

*Jerry McKelvy's*  
**THE SANDYLAND CHRONICLE**

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**EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH – 1946**

I have been looking for a photo of the Ebenezer Methodist Church for some time. I thought surely someone over the years had taken a picture of it. This photo was taken in 1946 by Glenn Foster when he was visiting in the area. Thanks to Robert Foster for sharing it.

Ebenezer dates back to the 1850's when most of this area was first settled by our pioneer ancestors who had left their homes in the eastern states in search of a better life for their families. It took a lot of courage for them to make a move of several hundred miles, much as it took courage for their fathers who made the decision long ago to leave their homelands in Ireland, Scotland, and other parts of Europe and make the long, difficult journey by ships to the United States. Life expectancy in those days was much shorter than today and the days were filled with hard work. Families were large and farming was the main occupation. It is amazing how much some of these early settlers accomplished and we should appreciate their sacrifices.

The name Ebenezer is a Biblical name and comes from the story of the Israelites, led by Samuel, doing battle with the Philistines as recorded in I Samuel, chapter 7.

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## **I Samuel 7: 12**

**Then Samuel took a stone, and set [it] between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.**

We don't know the person responsible for naming this location Ebenezer. The early settlers may have named it for a similar place back east that was named Ebenezer or some of them may have remembered the story of how the Lord helped Israel in the battle with the Philistines and wanted to give the Lord credit for helping them in their journey to their new homes in Arkansas. Just as Samuel had placed a stone marker to mark the place where the Lord helped the Israelites defeat the Philistines, our families place stones at this place called Ebenezer to remember their loved ones who are buried here.

These early settlers established a Methodist Episcopal church at this location as a place of worship and as deaths occurred, the most likely place to develop a cemetery would be near the church. Ebenezer is shown on an 1865 map of this area and is marked with a cross symbol indicating a church. We have no pictures of the early church buildings at Ebenezer. In the early 1900's, a school was located across the road from the church.

A deed for the cemetery is recorded in Book 66, page 389 at the Nevada County courthouse. The grantors are A. C. Moody and Fannie C. Moody. The grantees are I. N. Tunnell, J. H. Griffith, and Walter Kirk and their successors as grave yard committee. The description is as follows:

Beginning at the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 21, Township 12 South, Range 20 West. Running west 220 yards, thence north 78 yards, thence east 118 yards, thence southeast 112 yards to the place of beginning, containing 2 ½ acres, more or less. The date of the deed is September 12, 1914.

This deed only covered the cemetery. The church property (10 acres) was donated by J. W. Whaley and Rachel Whaley. Church trustees when the deed was recorded in April, 1896 were J. W. Whaley, W. D. House, and John P. Otwell. The deed stated that the land shall be "used, kept, and maintained as a place of divine worship and the residue shall be for the use and occupancy of the preachers who shall from time to time be appointed in said place". As population decreased, the church was finally forced to close. The building shown in the picture was sold and moved sometime in the early 1970's.

The church property was conveyed by deed on August 9, 1974 from the United Methodist Church to the Ebenezer Cemetery Association. This deed is recorded in Book 312, page 32. The description on the deed is as follows:

The Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 21, Township 12 South, Range 20 West, containing 10 acres, more or less.

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A group of local individuals worked together during the 1960's to improve the cemetery. A chain link fence was erected, a road was built completely around the edge of the cemetery, and a nice arch was built over the front gate with the name Ebenezer Cemetery. Some of those involved in this were Ruel McKelvy, Horace Kirk, Lee Roy McKelvy, Hildre Griffith, Sam Chamlee, and John McCain.

Although a cemetery committee had been in existence for several years, it was formally incorporated as the Ebenezer Cemetery Association June 9, 1975. The members of the first board of directors were: Ellis Johnson, J. D. Norman, Horace Kirk, Claudis Nelson, Ruel McKelvy, Opal Delaney, Keeley McDonald, Virda McCain, and John McCain. The association decided to have annual meetings the first Sunday in May to discuss cemetery business.

The oldest marked grave in Ebenezer Cemetery is that of William B. Hackette, son of Dr. M. B. Hackette, Jr. and Mrs. E. A. Hackette. The child lived almost three months. There are many unidentified graves marked with sand rocks and some of these graves could be even older. An unusual grave not far from the Hackette plot is surrounded by huge sand rocks stacked three high. The person buried here is unknown, but must have been a prominent person of that time. The family went to a great deal of trouble to mark this person's final resting place with these huge stones.

There are about 500 graves at Ebenezer Cemetery. Burials are listed and photos of markers can be found on the Find-a-Grave web site.



**EBENEZER CEMETERY**



**This photo taken at a funeral in 1968 shows the back of the church building.**

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## LIBERTY BONDS

One of the ways the government financed World War I was the sale of Liberty Bonds. It was considered an act of patriotism to purchase these bonds. I noticed a full page ad in the April 18, 1918 issue of *The Nevada News* condemning those who refused to buy these bonds. Those people were called "slackers". The wording in this ad was quite strong.

"Anyone who doesn't buy the Liberty Bonds is in the same class with those wretched creatures of feeble brain and feeble spine, those cowards we call slackers.

