



WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

October 2021

201 Locust Street

McMinnville, Tennessee

WCGHA OFFICERS



President:
Cheryl W. Mingle



Vice President:
Marion Rhea Speaks



Secretary:
Barbara Bates



Treasurer:
J.B. Brown



Past President:
Ann Brown

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

**Come Join Us
on October 16
For the next WCGHA Meeting**

**Our guest speaker will be
Lifetime Warren County Tennessee
Native**



Steve West
**Who retired after 40 ½ years with
High's Funeral Home in McMinnville
He will present a program on
"The History of Funeral Service of
Warren County, TN"**

We will meet in the early voting room located in the rear of the Warren County Administration building. You will be required to sign in and observe social distancing.

(Refreshments will not be served)

Cheryl Watson Mingle, WCGHA President



Come Visit Us

Our hours are

**Monday
&
Friday
9 a.m.-3 p.m.
931-474-4227**

Email:
wcgaha.tn@gmail.com

On the Web:
www.tngenweb.org/wcgatn

On Facebook:
Warren County
Genealogical &
Historical
Association

and

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

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Committees

Membership:

J. B. Brown



Circulation Manager:

Debra Wilcher McBride



Programs:

Marion Rhea Speaks



Bulletin Editor and Web page Editor:

Ann Brown



Research:

Bonita Mangrum



Mary Oaks



Newsletter Editor:

Doyle Speaks



Speaksanddm@aol.com

931-743-7188

Publicity:

Brad Walker



Refreshments:

Christine Bouldin



Office:

Evelyn Wade



Mary Oaks



Historian:

Brad Walker



Nominating Committee Meets to Select WCGHA Officers for 2022 Term



ANN BROWN PHOTO

The newly appointed nominating committee recently met to select WCGHA Executive officers and Board of Directors for the 2022 term. President Cheryl Watson Mingle appointed, from left, Brad Walker, Carolyn Lance, Mary Oaks and J.B. Brown (chairman), to this committee. Their selection will be announced at the November meeting.

TURN YOUR RADIO ON



Representing the WCGHA this month on WBMC 960 AM-FM "Town Talk" was Vice President Marion Rhea Speaks (left). She is shown with Jeff Barnes who is co-host of the talk show. A WCGHA representative appears monthly on radio WBMC 960 AM-FM on the 2nd Wednesday morning each month at 8:30 a.m. to give a talk on the upcoming meeting. You may also tune in on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/RadioWBMC97.7FM> WBMC

Were We the Corn King?

Making Liquor in Warren County

This article is a reprint of the booklet prepared in 1991 by WCGHA member Wanda Muncey Gant.

PART 1

This little booklet was composed for educational interest. YOU WILL FIND THAT THE HISTORY OF TENNESSEE (PUBLISHED BY THE STATE OF TENNESSEE) DOCUMENTS THE FACT THAT MAKING LIQUOR

MADE TENNESSEE

“THE CORN KING”!

And, today, Jack Daniels Distillery is World Famous. Drinking use to be a part of common life. It is the number one item preachers HAVE to preach about. Fact is, when camp meeting came “the preachers use to stay with my ancestor who provided for the needs”. And he was a whiskey maker.!



Newspaper articles regarding some of the troubles indicate that they occurred not because of the drinking, but indirectly because of the prohibition law. Naturally, excessive use of alcohol is unwise. But, excessiveness in anything is harmful in some way.

As you will read, for the largest part of our U.S. history, the government (therefore you) has reaped the rewards of legalized liquor. It still does and you still do. Indirectly, from Federal and State, if not county, OUR GOVERNMENT, who we elected, CONDONES THE USE OF LIQUOR AS LONG AS THE MONEY SPENT FOR IT GOES TO THEM.

I dedicate this to the “NURSERY CENTER OF THE SOUTH” which got its start, no doubt, because of the wonderful orchards here in the county.

