



WCGHA Newsletter

JANUARY
2024

201 LOCUST ST., MCMINNVILLE, TN 37100



President

Mary Don Bixby



Vice President

Mary Oaks



Secretary

Barbara Bates



Treasurer

Ann Brown



Past President

Ann Brown

**Come Join Us
on January 20**
For the next WCGHA Meeting

“Show and Tell”

We will meet in the Early Voting Room
located at the back of the Warren
County Administration building,
201 Locust Street

You will be required to sign in and ob-
serve social distancing.

No refreshments will be served.

Mary Don Bixby, WCGHA President

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year! I trust that we are all looking forward to a healthy, safe and productive 2024.

I am honored to start the year serving as your president! Thank you for your confidence in me, and always know that I will do my very best to help guide the WCGHA. Ann Brown has laid a such a solid foundation and of course, will be right at my shoulder. Thank you, Ann, for everything you do for the Association.

We also thank J.B. Brown for his service as treasurer and membership chair. I don't have room to list all of J.B.'s contributions to our efforts.

Welcome to Mary Oaks, who now will serve as vice president and programs chair. Mary's dedication is awesome, and now she will be even busier!

We have so many interesting projects in progress, and we look forward to completing some this year. We are back to work on the High's records and simply can't wait to complete it. We hope to have a computer workstation in the office by the end of the year where people can search our digital files.

We are organizing, identifying, and digitizing and enjoying every minute. If you would like to join the fun, we would love to have you!

Hope to see you soon--

Mary Don

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Jan 11th—**WCGHA Board of Directors**

Jan 17th—**WBMC's Town Talk**

Jan 20th—**Show & Tell**

BRING YOUR FAMILY TREASURES



WELCOME to our New Member!

**Travis Powers
McMinnville, TN**

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

DECEMBER 2, 2023





Pioneer Ancestor Certificates Presented at Family Christmas Gathering

Brenda Kay Mayes Cothren was surprised when she was presented two Pioneer Ancestor Certificates. Brenda descends from two of Warren County's Pioneer Ancestors, Rev. Jesse Dodson (1752-1843) and Isham Ware (1793-1855).

Brenda is the daughter of George Mayes and Elizabeth (Martin) Mayes. The Pioneer Ancestors are ancestors of her mother. Eli Dodson and Jane "Jensie" Ware married sometime in the 1840's and are found in the 1850 Warren County Census living in the 4th District of Warren County. Eli and Jane are Brenda's 3rd great grandparents. Eli is the grandson of Rev. Jesse Dodson. Jane "Jensie" is the daughter of Isham Ware.

Both Rev. Jesse Dodson and Isham Ware are found in the 1820 Warren County Census. Along with that Census and other documents, these men have been established as Pioneers of Warren County since they lived here sometime between 1807 and 1820.

The certificates were presented to Brenda by Marie Blair, her first cousin, who did the research for the certificates. Brenda has many documents that provided evidence for establishing relationships of her direct ancestors. Brenda knew of a connection to the Dodson family, but had no idea of a connection to Isham Ware.

The presentation was a highlight of the Oscar Mayes family Christmas Eve Gathering. The Mayes family started getting together on Christmas Eve in 1945. That was the year Brenda's dad and sons in law of Oscar and Mary Pearson Mayes came home from World War II. They have continued that as a family tradition and have missed only two or three times of getting together since 1945. One or two times were due to ice storms and the other was COVID in 2020.

Congratulations to Brenda for honoring her Pioneer Ancestors by preserving records that were passed down from her mother that helped establish this relationship.



Bethany Porter Photo

Wanda Gant dropped off her Christmas cards on Monday and encourages everyone to send some this year.

National Christmas Card Day is Saturday

Bethany Porter

News Editor for the *Southern Standard*
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

The holidays are all about letting people know you care, and what better way to do that than by sending a Christmas card?

Christmas is quickly approaching and so is the deadline to send your loved ones Christmas cards. Wanda Gant got an early start on her Christmas card sending on Monday. She dropped off a few cards at the McMinnville Post Office and hopes to bring joy this holiday season.

