



Echoes from the Past

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

Spring 2021

Greetings from your Board of Directors and Officers
of the Pleasant Hill Historical Society,

Kay and I often drive by and stop to check on Pioneer Hall. The Museum seems lonely, which it is. We have been closed for more than a year. Now we're planning to open on Sundays beginning on June 6. This is a small step forward.

Even though we have been closed, work has been completed. The ceiling on the first floor has been redone. A very important work was accomplished last fall when we gave several boxes and tubs filled with museum artifacts to the Tennessee State Archives. Myers Brown, Director of Archival Technical Services, came to collect our treasures. He left with photos, Pleasant Hill Academy catalogs and other printed materials, Academy graduation programs (1890 was the earliest), programs from concerts, plays and other special events, Academy yearbooks, plus other pieces. These items will be indexed and the index made public so that people looking for these materials will know what is in the Archives' collection. It is good to know that these valuable photos and documents now have a safe and protected home.

Mr. Brown was enthusiastic about receiving these materials. He said, "Thank you so much for your efforts to preserve and protect these records. We are thrilled to have them at the Tennessee State Library and Archives."

Ashley Clark has been working on the museum's website and Facebook page. Now you can go to the website, www.pioneerhallmuseum.net, and under the link to Yearbooks, you can find Academy photos, pamphlets, programs of special events (like the 1890 graduation program), catalogues listing students names, documents – all part of the Academy's history. On Facebook, search for Pioneer Hall Museum.

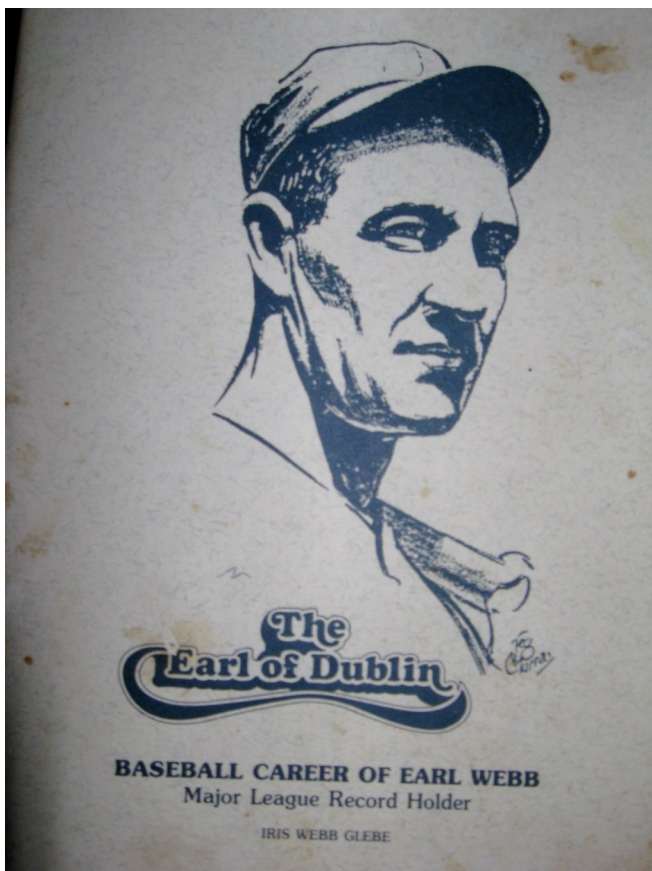
As we continue to preserve the history and maintain our biggest artifact, Pioneer Hall, the utility, maintenance and insurance bills continue to come in regularly, even though we have been closed. As you pay your membership dues, please consider a generous donation. Your support will be greatly appreciated. May we thank you in advance for your continuous interest and support.

Your President,

Jim Blalock



Myers Brown receives
museum artifacts from Jim
Blalock.



