

# MOUNTAIN HERITAGE

The Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Inc.

September 1, 2018

Volume 6, Issue 3

## Homecoming

The word “Homecoming” has many different connotations for many different people. Some people think of it as a time for relatives to come together once a year, usually at a Thanksgiving meal. Some people think of it as a returning to your alma mater for a football game with your arch-rival team or a class reunion. And throughout the South, churches will designate a date for another type of coming together and returning. This date, usually in the summer, brings people together to visit and lay flowers upon the graves of dear departed family members as they remember and celebrate their lives. A special service is held with a sermon about the ultimate Homecoming, followed by a covered dish dinner with delicious family recipes shared with the church members and guests, and oftentimes, gospel singing takes place after the meal. Whatever your meaning of Homecoming, it is a celebration of past and present life with people with whom you share experiences and heritage. This feature is a special collection of Homecoming stories from our membership, memories from days long past or from recent weeks. We hope you enjoy it and that these stories inspire you to attend your own personal Homecoming and celebrate life!

(All photos in this feature by Barbara J. Dover unless marked otherwise.)

### Homecoming as a Preacher's Kid

Rebecca Burrell

As the kid of a Baptist preacher, I have experienced many Homecomings. It was always a busy morning getting all the food cooked and packed up, and all the girls dressed in their new dresses. I don't know how Mama did it. Now I can barely get a dish or three ready to spread with the rest of the family!

The week before Homecoming we would have to go clean off the graves as most cemeteries were not maintained as they are now. It was called Decoration Day and Homecoming. The flowers were placed on the graves before the service. We did not make flowers but I had an aunt that made beautiful flowers from crepe paper that were then dipped in wax to preserve them.

There would be a service in the cemetery at 10:00 a.m., then into the sanctuary for the church service after which we would adjourn for lunch outside on the long tables under the shade trees. No one had fellowship halls then as most churches have now. After lunch we returned to the church for a song service. Nowadays it's like a family reunion; as soon as everyone eats their lunch, they are gone!

Rebecca Burrell's father was Hoyt Hales. He was pastor of Sunlight Baptist Church and his first church was Berean Baptist. He was pastor of several churches in Cherokee County as well. Becky is the Corresponding Secretary of GCGSI.



Sunlight Baptist Church; Ellijay, Georgia  
Established 1918  
Celebrated 100-year birthday on Aug. 12, 2018



## Homecoming

-continued-

### Homecoming at Mountaintown Baptist Church: May 20, 2018

Barbara J. Dover



Mountaintown Baptist Church; Ellijay, Georgia  
established March 24, 1840

One of Gilmer County's oldest Baptist Churches, the original structure was thought to be constructed of logs. After this, three other frame buildings have been erected. Little is known of the first frame building. The second, built in 1916, was a large white wood building located farther up the hill than the present structure. The last, constructed in 1947, has been remodeled into the present church building.



It was definitely a coming home, going back to the church where Grandpa was a deacon and Mama was raised; where Daddy's Grandpa was ordained as a minister in 1906; where Mama and Daddy were married; and the list goes on and on. I almost burst into tears during the congregational hymn "Surely Goodness and Mercy," the song that The Dover Girls used to sing every year at the after-dinner singing, with Janice tickling the ivories and our young voices straining on the high notes. And after the offertory, I accepted the invitation along with others in the congregation, and joined the choir in the singing of "When We All Get to Heaven;" "In the Sweet By and By;" and "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder." Felt like old times!

After the service, the meal was more than just covered dishes! Crockpots with beef roasts, chicken and dumplings, heaping bowls of green beans, platters of fried chicken, huge chicken casseroles, corn casseroles, fried squash, various salads, and homemade cornbread were just a few of the entrees and sides. The dessert table was heavily laden as well with the quintessential church dinner dessert: banana pudding in all its meringuey goodness! Of course there were cheesecakes, layer cakes, cookies, congealed desserts, and pies to satisfy every sweet tooth. I so enjoyed visiting with "cousins" still living, people who knew and love Grandpa Clinton, Grandma Vera, Wanda, Hank, Edith, and Billy. I tried to get them to tell me some tales but no one would give up anything, either because there was nothing to give up or because of the fear of self-incrimination.

I loved seeing the old photos on display in the fellowship hall, many with family members at various church functions. And most important of all, before I left that little steepled church in the Mountaintown community, I quietly visited the resting places of loved ones, letting the memories flow over me.

*Barbara J. Dover's maternal and paternal ancestors had strong ties to Mountaintown Baptist Church, with ministers on both branches of her family tree. Barbara is a First Family Member of Gilmer County and Publication Chair of GCGSI.*



Mountaintown School Building used in late 1800's and early 1900's.



Hansel & Wanda Dover  
Resting in Peace



J. G. Dover (3rd from right)  
1906 Ordination at MBC

See *Homecoming*, page 3.



## Homecoming

-continued-

### Decoration Day at Cross Roads Baptist Church

Gladys Spivey



Cross Roads Baptist Church; Ellijay, GA  
organized November 12, 1878.

The original church stood just across the road from the present church building. It was used for many years, then in conference on May 14, 1960, it was decided to build the present church building. In 1991 a steeple was added to the building.

When I was a child, Homecoming was called Decoration Day with Dinner on the Grounds at the little country Cross Roads Baptist Church. The church was established about 1878. My Great, Great Grandfather was the fifth member of the church. My mom Jewel Dotson attended Sunday School and church services there when she was young, and all her relatives are resting in the cemetery.

The third Sunday in May was always a day we looked forward to. We knew there would be family members at the decoration we hadn't seen for a year. A week before the decoration, my mom, Granny Miller, Aunt Pearl Miller, and I were busy making crepe paper roses to be placed on the graves of loved ones that had passed on. The Saturday before the decoration was a busy day baking cakes and pies and all the other goodies for the dinner at church.

On Sunday there was a service in the cemetery at 10:00. Flowers were placed on the graves of loved ones. At 11:00 there was a service in the church, and about 1:00 when the preacher ran out of steam, several of the men carried several wooden benches to the yard for the ladies to spread the bountiful feast. The dinner was never spread on the ground.

After dinner, the afternoon was devoted to singing. After the singing service was over, the relatives would visit for a while knowing it would be another year before we saw them again.

When I was older, Decoration Day became known as Homecoming and we purchased premade flowers. Mom continued carrying on the tradition of going to Homecoming and placing flowers on the graves of loved ones who had passed on.

Mom is gone now, so my sister and I carry on her tradition of placing flowers on the graves of our loved ones. As we place the flowers on the graves, we remember moments and memories we have of all the loved ones who have passed on.



Ready for dinner!

