



# WCGHA Newsletter

DECEMBER  
2024



President

Mary Don Bixby



Vice President

Mary Oaks



Secretary

Barbara Bates



Treasurer

Ann Brown



Past President

Ann Brown



*HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS!*

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends:

As the song says, "The weather outside is frightful." It's sunny and bright, but oh so cold! We have jumped from Thanksgiving to Christmas in what seems to be a minute or two, and even with all the hustle and bustle, I hope you are able to enjoy this festive time of year.

It has been an honor to serve as president of the WCGHA this last year. I have had the opportunity to make many new friends in the organization, and that I treasure.

I wish the new officers all the best in the upcoming year. I hope that they are able to set goals and accomplish things that will keep the organization vital and growing. Good luck to you!

I also hope to see many of you at our Christmas party tomorrow. A good time will be had by all!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2025.

Mary Don

## Calendar of Upcoming Events



### WCGHA Christmas Party

December 7th, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

At

'Falcon Rest' Tea Room

Menu: same as last year

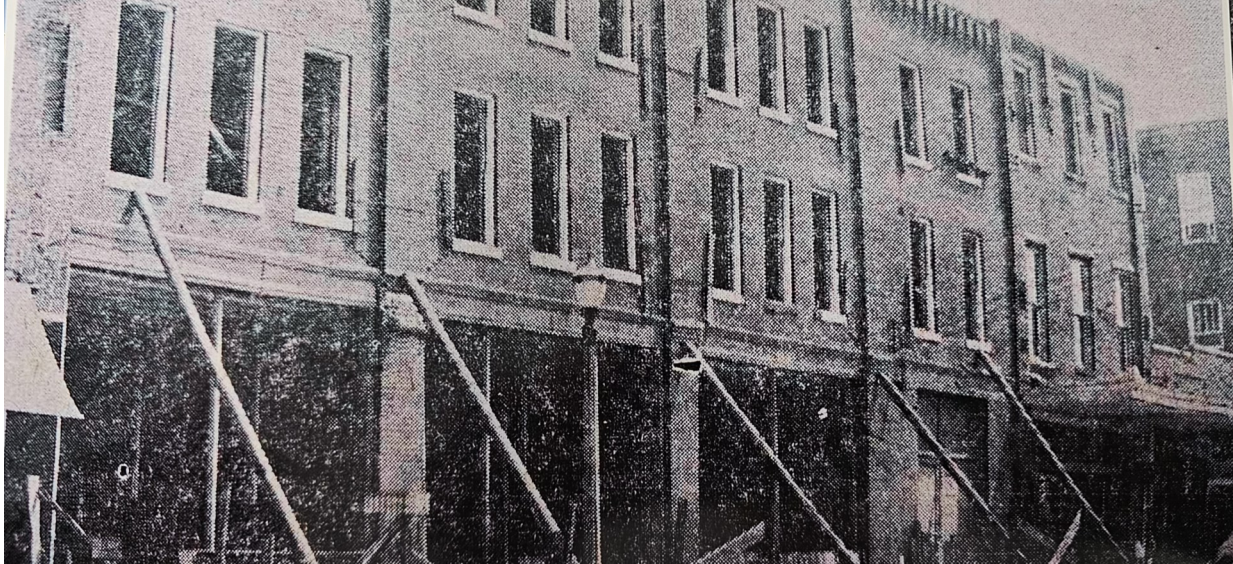
\$20.00 (cash—exact change at the door)



# Tour of Old Fraley's Furniture Building

Saturday, November 16, 2024

Raven Young, Interior Designer, gave members a tour of the Fraley's Furniture building. The building is currently under-going renovation, which includes turning the upstairs into apartments. Raven has offered to allow us to tour again once renovations are completed. Below are pictures of some of the memorabilia she has collected.





Walling Fraley



**GRAND OPENING** -- Mayor Franklin P. Blue did the honors in ribbon-cutting ceremony as the new Fraley's downtown began their weekend open house on Monday. From left, Harry DeLozier, of Red Carpet Committee"; Mayor Blue, Randolph Newby, of Fraley's; Jim

Durham, McMinnville-Warren County Chamber of Commerce president; Grant Scott, of the "Red Carpet Committee"; Miss Dottie West, "hometown grand Ole Opry star who was featured in open house, and John H. Biddle, newly appointed C of C manager.

