

Greenfield Schools

Pioneer Days to Modern Times

VERY EARLY SCHOOLS IN AND AROUND GREENFIELD

In Greenfield about 1870 a small log church house built on the "Joe Ward" acre of land was used for a school on week days and for church services on Sunday. The people who lived in this section joined together to pay the teacher.

Usually oiled paper was used for windows in early schools such as this. A large fireplace was at one end of the room. Each man who sent a child to school had to send some wood for the fireplace. There was plenty of wood in those days, for the country was covered with forests. Sometimes when a man did not send his share of wood, his children were sent home or made to sit in the farthest seats from the fireplace or stove. ..the coldest part of the room.

In the school room the boys sat on one side of the room and the girls on the other side. The children's ages varied from six to nineteen. There was a tin or cedar water bucket on a shelf near the door. A tin dipper or gourd was used to drink from; they had never heard of germs. The teacher rang a small hand bell to call pupils in from play. There was no playground so the children played on land around the school. People came by occasionally, riding horseback or driving horses to a buggy or a wagon pulled by horses or oxen.

The teacher's desk and arm chair stood upon a platform six to eight inches high. He always had a big switch to keep the larger boys "in line." The first seats for the students were made from split logs with pegs for legs (no backs) ; next there were shelves fastened to the wall that the larger children used to write upon. All the younger children sat on low benches in front of the room. There were few school books. ..the Blue Back Spelling Book, Ray's Arithmetic, McGuffey's Readers, etc. There were no lead pencils. Pens were made from sharpened goose quills. Ink was made at home from mixing poke berries and water, the juice of ink balls (from oak trees) , or ink-powder mixed with water. Paper was scarce and costly, so children wrote on white birch bark or on flat pieces of wood.

The school day lasted from eight in the morning until four or five in the afternoon, which was a long time to sit on hard wooden benches with no backs. The teachers often knew little more than the pupils. They were sometimes stern and cruel. Children who did not study as they should or were mischievous were often whipped severely. Life was not very easy for the teacher either; a man teacher's pay was ten or twelve dollars a month. Women teachers were not paid so much. The teachers. . .unless they taught in their home community. . .lived by "boarding round." That is, a teacher lived one week in the home of one pupil and another week in the home of another, etc. , etc.

The following is an excerpt from Allen Sharp's autobiography: "At six years of age I started to school with my new Webster's Blue Back Spelling Book, my little tin bucket and a bottle of milk. The little bucket contained meat, bread, a small bottle of molasses and sometimes a piece of pie, a baked apple, or a roasted potato.

"Our schools were all subscription schools and of only two or three months duration. . .the teacher rarely got more than 20 subscribers at one dollar per month, making the teacher's salary the 'fabulous' sum of twenty dollars a month of 20 days, while good farm hands got \$12.50 for a month of 25 or 26 days, and his board."

HISTORY OF GREENFIELD SCHOOLS

On a hill near the present site of the U.S.A. Presbyterian Church in or near 1855 a log house was erected to be used as a Cumberland Presbyterian Church. This small log house was also used as a school and as a regular meeting place for the citizens.

On April 2, 1869, Mr. Joe H. Ward (see biographical sketch) deeded one acre of ground on this same hill to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Ebenezer Congregation. On the southwestern part of this acre of ground a school building was erected. This building was of wooden frame construction and was built before 1879. It was later destroyed by fire. Some of the teachers in the school were Prof. J. B. Reed, Joe Priestley, Miss Cora Wingo and Miss Jennie Oldham.

In 1881 the state chartered an academy to be built in Greenfield. Five trustees were appointed for

each county. These trustees were empowered to fix upon and purchase a site, and to take and receive subscriptions for the same. As the amount of funds available for each county was quite small, it was necessary that the people provide the buildings, and also, in a great measure support the schools by subscriptions and donations. At this time the average number of days of free school per year was seventy-four. The teacher's salary averaged \$35.00 a month. This school was located on, or near, what was later called "Happy Hill."

Next, in the 1890's, a two-story brick building was erected south of the original academy. The citizens of Greenfield built this building and it was called the Greenfield Normal College. This school taught from the first grade to "some sort" of College Department. Part of the expense of the school was paid for by the state and monthly tuition paid for the remainder, or subscription, part of the school was as follows :

First, Second and Third Grades \$1.25

Fourth and Fifth Grades 2.00

Sixth and Seventh Grades 2.50

Preparatory 3.00

College Department 3.50

Some of the teachers in this school were: Profs. Garret and Goldsby, J. B. Reed, Mrs. Annie B. Reed, Joe Priestley, Ed Sharp, and Dock Wren.

In June of 1925, Greenfield Normal College became a city school called the Greenfield Grammar school. There were two departments in this school -- the Primary and Secondary Departments. The Primary Dept. was composed of grades 1 through 7 and the Secondary included the Eighth and Ninth Grades. Some of the teachers were: Prof. J. B. Reed, Mrs. Annie B. Reed and Miss Brooxie Hatcher. (See Biographical sketch for J. B. Reed.)

In 1908 the Greenfield Training School began its interesting history. The idea of having a training school in Greenfield was originated by Dr. W. T. Smith, dentist. He talked with some of the citizens concerning the school and in a short time he had aroused much enthusiasm. Professors R. K. Morgan of Petersburg and Thomas Black Clark of Howell, Tennessee, were called to

Greenfield and a contract was made with Mr. T. B. Clark (see biographic letter following) to take charge of the school. Funds were soon subscribed for the building, which was a two-story brick with stone trimming. It was equipped with electric lights, shower baths, and running water supplied from wells sunken 300 feet below the reach of surface water. It was one of the best school buildings in the state, and no pains or cost had been spared to make it comfortable and convenient for the students. No town in the state possessed more desirable conditions for boys and girls than Greenfield. Its citizens were reckoned among the best. ..no dens, or low dives were allowed in this town; saloons had been voted out of the state. The moral atmosphere was above the average, and health conditions were unexcelled.

