

# You've got options!

When it comes to paying your Ripley Power and Light monthly bill, you've got many options to suit your lifestyle.

Sure, you can always pay your bill the traditional ways of by mail, in the night dropboxes or stopping by our Ripley or Halls office during business hours. However, we have several more options that may suit you better.

## Bank Draft

The easiest way to pay your utility bill each month is through bank draft. We send your bank the amount you owe on your electric bill. We send you a copy of your bill. The bank deducts the amount from your savings or checking account on the day your bill is due.

You don't have to pay for postage, take the time to drive to one of our offices, or worry about being late with your payment.

## 24-Hour Kiosk

Make your payment through a secure machine located in the drive-thru lanes at our Ripley and Halls offices. The machines accept several types of credit cards, as well as cash.

## Prepay

Customers who prefer to keep track of their electric usage or pay a smaller deposit can opt for the Prepay Program. Your electric use is deducted from the amount of electricity you purchase ahead of time.

To get started, you pay a \$60 deposit, an initial minimum of \$50 worth of electricity and a \$20 connect fee.

## Online

Pay on our website through our secure server. While you're online, you can also sign up to receive your bill by email.

Learn more at [ripleypower.com](http://ripleypower.com).



If you know of someone who has an interesting job or hobby, send his or her contact information to Tracy Etheridge at [tracy@ripleypower.com](mailto:tracy@ripleypower.com) or 731-635-2323. We're always looking for good stories for Tennessee Connections.

Do not forget to spring ahead one hour on March 8 for Daylight Saving Time!

Ripley Power and Light offices will be closed...

- Friday, April 10, for Good Friday
- Monday, May 25, for Memorial Day



Pay your bill online and more ... at [ripleypower.com](http://ripleypower.com)

## Office Hours & Locations

We are open 47 hours each week to serve you better!

7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Monday-Thursday

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday

You can pay your utility bill at ...

- 150 S. Main St. in Ripley
- 409 S. Church St. in Halls

If you have not been receiving your bills, call our office immediately so we can verify your mailing address.



731-635-2323 ■ 731-836-7595  
[www.ripleypower.com](http://www.ripleypower.com)

# Ripley

POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY Spring 2020



Members of the construction crew of a Ripley downtown building on Main Street hold implements of their trades. The picture, taken in the early 1900s, is one of 26,000 pictures in Billie Morris' collection of Lauderdale County's past.

## BOOKS CAPTURE 'A WAY OF LIFE THAT HAS SADLY DISAPPEARED'

Billie Morris remembers starting for hours at a display case in the Lauderdale County Library when it was housed in the old Sugar Hill mansion. She was fascinated with the display's collection of pictures and artifacts of the Durhamville community near Henning.

Inspired by the display, Morris realized her own collection of historical pictures could fill a book.

She started work on "The Pictorial History of Lauderdale County, Volume I." It was published in 2009 and sold out in three months. She donated \$52,000 from the sale of the first book to the Friends of the Library.

Over the last 12 years, Morris has written 10 volumes of pictorial histories of her home county. Her next book will be published in October 2020.

Her books, she said, "are a collection of the way we lived, the way we worshipped, worked and played. They capture a way of life that has sadly disappeared, buildings that are no longer standing, people long gone."

Morris, who started collecting pictures about 20 years



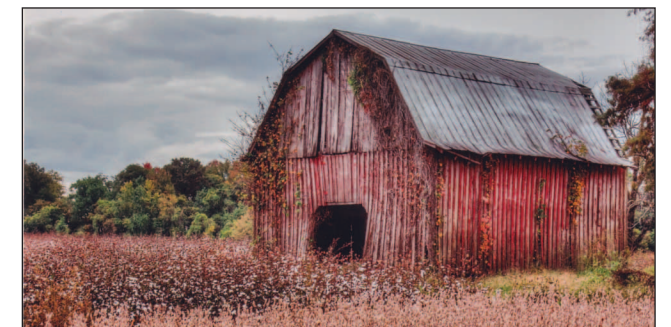
Author Billie Morris

ago, now has 26,000 pictures that cover two centuries – plenty for more books.