Serving Warren & Surrounding Counties Since 1945  
**A TRADITION THAT WILL CONTINUE FOR YEARS TO COME**

*Fraley's*  
 DOWNTOWN McMINNVILLE  
 473-8461

**Quality & Service For 51 YEARS**

MONDAY - SATURDAY  
 8:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.

EVENINGS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

*Fraley's*

**Serving McMinnville and Warren County For 49 Years With...**

- IN-STORE FINANCING
- OUR OWN SERVICE DEPARTMENT
- FREE DELIVERY & SET UP

**SALES DEPT.**  
 Gene (Monk) Mayfield,  
 Randolph Newby, Dimples Parsley,  
 Don Alexander, Levoyn Duncan  
 133 Total Years of Service

**FOUNDER, WALLING FRALEY**

**OFFICE STAFF**  
 Glenda Young,  
 Dean Prater, Sandra Peltzold  
 41 Total Years of Service

**TREASURER, DAWN GRIFFITH**  
**FURNITURE & APPLIANCES**

**HOUSEKEEPING**  
 Betty Johnson  
 8 Years of Service

**SERVICE DEPT.**  
 Walter Fisher, Thomas Vickers,  
 Noel Todd  
 108 Total Years of Service

**DELIVERY DEPT.**  
 Jerry Muncay, David Biles,  
 Junior Bain  
 16 Total Years of Service

**DOWNTOWN McMINNVILLE** *Not Low Priced Furniture...* *...Good Furniture at Low Prices* **PHONE 473-8461**

**"NAME YOUR OWN PRICE"**  
*On Brand New This Season Model*

**Hotpoint**  
**REFRIGERATORS - RANGES**  
**WATER HEATERS - FREEZERS**

**AUCTIONED OFF!**

**In a Merchandising Experiment**

Credit Terms Available to Successful Bidders  
 NO OUTSIDE FINANCING

We want to find out just what people are willing to pay for top quality electric appliances. To do this we have just received a shipment of HOTPOINT APPLIANCES to give AT AUCTION.

**An Exciting New Kind of Auction!**

**ALL BIDS MUST BE RECEIVED AT OUR STORE BY 6 P. M. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

**IF YOURS IS A LUCKY BID, YOU'VE BOUGHT THE HOTPOINT APPLIANCE YOU BID ON AT YOUR OWN PRICE!**

Here is a rare opportunity to buy brand new, first quality HOTPOINT Appliances without ever having to ask "How much does it cost?" The only question is "How much is it worth to YOU?" You have a chance to purchase the appliance you need at your own price!

**Place Your Bids Please . . . Your Price Is Our Price!**

HERE IS MY BID ON THE NEW MODEL HOTPOINT APPLIANCES TO BE AUCTIONED OFF. I UNDERSTAND THAT I MAY BID ON ONE, OR AS MANY AS I DESIRE.

**For The Range - Reg. 209.95 Value - - - - - Your Bid \$**  
**For The Refrigerator - Reg. 269.95 Value - - - - - Your Bid \$**  
**For The Water Heater - Reg. 139.95 Value - - - - - Your Bid \$**  
**For The Home Freezer - Reg. 419.95 Value - - - - - Your Bid \$**

**A New Shipment of Hotpoint Appliances Makes This Auction Possible!**

YOU MAY SEE APPLIANCES OFFERED IN THIS AUCTION AT FRALEY'S STORE ANY TIME. THE PRICES INDICATED IN THE COUPON AT THE RIGHT ARE THE REGULAR RETAIL PRICES AT WHICH FRALEY'S HAS BEEN SELLING THESE SAME MODELS.

**EASY TERMS**

*Fraley's Appliances*

# WALLING FRALEY

Longtime entrepreneur learned early in life you can't be afraid to take the plunge in search of success



Walling Fraley started business in a corner of the old Sedberry Hotel and soon established one of McMinville's more respected and successful establishments.

38 - PROFILES, Southern Standard, 1994

By GREG DAVIS  
Standard Staff

Walling Fraley wanted to succeed at a very early age. In fact, he wanted to fly.

The 86-year-old native of White County and owner of Fraley's Furniture in McMinville recalled his first adventurous leap.

