

WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION



Newsletter



June-July 2014

201 Locust Street

McMinnville, Tennessee

Norman Elrod Gives Talk About Warren County Post Offices

Norman Elrod was guest speaker for the June 21 meeting of the Warren County Genealogical Association. He presented a program on the postal history of Warren County.

His interest in the postal service began with an extensive stamp collection, advanced to first-day covers eventually sparking his interest in postal history.



Written communication (mail delivery) followed the movement of settlers in the region and was brought about in part by:

1. The creation of roads such as Hill's Trace which followed an Indian trail across the Cumberland Mountains from Hawkins County to the Collins river valley;
2. Simpson's Turnpike from Crab Orchard through McMinnville.
3. The Old Chickamauga Indian Path which became the Kentucky Road extending from Monticello, Kentucky through Warren County ending near Huntsville, Alabama.

These pioneer roads, plus improved navigation on the Caney Fork River allowed river boat transportation from Carthage to within a couple of miles of Rock Island that created more towns along the river.

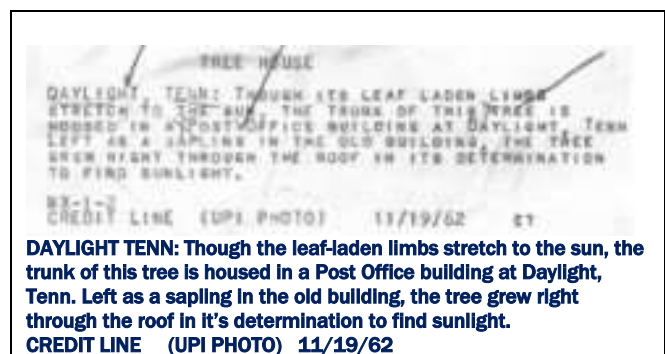
The first United States Post Office came to Warren County on 11 May 1811 and was located in McMinnville.

Joseph Colwell, the first Warren County Court Clerk, was appointed as the first McMinnville Postmaster and served until December 31, 1817. All postmasters were appointed by the Postmaster General until 1836. Afterwards, they were appointed by the President, subject to confirmation by the Senate.

Since the establishment of Warren County in 1807, seventy eight post offices were located in the county. Only 6 presently exist: Campaign, McMinnville, Morrison, Rock Island, Smartt and Viola.



This photo was recently purchased by Norman Elrod and submitted for publication to the Newsletter. The following information is included on the back of the photo.



DAYLIGHT TENN: Though the leaf-laden limbs stretch to the sun, the trunk of this tree is housed in a Post Office building at Daylight, Tenn. Left as a sapling in the old building, the tree grew right through the roof in it's determination to find sunlight.
CREDIT LINE (UPI PHOTO) 11/19/62



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



Bettye Pack, left, is shown awarding the latest Warren County – McMinnville First Pioneer Families Certificates to Glenda Cantrell. A total of 63 Certificates have been awarded to people who have proven they were linked to Warren County prior to 1820. There's still time for you to get your certificate. See page 8 of this Newsletter for instructions.

Promoting Our WCGA



Norman Elrod and Cheryl Watson Mingle were recent guest of Kelly Marlow, host of the "Behind The Mike" radio show. Norman talked about the history of the Warren County post offices and Cheryl talked about her Watson ancestors. Both presented programs at the June 21 WCGA meeting. 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 July 17 when the WCGA will be on the show again.

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

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.

Genealogy Presentation

Cheryl Watson Mingle Presents Her Watson Family Ancestors

Story by Pat Berges

Cheryl Watson Mingle presented information and photographs about the Watson family of Warren County.

Her genealogy journey started with an old newspaper story about a John Watson who was hanged for shooting his partner over brandy.

She decided to research the family to see if he might be a relative. She was pleased to find out he came from Grundy County and was not related to her family.

Her Watsons trace down from Michael Watson through Samuel David Watson and wife Phoebe Pedigo, to George Washington Watson and wife Martha Ferrell, to Ezekiel Watson and Margaret Robinson to John Franklin Watson and wife Julia Ann Burkett and finally to Frank Lee Watson who married Eula Bond and raised a family of 17 children.

