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COFFEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2016

President's Message

The downtown area seems to have come alive! Merchants are interested in the area and the Historic Zoning Commission has made them aware of the proper look for signs and exteriors of their buildings.

There are more activities happening on the square -- Farmer's markets with music artists performing, pancake breakfasts, art shows and the like. I am impressed! And we hear new landscaping is being planted around the square very soon by the Downtown Restoration Committee.

Hopefully this will continue and keep Manchester as an interesting place to visit.

Just this past weekend, Roger Steele and the Old Timers Committee presented one of the best Old Timers days that we have seen in a long time. Even the weather cooperated for a change!

We at the Historical Society kept the Courthouse open all day on Saturday and had many visitors. Several people took a tour of our rooms and the historic upstairs courtroom. There are many vintage photographs are mounted in the hallway as well as our offices and meeting room. The Museum Room at present is empty but we do have some items coming in shortly. The history of Manchester and Coffee County is what we represent and we like to share it with everyone. So come by and visit with us; you'll learn something new about your home town.

~ Joanna Lewis

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Coffee County Historical Society

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

Current Membership

Current Members	101
Life Members	43
Exchange (other historical societies with whom we exchange publications)	6
Complimentary	4
TOTAL	154

+ 125 people receive Newsletter Only

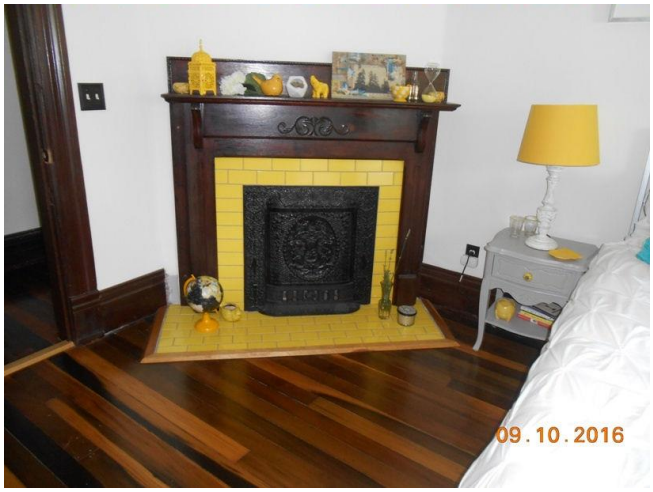
Our September Meeting was a tour of the historic Reynolds House at 220 East Main Street in Manchester. The house is owned and is being restored by Scott van Velsor and his wife Kristin Luna.

Thomas Benton Clark from McMinnville was a Bookkeeper at the Stone Fort Paper Mill in Manchester. He bought the lots from Rufus and Jennie Hough for $2400 Aug. 1, 1900. According to Coffee Co. Tax sheets, the house was built the same year. On the back of one of the fireplace inserts in the upstairs area is the date of Oct. 1900. Downstairs there was an addition made to the house in 1904. The Clarks sell the house in 1910 and there are a number of new owners through the years. We call the house the Reynolds house after Brannon and Mary Reynolds who lived in the house the longest period of time (from the 1950's to 1999).

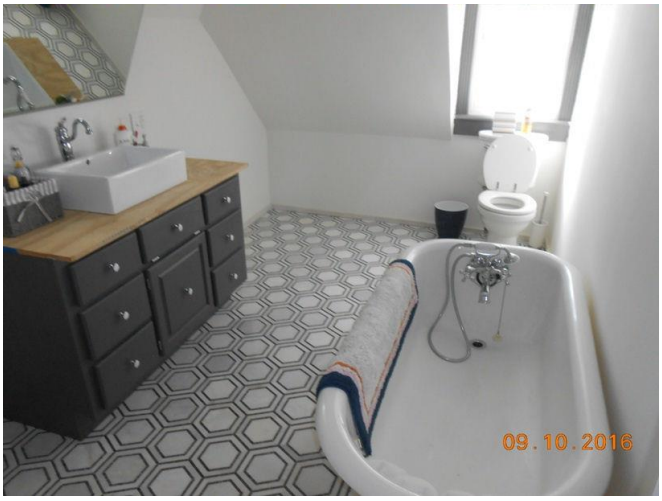
The very gracious owners allowed us to tour the house and told us about their restoration plans.

Entrance Hallway

Joanna Lewis in Kitchen



Fireplace



Upstairs bath

Next Meeting of Coffee Co. Historical Society
Saturday, November 12, 2:00 P.M.
Program: Election of Officers for 2017-2018
and
"Coming to America"
W. H. Goethert's family history of arriving from Germany

Bring a friend!

"BEYOND ROSIE: WOMEN IN WORLD WAR II"

November 5, 10:00 a.m. – Morrison Public Library

Free exhibit on loan from Kennesaw State University Museum of History and Holocaust Education

WWII Music by Silver & Gold Brass Quintet
<u>Visiting Authors</u>
Elizabeth Taylor (Images of America: Camp Forrest)
Ray McCoy (General Quarters/Memoirs of a WWII Veteran)
Stan St. Clair (Comprehensive Origins of Cliches, Proverbs)

COFFEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Treasurer's Report as of September 30, 2016

Report ending August 31, 2016	Reg. Savings Account		$	2,141.94
	Checking Account		$	1,198.71
	Fundraising for Courthouse		$	5,538.20
		TOTAL	$	8,878.85

Transactions for September 2016

Regular Checking Account				
Income	Book Sales		$	
	Office Copies		$	
Expenses	Postage			
	Office Supplies			
	Equipment for Office			
	Telephone & Internet		$	108.61
		TOTAL	$	108.61
Fundraising for Court House			**$**	
Regular Savings Account	Interest Income		$	1.35
	Regular Savings Acct.		$	2,143.29
New Balances as of September 30, 2016	Checking Account		$	1,090.10
	Fundraising account		$	5,538.20
		TOTAL	$	8,771.59

Frances F. Simmons, Treasurer

Why Some Civil War Soldiers Glowed in the Dark

Matt Soniak (reprinted from Mental Floss.com)

By the spring of 1862, a year into the American Civil War, Major General Ulysses S. Grant had pushed deep into Confederate territory along the Tennessee River. In early April, he was camped at Pittsburg Landing, near Shiloh, Tennessee, waiting for Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell's army to meet up with him.

