

# MOUNTAIN HERITAGE

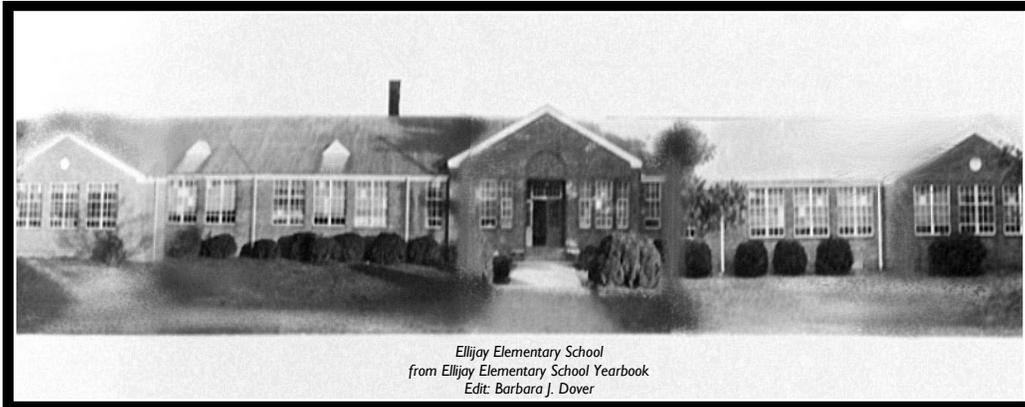
The Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Inc.

September 1, 2017

Volume 5, Issue 3

## LISTENING TO DREAMS

By Barbara J. Dover



*Ellijay Elementary School  
from Ellijay Elementary School Yearbook  
Edit: Barbara J. Dover*

Often when we dream, we tend to time travel, so recently during a deep sleep I traveled back to the Ellijay Elementary Auditorium. Not the new one of which I've never set foot in. But the old one. The one with the musty curtain. The one with the wide wings filled with stacked chairs and an errant math book way back behind those chairs from years before. The one with the wooden floors with the smell of whatever the custodians used to clean wooden floors back then; the little green bits that must have had oil or disinfectant in them that they would strow and then sweep back up. There were always a few little green pieces on the floor around the bolts of the seats that they just couldn't get back. This is the auditorium of my youth and although I can't remember the gist of the dream, I can remember days spent in that room like it was yesterday.



*Ellijay Elementary School Auditorium  
Photo: Johnny Davis  
Edit: Barbara J. Dover*

See **LISTENING TO DREAMS** , page 2.



**LISTENING TO DREAMS**  
*-continued-*



*Miss Mabel Henslee, music teacher  
From Gilmer High School Yearbook*

Not having a regular music room, we would file into that auditorium each week for singing with Miss Mabel Henslee. She was a bombshell, said to be from Miami, who wore bright clothing and statement jewelry before it was a statement. She would play the piano with those bangles jingling while we sang songs of the season. My favorite was "The Easter Parade," because it conjured people in their finery sashaying down streets in New York City. "On the avenue, Fifth Avenue...you'll find that you're in the rotogravure..." I had not a clue about Fifth Avenue and the rotogravure was just a big word. But I could imagine Miss Henslee there, and maybe, just maybe, I'd be there someday. We would sing and sing, and on a warm day, the windows and the door stage left to the outside would be open. On those days, the sounds of the children from the classrooms in the hallway behind the auditorium, playing on the merry-go-round and monkeybars, would provide harmonic background to our unison. I can remember one day, I think in sixth grade, I was lucky to have my then boyfriend sit beside me. He was one of a set of identical twin boys and I prided myself on being able to tell them apart from the beginning. He maneuvered his way in the line so that we were together and as we sat and sang, he slowly slipped his arm around the back of my seat. I could smell clean soap and my heart began to beat time with the fast-tempo song Miss Henslee pounded on the piano. Music class had never been like this before!



*Easter Parade Movie Poster  
Rivistamusical.com*



**LISTENING TO DREAMS**  
*-continued-*



*Lynne Dover in Speech Recital  
Dover Family Photos*

In addition to music classes, Miss Henslee also taught private piano and speech lessons. The auditorium was regularly used for recitals and productions for Miss Henslee's students and they often had themes. These themed productions were called pageants, not to be confused with beauty competitions. I can remember a pageant to celebrate the coming of spring that included a Maypole. I could never remember if I was supposed to take that crepe paper streamer over or under the person I met as we skipped around this wrapped multicolored flagpole. These pageants and recitals gave students a way to perform onstage in front of family and community as individual soloists, duets, trios, quartets, and larger ensembles. Miss Henslee was always just off-stage to give an encouraging wink or smile.

