



WCGHA Newsletter

JULY
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 July 20**

“SHOW AND TELL”

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

Dear Friends,

Summer is upon us, and I hope all of you are staying cool. Things are pretty hot at the WCGHA office, at least in terms of projects and activities.

We continue to have great response to the school pictures being published in the Southern Standard. The Fairview community, in particular, is truly stepping up to provide names to the faces. We appreciate their dedication to their school! They are setting a wonderful example, and we hope that our other communities will follow suit.

Some truly positive news is that our organization now has a record-setting 132 members. Growth is so important to the survival of groups like ours. Invite your friends, family, neighbors to join us!

Our upcoming July meeting is always a favorite! Let's break attendance and participation records on July 20 for Show and Tell. Show an object or a photograph and tell a story about your family or the history of McMinnville or Warren County. The objects are always so interesting to see, but the stories behind them are what makes them come alive.

I'm looking forward to seeing you on the 20th!

Mary Don

Calendar of Upcoming Events

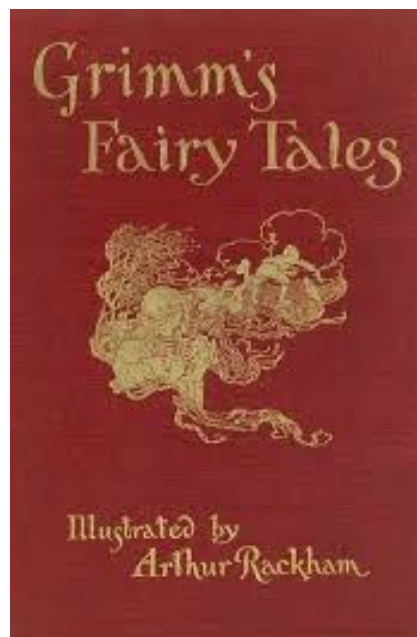
July 11th—**WCGHA Board of Directors**

July 17th—**WBMC's Town Talk**

July 20th—**"Show and Tell", bring those family heirlooms, keepsakes and historical items to share**

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

Bring your favorite family heirlooms to SHOW, and TELL us the history behind them.



FARRAR HOUSE (FORMERLY DAVIS HOUSE), 1826

McMinnville's own West Main Street was formerly lined with beautiful old houses. Slowly, but surely, and usually in the name of "progress," most of those homes have disappeared. Only four remain, all on the south side of the street. Only one in the 300 block is still a private home, and on Saturday, June 15, members of WCGHA were privileged to tour it. It is the Farrar House, and we were warmly welcomed by the owner, Gwen Bennett.

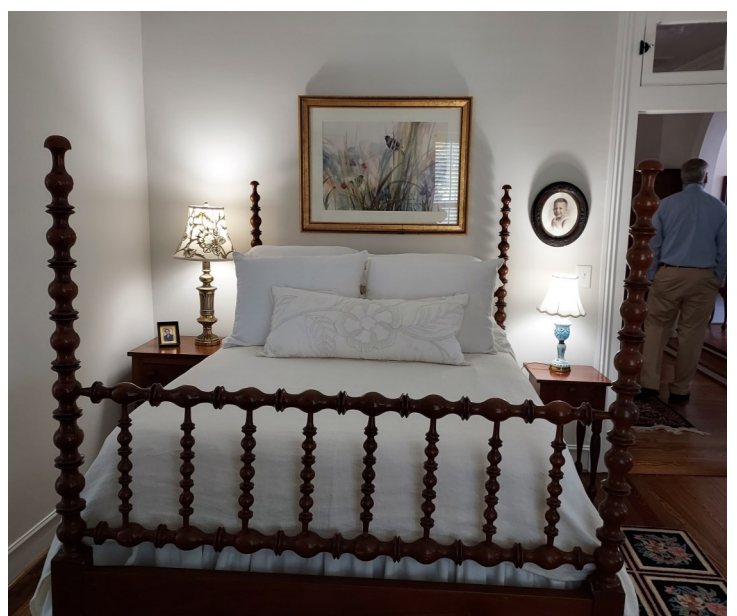
There were lots of conversations happening while our members arrived. One person said the home was originally owned by Col. Savage. One said it started out as a log cabin. What we know for certain is that it had been owned by Mr. Davis, who was the father of Catherine Davis. Catherine married Wade Farrar, and in 1942 they had a son they named Frank Davis Farrar. After the death of both of his parents, Frank became the sole owner. He knew the house needed some work, so when he died in 2016, he left the property to his long-time friend, Gwen. We all agreed that Frank made a great decision, because Gwen has done a magnificent job restoring this beautiful Victorian cottage.

