

# WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION



## Newsletter



October-November 2014

201 Locust Street

McMinnville, Tennessee



#### 2015 OFFICERS

President: Cheryl Watson Mingle  
Vice Pres: Rachel Scott Hillis  
Secretary: Scarlett Griffith  
Treasurer: Allen Jaco  
Past Pres: Ladye Jane Hunter

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Membership:  
Allen Jaco

Circulation Manager:  
Wilma Davenport

Programs:  
Rachel Scott Hillis

Bulletin Editor:  
Chris Keathley

Newsletter Editor:  
Cheryl Watson Mingle

Publicity:  
Cheryl Watson Mingle

Research:  
Bonita Mangrum

Office:  
Evelyn Wade, Martha Holt

Refreshments:  
Christine Bouldin

Webpage Administrator  
Open

## Mary Ann Bishop is October Guest Speaker



**Mary Ann Bishop – A walking history book on High's Funeral Home.**

Our members were both entertained and informed at the October 18 meeting of the Warren County Genealogical Association. Mary Ann Bishop gave a talk about some of her experiences while working over forty years as secretary for High's Funeral Home.

She spoke about how rewarding it was to work for the funeral home owned by John High. He was a very generous man and known by thousands throughout the area.

She wore many hats in her jobs as secretary. Among those she processed the insurance and pre-arrangements for the funeral home. She was often asked to sing at many of the funerals.

Mary Ann indicated that "she believes she was hired by Mr. High because she had an alto voice and could sing it well."

It was a tradition, and most families expected singing at funerals. The funeral home provided that service for families who did not have singers of their own.

**Continued on next page**

## MARY ANN BISHOP from page 1

Mary Ann indicated that “Mr. High was both a great singer as well as a very good speaker. He preached many a funeral throughout the years, up until his death in 1984”.

Many years ago, when a person died, the undertakers prepared the bodies for burial at the home of those who died. They traveled to the home of the deceased to prepare them for burial. They were embalmed, clothed and placed in the caskets, ready to be shown. Caskets were usually homemade or purchased from the local hardware store. Families and friends would usually keep the deceased in their home for a night or two where crowds would gather for the wake. Most of the funerals were graveside services or inside the community churches. This tradition continued for many years and later it became customary to take the bodies to the funeral homes.

She talked about the ambulance service that was operated by the funeral home. They used the same hearse for this service to transport patients to the hospital. Local trips were \$5.00 and \$25.00 for a trip to Nashville. Sometimes those were free due to the lack of funds from those being transported.

Before the introduction of Mrs. Bishop, Scarlett Griffith read a short history about High’s Funeral Home.



Mr. High began his career with Conger Brothers Funeral Home in Smithville. He was assigned to the McMinnville area and soon became well known with many requests for his personal service.

He moved to McMinnville in 1922 where he operated his business from the Lively Furniture Store and later in a building located in

the area of the Current Chamber of Commerce. In 1926 he bought the 3 story private home located on Main Street where the present High’s Funeral Home still operates.

He competed with the Jones & Warren funeral home until 1930 when he bought them out. In 1967 Mr. High incorporated the funeral home and brought in 3 partners, Clarence Warren, Edwin Hammer and Tommy Carney. John Winston High died in 1981 after giving nearly 60 years service to his funeral home.

The funeral home still operates in the original building that was a beautiful 3-story house. In 1950 they added a chapel with remodels to the home completed in 1969 and again in 2004.

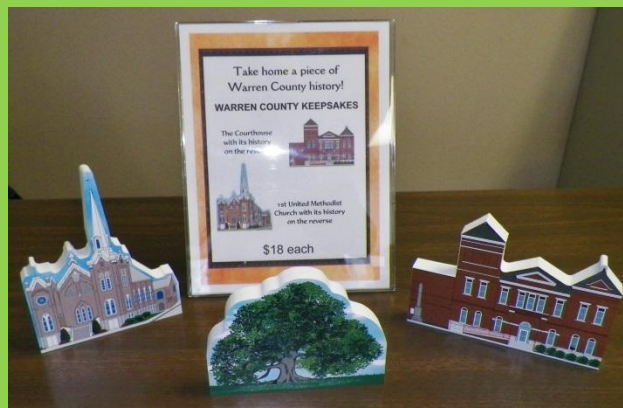
Current president Steve West joined Highs in 1978 and became a partner in 1984. Current partners are West, Woody Davenport, Rocky Davenport, Joe Woodside and Brandon Harris. High’s Inc. is still locally owned and operated.

## WCGA On The Radio



Scarlett Griffith and Mary Ann Bishop were guest for the “Behind The Mike” radio show on October 16. They are pictured with Kelly Marlowe who is host for the show on 96.0 AM radio in McMinnville.

