



Gateway to the West



Lee County Historical and Genealogical Society P. O. Box 231 Jonesville, Virginia 24263-023

January 2013

President's Report

By Becky Jones

The Lee County Historical Society has its work cut out for us in 2013. We are scanning old pictures for another Lee County Pictorial book. We are taking pictures from 1980 and back. The first pictorial book was published in 2005 with 6000 copies sold. We are still having calls for the book and many persons have said they have pictures that they wished had gotten in the first book. This is why we are doing another book.

We have already had scanning sessions in Jonesville, Blackwater, Ewing and Saint Charles. We will scan in Pennington Gap in January and at the Historical Society building in February. We will be scanning for several more months. Anyone outside our area who wishes to submit pictures can e-mail or send a CD to us. Xerox copies of photographs or photographs from magazines, newspapers or copyrighted material cannot be accepted. We are looking for good pictures depicting life in Lee County.

We have just started on our other big project - refurbishing the outside of the old Church building. We have a bat problem and have some termite damage that needs to be taken care of. We are replacing the siding, sealing up the belfry

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**Just a reminder for non-Life Members if you haven't paid your dues please do so.
\$10.00 per year.
Life Membership is \$100.00.**



The Historical Society is looking for old pictures such as this photo of the L&N Depot in Pennington Gap (date unknown) submitted by Charles Culbertson, Jonesville. More information on the Pictorial History of Lee County Volume II project on page 6.

Kentucky's Famous Bandit Chief Captured in Lee County, Virginia

Final Chapter In The Blood Stained History Of A Thoroughly Organized Gang Of Desperados

Author Unknown – 1906

After a series of exciting adventures, Frank Ball, mountain desperado, but related to "good people" of Virginia, was captured and taken for safekeeping to Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky. Ball was not persuaded to surrender until a pitched battle had raged for about an hour, and one of his friends had been killed.

About three months ago (May 1906), Ball, who had long been the leader of a band of outlaws which terrorized the Cumberland Gap country, escaped from jail at Richmond, Madison County, Kentucky, where he was held under a life sentence for the murder of Jack Bolin, pending action of the Court of Appeals on his case. Several rewards had been offered by Governor Beckham, the jailer and sheriff of Madison County, the Odd Fellows, and Junior O. W. A. M. for the capture of the murderer. Although these aggregated nearly \$2,000, and Ball's whereabouts had been known for some time, no man had been willing to make the hazardous attempt to bring him in.

Called In the Detectives

For three weeks before his capture, Sheriff Rice W. Johnson of Bell County, Kentucky, where the original murder for which Ball was sentenced was committed, had

two of the shrewdest detectives in the country engaged in locating the murderer, who was known to be somewhere in Lee County, Virginia. He made a careful survey and map of the immediate vicinity where he was in hiding and elaborate detailed plans for the desperate undertaking. It was learned that Ball and a number of his friends were stationed in the house of Rufus Ball, which is described as "practically a log fort," near Hardy's Creek, among the rugged foothills of the Pine Mountains at Wallens Ridge.

After carefully planning his route and his attack, Sheriff Johnson and 16 deputies started out from Pineville to capture Ball. They feared that Ball's friends and relatives might go to his aid, so they asked for reinforcements and about 30 members of the Middlesboro Militia Company volunteered as deputies. It was with a force of nearly 60 men that Sheriff Johnson and his special train crossed the Virginia border to Rose Hill in Lee County, Virginia. Lee County is the bailiwick of Sheriff P. N. Ball, father of the fugitive, and he did his best to make trouble for the sheriff and his posse who "invaded" his territory from an adjoining state to arrest his son. From Rose Hill, the Kentuckians, mounted two on a horse, rode to within one-half mile of Ball's place of refuge, and then,

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Tyler Bell *by Edgar Cress*

Tyler Bell was an oldtimer "Blackwater" who lived in our community. He was in his seventies, but still hired out to work, often on our farm. The only problem was, that after a big noontime meal of fried chicken, biscuits and gravy he would be very thirsty, drink a lot of cold spring water and "white-eye" on us. So, we didn't get too much production out of Tyler in the afternoons. However, he was a garrulous old gentleman, who's pithy comments often kept us in stitches.

