

# MOUNTAIN HERITAGE

The Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Inc.

March 1, 2015

Volume 3, Issue 1

## In Laws and Outlaws

BY LESLIE BARKER THOMAS

Did you know there is a website for documenting the outlaws by state? What fun is that... although most probably hope uncle John would remain hidden in the archives of history, he may show up on this site! I love the story that says uncle Bob died of a broken neck. Then the family got into genealogy and learned he was hung as a horse thief!

<http://genealogytrails.com/tex/bigbend/upton/Outlaws.html>



Photograph submitted by Leslie Thomas

In addition many of our ancestors may have come to America on convict ships and were sold into slavery or bondage as indentured servants.

From an article <http://www.earlyamericancrime.com/convict-transportation/convict-voyages/convict-ship>: Convict ships were akin to floating dungeons. Throughout most of their journey, convicts were kept below deck with little light or fresh air. They were chained together in groups of six in small, cramped quarters that were either too hot or too cold, depending on the time of year.



Photograph submitted by Leslie Thomas

The number of convicts being transported could range anywhere from 1 to 150 or more. More than half of the ships arriving in Maryland between 1746 and 1775 carried more than 90 passengers. The lower decks of slave ships had ceilings only four and a half feet high, so most convicts carried on such ships would not be able to stand straight up. In general, though, convicts enjoyed more room on ships carrying them than slaves, but less room than indentured servants.

### In this quarterly issue:

In Laws and Outlaws	1
The Story of an Old Log Cabin and Christmases Past	2
In Remembrance	4
2015 Board Members	4
Last Quarter Highlights	5
President's Desk	6
First Families	7
New Book Acquisition Process	7
Family Research Center	8
In Focus	10
Bulletin Board	11
New Book For Sale	11



*American Pioneers: Flapjacks.*  
Albert, D. *Beyond the Mississippi.*  
Hartford, CT: American  
Publishing Company, 1867.



## The Story of an Old Log Cabin and Christmases Past

BY BETH BICE

### First Life

In the 1950s before Carter's Lake was filled, on the Gilmer County side there were three log cabins — homes of three families of our earlier citizens. There were no architects, no contractors, lumber yards from which to purchase logs or other building supplies. These cabins were made from logs cut off the property on which they stood, by the labor and sweat of people settling in this county.

These were the people who came here when the Cherokee Indians were still here — the very beginning of the settling of Gilmer County. The exact age of these cabins is not known, but estimated to be in the 1860s. The descendants of at least one of the families still lived in the Gilmer County area in the 1980s.

Two of the children, Gladys Crooke and Ruby Quarles, were both teachers in the county for years. They were not sure which of the three cabins was their home as they were very small children when they moved into Ellijay, nor were they sure who built the cabin in which they lived. This was the first life of this log cabin!

### Second Life

Shortly before this area was flooded to create Carter's Lake, the three cabins were sold or given away by the state and moved to new locations. One became a fishing cabin on the Ellijay River north of town. The second was moved to the highway between Chatsworth and Dalton; added onto with log wings, and is now part of a lovely home. The third cabin is the main topic of this article.

Howard Perry, a Gilmer County citizen, and my father, bought the third cabin, carefully numbered the logs, dismantled them and moved it to his farm on Mountaintown Road, where he reconstructed it. He then spent the next 40 years searching for authentic local furnishings for the cabin. It became a show place, of which he was very proud, for many years. This was the second life of the cabin!



Contributed Photo

*Continued on Page 3.*



## The Story of an Old Log Cabin and Christmases Past

*Continued from Page 2*

### **Third Life**

After the death of Perry, his descendants gave the cabin and its furnishings to Mark Hyde, a teacher in the Gilmer county School System.

Mark again dismantled the cabin and moved it to the Yukon Road to the homeplace of his grandparents. He carefully rebuilt it and put in the furnishings, again making a showplace. He is in the process of building a barn and outbuildings to go with it, to display a collection of early agricultural tools and equipment, collected by Perry. It is an amazing testimony to our ancestors and their way of life. This is the third life of the cabin!

It is fascinating, while standing in this cabin to wonder what all has transpired within its walls - the lives of people actually carving our history. The happy times, the sorrows, the births and the deaths and the hard work that went on as our country grew are all part of our history.

It is hard to imagine the lifestyle of these people - no electricity, no central heating, no plumbing, raising every bite they ate and struggling to survive! Yet they were triumphant - we, today, are living proof of this.

As I look at the cabin, all decorated for Christmas, I wonder about all the other Christmases this old building has seen!

How many excited children arose on Christmas mornings in the past, to gather around the fireplace and enjoy their Christmas "goodies" - gingerbread men, rag dolls, corn-shuck dolls, soldiers carved out of a piece of wood, "popguns" fashioned out of small limbs of trees used to "shoot" holly berries at each other, all made by the parents by candlelight after the children were in bed in the loft, sunggled under warm homemade quilts and down-filled pillows?

