

WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION



Newsletter



November-December 2015

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

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Cheryl Watson Mingle

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Rachel Scott Hillis Speaks on Woodmen of the World Gravestones



Rachel explained Woodmen of the World's beginnings and the 'tombstone benefit'.

Have you ever wondered about the unique headstones that you sometimes run across that resemble a tree stump, log pile, etc? Well, it most likely is a Woodmen of the World headstone. Woodmen of the World headstones have a history that goes back over 120 years ago. The organization was founded in 1890 in Omaha Nebraska, by Joseph Cullen Root.

Root, who was a member of several fraternal organizations including the Freemasons, founded Modern Woodmen of America in Lyons, Iowa, after

hearing a sermon about "pioneer woodsmen clearing away the forest to provide for their families". Taking his own name of Root to heart, he wanted to start a Society that "would clear away problems of financial security for its members".

Root fell out with the Modern Woodmen of America over accusations of false beneficiary claims. He moved to Omaha, where he started Woodmen of the World on June 6, 1890. When Joseph Cullen Root founded Woodmen of the World, one of his objectives was to provide a decent burial for all members.

Root made a special effort to honor deceased Woodmen. He created Woodmen Memorial Day, celebrated on June 6 each year, and included the following statement in the Objectives of Woodcraft: "... to give honorable burial to our sacred dead ..."

Early Woodmen certificates provided for a death and a monument benefit. Gravestones were originally furnished to members free of charge and later were offered only to those who purchased a \$100 rider to their certificates.

However, during the 1920s the Society stopped providing stone markers to members when the cost of gravestones increased and cemeteries began prohibiting above-ground markers for maintenance reasons. The monument rider was discontinued and converted to an extra \$100 of insurance protection, but for many years after that, members and lodges arranged for markers and monuments on their own.



Rachel explains markers vary

Woodmen gravestones vary greatly in size and shape. Some resemble a tree stump, others a stack of cut wood. There are elaborate hand-carved monuments, simple stone markers and stake-type markers driven into the ground.

Woodmen gravestones were originally intended to be a uniform design sent by the Home Office to local stonecutters, but not all the cutters followed the design.

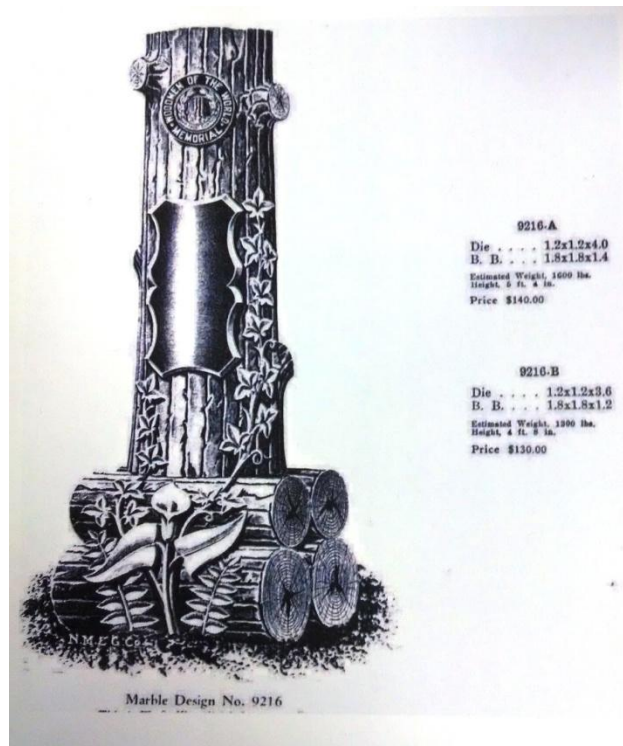
Some used their own interpretation of the Woodmen design which they felt was more appropriate.

The result was a wide range of designs that reflected members' personal tastes and included elements that were symbolic of Woodmen ceremonies or rituals. A tree stump, part of the Society's logo, is the most common symbol used on gravestone designs. Many stand approximately four to five feet high.

Over the years, the once popular gravestones have become a rarity. Woodmen gravestones are still scattered in cemeteries throughout the United States. Although the monument benefit is no longer included in Woodmen Life Insurance certificates, the Society does not let graves go unmarked. The same Woodmen emblem is also available, fitted with pegs, for attaching to an existing stone.

Regardless of its shape or size, Woodmen gravestones serve as a lasting tribute to its members and the ideals of Woodcraft. They also serve the Society's long standing motto that "no Woodmen shall rest in an unmarked grave."

Hopefully, you now know the history behind these unique headstones, and will make a special effort to pay your respect to the members who have them while geocaching in/near cemeteries.



Samples of WOW markers



The society designed a 4 to 5 foot high tree trunk monument pattern for adults and three stacked logs for children. WOW would send a copy of the pattern to the local stone carver in the deceased woodman's hometown, so that all of the tree stones would be similar in appearance.



WOW later created a simpler template of a log that would rest atop a regular gravestone, as shown above.

