
Welcome to the Cumberland County Archives and Family Heritage Center



A letter from the Archivist

Greetings all. As the summer months arrive, many of you will probably be attending family reunions or perhaps make a visit to your hometown. Patrons of our archives often reminisce about their childhood communities, especially while researching in our reference library. Their thoughts return to schools, cafes, cinemas, old stores that used to occupy town centers. In doing this, they are mentally writing a part of their family history. They are mentally writing the social and cultural aspects that surrounded the lives of their parents, or grandparents. I hear so often from genealogy researchers that they just don't have a talent for writing. They will then, in the following conversation, brilliantly describe small towns, their grandmother's friends clothing, a large family farm, or visiting a lavish theatre with their grandparents. With such a talent for description, the ability to write is there. Write what you know. Write those descriptions. It is in placing these descriptors among those researched statistics, names, and dates that one suddenly finds themselves writing their family history. This is why I look forward to hosting our creative writing workshops later this month. Thank you for your continued support.

(Lori Bowers, Archives Director/Historian)

Genealogy Corner

THIS MONTH'S RESEARCH TIP

As you advance further into your genealogy projects, consider writing about your findings. You can then share that with family, or incorporate those writings into creative projects. Whether through storytelling, art, or oral traditions, preserving these histories ensures they will not be lost to time. Doing this can also inspire other family history researchers by sparking a sense of creative preservation.





Current Exhibit

NORA FLEMING COLLECTION

Several lovely color prints, created by artist Nora Fleming, will be on display in our reading room until June 5th.



Coming Up

WORKSHOPS/CLASSES

May 16th and 23rd we will offer our Using Creative Writing For Family History Preservation workshops. These will be held in our lower level, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Please contact us via email or phone to reserve a seat.



Mystery Photo

THIS MONTHS HIGHLIGHT

Crossville Post Office located on Main Street, date of photo unknown. The vehicle pictured could be a clue, any guesses? If so, please contact us at archives@artcirclelibrary.info

Stories From the Archives

As it has been a few months since we have shared a story from an old Crossville newspaper, I searched through May 1926 editions for an entertaining entry. After finding several interesting articles, I decided to share a delightful story from page 7 of the May 20th 1926 publication. It is my hope that you find this article just as amusing as I have.

Tennessee Man Makes Interesting Experiment With 100 Cows on His Dairy Farm

"Knoxville, Tenn.- A milch cow will give an additional quart of milk a day when "My Old Kentucky Home", reproduced from instrumental music, is played for her ears by a phonograph. At any rate, J.G. Sterchi, president of a furniture concern which operates 24 retail and wholesale stores, and seven furniture factories in seven Southeastern states, says he proved the statement by getting 25 gallons extra a day from the 100 cows on his dairy farm just outside Knoxville.

Mr. Sterchi asserts that he was convinced after four years of trial that cows must be contented, and that the soothing strains from a violin make them feel at home. "Just now I am building a large pool which will be stocked with gold-fish for my Jerseys to look into," he said. "The slow and graceful motions of the fish will make any cow lie down and chew her cud, and then I have ordered 50 pairs of canary birds for my barn. A cage, containing two birds will be suspended between the stalls of every two cows, and the music of 100 canaries will perhaps give me another additional 24 quarts a day. In fact, I am confident it will."

Mr. Sterchi is erecting a 18-story building for his Knoxville store, which will be completed within the next year, and on the ground floor will be a fountain spouting fresh buttermilk from his farm. A sign will be placed, he said, reading something like this: A Man Full for a Nickel, so that a person can drink all the milk he wants for 5 cents.

The 1,300-acre farm on the outskirts of Knoxville is the same one he left 35 years ago to work for \$10 a month in a furniture store." (Crossville Chronicle)

James G. Sterchi, born in 1867, was the grandson of Swiss immigrants Francois and Jeanne Wilhelmine Giroud. It is of interest that the family initially made their home just outside of Wartburg in 1848. However, due to poor soil quality, the family moved to north Knox County and established a large farm named *Bellefontaine*. (Lori Bowers)



James G. Sterchi

Stratford (Sterchi) Mansion



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

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