



WCGHA Newsletter

JUNE
2024

201 LOCUST ST., MCMINNVILLE, TN 37110



President

Mary Don Bixby



Vice President

Mary Oaks



Secretary

Barbara Bates



Treasurer

Ann Brown



Past President

Ann Brown

**Come Join Us
on June 15**

**“Tour of the Farrar
House on Main
Street”**

(Members Only)

We will meet in the Early Voting
room located in the Warren County
Administration building,
201 Locust Street

No refreshments will be served.

Mary Don Bixby, WCGHA President

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello, Friends:

A couple of things are on my mind on this beautiful June morning, and the topics couldn't be more unrelated. The first one is indexing. The online Oxford Dictionary defines an index as "an alphabetical list of names, subjects, etc., with references to the places where they occur, typically at the end of a book." Perfect. One of the things we do at the WCGHA office is create an index for almost all the collections we have. Some are complete, and some are still in process. Just imagine our Bulletin without an index. If our Family Files didn't have an index for each file, a researcher would have to shuffle through lots of papers. My point is that indexing is such an integral part of research, and the folks at the office are constantly indexing—both online and hard copy—so that information is easily available. It takes time and some brain power, but it is so important and is something we probably take for granted.

Membership is my second topic. All of you members out there are encouraged to recruit new members. Occasionally we have a members-only event, and our June program is one of those. We never like to exclude, but sometimes we must. If you aren't a member, join us! You'll never miss out on anything! If you are a member, invite friends or family to sign up!

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Mary Don

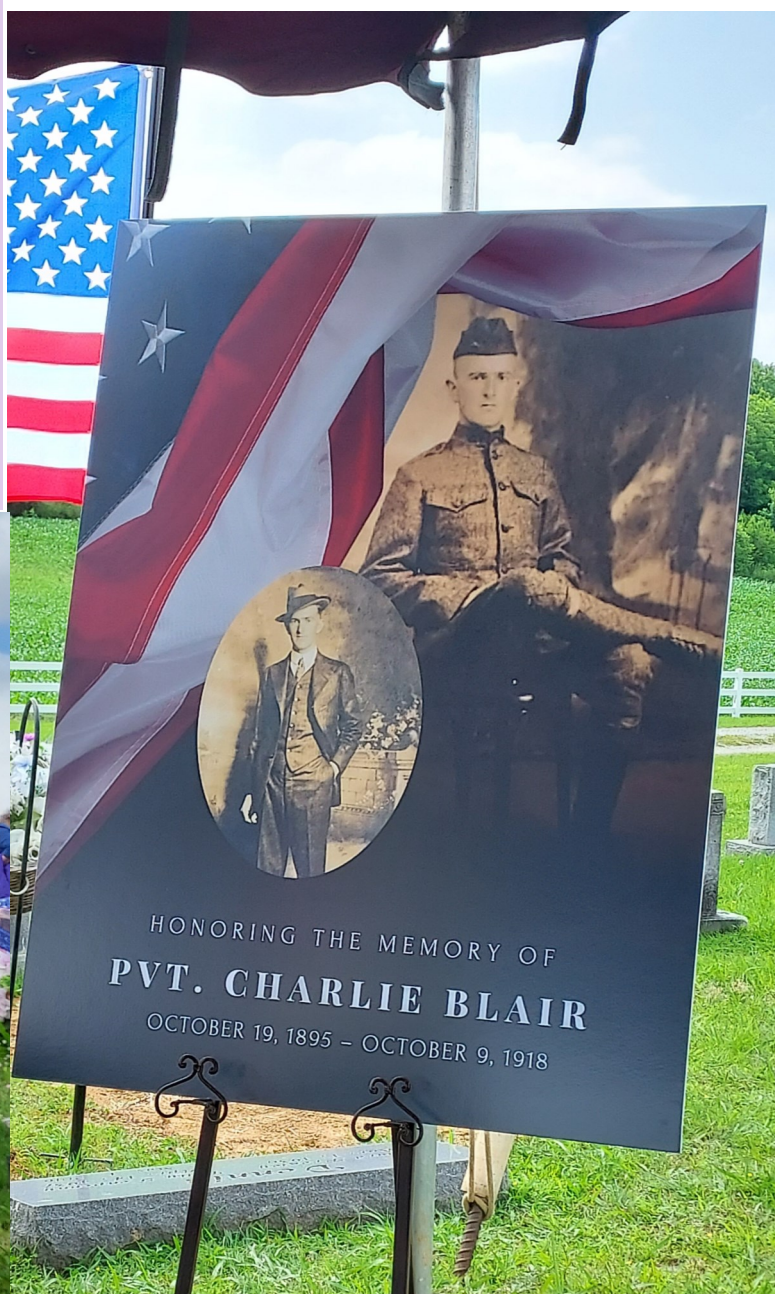
Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 6th—**WCGHA Board of Directors**