Such a man or woman isn't worthy to blacken the shoes of an American soldier who goes across to give his life on the blood-soaked soils of France. Such men and women, whether they live in cottages or mansions, are not fit to associate with REAL Americans. Such men and women are not fit to live in this community, or anywhere else in America. They are not fit to live at all.

For such men and women are perfectly satisfied to continue their selfish pleasures and go along in their selfish, narrow ruts, while the best young men in America go across the sea to place their bodies as a barrier of human flesh and blood between us and our enemies. Such men and women are yellow to the core."

The ad stated that anyone who could not afford to buy the bonds should borrow the money from their local bank. At the bottom of this full page ad were the names of local people who had purchased Liberty Bonds and how many they had purchased.

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## FOOD RATIONING DURING WORLD WAR I

One of the items in short supply during World War I was wheat, especially in Europe. After three long years of fighting, the European countries were experiencing a shortage of food. The United States got into the war in 1917. The U. S. government came up with some suggestions in November of that year to help Americans conserve food which would aid the war effort. The slogan was "Food Will Win the War". President Wilson put Herbert Hoover in charge of the U. S. Food Administration to help manage food reserves during the war. Hoover felt that Americans would voluntarily conserve food if asked and avoid forced rationing. These are some of the suggestions announced by the government.

1. Americans should cut consumption of wheat by half. Each person is allowed up to 1 and a half pounds of wheat per week. This included macaroni, bread, flour, crackers, pastries, pies, cakes, wheat cereal combined.
2. Public eating places should observe two wheatless days each week (Mondays and Wednesdays).
3. Stores should not sell more than 1/8 barrel of flour to any one customer in the city. Country customers were allowed up to 1/4 barrel.
4. Bakers should reduce the size of their loaves from one pound to 3/4 pound.

The government put out a pamphlet with these suggested ways for American to cut back on food.

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Sunday—one meal wheatless and one meal meatless  
Monday--all meals wheatless and one meal meatless  
Tuesday—all meals meatless and one meal wheatless  
Wednesday—all meals wheatless and one meal meatless  
Thursday—one meal wheatless and one meal meatless  
Friday—one meal wheatless and one meal meatless  
Saturday—all meals porkless, one meal wheatless, and one meal meatless

Through these voluntary rationing guidelines, Americans consumed 15 percent less food in 1918 and 1919 than before. Maybe this could be used today as a way of cutting back on the food we eat and thus help with the obesity problem in the United States.

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## OVEREXERTION OF THE MIND

In January, 1917, a trial was held in Prescott—the case of Alice Langford vs. the Knights of Pythias. I don't know the particulars of the case, but one of the attorneys was J. D. Shackelford, a colored attorney. It was his first case and evidently he was a little nervous. During the trial as he presented his case, he collapsed in front of the judge and spectators thought he was dead. Dr. Rice was in the courtroom and revived him. The trial resumed and after a few minutes, Mr. Shackelford collapsed again. The doctor again tended to him and said the reason the lawyer fainted was "overexertion of the mind". (*The Nevada News*—Jan. 4, 1917)

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## LITHIA SPRINGS

(from the 11-12-1891 issue of *The Nevada County Picayune*)

Arkansas Lithia Springs, near Hope, are attracting much attention. The water is very fertile in salts of lithium, iron, magnesia, and contains a liberal supply of soda, lime, potassium, and iodides. The happiest results have been afforded in diseases of the stomach, bowels, liver, urinary and genital organs, uric poisoning, catarrh, and malaria.

Arkansas Lithia water, from near Hope, is effecting some wonderful cures around Prescott, as well as many other portions of the country. It readily cures diseases of the kidneys, liver, etc. and is very effective in all female troubles. It will be delivered to the Hope depot for 25 cents per gallon. One gallon will last a patient a week and five or six weeks' time often affects a cure. It is pleasant to the taste and takes the place of water. Contact Dr. T. M. Boyd or Lithia Springs Company, Hope, AR.

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## SEEMS LIKE I HEARD THIS SOMEWHERE

Susan Bell remembers this phrase—

**She got her tickle box turned over.** (she can't stop laughing.) My grandmother Myra Hamby used this phrase a lot. And she got her tickle box turned over a lot. My grandfather would just shake his head and leave the room.

Bill Sellers remembers this phrase—

**Make haste.** Means hurry up. This phrase is found several times in the Bible. Bill, this was a favorite expression used by my grandmother also. I can remember her telling my grandfather to “Make haste”. There is also the saying “Make haste slowly” which means act quickly, but not so fast that you make careless mistakes.

If you have a favorite word or expression, send it to me.

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## COLLECTING

I think I fall somewhere between being a collector and a hoarder. I've about reached my limit on space. That's the main problem with collecting stuff. My advice to anyone planning on taking up this hobby of collecting is to start with something small because you will soon find you need more space.

Much of my stuff is in the form of papers or pictures and can be filed away in a filing cabinet or stored in boxes. I have lots of old family pictures that have been given to me by various people. Many of the photos are unidentified but I hate to just throw them away in case somebody might be able to identify a photo. I just have them stored away in boxes giving them a short reprieve because I know someday they will be thrown away.