One morning after a successful, out of season squirrel hunt, Dad had cleaned the squirrels and left the tails lying around the faucet in our yard. Tyler walked into our yard and said "Who was that doing all that shootin' this morning?"

Dad replied, "That was me....I got six."

"You're joking me."

Dad said "No. There's the tails. Count 'em."

Tyler walked over, picked up the tails one at a time and tossed them over the yard fence into the weeds. Turning to Dad, he said, "Son, I always get rid of the evidence."

On another occasion, Dad and Tyler were discussing the possibility of rain, after a long dry spell. Tyler solemnly said, "Melvin, we'll have rain in 48 hours.

Last night it was lightening in the north just like a man battin' his eye."

In 1939, Dad and Tyler were discussing the start of the war in Europe. Dad said, "Tyler, what's it going to take to straighten out that situation in Europe?" Although it was doubtful whether Tyler even knew where Europe was, he pondered while he chewed his cud of tobacco. Finally, he spat and said, "Melvin, it'll take powder and lead to straighten it out."

(I thought about that one many times through the long years of World War II).

At the start of the war, Dad was signing up the people in our area for sugar rationing. The signing was being done at Steep Rock, while the teacher held school in one corner of the single room.

While Tyler was supplying information to get a ration card for his wife, he did very well until Dad asked, "Tyler, what is the color of your wife's eyes?"

Tyler, who had been married to the lady for over fifty years, scratched his head and finally said, "Son, you know, I never did look to see." Dad tried to keep a straight face, but it was hard, since over in the corner, the teacher was shaking with suppressed laughter.



U. VA - Wise Professor & Author Brian McKnight spoke to the Historical Society about our area during The War Between the States.



Work has begun on repairing the building and installing new vinyl siding. We would appreciate any assistance that you can give toward the cost of this project.

President's Report *from page 1*

and making the building almost maintenance free. A local contractor is doing the work for us and it is costing \$27,000. We can use all the help you can give. We have been having good attendance at our meeting, averaging 22 members and guests present.

The director of Lee County Tourism, Joan Minor was our speaker in December. She is working hard promoting Lee County's attractions and letting others know just what we have here.

Ron Dickenson from Abingdon talked to us in November. Ron has been researching National Banks and collecting old bank notes (currencies) for some time. He told us about Powell Valley National Bank in Lee County being one of the first National Banks in the area. He showed us many old bank currencies from across the region and a Powell Valley Bank note. Powell Valley National Bank will be 125 years old this year.

Dr. Amy Clark, professor at U.VA. at Wise, is a Lee County native. Her book "Success in Hill County" is a collection of oral histories based on Napoleon Hill's

achievement.

In September Lester "Dee" Jerrell, a Rose Hill native, talked to us about his experiences in World War II. Lester was involved in the D-Day Invasion at Normandy, the "Battle of the Bulge" and subsequent battles until the end of the war.

In August our speaker was U.VA. Wise Professor Brian McKnight who has written two books on the Civil War. His book "Contested Borderland" examines the impact of the War on the communities of eastern Kentucky and southwestern Virginia. Dr. McKnight grew up in Woodway and now resides in the Seminary area.

Lee County Circuit Court Chancery records are indexed and can now be viewed on the internet at:

<http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/chancery>

We are still working on our Genealogical Library and could use your family lineage. We could also use more books about Lee County people and events.

We hope everyone will renew their membership and continue to support us in our effort to preserve Lee County's History.



Joan Minor, Lee County Director of Tourism



In November Ron Dickenson of Abingdon presented a program on National Banks in the Southwest Virginia region and showed many of the different currencies they printed.

Capture of Frank Ball *continued*

dismounting, made the remainder of the distance on foot across Wallens Ridge. Ball had at first taken refuge in his father's house, but several days before his capture had realized that he was being shadowed by detectives and retreated to his brother's home in the mountains. It was after dark when the sheriff and his party arrived at the house, and so quiet had been their approach, that Ball and the four friends who were with him were completely surprised and were not aware of the deputies approach until the officers had them covered with their Winchester rifles and called upon them to surrender.