Gladys Spivey's people were from the west side of Gilmer County, in the Tails Creek area. She is a First Family Member of Gilmer County and currently serves as the Recording Secretary and Historian of GCGSI.

See *Homecoming*, page 4.



## Homecoming

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### Homecoming Up North



1940's Family Reunion Photo at Olcott Park in Virginia, Minnesota submitted by Donna Lehr.

Donna Lehr

The “Homecomings” that I am used to were called “family reunions”. They were held in the summer at someone’s lake cabin or cottage in northern Minnesota. Aunts, uncles, and cousins would come in from all over the state of Minnesota, as well as California, Chicago, New York City and Canada. Sometimes we had as many as 100 people attend.

The guys all grabbed lawn chairs and lined them up near the lake shore so they could watch the kids swim and play. The women were always busy preparing the food, setting the tables; picnic tables outside and tables in the screen porch and kitchen. A lot of us kids would grab a plate and sit on the dock with our feet dangling in the water. We would hurry up and eat so the *hour we would have to wait after eating* would go by faster! Once we were done with those paper plates, they were tossed into the fire pit where we would enjoy a bonfire at dusk.

A lot of my relatives migrated to the USA from Eastern Europe in the late 1890's. Some of the aunts didn't speak English well and had to be interpreted so they could converse. Their hair was long and braided into a “bun” on top of their heads and covered with a hairnet. They always wore dresses and had funny looking shoes. The ladies smiled a lot and pinched cheeks. That was interpreted without them speaking, “You're growing up so fast!”

The meal was traditional picnic food; hotdogs, hamburgers, all the side dishes; potato salad, slaw, beans and then there were the European sides that we saw only once a year. Some looked and tasted better than others. Oh, how I wish I could taste some of the goodness now!

At dusk, we would start the bonfire and when the coals got hot, we would place potatoes among them so they could roast. In the meantime, we would toast marshmallows until they were either crispy brown or charred black!

The next day, after attending church, the families would go over to the cemetery to visit our relatives who went on before us.

As I write this, these bittersweet memories bring smiles and tears.

Donna Lehr is the First Vice-President and Program Chair of GCGSI. She is also the Secretary of Homeward Bound Pet Rescue, Inc.

See *Homecoming*, page 5.



## Homecoming

-continued-

### Homecoming: Moreland Baptist Church in Moreland, Georgia

Sylvia Johnson



Original Painting of Moreland Baptist Church by Sylvia Johnson.  
(The church was without a steeple for quite a few years before it was replaced.)

Moreland Baptist Church in Moreland, Georgia, always holds Homecoming on the Second Sunday in August, the first day of their Revival. My mother, Nettie Johnson, was always there. She was there at church twice every Sunday and once during the week unless there was Women's Missionary Union meeting and then she was there another time. She taught the Eight-Year-Old Children's Sunday School class for forty years. She read her Bible daily. She brought her son Murphy and daughter Sylvia to church every Sunday until they grew up and moved away.

She was married to a wonderful man, Levoit Johnson, who loved her very much. He told her so every day. He thanked her for every meal she prepared. He came to church on Homecoming, the only day of the year he ever came. He was not a churchgoing man. Usually on Sunday morning he polished the children's shoes and hers also if they needed it. Their children never heard them say a cross word to each other. There was certainly a discussion about church-going at some point in their marriage. He was a member of the Moreland Baptist Church. He died at age 69. The entire front of the church from floor to ceiling was covered in flowers. There was never a doubt in my mother's heart or mind that he went to heaven.

*Sylvia Johnson loves to help people with their DNA Test results. She is a member of the D.A.R. and is the President of GCGSI.*

See *Homecoming*, page 6.

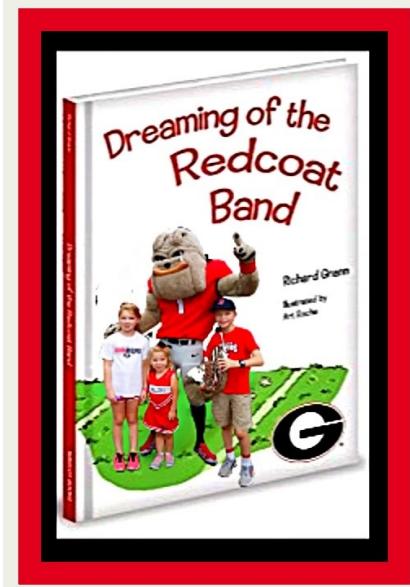


**Homecoming**  
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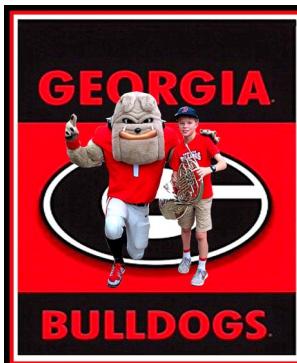
**Dreaming of the Redcoat Band Day**

**Owen, Olivia, and Charlotte Dover**

**Editor's Note:** In 2012, author Richard Gann wrote the book *Dreaming of the Redcoat Band* about the University of Georgia's phenomenal Redcoat Band. In this children's book, he drew on his experiences as a Redcoat alumnus in a story of how a Dad helps realize his child's dreams of running across Sanford Stadium as a member of the Redcoat Band. In 2016, the UGA chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota; the international women's music fraternity whose mission is to encourage, nurture, and support the art of music; created a day where other children's dreams of being in the Redcoat Band can come true. From the start of the day where author Gann reads his book, to the end where the dreamers get to perform with the Redcoat Band at the Dowg Walk and take selfies with the UGA mascot Hairy, the day is filled with Redcoats! These honorary members learn official UGA stand tunes and cheers from members of the Redcoat Band, practice marching on the Redcoat Field, and try out marching uniforms and instruments! Owen, Olivia, and Charlotte Dover attended this event in 2016 and 2017, and shared their memories of this unique University of Georgia Redcoat Band Homecoming in an interview with their Aunt Barbara.



Owen Dover; Charlotte Dover; Hairy; Owen Dover



Owen Dover and Hairy

**1. What were your feelings when you saw and heard the Redcoat Band come onto the field marching and playing?**

**Charlotte:** It made me happy. It was exciting to see them so close!

**Olivia:** My feelings were everywhere in that moment because it was just bizarre when I saw the Redcoat Band playing.

**Owen:** I have been there 2 years and it was still very exciting!

**2. The day is made up of "stations" where participants rotate in groups to learn various things, from music to marching and cheers to conducting. Tell us a little bit about what you did at each station.**

**Owen:** Well, in 2017, the first station my group went to was conducting and we learned how to conduct "Glory, Glory to Old Georgia." The next station was the chants and we learned the chants the Redcoats used when they weren't playing music. After that, we learned how to march while using our instruments and the basic moves the Redcoat Band does. The next station was testing different instruments that we didn't already play. I tried to play trombone which was weird because I don't have long arms. Then we moved to the center of the field and tried on Redcoat uniforms. The next station was the least useful of all because it was the snack break but our group had it last, 20 minutes before lunch. After lunch, we spent time learning the Redcoat Band music in our groups and I grouped with the mellophones because the horn grows up to be a mellophone in marching season. (I got to try the mellophone in an earlier session.)