Earl Webb

Earl Webb, Major League Record Holder

Around 1916 Earl Webb and his sister Alice went to Pleasant Hill Academy, a boarding school eight miles east of Ravenscroft, and lived in the dormitories, Dodge Hall and Wheeler Hall, respectively. But Earl didn't last the year out. He told his daughter Helen, many years later, that he was suspended for putting a ladder up to a girl's room in Wheeler Hall one night (by prearrangement, of course). Whether he was caught going up or coming down, he didn't say, but did tell Helen that he went home and never did return to school, giving up a football scholarship to Carson Newman College at Jefferson City, Tennessee. He thought it was one of the biggest mistakes he ever made in his life, "but I was just a country boy and did not know the value of education."

In 1922 Earl Webb was lost in New York and badly frightened....and by mere chance had found his way through the maze of subways and mystifying passages of the Pennsylvania Station into the daylight...arrived at Forty-Second and Broadway...when he bumped into a big man in a yellow camel's hair coat. "Why don't you look where you're trying to go?" the man asked sharply. "Say, ain't you Babe Ruth?" yelled Webb. "Sure," grinned the Bambino. Then Webb almost hollered. "Pa,

I've seen your pictures in the papers and I'm sure glad to see you in the flesh. I'm the new pitcher for the New York Giants, and I don't mind tellin' you I'm lost. I'm trying to find my way to the Giants' ball park. You can tell me how to get there, can't you?" "I can do better than that," said the Babe, with a hearty chuckle. "I can drive you up there myself."

Nine years after that chance meeting with the Babe, Earl would be vying with the great Bambino for the batting championship of the American League.

In 1931, while playing for the Boston Red Sox, Webb hit a record 67 doubles, a record that still stands today.

Quoted from his daughter's book

The Earl of Dublin: Baseball Career of Earl Webb, Major League Record Holder

By Iris Webb Glebe

McNaughton and Gunn, Inc., Ann Arbor, MI 1988

No Annual Meeting of the Pleasant Hill Historical Society This Year

See you in 2022!

Celebrating 100 Years!

This summer on August 7, Uplands will be celebrating 100 years of health care in Pleasant Hill. This is the date in 1921 when Dr. May Wharton and Elizabeth Fletcher opened their two-bed hospital on the 2nd floor of a flimsy old house on Main Street. Alice Adshead RN joined them that fall. These three women journeyed together for the rest of their lives, dedicating their work to the glory of God and the welfare of his children. Sanex was the name given to their little hospital; an odd name because it stood for Sanatorium Annex, an annex before there was a sanatorium! Perhaps this is an example of Dr. May's dreams having no dimensions. She was always looking ahead.

Less than one year later these three women opened Uplands Cumberland Mountain Sanatorium; then added Van Dyck Tuberculosis Sanatorium in 1937. When the hospital was moved to Crossville where it eventually was named the Cumberland Medical Center, Dr. May began thinking of a retirement community and a nursing home. Her dreams continue – there is much to celebrate!



Dr. May

Contribution Form

Yes, I want to support the work of the Pleasant Hill Historical Society.

- \$1000 \$500 \$100 \$75 \$50 \$25 Annual Membership

Contributions are tax deductible.

Membership year May 1-April 30.

Make Checks Payable to:

PHHS

PO Box 264

Pleasant Hill TN 38578

Name

Address

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Phone

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

P.O. Box 264
Pleasant Hill, TN 38578

Pleasant Hill Academy is a school “where Work is a blessing and Service is a privilege. Where Learning is a great opportunity and Giving is a joy.”

Edwin Wharton, Crossville Chronicle, 8/6/1919

Pioneer Hall Museum

Hours: Sundays 2-5 p.m.

Beginning June 6, 2021

For private tours call

(931) 277-5313 or

(931) 277-5226

Website:

www.pioneerhallmuseum.net

Echoes from the Past is a

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Pleasant Hill Historical Society

of the Cumberland to promote

awareness of our heritage and to

support the museum

of the society.

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