

C.G.H.S. Alumni
1928 - 1953



**Commemorating 60-plus Years
Since Graduation**

May 25th & 26th, 2013

7th Decade - Act One

*Commemorating 60-plus
Years Since Graduation
May 25th & 26th, 2013*



**C.G.H.S.
Alumni
1928-1953**

PROGRAM

Saturday, May 25th Camp Bethel Dinner Meeting

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

- Claim, affix, and wear name tags
(Keep your name tag envelope with you.)
- Socialize

6:00 – (open ended)

- Dinner
- Open Forum (Ad Hoc)
- Conclusion

Sunday, May 26th Holiday Inn Norton Brunch Meeting

9:30 – (open ended)

- Welcome
- Prayer
- Brunch
- After-Brunch Discussion/Future Planning
- Conclusion

FOREWORD

Our purpose in preparing and offering this booklet to you, is to insure that, going forward, you will have easy access to this selected information about Christopher Gist High School (CGHS) and about Christopher Gist, the eighteenth-century historical figure for whom the school was named.

As you already know, Christopher Gist High School served Pound, Virginia for a twenty-five year period, beginning in the late 1920's. The small high school drew its student population from the entire, sparsely populated, Pound River Basin lying in the Appalachian Mountains of Southwestern Virginia. CGHS graduated its final class, consisting of thirty-six students, in May, 1953. The school closed around Thanksgiving of that same year, having been replaced by a new Pound High School, no longer named Christopher Gist.

It is presumed that early in the twentieth century Christopher Gist was a name of some notoriety in and around Pound, Virginia. Gist was indeed a significant historical figure, whose accomplishments as a woodsman, explorer, map maker, and emissary on the western frontier of Colonial Virginia during the 1750's were widely known, and perhaps unrivaled, among his peers. Gist was, in fact, a major contributor to the history-making developments of his time.

Our school was constructed in very close proximity to where an Indian warrior encampment which was visited by Christopher Gist had stood. In retrospect, it seems quite fitting for our school to be named in Gist's honor. The school also honored the Indian warriors who had once lived there by adopting as its emblems a tomahawk and an arrow head.

Our primary motive in compiling this booklet was to leave you with as much information about Christopher Gist High School as we could present in these few pages. In addition, we deemed it appropriate to include in this booklet selected information from/about CGHS Class of 1953.

Ronald Lee Cox
May, 2013

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Christopher Gist History...the man and the school

Christopher Gist (1706 – 1759) was one of the first white explorers of the Ohio Country in what would become the United States, credited for providing Great Britain and her colonists with the first detailed description of the Ohio Country. He also accompanied George Washington on missions in the Ohio Country at the outset of the French and Indian War.

Born in 1706 in Baltimore, Maryland, Gist is thought to have had little formal education, though it is believed that he received training as a surveyor, more than likely from his father Richard Gist who helped plot the city of Baltimore.

By 1750 Gist had settled in northern North Carolina, near the Yadkin River, where one of his neighbors was the noted frontiersman Daniel Boone. During that same year the Ohio Company chose Gist to explore the country of the Ohio River as far as the Louisville area. That winter Gist mapped the Ohio countryside between the Lenape (Delaware) village of Shannopin's Town, site of present day Pittsburgh, to the Great Miami River in present-day western Ohio. There he crossed into Kentucky and eventually returned to his home along the Yadkin.

When he returned to North Carolina, he found that his family had fled to Roanoke, Virginia, because of Indian attacks. He rejoined them but went west again in the summer of 1751 to explore the Pennsylvania and western Virginia, now present day West Virginia, country south of the Ohio River.

After mapping the Ohio countryside from present-day Pittsburgh to the Great Miami River (west of present-day Cincinnati), the Gist party crossed into Kentucky and eventually made their way back to Yadkin Valley. It was that return journey that brought Christopher Gist through the Pound basin, site of present-day Pound, Virginia.

On Tuesday, April 2nd, 1751, Gist killed a buffalo, somewhere along what we now know as South Fork. On Wednesday, April 3rd, 1751 he and his party reached a large encampment of Indian warriors situated at the mouth of a small creek (Indian Creek).

The War Chief in command of the camp was named The Crane. Apparently, The Crane treated Gist and his party hospitably, allowing them to stay there and rest their horses. Gist and his party departed from the camp on Saturday, April 6th, 1751.

From this snippet of colonial history, featuring a white frontiersman/explorer named Christopher Gist and a tomahawk wielding War Chief named The Crane, fast-forward some 170 years. A four-room high school was built very near the spot where the Warrior's Camp had stood.

Someone very astutely and aptly named the school Christopher Gist High School and adopted as the school's emblems the arrowhead and the tomahawk. One can imagine the energy and excitement with which those tributes to a distant past were contemplated. One may also comprehend that, with the passage of time, the distant past and not-so-distant past eventually meld together.

The First Christopher Gist High School

In the late 1920's a four-room brick schoolhouse was built and opened as Christopher Gist High School (C.G.H.S.). C.G.H.S. graduated its first Senior Class in 1928, a class of one, Thelma Roberson.

In 1930, Principal Luther Addington left CGHS to become principal at Wise. He was replaced by O.M. Morris. In that same year C.G.H.S. became an accredited high school.

In December, 1942 the C.G.H.S. building burned to the ground. The old four-room wooden schoolhouse was brought back into service, along with several other buildings around town, including the Methodist Church, pressed into service as a school.

The Second, and Final, Christopher Gist High School



Meanwhile, as the town made do amid what was probably not as chaotic as it sounds, a new Christopher Gist High School was constructed and began

operation in the fall of 1944. (For some of us, particularly those of us who lived in the upper reaches of the Pound basin, it may come as a surprise that CGHS, as we knew it, was only three years old when we started 7th Grade there in 1947...amazing!

As a name, Christopher Gist High School ceased to exist at Thanksgiving, 1953, when the new, larger, etc. Pound High School opened. According to Phyllis Williams, a publication called *The Tomahawk*, was produced monthly at Pound High School until that name was dropped in favor of something else in the early 1980's. Likewise, tomahawks and arrowheads now have no currency anywhere around Pound. (Except, perhaps, where the spirits of Christopher Gist and The Crane still linger about the hills and valleys of the Pound basin. Perhaps you will allow me this one editorial comment, since I too don't live there anymore.)

C.G.H.S. Class of 1953

This event, as you may or may not know, started out as our C.G.H.S. Class of 1953 "Commemoration of 60-Plus Years Since Graduation". As a class, we had begun to wonder whether there will be a future effort toward a class reunion, and had discussed the possibility of deferring future reunion activities (if any such efforts occur) to a "CGHS Alumni Council" yet to be formed. There may or may not be sufficient inspiration and energy for such an effort to go forward. We need to determine that.

In any case, the "C.G.H.S. Alumni" idea gained premature momentum and, through a process not really clear to us, transformed our Class of '53 Reunion into a much larger and, we hope, much better "C.G.H.S. Alumni 60-plus Commemoration". **We thank each and every one of you for being here! Had we known sooner where this movement was going, we might have done a better job planning and managing the process of sponsoring this event.** We can all thank Zell Rector, JD Mullins, and the miracle of e-mail for stirring up interest and making this event happen.

Being a part of the Class of '53 has indeed been an inspiring life experience. Our class has always seemed especially blessed by classmates who were really exceptional people. We were indeed, the last of a special group of about 300 people who, over the course of 25 years, were launched into adulthood by an exceptional little high school named Christopher Gist. We moved forward into adulthood as the "American Century" approached its zenith. No one came after us; the little high school named Christopher Gist was closed in November, 1953.

As a class, collectively we wonder, "**How high was our rainbow?**" In our hearts, thankful to the God who made us, to the family that raised us, to the America that embraced us, and to the little school named Christopher Gist that launched us, we say, "**Our rainbow, like our American Century, was breathtakingly high!**"

Christopher Gist High School Class of 1953



- *1. Janice Hubbard
- 2. June Mullins
- 3. Inez Meade
- 4. Joan Meade
- 5. Wanda Meade
- 6. Juanita Meade
- 7. Shelby Jean Selvy
- 8. Marie Sheppard
- #9. Johnnie Ruth Adams
- 10. Frances Carter
- 11. Almeda Stidham

- 12. Marlene Collier
- 13. Barbara Bowman
- 14. Betty Bolling
- 15. Barbara Sutphin
- 16. Phyllis Bolling
- 17. Loretta Hampton
- 18. Ada Robinson
- 19. Ethel Carter
- 20. Ozella Killen
- 21. Wilma Riddle
- 22. Rita Sturgill

- 23. Margaret Stidham
- 24. Mary Ann Countiss
- 25. Benetta Baker
- **26. Carson Robinson
- 27. Paul West
- 28. J.D. Mullins
- 29. Kenneth Stallard
- 30. Robert Mullins
- 31. James L. Countiss
- 32. Bob Varner
- ##33. Ronald Lee Cox

LOCATION GUIDE: *Front left corner
 **Back row left corner

#Front row right corner
 ##Back row right corner

THIS WAS US, SIGNING OFF!

Phyllis Carson Robinson Sutphin
Bolling Barbara
H. Manda James Countiss
Robert C. Mullins Meade Greg Peab
Shelley Jean Selvey
Barbara Bowman Ozella Keller
Juanita Meade Juneie Mullins
James Douglas Mullins
James Hubbard Almeda Stidham
Beth Adams Ethel Carter
Kenneth Stallard Loretta Hampton
Frank Scott Wood Marie Sheppard
Patty Bolling
Jonny Warner
Mary Ann
Francis Carter Bonetta Baker
Margaret Stidham Vilma J. Riddle
Bob Turner
Marlene Collier
John Sue Johnson

NOTE: The above TOMAHAWK banner is a computer-assisted representation of the hand-sketched tomahawk under which the CGHS publication routinely appeared. The signatures are authentic, as written by the CGHS Class 1953 in their final issue of TOMAHAWK.

C.G.H.S. Graduates

There are no written records of the first school in Pound. **As previously noted, it is known that the first Christopher Gist High School (C.G.H.S.) graduated its first class (a class of 1), Thelma Roberson, in 1928. That first C.G.H.S. burned to the ground in December, 1942.**

The class rosters that we have obtained cover the period from 1942 through 1953, the year in which C.G.H.S. ceased to exist, having been replaced by the then-new Pound High School. The name, *Christopher Gist High School*, was abandoned when the school closed.

The class rosters for C.G.H.S., absent the 14 missing years (1929 -1941) follow:

1942 (2)	1944 (20)	1945 (11)
Eula Boggs Edward Hubbard	Beatrice Boggs Eula Boggs Flora Boggs Roy Lee Bolling Pauline Brown Linette Crouse Rayola Hurte Emma Lundy Charlene Mathias Wanda Meade Cossie Mullins Frances Mullins Gladys Mullins Ina Jean Mullins Wallace Roberts Clayetta Robinson Alta Sergeant Madge Sparks Inez Stallard Rebble Stanley	Flaudean Beverly Delbert Boggs Cletis Bolling Shirley Cox Jo Ann Harris Melba Hubbard Frances Kazee Ruth Kiser Geneva Robinson Jo Ann Shortt Eunice Stallard
1943 (17)		1946 (15)
Grace Boggs Mary Boggs Otha Cantrell Barbara Collins William Collins Leatha Dotson Jean Harris Aline Hubbard Grace Hubbard Betty Kazee Maynard Lundy Harold Meade Lois Roberson Thurl Roberson James Robinson Helen Sturgill Euell Wallen		James Adams Douglas Adkins Margaret Baker Rebal Bentley Janis Crouse Kathleen Davis Cleo Gibson Joyce Gibson Doris Hubbard Corinna Jackson Howard Maggard Clayton Meade Floydine Shortt Ewing Stidham Everette Adams

1947 (28)

Eugene Baker
 Margie Boggs
 Robert Boggs
 Emogene Bolling
 Leona Buchanan
 Frances Cantrell
 Lorraine Dale
 Grace Dibble
 Nannie Hampton
 Alvin Johnson
 Calvin Johnson
 Lois Meade
 Ota Meade
 Alfred Morris
 Earnest Mullins
 William Powers
 Gusta Qualls
 Elizabeth Roberson
 Faye Roberson
 James Roberson
 Marjorie Shortt
 Jean Stapleton
 Helen Sturgill
 Jodie Sturgill
 Buford Tompkins
 Imogene Trent
 Robert Vance
 Thelma Wright

1948 (34)

Evelyn Adams
 Margie Baker
 Clarence Boggs
 Everette Boggs
 Leah Boggs
 Ezra Cantrell
 J. D. Cantrell
 Lois Cantrell
 Lucille Carter
 Elizabeth
 Christopher
 Margie Cox
 Willa Gibson
 Estel Hamilton
 James Hodges
 Donald Kazee
 Eugene Maggard
 Paul McDonnell
 Cletis Meade
 Lois Meade
 Nicolas Meade
 Veldon Meade
 Velma Meade
 Geraldine Mullins
 Jacqueline Mullins
 JoMac Mullins
 Lila Osborne
 Charles Patton
 Janis Powers
 Wallace Roberts
 Billy Shortt
 Jo Anne Sturgill
 Thomas Trent
 Emory Wright

1949 (21)

Margaret Austin
 Hubert Baker
 Jane Baker
 Margie Baker
 Clarence Bolling
 Doris Branham
 James Cantrell
 Robert Cantrell
 Violet Cantrell
 Virginia Day
 Robert Dotson
 Otto Hampton
 Verra Maxwell
 Thurman Roberson
 James Robinson
 James C. Short
 Anna Ruth Shortt
 Bulah Vanover
 Fay Williams
 Clyde Wright
 William Wright

1950 (29)

Joyce Adams
 Gary Baker
 Lita Branham
 Reginald Branham
 Evelyn Cantrell
 JoAnne Cantrell
 Imogene Countiss
 Gary Cox
 Nadine Dotson
 Elizabeth Dove
 Imogene Draughn
 Mary Gibson
 Robert Hubbard
 Thomas Hubbard
 Carole Jackson
 Chances Kelly
 Jacqueline Meade
 Lucille Meade
 Walton Meade
 William Meade
 Ina Mullins
 Phyllis Mullins
 Trenton Mullins
 Louise Pennington
 Pearl Phillips
 Richard Skeen
 Emory Stallard
 Angelena West
 Jacqueline Wright

1951 (30)

Robert Addington
 JoAnne Adkins
 Frances Baker
 Jeanette Bentley
 Georgene Bolling
 Morgan Bolling
 David D. Cantrell
 Barbara Countiss
 Leon Cox
 Curtis Hayes
 Margie Hopkins
 Virginia Hubbard
 Elna Jackson
 Elizabeth Kennedy
 Harrelton Locklin
 Gene McFall
 Mavis McIntosh
 Ida Meade
 Joseph Morris
 Arbutus Mullins
 Delcia Mullins
 Joyce Mullins
 Winifred Mullins
 Donald Osborne
 Pearl Phillips
 Lakie Roberson
 William Shortt
 Richard Skeen
 Ramona Stallard
 Louise Sturgill

1952 (29)

George Austin
 Bobby Baker
 Jack Bentley
 Sammy Branham
 Joyce Cantrell
 Ruth Copley
 Ezra Countiss
 Paul Cox
 Angie Crouse
 James Dotson
 Alpheus Fleming
 Donna Gentry
 Janet Gibson
 Lilian Griffith
 Norman Hampton
 Larry Hubbard
 Thomas Hurst
 Kenneth Meade
 Nile Mullins
 Joan Powers
 Pauline Powers
 Betty Shortt
 Miriam Slemp
 Douglas Sturgill
 Daniel Taylor
 Susan Trent
 Louise Vanover
 Donald Varner
 Thomas Williams

1953 (36) – The Final C.G.H.S. Graduating Class

Johnnie Ruth Adams	James Countiss	Juanita Meade	Shelby Selvey
Benetta Baker	Mary Ann Countiss	Oveda Meade	Marie Sheppard
Betty Sue Bolling	Ronald Cox	Wanda Meade	Kenneth Stallard
Monett Bolling	Loretta Hampton	James D. Mullins	Almeda Stidham
Phyllis Bolling	Huilet Hubbard	June Mullins	Margaret Stidham
Barbara Bowman	Janice Hubbard	Robert Mullins	Rita Sturgill
Ethel Carter	Ozella Killen	Wilma Riddle	Barbara Sutphin
Francis Carter	Inez Meade	Ada Sue Robinson	Robert Varner
Marlene Collier	Joan Meade	Carson Robinson	Paul West

This concludes our
2013 celebration



60-plus Commemoration - Act One
Ends Here

Act Two, anyone?

