

WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION



Newsletter



February-March 2014

201 Locust Street

McMinnville, Tennessee

Sandlin was Guest Speaker at the February WCGA meeting

Local author James E. Sandlin was the guest speaker for the February 15 meeting of the WCGA.

Mr. Sandlin presented a program detailing his recently published book "Clod Buster – U. S. Marine – Cumberland Presbyterian – Manufacturing Engineer".

The book was co-authored with his wife JoAnn Webb Sandlin and it is about their life from early age to present and is filled with pictures and stories of family, church and friends.

Born on April 6, 1937, he was the son of Johnny Clarence Sandlin and Nancy Elizabeth Taylor Sandlin. He grew up as a farm boy in the Blue Springs area in DeKalb Co., TN., thus the "Clod Buster" part of the book name. He attended Blue Springs Grammar School and in 1955 was a graduate of Pure Fountain High School, later known as DeKalb County High School.

Mr. Sandlin became a member of the Banks Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Smithville in 1950 and has remained a very active member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church ever since. Hence the "Cumberland Presbyterian" part of the book title.

After attending one semester at the University of Tennessee, Mr. Sandlin volunteered to the draft board and spent the next four years with the United States Marine Corp.

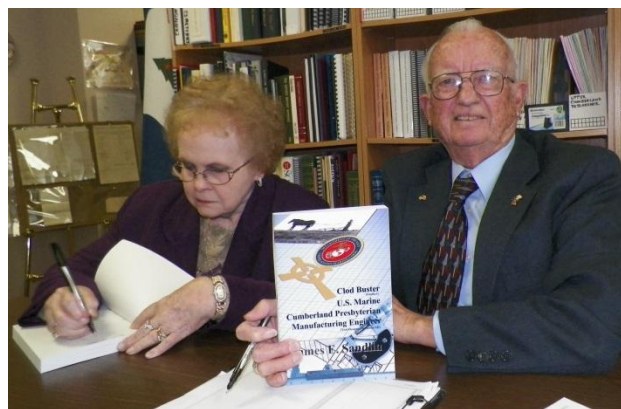
Shortly after being released from the Marine Corp. in 1959, James E. married his sweetheart JoAnn Webb. In 1961 their first daughter Teresa Lynn Sandlin was born. That same year he accepted a job with Century Electric in McMinnville and moved to Chancery Street. In 1964, their second daughter Melanie Dawn Sandlin was born. James E. and JoAnn are the proud grandparents of 4 grandsons.

On May 16, 1992, at the age of 55, Mr. Sandlin graduated from Motlow State Community College where he received an impressive degree in general technology.

In November 2003 Century Electric closed their plant in McMinnville and after 42 years of employment with them, he began his retirement.

He and wife JoAnn celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in September 2009.

The 345 page book may be purchased by contacting James E. Sandlin by phone or through their publisher St. Clair Publications in McMinnville.



JoAnn Webb Sandlin signs one of the books co-authored with her husband James E. Sandlin. He is proudly displaying a copy of their book *Clod Buster – U. S. Marine – Cumberland Presbyterian – Manufacturing Engineer*.

The Birthing Tree Keepsake is Here



The Courthouse, McMinnville, TN
(First in a series)

First Methodist Church, McMinnville, TN
(Second in a series)

The Birthing Tree, McMinnville, TN
(Third in a series)

All three available for \$18 each at
Southern Museum

201 E. Main Street, McMinnville
Open Wed., Fri., Sat. 10:00 a.m.-4 p.m. and
Warren Co. Genealogical Association
County Administrative Building 201 Locust St.
Open Fridays 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Membership Dues...

Your WCGA membership dues for calendar year 2014 were due January 1, 2014.

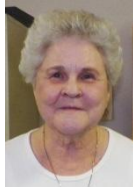
Annual dues are \$20 per calendar year for members within the 50 states. Foreign membership is \$28 per year.

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.

MINUTES IN BRIEF

From the February 15, 2014 Meeting

By Scarlett Griffith



The regular meeting of the WCGA Board of Directors was called to order by Vice President Marion Speaks at 2 p.m. in the WCGA office, 201 Locust Street, McMinnville, TN with the following members in attendance: Scarlett Griffith, Martha Holt, Allen Jaco, Chris Keathley, Bonita Mangrum, Cheryl Watson Mingle, Evelyn Wade, Wilma Davenport, Carolyn Lance, Marion Speaks, Doyle Speaks, Wanda Gant, Bonita Mangrum, Shirley Douglas, Mary Jarrell, Bettye Pack, David Pennington, Norman Elrod, Larry Boyd.