Greenfield Training School was a private school, owned by a local stock company and maintained by tuition. No church could own or control it. The school was thoroughly Christian but not sectarian. The Greenfield Training School gave as complete preparation for life as any such school and had the additional merit of showing the student his real place in educational matters and pointed him to higher things. The thoroughness in scholarship and discipline led to the development of a well-rounded character. The course of study enabled the students to enter any college or university in the land.

Absolute obedience was an absolute necessity in the school. Students were treated as ladies and gentlemen unless they made it impossible. If that happened they were expelled. As the teachers stood in the place of parents, they exercised the right of absolute control over their pupils at all hours whether in school or out, but allowed them all the freedom consistent with discipline.

After two years of teaching, Mr. Clark was forced to return to Middle Tennessee because of illness in his family. On August 29, 1911, Mr. W. Lee Harris came from Lebanon to Greenfield as principal of Greenfield Training School. (See Biographical Sketch) He taught for three years.

On March 30, 1909 Greenfield Training School had been incorporated. The first board of directors consisted of A. J. Barton, R. B. Brasfield, T. M. Earls, H. O. Elam, Robt. A. Elkins, J. N. Ray and John West.

Mr. Gill G. Harris succeeded Mr. W. Lee Harris as principal of Greenfield Training School for

the two years 1914 and 1915. His faculty consisted of D. G. Stout, Mrs. Nell Ferrill Harris, Miss Moore and Miss Ora Smith.

Mysteriously, on the night of February 12, 1915, the Training School building burned. The school was rebuilt. Prof. Thurman was the first principal after the fire, next was Gill Harris, then Mr. Hendricksen. Finally, Mr. Clark returned and taught from 1918 until 1924.

Under the administration of Philip D. Harris (see Biographical sketch elsewhere in book) as Mayor of the City of Greenfield, and largely through his planning, general supervision and influence, the public schools were enlarged in Greenfield and remodeled and a new modern gymnasium and athletic field were constructed with labor and material furnished by the Federal Public Works Administration without cost to the taxpayers of Greenfield. These added and improved educational facilities have been helpful and inspiring influences in the lives of the boys and girls of Greenfield and South Weakley County.

In 1925 the Greenfield Training School was sold to the City of Greenfield. Greenfield sold the Electric Light Company and used the money to buy the Training School. Then they formed the Greenfield High School ...free for all Greenfield students. A special school district was formed. ...legislated in and a special school tax was levied to help pay expenses for the upkeep of the school.

In 1949, Dean Grooms (see Biographical sketch) , with his usual far-sightedness and "know how" legislated out the Special School District. .. and had the Greenfield School turned over to the County and the County built the present High School.

The present Greenfield high school building was built by Cowen Construction Co. in 1949-1950 at a cost of nearly \$180,000. The land on which it was built was purchased from L. C. Brasfield and the Hatcher heirs.

Principals from 1925 until now are as follows: T. B. Clark-1925-1934; H. C. Bullington-1934-1938; C. V. Moore-1938-1941; L. S. Miles- 1941-1945; Russell Tuck-1945-1950; Tom Mullaly-1950-1953; Hubert Jaco-1953-1955; Wilton Roberts, 1955 until present.

A handsome new gymnasium has been built (1963-64) just north of the High School building at a cost of \$200,000. Patrons and members of the community paid \$5,000.00 for part of the equipment for the gym. Open House was held in the new gymnasium on Sunday afternoon, November 15, about 600 persons attending.

From its lowly beginning in the small log cabin built on the acre of ground given by Joe Ward, the Greenfield School has gone far. The 1964 enrollment in High School is 262. The elementary grades have 547 enrolled. The faculty is made up of 12 high school teachers and 17 elementary teachers. The following is the faculty for 1964:

Mr. Wilton Roberts, Superintendent
Mrs. Tommy Ferguson, English and French
Mrs. Fay Brooks, Mathematics and Latin
Mr. Don Durden, Social Studies
Mr. Fred Clement, Science
Mr. Bill Voorhies, Agriculture
Mr. Don Pitt, Physical Education
Mr. Don Kester, English and Health
Mrs. Norma Williams, Biology
Mrs. Peggy Floyd, Home Economics
Mrs. Ruth Bouldin, Librarian
Mrs. Grace McClain, Bookkeeping and Shorthand
Mrs. Tom Mullaly, Mrs. Ruby Ford 8th Grade
Mrs. L. L. Moore, Mr. James Collins 7th Grade
Mrs. W. T. Wrenn, Mrs. Wilton Roberts 6th Grade
Mrs. Howard Usery, Mrs. Jerry Cannon 5th Grade
Miss Lurline Gardner, Miss Helen Walters 4th Grade
Mrs. Lessie Hatcher, Mrs. Betty Higgs 3rd Grade
Mrs. Paul Dickinson, Miss Aurella Perry 2nd Grade
Mrs. Fred Clement, Mrs. Jerry Campbell, Mrs. Kate Rawls 1st Grade

The school has a well-equipped lunch room with a capable staff of five: Mr. Herbert Clement is

Manager, and is assisted by the following workers: Mrs. Vivian Clement, Mrs. Susie Cavender, Mrs. Florence Hatcher and Mrs. Lou Nell Cochran. They serve good, wholesome, well-balanced lunches to about 500 children each day.

The library contains 2,500 books. It is called the "T. B. Clark Library" because the sons of Mr. Clark have given money and books. Joel Clark, the elder son of Mr. T. B. Clark, gives money each year for new books.

Vocational Agriculture was introduced into the curriculum of Greenfield High School in the fall of 1951 with Marcus L. McInnis as its first instructor. The first classes were held in the basement of the Junior High Building.

The Future Farmers of America, an organization of, by and for farm boys studying Agriculture, was chartered on January 4, 1952.

