

WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION



Newsletter



May 2017

201 Locust Street

McMinnville, Tennessee



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The A. N. Robertson Family of Mt. Juliet Tennessee

Written By: Desiree Robertson Whitlock,
Nolene Robertson Campbell &
Donna Robertson Nolen
Compiled by: Joshua Robertson

The story below is told by the three ladies above and was published in the 2013 Mt. Juliet Homecoming Magazine.

Our Daddy, Arthur Nolen Robertson was born on a farm in Centertown, Tennessee in 1915, close to McMinnville, TN, to Arthur M. Robertson and Dellen Rigsby Robertson.



Arthur Montgomery and Dellen Rigsby Robertson Family

He always loved his family and friends and he lived amidst a lot of cousins and worked hard after going

to school. He loved to come home, put his books down, and run to the garden to help his Mother pick whatever was ready to be harvested. He was a very sociable man, so much so that when he met people he would immediately discover who all they knew in common as mutual acquaintances. He also taught himself to play a 5 string banjo. After all 3 of us girls were of age, Mother taught us how to sing soprano, alto and women's tenor. Nolene would play the piano and we would harmonize and Daddy would play his banjo for us. How many times we have heard "Soldier's Joy" I could not tell you.



Our Mother, **Veola Akers** was born in Centertown, TN, at home, to Ross Akers and Effie Walling Akers in 1918.



Avis Effie Walling and John Ross Akers

Avis Effie Walling and John Ross Akers

She lived among many relatives and had recalled many memories of fun while growing up. She was one of 12 children.



Ross & Effie Walling Akers Family - L to R: Lois, Effie, Joyce and Veola. Standing: Emmons, Ires, Riley, Oza 'Hoss', Carl and Shelby Akers.

Mother and her family moved to Chattanooga, after her Dad had a horse riding accident, so that the older boys in the family could get jobs and help support the family. Their Dad could not work like he could before the accident. After some years, he left the family, and their Mother called them all together and said they were not to be bitter or talk bad about him. They would all pull together and God would get them through. There were many years that my Grandmother said was very hard but they always came through. For this reason, I believe my Mother could stretch a dollar further than anyone, at least that I had ever seen. At age 13 years old, she was saved in a Church of God where her cousin Ruth Caulfield, Aunt Nettie and Uncle Robert "Pinkey" Womack attended. Mother played basketball and tuba in high school, went to Springfield, IL with her high school band in competition. They came in 3rd. They did not get to play in the 1934 World's Fair in Chicago, but she got to attend. She always remembered the fun, and the cold. She went to City High School because her Junior High Band teacher was also the Director of the band at City High School. She had to ride two street cars and one small bus to attend City High School. She graduated from High School at 16 years old. Around 18 years old, she started to work for the Standard Coosa-Thatcher Co. National Yarn Division inspecting thread that was sent to Cuba. Later, she was promoted to the dye house making

\$13.00 a week. There she kept samples of what was dyed and the formulas for the dyeing of thread. The owner of the company gave her a color strand test to see how well she could see the differences in dyes. Mom passed with flying colors. He said she had an excellent ability to see dye color differences. She still does to this very day at 95!

Mother and Daddy grew up during the Great Depression. Life was hard, and many lessons came out of that time period that never left them.



**Nolen and Veola's Wedding Day
L-R: Effie Akers, Arthur Nolen
Robertson, Veola Akers Robertson**

Daddy remembered Mother when he grew up, and when she would come to Centertown, he would

always try to see her and talk with her. He said he waited seven years for her to make up her mind to marry him. Mother said that, due to the circumstances of her parents, she had thought she would never marry. With her older brothers having to work, she put herself on strict discipline to help her Mother after school. She had become the oldest daughter since her oldest sister had died of diphtheria, so she cleaned house, ironed, washed dishes, whatever was needed in addition to taking care of her baby sister. Mother became a mother to that sister since she spent so much time with her while Mama Akers, the name everyone always used for Mom's Mom, was taking care of the rest of the family. But, finally, with the help of an Aunt's advice (who was also their maid), Mother did consent to marry Daddy at the age of 23, and they had a wonderful life. They married June 14th, 1942 at the Second Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga, TN.

