

# OLDE TOWNE PEARISBURG REGISTER

March 2014

Published by the Olde Towne Pearisburg Association to foster historical preservation and heritage appreciation among the residents and business community of the Town of Pearisburg, County of Giles, State of Virginia.

## General George Crook

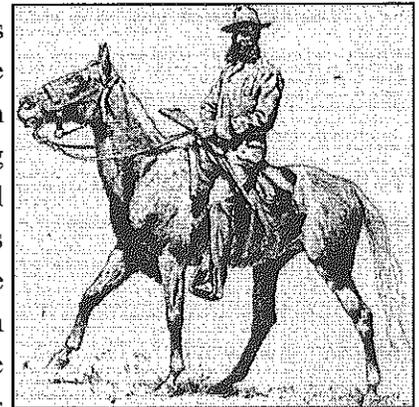
George Crook was among the roster of West Point Military Academy graduates who served during the Civil War. He was born in Ohio in 1828 and after graduation from the Academy in 1852, Lt. Crook was assigned to units combating Indian uprisings in Washington State, Oregon and California. He developed great respect for the Native American tribes and great disrespect for the US Government that systematically broke treaties, lied and betrayed them.

In 1861, he was recalled east when the Civil War began, promoted to Captain, and spent four years engaged in numerous battles, from Second Bull Run to Sheridan's Shenandoah Valley Campaign, rising in rank until brevetted to Major General in command of the Army of West Virginia in 1864. He was briefly captured, then exchanged by Confederate guerillas in February 1865.

The fortunes of General George Crook and the people of the New River Valley intersected in May 1864 when he led Union troops from Fayette, West Virginia by way of Princeton and Rocky Gap to Thomas Shannon's farm near the foot of Cloyd's Mountain. The Union mission was the destruction of train tracks at Dublin, the New River bridge at Central Depot (Radford), and the salt works at Saltville.

On May 9, he engaged Confederate forces sent to protect the access to Dublin on the steep slopes of Cloyd's Mountain. The battle lasted several bloody hours

as the Union troops fought to dislodge the Rebels firing from behind sheltering breastworks. General Crook's army was successful, but the victory cost the Union 688 casualties. The way to Dublin was opened, and as charged, he destroyed the railroad and moved on the New River bridge. His regimental band played as the burning bridge collapsed into the New River.



General George Crook mounted on his mule, Apache,

The army moved on to Blacksburg briefly before Crook elected to return to West Virginia by crossing Salt Pond Mountain. He apparently took the steep, narrow and winding stage road. It was a trip he probably remembered the rest of his life. Spring rains had softened the track; mules pulling the heavy wagons and cannons up the steep grade soon churned the path into thick, sticky mud. Mules dropped dead in their traces from the strain of the struggle to pull artillery and supply wagons in the glutinous muck. Pack animals slipped and fell over the edge of the the mountain. Weary soldiers shed excess ammunition as they climbed, leaving evidence of their ordeal at the area we know as Mini Ball Hill. In addition

to carrying the wounded and prisoners, the Union forces were followed by a large number of runaway slaves they termed "contraband" who had seized a chance to flee to Union territory. Their presence and the wagons and mules they brought with them further disrupted the march, creating utter chaos.

At the conclusion of the War, Crook, with a permanent rank of Lt. Col., was again assigned to duty in the Pacific Northwest with a mission to subdue Paiute incursions. Two years later he was reassigned to the Arizona Territory to settle the fighting between the settlers and Apaches.

George Crook had little use for small talk and formal military dress. Six feet tall, lean of build, with his beard parted in the center he was a rugged soldier who led his troops by example. First up in the morning and first in the saddle, he was able to endure hours of tracking in any weather. He did not swear, his favorite drink was milk when it was available and water when it was not. He dressed in a rough canvas jacket and rugged hunting clothes. He wore a large brimmed hat or a pith helmet.

Crook rode a mule, an animal he respected and used extensively in campaigns. He thought mules sturdier and more reliable than horses on long marches in the desert and mountain topography of the American West. He kept his rifle across the pommel of his saddle. He expected his men to travel light with only what they could carry on their backs and to withstand the hardships of the trail as he did. He rode with trusted Apache scouts as trackers for whom he had great admiration.

