

# WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION



## Newsletter

September/October, 2013



201 Locust Street

McMinnville, Tennessee



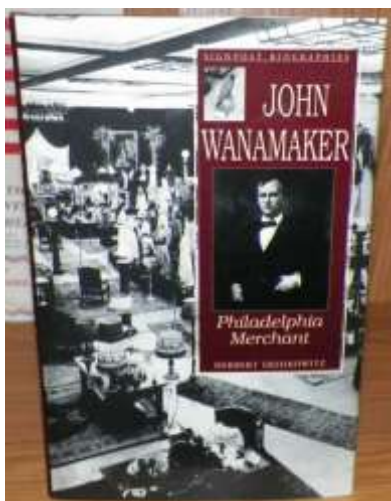
Monty Wanamaker is shown with some of his family research.

## Local Artist and Author Addresses WCGA

Monty Wanamaker was our guest speaker at the September WCGA meeting. His presentation was a detailed report of the Jacob Wanamaker and Franz Coppinger family of South Carolina from which he directly descends.

The name Wanamaker means basket/tub maker in German and but his great grandfather William Wanamaker was a farmer.

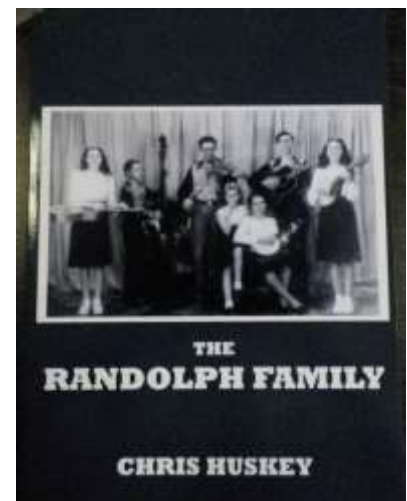
Monty also described a distant but well-known relative, John Wanamaker, who was famous for creating huge department stores in Philadelphia and New York at a time when no such stores existed. Among his philanthropic gifts, he built many Churches. He also served as Postmaster General under President Benjamin Harrison.



This wonderful book about John Wanamaker details his adventures into the retail world. He was owner of the largest department store in America in the early 1900s.



William "Bill" Wanamaker was great grandfather of Monty Wanamaker.



A pictorial history of the Norman Randolph family from Knoxville. He was the brother of Monty's maternal grandmother. All were great musicians and performed throughout the region, including McMinnville.



Bonita Mangrum displays a photo of her great great grandfather Samuel Mitchell Bracher (left) and a group photo of her grandparents Colonel Savage Bracher and Sallie Owen along with their 6 children on the right.

## Sharing our Family History

### *Bonita Mangrum Talks About her Family Ancestors*

Bonita Mangrum reviewed an interesting history of her g-g-grandfather Samuel Mitchell Bracher. He served in the 35th Regiment C.S.A. and was captured at Missionary Ridge.

Samuel spent the remainder of the Civil War at Rock Island prison in Illinois.

It took him six months after release to work his way home.

Bonita's ascending ancestral Bratcher lineage:

Great-great grandparents: Samuel Mitchell Bracher and Lucretia Newby

Great grandparents: Thomas "Nubb" Whaley Bratcher and Hannah Parris

Grandparents: Colonel Savage Bracher and Sallie Owen

Her parents: Thomas Owen Bratcher and Nina Mae Passons

Larry Boyd will give the November genealogy presentation.



### 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

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/wcga](http://www.tngenweb.org/wcga)

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## MINUTES IN BRIEF

From the September 21 Meeting

By Pat Berges



### Call to Order

In the absence of President Mingle, the regular meeting of the Warren County Genealogical Association was called to order by Vice President Marion Speaks at 2:05 p.m. on September 21, 2013, in the WCGA office at 201 Locust Street, McMinnville, TN with nineteen members and guests present, including: Barbara Bates, Pat Berges, Christine Bouldin, Wilma Davenport, Bernice Driver, Loretta S. Evans, Scarlett Griffith, Martha Holt, Allen Jaco, Sarah Kell, Carolyn Lance, Bonita Mangrum, Bettye Pack, Reba Prater, Doyle and Marion Speaks, Evelyn Wade, Monty Wanamaker and Hazel West.

### Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved with one correction after motion by Wilma Davenport, seconded by Christine Bouldin.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Allen Jaco presented a comprehensive review of the Association's finances, including income and expenditures for the previous month, leaving a balance in the treasury of \$3,532.51 as of August 31, 2013.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Membership** – Allen Jaco reported a total of 120 members as of August 31, 2013. It was noted that it is time for membership renewal announcements to go out for 2014, as dues are due January 1. This will be noted in the Bulletin as well as the Newsletter, and Secretary Berges will mail out reminders to members who do not have e-mail access.

**Circulation** – Chairman Wilma Davenport reported mailing Spring/Summer Bulletins to two new members.

**Programs** – Chairman Marion Speaks announced that Steve West, scheduled speaker for today's meeting, had to cancel at the last minute due to business commitments, but has promised to appear at another time. Monty Wanamaker will speak on the Wanamaker family research. There will be no WCGA meeting in October since the Regional Genealogy-History Conference will be on that date (October 19). Detailed information about the Conference has not yet come forth from the Middle Tennessee Genealogy Society, but will be distributed to members immediately upon receipt. The November speaker will be Mark Dudney on Historic Preservation, while Larry Boyd will give the genealogy presentation.

**Office** – Evelyn Wade informed the group that 1st Methodist Church has indicated an interest in purchasing all of our 1st Methodist keepsakes.

**Bulletin** – Editor Chris Keathley sent word that the Fall/Winter Bulletin is on target for distribution at the November meeting.

**Newsletter** – Editor Doyle Speaks again asked for e-mail addresses for anyone that members would like to have added to our Newsletter distribution list.

**Webpage** – Administrator Pat Berges reported that photos from the July and August meetings have been posted on our webpage.

**Refreshments** – Chairman Christine Bouldin indicated that today's refreshments are being furnished by herself and Bonita Mangrum. She will contact members later about refreshments for the November meeting.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Pioneer Families

Vice President Speaks reminded members that applications are still being accepted through the end of the year and members may receive certificates for more than one ancestor.

#### Birthing Tree Keepsake

President Mingle is in process of obtain written permission for us to feature the birthing tree as our next keepsake. Photographs have been taken and the descriptive paragraph has been written and approved by the Board of Directors. It was noted that we need to move quickly on this if we are to have the keepsakes in time for Christmas gifts.

### NEW BUSINESS

### Christmas Party

Members were reminded to turn in their reservation checks to the treasurer as soon as possible for the Christmas outing to Buttonwillow Church on Saturday, December 14. There are still a few seats left in the Senior Center van. Anyone wishing to ride with them can contact Cheryl Mingle at 473-6559.

### Volunteers Needed for Secretary and Webpage Administrator

Pat Berges indicated that due to health issues, she will not be able to serve as Secretary and Webpage Administrator next year. Volunteers to accept these two positions are urgently needed.

### Genealogy Presentation

Bonita Mangrum reviewed an interesting history of her g-g-grandfather Samuel Mitchell Bratcher, who served in the 35th Regiment C.S.A. and was captured at Missionary Ridge, spending the remainder of the Civil War at Rock Island prison in Illinois. It took him six months after release to work his way home.

### PROGRAM

Monty Wanamaker presented a detailed report of the Wanamaker and Coppinger family genealogy, including Jacob Wanamaker and William Wanamaker, along with many family photos. He also described a distant but well-known relative, John Wanamaker, who built many churches and was famous for having created huge department stores in Philadelphia and New York at a time when no such stores existed. He also served as Postmaster General under President Benjamin Harrison.

### Adjournment

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Berges, Secretary



### Our New Keepsake (Second in a series) First Methodist Church, McMinnville, TN

Available for purchase at the WCGA office, 201 Locust St., also at the Southern Museum & Galleries, 210 E. Main St. McMinnville. The price is \$18.

Great Christmas Gift



Hugging cousins Martha Holt and Monty Wanamaker.