"I was born in Walling just across the river from Rock Island," he said. "My parents moved from there out to Pleasant Cove. My daddy ran a grocery store. We lived in the store in a room off to the side.

"One of the first things I can remember out there is the front porch. It was raining, and I decided I could fly if I jumped off the porch and then jumped again before I hit the ground. I jumped off that porch and mud went everywhere.

"I found out I couldn't fly then. It was a lot of years later that I did learn to fly. I would get up getting my pilot's license and had three or four airplanes."

Mr. Fraley recalled one plane trip that almost ended like his fateful jump off the porch.

"I made a forced landing one time. I started to Atlanta real early one morning. They always tell you to warm up an engine or it will ice over. I was told that the carburetor in a Bonanza wouldn't ice over. I drove out to the end of the runway without

warming up the plane. I got nearly to Viola, up to seven or eight thousand feet, and the engine started sputtering. I tried putting heat on the carburetor, but it was too late. I turned around and thought I'd come back to the airport over here, and I saw I wasn't going to get back to the airport.

"Before they had this new airport out here, all the planes used to land at Tom and Boyd's field. I did a 360 and lost too much altitude. Just as I went over the fence, I hit my landing gear release. The nose wheels came out but the rear wheels were frozen. I glided on in. It was the best landing I ever made."

Mr. Fraley's woes with bad weather and vehicles were only beginning.

"I worked at Mayo's Laundry for a time. They had an old Model T truck that they picked up laundry in. I had to crank it, and on a cold morning, I would have to jack up the rear wheels and put it in high gear. If you had a Model T that would climb Depot Hill in high gear, you really had something."

He faced more transportation problems when he became the manager of Caney Fork Co-op.

"We had 525 miles of lines in seven counties and 1,500 customers to serve — and one pickup truck. When it snowed, you'd

(Continued on page 56)

## Cheap Furniture is no bargain either.



Fraley's, we offer the highest quality home furnishings — including furniture, appliances, TV's, stereos & seasonal goods — mowers, tillers, air conditioning, fireplace inserts — all at affordable prices. We have in-store financing & a service department.

**Fraley's FURNITURE**

East Main Street  
Downtown

473-8461

• BROTHERS • LA-Z-BOY • KINCAID • TELL CITY • AMERICAN DREW • FAIRFIELD • PULASKI • SINGER AND MANY OTHER DEPENDABLE MANUFACTURERS

APPLIANCES & ELECTRONICS

• MATTAG • WHIRLPOOL • HOTPOINT • MAGIC CHEF • RCA

**Familiar Fraley's Furniture Store Sign**

**McMinville, Tennessee**

Removed in 2005 during renovation of downtown Main Street

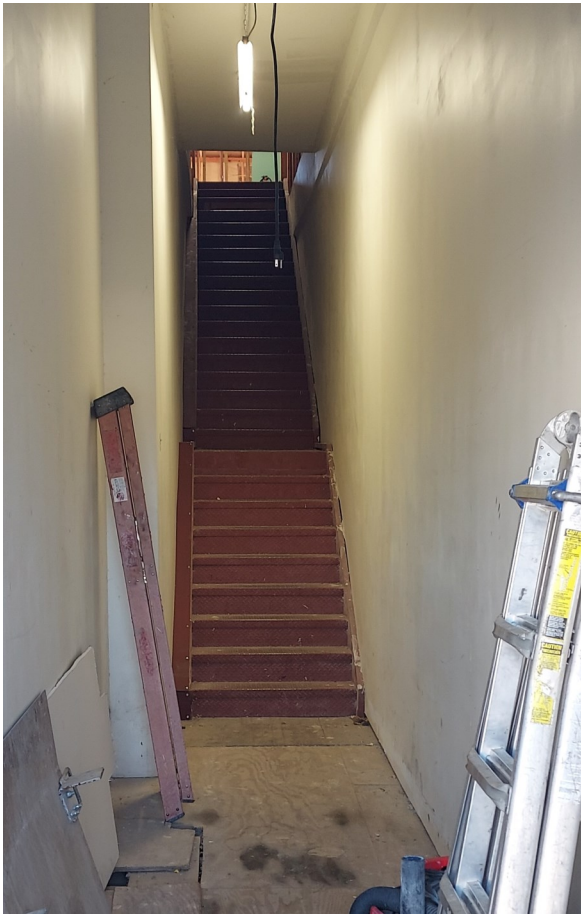
Handcrafted By  
*McKenzie Roberts*

## Remembering the Best of Historic Downtown McMinville



"Stagecoach West"