**Olivia:** There were so many stations to go to and it was really exciting like the song station where we learned the songs that are in the Redcoat Band; also the cheering station when we learned the cheers. There was a marching station where we learned to march like the Redcoat Band, and there was a station that you got to try out instruments.

**Charlotte:** I didn't get to do the stations because I was too young, but I wish I could have tried on the costume.

See *Homecoming*, page 7.



## Homecoming

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### "Dreaming of the Redcoat Band Day"

Owen, Olivia, and Charlotte Dover

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#### 3. What was your favorite station and why?

**Owen:** I liked the marching because it was fun and gave me the actual feel of marching band.

**Olivia:** My favorite station is the song and cheer stations because they make me happy and proud.

#### 4. How did it feel to be on the Redcoat Marching Band's practice field working with Redcoat Band members?

**Charlotte:** It was fun to play with my toys, march, run, and play Frisbee on the field.

**Olivia:** It felt exciting because we were actually on the Redcoat Band practice field and working with actual Redcoat Band members!

**Owen:** Some of the staff were current Redcoat Band members but most were alumni. To be honest, in 2016 I felt so cool being on the actual practice field, but in 2017 it just felt like a regular field.



Olivia Dover and Hairy

#### 5. Did you enjoy the break time drinking water, eating snacks, and making new friends?

**Owen:** Considering that our break time was 20 minutes before lunch and was the last station, all that was left were graham crackers. I didn't meet new people during the snack break but I did at the different stations.

**Olivia:** I did enjoy drinking water, eating snacks, and hanging out with friends and making new friends.

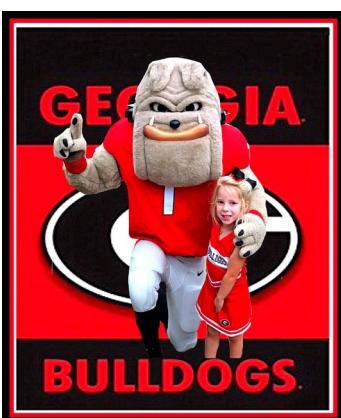
**Charlotte:** I liked making new friends.

#### 6. If you tried on a Redcoat uniform, how did it make you feel? How do you think you looked?

**Charlotte:** I didn't get to try on the uniform. If I had, I would have felt really good and happy. I know I would have looked good!

**Olivia:** When I tried on the uniform I was hot; and I think I looked funny because the uniform was big.

**Owen:** Well, it made me feel good at first but then I realized that marching band members and other people had been wearing it so it was sweaty. I think I looked pretty snazzy wearing it, but it was a little big.



Charlotte Dover and Hairy

#### 7. Did you feel proud at the end of the day when you performed with and had photos made with Redcoat Band members?

**Owen:** Yeah, I did because when we were practicing the music, I had different notes from the mellophones around me and that made it difficult, but I pulled through and did it anyway. I was proud to be on the front row of the group picture and it made me feel important.

**Olivia:** I did feel proud because I am the daughter of a father who was in the Redcoat Band!

**Charlotte:** I was very proud.



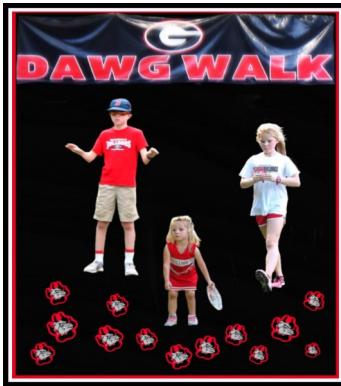
## Homecoming

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### "Dreaming of the Redcoat Band Day"

Owen, Olivia, and Charlotte Dover

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On the Dawg Walk: Owen Dover conducting; Charlotte Dover playing Frisbee; Olivia Dover marching

8. Did you enjoy meeting the Bulldog mascot Hairy and being at the Dawg Walk in Sanford Stadium?

**Charlotte:** Of course, I did! I was so excited!

**Olivia:** I did enjoy that because I met HAIRY the dog!

**Owen:** I'm sorry to burst your bubble, but Hairy was just a person in costume, but I enjoyed it anyway. I got my picture made and it was cool hanging out with him.

9. What was your favorite part of the day?

**Owen:** Hmm...probably the Dawg Walk because even though the music was challenging, I did my best and it turned out okay.

**Olivia:** My favorite part of the day was the Dawg Walk.

**Charlotte:** My favorite part was getting to meet Hairy.

10. Would you like to participate in Dreaming of the Redcoat Band Day again?

**Charlotte:** Yes!!

**Olivia:** I would love to!

**Owen:** It was different the second year and I had more fun, but my friend that always comes with us was sick so I felt bad for her. But yeah, I would like to do it again!

11. Do you want to go to UGA and be a part of the Redcoat Band when you're older?

**Owen:** Well, right now I'm kinda thinking of being an engineer so Georgia Tech would probably be the best school for me, but I'll always be a G-E-O-R-G-I-A fan! And during the Chick-Fil-A Bowl, I'm going to wear all red!!

**Olivia:** Yes, but I will have to think about it.

**Charlotte:** Yes! I want to play the xylophone! It's so much fun to play!



Owen Dover is in the eighth grade at Pinckneyville Middle School and plays Horn in F in his school band. He is an active Boy Scout and a First Family Member of Gilmer County.



Olivia Dover is in the sixth grade at Simpson Elementary and receives private piano instruction. She is on the Spalding Corners' Sharks Swim Team and is a First Family Member of Gilmer County.



Charlotte Dover just started kindergarten this year at Simpson Elementary. She sings in the Parkway Baptist Church Children's Choir and is a First Family Member of Gilmer County.



## Homecoming

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### Homecoming and Decoration Celebrations at Liberty Baptist Church

Charlotte Davis

Homecoming and Decoration have long been a tradition of churches. Many “city churches” who did not have their own cemetery only celebrated Homecoming. The event was usually held in late spring or early summer. Liberty Baptist Church holds its celebration on the third Sunday in June. Homecoming usually means “Dinner on the Grounds.” Many churches have built a special shed on their property for that purpose. Everyone brings their special recipes, enough for their family and to share. Frequently former ministers were invited to return and preach. It was a social event to gather and catch up on the happenings of the last several months. Decoration was usually accomplished on the Saturday before Homecoming. It was a time for families to visit the cemetery and spruce up their relatives’ grave sites and place new flowers on the graves.

