

FROM WITCHES TO CIVIL WAR BATTLES, HISTORICAL TOUR SHOULD BE FUN

by Megan Trotter

At a past historical tour stop in Mount Pisgah Cemetery in Clay County, Louise Stover, left, portrays a ghost that haunts the area, and Jean Norrod portrays a woman buried in the cemetery at Mount Pisgah, who is distantly related to her.

UPPER CUMBERLAND -- The Overton County Historical Society will be leading guests on a tour through Overton, Putnam and White counties this Saturday, May 22, to visit five historical hot spots in the area.



"The reason we're going to cover the area of Putnam County is because that area used to be a part of Overton County. Overton and White County used to join before Putnam County was formed," said Ron Dishman, Historical Society president.

Guests will travel by van and hear tales by local historians about each stop. The first stop will be at Woodcliff Cemetery where the Witch of Woodcliff is buried. Then the tour will go on to Crazy George's Bridge where legend tells of a railroad worker who was struck by a train and beheaded and now haunts the bridge late at

night.

From there it is on to Dug Hill, the site of a bloody Civil War battle, and to France Cemetery which is the burial place of Champ Ferguson, a Confederate who bragged of killing more than 100 Union soldiers and civilians. The tour will finish at Rock House in White County -- an early stagecoach stop.

Guests will be able to eat a sack lunch in Sparta that consists of a ham or turkey sandwich, chips, a Moon Pie and an R.C. Cola or water.

"We had people come from out of state on our tour, people who moved here to Overton County and wanted to go on a tour and learn about the history, who had never heard of a Moon Pie until they went on our tour," chuckled Dishman.

The historical tour had originally been part of a three-day event held by the Overton County Historical Society that included a genealogy day, historic tour day and a celebratory event involving several historical societies. Fentress County also had a similar program around the same time.

"Since Overton County used to be part of Fentress and Fentress was taken from part of Overton County, we decided to just go up and support them on their History Day," said Dishman. "But we continue the tours because so many people look forward to it."

There are still a handful of spots open on the tour for guests, but reservations must be made no later than tomorrow, May 21, by noon. The cost is \$15 per person, and the proceeds go to the Overton County Historical Society. To reserve a spot, call (931) 823-5297 or (931) 823-1156.

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*See History files at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>