June 12th—**WBMC's Town Talk**

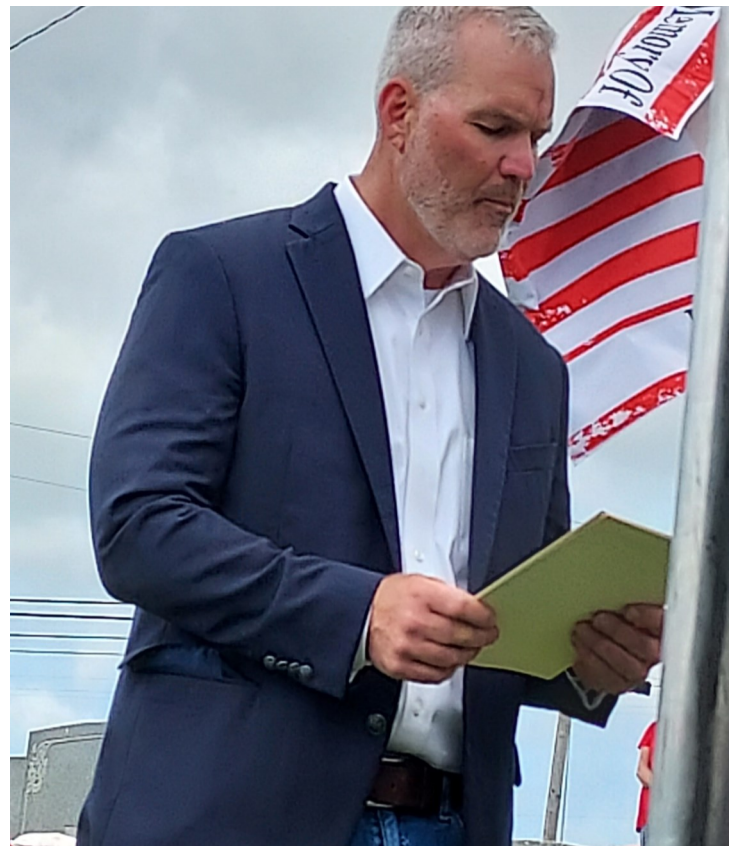
June 15th—**Tour of the Farrar House on Main Street (Meet at the Admin building to carpool. Members only, please.)**