In 1956, Robert Hearn became the instructor and the Agriculture classes were moved to the Science Room in the High School. Mr. Bill Voorhies succeeded Mr. Hearn in the fall of 1957 and has continued as instructor of Vocational Agriculture to the present time. In the fall of 1958 the Agriculture Building, which included a classroom, an office, a workshop and tool storage, was completed. From 1956 through 1964, the F.F.A. Chapter received two Standard and seven Superior ratings. In 1958, the Chapter was "Top Crop Champs," an award for the highest number of total points earned in all contests entered during the year in the district. The Chapter has had three State Farmer degrees: Luke Cochran, 1957, Tolbert Tillman, 1957, and Eddie Scarbrough, 1962.

Home Economics was introduced into the teaching program several years ago. The F.H.A. was organized in 1945. It is a club in which the home economics students may participate. Its aim is to teach leadership, management, and decision making. The F.H.A. program is a State-wide organization. The local Chapter officers direct the school program to meet the State program of work. The officers are responsible for seeing that the local program is carried on in orderly fashion. Mrs. Peggy Floyd, the present teacher, has 87 pupils and is doing an excellent job training the girls to be homemakers.

The Betty Crocker Company publishes a test for use in recognizing an outstanding Senior student in the field of Home Economics. This test covers all areas of Home Economics and is called "Betty Crocker's Search for Homemakers of Tomorrow." The winner is given school recognition and presented an attractive pin. Another award given an outstanding senior in Home Economics is the Crisco award. The Crisco Company provides a trophy which is awarded to a student in the upper half of the class who has cooperated with the Home Economics Program.

The Greenfield High School also has the following clubs: A "G Club" for all students who have lettered in any athletic field. A "French Club" for students taking French I or II. A "Latin Club" for students who are in Latin I or have had two years of Latin. A "Science Club" for all students taking a science subject. A "Beta Club" ...an honorary society started February 22, 1964. "F. T. A." ...Future Teachers of America.

The school has eight school buses that bring in numbers of children from the southwest corner of Weakley County. The bus drivers are: Virgil Doran, Wayne Williams, Sam Black, Carl Williams, John Huffstetler, W. M. Smithson, Raymond Bates and J. T. Walker.

GREENFIELD EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (COLORED)

The first colored school to be in Greenfield, after the town was established, was a two story frame building, located in front of Porter Williams on East Main Street. This building burned in 1938 or 1939 and was rebuilt at its present location on the McKenzie highway. While this building was being made available, school was held in the St. Luke Baptist Church.

Some of the earlier teachers were O. C. Cole, Mr. Garter, Mr. Vance, Mr. Tommy Diggs and Mr. Woodson. Other teachers who taught in the school were: Joseph Pettis, Bobbie Pettis, Freneze Royster, and Frankie L. Jefferies.

The present building consists of two large school rooms and a kitchen. In 1959 the system was changed from grades 1 through 8 to grades 1 through 6. At the present time there are two teachers at East Elementary School. Frankie J. Bond came in 1956 and Mrs. Annie B. Coleman is principal and teacher. At this writing there are 44 students. Mrs. Coleman also came to Greenfield in 1956. She received her B.S, from Tennessee A.& I. State, Nashville.

**Outstanding Figures
In
Greenfield Education**

LIFE OF T. B. CLARK By JOEL CLARK

Told in a Letter to Mrs. Nannie Sharp Campbell

I appreciated your letter of October 19, requesting information about Daddy. I do know that he was born on August 21, 1873, in Giles County, Tennessee. His father (my grandfather) , was Thomas Henry Clark, who was a highly respected country doctor, and who served with the rank of Captain in the Confederate Army. His mother was Sarah Hudson Clark, and her family was from around the Mulberry community near Fayetteville in Lincoln County. All of her family were highly educated, and some of them earned degrees in universities at Paris, Berlin, and London. I know that one had a degree in law and also in medicine, and another was a Methodist minister who died in the pulpit of a heart attack in Florida.

He achieved a rather wide reputation for his fight against the Methodist Bishops and their power . Daddy attended a private school at Fayetteville--the Morgan School. I seem to recall that Morgan School was at Howell, actually, at the time Daddy was a student. After he received his diploma from Morgan, he attended Cumberland University at Lebanon for a year, and at the end of that time, had to remain at home to shoulder his part of the family responsibilities. He taught for a while with Mr. Morgan, and you may know that Mr. Morgan went to school to Sonny Webb. Some time after that-I don't know just when-Daddy started his own school up at Petersburg, and for a long time, Daddy, who never earned a sobriquet more pointed than " 'Fesser Clark," and R. K. "Ole' Dog" Morgan, and Sonny Webb and " 'Fesser Clark" had the only three schools above the 8th grade in that part of the state. I do want to impress on you that my memory relating to these incidents is rather hazy, and I would not be willing to vouch for the accuracy of all that I have said above. In substance, it is correct.

He later came to Greenfield, and then back to Howell, and then back to Greenfield again and his

last teaching was with Morgan, son of the "Ole' Dog" at Petersburg. He died in Petersburg, and was buried there. After Mother returned to Greenfield, it was her desire, and upon her request, we had Daddy's body disinterred and reburied in Greenfield where he now rests.

I can reach back and come up with one more chapter. He and Mother, Ethel Dillihay Harris, were married on Friday, February 13, 1902, and the fact that I am the first thing that happened to them is a little more evidence that Friday the 13th is not too lucky. But, I was their first-born, on September 23, 1903, and that memorable event was on a cold, rainy night at Howell, Tennessee. Daddy was teaching in Huntsville, Alabama, at the time, and because of the severity of the storm that night, did not arrive home until after I was born.

Thomas Blake Clark, the only other child born to this union, arrived on July 11, 1908. He now lives at Washington, D. C., and is the Editor of the Reader's Digest.