How many times has the Christmas story been told and the Bible read by firelight? How many wonderful meals, made from the canned goods from out of the garden, the ham from the smokehouse, the "leather britches" (dried beans), the hot biscuits with homemade sorghum syrup with fresh-churned butter, have been enjoyed around this table?

If only the walls could speak, there would be many stories to tell. We should give thanks for our forbearers who gave us our wonderful heritage and for this old cabin, where we can fully realize the tremendous labor but also the hope and determination shown by the people who built and lived in it, and paved the way for us today!



## In Remembrance

This quarterly addition of the Mountain Heritage Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Dana Cochran, Hertis Key, and Juanita Milam.

We are so thankful for their service to our society and we will miss them greatly!



---

## 2015 Officers

- President: Karen Titus
- First Vice-President: Sylvia Johnson
- Second Vice President: Minister Butch Jones
- Treasurer: John Davis
- Recording Secretary: Gladys Spivey
- Corresponding Secretary: Rebecca Burrell



*Induction Ceremony. Pictured from left to right: Rebecca Burrell, Sylvia Johnson, John Davis, Karen Titus, and Gladys E. Spivey*

Historian: Gladys Spivey, Programs Chair: Sylvia Johnson, Publications Chair: Karla Duke, Publicity Chair: Wayne Hooper and Book Acquisition committee: Karen Titus, John Davis, Anita Nail and Linda Craig.



## Last Quarter Highlights

### December 2014 Monthly Meeting:

- GCGSI held their annual Christmas Luncheon and induction of 2015 officers at the Shriner's Building in Ellijay, Ga.

### January 2015 Monthly Meeting:

- David Harper talked about the muzzle loading rifle made by J.D. Nelson which he owns and the Native American artifacts he has found in North Georgia. David Harper is the owner of the Harper's Taxidermy Studio in Ellijay. His studio has amazing displays of items showing his interest in animals, history and Native American artifacts. Photos of some of the artifacts he collected are on display in the Native American room of the Gilmer Co.'s museum on Spring Street.



Photograph by Gladys Spivey. More pictures of David and the artifacts on our [Facebook page:](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Gilmer-County-Genealogy-Society-Georgia/155684931306895)  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Gilmer-County-Genealogy-Society-Georgia/155684931306895>

Continued on Pg 6



## Last Quarter Highlights *(Cont from pg 5)*

### February 2015 :

- **Monthly GCGSI Meeting : Karen Titus, Speaker**

Karen is President of the Gilmer County Genealogy Society. Karen spoke on "Expanding your research opportunities outside your neighborhood." She also shared insights from a trip to the Salt Lake City, Utah archives.

- **Genealogy Program at the Gilmer County Library: Leslie Thomas, Speaker**

Leslie is the President of the Gilmer County Historical Society and the president of the Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association. Her program, "Touching Your Past: Writing Your Family's History," taught about effectively documenting your family's history to preserve it for future generations.

---

## President's Desk

BY KAREN TITUS

This is the third year I have done this? Really! In my first year I offered several projects to the society that I thought were needed and that we were capable of accomplishing. One of these projects is the "scanning of old photos and documents belonging to residents of Gilmer County" We began it in 2013 and it is still an ongoing project. Several projects were of interest to the group but we didn't have enough participants to get a good start on them. Several interviews were done with videotape including one done with a veteran of WWII by Brenda Cochran which she then transcribed and printed in our wonderful newsletter. The board has discussed several potential projects for this upcoming year including planning and publishing a new Gilmer County book. We will be looking for committee members to help with this project. I am looking forward to a fun and busy year fulfilling our mission which is to preserve Gilmer County history and genealogy. Be sure to join us every month to see what we are doing.

### WANTED:

We really need an events chairman. Duties include about three "get-togethers" for the society during the year. See a board member if you are willing to help out with this job.





## First Families of Gilmer County

The purpose of the First Families program is to honor the pioneers who were settled in Gilmer County in 1840 or before, and to recognize those descendants who become members of this program. We encourage anyone who is directly descended from early citizens listed on the 1840 Gilmer County Census to apply. Applicants are not required to be currently residing in Gilmer County. For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.gcgisi.org/firstfamilies.html>.

### Welcome to our newest First Family Recipients :

- James David Dotson (ancestor: Samuel J. Thompson)
- Robert Douglas Hyatt (ancestor: Absolom Pence)
- Danny Mashburn (ancestor: John Addington)

*“The purpose of the First Families program is to honor the pioneers who were settled in Gilmer County by 1840 or before and to recognize those descendants who became members of this program.”*



Leslie Barker Thomas

## New Book Acquisitions Process

BY JOHN DAVIS

The Board of Directors have approved a new process for purchasing books to be placed in the library. A committee of members of our Society will review and approve requests for new additions. The committee appointed by the President consists of Karen Titus, John Davis, Anita Nail, and Linda Craig. Requests for new books can be made to any committee member.

