

# WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION



## Newsletter



March/April 2013

201 Locust Street

McMinnville, Tennessee



Mr. Charles Norton

### Charles Norton Was Our Speaker for March Meeting

Our speaker for the March 16 meeting was local resident Charles Norton. He gave an entertaining and informative talk about the observance of Memorial Day.

This day, formerly known as Decoration Day, was a day set aside when relatives and friends placed flowers on the graves of veterans who died in the Civil War.

The first nationally proclaimed Decoration Day was held on the last Monday of May 1868, with this day falling on May 30. The tradition of placing flowers on graves was changed to placing flags on the graves of all deceased veterans.

The preferred name for the holiday gradually changed from Decoration Day to Memorial Day, which was first used in 1882.

Memorial Day became official in 1971.

The American Legion is now placing flags at the foot of the grave rather than at the headstone so they can be better seen.

Last year, 2,500 flags were placed in 51 cemeteries in Warren County.



First Methodist Church, McMinnville

### Our Next Keepsake

An order has been placed for the First Methodist Church keepsake. The second in a series should be available for purchase at our April 20 meeting. A bargain priced at \$18.

### Have You Paid Your Dues?

Just a friendly reminder that it is time to pay your WCGA membership dues.

Annual dues are \$20 per calendar year for members within the 50 states. Foreign membership is \$28 per year.

Please make your checks payable to the Warren County Genealogical Association and can be brought to our next meeting or mailed to Warren County Genealogical Association, P.O. Box 411, McMinnville, TN

## Sharing our Family History

### *Pat Berges Presented Her Coulson Family Ancestors*



Pat reads an entertaining story about her g-g-g-grandfather Alexander Coulson.

The March Genealogy Presentation was presented by Pat Berges. She gave a talk about her ancestors, the Coulson family of Warren County.

They were Quakers from England who emigrated to America about 1715 and settled in Pennsylvania, eventually working their way down to Tennessee by way of Maryland and Virginia.

She read an amusing anecdote about her g-g-g-grandfather Alexander Coulson of Grundy County, who sued his neighbor in 1848 in a feud over their dogs having injured his beloved hunting dog.



Sarah Jane Coulson Myers Winton and most likely Abigail Coulson and Mary Coulson.



Our Refreshments Chairman Christine Bouldin.

## WCGA Committee Chairmen

### Membership:

Allen Jaco

### Circulation Manager:

Wilma Davenport

### Programs:

Marion Rhea Speaks

### Bulletin Editor:

Chris Keathley

### Newsletter Editor:

Doyle Speaks

### Publicity:

Cheryl Watson Mingle

### Research:

Bonita Mangrum

### Office:

Evelyn Wade, Martha Holt

### Refreshments:

Christine Bouldin



Wilma Davenport is in charge of mailing our Bulletins.



Don Morgan was the lucky winner of the door prize donated by our guest speaker Charles Norton.

## Rachel Killebrew

Will be our guest speaker

For the April 20 WCGA Meeting

She will speak on the topic of Daughters of the American Revolution

## WCGA is now on Facebook! Come visit us at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Warren-County-Genealogical-Association/135126859883450>

Or visit us on the web at:  
[www.tngenweb.org/wcgate](http://www.tngenweb.org/wcgate)



Bernice Driver is adding obituaries to the Warren County Find-A-Grave listings. Send your information to Bernice at

[bernicedri@yahoo.com](mailto:bernicedri@yahoo.com)



## MINUTES IN BRIEF

From the March 16 Meeting

By Pat Berges

The March 20 meeting of the Warren County Genealogical Association was called to order by Vice President Marion Speaks in the absence of President Mingle, who was ill. Twenty two members and guests Don and Lucy Morgan were present

**Treasurer's Report** --Treasurer Allen Jaco reported a current balance of \$3,705.88 in the treasury with a year-to-date net income of \$678.13. Allen also reminded everyone that the \$20 dues are now due.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Membership** – Allen Jaco reported 3 Complimentary, 3 Exchange, 3 Honorary Life, 69 Current and 1 new member for a total of 92, with 13 people receiving our Newsletter only.

**Circulation** – No report

**Programs** – Chairman Marion Speaks advised that the April program will be presented by Rachel Killebrew on the subject of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

**Publicity** – Marion Speaks reported that President Mingle is keeping all news media informed of our activities.

**Research** – Chairman Bonita Mangrum had no current activities to report.

**Office** – No report

**Bulletin** – Editor Chris Keathley indicated that the June issue will be published on time.

**Newsletter** – Editor Doyle Speaks announced he would like to add photographs of all new members to the newsletter. Please provide a photo and surname you are researching to [speaksdm@charter.net](mailto:speaksdm@charter.net).

**Webpage** – Administrator Pat Berges reminded everyone of the new webpage URL: <http://www.tngenweb.org/wcgate>

**501(C)3 Application** -- Treasurer Allen Jaco has completed financial reports for 2012, 2011 and 2010 and is currently finishing up 2009 to be attached to our application for tax-exempt status.

**1st Methodist Church Keepsake** -- Pat Berges exhibited a proof of the First Methodist Church Keepsake. The order has been placed and we should have the keepsakes for sale at \$18 by the time of the April membership meeting.