Wanda Muncey Gant, August 1991

LIQUOR IN THE UNITED STATES & WARREN COUNTY, TENNESSEE

It should be no surprise that taxation developed in the United States because of a need for MONEY. First, a tariff was levied on imported items, including liquor. This did not yield enough revenue so in 1791 a tax was placed on distilled spirits such as rum, whiskey and other strong alcoholic liquors. Liquor made from home-grown grain taxed from 7 to 18 cents a gallon, depending on its proof, or alcoholic content. Liquor made from

imported items was taxed from 10-20 cents a gallon. This difference in taxation was to protect whiskey made from domestic corn and rye against rum made from imported molasses.

At that time, the roads were few and in bad condition. WHISKEY, being light for its value, was an easy way to market their grain. In one year no collection was made in Pennsylvania, the leading state in distilling grain and people were so bitter it resulted in the Whiskey Rebellion that took 15,000 men to put it down. Because the need for money was so great the excise on whiskey was continued and in 1794 licenses were required of sellers of wine and liquor. Taxes on liquor yielded rather well.

In 1794 when a ball was given “the affair might last for two or three days during which the liquor flowed freely and lavish tables were set every day” (Virginians at Home by Morgan);

In 1802 President Jefferson repealed all internal revenue taxes. From 1802 to the War of 1812 no internal taxes were levied by the national government. But, late in the War of 1812, a system of taxation was put into effect on several items, including liquor. Licenses were required of retailers of wines and liquor. From 1817 until the Civil War, no internal taxes were levied, but when the Civil War came so many things were taxed on everything Congress could think of.

When the tax on liquor was raised from 20 cents a gallon to 60 cents, then to \$1.50, and finally to \$2.00, no tax was levied on stocks of liquor on hand at the date of the higher taxes went into effect. Before the rates were raised, there was much discussion in Congress. You can see what the distillers would do. They made whiskey and other spirits as fast as possible and put them into storage. So, when the high rates were levied, a large supply of liquor was on hand. Thus, the increased rates did not give much money to the government for some years. After the Civil War, we had gone heavily into debt and payment of principal and interest had to be made on this debt. As revenues increased and debt reduced, finally those on liquor and tobacco were the main source of taxation.

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MAKING LIQUOR

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TENNESSEE AND LIQUOR

CORN is KING in TENNESSEE. Many of the pioneers made whiskey, and whiskey was frequently made from corn. In 1840 whiskey played a part in Tennessee becoming the largest corn-growing state in the nation, producing 44,986,188 bushels that year.

“A strange fact about the people of the United States is that they spend more money for intoxicating liquors than they do for bread. In May, 1884, a convention of people who were opposed to the liquor trade met at Nashville and asked to have the constitution of Tennessee so amended as to abolish the manufacture and sale of liquor in the state”.

The legislature of 1885 passed the prohibition amendment, the legislature of 1887 approved it, and ordered an election to be held the following fall. Citizens of both political parties began making speeches for the amendment. The women of the state worked earnestly for it, but some men worked more earnestly against it, and the prohibition amendment was lost.

The General Assembly of 1909 passed a bill prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors anywhere in the state within four miles of a schoolhouse. Governor Patterson vetoed the bill, giving the following reasons for his action: First, that he had announced in his canvass that he would approve any prohibition measure, PROVIDED the people of the town or city to be affected wished to have such a law; but that he would not approve such a law when the people of the community had been given no opportunity to express their wishes, or had expressed themselves against it. Second, that the Democratic platform on which he had been elected announced the same principle; therefore, he could not in good faith approve the bill. The majority of the legislators replied that they had been elected with instructions from the people to pass such a bill, and they passed it over the governor's veto, thus making it a law. Similar action was taken on a bill prohibiting the manufacture of liquor on the state, and on an election law.

Since September of 1917 the manufacture of whiskey, except for medicinal purposes, has been prohibited in the United States. Almost any



department of government in Tennessee could assess and collect taxes including on beer, malt and liquor under local option. In 1039 the Commission of Finance and Taxation added to this department the work of alcohol control.