I called Laurel Harris, my aunt, whom I am sure you know, up at Cairo, Illinois, and must admit that I got practically all of this information from her. I was laboring under an impression that either she or Blake had gotten something together about Daddy and Mother a few years back, but I was wrong about it.

Chronologically, and for the written record, the above is about all I know, and those facts are of such little moment in relation to his true value, that I don't imagine I would ever bother to learn very much more about him than this contains herein.

You have to look in the hearts of the boys and girls who are now mothers and fathers, and grandmothers and grandfathers, particularly around Greenfield and Lincoln County, to find inscriptions that will bear testimony to his eternal glory .

In the matter of money, I expect that Blake and I both have made ten times as much money as Daddy made and would make in ten lifetimes, but I think that his worth to the human race was one thousand times richer than everything Blake and I combined have done during our entire lives.

I think back on the innumerable instances when Daddy would be impressed with the potential of

a boy or a girl, and would influence them to come to school when they actually didn't have enough money to buy their own clothes to come to school-and he bought them for them-and he took them into our home-and he fed them-and he bought them books-and inspired them to make something out of their lives. Many of them did make outstanding records, and there was not one of them who did not accomplish much more than they would likely have done, had Daddy not helped them as he did. I never have done anything like that for anybody, and Blake hasn't either-and I don't know many people who have.

I remember, for example, a picture of the Lord's Supper that was sketched by a boy that went to school to Daddy right there in Greenfield. I must plead guilty to not recalling his name, but I imagine you, or Miss Mamie, or Miss Mary, or almost any of you along about the same age group, could identify this boy. In history classes, for example, or when they were studying Caesar or Virgil, more often than otherwise) this boy, instead of paying attention to what was being said, would be sketching pictures of how he imagined the characters being discussed at the moment should look. Daddy continued to observe this and called the boy up after class; but it was not to condemn for not paying attention-it was to emphasize to him, and to dramatize for him, the great talent he (this boy) possessed, and urged that he go to Chicago and study commercial art, and Daddy helped him get there. It seems like this boy's name was Norman, but he sketched this beautiful picture of the Lord's Supper and gave it to Daddy and Mother for a Christmas present one year, and she kept that picture pasted in her scrapbook until she died.

I don't know how many scores of times I've seen and heard men come up to Daddy, leading their child by the hand, and would say, " 'Fesser, when I was going to school to you and you used to beat me half to death with a switch because I'd done something pretty bad, I used to swear I'd get even with you if it was the last thing I did when I got through school. But I've gotten older and I've got a little boy here of my own, and if you'll take him and be just a little harder on him than you were on me, and whip him just a little harder and a little more often than you did me, and if you do as much to make him appreciate the fine things in life as you did for me, I'll figure we're even." That is compensation for a job well done that you do not find on an income tax return. Daddy was rather outspoken. He had the courage to support his conviction, and he generated opposition from time to time, but not once have I ever heard of anybody who spoke disrespectfully of him, and who did not pay tribute to his honesty, whatever the conviction.

These are the things that are never written in history books. You find them only in human hearts, as I said above. Daddy came in this world with nothing-his father before him was dedicated to a life of service and gave no thought whatever to accumulation of money. When Daddy departed this world, he left 23 cents -that's about as near even as you can get. Blake and I went down the street and paid whatever bills were outstanding. The estate was easily administered.

Economically, that closed the book of his life in Greenfield, but for what he did to serve his fellow man, and for reasons just like the reason that caused you to write me the letter asking for information, and for the accomplishments that his encouragement and inspiration stimulated in the lives of those who came under his influence, I honestly don't think he will ever die. Strange as it may seem, he seems to be a great deal closer to me now and to have more influence on my thinking now, than when he walked and talked as a mortal in Greenfield. And, as my memory carries me back through the corridors of time, and I review the panorama of a vast myriad of experiences in which he had a role or a part, I have come to behold him as one of the greatest men who ever lived. I have come, too, to find more meaning in that treasured portion of scripture that says, " A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches." The life he lived and the value I place on my inheritance of his good name bear witness to those words.

That is about all I know to tell you about my father, and I do appreciate your writing and giving me an opportunity to contribute what little I could to your efforts to write a history of the school that he founded.

Cordially yours, Joel H. Clark

JOE H. WARD

Joe H. Ward was born in 1835. He was one of ten children of Henry J. and Penelope Ward, who came from North Carolina to Rutherford County, Tennessee, near Murfreesboro. Later they moved to Eaton in Gibson County, then to Greenfield. He married Caroline McAdams in 1856 and six children were born of this marriage: Pennie Barton, Johnnie Almus, Jim Ward, Bettie Neeley, Nannie Brasfield and Hattie Palmer. He established the J. H. Ward Flour and Milling Company. He donated the land where the Presbyterian Church now stands and the land for the

first school building in Greenfield, which was immediately north of where the present church stands. He died in 1897 and is buried in the Church Cemetery.

DEAN GROOMS

Dean Z. Grooms was born on Oct. 3, 1898. He was one of nine children of Zebulon W. and Fannie Grooms. The six boys were Carl, Hulon, Charlie, Dean, Fred and Roger. The girls were Ella, Nina and Grace. Dean married Ruth Wren Hillis April 30, 1919. Two children were born to this union. ..a daughter, Nancy, and a son, Zeb, who married and has one daughter named Laura. He has been a magistrate for 34 years (1930-1964) . He was elected to the State Senate twice (1943 and 1945) .He also served three terms as a member of the Home of Representatives (1939, 1941 and 1949) .In 1949 while a member of the House of Representatives he introduced a (special act) bill to repeal the Greenfield Special School District. He then influenced the Greenfield School to deed the Greenfield School property to Weakley County so long as they maintained a school equal to other schools in the County.

Dean and his lovely wife live at his 96 year old ancestral two-story red brick home five miles east of Greenfield.