Daddy started working at Dupont and they lived in Dupontonia which was a part of Old Hickory, Tennessee. He was called into the Army very soon after that. Mother moved back to Chattanooga and worked until Nolene was born on July 30, 1943 at Erlanger Hospital.

Family



Nolen & Veola Akers Robertson



Joshua displaying his grandfather's helmet from WWII.

THE WAR YEARS

Daddy was drafted into the U.S. Army at Ft. Oglethorpe, GA and trained with British Commandos in Great Britain; and served in North Africa, Sicily and Italy in the 168th RCT Infantry, 34th Infantry Division. He was under the command of Gen. Mark Clark and Gen. Ryder.

His combat experience began when he landed at Oran, Morocco, North Africa, as part of "Operation Torch"; a combat engagement that lasted 3 months. His Infantry Division went on to fight at "Kasserine Pass", "Long March" and "Hill 609" against the

German Commander, Field Marshal Erwin Rommel; and in Italy at the "Volturno River".



PFC Arthur Nolen 'Robbie' Robertson

From Daddy's letter, dated June of 1943, to Mother; he stated, "I landed at Oran, North Africa. (Prior to this time was when he was trained with the British Commandos). "I found it to be a swell bunch of soldiers and officers. They did their best to make me feel at home and would help me anyway they could for most of three months (This was January through March of 1943). There was snow up in those mountains and it was kinda cold sleeping in pup tents, foxholes and slit trenches, but we stood the test. (During this time, he fought at Kasserine Pass.) It was March 15 when we started the final drive."

Daddy went over to fight on a troop ship and he and his cousin stayed together a long time. His cousin was Howard Rigsby from Birmingham, AL. Howard's Mother was Mary and his father was Robert. He and Howard were in the same unit. One night he was to go out on a Reconnaissance Patrol, but he had the flu and Howard said he would take his place. Howard did not come back, was not found and never heard from again.

Daddy's unit marched twelve miles and made the

attack. The march had to be fast and he said it was hot during the day and cold at night. He needed his blanket. Most threw theirs away. On the march, he cut a hole in the corner of his blanket and dragged it behind him. He was tired, but he had a blanket to keep him warm at night. The Germans had broken through the American Lines and Daddy's unit marched the 12 miles to the Kasserine Pass and made the attack. He said, "I was really proud of my comrades. A braver bunch of men I never saw. Many a time I have prayed for them and still do. In spite of shells and machine gun fire, we kept marching and I never did see a man fall. We fought for five days and it was March 30th that we went over the top." (This was probably at Kasserine Pass). They over ran 2 or 3 German machine gun nests killing 8 to 12. Daddy carried a "BAR" (Browning Automatic Rifle). He lost two ammo carriers who were killed. Also German spies or infiltrators were caught trying to hide their blond hair. They were made to take off their hats to expose their blond hair. Later, it was learned they were shot when taken up the command line). In Italy, while crossing the Volturno River, Daddy came under much fire, and was climbing a steep bank. A Corporal who was afraid he was drowning grabbed Daddy's back and wrenched it. He fought on for 5 days, fell and slipped down the side of a mountain under fire. He was badly hurt and sent back to the Aid Station. The first ambulance went without him, which infuriated him. The second ambulance took him and he later heard the first one had been blown up. God was taking care of him! When in the hospital in North Africa, a German soldier was beside him and told Daddy he did not want to fight in the war. He showed Daddy his family's picture. That soldier died a couple of days later from his war wounds. Daddy received a second Purple Heart for this injury while under fire. He was shipped back to the states to a hospital in Tuscaloosa, AL. He had to lay flat on his back for 3 months. While he was healing from his wound at the facility in Alabama, Mother took a bus to see him. She took Nolene, a diaper bag and two suitcases with her. That was a HARD trip to make on a bus. Soldiers, who were traveling for various reasons, helped her. She, however, said the trip was worth it. He was discharged October 28th, 1944 with 2 Purple Hearts.

