



# *Echoes from the Past*

*Pleasant Hill Historical Society of the Cumberlands PO Box 264 Pleasant Hill, TN 38578  
Fall 2013*

## **Our Leader Has Resigned**

Our president, Marvin Albright, suffered a slight stroke in September, resulting in his resigning from his office. He is doing quite well, just taking it easy. Earlier in the summer, our vice-president, Leo Maley, resigned and moved away. So at our September board meeting we dug into our minds and came up with a full slate of officers. Jeanne Chappell-Kingsbury will be acting president, while Ed Schneider will be acting vice president until the Annual Meeting when new elections can take place. Along with secretary, Ginny Nixon and treasurer, Rich Nelson, we will be the team working for the board you all voted for in May. We promise to do our best and we wish Marvin a speedy recovery. Thank you, Marvin, for all your hard work. We hope you will be back at feeling 100% soon.

## **What Happened to the Arch?**

In 1934 Miss Alice Adshead had a good idea. She had planned a wildflower trail through the woods just down the hill from Van Dyck Sanatorium, leading to the lake. Soon Marvin Moore had built a handsome stone arch over the entrance to the trail and some stone steps leading down. The paths were, and still are, bordered on either side by ferns and wildflowers.

On a Saturday in May, 1936, the arch was the scene of a beautiful outdoor wedding. Miss Virginia Phipps, a long time nurse at Uplands, and Denton Cole were joined in marriage there.

Hospital Day of 1940 featured the new open-air auditorium, known as The Bowl. It had terraced rows of stone seats. The entrance - thru the stone arch and along a path bordered with wildflowers. Throughout the years, the amphitheatre has been cleaned up by Eagle Scouts of Boy Scout Troop 174 of Pleasant Hill.

Sorrowfully, the arch has fallen. A pile of rubble is all that is left of this majestic icon. How it happened, no one knows. The Historical Society and Uplands are in the process of looking for a stone mason to tell us if it would be possible to rebuild it. We have no idea what the cost would be or if it would be feasible to try to put it back together. We might need your help. Could that pile of rubble be used to build a sturdy arch again? If the answer is "yes," can you help?



## What's In Your Attic?

Lately there have been many inquiries about family members who graduated from the Academy in its early years, along with some gifts of photos, graduation diplomas,

graduation programs, special events programs. Also, we've gotten some questions about doctors, nurses and even patients at the hospitals. It is very interesting to hear stories and for us to research and be able to tell stories in return.

Dr. David Bash of Indianapolis brought us some wonderful gifts. All the photos have been identified and are from the Class of 1889 and 1901. His grandmother, Mattie Simpson, and grandfather, John Lowry, were both students here, and married after graduation.

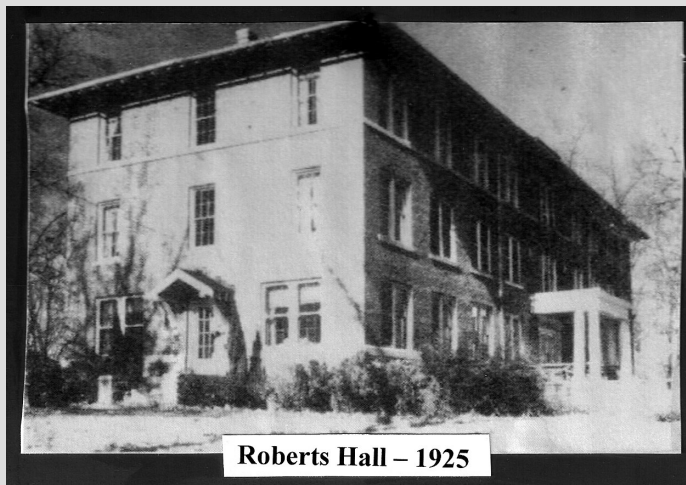
Norman Hale (class of 1926) and his sister, Martha Lou Hale (class of 1930) were others from whom we were given mementos. Martha's handmade graduation dress is so special for us. We were able to find a picture of Norman we didn't know we had.

We've been in touch with the great granddaughter of J.J.H. Gregory, the man who sent the Revere bell to his friend, Benjamin Dodge, to be used by the new school when the Academy building opened in 1887. Through correspondence we learned those two men were distant cousins. What fun to find connections and try to solve puzzles.

So what do you have in your attic? We would love to see what you have collected from your families who attended the Academy, who either worked there or at the hospitals, or who were patients there. However, anything you might want to give us should be dated and identified. Contact us through our website [www.pioneerhallmuseum.net](http://www.pioneerhallmuseum.net) or call us at one of the telephone numbers listed on the back page of this newsletter.