JAMES BYRON REED

James Byron Reed was born August 30, 1858. He married Annie Baker Lett on August 30, 1888. He was a graduate of Bethel College. He was Principal of China Grove in Gibson County ; President of Bethel College in McKenzie from 1900 to 1905; was Principal of Tennessee Military Institute (T.M.I.) located at Sweetwater, Tennessee, for one year; was co-Principal with Mr. Beiber in the Huntingdon School from 1905 to 1907. He taught for many years as Principal of the Greenfield Schools. He and his wife, "Miss Annie" each taught 43 years.

Each year during their forty-three years of teaching they had in their home three or four young persons whom they were assisting toward an education. One of these, an orphan whom they had taken into their home at the age of seven, was eventually adopted by them. (Maude Barton Reed) . She now lives alone in the Reed home.

Former pupils, still living, feel that they can never express their deep gratitude for the help and encouragement given them. They helped at least fifteen. The J. B. Reeds need no record on stone,

their record is a living one on the hearts of those who remember and love them.

On the morning of January 19, 1943, Prof. Reed went to his rest and was laid in Highland Cemetery beside his wife who preceded him in death on Sept. 6, 1935.

W. LEE HARRIS

W. Lee Harris was born in Marshall County, Tennessee, in 1875. He married Nell Ferrell. To this union was born three children. He began teaching in 1897. He taught in elementary school in Maury County, was principal of the High School also in Maury County and for five years was head of Auburn Seminary, Auburn, Kentucky (a private high school owned and operated by the Cumberland Presbyterian Church) .For three years he was Principal of Greenfield Training School.

When Greenfield Training School burned he left Greenfield and became Supt. of the Public Schools of Lebanon, Tennessee, from 1915 to 1925. He was Superintendent of Schools of Gallatin from 1925 to 1938. He taught mathematics in Cumberland university for two years and taught mathematics in Castle Heights Military Academy for 15 years. He resigned for retirement in June, 1962.

Mr. Harris and his intelligent wife, Neil Ferrell Harris, did much to prepare many students to enter college, to meet the problems of business life, or to teach successfully in the Public High Schools of the state. Their aim was thoroughness in scholarship and discipline which leads to the development of a well-rounded citizen.

BERTHA BELEW SMITH

Bertha Belew, the daughter of Robert and Georgia Ann Belew was born in Carroll County in 1890. They moved to Greenfield when Bertha was a little girl of eight years. She attended the colored grade school in Greenfield. She went to Merry High School and began her teaching career when she was in the eleventh grade.

The first school where she taught was Mt. Ollie. She taught for a while, then returned to school herself to complete her education.

She was then assigned a teaching job in the colored school in Greenfield. She taught there until she retired.

She married Joe Taylor and he died as a young man. To this union a son, Joe Robert, was born, but he too, died a young man.

Bertha then married Marshall Smith from Jackson, Tennessee, and they continued to live in Greenfield.

Bertha Smith taught Sunday School for over fifty years. She was a faithful member of St. Luke Baptist Church and also was the pianist there until her death.

Her aim was to better her community and train the young people of her race. She was an inspiring person and everyone who knew her loved her and the things she stood for.

PROF. M. A. DOBBS

Mack Allen Dobbs, son of George and Eliza Harper Dobbs, was born in Oxford, Mississippi, April 21, 1875. Later, the family moved to Jackson, Tennessee, where he finished his education at Lane College.

He married Bessie Elizabeth Butler in 1904 and they had seven children, Finis, Lorraine, Teawillie, Milton, Booker T., Rosa and Paul. His son, Paul, went on to college and is a teacher also.

He died on Oct. 2, 1957. He was a Democrat and belonged to the A.M.E. Church in Greenfield.

Greenfield Civic Clubs

The various civic clubs make a stronger contribution to community well-being in a smaller town than they do in larger cities. The combined rosters of the Greenfield Civic Clubs include the names of almost every citizen who has evidenced any willingness or desire to assist his or her town.. and to make it a better place in which to live .

The list of Greenfield Clubs is an impressive one.. and a brief history and account of each follows in this section.. written by a member of each group.

AMERICAN LEGION

The American Legion in Greenfield was organized March 6, 1922. Membership the first year was 36.

There were 16 charter members. They are as follows:

Algie H. Abney Harry W. Davidson Robert M. Fowlks Aude Roy Brock Joe Carroll Barton
Clyde J. Barton G. B. Belew Fred M. Hatcher J. L. Price Thomas M. Irvin . J. A. Holder Harry
H. Hillis J. O. L. Sims Henry A. Drewey Roy Abbott E. P. Dewberry

The first commander was G. R. Belew. First Adjutant was R. M. Fowlks.

LEGION AUXILIARY

The women's Auxiliary unit #133 was organized in Greenfield June 16, 1931. There were eleven charter members, as follows:

Mrs. A. R. Brock Mrs. Edyth Belew Mrs. Ruby McAdams Mrs. Iva Corum Mrs. Willie
Maness Mrs. Lyndell Belew Mrs. Ethel B. Davidson Mrs. Georgia Thomas Mrs. Frances Elam
Mrs. Martha Deuberry Mrs. Odell Galey The first President was Mrs. A. R. Brock, the first
secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Ruby McAdams.

The Legion and the Auxiliary sponsored flood refugee camps for families both black and white in 1937.

They also helped with the building of City Hall and Legion rooms through W.P.A. in 1940. They have also sponsored the only child welfare and public health program since organizing.

The two Legions have sponsored school library programs. They each give aid to Veterans Hospital.

They also help disabled veterans each year through the sale of poppies. The two Legions observe

Memorial Day each year by placing flags on graves of veterans of all wars.

At this writing all charter members are living and nine of these have held continuous membership.

BOY SCOUTS

The current chapter of the Boy Scouts, Troop 239, was formed in May, 1961, with 20 boys of various ranks participating. Fred Clements was Scout Master and Joyhl Legons was Asst. Scout Master. The Rotary Club sponsored the Scouts both financially and in an advisory capacity.

