

# WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION



## Newsletter



May-June 2014

201 Locust Street

McMinnville, Tennessee

## Melba Mooneyham Was April WCGA Guest Speaker

Story provided by Pat Berges and photos by Chris Keathley

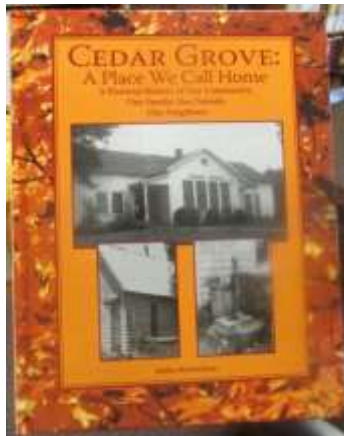
Melba Mooneyham was the guest speaker at our May 17 Warren County Genealogical Association meeting.

The VanBuren county author gave a talk on her newly published book entitled Cedar Grove, A Place We Call Home, and described her early interest in taking photographs.

After collecting quite a number of pictures of the area, she decided to publish a photo history of Cedar Grove.

She collected photographs from nearly everyone in the community, and working together with friends and neighbors, she compiled this very large book, focusing particularly on schools, Long Cemetery, Mt. Elam Church, and Laurel Creek.

The book contains many family names and photos and sells for \$75 plus tax.



Melba Mooneyham is shown addressing the WCGA group on April 17.

### Another superb issue of the Bulletin



Chris Keathley, Editor of the WCGA Bulletin, is shown holding the latest edition. Copies were available to be picked up by those who attended the May 17 meeting, and has been mailed to the remaining members.

### Bob Sherwood has a new book

Bob Sherwood announced that his 423-page follow-up volume entitled Viola Valley & Beyond – Past to Present 2014 has recently been published and is now available. This book contains many photos and information about Viola Valley residents after the time of the earlier book.

For more information contact Bob at 931-635-2862 or email to [bsherwood@blomand.net](mailto:bsherwood@blomand.net)



#### 2013 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, visit us at:**

[www.tngenweb.org/wcgatn](http://www.tngenweb.org/wcgatn)

## Promoting the Warren County Genealogical Association



Three members of the WCGA were recently interviewed by Bill Zechman from WCPI Public Radio 91.3 the voice of the Highland Rim. The program aired on the FOCUS program in mid May. Pictured are Cheryl Watson Mingle, Marion Speaks, Bill Zechman and Allen Jaco.



Kelly Marlow, host of the "Behind The Mike" radio show, welcomed Marion Rhea Speaks, Allen Jaco and Melba Mooneyham on May 15. Members of our organization appear on the show each month on Thursday before our meeting on Saturday. This is a great opportunity to promote our organization. Tune in to radio station 96.0 AM in McMinnville on Thursday June 19 when the WCGA will be on the show again.

### Join us at the next meeting of the **Warren County Genealogical Association** **Saturday, June 21, 2:00 p.m.**

Our office is in the rear of the  
Warren County Administration Building  
201 Locust Street, McMinnville, TN

Cheryl Watson Mingle will present the Genealogy Report on her Watson family line.

Guest speaker will be Norman Elrod who will give a talk on the post offices of Warren County.

## Genealogy Presentation

### **Allen Jaco Talks About His Jaco Family Ancestors**

Allen Jaco gave a most interesting history of his Warren County Jaco family, beginning with how he got started researching this unusual name at the New York City Library, where he copied names and addresses from numerous telephone books and wrote to all those Jacos asking if they might somehow be related.

His earliest find was a "freeman" named Jaco in Woburn, MA in the mid-1600s.

For three years in a row in the 1980s, he visited the LDS library in Salt Lake City and turned up two male Jacos in the mid-1700s in Prince George's Co. MD. One of these Jacos was named William and the other named John.

After much research, he traced his family ancestry back to Brooks Jaco who settled in Warren Co. TN in 1813 and from there back to the John Jaco in MD. He noted that the names William and John have filtered down through the family for generations.



