squire Hensley and Paralee Gilbert.

I am the daughter of Snowdye Lee Roberts and John Hatton. My grandparents, Clarence H. Roberts and Catherine Combs, are buried on cemetery hill up behind Oneida.

When I was at University of California at Davis, CA, I saw the full news film about Clay County in 1963. It was titled "Depression Area USA." There it came up on a news segment and there was the square and Uncle Bige Hensley. Clear across the country and here was a film on Clay County. I was totally surprised.

Again, thank you for all you do to preserve the history of Clay County. I am sending my dues and donation.

Deena Pace

Chandler, AZ

March 13, 2015

Here is my renewal for 2015-2016. Thanks so much for the fine work you all do for the families of Clay County.

Jackson Spurlock, GGG-Grandson of Pioneer John Spurlock and Nancy Cope

Lily, KY

Clay County Ancestral News

March 14, 2015

Thanks all of you for trying to preserve the history of our county. I like our part of the world.

Ralph Hollin

Manchester, KY

April 26, 2015

Bonita, Jean, LaBerta, Maggie, Mildred,

Thanks again for your hospitality during my two-day visit last week to your fine facility. It far exceeded my expectations and your warm reception and assistance was outstanding. All of you should be commended for your hard work in gathering and organizing this historical and invaluable information. I am excited to be a member and look forward to receiving the Clay County Ancestral News Magazine. I promise to keep in touch.

I am in the process of analyzing all of the information I gathered and I'm certain that a return trip will be in order in the future. Best wishes to all of you and enjoy your upcoming summer.

Mike Spivey

Plainfield, IN

May 5, 2015

I want to thank the entire staff for the hospitality that was shown to me when I visited in April. I was very impressed with the way everything is arranged. It's my hope to be able to spend more time on my research and visit again.

Elsie Wilson Phillips

Ft. Wright, KY

July 10, 2015

We want to thank you for your help on the Hensley Genealogy. What a great surprise to find all you had. Enclosed is a donation to your fine work.

Don and Janet Hensley

Rapid City, SD

July 24, 2015

Thank you for all your help and sending me information on the Langdon family. I really appreciate it. Enclosed is a donation to the Clay County Historical Society. You all do great work!

Dana Crawley

Jeffersonville, IN

August 29, 2015

Just wanted to say thank you to everyone for their help!

It was exciting to see Manchester and the area where Hogan Bowling lived. The swinging bridge in town was fun too! Of course no trip to that area is complete without a few moments of just enjoying the beauty of the mountains. Everyone we met (hotel staff, the clerk's office, folks on the street and of course society folks) was so nice and helpful.

Thanks again to everyone for their hospitality and help!

Pam Johnson

Fishers, IN

**Join our Facebook page: The Clay County
Genealogical and Historical Society.**

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

New Members

New members since the Spring/Summer 2015 CCAN Magazine:

Charles M. Taylor #4490
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(Cornett)

James Cornett #4492
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Lebanon, KY 40033
jamescornett760@yahoo.com
(Cornett, Brock, Callahan, Beatty)

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(Allen, Gibson, Sizemore)

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Clay County Ancestral News

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Bill & Vickie Hollen 321 Front St Williamsburg, KY 40769-1241	#4521	Chuck Miller 21 Bowling Street Manchester, KY 40962	#4535	Deena Fields 2842 Pheasant Dr Palm Harbor, FL 34683 deenahen@aol.com (Hensley, Roberts)	#4548
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Ralph Rice 708 Lyttleton Rd Manchester, KY 40962	#4528	Jennings White 234 Memory Lane Manchester, KY 40962 (White, Curry, Roberts)	#4542	Lois Reed 3423 Russ Place Melbourne, FL 32940 lreid3@cfl.rr.com (Hurley, Messer, Reid, Hollin)	#4555
Oakley Hacker 3724 N Hwy 421 Manchester, KY 40962	#4529	Jill Casagrande 688 Allencrest Ct Cincinnati, OH 45231 jillcasagrande1@gmail.com (Davis/Davidson, Hubbard, Lisenbee)	#4543	Pearl Nadine Jarvis PO Box 53 Manchester, KY 40962	#4556
Henry Ledford 7877 S. Hwy 66 Big Creek, KY 40914	#4530	Ken Ledford PO Box 577 London, KY 40743 washcat47@gmail.com (Ledford, Marcum, Farmer, Mullins)	#4544	Appreciation to our New Lifetime Members: Jim and Maxine Cass London, KY	
Ray Swafford 711 Swafford St Manchester, KY 40962	#4531	Ruby Lois Hibbard General Delivery Hima, KY 40951	#4545		
T. C. Sizemore Box 412 Mt. View Hts. Apts Manchester, KY 40962	#4532				

CLAY COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

CCHS Donations

**Donations since
Spring/Summer 2015:**

*Due to limited space we
have listed donations of \$20
and greater.*

Renee Beets \$60
London, KY

Janet Blake \$25
Hastings, NE

David Brumley \$160
Stone Mountain, GA

Doug Carmack \$80
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City of Manchester \$1000
Manchester, KY

Berty Elliott \$50
Camden, OH

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Wilson:
E. Gail Chandler \$100
Shelbyville, KY

In Memory of Charles
House:
Jocelyn Wolfe \$50
Manchester, KY

In Memory of Charles
House:
Kellogg & Kimsey \$225
Sarasota, FL 34238

CCHS Donated Items

Jennings Vanover

- *The Marriages of Washington County, Virginia 1781-1853*, compiled by D. E. Brown
- Greer, Rice, and Fields family photographs

Elsie Wilson Phillips

- In memory of Frank and Mandy Wilson: *Courier-Journal* Sunday Magazine from 1961 including an article about James "Jim Danger" Davidson.

David Brumley

- Reid and Hayes family photographs
- Photos of downtown Manchester and area cemeteries

Maggie Bowling

- *History of Clay County, Kentucky, 1767-1976*, by Mr & Mrs Kelly Morgan.