Even though monument benefits have not been included in the WOW package for years, the society makes sure that "no Woodmen shall rest in an unmarked grave." A fitting tribute to WOW members, and a brilliant way to augment those

striking and outstanding tree stone monuments into cemeteries everywhere.



Today, Woodmen of the World is one of the largest fraternal benefit societies with open membership in the United States. The organization provides not only insurance, but also investment, bonds, real estate and mortgage loans to its members. Its 2010 financial performance included gross revenue of \$1.2 billion. WOW is active in local communities, providing aid to senior citizens, the physically impaired and orphans. Woodmen of the World has partnered with the American Red Cross to provide disaster relief nationwide.



Members enjoy the presentation by Rachel Scott Hillis on Woodmen of the World Graestones.



November refreshments' were provided by Martha Holt and Evelyn Wade.

Election of 2016 WCGA Officers Held November 16

Election of officers for the 2016 calendar year were held at the November 21 meeting. Congratulations to Ann Brown 2016 Web Page Administrator.

WCGA next meeting
Saturday, January , 2 p.m.



Representing WCGA On The Radio



WCGA Treasurer and Membership Chair Allen Jaco was the guest for the "Behind The Mike" radio show on November 19.

Pictured is Kelly Marlowe who is host for the show on 96.0 AM radio in McMinnville.

**Do You Have
CIVIL WAR
SOLIDERS
who lived in WARREN
COUNTY before, during
or after the war?**

Submit your Civil War Solider for entry in our upcoming Warren County Civil War Soliders BOOK'S

You may obtain forms on our Facebook Page or at the Magness Library Genealogy Department

WCGA is 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

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)

Hebe, McMinnville, TN
(Forth in a series)

All four 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



WCGA's annual Christmas luncheon will be held at noon on Friday, December 11, at The Corners on the River in Readyville. The meal will include a meat, 2 vegetables, salad, roll, dessert, drink and tip for \$20 each. A minimum of 20 people is required. Members who plan to attend should sign up in advance with Scarlett Griffith.

MINUTES FROM THE MEMBER'S MEETING ON October 24, 2015

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Warren County Genealogical Association was called to order by President Mingle at 2:00 p.m. on October 24, 2015 at the Magness Memorial Library with the following members and guests in attendance: Pat Berges, Christine Bouldin, Ann Brown, Glenda Cantrell, Wilma Davenport, Bernice Driver, James Driver, Wanda Gant, Elwyn Glidden, Rachel Hillis, Martha Holt, Allen Jaco, Chris Keathley, Carolyn Lance, Leroy Lytrit, Bonita Mangrum, Debra McBride, Cheryl Mingle, Barbara Nelson, Bettye Pack, Tommy Stots, Debra Sullivan, Donna Sullivan, Evelyn Wade, and Monty Wanamaker.

Minutes - Committee Reports

In the interest of saving time for the program, reading of the minutes and committee reports were omitted.

OLD BUSINESS

Civil War Soldiers Committee

Rachel Hillis, Chairman, reported that the committee is still gathering information for the list of soldiers to be included in the books.

Christmas Program

WCGA's annual Christmas luncheon will be held at noon on Friday, December 11, at The Corners on the River in Readyville. The meal will include a meat, 2 vegetables, salad, roll, dessert, drink and tip for \$20 each. A minimum of 20 people is required. Members who plan to attend should sign up in advance with Scarlett Griffith.

Lebanon Trip

A field trip to Lebanon is planned for October 27, departing at 7:30 a.m. from the WCGA office.

Newsletter Distribution

Evidently there has been some discussion about limiting the newsletter distribution to members only, while others felt that it should be distributed to as many people as possible in an effort to spread the word about the

Association and attract new members. After a brief discussion, it was voted to continue distributing the newsletter as widely as possible. Pat Berges recommended that members without e-mail capability receive a printed copy by mail.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers

President Mingle thanked current officers for their hard work and dedication and requested that anyone willing to serve in any capacity please contact Rachel Hillis. She also announced that Ann Brown has indicated her willingness to serve as Webmaster.

Behind the Mike

Snipe Hunters, Kenneth Crabtree and Kearney Andrews recently shared Behind the Mike duties with Cheryl Mingle.

PROGRAM

The guest speaker was Pat Cummins, President and Co-founder of the "Native History Association," who presented a fascinating program about the history of the Trail of Tears through Warren and neighboring counties, particularly during the fall of 1838, when 4,000 Cherokees passed through the area on their removal to Oklahoma. He also explained the recent discovery of the Twin Falls Trail in the Old Jefferson segment. His Power Point presentation was accompanied by handouts of several maps and other educational materials.

Adjournment

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 to delicious refreshments provided by Carolyn Lance and Jean Hobbs.

Respectfully submitted,



Pat Berges for
Scarlett Griffith, Secretary

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).



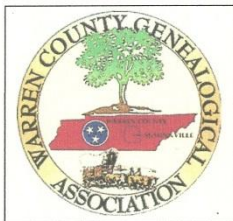
Warren County-McMinnville Pioneer Family Certification

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.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 on Main St.

They should be submitted to
Warren County Genealogical Association,
c/o First Pioneer Families,
P. O. Box 411,
McMinnville TN 37111.