

The Voice

of
The Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society
And
The Cobb Memorial Archives

SPEAKING ABOUT THE PAST TO THE PRESENT, FOR A BETTER FUTURE

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C.V.H.S. Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, July 18, 2010, 3:00 p.m. EDST
The Lanier Room, H. Grady Bradshaw Library
Valley, Alabama

Recent Discoveries in Alabama Folk Pottery

Speaker: Joey Brackner

Joey Brackner is the Director of the Alabama Center for Traditional Culture, a department of the Alabama State Council on the Arts. He is also the manager of the Alabama State Council on the Arts' Folklife Program and has worked for the ASCA since 1985. He manages a project grants program, which supports efforts by Alabama organizations to present the state's folk traditions as well as an Apprenticeship grants program supporting master folk artists who are teaching students their art forms. Brackner co-produced "Unbroken Tradition" a film documentary on Alabama folk potter Jerry Brown. Brackner is a native of Fairfield, Alabama. He received a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1977 and a M. A. in Anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin in 1981.

Following twenty years' research, Brackner authored the most comprehensive book to date on the historical development of potteries in Alabama. His book, Alabama Folk Pottery, published in 2006, stimulated a renewed interest in identifying and documenting the various stoneware produced in Alabama in the 19th and 20th centuries by potters who created the utilitarian pots, jugs, churns, and jars for rural and urban people. His publication also has stimulated renewed interest in the potters and their families, their jug towns and their production processes. He pursues additional research interests in traditional graveyard decoration and southern horticultural traditions.

Brackner's presentation will address new discoveries in Alabama folk pottery since the publication of his book, with specific attention given to the folk pottery tradition of Chambers and Randolph Counties. Following his presentation, he will be joined by Gary Price and Frank Foster in an effort to assist attendees in documenting individual pieces of pottery. Gary Price is the principal coordinator of the Rock Mills Pottery Day. ...*continued on page 2*

He is a Randolph County collector who works to document and interpret the location of production sites and production glazes and processes. Frank Foster is a descendent of one of the significant potter families of Rock Mills and currently produces traditional and contemporary styles of hand thrown stoneware at his pottery at Rock Mills.

The general public is invited to the meeting and is also invited to bring a piece of stoneware for the three experts to examine if assistance is needed in identifying the origin of the item and documenting its characteristics. The second part of the program will develop as an interaction between the experts and attendees as the attributes of individual pots are discussed. A number of pieces of privately owned stoneware will be on display during the program.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am most happy to report that the Steering Committee for the Chambers County photographic history did complete the draft of the book and did submit it by the deadline of April 27 as required by Arcadia Publishing. Subsequently, we were complimented upon the quality of the work and informed that we needed to make adjustments to only five photographs out of the 229 which are to be published. We have been informed by the regional sales manager for Arcadia that the publication date will be November 1, 2010. We are now waiting to see the galley proofs and make any final necessary changes in the text or pictures. As soon as we are able to receive the books after November 1, we will host a promotion event, advertise the book and hope you will plan to purchase copies for family Christmas gifts. We are proud of the efforts of CVHS and the Chambers County Museum membership to produce this book. We are most appreciative of the public response to our formal and informal requests for images to scan.

We have established an inventory of more than a thousand images from which we were to select only 229 for the Arcadia publication. We chose to maximize the opportunity to provide introductory text for each chapter. As children we were immensely happy to find an arrowhead and take it home to be added to our curiosity box. As adults we look at that arrow head and wonder where we found it and wish we had recorded its original location and provided it with a local context for its existence. It is the same with the old images. It is not only important to preserve and present the image, but it most important to establish the context for the image and draw out its instructive story. All images are important. We scanned every photo submitted and all scans will be kept in an electronic format at the Cobb Memorial Archives. Over this next year our work will be to get the information about these photos into an electronic file, indexed by photo name and contributor. We consider all these photographs to be valuable since they document the people who have lived, worked, and died in this county. It was very difficult for us to make the selections for the limited number of images to be included in the book. We had so many good images which we knew the public and the publisher would appreciate and which well documented the places and experiences of our Chambers County families. I have already apologized to a number of folks and feel badly that all photos and their stories could not be published at this time. At CVHS we are discussing how we by our own initiative may publish all the images over a number of years. We feel we must wait for at least a year before we initiate a second publication. We also wish to continue to scan images and add to the inventory. From our work this past year we learned how fugitive the old photographs are becoming. Many of us have lived through one, two and sometimes three phases of our County's economic history. Our oldest homes have been deserted and our growing families have scattered across the states of our nation. The old images are being distributed among the younger generations and the old stories and the Chambers County context are forgotten. We have a limited time to find these images and record their stories. We will encourage the public to continue to allow us to record their old images and document their context in the history of our County.