When he reached Arizona, he found himself in the center of a hornet's nest. The Apache were fighting to protect their lands and way of life from interlopers as the settlers sought extermination of the tribes that stood in the way of their lust for land. Crook's goal of securing peace with the tribes was adamantly opposed by the corrupt Tucson Ring of unscrupulous traders who supplied goods to the military as

their profits rose when the tribes were on the warpath. His first act upon arrival in Tucson was a 675 mile march deep into tribal territory. He met with the leading chiefs: Cochise, Miguel, Pitone and Eskititsla. The chiefs declared their desire for peace. In his straightforward manner, Crook promised them his protection from whites eager for their destruction as long as they controlled the members of their tribes who wanted to continue raiding and killing.



General Crook, Apache, & Apache Scouts  
Dutchy & Alchico

He felt the solution for protecting the tribes was to keep them on reservations until they learned to support themselves in white society by farming and other types of work. He offered to find work for them and promised the same wages as paid to white workers. After defeating Chalipan, chief of the Western Apaches, he set the tribe to digging a 5 mile long irrigation ditch to water their crops and promised

to find markets for their crops. Everything he promised was written down and given to the chiefs.

By 1872, Crook's efforts resulted in a peace treaty with Cochise that lasted nearly ten years. Throughout his career he campaigned for more humane treatment for the tribes, including his failed effort to build schools on the reservations instead of sending their children to boarding schools in the East.

President Grant promoted Crook to Brigadier General and in 1875 he was transferred to duty in the Northern Plains, home of the Cheyenne and Sioux. He fought and defeated Cheyenne Chief Dull Knife that winter, then turned his attention to the Sioux. Augmenting his troops with warriors from the Arapahoe, Ute, Bannock, Shoshone, Crow and Winnebago, he was successful. Crazy Horse and 1,100 Sioux surrendered May 6, 1877.

In 1882, the Arizona Territory was in turmoil. Geronimo incited the Apache to leave the reservation and carry on a guerilla war against the US Army. Crook was ordered back to quell the uprising. For 4 years, Crook and

Geronimo fought. He would force Geronimo to surrender, but the wily warrior would escape to the mountains or hide in Mexico. Crook was reassigned to the Northern Plains in 1886. His replacement, General Nelson Miles, ended the Apache War by exiling Geronimo and his followers to Florida. Among the Apaches exiled were the Apache scouts who had faithfully worked with Crook. He was infuriated and never forgave Miles.

In 1888, President Grover Cleveland promoted Crook to major general and commander of the Department of the West. He died in 1890 in Chicago, still advocating for fair treatment for the tribes and speaking against encroachment on their lands, broken treaties and numerous

failed federal policies. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery where Crook Walk is named for him.

Military historians recognize General George Crook's long career in the Indian Wars for the innovative tactics he developed, particularly reliance on pack mules and native scouts. He is considered the best senior officer who fought in the Indian Wars.

*The character General George Crook has been portrayed in a number of Hollywood westerns. The latest is the film, "Geronimo" where Crook is portrayed by Gene Hackman.*



Olde Towne Pearisburg

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## **THE TOWN OF PEARISBURG NOW TAKES ON-LINE PAYMENTS FOR WATER BILLS**

Citizens can now make water utility payments on-line. Staff has been working on the development of the new website. The new website is now operational with the capability to make on-line payments.

Payment on-line can be made with an eCheck only. A convenience fee of \$2.00 will be added to each transaction. We will not be able to accept on-line credit or debit card payments at this time.

To make an on-line utility payment you will need to do the following:

1. Visit [www.pearisburg.org](http://www.pearisburg.org)
2. Select On-line Payments
3. Fill in all required fields

You will receive an email confirmation of your payment. This will be used for your receipt.

This is the first phase of our e-payment options. In the near future we will offer the opportunity to pay taxes, reservation/camping fees and building permits on-line.

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## **TOWN OF PEARISBURG HAS A NEW WEBSITE**

The Town of Pearisburg has a new website. Please visit [www.pearisburg.org](http://www.pearisburg.org)

On the website you will be able to download forms and applications, view the brush pick-up schedule, see the zoning ordinance and map and keep up to date with the town and recreation department on their individual calendars. You will also be able to link to the Pearisburg Public Library and see their on-line catalog and events schedule.

