



COFFEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

February 2016



Board of Directors		
Vice President.....Evans Baird	Recording Secretary.....Pat Berges	President.....Joanna Lewis
Treasurer.....Frances F. Simmons	Publications Editor.....Pat Berges	Corresp.Secretary.....Patty Roberts
Director.....Beverly Vetter	Director.....Max Northcutt	Immed. Past President.....Evans Baird
		Director.....Wayne Bryan

President's Message



So, if you believe in Groundhogs, Spring is near! Let's hear a shout out for that! But here in Tennessee from one week to the next we go

through quite a gamble of weather changes. At the Courthouse, winter weather is not our friend. The 1871 building is lacking in insulation and the windows allow the cold air to come right in. Does this sound like complaining? No, we love the old building and are happy to put up with some problems.

Hopefully, we will be able to correct some of these problems with your continued support by paying your annual dues. Many of you have already taken care of this, but we have several who have not. I realize that we increased the amount by \$5.00, but our mailing cost have skyrocketing for mailing the Chronicles . Also, we are presently looking for another Printer for our material, since our present copy company has increased their rates again. We want to keep all of our volumes on the shelves to make them available to you.

We are still looking at other methods to raise money for our Courthouse fund. Renovating rooms (one at a time) on the first floor is our beginning project. Keep us in mind, if you're looking for a Charity to make a donation.

- *Joanna Lewis*

Coffee County Historical Society
101 W. Fort Street, Box 2
Manchester TN 37355
931-728-0145
cchs1969@att.net
 Webpage: www.cchtnhs.org

Office in the historic Courthouse
Open Wednesday, Friday, Saturday
9:00 to 1:00.

Current Membership

Current Members	121
Life Members	40
Exchange (other historical societies with whom we exchange publications)	6
Complimentary	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	170
+ 112 people receive Newsletter Only	

Coffee Co. Archives
open Tuesdays, 9:00 to 3:00
(Judy Phillips, Archivist)



Reminder... 2016 Membership Dues due January 1

Due to a significant increase in printing costs, our membership dues have increased to **\$25 annually** for members who receive printed publications. However, members who wish to receive their publications electronically (by e-mail in PDF format) may elect to have an **Electronic Membership** at **\$15 per year**. Lifetime Membership is still \$250.

FAMILY NAMES BEING RESEARCHED BY MEMBERS (please contact them if you have information to share)

*Richard Overton, 1308E Van Trees St.,
Washington TN 47501 – **Jarvis, Fletcher***

*Teresa Zakrzewski, 5394 Sharon Dr., Jackson
MI 49203 – **McBride, Emerson, Lambert,
Harner***

*Shirley Farris Jones, 2312 Tomahawk Trail,
Murfreesboro TN 37129 – **Farris, Neese,
Kennerly, Jacobs, Lowe, Lassiter***

*Nellie Graham Lowry, 954 Kessler Ave.,
Chatsworth CA 91311 - **Lowry, Graham***

*Frances O. Simmons, 900 Mardi Gras Lane,
Wylie TX 75098 – **Lemmons, Parker, Britton,
Dick***

*Sandra Anderson, 4555 Royal Ave. Jackson-
ville FL 32205 - **Anderson, Lusk, Roberts,
Duncan, Cunyngnam, Darnell***

*Helen L. Douglas, 205 North "N" St., Duncan
OK – **Ensey, Duncan, Nelson***

*Billy Freeze, P. O. Box 194, Manchester TN
37349 -- **Freeze, Fletcher, Cooper, Duke***

*Jo Ann LaMew, P.O. Box 5, Stanton MO 63079
- **Brewer, Toliver***

Welcome New Members!



New Student Members – Westwood Middle School 7th grader Blaine Parsley, 9th grader George M. Gannon, and Coffee Co. Middle School 6th grader Blake Young shown with their sponsor, Bonnie Parsley. We are delighted to have these young members join us! (Manchester Times photo)

Janet Carter
2029 W. Lincoln St.
Tullahoma, TN 37388

David W. Uselton
113 Cumberland Trace
Tullahoma, TN 37388
(researching Green, Wesley,
Jackson, Uselton)

Elissa Fletcher
124 Pete Sain Rd.
Manchester, TN 37355
(researching Keele, Fletcher, Hampton)

Judy D. Clancy
40 Clancy Rd.
Morrison, TN 37357
(researching Clancy, Stroud)

Linda J. Roper (new LIFE member)
212 Hillsboro-Viola Rd.
Hillsboro, TN 37342

Gary Cordell
594 Watson Cravens Rd.
Hillsboro TN 37342

MORRISON LIBRARY "HEAR TELL" STORYTELLING EVENT

Saturday, March 5, 10:00 a.m.