**Allen Jaco**

*Chris Keathley photo*

### **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.**

Would you like to

“share your family history”

at one of our WCGA meetings?

I'm sure you have a story or two to share...

Get with Marion Speaks who is in charge of our Programs and schedule a presentation.

A few spots are open.

**Do you have Civil War Ancestors?**

**Submit your Civil War Veteran for entry in upcoming issues of the WCGA Bulletin.”**

**You may obtain an entry form on our web site at [www.tngenweb.org/wcgatn](http://www.tngenweb.org/wcgatn)**

**See you at the next WCGA meeting June 21, 2014  
Doyle Speaks, WCGA Newsletter Editor  
Speaksdm@charter.net or 931-507-5585**

## MINUTES IN BRIEF

From the May 17, 2014 Meeting

### Call to Order

In the absence of President Mingle (who had another commitment), Vice President Marion Speaks (out of town), and Secretary Scarlett Griffith (attending a family funeral), the regular meeting of the Warren County Genealogical Association was called to order by Treasurer Allen Jaco, with Pat Berges substituting as secretary. The following 15 members and guests were present: Barbara Bates, Pat Berges, Wilma Davenport, Betty Deaton, Doug Deaton, Norman Elrod, Martha Holt, Allen Jaco, Chris Keathley, Carolyn Lance, Bonita Mangrum, Melba Mooneyham, Betty Pack, Bob Sherwood and Evelyn Wade.

### Minutes

As there were no minutes for 2014 in the minute book, Pat was unable to read the minutes of the previous meeting.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Allen Jaco reported income of \$304.00 for the month of April, no expenditures, and a remaining balance in the Association treasury of \$5,070.78 as of April 30.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Membership** – The month of April saw four renewals and one new individual added to the Newsletter Only list, for a total membership of 105.

**Circulation** – Chmn. Wilma Davenport announced that the Spring/Summer Bulletins are being distributed to those in attendance today, with the remainder going out in the mail Monday or Tuesday.

**Programs, Publicity, Research, Newsletter and Webpage** – No reports.

**Office** – Co-Chair Evelyn Wade reported that new shelf racks have been received for storing past Bulletins in an upright position to save space. In addition, twenty-four more birthing tree keepsakes are now in stock.

**Bulletin** – Editor Chris Keathley was congratulated on the outstanding current issue of the Bulletin which, it was noted, came out ahead of the deadline. He will begin working on the Fall/Winter issue and indicated that he has plenty of material for that one, but will be looking for additional material in the future and welcomes articles and other information from members.

### OLD BUSINESS

**501(c)3 Tax-exempt Application** -- Treasurer Jaco advised that this is still a work in progress.

**Fireproof Safe** -- Allen Jaco reported that he is currently investigating fireproof file cabinets and our advertisement for a safe is still running on the radio.

**Keepsake Sales** -- Evelyn Wade informed the group that recently the birthing tree keepsakes have sold more than the other two. Allen Jaco reminded members that profits from the sale of this keepsake are to be split 50/50 with the group in charge of maintaining the birthing tree.

**Genealogy Workshop** -- Allen reported that the workshop for getting started in genealogy, held at the Senior Center, has been a success and may be repeated at some time in the future.

**Radio Program** -- Marion Speaks, Melba Mooneyham and Allen Jaco appeared on the "Talk Back" radio program last Thursday and it went very well. Marion Speaks, Cheryl Mingle and Norman Elrod will be participating in the June "Talk Back" program on Thursday before our meeting on Saturday, June 21. In addition, Marion, Cheryl and Allen were interviewed by a representative from WCPI local radio station for a program about WCGA to be aired toward the end of May.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Condolences** -- The Association's sincere condolences were expressed with regard to the passing of Evelyn Wade's mother-in-law Julia Wade and the sudden death of Ladye Jane Hunter's younger daughter, Karen.