Refreshments for this month's meeting were presented and provided by Bonita Mangrum and Christine Bouldin.

## Membership Dues...

Just a friendly reminder that it will soon be time to pay your WCGA membership dues. The annual membership fee for calendar year 2014 is due January 1, 2014.

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 WCGA, P.O. Box 411, McMinnville, TN 37111

**It's not too late  
to get your certificate!  
Applications will be accepted  
through December 31, 2013**

**Join the 34 recipients who just received  
Certificates for  
Warren County - McMinnville  
First Pioneer Families**

To qualify for a certificate, suitable for framing, the applicant must directly descend from an ancestor (male or female) who was in Warren County no later than the 1820 census (this includes the boundaries of the original formation of Warren County from White county).

Proof can be established by submitting copies of an official record, i.e. birth, marriage, death, probate or will, church, cemetery, funeral or obituary, land recodes, tax records, court, military records, census, newspaper, or Bible for each generation, including the applicant. Current Tennessee residency is not necessary.

There is a \$10 application processing fee + \$3.50 shipping for the certificates. All applications and verifying material become the property of the Warren County Genealogical Association.

Applications may be obtained on our web-site at [tngenweb.org/wcgatn](http://tngenweb.org/wcgatn) or Facebook page, WCGA office at 201 Locust St., or the Senior Center at 809 Morrison St. and should be submitted to Warren County Genealogical Association, c/o First Pioneer Families, P. O. Bo 411, McMinnville TN 37111.

## Welcome guests



Joining us for the September meeting were Sarah Eaton Kell and Loretta Evans.



**Welcome  
Fall**

## WCGA Will Attend

# Genealogy-History Conference in Nashville

The Fourth Annual Regional Genealogy-History Conference will be held on Saturday, October 19 at the Knowles Center at the Patricia Heart Building in Nashville and will be hosted by the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society, Inc.

The theme for this year's meeting is "Making Connections: Building our Society's Future". Several speakers from the Tennessee State Library Association will address the conference.

Cheryl Mingle and Pat Berges have been designated as the two official representatives from WCGA. However, we hope many others will want to go. There will be a \$5 charge for the lunch. Cheryl will be taking the Senior Center van. Donations for gas for the van will be \$10 each.

Review the program schedule, at the right on this page, for the complete agenda.

Please let Cheryl know no later than Friday, October 4, if you plan to attend. She can be reached at 931-473-6559 or [ctmingle@blomand.net](mailto:ctmingle@blomand.net).

**There will be no WCGA meeting in October, instead, members are encouraged to attend this conference.**

**MAKING CONNECTIONS:  
BUILDING YOUR  
SOCIETY'S FUTURE**

Fourth Annual Middle Tennessee Genealogical and Historical Societies Meeting  
Saturday, October 19, 2013

Schedule

8:30	Knowles Center open for society table set-up
9:30	Welcome Kathryn Hopkins, MTGS President
9:40	Sharing Your County's Connections Through TSLA Gordon Bell, Director of Public Services, TSLA
10:30	Break
10:45	Web Sites: Connecting Pictures, Stories and Society Information Jim Long, MTGS Web Master
11:45	Lunch & Exhibits
1:00	Publications: Connecting with Readers and Researchers Charles Sherrill, State Librarian and Archivist, TSLA
2:00	Break
2:15	Today's Tin Can & String - Using Social Media to Connect Gordon Bell, Director of Public Services, TSLA
3:15	Wrap-up and What's Next Kathryn Hopkins, MTGS President

Conference Location: Fiftyfourward (Patricia Hall Building)  
174 Rains Avenue, Nashville, TN

Sponsored by:

Take home a piece of  
Warren County history!

**WARREN COUNTY KEEPSAKES**

**THE COURTHOUSE**  
(First in a series)

**\$18 each**

Available at Southern Museum  
210 E. Main Street, McMinnville  
&  
Warren Co. Genealogical Association  
County Administration Building  
201 Locust Street  
(open Fridays 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.)