Minutes

The minutes of the November members meeting were read and approved upon motion by Bonita Mangrum, seconded by Marion Speaks.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Allen Jaco presented his usual precise documentation of the Association's income and expenditures for the December and year to date, indicating a balance in the treasury of \$3,666.55 as of December 31, 2013. WCGA dues are due as of January 1, 2014. \$20.00 per member.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership- Chairman Jaco reported that memberships total 124, including 5 new members.

Circulation - No Report

Programs – Chairperson Speaks reported the February speaker will be author James E. Sandlin. He will be discussing his new book, "Clod Buster, U.S. Marine, Cumberland Presbyterian, Manufacturing Engineer".

Family Genealogy -- The Elrods, by Scarlett Griffith

Publicity – Chairperson Mingle reported announcements will be made on Facebook and radio, newsletter and The Warren County Chamber of Commerce.

Research – Chairperson Mangrum reported she had received a request from Steve Hill for information on Reeds Ferry which operated in the 1800's and queries from McMinnville, Oregon on the Lowry and Pope Families.

Office – Nothing new to report.

Bulletin -- Chris Keathley reported the Spring-Summer bulletin will be ready for distribution in May

Newsletter – Doyle Speaks editor of the newsletter, request interesting stories pertaining to the members be submitted for inclusion in the newsletter

Webpage – Chairman needed. Scarlett Griffith will mention this to member Bryan Kell, to see if he would take this position.

OLD BUSINESS

501c3

Allen Jaco reported we do not have tax exemption status as yet. He has had to go back 5 years in the records, with 2012 missing. This is one of the years required. He is working on this.

Birthing Tree Keepsake

The latest image for the birthing tree keepsake was accepted by the members on motion from Marion Speaks, seconded by Pat Burgess.

1st Methodist Church Keepsake

These will continue to be sold, and advertised along with the birthing tree keepsake.

NEW BUSINESS

Allen Jaco volunteered to be checking into the purchase of a fireproof safe. Other means of storage for copies of information important to the association was discussed, one being the possibility of using a bank vault.

Program

Presentation of additional Pioneer Families certificates by Marion Speaks:

Glenda Cantrell was presented 5 certificates for the following families John Miller and Katherine Carson; William Hayes and Temperance



Turn Your Radio On...

Scarlett Griffith, Marion Rhea Speaks and Cheryl Watson Mingle are all smiles while appearing on the local radio station 96.0 AM here in McMinnville. They were guest of the radio show called "Behind the Mike" with host Kelly Marlow. This the first of a series of visits by WCGA who will be guests on a monthly basis appearing on Thursdays before each monthly WCGA meeting. You can tune in for the next appearance at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 13. If you are not able to listen at that time, the show will be re-broadcast at 5:00 p.m. 96.0 AM is also available on the web and that will allow you to tune in anywhere you are able to get online.

Cheryl Mingle -- William Thomas and Martha Walker Bond

Larry C. Forrest -- James Gilmore Forrest

Brenda Sue Pack Blisk -- William Neal and Hannah Jones

Gary Bruce Pack -- William Neal and Hannah Jones

Wilma Davenport -- Elijah Dodson and Sallie McGregor; Jacob Martin and Catherine Myers

Angela Douglas Brock -- Leroy Hammons and Mary Hampton; James David Hennessee and Jane McGee; and John McGee and Esther Clendenon

Allison Victoria Brock -- Leroy Hammons and Mary Hampton; James David Hennessee and Jane McGee; and John McGee and Esther Clendenon

Jonathan Hunter Brock -- Leroy Hammons and Mary Hampton; James David Hennessee and Jane McGee; and John McGee and Esther Clendenon

JANUARY 2014 "SHOW and TELL"

Allen Jaco brought a framed very old picture of ancestors (not direct) of Jeremiah Jaco and Amada Evans. A very interesting presentation about their families followed. Also shown was a beautiful quilt made by Amanda Evans, in 1868, and a Bible dated 1859, that began with the New Testament instead of the Old Testament.

