



# WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

## Newsletter

May 2020

201 Locust Street

McMinnville, Tennessee

### WCGHA OFFICERS



**President:**  
**Cheryl W. Mingle**



**Vice President:**  
**Marion Rhea Speaks**



**Secretary:**  
**Donna Sullivan**



**Treasurer:**  
**J.B. Brown**



**Past President:**  
**Ann Brown**

*Our office is located at  
201 Locust Street  
in the basement of the  
County Administrative Building*

**Our WCGHA  
Meeting  
Scheduled for  
Saturday, May 16**

**HAS BEEN  
CANCELLED**

The general consensus of our Board of Director's is that it is too risky to hold the May 16 meeting.

As anxious as we all are to get on with a normal life, the dangers from the Coronavirus are still too much of a risk to subject our members and the community. It is our hope that conditions will improve by our scheduled June 20 meeting date. A decision will be made a couple of weeks prior to that date.

*Continued prayers for everyone*

*Cheryl Watson Mingle, WCGHA President*

## Committee And Chairs

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*J. B. Brown*



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### Research:

*Bonita Mangrum*



*Mary Oaks*



### Office:

*Evelyn Wade & Ann Brown*



### Historian:

*Brad Walker*



*Come Visit Us*

**Due to Covid-19  
Our office is  
Presently closed**

**Our normal  
hours are**

**Monday  
&  
Friday**

**9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
931-474-4227**

Email:

[wcgaha.tn@gmail.com](mailto:wcgaha.tn@gmail.com)

On the Web:

[www.tngenweb.org/wcgatn](http://www.tngenweb.org/wcgatn)

On Facebook:

Warren County  
Genealogical & Historical  
Association

and

WCGHA's Old Warren  
County, TN Family  
History/Photos

**Our office  
is located at  
201 Locust Street  
McMinnville, Tennessee  
in the lower level of the  
County Administrative  
Building**

## FROM OUR WCGHA PRESIDENT:

*Dear Members,*

*Once again we find ourselves making the decision to cancel another WCGHA monthly meeting.*

*Knowing that we must conform to the recommended rules of no social gatherings of 10 or more people, having to wear masks and keep a 6 foot distance among ourselves leaves an uneasy feeling when we open our doors for a community meeting. The fact that the Covid-19 virus has no proven treatment leaves a fear factor that is at an all-time high.*

*There's nothing more important to us than the health and safety of our members, their families and the community.*

*For a lot of us, being home-bound has turned the world upside down. When you're used to being on the go a lot, it's difficult to be told what, when and where you can venture to. Some of us are suddenly thrilled to be able to go grocery shopping or wait in line for a food order at a drive through restaurant. A quote from a fellow member "An open Chinese Restaurant, even for take-out, is rarer than a steak" pretty much sums up things.*

*We have taken for granted the freedoms we are guaranteed. To have Federal, State and Local governments mandate regulations that we must live by is sometimes difficult to understand. Let this whole incident be a gentle reminder that one should never take life for granted.*

*I hope you have found time to work on your family tree, to read that book and try that new recipe. After all if that recipe didn't turn out good, only your family will know.*

*Watch out for the Killer Hornets and don't forget to wash your hands.*

*We hope we will see everyone at our June meeting on Saturday, June 20. We'll keep you informed.*

*We are still STRONGER TOGETHER...*

*Cheryl Watson Mingle, WCGHA President*

# Pandemics

Living through this Covid-19 virus has brought the subject of pandemics to the limelight. The Spanish Flu seems to take the front page when the history of pandemics comes up. Few, if any, of us have very much information pertaining to the Spanish Flu subject.

I have attempted to share a bit of information about the history of pandemics in the world that had a major impact on our lives in the United States.

Information for this story was copied from Wikipedia.org and I take no credit for such.

Pandemics have left a black mark in the pages of history in both the US and the world. The 1918 "Spanish" flu was the first of two pandemics caused by the H1N1 influenza A virus; the second was the 2009 swine flu pandemic.

