



**Warren County Genealogical Association, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 411, McMinnville, TN 37111-0411**

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**CONTENTS**

<b>MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>INVENTORY OF THE PERSONAL EFFECTS OF WILLIAM “ROCK” MARTIN, DECEASED.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SECOND INVENTORY AND SALE BILL OF THE PERSONAL EFFECTS OF WILLIAM “ROCK” MARTIN, DECEASED.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>WILLIAM “ROCK” MARTIN FAMILY GENEALOGY (EXCERPTS) Compiled 1978-1980 by Jacqueline H. Haley.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>MANY STORIES TOLD ABOUT OLD ‘ROCK’ MARTIN HOME, By Pat Lasater, <i>Southern Standard,</i> <i>McMinnville, Tennessee, Monday Afternoon, December 12, 1977, page 10 A.....</i></b>	<b>16</b>
<b>STILL STANDING AFTER ALL OF THESE YEARS: ROCK MARTIN HOUSE NEARLY 200 YEARS OLD, by Amy Satterwhite, <i>Southern Standard, McMinnville, Tennessee, February 21, 2003.....</i></b>	<b>18</b>
<b>HISTORIC HOME STILL STANDING AFTER NEARLY TWO CENTURIES, by Charlie Johnson, <i>Southern Standard, McMinnville, Tennessee, May 7, 2006.....</i></b>	<b>19</b>
<b>2016 WARREN COUNTY, TENNESSEE ANNUAL CEMETERY DECORATIONS.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>BOOKS FOR SALE.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b><i>Cemetery Spotlight, NEW HOME CEMETERY, Compiled by Betty Higginbotham and Chris Keathley.....</i></b>	<b>23</b>
<b>New Home Cemetery Tombstone Inscriptions with Added Genealogical and Historical Information and Photographs.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Persons Known to be Buried in New Home Cemetery in Unmarked Graves.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Plat of New Home Graveyard, Warren County, Tennessee Plat Book 5 (1895-1946).....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>1911 NEW HOME SCHOOL GROUP.....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>NEW HOME SCHOOL AND OTHER SCHOOLS/PLACES OF WORSHIP AT NEW HOME.....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>INCREASE COMMUNITY AND NEW HOME COMMUNITY NEWS COLUMNS PUBLISHED IN MCMINNVILLE, TENNESSEE NEWSPAPERS.....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>QUERIES.....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>OBITUARY FOR MRS. JANE CARDWELL 1787-1823, Contributed by Barbara B. Bates.....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>ELI HARRIS AND THE MOUNTAIN ECHO, WARREN COUNTY, TENNESSEE’S FIRST NEWSPAPER Researched by Chris Keathley.....</b>	<b>61</b>

IN MEMORIAM, GREGORY MORRIS SCOTT.....	63
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CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS OF WARREN COUNTY, TENNESSEE, HARMON A. FRAZIER, Contributed by Kary R. Frazier.....	64
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INDEX.....	65
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## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

June of this year will mark the 150th anniversary of the death of pioneer Warren County, Tennessee settler, William "Rock" Martin. Because of this anniversary a good deal of genealogical and historical information has been included in this issue of the WCGA Bulletin. "Rock" Martin, ancestor to many descendants, (possibly numbering in the thousands) resided much of his long life in the Mud Creek Community of Warren County, Tennessee. His landmark home, which still stands about seven miles from McMinnville, was built about 1825 and is in relatively good shape considering its age. The home is presently owned by William "Rock" Martin descendant, Raleigh Miller who purchased the home and acreage on that side of Highway 70 at the estate auction of his uncle, E.Q. "Tip" Miller in November 1990 (Thanksgiving Day). The auction began at 9:30 a.m. and I attended later in the day to photograph.. I left my vehicle at the nearby Shiloh Cemetery and walked to the brick mansion and took photos inside as well as outside the house. As I was taking photos outside the home Raleigh Miller came to lock up and gave me a personal tour of the house, which he had just purchased, before driving me back to my vehicle at the cemetery. Several years ago while I was researching at the Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville I searched for an