The home is filled with stunning antiques. All of the light fixtures are original, as are many of the table lamps. There are many, many windows, so the house is filled with natural light. A few things have been added: a sunroom and a bathroom and the kitchen has been updated. All of those changes blend seamlessly with the original house. Some of the artwork is historical also, particularly paintings by the late Frances Womack Locke.

I remember Mrs. Farrar from my childhood. She was diminutive, but feisty as she could be. Before we left, I spotted a small work of embroidery hanging in the sunroom. Gwen pointed out that the saying was Catherine's motto: "Paddle Your Own Canoe." She certainly did that, and it is a lesson to us all!

We deeply appreciate Gwen's hospitality and her stewardship of this landmark in McMinnville.









REPRINTED FROM THE MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

Special Event For Warren County Pioneer Family by Marie Blair

At the WCGHA meeting on February 18, James Fennell was awarded a Pioneer Family certificate as a descendant of Elisha Pepper II. Elisha Pepper II is the 2 great grandfather of James, who was also recognized as being the oldest applicant we have approved as a descendant of a Warren County Pioneer Ancestor. At 98 years old, he currently resides in Coffee County Tennessee, where he still drives, and enjoys reading current magazines more than watching tv.

James is the ninth member of his family to receive a Pioneer Family Certificate. He is the son of Harmon (1884-1945) and Myrtle Belle Roach Fennell (1891-1991). Other certificate recipients in the family have been James's nieces and nephews. Wendell Tally was the first one to receive a certificate (Wendell's mother, Era Belle, was a sister to James). Wendell's wife, Sue, did the research for the certificate, and they wanted to share the family history with cousins. Other members of James's family who have received certificates are: Sharen Townsend McNalt, Timothy Dale Hughes, Germaine Charles Bush II, William Wayne Crawley, Cindy Lou Crawley Pearson, Donna Jean Crawley Mills Locke and Ronald Rigsby. Applications have recently been received from additional family members and are in process with the Pioneer Family Committee.

James is the middle child of Harmon and Myrtle Belle Roach Fennell. He has one younger sister, Joyce, who is still living in Texas. According to James, he and his siblings were born in the Centertown community of Warren County, in a large white house owned by his parents. The house is still standing, and is located across from the old Centertown Bank. In addition to James, Joyce and Era Belle, other siblings were Mamie, Dawson, Ralph, Addie, Melba and Lois. During that time, Mr. Fennell's father ran a store in Centertown.

The Fennells closed the store in the 1930's, and the 1940 census shows the Fennell family living on the Centertown to Jacksboro Road. James said his family rented the farm; his father farmed and his mother took care of the family. At some time, James's mother worked as a telephone operator. James was not sure where the telephone office was operated, but says it was when there were crank telephones that were battery operated. There was no electricity in the area at that time and the family used oil lamps. James related a story about his mother driving a 1925 Model T car when they went into McMinnville. James said he was a young boy, there was a large hill on the drive and he was always afraid because the car would barely make it up the hill. He thought they might not make it home.

James began his first year of school attending Crossroads School (no longer standing). According to James, the school was located on the road between Centertown and Jacksboro. It was a one room school, with one teacher, and he walked from home to school with other children living in the area. James's first teacher was Mamie Davenport (married Herschel Hale) and the next teachers he remembers were Ms. Carrick and Ms. Irene Grandstaff. Later James attended Centertown school. Memories from the Centertown School were Mr. Arledge as principal and Ms. Jettie Vinson as a teacher. James actually graduated from high school in Coffee County when the family moved there around 1942.

James shared other memories that gave us a peek back to his younger life and the times. He talked about Arthur Lorange "making the best molasses ever made", blackberries he picked and sold for 10 cents a gallon, eggs his mother sold for 12 cents a dozen, bread, not sliced, selling for 5 cents a loaf. He spoke of the family attending church at Pleasant View and mentioned neighbors such as Amos Lance, George Rigsby and Ora Hillis. He also mentioned the Busey family and their daughters, Sophia and Audrey.

James was inducted into the Army at Camp Forrest near Tullahoma in August 1942. During his World War II service, he and 29 others were taken as POWs in Germany. James said it was a scary time and no way to tell one day from the next. They were able to escape and eventually returned to their regular unit. He was discharged in May 1945 and returned to Coffee County.

After the war, James was married to Christine Watterson. At some time, he and Christine moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan and he worked for the Brundage Company for 36 years. When he retired, they returned to Coffee County. James was married to his wife of 75 years until her death in 2020.

James seemed to enjoy sharing these remembrances and our ride through the Centertown Community.

Congratulations again to James and his family for their efforts in preserving their family heritage.



HELP NEEDED!