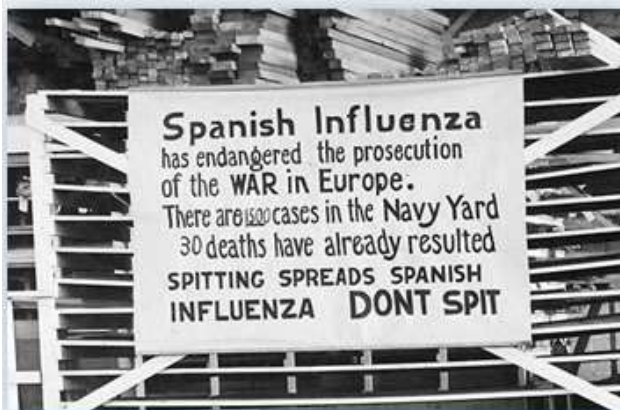


Image from October, 1918 at the Naval Aircraft Factory in Philadelphia. The sign warns those in the factory not to spit, because spitting could spread the flu. Image found on the Naval Historical Center's web site.

## Spanish Flu Pandemic

The Spanish flu, also known as the 1918 flu pandemic, was an unusually deadly influenza. Lasting from spring 1918 through spring or early summer 1919, it infected 500 million people – about a third of the world's population at the time. The death toll is estimated to have been anywhere from 17 million to 50 million, and possibly as high as 100 million, making it one of the deadliest pandemics in human history.

To maintain morale, World War I censors minimized early reports of illness and mortality in Germany, the United Kingdom, France, and the



United States. Newspapers were free to report the epidemic's effects in neutral Spain, such as the grave illness of King Alfonso XIII, and these stories created a false impression of Spain as especially hard hit. This gave rise to the name "Spanish" flu. Historical and epidemiological data are inadequate to identify with certainty the pandemic's geographic origin, with varying views as to its location.

Some have suggested that the epidemic originated in the United States. Historian Alfred W. Crosby stated in 2003 that the flu originated in Kansas, and popular author John M. Barry described a January 1918 outbreak in Haskell County, Kansas, as the point of origin in his 2004 article.

Academic Andrew Price-Smith has made the argument that the virus helped tip the balance of power in the latter days of the war towards the Allied cause. He provides data that the viral waves hit the Central Powers before the Allied powers and that both morbidity and mortality in Germany and Austria were considerably higher than in Britain and France.

Most influenza outbreaks disproportionately kill the very young and the very old, with a higher survival rate for those in between, but the Spanish flu pandemic resulted in a higher than expected mortality rate for young adults.



The outbreak coincided with the deaths and media focus on the First World War. Another explanation involves the age group affected by the disease. The majority of fatalities, from both the war and the epidemic, were among young adults. The number of war-related deaths of young adults may have overshadowed the deaths caused by flu.

When people read the obituaries, they saw the war or postwar deaths and the deaths from the influenza side by side. Particularly in Europe, where the war's toll was high, the flu may not have had a tremendous psychological impact or may have seemed an extension of the war's tragedies. The duration of the pandemic and the war could have also played a role. The disease would usually only affect a particular area for a month before leaving. The war, however, had initially been expected to end quickly but lasted for four years by the time the pandemic struck.

The Spanish flu led to record death tolls. After taking the lives of 195,000 Americans in October 1918, the Spanish flu dissipated as quickly as it had arrived, although it had a brief resurgence after crowds flooded city streets to celebrate the November 11 announcement of the armistice.

There's no doubt that WWI overshadowed the Spanish Flu locally when you start looking at our local newspapers. Very few papers can be found that were published during the time period of 1918-1919. Those that were preserved dedicated most of their coverage to the WWI effort.