Her father, Morris Vinson, is the son of Frank Lee & Eula Elizabeth Bond Watson. Morris married Eunice Angele Stoner; of this union were born four children to include Cheryl Watson Mingle.



What a collection! Cheryl Watson Mingle is all smiles as she shows off her collage of photos from her Watson ancestors.



Cheryl Watson Mingle is proud of her Family Tree depicting photos of the many generations.

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.

The next meeting of the

**Warren County Genealogical Association
Is Show and Tell**

Join us on

Saturday, July 19, 2:00 p.m.

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

MINUTES IN BRIEF

From the June 21, 2014 Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. in the WCGA office by the President with the following 14 members in attendance: Barbara and Robert Bates, Pat Berges, Glenda Cantrell, Wilma Davenport, Bernice Driver, Norman Elrod, Allen Jaco, Carolyn Lance, Bonita Mangrum, Cheryl, Mingle, Bettye Pack, James Sandlin, and Bob Sherwood.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Pat Berges (substituting for Scarlett Griffith, Secretary) and approved upon motion by Wilma Davenport, seconded by Allen Jaco.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Allen Jaco gave the following financial report for the month ending May 31:

Income \$ 347.20

Expenditures \$ 1,113.17

Balance \$4,304.81

OLD BUSINESS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership

Allen Jaco reported 10 recent renewals making 83 current members and 2 paid through 2015, with 3 complimentary, 3 exchange, 3 honorary life, giving us a grand total of 113, and 18 individuals receiving the Newsletter only. He noted that 16 of last year's members have not renewed this year so far, even though reminders were mailed. It was suggested we might try calling those members to tell them we miss them and hope they'll renew. Allen also mentioned a problem with returned mail due to members moving without giving a forwarding address.

Circulation

Chairman Wilma Davenport reported having mailed the Spring/Summer Bulletins in May.

Programs

Everyone was reminded that the July program will be "Show and Tell." August will feature a genealogy workshop presented by Pat Berges.

Radio Program

This month's radio program featured Norman Elrod discussing Warren County postal history. The August program will feature Glenda Cantrell. President Mingle asked for more volunteers for future programs.

Research

Chairman Bonita Mangrum has done some recent research on the Pigg family. She also mentioned that we have only one Plainview book left. Wilma Davenport offered to print some more with help from Allen Jaco. We are also almost out of the 1955 Mt. Zion Church book. Bob Sherwood advised that the church board is planning to print more of these in the near future.

Publicity

President Mingle reported that she continues with news releases on Facebook, radio, and all local news media.

Newsletter

Allen Jaco read a note from Carolyn Caddell of Pompano Beach, FL, in appreciation of our very interesting Newsletter.



Office

New upright storage boxes have been added to the shelves for our previous Bulletins.

Bulletin

Editor Chris Keathley was unable to attend due to work, but sent a message that the Fall/Winter Bulletins would be ready for the November meeting, and any and all contributions to the Bulletin are appreciated.

501(c)3

Allen Jaco is finishing up the WCGA application for tax-free status.

Fireproof Safe

Allen reported he is investigating several possible sources for an appropriate fireproof safe for the Association. After considerable discussion, a motion was offered by Norman Elrod that we approve an expenditure of \$200 (with leeway up to \$250) for purchase of a fireproof safe. The motion was seconded by Pat Berges and unanimously approved.

(See more MINUTES IN BRIEF on next page)



Pat Berges, Publications Editor for Coffee County Historical Society, holds their latest Coffee Chronicle, "Letters to Mary, the Civil War Biography of Dr. James Kennerly Farris." Dr. Farris was a Hillsboro physician who served in the 41st Confederate TN Infantry and wrote letters home to his wife in small journals, recording his entire experience during the war, including camp life, on the march, during battle, camp menus, and lists of soldiers who were injured or killed. When he was lonely, he included poems.

MINUTES IN BRIEF continued from page 4

NEW BUSINESS



Antique Portrait

James Sandlin brought with him to the meeting an ornately framed painting of James Edward Young of Dekalb County, who was born 1 Oct 1856, died 9 Dec 1920, and was married to Martha Turner. The painting was done about 1875.

GENEALOGY PRESENTATION

Cheryl Watson Mingle presented information and photographs about the Watson family of Warren County. Her genealogy journey started with an old newspaper story about a John Watson who was hanged for shooting his partner over brandy. She decided to research the family to see if he might be a relative. She was pleased to find out he came from Grundy County and was not related to her family. Her Watsons trace down from Michael Watson through Samuel David Watson and wife Phoebe Pedigo, to George Washington Watson and wife Martha Ferrell, to Ezekiel Watson and Margaret Robinson to John Franklin Watson and wife Julia Ann Burkett and finally to Frank Lee Watson who married Eula Bond and raised a family of 17 children. Her father Morris Vinson is the son of Frank Lee & Eula Elizabeth Bond Watson, Morris married Eunice Angele Stoner; of this union were born four children to include Cheryl Watson Mingle.

PROGRAM

Norman Elrod gave a most interesting presentation on postal history in Warren County. His interest began with stamp collecting and advanced to first-day covers, then postal history.

Warren County was established on 26 November 1807, and the first post office was located in McMinnville in 1811. He traced the history of mail routes from Indian trails to pioneer roads over logs, to stagecoach roads, and mentioned a number of old postal routes through Warren County. He had a handout listing establishment date, closing date, and locations of all the post offices in Warren County's history. He also discussed postmaster appointments and responsibilities and the history of stamp issue. Norman also donated two copies of the Collectors Club for Letters publication containing a letter and reply about the life of a Warren County doctor in the 1800s.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Berges (for Scarlett Griffith, Secretary)



WCGA members Bob and Bettye Sherwood proudly display their recently printed book entitled *Viola Valley & Beyond – Pictures from Past to Present 2014*. The 423-page follow-up volume compiled by James R. Sherwood and edited by Bettye Sherwood is now available for purchase. This book contains many photos and information about Viola Valley residents after the time of the earlier book and sells for \$50. For more information contact Bob at 931-635-2862 or email to bsherwood@blomand.net.

Share our Newsletter

Do you have a relative or friend you would like to receive the WCGA Newsletter? We would be happy to add them to our list.

Just send their name and email address to:

Speaksdm@charter.net

What A Day!

June 27 Visit to Grundy County



1st Stop Tommye Sherrill's Mountain Home located in Bersheeba Springs. Pictured (in no certain order) Cheryl Watson Mingle, Bonita Mangrum, Wilma Davenort, Marion Speaks, Doyle Speaks, Chris Keathly, Pat Berges, Martha Holt, Evelyn Wade, Scarlett Griffith, Allen Jaco and Morris Griffith.



Our very gracious host and owner Tommye Sherrill welcomed our group to her beautifully decorated home. The Mountain Home was originally owned by Bishop James Otey the founder of The University of the Sout in Swanee, TN



2nd stop – Cheryl Watson Mingle, Scarlett Griffith, and Evelyn Wade pose for a snap shot at the Grundy County Historical Society in Tracy City.



Martha Holt doesn't seem to be too afraid of this Timber Wolf on display at the Grundy County Historical Society. Early settlers to the area had a very different view.



3rd Stop Lunch at the historic Dutch Maid Bakery and Café. L-R Bonita Mangrum, Evelyn Wade, Marion Speaks, Chris Keatley, and Martha Holt.



L-R: Cheryl Watson Mingle, Allen Jaco, Pat Berges, Wilma Davenport, Morris Griffith and Scarlett Griffith.



Marion Speaks passed the jar of Moonshine Jelly off to Allen Jaco for review. Needless to say, none was purchased.



4th Stop William Ray Turner is all smiles as Bonita Mangrum signs one of the articles she donated to his private museum located outside of Tracy City.



Coal ovens, used to make Coke, are located along the route to the Turner museum.



This chart explains how coal was turned into coke in the process of making Pig Iron.



These coal picks, along with thousands of newspapers, pictures and postcards, are stored at Mr. Turners museum.



5th Stop “A Diamond in the Rough” could best describe this old country store located in Tracy City. This place can easily take you back 100 years.



Cheryl Watson Mingle photo

Our group was in awe at the large collection of articles to view in the limited time allowed to browse.



This set of halter trees frame the wanted poster of Bonnie and Clyde, the famed bank robbers from the 1930s. This is just one of many items that you will find in the old country store.

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.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.