Cheryl Mingle shared two family land grants with the group. "Attic documents" was an 1824 grant to Jacob Rinck and January 1819 grant to James Tate.

Larry Boyd brought an old book written by Hamlin T. Penney from Irwin, TN. The author was a very thoughtful and caring man. He visited the hospitals regularly with ceramic blue birds he made. He took Theology courses and taught neighborhood Bible study. Larry did a memorial book for him on his death. He then donated Mr. Penney's book to the WCGA

Mary Jarrell brought a letter from Clay Faulkner (Faulkner Woolen Mill) dated March 1878. Mr. Faulkner was the great-great grandfather of Mr. Lemuel Wright.

Query

Who were the parents of Henderson Guirard Cooper? He was married to Carrie Jane Anderson. Her parents were Isaac Anderson and Nancy Hinegar.



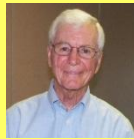
2014 OFFICERS

President: Cheryl W. Mingle
Vice Pres: Marion Speaks
Secretary: Scarlett Griffith
Treasurer: Allen Jaco
Past Pres: Ladye Jane Hunter

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.....



Webpage Administrator:

Bryan Kell.....



WCGA is now on Facebook!

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

We're also on the web

www.tngenweb.org/wcgatn

Sharing our Family History

Scarlett Griffith presents Elrod Family Genealogy

Scarlett Griffith gave a talk about her husband's Elrod family who came to America in 1709 and settled in the Swedish Colony of New Sweden, located near Wilmington, Delaware. They attended the historic Old Swedes Church.

Written by Scarlett Griffith,
Wife of Morris D. Griffith Sr.
Six generations of Elrod grandfathers:

Johan Deter Elrodt

Born about 1675 in Germany. He had courage to cross the Atlantic with his wife and at least one child in 1709, for a new country. He left history recorded at "Old Swedes Church", New Castle, Delaware. His wife, Maria Lerchenziler Elrodt, mother of Jeremiah I, was buried there in about 1721.

Jeremiah I Elrodt

Born about 1711 in Delaware. There is much discussion on the Jeremiah Elrods. There are more than one in this time frame, but it is fairly certain that our ancestor is the one that married (second wife)

Catherine Douthit. The Douthit family along with the Elrod families were involved in establishing a Moravian community. At the time of his death, May 11, 1769, he had two boys under 14 years old. One of those was Jeremiah II. The other was Adam. We find a nephew named for him, Adam (Boss) Elrod born in Friedland County, then named Rowan County, now Forsyth Co. North

Carolina. This is Morris's great-great grandfather.

Jeremiah II Elrodt

Born 1755 in North Carolina. Apparently he had 4 wives (not at one time)! First wife, Anna Catherine Barbara Volgler Elrodt was Adams mother. He had a total of 17 children. History indicates there were Elrods on the British side as well as on the colonies for America. One North Carolina history lists him as a Tory. He lived to come South to Tennessee probably with some of his children. This is where son Adam settled. Jeremiah II was in the census records of Rutherford County and is buried there, dying at age 86. He had a son named Smith Montgomery Elrod and we will find that middle name used again by a great grandson.

Adam (Boss) Elrod

Born in North Carolina in 1795, Adam also had 4 wives. Third wife Jane Lowing, 19 years his junior, was Morris's great-great grandmother. I found in a Cannon County history book that Adam gave money toward the land where part of the town of Woodbury was built. Adam was the father of 15. Samuel David Elrod was he and Jane's second son. Adam died when Sam was a small boy.

Samuel David Elrod

Born Sept. 30, 1855 in Cannon County. He met Sarah Francis Elkins who had also been raised there. They married in 1877. Sam had brothers that moved to Texas to seek work. They did not like it there. Sarah had inherited money from her father, Dillard Elkins, so they moved back to Tennessee and bought farm land in the 12th District of Warren County. They farmed, and Sam ran a peddlers wagon in Cannon and Rutherford Counties. I would say Sam was a colorful gentleman. He went out to see what the commotion was one night and saw men stealing gas from the counties work equipment where they were building a road. This was around 1930. His white long handles let them see him in the dark, and

they shot him, but not before he shot one on them! He recovered. Grandpa was a democrat and started out to vote with one of his son-in-laws in the wagon with him. When he learned the son-in-law was a Republican, he made him walk! He and Sarah were the parents of 11 children. John Montgomery Elrod was their second child. His middle name came from a great-great uncle. Samuel died on October 6, 1937 at the age of 82.