“Families are not as big as they used to be and families are scattered,” explained Gant on her way to the Post Office.

Sending cards is a way to connect with family members during the holidays. Giving someone a card can also help them feel less alone during the holidays. “I think cards are important for a lot of people,” she said. “I was thinking about

all the people who are alone. People are so busy doing their own thing and there are all these older people who are by themselves and they are not getting out. It can be lonely.”

Christmas is the largest card-sending holiday in the United States according to Hallmark. Englishman Henry Cole first conceived the idea of Christmas cards in 1843. He and his artist friend John Horsely created them as a way to encourage more people to use the British postal system. Today, Christmas cards have become a tradition for most people.

National Christmas Card Day is celebrated on Dec. 9 every year. There are many different types of Christmas cards. Some families take a group photo and send that out each year, while others pick up a box of cards to send. Either way, a Christmas card can help put a smile on someone’s face this season and let them know you are thinking of them.

Do You Remember
1937 Pike Hill
(published November 8th)



(4) George M. Crim, (10) Paul Rowland?, (12) Joe Pryor?, (14) Billy Joe Tuck, (15) Tom "Bud" Garmon, (18) Ernest Morton, (26) Claudine Tuck Pearsall, (48) Sammie Green Ward, (60) Nellie Crim, (64) Maurine Crim Simpson, (67) Willodene Tuck Grandey?

Thanks to Ted Grandey for adding some names for us!



In Memoriam

RACHEL LYNN HILLIS

FEBRUARY 28, 1968— JANUARY 02, 2024

McMinnville resident and Warren County native Rachel Lynn Hillis, age 55, was born February 28, 1968 and died January 2, 2024 at her residence following an extended illness.

A retired social worker for Warren County Health Department and a member of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, she was the daughter of Linda Scott of McMinnville and the late John Morris Scott. In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by first husband, Troy Reno; brother, Greg Scott and great-granddaughter, Makenzie Poe.

She was married to Gary Hillis of McMinnville on May 24, 1997. In addition to her mother and husband, Mrs. Hillis is survived by daughter, Shelley Reno of Rock Island, TN; six step-children; twenty one grandchildren; two great-grandchildren and nephew, Skylar Scott of McMinnville.

Graveside service and interment will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, January 6, 2024 at New Union Cemetery in Warren County with Pastor David McMinn officiating. Visitation will be Friday from 12:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at High's. No visitation will be held at the funeral home on Saturday and family and friends will meet at the cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Meals on Wheels.

Online condolences may be made at www.highfuneralhome.com.

High Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Office News

December was a short month as our volunteers took some extra time to spend with family and friends during the holiday season. Mary Don, Mary, Evelyn, Bonita, Gail, Lynette, Bettye, and Ann still managed to log 108.5 volunteer hours in December. We hope to see lots of members and visitors in the new year!

Research

We only had 2 visitors in December researching Kings and Shongs. .

Contributions

Derryberry Research Material	Family Files	Carolyn Lance
Passport to Tennessee History Tennessee Historical Markers Hache-Hash Genealogy	Resource Library	Jimmy Haley
The WCGHA purchased quite a few items from Womack Printing Company during their close-out sale which will be distributed to the appropriate places as we have time to process them. We added several books to the Resource Library, annuals, sports brochures. In addition, Womack Printing donated quite a number of additional items to be distributed between the WCGHA and the Warren County Archives, including the draft copy of Mr. James Dillon's "Distinguished Citizens", boxes of photos for our photo archives, and office supplies. More details to follow as we work to make information available!		



Come Visit Us

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

Email:
wcgha.tn@gmail.com

On the Web:
www.tngenweb.org/wcgha

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 Administration Building**

Committees

Membership:

Ann Brown



Historian:

Chris Keathley



Programs:

Mary Don Bixby



Web page/FB Admin:

Ann Brown



Research:

Bonita Mangrum

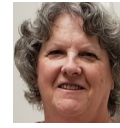


Mary Oaks



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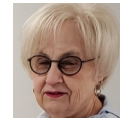
Bulletin:

Ann Brown



Publicity:

Gail Woodlee



Office:

Evelyn Wade



Mary Oaks