JoAnne Gregory

- War Ration Book issued to Lucy Gregory, Hima, KY
- WWII articles from *The Courier Journal*

T. C. Sizemore

- "Kentucky's Most Famous Sheriff, Col. T. C. Sizemore" by Col. T. C. Sizemore

Lorraine Moffat

- Civil War Pension File for Samuel Hollingsworth
- Hazel Marie Combs

- Combs, Keith, Murray, Rice, and Wilson family photographs

Fatima Brown

- Military photographs

Pam Rice

- Military photographs
- Steve & Mary Jo Schlickman
- Boxed set of two histories from American Heritage: *The American Revolution* and *The American People*.

Linda Summers

- Genealogical information regarding Mary Hammons Cope.

Walter Sizemore

- Genealogical information regarding Rachel Sizemore
- Survey of the David Davison Cemetery and George Al Sizemore Cemetery

Audrey Russell

- "The History of the Duff Family of Eastern Kentucky" by William Young

Clint & Malvery Harris

- Twenty issues of the *Manchester Guardian* Newspaper from 1926 to 1939.

Janet & Don Hensley

- *Hensley, Family of Steve and Mallie Hensley* by Janet Hensley

Lucy Leneave

- Photographs from Boston Baker's Birthday Parties 1980, 1985, 1986, 1996, 1998, 2003-2005.

Robert Smiley

- *Kentucky's Last Frontier* by Henry P. Scalf
- *A History of Watauga County, North Carolina* by John Preston Arthur
- *Simon Kenton, Kentucky Scout* by Thomas D. Clark
- "Recollections of Breathitt" by J. Green Trimble

Robert S. Weise

- *Grasping at Independence: Debt, Male Authority, and Mineral Rights in Appalachian Kentucky*, by Robert S. Weise

Thank you for your donations!

Send us your articles (genealogical and historical), photos, and interesting stories. Maybe your item will appear in the Spring/Summer 2016 CCAN!



We accept all forms of payment including credit cards! We combine shipping costs on multiple purchases. Contact us at 606/598-5507 for more information.

Books by Maggie Bowling:



Manchester Memorial Gardens

A comprehensive listing of Clay County's largest cemetery. Includes name of deceased, birth date, death date, marriage place, and parents' names. Price: \$20, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

1913-1923 Marriage Book

Includes bride and groom's name, age, license and marriage date, marriage statistics, and parents. Also contains bride index. Price: \$20, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

1924-1934 Marriage Book

Includes bride and groom's name, age, license and marriage date, marriage statistics, and parents. Also contains bride index. Price: \$20, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

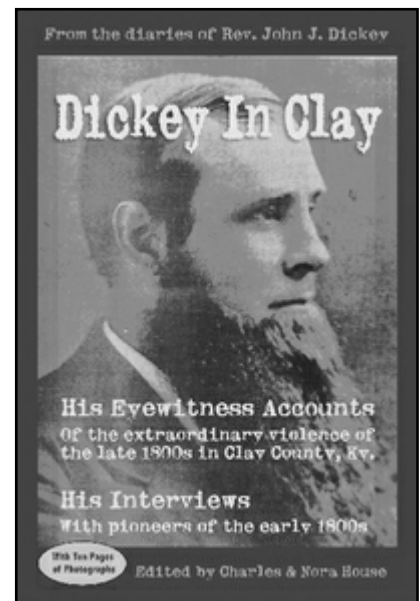


Books & DVDs For Sale

Books by Charles House:

NEW! Dickey in Clay

Edited by Charles & Nora House. Rev. John J. Dickey came to Clay County in 1897 with intentions to clean up the famously wild place. Over a three-year period he chronicled the violence and gunplay and finally gave it up as a lost cause. In the meantime he conducted scores of interviews with elderly residents about the earliest days of the county. The result is one of the most comprehensive narratives about the history of a place ever set down on paper. Soft cover, 248 pages, index. Price: \$25, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.



Heroes and Skallywags, The People Who Created Clay County Kentucky

A detailed history of Clay County that sheds light on how the divide between the elite salt barons and the ordinary settlers shaped the character of the county that exists to this day. Soft cover, 331 pages, index, source notes. Price: \$25, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

Blame it on Salt

The first 150 years of an unruly county and some of its people. Clay County history through the lives of an extended family. Soft cover, 320 pages, index. Price: \$25, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

The Outrageous Life of Henry Faulkner

The life of painter and poet Henry Faulkner, from his traumatic childhood at Falling Timber Branch in Clay County to a flamboyant bohemian existence in New York, Los Angeles, Key West, Sicily, and other far-flung outposts. Soft cover, 312 pages, index. Price: \$20, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

Books by Jess Wilson:

A Little Bit of This and That

Soft cover, 155 pages, large print. Price: \$20, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

From Huckleberry to Possum Trot

Soft cover, 519 pages. Price: \$25, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

The Sugar Pond and the Fritter Tree

Soft cover, 298 pages, large print. Price: \$20, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

When They Hanged the Fiddler

Soft cover, 274 pages, large print. Price: \$20, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.



Issues 2008 to Present:

Price: Members: \$5 Non-members: \$10

(Add \$3 s/h when purchasing 1-2 issues; add \$6 s/h for three-five issues; please call for s/h when purchasing more than five issues. Kentucky residents add 6% sales tax.)

CCAN Special: We have so many requests for older issues that we offer this grouping at a special discounted price. Seventy-nine priceless back issues of the Clay County Ancestral News (CCAN), covering the time period 1985-2014. The magazine was sometimes issued as many as four times in one year, but has been published biannually since 1999. Comprehensive index is included. Member price is 35% less than the cost if the 79 issues were purchased individually - a real CCAN Special!

Price: Members: \$150, plus \$20 s/h, tax included Non-members: \$200, plus \$20 s/h, tax included.

