

Highlights of **The Covington Leader** and **True Tales of Tipton**

**- 1910 -**

The Brighton Savings Bank is established.

Byars-Hall High School is established in the Covington Grammar School Building with Benjamin Oscar Duggan as principal.

**- 1911 -**

Capt. James Iredell Hall, long time teacher at the Mt. Carmel Academy, dies at his home at Mt. Carmel.

Hon. Charles Bryson Simonton, former attorney, U.S. Senator, and U.S. District Attorney for West Tennessee, dies at his home on College Street.

The Town of Atoka is granted a charter.

**- 1912 -**

Pouncey's store was opened by John H. Pouncey.

Jessie Simonton, Kathleen Pennel, Elizabeth Bringle, Lula Mae Gee, Laura G. Keathley and Lee B. O'Neal were the first graduates from Byars-Hall High School. The graduation took place in the Paine's Opera House. The first school, which most of the residents in Garland attended and remembered was built in 1912. The first two schools in the area were located at Kelley 's Chapel and near Shiloh Cemetery.

The original charter for Union Savings Bank was received.

**- 1913 -**

The Farmers Union Bank and the Tipton County Bank are merged under the name Tipton County Farmers Union Bank. The new institution is under the management of John T. Garner, president.

Randolph is reincorporated, though many insist that there is nothing left to incorporate but a hope.

Brighton is incorporated as a town in a private act passed by the Fifty-eighth General Assembly of Tennessee.

The Naifeh family opened their first grocery on the Square in Covington.

Oney Naifeh's father, Joe, was the original store's owner.

**- 1914 -**

William Jennings Bryan makes a speech in the courthouse yard championing the candidacy of Tom C. Rye for governor.

After nearly 20 years, Glenn Springs is formally opened again by Dr. A. B. Blaydes of Atoka. The 40-year old physician and spa enthusiast hopes to revive interest in the once-thriving resort.

The Mason Telephone Exchange began operation.

Covington Savings Bank and Trust Company merged into Union Savings Bank.

Tipton County had almost reached an ideal so as the number of schools are concerned, there being one white school for approximately every ten square miles of its territory.

A heating stove would cost a customer only \$10 to purchase.

First National Bank opened.

Mr. Verble Bringle's mare became frightened at a train as he was crossing the railroad at the depot here Thursday and ran away. The buggy struck against a telephone post and was considerably damaged. Mr. Bringle was thrown out, but luckily sustained only a few minor bruises. The horse was badly injured, a bolt from the shaft being stuck up its foot just above the hoof.

There were 22,135 bales of cotton ginned in Tipton County prior to Dec. 13, 1914, as compared to 27,561 bales ginned prior to Dec. 13, 1913.

Mr. W. J. Hoy of the Munford neighborhood told us that one of his cows got fastened in a ditch and was down for 24 hours, but by careful excavation he succeeded in getting her out and she was no worse off for her experience.

#### **- 1915 -**

Robert Gatlin, the new superintendent of the county poorhouse, will enter upon the duties of his position.

#### **- 1916 -**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Tennessee National Guard Regiment, whose ranks include a number of Tipton Countians, are called up to participate in General John J. Pershing's attempt to capture the Mexican rebel Pancho Villa.

The present Covington Post Office is completed.

#### **- 1917 -**

George Taylor Brodnax, founder of George T. Brodnax, Inc., a leading jewelry store chain to this day, died in Memphis at age 47. He was born and raised at Mason, being the son of Richard Thomas Brodnax, who was once a leading Mason merchant.

John Gettys McCain, who founded Idaville in 1874 upon moving his store from Portersville, retired from the mercantile business after 47 years. He sold one-half interest in the store to his cousin, C. L. McClain, and gives the other half interest to his daughter, Mrs. M. O. Faulkner, and his grandson, Shannon D. Faulkner.

The Town of Mason enjoyed for the first time the comfort of an electrically lighted city, for on that night W. E. Frawley, one of Mason's highly esteemed and enterprising citizens who owns the plant, turned on the lights.

The Leader purchased the Tipton Record in 1917 when that's paper's owner, R. H. Green, was appointed Covington Postmaster.

The first of Tipton County's registrants to be called into active service under the new Selective Service Act leave for Camp Gordon near Atlanta, Ga.

Thomas Lauderdale, Tipton County's last surviving Mexican War Veteran, dies at the age of 89.

J. W. Simonton died he was the editor of The Covington Leader in 1888.

By this time Glenn Springs was one of the leading summer resorts in West Tennessee. It was now being called "The Carlsbad of America." Hotel rates were \$2.50 to \$3.00 per day or \$12.50 a week.

The schoolhouse at Kelley's Chapel is being over hauled. New foundations are being poured under the building and new doors and windows put in.

Numbers of persons watched the total eclipse of the moon shortly after midnight Sunday and found nothing unusual about it. There was a deep halo around the moon during the eclipse, which began to appear several hours before the eclipse, and had nothing to do with it.

The continued snow is good for wheat. The wheat acreage in this county is thought to be about 10 percent greater than last year.

The Elite Theater, formerly the Dixie, under the management of Ernest Smith Jr., opened to the public and the first performance was given there on Monday night.

Senate declares war against Kaiser, vote stood 82 to 6. Uncle Sam will enter the fight to bring the big conflict to a successful termination. The president now has authority to employ every fighting resource. President Woodrow Wilson signs war proclamation.

First shot of war fired by German submarine (April 17). A German submarine today fired on the destroyer Smith about 100 miles north of New York.

#### **- 1918 -**

The Mississippi River at Randolph is frozen so solidly that people are able to walk across the ice to the Arkansas shore and as far down the river as Richardson's Landing, where a large ice gorge has formed.

Second Lieutenant Paul C. Calhoun dies suddenly while drilling troops at Camp Wheeler, Macon, Ga. He is the first Tipton County soldier to lose his life during World War I.

A 25-acre field one mile north of Covington is secured as a permanent landing site for student pilots marking their first cross-country flights from Park Field near Millington.

Sergeant Joseph B. Adkison of Atoka earns the Congressional Medal of Honor with his quick decision and gallantry in action near Bellicourt, France.

Covington lands Epworth League Convention. Covington lands the convention by one vote beating out Dyersburg by the score of 90 to 89.

William A. Owen is elected Judge of the Court of Appeals of the State of Tennessee.

**- 1919 -**

Fargason Grocery is robbed when the safe was blown open with nitroglycerine. Approximately \$625 in cash was taken.

Tipton County was authorized \$155,000 to hard-surface Jefferson Davis Hwy., presently Hwy. 51.

Mammoth caproni pass over Covington. Plane has wing span of 100 feet.

First women cast votes in the municipal elections at Munford and Atoka.

When Tipton County Bank merged the bank began to grow rapidly. It became a banking leader in West Tennessee. The bank had six branches.

First State Bank was founded in 1919 after First National Bank surrendered its charter. First State Bank president was R. M. Robison.

*Furnished by The Covington Leader; The Tipton County Historical Society, Tim Sloan Chairman, David Gwinn Secretary; and the Covington Economic and Development Corporation, Jerol Hopkins Chairman. The year 2004. True Tales of Tipton is by Gaylon Neil Beasley.*