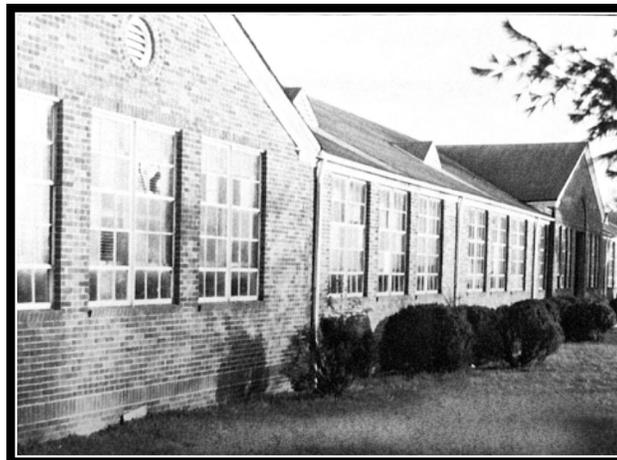


*Ellijay Elementary School Playground and Gymnasium from Football Field  
From Ellijay Elementary School Yearbook*

I became more familiar with the auditorium in sixth and seventh grade when I found I had a penchant for writing skits and plays. I always cast myself in the lead, natch, and made sure my friends also had roles. I would write them to accompany the curriculum discussed in my classes, to enrich and explore the topics. I would tell the teacher that since we rode buses and couldn't get together after school to rehearse, we needed class time to do so. I remember doing this in the sixth grade with Mrs. Gudger and in the seventh grade with Mrs. Stewart. They had read the script and knew the cast, so they let us leave class to practice. If the auditorium was in use for a music class, we would go outside near the football field or behind the gym; but if the auditorium was vacant, we'd be on that stage, playing and acting to our heart's content.



**LISTENING TO DREAMS**  
*-continued-*



*Ellijay Elementary School  
Photo: Johnny Davis  
Edit: Barbara Dover*

I can't remember the actual productions of those plays and if we had an audience other than just that class, but I can remember rehearsing and borrowing makeup for the big day. I know I was always writing skits and plays in 1960's elementary school, but the two that stick in my mind would be relevant today. One was about a biracial student in an all-white school and the things she encountered. I'm embarrassed to say I wore dark makeup borrowed from Mrs. Gudger to portray that role, but it was topical and thought-provoking. The other one depicted the election of the first woman president. Yes, it was me wearing a pantsuit and necktie, because of course that's what the men wore! I went through some speechifying and then the inauguration onstage with my first gentleman by my side. (And it wasn't the same boy from music class!). I'm still waiting for life to imitate that art!

I mourned the loss of that old auditorium when the school was demolished for the construction of a new one. I have bricks from the building that Daddy retrieved from the wreckage and gave to each of us kids. But more important, I have memories of those innocent times that cannot be replaced.



Barbara J. Dover is an Ellijay, Georgia native and a member of the First Families of Gilmer County. She is a retired music educator who taught for 36 years at Inverness Middle School in Inverness, Florida, where she was Teacher of the Year in 1994, and received awards from the Florida Music Educators Association. Her bands have performed throughout Florida including The Straz Center for the Performing Arts in Tampa, The Mahaffey Theatre in St. Petersburg, and Universal Studios in Orlando. She compiled the Hospice Compassus cookbook *Culinary Cuisine* and is currently the Publication Chair for the Gilmer County Genealogical Society. She spends her time traveling between Ellijay and Inverness with her sweet dog Ben(ji) Dover.



## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Sylvia Johnson

Even though we did not have meetings this summer, the Genealogical Society stayed busy. John Davis was invited by the Gilmer County Library to present a Beginning Genealogy class on June 8 that was well attended by the community. Joy Childress has continued to receive and process First Family applications. The committee working on compiling stories and photos for the book on First Families met monthly. Becky Burrell and Gladys Spivey, our research committee, met the last Friday of the month to work on any requests received. We have had volunteers at the Research Room at the Library every Friday. Also, Barbara Dover, our new Publication Chair, was in town from Florida for several weeks. She was out and about a lot, and often at the library events, so she had an opportunity to meet several of you.



Our first scheduled meeting for the fall will be the second Thursday of the month, September 14. On Saturday, September 30, Ken Thomas, a well known genealogist, will be coming for our special event speaking on "DNA: The New Frontier in Genealogy." There is a more detailed article about Ken and his presentation in this newsletter.

On August 10, we had our annual picnic which had added interest this year with entertainment by the Davis Brothers, Vic and Larry, well known talented local blue grass and gospel duo. We also had some very nice door prizes contributed. Thanks goes to everyone who helped make the picnic a success. There seems to be a lot of interest in having the picnic on a Saturday next year so more people can come. When making our plans at the end of the year, we will keep this in mind. Please let us know how you feel about this.

## DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

By Sylvia Johnson



Captain James Kell Monument  
Photo: Sylvia Johnson

We are very pleased that the Daughters of the American Revolution has organized a new chapter in Ellijay, and honored our local patriot Captain James Kell by naming the chapter after him. Six of our members, Betty Riddle, Susan Noles, Gloria Beaudet, Mary Hicks, Tina Gowdy Peavy, and Eurilla Hyatt, are current members of the D.A.R.; and members Mary Jones, Sylvia Johnson, and Charlotte Davis are working to complete the application process. The D.A.R.'s registrar is very helpful with the new applications. The organization's meetings will be held in the Gilmer County Library at 10:00 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month. If interested, please contact Kayla Hudson at 404-550-2336 or [kaylahudson777@gmail.com](mailto:kaylahudson777@gmail.com) for more information.