The second annual "Hear Tell" Storytelling Fest will feature Uncle Dave Macon. Uncle Dave himself said, "The first time I ever played and sang in public" was in 1923 at Morrison, Tennessee. The Methodist Church there needed a new door. I gave a show, then passed the hat and collected \$17." A great-grandson of Uncle Dave, Dr. Michael D. Doubler, will be guest speaker on March 5th. While no admission will be charged, books and CDs will be available for purchase. Attendees will be invited to share stories

and memories about Uncle Dave Macon and his music.

Michael D. Doubler is a graduate of West Point Military Academy, a 23-year active duty veteran, worked at the Pentagon, and is a well-known author and speaker.



Student News!

Coffee County Historical Society is partnering with a dedicated group of Coffee County teachers in a collaborative effort to encourage students' interest in history, including development of a library of historical lesson plans. The first project will be a Historical Lesson Plan Contest for teachers. Deadline for submission is February 26, 2016 and the winner will be announced April 4, 2016. Future plans include development of digital research capability, participation in the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, having students create their own family history, hosting speakers on historical subjects, and a mock trial in the historic 1871 Coffee County Courthouse courtroom. We are excited about this optimistic effort! *(photo courtesy Manchester Times)*

Coffee County Historical Society, Inc.

Treasurer's Report as of JANUARY 31, 2016

Report ending Dec. 31, 2015	Reg. Savings Account	\$	2,139.26
	Checking Account	\$	2,140.19
	Fundraising for Courthouse	\$	<u>6,233.09</u>
		\$	10,512.54

Transactions for January 2016

Regular Checking Account

Income	Office Copies	\$	43.00
	Membership Dues Rec'd	\$	630.00
	Student Memberships	\$	30.00
	Book sales	\$	<u>279.00</u>
		\$	982.00

Expenses

Postage	\$	3.72
Telephone & Internet	\$	108.34
Printing	\$	1,541.00
Meeting refreshments	\$	<u>9.00</u>
	\$	1,662.06

New Balances as of January 31, 2016	Regular Savings Account	\$	2,139.26
	Checking Account	\$	1,460.13
	Fundraising Account	\$	<u>6,233.09</u>
		\$	9,832.48

- *Frances F. Simmons*, Treasurer

Tullahoma Preservation Society of Tullahoma

The February membership meeting of the Historic Preservation Society of Tullahoma will be Tuesday, the 23rd at 7 pm. **Our new meeting place will be the former Red Cross building at 502 S. Jackson St.** The speaker will be David Hiebert, historian at AEDC for many years and now retired. He will discuss "The History of Camp Forrest". Mr. Hiebert spent several years in West Germany in his academic career. He graduated from the University of Kansas with an honors degree in German. He has written several papers on the effect of World Wars I and II on the German people. He has received many honors during his career for exceptional service in the public interest. He is now music director and organist at the First Presbyterian Church in Tullahoma.

Members and guests are welcome to attend. A new 2014-15 *Tullahoma Time-Table* will be available free to members. Copies may be purchased for \$10 each and will be available at the meeting or at Couch's Store, N. Atlantic St. in Tullahoma.

Surprise!! Surprise!! Surprise!! Census Findings

Gomer Pyle is famous for saying this, but it is really true when you take a second look at all of the Federal Census records. I have written about the census many times in prior newsletters but as the New Year begins, it is time to revisit some of the minor points that you might have missed in your research. Hidden in each of the Federal Census issues, there are a few subtle points that are often overlooked. Let's look at a few of these.

1790 Census - This is the most simple of all the censuses, therefore, little is to be overlooked. You just have to remember that there were only two major points made in these censuses of the Thirteen Original Colonies. The two categories were "16 & under" and "16 and over" for the whites, slaves and other freed persons. We can, therefore, deduct that the one number are for adults and the other are for children. Keep track of the numbers until later census.

