



WCGHA Newsletter

SEPTEMBER
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 September 21***

***“The History of
McMinnville Electric
System (MES)”***

By Debbie Sain

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:

First of all, let me apologize for confusing everyone by my error in the August President's Corner. I stated that our next Show and Tell would be in December, and that's just not true! Our next Show and Tell will be in January, as it has been for a long time. I guess it was wishful thinking on my part, because I love that meeting. In December, we will be having our Christmas party, and that will be great too. More about that later.

I did tell you correctly that Debbie Sain will be presenting our program on September 21. Debbie will be sharing the history of the McMinnville Electric System. I know Debbie and know that she will make a great presentation, so don't miss it.

The Pioneer Families Committee is busy as they can be. Their goal is to have 175 certificates by the end of 2024, and they are well on their way to that goal. If you have friends or family that have been procrastinating about applying, encourage them to do so soon!

We are going to have a field trip in October that I know we will all enjoy. We are going to the Dibrell Museum. It has been a while since we've had a field trip/program, and this is a perfect time of the year to have one.

Bottle this beautiful fall weather and come to the next meeting. Even if it is raining outside, it will be worth the trip.

Mary Don

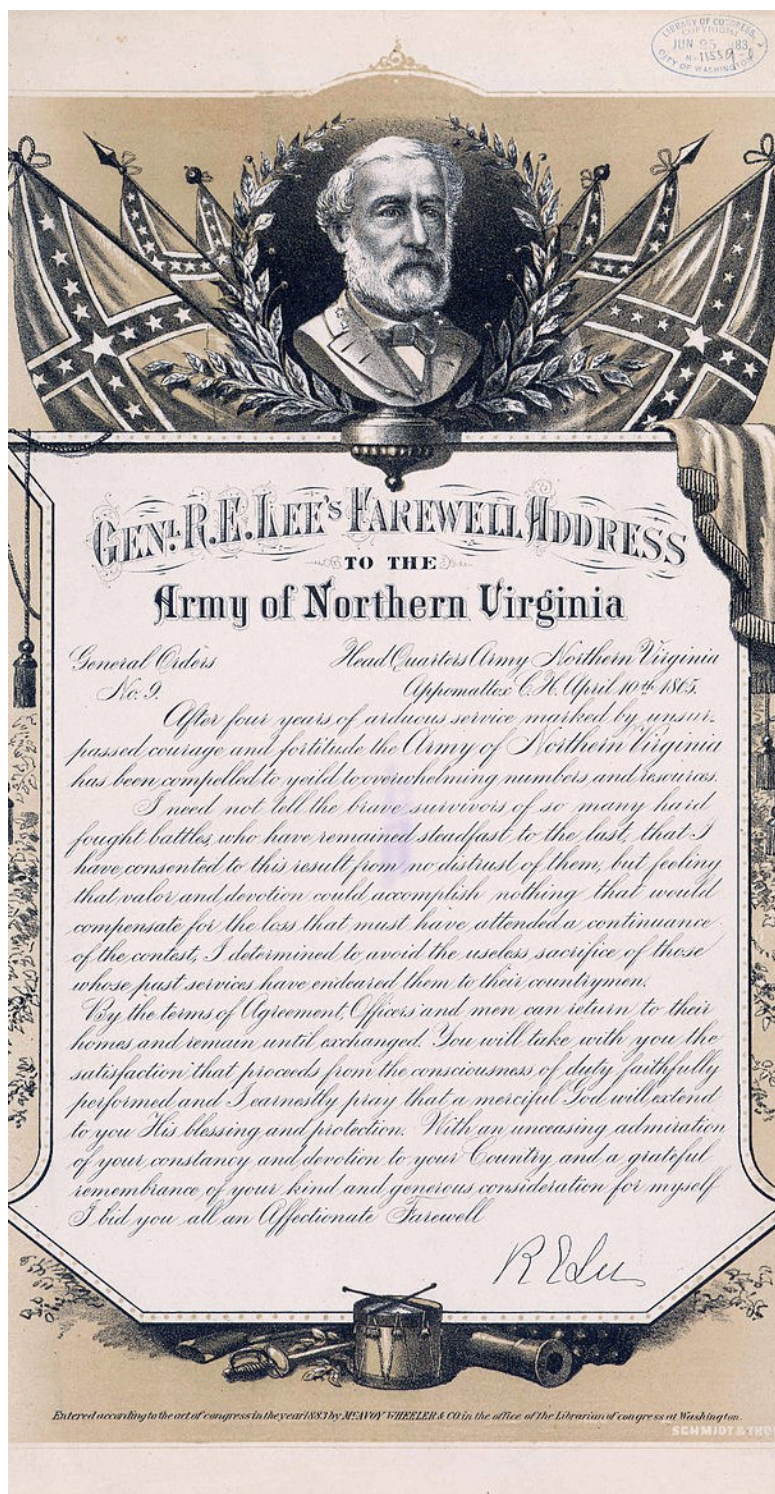


Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 12th—**WCGHA Board of Directors**

September 18th—**WBMC's Town Talk**

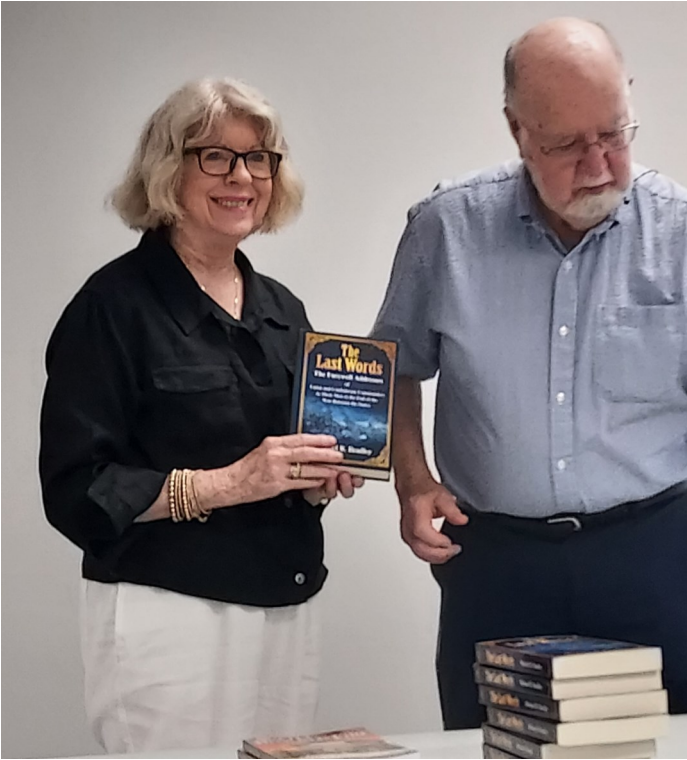
September 21th—**The History of McMinnville Electric System (MES) by Debbie Sain**



