



Chestnut Ridge Cousins Newsletter

VOLUME 3

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ISSUE NO. 1

From the Editor

The Board extends our good wishes for a Healthful and Prosperous New Year to all of our Cousins. The busy Holiday's of sharing those good times with family and friends are fond memories. Decorations are packed away for another year, so now we are in the mood to spend those long winter days on our pursuit of those elusive ancestors. For many of us last year was successful. By removing one brick at a time we expose one more cousin, two times removed, to add to our tree and already overload brain.

We are all looking forward to attend the next meetings in June as well as visiting with the many cousins. Let us all contact relatives and friends to invite them to join our group and June meetings. Spread the word so we will have a great turn out. Details are at the end of this newsletter with more in a later issue.

Cousin Julia

CUMBERLAND GAP

By Robert Sparks Walker

A mountain chain was slashed in twain
By swish of water's keen-edged sword
The wound was healed, the grass and grain,
And ferns and flowers, and trees explored
The rugged chasm and rocky slopes,
Now from the cliffs, eyes look beyond
The scenes below; the spirit gropes
And find itself with beauty's wand.

The print of Thomas Walker's feet
The *nomenelator of this gap
And the Cumberlands, complete
Our backward view and mental map
From mount to mount our eyes take flight
As beauty may depart on wings
But never dies; so does the sight
Of land like this its grandeur brings.

While here, reflecting on the past,
We see a herd of buffaloes
Approach this gap, and as the last
Long column, grazing, slowing goes
On its long journey to the west
Strange men in sandaled feet, lake ants,
Appear, and with their bows contest
The rights of Whites as they advance.

*Nomenelator/Nominal: being something in name or form only (~head of a party)

Genealogists are time unravelers

Am I the only person up my tree? Seems like it.

A CHESTNUT RIDGE TRUE STORY

By Polly Prosser Dodson

As most of you know, I grew up on Chestnut Ridge. I am a direct descendent of **BUCHANAN PROSSER**. Most Prosser men enjoyed taking of the spirits and left the teachings of the church to the women. At one time Buchanan must have repented of his "sins" and joined the Mt. Hermon Baptist Church, but records of the church report that he was dismissed because of the taking of the spirits. This was the same church that dismissed my great grandmother **MAGGIE FORRESTER CHRENSHAW HALE**. She was a descendent on my mother's side. More can be read about this dismissal in the **MOORE COUNTY HISTORY BOOK**, which is to be released shortly.

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UPDATE ON "THE LINCOLN COUNTY HERITAGE BOOK

"The Lincoln County Heritage Book has been well received and the total stories submitted are nearly 2,000. Pre-sale book orders are over 1,000. The committee is extremely happy with the amount of stories received, but this has resulted in more work than we ever anticipated. At this time, we don't expect the book to be available until late this year. The dead line for story submissions is past but we will still take book orders at the pre-sale price of \$61.50 mailed, until all the book material has been delivered to the publisher. Prices will increase after that time. Orders may be sent to **HERITAGE BOOK, PO BOX 226, FAYETTEVILLE, TN 37334**. Information about the Heritage Book is available on the **LINCOLN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY WEB PAGE: <http://www.lincolncountyttn.com/genealogy/index.htm>**.

Jack Towry Co-Chairman, Linc. CO. Heritage book Committee"

MOORE COUNTY HERITAGE BOOK

More information on this book, that is to be released shortly, may be obtained by writing **MOORE CO. HERITAGE BOOK COMMITTEE, PO BOX 103, LYNCHBURG, TN 37352**.

BEDFORD COUNTY FAMILY HISTORY BOOK

There may be more of these books available by writing to **BEDFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, PO BOX 141, SHELBYVILLE, TN 37162**

PARKS JEWELERS CELEBRATE 78 YEARS

Gilford R. Parks opened **G.R. Parks Watchmaker** in Lynchburg, TN, September 24, 1926. After G. R. and wife Siddie moved to Fayetteville they located their business to East Market St. in Fayetteville. Son, Joe Lee Parks, started to work full time in the business after his father's death. Wife Alice Edwards Parks became his helpmate and co-worker. Joe Lee and Alice son Mike is a full time jeweler and son Steve is with the National Guard. At any time you visit their store a daughter-in-law or grandchild may greet you and ask if they can be of help.