Memorial for Pvt Charlie Blair, May 27, 2024





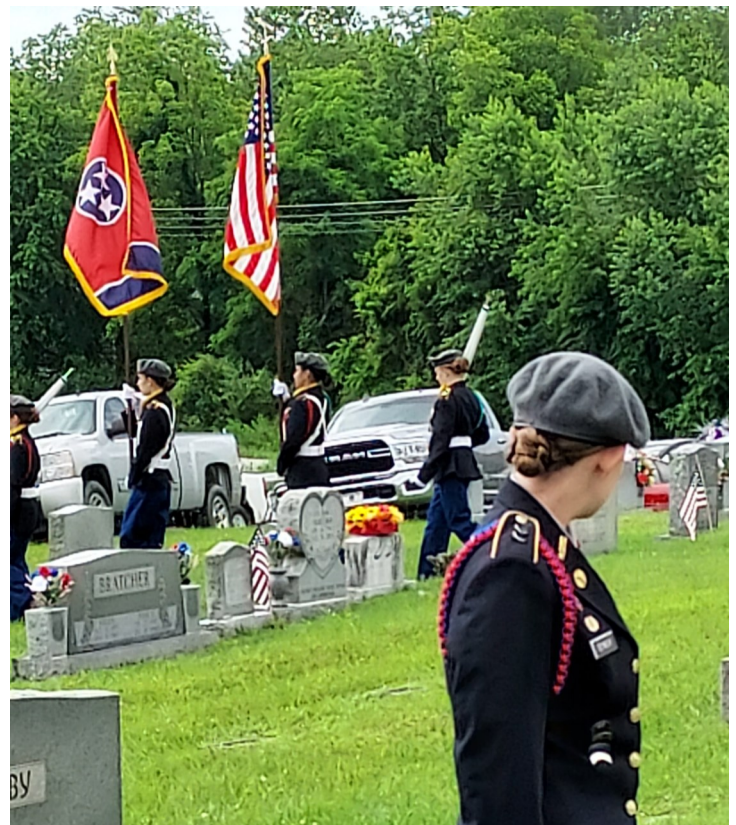
Grave Marker



John Elliott, great-great nephew of Charlie Blair



JROTC guarding flag



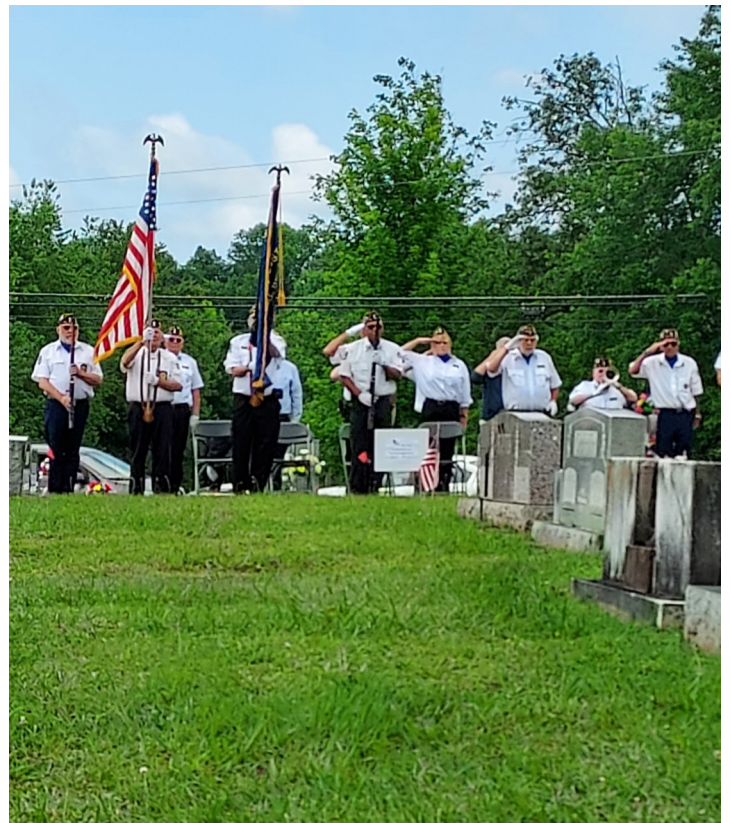
JROTC Honor Guard



JROTC Flag Folding Ceremony



Presentation of flag to Earl Blair, Charlie Blair's nephew



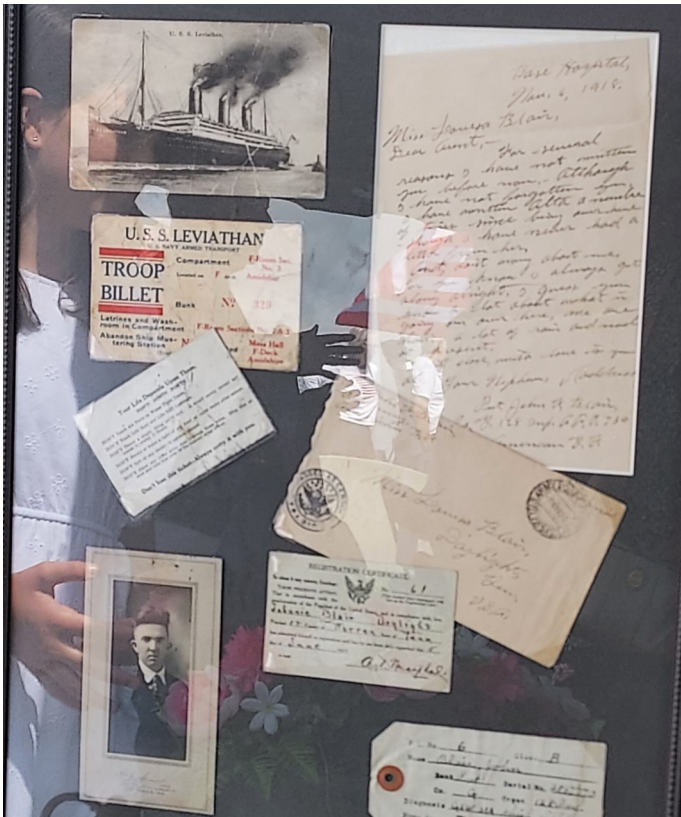
American Legion Honor Guard



Ceremonial 21-gun salute



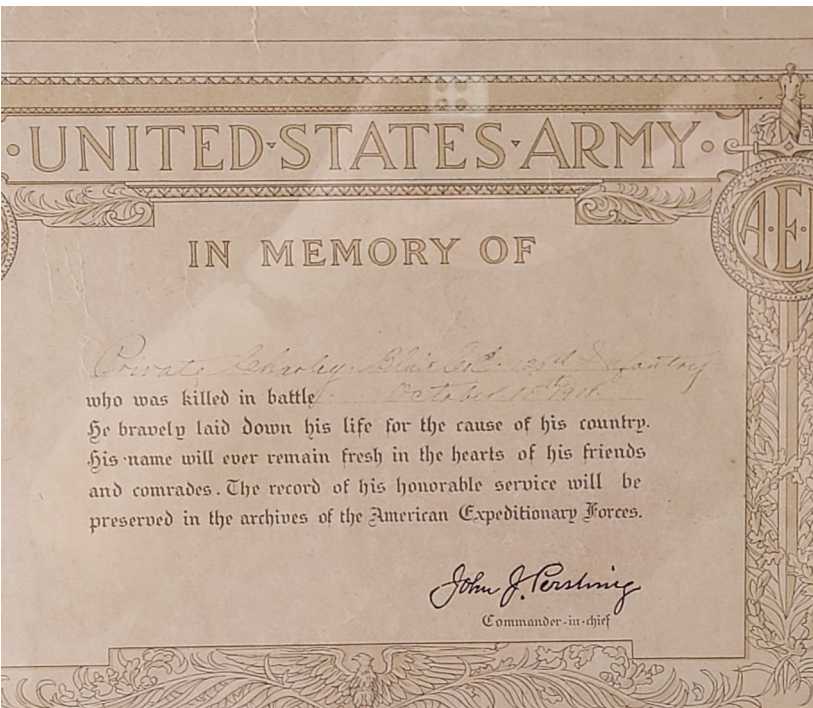
Delivering spent shells to family



Items that had been stored away in an old trunk



American cemeteries on foreign soil



Plant never Fading Flowers
That bloom all the year
In memory of our boy
Who we hold most Sacred Dear

Our hopes are all blasted
Our courage almost gone

But still we trust in Jesus
While I compose this song

I have gone through many trials
And troubles here below
But this Great World wide conflict
Is the very worst I know.

Written by John C. Blair
in memory of his son, Charlie Blair.
April 20, 1919

MEMORIAL DAY

The first national observance of Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868. Then known as *Decoration Day* and observed on May 30th, the holiday was proclaimed by Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic to honor the Union soldiers who had died in the American Civil War. This national observance followed many local observances which were inaugurated between the end of the