The Courthouse, first in a series of keepsakes, is still available for purchase. **Great idea for a Christmas present.**

## Welcome our newest member

Terri Cooper  
Chanute, KS

[lfc@midwest-connections.com](mailto:lfc@midwest-connections.com)

Researching the Higginbotham and Lavina Fletcher and her family.

## Christmas Party Set For December 14 Will be at Buttonwillow Dinner Theater

This year's annual Christmas Party and outing is set for Saturday, December 14 at the Buttonwillow Civil War Dinner Theatre located in Whitwell, TN.

The Civil War era dinner theater serves a wonderful meal prepared from

Confederate White House recipes, served antebellum style, and the theater presents the dramatic play "Granddaddy's Watch".

The cost for the 3 hour performance is \$37 (including meal and tip) and reservation checks should be turned in to Allen Jaco as soon as possible.

There are still a few seats left in the Senior Center van. Anyone wishing to ride with them can contact Cheryl Mingle at 473-6559.



Doyle Speaks  
WCGA Newsletter Editor  
[Speaksdm@charter.net](mailto:Speaksdm@charter.net)  
931-507-5585

# October 12, 1870: General Robert E. Lee Dies

"The education of a man is never completed until he dies" is a statement attributed to Robert E. Lee, whose education was completed in 1870 as death reached him only five years after surviving the U.S. Civil War as the head of the Army of the Confederate States of America (CSA).

General Lee died in Lexington, Virginia, on October 12, 1870, at the age of 63.

Lee was born on January 19, 1807, at his family's Stratford Hall plantation in Westmoreland County, Virginia. After attending West Point, he forged a promising military career and distinguished himself in the Mexican American War. Later, he would command the CSA Army and, in the last years of his life, serve as president of Washington College, now Washington and Lee University.

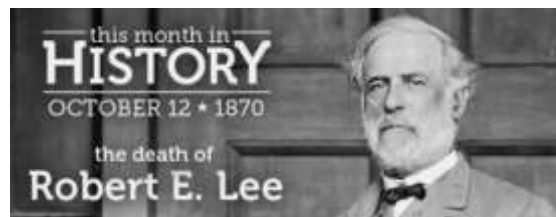


There are several photos on Fold3.com, one showing Lee in profile, another with son George Washington Custis Lee, and his famous portrait as a Confederate general. Many more documents relating to Lee and his family can be found in Fold3's Civil War Collection.

As a second-year student at West Point in 1827, Cadet Robert E. Lee appears on a list of assistant professors at the academy in Letters Received by the Adjutant General, 1822-1860. Lee's name and signature appear often within that title and in the later set of Letters Received by the Adjutant General, 1861-1870. In this 1855 document, Lee accepts an appointment of Lieutenant Colonel and swears allegiance to the United States of America. Later, he's recommended for promotion to brigadier general by J.M. Porter in a letter to President Buchanan. It was an appointment that didn't happen despite Porter's effusive endorsement.

Prior to the Civil War, Lee headed a board of officers tasked with examining effective signal communications.

When Virginia voted to secede from the



Union on April 17, 1861, Lee felt obligated to fight for his home state and signed a resignation letter three days later. In his new position, he wrote a letter to General McClellan regarding an exchange of prisoners on July 24, 1862,

Confederate Amnesty Papers contain applications of former Confederates for presidential pardons and, while there are many post-war oaths of allegiance to the USA by former CSA officers like General George E. Pickett and Lee's nephew Fitzhugh Lee, General Lee's request and pardon are not among them. Learn the story behind it in the Spring 2005 issue of NARA's Prologue magazine.

After his death, Robert E. Lee's legacy strengthened in both the South and the North. He is remembered as a brilliant military leader, a devoted family man, and a great American.



Mourners at his funeral are pictured standing on the steps of Arlington House, residence of the Lee and Custis families for decades, and now known as The Robert E. Lee Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery.

*Story and photos for this page on Robert E. Lee were taken from the internet site called Fold3.com. A basic membership is free but advanced memberships begin at around \$59.*

*As a Free Basic Member you have access to some great tools and content on Fold3. We have over 228,991,000 records and we continue to add millions of new records every month.*