WHISKEY RING was a term given in American History to a combination of distillers and Federal revenue collectors during Grant's administration. They began in St. Louis, Missouri to conspire to defraud the government of the excise tax on whiskey (\$1,650,000). The revenue collectors blackmailed the distillers about technical violations of the law. About 240 distillers and revenue officers pleaded guilty but most were pardoned. Disclosures implicated the chief clerk of the Treasury Department and O.E. Babcock, President Grant's secretary, but neither was convicted.

WARREN COUNTY TENNESSEE

On May 18, 1844 PHYLIS ELAM, a free woman of color, was found guilty of selling liquor to slaves (Warren County Criminal records). Records indicate she lived on Collins River which was the best place in Tennessee for liquor making.

The government requires that before any person may engage in certain businesses, they must obtain permission from the government. THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IS NOT CONDEMNED. ONLY THE SALE FROM WHICH THEY DO NOT DERIVE MONETARY BENEFITS! On March 15, 1860 an Act of the Legislature was passed regarding the mixing and adulteration of spirituous and vinous liquors. The applicants applied for a new license every 3 months and the revenue was used to pay State, County and

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MAKING LIQUOR

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School Tax. Previously, land set aside and rented out to obtain money for schools had been used for the purpose.

The 1870 tax assessment by H.J. Morrow, Warren County Tax Collector listed in Civil District 6 on Collins River that DAVID COPOPINGER had a still valued at \$80; H.L.W. HILL had 12 stills valued at \$400; JONATHAN P. HILL paid on 3 stills valued at \$350; AARON MOFFIT had a till valued at \$300; BENJAMIN J. MC COLLUM had 1 still valued at \$75; ADAM NUNLEY had 1 still valued at \$40; COOPER SCOTT had 2 stills valued at \$200 and WILLIAM C. WOODLEE had 1 still valued at \$100. Over in Civil District 10 E.J. WOOD owned a still and tubs valued at \$200. In 1860 all these people were listed as farmers on the census.

J.H. Robertson, Commissioned and qualified to administer oaths in and for the County and State of Tennessee, J. J. Morrow, who being duly sworn, deposes and says, that the \$2,069.28 on Bank of Tennessee Notes, now offered on deposit for the credit of the Treasurer of Tennessee, and in SCHOOL WARRANTS \$3,336.46 and in U.S. Currency \$950.96 was received by affiant in payment of taxes or other dues to the State of Tennessee for the quarter ending December 30, 1871.

Part II of this booklet will be presented in the November issue of the WCGHA Newsletter.



This is just one of several beautiful murals located throughout the city of McMinnville. Located on the corner of Spring Street and Main Street. It was painted by local artist Steve Davis.

Do You Have a Brick Wall?

We're speaking here about genealogy research brick walls

Most genealogy researchers are confronted with that place in their pedigree chart where you just can't go any further with that line of research. That is known as a brick wall.

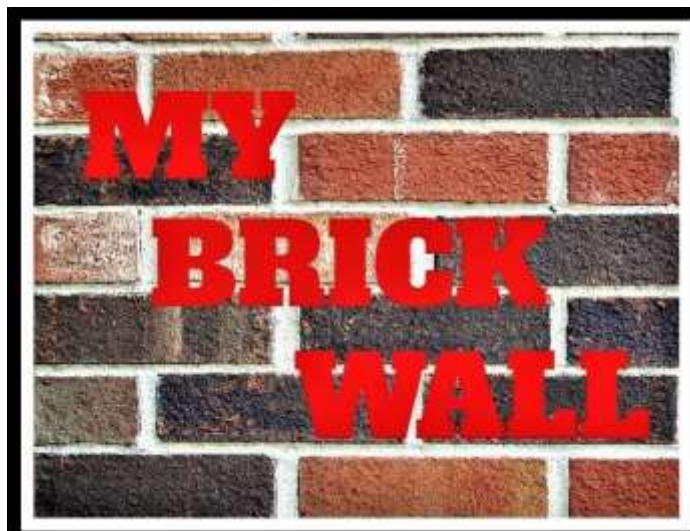
Space is being allocated to post information on your "brick wall" in hopes of receiving help from other researchers.