1800/1810 Census - Now begins a new category for certain ones in the family, "16-25". This age is very important to the United States at this time as this is their supply of fighting men in the colonies. In 1800, the United States only had about 1,000 men in military service as they depended on the militia for protection of the frontiers and established colonies

1820 Census - Two notes are made in these two censuses of interest, "foreigner not naturalized" and "occupation". The first one can indicate that the person for whom it is listed or someone in the household is just coming to this country. Make note for the 1850 census to give some indicate of their place of birth. Note the occupation also refers to someone in the household and this will become apparent in later census.

1830 Census - In this census, there were instructions to note those who were "deaf & dumb under 14", those 14-25 as well as those over 25. In addition they ask for those "who are blind" and "aliens - foreigners not naturalized". These notes do not refer to just the head of households, but anyone within that house. Make a note that there will be someone in the household that falls into these categories. Later census will indicate which individual is in that area and might explain why a child remains at home all of their life.

1840 Census - The most ignored and most underused Census in the lot. The problem with this census is it is recorded on two pages and page two is just a series of marks. It does take a little time to transcribe this page with the page one of names and ages, but it is well worth the time and effort. On page two you find the slaves and freed colored set apart into age groups just like the whites. There is the category of "occupations" with a number of different ones in broad categories, i.e. mining, agriculture, commerce, manufacturing and trade, navigation on the ocean, navigation on canals, lakes and rivers. It is always good to see these folks and their occupations. However, you need to be careful here as always. I was transcribing one for Wythe County, Virginia and found one man listed as "navigation on the ocean". If you know your Virginia maps, you know that Wythe County is about 400 miles from the ocean. He could have been a sea captain who has retired and moved west, but as I remember the age he was only about 30-40 years old. Even in those days with the short life span this is too young to retire. Another category is given as "learned professions and engineers". I feel that this should read - learned - professions - engineers. The next list is very important as here is given "name and ages of military pensioners". The two wars up to this time are the American Revolutionary War and the War of **1812**. With the age, you can determine from which war they have received a pension. They did not indicate the persons that fought in the war, but never received a pension. This latter is a much larger list. Following the pensioners are marks for "cannot read or write", "blind" and "idiotic". Remember these were not professionals to determine either of these cases. Mark these down with an open mind. Finally, there are several columns for "teachers - students" and also for those who taught schools with private

pay and those who were paid by the county.

1850 Census - From the “least used” to the “most used” census in the collection we make our way to the 1850 Census as the last in this discourse. Beyond the name, age and sex comes some more interesting notes as “occupation”. Does this compare with the 1840 Census? Now do they own property and does it have a value? Great time now to look at Deed Books and Survey Books to see where the land is located. From whom did he purchase the land and to whom did he sell that land? See how a small little note can lead you in all kinds of directions? If he had land, then he probably made a will! It never ends. The next column is “place of birth”. Do you suspect them as being “alien” from 1840? Does this match? Go back to the 1840 and double check the ages for the alien since it might have been a parent living in the household earlier or even yet the parent could have had the same name and has since died and the son of that name is now being listed as head of household. Then there is a space for one “married within the last 12 months”. Oh boy, look closely at the six children. Note their ages. Could this have been a second or even third marriage? There are also notes on those over 20 years old who cannot read and write, blind, deaf, insane, idiotic, pauper or convicts. In transcribing the 1850 Marion County, Tennessee census a number of years ago, there were notes that baffled me for a long time. Having written a book on the individuals of Sequatchie Valley, I noted some of the Marion County persons were “Methodist” in their religious preference. In the Census, they were listed as “M”. Others were listed as “B”, “C”, etc. Therefore, I concluded that this mean that some were Methodist, others Baptist or Catholic, etc. So far no one has challenged me on this summation.

Surprise!! Surprise!! Surprise!! Hopefully you will find tidbits you did not know existed and help make your ancestors come more alive. Oh, what fun genealogical research can be if you just take a few extra minutes to understand what is there and what you can do with the little tidbits found in the pages of the Census. Go and look for those Surprises!!!

This article reprinted with permission from

James L. Douthat
Mountain Press

Next Meeting of Coffee Co. Historical Society

**Saturday, March 12, 2016 – 2:00 p.m.
CCHS Office at the Courthouse**

**DAVID HIEBERT OF TULLAHOMA
WILL SPEAK ON
THE HISTORY OF CAMP FORREST**

*Please note change of meeting date to a Saturday afternoon.
If members prefer this to an evening meeting, future meetings
can be scheduled on Saturdays.*