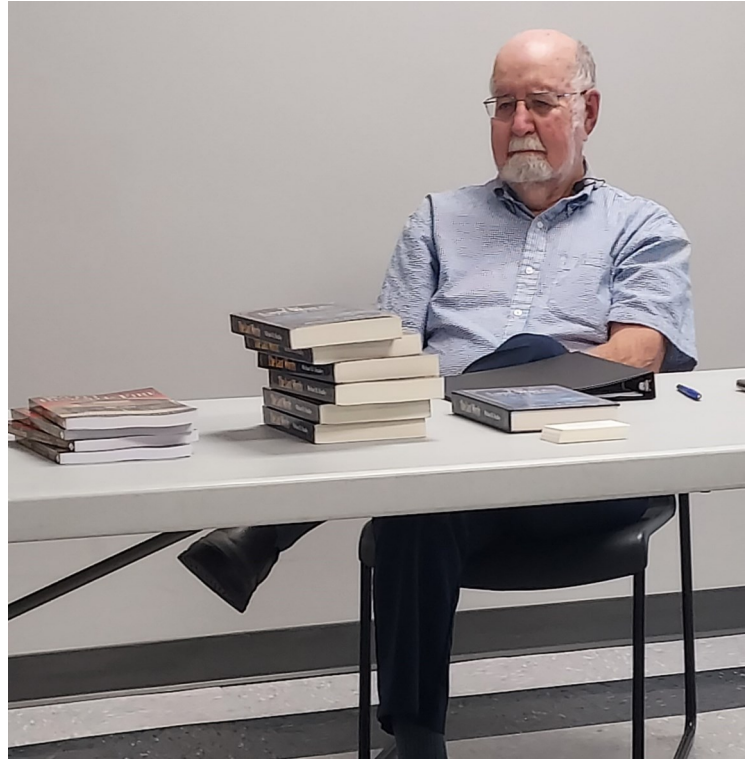
AUGUST 17, 2024 MEETING

Our program for August was “Farewell Speeches of the Civil War”, by Dr. Michael Bradley. Through his research, Dr. Bradley discovered that there were 9 speeches given by Union generals, and 8 by Confederate generals. Only two of these farewell addresses have ever been widely publicized, and that is Nathan Bedford Forrest’s and Robert E. Lee’s. The 17 farewell addresses were given to the troops, and in these speeches an account was given of their actions and the reasons behind them. They explain the feelings of the day and what they had hoped to achieve in the war.

Dr. Bradley also touched on the reason for the Civil War; slavery is the reason that has been passed down through history, but only 4 out of 13 secession documents mention slavery. Tennessee seceded because of states’ rights, and the primary reason for the war falls under two categories: preserving the Union, and changing the minds of the nation.



President Mary Don Bixby present Dr. Bradley with a copy of The History of Warren County, and he in turn presented WCGHA a copy of his book, “The Last Words.”



Dr. Bradley brought 3 books that he has written related to the Civil War; the one on the farewell speeches, and two that are on battles fought in Tennessee.





General Order

No. 9

After four years of arduous service marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources.

I need not tell the survivors of so many hard fought battles, who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to the result from no distrust of them.

But feeling that valour and devotion could accomplish nothing that could compensate for the loss that must have attended the continuance of the contest, I have determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen.

By the terms of the agreement, officers and men can return to their homes and remain until exchanged. You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the consciousness of duty faithfully performed, and I earnestly pray that a merciful God will extend to you his blessing and protection.

With an unceasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your Country, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration for myself, I bid you an affectionate farewell.

—*R. E. Lee, General, General Order No. 9*

HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY CORPS, Gainesville, Ala., May 9, 1865

Soldiers:

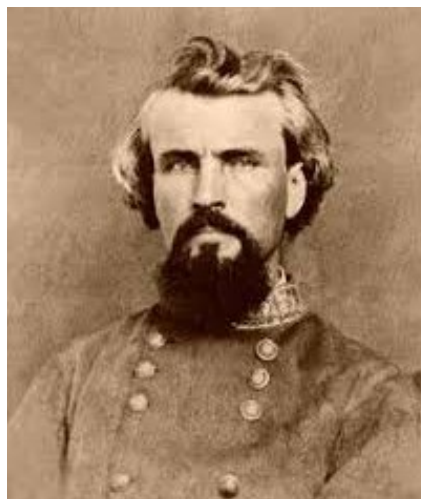
By an agreement made between Lieutenant-General Taylor, commanding the Department of Alabama, Mississippi and East Louisiana, and Major-General Canby, commanding United States forces, the troops of this department have been surrendered. I do not think it proper or necessary at this time to refer to the causes which have reduced us to this extremity, nor is it now a matter of material consequence as to how such results were brought about. That we are beaten is a self-evident fact, and any other further resistance on our part would be justly regarded as the very height of folly and rashness. The armies of Generals Lee and Johnston have surrendered; you are the last of all troops of the Confederate States Army east of the Mississippi River to lay down your arms. The cause for which you have so long and manfully struggled, and for which you have braved dangers, endured privations and sufferings, and made so many sacrifices, is today hopeless. The government which we sought to establish and perpetuate is at an end. Reason dictates and humanity demands that no more blood be shed. Fully realizing and feeling that such is the case, it is your duty and mine to lay down our arms, to submit to the 'powers that be,' and to aid in restoring peace and establishing law and order throughout the land.