On the morning of April 6, Confederate troops based out of nearby Corinth, Mississippi, launched a surprise offensive against Grant's troops, hoping to defeat them before the second army arrived. Grant's men, augmented by the first arrivals from the Ohio, managed to hold some ground, though, and establish a battle line anchored with artillery. Fighting continued until after dark, and by the next morning, the full force of the Ohio had arrived and the Union outnumbered the Confederates by more than 10,000.

The Union troops began forcing the Confederates back, and while a counterattack stopped their advance it did not break their line. Eventually, the Southern commanders realized they could not win and fell back to Corinth until another offensive in August. All told, the fighting at the Battle of Shiloh left more than 16,000 soldiers wounded and 3,000 more dead, and neither federal or Confederate medics were prepared for the carnage.

The bullet and bayonet wounds were bad enough on their own, but soldiers of the era were also prone to infections. Wounds contaminated by shrapnel or dirt became warm, moist refuges for bacteria, which could feast on a buffet of damaged tissue. After months marching and eating field rations on the battlefront, many soldiers' immune systems were weakened and couldn't fight off infection on their own. Even the army doctors couldn't do much; microorganisms weren't well understood and the germ theory of disease and antibiotics were still a few years away. Many soldiers died from infections that modern medicine would be able to nip in the bud.

A BRIGHT SPOT

Some of the Shiloh soldiers sat in the mud for two rainy days and nights waiting for the medics to get around to them. As dusk fell the first night, some of them noticed something very strange: their wounds were glowing, casting a faint light into the darkness of the battlefield. Even stranger, when the troops were eventually moved to field hospitals, those whose wounds glowed had a better survival rate and had their wounds heal more quickly and cleanly than their unilluminated brothers-in-arms. The seemingly protective effect of the mysterious light earned it the nickname "Angel's Glow."

In 2001, almost one hundred and forty years after the battle, seventeen-year-old Bill Martin was visiting the Shiloh battlefield with his family. When he heard about the glowing wounds, he asked his

mom - a microbiologist at the USDA Agricultural Research Service who had studied luminescent bacteria that lived in soil - about it.

“So you know, he comes home and, 'Mom, you're working with a glowing bacteria. Could that have caused the glowing wounds?’” Martin told Science Netlinks. “And so, being a scientist, of course I said, ‘Well, you can do an experiment to find out.’”

And that’s just what Bill did.

He and his friend, Jon Curtis, did some research on both the bacteria and the conditions during the Battle of Shiloh. They learned that ***Photorhabdus luminescence***, the bacteria that Bill’s mom studied and the one he thought might have something to do with the glowing wounds, live in the guts of parasitic worms called nematodes, and the two share a strange lifecycle. Nematodes hunt down insect larvae in the soil or on plant surfaces, burrow into their bodies, and take up residence in their blood vessels. There, they puke up the *P. luminescence* bacteria living inside them. Upon their release, the bacteria, which are bioluminescent and glow a soft blue, begin producing a number of chemicals that kill the insect host and suppress and kill all the other microorganisms already inside it. This leaves *P. luminescence* and their nematode partner to feed, grow and multiply without interruptions.

As the worms and the bacteria eat and eat and the insect corpse is more or less hollowed out, the nematode eats the bacteria. This isn’t a double cross, but part of the move to greener pastures. The bacteria re-colonize the nematode’s guts so they can hitch a ride as it bursts forth from the corpse in search of a new host.

The next meal shouldn’t be hard to find either, since *P. luminescence* already sent them an invitation to the party. Just before they got back in their nematode taxi, *P. luminescence* were at critical mass in the insect corpse, and scientists think that that many glowing bacteria attract other insects to the body and make the nematode’s transition to a new host much easier.

A GOOD LIGHT

Looking at historical records of the battle, Bill and Jon figured out that the weather and soil conditions were right for both *P. luminescence* and their nematode partners. Their lab experiments with the bacteria, however, showed that they couldn’t live at human body temperature, making the soldiers’ wounds an inhospitable environment. Then they realized what some country music fans already knew: **Tennessee in the spring** is green and cool. Nighttime temperatures in early April would have been low enough for the soldiers who were out there in the rain for two days to get hypothermia, lowering their body temperature and giving *P. luminescence* a good home.

Based on the evidence for *P. luminescence*’s presence at Shiloh and the reports of the strange glow, the boys concluded that the bacteria, along with the nematodes, got into the soldiers’ wounds from the soil. This not only turned their wounds into night lights, but may have saved their lives. The chemical cocktail that *P. luminescence* uses to clear out its competition probably helped kill off other pathogens that might have infected the soldiers’ wounds. Since neither *P. luminescence* nor its associated nematode species are very infectious to humans, they would have soon been cleaned out by the immune system themselves (which is not to say you should be self-medicating with bacteria; *P. luminescence* infections *can* occur, and can result in some nasty ulcers). The soldiers shouldn’t have been thanking the angels so much as the microorganisms.

As for Bill and Jon, their study earned them first place in team competition at the **2001 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair**.