These are my memories of Homecoming and Decoration at Liberty Baptist Church. On the Saturday before Homecoming, we would bring new flowers to the cemetery and clean up around our families’ graves. We always walked the cemetery and made sure that all our family members’ graves had been cared for, with new flowers and spruced up. The cemetery was very beautiful after Decoration.

We lived out of state when I was in grammar school but we always made sure that we came back on the third Sunday in June. On Sunday we would have church until noon and then all of my aunts, my mother, and my grandmothers would put their food together on the outside tables. Everyone would wait until after the preacher had blessed the food. There were no chairs, so we all stood up to eat. After the meal, we would all go inside the church for an afternoon of singing and a sermon or two.

*Charlotte Davis is a First Family Member of Gilmer County as well as an active member of GCGSI and the D.A.R.*

See *Homecoming*, page 10.



Liberty Baptist Church; Ellijay, Georgia

The church was organized as Liberty Missionary Baptist Church on October 21, 1888. Services were originally held in a building on Flat Creek Road. The present tract of land was bought from F. M. Davis in 1891 and a frame structure was used until 1946, at which time a building with several Sunday School rooms was completed. The present brick church was dedicated on October 31, 1976.

Among notable revivals at Liberty Baptist Church was in 1917 when the Rev. J. G. Dover was pastor. Around 50 members were added during this August revival. In 1965, the Rev. Edmund Miller conducted a revival which added 37 new members to the church.



Liberty Baptist Church Cemetery



## Homecoming

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## Homecomings

Lica Simons



Boll Weevil Monument  
Photo: Wikipedia

I was born and raised in Enterprise, Alabama. Enterprise is best noted for its Grecian statue, similar to the Statue of Liberty, who holds an enlarged replica of a beetle above her head, a Mexican Boll Weevil to be precise. This weevil, which was traced from Texas to Alabama in 1915, was responsible for destroying 60% of the cotton crops and forced farmers to begin planting peanuts in response to the devastation. By 1917, Coffee County produced and harvested more peanuts than any other county in the nation. It's no wonder that the weevil was added to the existing statue, and proudly sits in the middle of Main Street to this very day. Yes, we pay homage to a bug. Nostalgia comes in many forms; to me, it is the scent of peanuts roasting at the Sessions Peanut Plant upon arriving on the outskirts of downtown Enterprise.

My favorite memories are from my Granny and Granddaddy Grimes' farm in the small community of Goodman, Alabama. In the summers, I remember riding in one of the old trucks to the ice house. The drive-through was brisk and pungent with salt. They would lower a big chunk of ice using giant tongs into the bed of the truck and quickly cover it in feed sacks. Once we made it home, we took an ice pick to the frozen slab and filled the ice box, and the rest we kept covered in the hand-cranked ice cream freezers. Granny always made vanilla custard and peach ice cream. Being the smallest, my job was to sit on top of the freezer on a feed sack while it was being turned by the younger cousins. I'll never forget the feel as shards of ice traced their chilly rounds on my numb little back side. As it froze and became more difficult to turn, the larger cousins took turns sitting and turning. The heavenly taste of that hard-earned delicacy and the feeling of camaraderie and love that went into each batch have yet to be matched!

See *Homecoming*, page 11.



## *Homecoming*

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"*Homecomings*"

*Lica Simons*

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Enterprise Alabama Water Tower  
Photo Wikipedia

Just like the Alabama song, "My Home's in Alabama," we played baseball with chard rock (and anything else we could hit with a stick) in the cow pasture. It's a miracle that one of us did not lose an eye, and the only fatalities would come clean with Tide. We'd gather around the rusty smelling pump house and share the icy water it produced from a communal long handled ladle. We never thought about catching germs from each other back then, nor food poisoning from the leftovers and lard collected and stored atop the stove, nor the big wooden biscuit bowl Granny covered with a dish towel and stored under the counter.

At Thanksgiving, we'd gather for church and lunch, and afterwards, Granddaddy would hook a mule to the wagon and take us to pick out a Christmas tree. All of the cousins got to vote on the tree, and then he would mark it. Later he would go back and cut it down and have it ready for us to decorate on Christmas Eve. In addition to the old glass ornaments and icicles we used every year, we made popcorn garlands and paper ornaments to hang from the branches. Of course Granny made hot chocolate with fresh whole cow's milk, cocoa powder, white sugar, and a pinch of salt. We enjoyed breakfast for dinner (supper), and played loads of board games to keep us occupied in the parlor during the cold December weather.

At my last sleepover at my grandparents' house, I slept in the front bedroom with my infant daughter, Danielle, who is now 38. I remember Granny piling what seemed like 10 handmade quilts on top of us and the down mattress I'd watched her flip in half and beat with a rug hook so many times before making the bed. And just at dawn I recall waking and finding her sneaking in to stoke the fire in the hearth in our room. I remember the smell of wood smoke, brewed coffee, and bacon in the frying pan...all of which to this day resonate of family, belonging, and unconditional love.

*Lica Simons is a member of GCGSI and is also actively involved in the Angels Among Us Pet Rescue Organization.*

See *Homecoming*, page 12.



## Homecoming

-continued-

### *Shadows of the Stones*

*Laurel Brenda Cochran, 2018*

We thank you oh Jesus, as we gather at the stones that mark our loved ones lying,  
for this is Holy ground.

We come here to remember and honor them.

After a starting prayer, a few songs and a little preaching,  
we talk about our loved ones who are in the yard, in the shadows of the stones,  
awaiting rapture of their bodies.

Then we go into the little Scrougetown Community Church to have a few more songs  
and preaching, shouting,  
and with thanksgiving testimonies.

Afterward, we take lunch under the churchyard shed,  
as it is spread with all kinds of good home cooking.

We visit and reminisce,  
as we look over the graveyard filled with beautiful flowers that had been placed days before.

I love Homecoming Day/Decoration Day and a closing prayer...



Scrougetown Community Church; Ellijay, Georgia

Scrougetown Baptist Church was built on land bequeathed by Dennis Cantrell with the stipulation that it be used as a place of education or worship. The building was used as a one-room schoolhouse from 1859 until the Civil War when school was suspended. School resumed there in 1870 until 1898. After the Civil War, a Baptist preacher named Scrougetown came to preach there and that's how the church got its name. In 1899 a new building was built, and then the community church was established and the present building constructed in 1923.