Since the troop was formed Joyhl Legons has become Scout Master and Wally Bielewicz Asst. Scout Master. Three boys, Rick Barton, Dickie Belew and Mike Maness have advanced to the rank of Eagle Scout,

The Boy Scouts have helped in several money making projects for the community and do their best to serve their country and community well.

THE CAMP FIRE GIRLS

In 1925 the Camp Fire Girls were organized under the leadership of Mrs. W. A. Barton, with Reverend C. V. Brown, Presbyterian Minister, as advisor. The group began its work with twelve members: Mary Alice Brasfield, Lottie Terry, Grace Coats, Elizabeth Baker, Virginia Coats, Guyrene Clymer, Elizabeth Barton, Evelyn Roberts, Kathryn Mo,seley, Margaret Cantrell, Rebecca Grooms and Mattie Lee Walters.

This group held its weekly meetings in the basement of the Presbyterian Church. The girls would meet with their leader, "Miss Maud," as she was lovingly called, in the afternoon after school and go through their program of work. The girls learned many useful things and their Code was: Seek Beauty, Give Service, Pursue Knowledge, Be Trustworthy, Hold on to Health, Glorify Work and Be Happy. Their watchword was "WoHeLo," taken from the words, Work, Health and Love. These afternoons were not spent in all work, but crafts were enjoyed and songs were sung.

Many happy outings were enjoyed by the different groups. The first camping trip was spent at Shiloh in the summer of 1926. Others were at Ridgetop near Nashville, Sunkist Beach at Reelfoot Lake and Ruskin and Jewel Caves near Dickson, Tennessee.

Other happy outings were sunrise breakfasts at Allen's Pond and other local places.

In 1928 the Camp Fire Girls began construction of a log cabin on Mrs. Flora Littleton's farm just out of Greenfield on the Dresden Highway. Mr. Tom Grooms was instrumental in helping their dreams come true when he located the logs for them. Labor on the cabin was paid for with hard-earned money from many projects carried on by the girls who did much of the light work themselves. Mothers and other interested citizens also contributed their help and encouragement in many ways. This cabin was located in a beautiful wooded area, and was similar to one that might have belonged to Davy Crockett or Daniel Boone. There was no electricity, but kerosene lamps and a huge fireplace at one end provided most of the light on winter or summer nights when the girls and Miss Maud went out to spend the night. Meals were cooked outside, but popcorn and marshmallows were prepared over the open fire. Everyone sat around and told stories and sang songs until time for bed. Some slept on cots and some on the floor, but everyone had a delightful time.

The girls did most of their traveling, when it was too far to hike, in open touring cars. One of the best known of these cars was a Studebaker, known affectionately by the girls as "Ramona." The girls would load in, sitting anywhere they could find a seat, and off they would go to a sunrise breakfast, or to "The Cabin."

For ten years "Miss Maud" counseled and taught the girls of the community to live and work together in harmony and a spirit of love and companionship. She was never happier than when she was hiking, working or camping with the girls. The girls learned to appreciate nature, the good things of life, and in a time when money was not too plentiful they learned how to enjoy things which cost little. They found entertainment and pleasure in the company of one another. Those girls who went through the training of the Camp Fire Girls are now grown women, who themselves have and are raising families. They are making their contribution to society in a much better way because of their association with the Camp Fire Girls and "Miss Maud."

HISTORY OF WASHINGTON LODGE #159 - MASONS

Washington Lodge No.159, F. & A. M. was organized October 5, 1848 at Millersburg, Weakley County, Tennessee, about two miles west of where Greenfield now stands with the following charter members: W. P. Hill, Will. G. Dudley, Joe Dibrell, Wade H. Carlton, E. J. Shannon, Leonard Miller, James Ethridge and Harvey Waterfield.

The Lodge was crowded with petitions from the very first; some of the most prominent men of Weakley County were members of this Lodge. They were prompt in attendance and diligent hard workers. There was no lack of interest, even in their old age, and living at a great distance from the lodge was no barrier . The Lodge was granted a charter on October 5, 1849 by the Grand Lodge of Tennessee.

A new hall was built near where Greenfield now stands in 1850 and on Dec. 27 they moved in. They continued in this location until 1865, then they moved to a building near the C. P. Church and in 1896 to the building on Front Street over the Greenfield Drugstore.

In 1963 under the leadership of their Master, Bro. Paul C. Moore and his group of faithful officers and members they leased their present building from the Greenfield Banking Company, and redecorated and remodeled it to a most modern lodge hall.

The first Master of Washington Lodge was Bro. W. P. Hill. There have been many prominent business men and citizens of Greenfield who have served as Master since that time.

The present Master is Bro. Richard Jobe.

THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

The first chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star in Greenfield was organized on December 14, 1909, with thirty charter members. Mrs. Eula Mathis was the first Worthy Matron and Mr. J. H. Keel was the first Worthy Patron. This chapter was the eighty-sixth of the Order to be organized in Tennessee and was chartered on January 25, 1910, as Electa Chapter Number Eighty-Six.

The Electa Chapter became defunct January 22, 1931, with Mrs. Georgia Thomas as the last Worthy Matron and Mr. Andy J. Teets as the last Worthy Patron.

In the Masonic Hall on February 16, 1946, a new chapter of the O.E.S. came to life under the direction of Mr. Raymond Rogers, a Past Grand Patron of Trenton, Tennessee. This chapter was given the name of Kate Brooks Chapter in honor of Mrs. Kate Brooks, a Past Worthy Matron and a faithful member of the Electa Chapter. Charter members of Kate Brooks Chapter were the following: Mrs. Mattie Gill, Mrs. Lovie Moore, Mr. William Green, Mr. M. F. Poston, Mrs. Elizabeth Williams, Mrs. Thelma Green, Mrs. Mary Frances Swain, Mrs. Louise Galloway, Mrs. Lela Nelson, Mrs. Louise Poston, Mrs. Pauline Akin, Mrs. Elsa Collins, Mrs. Ann Knight, Mrs. Ruby McAdams, Mrs. Velma Dudley, Mrs. Frances Sees, Mr. Paul C. Moore, Mrs. Minnie Stigal, Mrs. Eunice Davis, Mrs. Georgia Thomas, Mr. Early Collins, Mr. J. M. Bishop, Mr. Roy Akin, and Mr. Carey Swain.