Civil War and Logan's declaration. Many cities and people have claimed to be the first to observe it. However, the National Cemetery Administration, a division of the Department of Veterans Affairs, credits Mary Ann Williams with originating the "idea of strewing the graves of Civil War soldiers—Union and Confederate" with flowers.



Arlington National Cemetery decorated with flags during Memorial Day weekend.

In Memory Of



THOMAS & EVA DURHAM WEST



Remembered by:

Marion Rhea Speaks on May 13, 2024

In Memory Of



MARTHA HOLT
MARCH 2, 1935 — SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

Remembered by:

Evelyn Wade on May 24, 2024

In Memory Of



GARY BRUCE PACK
NOVEMBER 26, 1951 — OCTOBER 18, 2016

Remembered by:

Evelyn Wade on May 24, 2024



Isaac Roberts Established as Pioneer Ancestor in Warren County

Edwin Roberts of Chattanooga was presented a Certificate for Pioneer Ancestor, Isaac Roberts, his 3rd great grandfather. Research information suggests that Isaac was born in 1786 in South Carolina and was married to Charlotte (Charity) Sixkiller. The marriage is not documented. Isaac and Charlotte appear in the 1850 Census with ages that are consistent with this birthdate. Isaac appears in the 1820, 1830 and 1840 Census as well. Isaac also received a land grant in Warren County.

Isaac and Charlotte had five boys and 2 girls. Edwin descends from their son, William, born 1825.