Precipitated A Battle

Ball ignored their invitation and a battle ensued. The house was riddled with shots, and John Lee, one of Ball's associates, was killed before Ball finally yielded. Ball was disarmed, handcuffed, and taken to Hagan, Virginia, where the sheriff and his posse boarded a train with their prisoner and took him back to Kentucky. It was decided that in any of the border counties there was danger of a rescue party being organized, so Ball was taken across the state to Louisville to await there the action of the Court of Appeals on his case. Passing through Middlesboro, the scene of the crime, Ball made a speech from the rear platform of his car, telling of his hopes for the future even though he was a prisoner. The gist of his remarks was summed up in the last sentence, "And don't you all forget that I am not in the penitentiary yet, by a d ___ d sight."

Ball was given a life sentence at Barbourville early in the spring for the murder of Jack Bolin, a barber at Middlesboro, more than a year before. He was taken to Richmond for safekeeping while his case was carried to the Court of Appeals. Here he made his escape. Since that time, he has been a fugitive from justice in Virginia, where he considered himself safe from the arms of the law. Ball's relatives are wealthy and the best legal talent of Eastern Kentucky was employed to defend him. Bolin was a respectable and popular barber and his foul and cowardly murder caused a powerful public sentiment against Ball, who had already made himself the reputation of being the worst man in the Kentucky mountains.

The Bolin Murder

Jack Bolin was shot and killed in his barbershop at Middlesboro on October 7, 1906. The shot was fired from ambush and was supposed to have been the deed of J. Frank Ball, who had but recently been an unsuccessful candidate for sheriff of the county. Ball was the leader of a gang of desperate mountain men, and when the Odd Fellows Lodge of which Bolin was a member determined to apprehend the murderer; he fled with some of his

crowd into the mountain wilds near Cumberland Gap. The Ball gang was heavily armed, and after the civil authorities had failed to take him the local company of the Kentucky State Guards was sent into the mountains to round up the desperadoes. About six weeks after the crime, the militia came upon the outlaws. In the first battle, their fire from behind rocks and trees on the rugged, overhanging cliffs put the soldiers to flight. Several of the besiegers were seriously wounded. Ball was finally surrounded and forced to surrender. He was indicted for the crime.

The Ball gang was notorious for minor outrages in Eastern Kentucky. They were fairly well organized and maintained secluded headquarters, from which they sailed forth, occasionally attacking passersby and robbing peddlers until the substantial citizens began a movement that finally led to the arrest of the leader and the breaking up of the gang. There were no witnesses to the murder for which Ball was convicted, but he did not deny having shot Bolin. He claimed, however, that he had acted in self-defense. Bolin had made threats against him, he said, and he had tried to keep out of his way as much as possible. At the fatal meeting, he said, Bolin made a move to draw his pistol, and knowing that Bolin was desperate, he fired first. He has appealed from the decision of the court at Barbourville, and his case is still pending in the court of appeals at Frankfort.

The Story Of His Escape

Of his escape from the jail at Richmond, Ball said he "just walked out," but it was not quite as simple as it sounds. "It was about 7:00 (p.m.)," he says, "and with me in the tier were Jim Saylor and Steven and Jim Turner, all of whom were awaiting trial for different offenses. The jailer came into the tier for some purpose, and, at a prearranged signal, we all jumped upon him and overpowered him. Leaving him in the place where he had been, we escaped, as the door was still open. None of the deputies were about, and we escaped into the woods. Saylor and I stuck together while the Turner boys left us. We struck across country, aiming to reach Rose Hill, where my relatives lived. We slept during the day and traveled by night. We tramped and crawled about 120 of the 150 miles between the two places. It took us six days to do it, and we were nearly starved. We got two cooked meals on the whole trip, and as for the rest we picked up whatever we could find in country crossroad stores. We had some money with us and were able to obtain some canned food. We did not average a meal a day, however. "The suspense in traveling through the country, expecting every moment to be captured, was

Capture of Frank Ball continued

terrific. We managed to find concealed places to sleep during the day and traveled along the shadows of the trees and through the woods at night. I do not know how many days we were ahead of the sheriff, but it could not have been many, for the alarm must have been given as soon as we left. We arrived at my brother's home in a very exhausted condition, and my feet were so sore that I could hardly walk. My shoes had been worn completely out. Contrary to what had been said, my wife and Dr. Gibson had nothing to do with our escape." It had been said that the jail delivery was effected by Mrs. Ball holding Jailer J. W. Leads as he opened the door of the jail to let her out of the cell, where she had been spending the evening with her husband.

