

MOUNTAIN HERITAGE

The Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Inc.

December 1, 2015

Volume 3, Issue 4

2015 Annual Christmas Luncheon

You are invited to the Annual GCGSI Christmas Luncheon and Installation of Officers! This will be held on December 10, 2015 at the Shriner's Lodge. The lodge is located at 102 Shrine Club Dr. Ellijay, Ga. The luncheon will begin at 11 AM with the installation of officers to follow.

Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Honey Baked Ham will be provided!



Festival of Trees



GCGSI wishes you and your family a Very Merry Christmas!

Members gathered at the home of Brenda Cochran to make decorations and were treated to a very special lunch. Thanks Brenda!

On Nov. 18th, members met at the Library to decorate our tree for the Festival of trees. Each book decoration lists a First Family!

Members also made cookies to be served at the Festival of Trees on Nov. 30th at the Gilmer County Library.

Photo Left to Right: Gladys Spivey, Rebecca Burrell, Patricia Henson, John Davis, and Karen Titus

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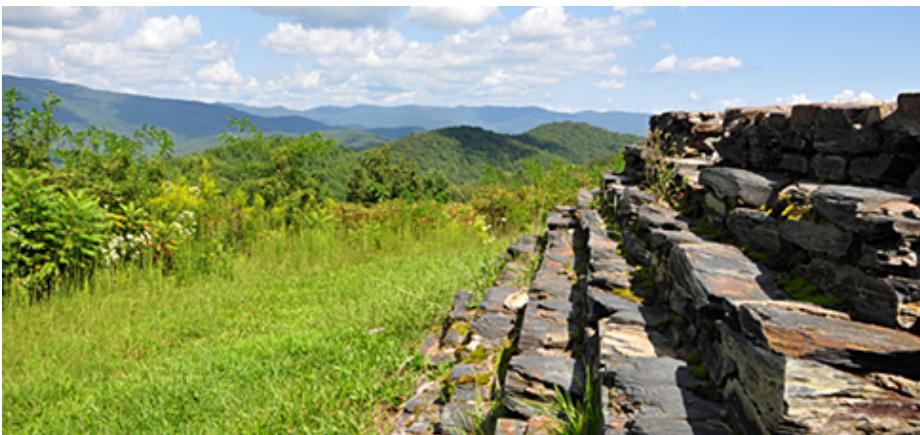


American Pioneers: Flapjacks.
Albert, D. *Beyond the Mississippi*.
Hartford, CT: American Publishing Company, 1867.



In Focus: Cohutta Mountain Overlook

SUBMITTED BY BRENDA COCHRAN



John H. Cantrell (my brother in-law) was on the crew that built the Cohutta Mountain Overlook. The Overlook is located at the northern edge of Gilmer County along Highway 52 traveling northwest of the town of Ellijay, and about a mile or so south of Fort Mountain State Park is a stunning observation point overlooking the Cohutta Mountain Wilderness and Wildlife Area. The overlook sets upon a mountain ridge top and is made up of stacked, mostly flat-stones forming a circular wall with a flat stone floor.

Photo: Unknown & J B Crane Norton (my brother) in the Civilian Conservation Corps.

This observation deck is a one of a kind destination creating a scene and the sense of a crude ancient Greek forum. The site offers a special place for one to contemplate the wonders of the mountain majesty that's beheld before one's eyes, looking out and down upon a world not created by human hands. A very short trail leads from the parking area to the overlook; it's a worthwhile walk (not long enough to be considered a hike), leading to a grand inspiring view. This site is a must see when visiting Gilmer County.

To read this information and more about the treasures of Gilmer County, go to the Blue Ridge Highlander at http://theblueridgehighlander.com/gilmer_county_georgia.



Recipes of Our Forefathers

SUBMITTED BY GLADYS SPIVEY

I will start with the hog. The hog was killed and hung to drain the blood and so the hair could be cleaned off the skin. This was done by scraping the skin with a sharp knife. Hog killing was done in the coldest part of winter. All parts of the hog were used for food.