Cathy Jernigan, daughter; Edwin Roberts; Carolyn Roberts, wife;
Kim and Sandy Pezzeminti, daughter and son-in-law

Other Pioneer Ancestor News

Abraham Evans was established as a Pioneer Ancestor by Carole King Moss of Milton, Georgia. Carole's certificate for her 3rd great grandfather is being mailed to her. Abraham Evans is listed on the 1820 Warren County Census. Abraham's will was probated in Warren County on 4 Dec 1848 and names several of his children. Abraham was a large land owner and also a slave holder, documented by his will.

Lucas Holt was approved as a descendant of William Nunley, receiving certificate # 155. William Nunley had been established previously as a pioneer and Cheryl Mingle received certificate # 1 for William Nunley. William Nunley was born in 1794 and is on the 1812 Warren County Tax List. He died in 1856 in Grundy County, Tennessee. Lucas is William Nunley's 6th great grandson and descends from William's daughter, Rachel Coppinger, wife of Jesse Coppinger.

Genealogy Tips

- **World War I or II Draft Cards** – on the second page of the card, questions were asked about the applicant's physical characteristics: height, build, eye color, hair color, physical markings, physical deformities, and in one version whether he was bald.
- **Naturalization Records** – there have been a few variations of naturalization forms, but several of them asked for skin color, height, weight, eye and hair color, as well as distinctive marks.
- **Passport Applications** – although some applications indeed have photos (although less than high quality), a number of physical characteristics were requested of the applicant, such as stature, forehead, eye color, nose, mouth, chin, hair color, complexion, face characteristics, and distinguishing marks.
- **Military Discharge Records** – there are an abundance of forms in the military, and many of them record physical characteristics. My father's discharge from the Marine Corps included height, eye color, hair color, and complexion were noted.
- **Military Enlistment Records** – include height, hair and eye color, and complexion
- **Voter Registration** – in some voter registration logs, physical characteristic information was requested. In some records, applicants included their age, height, complexion, eye color, hair color as well as marks or scars.
- **Pension Applications** – In pension applications, there often is a place to enter physical characteristics. Examples for a Civil War pension, include a place to enter age, height, weight, complexion, and eye and hair color. In Surgeons Certificates, there is an abundance of health information as well.
- **Immigration Records** – In immigration records for specific years, some physical description info was required. In this example, health condition, deformities, height, complexion, eye and hair color, and identifying marks were required.
- **Prison Records** – The usual age, hair color, height, eye color, physical deformities, and I have seen one that includes temperament!
- **U.S. Customs Service Records** – for seamen, their physical description was included in the records.
- **Chinese Exclusion Act Case Files** – physical appearance information was included in the records.
- **Drivers and Other Licenses** – Licenses didn't always have photos but often include height, weight, hair color and eye color.
- **Hospital and Other Medical Records** – include height, weight, and race.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION DAY

MAY 24th 2024

9:00 am TO 12:00 pm

Rock Island State Park

Has your family lived in the Rock Island area for many generations? Do you have history that you would like to share and preserve for future generations?

We are excited to announce that we will be partnering with the Warren County Genealogical and Historical Association to host a Historic Preservation Day here at Rock Island State Park!

Join us in celebrating historic preservation month and bring in your historic photos, documents, or other historically significant items to the Rock Island State Park Visitor Center. We will scan or photograph all items and return them to you during the event.



Ranger Josh Welch with WCGHA members Ann Brown and Mary Oaks

Do You Remember

Here are the school photos published in May in the Southern Standard.
1930 Wayside School



WCGHA Photo Archives, McMinnville, TN

(seated, number unknown) J. W. Cantrell; (2) Arthur Golden?; (3) Wm. Harold Grizzell; (4) Philip Grandey; (10) I. J. Grizzell, Jr.; (19) Laurel Grandey; (26) Pauline Golden Gribble; (30) Ernest Grandey, Jr.; (35) Henretta Golden Patton; (37) Dorothy Grizzell; (41) Ruth Grandey Martin Cross; (2024.05.10)

