

MARGARET SHERFEY HOLLEY (1928-2018)

Margaret Holley was a history-keeper. She preserved the records of her family. She preserved their artifacts. And she and her husband George made it available to the public in a neat little package known as the Knob Creek Historical Museum on a corner of their farm in Johnson City.

History was important to her. And not just the history of her own family, which she could trace back to their beginnings in this county in the 18th Century, but she valued, preserved, and promoted the history of Washington County. After her retirement as a rural route mail carrier, she spent the last quarter-century of her life keeping history alive. She was active in many local historical and genealogical societies, serving as an officer in all of them. This includes the Boones Creek Historical Trust, Heritage Alliance, Jonesborough Genealogical Society, and the Washington County Historical Society, which awarded her its' highest honor, the Samuel Cole Williams Award.

Margaret was an early advocate for a county archives in Washington County. Once it was established, she remained a sustaining supporter. She was there at the very beginning of the archives. Accession No. 1 of the manuscript collections of the department is the Margaret Sherfey Holley Collection.

I will always remember many things about Margaret. She knew more about her own little corner of the world on Knob Creek than anyone else probably ever will. And when I think of her, I will always think of her brave struggle to hold out against the urban jungle approaching her little farm.

Born May 5th, 1928, Margaret Sherfey Holley passed away on Saturday, August 25th, 2018 at the age of 90.

-- Ned Irwin

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