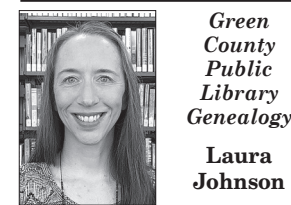


# Otis Moss: A Busy Man

## Greensburg-Green County A proud past — A promising future *Way Back When*



Green County Public Library Genealogy  
**Laura Johnson**



Otis Moss posed with his instrument in 1911 as a member of the Greensburg Concert Band.

Virgil Otis Moss was born February 2, 1890 to Aaron Guinn Moss and Viola Olivia Hodges Moss of Greensburg. Otis, as he was known to everyone, had an enterprising character and was active in many endeavors during his lifetime; qualities he, no doubt, received from his parents.

His father was a businessman. Mr. Moss had operated a general store and owned the first electric power plant in Greensburg. After several years of operation, he sold the plant to Kentucky Utilities Co. Mr. Moss also ran a roller mill and saw mill here for 50 years.

Mrs. Moss had taught school in Green and Metcalfe counties before marriage. She served as Sunday School teacher for 35 years at Greensburg Methodist Church. She was a charter member and past Worthy Matron of the Order of Eastern Star here.

There were six Moss children: Addie G., Virgil Otis, Mary Susie, Mattie Lee, Henry Lewis, and Hodges Alford.

As a young man, Otis attended Lindsey Wilson College and Bowling Green Business University. By 1910, he was working in town as an assistant cashier and clerk at People's Bank. He lived with his parents at their home on West Court Street which now houses Foster-Toler-Curry Funeral Home.

For a time, Otis lived in Louisville and worked as a bookkeeper for the Louisville Cooperage Company but had returned to Greensburg by 1920. He once again took up residence at his parents' home.

In November 1929, Otis began delivering mail. Two months later, he was appointed as the first permanent rural mail carrier for Green County. It was a job he would do until his retirement in February 1960. By that time, he was settled into his own home at Happyville.

Otis had many interests and hobbies that filled his time. He loved to travel, taking numerous driving trips around the country. In the fall of 1924, he and friend, Foster Durham, visited the southern states. The next year, they went to points of interest along the Atlantic Coast. The men took a four-month tour out west in 1927, driving more than 10,000 miles.

Fox hunting was one of Otis' favorite pastimes for much of his life. He would travel all over Kentucky and beyond to participate in hunts. He took great pride in competing with his hounds and was a member of KY Association of Fox Hunters.

Otis was also a musician. The skilled bugle player was a member of the Greensburg Concert Band and Official Kentucky State Band. He became a member of the KY National Guard's renowned 123rd Cavalry Mounted Band in 1930. Ten years later, Otis was commended for never missing a formation. He would drive over 80 miles each Tuesday night to attend regular drills.

Other indications of Otis' character are that he was a member of the Kosair Shrine, Greensburg Masonic Lodge, Knights Templar, Modern Woodmen of America and Order of Eastern Star. He was a member of the Greensburg Methodist Church.

Otis Moss departed this life May 6, 1973 at Jane Todd Crawford Memorial Hospital after a short illness. His funeral services were held at Foster-Jones Funeral Home; the same place where he had lived with his parents and siblings years before. The loss of his passing was felt by many relatives, friends, and neighbors. Otis was laid to rest in Greensburg City Cemetery.

BY CAROL DIAL  
SPECIAL TO THE R-H

**Feb. 16, 2011**  
**Meth labs raided** - Local law officials raided 7 meth labs in the city and county in 2010.

**Three recommended for superintendent** - Wayne Ackerman, Jim Frank and Jennifer Miller are being considered by the screening committee for the position of school superintendent.

**French retires** - Sgt. Robert French has retired after serving 30 years in the Marines.

**State of the City report** - Mayor Lisle Cheatham, in his State of the City report, stated that local government struggles with rebuilding the tax base while maintaining more expensive organization and infrastructure.

**Feb. 14, 2001**  
**Numerous fires** - Firefighters were busy controlling nine brush and structure fire in the last week.

**Four injured** - A two-vehicle crash at Mickey Vaughn curve sent Paul C. Franklin, Lilly Franklin, Jonathon Meadows and Tiffany Judd to JTCH for treatment.

**Sweetheart Sweepstakes winners** - John Collins, winner of the Most Romantic Love Line, and

Brent Matney, winner of the Most Humorous Love Line, will receive prizes from the Sweetheart Sweepstakes.

**Teacher of the Year** - Maxine Judd, a teacher for Lake Cumberland Head Start Region IV, has been named Teacher of the Year.

**Feb. 13, 1991**  
**1990 Census report** - Results of the 1990 Census showed the population of Greensburg was 1,990. The county and city had a population of 10,371.

**Group supports soldiers** - A group of teens from GCHS formed a club called Students Supporting American Soldiers to promote the support of our soldiers in Saudi Arabia.

**Little Barren, Becky Ervin** - Life is like an onion, you peel it off one layer at a time and sometimes you weep.

**The eggs hatched** - January 17, 4-H members in Missi Surratt's 4th grade class placed three dozen eggs in an incubator. Three weeks later, they watched in awe as baby chicks appeared.

**Feb. 12, 1981**  
**Birthday in hospital** - Mark Blake-man will celebrate his 16th birthday February 17 as a patient at Children's Hospital,

Cincinnati.  
**Dragons win trophy** - The Green County Dragons won the 1st place trophy at the SKAC Tournament.

**C of C president** - Boyce Hudson was selected as the Greensburg/Green County Chamber of Commerce president.

**Anniversaries** - Mr. and Mrs. Arvin Pierce and their son Clay Pierce and his wife Julia, celebrated a Golden and Silver Anniversary together on Christmas Day.

**Feb. 18, 1971**  
**Women outliving men** - Figures show that of the 122 people who died in Green County last year, the average age of women was 74, while the men's average age was 63 1/2.

**FFA celebrates anniversary** - The 120 members of the Greensburg Chapter Future Farmers of America celebrated the 31st anniversary

of the local chapter.  
**Summersville new business** - Bud's Gas and Oil and Sue's Grill and Coffee Shop have opened for business in Summersville with Bud and Sue Price as owners.

**Ramblin', Slim Pickins** - Don Sidebottom has recorded two songs, "Today" and "The Girl I Love", on the Atwell label by Deca.

**Feb. 17, 1961**  
**New business** - J. Beckham Goff has opened a used car lot on South Main Street. Call WE2-8809 with inquiries.

**Birthday celebration** - Louella Taylor celebrated her 90th birthday February 12 with family and friends at her North Main Street home.

**Obituaries** - Martha Ella Gumm, 97, Monday; Mattie Tucker White, 90, Wednesday.

**Exie** - We are having some beautiful weather, like summer in February.

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