## Great Christmas Presents



**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.**

## Another Fun Trip

# WCGA Visits Cannon County

Another exciting trip began on October 14 for the Warren County Genealogical Association with Cheryl Watson Mingle driving the Senior Center van heading out to Cannon County. Riding along with Cheryl were Evelyn Wade, Martha Holt, Bonita Mangrum, Allen Jaco, Monty Wanamaker and Scarlett Griffith. Upon arrival at the Adams Library in Woodbury, they were joined by Doyle and Marion Speaks.

They were greeted by Joe and Sue Davenport along with Peggy Tate. Joe is president of the Cannon County



**Peggy Tate, Sue and Joe Davenport**

Historical Society and Peggy is librarian over the genealogy department at the Adams Library. Bobby and Joyce Dutton along with Mike Jones and Sheri Harding joined us as well. Bobby is President of the Auburntown Historical Society and Mike and Sheri are genealogists from Murfreesboro.

A couple of hours were spent at the library researching various families with research tips and remarks offered by librarian Peggy Tate. A short genealogy on the Cooper family was given by Scarlett Griffith with help from Cooper cousins Mike and Sheri from Rutherford County.

We enjoyed a very good lunch at “The Gathering Place” restaurant located inside the Old Feed Store. After lunch we were able to browse through the antique booths located inside the Old Feed Mill.

Our next venture was in the Auburntown community where we visited the 157 year old McKnight Home. We found the beautiful old mansion standing empty and silent. Bobby Dutton had made arrangements for us to go through the home. He gave us a brief history of the



**The tour group stops for a snapshot outside the Woodbury Feed Mill.**

mansion and its inhabitants, some of which were ancestors to a few people in our group.

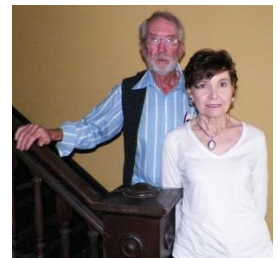
The mansion home was built in 1857 on the banks of Marshall Creek by John F. Weedon. He moved from the



**The historic McKnight Home built in 1857**

property in 1870, relocating in Texas. The mansion was purchased in the 1890s by Dr. Bennett Rucker McKnight who lived and operated his medical practice from the home. The McKnight daughters lived there until the last one passed away during the 1980s.

The original 2 story mansion was built with two-story wrap around porches that have since been removed. It has dual staircases for access to the second level and has fireplaces in several of the rooms throughout the home.



**Bobby and Joyce Dutton stop for a snapshot inside the McKnight home.**

Our Cannon County Historian, Bobby Dutton, had  
**See more Cannon County Visit on the next page**



**HUSH, HUSH, SWEET SCARLETT – Scarlett Griffith stands in the doorway welcoming us into the McKnight Mansion.**

**CANNON COUNTY VISIT from page 3**

more planned for us. We ventured to two more civil war historic homes. One of those was owned by Robert Hancock and the other by Timothy Allison. Mr. Allison was a captain of the Confederacy and was shot by Union soldiers while trying to escape his capture. He was shot as he attempted to cross the fence behind his house trying to flee into the corn field. He died later that night in his home.

On the way back home, the group took an adventurous trip atop the mountain side to the Cooper and Pitt cemeteries.

What a fun trip! Make plans to join us on March 3, 2015 when we will venture to Coffee County for another fun-filled day.



**The Historic Robert Hancock Home located east of Auburntown.**



**The Timothy Allison farm homeplace located east of Auburntown. He was a captain in the Confederate Army.**

*The annual  
WCGA  
Christmas outing  
will be held on  
November 22, 6:00 p.m.  
at the  
McMinnville-Warren County Senior Center*

**The price is  
\$30 per person**

*This is the Senior Center's annual Gala*

**To make your reservation**

**Contact  
Scarlett Griffith  
473-6281 or cell 931-808-6711  
or email to [scarlettanngriffith@gmail.com](mailto:scarlettanngriffith@gmail.com)**

**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](mailto:Speaksdm@charter.net)**

**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)

## Minutes of the October 18, 2014 Meeting of the WCGA

President Cheryl Mingle called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at the WCGA office. Secretary Scarlett Griffith read the minutes of the August meeting. There was no regular meeting in was made to approve the minutes as read by Wilma Davenport and seconded by Christine Bouldin. In the absence of Treasurer Allen Jaco, the secretary gave the treasury and membership report. Balance for the month of September, and year to date is \$4,499.01. Current member status is 116.