As Drawn on the Wall of Fraley's Furniture Building by Artist Dan Cagle  
This Snapshot taken by Photoartist R. Bruce Atkin



## CENTERTOWN SCHOOL CELEBRATES 100 YEARS (1924-2024)

On Saturday, November 9, 2024, the Centertown School celebrated 100 years. Centertown School became part of the Warren County School System in the fall of 1924 with a newly constructed school building opening. Pleasant Hill, a one-teacher school and Bates Hill, a two-teacher school became part of the Centertown School. J. B. McMahan was the first principal. The school consisted of four large classrooms a library, auditorium and an office. It was built to house grades one through eight and one grade was added each year until a high school was formed. The first graduating class was in 1930. Centertown remained a grammar school through high school until 1969 when the Warren County Schools and McMinnville City Schools were unified.

The school at the present location opened with the 2007-08 school year and additions were added that opened in August 2024. The large crowd attending the recent celebration were entertained by food trucks, antique cars and farm equipment displayed, as well as the opportunity to buy t-shirts or sweatshirts and Christmas tree ornaments. Social rooms were available, complete with refreshments, to allow attendees to reminisce with former class mates. Lots of photos from the past lined the walls of the school halls.

Current students and teachers presented a “Century of Memories” in the school gym to a capacity audience. The narrative, written by Beverly Crouch, a former Centertown student and current staff member of the school, informed attendees of social events during each decade. The students wore period dress and performed dances along with music from the time period of each decade. Some of the dances performed by the students included the Charleston, the Twist and line dancing. Part of the music included in the presentation was “Orange Blossom Special”, “On the Good Ship Lollipop”, “Wildwood Flower”, “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy”, “At the Hop”, “Twist and Shout,” “Aquarius,” “Boot Scootin Boogie” and others. The program ended with “I’ll Always Remember You.”

Lots of research, practice and fun-learning benefited the students and entertained the people attending the celebration.





Graduates Earl Blair and Carolyn Medley Taylor (1959), and Russell and Beverly Crouch



Bill Williams, Earl Blair, JoAnn Mathis Ramsey, and Gail Mathis Hendrix share fun times



Earl and Marie Blair and nieces, Johnny Ann Boyd and Teresa Hyatt check out the Farmall tractor, said to have belonged to Clyde Hale, now deceased



Stage where a variety of performers entertained the anniversary celebration





Earl Blair and Frank Bond discuss Frank's 1929 fully restored Chevy. Frank grew up near the Daylight community and Earl grew up on Bates Hill Road



Earlier Centertown school, possibly 1924?

## LATEST PIONEER FAMILY CERTIFICATES



ANN BROWN

Pioneer Harmon Redmon was born in VA and died in DeKalb County before 1842. He was on the 1820 Warren County Census. Mr. Redmon is the 3rd great grandfather of Ann Brown through her adopted mother's family. Ann is receiving certificate # 164 for herself and certificates #165, 166 and 167 for her three children, Kenneth Thomas Mingle, Kevin Ray Mingle and Krista LeiAnn Mingle.

Freda Clifton is getting Certificate # 168 for the Pioneer James Lindsay Durham, Jr. Mr. Durham was born in 1774 in North Carolina, married Elizabeth Summers in 1808 in North Carolina and then appears on the 1820 Warren County Census. He died in 1858 in Warren County. He is Freda's 3rd great grandfather.