We CRC wish to congradulate Joe Lee and Alice on their many years of fine service to the people of Lincoln CO., TN. and surrounding area.

COUSINS BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSERIES HAPPY WISHES

Happy belated birthdays: **Lanny Ros Bradley** November 20 and **Louise C. Bradley** December 5.

Upcoming birthdays: **Sherry S. Finchum** February 4, **Julia Wright Molitz** February 20, And **John A. Foster** June 6

A 50th Wedding Annivervy was celebrated by **Robert Stone Duggan Jr** and **Kathleen Ringwold Duggan**, November 20, 2004. Bob and Katheen live in Atlanta, GA., they have 5 children and 10 grandchildren.

Please send me your birthday and anniversary month and day so I can include all cousins.

My hobby is genealogy, and I raise dust bunnies as pets. I researched my family tree..and apparently I don't exist

FROM JULIA'S LIBRARY

"Born Fighting--How the Scots-Irish Shaped American" By James Webb

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James Web is the author of six novels, "Fields of Fire", "Lost Soldiers" and "The Emperor's General" to name just three. He is an Emmy Award winning journalist. "Born Fighting", while not a genealogy book, takes his family roots from Scotland, (think Brave Heart) when Rome tried to rule, to Northern Ireland then to America and on up to today. It is mainly about the Scots-Irish in America who have fought our wars. Forty percent of those that fought in the Revolution War were Scots-Irish. They were individualistic, dislike aristocracy but "defined the attitudes and values of the military, of working-class America, and even of the peculiarly populist form of American democracy". Some famous Scots-Irish Americans: Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett, Sam Houston, Edgar Allan Poe, Mark Twain, Stonewall Jackson, Ulysses S. Grant, George S. Patton, Andrew Jackson, Teddy Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton. They dominate the Bible Belt, the military and country music. And yes, they were our ancestors who tamed Middle TN. This is a fast enjoyable read. I learned a lot about the history of my roots and am proud to be counted amongst them. The book can be purchased at chain bookstores, ordered on line or can be found at your library.

4th ANNUAL CRC REUNION

HENRY HORTON STATE PARK

JUNE 10-22, 2005

COME ONE COME ALL, BRING RELATIVES & FRIENDS LETS MAKE THIS THE BEST ONE YET

Visit our Chestnut Ridge Cousins web site at www.chestnutridgecousins.org. Print out the form to mail in with your check. For those Cousins that receive their Newsletter by post, a copy is enclosed.

The schedule of events is to be announced. Below is information on the Buffets.

Friday Evening; Seafood Buffet. \$11.99 plus \$1.15 for drink plus tax.

Saturday Lunch: \$6.25 plus \$1.15 for drink plus tax.

Saturday Evening: \$5.95 plus \$1.15 for drink plus tax

REMEMBERING THOSE WE LOST IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS

Byron Sistler, 83, founder of the Middle TN. Genealogy Society, writer and publisher of genealogy books.

Hester Prosser, beloved sister of Polly Prosser Dodson passed October 9, 2004. She is buried in the Mount Herman Cemetery on Chestnut Ridge.

LOVING TRIBUTE TO A FATHER

BY BOBBY PROSSER

EDWARD HENRY PROSSER, DECEASED 0854 hrs., 28 JAN 2005, was born on December 7, 1913 in Marshall County, TN.

His parents were **Edward (Edd) Henry Prosser** and **Bertha Francis Petty**. He was the fourth of six children. **Grace, Ward, Pet**, and **Lee** preceded him in death. His brother **Joe Prosser** who resides in Moore Haven, Florida, survives him.