## WHAT TO TAKE ON A WAGON TRAIN

Submitted by Patricia Hyatt Henson

The following list is what each person was allowed to take with them on the early wagon train migrations.



Per Wagon: 150 lbs. flour or hard bread, 25 lbs. bacon, 10 lbs. rice, 15 lbs. coffee, 2 lbs. tea, 25 lbs. sugar, 1/2 bushel dried peas, 1/2 bushel dried fruit, 2 lbs. saleratus (baking powder), 10 lbs. salt, 1/2 bushel corn meal, one small keg vinegar, pepper.

Clothing per Person: Men: 2 wool shirts, 2 wool undershirts. Women: 2 wool dresses. Both: 2 pair drawers, 4 pair wool socks, 4 colored handkerchiefs, 1 pair boots and shoes, poncho, broad-brimmed hat.

Miscellaneous per Family: Rifle, ball, powder, 8-10 gallon keg for water, 1 axe, 1 hatchet, 1 spade, 2 or 3 augers, 1 hand saw, 1 whip or crosscut saw, 1 plow mold, at least two ropes, mallet for driving picket pins, matches carried in corked bottles.

Sewing Supplies: (Placed in buckskin or stout cloth bag), stout linen thread, large needles, thimble, bit of bee's wax, a few buttons, buckskin for patching, paper of pins.

Personal Items: 1 comb and brush, 2 toothbrushes, 1 lb. castile soap, 1 belt knife, 1 flint stone per man.

Cooking: Baking pan (used for roasting coffee), wrought iron or tin mess pan, 2 churns (one for sweet, one for sour milk), 1 coffee pot, tin cup with handle, 1 tin plate, knives, 1 coffee kettle, fry pan, and wooden bucket for water.

Bedding per Person: 1 canvas, 2 blankets, pillow, 1 tent per family.

Medical Supplies: Iron rust, rum and cognac (both for dysentery), calomel, quinine for ague, Epsom salts for fever, castor oil capsules.



## GENEALOGY 101

By Barbara J. Dover

John Davis, Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Inc.'s treasurer, presented "Genealogy 101," a program about getting started with tracing your genealogy, on Thursday, June 8, at the Gilmer County Library. Attendees learned different resources for researching and had an opportunity to create a descendant chart.



John Davis





## **BACKWOODS MEMORIES: BEING FORCED TO INTENTIONALLY CATCH THE MEASLES**

Written by George Huston in 1904

Submitted by Brenda Cochran



And here, [Eastern Kentucky] I was born in the year that my grandfather died. There were already three children in the family, but they were all daughters. My father and mother both ardently wished for a son and there was great rejoicing over the birth of the first boy when I appeared at last on the fifth of February 1821.

There was no physician in the neighborhood at that time. Doctors were indeed few and far between in my own recollection. But trusty midwives were to be had and the most widely and well known of these was Aunt Franky McFarland, a large fleshy old woman who rode a black horse.

She was summoned from far and near and came eight miles to assist in bringing me into the world.

My earliest distinct recollection goes back to a time when I could not have been over four years old.

In the fall of that year my father, who was always fond of hunting in a country abounding in game, took me out for a little hunt. He soon found a squirrel in the top of a tree.



**BACKWOODS MEMORIES:  
BEING FORCED TO INTENTIONALLY CATCH THE MEASLES**  
*-continued-*

Pointing to the small bunch of gray fur he shot and down came the squirrel.

I ran and picked it up, but the little creature was only wounded and grasped my left hand in his teeth and firmly held on to his bite. Pain and fright caused me to scream. Father freed my hand and after killing the squirrel carried me home in his arms.

To this day I bear scars showing the marks of the squirrel's teeth.

Another very early experience that impressed itself upon me was going with my elder sister to the house of a neighbor in order to get the measles, and this I believe occurred in the same year.

It is hard to understand the reason for taking such a step as this, possibly, may have been regarded at that time when medical science thereabouts was in its infancy, much as vaccination or inoculation is regarded in these days.

At all events, the heroic measure proves my mother to have been a woman of courage of firmness and great strength of character one who was able to do what was generally thought to be the best in the face of all her natural fears.

Accordingly, we were sent in the charge of Aunt Nancy and told to kiss the children who had the complaint which was then prevalent in the neighborhood.

We did as directed and both my sister and I forthwith took the disorder and certainly had it quite as thoroughly as could have been desired.

And during the entire time that we were ill with the measles we were confined to a dark room and allowed scarcely any food and were given nothing to drink but nauseous hot teas made out of the leaves of the sage bush or the bark of sassafras roots.

And even these drinks were without sweetening for mischief was then supposed to lurk in sugar.

