

# WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION



## Newsletter



May-June 2015

201 Locust Street

McMinnville, Tennessee



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# Hebe

## Through the Eyes Of Chris Keathley

It was all about the Davis Memorial Fountain statue at the May meeting of the Warren County Genealogical Association.

Local artist and photographer Chris Keathley shared more than 100 photographs at the very successful photo exhibit See **HEBE STATUE** and more photos on page 2



Local artist, photographer and WCGA member Chris Keathley is pictured at his very successful photo exhibit held at the May 23 WCGA meeting.



Irma Shaw, Rachel Kellebrew and McMinnville Mayor Jimmy Haley are in deep conversation about the Hebe Statue.

## Hebe Statue (continued from page 1)

prepared for our members and the public. The exhibit was part of the 100 year celebration of the Davis Memorial Fountain statue.

The Davis Memorial Fountain was donated to the city of McMinnville by Mrs. Laura Davis Worley and her sister, Florence Davis, in memory of their parents, Capt. Owen Watkins "O.W." Davis and Elizabeth Savage Davis.

Capt. Davis was considered one of the best known river men of the State. He was born March 12, 1826 at the mouth of Falling Water, on Caney Fork River in White County, TN. He was a grandson of Frederick Davis, one of the earliest settlers of Nashville. Capt. Davis married Miss Elizabeth Savage (1830-1909), daughter of George and Elizabeth Kenner Savage, of McMinnville.



It was more than refreshments, thanks to help from the WCGA and members Scarlett Griffith, Glenda Stubblefield Cantrell and Carolyn Lance.

Five children were born to Capt. O.W. and Elizabeth Savage Davis: 1. Laura Louise Davis, born Aug. 2, 1849 in McMinnville, TN. She was married to Frank E. Worley on May 20, 1875 in Davidson County, TN. Frank was a banker from Ellettsville, IN by occupation. 2. Bettie Davis, born circa March 1854 died January 6, 1856, at the age of 22 months. 3. Franklin Robertson Davis was born March 25, 1856 in Memphis, TN and died at his home on West Main St., McMinnville. He was responsible for obtaining "Big John" the Civil War Cannon for McMinnville. He is buried in the Mt. View Cemetery in



McMinnville. 4. Florence Gertrude Davis, (date of birth unknown) died October 18, 1931 in St. Louis, Missouri at the home of her sister Laura Louise Davis Worley. She is buried in the Savage-Davis plot in Riverside Cemetery, McMinnville. 5. William Watkins Davis was born October 18, 1858.

The Davis Memorial Fountain was originally placed on the East side of the McMinnville Public Square facing East Main Street and has stood at several different locations in the Public Square during its one hundred year history. For several years, the fountain stood in neglected condition and in need of restoration.

Dissention between city and county government over



ownership of the park resulted in no funding for maintenance or repair of Hebe. Private citizens were left to care for the aging icon. Consequently, the Warren County Historical Society solicited help to "spruce up" the old lady. Unfortunately, an ill-planned repair job by some local experts (that included sandblasting and the wrong kind of paint) resulted in major damage to the statue.

The statue of Hebe on court square stands in silent tribute to the members of Heritage Alliance, Main Street McMinnville and the Leadership McMinnville Class of 1999 who worked diligently to raise money to save her. Rachel Killebrew, a member of the McMinnville Heritage Alliance at that time, was very instrumental in helping to secure the needed funds for restoration and secure the needed backing of the McMinnville Mayor and Board of Alderman who voted to designate a part of downtown as a historic preservation district. She quickly petitioned the Board of Mayor and Alderman to "make Hebe a symbol of rebirth for the downtown. It could be the start of the process."

In 2003 the Hebe statue was removed from the public park and thoroughly restored by James "Jim" R. McGaw, a mechanical engineer and metallurgist. He spent over 3,000 hours of tedious, painstaking work on the restoration which took over two and a half years. He suffered from lymphatic cancer during his restoration of the fountain and died in 2008.



James "Jim" R. McGaw

After restoration, the fountain was replaced in the park in 2005 where it proudly stands between Main Street and the south door of the Warren County Courthouse.





Glenda Stubblefield Cantrell proudly shared her first place photo of Hebe Statue entered in the Warren County Fair.



Rachel Killebrew presented a very well documented history of the efforts it took for the restoration of Hebe.



Enjoying some of the wonderful refreshments are Chris Keathley, Monty Wanamaker, Morris Griffin and Ladye Jane Hunter.

*Photos from the May 23 WCGA meeting provided by Cheryl Watson Mingle  
 Story written in part from archives of the Southern Standard along with information provided by Chris Keathley*



Kelly Marlowe is pictured with Chris Keathley and Allen Jaco who were guests on the "Behind the Mike" radio show that was broadcast on May 14. Tune in to 96.0 AM in McMinnville at 10:00 a.m. June 18 when representatives from the WCGA will once again be guests of the show.

**The next meeting of the Warren County Genealogical Association will be held Saturday, June 20, at 2:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Kelly Marlowe, host of the "Behind the Mike" radio show broadcast from WBMC 96.0 a.m. in McMinnville.**

**Our meetings are held in the rear of the Warren County Administration Building  
 201 Locust Street, McMinnville**

**About Chris Keathley**

Chris Keathley has been a standing member of the Warren County Genealogical Association since its inception in 1992 and currently holds the position of editor of the organization's genealogical and historical Bulletin which is published two times a year.

Historian, genealogist, artist, writer, photographer, Keathley's project of photographing the poetic fountain and Hebe statue in various times of the day and year, and in different weather conditions, seeks to artistically photograph as no one has ever captured the historic downtown landmark. These photographs made by Chris Keathley have in no way been manipulated or changed in any way by Photoshop but remain as the original image. Officially dedicated on May 20, 1915, Keathley has undertaken the task of celebrating the memorial fountain's centennial in May of this year.

Born at the McMinnville Medical Clinic on Main Street, McMinnville, Tennessee, Chris Keathley along with Monty Wanamaker in 2001 established the Southern Museum & Galleries of Photography, Culture & History in McMinnville, a museum dedicated to all aspects of the history of McMinnville and Warren County, Tennessee. Chris and Monty have published numerous reprints of historical, out-of-print books as well as thoroughly researched historical works on local history which include their books *Warren County* and *McMinnville* published by Arcadia Press in South Carolina to commemorate the 200th birthdays of the city and county.

Since 1992 Keathley has tended to the upkeep of Higginbotham Cemetery, located on Shellsford Road, just off Highway 8. Keathley is a great-great-grandson of Aaron Higginbotham, an early Warren County, Tennessee settler and surveyor who originally surveyed much of this area and is buried in the cemetery. Aaron Higginbotham is best known for his 1810 discovery of Higginbotham Cave, now commercially operated as Cumberland Caverns, which showcases the popular Bluegrass Underground series of concerts.

The multiple talented artist is, in addition to the Warren County Genealogical Association, a member of the Beersheba Springs Historical Society, the Coffee County Historical Society, the Tennessee Historical Society, and the Bledsoe County Historical & Genealogical Society.

## Another Wonderful WCGA Trip

# Wilson County Wows!



The former Castle Heights Military Academy makes an awesome home for the City of Lebanon Administrative Offices.

Wilson County Tennessee was host on May 8 to another great trip by the WCGA. We were welcomed at the impressive City of Lebanon Administrative building where we toured the City Museum and History Center located in the lower level of City Hall.

Touring the Castle Heights Military Academy is a treat in itself, not to mention the well laid-out and designed museum. Several of our members have genealogical connections to the county but none more impressive than Scarlett Griffin. Her ancestor, fourth great grandfather Christopher Cooper, was one of the founding fathers of the city of Lebanon. (Photo at left.)



Bonita Bratcher Mangrum,

found a poster and display featuring her ancestor Confederate General Robert Hatton who is the subject of the Hatton Monument located in Lebanon. (Photo at immediate right).



Maude Woodfork, famous radio personality Aunt Jemima, was born in 1892 in Wilson County and lived in the Maple Street area. She attended Tennessee A & I University (now Tennessee State University) in Nashville. She taught school for a short time in LaGuardo. She moved to Chicago where she began her acting career eventually moving to Las Angeles for a short time where she played the role of Uncle Remus' granddaughter. Maude returned to Chicago where

she assumed the role of Aunt Jemima on radio, television and the stage.

Our group left the City Museum headed to the Wilson County Archives where we made a short visit prior to lunch. We enjoyed a wonderful meal at the Sunset Restaurant. After lunch



Our group posed for a quick picture on the steps at the city building. Pictured, left to right, 1<sup>st</sup> row: Cheryl Watson Mingle, Joanna Lewis, Evelyn Wade, Bonita Bratcher Mangrum, and Doyle Speaks. 2<sup>nd</sup> row: Allen Jaco, Scarlett Griffin, and Martha Holt. 3<sup>rd</sup> row: Jess Lewis, Chris Keathley, Barbara Bates and Evans Baird. 4<sup>th</sup> row: Marion Rhea Speaks, Pat Berges and Monty Wanamaker.

we headed out to Fiddler's Grove located at the Wilson County Fairground. Once again the city of Lebanon and Wilson County outdid themselves in recreating this historic village.



Our group poses once more for another photo at the Stringtown General Store at Fiddler's Grove.



A real sign of the times...

Cheryl Watson Mingle looks out from the "Outhouse" that was a much needed facility at all residences during this time period.





Allen Jaco stands just inside the door at the Weaving House.



Fiddler's Grove one room school house



This old ornate pump organ is located inside the Melrose Church.

*Photos from the trip to Wilson County courtesy of Doyle Speaks and Cheryl Watson Mingle.*



Our trip to Wilson County was so popular, a return trip to the Archives was made by Bonita Bratcher Mangrum, Evelyn Wade, Allen Jaco, Scarlett Griffin, Cheryl Watson Mingle, Marion Rhea Speaks and Doyle Speaks. Lunch at Demos' Restaurant was an added treat. While there we celebrated the birthdays of Evelyn Wade and Marion Speaks. Word has it that someone got a free lunch from a guest who "Paid It Forward." Photo courtesy of Demos' Restaurant.



Our four keepsakes are, L-R: The Birthing Tree, Hebe Statue, Warren County Courthouse and First Methodist Church in McMinnville.

### Do You Need Help With Your Family Research?

Bonita Bratcher Mangrum, WCGA's Research Chairman, with over 45 years of experience, has graciously helped hundreds of people with their family genealogy searches. You can find her at the WCGA office on Friday afternoons from 1-4. If you live outside the Warren County area, you can make an appointment to meet with her at the office by calling 931-939-2154. She also researches other TN county records by phone or mail for people who can't travel here.



Our office is located in the rear of the Warren County Administration Building at 201 Locust Street in McMinnville.

### Refreshment Assignments For June and July Announced By Committee Chairman Christine Bouldin

- June – Barbara Bates and Cheryl Mingle
- July – Larry Boyd and Scarlett Griffith

*It has been a pleasure being a part of the Warren County Genealogical Association. Preparing the Newsletter has been a challenge but very rewarding at the same time. Sadly, Marion and I are in the process of relocating to our home in Indiana and it will be too difficult to continue editing and producing this Newsletter from such a distance. My hope is that someone will continue this very important communication tool for WCGA.*

*May God bless you all – Doyle Speaks*

**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).*



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.