On May 13, 1946, Kate Brooks Chapter was constituted by Mrs. Lois Jacobs, Past Worthy Grand Matron, and Mr. Raymond Rogers, Past Worthy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter in Tennessee. This was Tennessee's 394th chapter.

Kate Brooks Chapter #394 has been in existence continually since its constitution and has initiated over one hundred and fifty members. It has helped to institute Dresden Chapter #448, has sponsored the Rainbow for Girls in Greenfield, and has been instrumental in organizing Rainbow Assemblies for Martin, Trenton, and Gleason.

The Order of the Eastern Star works in conjunction with the Masonic Lodge and holds its meetings in the Masons' Lodge Hall. The regularly stated meetings are held the second Monday night of each month. previously the meetings have been held in the Lodge Hall on the third floor of the Greenfield Drug Company's building. However, under the leadership of the Worshipful Master, Paul C. Moore, his team of officers, and faithful members, the Masonic Order leased the second floor of the Greenfield Banking Company's building and moved to this new location June 1, 1963.

Those who have filled the leadership places as Worthy Matrons and Worthy Patrons of Kate

Brooks Chapter are the following:

*Worthy Matrons: Mrs. Mattie Gill,² Mrs. Lovie Moore,³ Mrs. Thelma Green,¹ Mrs. Edythe Belew,³ Mrs. Pauline Akin,¹ Mrs. Frances Sees,¹ Mrs. Maralyn Grainger,¹ Mrs. Eva Lou Aylor,¹ Mrs. Elsie Rourke,¹ Mrs. Stella LeCornu,¹ Mrs. Mary Lee Galey,¹ Mrs. Nine Ward,¹ and Mrs. Rhoda Archie} Worthy Patron: William Green (instrumental in organizing Kate Brooks Chapter),¹ J. W. Sees,¹ Neal Tillman,² Paul C. Moore,⁸ W. P. Belew,⁸ J. W. Grainger,² Burnie Orr,¹ James Moore,¹ Allen Galey,¹ Roy Akin,¹ and James E. Archie.¹

The Order of the Eastern Star stands for Charity, Truth, and Loving Kindness. The O.E.S. extends a generous hand to victims of heart cancer, polio, other diseases, and assists in the care of orphans, widows, and elderly Eastern Star members. Kate Brooks Chapter has worked With all civic groups for the betterment of the community and looks with hopeful eyes to a successful future in the same pursuit.

**The raised number after the name indicates the number of years that the individual served in that office.*

GEE CEES

The Gee Cees were organized in Greenfield March, 1955, for the sole purpose of raising money for the playground at the elementary school.

Two tennis courts were erected, barbecue grills, picnic area and play- ground equipment were installed.

Mrs. Roy Bishop served as the first president. For a short time, they also sponsored a Girl Scout Program. The club is no longer in existence.

GREENFIELD GARDEN CLUB

The Greenfield Garden Club was organized Jan. 31, 1939, and lasted until 1941. They met at the Colonial Hotel and the first President was Mrs. Jack McAdams. The hotel was torn down about 1955.

JAYCETTE

On October 13, 1964, a Jaycette Chapter was chartered in Greenfield, its purpose being to work together with the Jaycees to further the civic, social and educational development of Greenfield.

The Charter members were Barbara Galey, Linda Light, Harriet Drewry, Juanita Grooms, Faye Daniels, Francis Parks, Treva Wren, Molly Grooms, Linda Riggs, Margaret Stout and Jeanette Rawls.

The officers elected were Barbara Galey, President; Harriet Drewry, Vice-President; Linda Light, Secretary; Faye Daniels, Treasurer; and Frances Parks, State Director .

In the months since the inception of the chapter the members have sponsored a rummage sale, bake sale and a Barbie Doll raffle for money- making projects. They helped a needy family at Christmas and also helped deliver Christmas baskets. They are currently helping in the Jaycee Blood Drive.

THE GREENFIELD LIONS CLUB

The Greenfield Lions Club was organized October 1, 1959. They meet weekly at Allison's Restaurant. The Presidents who have served, in order of their service are: Kenneth Stafford, Carnell Tate, Dr. Billy Pitts, W. D. Stroud, James Clark, Jerry Galey.

There are many projects in which the club has participated :

They have placed trash cans on city streets to help keep the city clean, sight conservation (state wide, supplying glasses to local needy children) , supplying shoes to local needy children, lighting of Little League ball field.

They have sponsored Little League ball teams, summer supervised play, assisted in fund raising for city park and swimming pool, served as local chairman of Cancer, Red Cross, and March of Dimes drives, and currently stenciling the names on the street posts.

The following is the list of Charter Members :

Ralph Adams Ralph Galloway James Porter

Robert L. Armour Johnnie Goodlow Bruce Robinson

Ben Atkinson Joe Grooms Kenneth Stafford Joe Bates Ward Johnston W. D. Stroud Kermit
Brann Bill Liggett Carnell Tate
T. G. Caldwell, Jack R. McAdams Jillmie Thetford Fred Callins Klietus Moo, re Cleste T
Williams Eddie Coats Burnie Orr Gilbert Williams
Joe Collins Eugene Page John B. Williams Harold Foust Howard Perry William Wren
Billy Pitts

EAST GREENFIELD HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUB

The East Greenfield Club was organized on December 2, 1954, by Miss Louise Odom with eleven charter members present. The first officers were: Mrs. Norris Foust, President; Mrs. Carl Williams, Vice-President, and Mrs. Cecil Livermore, Secretary and Treasurer .