Long years after my Aunt Nancy told me that the main purpose in sending us was to insure our having the disease in the spring of the year when it was thought to be less dangerous than at any other season.

If so, the purpose was served — for when we were permitted to look out of the window the apple trees were in bloom truly a beautiful and charming sight for children in our condition.



## LOST AND FOUND

By Barbara J. Dover

*(Occasionally, when looking to purchase old or unusual picture frames, members will find old family photos in consignment shops or thrift stores. This column will feature photos that have been lost in hopes that they will be recognized by members and returned to their families.)*



This photo was found in a beautiful antique picture frame by Danny Mashburn at the Cartecay Church Thrift Store in Ellijay. The frame itself was gold and wood and it had wavy glass. If you recognize him as someone in your family or an acquaintance, please email [gcs@etcmil.com](mailto:gcs@etcmil.com).

## First Families Book

By Karen Titus

We continue to move forward with the book. It has been tough to get the information and pictures and stories but some participants have outdone themselves with their efforts. We are so thankful to Gladys Spivey and Brenda Cochran especially for "shepherding" some applicants through the process of gathering and organizing their family materials. The formatting team continues to do awesome work and everyone will be excited to see their final product. There are still some who are working on their information.

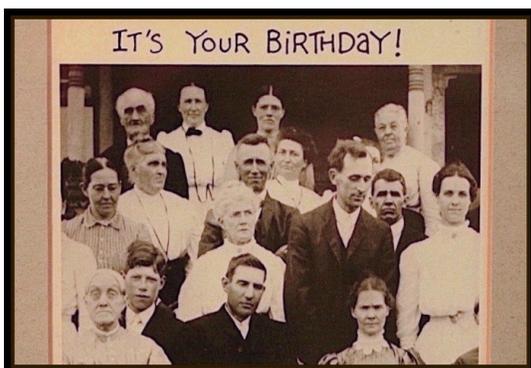


Book Committee: Karen Titus, John Davis, Gladys Spivey, Patricia Henson, Tina Peavy, Brenda Cochran, Kathryn Watkins, and Sylvia Johnson.



## FAMILY BUYS HILARIOUS BIRTHDAY CARD FOR GRANDPA; FINDS OUT IT HAS OLD FAMILY PHOTO

From *The Epoch Times*

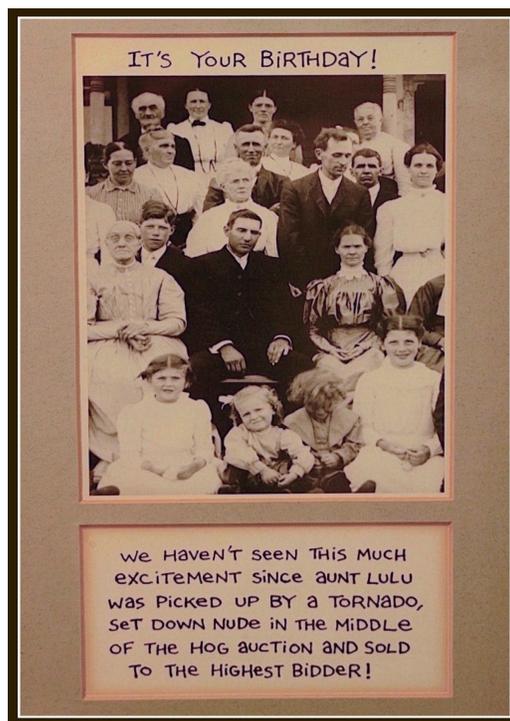


A family from rural Kansas was shopping for a card for Grandpa's 74th birthday, when his 12-year-old granddaughter found a card they just had to buy.

Her mother, Jan Amstutz, laughed after reading it, but wasn't sure they should get it. It was pretty silly.

The card had a very old-fashioned family photo on the front, with everyone looking very stern and serious. On top it said, "It's Your Birthday."

Inside, the card read, "We haven't seen this much excitement since Aunt Lulu was picked up by a tornado, set down nude in the middle of the hog auction, and sold to the highest bidder."



See **FAMILY BUYS HILARIOUS BIRTHDAY CARD FOR GRANDPA;  
FINDS OUT IT HAS OLD FAMILY PHOTO**, page 11.



**FAMILY BUYS HILARIOUS BIRTHDAY CARD FOR GRANDPA;  
FINDS OUT IT HAS OLD FAMILY PHOTO**

*-continued-*

Jan looked at the photo on the front and started to laugh again, saying that one of the boys in the photo looked a lot like her grandfather, who was Grandpa's (Dr. Robert Kirk) father. She looked again and said another woman looked like her great-grandmother. Of course, she thought it was just a funny coincidence. They finally decided to get the card, hoping it would make Grandpa laugh.

"I remember calling my dad before his birthday, telling him to closely look at the card," said Jan. "He called me on his birthday all excited."