Surrendered To Save Sister

He says that his only reason for surrendering was the fact that his sister-in-law, Mrs. Rufus D. Ball, at whose house he was hiding, was ill and the noise and excitement was threatening her health. "Then again I saw that Lee had been killed, and I didn't want anyone else or myself to be killed. I am a peaceable man, and all this notoriety that makes me look like a desperado is distasteful to me. I never fired a shot at the posse when they came after me and all the shooting was done on the other side. Our house was completely riddled by bullets, and fearing that I was keeping myself at liberty at the expense of the lives of others and probably that of myself, I surrendered."

Ball really looks the "peaceable man" he says he is. He does not in the least look the "desperado" part he has been playing. His appearance suggests the small farmer. He is small and slender with a frank, open face and a quiet demeanor. One feels inclined to believe him when he reiterates, "I am a quiet man and have never sought trouble. I have a wife and three children and have always attended to my little farm without bothering anybody. If that man had not started at me, I would never have shot him. I hope that I will be cleared, and then I will go back to my farm and family."

Possibility Of Interstate Complications

Whether or not Ball is a quiet man, there can be no two opinions as to his father. The sheriff of Lee County is the noisiest thing in Virginia just now. He is fairly screaming with rage. He declares that every man who accompanied Sheriff Johnson into Virginia will be charged with murder. It is alleged by the Virginia authorities that the Kentucky officers did not have a warrant for Ball or requisition papers. Lee, the man killed at Rufus Ball's house, where Frank Ball was captured, was a respected young farmer of Lee County, and not a Harlan County fugitive, as first reported. He is well connected in Lee

County, and his many relatives there are highly indignant, claiming that the Kentucky officers had no right to fire on them. It is said further that unknown parties fired from ambush at Sheriff Ball, Houston, and Lyter Ball. One of the bullets pierced the hat of Sheriff Ball.

As to the warrant, requisition papers, etc., Governor Beckham wired Governor Swanson as soon as he knew that Sheriff Johnson had started after Ball, asking him to instruct the civil authorities in his state to render all assistance possible to the Kentuckians. Governor Swanson immediately sent telegrams directing the judge of that circuit, the attorney for the Commonwealth of Lee County, and the sheriff of the same county, to do all that was necessary to effect the arrest and safekeeping of Frank Ball until the requisition could be obtained from the Governor of Kentucky.

Meanwhile Johnson was holding his man on the Virginia border, waiting for proper papers to authorize his removal into Kentucky, and Governor Beckham had notified Governor Swanson that requisition papers would be issued at once. When the party reached Hubbard Springs, Ball told the men, who were all Kentuckians, who had him in charge, that he was willing to go to Kentucky without a requisition, and the posse at once went across the mountains into Kentucky. As for the charge, founded in the fact that two-thirds of the sheriff's posse were members of the Middlesboro Militia Company, that Virginia was invaded by Kentucky militia that is scouted to Governor Swanson's office, a captain, they say, would not take his command into another state without the permission of the Governor and certainly he would not go on a mission like that in connection with the capture of Ball unless ordered, and then the consent of the Governor of the state invaded would have to be obtained.

While the members of the posse may have been members of a Middlesboro military organization, they did not come in that capacity, and the company as a whole certainly did not come. While there is great excitement in Lee County, it is hardly likely that serious trouble will result from the efforts of Kentucky officials to capture Ball. Meanwhile, Sheriff Ball is breathing vengeance and ready to call down fire from heaven or involve his state in war with Kentucky if necessary. Aside from the possible indictment of members of the sheriff's posse for the murder of Lee, nothing is likely to happen. Meanwhile, young Ball is safe in Louisville, and Louisville is a long way from Lee County, Virginia.

Editor's note: The shootout took place at the Ball home which still stands in the Ball's Chapel area in Rose Hill. After much correspondence between Virginia Governor Claude A. Swanson and Governor J.C.W. Beckham of Kentucky, Bell County Sheriff Rice Johnson and his posse were not prosecuted for the death of John Lee.



c. 1926 Ford
submitted by Margaret Sage, Stickleyville, Va.