There is also a news section on the front page that will keep you up to date with happenings and things of interest. Under the news section you will find information about water breaks, street closures and things that affect you as citizens.

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## **NOTIFY ME**

New to the site is the availability to sign up for text and email alerts. This feature can be found under the NOTIFY ME tab. You can subscribe to multiple lists to keep you informed. Things you may be interested in subscribing to may include the town's calendar which would alert you to meetings and special events, the recreation calendar which would alert you to sign-up deadlines, practice information and game schedules/cancellations. By subscribing to the News you would be alerted to such things as water breaks, street and office closures and news of interest.

To subscribe you simply need to visit the website, select "Notify Me" and register. You will be able to select how and what you wish to receive.

# PEARISBURG TODAY

T O W N O F P E A R I S B U R G

## PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY

Town Council has reached an agreement with Giles County Public Service Authority on the water rate for purchases beginning January 1, 2014. The agreement recognizes the method used in the contract that the PSA had been attempting to change. The new rate is \$1.96 per 1000 gallons and is nearly the same as the \$1.93 rate paid by the Town prior to the current dispute. The rate is an increase over the official \$1.68 rate due prior to the new agreement. The Pearisburg rate reflects the contractual agreement whereby transmission costs are not passed on to town customers. Other PSA customers pay a higher base rate of \$2.78. The resulting rate is covered in the current budget for the Town and will not result in a need to increase water rates to town custom-

ers. This agreement ends the PSA attempt to establish a \$3.33 rate to the Town.

At the request of the PSA Board, the Town is also participating in a study to determine if combining all distribution systems into one operated by the PSA would result in overall cost savings. Solid waste collection has been consolidated for many years and works very well. Debt service, overlapping duties of water personnel and equipment, and the existing asset value of each water system make this a much more complicated concept. The low level of trust between the PSA and its member entities would also have to be resolved. Staff from the six governing bodies in the PSA are also meeting to review issues and agenda items that come to the PSA in order to make professional recommendations and suggestions. The PSA would have this information to assist in decisions by that body. It is hoped that these and other changes will reduce disagreements and increase the efficiency of the PSA.

## NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS START WORK

The Town has two new members and its first female majority. As the new Council held its first meeting, Cathy Clark and Susie Journell began their official duties. Colin Munsey was selected to serve as Vice Mayor and Robert Dickerson began his new term as Mayor.

Cathy Clark serves as Director for the Chamber of Commerce. She lives on Cabot Drive with her husband, Scott. Cathy has one daughter. Cathy has helped with many activities in town including being on the Dirty Dancing Committee, Festival in the Park Committee, and with the arrangements for the Wish You Well movie. Cathy will serve on the Finance Committee and represent the Town on the New River Planning District Commission.

Susie Journell is a lifelong resident of Giles County. She recently retired from the Giles County Sheriffs Office with over twenty-five years of service. She served as Administrative Staff Specialist. She attended Ferrum Junior College. Susie has three children, eleven grandchildren and two great

grandchildren. Susie enjoys playing music and singing. She has participated in the past with the Volunteers for Communities Program. She will be serving on the Public Safety



# BUSINESS NEWS!

Please be sure to visit Little Nicky's and Nagles Restaurant on Main Street. Both are open under new management and offer great food. Precision Car Wash has opened next to Wal-Mart. The new Carillon Clinic is seeing patients in their new location near the hospital. Papa's Pizzeria has opened after a re-model and has new management. We welcome all these new businesses to Town. As you look for holiday gift ideas be sure and keep these and other fine local stores in mind. Remember...Shop Pearisburg First!

HOLIDAYS

**Good Friday—April 18, 2014**

**Memorial Day—May 26, 2014**

# NEW EMPLOYEES

## IMPORTANT DATES

Taxes are due on

March 17th

Business License due

March 31st

Crystal May joined the Finance Office in December as the Utility Clerk. Crystal came to the Town from Thompson & Litton in Radford. She is a graduate of Giles High School and is a lifelong resident of Giles County. She is married and has two children.

Chandler Bandy has joined the Sewer Plant staff in January. He is a graduate of Giles High School and Giles Technical Center. Before joining us he had been employed by Greenbrier, Mundy and Techsburg. He holds certifications in Hazmat and OSHA welding safety.



