**THE CORNSHELLER**  
Newsletter of the Montgomery County Historical Society

Volume 33, Issue 12  
Sandra J Stacey, Editor  
December 2010

**Monthly Meeting**  
Third Monday of the month unless otherwise noted  
**MCHS Programs will be held in the Gentry Auditorium, Kimbrough Bldg. APSU unless otherwise noted**  
**Time:** 7 p.m.

**December 6**  
Christmas Diner 6:00 pm, Laida Fellowship Hall, First Baptist Church, 5th & Commerce St, Prime Rib with trimmings, $18.50 per person. Caterer Lynn Dallas. Reservations required call 647-4762

**MCHS 2011 PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

**January 17**  
Frank Lott - Chairman Montgomery County Civil War Sesquicentennial Cannons and More in the Civil War

**February 21**  
Joe Filippo  
Hearts & Darts - The Course of True Love Along the Cumberland

**March 21**  
Ellen Kanervo & Co.- Nannie Haskins’ Diary

**April 18**  
Tom C. McKenney - Author of “Jack Hinson’s One-Man War”

**May 16**  
Antique Quilts - Carolyn Darke and Betsy Tummons

**June Saturday 11 or 18 if bad weather**  
Summer outing. Dunbar Cave 2 – 4 p.m.  
Mr. Larry E Matthews, author of “The Showplace of the South”  
**Refreshments:** Lemonade, tea and cookies

**July 18**  
Robert “Duck” Davidson - “South of the River”

**August 15**  
William Turner Christian County Historian  
On Golden Pond (Prohibition)

**September Saturday 10 or 17 if bad weather**  
Fall Outing…Mennonite Country  
Mr. Noah Yoder 2 – 4 p.m.  
Meet at Mennonite Church, KY Hwy 848 (Penchum Rd); 1/2 mi (rt) off KY Hwy 181 (Elkton Rd)  
**Refreshments:** Mennonite Fruit turnovers ($1.45 ea.) & lemonade  
Optional: Afterwards visit to Country Pantry, KY Hwy 181

**October 17**  
Mr. Carney Wright - History of Memorial Hospital  
Former Administrator of Clarksville Memorial Hospital/Gateway

**November 21**  
Mr. David Straka – “History of Trains in Clarksville”

Christmas  TBA

**LOCATION**  
L&N Train Station  
10th & Commerce Streets  
Clarksville, TN 37040  
931.553.2486

**Officers:**

President .................... Joe Filippo  
Vice President .............. Billyfrank Morrison  
Recording Secretary ....... Ellen Kanervo  
Correspondence Secretary .. Peggy Bonnington  
Treasurer .................... Tracy Jackson

**Historical:**

County Historian ............ Eleanor Williams  
County Archivist ............ Jill Hastings Johnson  
County Genealogist .......... Gail Longton

**Members at Large:**

Rachel Pace  
Gloria Davis  
Cleo Hogan

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**2011-2012 ELECTED OFFICERS**

**Officers:**

President .................... Billyfrank Morrison  
Vice President .............. Reber Kennedy  
Secretary .................... Linda Nichols  
Correspondence Secretary .. Molly Cook  
Treasurer .................... Tracy Jackson

**Historical:**

County Historian ............ Eleanor Williams  
County Archivist ............ Jill Hastings Johnson  
County Genealogist .......... Gail Longton

**Members at Large:**

Rachel Pace  
Gloria Davis  
Cleo Hogan
Dear MCHS Members,

Welcome to this, my final call. What a pleasure it has been to serve such a fine organization. The reason I enjoy the activities of this group is because so many members are willing to give of their time and creativity. We truly are a service membership.

Upon looking back at this past month’s activities, I cannot help but bask in the glow of Lawson Mabry’s presentation, and the recent success of our Lincoln-Douglas debate and luncheon. As Treasurer Tracy announced, we cleared approximately $1000.00, thanks to your voluntary efforts. The debate was informative and illuminating and the luncheon just plain yummy.

If you haven’t already purchased your tickets to the December 6th Christmas party, you will want to do so immediately. It promises to be great fun with festive music, awards honoring people within our community, prime rib with all the trimmings, plus a few surprises.

Parking for the society’s Christmas dinner/program will be available both on 5th Street parking lot across from First Baptist’s Hope Building AND in First Baptist’s back lot on corner of Hiter and Commerce Streets. There will be a society member to greet you at each door of Hope Building (Activities Bldg).

Speaking of Christmas, I would be remiss if I did not remind you of potential Christmas gifts that await you at the train station’s gift shop. Clarks-villians are proud of the books, collectibles, prints, etc., that represent our distinctive heritage. What better place to look for local memorabilia?

I know you are looking forward to working with next year’s talented executive board. The programs for 2011 are among the most promising programs MCHS will have offered.

Let this be a reminder that in the near future Tracy will be re-keying the office area; if you have keys to the facility that you are no longer using, please turn them in to Tracy. I can’t say enough about the tremendous work that Tracy has done to keep not only our financial house in order, but to see that the train station remains in good repair. His stewardship, along with Tony Smith’s, is an inspiration to us all.

