

The Quill



T H E C H E A T H A M C O U N T Y A R C H I V E S N E W S L E T T E R

REVEREND W. B. HOGG

The Reverend William B. Hogg is a name not many if any are familiar with today. In the 1930's, he was a nationally, well-known personality. He also had a connection to Cheatham County and Hollywood.

Brother Hogg, as he was known, was born in 1880. He would feel a call to enter the ministry.

In November 1908, as a student at Vanderbilt, William Hogg accepted the position of Preacher at Ashland City Methodist Church. He would ride the train to Nashville and back to attend school while holding the position at Ashland City.

The Hoggs spent three years in Ashland City. It was a time of spiritual growth for the church and community.

After three years, Brother Hogg completed his education and had a desire to return to his native state of Mississippi. The community was saddened by his departure. A large crowd from all of the town's churches turned out to see the Hogg family depart.

He served in the Army during World War I. The brutality of war resulted in his suffering a nervous breakdown.

Brother Hogg served in various places, including Mississippi and Texas after the war. He also became affiliated with the Paul Rader organization. Paul Rader was the first nationwide radio preacher in the United States.

The affiliation with Paul Rader led Brother Hogg to Los Angeles in 1933. The call to establish a "country church" in Hollywood came to him.

Volunteers constructed a 250 seat chapel from mostly donated materials. It sat in the middle of Hollywood. The material included stone from the old Los Angeles City Hall and bells donated by the widow of the Bullocks Department Store founder.

Brother Hogg also had the church designed to look like the little country Methodist church which was his first assignment in Ashland City, Tennessee.

April 13, 1934 was the day of dedication for the little church. A message from President Franklin Roosevelt was read and celebrities including Lionel Barrymore attended the event.

The church also served as a broadcast center. The minister began his own radio program. It was titled "Hogg's Goose Creek Show." The program first aired on local station KFAC on Sunday afternoons.

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REVEREND W. B. HOGG

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In November of 1934, CBS Radio began to broadcast the program. It's popularity exploded. The show became so popular that it moved to Monday and Thursday evenings nationwide in 1936. Some compared Brother Hogg to Will Rogers as his renown grew.

Sadly, the health of Brother Hogg began to fail. He died January 15, 1937. He was buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Glendale, California.

Brother Hogg's wife, Virginia, continued the services at the church until her death in 1966. After the death of their mother, two of Brother Hogg's daughters continued the ministry until it closed in 1997 due to falling membership.

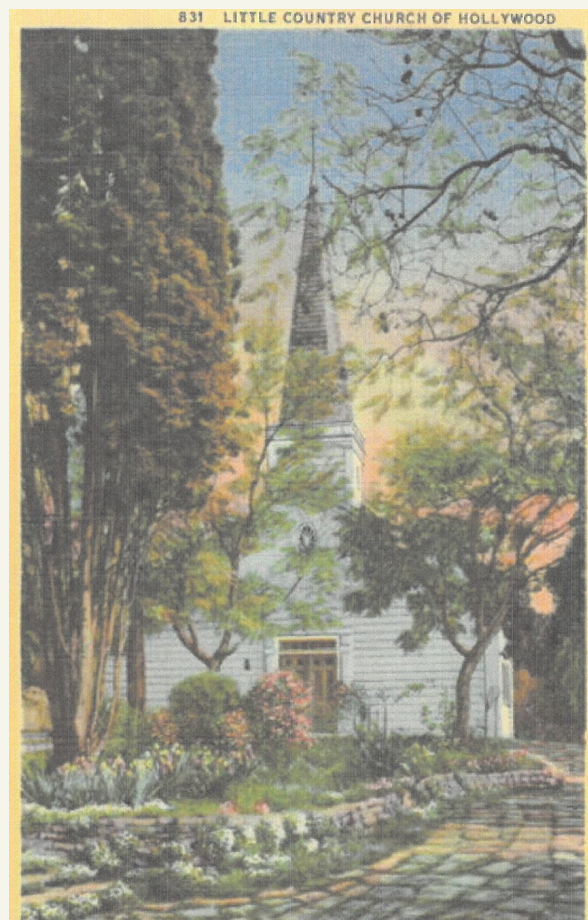
The little church sat empty until 2007. On Christmas Day of 2007, the church burned to the ground from arson.

The information concerning Brother Hogg and his family were obtained for this article from the memories of Pauline Heathman Gunn. Please visit our website to hear recordings of Mrs. Gunn about her life.

~ Walter Pitt, Archivist



A.P. Jackson and Brother Hogg



Little Country Church of Hollywood

EARLY PHOTOGRAPHERS OF CHEATHAM COUNTY

Photography was a new art form in the 1800's. The daguerreotype photo process invented in France, was the first introduced in the United States in 1839 by D. W. Seager. As the century progressed, the process of photography evolved and improved. Matthew Brady became famous as he photographed the carnage of the American War between the States in the 1860's.