We Also Have:

Pipes of a Distant Clansman, by Gary Burns. Chronicles the history of a Clay County family from their Scot-Irish roots up through the Revolutionary War and their life in Clay County. Soft cover, 457 pages. Price: \$20, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

The Battle of Wild Cat Mountain, by Kenneth A. Hafendorfer. A comprehensive study of the events leading up to the engagement and a detailed description of the Civil War battle with maps, and first-hand accounts. Hard cover, 319 pages, index. Price: \$10, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

A Beautiful Journey, by Lucille Carloftis; Foreword by Jon Carloftis. The beautiful story of Clay Countian Lucille Carloftis and her transformation from a young wife intent on encouraging her husband to follow his dream into a savvy businesswoman still proud of her Appalachian roots. Hard cover, 197 pages, index. Price: \$25, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

Pioneers of Beech Creek, Clay County, Kentucky, by Harold O. Goins. Includes Bowling, Combs, Deaton, Depew, Dezarn, Fields, Gambrel, Gilbert, Goins, Hacker,

Back Issues of Clay County Ancestral News (CCAN):

Issues 1985-2007:

Price: Members: \$3 each OR 5 issues for \$12 Non-Members: \$5 each OR 5 issues for \$20



Herd/Hurd, Hibbard, Houchell, Hubbard, Inyard, Jackson, Jones, Lyttle, Patrick, Samples, Sizemore, Smith, Taylor, Webb. Includes 600 old photographs. Hard cover, 400 pages, index. Price: \$50, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

Books Printed by the Society:

A History of Clay County, Kentucky, by Roy White, Editor and Publisher of the Manchester Guardian. Originally published as a series from May-December 1932. Soft cover, 85 pages, index. Price: Members - \$12, OR Non-Members - \$14; plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

Clay County History and Families. Reprint of the hard bound book published by the Clay County Genealogical & Historical Society in 1994. Includes Clay County history and 163 pages of family histories/genealogy. Soft cover, spiral bound, 344 pages, index. Price: Members - \$44.95, OR Non-Members - \$49.95; s/h and KY sales tax included in price.

1807-1923 Clay County Marriage Index. Indexed alphabetically by groom & by bride, includes date applied for license, date of actual marriage. Soft cover, 257 pages. Price: Members - \$20, OR Non-Members - \$22; plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

Life and Trial of Doctor Abner Baker. Soft cover, 191 pages, large print, index. Price: Members - \$18, OR Non-members - \$20; plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

1900 Clay County Census – Vol. 1 OR Vol. 2
Price: Members - \$18, OR Non-Members - \$20; plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

1910 Clay County Census – Vol. 1 OR Vol. 2
Price: Members - \$18, OR Non-Members - \$20; plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

1920 Clay County Census – Vol. 1 OR Vol. 2
Price: Members - \$18, OR Non-Members - \$20; plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

1930 Clay County Census – Vol. 1 OR Vol. 2
Price: Members - \$18, OR Non-Members - \$20; plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

Books by Society Members:

Kentucky Grandmothers: Sustainable Living, by Linda Roberts Sibley. The author and her mother venture into the woods at the family farm in Clay County to find poke sallet for supper. This endeavor leads to documenting the plants and trees on the farm, and is a catalyst for Sibley to document the knowledge and skills she learned from her mother and her grandmothers on preserving and preparing foods. Soft cover, 230 pages. Price: Available at Amazon.com

Pioneers of Beech Creek Cemetery Book, by Harold O. Goins. Includes Little Beech Creek, Harts Branch, Sally Lyttle Branch and Coal Hollow. Price: Available at pioneersofbeechcreek.com

Available Direct from Author:

Clay County Family Roots and Beyond Series:

Order directly from: James E. Welch, 54 Creekstone, London, KY 40741. E-mail: jwelch@kih.net

Clay County Family Roots and Beyond, Vol. 1. Includes families of Allyon, Burchell, Childs, Collins, Dickinson, Doyle, Eversole, Felty, Finley, Garrard 1, Garrard 2, Harris, Hipshire, Inyard, Keith, Langdon, Laughram, Mooney, Neeley, Price, Rawlings, Root, Sawyer, Sims, Smallwood, Tipton, Wagers 1, Wagers 2, Wolfe 1, and Wolfe 2. Contains 5 maps, 52 pictures, plus Garrard descendant interview. Soft cover, 302 pages. This book is out of print.

Clay County Family Roots and Beyond, Vol. 2. Includes families of Bates, Brewster, Church, Cope 1, Cope 2, Downey 1, Downey 2, Harris, McDaniel, Maupin, Potter 1, Potter 2, Ruth, Sparks, Whitehead, and Wooten. Contains 8 maps, 117 pictures. Soft cover, 281 pages. Price: \$27, plus \$5.60 for priority mail; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

Clay County Family Roots and Beyond, Vol. 3. Includes families of John and Massa Hacker and their 10 children, but mainly their 4 sons, Samuel, Julius, Claiborne, and Granville Hacker. Contains 5 maps and 16 pictures. Soft cover, 230 pages. Price: \$25, plus \$5.60 for priority mail; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

Clay County Family Roots and Beyond, Vol. 4. Includes families of Biggs, Caywood, Corum 1, Corum 2, Cotton, Curry, Depew, Eagle, Gibbs, Hobbs, Hyde 1, Hyde 2, Livingstone, Massey, Redman, Rice 1, Rice 2, Walden 1, Walden 2, Word, & Keith update. Contains 4 maps; 39 pictures. Soft cover, 240 pages. Price: \$25, plus \$5.60 for priority mail; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

Clay County Family Roots and Beyond, Vol. 5A & 5B. Includes all the Eversole families in Eastern Kentucky. Two-volume set. Soft covers, 570 pages total. Price: \$50, plus \$11.20 for priority mail; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

Clay County Family Roots and Beyond, Vol. 6. Includes families of Brigman, Cheek, Cox, Cupp, Hall, Greer 1, Greer 2, Nicholson, Mayfield, Minton, Moodey, Petree, Stivers 1, Stivers 2. Includes additions/corrections for Vol. 1. Soft cover, 273 pages. Price: \$26, plus \$5.60 for priority mail; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

Clay County Family Roots and Beyond, Vol. 7. Available Summer 2014. Details the three Harris families of Clay County.