Grandpa and other family members who lived in Ohio, realized it was a real photo of their actual family! They eventually found out it had been taken in 1906, at a wedding, and the funny couple in the center were the ones getting married. They were also able to locate the original photo the card was made from, which Grandpa had never seen before.



"They were able to identify almost everyone in the photo," Jan said.

1. Louis Kirk, dad 2. Mary Kirk, grandmother 3. Charles Morlan, uncle 4. Nathan Kirk, grandfather 5. Aunt Rachel 6. Aunt Anna 7. "Happy couple" Louis Morlan, groom with new bride, Eva Courney

Some family members who saw the card almost laughed until they cried!



The family went back to the store and bought every single one of the cards and framed them, and now they're hanging on the wall of nearly every member of the family.

A family member wrote a letter to Hallmark about the card and received a response saying, "Occasionally we purchase old photos from a company that has collected them from old photography studios that are no longer in business. It is possible this is part of that group."



## GCGSI Annual Picnic

By Rebecca Burrell

We had an enjoyable time at our annual picnic at the ETC Pavilion on Thursday, August 10, despite the rain! Entertainment, food, beautiful setting, new First Family members inducted, door prizes, and fellowship combined together to create the perfect recipe for our picnic!



**Fruit Dip**  
1 Cup powdered sugar  
1 box vanilla pudding  
1 cup milk  
1-8 oz. cream cheese  
1-8 oz. tub cool whip  
Mix all ingredients until smooth  
Serve chilled  
Use strawberries, grapes, Cantaloupe, apples or fruit of choice

*Recipe: Gladys Spivey*



See **GCGSI Annual Picnic**, page 14.



### GCGSI ANNUAL PICNIC

-continued-



**Shoe-Peg Corn Salad**

- 2 (15 oz.) cans green peas (Drained)
- 2 (11 oz.) cans shoe-peg corn (Drained)
- 1 (4 oz.) jar pimentos (Drained)
- 2 Large onions (finely chopped)
- 6 Stalks celery (finely chopped)
- 1 Bell pepper (finely chopped)
- 3/4 cup white vinegar
- 1/2 cup oil
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 tablespoon black pepper or to taste
- 1 tablespoon water

Heat vinegar, oil, sugar, salt, pepper and water until sugar dissolves. Cool.

Pour over vegetables. Let stand 24 hours in refrigerator. Stir occasionally to coat vegetables. Before serving use slotted spoon to dip vegetables from liquid.

*Recipe: Gladys Spivey*

## WE CONNECT - GILMER COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

By Patricia Hyatt Henson

Fall is a special time in Gilmer County, especially the second and third weekends in October. It is the time for the 46th Georgia Apple Festival which is held at the Lions Club Fairgrounds just south of Ellijay. This event, sponsored by the Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce with assistance from the cities of Ellijay and East Ellijay, had approximately 60,000 in attendance at the 2016 four-day event. There are many on-site demonstrations and products from the over 300 vendors which include handmade, hand-crafted items, specialty foods, and of course, apples and apple products from the many apple growers of Gilmer County. In conjunction with the Apple Festival, an antique car show is held at the Civic Center, an Apple Festival Parade, an Arts and Craft event held in downtown Ellijay, a 5K road race, and the Ellijay Apple Queen Pageant. All in all, fun can be had by everyone whether you are 6 or 60. Keep the weekends open and make your plans to attend some if not all of the events.

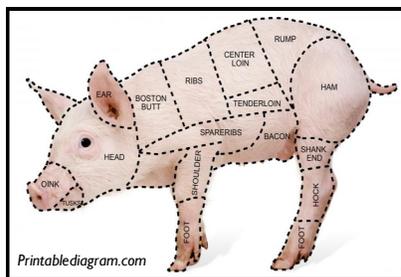




## RECIPES OF OUR FOREFATHERS

By Gladys Spivey

### The Hog



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. To put in bread skins were cut in small pieces.

#### Crackling Bread

To make crackling bread, sift corn meal and add salt soda and a little lard. Add cracklings and 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 intestines 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 make fried 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 hot water to remove inner skin. Par-boil the tripe, cut into pieces and dip in batter and fry until golden brown.



**RECIPES OF OUR FOREFATHERS**

*-continued-*

**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.

Here is another recipe I didn't eat.

**Poke Sallet**



Photo: myext.com

Poke Sallet 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 to the sallet and stir until the egg is done.

**Leather Britches**

Leather Britches is a dried green bean. Pick the green bean when the bean in the green pod is full. Wash and dry beans. Remove ends and strings. Use a large darning needle and white thread and push the needle through the bean pod near the middle of the bean. Push bean along thread so they are about 1/4 inches apart. Hang strings of beans up in a warm, well ventilated place to dry. The beans will shrivel and turn a greenish grey. When dry, place beans in an air-tight container until winter. On a cold day in winter wash beans, then cover with water and soak overnight. Drain, renew and parboil slowly for thirty minutes. Drain again, cover with fresh water, cook beans slowly with ham hock or salt pork until beans are tender. Serve with cornbread.