TAKE ADVANTAGE, IT'S FREE!

One of my brick walls is my 3rd great grandfather, Jacob Poff (the surname historically was sometimes spelled Pauf, Pfaff, Paff, etc.) and his father (my 4th great grandfather), who I believe to be Alexander Poff. Jacob appears in the deed records for Warren County in 1826, for a tract on the waters of Hickory Creek. Jacob also appears in the 1830 and 1840 U.S. censuses for Warren County and in some Warren County tax records in the 1830s; Alexander (age 70-80) appears in the 1840 census for Warren County. I suspect Alexander died in Warren County in the early 1840s, but I cannot confirm and don't know where he would be buried.

By 1845 Jacob and his family moved to Tippah County, Mississippi, and he and his wife Elizabeth (Chappell) are buried in Mississippi near Ashland, Benton County. A daughter of Jacob, Caroline Poff, married Isaac Vandergriff in 1835 (perhaps in DeKalb County); another daughter, Mary Ann, married Daniel McClain in 1843 (likely in Warren County). These Poff daughters and husbands also moved with Jacob to Mississippi.

At least two different lines of Poffs are known to have moved into Virginia and into North Carolina from Pennsylvania. There is a Poff line in Virginia beginning in the 1790s through a George Gottlieb Poff; this line includes a Jacob Poff, born in 1796 in Augusta County, Virginia (father was Charles Poff). It is not clear whether this is my 3rd great grandfather, as other records indicate my Jacob Poff ancestor was born in Pennsylvania about



1788. Separately, a line of Poffs (at the time spelled Pfaff) moved into North Carolina from Pennsylvania about 1771; the patriarch was a Peter Pfaff and his family established a community called Pfafftown.

Please contact Joe Poff,
joe.poff@bakerbotts.com

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I want to identify my direct ancestor, Mary E., wife / widow of Alexander Webb.

Alexander Webb (1810-1859) was born in Warren Co., TN, the son of Townsend Webb & wife Nancy Kendrick. Alexander and his 6 brothers lived in Arkansas Territory until the death of his surviving parent, Townsend. Alexander was 19 years old when his paternal grandfather Jesse Webb Sr. came by wagon from Warren Co. to take the orphaned children back to Tennessee. Alexander did not go with his brothers initially, but was in Warren Co. in Jan 1835 when he made a purchase from the estate of William McKey.

Alexander's wife was Mary E., 34 years old, born in Tennessee, as enumerated on the 1850 census of Warren Co., Dist. 14. It is thought that Alexander & Mary E. married about 1830 in Tennessee, as they had 6 children between 1831 and 1856, all born in Warren Co. Their oldest daughter was Nancy Townsend Webb, named for her deceased paternal grandfather. Their 5th child was Mary Denton Webb (1848-1932).

Alexander took his family to Missouri, where he died. Mary E. appeared in 1860 in Phelps Co., Meramec, MO, but not on later censuses. It is presumed she died in that place, although no graves have been found for either Alexander or Mary E. Daughter Nancy Townsend married in Warren Co., in 1851, and daughter Mary Denton married in Phelps Co., MO, in 1869.

Is there any 'family' significance in naming daughter Mary Denton Webb? Is there any connection of this

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MY BRICK WALL

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family to the Warren Co. Dentons ? What was Mary E.'s maiden name before she married Alexander Webb? I find no record among the Dentons that identify a woman Mary having married Alexander Webb.

Nancy Townsend Webb (1831 TN-1925 MO), 1st child of Alexander Webb & wife Mary E., married Cornelius Westfall Dye (1812 OH-1866 MO) in Warren County, on 26 Jan 1851. [Since the marriage records for Warren Co. don't exist for that date, I believe that date was from Nancy's own statement.] Following their marriage, Nancy & Cornelius moved to Indiana where their 1st child was born in Jan 1852 in Pulaski Co. In all, Nancy & Cornelius had 15 children, including 8 children by Cornelius' 1st marriage. Nancy's first 3 children were born in Pulaski Co., IN; the next 3 born in Texas Co., MO; and the youngest child was born in Pulaski Co., MO in 1866.