Coldiron Family Genealogy, by Otto Coldiron. Second edition, 2009. Only comprehensive compilation of Coldiron family genealogy published to date. Compiles all descendants of George Coldiron (1730-1805). Contains 4100+ Family Group Records that total 882 pages of the book. Hard bound, 1226 pages, index for family records & index for cemetery records. Price: \$45 (reduced from \$59), includes s/h. Order from Otto Coldiron, 1125 Arlanie RD, Masaryktown, FL 34604. Email ottoc@earthlink.net

Kentucky Ponders Supplement. Order from: Patricia Saupe, 5411 Briarwood Dr., Aurora, IN 47001. (Kentucky Ponders is out of print.) 367 pages, index. Price: SALE! \$25 ppd.

John Jay Dickey Diary. Order from: Janette D. Burke, 2421 Giant Oaks Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15241. Mention Clay County Historical Society with order & Ms. Burke will donate \$10 to the Society for each book sold.

Dickey Diary Reel #3. Transcription of entire reel #3; pages 1593-2556 (963 diary pages); covers December 21, 1895 to July 29, 1898. Soft cover, indexed. Price: \$50, includes postage to US addresses; PA residents add 6% sales tax.

Dickey Diary Reel #4. Transcription of entire reel #4; pages 2557-3526 (969 diary pages); covers August 6, 1898 to July 5, 1904. Soft cover, indexed. Price: \$40, includes postage to US addresses; PA residents add 6% sales tax.

Index to Manchester Enterprise Obituaries



Order directly from: Fred L. Davis, 5444 Peterson Lane, Apt. 2020, Dallas, TX 75240

1980-1989 Index - \$10;

Individual years: 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, OR 1995 - \$3 each.

(Multiples of individual years: 2 books \$5; 3 books \$7.50; 4 books \$10; 5 books \$12.50.)

Also, Index to Sentinel Echo (Laurel Co.) Obituaries, 1990-1994 - \$5.

DVD's

The following DVD's can be purchased individually at \$10 each or as a set for \$15. If purchased as a set the s/h is still only \$3.

Manchester's May Day Parades 1958-1963. Donated as 8mm films to the Historical Society by the Charles Young family the priceless footage has been converted to digital and saved to DVD. The incredible 10 minute DVD is set to music and includes more than six minutes of actual video. We added 33 still photos of Manchester parades. Price \$10; plus \$3 for s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

1957 Flood Photos, Manchester, Kentucky. More than 70 photographs of Manchester and Clay County taken during the famous '57 flood. Eight minute slideshow set to music. Price \$10; plus \$3 for s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

Honoring Our Clay County Veterans of World War II

By Gary Burns

On September 16, 1940, President Roosevelt signed the Selective Service Act into law; the act ushered in the first peacetime draft in American history. It was an ambivalent time for the American people. The British had declared war on Germany, one year prior, on the heels of the German invasion of Poland. Japan had invaded Manchuria in September of 1931 and used their bases there to launch an attack on China in July 1937. America made every effort to remain neutral in world conflicts while supplying material, supplies, and equipment to Britain. Any hope of continued neutrality and all collective hesitation to enter the war ended on Sunday Morning, December 7, 1941.

More than a year before Pearl Harbor was attacked, October 1940; **Clinton Mobley** entered the Army at Fort Thomas, Kentucky. Clinton was an eighteen-year-old farm boy. He was a tall lanky teen at 5'10" and weighed in at 131 pounds. Private Mobley was assigned to the 5th Infantry Division, and stationed at Fort Custer, Michigan. Almost everything about the base said leftovers. Everything from the two-story, wooden barracks to the "saucepans" WWI era helmets gave the soldiers the look and feel of their father's war. At Fort Custer, the southern boys, mostly selectees, met their regular Army counterparts, mostly Northerners. It was a culture shock to both.



Clinton Mobley

However, not as much as the shock that came at morning reveille on May 20, 1941. After an unusually exceptional breakfast the men were informed that they were going on maneuvers; nothing odd about that for the infantry. The catch came when they were informed those maneuvers were in Tennessee and then Louisiana. That day, the 5th Infantry began a regiment of 20 to 30 mile forced marches, each day. They carried the standard equipment load of sixty pounds, no more, no less. They feasted on a diet of C-rations for breakfast and lunch and were allowed one canteen of water per day. The boys set up their two-man pup-tents along the road where they stopped, and occasionally received a hot meal via a field kitchen for supper. The 5th, known as the "Red Diamond," or "Red Devils" engaged in war games in Tennessee from June 2nd to the 28th. Then they took up the pace once more to Louisiana for further maneuvers. There, they participated in the largest peacetime military training maneuvers to date.

With the noninvolvement, or involvement, in European affairs becoming nothing more than a matter of semantics, a 5000 man element of the Red Diamond sailed for Iceland in late summer 1941. The remainder of the division was soon to follow. The Icelanders were not friends of the Allied forces and considered the Americans as invaders. The 5th remained in Iceland until the summer of 1943, many of the men frustrated by



“Any hope of continued neutrality and all collective hesitation to enter the war ended on Sunday Morning, December 7, 1941.”

their exclusion to what they saw happening in the Pacific, North Africa, and Sicily. That was about to change as they began boarding ships for the trip to England.

In October and November 1943, the 5th moved to Northern Ireland to become part of a secondary buildup of troops for the invasion of France. On a misty July 10th, one month after D-Day, the infantrymen of the 5th climbed down nets and entered their LVCPs (Higgins Boats) and headed to the secured Utah beachhead. The 5th relieved the badly bloodied 1st Infantry on the 13th of July and began an inch by inch slugfest with seasoned German forces in the hedgerow country of Normandy.

Infantry elements of the 5th followed General Patton's armored units through the assault on Verdun and then into Metz, the contested city that would become known as the "Meat Grinder" to the men of the 5th. The 5th Infantry went on to liberate Luxembourg and cross the Sauer River for the assault on Germany. Clinton was wounded by German artillery along

the French and German border. He was taken to a General Hospital in Belgium. After he recovered he remained with an anti-aircraft unit in Belgium through the end of the war.