April, 1955 Fairview School – Class # 4



WCGHA Photo Archives, McMinnville, TN

(1) Patricia Turner; (2) Paul Randolph; (3) ?; (4) Sandra Brady; (5) Joy Wiseman; (6) Noel Pepper; (7) Patsy Wilmore; (8) Bobby Green; (9) Carolyn Farless; (10) Gary Taylor; (11) ?; (12) Ann Taylor; (13) Alice Bumbalough; (14) Alice Ward; (15) ?; (16) Ronny Farmer?; (17) Donny Farmer?; (18) Judy Pegg; (19) Gary Bottoms; (20) Dwayne Byars; (21) Phyllis Melton (22) ?; (23) Larry Wayne Farmer; (24) James Pearsall; (25) Dwight Pearsall; (26) ?; (27) Peggy Walker; (28) Beverly Roberts; (29) Christine Powell; (30) Judy Bouldin; (31) Michael Britton; (32) Clyde Butcher; (33) Jimmy Butcher; (34) Elmer Keel; (35) Nora Dean Johnson; (36) David Bryant; (37) 'Boogie' Powell; (38) Donnie Bottoms; (39) Douglas Gillentine; (40) Clara Collier, teacher; (2024.05.17)

Wayside School



(2) Walter Bruce Grandey; (4) Austin Golden; (5) Hubert Golden; (6) Joy Grandey Haston?; (14) Paul Rowland (15) Golden Cook; (16) Floyd Merle Grizzell; (19) Ralph Quinten Grandey; (20) Loyd Earl Grizzell; (24) Dale Cook; (25) Betty Cook; (28) Laurel Grandey Grizzell; (29) Doris Golden Whitlock; (2024.05.31)

You can view all the photos on our web page at:

<https://tngenweb.org/wcgatn/photo-archives/>

Office News



Dedicated! It's not often that the office volunteers are all together but when Monday was a holiday, they just can't stay away!

Standing (left to right) Evelyn Wade, Mary Oaks, Kathy Finn, and Mary Don Bixby. Seated (left to right) Bonita Mangrum and Ann Brown. (Photo by Bettye Pack, who is often in the office working on Bulletin research. Also, not pictured was J. B. Brown, (manning the scanner.) Also contributing hours this month were Marie Blair, Carolyn Lance, and Chris Keathley.

We logged 29.75 Committee hours and 201 office hours in the month of May for a total of 230.75 hours! If you think you would like to become a volunteer, we would love to have you!

Contributions

Patriots to Pioneers	Resource Library	Carol Menth, DAR
The Heritage of Warren County, TN	Resource Library	Marion Rhea Speaks
Images of American, Granville	Resource Library	Evelyn Wade
Comprehensive Pictorial History of Putnam County	Resource Library	Evelyn Wade
Digital Scans—Early Rock Island Photos	Photo Archives	Rock Island State Park
Miscellaneous Research Collections (Glenda Stubblefield)	To Be Processed	Dondi Volz

Research

One of our two visitors this month was Ric Boyd researching his ancestor Robert Boyd and his wife Elizabeth McDaniel or McDonald (not the Boyd Nursery family) who were in Warren County but gone by around 1816. According to the Boyd family history, they came to Warren County from Kentucky with five families and then moved on. Although we did not find any records specific to his family, we did find the following article which added a new dimension to Ric's search. Unfortunately, we do not know who penned this article so if anyone can add insight to the source of this article or the map referenced, please let us know.

Folks,

The information that I am copying for you will be like the Country Doctor's medicine—"will be in broken doses, but feel that you will enjoy my efforts to furnish information concerning your relatives and their part as citizens in the Building of a new Co. I will try to locate the site, on the enclosed map [missing], that you may see just where the home was located...

This settlement had its beginning in the early part of the 1800s when some 15 or 20 families came from Ky. and settled in the area of what is now Rocky River Valley, which includes the plateau above since the 9th Dist. takes all this territory. This was only a cane-break at the time of the entrance of these families whose names I will list, which includes the Fleming family; MITCHELLS, DYER, LUCAS, HAGAR, DRAKE, JOHNSON, BRIGHT, HAWK (FLEMING), LODUE, HILLIS, THOMAS, NORTON, BOYD, MCGUFFEY and MAYFIELD. There may have been others—however—this is the group that I have in my records. These names, most of them, can still be traced to their original name, or their descendants who married through each others and with neighbors who joined them at a later date.

I am giving you the information above that you may know just about the year that your people came into this territory. I assure you that this information has not been passed out before even tho I did have it in my mound of records and copies of letters written in the past.



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

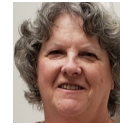


Mary Oaks



Newsletter Editor:

Susan Driver



susandriver801@gmail.com

931-314-6959

Bulletin:

Ann Brown



Publicity:

Gail Woodlee



Office:

Evelyn Wade



Mary Oaks