**TSLA Scan of Civil War Artifacts** -- Members were again advised that TSLA representatives will be available in the voting room of the Warren County Administration building from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on April 17, 2013, to scan Civil War artifacts. Anyone interested may contact [www.tennessee.gov/TSLA](http://www.tennessee.gov/TSLA) for further information.

**Founding Families Certificates** -- The state legislature has declared July "History and Genealogy Month" in Tennessee. As part of this celebration, WCGA will have applications available for residents to attach proof of ancestors who were living here at the time Warren County was founded

The application will include a \$10 processing fee. Certificates will be issued to honor these pioneer families. A temporary committee is needed to review and approve the applications. Carolyn Lance, Marion Speaks, Cheryl Mingle and Bettye Pack agreed to serve on the review committee.

**Program** -- Mr. Charles Norton gave an entertaining and informative talk about the tradition of placing flowers on the graves of veterans who died in the Civil War. Decoration Day began in 1868 in Waterloo, New York. Later this changed to recognition of all deceased veterans and people began placing flags instead of flowers. Memorial Day became official in 1971. The American Legion is now placing flags at the foot of the grave rather than at the headstone so they can be better seen. Last year, 2,500 flags were placed in 51 cemeteries in Warren County.

### Welcome New Members:

Robert Brown

Elaine F. Campbell

We would like to include your picture along with the surname you are researching in the Newsletter. Please send photo and information to [speaksdm@charter.net](mailto:speaksdm@charter.net).

--Doyle Speaks, Newsletter Editor

# Did you know These April Facts

April 1, 1865 - During the American Civil War, Confederate troops of General George Pickett were defeated and cut off at Five Forks, Virginia. This sealed the fate of Confederate General Robert E. Lee's armies at Petersburg and Richmond and hastened the end of the war.

April 2, 1863 - A bread riot occurred in the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, as angry people demanded bread from a bakery wagon then wrecked nearby shops. The mob dispersed only after Confederate President Jefferson Davis made a personal plea and threatened to use force.

April 2, 1865 - General Robert E. Lee informed Confederate President Jefferson Davis that he must evacuate the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia. Davis and his cabinet then fled by train.

April 3, 1865 - The Confederate capital of Richmond surrendered to Union forces after the withdrawal of General Robert E. Lee's troops.

April 9, 1865 - After over 500,000 American deaths, the Civil War effectively ended as General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant in the village of Appomattox Court House. The surrender occurred in the home of Wilmer McLean. Terms of the surrender, written by General Grant, allowed Confederates to keep their horses and return home. Officers were allowed to keep their swords and side arms.

April 12, 1861 - The American Civil War began as Confederate troops under the command of General Pierre Beauregard opened fire at 4:30 a.m. on Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina.

April 14, 1865 - President Abraham Lincoln was shot and mortally wounded while watching a performance of Our American Cousin at Ford's Theater in Washington. He was taken to a nearby house and died the following morning at 7:22 a.m.

April 16, 1862 - Congress abolished slavery in the District of Columbia and appropriated \$1 million to compensate owners of freed slaves.

April 22, 1864 - "In God We Trust" was included on all newly minted U.S. coins by an Act of Congress.

April 27, 1865 - On the Mississippi River, the worst steamship disaster in U.S. history occurred as an explosion aboard the Sultana killed nearly 2,000 passengers, mostly Union soldiers who had been prisoners of war and were returning home.

Birthday - Civil War General and 18th U.S. President Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885) was born in Point Pleasant, Ohio. During the war, he earned the nickname "Unconditional Surrender" Grant and was given command of the Union armies. He served as President from 1869 to 1877 in an administration plagued by scandal. He then went on to write his memoirs and died in 1885, just days after its completion.

Everyone knows about April Fool's day, but do you know any of the other interesting and odd holidays there are in April? Have you heard of No Housework Day or National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day.

The month of April is Keep America Beautiful Month, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Holocaust Remembrance Month, and Autism Awareness Month. But did you know that April also is important for a lot of other reasons, some of them rather unusual. April is National Frog Month and National Poetry Month, and on a larger scale April is International Guitar Month and International Customer Loyalty Month.

Looking for something to get your mouth watering? April is also known as National Soft Pretzel Month, Fresh Florida Tomato Month, National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Month, and National Fresh Celery Month. If some of these unusual holidays make you laugh, you should also know that April is National humor month as well.



Marion Rhea Speaks was guest speaker at the March 14 meeting of the Retired Federal Workers meeting. She gave a talk about the Warren County Genealogical Association.

*Join us*

at the next meeting of the

## **Warren County Genealogical Association**

**Saturday, April 20, 2013**

WCGA Office and Library

201 Locust Street

McMinnville, TN

(located in the rear of the

Warren County Administration Building)

*Bring a Friend*

**Spring Sale**

**\$10 off regular price**

**through April 15, 2013**

### **Grundy County Heritage 1844-2004**

a 500+ page book on Grundy County families, places, history

Regular price-local pick up \$84

**Now \$74**

Pick up at Grundy Co. Heritage Center,  
465 Railroad Ave, Tracy City

Regular price-mail out \$92

Now \$82

For mail out, please send your mailing  
information and payment to

Grundy County Historical Society

P.O. Box 1422

Tracy City, TN 37387