Historical Society Scanning Photos for Pictorial History of Lee County Vol. II

The Historical Society is making preparations for Volume II of a Pictorial History of Lee County, which it hopes to publish by late summer or fall of 2013. We have scanned/copied photos several times at the Historical Society Building, as well as at Blackwater Fire Department, Morley Memorial United Methodist Church in Ewing and Saint Charles Health Clinic in Saint Charles. It is vital that we have the public's participation to make this project a success and we appreciate your support.

Here are the criteria for submitting photos:

We are looking for photos of people, military, animals, buildings, old houses, church gatherings, public events, floods, etc., that involve Lee County.

We would like old Documents like bank checks, store records, telegrams, etc.

Photos must be taken out of the frame to be scanned.

Photos should be the original or a good quality copy of an original.

We do not scan Xerox (paper) copies of photos.

We cannot scan copyrighted material such as magazine, yearbook, or newspaper photos.

The photos will be scanned/copied by computer while you wait and will be returned to you immediately!

They will not be harmed or damaged in any way by this process.

Photos must be prior to 1980, but the older the better!

If you have questions please call Becky Jones at (276) 346-2010 or Judy Davidson at (276) 346-2335.

Society Books Still Available

Bicentennial History of Lee County.....\$65 + \$5 shipping (Va. Residents add \$3.25 sales tax)

Cemeteries of Lee County

Volume 1.....\$40 + \$5 shipping (Va. Residents add \$2.00 sales tax)

Volume 2.....\$45 + \$5 shipping (Va. Residents add \$2.25 sales tax)

Volume 3.....\$50 + \$5 shipping (Va. Residents add \$2.50 sales tax)

If you would like to purchase any of these books please send a check to Lee County Historical and Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 231, Jonesville, VA 24263.

1812 – America’s Second War of Independence – Continued from June 2012 newsletter**By Dr. Stuart L. Butler**

Dr. Butler is an archivist-historian and former assistant branch chief of the Military Archives Branch at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington. Article reprinted with permission of the Commission on the War of 1812 – General Assembly of Virginia. For more information please visit: <http://va1812bicentennial.dls.virginia.gov>

PART II**THE WAR IN THE SOUTH, 1812-1815****CHESAPEAKE BAY**

On February 4, 1813, British naval forces under Vice Admiral John B. Warren sailed into Hampton Roads and imposed a naval blockade of the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays. Later that year, the blockade was extended from Georgia to as far north as Long Island Sound. The blockade served several purposes: to prevent maritime trade from entering or leaving the East Coast, and to destroy the many swift sailing privateers particularly out of Baltimore and New York, that continued to menace British merchantmen. By the end of the war, Chesapeake Bay privateers alone were responsible for taking or destroying nearly five hundred British merchantmen. British presence in the Chesapeake Bay so close to the capital also prevented more military resources and manpower from being sent from Virginia and Maryland to Canada.

Warren’s chief lieutenant, Adm. Sir George Cockburn, was given the order to harass, capture, or destroy as much Chesapeake Bay commercial shipping as possible, as well as capturing or destroying goods and provisions at ports.

He was also to capture the port of Norfolk, and destroy, if possible, the frigate USS *Constellation*. Cockburn’s squadron effectively blockaded the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, and later sent his squadrons up the bay in May 1813 where he raided Havre-de-Grace, and burned much of Frenchtown, Georgetown, and Fredericktown on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. Reinforced by Admiral Warren at Norfolk, the British admirals planned an amphibious assault on Craney Island as a prelude to taking Norfolk. British forces of 2,500 on the morning of June 22, 1813, were repulsed by a force of roughly eight hundred militia artillerymen, and naval personnel from USS *Constellation* and its gunboats. Three days later, on June 25, Cockburn’s naval and marine forces easily overwhelmed about five hundred Virginia militia defending nearby Hampton, and occupied the town for several days. The town had little or no strategic importance, but during its occupation, a battalion of French soldiers enrolled by the British from the Peninsular War in Spain, wreaked havoc on the town, indiscriminately killing, pillaging, and, in some cases raping some citizens. A few weeks later, Cockburn stationed a few frigates to maintain the blockade, and sailed with a small squadron south to

Oracoke on North Carolina’s Outer Banks, to put an end to inland trade being shipped to that port from Virginia through the Albemarle Sound. During the rest of 1813, Cockburn’s forces visited the James, the Rappahannock, and Potomac Rivers, landing occasionally and engaging with the local militia in Virginia’s Northern Neck and Eastern Shore. During this time, British naval forces captured or sunk over a hundred commercial vessels in the bay.

