

# Edith Lillian Bennett (1931-2013)

By Jerry Long  
c.2025



Edith Bennett



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 14 April 2013, p.5B:**

Edith L. Bennett

Edith L. Bennett, 81, of Owensboro passed away Friday, April 12, 2013, at Owensboro Health Regional Hospital.

Ms. Bennett was born June 21, 1931, in Livermore to the late Dorsey Slade and Isa Taylor Rone Bennett. She also was preceded in death by a half brother, Dr. Wendell H. Rone, Sr.; and

grandparents, the Rev. James Pendleton Taylor and Mildred Bunch of Rochester and James Samuel Bennett and Berilla Gilstrap of McLean County.

She graduated from Livermore High School as valedictorian in 1949. She also attended Owensboro Business College, Moody Bible Institute and Mid-Continental University. She served as secretary of Third Baptist Church, where she was a member for 33 years, and was clerk of the Daviess McLean Baptist Association for 13 years.



She was a member of Owensboro Choral Society "Messiah" for 55 years and of the Capt. William Rowan Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution for 55 years, as well as an associate member of the General Evan Shelby and Green River Chapters of NSDAR. She served in several local and state KSDAR offices. She was honored as Woman in History of the Year in 2010.

She was an employee of radio station WOMI from 1950 until the present. Her radio programs won several awards, including one from veterans organization. She was secretary for Hugh O. Potter, founder of Kentucky Broadcasters Association, for 33 years, and for Dr. Walter I Munday of the Owensboro District of Methodist Churches for 6 years. She was listed in Who's Who in Religion in America and Women of the South and was past president of West Central Kentucky Family Research Association.

She co-authored and compiled some 30 books on related families and the history of Livermore. One written about the Battle of Sacramento, "Our Own," was co-authored with Eldon Eaton. Another book on slavery in her family in this area she wrote with Lenora Lindley was "Spiderwebs, a Steamer Trunk and Slavery." One book about Uncle Tom's life she discovered when in Canada was "Pierced Ears and Broken Hearts."

She and Allyene Gregory were the Owensboro representatives for Mayor David Adkisson at the 200th anniversary in Dresden, Ontario. She also co-authored a work about Abraham Lincoln with Hugh Potter.

She was co-founder of the Old Hebron-Hunt Family reunions near Huntsville from 1957 to present. She was a lifetime member of the McLean County History and Genealogy group, Kentucky Historical Society and a Kentucky Colonel.

She is survived by a niece, Ila Rone Miller of Las Vegas; two nephews, Wendel Rone, Jr. of Lake Quivira, Kansas, and Kyle Yates Rone of Houston; two great-nieces; six great-nephews; 18 great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews; and cousins Gary and Mary Lisa Tunget and Mike and Vicki Stovall of Owensboro, Ora Turner and Alice Boyken of Livermore and Corinth Stocking of Hartford.

A memorial service will be at 4 p.m. April 27 at Third Baptist Church, Owensboro. Burial will be in Old Mill/Bennett Cemetery in the No Creek area of Ohio County. Smith Funeral Home,

Morgantown, is in charge of arrangements. Contributions can be made to Settle Memorial Methodist Missions, 201 E Fourth St., Owensboro, KY 42303; McLean County Museum/Research Center, Box 34, Calhoun, KY 42327; and McLean County Public Library, Second Street at Hill, Livermore, KY 42352.



Grave of Edith Lillian Bennett at the Old Mill Cemetery, No Creek, Ohio County, KY. She is a great-great-granddaughter of John Bennett (1753-1828), who is buried in the family graveyard.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 14 April 2013, pp.1B & 5B:**

## Bennett remembered for decades of work in local radio

By James Mayse, Messenger-Inquirer

Edith Bennett got her first job at Owensboro's WOMI in November 1950 when she was 19 years old.

As Bennett told the Messenger-Inquirer 55 years later, she was hired by radio station general manager Hugh O. Potter, who told Bennett she could work there for two weeks "to see if you like it and if we like you".

Apparently, Bennett and WOMI liked each other just fine....

Over the years, Bennett was station secretary, bookkeeper and office manager, and wrote commercials as well.

But Bennett is best known for her decades of work as a popular Sunday radio announcer; Bennett had a loyal base of fans - the kind who would call and complain when a technical glitch kept Bennett's show from hitting the airwaves as scheduled.

Bennett was a regular voice on WOMI-FM for more than 50 years.

