

“Turning Over Every Stone”

Written by Jackie Layne Partin

Recently, my husband came upon an old chimney in another county. He needed worn, aged, stones for a project he was working on but dared not remove a one from the chimney. Those stones were searched out and placed in exactly the right spot by the rough, worn hands of pioneers in that area. They were stacked with desperation toward beating the first hints of cold winter weather. They warmed the hearts, souls and bodies of someone’s beloved ancestors – maybe some of the readers’ own families.

**Grady Ward Partin
wonders which
families were warmed
by the large fires that
were built in this old
fireplace in Van Buren
County.**



I, and hopefully all who read this, intend to be present at the Heritage Center on Railroad Avenue on June 12, 2010 between the hours of 2-4 to hear a lecture from the featured speaker, Charles A. Sherrill, on exactly how to go about finding one’s ancestors and the family histories they left for us. If only, we knew how to find all the clues and subtle little messages they left behind! Every photograph in your grandparents’ albums tells a story. Every newspaper clipping, card or letter in “Ma and Pa’s” old trunk are like a message in a glass bottle that has endured the years of riding high and low on the waves of the sea. Mr. Sherrill will lead us down a path with “how to” instructions planted along the way. We must start our research somewhere, and with his help, we can

learn the best way to begin, the pitfalls, and the reasons for enduring when we come up against a “stone” wall.



Charles “Chuck” A. Sherrill

Mr. Sherrill, or Chuck, as he is better known around our area, was recently appointed the new State Librarian and Archivist. For twenty-five years he has been in and around libraries all over the state of Tennessee enabling him to become quite familiar with its families and histories, especially those of Middle Tennessee. He has spent a great portion of his life searching out his own ancestry and writing informative books to help others find theirs. Anyone in this area who has done any genealogical research has come upon Chuck’s name; quite often it is his collections and compositions of research materials that have helped us Grundy County people find our ancestry.

King Solomon said, “Where there is no vision, the people perish!” From this we recognize the need for any people to look toward the future. However, it is obvious that those of us who know from whence we came, and the difficulties our ancestors had to endure to get us to the present, have a greater sense of self-worth, a greater appreciation for our present status, and the determination and willingness to do whatever is required or make whatever sacrifices are necessary to maintain and pass that status on to future generations.

Please do not miss this informative presentation, “Turning Over Every Stone, How to Research Your Family History,” by Chuck Sherrill.