I have tried to 'follow' Alexander's widowed family in Missouri by following his daughter Nancy Townsend's family, but simply cannot find / recognize them. And I could not find any MO marriage records after the 1860 census for Mary E.'s children. The only son of Alexander Webb & wife Mary E., John Alexander 'Alex' [assumed named for his father] (1840-1905) never married, but fought in the Civil War, and was permanently disabled in that conflict. Perhaps it would be helpful to give you the families...

*Alexander Webb, son of Townsend Webb & wife Nancy Kendrick-- 1810 TN-1859 MO

*his wife Mary E.-- 1816 TN-c1860-70 MO?

*their children Webb: Nancy Townsend (1831-1925); Lidy A. [Lydia ?] (1838-c1860-70); John Alexander (1840-1905); Sarah E. (1848-c1860-70); Mary Denton (1848-1932); and Henrietta E. (1856-c1860-70).

Nancy Townsend WEBB Dye and family stayed in Phelps / Pulaski / Laclede Co., MO area and are buried in Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery in Pulaski Co.. Mary Denton WEBB Judkins and family also stayed in that area and are buried in Fairview Cemetery in Pulaski Co., MO.

Alexander Webb (1810-1859) and his 6 brothers were in the Arkansas Territory from about 1814-1829, where their father Major Townsend Webb (1790-1826) was serving in the U.S. military on the Louisiana Purchase frontier. There was a continuing, considerable threat in that area not only from Indians but also from Spanish and French raiders on the Mississippi River. There is no indication of how Maj. Townsend died-- whether illness, or combat-- but he was only 36yrs old when he died, leaving the 7 orphaned sons. Since the last son Austin was born in Phillips Co., AR in 1826, it would appear that Townsend's wife Nancy Kendrick died at that time or shortly thereafter. She was not mentioned in the notice / obit of Townsend in the "Arkansas Gazette" newspaper (Tue, 11 Apr 1826, Vol. VII, No. 15, p. 2, col. 3). No

graves have been found for either Maj. Townsend Webb or his wife Nancy Kendrick. Guardianship of the 7 sons fell immediately to Townsend's brother-in-law Sylvanus Phillips-- for whom the county was named-- husband of the sister Rebecca Kendrick of Townsend's wife Nancy Kendrick. When the sons were taken in 1829 to Warren Co., TN by their paternal grandfather Jesse Webb, Alexander opted to remain with his Phillips aunt and uncle. At what point Alexander returned to the place of his nativity is unknown, but may have been prompted by the death of Sylvanus Phillips in Oct 1830 AR, even though his aunt Rebecca didn't die until 1842 AR.

At this point, I usually find myself going in circles and getting nowhere...

I've been looking unsuccessfully for the identity of Mary E. for 35+ years. I've tried to give you as much information as I have on Mary and her children, but there is very little to go on. Please edit this query to fit your publication needs... Thank you for this new column; I hope we can help each other with our Brick Walls. Sharon Gammon, New Mexico

sgammon22@suddenlink.net

DO YOU HAVE A BRICK WALL?

Perhaps we can help

Send your inquiry to be included in future issues to

Speaksanddm@aol.com

All inquiries must be signed and an email or telephone number for contact.

Welcome New Member

Michael Medford

Michaelcarlmedford@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE

WCGHA membership date has been reinstated to our old date. Dues are due 1 March each year. All members in 2021 will receive their 2 Bulletins as usual. We will send out invoices around 1 February for 2022 renewal via email.

J.B. Brown,
WCGHA Treasurer



This beautiful old barn is located on the William “Rock” Martin homestead located on the Old Rock Island Road in Warren County. It is certainly not as old as the Rock Martin home but is a great addition to the estate.