"She's a staple in town," said Dave Spencer, a radio personality who worked with Bennett for years. "She's a legend, an Owensboro legend."

Bennett died Friday at Owensboro Health Regional Hospital. She was 81. In addition to her work at WOMI, Bennett was a regular in the Owensboro Choral Society's annual performance of Handel's "Messiah." Bennett was also a Kentucky Colonel and a historian who co-authored several books on area events, such as the Battle of Sacramento.

"Any kind of history about the city, she was the go-to person," Spencer said.

Bennett was the host of "Radio Church Chapel" and "Down Memory Lane", which ran Sunday mornings. Bennett's show was also broadcast for a time by a radio station in Haiti.

Bennett's radio shows won't end right away. Moon Mullins, WOMI's program director, said Bennett recorded shows in advance from the recording studio in her kitchen.

"On "Radio Church Chapel", she played Christian music, but interspersed would be her commentaries, which were often based on biblical verses", Mullins said. "It was very relaxing. She was a good writer."

"She was a very sweet, kind and gentle person. with a very quick wit" Mullins said. "She loved her Lord very much and gave honor to him."

Bennett was "a real cheerleader for the station," Mullins said.

On Nov. 22, 2000, then Mayor Waymond Morris declared the day "Edith Bennett Day," in honor of her decades on the air.

"She did have her following," Mullins said. "As she aged, her following diminished somewhat due to attrition, but I do know she still had a number of fans that we would hear from whenever we erroneously missed one of her shows."

If something happened with the system (and Bennett's show didn't air), the phones would ring off the hook,' Spencer said. "It's just a Sunday morning tradition for so many people in Owensboro."

Previously recorded episodes of "Radio Church Chapel" and "Down Memory Lane" will be broadcast Sunday beginning at 5 a.m.

At 9:30 a.m., a reminiscence of Bennett's life and career -- featuring Mullins and Carl Davis, a longtime friend of Bennett's and general manager of the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra -- will be broadcast.

Mullins said he was considering using the extensive archive of Bennett's radio shows to keep her voice a regular part of WOMI.

Spencer said Bennett remained active and independent throughout her life and would often travel to Louisville or Nashville to visit or peruse her favorite record stores.

"Nothing stopped her when she wanted to go somewhere, Spencer said.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 29 February 2008,  
Go section, pp.10-11 & 19:**

### Vinyl's Turnaround

By Beth Wilberding, Messenger-Inquirer

... Carl Davis ... and Edith Bennett share a record collection that totals more than 3,000 albums. Much of their collection came from a friend who moved and a friend who passed away.

Bennett, who hosts a radio show on WOMI on Sundays, routinely transfers records to compact discs. The radio station replaced its turntables a couple of years ago, she said.

"I grew up listening to old 78 (rpm) records," she said.

The friends routinely visit a vintage music store in Drake, just south of Bowling Green, to look for records to add to the collection they've shared for 30 years.

Though Bennett and Davis have been listening to records for years, some say vinyl is seeing a resurgence...



Edith Bennett and Carl Davis share a record collection of more than 3,000 albums, which line the walls of a room in Bennett's home on West 15th Street.



Edith Bennett pulls out "The American: Patriotic Songs by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir" so she can convert it to compact disc in her kitchen Monday afternoon.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 22 November 2000, p.1C:**

### City helps Bennett celebrate 50 years with WOMI

Suzi Bartholomy; Messenger-Inquirer

In case you haven't heard, Mayor Waymond Morris has proclaimed today "Edith Bennett Day" in recognition of her 50 years at WOMI-FM radio. Bennett started working at the radio station on Nov. 22, 1950.

During all those years, she's had a Sunday morning music program. Besides planning the music for the station, she also was a secretary, bookkeeper, office manager and wrote commercials.

In 1978, she scaled down to her music program.

"It blows my mind when I think of how long I've been here; I've had 50 wonderful years," she said.

She said when she started in radio there were only seven stations in the state. "I'm thankful. I've always been able to play whatever I want. Nobody says anything," she said.

She plays patriotic music for Veterans Day, the 4th of July and Memorial Day and plays whatever suits her at other times. "Some weeks I'll play classical or Southern gospel."

Western Kentuckians aren't her only fans. In 1983, radio station 4-VOC in Haiti contacted her and asked if she would send a few of her tapes. Since then, she's been sending the station 30 minutes of her program that it plays on Sunday mornings.

