

WHO

FROM PAGE A1

stories were long and delightful.

Perhaps Sam acquired his unique gift at a young age when he would perch on the edge of the wooden porch of the general store in Wheatley and listen to the old-timers tell of the "White Indians," (most likely early Europeans), who built a great stone fort and tower on a high hill above Severn Creek.

Monterey residents Margaret Alice Murphy, Lela Maude Hawkins and Jim Bob and Barbara Cook have all passed away; but their lives reflected decades of Owen County history.

Margaret wrote 17 history books on Owen County and recorded countless local family histories.

Early Monterey is featured in many of the stories told by Lela Maude, Jim Bob and Barbara Cook; and their memories are captured in the Owen County, Kentucky Family History Book, available at the Historical Society for

\$60.

Today a small group of early guardians of Owen County remain.

Elizabeth Prewitt's family have lived in New Liberty for generations. Anyone with questions about the community, the old New Liberty Schools or who lived in which house need only to engage this slender silver-haired resident whose acute knowledge of the area is amazing and whose detailed stories create a picturesque landscape of this early Owen County town.

One might ask long-time Poplar Grove resident Tom Olds about the times he and his father would spend weeks before Memorial Day cleaning up the Poplar Grove Cemetery.

Tom and his dad confronted not only the tangle of vines and vigorous weeds that had flourished during the year, but they also had to outwit the overabundance of cunning black snakes that took offense to the encroachment on land which they considered theirs by "squatters' rights."

She is small and petite,

and though it looks as if a strong wind might blow her away, she is a consummate storyteller and a fierce defender of God, family and country.

Betty Sue Craigmyle Lusby creates a picturesque narrative on growing up in Owen County in the 1940's and '50's, and the fine fragile lines on her face and her dancing blue eyes reflected a lifetime of memories.

Betty was the fifth out of six children in her family, and like many families of that era, she grew up on a farm, helping in the garden and the tobacco fields.

Betty tells of two dinner bells, both the same type of bell, but one located on her family farm and the other one on her grandfather's farm located nearby.

"After working hard all morning, we couldn't wait to hear the dinner bell calling us in to eat.

"Though our dinner bell was the same type of bell as my grandfather's, they had different sounds.

"Many times, while working in the fields, I remember hearing the dinner bell, but becoming disheartened because I knew the bell's clear ringing was the sound of grandpa's bell calling him to dinner, while we had to be patient and wait till our dinner bell summoned us out of the fields."

Owen Countian R.C. Swigert is a WWII Veteran; and his stories span decades, revealing an ever-changing picturesque portrait of not only Owen County, but also of our great nation.


Today we must ask ourselves: "Who will become the next generation of

guardians of our history?"

As most members of the Owen County Historical Society are considered part of the "older crowd," we are blessed that a few young people have joined us on our journey to preserve the rich history of our past.

Perhaps members Elijah Ayres and Jacob Lily will become a new generation of guardians of Owen County History; and as they reach out to other young people, may their commitment to our history bring a revival of stories of the past to share and preserve for future generations.


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