The terms upon which we were surrendered are favorable, and should be satisfactory and acceptable to all. They Manifest a spirit of magnanimity and liberality on the part of the Federal authorities which should be met on our part by a faithful compliance with all the stipulations and conditions therein expressed. As your commander, I sincerely hope that every officer and soldier of my command will cheerfully obey the orders given, and carry out in good faith all the terms of the cartel.

Those who neglect the terms and refuse to be paroled may assuredly expect when arrested to be sent North and imprisoned. Let those who are absent from their commands, from whatever cause, report at once to this place, or to Jackson, Miss., or, if too remote from either, to the nearest United States post or garrison, for parole. Civil war, such as you have just passed through, naturally engenders feelings of animosity, hatred and revenge. It is our duty to divest ourselves of all bitter feelings, and, so far as it is in our power to do so, to cultivate friendly sentiments toward those with whom we have so long contested and heretofore so widely but honestly differed. Neighborhood feuds, personal animosities and private differences should be blotted out and when you return home a manly, straightforward course of conduct will secure the respect even of your enemies. Whatever your responsibilities may be to government, to society, or to individuals, meet them like men. The attempt made to establish a separate and independent confederation has failed, but the consciousness of having done your duty faithfully and to the end will in some measure repay you for the hardships you have undergone.

In bidding you farewell, rest assured that you carry with you my best wishes for your future welfare and happiness. Without in any way referring to the merits of the cause in which we have been engaged, your courage and determination, as exhibited on many hard fought fields, has elicited the respect and admiration of friend and foe. And I now cheerfully and gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to the officers and men of my command, whose zeal, fidelity and unflinching bravery have been the great source of my past success in arms. I have never on the field of battle sent you where I was unwilling to go myself, nor would I now advise you to a course which I felt myself unwilling to pursue. You have been good Soldiers; you can be good citizens. Obey the laws, preserve your honor, and the government to which you have surrendered can afford to be and will be magnanimous.

N. B. FORREST, *Lieutenant-General.*"
Headquarters, Forrest's Cavalry Corps
Gainesville, Alabama
May 9, 1865



New Sites added to Civil War Trails

Marker aim to attract tourism

Last week McMinnville added two new sites to the Civil War Trail program, which maintains and markets over 1,500 tourism destinations across six states. It is often touted as the world's largest "open-air museum." The project was the results of a partnership between the McMinnville Tourism Development Board, the Civil War Trails, Inc, and the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, and is expected to bring a stronger fiscal return to the community.

The two new sites include the story of Lucy Virginia French in the Riverside Cemetery off Bridge Street, and the story of Gen. Benjamin Hill in the Old City Cemetery off South Hill Street. Each site now has a Civil War Trails interpretive sign, and a network of the red bugle directional "trailblazers" which, alongside the printed and digital maps, help drive visitors to each site. The two new stories focus on two local personalities, and will be a crowd pleaser with the program's younger travelers.

Dayron Deaton-Owens, Administrator for the Tourism Development Authority, spearheaded the projects. She said, "Having these amenities in our area adds another layer to our tourism industry that not only honors our past, but also fuels economic growth by drawing tourists who are eager to connect with this rich heritage."

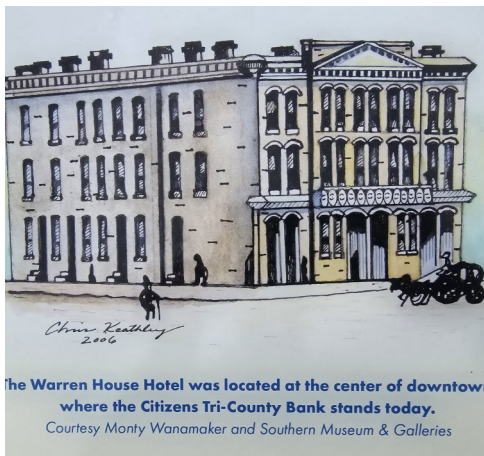
The impact of history-focused travelers is immense. According to Civil War Trails, Inc., their travelers spend around three to four nights during their trips, spending around \$1,200.00 dollars, and are increasingly interested in history, coupled with local restaurants and recreational activities.