Here is a letter Daddy wrote to Mother during the war. Family was always first and foremost to him, next to God:

"Sweetheart, it was the hand of the great and almighty that saved my life and many others I know. A shell burst 6 feet behind me. I got shrapnel in my right arm. (He was awarded the Purple Heart for this injury). Something told me to move. I moved and a shell hit where I was laying, another four feet from my head and buried up in the ground. I was laying on my face praying when the Sweet Presence I told you about came to me saying "Be still and know that I am God." Also in that 91st Psalm, "A thousand shall fall at thy side and at thy right hand, but it shall not come nigh thee." Bullets were flying around me like bees."

Psalm 91:8 "Only with thine eyes shall thou behold and see the reward of the wicked." Daddy saw their reward - thousands of prisoners, many graves, motor vehicles blown to pieces. He was sent back from the front to the hospital, operated on and put on a plane and flew 800 miles to another one.

"It was really some experience sweetheart, but the gallant 168th drove on. I am back with them now (June, 1943). I am in good shape now, normal as I ever was and still a better man. I still love you. I know I've got the sweetest, prettiest and most wonderful wife there could be found. I hope our baby (Veola Nolene Robertson) will be just like her too! But sweetheart, be brave. I'm counting on you honey. I have the greatest of faith in you. I have the greatest of faith in God. I know he will take care of you and me too. Pray Veola more and more. Prayer will win this war. Every Christian back in the States should pray more earnestly than ever before."

Daddy said to tell Mama and Dad and the rest of the family about this letter. "You have something to tell that N.R. (Nolene Robertson) now. Send pictures of her. God bless you my darling" - Nolen.

Most men did not like to talk about the war. Daddy wanted to talk, and that was very healthy. He told about how God and the love of family brought him through some very tough, trying times as he marched through Italy. He was wounded, and upon his death February 18, 1983, he still had shrapnel in

his arm. It could never be removed because to do so might mean losing use of that arm.



Service Record of Arthur Nolen Robertson

POST WAR YEARS

When Daddy got out of the Army, the family moved to 1012 Debow Street in Old Hickory where he began work at Dupont. After some time, they moved back to Chattanooga and Daddy attended UT-Chattanooga for one year. This was where Desiree was born on November 16, 1949.

Daddy's one ambition in life was to be a pharmacist. He and Mother lived in Chattanooga while Daddy was going to school. When Desiree was born, she had colic for 6 months. Mother walked her all day and Daddy walked her all night and tried to go to college. As you can imagine, it got to be too much to try and study and go to school too so Daddy went back to work at DuPont in Old Hickory. So, we moved to Old Hickory, and then moved to Mt. Juliet, when Desiree was a little over a year old.

We lived on West Caldwell and Mother did not see the house until it had been bought. Daddy and his Dad saw it, and Daddy bought it. It needed much work but we kids never cared. On August 11, 1955, Donna was added to the family. She was born August 11th at 11 minutes after 11:00. We always thought that was neat! We just had the best time growing up. Betty Ann and Bobby Colson lived down the road and Ethel Colson was like a second mother to us. Mary Ann Baker and her parents, Robert and Lula lived down the hill and would walk to our house some nights and we would all sit outside the back in lawn chairs and swings and talk with no lights on at all. Also, our cousins Joy and Linda Robertson and Aunt Elizabeth and Uncle Bernard lived on South Greenhill Road so we got to see them often which was always great fun!