Cracklings:

Cracklings were made from the skin of the hog. The skins were boiled for a while then all moisture was dried from skin, then skin was fried until crisp. Cracklings were used in making crackling bread or you could eat the skins as a snack.

Crackling Bread:

Crackling bread, sift corn meal add salt soda and a little lard. Add water and stir to mix. Place in a Dutch oven in coals in fire place or if you were lucky enough to have a stove place in oven bake until golden brown.

Chitlins:

Chitlins were made from the small investing's of the hog. The intestines were washed several times until they no longer felt slimy. Cut into segments and place in large pot, cover with water and boil two or three hours. To prepare Chitlins dip in cornmeal with salt and pepper. Pan fry in hot grease until golden brown.

Tripe:

Tripe is part of the stomach or paunch wash thoroughly in cold water and soak; for twelve hours in salted water, then dip in scalding to remove inner skin. Parboil the tripe, cut into pieces and dip in batter and fry until golden brown.

Souse:

Cook hog's head in salted water until meat is falling off the bone. Save some of the broth the head was cooked in. Pick all meat from head and cut into small pieces add sage, salt and black pepper. Add broth. Mix well. Place in a pan and press firmly. Souse is ready to eat when cold.

Back in the early days none of the hog was thrown away.

I have seen my grandmother and mother prepare all these recipes. I didn't say I ate any of these recipes. This is why I don't eat pork today.

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Left to right.: David, William, Gary and Ennus Spivey with back to camera.

Photo submitted by Gladys Spivey



Recipes of Our Forefathers (*Continued from Pg. 3*)

Here is another recipe I didn't eat.

Poke salit:

Poke salit is a weed that grows along fence rows or along road banks. Pick the tender leaves. Check leaves for bugs. Wash thoroughly with cold water. Place in pot cover with water and par boil. Remove from water and rinse in cold water. Place in skillet in grease, add salt and simmer for a while. Just before serving add an egg and stir until the egg is done.

Leather Britches Beans:

Wash and drain a batch of full and firm green beans. Remove ends and strings. Use a large darning needle with a heavy white thread and push needle through the bean pod near the middle. Push each bean pod along the thread so they are about $\frac{1}{4}$ inches apart. Hang up the strings of beans in a warm, well ventilated place to dry. The beans will shrivel and turn a greenish grey. To cook in the winter time as our forefather did, cover with water and soak overnight. Drain, renew water and parboil slowly for half an hour. Drain again, cover with fresh water, cook slowly with ham hock or salt pork until beans are tender. Serve with cornbread.

Cracklin Bread:

1 cup butter milk
2 eggs, well beaten
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup bacon grease
2 cups cornmeal
3 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon soda
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons salt
1 cup cracklins

Cracklins are the skin of the hog that has been deep fried in lard or baked to crisp the skin.

In the early days before the house wife had a stove the bread would have been baked in a Dutch oven in the coals in the fire place. Later when the wife had a stove the bread would have been baked in a heavy cast iron skillet.





Last Quarter Highlights

SUBMITTED BY GLADYS SPIVEY

September 10, 2015 Meeting:

Douglas "Doug" Hall from Huff Drugs spoke at the September 10th meeting "On the importance of the drug store in the County." He talked about the early drug stores in the early days and how the Pharmacist of that period did not have the medicines that we do today. When the pharmacist received a prescription they would go in the back and mix the dosage from herbs.



Doug related how as a teenager he would hang out in the drug store at the soda fountain with his friends -- - their favorite spot. All drug stores in the early days had a soda fountain. He said that is when he became interested in becoming a pharmacist. He said he preferred to work in an independently owned drug store because of the interaction with the people.



Doug brought some awesome old medicine bottles that held medicine that is no longer being produced, and a group of old photos of previous local drug stores. These can be viewed on our Facebook page.

Huff Drugs had a surprise at the end of the meeting. Dave Richey, another employee of Huff Drug (pictured on left), served coke floats to all attending---like the kind they had in the olden days. Everyone enjoyed the inspiring presentation and the floats.