I know in the coming weeks, President-Elect Billyfrank will be in touch with you to seek your assistance in making this excellent organization even better. We owe it to the membership to serve as ably and responsibly as we know how, to ensure that the quality of our activities remains at its high level.

I sincerely thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your President. It has been richly rewarding, but most of all I have had the opportunity to meet new friends and to strengthen the bonds with old ones.

I look forward to seeing you Monday, Dec. 6th at 6:00 in Laida Fellowship Hall.

Joe Filippo, President
November 17, 2010

This month’s guest speaker is Frank Lott. Frank is the Chairman of Montgomery County’s Civil War Sesquicentennial. He is a graduate of Murray State University. Frank was Director of Creative Services for Jostens Publishing from 1973 to 1978. Frank is also an accomplished artist specializing in water. He Served three terms as Museum Board Chairman.

Frank is the co-owner of BLF Marketing. He is married to Patti Marquess of Hopkinsville, KY. They have three son: Chad, Francis and Thomas.

Frank received the George Mabry Award for promoting the arts in the Clarksville community, of which he has been a part for 37 years.

Samuel Joseph Ferguson and his family spent their entire lives in Montgomery county. I could not find Samuel’s parents, but it is possible the spelling of their last name was different.

I found Samuel Joseph (S.J.) in the 1880 district 19 Montgomery County TN Census. His last name was spelled Furgerson. The census stated that Samuel and his parents were born in TN.

I also found information that Samuel served in the Civil War as a Private in Company B, 14th Regiment of TN Infantry C.S.A.

Samuel’s Discharge

I found Samuel Joseph (S.J.) in the 1880 district 19 Montgomery County TN Census. His last name was spelled Furgerson. The census stated that Samuel and his parents were born in TN.

I also found information that Samuel served in the Civil War as a Private in Company B, 14th Regiment of TN Infantry C.S.A.

(Continued on page 3)
Daughter **Willie May** was born 7 Aug. 1879 and died as an infant 21 Jan. 1880 in Montgomery County TN; so there is no picture of Willie May.

Daughter **Winnie Elizabeth** “Liza” was born 16 June 1881 and died 30 Apr. 1911 in Montgomery County TN at the age of 29. (*See page 4 for picture.*). In the 1900 census Winnie lived next to her brother “Sammie” and her sister “Eliza”. She had been married for one year.

Winnie married William Green Vaughn 25 Dec. 1898 in Montgomery County TN. William was the son of William Riley Vaughn and Sarah Chance Vaughn. He was born 15 Apr. 1877 in TN.

William and Winnie lived in Cumberland City, TN. William was a farmer on land located near Sailors Rest. Winnie and William had six children: Nolen Hershell, William Joseph, Annie Elizabeth, Russell Lee, Macon Marconia and Bertha Louise.

After Winnie died William married her sister Eliza Jane. Sister. **Eliza Jane** was born 16 Feb. 1887. Eliza and William had two children.

Daughter **Indiana Adeline “Polly”** or “**Polly**” was born 26 Feb. 1883 and died 25 Jan. 1905 when she was 22 years old.

The note on “Addie’s” picture says it was taken 20 March 1905 when she was 22 years old.

Most of the birth and death dates for this family came from a handwritten note. The note was written 31 July 1914.

(Samuel Joseph Ferguson continued from page 2)

Samuel married Indiana “India” Louise Weakley 9 June 1874 in Montgomery County TN. Indiana was born 25 Nov. 1854 and died 8 Jan. 1917 in Montgomery County from heart troubles.

Indiana was the daughter of William Carroll Weakley (1817-1870) and Mary Ann Mildred Birdwell Weakley (1831-1890). Indiana was found in the 1860 census in Palmyra, TN and in the 1870 census in Corbandale, TN.

Samuel and Indiana had nine children: Margaret Sophronia, Susan Leoria, Rosa Lee, Indiana Adeline “Polly”, Josephine “Josie” Thomas, Eliza Jane, Samuel Ely, Winnie Elizabeth and Willie May.

**Indiana Louise Weakley**

The first child of Samuel and Indiana was **Margaret Sophronia**. She was born 19 May 1875 in Montgomery county TN and died 17 Aug. 1923 at the age of 47. She suffered from Dropsy. Dropsy is an old term for the swelling of soft tissues due to the accumulation of excess fluid. Today we use the term edema.

Margaret married James Ruffin Fletcher 16 June 1897 in Montgomery county TN. He was born 26 March 1851 and died 22 March 1911 at the age of 59. Margaret and James had five children: Fannie Adeline, Lucy Belle, Mary Indiana, Minnie Vanleer and James.

Samuel’s daughter **Susan Leoria** was born 17 Dec. 1878 in Montgomery County TN and died 12 May 1910 at the age of 34.

**Rosa Lee**

Daughter Rosa Lee was born 21 April 1878 and died 24 July 1913 in Montgomery County TN at the age of 35.