Oakley Hacker

Although the 5th Division never moved fast enough for Patton's praises while on the front lines, after the war in Europe ended, he had this to say about the men of the Red Diamond:

Throughout the whole advance across France you spearheaded the attack of our Corps. You crossed so many rivers that I am persuaded many of you have web feet and I know all of you have dauntless spirit.

To my mind history does not record incidents of greater valor than your assault crossings of the Sauer and the Rhine.

By the time Clinton arrived off the coast of France, other Clay County men had already witnessed the terrors of the D-day landings. **Oakley Hacker** was a Navy man but far removed from typical navy duty. He was drafted in October



US Army troops wade ashore on Omaha Beach on the morning of 6 June 1944.

of 1943 and went to Green Bay for basic training. Before and after D-Day, Gunner's Mate Hacker was assigned to the SS Oliver Wolcott. The Wolcott was a liberty ship manned by a crew of merchant marines; except for the contingent of Navy men whose primary duty was to protect the ship. The Navy's sailors aboard the merchant ships were known as the Armed Guard. Historians, and certainly the men who served both as merchant marines and the Armed Guard, refer to the gallant service of these veterans as the "forgotten heroes" of WWII.

The gun crews who provided security for the cargo, liberty, and transport ships were often men who had served aboard regular U.S. Navy ships prior to coming to the Armed Guard. They were trained in working the guns of the merchant ships through many hours of gunnery schools and practice. They were said to be some of the most proficient gunners in the Navy. They were often times the only difference between negotiating the Atlantic and being torpedoed by the numerous U-boats or strafed and bombed by the Luftwaffe.

During the offloading of equipment and supplies on June 10, D-Day plus four, the Wolcott was strafed by German planes. As the bullets buzzed through the air and ricocheted off the hull and deck, the workers continued to unload their cargo onto the beach. Just to the front and starboard of the Wolcott, the SS Charles Morgan, a liberty ship similar in design, was also offloading. One of the planes dropped a bomb which went down the hold of the Morgan, setting off explosions and sinking the ship with more than two-hundred lives lost.

On August 12th, the Wolcott and two other ships returned to England to pick up the 284th Field Artillery Battalion. The Wolcott ferried Alpha, Bravo, and Service Companies, with all their equipment to Normandy. Early on the 14th, the ship anchored off Utah Beach. The recent suffering that had gone on there was still raw for the men of the Armed Guard. The Wolcott managed to get all of its passengers and equipment onto the beach. The other ships were not as fortunate. A storm appeared and the three

companies Wolcott had brought ashore sat it out on the beach while the other 284th companies learned what rough seas and seasickness really meant.

As the war in the Pacific drew to a close in August of 1945, the Wolcott was then serving in the Philippines. Gunner's Mate Hacker and twelve members of the Armed Guard, including their detachment commander, former North Carolina attorney, Lt. (jg) Wade E. Brown, departed Leyte and headed home. They arrived in San Francisco on October 3rd.

The crew and the ship had successfully completed missions from India to New York and all points in-between. More than 2000 Armed Guard sailors paid the ultimate fee for our freedom.

The Oliver Wolcott, launched in August of 1942, was built for a type of warfare that would leave her obsolete on the high-tech battlefields of post-WWII. She would go first to Norway for service and then be scrapped in 1961.

Ray Swafford was sixteen when he left high school and entered the Navy in August of 1942, with forged paperwork. Like most of his neighbors from Clay County, he grew up on a farm in Ogle. His father was a farmer, merchant, and ran the postal service, off and on. Ray went to basic training at Great Lakes, Illinois, as did the other thousands of WWII era "blue jackets." He was assigned to the ammunition resupply ship, USS Kilauea in late 1942, resupplying munitions to naval bases strung-out along the eastern coast from Norfolk to Florida and the Caribbean. He then joined the crew of USS YMS-247, an Auxiliary Motor Minesweeper. The YMSs were wood-hulled, 139-foot-long boats resembling a fishing trawler. They were routinely crewed by four officers and twenty-eight enlisted men. The ships were built with electric straps circling the interior



Ray Swafford

bulkheads. This construction was called degaussing and was designed, under the right circumstances, to allow the ship to pass over magnetic mines without triggering them.

Seaman Swafford was received aboard YMS-247 on May 13, 1943. During that year, the 247 swept for mines up and down the Atlantic coast. Stationed out of Norfolk, Virginia, 247 was a part of an eighteen-ship group which served the area from

Virginia to the tip of Florida.

With the buildup for the upcoming invasion of France, YMS-247 was ordered to England in the early months of 1944. The ship arrived in Falmouth, England in April, less than two months before D-Day. While other ships prepared for the next day's invasion, June 5th, in safe English harbors, the minesweepers, including 247, swept the invasion causeways for underwater mines. It was dangerous work; a neighboring minesweeper triggered a mine and disappeared in a massive explosion. Ray later recalled, "We had to leave the survivors in the water, and that hurt real bad."

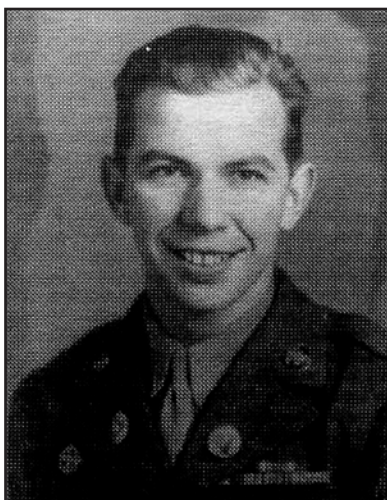
On the morning of the invasion, 247 and two other sweepers were responsible for sweeping in front of, and guiding, the heavy cruiser Augusta into firing range at Omaha Beach. YMS-247 was then sent to search for, and recover, survivors from the site where the ill-fated USS Corry went down. The Corry was a Bristol-class destroyer sunk early on D-Day by German shore batteries. When the "Longest Day" was done, 247 had completed her mission without damage to the ship or suffering a single casualty. That luck would not last.