Bennett has met a lot of celebrities, including Elvis Presley, who visited WOMI in 1954 plugging one of his songs on the Sun label.

But the hug and kiss on the hand she got from Elvis doesn't compare to the story told to her by a person who works for the station in Haiti.

Bennett said a woman came to 4-VOC crying. She told the station employee that she was going to commit suicide, but as she was walking down the street, she heard Bennett's voice and for whatever reason, she changed her mind about ending her life.

"If nothing else, that's worth the 50 years," said Bennett.

She will continue to entertain listeners, and Sunday starts her Christmas music programming. She'll be on the air from 3 to 11 p.m. Christmas Eve and from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Christmas Day. She's been the holiday DJ for more than 10 years.

She said wasn't originally scheduled for those days, but there was a young guy working, and he mentioned to Bennett that he sure would like to be home with his wife and kids.

"I told him I didn't have to be anywhere, just show me what to do."

"I've been doing it ever since. If you have kids you should be home with them on Christmas. I would just be home listening to music, and I can do that here."

No wonder it's "Edith Bennett Day."



**McLean County News, Calhoun, KY, Thursday, 31 December 1998, p.5:**

### **Edith Bennett chosen for Who's Who honor**

Edith Bennett was named to the 1999 edition of Who's Who in America for 1999. The Livermore native's radio career began in 1950 with WOMI and has expanded to WVJS, Owensboro and 4-VOC Radio in Haiti. She was also listed in the Who's Who in Religion in America by Marquis Publications.

A member of the Capt. William Rowan Chapter DAR she has served in several local and state offices during the past 41 years; a member of the Owensboro Choral Society for 43 years and an officer in Old Hebron Hunts, Inc. for the past. 40 years. Bennett is presently serving as president of the West Central Kentucky Family Research Association and clerk of the Daviess McLean Baptist Association.

The author-compiler of some 20 books she just published Vol. 10 of "Lest We Forget" Livermore scrapbook history with Eldon Eaton.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 15 August 1997, pp.1A & 2A:**

### **Still Loyal to the King**

Two decades later, death hasn't dimmed Elvis fan's devotion

Dan Heckel; Messenger-Inquirer

Don't try to tell Nancy McIntyre the United States has no king.

His likeness is all over McIntyre's home on Hummingbird Loop North, from paintings to license plates to can huggers. There's nothing in McIntyre's life that's exempt from the influence of The King - Elvis Presley.

"I didn't realize how much he was a part of my daily life," said McIntyre, who works for an insurance agency. "He's on my coffee cup, my beach towel, in my car and at my office," she said.

Six pictures of Elvis adorn the walls of McIntyre's bedroom, and she already has plans for her favorite. "I've given my family instructions that when it's my time to go, they're to take it out of the frame, roll it up, and it's going with me," she said.

It has been a nostalgic week for McIntyre, as Elvis fans get ready Saturday to commemorate 20 years since the passing of the king of rock 'n' roll.

McIntyre said she bonded with Elvis when she first heard "Hound Dog" as a 6-year-old girl and nothing - not even his death - can break that bond.

"It's hard to explain," she said. "When you have a bond with someone like that, it's like a member of my family. I still have a hard time accepting he's not here," she said.

McIntyre has been to Graceland, Elvis' Memphis, Tenn., home, nine times and saw him in concert seven times from 1971 to 1976. In the early 1990s she took her long-time friend Karen Rice on her first visit to Graceland.

"We talked about Elvis a lot" in their post-high school days, Rice said. "He just magnetized to you. To this day VH1 has been showing Elvis stuff and I'm just mesmerized by him," Rice said.

Edith Bennett can make a claim that McIntyre and Rice can't - she met Elvis.

Back in 1954, Bennett worked at WOMI radio as a secretary and bookkeeper.

"Back in those days if a manager had someone who could be a star, he would take him to radio stations in a two- to three-state area, give the station a record and hope they'd get a plug," Bennett said.

Bennett had met celebrities such as Lawrence Welk, Gene Autry and Roy Rogers by working at the radio station, but that day in 1954 no one had heard of Elvis Presley.

"He was a very handsome young man," Bennett said. "We thought he was so mannerly, we all fell in love with him, young and old," said Bennett, who was in her early 20s then.

Elvis left a copy of his record on the Sun label, although Bennett doesn't recall which it was.

"We played it until we wore it out," she said. "Mr. (Hugh) Potter was the station manager and he made fun of me and his wife, saying 'You all are just stuck on that good-looking man,' " Bennett said. "But he liked him too."