WASHINGTON-BALTIMORE CAMPAIGNS

In April 1814, British and allied forces entered Paris and forced Napoleon to abdicate and be sent to exile in Elba. This event freed up considerable numbers of British troops which were sent to America to prosecute the war more forcibly there. In the Chesapeake, Vice Admiral Alexander Cochrane relieved Admiral Warren, and promised a more vigorous enforcement of the war there. Cockburn was given additional Royal Marines and army regiments and ordered to execute a campaign of reprisals for the American burning of York and Newark. This Cockburn did in the summer of 1814 using his reinforced squadrons to raid and pillage up and down the Chesapeake Bay, especially along Virginia’s Northern Neck counties and the southern Maryland counties of St. Mary’s and Calvert.

On April 2, 1814, Cochrane issued a proclamation to all enslaved persons that those coming aboard British ships or occupied territory would be greeted as free persons. Many of those who came in were enlisted in the Colonial Marines and trained to fight against their former masters. Tangier Island was transformed into a British base, Fort Albion, which served as a training base for the Marines. Former enslaved men and families were offered jobs at the British naval base in Bermuda, or were transported to New Brunswick or Nova Scotia. By the end of the war, an estimated several thousand former slaves of the Chesapeake states were liberated by British forces.

Norfolk was no longer considered a priority for British assaults by early 1814. In July 1814, Admiral Cockburn convinced Admiral Cochrane that an assault on Washington or Baltimore was feasible. The capital was part of the new Tenth Military District under the command of Brig. Gen. William Winder. Neither Winder nor Armstrong fortified Washington for a possible attack,

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believing that Baltimore was the preferred target. With four thousand British regulars and Royal Marines under the command of Gen. Robert Ross and the naval squadrons under Cockburn, the British cleared out the remaining American opposition in the Patuxent, and landed at Benedict, Maryland on August 19. They quickly pushed aside an ineffectual militia army at Bladensburg, Maryland, a few miles outside of Washington, and entered Washington on August 24.

There they torched the Capitol Building, the White House, and other government buildings. Meanwhile, a secondary British squadron under the command of Capt. James Gordon sailed up the Potomac to meet the main British force at Washington. Delayed by weather and shoals, Gordon’s squadron arrived too late to reinforce Cockburn, but managed to destroy Fort Washington, twelve miles below Washington, and force the leaders of Alexandria to hand over to the British all the available tobacco, corn, cotton and flour on the city’s wharves. On returning to the main fleet, Gordon’s squadron and his prize ships encountered stiff resistance from hastily build batteries of Virginia militia troops a few miles below Mount Vernon from September 4-5, but escaped relatively unharmed. Flushed with victory at Washington, the unified British fleet and Ross’ army were transported up the Patapsco River for a full-scale assault on Baltimore, the nation’s third largest city, and the privateering capital of the Chesapeake. Baltimore’s defenses, consisting of approximately 17,000 were under the command of U.S. Senator, and now Maj. Gen. Samuel Smith. These were mostly militia from Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, and some U.S. regulars. Baltimore’s chief defensive point was Fort McHenry, commanding the sea entrance into Baltimore on the Patapsco River. In command there was Virginia-born Maj. George Armistead and U.S. artillery consisting of 1,000 men. The fort had to be taken in order for British ships to safely enter the harbor. Shortly after unloading his men at North Point, near Baltimore, Maryland, on September 12, 1814, British General Ross was killed by Maryland militia. Col. Arthur Brooke succeeded to command.

Brooke fought a strong skirmish with Maryland militia, and marched his army within two miles of the eastern part of the city where he found nearly fifteen thousand militia behind well-entrenched fortifications and professionally constructed bastions. Meanwhile, Admiral Cochrane bombships and frigates began an all-night barrage on Fort McHenry on September 13 into the 14th. The next morning, the fort remained in American hands. Francis Scott Key, on one of the British ships to secure

release of Dr. William Beanes, witnessed the aerial bombardment of rockets and bombs. So moved was Scott on seeing a large American flag still waving in the morning through rain and cloud, that he wrote the poem, the “Star Spangled Banner”. The poem was later set to music, and became in 1931 the nation’s national anthem. Cochrane called off the assault on Fort McHenry, and Brooke considered the Baltimore defenses too strong to overcome.

