



Echoes from the Past

*Pleasant Hill Historical Society of the Cumberland, Inc.
PO Box 264 Pleasant Hill TN 38578*

Spring 2017

Dear Friends,

Five years ago, when the Paul Revere Bell was taken from the belfry of the Pleasant Hill Community Church and given to the Pleasant Hill Historical Society, I began thinking of the up-coming 200th birthday party that would, in just a matter of a few years, be celebrated. That time has come.



**You are invited to the 200th Birthday Celebration of
our Paul Revere Bell**

Sunday, May 21 at 2:30p.m.

Community House, Main Street, Pleasant Hill, TN

A committee made up of our board members, teachers and staff of the Pleasant Hill Elementary School and other very interested people have met many times and have come up with plans for the celebration that we are sure will be of special interest to everyone.

A celebration will take place at the school Thursday, May 18th and Friday, May 19th for the children and then conclude with a birthday party just prior to the Annual Meeting on May 21.

The doors of Pioneer Hall will officially open on Wednesday, May 3. We invite you and your many friends to visit throughout the summer, until closing on Sunday, October 29. We can always be open for groups to visit and encourage you to make reservations for anytime. Call Sharon at 931-277-5226 or Jeanne at 931-277-3111. We are constantly changing some of the exhibits and continue to learn new things to tell you about our favorite place.

Two years ago Tom and Lena Keane moved out of the Principal's House that they had so lovingly remodeled, and put their entire acreage up for sale. We are happy to tell you that Norman Hall, a New Englander just like some of his predecessors, has purchased the property, moved in and is busy learning everything he can about the history here. We welcome Norman and look forward to working with him as he already has ideas that he wants to work on. We'll help all we can, Norman.

We enjoy the many gifts that so many of you give us: gifts that pertain to academy life, photos, life in Pleasant Hill, etc. Most of these gifts have been cataloged into the computer. Some have not. For instance, our friendly "greeter" who stands close to the front door is wearing an evening gown or wedding gown (we aren't sure which). Her costume was never inventoried. Where did it come from? What period is it from? She needs some everyday dresses that girls or teachers would have worn sometime between 1887 and 1962. We would appreciate boys or men's clothing from the same time period. Do you have any clothing that fits our needs? Please contact us.

We hope you will enjoy the rest of this newsletter. So many things keep happening that we want you to know. We hope to see you soon and thank you for your donations and memberships.

Jeanne Chappell-Kingsbury
President

Remembering Pleasant Hill Special Exhibit



Sandra Mathes, C.T. Mathes and Jym Mitchell in the museum's country store.
Photo by Jean Clark.

The excitement grows and there is an urgency to the necessary hard work every spring when Pioneer Hall Museum is being readied for the summer season. This is especially true this year as Jym Mitchell has been working many hours on the special exhibit that needs to be ready May 3. The historical society board is indebted to him for his willingness to interview people who recall their memories of Pleasant Hill from years ago and who are willing to tape their recollections for the museum archives. These memories of the academy, the hospital, the community and the people will be

transferred from tapes to cds and will eventually be available for listening. Hopefully, this project will continue and more people will be asked to share their family histories as they recall their family stories about life here through the years.

Also part of the special exhibit will be a gift from **Dinah Cole Goodwin** who gave the museum a well-loved, well-used child's tea set that was purchased by her parents, **Denton and Virginia Cole**, in 1953 from Smith's Store. This was a treasured Christmas gift and today bears evidence of countless tea parties that Dinah and her friends enjoyed.

You Are Invited

A reception on **Saturday, April 29, from 2-4 p.m.** at Pioneer Hall Museum will launch the exhibit. All those interviewed, their families and friends, and all those interested are invited to attend. The museum opens for the summer on **Wednesday, May 3** and will close again on **October 29**.

The Bell Began to Ring...

“Another thing happened when I was there, which proved the courage of our students at P.H.A. and their tenacity and stick-to-it-ive-ness. One noon, just as the head-boss at the tables began to serve at each table, the old Paul Revere School bell began to ring. That meant one thing - fire! Every young man laid down his napkin, marched coolly out of the dining-room, as if trained for the emergency. Then they ran, - I ran too, for I thought it was my primary building; and my little folks, who were too far from home to go home for dinner might be in danger. Every boy who ran by me called out, ‘Don’t run, Miss Goar, I’ll look after your children.’ When I saw it was the chapel on fire, at the roof, I still ran. How those P.H.A. students worked, just like beavers, to put out the fire! The girls ran to the girls’ dormitory, and from the cistern drew water and formed a bucket brigade. The young men ran to Dodge well and spring, formed bucket brigades - and the students saved the building. Supt. Wheeler and Prof. Blanks directed their efforts great.” Emma Dodge adds this note: “One of the old boys has recently written how he went up through the interior out through the burning roof and stopped the fire before it got to the belfry. He was one who had a most important part in saving the building. This was Grover Billingsley....The insurance adjuster who was here a week later said he had never known a fire to be put out by means of buckets when it had had such headway.” Lillian Goar Galloway (or Gallaway), PHA Teacher, 1903-06, as quoted in Emma Dodge’s History of Pleasant Hill