## A Quote From the Service of Dedication of Roberts Hall October 29, 1927



“We dedicate this dormitory to the memory of our brother, Gordon Roberts, to the high hope and boundless promise wrapped up in the life of a boy and that there may go forth through the years a stream of such boys, inspired with great ideals, eager with high hopes, and equipped to play worthy parts in the life of their day”

Ed. Note: Gordon Roberts died from the fire that destroyed Dodge Hall in 1921, the only death by fire ever recorded in the history of AMA schools.

## Contribution Form

- |   | <u>Contribution amount:</u> |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogist    | \$1000.00+                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historian      | \$500.00+                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer        | \$100.00+                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Settler        | \$75.00+                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Founder        | \$50.00+                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ox Cart Driver | \$25.00+                    |

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Name

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Address

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Email

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Phone

Contributions are tax deductible.

Membership year May 1– April 30.

The first \$25. 00 of each donation will be considered as membership dues and placed in the Heritage Fund. The remaining amount will be placed into the Operation and Maintenance Fund.

**Make checks payable to:**

PHHS  
 PO Box 264  
 Pleasant Hill, TN 38578

Reward of  
**Fifty dollars offered for the arrest, and conviction of the person, or persons who set on fire my house on the night of the 17<sup>th</sup> of Nov. 1890 also Fifteen dollars for the arrest and conviction of those persons who lingered around my dwelling house on the evening of the 17<sup>th</sup> as above disturbing, and alarming the family.**

**B. Dodge**  
*Pleasant Hill, Tenn.*  
**Nov. 18, 1890**

*Handwritten original is in the Pioneer Hall Museum Archives*

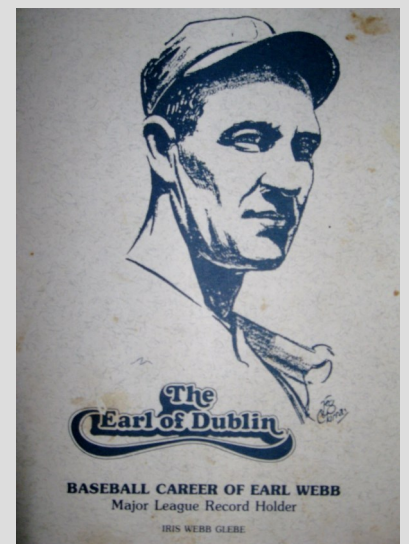
### Tennessee Association of Museums

Earl Webb attended Pleasant Hill Academy around 1916. He didn't last the year out. "I was just a country boy and didn't know the value of education," he once said.

When he was 11 he began working in the coal mines. Because most mines had baseball teams, when he got old enough (age 14) he began pitching for the Ravenscroft team - and he was hooked on baseball. He played for several major league teams, and in 1931, playing for the Boston Red Sox, he hit 67 doubles and set a new major league record.

No one has broken that record - but they have tried. This year it seemed like it was going to happen. Excitement quickened, sports writers checked the internet for facts about who had set such a record, and spirits were high, but alas, for baseball, the record has remained.

"Our" Earl Webb is still our home-town record-making hero.



*Pleasant Hill Historical Society  
of the Cumberland*

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P.O. Box 264  
Pleasant Hill, TN 38578

## **Volunteers Needed**

Do any of you have a few hours of free time to share at the museum? We need docents, artisans, handymen or women, exhibit builders, computer people, etc.

Please volunteer by calling  
931-277-5313, 931-277-3111 or 931-277-5226.

Leave a message if a real voice doesn't answer.

### Curators

Sharon Weible  
Jeanne Kingsbury

### Officers

Jeanne Kingsbury - Acting  
President  
Ed Schneider - Acting Vice  
President  
Ginny Nixon - Secretary  
Rich Nelson, Treasurer

### Board of Directors

Bill Wightman  
Al Dwenger  
Belvia Hassler  
Ernie Simon  
Pat Robbennolt  
Marvin Albright

### **Pioneer Hall Museum**

Open  
May–October  
Sundays 2-5pm  
Wednesdays 10-4pm  
Or other times with reservations.  
Call (931) 277-5313,  
(931) 277-3111 or  
(931) 277-5226  
[www.pioneerhallmuseum.net](http://www.pioneerhallmuseum.net)

Echoes from the Past is an  
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the Pleasant Hill Historical  
Society of the  
Cumberlands to promote  
awareness of our heritage  
and to support the museum  
of the society.