The British withdrew from Baltimore the next day. By the end of November, British naval forces in the Chesapeake Bay were greatly reduced to prepare for the assault on New Orleans. A small, but still potent squadron remained in the Bay to maintain the naval blockade until the end of the war.

In November, Admiral Cochrane began to prepare for a Gulf of Mexico campaign and the capture of New Orleans. As a diversion, he sent Admiral Cockburn to the South Carolina and Georgia coasts to draw off speculation to where the main assault would fall. Meanwhile, General Jackson, now commander of the Gulf area U.S. Army units, suspected a major British campaign somewhere on the Gulf when the British seized Pensacola, but failed to take Mobile. When Jackson learned that Cochrane intended to take New Orleans, he arrived at the city on December 1, 1814, to prepare for its defenses. Cochrane arrived in Louisiana on December 8, landed part of the British army on December 23, and waited for Gen. Edward Pakenham’s main army, which did not arrive until December 25. A series of skirmishes between the two forces took place in the days leading up to the main battle on January 8, 1815. The British sent wave after wave of soldiers against Jackson’s well entrenched army.

In a combined volley of artillery, rifles, and muskets, Jackson’s regulars and militia dealt a devastating blow to the British line, resulting in the death of General Pakenham. The British lost primarily because Jackson had enough time to pick and prepare his defenses, and the British failed to apply their numerical strength at the right places. One of the most unique aspects of the battle was that it was fought two weeks after the Treaty of Ghent was signed, but news of the victory coming as it did about the same time as the treaty reached Washington, it cemented the two in the minds of most Americans.

THE CREEK CAMPAIGNS, 1813-14

War between the United States and part of the Creek nation came not as a result of British

1812 – America’s Second War of Independence – Continued

encouragement as was the case in the Northwest, but from a civil war within the Creek Nation. This war was in part aided by the influence of Tecumseh and only much later by promises of Spanish and British help. The Upper Creeks in western Alabama, known later as “Red Sticks” resisted white cultural influence and encroachment on their lands, and feuded with the eastern tribes, known as Lower Creeks, who were more amenable to white influence. Soon, local militias of Georgia and Mississippi Territory, and Tennessee were drawn into the struggle against the Upper Creeks. When the Upper Creeks besieged Fort Mims, and later massacred its inhabitants in August 1813, the federal government mobilized nearby regular army units to aid the Georgia, and Tennessee militias.

Throughout the rest of 1813, Georgia militia commander, John Floyd, and Tennessee militia generals, John Cocke and Andrew Jackson, carried out a sustained campaign to destroy the Creek presence in the territory. The American military effort, however, was constantly plagued by logistical problems in supplying arms and rations. While the militias inflicted small tactical defeats upon the Red Sticks, they were unable to completely defeat them.

On March 27, 1814, at a bend in the Tallapoosa River called Horseshoe Bend, General Jackson inflicted a resounding defeat upon a large body of Red Sticks, completely annihilating most of the 1000 warriors. The victory proved so decisive that in the ensuing months, most of the Red Stick leaders and warriors lay down their arms or fled to Florida. A final peace treaty with the Creek Nation was signed at Fort Jackson on August 9, 1814, which, in effect, ceded almost 22 million acres of Creek land to the United States, and opened to white settlers all Alabama land previously closed to Americans.

TREATY OF GHENT AND THE WAR’S LEGACY

Although a search for peace between Great Britain and the United States started soon after war was declared, serious negotiations did not begin until President Madison appointed a delegation to follow up on Russia’s offer of mediation in March 1813. While the British dismissed Russia’s help, it signaled that it would continue to discuss the issue. After rejecting Gothenburg in Sweden, both nations settled on Ghent, Belgium, as the site for talks.

Terms presented by the respected representatives at the negotiations softened and hardened as news of either American or British victories reached the negotiators. With the impressment issue

settled by the end of the war in Europe, Indian and territorial issues remained to be worked out. Finally, on December 24, 1814, the American team, which consisted of Henry Clay, Senator James Bayard, and John Quincy Adams, signed the treaty. Congress ratified the treaty on February 15, and its provisions became effective two days later.