# PEARISBURG RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Pearisburg Recreation Department is seeking input from the community about new recreation programs. While there are many programs available to our youth, we would like to expand our offerings to include adults and seniors. Currently the Recreation Department offers athletic programs to students in grades 4-7 that include basketball, volleyball and baseball. Dixie League baseball and softball are offered to older students. Adults are offered opportunities to participate in co-ed volleyball, men's league softball and church league softball.

Anthony Myers, Recreation Director, is now holding open gym every Sunday from noon until 4 p.m. This allows the community an opportunity to come play volleyball or shoot some basketball.

In the future the Recreation Department hopes to incorporate new programs that could include younger children the opportunity to play flag football and tee ball. For adults, expanding the current activities to include frisbee golf, co-ed softball league, and adult flag football. Myers hopes to have night swims at the Town Pool for all ages.

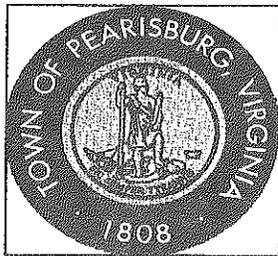
Work is underway to use the Community Center to hold classes for different interests. Cooking classes would be among the first to be offered. As things are finalized they will be posted on the town website at [www.pearisburg.org](http://www.pearisburg.org).

Myers welcomes suggestions from the community about the type of programs that they would like to see. Please contact him at the Community Center at 540-921-2827 or his email at [recreation@pearisburg.org](mailto:recreation@pearisburg.org).

The new town website has a calendar for the Recreation Department events. Please visit the site to see what is happening and for upcoming events. The site has registration forms that are available to download for each of the offered sports and also reservation forms for the use of the Community Center and the Town Park picnic shelter. Myers and his staff will be doing the reservations for those and can be reached at the number above.

**TOWN OF  
PEARISBURG**

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Town Manager  
kvittum@pearisburg.org



# Mayor's Corner

I am very excited to start a new four years as Mayor and to work with a great council and staff. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities as we strive to make Pearisburg a great place to call home.

I am very pleased to announce that the rate disagreement between the Town and the Public Service Authority is resolved. The Town will continue to work for fair and reasonable rates and to protect the Town's contract. I am optimistic that this will be the start of improved relationships between the Town and PSA. I have always thought that reasonable and fair compromises could be achieved if discussions could be held. I want to thank all of you who support the Town.

We start the year with problems at the Community Center that have forced part of the building to be closed for the winter. The Town will do a study and consider long range solutions. Asbestos and age present a challenge and the solution may not be cheap, but the building is important to our recreation programs.

I believe that 2014 will be a very good year. Thank you for your support and let me know if there is anything I can do for you.