Mother and Daddy joined Mt. Juliet Baptist Church (which was where Juliet's Chapel is now) and that's the church we grew up in. Daddy held positions in the church different times as Sunday School Superintendent, Sunday School teacher, Deacon and he also sang in the choir. He taught a group of boys and he always tried to let them know that he respected them. He wanted to make sure that their future was secure spiritually, and that they were doing well in school and in their lives. Mother also taught Sunday School and VBS as one of her ways of serving and she sang in the choir. Her longest tenure, and she loved it, was in the Nursery. Mother, Mrs. Ann Campbell and Mrs. Christine Anderson served there for close to 40 years, and they all retired together, receiving recognition for their years of service. They had the new babies, before they could walk.

We attended Mt. Juliet schools from the 1st through 12th grades, and made friends for life. Mother and Daddy were wonderful examples to us of having a welcome smile. Daddy said "if you meet someone without a smile, give them one of yours." He encouraged us to smile and be happy. Grades and graduating were very important to our parents, but I honestly believe the most important thing to them was that we succeed in life but have fun along the way. They encouraged us to go outside and have fun, maybe as much to get us out of the house as it was to make sure we were healthy!

Mother started out in the Wilson County school system as a volunteer in 1965-1966 with Ethel Colson taking children to dental appointments. She also worked many summers in the Head Start programs with Peggy Tomlinson and Esther Hockett as an aide. Eventually she and Ethel Colson went to work at West Elementary School in the reading program as teacher's aides. She then worked at Mt. Juliet Elementary School for a couple of years as a teacher's aide until Ed Hamlett asked her to come back to West as his secretary. When Mr. Robert Stokes took over that position he asked her to stay on as his secretary until he retired. She was school secretary for some 22 years.

Daddy said he had a dream that one day, there would be businesses lining Hwy 70 from Lebanon to Nashville. That's close to being true. But I can remember before the interstate was built. I remember going to see the progress as it was taking shape. Daddy always said if he could afford it, he would buy property toward the interstate just to have a good investment. He never got to do that, but it was a good idea.



Daddy passed away on February 18, 1983. Mother went on to live in the house at West Caldwell for almost 30 more years. In 2011, when she was 93, she moved into an Assisted Living facility in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. She has been very active all her life. She always worked crossword puzzles, reads and crochets baby blankets for any mother needing baby blankets at Gladeville Baptist Church.



Joshua stated, "On April 20, 2016, my Grandmother, Veola Robertson, passed away at the age of 97 years and 9 months, in her room at Carrick Glen, with the staff gathered around her right after returning from Summit Hospital after a brief period of illness."

They are buried at Hermitage Memorial Gardens, Old Hickory, Davidson County, Tennessee. Plot: Masonic Garden.



Arthur M & M Dellen Rigsby Robertson buried at Oak Grove Cemetery, Centertown, Warren County, TN

0>	1) First Child of Arthur and Dellen Robertson unnamed stillborn girl
1>	2) Arthur Montgomery Robertson
2>	3) Mary Dellen (Rigsby) Robertson
3>	4) Stella Lindsey Robertson
4>	5) Dewey Canada Robertson
5>	6) Luther Alman Robertson
6>	7) Thomas Bernard Robertson
7>	8) Emmett Golden Robertson
8>	9) Beulah Gertrude Robertson
9>	10) Loris Berlin Robertson
10>	11) Arthur Nolan Robertson
11>	12) Jennie Lou Robertson
12>	13) Thomas Lindsey Robertson
13>	14) Mary L. (Mollie) Davenport
14>	15) Luther Howard Robertson
15>	16) Cleo Gertrude Robertson

Page from the Robertson Bible.