The first available record of photographers in Cheatham County appears in the privilege tax books of 1881.

The privilege taxes are taxes levied on individuals in exchange to hold a license or do business in a city, state, or county. A fee for registering a motor vehicle is considered a privilege tax.

The privilege tax books contain many names from the past. These volumes are often overlooked when one is researching family history and ancestors. Our county's first licensed photographers, according to the available records were J. J. Reeves (1881) and W. M. Ebeling (1881-1883).

Soon other citizens decided to try their hand at being photographers. The other early image makers we have from the 19th century listed in the privilege tax books are: J. A. Fielder (1885), J. B. Moore (1887), G. W. Eatherly (1891), A. J. Duke (1897-1898), J. B. Chapman (1898), and W. J. Hannah (1899).

There are no records on how these men fared in their photography businesses. There is no indication of the cost or type of equipment each used. The next time a photograph from the 1800's in Cheatham County is found, please consider it might have been taken by one of the men listed in this article.

~Walter Pitt, Archivist



TENNESSEE STATE CAPITOL, A TENNESSEE TREASURE

Instead of looking at one of the many old books we have here in the archives, we will take a look at a relatively new book.

The book, Tennessee State Capitol, A Tennessee Treasure, by Dr. Wayne C. Moore, was released in 2020 by the Tennessee Secretary of State's Office.

This coffee table sized book is over 200 pages including an index. It features many color photographs of the capitol building. These pictures include areas which the general public will probably never see.

In addition to the color photographs are historical photos and documents which are housed in the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

Dr. Moore served the state as the Assistant State Archivist for many years. He spent many years researching the history of the State Capitol. He retired just prior to the release of this book.

The book is beautifully designed, and a must for anyone interested in Tennessee history. It would make a very nice gift or a keepsake.

If you have an interest in the book, please stop by the archives and take a look at our copy. It is not available for checkout. However, a copy of Tennessee State Capitol, A Tennessee Treasure, can be ordered through the Secretary of State's Office. The cost is a very reasonable \$29.50. Please visit their website at: <https://sos.tn.gov/tncapitolbook> for more details.

~Walter Pitt, Archivist



DECEMBER 1958 – FEBRUARY 1959 ASHLAND CITY TIMES

Looking back...



In this edition we take a look at the headlines from the Ashland City Times from the winter of 1958-1959.

Sixty-three years ago Cheatham County was preparing to celebrate Christmas and winter. The festivities of the season commenced with the Lion's Club's Turtle Derby.

The "Derby" today is usually run in the summer at an outdoor location. However, on December 6, 1958, it was held at Ashland City Elementary School in the gym. As is the case today, many residents sponsored a turtle and provided a catchy name to the tortoise.

The December 3rd edition also noted that the L & N Railroad asked the state for permission to abandon the Kingston Springs depot. The building remains near the tracks which cross the town today.

Sidney Gupton bought the Sinclair station from Shepard and Tommie Allen. The station, known for its green dinosaur, was located at the corner of Main and Frey Streets in Ashland City. It would later be owned by Lewis Perry and Horace Perry. Danny Holder has his business today at the location where the station once stood.

December 6th also saw a head on collision on 41-A near Pleasant View. A couple from Wisconsin and a Fort Campbell soldier were rushed to a Nashville hospital. The soldier's military vehicle collided head on with the Wisconsin pair's automobile.

A commercial freezer was the prize to a lucky patron who attended the grand reopening of Boyd's Market December 17th. The store remodeling celebration also featured great buys. After entering the contest for prizes, eager shoppers could purchase bacon at 49 cents a pound, coffee 75 cents for one pound, and 10 pounds of sugar for only 99 cents.

Christmas day would arrive on Thursday in 1958. The shops of the county seat advertised their many gift ideas in the newspaper. Lockert Drugs offered Brownie Cameras from \$8.95 to \$10.75. Brownies were nice, ordinary cameras, but they were not Polaroids. One could purchase for \$65 a Polaroid 95 B camera. Developed in 1948, the 95 camera was an instant film camera. There would be no more wait for the drug store to return your developed film. Christmas memories were instantly available to those who possessed this camera.

As the new year commenced, the Central High school girls and boys basketball teams were staging a successful season. Wanda Murphy and LaVergne Gibbs led the Cubettes and Cubs to the White Bluff tournament titles. They would later both be named all district players.

Ashland City experienced a major crime as the long winter continued. Hagedwood Motors was the victim of an innovative thief on the night of January 17th. The culprit moved the dealership's safe to the shop. He then removed \$2,100 in checks and cash by opening the safe with a blow torch. He concealed his work by draping a large tarp over the area where he used the torch. At press time, Sheriff Les Binkley was still investigating the crime.

The Circuit Court Grand Jury would provide the most notable news for February. Thirty-seven true bills were returned by the jury. Nineteen of these bills were for driving while intoxicated. It is not know if the high number of intoxicated drivers were a result of celebratory parties or the desire to relieve the tedium of a long winter.