As you might expect, many persons submitted photographs of family members, as individuals and in groups, for consideration for the Arcadia publication. We also recorded many images of family homes. We were disappointed that we did not inventory more images of people working on their farms and in their trades. We hope to find in the future more photographs of people at work. Also we received a very limited number of images showing the use of machinery on the farms and in the towns. The county had many grist mills and cotton gins a hundred years ago but less than a half dozen photos were submitted. We have a challenge to document as many aspects of the life as possible. We know there must be many more interesting, even exciting, historical images out there and we have only to find them.

Finally, we appreciate your membership in CVHS and your interest and support of our initiatives.

- Horace M. Holderfield

ARCHIVES REPORT

The second quarter of 2010 has been an exciting and busy one here at Cobb Memorial Archives. Paula Kirkpatrick, our new fulltime employee, is proving to be an energetic, friendly and computer savvy addition to our staff. We are delighted to have Paula with us and hope you will all come in to meet her.

In February a large group of Journalism students from Auburn University came to Valley with a goal to produce a publication to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the City of Valley. It was our pleasure and good fortune to have many of these students spend days searching the resources here in Cobb Memorial Archives about the history of the area and its people. The end result was *Valley Vision*, A Special Edition in Celebration of Valley's 30th Anniversary, Auburn University Community Journalism Project. This is an outstanding 32 page publication created entirely by Auburn University students. For anyone interested in the history of Valley and its people this publication is a "must" to see and read. It is what my family refers to as "a keeper".

Another Auburn University student, Monica Norton Cox, who also did research here, has donated a copy of "A thesis submitted to the Graduate Faculty of Auburn University in partial fulfillment for the Degree of Master of Science". The title is *The Mortuary Constructions of William Rufus Jackson: A Demographic and Spatial Analysis of Folk Art Tombstones in the East Alabama Area*. "Rock Jackson's" tombstones are identified by the folk art with which he decorated them. You will want to see this book which identifies much of his work.

County Line Baptist Church History, 1835-2010, has been donated to the Archives. This includes the history published by James Johnston in 1985 and an extension to cover 1985-2010. Records for the last 25 years were gleaned and compiled by Betty Barrett and Ann Washburn Morse to complete the history.

Mrs. Dorethea Leak spent years collecting and preserving photographs, newspaper articles and stories which she has included in her recently published book, *Fairfax: My Hometown*. Mrs. Leak has most graciously donated a copy to Cobb Archives.

J.G. Leak has also spent many years and hours collecting photographs, newspaper articles, documents and narratives for his recently published RiverView: My Hometown. He, too, has donated a copy of this book to Cobb Archives. *...continued on page 4*

A distinguished visitor was 90+ year old World War II Veteran, Fletcher Horn of Charlotte, North Carolina who came with his daughter, Judy Rummo of Ridgefield, CT, to visit the scenes of his young days. He is pictured in The Valley in World War II and visited with a classmate Walter Meadors.

We are very pleased with how often the films of the early estate records and marriage records of Chambers County are used. We feel fortunate to have these available for our researchers.

Marjorie, Paula and I hope you will have an opportunity to visit us.

- Miriam Syler



Sheriff Pat Garrett and wife Apolinaria Gutierrez. This portrait was found last year at an estate sale in New Mexico and is a previously unpublished image of the Garretts.

Sheriff Pat Garrett

(1850 - 1908)

One of Chambers County's notable sons Patrick Floyd Garrett was born near Cusseta on June 5, 1850. The family migrated west and he grew up on a prosperous Louisiana plantation near Haynesville in northern Claiborne Parish, just below the Arkansas state line. By 1869 he had left home and found work as a cowboy in Dallas County, Texas.

In 1878, Garrett shot and killed a fellow buffalo hunter who charged at Garrett with a hatchet over a disagreement concerning buffalo hides. Upon dying, the hunter brought Garrett to tears upon asking him to forgive him.

Garrett moved to New Mexico and briefly found work as a cowpuncher prior to opening his own saloon. A tall man, he was referred to by locals as "Juan Largo" or "Long John." In 1879, Garrett married Juanita Gutierrez who died within a year. In 1880, he married Gutierrez's sister Apolonaria. The couple had nine children.