Photo: Hollyanna Hardy White

*Laurel Brenda Cochran is a First Family Member of Gilmer County and has served in several capacities as a member of the GCGSI Board. She is currently serving on the First Family Book Committee and helping to complete the book for its upcoming publication.*



## The President's Corner

Sylvia Johnson

Wow! We think we overdid it this summer! From previously having the summer off to having three events of our own and one jointly with the library! Plus the annual picnic in August! Everything was a resounding success, but wow! Each event is covered elsewhere in this newsletter.

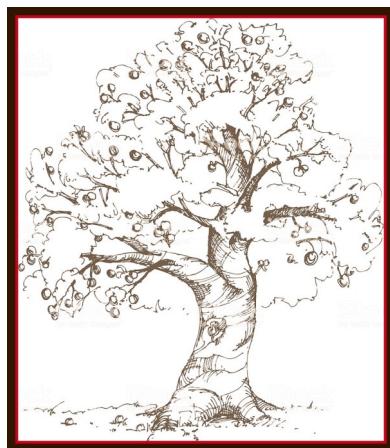


In addition to the events, your board met several times this summer. We had the same waitress at IHOP so many times, she knew our orders. We only went to Mucho Kaliente one time and had virgin margaritas. At least I think they were! Needless to say, a lot of behind the scenes planning is necessary to make these events go smoothly.

The picnic was wonderful after a rainy morning start. Great prizes were procured from businesses in Ellijay and Jasper as well as from individuals. The list of contributors will also be in the newsletter. Please thank these folks even if you were not a winner. Let them know how much we appreciate their donations.

Our first meeting in September will be on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Just a couple of weeks away. Our Nominating Committee will be forming in October and we have openings on the board for next year. We are going to need a First Vice President whose main job is Program Chair, and a Second Vice President/First Family Chair. If you are interested in joining our board, ask me or the people who now hold those positions what they entail. Donna Lehr is our current First Vice President and Keely Chalk is our Second Vice President. Or if you would just like to be on the nominating committee, please let me know.

We have a busy fall coming up with great programs planned. Welcome back!





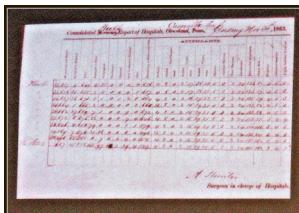
## Third Quarter Highlights 2018

Photos by Barbara J. Dover  
unless marked otherwise.

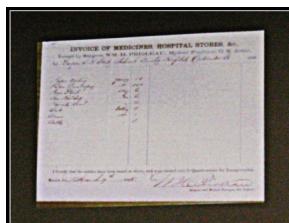


### DR. SAMUEL HOLLINSWORTH STOUT, CONFEDERATE SURGEON JUNE 26 PROGRAM

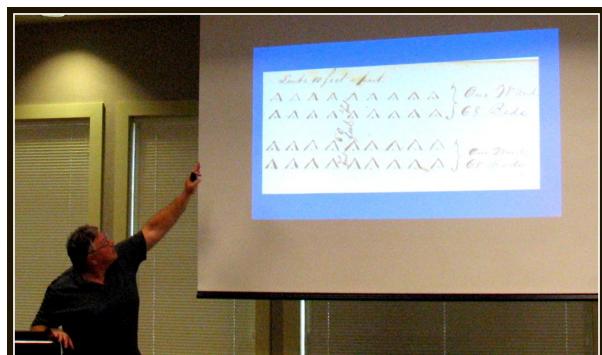
On Tuesday, June 26, Brad Quinlin returned by popular demand to present a program about Dr. Samuel Hollinsworth Stout, a surgeon during the Civil War, who “revolutionized” medical services for both Union and Confederate soldiers.



Cleveland, Tennessee Hospital Records  
November 1863



Confederate Hospital Medicine Invoice



Brad Quinlin explains Dr. Stout's layout for the hospitals during the Civil War.

### THERE'S GOLD AT THAT THERE LIBRARY! GOLD PANNING AND TALK JULY 12



Panning for Gold: Left: GCGSI Treasurer Susan Nolles' grandsons Zach Nicholson and Jake Nicholson; Right: GCGSI President Sylvia Johnson.

The Gilmer County Library and GCGSI co-sponsored a “Keep What You Find” program of Gold Panning and Talk on July 12. Members of the Weekend Gold Miners Prospecting Club provided a gold panning experience followed by a talk about Dahlonega’s actual Gold Rush Days.



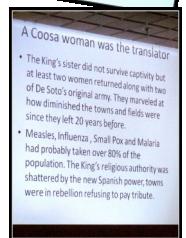
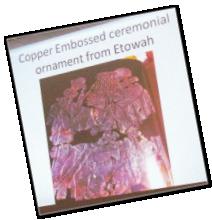
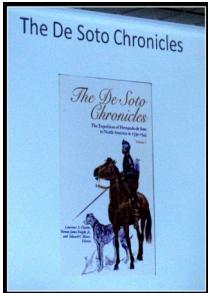
**Third Quarter Highlights 2018**

-continued-

**COOSA AND COOSAWATTEE  
JULY 19 PROGRAM**



Wayne Hooper



**Coosawattee**

- Coosawattee is Cherokee for "Old Creek town" or "Old Coosa Town"
- Coosawattee and Ellijay become a Cherokee Villages after 1750. Cherokee villages took different sides during the "French and Indian" war depending on who offered them the best trade deal. The British offered to freeze immigrant and settlers to the East of the Appalachian mountains to get their support.

Former GCGSI President Karen Titus presented "Digging for Your Roots," an introduction to genealogy workshop, on Saturday, July 28. She explained how to organize family data, what resources are available, and how to use the data with the resources to create your family tree all the way down to its roots.



Karen Titus

**DIGGING FOR YOUR ROOTS  
JULY 28 WORKSHOP**



**Third Quarter Highlights 2018**  
-continued-

**GCGSI ANNUAL PICNIC**  
**THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2018**  
**ETC PAVILION**

The day began with rain, but by noon the sun was shining as were the smiles of the members and guests at our "Homecoming" by the Coosawattee River.