Photo: flannelacres.com



## FIRST FAMILIES OF GILMER COUNTY

By Joy Childress

The First Families program is designed to honor the pioneers who settled in Gilmer County in 1840 or before and to recognize the descendants who become members of this program. We encourage anyone who is directly descended from early settlers whose names appear on the 1840 or any prior Gilmer County Census to apply. Discovering your Gilmer County roots can be challenging and exciting. Your research can serve as a source of information for generations to come. An approved applicant receives a certificate and pin acknowledging this Gilmer County ancestor. Applicants are not required to currently reside in Gilmer County. For more information, please visit our website at: <http://www.gcgisi.org/firstfamilies/html>.

First Families Committee: Gladys Spivey, Patricia Henson, John Davis, Brenda Cochran, Sylvia Johnson, and Joy Childress.



Logo: Leslie Barker Thomas

### FIRST FAMILY MEMBERS ADDED DURING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2017

#### NEW MEMBERS

Rebecca Holt Amerson  
Edith Harper Pinson  
Marcus Edward Pinson  
Sylvia Jane Pinson  
Janice Dover Watson  
Laurel Brooke Watson  
Deborah Miller Wilcox

#### ANCESTORS

Larkin Holt  
Nicholas Robert Osborn  
William Allen, Jr.

## INDUCTION OF FIRST FAMILY MEMBERS AUGUST 10, 2017

Descendants of Rev. Nicholas Robert Osborn

Photos: Rebecca Burrell



Left to Right: Joy Childress, FFC; Barbara J. Dover, descendant; Lynne Dover Lawson, descendant; Devin James Lawson, descendant; Janice Dover Watson, descendant; Sylvia Johnson, FFC; and Edith Harper Pinson, descendant.

Descendant of William Allen, Jr.



Left to Right: Joy Childress, FFC; Deborah Miller Wilcox, descendant; and Sylvia Johnson, FFC.



## RESEARCH CORNER

By Rebecca Burrell

CGCSI member Gloria Beaudet is looking for place of burial for Lettie Smith Ralston Powell in Gilmer County. Some say she was buried at Salem Baptist Church. Can anyone help?

On Gilmer County Genealogy Facebook page Tanya Nalley is interested in finding information regarding the Milton Family in Gilmer between 1882 - 1898; especially re: Harriet "Hattie" Adelina Milton Fowler 6/17/1882 - 1/10/1963 who was married to Luke Fowler in 1898 in Rabun County. She wants to know who her parents were, said to have been killed in an accident while Hattie was a small child and she grew up in a non-biological family.

Lori Harrison O'Dell [plinkette@aol.com](mailto:plinkette@aol.com) is searching for information regarding her paternal great grandfather who is buried at Tails Creek Baptist Church. He died during the Spanish flu epidemic, possibly January, 1919. He lived in Forsyth County and had been working in Copperhill, Tennessee. She would like to find any local records of his death.

Beth Long Leidner (615-504-7705 [beth.long@yahoo.com](mailto:beth.long@yahoo.com)) is searching for information on the Long family. Her descendants are James R.; David Henry Medical; William; William Wiley; and Josiah J. Long. Are there any long-lost cousins out there who can help her?

Ginger Marine ([lilynhazensgrandma@gmail.com](mailto:lilynhazensgrandma@gmail.com)) would like to find the name and place of the offlog where her father, Richard Raymond Minton, who volunteered for service in WW II, was kept. He rose to rank of Captain and was in the 3rd Army Engineering Corps. During the Battle of the Bulge in December of 1944, he was captured where he remained until escaping shortly before Patton liberated the camp.

Fuller C. Jones ([cnsjones@bellsouth.net](mailto:cnsjones@bellsouth.net)) needs the death certificate of Sarah Walker McClure who died February 5, 1909 in Gilmer County. She was the wife of Milas McClure. He also would like a photograph of the gravestones of Susannah Pettit Walker and her husband John Walker. Gladys Spivey and I went to Tickanetley but were unable to locate these gravestones.

Betty Priest Mitchell on Facebook was searching for the gravesite of Isabelle Izzy Goble Bramlett 1833-1857 or 1858 at Talona Baptist Church. Can anyone help as she is not listed in the cemetery books?

Linda Flowers-Barnwell on Facebook is looking for ancestors of William Lewis Flowers and Elizabeth Flowers.

Dave Kingsella (503-577-7117 [dakingsella@msn.com](mailto:dakingsella@msn.com)) is looking for information on Sarah Ann Dillard, daughter of John Love Dillard and Sarah Jacobs, possibly born in Gilmer County October 18, 1843. She was found in the Gilmer County census in 1850 with parents and siblings. The 860 census shows Georgia Militia District 1025, Fannin County, Georgia. In 1880 she is in Van Buren County, Arkansas with her husband William P. Hutchins. He would like any further information, especially marriage records.

Anyone who is interested in helping the research team, meet us at the library at 10:00 a.m. on the last Friday of the month unless the library is closed.