FREDA CLIFTON

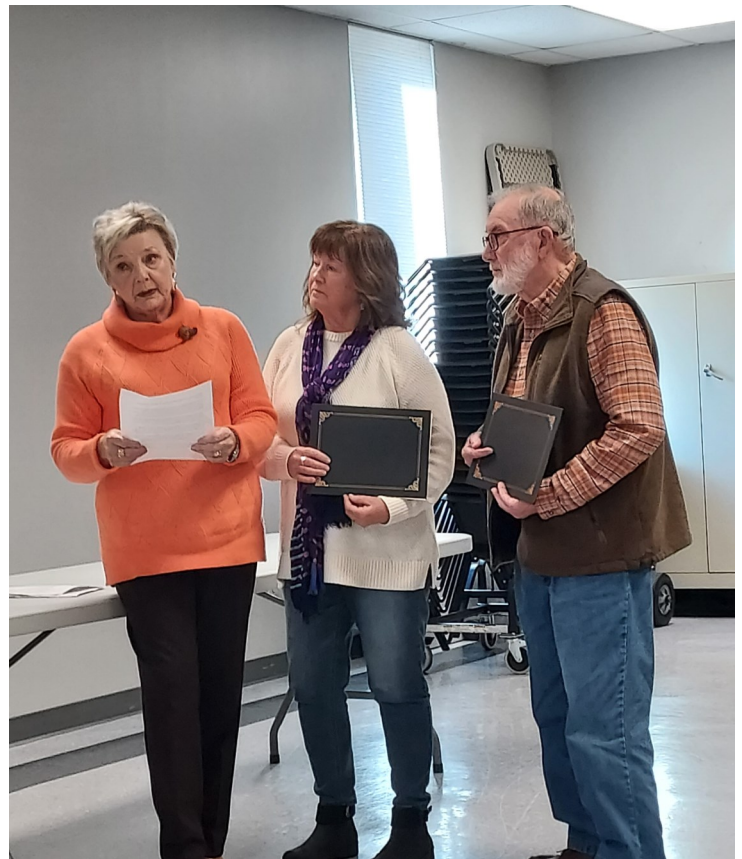
Mark Farrel Clifton, Jr. is receiving Certificate # 169 for Pioneer, Harrell “Harold” Byars, who was born in 1779 in North Carolina, married Jane “Jennie” Gill in 1804 in North Carolina and came to Warren County very early as he appears on the 1812 Tax List for Warren County. Mr. Byars is Mark’s 4th great grandfather.

(Mark was unavailable for photo)

MARK CLIFTON

Earl Blair is receiving Certificate # 170 for Pioneer, William Freeman, his 2nd great maternal grandfather, who appears on the 1820 Warren County Census. William Freeman’s first wife is Margaret (maiden name probably McKnight, but not proven). Margaret died or they divorced before December 1858. William Freeman married Louvinia Stockstill on 24 Dec 1858 in Warren County. Earl descends from William and Margaret.

Teresa Blair Hyatt is receiving Certificate # 171 also for William Freeman. William Freeman is Teresa’s 3rd great grandfather. Teresa is also Earl Blair’s niece. William Freeman died in 1865 and is buried in the Whitlock Cemetery located just off the Bates Hill Road in the Centertown Community.



TERESA HYATT AND EARL BLAIR

## Some Viola History by Wanda Gant

According to Goodspeed's History of Warren County, in 1887 Garrison McCullough had the saw, flour and corn mill at Viola, and until closing in 1973 the Viola Mill produced the popular regional brand of flour "Viola's Best Flour. This mill was later scrapped and the materials used to build a mill at The Farm, which was an intentional community in Lewis County, Tennessee, near the community of Summertown, Tennessee. Based on principles of nonviolence and respect for the Earth, it was founded in 1971 by Stephen Gaskin and 300 spiritual seekers from Haight-Ashbury and San Francisco.

Thomas Warner Gonder was born in 1888 in Franklin County. He was married to Sallie Foster, and began as a miller for J. H. Lucas in Franklin County at a rolling mill. Before coming to Warren County he was associated with the Oak Grove Milling Company at Decherd. After moving to Warren County and becoming owner of the Viola Milling Company in 1950, he patented the invention of a machine known as a centrifugal corn cleaner and separator, which was then manufactured by the Smith Machine and Electric Company. He died in 1977.

Mary Katherine Stone Gaffin [1915-2013] was a life-long resident of Viola and married to Walter Clark Gaffin. She was a retired teacher and homemaker, a member of the Viola Church of Christ for 82 years, had taught in Morrison and Viola schools, and was the manager of the first Sears Roebuck Catalog store in McMinnville. She was also the first woman to take the census in Warren County, and the first woman to ever participate as a member of a jury in Warren County. She was a former postmaster of the United States Post Office in Viola, and for many years she was an active member of the Viola Woman's Improvement Club and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. In 2007, she was honored by being named as a Warren County Woman of Achievement. I had the privilege of meeting her in 1984 as a member of The Eliza Lyon Mitchell Chapter of The Questers, which is a Historical Preservation, History and Antiques Study group that met in her home in Viola. A gracious hostess, this is one of her recipes.