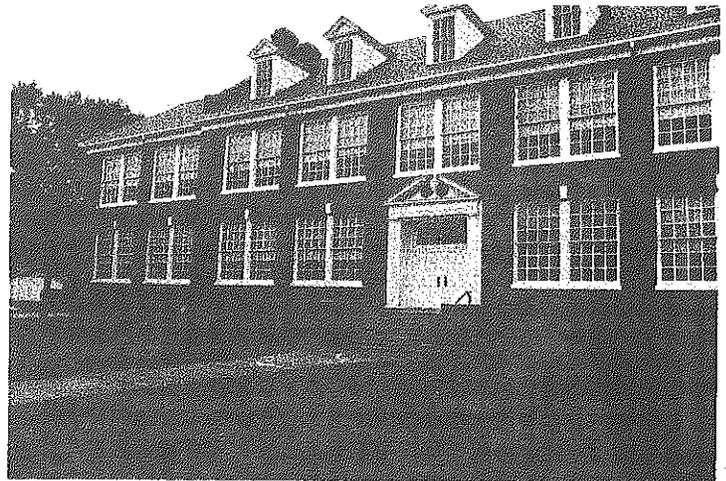
**Robert L. Dickerson**

mayor@pearisburg.org

## COMMUNITY CENTER

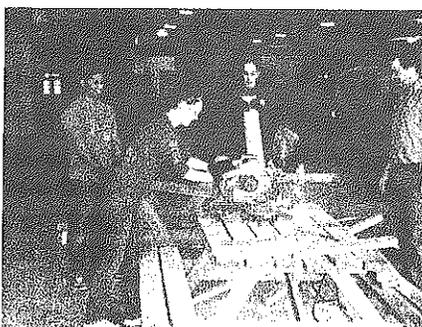
Time has caught up with the Community Center. Broken steam pipes encased in asbestos have caused the Town to shut down part of the building for the winter. The cafeteria, auditorium, and gym remain usable. Council has authorized a study to look at options to renovate the building. The firm of CHP will undertake the study. Preliminary plans and cost estimates will be considered by council as well as funding options. Included in the study will be asbestos removal, mechanical and electrical upgrades, and improvements to the basic facilities of the 70 year old building.

The Town hopes to complete the study by June and be able to start work on improvements by late summer. Once completed the facility will be re-opened for public programs. In the meantime, use of the heated parts of the building will continue.



## ALTERNATE SPRING BREAK

Once again the Town will host students from Holy Cross as part of the Alternate Spring Break Program. The Town has hosted groups of college students for close to 20 years and looks forward to the annual tradition. The students do community service projects while experiencing the local culture and exploring local history. This year the projects will include working on the Dogwood Farms walking trail and several projects in the Town Park. They will hike to the Cascades and to Angel's Rest. Local groups, businesses, and churches provide meals and interact with the students. Evening activities include karaoke, zumba, bonfire, and a visit to the historic museum. Local volunteers are always welcome to participate. Call the Town Office to get involved.



## TOWN COUNCIL & DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### 2013 LIBRARY ACTIVITY REPORT ANNUAL

Circulation	54,717
Book Acquisitions	1,393
Membership	7,393
Total Volumes In Library	35,877
Library Donation Account	\$15,023.29
Number of Internet Users	5,685

### 2013 FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT ANNUAL

Structure Fires	15
Automobile Accidents	54
Brush Fires	6
Total Calls	169
Mutual Aid Received	11
Mutual Aid Given	18
Calls In Town	52
Calls In County	98

### 2013 POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT ANNUAL

Driving While Intoxicated	19
Reckless Driving	12
Speeding	267
Moving Violations	244
Non-Moving Violations	351
Assists and Other Calls	328
Alarms Answered	67
Driving Suspended/Revoked	129
Seatbelt	53
Felonies	170
Misdemeanors	239
Drunk In Public	42
Domestic Calls	83
Vandalism/Larceny	142
Animal Related	72
Total General Calls	3042
Accidents	106
Traffic Control	290
Warnings	147
Total Service Calls	40,158
Total Fines and Fees	\$44,347.74
Miles Logged	75,708

### TOWN COUNCIL ACTIONS November 2013 to January 2014

- \* Council devoted its normal November meeting to discuss resolution of rate dispute with the Giles County Public Service Authority.
- \* Council approved purchase of leak detection equipment (\$41,340).
- \* Council approved Resolution to recognize George Psathas for over thirty six years of service on Town Council.
- \* Council approved a Resolution to recognize Charlie Via for over seven years service on Town Council.
- \* Council approved an agreement on grading for the Red Sun Project at the Commerce Park.
- \* Council held swearing in ceremony for newly elected members and for Mayor.
- \* Council approved policies for a Disability Program needed after opting out of a state program.
- \* Council approved a solicitation for services to study renovation of the Community Center.
- \* Council approved contract to camera sewer lines using a grant (\$20,000).
- \* Council approved purchase of sewer camera (\$11,540).
- \* Council approved digital mapping of water and sewer system (\$8,720).
- \* Council approved reorganization for 2014 new council and committee assignments.
- \* Council approved budget amendment for changes in grant and loan projects.
- \* Council approved planning study (\$4,000).
- \* Council approved new contracts for Town Clerk, Town Manager/Treasurer, Police Chief, and Town Attorney.
- \* Council approved accepting the earlier PSA Public Hearing and waiving any defects to set a water rate of \$1.96.
- \* Council approved a Resolution recognizing the 2013 Giles Football Championship and undefeated season.

### 2013 BUILDING PERMIT REPORT ANNUAL

New Residential/Commercial	7
Additions	7
Total Permits	57
Total Construction	\$ 3,154,289