

Legend or Truth: The Ghost That Paid for Asbury Church



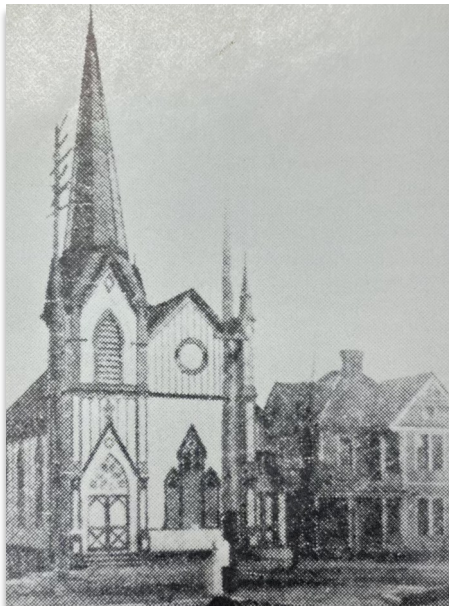
Mrs. A. E. Ripley

Asbury United Methodist Church on the corner of Main and Summer Street was completed and dedicated in 1875. Mrs. A. E. Ripley paid the final debt of \$800 that freed the church from financial encumbrance, but where did she get the money?


The legend goes that a passing Methodist preacher was caught out late one evening and stopped by a house downtown and asked to stay all night. The family didn't have room for him, but told him there was a big haunted house up on the hill. Nobody lived in the house.

The preacher went to the house, let himself in, lit a fire and started reading his bible. He heard a noise up stairs. Then he heard it come down the stairs. A woman dressed in white came to the bottom of the stairs. The preacher said "What have I done that you appear to me?" She said, "I have appeared to many people, but all of them were afraid and ran. Do not run. I will not harm you. I was murdered for my money. It is buried in the root cellar underneath the house. Go and get my brother and divide the money with him."

The preacher got her brother the next morning. They went back and found a box of cash buried in the cellar where the ghost said it would be. Legend has it that the passing preacher gave it to Mrs. A. E. Ripley and she paid off the debt of the church.



Asbury Church in 1875

 **COX**
QUARTERLY
Fall 2023

T. ELMER COX

HE'S BACK TO INTRODUCE GREENE COUNTY HISTORY AND GENEALOGY TO THE NEXT GENERATION!

NEW DISTRICT MAP & STREAM INDEX

The T. Elmer Cox Genealogical & Historical Library is a branch of the Greenville/Greene County Public Library

