



Glade Post Office & Store, circa 1890

The Glade Community Historical Society, Inc.
Including Glade, Garfield & Pine Log, Arkansas

A 501 (c)(3) CHARITY
gladehistory.org

2021 NEWSLETTER #1

The purpose of the society is to preserve the histories of the communities by researching and gathering stories, documents and artifacts.

There is excitement in the beginning of a new year. Yet, caution is necessary while living during a pandemic as the cases continue to rise. Promise of vaccine distribution brings hope while the country grieves for family and friends. Looking back to 1918, the flu epidemic infected 500 million people in four successive waves. and the death toll was estimated to be between 20 and 50 million people worldwide. Our numbers continue to rise and more than 400,000 Americans have died.

We will not have our regular GCHS meeting on January 24, 2021, and it may not be safe to meet the fourth Sunday in April. Hopefully we can meet in July and October of 2021. There is good news: The Benton County Historical Preservation Commission approved two grants for GCHS: one for Jennings Ford Road signage and the second grant was for a bell tower for the school bell donated by the Cleva Douglas family.

Several years ago, I discovered Phillip Steele, Ozark historian and was happy to find one of his books in an old store. Mr. Steele graduated high school in Springdale, Arkansas and received two degrees from the University of Arkansas,. Then he attended the University of California. He began his career at Steele Canning Company in Springdale, Arkansas and worked in the food industry from 1958-1982. Mr. Steele was active in Western Writers of America, past President of the Arts Center of the Ozarks , and he was appointed to the Arkansas History commission and served on the board of directors of Shiloh Museum. He produced documentaries, folklore, music and stories of the old west. His stories are wonderful reminders of our history and folklore. He wrote 12 books and died in 2007.

The book I found had been signed in 1979 and though yellowed with age, it contained wonderful stories about Jesse James, Belle Starr and Wild Bill Hickok. . His stories of the Ozark people might have been forgotten without his insight and dedication to preserving them. Our history is important! One of his books, Ozark Tales and Superstitions includes omens and wishes and here are some of them:

Bad Luck Omens:

Bad luck will follow if you carry a hoe inside a house.

It is bad luck to lay a hat on a bed.

It is bad luck to bring an old broom to a new house.

A traveler should never return for something forgotten when leaving home on a trip; bad luck will result if he does.

It is bad luck to change a horse's name.

It is bad luck to pull a pig's tail.

It is bad luck to count stars.

Bad luck can be expected when a black cat runs across your path unless you turn and go in another direction or break the spell by spitting.

Spilling salt is bad luck unless a pinch is immediately thrown over your left shoulder.

Sweeping after dark brings bad luck.

When dressing in the morning it is bad luck to put the left shoe on first.

Killing a redbird or bluebird is bad luck.

The number 13 is bad luck.

Seven years of bad luck can be expected from breaking a mirror.

Good Luck Omens:

Eating black eyed peas and hog jowl on New Year's Day assures good luck all year.

A horseshoe hung over an entrance to a house brings luck to those dwelling there.

Seeing a white cat on the road when traveling brings good luck. Extra good luck comes to the traveler who sees a red-haired girl riding a horse.

Shortly before midnight on New Year's Eve all windows should be opened to let the bad luck out and good luck in.

A dream about death is a sign of good luck to come. Dropping a glass without breaking it brings good luck.

Using a few old pieces of wood in a new home brings good luck to the structure.

When you say "Never" referring to something bad, you must knock on wood three times or the same thing will happen to you.

Carrying a rabbit's foot or a buckeye brings good luck.

Sleeping with your head toward the north brings good luck the next day.

If you see a falling star it is good luck to count to three before it fades.

Each person entering your home on New Year's Day must bring something in for luck throughout the year.

Death Omens:

A picture falling from the wall is a sign of death coming.

A dog howling at night is a sign of death in the neighborhood.

A sneeze before breakfast means a death will come to a close acquaintance within a week.

When a clock strikes thirteen times a death will come.

A rooster crowing before 4 am is a sign of death.

Wishes:

If two people start to speak at the same time they can make a wish before speaking again.

Seeing a redbird and throwing three kisses before it leaves your sight will make a wish come true.

Seeing a white horse and stamping your palm with your fist makes a wish come true.

If you see a star before dark, then spit over your left shoulder, the wish will come true.

Love and Marriage:

It is bad luck to change a wedding date once it has been set.

Sweeping a broom under a girl's feet will mean she will never marry.

If a girl takes the last biscuit from a plate she will never marry.

Riding a mule will cause a woman to be an old maid.

The bride who makes her own wedding dress has good luck in marriage.

A girl's true love will appear if she if she sprinkles salt on a fire for seven mornings

if the bride sees her groom on their wedding day before the ceremony begins, bad luck will follow.

Perhaps you have heard of some of these superstitions and some of those superstitions you heard are stuck in your mind and you become cautious when you see a black cat. Superstitions tend to be learned in childhood and travel from one generation to another. I appreciate that Philip Steele saved some history for us to enjoy.

Thank you for sending your \$25 dues to Treasurer Sam Reynolds, 20916 Slate Gap Rd., Garfield, Arkansas 72732. Your support is deeply appreciated and please check our website: gladehistory.org to learn more about our organization. Board members will be needed in 2021 and volunteers are always welcome.

The Glade Community Historical Society appreciates your continuing support. Glade Board members are: Sam Reynolds (Treasurer), Ruth Billingsley, Judi Walter (Secretary), Dorothy Williams, Larry Hanner; Don Berndt, (Communication Director) and Patricia Heck(President).