This sentiment was reinforced by the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development. Not only does that office partner with Civil War Trails in producing the popular Civil War Trails map guide, but their team has been tracking the impact of the program and history-oriented travel in the state.

"Tennessee's historic sites and trails play a vital role in preserving our history while also inspiring tourism", said Mark Ezell, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development. "As more families than ever before explore the rich culture and heritage that define our state, they support local businesses, drive revenue and create jobs for Tennesseans."

These two new sites are only the beginning of a plan to refresh the remaining three Civil War Trails sites in the area. The goal is to improve story-telling and way-finding between the sites with an eye towards getting visitors to stay longer and spend more in town.

For more information about visiting McMinnville, please visit www.visitmcminnvilletn.com. Visitors are encouraged to snap selfies and to post them using #signselfie #civilwartrails and #tnsoundsperfect.



The Civil War Trails sign at Old City Cemetery for Gen. Benjamin Hill features this drawing by member, Chris Keathley



WCGHA Historian and artist, Chris Keathley



Dayron Deaton-Owens, Administrator for the McMinnville Tourism Authority, snaps a sign panel into place with Chris Brown, Assistant Director of Civil War Trails, Inc.

Them Old Ancestors

The Grundy County Historical Society recently had a program for Founding Families of Grundy County. My sister and I used to talk to our Mother about our family and after awhile she would say “I’m not talking about them old ancestors anymore”. We often laugh when we are researching our family history that “them old ancestors” can certainly be hard to find. Some of our WCGHA members, searched out “them old ancestors” from Grundy County. On August 10, the Grundy County Historical Society hosted a certificate presentation and brunch for certificate recipients. They awarded 119 certificates representing 69 families. Families attended from as far away as Kansas and Pennsylvania. WCGHA members making the trip to Tracy City to receive their certificates were: Lucas Holt for Jesse Coppinger, Kent Starkey for Isaac and Tabitha D Moore Meeks, and Gail Woodlee for William Armstrong and Mary Ann Smith Woodlee. In addition, Marie Blair received a certificate for James and Nancy Armstrong Woodlee and J B Brown received a certificate for Ledden and Louisa Avena Crossland Brown. I am not aware of other WCGHA members receiving certificates. It was fun to meet new cousins!

The WCGHA Pioneer Families committee has challenged the community and WCGHA members to reach certificate 175 by the end of the year. We have just issued certificate 159 so be looking for “them old ancestors” in Warren County. Refer to the WCGHA website for requirements and families already researched to Refer to the WCGHA website for requirements and families already researched to help us reach 175.

Submitted by Gail Woodlee



IN SEARCH OF.....

Bible belonging to Mrs. Matt (Clarissa) Muncy of West Riverside. Her tombstone made by Jim Smith, son-in-law of Jasper and Lizzie Lytle Muncy, and shows that Clarissa was born on Dec. 15, 1850 and died Dec. 24, 1904. In an interview with Gladys McBride Keel she stated that when Clarissa died her possessions, including a Bible with pictures of Matt & his son William, were sent to Nannie Rogers, the spouse of Harold Rogers, who lived in Michigan. Harold Rogers was the father of Jody Eugene "Smokey" Rogers. Jody is the second cousin of Wanda Norene Muncey Gant.

Please contact Wanda Gant, wnmrmg@gmail.com, if you have any information on the whereabouts of this bible.

LABOR DAY

Labor Day is a federal holiday in the United States celebrated on the first Monday of September to honor and recognize the American labor movement and the works and contributions of laborers to the development and achievements in the United States.

Beginning in the late 19th century, as the trade union and labor movements grew, trade unionists proposed that a day be set aside to celebrate labor. "Labor Day" was promoted by the Central Labor Union and the Knights of Labor, which organized the first parade in New York City. In 1887, Oregon was the first state of the United States to make it an official public holiday. By the time it became an official federal holiday in 1894, thirty states in the U.S. officially celebrated Labor Day.