During the following months, as the ground forces pushed the Germans out of France, yard by bloody yard, YMS-247 was tasked with sweeping the southern French coast. In April of 1945, they

had a close call when a mine detonated under the aft section of the ship. The concussion caused the stern to lift momentarily out of the water. A column of water shot more than three-hundred feet into the air from the site of the mine. Among the casualties was the new captain of the ship, who had two molars broken from the shock of the blast. On the 18th of the following month, the crew on YMS-247 was transferred off the ship and she was decommissioned. Ray never picked up another ship, the war ended and he returned to his home.

The remnants of the Nazi government and its army surrendered unconditionally on May 8, 1945. The news dominated every front-page newspaper in the country. The streets of every major city erupted in a hysteria of celebration never before seen. In the Pacific, the news was received with subdued joy. For the men fighting on land and sea off Okinawa, contemplating an estimated million casualties when they landed on mainland Japan, the end of their war was still unimaginable.

Thomas C. Sizemore, known throughout his life as "T.C." was the son of slain deputy sheriff Carlo and Allie Sizemore of Asher's Fork. T.C. graduated from the Redbird Mission and decided to head-off the draft. He joined the Army in June of 1942. In his youth, T.C. seemed to always wear a grin and gazed through perpetually friendly eyes. He was sent to Canada after basic training and assigned to Station Number 19, Air Transportation Command in Alberta. He served in the Alaskan Division of the Army Air Force as a Chaplain's Assistant under Captain James R. Cox (Chaplin). T.C. was instrumental in establishing the Service Men's Christian League (SMCL) and often writing its newsletter, *The Link*. It was the SMCL and T.C.'s deep dedication to Christianity that grew a close friendship with RAF Sergeant Simon Eden,



T.C. Sizemore

son of the then British foreign secretary Anthony Eden and nephew through his mother of British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill.

The two sergeants went their separate ways as Simon flew missions with his squadron and T.C. went with his unit to Alaska to support the Aleutian Islands Campaign. The same month T.C. had enlisted, a Japanese assault force landed troops on the islands of Attu and Kiska. In May of 1943, elements

of the U.S. 7th Division reclaimed Attu. The Eleventh Air Force flew 1,775 bombing sorties to support those ground troops in the retaking of Kiska in June. T.C. was there to provide spiritual support to anyone who needed or asked.

After MacArthur returned to the Philippines, T. C. was transferred there as well. He remained there until the end of his four-year enlistment. His friend, Simon Eden was declared Missing in Action somewhere over Burma in June 1945 and later determined Killed in Action.

Seventeen-year-old **Ralph Rice**, son of W.M. and Katie Rice volunteered for the Navy in the spring of 1944. He was another Great Lakes produced Blue Jacket, graduating on May 8, 1944. He sailed toward the Pacific battlegrounds aboard the USS General Hugh L. Scott on 10 June, from San Francisco. Ralph joined his permanent ship, the Cannon-class destroyer escort, USS *Levy* on June 29th while she was screening tankers supplying the fleet ships supporting the landings on the Marianas Islands. Ralph was a radar operator but was an empty shell casing catcher when the ship went to General Quarters (battle stations).

The *Levy* continued her mission as a screening escort for the invasions of the western Caroline

Islands. After successfully providing defense from aerial and submarine attacks through November, the Levy returned to San Diego for a long needed overhaul. Refurbished and refitted she returned to the Marshall Islands and laid down off-shore fire on last-ditch Japanese resistance. She ceased fire long enough to complete a humanitarian mission by saving a boat full of

civilians attempting to escape one of the Japanese held islands. Starting on August 22, 1945, the Levy became the ship to surrender to. Aboard the Levy, that day at noon, Navy Captain H. D. Grow, accepted the first formal surrender of Japanese territory and troops holding the five-square-mile, Mili Atoll. On September 3rd, Levy accepted her third surrender, Japanese forces that had held Wake Island since December 1941. The surrender of Wake was a reckoning for the sailors of the Levy and all Americans. Over Christmas 1941, sailors, marines and civilian workers held Wake sixteen days against overwhelming odds. The defense of Wake became known as the Alamo of the Pacific. As the Stars and Stripes replaced the Rising Sun on the flagpole, Americans everywhere felt their dead had been revenged. As if no better conclusion to one ship's war could be achieved, the Levy sailed for home a few days later. She was put in reserve status and decommissioned in April of 1947.

Henry Ledford joined the Army in late 1944. He was the son of David and Ollie Ledford and grew up on the family farm in the Big Creek area of Clay County. After basic training in South



Ralph Rice

Carolina, Henry was assigned to the 103rd Infantry Division "Cactus Division." He met his new unit in France, already engaged in heavy fighting. The 103rd itself had arrived late in the European Theater of Operations (ETO). The division arrived at Marseilles, France, October 20, 1944. It relieved the 1st Infantry Div. from the frontline on November 8 and began its advance west on the 9th.

Henry never knew exactly

where he linked up with the Cactus. They were heavily engaged in some of the most intense fighting they would encounter near the French city of St. Die. Henry probably joined somewhere between St. Die and Climbach (northeastern France). Climbach was assaulted through on December 14th. The town lies to the south of the right flank of the Siegfried Line. During January the division was forced to give ground and go into the defense at Forbach. They were able to go back on the offense and forward elements of the Cactus penetrated the Siegfried Line on March 23, 1945. The division drove north into Germany, with their furthest northern advance into Bensheim. They were given a new mission to turn and attack south through Austria and meet the 10th Division, at the time advancing north through Italy. When the war ended, the division had just made contact with the vanguard of the 5th Army south of the Brenner Pass. The pass splits the Alps along the border between Italy and Austria. With the war's end, Henry was sent to Bamberg, Germany. With his enlistment also at end, he returned to his own native home in the mountains.

The horrors of the Second World War were yet

to be experienced for eighteen-year-old **Jimmie Hicks** of Roots Branch. Jimmie grew up learning farming from his parents, Acia and Minnie Hicks. Shortly after his eighteenth birthday, in 1945, Jimmie was drafted into the U.S. Army. He attended bootcamp at Camp Roberts, California. He endured basic training at Camp Roberts in the footprints of such famous World War II soldiers as Robert Mitchum, Steve Allen, and Red Skelton.