Program director and Vice President, Marion Speaks, gave the report of upcoming activities and events. "Behind the Mike" representatives for October were Scarlett Griffith and Mary Ann Bishop. Scarlett gave a brief summary on a family she is researching, the Coopers of Cannon County. Mary Ann Bishop talked about her life growing up in McMinnville, TN and her 40 years spent as secretary to Mr. John High and the High Funeral Home. She was also our speaker for the meeting. Mary Ann gave a most interesting program. Full of history and many facts, she was enjoyed by everyone. Scarlett gave a brief history of the location and home that became Highs in 1929

Several of our members went on Tuesday, October 14 to our second "Tour of the Surrounding Counties of Warren" series several points of interest, plus lunch was very much enjoyed. Details of our trip are included in this months newsletter.

The guest of the "Behind the Mike" radio program on November 22 will be Brad Walker, director and genealogist for McMinnville Magness Library.

Our annual Christmas party will be November 22 at the Warren County Senior Center, dinner at 6:00 p.m. with open house at 5:00 p.m. Victorian dress is suggested, but not required, 1890s to 1910. Tickets are now on sale from Cheryl, Scarlett, or the Senior Center office. Musical entertainment will follow, with the old Christmas tunes playing throughout the night, and possibly a surprise or two.

The WCGA group will be having a "pitch-in lunch" (called in the north) "covered dish" (called in the south on Friday, December 12. This will be held in the Magnolia Room of the Administration Building on Locust Street.

There will be no regular meeting in December.

Our January 17, 2015 meeting will be another "Show and Tell". This is always fun. Everyone brings an item of interest and or pictures from the past to share.

Another Genealogy Workshop will be held on our February 21, 2015 WCGA meeting. The workshop held in August of this year was well attended and very successful. WCGA member Pat Berges will once again conduct this workshop. She is a great teacher and has interest growing in this field.

Plans are being made to have DNA speakers for an early spring 2015 meeting. Another great program in the makes by our Vice President and program director.

Publicity chairman, Cheryl Mingle, reports the radio, newspaper and facebook keep our publicity going well.

Research chairman, Bonita Mangrum, had nothing new to report.

Office ladies, Martha Holt and Evelyn Wade, have the office looking good. The need for the carpet to be cleaned was discussed.

Bulletin editor Chris Keathley reported that the Fall Bulletin is on schedule.

The next edition of the "Keepsakes" was discussed. The statue of "Hebe" was explained by Chris. The selection will be voted on at the next meeting.



Providing refreshments for our October 18 meeting were Cheryl Mingle and Pat Berges.

There is one new "Pioneer" family approved. Discussion took place on the signatures to verify these certificates. City and County officials will be asked to sign them.

Discussion also was held about talking with Jimmy Haley, as representative of YSI, as to possibly including "Family Trees" as part of the summer program held each year for young scholars.

Newsletter Editor Doyle Speaks continues to seek new email addresses to add to the mailing list for the Newsletter. This is a great way to let people know what we do at the WCGA.

Coffee County has been selected as the next county our group plans to visit. Pat Berges is coordinating this trip planned for March 2015.

It's time for new officers. Unfortunately our Vice President, Marion Speaks, and Newsletter Editor, Doyle Speaks, will be moving out of state. Those officers will have to be replaced.

At this time, the meeting was adjourned, and refreshments provided by Pat Berges and Cheryl Mingle were enjoyed.

Submitted by Scarlett Griffith.

Our guest speaker for the  
Saturday, November 15  
WCGA meeting  
will be:

**BRAD WALKER**  
Director and genealogist  
of the  
McMinnville Magness Library

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

**Who Do You Think You Are**

# Trying To Connect To Warren County?

**66 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).*



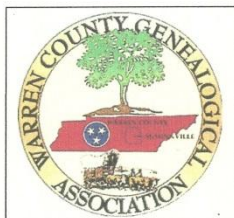
### Warren County-McMinnville Pioneer Family Certification

Recognizing the Pioneer Families  
living in the frontier area known  
as Warren County Tennessee between 1807 – 1820.

*Warren County Genealogical Association, Inc.*

Verified and Certifies that  
**Marion Rhea Speaks**  
Is a direct descendant of Pioneer Settler  
**Moses Rhea**

Warren County-McMinnville Pioneer Family  
Certificate #024



*Marion Speaks*  
Marion Speaks Chair WCGA Pioneer Families Committee (date)

*Jan Hobbs*  
Jan Hobbs - WCGA Pioneer Families Committee

*Betty Pack*  
Betty Pack - WCGA Pioneer Families Committee

*Bonita Mangrum*  
Bonita Mangrum - WCGA Pioneer Families Committee

*Carolyn Lance*  
Carolyn Lance - WCGA Pioneer Families Committee

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 Magness Library

They should be submitted to

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