THE ADVENTURES OF T. ELMER COX

-For Immediate Release-
Fall 2023

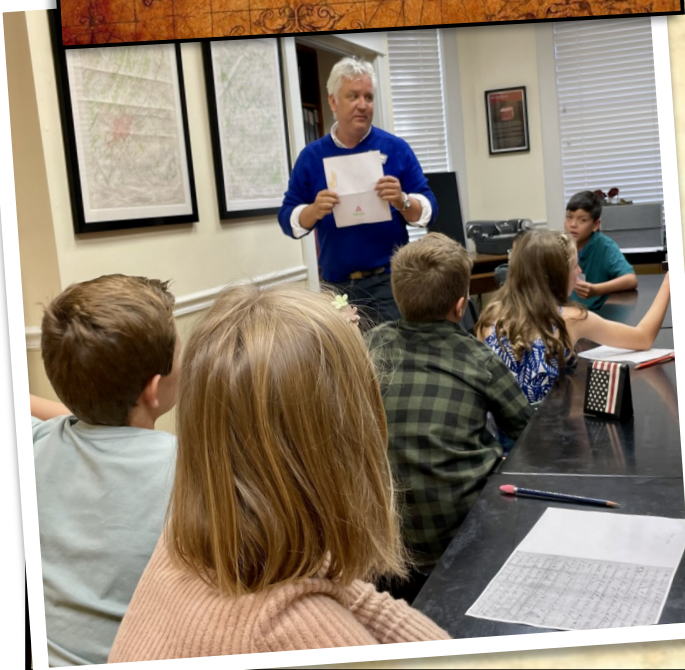
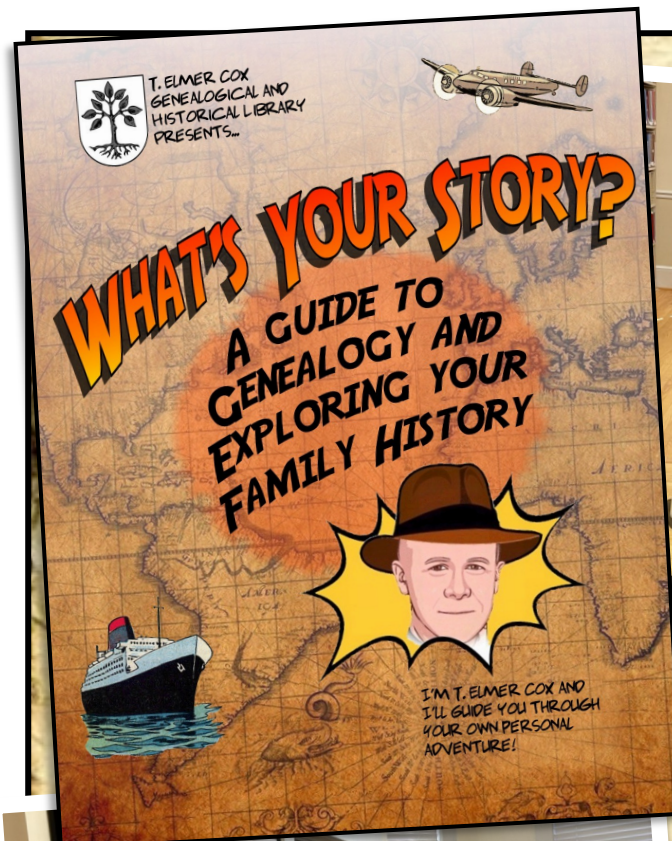
The T. Elmer Cox Genealogical & Historical Library is excited to announce the launch of its new cartoon figure who will represent the library and its many resources to the next generation of historians and genealogists. The figure is a caricature of T. Elmer Cox himself, who is the library namesake and who devoted his entire career to researching Greene County history.

“We wanted to create a character that would be relatable to people of all ages and backgrounds,” said Christopher Gose, Assistant Director. “Dressed similar to another adventurer who has a passion for history, the new T. Elmer caricature is someone who is always eager to help kids learn and explore the vast and extensive history that makes up Greene County.”

His first appearance is featured in the book, “What’s Your Story?” focused on introducing kids to the Cox Library and encouraging them to explore their own family histories and genealogy. The activity book includes advice and tips for understanding terminology and gathering simple tools necessary to begin recording one’s own lineage. It also has worksheets as well as tips and activities that involve the entire family.

By the end of October, the Cox Library will have hosted over 50 children and teachers using “What’s Your Story?” which was introduced in September of 2023. “We hope this is just the beginning to assisting schools and other organizations in our community to understand the value of the Cox Library” said Gose.

The book will be available to the general public for download on the library’s website in the near future.