Henry was married to **Maude Ruth Whorley**. They were married on May 3, 1941. She passed away August 30, 1985. The surviving members of his family are his son, **Bobby** and his daughter-in-law, **Bettye** with whom he has resided since February of 1985. Also surviving are his granddaughters and their spouses: **Marzee** and **W.D. Woodward** Murfreesboro, TN.; **Melody & James Baker** of Tacoma Washington; **Melinda & John Lanza** of Murfreesboro, TN.; **Mitzi & Ernie Dunkley** of Murfreesboro, TN.; & **Mandy Prosser** of Dickson, TN. Ten great-grandchildren survive him: **Lauren & Kristin Woodward**, **Joshua & Bethany Baker**, **Morgan**, **Mackenzie & Mason Lanza**, and **Devin, Dashiell, & Dallin Dunkley**.

He spent most of his adult life as a farmer in Marshall and Bedford Counties. He always enjoyed talking about the days when mules did most of the farm work. Every time you passed through Santa Fe and Unionville he would say, "I bought a real pair of mules there". I guess you would say that he had a love/hate relationship of mules. One of the animals that he always laughed about was an old mule (by age) that was named "Old Algebra" that he had purchased from **Mr. Bob Jordan** in Franklin. He used "Old Algebra" to work out tobacco patches and gardens. The old mule

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was trained so that when the tailgate on the farm truck was dropped he would jump up in the bed of the truck like a dog. This was a sight to see. Sometimes "Old Algebra" had a head of his own. I guess that is why they worked so well together.

As a young man, Dad grew up during the Depression years and he would remind you of what it was like to work for 50 cents per day. He always loved to tell about his earlier years and with some of the tales he would get so tickled that he would have great laughter. One of the tales that he always loved to repeat was about some neighbor man (this story is not told to embarrass anyone). This man was named **Mr. Caughorn** and he had another neighbor by the name of **D. Elmer Massey** that was helping with some farm chores. As was the custom of the day the farmer that was receiving the work had the other farmer to eat dinner with him. A day prior D. Elmer Massey had made the statement that he could not stand pumpkin. Mr. Caughorn told his wife that he did not care how she prepared it but she must serve pumpkin in many different ways for dinner the next day. So his wife prepared pumpkin in different ways and that was all that was served for dinner that next day. Then they arrived at the dinner table Mr. Massey had to eat pumpkin. Later that afternoon Mr. Caughorn said to Mr. Massey, "I thought that you did not like pumpkin." to which Massey replied, "Well it was PUNKIN or NUTTIN!"

He always enjoyed picking on or joking with his nephews, especially **Alben** and **Wayne Simmons**, Ward's boys: **Don, Jimmy and Sammy**, and his granddaughter, grandson-in-laws and great-grandchildren.

He thought that his wife, **Ruth** had "hung the moon." Whatever Ruth did was perfect. It is understood that he and Ruth eloped without **Ma Whorley's** permission. Evidently, May Whorley was a forgiving person because he had a great respect for her and always referred to her as **Mrs. Whorley**.

His heritage traces to many surnames of early families that settled in the Lincoln, Marshall, and Moore county areas: **Prosser, Petty, Johnston, Norris, Richardson, Bagley, Cook, Jackson, Sullivan, Wicker, Günter, Hamlet, Benton, Long, Hester, and McCallister**.

He was a member of the Church of Christ and has worshipped with the congregation at Pond and Dickson County for the past 20 years.

CRC COOK BOOK

It has been suggested that we put together a cookbook. If anyone would like to serve on the committee please contact me at www.jmolitz@aol.com. It would be wonderful to have those old southern recipes as well as new, plus family traditions, and life stories having to do with food.

COUSINS, if you have any suggestions for this newsletter let me know. I would love to have your feedback. I need your family stories, birthday and month, anniversary dates, news of children and grandchildren. The members would love to have the old and new stories of our Cousins lives.

FROM GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH FUNNIES

A man once paid a genealogist a lot of money to search his lineage. The researcher discovered that the man's great grandfather was the first person to be executed when the electric chair was installed in Sing Sing Prison. Undaunted, the man had the genealogist record that his ancestor once occupied the chair of applied electricity at a leading New York institution.

When my grandson, David, was 3 years old I took him to my brother's grave to plant some flowers. He wanted to know what kind of place this was and when I told him he said "Oh, cemeteries are where died people live." Can you tell his grandmother is a genealogist?"?

I want to wish all of you a very special Valentines Day.