Succeeding Presidents have been Mrs. Carl Williams, Mrs. Walter Pope, Mrs. Dale Wright, Mrs. Leora Abernathy, Mrs. Clara Crabtree and Mrs. Clayton Caudle.

At the present time the club has eighteen members. We have four active charter members} namely, Mrs. Edd Galey, Mrs. Carl Williams, Mrs. Walter Pope, and Mrs. John Pope. Mrs. Edd Galey is our oldest member and is still very active.

During our eight years of club work, we have made serving trays, has- socks, bottomed stools and chairs, made lamp shades, picture frames, trivets with tile, Christmas tree skirts, dolls, and Christmas decorations.

We have had lessons on upholstering divans and chairs and refinishing

furniture and many other things. The club makes and gives quilts each year to people who lose their homes by fire.

One of our major projects each year is to help the needy and unfortunate people of our community. The chief aim of our club is to help make our community a better place in which to live.

PROGRESSIVE HOMEMAKERS HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUB

Mrs. Calvin Morris, Home Agent, met with fourteen women and the Progressive Homemakers Home Demonstration Club was organized in March, 1959. Mrs. George Hearn, Mrs. Paul Heath, Mrs. W. H. Atkins) Miss Nell Higgs and Mrs. Earl Gearin were the first club officers. The club has contributed to charitable projects and participated in the major drives in Weakley County.

The club sponsored the erection of a stand for the historic church bell at Mt. Hermon Church as one of their community projects. Miss Mozelle LeCornu is president at this time with a membership of twelve. This friendly and cooperative group is looking forward to many good years in the club,

THE JAYCEES CLUB OF GREENFIELD

The Jaycees Club of Greenfield was formed by the efforts of a few young men who had a desire for a club for young men, to serve their community. A group of men met first to find out if a club of this type was desired. This meeting took place in March of 1963. Those present were encouraged by reports of others who wanted to form a Jaycee club) there- fore the Kenton Jaycees Club was invited to help form the Greenfield Club,

The first meetings were concerned with the formation and charter of the club and election of officers. The first elected officers were as follows : President, Larry Joe Abemathy; Vice-President, Jimmy Williams; 2nd Vice-President, Jimmy Tillman; Secretary, Bobby Moore; Correspondence Secretary, Leonard L. Usery; Treasurer, Bill Voorhies; Reporter, James L. Overton; Public Relations, L. L. Usery and J. L. Overton; Board of Directors, Jimmy Grooms, Don Durden, Charles Wren, Tommy Bryant, and State Representative, Bobby Rawls.

The club had a tremendous start with 27 members and several projects proposed and several projects in force at this writing. The club is for young men between the ages of 21 and 35, it therefore provides training for leadership for the younger men of the community and brings before them the problems of civic improvement and betterment.

The club has completed several money making projects and started several civic improvement projects. The membership has been steady and grown from the original 27 to 35.

ROTARY CLUB

The Rotary Club in Greenfield, Tennessee, was organized February 20, 1946, with the McKenzie Rotary Club as the sponsoring club. The twenty- six charter members were :
Melvin L. Brooks, President Thomas Akin Robert E. Elam, Vice-President W. P. Belew
Joseph Barton, Secretary Harold Moseley H. L. Kimery, Treasurer Robert Caudle Edward T.
Smith, Sgt. at Arms J. A. Keel
David D. Todd R. D. Bishop
M. F. Poston R. W. Brandon, Jr. C. B. Foust Nick K. Givens Hall McAdams S. O. Payne
.John B. Williams E. B. Wright
Robert Schleich Nuel W. Kemp A. R. Brock .J. B. Maness L. S. Miles W. J. Coats

Throughout the years this club has greatly helped the school and the community in many ways. The outstanding project of the club is sponsorship of the Community Fair. In connection with this, one of the events of the fair program has been a beauty contest to elect the "Fairest of the Fair ." The winners have been as follows :

1959: Miss Linda Moore

1960: Miss Louise Atkinson 1961: Miss Beverly Connell 1962: Miss Suzanne Harris 1963:
Miss Patrice Harris 1964: Miss .Janice Tharp

1965: Miss Martha Ann Mullins

Starting in 1961 there was a Junior Revue, selecting a Junior King
and Queen for the Fair festivities. The ages of the contestants are between 6 and 9.

1961: Queen-Julie Prins

King-Harry Ray Davidson 1962: Queen-Susan Goodlow King-Bart Harris

1963: Queen- Tonya Richardson King-Steven F. Ward

1964: Queen-Martha Ann Usery King-David Cannon

1965 : Queen-Charlotte Maness King-Mike Pentecost

Other projects have included the construction of a football stadium and field; contribution to the city swimming pool; sponsorship of the local Boy Scout Troop; contributions to the annual Christmas basket fund for the needy; annual contribution to the Christmas fund for VeteIIans Hospital in Memphis; donation for equipment for the new gymnasium; contributions annually to the Crippled Adults Hospital in Memphis.

In 1964 the membership was thirty.

The following are presidents of the club since organization :

Melvin Brooks 1946-1947 S. O. Payne 1947-1948 Nick Givens 1948-1949 Richard Barton 1949-1950 Harold Moseley 1950-1951 Robert Elam 1951-1952 Conyer Rawls 1952-1953 Phil B. Harris 1953-1954 Maurice Belew 1954-1955 Joseph Barton 1955-1956 Edward (Snooks) Smith 1956-1957 Roy Bishop 1957-1958 Derrell Light 1958-1959 Tom Mullaly 1959-1960 Donald Cannon 1960-1961 Nathan Porter 1961-1962 Charles Browning 1962-1963 Eugene Caudle 1963-1964 Bill Dudley 1964-1965 Edward Maness 1965-1966