I like to collect old bottles. I became interested in this when I worked in the woods and came across old home places. Sometimes I would find an interesting old bottle just lying on the ground. An old trash pile near an old home place opens up all kinds of possibilities of finding interesting things unless the people were like my grandmother who threw all her trash into an abandoned well.

I have some of my bottles displayed at home, but most of them are stored away in boxes. I guess somebody can have a big garage sale someday after I'm gone. I mainly like the old soda bottles or patent medicine bottles. I also keep old bottles that have colored glass like the blue milk of magnesia bottles and Vick's bottles, old brown Purex bottles, or just anything unusual or old looking.

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People collect all kinds of stuff, but it can be overdone. If you are not careful, you will be like some of those hoarders on the TV shows who can't even use their homes because of all the clutter. As they say, "One man's junk is another man's treasure". You can probably find somebody somewhere who likes to collect the same things you collect.

I like going to garage sales and estate sales. You will be surprised what some people are willing to pay for things, especially at auctions. It is sad to see all the possessions of someone who has passed away being sold in estate sales or auctions. All those things meant something to the people who had them, but we know we can't take our possessions with us when we die. Some people think it's silly to fill your house up with what they call "Junk", but if collecting things gives a person pleasure, I'm all for it. To each his own.

Sometimes you find things at a sale that you think someone in that family might like to have. I bought a book at an estate sale a few years ago that was given to a couple when they got married in 1931, which included recipes, household hints, etc. In the front of the book were several pages where family information could be recorded much like in a family Bible. This book I purchased had family tree information for the couple, pictures of their children, trips they had taken, newspaper clippings, death certificates, and other personal information which I thought somebody might like to have. I even advertised on some genealogy web sites hoping someone in that family might contact me and I could give this information to them. So far, I haven't heard anything from my efforts.

At the same sale, I also purchased several news magazines printed just after the attack on the World Trade Center in 2001. That event, much like the attack on Pearl Harbor, was such an important event in our history that I thought the magazines were worth keeping.

Sometimes companies will package their products in a special container celebrating an anniversary and I usually keep those type containers. An example is the Planter's Peanuts 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary jar I have. Maybe someday it will be worth something. I also collect old fruit jars if they are unusual, have some type writing on them, or colored blue.

I don't collect as much stuff these days because I'm running out of room. Displaying a collection calls for shelves and display cases which take up more room. As I said at the beginning, if you are taking up this hobby, start with small items or at least consider the space that will be required to store your collection.

If you collect something write and tell me about it. I would be interested in knowing what type things people collect.

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**RAINFALL RECORD** (at my house)—January—5.4 inches; February—3.6 inches plus 5 inches snow and ice; March—10.7 inches plus 2 inches sleet; April—7.7 inches

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## BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who named the first animals? (Genesis 2: 19,20)
2. We all know that Adam and Eve made themselves aprons out of fig leaves. What was their next clothing made from? (Genesis 3:21)
3. How many stories (floors) were on the ark built by Noah? (Genesis 6:16)
4. Who shut the door of the ark just before the Flood began? (Genesis 7:16)
5. How many people were on board the ark during the Flood? (Genesis 7:13)
6. What two birds did Noah send out of the ark to see if the earth was dry? (Genesis 8: 7,8)
7. What did God place in the sky to remind Him of his promise to not destroy the earth with water again? (Genesis 9: 11-17)
8. How long did Noah live? (Genesis 9:29)
9. What mountain was Moses on when he received the Ten Commandments from God? (Exodus 31: 18)
10. Remember the story of David killing Goliath with a slingshot? How many stones did David have in his arsenal? (I Samuel 17:40)



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## **A SPECIAL REQUEST**

Dear Mr. McKelvy,

I am Claire Chapman, a retired elementary reading teacher. My passion now is family research. I love it more than playing Gershwin on the piano (Rhapsody in Blue) and peach pie and pecan pie and ice cream, too.

Harold Hesterly looked up one of my distant cousins, John Griffin. John and I have kinfolk and connections in Newberry County, SC. Also, Harold Hesterly and I have “about” 8 or 9 allied or what we call here in GA “almost” cousins. My Chapman ancestor and his Summers are “connected” (in Newberry, SC).

I did everything I could find—spent many hours, and googled his kinfolk, and found a lot of data. I found so much for him. Harold is a retired military (age 85 years). I am doing his research as a gift because of his 26 years of service to our USA and we’re “kinda” kin.

Harold is now going very deaf. He cannot hear to talk on a phone. I am asking for your kindness. If anyone who is kin to the Hesterly/Hesterlee/or any varied spelling) is a descendant could write him—this would be a very special blessing. Possibly you could publish my letter in your chronicle also (you have my a.o.k., too)

Thanks again from the depths of my heart. Sent with hope and faith.

Clarie Chapman  
P. O. Box 1315  
Perry, GA 31069

Write to:  
Mr. Harold Hesterly  
5025 Fieldstone View Circle  
Cumming, GA 30028