



# Coffee County Historical Society NEWSLETTER

## APRIL 2016



<b>Board of Directors</b>		
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*

**It might be spring in Tennessee, but there is still a chill in the air. However, it is spring cleaning time at the Historical Society and we need some help. Are you good at organizing or cleaning? At the present time, we maintain 4 rooms on the lower floor of the Courthouse and each one of them needs some work. The office is open 3 days a week, and **if you have some time on Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday mornings, please come by and give us some help.** On May 21, 2016 there are to be activities in downtown Manchester and I would like for us to be open and**

**welcoming visitors with a nice clean, well-organized atmosphere.**

*- Joanna Lewis*

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Coffee County Historical Society  
101 W. Fort Street, Box 2  
Manchester TN 37355  
931-728-0145

[cchs1969@att.net](mailto:cchs1969@att.net)

Webpage: [www.cchtnhs.org](http://www.cchtnhs.org)

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

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### Current Membership

Current Regular Members	70
Electronic Members	12
Life Members	42
Student Members	3
Exchange (other historical societies with whom we exchange publications)	6
Complimentary	3
TOTAL	136

+ 114 people receive Newsletter Only

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



**Welcome  
New Members!**



**Thomas C. Brewer**  
8710 N. 144 Eave  
Owassa, OK 74055

**Jim Garrard**  
501 West End Circle  
Manchester, TN 37355

**Family Names Being Researched by Members  
(please contact them if you have information to share)**

Brian Keith Anderson . . . . . **(Anderson, Adams, Phillips, Hillsboro area)**  
[keithier@blomand.net](mailto:keithier@blomand.net)

Thomas C. Brewer . . . . . **(Brewer, Toliver, McFarlin, Myers)**  
[tcbrewer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tcbrewer@sbcglobal.net)

Betty S. Carr . . . . . **(Armstrong, Davison, Brank, Vance, Marshall)**  
[Carr\\_r@att.net](mailto:Carr_r@att.net)

Joe Davenport . . . . . **(Davenport, Daniel, Isom, Holt, Hall, Judkins,  
Davis, Mitchell)**  
309 Collins St.  
Woodbury, TN 37190



**NEW BOOKS IN OUR CCHS LIBRARY**

6-Volume Pictorial History of the 2nd World War, W. H. Wise & Co. (1944),  
*donated by Tommy Norris*

The Art & Mystery of Tennessee Furniture & Its Makers Through 1850, Derita Coleman Williams  
& Nathan Harsh, *donated in memory of Fred and Peggy Gilliam*

24-Karat Gold, a Collection of Gold Family History and Recipes compiled (*and donated*) by Rita  
Frances Powers

The Wiseman Family and Allied Lines, Volume I, by Eugene M. Wiseman (1991), *donated by  
Morrison Library*

William Wiseman and the Davenports, Pioneers of Old Burke County, NC, Vol. II, by Maribeth  
Lang Vineyard & Eugene M. Wiseman (1997), *donated by Morrison Library*

*Many thanks for the donations! Beverly Vetter, Librarian*



**IN MEMORIAM  
LONG-TIME CCHS MEMBER  
JESSE KEN YORK**

**Next Meeting of Coffee Co. Historical Society**

**Saturday, May 14, 2016 – 2:00 p.m.**

CCHS Office at the Courthouse

**PROGRAM – “SHOW & TELL”**

Bring something interesting (book, document, photo, map, article of clothing, old tool, kitchen implement, or other object of historic interest) to share with the group. This is one of our most fun events!

**And bring a friend!**

***Please note the change in our CCHS meeting date!***

***Many members have indicated they prefer to meet at 2:00 p.m. on a Saturday rather than on a Tuesday evening.***

***We'll try it once again to see if attendance increases before making a final recommendation.***

**Tullahoma Preservation Society of Tullahoma**

“Short Springs Update” will be the title of a presentation at the next meeting of the Historic Preservation Society of Tullahoma on Tuesday, April 26 at 7 pm at the former Red Cross building at 502 S. Jackson St. in Tullahoma. The Board of Directors of Friends of Short Springs, a support group for the State Natural Area, will review its establishment, political issues, present status, and visions for the future. Members, guests, and the public are invited to attend.

**Coffee County Historical Society, Inc.**

**Treasurer's Report as of MARCH 31, 2016**

<b>Report ending Feb. 29, 2016</b>	Reg. Savings Account	\$	2,139.26
	Checking Account	\$	2,389.44
	Fundraising for Courthouse	\$	<u>6,233.09</u>
		\$	<b>10,761.79</b>

**Transactions for January 2016**

**Regular Checking Account**

<b>Income</b>	Postage reimbursement	\$	4.00
	Membership Dues Rec'd	\$	345.00
	Book sales	\$	<u>229.50</u>
		\$	<b>578.50</b>

**Expenses**

Postage	\$	258.72
Telephone & Internet	\$	108.66
Books purchased	\$	18.00
Tenn. Corp. Reporting Expense	\$	<u>20.47</u>
	\$	<b>405.85</b>

<b>New Balances as of March 31, 2016</b>	<b>Regular Savings Account</b>	\$	<b>2,139.26</b>
	<b>Checking Account</b>	\$	<b>2,562.09</b>
	<b>Fundraising Account</b>	\$	<u><b>6,233.09</b></u>
		\$	<b>10,934.44</b>

- *Frances F. Simmons*, Treasurer

**Special Invitation to Historical Society Members**

From Old Stone Fort Archaeological Park

Celebrating their

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Saturday, April 23**

**They'd like as many CCHS members as possible to be present at 10:00 a.m. at their Museum**

**For a Very Special Ceremony – Please attend!**

# Silver Linings

by Ray Powers

This article appeared in the Manchester Times January 21, 1972

As every parent knows, a child's world is made up of many things. Much of it today is entertainment. It may be records, television, parties or any number of other outlets. In most homes today, the evening meal cannot be eaten without the accompaniment of TV, or records and sometimes both

I sometimes wonder how today's youngsters would react to good old-fashioned radio. Let's start right after school. First things first of course . . . and that means a sandwich, some fruit and a glass of milk. Then a seat on the floor in front of the floor-model Philco, just in time to hear the announcer say "Jack Armstrong, Jack Armstrong. It's time now for Jack Armstrong ... the All-American boy."

