# History & Facts

By: Jean Hedgepeth

In the past, I have written about all the Civil War and World War I soldiers, so for the winter newsletter, I will begin to write about the World War II soldiers.

#### **Cova Colman Ralston**

For this newsletter, I will begin with Cova Colman Ralston, who gave his life for his country. He was the son of Rush and Mary McFelia Ralston. He was born January 12, 1925 and died December 1, 1944 in Germany.

He was a Pvt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class, Co. B. 28<sup>th</sup> Inf. 8<sup>th</sup> division. He received the Purple Heart Combat Infantry Badge, WWII Victory Ribbon, and three Bronze Stars. He had red hair.

He finished three years of high school at Hart Memorial and also worked on the farm with his father. He enlisted for the army in Louisville. He was discharged in September 1944, because of his injuries. He had been hit by an artillery shell. He is buried in the Pearl Webb Cemetery with his family.

On his stone it reads, "Sleep soldier sleep in peace. Your star is dimmed. The wars for you are over, but will shine forever in Heaven."



Cova Colman Ralston's Tombstone

#### **William Foster Blakey**

I will write about William
Foster Blakey for the second World
War World II soldier. He was born
on September 24, 1912 at his home on
Stringtown Road, near Canmer. It
was named Stringtown, because there
was a one room schoolhouse on the
road by that name. It later became
Gilead-Fairview Road.

His parents were William Adair and Mattie Houston Ray Blakey. He had one sister, Annie Gertrude. She was a first grade teacher for many years. William went to his local high school, Hart Memorial, for two years.

He enlisted in the army at Fort Knox on March 18, 1941. He was a

member of Co. A. 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Reg. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Technicain.

He was killed in action in the invasion of Oran, Algeria (North Africa). He received the Purple Heart for Bravery in Action. He died on November 26, 1942. His body was returned to his hometown and buried in the Pearl Webb Cemetery.



William Foster Blakey's Tombstone



# From the Treasurer's Desk

By: Brenda Dudderar

We would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a healthy 2022. I feel like most of what I contribute to the newsletter is a repeat of previous articles.

We continue to receive enough donations to cover our expenses. We collected enough at the cemetery Memorial Day weekend to pay for 5 mowings. As always, we would love to have more people take a turn sitting and collecting donations. Please let us know if you are willing to help.

Mr. Thompson, who repaired stones for us had COVID. He is still not able to do this job, but says as soon as he is, he will repair some more. We received enough to repair 22 more stones. Anyone wishing to donate for this project just needs to put stone repair on the memo line of your check.

We want to have another day to clean stones. The last time we were amazed at how much better the stones looked. Again, volunteers would be appreciated.

We have several stones that are leaning and need to be leveled. We have one man giving us pavers to put under the base to level and another man giving us dirt to add in front of the stones. Now we just need the man power to do this job.

I want to thank all of our volunteers who help get this newsletter to you. It does take a village. Jean Hedgepeth researches and writes our main articles on heroes buried at Pearl Webb. John Rogers prints the labels and sends the newsletter electronically. Marty Rogers takes care of the ads and Paul Sullivan compiles, proofs, and corrects before sending to print. These people deserve our thanks for a job well done. With your continued support we will maintain the upkeep and beautification of our beloved cemetery.

## Persons buried at Pearl Webb Cemetery, since our last newsletter:

#### Vivian M. "Vickie" Buckner

DOB: April 29, 1956 DOD: July 25, 2021

### **Erik Brian Priddy**

DOB: April 19, 1973 DOD: August 28, 2021

#### William Carl "Skinner" Vance

DOB: October 24, 1948 DOD: October 3, 2021

## Joyce Ann Gibson

DOB: May 9, 1945

DOD: November 4, 2021

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Mail to:

Pearl Webb Cemetery c/o Brenda Dudderar, Treasurer 1945 North Jackson Highway Hardyville, KY 42746 Phone: 270-528-5042

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# From the President's Desk

By: John Clay Rogers

I always enjoy driving through the cemetery at Christmas. So many stones are decorated beautifully and there is a certain peacefulness to just being there at what can be a difficult time of year to remember loved ones we have lost.

I am especially proud of the stone cleaning project that many of our volunteers participated in this year. It has been an amazing transformation for the older section of the cemetery. Cleaning the stones brought out their vibrant color and detail that had not been noticeable in many years due to their weathered condition. I hope we can clean more

stones in the future and eventually complete the project over the entire cemetery.

I want to thank all of our volunteers that work hard to make our cemetery beautiful and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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Newsletter designed by: Paul L. Sullivan