



Warren County Genealogical Association
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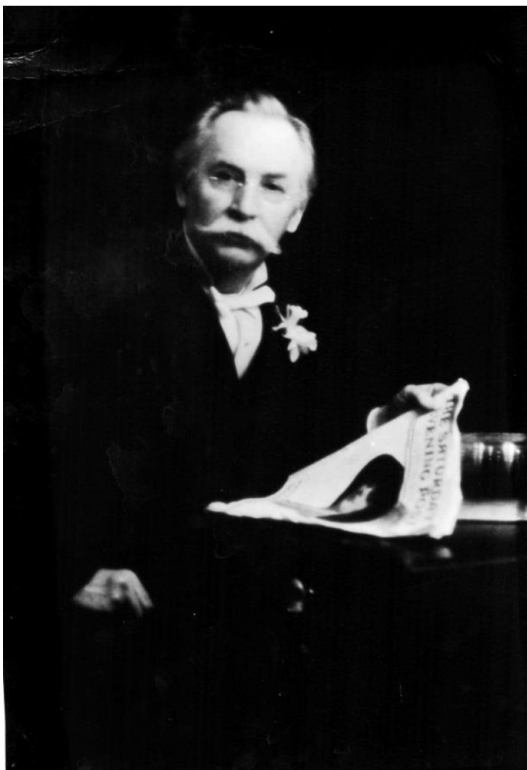
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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

On January 23 of this year Monty Clell Wanamaker passed away suddenly at his museum, Southern Museum & Galleries of Photography, Culture and History, at 210 E. Main Street in McMinnville, Tennessee. A generous Warren County Genealogical Association member for many years, Monty was one of the best, if not the best, Artist in the area as well as a well-known historian, writer, and poet. He professionally and artistically captured many of Warren County's landmarks in his Warren County, Tennessee Landmark Calendars which he created for many years. With several portrait commissions in 2017 and his continued work on his collages which he created and with his art exhibition at the Magness Library and Community House in the fall of 2017 he unfortunately did not have the time or energy to create a 2018 Landmarks Calendar.

I first met Monty Wanamaker in October 1998 at the Autumn Street Fair which was being held in downtown McMinnville, Tennessee. He was working at Antiques on Main, located on Main Street, that day. Monty had a booth in the middle of the store filled with his artworks as well as a large booth in the back consisting of many old books and antiques. I ended up buying several items that day and many times later, primarily books and postcards.



W.S. Lively

Monty invited me to go with him antiquing on the weekends mainly to Murfreesboro, Tullahoma, Manchester and Woodbury. While at the Old Feed Store Antique Mall in Woodbury one Sunday afternoon we discovered in one of the many antique booths a black and white image of W.S. Lively holding a newspaper which we both quickly recognized. Finding other McMinnville, Tennessee related items in the same booth Monty contacted the booth's owner and learned the owner was Sherry Cassetty Scott whom Monty had known. Sherry had many more McMinnville related items which she and her brother, Barry Cassetty, had inherited from their father, Charles "Steamboat" Cassetty. Sherry and her brother wanted to sell the entire collection to one person. Several people wanted portions of the collection but did not have an interest in the entire collection. After negotiations Monty purchased the entire collection with the intention of opening a museum and using the Cassetty collection as the nucleus of the museum which he did. Southern Museum & Galleries of Photography, Culture & History was opened in November 2001 on Morford Street in McMinnville, Tennessee in a building which had in earlier days been the location of the *Southern Standard* newspaper. The museum, which was dedicated to all aspects of the history of McMinnville and Warren County, Tennessee, was moved from Morford Street to Main Street in the J.W. Brinkley building, a building built in the 1890s as a saloon. The museum opened on Main Street in January 2003 and is still located there.

A multitasking artist, Monty, in 1974, published *Trilogy to the Aquarian Age*, a poem, through The University Press at Sewanee, Tennessee. A multimedia concert performance of the poem was presented the previous year in the All Saints Chapel at Sewanee sponsored by the department of Fine Arts under Dr. J. Edward Carlos. *Trilogy to the Aquarian Age* was later premiered in New York City in April 1977 at The Cathedral Church of Saint John The Divine with music by Gwendolyn Watson and choreography by Joan Miller "with an ensemble of musicians, actors and dancers in a special Easter Celebration."

Over the years, Monty and I painstakingly and tediously worked on several historical book projects which have