When we left Jack and his friends yesterday they were just about to enter the secret room of the old abandoned house where they had tracked the bank robbers. The show always ended with our friends in another jam, and tomorrow's listening was a must.

At 4 o'clock, the "William Tell Overture" would begin as the announcer invited his audience to "go with us now to the days of yesteryear when the west was young ... for the adventures of a masked man, his great white horse, Silver, and his faithful Indian companion, Tonto." "The Lone Ranger Rides Again."

Supper time or dinner, depending on where you lived and who you were, consisted of white beans, potatoes, fatback, turnip greens and cornbread. While the lady of the house cleaned the table, dad settled back with his tobacco to hear Gabriel Heatter, Lowell Thomas or H. V. Kaltenborn deliver the news. "Ah yes...there's good news tonight," Mr. Heatter would say as he introduced his lead story. After the news a

whole evening of comedy programs were there for the listening all in prime evening time.

In the summertime, the radio was taken near an open window and sometimes out on the front porch. While rocking or perhaps swinging, the audience would always wait with baited breath when Fibber McGhee would forget and start for that loaded closet. "No, no Fibber," his wife Molly would warn, but always too late. What followed would be about 30 seconds of crashing and banging as everything in the closet fell to the living room floor.

Then for good mystery there was "The Shadow" played by LaMont Cranston. "Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men. The Shadow knows" ... followed by a weird laugh. Those words signaled the opening, and was done in a manner to strike fear in the heart of any listener.

A creaking door, and the announce quietly saying, "Good evening...we've been waiting for you" ... was the opening for the popular show "Inner Sanctum." During those radio years a great comedy favorite was the Lum N' Abner show which took place at the "jot 'em down" store. Somebody was always quoting their lines for days to come after each show.

Today many of the great comedians of radio have gone on to television, or to semi-retirement, or have died, and the art of radio comedy lies almost forgotten. In those days the great performers didn't have to hold up signs to get laughs; silence was almost as effective as sound. For Americans, it all began in November of 1920 when KDKA signed on the air in Pittsburgh. This station is reported to be the nation's first.

The first world baseball series was broadcast in 1921, the series pitting the Giants against the Yankees, the Giants winning five out of eight games. Election returns were announced for the first time in the Cox-Harding contest. During these golden years, one of the biggest thrills was sitting up late at night, trying to hear a distant station.

\* \* \*

Then television came along and our entertainment habits changed, but radio has refused to die. For those of us middle-aged or over, the great radio days are gone, but like the words to an old song ... "the memory lingers on."

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## **Summitville** (from McMahan's 1984) *Coffee County Then & Now*

The Summitville area is composed of the old 9th and 10th districts with fringe areas. Small communities here tend to gravitate to the larger village of Summitville. These are Shady Grove, 9th Model and Pocahontas. All of this area is on or just north of the Tennessee Divide. In fact, the East Coffee School and the Trailer Court across the road, at times may drain water into either the Tennessee River via the Duck River or the Cumberland via Caney Fork. Summitville is between two prominent elevations. Flat Mountain on the north and "Round Mountain" on the southeast about one mile apart and is the highest area between Tullahoma and Sparta.

Summitville in early days was often referred to as "Lick Skillet" - self explanatory. The village began to grow around 1856 when the Manchester-McMinnville Railroad stimulated the lumber and cross-tie business. In early 1900s, the principal industry was operating known as Tennessee Cement and Lime Company. Incorporated Feb. 11, 1901, R. C.

Miller was manager of the company for many years. Lime was shipped by rail to many points in Tennessee and other states to be used principally in water purification. In 1936, the plant employed more than 75 workmen in its operation. The plant discontinued operation in the late 40s.

One of the earliest merchants was Andy Summers, general mercantile, who came to Summitville just after the Civil War. In 1938, the following business were in operation: Powers & Banks, general merchandise, S. L. Rigney, general merchandise, who served in effect as the Lime Company's commissary. He would provide just about anything needed to local people from payday to payday for the Company workers and even to farmers until harvest time. F. F. Jackson and son, general store and produce, did some of the same. Freeze Brothers chicken coop factory where split stay coops were made by a method invented by Put Roberts, who first operated the factory.

J. D. Sain and wife, Opal, operated a tile and cement plant and he did considerable construction work in the area. Pete Saine who is semi-retired has long been in construction work throughout the county with various members of his family until no project is too small or too large for them to undertake.

Dr. E. L. Womack was resident physician of Summitville for many years. Virgil Banks was postmaster of Summitville for years in the Powers & Banks building and was followed for several years by Mrs. Beesly (Ola) Gibson, where the post office was a section of the S. L. Rigney building and continues as such with Mrs. Sophie Duke postmistress (1983).

Names familiar in Summitville are: Nunley, Jackson, McMahan, Anderson, Allen, Lowry, Saine, Rigney, Gibson, Banks, Swoape, Brown, Vandergriff, Roberts, Wilson.