On November 7, 1880, Sheriff George Kimbell of Lincoln County, New Mexico resigned with two months left in his term. As Kimbell's successor the county appointed Garrett, a member of the Republican Party who ran as a Democrat and a gunman of some reputation who had promised to restore law and order. Garrett was charged with tracking down and arresting a friend from his saloon keeping days, Henry McCarty, a jail escapee and Lincoln County War participant who often went by the aliases Henry Antrim and William Harrison Bonney, but is better known as "Billy the Kid". McCarty was an alleged murderer who had participated in the Lincoln County War. He was said to have killed twenty-one men, one for every year of his life, but the actual total was probably closer to nine. New Mexico Governor Lew Wallace had personally put a \$500 reward on McCarty's capture.

During a December 19 shootout, Garrett killed Tom O'Folliard a member of McCarty's gang. A few nights later the sheriff's posse killed Charlie Bowdre, captured The Kid and his companions, and transported the captives to Mesilla, New Mexico for trial. Though he was convicted, The Kid managed to escape from jail on April 18, 1881, after killing his guards J. W. Bell and Bob Olinger.

On July 14, 1881, Garrett visited Fort Sumner to question a friend of The Kid's about the whereabouts of the outlaw. He learned that The Kid was staying with a mutual friend, Pedro Maxwell. Around midnight, Garrett went to Maxwell's house. The Kid was asleep in another part of the house but woke up hungry in the middle of the night and entered the kitchen where Garrett was standing in the shadows. The Kid did not recognize the man standing in dark. "Quien es (Who is it)? Quien es?" The Kid asked repeatedly. Garrett replied by shooting at The Kid twice, the first shot hitting him in the heart and the second one did not hit him. (Some historians have questioned Garrett's account of the shooting, alleging the incident happened differently. They claim that Garrett went into Paulita Maxwell's room and tied her up. The Kid walked into her room, and Garrett ambushed him with a single blast from his Sharps rifle.)

There has been much dispute over the details of The Kid's death that night. The way Garrett allegedly killed McCarty without warning eventually sullied the lawman's reputation. Garrett claimed that Billy the Kid had entered the room armed with a pistol, but no gun was found on his body. Other accounts claim he entered carrying a kitchen knife. There is no hard evidence to support this; however, if he did so it is likely he intended to cut some meat for himself since he had no idea anyone was waiting for him. Regardless of how he died, Billy was a wanted criminal and Sheriff Garrett chose not to give him a chance to surrender. The shooting solidified Garrett's fame as a lawman and gunman, and led to numerous appointments to law enforcement positions as well as requests that he pursue outlaws in other parts of New Mexico.

His law enforcement career never achieved any great success following the Lincoln County War, and he mostly used that single era in his life as his stepping-stone to higher positions.

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After finishing out his term as sheriff, Garrett became a rancher and released a book ghostwritten by his friend Ash Upson in 1882 about his experiences with McCarty. However he lost the next election for Lincoln County sheriff and was never paid the \$500 reward for McCarty's capture, since he had allegedly killed him. In 1884, he lost an election for the New Mexico State Senate. Later that year he left New Mexico and helped found and captain a company of Texas Rangers.

He returned to New Mexico briefly in 1885. In October 1889, Garrett ran for Chaves County, New Mexico sheriff but lost. By this time his rough disposition was beginning to wear thin with much of the population and rumors of his less than admirable killing of Billy The Kid were beginning to affect his popularity. Garrett left New Mexico in 1891 for Uvalde, Texas. He returned to New Mexico in 1896 to investigate the disappearance of Albert Jennings Fountain and Fountain's young son Henry.

In January 1896, Colonel Fountain served as a special prosecutor against men charged with cattle rustling in Lincoln, New Mexico. With his work finished Fountain left Lincoln with his eight-year-old son Henry. The two did not complete their trip home. On the third day they disappeared near White Sands.

Fountain's disappearance caused outrage throughout the territory. To further complicate matters was the fact the main suspects in the disappearance were deputy sheriffs William McNew, James Gililand, and Oliver M. Lee. New Mexico's governor saw that outside help was needed, and he called in Pat Garrett. One problem Garrett encountered was the fact that Lee, McNew, and Gililand were very close with powerful ex-judge, lawyer, and politician Albert B. Fall. Garrett, who was appointed Doña Ana County sheriff on August 10, 1896, and elected to the post on January 4, 1897, believed that he would never get a fair showing with Fall in control of the courts. Therefore, Garrett waited two full years before presenting his evidence before the court and securing indictments against the suspected men. McNew was quickly arrested and Lee and Gililand went into hiding.