Before you submit your request, please do the following:

1. Check with the library to see if we already have the book. You can either go to the library's webpage and check or ask one of the library employees for assistance.
2. Include the full name and author of the publication. Give the information as to where the book can be purchased.
3. Requests should be publications that pertain directly to Georgia, states bordering Georgia or states which served as early migration routes to/from Georgia.

Please contact one of the committee members with your questions or request for purchase.





## Family Research Center

I have been searching for my grandfather who was on the 1900 Federal Census as living in Gilmer County, GA. The census showed a Edward (Ed) Shepard living in the household with his stepmother (Mary) and his stepsister (Maime). Mamie was married to Little Ruben Wright in 1906. All that I have been able to obtain is that Ed and my grandmother (Mary Caldonia Swanson) were married in Cherokee (Murphy) N.C. in 1903. Mary and Ed had 3 sons from his marriage as shown in the picture to the right.

From hearsay information I have gotten, Ed died around 1909 and he was living with George Washinton Swanson (father-in-law) in Fannin County (Loving), GA. Mary married Jesse Key after Ed passed, which would be Golden's father.

On the marriage certificate for Ed and Mary, all I have is his dad was J.W. Shepard and wife (Mary), who was deceased and Mary's dad, George Swanson, who was living and his wife (Cordelia DeHart Swanson) was deceased. All of the family shown in the photo above are buried in Knoxville, TN.

There could be different spellings of the Shepard name (Shepard, Sheppard, Shepherd).

If you have any information about Ed Shepard or members of his family, please email me at [willieshepard@att.net](mailto:willieshepard@att.net) or send the information to Bill Shepard, 1300 Windamere Road, Knoxville, TN. 37923.



Front Row seated: My grandmother and oldest son Carl Bert (b: 1905 d:1960).

Back Row: her youngest son, Alvin Edward (b: 1909 d: 1992), Golden (Gola) Key (b:1916), and Charlie Abraham (b:1907 d: 1982).



# Family Research Center (Cont from pg 8)

Mary Turner of Jasper, GA. Is seeking information on the Avant's of Washington City, GA.

If you have any information about the Avant family, please email maryturner1@windstream.net.

Kathy Watkins is looking for proof that John Davis of S.C. is the father of Thomas J. (Jefferson) Davis born in 1822. John was married to Eliza Davis. They moved from South Carolina to Old Washington, TN. If you have any information about the John Davis family, please email watkinskd53@yahoo.com

State of North Carolina, Cherokee COUNTY. Office of REGISTER OF DEEDS, April 21<sup>st</sup> 1893

To any Ordained Minister of any Religious Denomination, or any Justice of the Peace of said County:

J. M. Crowley having applied to me for a LICENSE for the marriage of Ed. Shepard of Postell aged 28 years, race white, the son of J. M. Shepard and Mary Shepard the father now living, the mother dead, resident Postell, and Mary B. Swanson, of Postell, aged 15 years, race white, daughter of G. W. Swanson and Cornelia Swanson the father living, the mother dead, resident Postell

"And the written consent of \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the said \_\_\_\_\_, to the proposed marriage having been filed with me:

And there being no legal impediment to such marriage known to me, you are hereby authorized at any time within one year from the date hereof, to celebrate the proposed marriage at any place within the said County.

You are required, within two months after you shall have celebrated such marriage, to return this License to me, at my office with your signature subscribed to the Certificate under this License, and with the blanks therein filled according to the facts, under penalty of forfeiting two hundred dollars to the use of any person who shall sue for the same.

J. B. McDonald, Register of Deeds.

1. Name of person applying for license.	8. Living or dead.	15. Father's name.
2. Name of man to be married to full.	9. Living or dead.	16. Mother's name.
3. Residence.	10. Residence if known; if not, state unknown.	17. Living or dead.
4. Age.	11. Name of woman to be married to full.	18. Living or dead.
5. Race.	12. Residence.	19. Residence if known; if not, state unknown.
6. Father of man to be married.	13. Age.	20. If both parties are over 18 years of age, strike out.
7. Mother of man to be married.	14. White or colored.	

Picture and information Above Right and below was supplied by Bill Shepard.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, }  
Cherokee County. }

L. J. H. Crowley, Minister of the Gospel, }  
united in matrimony Mr. Ed. Shepard and Mary B. Swanson. }  
the parties licensed above, on the 29 day of April 1893, at G. W. Swanson. }  
Postell of C. in Shoal Creek Township. }  
in said County, according to law. }

"WITNESSES PRESENT AT MARRIAGE."