## DNA BUILDS NEW BRICK WALLS

By Sylvia Johnson

DNA can not only help tear down long-standing brick walls, it can also create new ones! Ironically this one is between Mrs. Louise Brooks Thomas and me. Mrs. Thomas is the mother of well-known Georgia genealogist, Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., our featured speaker for the GCGSI special event on Saturday, September 30. Ken's mother was only 92 years old in January 2015 when he first emailed me about the possible second to fourth cousin DNA match between his mother and me. She is now almost 95 and after over two years we have still not made our connection. We both would be thrilled if he can accomplish this between the time this Newsletter is published on September 1 and when he speaks to our group on September 30!



*Sylvia Johnson and Ken Thomas  
Photo: Sylvia Johnson*

He will probably cite our story during his presentation which is titled "DNA: The New Frontier In Genealogy." Part of our problem is we have Johnsons generously woven through both families. There are more Johnsons than Joneses in the United States. Second only to Smiths! With Autosomal tests, half the DNA comes from each parent and before the chromosomes are passed along to you, they are randomly jumbled in a process called recombination. Your parents and grandparent have received DNA through this same process so you are getting a smaller percentage from previous generations. Even siblings don't have exact DNA. In our case, Ken's mother and sister match me, but Ken doesn't! No one said this was going to be logical or easy. Ken and I have spent a lot of time working on this and occasionally we would get what we hoped would be a very good prospect, but to no avail.

There is also a phrase and abbreviation "Non-Parental Event/N. P. E which appears in genetic genealogy. We have not come to this conclusion in our situation but it is not unusual to come across it. Actually it covers rather a large number of possible circumstances which occurred fairly often in the past and still happens today. There is a break in between the Y Chromosome, which is the all-male; father to son, father to son, and the continuation of the same surname. Such a break could be caused by a formal or informal adoption; when two people that tested do not share the same birth father; and any a situation where children don't use their biological father's surname, perhaps use their mother's maiden name or a stepfather's name. An alias is used or a name is changed. (Wikipedia)



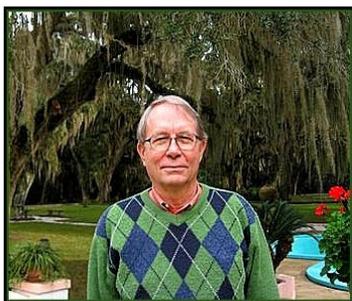
**DNA BUILDS NEW BRICK WALLS**

*- continued -*

“Don’t ever give up” is definitely a motto of all genealogists. Sometimes putting research aside for a while and revisiting it later will give you a new perspective. Since we have gotten closer to Ken’s planned visit, he and I have been looking at some new information and reviewing some of our files. His mother is doing great. When I ask about her he always says, “She’s sharp as a tack!” I wish someone could say that about me!

**DNA: THE NEW FRONTIER IN GENEALOGY  
A GCGSI SPECIAL EVENT  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30-2:00 P.M.  
GILMER COUNTY LIBRARY**

Genealogist Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr. will present an introduction to genealogy testing -- a description of what each test and its results look like at the two major DNA testing companies, followed by an emphasis on what each type of test can show to help with understanding personal genealogy. There is an emphasis on case studies, results that Ken has had that enhanced his understanding of his own family tree and shook, if not solved, some of his long-standing brick walls. His goal is to encourage more people to complete DNA testing so that their results can benefit others besides just themselves and to bring to everyone who attends the fact that DNA testing results are more than just one's ethnic origins profile as often seen on TV. Ken wants participants to know that all personal DNA results lead to real people whose ancestry is somehow shared and the fun part is trying to figure out how.



*Genealogist Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.*

*Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr. has been the genealogy columnist for the Sunday edition of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution for forty years since May 1977. He is a 9th generation Georgian who is a frequent lecturer on genealogy and historical topics, most recently on DNA. A native of Columbus, Georgia, he is an Emory University graduate and a U S Air Force veteran. He worked 33 years with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in the Historic Preservation Division, working with research on historical properties and with the National Register of Historic Places, retiring in 2006.*



## GOING HOME

By Donna DeMoe Lehr

When I reflect on my years growing up in northern Minnesota, I smile as I think of Olcott Park located in the middle of town. Olcott has a greenhouse and gardens that were enviable around the state; still are. There is a fountain on the west side of the park that is surrounded by a rock wall that was built long ago by the Civilian Conservation Corps. In fact, the whole park is surrounded by a stone wall with arched wrought iron gates that are locked at dark.



Virginia, Minnesota  
www.wikiwand.com



Olcott Park  
www.wikipedia.com

There is a bandstand where the city orchestra and band play once a month on Saturday nights. The “old folks” bring their lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on. The last time I was there, I sat on a blanket with my former classmates. Our parents, for the most part, are gone. We listened to the music with nostalgia and remembered how, as children, we ran around the grassy hills of the park while our parents gathered around their friends and family to exchange stories, ate food, and drank Kool-Aid.