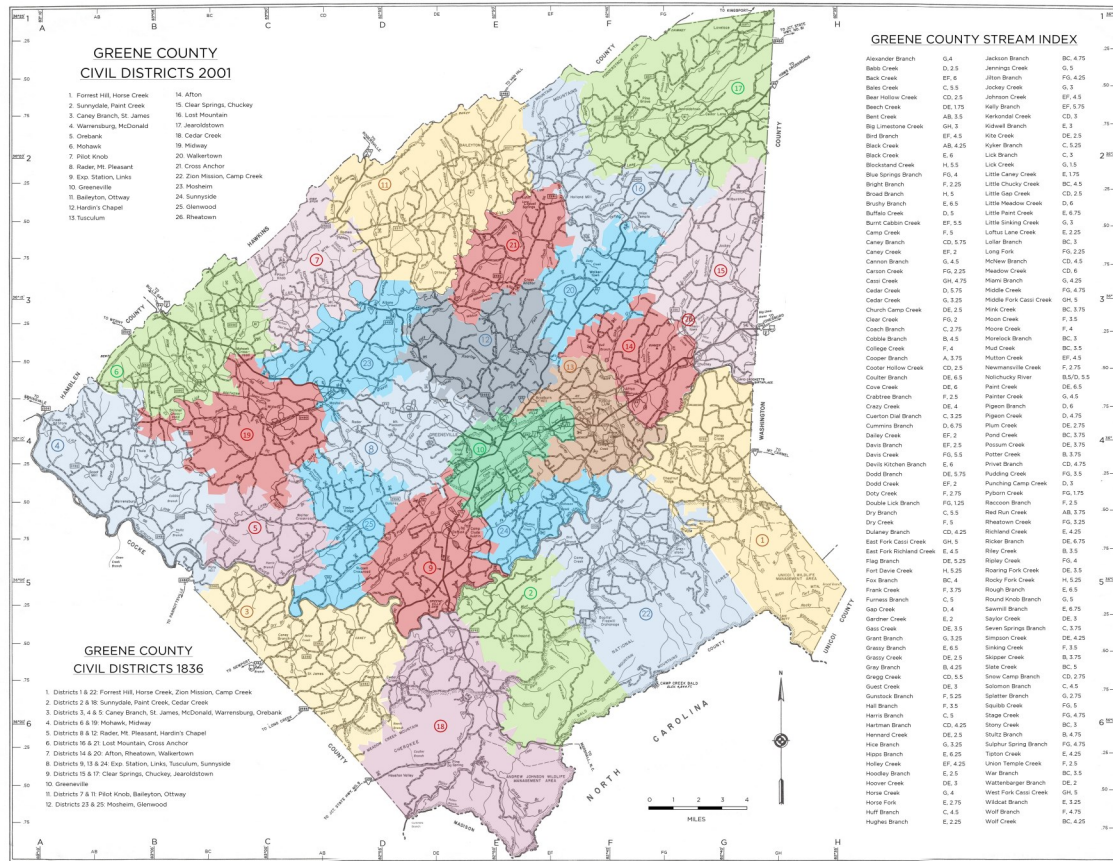


Students from several home school groups attended workshops at the Cox Library to understand how to research their own genealogy as well as some early history of Greeneville.

All groups learned about the importance of archiving and preserving historic documents, transcribing handwriting, and the value of using metadata and keywords for research.

Photos courtesy of Michelle Shumate, Heritage Home Scholars

NEW DISTRICT AND STREAM INDEX OF GREENE COUNTY



of the Peace and Constables. Voting polls and meetings were often held in the elected officials own house or outbuilding. The original 12 districts of Greene County:

1. Forrest Hill, Horse Creek, Zion Mission, Camp Creek
2. Sunnyside, Paint Creek, Cedar Creek
3. Caney Branch, St. James, McDonald, Warrensburg, Orebank
4. Mohawk, Midway
5. Rader, Mt. Pleasant, Hardin's Chapel
6. Lost Mountain, Cross Anchor
7. Afton, Rheatown, Walkertown
8. Links, Tusculum, Sunnyside
9. Clear Springs, Chuckey, Jearoldstown
10. Greeneville
11. Pilot Knob, Baileyton, Ottway
12. Mosheim, Glenwood

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8. Rader, Mt. Pleasant
9. Experiment Station, Links
10. Greeneville
11. Baileyton, Ottway
12. Hardin's Chapel
13. Tusculum
14. Afton,
15. Clear Springs, Chuckey
16. Lost Mountain
17. Jearoldstown
18. Cedar Creek
19. Midway
20. Walkertown
21. Cross Anchor
22. Zion Mission, Camp Creek
23. Mosheim
24. Sunnyside
25. Glenwood
26. Rheatown

In 2001, the Greene County Civil Districts were expanded to the following:

1. Forrest Hill, Horse Creek
2. Sunnyside, Paint Creek
3. Caney Branch, St. James
4. Warrensburg, McDonald
5. Orebank

It's critical to understand where a location was at a certain point in time, versus how it may be referenced today. For example, when currently researching a land deed in the Chuckey district, it would be located in District 15 as opposed to District 9 as it was originally recorded.

Because the majority of old deeds and land records were based off the locations of natural markers such as streams, trees or outcroppings, it becomes extremely difficult to find original sites of properties over time. Manmade and natural occurrences have changed the landscape and made indicators for boundaries inconsequent.

The Cox Library has produced a new district and stream index to assist patrons with this

type of research. While its not perfect, the map will aid the researcher with finding a more specific location within a definitive district.

In 1836, Greene County was divided into 12 civil districts to make governing more accomodating to the population. Laying out the county into districts also made voting more convenient and county commissioners were appointed for the purpose of electing Justices



T. Elmer Cox
Genealogical &
Historical Library