GCGSI Treasurer Susan Noles and Kayla Hudson



GCGSI First Vice-President Donna Lehr and President Sylvia Johnson



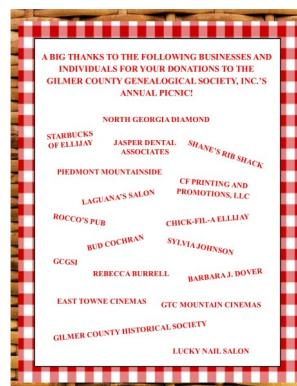
GCGSI Corresponding Secretary Becky Burrell and Earl Cagle



Sandy and Bill Williams



Prize Table



See **Third Quarter Highlights 2018, page 16.**



**Third Quarter Highlights 2018**  
-continued-

GCGSI ANNUAL PICNIC  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 9  
ETC PAVILION  
-continued-



Shirley Wells, Earl Cagle, and Rob Hicks



John Davis and Willard Jones



Lica Simons and Christian



Jane and Royce Hughes



GCGSI Recording Secretary and Historian  
Gladys Spivey



Earl Cagle, Donna Lehr, Gladys Spivey, Susan Noles,  
Karen Freeman, and Sylvia Johnson



GCGSI Events Chair Mary Hicks,  
Shirley Wells, Rob Hicks, and Mary Jones

See **Third Quarter Highlights 2018, page 17.**



**Third Quarter Highlights 2018**  
-continued-

GCGSI ANNUAL PICNIC  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 9  
ETC PAVILION  
-continued-



Wayne Hooper, Donna Lehr, and Ruth Ann Wycoff



Christian



Donna Lehr, Becky Burrell, and  
GCGSI Second Vice President Keely Chalk



Willard Jones and Levi Haire



Willeen Davis, Sylvia Johnson, Earl Cagle, Gladys Spivey, and Keely Chalk



Mary Jones, Chris Miller, and Karen Freeman



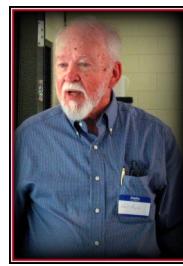
Sandy Williams, Sylvia Johnson,  
and Charlotte Davis



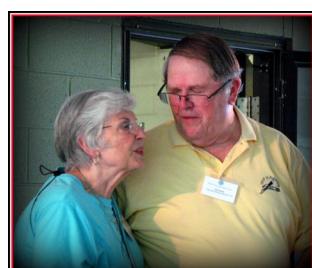
Karen Freeman and Kayla Hudson



GCGSI President Sylvia Johnson presents Earl Cagle with  
Honorary Lifetime Membership to GCGSI.



Charter Member Earl  
Cagle thanks GCGSI for  
award and talks of the  
early years of GCGSI.



GCGSI President Sylvia Johnson presents John Davis  
with a gift for his many years of service as a  
Board member of GCGSI.



## Research Corner

Rebecca Burrell



Does anyone have details on the death of John L. Hamby who lived and died in Ellijay? Great grandson Jamie Cox at [jamiecox@icloud.com](mailto:jamiecox@icloud.com) would like to have documentation of the event (auto accident) that took the life of Mr. Hamby.

Stephen Allen at [lstephenboise@gmail.com](mailto:lstephenboise@gmail.com) would like confirmation that Samuel Allen was the father of William Allen born 1753 and died 1834.

Tie Dyed and Southern Fried at [carliebee62@gmail.com](mailto:carliebee62@gmail.com) would like to know who the father of her great grandpa, Howell Cobb Winters, was. Did they move here from another state?

Marie Brown @ [mattb03@aol.com](mailto:mattb03@aol.com) is looking for death record, obituary, or death certificate of her great grandfather, William Henry Steelmon, who died in 1951. He is buried at Hopewell Baptist Church in Murray County and was a resident of Gilmer County.

On Gilmer County Genealogy Society, Georgia site:

Allie Farooq has question about her great, great grandmother, Eliza Walker Bruce who was first married to Harris Gilliam Bruce, second to Creed Hipps, and then to Thomas Decoursey Bruce.

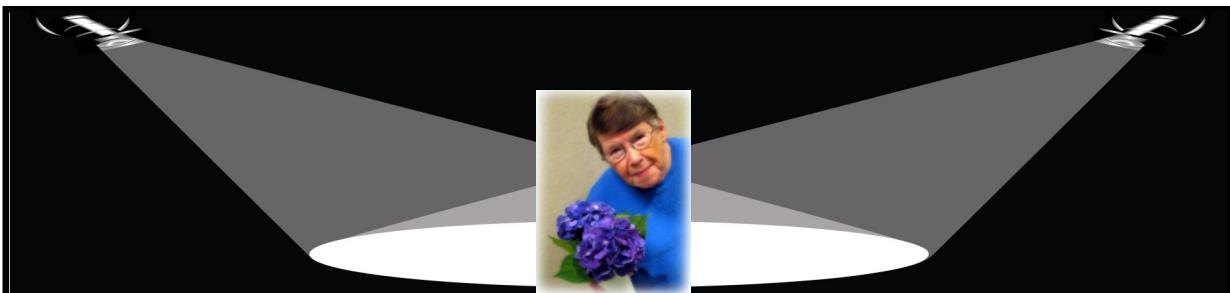
Sheri Wild would like to find parents of Satiza/Suttiza Davis born 1826/27 who married John Thurman in Gilmer County May 31, 1846. She died in Polk County, Tennessee in 1900.

Maryfaye Kecko is wanting to know of resources for Davis family as her DNA test results show Davis connections in this area.

Letitia Clark needs information on Moses Carr Clark, her husband's great, great, great grandfather.



## GCGSI MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: GLADYS DOTSON SPIVEY



I was born in Gilmer County, the eldest of six children. My first years of my education were in the country schools of Gilmer County. In the early fifties I started to town school (Ellijay High School).

I dropped out of high school when I was seventeen but later went to night school and got my GED. I started to work for The Davenport Hosiery Mill after leaving high school, and I worked there until the plant closed. While I was working at the hosiery mill I got married to Weyman Spivey and had a daughter and son. Both of my children graduated from Gilmer High School. My daughter has two sons, and my son has a son and a daughter. My eldest grandson has two sons and two daughters.

In 1972 I started to work for the Robertshaw Controls Company. I worked for this company for 26 years. In 1997 the Robertshaw Controls Company moved to Mexico so I worked my last eight months in Nueva Laredo, Mexico.

When I retired in 1998, I came back to Gilmer County and spoiled the grandkids, worked in my garden and joined the Gilmer County Genealogical Society. I am a First Family Member of Gilmer County and have been a board member of GCGSI for the last six years, currently serving as Recording Secretary and Historian.

My husband Weyman passed away in 2010. We were married for fifty years.

Photo by Barbara J. Dover



## First Families of Gilmer County

Keely Chalk

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.gcgci.org/firstfamilies/html>.