### Chocolate Cake

½ cup butter    2 cups sugar    3 eggs, separated  
3 squares chocolate or 5 tbs cocoa    2 cups flour  
¾ cup lukewarm coffee    1 tsp cinnamon  
½ tsp cloves    ½ tsp nutmeg    ¾ tsp baking soda  
½ cup buttermilk    1 tsp vanilla

Preheat oven 350 degrees. Cream butter and sugar. Add beaten egg yolks. Melt chocolate or cocoa with coffee and add to creamed mixture. Sift flour and spices together 3 times. Beat egg whites until stiff. Mix soda with buttermilk and add alternately with flour to creamed mixture. Add vanilla. Fold in stiffly beaten egg whites. Bake in 2 layers for 30-35 minutes. Good with chocolate or divinity icing. Raisins and nuts may be added to batter if desired.



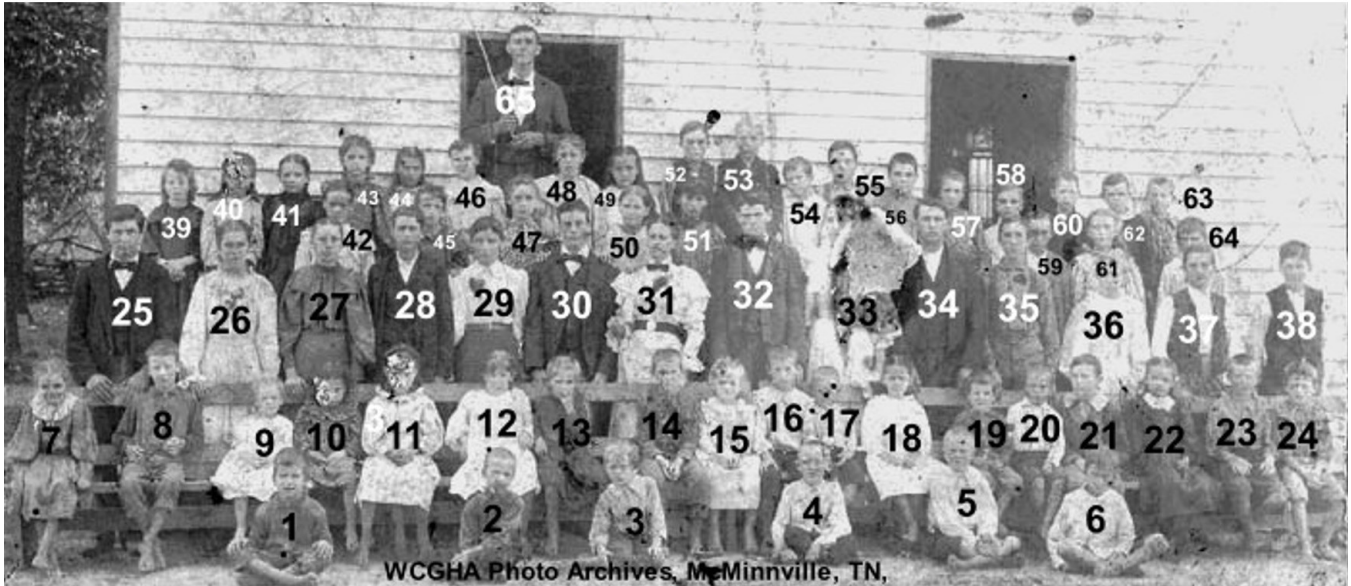
# October—Do You Know?

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

## 1923 Wayside School—Correction

#5 was incorrectly listed as Arnie Honor Green and should be Annie Honor Green

## Center School (year unknown)



## April, 1956 Fairview School – Class # 2



## Office News

It was a busy month even though we had two holidays this month. Our committees and volunteers logged 169 hours. Thanks to all those who volunteered their time to our projects and office: Mary Oaks, Bonita Mangrum, Evelyn Wade, Mary Don Bixby, