

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

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Celebrating the Grand Opening and Dedication Ceremony of the Cheatham County Archives.
- Interesting finds in the library's antique books collection
- Tips from the Archivist for photo preservation.
- More interesting finds...

ARCHIVES CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL GRAND OPENING

August 3, 2019 marked a successful Grand Opening Day for the Cheatham County Archives. In addition to the opening day celebration, a ceremony was held to dedicate the Cheatham County Archives in honor of the late James Baker "Bud" Hallums, who was appointed our first County Historian in 1965, and served in that position until his death in 2005.

The opening statement was given by County Mayor Kerry McCarver, who hosted the event along with Archivist Walter Pitt. A proclamation honoring Mr. Hallums was presented by State Representative Mary Littleton.

Daughters of Mr. Hallums, Jamie Merritts and Genese Wilson, were each presented with official copies of the proclamation.

Bud Hallums had such passion for history, especially the history of Cheatham County. In addition to...



**Above: Jamie Hallums Merritts & Genese Hallums Wilson
Below: Descendant of James "Bud" Hallums and family members pictured with Archivist Walter Pitt**

...serving as County Historian for 40 years. Bud was also an Army veteran of WWII. The Cheatham County Archives website has a collection of digitized audio recordings of several local residents that were recorded approximately 30 years ago. Among these, you can listen to Bud tell his story and share his experiences of his time of service during the war.

There is no doubt that if Bud Hallums were here to witness his dream of an archives for Cheatham County finally coming to fruition, and the fact that his children were an integral part of the inspiration behind the endeavor; he would indeed be proud.



*Article submitted by:
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I N T H E S T A C K S

In this issue of The Quill, we will begin a feature highlighting books from the library's antique book collection.

The first featured book is also our oldest. It is titled, "School Etymology, New Word Analysis" by William Swinton. The book was copyrighted in 1879.

Etymology is the study of the

history of words. It is a fascinating field of study. During my years at Austin Peay, I enrolled in an etymology class taught by Dr. Ed Irwin. The class was made up mostly of pre-med or pre-pharmacy students with a mix of English majors. Etymology is a wonderful tool which can be used to increase one's vocabulary and knowledge

of foreign languages. Our particular book once belonged to a student of the Morganton Academy, Peyton Anderson. Morganton was once a thriving community in Loudon County, Tennessee. It thrived as a flat boat port. The decline of river traffic...

(Continued on Page 2)

FILM PHOTOGRAPHY: A LOST ART

Today's world of digital photography has made film photography almost a lost art. Digital photography presents us with instant images stored generally in an environment free of dirt, dust, and humidity.

However many people still retain their collection of photographs made with a camera using film. There are methods which we can all employ to preserve our treasured images. These actions can shield the photograph from light, fingerprints, and other things which could mar the quality of the image and perhaps even hasten its demise.

When one begins the mission to preserve their photographs, they will need a clean, clear space prepared before the work begins. Cloth gloves should be worn during the handling of negatives or photographs. Fingerprints can leave stains on the items along with the prints of those touching them.

A list of the subjects of the photographs should be kept. However, one should never use ink to write on the back of a picture. Ink can bleed through the paper. This will ruin the photograph. A soft # 2 lead pencil can be employed using light pressure to label the photos if desired.

The issue of storage and display can be discussed after the photographs are documented and prepared. Photographs should be

stored in a temperature setting of no more than 75 degrees F, and a humidity level of less than 65%. This will prevent decay, mold, and insect activity. Low humidity is not good for photos or negatives. A constant humidity reading of less than 15% will cause the item to become brittle.

Finally, there is the issue of displaying prized photographs. The original photograph should not be displayed for long periods of time. Exposing the images to all types of light will cause fading and other changes. It is best to have copies made of the photos and display them. Daylight and fluorescent are particularly damaging due to the higher amount of ultraviolet light. Once the image is lost, it is difficult to restore.

We will continue to feature more preservation tips in future editions. Please contact us if you have photographs you would like to share with the archives. We have the ability to digitize images so the owner can retain the original.

~Walter Pitt, Archivist



Pictured in this example of a properly preserved photograph is Pauline Heathman Gunn Circa 1920s on loan from the personal collection of the Archivist

"Photography is a way of feeling, of touching, of loving. What you have caught on film is captured forever... It remembers little things, long after you have forgotten everything."
- Aaron Siskind

IN THE STACKS

(Continued from Page 1)

...and the rise of the railroad sealed Morganton's fate. The town began its decline in the mid 19th century. TVA purchased much of the mostly deserted town for its Tellico Lake project. The town is now submerged under the lake. The Morganton cemetery is all that re-

mains of Morganton today.

The Morganton Academy building was established as a Methodist church. It later became a college with a dormitory with two teacher's houses. It closed in 1936.

Peyton Anderson, the student, lived until the age of

88. He served much of his life as a post master. Many of his relatives are resting in the Morganton Cemetery.

~Walter Pitt, Archivist



School Etymology, New Word Analysis by William Swinton. The book was copyrighted in 1879.

THE CHEATHAM COUNTY BANK

The great depression of the 1930's had a far reaching affect on nearly every corner of the state and country. Cheatham County was not immune to the problems caused by the depression.

My parents often would recount the experiences they had growing up during that time period. My mother's family lived in a house which was located on what is now Spring Street in Ashland City. Forrest Street at the time was a major roadway passing through the town. My grandparents, Pauline and Noble Gunn always had a large garden and would often provide food for those passing through Ashland City. These people were often homeless and were wandering the country from all areas in search of some sort of hope after they had lost everything.

During this period, there were many banks which would fail. The Ashland City Bank and Trust and the Cheatham County Bank were the two banks in town. The Cheatham County Bank did not survive the depression.

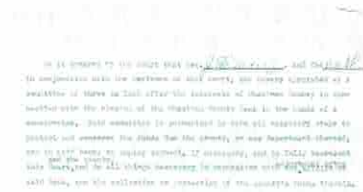
The Cheatham Bank was located in the small white building which now houses the Law Offices of Crabtree & Young on Main Street. As a youth I recall it being Shivers Shoe Shop.

There were many prominent people associated with the Cheatham County Bank.

The 1914 letterhead pictured here shows L. J. Pardue to be president, G. W. Fambrough, vice president, and W. B. Neely as cashier. Mr. Pardue was a notable lawyer in town. He later practiced with S. A. Marable in the Law Office of Pardue and Marable. The pardue's home was on the property where Hardee's is now located.

In 1934 the County Court appointed J. F. Murff, W. B. Adkisson along with court chairman W. J. Smith, as a committee of the three to look after the interests of Cheatham County in the bank's problems. They were to take all necessary steps to protect and conserve the funds due the county. The bank did not survive much longer. The Cheatham County Bank, like many other banks, fell victim to the economic problems of the time. All that remains of the bank today is the building in which it was housed and a few documents.

~Walter Pitt, Archivist



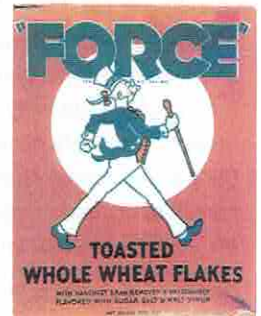
1934 County Court appointment of J.F. Murff, W.B. Adkisson, and W.J. Smith as a committee of 3 to look after the interests of Cheatham County



Constable of District 1 letter of resignation written on Cheatham County Bank letterhead.



Portion of a Force Cereal advertisement depicting cartoon character Sunny Jim, used as a bookmark in an old Circuit Court Execution docket



An example of what a full ad looked like for Force Cereal with cartoon character, Sunny Jim.

SUNNY JIM

One never knows what will be found when the pages of archive books are being perused. A case in point is the character "Sunny Jim."

Sunny Jim is not the type of fellow one would expect to appear in one of the old Circuit Court Execution dockets.

Sunny Jim is not some poor fellow standing judgment for a crime. He is a cartoon character.

In fact, Sunny Jim was created in 1902 by Minnie Maud Haniff and

Dorothy Ficken as Jimmy Dumps to promote Force cereal. Force was the first commercially successful wheat flake cereal in the United States.

The creative ladies assumed the public already knew the health benefits of Force so Sunny Jim was not pictured consuming the cereal. They instead penned stories and catch phrases for the cereal. The most popular catch phrase goes like this: "High o'er the fence leaps Sunny Jim, Force

is the food that raises him." The advertisement campaign was widely successful and Sunny Jim became a celebrity.

Printer's Ink Magazine wrote in September 1902 that Sunny Jim was as well-known as the President and as well-known as any play or novel. However, Sunny Jim's fame was fleeting. The cereal company decided to begin advertising with another advertising agency. The new agency did not approve of Jim or

Force cereal continued to be marketed by the Nestle Company until production ceased in 2013.

It appears that our Sunny Jim served as a bookmark for some unknown court clerk in the early 1900's. He serves as a reminder of a distant past, and a mostly forgotten commercial product.

~Walter Pitt, Archivist

VISIT US ONLINE AT:
CCTNARCHIVES.OMEKA.NET

THE CHEATHAM COUNTY ARCHIVES NEWSLETTER

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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.

THE COMPTOMETER

In the year 2019 and soon to be 2020, the computer is king and the electronic calculator is taken for granted. However, before computers and calculators, there was the comptometer.

A sales letter for a comptometer was recently discovered in a merchant license book in the archives from the early 1900's. These books present a treasure of information concerning early Cheatham County businesses. In addition to the names of business establishments, sometimes there are surprises tucked into the pages.

One such surprise is the letter dated June 1, 1908. It is from the Felt & Tarrant Manufacturing Company of Chicago. It is a letter offering the county clerk a 30 day trial without expense, of a comptometer. It details the wonders of the machine and its benefits. The letter is signed by D. E. Felt, who played a large role in how business became more efficient in the twentieth century. He was the man who invented the comptometer.

D. E. Felt began work on the first comptometer in 1882. he was given a salary of six dollars a week by Robert Tarrant, a Chicago workshop owner, to develop the machine.

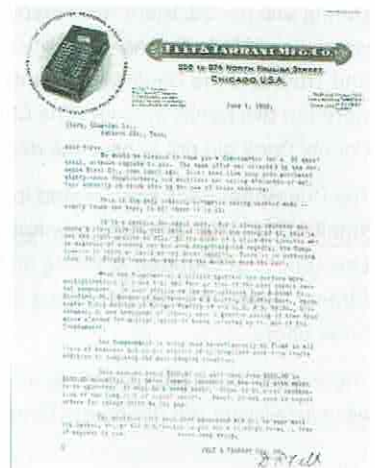
The first practical machine was completed in 1886. it was given a US patent in 1887. the comptometer became the first successful key driven mechanical calculator. It also performed subtraction, multiplication, and division. It was modified through

the years and was the primary calculator until the development of what has become today's technology.

D. E. Felt, the inventor, also had many other talents. He was an excellent photographer. His photographs of Europe during and after World War I were used by the United States Government for many projects over the years. Mr. Felt died in 1930 and his company name, Felt & Tarrant, disappeared in 1957 becoming the Comptometer Company.

Dorr E. Felt loved the pristine beauty of the Western Michigan coastline. He built his home there. The Dorr E. Felt Mansion still stands. It is located in Laketown Township, Michigan. It is on the National Register of Historic Places. There is a website: feltmansion.org which contains photos and a history of the home.

It is not known if the Cheatham County took up Mr. Felt's offer to try the comptometer. We can only guess what the discussion would have been concerning the pros and cons of purchasing the machine. But, it is an honor for our archives to have a signed letter from Mr. Felt, who helped to make workplaces and work more efficient for so many people.



Letter from D. E. Felt to Cheatham County Government offering a no-cost 30 day trial of the "Comptometer," dated June 1, 1908

-Walter Pitt, Archivist

