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# Welcome to the Cumberland County Archives and Family Heritage Center

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## A letter from the Archivist

A warm welcome to you. This April, we at the archives wish to focus upon local family history and stories. Some examples can be seen in the Current Exhibit and Stories From the Archives sections of this newsletter. The story we are sharing this month, written by county native Ron Blaylock, is taken from the publication, *A Tapestry of Cumberland County*. Also, our new exhibit highlights the past design talent of Martha Hill. I am also working towards researching and building up the community and family files located within our reading room. We have met many genealogy researchers that wish to incorporate local events into their family stories. Piecing together the stories of our ancestors, like history, includes far more than recording names and dates.

This month, I will be attending educational seminars at the Tennessee State Library and Archives located in Nashville. While archival basics will be discussed, I look forward to learning about new and innovative techniques archival professionals are implementing in their preservation of both governmental documents and local history.

(Lori D. Bowers, Archives Director/Historian)

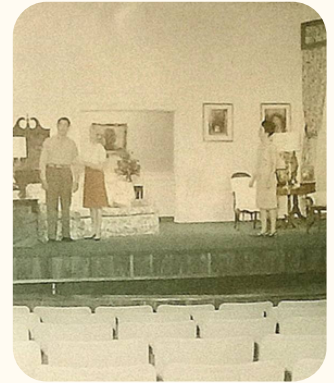
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## Genealogy Corner

### THIS MONTH'S RESEARCH TIP

Have you gathered family heirlooms or historical documents during your genealogy research? If so, do you know how to properly preserve them? A great-uncle's watch or your great-grandparents original marriage certificate require special care to minimize age-related deterioration. Heirlooms, photos, and documents need to be stored within acid free papers and boxes. If at all possible, have a dry climate controlled room, away from sunlight.





## Current Exhibit

### MARTHA HILL COLLECTION

This collection has several framed photographs from Martha Hill's years as a set designer with Cumberland County Playhouse during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These stage designs represent some of the amazing talent that our community has to offer. This fascinating exhibit will be on display until May 5th .



## Coming Up

### WORKSHOPS/CLASSES

There will be no classes the month of April. However, we will offer two Family History Creative Writing Workshops in May. Dates will be announced on our Facebook page, website, and newsletter.



## Mystery Photo

### THIS MONTHS HIGHLIGHT

Clifty Depot. Name listed as Dale King, Depot Agent. Date of photo unknown. If you have any information regarding year of photo please contact us at [archives@artcirclelibrary.info](mailto:archives@artcirclelibrary.info)

# Stories From the Archives

Married in 1937, Clarence and Vera Blaylock lived in the Thomas Springs community, located in the Southwest part of Cumberland County. At that time the only route out to town was a bare dirt road filled with ruts and pot holes. Getting to work in such a rural area required most to walk a great distance to their jobsite. They would then stay the entire week and return home at week's end. Timber was an industry that saved many during the Great Depression, and the Blaylock's were no exception. Clarence and Vera had moved into what was known as the Abe Cabin after their marriage. Having sat empty for some time, it needed minor repairs. Despite having only one large room, it was more than enough space for the two and their infant son.

Luckily for Clarence, he was within five miles of all the timber he could fell and he could walk home at the end of each work day. One of Clarence's cousins, Clint Warner, lived just over the ridge and they both walked to the timber site each day. As the summer of 1938 arrived, so did the heat. Clarence and Clint were fortunate to have a natural spring near their work site and were able to cool themselves throughout the day. Unfortunately, it was on one of those hot summer afternoons that Clarence stopped to drink out of a small unused spring along his walk home. Unbeknownst to Clarence, the spring was contaminated with microscopic typhoid bacillus (*Salmonella Typhi*). Within a couple of days he began to feel extremely fatigued and developed a fever. The trek to their timber site was so taxing he was unable to work once there. As the symptoms worsened, Vera knew they had to seek medical help, with the nearest physician being some 20 miles away in Crossville.

Having no vehicle of their own, Vera and Clarence caught a ride into town with one of their neighbors. After a complete examination the doctor gave Vera the news she was fearing. "Well, Vera, you have a sick husband on your hands. It's typhoid. I want you to give him all of this prescription and try to get him to eat boiled potatoes. It may not be easy, but try."

Once home, Clarence collapsed into bed as his fever continued to rise. All Vera could do was wash him down with cool water throughout the day. It was only while Clarence slept that she was able to complete the chores needed outside, such as weeding the garden, gathering in firewood for the cook stove, and hanging out laundry to dry. Her only link to the community and news at that time was the young Carr girls that would walk over from Wilson Town. They would take Vera's grocery order and have it filled at Cumberland Davis' store. Usually, the Blaylock's received their mail and groceries from Peay, now known as the Newton Community. Vera thought the Carr girls were life savers as most of the other neighbors were afraid of catching typhoid. However, Vera did make sure that the girls were not exposed, only allowing them to place their deliveries upon the bottom front step.

In the end, Vera thought the prescribed boiled potatoes proved just as valuable as the medication. She managed to coax Clarence into eating enough that he did not waste away. Clarence slowly recovered, thankful, and far more cautious about drinking from unknown water sources.

(Author: Ron Blaylock, State of Tennessee Dept. of Education)(Condensed and edited by Lori Bowers)

## Volunteer Opportunities

We are seeking volunteers to assist with indexing, genealogy research, and processing archival materials. Interested? Contact us for further details.

**[archives@artcirclelibrary.info](mailto:archives@artcirclelibrary.info)**

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