The treaty recognized the pre-War boundaries between Canada and the U.S. In many ways, all of the belligerents got something out of the war, except for the Native Americans, who lost their British protection and were now at the mercy of a new expansionist America. The Canadians saw the war as a victory over the Americans which kept them within the British Empire; and the British, despite initial losses at sea and on land, thought their military and naval forces performed admirably, especially when considering they were at war with France for the past twenty years.

The War of 1812 was not the seminal event that the Revolutionary War, Civil War, or World War II were to American history. As wars go, the war was short, only lasting two and a half years, but the war left its impact, especially on the American people at the time. Despite the fact that the nation did not achieve the ends it sought in war, and despite the intense internal dissension over the declaration of war, the country as a whole felt a renewed pride of accomplishment and strength at the war’s end.

Militarily, the war was a transforming event. American leaders saw that the militia, although effective in certain situations, was not enough to defend the country from attack, and that a professional army was necessary to defend the nation. The American navy on the lakes and seas proved that it was an equal to the British frigates. It, too, needed to become a larger and better trained navy if it were to maintain the nation’s trade and commerce and project growing American power. Politically, the end of the war also saw the decline and fall of the Federalist Party as well, and a renewed Democratic-Republican Party that would dominate American politics for the next twenty years. Six future American Presidents participated in the war politically or militarily: James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, John Quincy Adams, William H. Harrison, John Tyler, and Zachary Taylor. African-Americans also participated in the war on both sides. They served in considerable numbers in both navies, and in some regular army units. At least a thousand served in Cockburn’s Colonial Marines who were effectively used against the Virginian and Maryland militias.

End



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Historical Society Member Judge Glen Williams Passes Away



The Hon. Judge Glen Morgan Williams, 92, passed away Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012. Judge Williams was born Feb. 17, 1920, to Hughie and Hattie May Williams. He was valedictorian of Jonesville High School, 1936, and graduated magna cum laude from Milligan College in 1940. A 1948 graduate of the University of Virginia Law School, he was a member of the Order of the Coif, the Raven Society, and the Virginia Law Review editorial board. He engaged in the private practice of law for the next 30 years, during which time he served as Commonwealth's Attorney for Lee County, 1948 to 1952, and the Virginia State Senate, 1953 to 1955. In 1976 he was appointed by President Gerald Ford to the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia. A member of the "Greatest Generation," Judge Williams entered active duty in the U.S. Navy in 1942 and served until 1946. He was commanding officer of the minesweeper USS Seer. Military awards and decorations include the Atlantic Theater Ribbon, Mediterranean Theater Ribbon with two stars, Pacific Theater ribbon with one star, and Citation from Commander, Minecraft, Pacific Fleet.

A life-long member of the First Christian Church, Pennington Gap, Va., he was a trustee and elder and for many years taught the Adult Sunday School Class. He served on the board of trustees for Milligan College and the Appalachian School of Law. He also served on the founding committee and board of the University of Virginia's College at Wise. His civic participation included membership in the Jonesville Lions Club, American Legion, Preston Lodge No. 47, and several other attendant Masonic bodies. He is survived by his wife, Jane Slemp Williams; daughters, Susan Williams Laningham and husband, Lee; Judith Williams Jagdmann and husband, Joe; Rebecca Williams Morel, and Melinda Williams Jones and husband, Richard; grandchildren, Elizabeth Anne Bellamy, Stuart Laningham, Emily Jagdmann, Daniel Jagdmann, Jacob Morel, Janie Woliver, Morgan Woliver; brothers, Don Williams and wife, Patty, of Pennington Gap, Lowell Williams of Jonesville; and sister, Wanda Williams Scott and husband, George, of Pittsburg; as well as many nieces, nephews and other relatives. The funeral service was conducted Saturday, Nov. 10, 2012, at 11 a.m. at the First Christian Church, Pennington Gap. Burial followed at Lee Memorial Gardens, Woodway, Va.

Have A Story or Article?

If you would like to contribute an article or story for our Newsletter please send it to Becky Jones or Judy Davidson or to our email address. We can accept the story or article by email, CD or send a hard copy by regular mail.