At dusk, we would sneak over to the fountain and try to catch the teenagers kissing by the fountain where the water changed colors as it spouted 15 feet into the air. It was almost as cool as watching fireworks on the Fourth of July at Silver Lake, across the street from the park.



Olcott Park Fountain  
www.mnhs.org

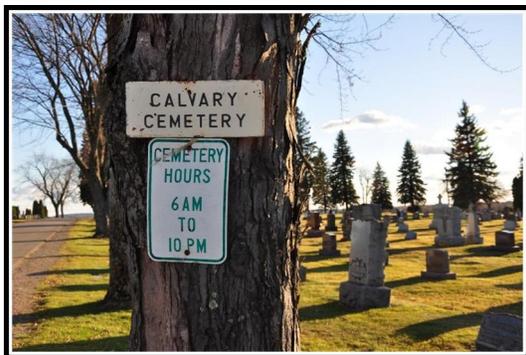
See **GOING HOME**, page 22.



### GOING HOME

-continued-

Sometimes it's tough "going home." I walk around familiar places but find that the faces are no longer familiar as I look for someone who might recognize me (or I them) and be able to share a story of our grandparents or parents, brothers or sisters.



Calvary Cemetery  
Virginia, Minnesota  
[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)

I leave the park through a gate near the fountain. The path leads to the Calvary Cemetery. The tall marble monuments announcing family final resting places are everywhere. The cemetery's rolling hills go on for acres and acres. The grass is neatly manicured, the flowers around the gravestones are fresh and the names are familiar.

The walk through the cemetery is almost refreshing as I touch the stones bearing my family's names; DeMoe, Jenkins, Lakner, Roskoski, and Kraker. It gives evidence of a past life; mine and theirs'. These people were real! I look at the dash between the Date of Birth and the Date of Death and think of all the living that happened between those years. I smile through the tears and tell everyone how much I still think of them.

Yes! You can "go home" but it's never the same. We call Ellijay, Georgia home now. We have friends who have become our family and enjoy special occasions with them as we have created memories throughout the years.

As we reminisce with our southern-born friends, we find that growing up in different geographical areas is not so different after all. All of us enjoy a picnic, a concert, and a walk through a beautiful park and talking about our experiences as kids. We discuss what it was like growing up in an area where our generation was second or third in the U.S.A. Most of our grandparents spoke in foreign languages in addition to English. Some of our southern friends describe the care and diligence of proving that they are D.A.R. or Sons of the Confederate Vets, cotillions, and high school boarding schools. These are terms that we only read about in books.

How wonderful that we can learn about others when we listen to the stories! The heritage will be forgotten if the upcoming generations don't want to hear or read about it. We must be diligent and keep the memories alive; those we are proud of and those we may not be so proud of. Keep telling the stories, my friends. Somebody is listening...



# BULLETIN BOARD

By Donna Lehr

## September 2017

- Thursday, September 14  
GCGSI Monthly Meeting  
Gilmer County Library-2:00 p.m.  
Speaker: Tom Cox  
("Before the Cherokee" - Evidence of Colonization Before the Cherokee and Creek)
- Saturday, September 30  
Special Event  
Gilmer County Library-2:00 p.m.  
Speaker: Genealogist Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.  
("DNA: The New Frontier in Genealogy")
- Genealogy Research Center Volunteers  
Gilmer County Library  
Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
September 1 - Karla Duke  
September 8 - Gladys Spivey  
September 15 - Susan Noles/Sylvia Johnson  
September 22 - Patricia Henson  
September 29 - Rebecca Burrell

## October 2017

- Thursday, October 12  
GCGSI Monthly Meeting  
Gilmer County Library-2:00 p.m.  
Speakers: Authors Ren and Helen Davis  
("Our Mark On This Land: A Guide to the Legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps in America's Parks)
- Genealogy Research Center Volunteers  
Gilmer County Library  
Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
October 6 - Gladys Spivey  
October 13 - Jan Cooler  
October 20 - Susan Noles/Sylvia Johnson  
October 27 - Sylvia Johnson



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Gilmer County Genealogy Society, Inc.  
Publication Chair



School Walk  
Norman Rockwell  
1957

## November 2017

- Thursday, November 9  
GCGSI Monthly Meeting  
Gilmer County Library-2:00 p.m.  
Speaker: Local Historian and Veteran Sandy Lyons
- Wednesday, November 22 - Library Closes at 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 22 & Friday, November 23 - Library Closed Happy Thanksgiving!
- Genealogy Research Center Volunteers  
Gilmer County Library  
Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
November 3 - Patricia Henson  
November 10 - Library Closed/  
Staff Development Day  
November 17 - No Volunteers/Decorate Tree  
November 24 - Library Closed/  
Thanksgiving Holiday



This edition of the  
Mountain Heritage Newsletter  
is dedicated to the memory of  
Larry H. Orr,  
13 Feb 1949-22 June 2017.  
Mr. Orr is the son of member  
Mildred Davis Orr Barie.

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



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

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## What Is Available Online?

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