Nominating Committee Presents Slate of Officers

Those to be voted into office will have an * beside their name.

Officers:

President – Jim Blalock*
 Vice-President – Ed Schneider
 Secretary – Pat Robbennolt*
 Treasurer – Rich Nelson
 President Emeritus-Jeanne Chappell-Kingsbury

Curator – Sharon Weible
 Docent Coordinator-Chris Gulick

Board of Directors: Class of 2018 - George Hartz, Joy Kisinger
 Class of 2019 - Beecher Frazier, Jr., Ann Schoup
 Class of 2020 - Al Dwenger*, Jym Mitchell*

Thank you,
 Nominating Committee: Ed Schneider, Chris Gulick

Here's the Scoop

This scoop has a history! Sylvanus Suttle was its original owner. Mr. Suttle's store was located where the Pleasant Hill Town Hall is now. He gave the scoop to his friend Claude Mathes who owned and operated a small country store in a building which sat on the corner of Cottage and Main. Horace and Eva Burgess had a store in a white, two-story building which still stands at the far west end of Main Street. When C.T. and Sandra (Burgess) Mathes purchased the store from Sandra's parents, Claude passed the scoop along to them. C.T. and Sandra operated that store until they opened Mathes Market on the corner of Main Street and Browntown Road where the Smith store had burned down. That property became the Village Market when the Mathes' sold it to Dave Hyder. Now the traveling scoop has found a home in Pioneer Hall Museum, a gift from the Mathes'. On your next visit to the museum, pause in the country store and check out the cash register that also came from C.T. and Sandra, the post office ledger that records business from 1887 to 1892, the years when John Frey Sr., George E. Wilson and Frank W. Frey served as postmaster. Take a look at the tobacco cutter as well as Prince Albert in a can! Thank you to all those who donate Pleasant Hill memorabilia to the museum to enrich the exhibits with the stories they tell.



Yearbooks, Anyone?

During the search for photos for the special exhibit this year, the gap in our collection of academy and high school yearbooks became evident. Does anyone have a yearbook to donate for the years 1932-1941 and 1945? Is it possible that there were no yearbooks published for those years? If you know, let us know.



Call For Help

Keeping our legacy alive through Pioneer Hall Museum takes many people working together at a wide variety of tasks. We need your help as we look toward the opening of the museum for the 2017 season which begins on May 3. We need **DOCENTS**-people who are willing to give three hours or more every month for six months to greet visitors and guide them around the museum; **WORKERS**-for a workday to clean inside and outside on Saturday, April 22 at 8 a.m.; **WEBSITE COORDINATOR**-someone to keep our web site up to date; and **GUESTS**-for the April 29 reception that marks the opening of our special exhibit "Remembering Pleasant Hill." Can you help in any way? Call the museum at 277-5313 or 277-3111 and leave a message.

Sharon Weible

Donors – May 2016/March 2017

Historian ~ \$500.00+

Bill & Herbie Naumann
Ed & Goldie Schneider
John & Linda Tanner

Pioneer ~ \$100.00+

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Mary Alice Shepard
Win Stone
Freda Tucker
Margaret Weirich
George & Marilyn
Young

Helpers

Shirley Berry

*Denotes 2 or more
donations in the past year

THANK YOU, GEORGE, DON & HUMANITIES TENNESSEE!

The Pleasant Hill Historical Society would like to thank Humanities Tennessee for all you did for us this 2016-2017 year, especially for the scholarships to Don Dowdy and George Hartz for the annual Tennessee Association of Museums conference. They brought back ideas and enthusiasm for the museum's work.

*Pleasant Hill Historical Society
of the Cumberlands, Inc.*

P.O. Box 264

Pleasant Hill, TN 38578

Officers

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Ed Schneider – Vice President

Pat Robbennolt – Secretary

Rich Nelson – Treasurer

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