**Field Trip Friday, June 27** -- Everyone was reminded about the field trip scheduled for June 27 to Beersheba (visiting the Argo House) and Tracy City (visiting William Ray Turner's museum and the Grundy County Heritage Center), with lunch at the Dutch Maid Bakery. The van will be leaving the Senior Center at 8:00 a.m. This trip is in addition to

our regularly scheduled meeting, which will be held at 2:00 p.m. on June 21 in the WCGA office.

**New Publication** -- Bob Sherwood announced that his 423-page follow-up volume entitled Viola Valley & Beyond – Past to Present 2014 has recently been published and is now available. This book contains many photos and information about Viola Valley residents after the time of the earlier book.

**Coffee County Historical Society Books** -- Pat Berges reported two new publications from CCHS: (1) Volume 3 of the 6-volume Civil War Soldiers of Coffee County TN is now available. This book has about 400 pages and sells for \$25, and (2) Letters to Mary, the Civil War Diary of Dr. John Kennerly Farris, by Shirley Farris Jones, will be out next week. This book contains the many letters Dr. Farris wrote to his wife while serving in the Confederacy, along with family photos. It is 180 pages and is priced at \$20.

**Minutes** -- At about this time, Allen Jaco discovered that Secretary Scarlett Griffith had given him the minutes of the previous meeting. These were read by Pat Berges and approved upon motion by Wilma Davenport, seconded by Bonita Mangrum.

**Genealogy Presentation** -- Allen Jaco gave a most interesting history of his Warren County Jaco family, beginning with how he got started researching this unusual name at the New York City Library, where he copied names and addresses from numerous telephone books and wrote to all those Jacos asking if they might be somehow related. His earliest find was a "freeman" named Jaco in Woburn, MA in the mid-1600s. For three years in a row in the 1980s, he visited the LDS library in Salt Lake City and turned up two male Jacos in the mid-1700s in Prince George's Co. MD, one named William and one named John. After much research, he traced his family ancestry back to Brooks Jaco who settled in Warren Co. TN in 1813 and from there back to the John Jaco in MD. He noted that the names William and John have filtered down through the family for generations.

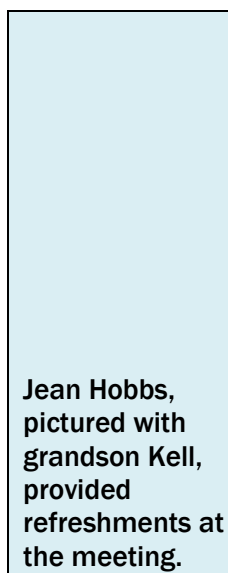
**PROGRAM** -- Melba Mooneyham brought with her to the meeting her newly published book entitled Cedar Grove, A Place We Call Home, and described her early interest in taking photographs. After she had collected quite a number of pictures of the area, she decided to publish a photo history of Cedar Grove. She collected photographs from nearly everyone in the community, and working together with friends and neighbors, she compiled this very large book, focusing particularly on schools, Long Cemetery, Mt. Elam Church, and Laurel Creek. The book contains many family names and photos and sells for \$75 plus tax.

**Adjournment** -- There being no further business for discussion, Pat Berges offered a motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. to refreshments provided by Jean Hobbs.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Berges

for Scarlett Griffith, Secretary



Jean Hobbs, pictured with grandson Kell, provided refreshments at the meeting.

**Who Do You Think You Are**

# Trying To Connect To Warren County?

**63 people have proven it!**

They received Certificates for

## Warren County – McMinnville First Pioneer Families

**There's still time for you** to make your connection by submitting copies of an official record linking you to Warren County before 1820. Those records can be birth, marriage, death, probate or will, church, cemetery, funeral or obituary, land records, tax records, court, military records, census, newspaper, or Bible for each generation, including the applicant.

*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).*



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.

**Current Tennessee residency is not necessary.**

Applications may be obtained on line at

[www.tngenweb.org/wcgatn](http://www.tngenweb.org/wcgatn)

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

or may be picked up at

WCGA office at 201 Locust St.

Also available at the Senior Center at 809 Morrison St.

They should be submitted to

Warren County Genealogical Association,  
c/o First Pioneer Families,  
P. O. Bo 411,  
McMinnville TN 37111.