Jimmie Hicks

After stateside training, Jimmie was shipped to Europe in early 1946 and joined the 47th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed, "Raiders," then stationed at the former Nazi concentration camp of Dachau. Dachau was the oldest of the Nazi camps, opened in 1933. Over its infamous twelve years it became a model work facility where, undesirables, Poles, Slavs, Gypsies, mentally handicapped, and of course, Jews, were literally worked to death. The motto of Dachau hung over the main entrance, which, when translated read, "Work Makes You Free."

The 47th was a regiment of the 9th Infantry Division who had fought their way across Algeria, Tunisia, Sicily, Normandy, Belgium, and the Rhineland. Their more benign task at Dachau was to guard former German soldiers accused of war crimes who were imprisoned there. Among the more grisly duties, the unit oversaw the civilian workers from Landsberg who were responsible for the burial of thousands of Nazi victims. The 47th was deactivated in 1946 and Jimmie was reassigned to the 26th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed the "Blue Spaders." The regiment was part of the 1st Infantry

Division (the Big Red One) who had made the first amphibious assault in North Africa, fought at the Kasserine Pass, Sicily, Normandy, the Rhineland, and into Czechoslovakia. Jimmie was part of the 3rd Battalion, chosen to provide security for the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials and guard the accused Nazi top leadership, most of who were ultimately sentenced to death.

From Nuremberg, Jimmie was sent to Frankfurt, where he finished his last months in the Army (1948) working in one of the mess hall kitchens. As did most of his Clay county neighbors who had served through the war and occupation, Jimmie returned home after his service and contributed to the growth and modernization of their mountain homeland.



Henry Ledford

These men are the last of the Greatest Generation who wore the uniform. Clay County gave up close to seventy of its sons, fathers, husbands, and friends to the distant battlefields of World War II. Their sacrifice of life and that of those who returned to rebuild the country is not overlooked by those of us who have followed them into this nation's armed forces.

Speaking for the present-day soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, their courage, commitment and patriotism is a

lasting example to young men and women who stand watch over our shores.

(Editor's Note: Several additional interviews were completed after the WWII tribute program. Details regarding the service of these WWII veterans will appear in the Spring/Summer 2016 CCAN.)

Paying Tribute to Clay WWII Vets



CCHS Board of Directors with veterans at the WWII Veterans Tribute program. (Front L to R) Oakley Hacker, Ralph Rice, Clinton Mobley, Ray Swafford, Jimmie Hicks, Ray Gregory. (Back L to R) Mildred Edwards, Maggie Bowling, M. C. Edwards, Jean Baker Cobb, LaBerta White, Michael White, Bonita Charles, Danny Finley.

On May 8, 2015, the Clay County Historical Society hosted our most popular and well-received program to date. To coincide with the 70th anniversary of V-E Day we chose to honor our surviving Clay County WWII Veterans – members of “The Greatest Generation.”

Leading up to this eventful day the Society had conducted interviews with these veterans allowing them to elaborate on their wartime experiences as well as their lives prior to and following the war. Excerpts from the interviews were combined into an insightful and entertaining video production entitled “Our Veterans Remember” and presented to a packed house of more than one hundred program attendees.

Gary Burns, Military Historian, recognized each veteran individually and provided details of their military service during the war (see accompanying story).

The audience was treated to an impressive display of WWII memorabilia on loan from local military collectors Chuck Miller, Commander of VFW Post 7606, and M. C. Edwards, President of the Historical Society.

The Society presented each veteran a DVD of their individual interview and a copy of “Our Veteran’s Remember.” They were also given a certificate granting them lifetime membership in the Clay County

Historical Society.

To see the smiles on the veteran’s faces and to hear them reminisce with each other, as well as, the audience, made for a truly special day. The Society would like to sincerely thank the veterans for their honorable service to our country and for their participation in making the program a most memorable event.

The veteran’s interviews will be maintained at the Clay County Historical Society for the benefit of future generations. Copies will also be sent to the Library of Congress, Veterans History Project.

The Society would like to thank the families of the WWII Veterans; Clay County Judge Executive Joe Asher; Mayor James E. Garrison; Rev. Ken Bolin, Pastor of the Manchester Baptist Church; VFW Post 7606; Vietnam Veterans Chapter 868 Honor Guard; Chuck Miller; Gary Burns; and the Clay County Public Library.

Clay County WWII Veterans:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| • Ray Gregory | • Clinton Mobley |
| • Oakley Hacker | • Ralph Rice |
| • Jimmie Hicks | • T. C. Sizemore |
| • Henry Ledford | • Ray Swafford |

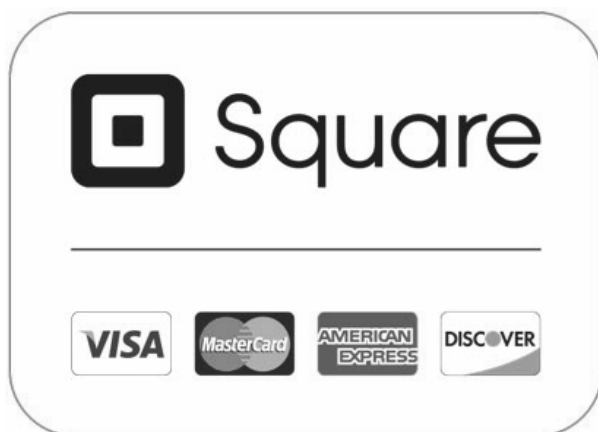
What's Going on at the Society?

Coming Soon! Clay County Cemetery Index!

A Society project that has been in the works for many years is nearly complete. We are proud to report that our volunteers have indexed more than 500 cemeteries in Clay County and have created a database of more than 35,000 people! After some minor tweaking the index will soon be available for research. Thanks to all of the volunteers, past and present, who helped with this monumental project!

Volunteers are Busy!