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



Logo: Leslie Barker Thomas

### First Family Members Added During The Third Quarter Of 2018

New Members	Ancestors
Samuel J. Pankey	Cornelius Goble, Sr.
Justin Smith	Josiah Clayton
David George Spivey	Abraham Darby Pence
Gary Spivey	Abraham Darby Pence
Justin Emmanuel Spivey	Abraham Darby Pence
William Ernest Spivey	Abraham Darby Pence

## First Families Book

Karen Titus

We are continuing to press forward on the First Family book. The reports from our committee as well as those from the ladies who are formatting the materials are very positive. The committee met on July 27 and agreed that we were making good progress and are ready to find a publisher. The general feeling is that we can have the materials ready for publication before the end of the year. There has been a great deal of work by the contributors the committee members and the editorial group of two who have spent so many hours on this book. We are excited about the quality of the work done to date. Everyone who has contributed is going to be so proud of the final product which will be a terrific legacy.





## COMING SOON TO A BOOKSHELF NEAR YOU

### *The First Families of Gilmer County, Georgia*

In the mid-1600's, when the seductively alluring Appalachian Mountains summoned, our ancestors came calling on the Lord and the land. Bringing with them the courage to survive the perilous journey by wagons and by foot, traveling through rutted and muddy mountain trails, rushing rivers, and sudden weather changes, crippling accidents and wild animals.

Consider that once they arrived they had to build a rustic log shelter for both themselves and their livestock, clear and plow the land, then plant the seeds they brought with them as there was only wilderness here.

This book contains true stories using manuscripts, diaries, letters, journals, oral histories, images, maps, and government documents. Not only is it a literary achievement, but also an important historic record. Of course, within the pages you will find a little dusting of folklore, to reveal the voices and faces, and for fun and love.

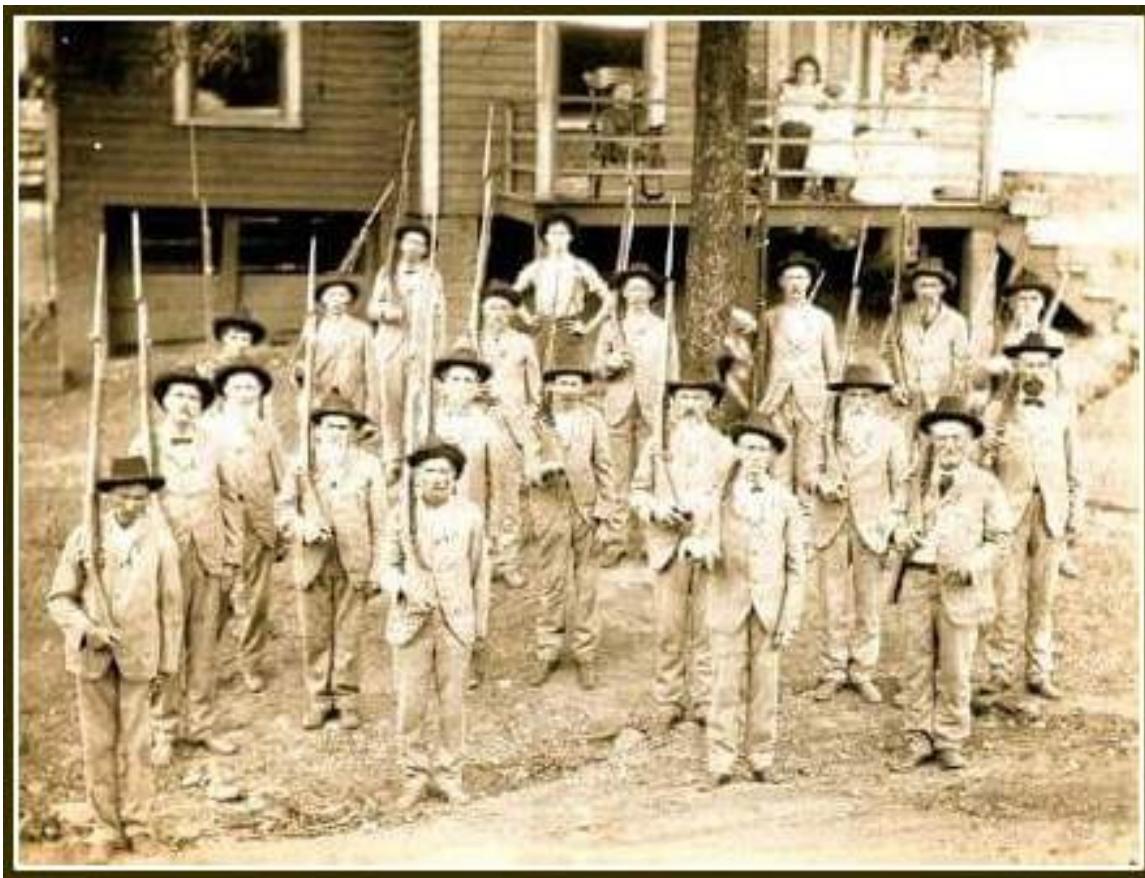
Defining the pioneer experience with unforgettable stories of everyday people who became immortal through this book, you will travel back in time to our most inspiring and exciting period in our area's history. You will cry, laugh, and love the people and stories!

Discover this beautiful book about the pioneers that settled this land and their descendants.



## Who Are They?

Below is a photo of what appears to be a Gilmer County CSA Soldier Reunion taken possibly between 1900-1905. As this is probably a reunion photo taken well after the end of the Civil War, it could include members from several companies. Gilmer County had soldiers in Company F of the 60<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry Regiment (originally Company F, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Georgia Infantry,) as well as Company A of the 65<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry Regiment. (Rosters of Confederate Soldiers can be found at files.usgwarchives.net.) This photo was sent to GCGSI member Gladys Spivey by an elderly relative several years ago, and it was posted on a Facebook group of historical old photos of Gilmer County requesting comments and identification. Resulting from this post, a few of those pictured have been identified. Private David Dotson is the man second from the right. The man in the back in short sleeves was a Thompson and one of the men in the photo was James Griggs. There is a possibility that the photo was either taken at the Dotson or Thompson home. If you have any ancestors who were members of the CSA regiments that were still alive in 1905, it is possible that they are in this reunion photo. Please help us identify them. Share this information and the photo with family members who also might be able to help. Email us at gilmergenealogy@gmail.com if you recognize anyone. Please state the soldier's location in the photo, his name, company, rank, and any additional information. We will try to follow up with this in future newsletters.





## GETTING TO KNOW YOU



(Editor's Note: This feature provides an opportunity for members to meet one another through the publication of short autobiographies. If you would like to share your autobiography, please email us at [gilmerngenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:gilmerngenealogy@gmail.com).)

### Susan Noles

Susan is an Army Brat, being born in Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, the second child and only daughter of a career soldier and his wife.

Susan retired as an Administrative Supervisor in the Cobb County Community Development Department in December of 2003.

Before moving to Ellijay in 2014, Susan and her husband Bobby lived in Hiram, Georgia where they restored a historic home in downtown; but when Bobby decided he wanted to move to the mountains, Susan told him she was going too.