John Montgomery Elrod

Born, May 16, 1881 in Warren County, he married Elizabeth Love Burkett. They had 9 children. He was nicknamed "Gum" probably from childhood, and that is what everyone called him. That's even what it says on his tombstone. His children that remembered him said he was a fine and just man. He died at the early age of 44. He was the first person to be buried at the Oak Grove cemetery.



Scarlett Griffith

Daughter Dorothy Elrod Foster, who wrote "The Trail of the Elrods", was the baby and only 18 months old when her father died. Miss Lizzie, as everyone called her, was left with 9 children to raise. The two oldest daughters were able to come to McMinnville and work at a mill to help with finances. All of these children grew up to be Christian men and women. The grandchildren, there were 29, loved their grandmother a great deal. She was their "Mama Rod".

The second child, Nora Lee Elrod Griffith, married John Hobert Griffith, and they were the parents of my husband Morris Griffith.



Local Elrod descendants are shown holding the beautiful framed photo of their grandparents John Montgomery Elrod and Elizabeth Love Burkett . Pictured L-R are Norman Elrod, whose father was Albert Lloyd Elrod, Morris Griffith and his sister Julia Griffith Carter. Morris and Julia were children of Nora Lee Elrod who was married to John Hobert Griffith.

The next meeting of the
Warren County Genealogical Association
Will be

Saturday, March 15, 2:00 p.m.

Our office is in the rear of the
Warren County Administration Building
201 Locust Street, McMinnville, TN
Guest speaker will be Steve West

WCGA Members Share Valentine Stories in the Southern Standard

(From the February 14, 2014 edition of the Southern Standard newspaper)

Congratulations to Scarlett and Morris Griffith, whose love story took top honors among those submitted in the **Southern Standard's** inaugural Love Stories competition. A secret panel of judges deemed the Griffiths' story of love amid illness the favorite among this year's submissions. Also featured are a number of the other favorite love stories the judges found touching and worthy to share with our readers.

Cantrell Love Story

My most memorable Valentine's Day was February 14, 2004. On that day, I married my best friend, Eddie Royce Cantrell. Eddie always loves to tell people that we met at the Warren County jail!

At that time, I was working for the Warren County Sheriff's Department and Eddie had retired as a bondsman. After he popped the question, and I said yes, we decided to drive to Pigeon Forge on Valentine's Day to be married. Naïve as we were, we thought we could just drop in at one of the wedding chapels. However, after finding all the wedding chapels booked solid, we were told if we didn't want anything elaborate, the minister could marry us during the interlude between weddings. We happily agreed and were taken into a small room with white wicker furnishings. The minister closed the door, faced us and began the ceremony. At this moment, I realized we were in a ladies dressing room. On the door behind the minister was a full-length shoe rack filled with various sizes of ladies white heels. It was hard to concentrate on the ceremony and to keep from laughing at the rack of white shoes as a wedding background!

This recollection of our wedding has been a source of laughter these past 10 years. It has been a good, fun-filled 10 years, which began at our wedding in the dressing room in Pigeon Forge. And he still calls me Sugar Babe!

Glenda S. Cantrell

Griffith Love Story

It was February 7, 1979, on a Wednesday. My husband became very ill and was taken to St. Thomas Hospital. By Saturday due to tremendous blood loss, he had been given so many blood transfusions I lost count. His heart stopped a total of three times, each time they had to shock it back. He went into emergency surgery about 8 that night and the episodes stopped; thank heaven!

He was in critical care for days. By the 14th day, Valentine's Day 1979, he was finally in a room. He had not even been able to eat yet, and had lost 27 pounds. But his worry was, in his words, "I can't get out to get you your roses this Valentine's Day!"

He was so upset by that. He said, "This is the first year I can't get you your Valentine!"

The fact that we almost lost him makes the February 7th date remembered every year, and especially Valentine's Day. He never forgot before or since. Now, for special occasions he always gets two red roses for



our two children living and one white for the son we lost. Happy Valentine's Day, Morris. I'm so thankful to have you with us on our 54th Valentine's Day. That is definitely my most remembered!

Scarlett

Hurry Spring...



Doyle Speaks, WCGA Newsletter Editor
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