Garrett's posse caught up with Lee and Gililand on July 12, 1898. One of Garrett's deputies, Kurt Kearney, was killed in the gun battle that followed. Garrett and his posse then retreated, and Gililand and Lee escaped. Lee and Gililand later surrendered, although not to Garrett. Both men stood trial and were acquitted. The location of the Fountain bodies remains a mystery.

On December 20, 1901, President Theodore Roosevelt, who became a personal friend of Garrett's, appointed him customs collector in El Paso, Texas. Garrett served for five years. However, he was not reappointed, possibly because he had embarrassed Roosevelt by showing up at a San Antonio Rough Riders reunion with a notorious gambler friend named Tom Powers. Garrett had Powers pose in a group photograph with Roosevelt, resulting in bad publicity for the president.

Garrett had been warned about his close association with Powers by friends. Years earlier, Powers had been run out of his home state of Wisconsin for beating his father into a coma. Garrett did not listen, and when his reappointment was denied, he traveled to Washington, D.C., to speak personally with Roosevelt. He had the bad judgment of taking Powers with him. In that meeting, Roosevelt told Garrett plainly that there would be no reappointment.

Garrett retired to his ranch in New Mexico but was suffering financial difficulties. He owed a large amount in taxes and was found liable for an unpaid loan he had co-signed for a friend. Garrett borrowed heavily to make these payments and started drinking and gambling excessively. He crossed paths regularly with Oliver Lee and Lee's corrupt attorney Albert Fall, always finding himself on the opposite end of their illegal land deals and intimidation of local ranchers and citizens.

Garrett's main creditor, a rancher named W.W. Cox worked out a deal to repay the debt by using Garrett's quarter horse ranch in the San Andres Mountains slopes as grazing land for one of his partners. Cox took the home place and razed the home. Garrett's son, Pat, Jr., kept the upper ranch with the water until his death. Garrett agreed to the deal, not realizing Jesse Wayne Brazel would be grazing goats rather than cattle on the land. Garrett objected to the goats, feeling their presence lowered the value of his land in the eyes of buyers or other renters. By this time questions surrounding the manner in which he killed Billy the Kid and Garrett's general demeanor had led to his becoming quite unpopular. He no longer had any local political support, his support from President Roosevelt had been withdrawn, and he had few friends with power.

Garrett and a man named Adamson, who was in the process of talks with Garrett to purchase land, rode together heading from Las Cruces in Adamson's wagon. Brazel showed up on horseback along the way. Garrett and Brazel began to argue about the goats grazing on Garrett's land. Garrett is alleged to have leaned forward to pick up a shotgun on the floorboard. Brazel shot him once in the head, and then once more in the stomach as Garrett fell from the wagon. Brazel and Adamson left the body by the side of the road and returned to Las Cruces, alerting Sheriff Felipe Lucero of the killing.

Garrett's body was too tall for any pre-made coffins available, so a special one had to be shipped in from El Paso, Texas. His funeral service was held March 5, 1908, and he was laid to rest next in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

*****Notice to CVHS Members*****

If you have paid 2010 membership dues to the CVHS and your mailing address label has "09" to the right of your name, please let us know by either email to TheVoiceCVHS@aol.com or by calling 334.864.7096. We apologize for any inconvenience.

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The annual dues of the **Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society** are due each year on the first of January. Dues are \$12.00 per individual, \$6.00 for any other member of the same household, and \$3.00 for any student who is still in school and is under 21 years of age. Other yearly membership levels include **Benefactor** - \$250; **Patron** - \$100 and **Friend** - \$50. For any **NEW member only** who subscribes after September 1, their membership will be for the remainder of the current year and also the following year. In becoming a member you will receive a quarterly newsletter *The Voice*, which will inform you of quarterly meetings, new publications that are offered during the year, articles of historical interest in the tri-county coverage area and upcoming events.

Please make your check payable to C.V.H.S. and mail along with application below to:

Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society, Inc., 3419 20th Avenue, Valley, AL 36854

2010 Membership Application - The Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society

Name _____ Amount \$ _____
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