Susan's interests include quilting, genealogy, and being a good "Mimi" to her 3 grandsons: Zach, Ryan, and Jake. She has been a member of the Gilmer County Genealogical Society since 2015 and presently serves on the Board as Treasurer.



Susan Noles is pictured here with her 2017 Gilmer County Fair Blue Ribbon-winning quilt that she made for her grandson Jake.



## Bulletin Board

Donna Lehr, First Vice-President  
and Program Chair

### September 2018

- Monday, September 4 - Labor Day
- Thursday, September 13  
Gilmer County Library  
2:00-3:30 p.m.  
Speaker George McClellan, author of *Perilous Paths*, will discuss passages from his book, a historical account of explorer Robert McClellan who made his way west in the early 1800's by working as an army packer, an Indian scout, Army Ranger, and a spy.
- Genealogy Family Research Center Volunteers  
Gilmer County Library  
Fridays from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
September 7 - Trish Henson  
September 14 - Rebecca Burrell  
September 21 - Deborah Wilcox  
September 28 - Mary Hicks  
(Research Team: 10:00-12:00)

### October 2018

- Thursday, October 11  
Gilmer County Library  
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Speaker Preston Lawhorne, author of Part One of his autobiography *Life is a Puzzle With a Few Missing Pieces* will address "Things I Wish I'd Asked Grandma."
- Saturday, October 13 - Sunday, October 14  
Saturday, October 20 - Sunday, October, 21  
Georgia Apple Festival  
Ellijay Lions Club Fairgrounds
- Gilmer Family Research Center Volunteers  
Gilmer County Library  
Fridays from 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
October 5 - Trish Henson  
October 12 - Gladys Spivey  
October 19 - Deborah Wilcox  
October 26 - Sylvia Johnson  
(Research Team: 10:00-12:00)



*Birthright, 2017*  
Mequitta Ahuja (American, b. 1976)

### November 2018

- Tuesday, November 6 - Election Day: Vote!
- Thursday, November 8 -  
Gilmer County Library  
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Speaker Dr. John Kay will speak about the legacy of poet/author Byron Herbert Reece and the BHR Farm and Heritage Center located in Blairsville near Vogel State Park.
- Gilmer Family Research Center Volunteers  
Gilmer County Library  
Fridays from 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
November 2 - Trish Henson  
November 9 - Rebecca Burrell  
November 16 - Mary Jones  
Festival of Trees: Tree Decoration  
November 23 - Library Closed  
November 30 - Research Assistant Unavailable
- Thursday, November 22 – Thanksgiving Holidays  
Friday, November 23 (Library Closed)

### December 2018

- Thursday, December 13  
GCGSI Christmas Gathering & Installation of Officers  
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Coosawattee Shrine Club Lodge  
102 Shrine Club Drive; Ellijay, GA



Mountain Heritage Newsletter  
Published by Barbara J. Dover,  
Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Inc.  
Publication Chair



# EXTRA! EXTRA!

## Georgia Archives 100 Years: Where We Are Now Flattening the Counties of Georgia: Creating Access to Court Records

### Free Behind-the-Scenes Tour at the Georgia Archives

On Saturday, September 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., the Georgia Archives will be presenting a new tour “Georgia Archives, 100 Years: Where We Are Now; Flattening the Counties of Georgia: Creating Access to Court Records.

This will be a behind-the-scenes tour of the process of protecting and preserving court records in our Conservation Lab. There will be step-by-step examples of the process. Currently, reference staff and preservation staff have been working on facilitating access to 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century court records from Hancock County. This process includes humidifying and flattening the tri-folded documents, removing dirt and mold residue as necessary, labeling folders with case names, and putting them in chronological order. Each unfinished box becomes two or three finished boxes ready for access by archives patrons.

After observing this process, the tour group will go to the first floor to our Original Documents Reading Area (ODRA) in our Reference Room to see the processed court records and hear the unique stories and information of what court records can contain.

The tour is free. No registration is required. Please wear comfortable shoes.

## Genealogy Jamboree and Pioneer Day

DESTINATION CUMBERLAND GAP, TENNESSEE  
WHERE GENEALOGY AND HISTORY RUN THROUGH THE STREETS.

October 19-20, 2018 [www.GenealogyJamboree.us](http://www.GenealogyJamboree.us)

Sponsored by: CGTGHG



Free Event

Free Event





*Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Inc.  
P. O. Box 919  
Ellijay, Georgia 30540*

Email Address: [GCGS@etcmail.com](mailto:GCGS@etcmail.com)

*Remember the days of old,  
consider the years of many generations;  
ask thy Father, and he will shew thee;  
thy elders, and they will tell you.*

Deuteronomy 32:7

**Book Order Form  
SALE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!**

**Quantity      Amount**

**Days Gone By - \$40.00 50% OFF! ONLY \$20.00**

This is a book compiled of the writings of the late Ernest Parker, a Gilmer County Native and historian. Much of this material was originally published In the Ellijay *Times-Courier* newspaper.

**1953 Video: A Day in Ellijay - \$20.00 50% OFF! ONLY \$10.00  
(Available in VHS or DVD)**

This film donated by the Leroy Abernathy family depicts a day's events in Ellijay, Georgia in late Spring, 1953.

**Reflections on Mountain Heritage - \$35.00 48% OFF! ONLY \$18.00**

This book relates times past and the methods practiced on the mountain homestead. Included are recipes, family care, old sayings, superstitions and traditions, tales from the mountains, memories and reminiscences. This book received a state award.

**Family Legends of Gilmer County - \$45.00 (Published in 2009.)**

This is a 500-page compilation of stories by contributors that wished to record their ancestors' and current family's histories. It includes a 1500 surname index, photos, recollections, and memoriam.

**Poetry from the Mountains - \$20.00 OVER 50% OFF! ONLY \$8.00**

This book is a collection of poems by Gilmer residents and/or their ancestors/descendants.

**Subtotal**

*If shipped, please add \$5.00 for shipping and handling costs.  
Books may be also purchased at GCGSI meetings and activities.*

**TOTAL**

**BOOKS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT "WALLS OF BOOKS" IN EAST ELLIJAY,  
AT GCGSI MONTHLY MEETINGS, AND FROM RESEARCH ASSISTANTS  
ON "RESEARCH FRIDAYS" AT THE GILMER COUNTY LIBRARY!**

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



The Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Inc.

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The Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Inc.  
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Ellijay, GA 30540

**We're online!**  
[www.gcgsi.org](http://www.gcgsi.org) Contact email: [gcts@etcmail.com](mailto:gcts@etcmail.com)

## What Is Available Online?

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