**Army officer handing out facemasks in Mexico City**

## **Swine Flu Pandemic**

The 2009 flu pandemic in the United States was a novel strain of the Influenza A/H1N1 virus, commonly referred to as "swine flu" that began in



**A White House nurse prepares to administer the H1N1 vaccine to President Barack Obama at the White House on Sunday, Dec. 20, 2009.**

the spring of 2009. The virus had spread to the US from an outbreak in Mexico.

The pandemic virus is a type of swine influenza, derived originally from a strain which lived in pigs, and this origin gave rise to the common name of "swine flu". This term is widely used by mass media, though the Paris-based World Organization for Animal Health as well as industry groups such as the U.S. National Pork Board, the American Meat Institute, and the Canadian Pork Council objected to widespread media use of the name "swine flu" and suggested it should be called "North American flu" instead, while the World Health Organization switched its designation from "swine influenza" to "influenza A (H1N1)" in late April 2009.

On June 25, the CDC released information revealing that there were more than likely over one million (1,000,000) cases of the disease in the US, most of which had not been reported or diagnosed.

On October 24, President Obama declared the 2009 H1N1 swine flu a national emergency. The declaration made it easier for U.S. medical facilities to handle a surge in flu patients by allowing the waiver of some requirements of Medicare, Medicaid and other federal health insurance programs as needed.

The state of Tennessee listed 1,163 confirmed cases with no hospitalizations reported and 57 confirmed deaths from the swine flu.

The 2009 flu pandemic vaccines were influenza vaccines developed to protect against the pandemic H1N1/09 virus. These vaccines either contained inactivated (killed) influenza virus, or weakened live virus that could not cause influenza. The killed vaccine was injected, while the live vaccine was given as a nasal spray. Both these types of vaccine

were produced by growing the virus in chicken eggs. Around three billion doses were produced, with delivery in November 2009.

On January 15, 2010, the CDC released new estimate figures for swine flu, saying it had sickened about 55 million Americans and killed about 11,160 from April through mid-December. On February 12, 2010, the CDC released updated estimate figures for swine flu, reporting that, in total, 57 million Americans had been sickened, 257,000 had been hospitalized and 11,690 people had died (including 1,180 children) due to swine flu from April through to mid-January.



**Swine Flu Prevention – The Dr. Oz Show.**

### **Comparing the Swine Flu with Covid-19**

*The political climate in 2009 was considerably different during this time period. A new president was just inaugurated in January and the news media was in awe of the first black president. The fear factor was kept low, the economy didn't shut down and people went about their normal lives. It was not a presidential election year and there was no need to politicize things.*

*Things are considerably different in 2020. Although not always deadly, there is no known cure or vaccine. We have a presidential election in our horizon and the pandemic quickly became politicized and the news media quickly fanned the fear factor flames. The economy was at an all-time high and quickly fell to record lows. There's deep political division in the country and it's very difficult to generate the "We're All In This Together" attitude.*

□ *Doyle Speaks, Newsletter Editor*

## **The Heritage of Warren County, TN Available Again!**



The Heritage of Warren County, TN, published in 2005, is now available for sale again. Recently the WCGHA purchased from the publisher, County Heritage, Inc., the last of these informative, hardback books, which were thought to be out of

print. This book can be purchased for just \$72.00 plus \$7.00 shipping and makes a nice gift. Make checks out to WCGHA and mail to: WCGHA, P.O. Box 411, McMinnville, TN 37111. Or come by the WCGHA office on Mondays or Fridays 9-3 p.m., County Administrative Building, 201 Locust St., McMinnville, Tennessee.

### *Information on the Heritage Book:*

- 618 pages
- 48 pages of Index
- 29,840 +/- names in Index
- Approximately 1,715 photos
- 1,730 numbered articles
- 6.2 pounds (weight)
- 12 3/8 x 9 1/4 x 2 inches (size)

For more information contact:

J.B. Brown, Treasurer @ [jbbrown3446@gmail.com](mailto:jbbrown3446@gmail.com)

or

Cheryl Watson Mingle @ [ctmingle@blomand.net](mailto:ctmingle@blomand.net)

# Time Capsule Reinstalled

By **LISA HOBBS**

Reporter for the Southern Standard  
McMinnville, Tennessee

The exterior wall of McMinnville City Hall was repaired this week. It was damaged in December 2018.

