



OLD HARP

Number 48
2021

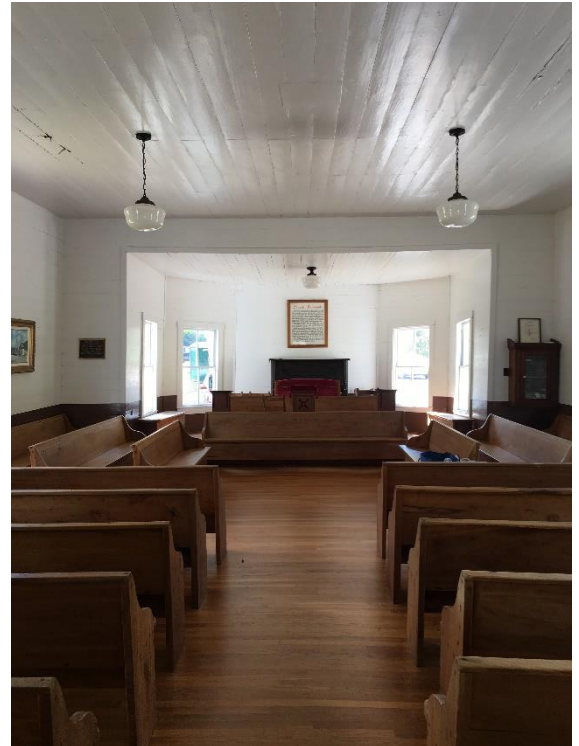
The *New Harp of Columbia*
Annual Newsletter

When Shall We All Meet Again?

*Oft shall glowing hope expire, oft shall wearied love
retire, oft shall death and sorrow reign, ere we all shall
meet again.*

The words to #134 *Indian's Farewell* were written by the British poet, Anna Jane Vardill in 1807. Now, over 200 years later, they seem particularly poignant. The circumstances of the worldwide pandemic have had an impact on essentially every aspect of our lives over the past year. The impacts on old harp singing have seemed especially cruel.

In 2020 only one annual singing was held- on the fourth weekend of September at Headrick Chapel. Attendance that day hovered between 15 and 20, well below average for arguably the biggest and best singing in the Old Harp tradition. Many of the singings, such as Maryville College or Caney Creek in Pigeon Forge, had been an annual occurrence for over a century. The old churches that once reverberated with the indelible sounds of song have, instead, sat empty.



As we move into the new year, the prospect of large crowds singing together seems almost as bleak as the previous year. Vaccine distribution, though promising, does not appear to be the fast-paced avenue to reconvening that we hope for. In the meantime, the small monthly or semi-monthly singings will carry on as best they can. We hope to revive at least a few annual singings this Spring and possibly more in the Summer.

We hope you will join us in praying and continuing to look forward to a day when each and every singer can fellowship together again without the fear of sickness.

*"Remember, Lord, our mortal state, How frail our lives, how short the date! Where is the man
that draws his breath, Safe from disease, secure from death?"*

Recordings from The Happy Hollow Harp Singers- 1948

By: Andrew Whaley

I am excited to share news about the discovery of the oldest known available Old Harp recordings that were recently digitized from the archives of The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. The recordings are from August 1948 (predating the previous oldest recordings by about three years).

The 10-inch 78 RPM recordings were found in the archives of the WUOT radio station by UT professor (and old harp singer) Ron Petersen, who sent

them to the Library of Congress in 1980. The tapes were thought to have been originally recorded by Mary Elizabeth Barnacle, a musicologist who lived in Blount County for a period of time in the mid-20th century.



Burl & Mae Adams and Arvil & Sally Adams were likely featured on the Happy Hollow Harp Singers recordings

The recording artist is listed as “The Happy Hollow Harp Singers”. Ron Peterson correctly identified them as a group of singers from Wear’s Valley. The “happy holler” can be found on the north side of the upper end of the valley within walking distance of Headrick’s Chapel. The group features Burl Adams and most likely several others who sang on the well-known “Old Harp Singers of Eastern Tennessee” album in 1951.

In the first cut (#99 Morning Trumpet), you can hear Burl Adams dedicate the song to his father-in-law, J.T. Headrick. There are several other audible spoken words at the beginning of just about every song as the leader calls for the chord, etc. I hope you will enjoy these recordings as much as I have. A link to these recordings can be found at the Old Harp website- www.OLDHARP.org- under the Books and Recordings tab.

MAJOR SCALE.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Name: Do Ra Mi Fa Sol La Si Do Do Si La Sol Fa Mi Ra Do

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Editor: Andrew Whaley

OLD HARP ANNUAL SINGINGS 2021

Visit www.oldharp.org or follow Old Harp Singing in East Tennessee on Facebook

| Date | Day | Time | Singing Location & Contact |
|----------|---------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mar. 28 | Sunday | 2:00 | Boogertown Singing- Oldham's Creek Missionary Baptist Church- Sevier County, TN <i>Hal Wilson</i> |
| April 18 | Sunday | 2:00 | Tuckaleechee United Methodist Church- Townsend, TN <i>Tom & Nan Taylor</i> |
| May 2 | Sunday (1 st) | 2:00 | Middle Creek United Methodist Church- Pigeon Forge, TN <i>David Sarten</i> |
| June 27 | Sunday (4 th) | 12:00 | Caney Creek Singing- Beech Grove Primitive Baptist Church- Pigeon Forge, TN <i>Sharee Green</i> |
| July 18 | Sunday (3 rd) | 2:00 | Little Greenbrier Schoolhouse- Great Smoky Mountains National Park <i>Robin Goddard</i> |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Sept. 25 | Saturday | 10:00 | Wears Valley Convention- Valley View Baptist Church (Saturday) & Headrick's Chapel (Sunday) <i>Dr. Bruce Wheeler, David Sarten and Andrew Whaley</i> |
| Sept. 26 | Sunday (4 th) | 10:00 | |
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Monthly Singings: (Please, contact to confirm as many of these monthly singings are subject to cancellation)

SEVIER COUNTY, TN- Middle Creek United Methodist Church- 3rd Tuesdays at 7:00 PM

ATHENS, TN- 3rd Tuesdays at 5:00 PM (Cora Sweatt)

JOHNSON CITY, TN- Location TBD- 3rd Sundays at 2:00 PM (Don Wiley)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Chaz Barber: (865) 640-5226, chazdb@gmail.com
Tina Becker: (865) 982-7777, loudsinger@gmail.com
Paul Clabo: (865) 453-5847, (865) 202-2924
Claudia Dean: (865) 673-5822, claudiadean0@gmail.com
Jeff Farr: (423) 620-8267, summersfarr@gmail.com
Robin Goddard: (865) 982-6148, rlgoddard2@gmail.com
Bill Gooch and Meg Mabbs: (865) 522-0515, goochbill@bellsouth.net
Sharee Green: (865) 654-3557, sharee.green@blountk12.org
Nancy Olsen: (865) 983-7631, bryne_olsen@yahoo.com
David Sarten: (865) 389-3100, D_Sarten@msn.com
Joe Sarten: (865) 712-3306, jsarten@utk.edu
Cora Sweatt: (423) 745-0248
Tom and Nan Taylor: (865) 984-8585, nanktaylor@yahoo.com
Andrew Whaley: (865) 680-5364, awhaley37@gmail.com
Bruce Wheeler: (865) 428-2239, wwheele1@utk.edu
Don Wiley: (423) 341-8893, don.wiley@oldfieldssingers.com
Hal Wilson: (865) 436-2590, (865) 654-9503

SINGING LOCATIONS

Laurel Theater- 1538 Laurel Ave. Knoxville, TN 37916
Oldham's Creek Missionary Baptist Church- 3629 Boogertown Rd. Sevierville, TN 37876
Meg Mabbs & Bill Gooch Residence- 4401 Alta Vista Way Knoxville, TN
Tuckaleechee United Methodist Church- 7322 Old Tuckaleechee Rd. Townsend, TN 37882
Middle Creek United Methodist Church- 1828 Middle Creek Rd, Pigeon Forge, TN 37863
New Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church- 90 Cox Rd, Greeneville, TN 37745
Beech Grove Primitive Baptist Church- 625 Caney Creek Rd, Pigeon Forge, TN 37863
Little Greenbrier Schoolhouse- Turn off Wear Cove Gap Rd. onto Little Greenbriar Rd. (The schoolhouse is at the end of the road on the right)
Cades Cove Primitive Baptist Church- Cades Cove Loop Rd, Townsend, TN 37882 (Turn off Cades Cove Loop Rd left onto a gravel road, if you get to the Methodist or Missionary Baptist Churches you've gone too far)
Wears Valley United Methodist Church- 3110 Wears Valley Rd. Sevierville, TN 37862
Valley View Baptist Church- 2219 Little Cove Rd, Sevierville, TN 37862
Headrick's Chapel- 4317 Wears Valley Rd, Sevierville, TN 37862
Dollywood- Robert F. Thomas Chapel (Craftman's Valley)- Pigeon Forge, TN 37863
Maryville College Center for Campus Ministry- 211 Maryville College, Circle Dr, Maryville, TN 37804
Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center- 123 Cromwell Dr, Townsend, TN 3788
Sugarlands Visitor Center- 1420 Fighting Creek Gap Rd, Gatlinburg, TN 37738
Greeneville Cumberland Presbyterian Church- 201 N Main St, Greeneville, TN 37745
McMinn County Living Heritage Museum- 522 W Madison Ave, Athens, TN 37303
St. John's Episcopal Church- 500 N Roan St, Johnson City, TN 37601