Bennett has her own religious radio show on WOMI every Sunday morning where among the songs she plays are hymns Elvis recorded. Her favorites are "Where No One Stands Alone" and "Precious Memories."

Among McIntyre's 65 Elvis albums, her favorite songs are the ballads, such as "Fame and Fortune" and "Can't Help Falling in Love." It was the music that drew her to Elvis and that music is still her favorite.

"I'm still a '50s and '60s rock 'n' roll girl," she said. "He totally changed the whole sound of music." McIntyre's life changed forever on Aug. 16, 1977, when her sister called to tell her Elvis was dead. "I told her it wasn't funny," McIntyre said. She turned on the television and saw the news reports.



"I was devastated. I really went through a mourning period," she said. "I got sympathy cards from friends."

The Messenger-Inquirer ran a photo of the then-28-year-old in her Elvis room a few days after Elvis' death.

McIntyre said she didn't think her fascination with Elvis was unhealthy. "I don't think it's unhealthy to have someone you look up to," she said. "Elvis did a lot of good for a lot of people. Going to Memphis has given Elvis fans something to hold onto."

She plans to spend Saturday with some friends, watch some Elvis videos or any specials on television.

"I don't normally do anything special every year, but this year is sort of a plateau," she said. "It's hard to believe it's been 20 years."



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 13 July 1996, p.5B:**

**A Music Ministry**

Edith Bennett's show on Sunday mornings  
has been fixture on WOMI since the '50s

By Karen Owen, Messenger-Inquirer

While the rest of Owensboro slumbers early Sunday mornings, Edith Bennett is wide awake and enjoying her favorite part of the week.

Greeting the sun with a gleam in her eye, Bennett fills the hours before church by wishing people happy birthday, reading scripture and playing inspirational tunes over the radio.

She's been the Sunday morning religious programming host for WOMI radio since the 1950s – so long Bennett's not even sure of the years – but it's still a part-time job she relishes.

"WOMI and I were teen-agers together," said the 65-year-old McLean County native. She joined the local AM station's staff as a 19-year-old secretary.

During the years, Bennett served as assistant program director and office manager, too. But now the church receptionist just does the fun part – "Radio Church Chapel" and "Down Memory Lane."

At 4:20 a.m. Sundays, she hops out of bed, about two hours earlier than normal. She's at the radio station, dressed for church, bobbie pins holding her wavy hair in place, within 20 minutes for her 5 a.m. show, "Radio Church Chapel."

"During the week, I'm a dead-head to get up," Bennett said recently, bustling about the small, sound-proofed studio at WOMI, her only company a scratchy-sounding laser printer and a church broadcast playing in the background. "On Sundays," Bennett said, snapping her fingers, "I'm awake like that."

During bad weather, Bennett has been known to sleep on a cot at the station so she won't miss her shows.

Her "Radio Church Chapel" is a mixture of poetry, quotations, a Sunday school lesson and "music by the masters, for the Master." Bennett's style is formal, but the show's content is all hers. While most Christian radio stations stick with all Southern gospel, or all contemporary Christian music, she pulls together everything from classical sacred music to spirituals for her program, spending five to six hours a week in preparation.



And all the selections come from her personal library of 3,000 cassette and reel-to-reel tapes, compact discs and albums.

At 7:30 a.m., things slow down a bit for her during a couple of paid religious programs, but Bennett keeps busy putting away cassettes and lining up new ones for her hour-long golden oldies show at 8:30 a.m.

Diversified, or block, programming like Bennett's is rare in the radio business these days, especially in a city Owensboro's size, said Pam Gray, assistant professor in communication arts at Kentucky Wesleyan College and manager of WKWC, the college's radio station.

"Unless the ratings were really good for it," most stations would avoid Bennett's type of show for paid religious programming, Gray said.

Ratings aren't available for religious programming in this area, people in the radio business say. But WOMI continues Bennett's show anyway because station executives believe there's a demand for it.

Bennett says she hears from young people too, but Tom Massie, program director at WOMI, said he thinks her Sunday morning programs are "pretty popular for the older demographics crowd." Part of "Radio Church Chapel" is also taped and broadcast in Haiti.

Bennett's relationship with WOMI has survived the station's several format changes, from variety to country to rock 'n' roll to talk and news.

"Radio is just in your bloodstream," Bennett said. "It's a job that never gets boring. There's always something new."