The popularity of the event spread across the country. In 1894, shortly after the Pullman Strike, the Congress passed a bill recognizing the first Monday of September as Labor Day and making it an official federal holiday. President Grover Cleveland signed the bill into law on June 28. The federal law, however, only made it a holiday for federal workers. As late as the 1930s, unions were encouraging workers to strike to make sure they got the day off. All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and the United States territories have subsequently made Labor Day a statutory holiday.



August—Do You Know?

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

Late 1930s Cambridge School



- (1) ?; (2) ?; (3) Joe Charles Dove; (4) ?; (5) ?; (6) ?; (7) Madgalene Roberts Bennett; (8) ?; (9) Betty Sue Boyd Dunlap; (10) Virginia Cotten; (11) ? Fisher; (12) ?; (13) ?; (14) ?; (15) ?; (16) Maxine Fisher Grissom; (17) ?; (18) ?; (19) ?; (20) Charles Cotton; (21) Christine Fisher Gribble; (22) Nodelle Dove; (23) Bessie Breedlove; (24) ?; (25) ?; (26) June Dove Gribble; (27) ?; (28) Annelle Cotten; (29) ?; (30) Aubrey Allen Martin, teacher; (31) ?; (32) Edwin Ray; (33) Bill Atnip; (34) Hattie Jo Atnip; (35) ?; (36) ?; (37) ?; (38) Gordon Breedlove; (39) ?; (40) Guy Templeton; (41) ?; (42) Carmon Fisher; (43) Jean Gillentine Rogers; (44) ?; (45) Dorothy Womack Hash; (46) Juanita Dove; (47) ?; (ID.2024.08.27)

Look closely at the names of students that have not been identified and let's put names to faces!

August—Do You Know?

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

1955 Fairview School—Class # 8



(1) ?; (2) Bobby Green; (3) Treva Pendergraph; (4) Evelyn Harris; (5) Joyce Bouldin; (6) Morford Bryant; (7) Larry Byars; (8) ?; (9) Earl Hillis; (10) Tyrone Sparkman; (11) ?; (12) ?; (13) Mousey Powell; (14) ?; (15) ?; (16) Charles Jones, 7th Grade Teacher; (2024.08.26)

Can you identify the missing students in this photo?

1955 Fairview Class # 7 has been completely identified and can be viewed on our web site.

August—Do You Know?

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

1929 Viola School



(1) Vaughn Christian; (2) ?; (3) ?; (4) ?; (5) ?; (6) ?; (7) ?; (8) ?; (9) ?; (10) ?; (11) Sara Hoover; (12) ?; (13) Miles Christian; (14) Francis Mabry; (15) ?; (16) ?; (17) ?; (18) ?; (19) ?; (20) ?; (21) ?; (22) ?; (23) Twin Basham; (24) Twin Basham; (25) Roberta Smartt Willis; (26) ?; (27) ?; (28) ?; (2024.08.26)

This photo was originally published on March 27th of this year. We received these names this month. Can you identify any of the other students?

Office News

Thanks again to our committees and office staff who give so freely of their time to keep the Association office open on Monday and Friday who worked a total of 222.75 hours this month. Participants this month include: Bonita Mangrum, Evelyn Wade, Mary Oaks, Ann & J.B. Brown, Mary Don Bixby, Marie Blair, Gail Woodlee, Bettye Pack, and Wanda Gant.

Contributions

1947-48 Valley Recall Yearbook	Resource Library	Ron Campbell
The Last Words, The Farewell Addresses	Resource Library	Dr. Michael Bradley
1946 Oak Grove 1944 Oak Grove John D. Tenpenny Family	Photo Archives	Ricky Jones
1822-24 handwritten math book 1834-35 Miller Day Book Various original receipts and invoices	Warren County Archives	Ron Campbell

Research

We had six visitors this month:

Malinda Savage Brown (Fairview Schools)
Lillian Ey (Walker)
Sandra Adcock (Nunley-Hennessee-Gibbs)
Tammy Corina (Fults)
Mark & Kelly Clifton (Grizzell-Saunders)
Glen Mitchell



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 Oaks



Web page/FB Admin:



Ann Brown

Research:

Bonita Mangrum

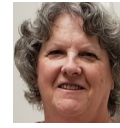


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