Each book requires a lot of research and interviews, she said, as she works to make the books as accurate as possible. For example, she'll pull a picture if she can't confirm important details.

Her process starts by researching the pictures she wants to put in the next book and then writing captions for the pictures. Next, she concentrates on writing her text. Finally, the book starts coming together as she places her pictures into

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This barn is found in "Barns and Farms of Lauderdale County." – Photo by Christy Hunter

# 'A WAY OF LIFE'

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the text. She dedicates each volume to a different person.

Besides the pictorial history series, Morris has published several other books, including one featuring her favorite pictures and another about the "Barns and Farms of Lauderdale County."

Several of the books have sold out, but the volumes still available are for sale at Accents Gift Shop in downtown Ripley.

Morris has spent nearly all of her life in Lauderdale County. She worked for 30 years in local industries, including 25 years at Todd Uniform where she managed plants in Maury City, Ripley and Henning.

Over the years, she's been actively involved in community projects, including the renovation of the "Little Theater" at Ripley High School, the restoration of the Sugar Hill mansion that now houses the Lauderdale County Chamber of Commerce and fundraising activities for the county library.

She's the county historian, a longtime Rotarian, past president of Friends of the Library and the chamber's 2001 "Citizen of the Year." She and her late husband, Joe, have two daughters and two granddaughters.

It was her love of old pictures and a desire to document the past that convinced her to publish the pictorial histories that many people now cherish. After the first book, Morris said, "I realized I was on to something that people enjoy."



Billie Morris, left, does research for her next book with Librarian Wanda Clark.



J.W. Watkins stands in front of his cotton bales in downtown Ripley in the early 1900s.

The Tennessee General Assembly carved out parts of Tipton, Dyer and Haywood counties to create Lauderdale County in November 1835. The county is named for Colonel James Lauderdale, who died at the Battle of New Orleans in 1814.



The Sycamores in Henning was the first brick home in the county. Bricks were made on the property; the shutters were made from wood from steamboats. The home's first residents were Dr. Henry and Emma Graves Moorer.



Dorothy Walker, pictured in the center of the first row with curly dark hair, celebrates her birthday with friends. She married Jack Palmer, who owned Palmer's Home Furnishings. The Palmers donated their building on Courthouse Square to the City of Ripley, which now houses Ripley City Hall. Dorothy also donated the land where the new county library is located.



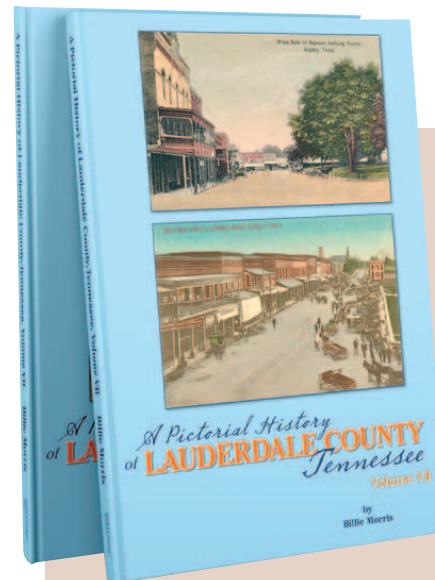
Servicemen and townspeople, gathered on the Courthouse Square in 1942, listen to speeches promoting the purchase of war bonds.



Lizzie Lusk and Solon Neighbors drive the first automobile in Ripley in the early 1900s. Neighbors' face is hidden by a pair of goggles.



The Wednesday Book Club, above, was a social group for women. In 1902, the women dressed in their finest to celebrate George Washington's birthday.



## THE NEXT BOOK

Billie Morris' next book, "A Pictorial History of Lauderdale County, Tennessee, Volume 7," will be published in October 2020. Like the first six volumes in this series, the 8.5- by 11-inch coffee table book will be filled with stories and pictures of the county's past, up until the 1980s. Cost will be about \$40. Copies will be available at Accents Gift Shop and through Morris at [bmor1902@bellsouth.net](mailto:bmor1902@bellsouth.net).