At any given time, we have 4-6 volunteers who staff the office/library, answer the phone and emails, process memberships and book sales, conduct research, open the mail and pay bills, plan programs, and work on Society projects. Last year (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015) we served 1,010 visitors as compared to 597 the previous year! Ours is a tired but dedicated group of volunteers!



Clay County Historical Society Tote Bags!

The perfect way to carry your genealogical treasures and show your support of the Clay County Historical Society! Our 15" W x 15" H x 3" D natural color, heavy canvas bag has black handles and a bottom gusset. Our new logo, phone number, and email are printed on one side (see photo). Call us at 606/698-5507 to order one or several to give as gifts! Price: \$5 each.

We Accept Credit Cards!

We now offer secure credit card processing through Square - a safe and convenient way to pay your membership dues, order books, or provide a donation. Call us on a Thursday or Friday (9:00 am to 3:00 pm) for more information.



The Clay County Genealogical and Historical Society is a non-profit organization, incorporated on 11/15/1984. The organization is totally supported by memberships, donations and book sales. Membership is available any place in the United States at \$20.00 per calendar year (January through December). Membership is retroactive to the beginning of the year. Membership in locations outside the United States is available at various prices (depending on the location; due to the variation in the cost of postage). The postage & handling on books purchased from the Society will be more per book to locations outside the United States. These postage rates will be provided upon request for anyone who wants to become a member of the Society, or purchase books from it.

About the Society

The CCAN Magazine (Clay County Ancestral News), is free to current dues paying members (dues paid for the year 2015). The Society is presently printing two issues of the CCAN per year, "Spring and Summer" and "Fall and Winter." Each issue will contain at least 60 pages of information (articles, photos, genealogical findings, queries, etc.) most of which is submitted by members who are sharing their genealogical and historical research in this publication. All "current" members, all "lifetime" members, and all "exchange" members (other Genealogical Societies that exchange publications with Clay Co.) will receive a copy of each issue printed for 2015. The Society offices are open from 9 am until 3 pm, Thursday and Fridays or by special appointment. Phone number is 606-598-5507.

Send manuscripts and photos by email to: ccgnhs@gmail.com or by mail to: Clay County Genealogical & Historical Society, PO Box 394, Manchester, KY 40962.

CCAN Special!

We have so many requests for back issues of the Clay County Ancestral News (CCAN) that we are now offering a "CCAN Special." All seventy-nine priceless back issues of the CCAN magazine at a special discounted price. The member price is 35% less than the cost if the issues were purchased individually. This group is so large that we include a comprehensive index.

Special Price: Members: \$150, plus \$20 s/h, tax included
Non-members: \$200, plus \$20 s/h, tax included





August 17, 2015
Attn: M.C. Edwards
Clay County Historical Society
PO Box 394
Manchester, KY 40962

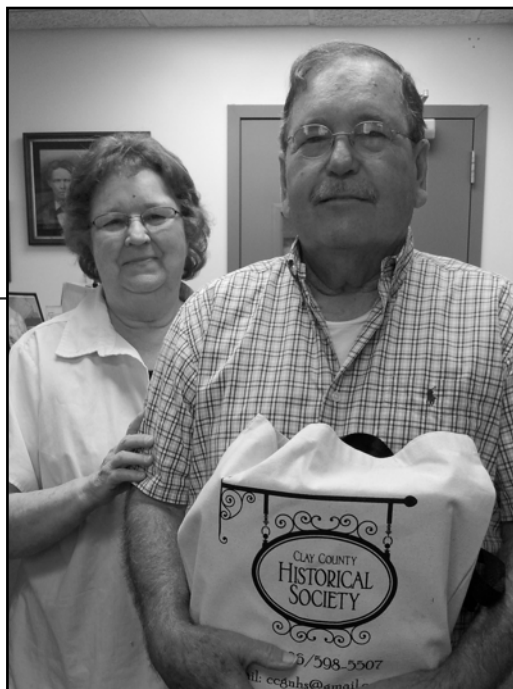
It was a great pleasure to speak to your organization Friday August 14, 2016. The people in Clay County are most friendly and our visit there was with warm feeling. We hope to stay connected with you as we continue to build the Boone Trace Corridor. Your county has much to offer.

Your donation of \$200.00 was most appreciated and will go to the Boone Trace Corridor for education of the youth. Your support will help us preserve the American Frontier History that is fading from our current history teachings. The youth is our focus for curriculum as they will be the messengers of the future.

Most sincerely,

Sam Compton

President, The Boone Society, Inc.
PO Box 1187
Hendersonville, TN 37077-1187



Sharing Family Collections

Maggie Bowling and new member Rex Lawson discussed their Curry family connections on his recent visit to the Society.



Membership Application

Mail application with payment to:

Clay County Historical Society
PO Box 394, Manchester, KY 40962

Contact us: 606/598-5507 OR ccgnhs@gmail.com

Visit us at www.clayfamilies.com

Facebook: The Clay County Genealogical and Historical Society

The Clay County Genealogical and Historical Society is a non-profit organization, incorporated on 11/15/1984. We are totally supported by memberships, donations, and book sales.

Membership runs for one calendar year (January – December), however members are accepted at any time. Our biannual publication, the Clay County Ancestral News (CCAN), is provided with membership. Each issue contains at least 60 pages of information, articles, and photos. Members are entitled to simple research free (with SASE) and receive discounts on Society published books and copy service. We accept all forms of payment including credit cards and personal checks (payable to CCGHS).

Our office and extensive research library is located upstairs above the Clay County Public Library (211 Bridge Street) in downtown Manchester. Our entrance is at the rear of the building. We are open on Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm.

_____ **NEW MEMBERSHIP**

_____ **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

_____ MEMBERSHIP (2015)

\$ 20 _____

_____ ADDITIONAL YEAR (2016)

\$ 20 _____

_____ LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

\$200 _____

_____ DONATION

\$ _____

DATE: _____ TOTAL: \$ _____

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TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

FAMILIES OF INTEREST: _____

Thanks for being a member! We appreciate your support!

Clay County Genealogical and Historical Society, Inc.
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