She remembers when every broadcast was live, when staff members recorded sound effects or music on vinyl aluminum discs, and when WOMI had two large studios, each furnished with a baby grand piano.

She remembers when Elvis Presley visited Owensboro on one of his first promotional tours; when bad weather kept staff members, including her, at the station all night for emergency broadcasts; and the snowy Christmas Eve a tearful mother came to the station to say the plane crash Bennett had just announced on the air had taken the life of her only son who was heading home for Christmas.

And then there was the drunk who chased Bennett around the station desk with a butcher knife one time before a male co-worker intervened.

"He'd heard something on the radio," said Bennett. "I just happened to be the first person he saw when he came in."

In 1978, Bennett left WOMI to manage a convenience store for a former co-worker, then joined the staff at Third Baptist in 1981, continuing her radio show all the while.

In her free time, she's active in the Daughters of the American Revolution, writes and takes pictures for booklets on local history and genealogy, and volunteers with the historical marker program in McLean County.

She also leads worship services at the Roosevelt House every third Sunday and has sung in Handel's "Messiah" at Third Baptist Church for 40 years.

Her radio show, though, is "my life," Bennett said simply. "It's inspiring. It's challenging. It's a discipline. I feel like I'm helping others, maybe challenging others."



"Radio is just in your bloodstream," says Edith Bennett, who has been host of WOMI's Sunday morning religious programming since the 1950s. "It's a job that never gets boring. There's always something new." All of Bennett's selections for "Radio Church Chapel" and "Down Memory Lane" come from her collection of more than 3,000 albums, tapes and CDs.



**McLean County News, Calhoun, KY, Thursday, 18 June 1987,**  
**Sesquicentennial supplement, pp.8 & 24:**

***Edith Bennett is town's historian***

by MICHELLE BABB NEWS staff writer

Each day is history in the making, but probably more so to Edith Bennett.

Bennett is the editor of "Lest We Forget, Volumes I- V." The volumes tell the history of the town of Livermore through newspaper clippings, photographs, deeds and other information.

"It started back in 1976 when America was celebrating her bicentennial," said Bennett, "it really was a concentrated effort on the part of the whole town."

"We had a big celebration up on the school grounds and someone had the idea that somebody ought to write a book and I hit upon the idea of putting together newspaper clippings,"

Bennett admits that her scrapbook-oriented books are crude, but she prefers that style. "I call them glorified scrapbooks," said Bennett, "because anybody could do it."

"When I put the first one out it was because of a lack of time... but I kept doing it that way because I feel like it makes the people look at what someone else has said and it makes them think of how they enjoyed that occasion."

The information in the volumes dates back to 1882 beginning with an issue of the old "Livermore Star" newspaper. The material is not necessarily in chronological order but is inserted as it is found. They contain everything from early deeds up to the 1987 eighth grade graduation exercises. Not only do the books include information about the current residents but also material about past residents who have moved away.

Bennett feels that all Livermore residents, past and present, are an important part of her books. "Everybody that's ever lived in Livermore is a part of it," she said, "They all had a contribution to make. They're all a part of Liver more."

The town historian says she came by her love of history naturally.

"I've always liked history. My dad was a history buff so it's natural born. I probably got most of it from him."

Bennett was born and raised in Livermore. She was graduated from Livermore High School in 1949. She received her degree from Owensboro Business College and is currently working toward a degree from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago by correspondence courses.

Aside from her duties as financial secretary for the Third Baptist Church in Owensboro, Bennett works part time at WOMI radio station. She announces the Radio Church Chapel program on Sunday mornings.

"I make a portion of that program on tape every Sunday," she said, "I have a 30 minute broadcast in Haiti once a week, three 15-minute broad casts in Jamaica a week, and a 30-minute broadcast in Elizabeth town, PA on Sunday morning."

She is also an active member of the Owensboro Choral Society, West Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Daviess County and Historical Societies, and the Captain William Rowan chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Bennett's half brother, Wendell Rone, has written histories of several area churches including the Livermore Baptist on its 100th anniversary last year.

"He's quite a historian too," said Bennett, " We've both been interested in history for a long time."

After making a name for herself with her books, Bennett has been commissioned to write histories for other people. Old Hebron-Hunt Inc. has had six histories written by Bennett. She also did one two years ago called "George's Gems" for the George Dabbs Celebration of the Arts, an annual art show in Morgantown.

Although many people do not like history, Bennett has found a way to make it interesting.