Thank you Doug, Dave, Kathy Richey and Huff Drugs.



Last Quarter Highlights Continued on Page 5



Last Quarter Highlights (*Continued from Pg 5*)

Field Trip to Dawsonville Library:

Ken Thomas, well known genealogist, spoke on illegitimacy at the Dawsonville Library on October 6th. Five of our members, Karen Titus, Becky Burrell, John and Charlotte Davis, and Sylvia Johnson attended the talk.

Sylvia who is shown in the photo with Ken has recently found a third cousin DNA connection with Ken's mother.



Left to Right: Ken Thomas and Sylvia Johnson
Photo submitted by Sylvia Johnson

October 8, 2015 Meeting:

Our Speaker was Beth Bice. She is descended from several prominent Gilmer County pioneers including the Perry, Tabor and Cox Families. Beth shared stories with us from over the years.

Ms. Bice contributed the article "The Story of an Old Log Cabin and Christmases Past" in our March 2015 newsletter. You can read that story again on our website at:

<http://www.gcgi.org/docs/GCGINewsletterMarch2015.pdf>.



Left to Right: Beth Bice and Sylvia Johnson
Photo by Gladys Spivey

Nov. 12, 2015 Meeting:

Mike Britton was the speaker for our November meeting. He is a modern day patriot who honors his family's service to our country by participating in several organizations. The Gilmer County resident is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and the prestigious Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. He is descended from Josiah Bartlett. Mr. Britton is a Vietnam Veteran and a former principal of Fannin Middle School for eight years.



Mike Britton
Photo by Karla Duke



Annual White Christmas Benefit

At our November meeting, we also collected items for White Christmas! White Christmas helps less fortunate parents that live in Gilmer County provide some Christmas for their children. For more information or to contribute, visit the Ellijay Lions Club website at <http://www.ellijaylionsclub.com/christmas.htm>.

Thank you GCGSI members for willingness to care and share!



Pictured from Left to Right: Kathryn Watkins, GCGSI Member and Lions Club representative and President, Karen Titus.



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.gcgsi.org/firstfamilies.html>.

"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 Member added at the November meeting.

- Norma Earlene Stegall Lyons, ancestor Hiram Harris
- Norma Earlene Stegall Lyons, ancestor Daniel Hansel Quillan

Ms. Lyons is pictured here with Eurilla Hyatt receiving her certificates at the November meeting.



Family Research Center

My Gilmer county ancestors were Bryson, Brock and Tankersley. My 2xgreat grandparents were married in Gilmer county in 1852. Samuel P. Bryson and Nancy Ann Tankersley. They moved to Blount county, AL in late 1850's with three children. Nancy's parents were Brocks. I have been unable to find who Samuel's parents were. Help. Please email gcfgsi@hotmail.com if you have any information.

My name is Beamon Bryson and am interested in Bryson genealogy of the Gilmer County area. My GGgrandfather was married there in 1852, then moved to Alabama prior to 1860 census. The first census that include him was the 1860 census in Blount County, AL. Nothing from 1850 or earlier. He was born in 1830 in NC. That's about all we know. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Contact Beamon Bryson at tabibitobb@gmail.com

I am involved with preparing genealogical studies on my wife's ancestors that migrated from Gilmer County to central Texas around 1900. The families I am studying are: Woodring family, Worley family, Hollifield family and Wood family. Do you know of anyone also conducting research into these families? Over a year ago, I found the informal document in the Gilmer County library on the Woodring family but have not been able to contact the author. I appreciate any insight you might have. Please contact Gary Grice at gkgrice@gmail.com

The new owner of 93 North Avenue is looking for more information about his home. Please contact Ian Conrey at ianconrey@gmail.com if you have any information regarding his home.

Do you have any information about the Gilmer-Wayne County migration? Email gcfgsi@hotmail.com.