WASCO, a masonry contractor, began placing exterior slabs of stones Tuesday morning.



As repairs to City Hall were being made Tuesday, McMinnville Mayor Ben Newman returns the time capsule to its hiding place in the building's exterior wall. It was placed by City Bank and Trust officials during construction of the building in 1968 and discovered in March 2020 by Waymon Hale Construction employees.

“Matching the black stone was difficult,” said WASCO representative Shawn Mathews. “The city originally thought it was black marble, but it wasn’t. It’s manmade. When someone from WASCO looked it at, we knew. We had to try to match the coloration of the existing stone.”

The building was damaged 17 months ago when a motorist struck it.

Waymon Hale Construction is overseeing the repairs due to the collision causing structural damage to the building.

On hand was Mayor Ben Newman with a time capsule that was discovered in March. The box was placed in the exterior wall by City Bank & Trust representatives when the building was constructed in 1968-69 and was forgotten.

“It’s still amazing to me that it was there and it took someone striking the building for it to be found,” said Newman. “Even after the building was hit, no one called to say ‘There’s a time capsule located there.’ I guess it was forgotten with the passage of time. After it was found, people remembered.”

The time capsule contained various items from that era including pictures from the groundbreaking ceremony on May 31, 1968, a write-up of that event, a letter from the mayor, Southern Standard newspapers, and miscellaneous knick-knacks.

Newman added a letter, pictures of downtown’s renovation, a Southern Standard, and more. A plaque will be placed on the wall alerting future generations to the time capsule’s existence.

**This story appeared in the May 1 edition of the Southern Standard newspaper in McMinnville, Tennessee.**

*Used by permission*

***Our Facebook Site***  
**WCGHA's Old Warren County, TN Family History/Photos**  
**MONTHLY INSIGHTS**  
**April, 2020**

4,450 Group Members (+37 this month)

121 Posts	524 Comments	3.370 Reactions
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**Top Contributors**

Falcon Rest Mansion  
Lucas Holt  
James Zahn

**Top Post**

Tommy D Fairbanks: Bobbie Sharpe when she taught at Warren County Junior High 1979  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WCGAoldwarrencountytnfamilies/permalink/1560749530708422/>

Comments: 50  
Likes: 150  
Shares: 5  
Reactions: 275

**Peak Time:** Monday, 7 p.m.

Don't forget to follow our Facebook page at  
Warren County Genealogical & Historical Association  
for information  
about our Association, upcoming events, and posts and links relating to genealogy and history

***If you wish***

*In order to save postage on the May Bulletin scheduled to be available in mid-May  
You may choose to pick up your issue at the June 20 meeting*

*Please email*

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## From the Facebook files of

### WCGHA's Old Warren County, TN Family History/Photos



This is an on-going series of photos from *WCGHA's Old Warren County, TN Family History/Photos*. The Public Group site was organized several years ago and is co-administered by Cheryl Watson Mingle, President of the Warren County Genealogical & Historical Association along with Ann Brown, Past President.

You're invited to join our Facebook group, comment and submit photos and history.



**SCENE OF RESCUE**—Key figures in the recent action resulting in the recovery of a coon hound from a 75-foot cavern near Mt. Zion are shown at the mouth of the cave, Bob Molloy, left foreground, lowered himself on a repelling rope to lasso "Red," held by

owner Lofton Smartt at center. "Liz," the hound credited with locating "Red," is held at right by Dickie Rogers. Kneeling above the cavern are "Jot" Hillis, "Buz" Smith and Billy Joe Smartt.

February 1971

Submitted by Tommy D. Fairbanks, March 3, 2020