**THE OIL CONFLAGRATION AT McMINN-  
VILLE.—We were honored yesterday by  
a call from Col. Josiah F. Morford, Mas-  
ter of Chancery at McMinnville.**

The oil well owned by Maj. S. D. Row-  
an took fire last Friday night, as was re-  
ported, and burned with fearful fury, not-  
withstanding the most vigorous efforts to  
extinguish the flames, until daylight next  
morning. Some oil men consider this an  
unmistakable indication of oil, while oth-  
ers think it betokens only the presence of  
salt water. The boring has been resumed,  
and will no doubt be prosecuted with  
vigor until the question of oil is decided.

Mr. Rock Island Martin, as he was  
most commonly called, an old citizen of  
Warren county, died last week.

Col. Morford speaks hopefully of the  
future, and looks to time as the surest  
remedy for the evils, political and pecu-  
niary, which afflict the people.

**CHANCERY SALE**  
IN  
**Warren County, Tennessee.**

**ONE THOUSAND AND FOUR ACRES OF**  
Land to be sold on  
**Tuesday, 28th day of January, 1868,**  
At the late residence of Wm. Martin, deceased,  
in Warren county, and on the stage road lead-  
ing from McMinnville to Sparta, and seven miles  
from the former place.

In obedience to a decree of the Chancery  
Court at McMinnville, Tenn., rendered in the  
cause of G. W. Martin and others against the  
heirs of Wm. Martin, deceased, I will sell at the  
above time and place, all of the lands belonging  
to the heirs of said deceased, consisting of 1004  
acres of valuable Farming Lands, which have  
been divided and will be sold in lots, or all to-  
gether, to suit purchasers.

Lot No. 1, consisting of 685 acres, including  
the large Brick Mansion House, out-houses and  
orchard, etc.

Lot No. 2 contains 274 acres.  
Lot No. 3 contains 263 acres.  
Lot No. 4 contains 82 acres.

**TERMS OF SALE—One and two years' credit,**  
except \$300 cash. Bond and security required  
and a lien retained. Minimum valuation, \$7  
per acre. **J. F. MORFORD, C. and M.**  
By **J. C. BILES, D. C.**  
dec20 4tw

obituary for William "Rock" Martin which Warren County News Column published in the  
*Republican Banner*, Nashville, Tennessee,  
July 11, 1866, page 3.

would give pertinent, genealogical and historical information on him but was unable to locate one. Instead of a detailed obituary, I did however locate in the July 11, 1866, page 3 issue of the *Republican Banner*, Nashville, Tennessee, a Warren County, Tennessee news column which contained a notice of death for "Rock" Martin. The death announcement listed him as "Rock Island Martin" which I had never seen before; I had only seen references to him as "Rock" Martin". As of April 2016 one Warren County—McMinnville Pioneer Family Certificate has been issued to the following William "Rock" Martin descendant: Thomas Martin Hunter, Jr., Heisson, Washington.

If you directly descend from "Rock" Martin or any other pioneer settler who was in Warren County no later than the 1820 census you may obtain a Warren County—McMinnville Pioneer Family Certificate by completing an application. Applications may be obtained online at [www.tngenweb.org/wcgatn](http://www.tngenweb.org/wcgatn) or at the Warren County, Tennessee Genealogical Association Facebook page or at the WCGA office at 201 Locust Street. There is a \$10 application processing fee + \$3.50 shipping for the certificates.

**Chris Keathley, WCGA Bulletin Editor,**  
**210 E. Main St., McMinnville, TN 37110**  
**[southernmuseum@frontier.com](mailto:southernmuseum@frontier.com)**

Advertisement, *Nashville Union and Dispatch*, Nashville,  
Tennessee, December 31, 1867, front page.