**Indiana Adeline “Polly”**

Daughter **Indiana Adeline “Addie” or “Polly”** was born 26 Feb. 1883 and died 25 Jan. 1960 at the age of 76. She lived under her brother’s household in 1910 and was listed as single. There is no indication that she ever married.

“Addie” is buried in Palmyra Methodist Church Cemetery, Palmyra, TN as is her brother “Sam”.

The note on “Addie’s” picture says it was taken 20 March 1905 when she was 22 years old.

**Eliza Jane**

After Winnie died William married her sister Eliza Jane. Sister. **Eliza Jane** was born 16 Feb. 1887. Eliza and William had two children.
Son Samuel “Sam” Ely was born 9 Dec. 1889 in Montgomery County TN. He died in Palmyra, TN 2 April 1963. Samuel was the only son born to Samuel Joseph and Indiana.

In the 1930 census his sister Indiana Adeline “Addie” was under Samuel’s household. They were both listed as single. He was a farmer in district 19 Montgomery county.

Samuel “Sam” is buried in Palmyra Methodist Church Cemetery, Palmyra, TN.

Daughter Josephine “Josie” Thomas was born 8 June 1885 and died 9 Apr. 1908 in Montgomery County at the age of 22.


Josephine “Josie” Thomas

If you look at the pictures of the children, you will notice that they all bear a striking resemblance to each other.

Susan, Rosa and Winnie Elizabeth

Addie, Charles and Josie formally dressed.

Samuel Joseph (S.J.) Ferguson (father)

If you look at the pictures of the children, you will notice that they bear a striking resemblance to each other. Life had to be difficult for Samuel with eight sisters. Don’t you imagine he was pursued by all of his sisters friends?
"TIDBITS"
By Ann Alley

Clarksville Chronicle, August 16, 1861.

TO SOUTHERN MOTHERS

As our coast is Blockaded, our government has not been able to procure a sufficient supply of blankets for our sick soldiers. In this emergency they have called on you to aid them. Knowing as they do that there are thousands of families who can spare, without inconvenience, from one to six blankets or comforts, they feel that they have only to make their wants known to you.

Let each neighborhood at once make up a package. Throw into your box bed blankets (old or new) comforts, socks: add a jar of jelly or preserves, or anything your good sense tells you is needed by the sick and wounded soldier. Start at once your box on its mission of mercy. . . . Shall he languish in want while his bleeding wounds are the brightest mementos of that immortal field of Manassas? Think too of Manassas glorious dead! They died for you and yours.

Boxes should be sent to E. W. John's, Med. Surgeon, Richmond, Va.

MEMBERSHIP

In memory of Charlene McCullah, an active (in the past) historical society member and classical pianist, died Nov 7, 2010.

Welcome new member:
Judith F Burke
658 Chesterfield Circle
Clarksville, TN 37043

REMINDER:

✦ There will be no meeting this month. We will be having a Christmas diner instead.

✦ If you haven’t renewed your membership, now is the time. This is the last issue of the “Cornsheller” for the year. Please mark on your application or your check, RENEWAL member or NEW member. This is important so I can get your mailing label correct, or if you are new I can add you to the list. I like to welcome and keep the membership aware of our new members. If you don’t want to cut up your newsletter to get the application on page 6, you are welcome to write out the information. Please print.

✦ If you have information you are willing to share with the members, please email me at sandra.stacey@charter.net.

POSTCARDS

BY
BILLYFRANK MORRISON

Red River Furnace
Founded in 1890 by Frank P. Gracey, this was once known as the Gracey/Woodward Furnace. It was located in the vicinity of Frosty Morn Street. This old blast furnace was an important producer of pig iron.

There are at least six different postcards of this site postmarked from 1907 – 1919. On one card the following narrative appears. “The home of Red River Silicon Pig Iron sold by Hickman, Williams and Company.

PROPOSED REVISION TO BYLAWS

Montgomery County Historical Society members will be asked to vote on the following proposed amendments to its by-laws at the Society’s meeting on January 17, 2011 in Gentry Auditorium:

Under Article II. Membership, the following italicized sentence will be added to the existing single sentence in Section 1. Thus,

“Any person interested in the history of Montgomery County, Tennessee, and its adjacent areas shall be eligible for membership. There shall be no restriction for membership in the Society due to race, religion, national origin or personal life style preference.”

Under Article IX. Amendment Process, the following italicized words will be added to Section 1:

“The Constitution and By-Laws of the Society shall serve as its governing principles and may be amended or revised by a majority vote of the active (dues paid) members present.”
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM
MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NAME: ________________________________ ________________________________
                                      (First) (Middle) (Last)

ADDRESS ________________________________ ________________________________
                                      (Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

PHONE: ________________________________ EMAIL: ________________________________

Please check type of membership
(Membership period is January to December)

Please make checks payable to MCHS

Individual ☐ $20  Family ☐ $30  Student (K-12) ☐ $5  Life ☐ $200

Corporate ☐ $250  Institutional ☐ $500  Preservation Society (2 years) ☐ $2,000

New Member ☐  Renewal Member ☐  Changing Membership ☐