Sharon Potts at spotspot57@yahoo.com would like information about her relative Alfred Southern. He was born in . 1826 in SC, possible Greenville. He served in the 39th regiment Company G here in Gilmer in 1864. He is on the 1860 Gilmer census. He was married to Sarah Ayers and had a son born 1849. I Need marriage date and parents' names and any other info on them. I've looked at ancestry.com and in the Southern file here and in the Souther family books in the system. I haven't found anything. Little help?

My grandfather was Noel Hamilton Sanford....grandmother was Arizona Zona) Lilyflower Shelton. Any info would be great but especially on the Sheltons'. Please email Sharon Tate at s.tate9@yahoo.com.

Melody Porter of Cherry Log is researching the Melchizedek Charles family for a friend. If you have any information on the Charles Family, please email her at southernancestors@yahoo.com.



Bulletin Board

December:

- Dec. 10th - Annual Christmas Luncheon and installation of 2016 officers. The luncheon will be at the Shriner's Lodge: 102 Shrine Club Dr. Ellijay, Ga. beginning at 11 AM.
- Library will close at 12 PM on December 11th.
- Library will be closed from December 23rd - 26th
- Library will close on December 30th at 5 PM.
- Research Assistants available on Fridays from 10 AM—3 PM in the Genealogy Research Center at the Gilmer County Library. Research Assistants for December: Becky Burrell and Shirley Sluder.

January:

- January Meeting of GCGSI will be held on January 14, 2015 at the Gilmer County Library at 2 PM. Our speaker is Joyce Southern Bennett - Local author of two books. "Streams of Gold" and "Beyond The Hill". She writes about her childhood growing up in Gilmer County in the Big Creek/Stover Mountain area. She is writing a devotional book of poems at this time. She will be discussing her writings and her life in Gilmer County.
- Research Assistants available on Fridays from 10 AM—3 PM in the Genealogy Research Center at the Gilmer County Library. Research Assistants for January: Kathy Watkins and Rebecca Burrell.

February:

- February Meeting of GCGSI will be held on February 11, 2015 at the Gilmer County Library at 2 PM. Our Speaker will be Kathi Harper Hill - Local author of six books. She will be reading from two of her books and inviting us to discuss them. One will be "Out on a Limb" about 4 generations of Appalachian women told by their matriarch, eighty-seven year old Missouri Pickett. The other a first person story of 9 year old Tansy Corbin takes place in 1963. "The Year of Nine: Where the Rain Begins". Both books are presented as fiction, but a character or place might seem familiar? Kathi will have her books available for purchase.
- Research Assistants available on Fridays from 10 AM—3 PM in the Genealogy Research Center at the Gilmer County Library. Research Assistants for February: Willie Long and Kathryn Watkins.

Help Us Research!

GCGSI receives research requests from the library and over the internet through our website, email and Facebook page. If you would like to help with some of these inquiries, please email us at gCGSI@hotmail.com to join our Research team!



Remember When

SUBMITTED BY HOLLYANNA HARDY WHITE

This photograph was printed in the 1994 Historical Calendar (month of February) published by the Gilmer Arts and Heritage Association. The calendar was in the collection of Carlton Hardy of Ellijay, Georgia.



Children's Birthday Party 1913

This birthday party for Pearl Penland was held at the home T.Y. Penland on Kell Street in Ellijay in 1913.

Front row, left to right: unidentified but curious baby, Mary Jo Ray, Maureen Smith, Montez Crawford, Erna Chastain, C.H. (Cub) Hyatt on the tricycle.

Second row: Flora Mae Watkins, Pearl Penland, Georgia Prather, Sara Frances Crawford, Mary Teem, Minnie Belle Charles, Bill Cole, Bunice Wimpey, Edwin Hyatt.

Third Row: Mary Simmons, Dorothy Hipp, Lora Greer, Mary Dooley, Charme Tankersley, Laura Belle Greer, Agnes Ray, Oleeta Tankersley, Mildred Westmoreland.

Fourth Row: Gladys Teem

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We're on the web!

www.gcgsi.org

Contact email: gcts@etcmail.com

What Is Available Online?

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



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