J. M. Crowley of Postell, }  
J. B. Swanson of Postell, }  
C. V. Swanson of Postell }  
do hereby certify that the above named parties were by me lawfully united in matrimony on the day and date above written.

1. Name of person officiating. 2. If Minister, of what denomination? If Justice of the Peace, so state. 3. Name of man married.  
4. Name of woman married. 5. Place of marriage. 6. Township. \*At least three persons present at marriage must sign as witnesses.



## In Focus

Picture and Information Submitted by Danny Mashburn.



This is a late 1930's or early 1940's photo of the Upper Jacks River Community looking south east into the Mountaintown area of Gilmer County from Highway #2. This is at the very top of Gilmer County where Jacks River (which flows from south to north) crosses from Gilmer County into Fannin County. The house in the foreground is a newly built game warden house built on the same site as the Mont Millsap's house. Today this site has an outdoor bathroom and picnic tables and this area is called Jack's River Fields. Just out of site on the left side of this photo is the mill and mill pond dam of George Patterson and the Mt Gilliad "Gobbler Hill" Baptist Church and school across the river. On the road on the left (east) side of the river traveling south into Gilmer County were first the Sam Crumbly house on the right side after crossing the first spring in the road. The next house was on the left and was where Jim and Laddy Sluder and family lived. The last house on the far right in the photo was the home of John and Della Dyer, my grand parents on my mother's side. B.T. "Breck" Guess, John Dyer's brother-in-law, also lived on this road near John Dyer. The church, mill, millpond and all houses are gone today.



## Bulletin Board

### March:

- March Meeting of GCGSI will be held on March 12, 2015 at the Gilmer County Library at 2 PM. Speaker: Lawton Baggs, he will be featuring a video of Memories, "A Day in Ellijay, Georgia Early 1953"
- Research Assistants available on Fridays from 10 AM—3 PM in the Genealogy Research Center at the Gilmer County Library. Research Assistants for March: Kathy Watkins, Eurilla Hyatt, Karla Duke and Patricia Henson

### April:

- Library Closed on April 3, 2015
- April Meeting of GCGSI will be held on April 9, 2015 at the Gilmer County Library at 2 PM.
- April 12th—18th is National Library Staff Appreciation Week. We will be hosting an appreciation lunch on Tuesday, April 14th from 11:30-1:00. Please let Karen Titus at [katitus73@hotmail.com](mailto:katitus73@hotmail.com) know if you would like to volunteer to cook and or serve at this event.
- Research Assistants available on Fridays from 10 AM—3 PM in the Genealogy Research Center at the Gilmer County Library. Research Assistants for April: Patricia Henson, Sylvia Johnson, and Becky Burrell

### May:

- May Meeting of GCGSI will be held on March 14, 2015 at the Gilmer County Library at 2 PM.
- Research Assistants available on Fridays from 10 AM—3 PM in the Genealogy Research Center at the Gilmer County Library. Research Assistants for May: Betty Watson, Gladys Spivey, Karen Titus, John Davis and Leslie Thomas.
- Library Closed on May 25, 2015

## Mountain Heritage Newsletter Book For Sale

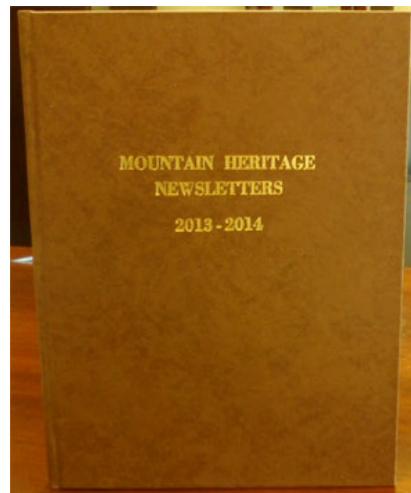
Get your hardbound book of all of the 2013-2014 *Mountain Heritage Newsletters*, over 188 pages.

You pay only, for the cost of printing and binding the non-profit *Mountain Heritage* book.

\$20 (plus shipping) or \$20, if picked-up at the library—date TBA. - payable in advance.

If you are interested in this one time offer to order your book, please e-mail

Brenda Cochran at 706-635-7454 or email [brenda@fstravelspecialists.com](mailto:brenda@fstravelspecialists.com) before April 27, 2015.



The Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Inc.  
P. O. Box 919  
Ellijay, GA 30540



The Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Inc.  
P. O. Box 919  
Ellijay, GA 30540

**We're on the web!**  
[www.gcgsi.org](http://www.gcgsi.org)  
Contact email: [gcgs@etcmail.com](mailto:gcgs@etcmail.com)

---

## What Is Available Online?

- GCGSI Membership
- Book Order Form
- First Families Application
- 1834 and 1840 Census
- Genealogical Links
- Contact Information
- Officers