Mr. James Fennell is turning 100 years old on August 12, and still holds the distinction of being the oldest person to receive a Pioneer Ancestor Certificate. Marie Blair talked to his family recently and they say he still lives alone, cares for himself, and drives. They also say he is “still sharp.” His family wants to shower him with cards (at least 100). Please send cards to:

James Fennell

1103 Woodcrest Drive

Manchester, TN 37355

IN THE NEWS – “MUSEUM PIECES”



You might have noticed our very own WCGHA Historian in the Southern Standard, Friday, July 5th.

Museum Director Chris Keathley of Southern Museum and Galleries shows off the huge negative used for this photo by W.S. Lively. It's was donated on July 3 to the Tennessee State Museum along with some other choice items.

JL Jacobs photo

There is so much more to this story and it's significance to Warren County history and that story deserves to be told.

I stopped by Southern Galleries and Museum on Wednesday and was happy to capture a few photos of this event. The occasion was the donation of several Lively School of Photography items that Chris, owner of Southern Galleries and Museum, was generously donating to The Tennessee State Museum, located in Nashville, Tennessee. The museum is planning a special event in the spring of 2025 featuring the early history of photography in Tennessee. While, they did have a few Lively prints, they were thrilled to receive these items which will be included with other early contributors to photography in Tennessee. After the event, the items will be under the care and management of the Tennessee State Museum.



Left to Right: Jacob Simpson, Curatorial Assistant; Tre'Anna Stewart, Assistant Registrar, Chris, Larry Dahl, Curator of Military History, and Matthew Gailani, Museum Curator.



This Lively Studio Early 1900s 8 x 10 inch View Camera with Bauch and Lomb Lens patented in 1909 has been on display at Southern Museum and Galleries for many years. I hope you were lucky enough to have seen this impressive piece of history.

A Glass Plate Negative, likely made 1909 and featured in a 1936 issue of the Nashville Tennessean Sunday Magazine.



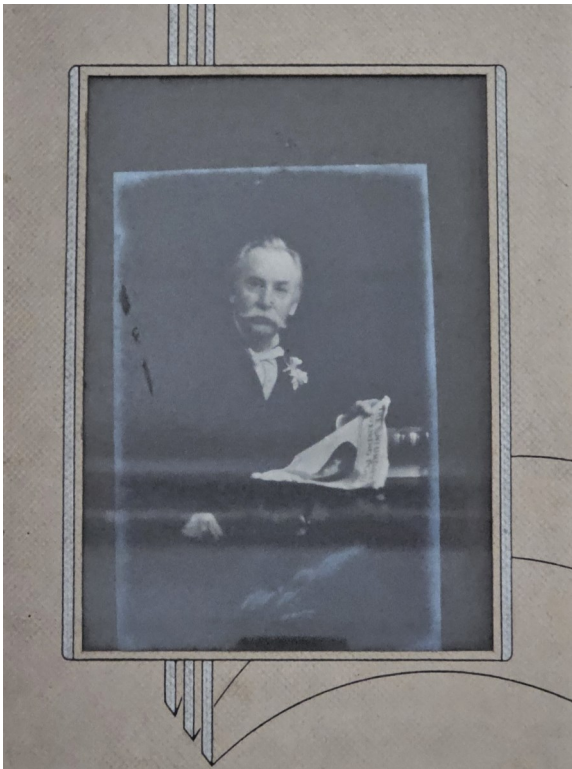
As you can see, from the photo on the left much care was taken to ensure safe transport of the items from McMinnville to Nashville.



Also included were 3 Autochromes of the Lively family.

After careful preparation, the items were loaded into the van and off to Nashville to wow other history lovers.





If you happen to visit Southern Museum and Galleries, you might notice this photo of "Dad" Lively. The late Monty Wanamaker and Chris, ran across this photo in an antique booth in Woodbury owned by Sherry Cassetty Scott several years ago. This led to the purchase of the "Steamboat" Cassetty collection. Faced with the enormity of the collection, the two decided to open a museum so that Warren County would be able to enjoy seeing this piece of Warren County history.

The items donated to the Tennessee State Museum are only a small part (although very important pieces) of the Lively Collection purchased from the "Steamboat Cassetty estate. "Steamboat" was a photographer in his own right and well-known in the Warren County community. The museum still retains more glass plates, negative, photos, cameras, a slide projector that used glass slides, Lively awards and much more.

Tennessee Crossroads came to McMinnville in 2012 and produced an episode on Southern Museum and Galleries featuring Monty, Chris, and the Lively collection. I would encourage everyone to watch the episode at [Southern Museum & Galleries | Tennessee Crossroads | NPT](#) .