Spring, and our next issue, will bring a look at another year from Cheatham County's distant past.

~Walter Pitt, Archivist

RECIPES FROM MEMORABLE RESIDENTS OF
CHEATHAM COUNTY'S PAST

Divinity by Mrs. Sidney Nicholson

3 cups sugar

2/3 boiling water

1/2 cup white syrup

Cook to hard crack stage. Slowly pour mixture over 3 well beaten egg whites. Beat until creamy. Drop by spoonfuls on wax paper.



Ice Box Cookies by Myrtle Tucker

1 cup brown sugar

4 cup flour

3 sticks butter

1tsp vanilla

Coloring if desired

Sift flour, measure: add to cream butter and sugar. Roll in long rolls. Keep in refrigerator for 2 hours. Slice and bake in slow oven.



Icing for Prune Cake by Annie Denney

1 cup brown sugar

5 T butter

1 cup white sugar

1/4 cup milk

Boil brown sugar, milk and butter three minutes. Cool and add white sugar.

**Note: Recipes are printed precisely as worded by the original author with no corrections or modifications.*

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR FACEBOOK PAGE



These items were donated to the Cheatham County Library recently by Dan Morris. The painting is by Jenny Heathman and photograph are of the Hudgens home on Hale Street in Ashland City. The items belonged to Juanita Hudgens Eller and previously Mrs. Pinky Christian, aunts of Dan Morris. Jenny Heathman's family once lived in the house.

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All bills due 1st of month Sold by _____

Name _____

Address _____

Bought by _____

Interest charged after maturity

1	Received of Mrs. Dumas
3	Three and no more
4	for my Deacons account
5	in full to date
6	
7	
8	May 24 1924 S. S. Hagan
9	
10	
11	14
12	

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to be favored with your patronage to-day, and we trust that everything you bought of us will prove satisfactory in every respect. If for any reason you are not satisfied with your purchase we ask that you report the matter to us at once, that it may be adjusted to your entire satisfaction. We want your trade and shall try to serve you well.

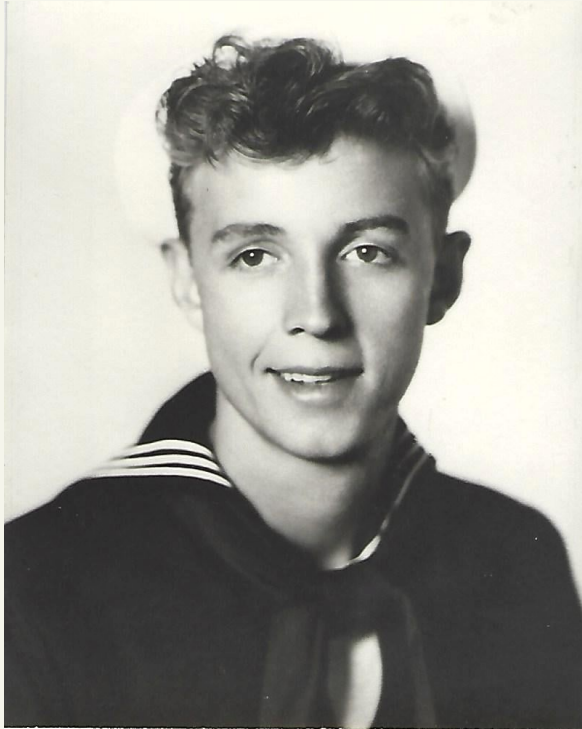
DUKE, SHAW & DUKE
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ASHLAND CITY - TENN.

CONTINUOUS - MFG. BY AMERICAN SALES BOOK CO., LIMITED
 HAGERSTOWN, PA., U. S. A.

In 1926, the citizens of Cheatham County could purchase a phonograph, complete with crank from Duke and Shaw Hardware. If one was not ready for a phonograph, a radio could be purchased from Farmer's Mercantile across the street. These ads are from the 1926 Ashand City Times.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

We concluded the Veteran's Day week in November with photographs which have been shared with us from service members from Cheatham County's past. These include Ben Gunn, James Gunn, J.C. Balthrop and Jimmy Heathman.



VISIT US ONLINE AT:
CCTNARCHIVES.OMEKA.NET

CHEATHAM COUNTY ARCHIVES

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The Cheatham County Archives houses, maintains, & provides public access to County Government records and historical documents; and serves as the primary repository for these records.

It is the mission of the Cheatham County Archives to support and provide public access to County Government records in our custody and control.

We have a vision of promoting innovative approaches to historical preservation and research.

We desire to expand the accessibility of historic resources to the community.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

W.H. Chambliss and W.H. Chambliss Jr. W.H. Chambliss Jr., known as Henry Chambliss later was the post man for Pleasant View and later owned a garage which today is known as The Livery Stable.

1976 photo of the old road which ran under Sidney's Bluff. this was once the main road. It closed in the early 1970s. Thanks to Sarah Pitt for the loan of the photograph.