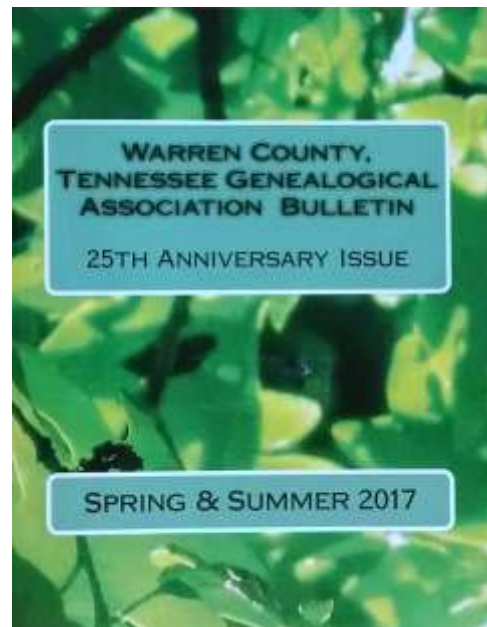


May refreshments provided by two lovely ladies Donna Sullivan and Debra McBride.

2017 Current Membership

Complimentary	3
Exchange	3
Honorary Life Membership	2
Renewed Membership	84
2017 New Membership	6
Total Membership 30 April 2017	98

MEMBERSHIP is open to anyone interested in genealogical or historical research in Warren County, Tennessee. Annual dues are \$20.00 for each calendar year in the USA, foreign \$25.00 slow mail or \$30.00 airmail. Membership is on an annual basis beginning in January. Any persons joining or renewing after 1 June, the fee is \$20.00 for the full year of BULLETINS that are mailed in the USA. Queries relating to the area are welcomed and will be published with preference given to members while queries from non-members will be used as space permits.



Our new Bulletin cover: "The Birthing Tree" detailed canopy photograph by Chris Keathley, 2017.

The Warren County Genealogical Association BULLETIN is available for any article, record, photograph, genealogy or material relating to Warren County Tennessee.

CORRESPONDENCE of any type that requires a reply should always contain a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE), except e-mail. DO NOT send originals unless they are being donated to the association, as we are unable to return any materials. Items may also be submitted electronically to WCGA Editor Christ Keathley at southernmuseum@frontier.com. Articles submitted must relate to Warren County, Tennessee and should be verifiable with the sources or the name(s) from which the information was obtained included.

MEETINGS are held at the Warren County Administration Building, 201 Locust Street, Rear, McMinnville, Warren County, Tennessee on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 2:00 p.m. January through November. No meeting is held in December. Our room is at the rear of the building. All meetings are open to the public.

**WCGA next meeting
Saturday, June 17th, 2 p.m.
Guest Speaker - Cody Prince**



WCGA On The Radio



WCGA members Cheryl Watson Mingle and Joshua Robertson were the guest speakers for the "Behind The Mike" radio show on May 18, 2017 with Kelley Marlowe (on left) also a WCGA member.

**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 or attached.

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

**Give a piece of
Warren County History**



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*

Civil War Soldiers of Warren County, Tennessee Questionnaire

Warren County Genealogical Association has been compiling data on our members' Warren County Civil War Veterans for many years and is now ready to publish this material. We want this publication to be as complete as possible, and we invite members of the public to contribute information on your Civil War ancestors if you would like to have them included in this important volume. Civil War participants, either Union or Confederate forces or Home Guard members, are eligible for inclusion. Give as many details as possible, using another sheet of paper if needed. **Please type, print, or write very plainly. WE WELCOME PHOTOS and will scan and return them to you quickly.** (Contact Warren County Genealogical Association at 931-474-4724 or come by our office in the Warren County Administrative Building on Fridays between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m.) Help us make this project a huge success!

Full name of Soldier: _____

His Company, Regiment, Branch, Rank and Army: _____

Date & Place of Birth: _____

Date & Place of Death and Burial: _____

Occupation before the War: _____

Amount of Schooling completed: _____

Approximate date of family's settlement in Warren County area: _____

Parents' names, with birth, death, marriage dates & places, and occupation, if known:

Father: Born _____ Died _____

Buried _____

Occupation: _____

Mother: Born _____ Died _____

Buried _____

Marriage: _____

Brothers & sisters of Soldier, with birth & death dates:

