

WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION



Newsletter



June-July 2015

201 Locust Street

McMinnville, Tennessee



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June Guest Speaker The Life and Times of Kelly Marlowe



Kelly Marlowe Radio Announcer & Guest Speaker at our June 20, meeting.



The group enjoyed Kelly beginning with a few jokes to warm everyone up.

Child Psychologist Had Twin Boys- One was a pessimist the other an optimist. One Christmas he loaded the pessimist room with toys, video games, etc... The optimist got a pile of horse manure. The pessimist was crying, NO batteries. The optimist was dancing with joy - (Why?) The optimist stated, "There's got to be a pony in here somewhere."

A doctor enters the hospital elevator. Rushing in behind him, a delivery man carrying a ceramic blue baby bootie filled with carnations.

The doctor smiles and asked, does the baby look like you? I hope not he said, I just deliver flowers.

Born on May 1, 1938 in Petersburg Tennessee to the parents of Lizza Ann Hillis and Kelly Walter Marlowe Sr. They were farmers growing tobacco, corn, etc... and growing up in Taft Tennessee and Elkwood Alabama while he was in school during

the first, second and third grades. In those days we didn't have any money but always had reunions where family came together to eat, play and just enjoyed each other's company. We visited my mother's family stating that's all we could do.

In 1947 his family moved to Warren County in the Fairview community and back to North Alabama when he was in grades 5 and 6. His father being a cotton farmer so during this time in his life he picked and chopped cotton. He stated the school schedule was different in those days, children got out six weeks to chop cotton, attended school during the summer and out again in the fall for six weeks to pick the cotton. He was paid 3 to 4 cents a pound for the cotton he picked. Older guys picked 100 pound of cotton a day.

One time after Kelly Sr. and Kelly had been to sell their cotton his father celebrated with a drink or two. Kelly explained the roads in Alabama were like straight lines and he experience driving Daddy's big truck home at the age of 10.

About 1950, when Kelly was in the seventh grade, the family moved back to the Fairview community of Warren County Tennessee. Kelly laughed stating, we were poor people and moved almost every time the rent came due.

Kelly recalled being mischievous during his school days at Fairview and Gordon Smith spanking him for pulling out the piano bench from a young lady, who was a little on the heavy side and her falling to the floor. Mr. Smith had him to draw a circle on the chalk board and put his noise in the circle while he was standing on his tip toes. Every time Kelly's feet slipped he would receive a paddling.

One summer day tragedy hit's in 1951 when Kelly, two of his brothers, his father and their neighbor went swimming at the blue hole. He lost his father and his younger brother, both drowning. That day forward Kelly became the man and bread winner of the house.

He went by the name Junior Marlowe until High School when his football coach ask him what's your name? The coach told him he was going to call him Kelly.

The next four years he attends McMinnville Central High School graduating in 1956. During this time a lady from his church, Mrs. Jean Myers also a city school teacher, would pick Kelly up so he could attend the music department at school. She also helped him get his first job at Cook's Department Store washing windows, vacuuming, dusting, stocking, etc... Finally he begin to selling clothes and learned to TALK.

In 1956 he married Brenda Jaco from Campaign. Tennessee, has two children Kellie Regina and Christopher Scott Marlowe. Divorced in 1968

He moves up north to Illinois, works approximately ten months for Caterpillar, his shift 11:18p.m. to 7:18 am.

Moves back to McMinnville, working at Cook's Department Store. After Thanksgiving in 1968, Cook's burns to the ground and Kelly began selling magazines door to door along with the Jones brothers, Billy & Don. He did this for two years and stated it was the hardest job he had, "selling door to door."

In 1969 Kelly and a few friends became business partners and started Kelly's Inc. in the Northgate Shopping Center. The store had good brands of clothing and really enjoyed helping people. Kelly began doing his own commercial spots with the radio station and came up with the slogan Kelly's Inc. The Home of the Good Guys". They had a good business until Kroger's moved in 1987.

At this point in his life he began selling life insurance with Bill Underwood and Home Beneficial for about 13 years from 1987-2000, winning numerous trips.

Taking early retirement at the age 62 Kelly began working full time with WBMC now Peg Broadcasting. During this time working with the radio station owner Thorld Ramsey. He began in sales and on the air as a DJ.

Kelly would get up at 4:30 a.m. on the air and say Early to Bed Early to Rise while playing an 8 track of a rooster crowing. One Sunday morning when he said this instead of the rooster crowing, someone had played a trick on him and he played a commode flushing on the air.

One time Kelly played a tape reel backwards and a lady called in and told him the Church of Christ was talking in tongues.

In 2002, the station lost a radio announcer and Kelly was ask to fill in until they could find a replacement for Town Talk. Fourteen years later he is still at the station and does Swap N Shop and Town Talk.

Things have changed in 26 years - turntable - 33 1/3 & 45 records - 8 track tapes - reel to reel tape - voice tracking.

"I've met a lot of really nice people - on the air interviews etc..." Kelly said.

His personal life: He was married to Brenda Jaco 1956-1968. They had two children Kellie Regina and Christopher Scott. In 1970 he married Gwen Frisby in 1970. They had one child, Camilla Marlowe Rhea. In 1987 lost a sister, brother in June 2009, half brother Roger Wells 2009. son Scott in September 2011 and his wife Gwen from COPD in 2010. He has six grandchildren and one great grandchild Tess.

He's been a part of gospel singing for 40 years, stating Dickie Hillis and Kelly were at a singing where the Oak Ridge Boys were performing. The group invited someone to come out and play the piano- low and behold it was Joyce Black West. From this Dickie Hillis, Ken Stewart, Kelly and Ken & Joyce West started the gospel group The Harmony Echo's.

Kelly has worked for the radio station part time around 13 years and full time of 15. Peg Broadcasting has four stations in one building at this time.

PEG Broadcasting, LLC is...





Everyone enjoyed homemade ice cream, lemon cookies, carrot and lemon cake served by WCGA members Cheryl Watson Mingle and Barbara Brandon Bates.

Mingles' Homemade Vanilla Ice Cream Recipe



This recipe is for a 6 quart ice cream freezer. Mix the following ingredients on high speed until fluffy: 5 eggs, 3 cups sugar, 1 pint half and half, dash of salt after this has been mixed and is fluffy add 1 small can of pet milk, 3 plus Tablespoons of vanilla, and the rest in whole milk. Put mixture in the 6 quart freezer and freeze. Enjoy.



WCGA President presents award to Kelly Marlowe
Kelly stated the WCGA had helped him and he enjoyed the Behind the Mike.

June 14 Flag Day



Citizens across the United States celebrate Flag Day on June 14 each year to honor the United States flag and to commemorate the flag's adoption.

WCGA members interview Kelly Marlowe on his own show Behind the Mike



Kelly Marlowe is pictured with Scarlett and Morris Griffith along with Cheryl Watson Mingle who turned the mike on Kelly and they interviewed him as the guest on the "Behind the Mike" radio show that was broadcast on June 18. Tune in to 96.0 AM in McMinnville at 10:00 a.m. July 17 when representative Glenda Stubblefield Cantrell from the WCGA will be the guest of the show.

The next meeting of the Warren County Genealogical Association will be held Saturday, July 18, at 2:00 p.m.

SHOW & TELL

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

Saturday, July 4, 2015



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-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 WCGA Trip

Black House



The Black House is the oldest remaining residence in the city. Built in 1825 by Jesse Coffee, it was one of the first in the area to have a brick exterior. Its current name stems from former occupant Dr. Thomas Black and his family. Dr. Black practiced medicine at the house. In the 1980s it was deeded

to his relative, Jean Leonard, who worked with the Eagle Club to begin restoration on the house. The house serves as a museum and provides tours to the public. In 1983 the house was added to the National Register of Historic Places.



Chris Keathley stands in front of a tree in the front yard of the Black House.



WCGA member Larry Boyd, Sweetie and their grand son also tour the Black House with the group.



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.

MINUTES IN BRIEF

President Mingle brought the meeting to order June 20th. Allen Jaco gave the treasurers report. The Davis Memorial Fountain Exhibit will be presented at the Chamber of Commerce during July 4th festivities.

Set up will be Friday afternoon on July 3rd. Watch for the BLTV interview with Cheryl Mingle and Allen Jaco. The number of members assigned to refreshment duty was discussed and will remain at two.

The next trip is being planned to Lebanon to visit their Archives. A trip to the DeKalb County archives was also discussed. Our featured speaker was Kelly Marlow. He gave us a wonderful speech on his life; from his birth in Lincoln County to the present. He discussed his career from Cooks Dept Store to Kelly's Inc. to the radio station. A member of the Harmony Echo's since it began, Mr. Marlow has been an asset to our community. Rachel Hillis, the new Programs Chair was introduced to newer members. New meeting is July 18th - Show and Tell.

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

July – Larry Boyd and Scarlett Griffith

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

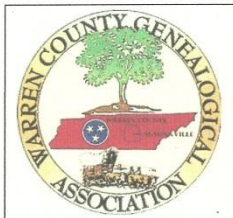
Recognizing the Pioneer Families
living in the frontier area known
as Warren County Tennessee between 1807 - 1820.

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
Carolee Lance
Carolee 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.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.