"A lot of people think history is a dead subject – dull and boring – and if you just think of the dates, it would be, but you always meet so many nice people when you start digging up history," she said.

Even when Bennett is unable to compile the histories, she is confident that someone will carry on her tradition.

"As many young people that I find are interested in it, there'll be somebody to carry on," said Bennett. "There's at least one nut in every generation that likes history".

Bennett is excited about the sesquicentennial celebration and thinks of it as a homecoming for Livermore residents.

"I think it's going to be a great celebration and I'm looking forward to it," said Bennett. "I think it's grand for a town to get together; it's good public spirit. It gets the people to thinking about their heritage and makes them appreciate what they have more."

The "Lest We Forget" volumes will be available during the weeklong celebration.

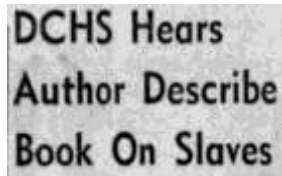
"I am reprinting them to have them for sale that week," she said, "I've had a number of calls about them now that the fever has hit, so in addition to putting out a new one, I am reprinting the first five."

Through her histories of Livermore Edith Bennett has made it very clear how she feels about the town. Even though she now lives in Owensboro, she will always be fond of Livermore.

"I have a deep love for Livermore," she said, "It's what I call home. "



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 24 October 1965, p.2A:**



Miss Edith L. Bennett discussed her recently published book entitled "Spider Webs: A Steamer - Trunk and Slavery" at the Friday meeting of the Daviess County Historical Society held at the Gold Room at Kentucky Wesleyan College.

The book describes the Kentucky Colonization Society which was formed in the early 1800s for the purpose of resettling slaves back into Africa. The slaves were settled in the country known today as Liberia, in an area whose capital is. Monrovia. Although the intentions were honorable, those persons resettled found themselves in even worse circumstances.

Approximately 40 persons attended the meeting, presided over by the Rev. Wendell Rone, president of the historical society.

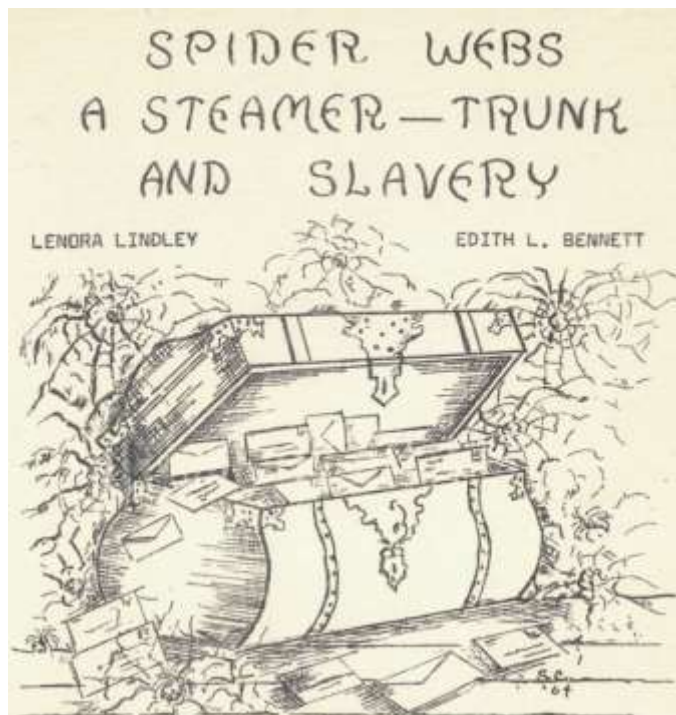


**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 8 February 1953, p.1B:**

Owensboro Celebrates 15th Year As A Radio City In WOMI's Anniversary

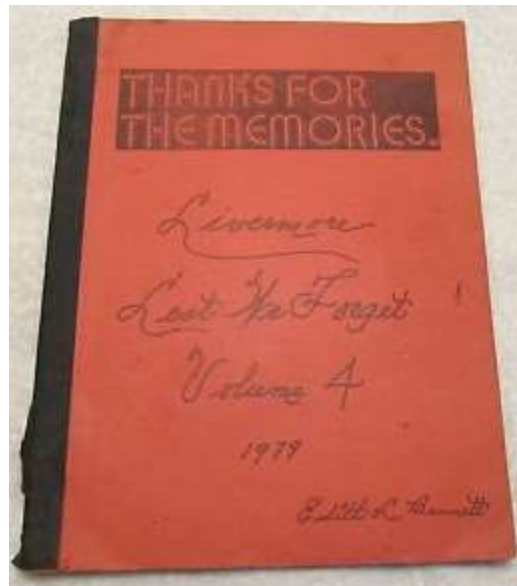


PRESENT STAFF of the station on its fifteenth broadcasting birthday includes (seated left to right) Harold Peters, chief engineer; Pete Dooley, announcer; Hugh O. Potter, manager; Jim Wilkinson, sports announcer; (standing) Jack Murphree, announcer; Edith Bennett, secretary; T. D. Whittinghill, announcer; Mrs. Hugh O. Potter, program director, and J. E. Jackson, engineer.



Edith L. Bennett was co-author of book, “Spider Webs A Steamer – Trunk and Slavery”, in 1965. This volume and the following titles, compiled by or contributed to by Edith L. Bennett, can be found the Kentucky Room’s collection at the Daviess County Public Library in Owensboro, KY:

- “Livermore Methodist Church Centennial Year, 1869-1969” (circa 1969)
- "Forever Ours": Hunt Family, by Edward Manley (1972)
- “Kentucky Tidbits: Edward Manley” (1976)
- “Gregory Gatherings by Allyene Gregory” (1976)
- "Lest We Forget": Livermore, Kentucky, 16 volumes (1976, et al)



- “Hunt Hebron Highlights, 1956-1977”, by Edward Manley (1977)
- “Our Cousin the Colonel: Original Writings of Col. Edward Marquis Manley (1978)
- “Green River Valley, Revisited: Material From Scrapbooks of the Late Col. Edward M. Manley (1978)
- “No, Never Alone: Hunt, and Related Families” (1979)
- “Many Miles in Butler and Muhlenberg” (1979)
- “Meanwhile in Muhlenberg” (1979)
- "Need wears many faces" : a collection of inspirational writings, poems, prose, etc., from the Radio Church Chapel WOMI (1980)
- “Hunt-Hebron Highlights 25 Years Later” (1982)
- “Jenkins Family, by Edward M. Manley (1982)
- “Englers” (1983)
- “George’s Gems: Words of Wisdom and Pictures That Tell a Story From Butler County’s Musician, Artist-- George H. Dabbs, Sr.” (1984)
- “A Short History of the United Methodist Churches of McLean County” (1984)
- “Hugh O. Potter and the Early Years of the Daviess County Historical Society”, Daviess County Historical Quarterly, co-author with M. David Orrahood (1987)
- “Owensboro’s Soundest Citizen: WOMI Radio 1490” (1990)

- “Autobiography of Robert J. Brandon : Civil War Veteran” (1992)
- “Our Own: USA - CSA, McLean County, Kentucky”, co-authored with Eldon Ray Eaton (1995)



- “McLean County Records” (1998)
- “Deane [Scrapbook]” (2007)
- “Forever ours : Governor John Bennett descendants : Bennett and related families, cousins by the dozens” (2012), 317 pages, copy on familysearch.org



### **In Memory of Edith Bennett**

<https://charleskmoorejrblogspot.com/>

Posted by Charles K. Moore, Jr.

21 December 2013



Whenever I think of the Christmas season one person that comes to mind is none other than Edith L. Bennett. Anyone that has ever listened to her Sunday morning programs or Christmas Eve/Day programs knows that Ms. Edith Bennett made much of the Christmas season. From the



Sunday after Thanksgiving until the last Sunday in December she would be airing all kinds of Christmas music, programs, and sound bites to commemorate this joyous season. Christmas time was a very special time for her. To tell you honestly, she would always pay special tributes to various holidays and special events throughout the years on her programs on 1940 WOMI AM in Owensboro. However, she always loved celebrating Christmas and the true meaning behind it which was the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Ms. Edith Lillian Bennett passed this year on Friday April 12, 2013 at Third Baptist Church in Owensboro, which was her home church. Ms. Bennett was born in Livermore, Kentucky on June 21, 1931 to Isa and Dorsey Bennett. She had a half-brother named Wendell Rone, who was a Baptist pastor and was the first pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro in 1959. Ms. Bennett graduated from Livermore High School in 1949 as the valedictorian of her class. She also graduated from Owensboro Junior College of Business, Moody Bible Institute, and Mid Continent University. She was an avid history buff and wrote several books on history of her hometown in Livermore as well as other books of history. In 1990 she compiled the book entitled, Owensboro's Soundest Citizen--WOMI Radio, which was a collection of essays, newspaper articles and remembrances of WOMI radio and events of the past.

Ms. Bennett began her career at WOMI on November 28, 1950 and remained there until her death this year. She had the privilege to work as a secretary for the WOMI station founders Hugh O. and Clifford Potter until the Potters retired from the station in 1972. Ms. Bennett has broadcasted Radio Church Chapel and Down Memory Lane for a number of years. For years she also hosted the Christmas program on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day on WOMI for probably almost as long as she's been working at WOMI. On her Christmas programs she would feature a variety of Christmas music ranging from solo, group singing, choirs, and symphony pops orchestra music. She would also air Handel's Messiah as well on Christmas Day. She and Carl Davis would host the program together. I always looked forward to listening to her Christmas program every year. Ms. Bennett was a member of the Owensboro Choral Society and sang the "Messiah" for 54 out of 55 years. She only missed one production and that was due to illness.

In addition to her celebrating Christmas on WOMI, she also paid tribute to other holidays and special events such as Black History Month in February, Easter in April, Memorial Day in May, Flag Day in June, Independence Day in July, Labor Day in September, Communion Sunday in October, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day in November, and probably some others that I've missed. She loved American history and would educate the radio audience about the uniqueness of American history. She also paid tribute to American Constitution Week in late September. Every five years she would pay tribute to WOMI's anniversary recapping past events that made WOMI history. I recall listening to her sound bites from WOMI's 65th and 70th anniversaries. She loved the station and loved the people who worked there. She would also speak fondly of the Potters and kept in contact with them until their deaths in 1986 and 1994.

She was also involved in numerous community activities as well such as the Sons and the Daughters of the American Revolution, her own church where she was secretary for 33 years, Past President of the West Central Kentucky Family Research Association, clerk for Daviess/McLean Baptist Association for 13 years, many historical societies some of them which included genealogical research into her family history, which included the Battle of Sacramento, and the list continues. She co-authored a number of books with different authors such as Hugh O. Potter on Abraham Lincoln.

Around 1960 or somewhere along that line, she took a trip to Ontario, Canada and through that trip she learned that Josiah Henson was the "Uncle Tom" that Harriet Beecher Stowe was

mentioning in her book entitled, "Uncle Tom's Cabin." A few decades later a production was done in Owensboro entitled, "Josiah" and we can thank Edith Bennett for the information she compiled while on her trip in Ontario.

Ms. Bennett would always play great gospel music from a variety of gospel artists, choirs, soloists, and group singings on her Sunday morning program, Radio Church Chapel. I loved to listen to the gospel music she would play. She would also pay tribute to any gospel artist that passed away. For example, in 2008 she played some music from the late Dottie Rambo and the Rambos following Dottie's passing on May 11, 2008. It was through listening to Ms. Bennett's Sunday program that got me interested in wanting to write about Dottie Rambo's legacy in music a few years ago. Back in 2007 she played a song from Dottie Rambo entitled, "I Will Glory in the Cross" and it was through that song that I looked it up on YouTube. Before you knew it I was listening to other songs from Dottie and the Rambos and that stimulated my interest in desiring to write about Dottie on this blog. I always anticipated listening to Radio Church Chapel every Sunday morning. I would set my alarm so I could listen to her program. She was an inspiration to me.

I could say many other things about this gifted and happy lady, but it was always a blessing to listen to her many Sunday mornings on radio. I've started to listen to her intently starting in 2005. I've never met the woman in my life, but in a way you felt like you knew her by listening to her. She had several interests that I had so I guess that made a difference. Even though she was never married she seemed like she was a very happy lady. She was a studious woman and always was busy with numerous activities enjoying life. I thought this Christmas would be a great opportunity to pay tribute to her. I'll miss listening to her on radio.



Edith L. Bennett was buried in the Old Mill (Bennett) Cemetery in Ohio County, KY. The cemetery is located on the west side of the Mt. Hermon Church Road, on a bluff overlooking No Creek, and a few hundred yards from the intersection of that road with the Hartford-Livermore road, now Highway 136. Edith is the daughter of Dorsey Slade Bennett (1885-1972); granddaughter of James Samuel Bennett (1846-1899); and great-granddaughter of George Plummer Bennett (1807-1855). Her great-great-grandfather, (Governor) John Bennett (1753-1828), who settled on No Creek in 1798, is buried in the family graveyard.