Southern Museum & Galleries continues to provide a great service to the community of Warren County. After Monty Wanamaker passed in 2018, Chris has continued to add items of interest pertaining to Warren County history. Although he works, the museum is typically open on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The museum is located at 210 East Main Street. Phone number: 931.507.8102

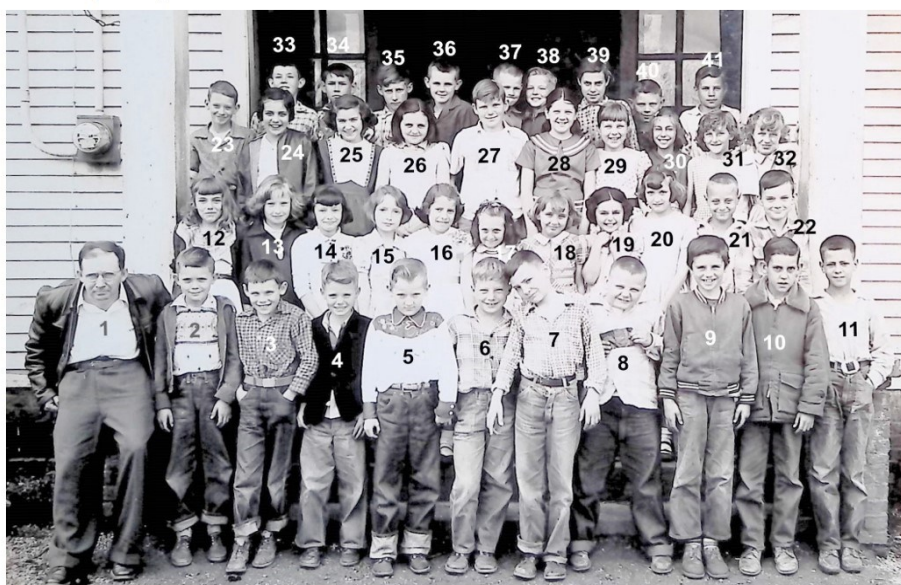
I would like to thank Chris for allowing me to share this story with you, our members. Chris was the editor of our Bulletin for many years, and still serves on our Bulletin Committee. He is a great source of Warren County history!

-Ann

June—Do You Know?

Photos can be viewed at: <https://tngenweb.org/wcgatn/photo-archives/>

April, 1956 Fairview School – Class # 5



(1) Vernon Passons, Teacher; (2) ?; (3) Paul Randolph; (4) David Keener; (5) Bobby Green; (6) Gary Taylor; (7) Dwayne Byars; (8) Gary Bottoms; (9) Donald Fults; (10) ?; (11) Larry Farmer; (12) ?; (13) Ann Taylor; (14) Patsy Wilmore Greene; (15) Carolyn Farless; (16) Judy Pegg; (17) Patricia Turner; (18) Sandra Brady; (19) Joy Wiseman; (20) ?; (21) Ronny Farmer; (22) Noel Pepper; (23) James Pearsall; (24) Phyllis Melton; (25) Christine Powell; (26) ?; (27) Jackie Emler?; (28) Noeldean Johnson; (29) Beverly Roberts; (30) Alice Wood; (31) Paulette Clemons; (32) Alice Bumbalough; (33) ?; (34) Douglas Gillentine; (35) ?; (36) David Bryant; (37) Elmer Keel; (38) Michael Britton; (39) ?; (40) Jimmy Butcher; (41) Clyde Butcher (2024.06.26)

1930 Moore's College



WCGHA Photo Archives, McMinnville, TN

(23) Robert Paul George; (2024.07.05)

In Honor Of



GLEND A STUBBLEFIELD
CANTRELL



Remembered by:

Dondi Volz on June 21, 2024

All recipients of donations made "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of" will have a page placed in our Honor Registry in the Association Office. It's a great way to provide permanent recognition of family and friends and support the Association, at the same time.



Still Playing Basketball!

Many of our members remember Glenda Stubblefield Cantrell who now resides in Florida. We were happy to learn that she is doing well and still shooting hoops! She loves getting cards from friends. Her address is:

Glenda Cantrell
c/o Eden @ Crestview
Box 119
575 Redstone Ave. W
Crestview, Fl. 32536

Office News

Holidays and sickness brought our volunteer hours down but we still managed to log 132.25 volunteer hours. The office staff (Bonita, Evelyn, Mary, Ann, and Mary Don) are always happy to have visitors stop by! We also had several others in this month: Bettye Pack, Lucas Holt, Marie Blair, Gail Woodlee, Chris Keathley and Susan Driver.

Contributions

More than Murder	Resource Library	Dondi Volz
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Research

We have four visitors this month:

Lucas Holt—researching the Myers family

Malinda Savage Brown—researching Savage land grants

Donald Green—researching the Green Cemetery

Shaleen Tillman—researching the Marlers

Welcome Our New Members!

Raven Roberts Young and her husband, John Cody Young from McMinnville.

We are excited that our membership continues to grow!



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

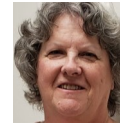


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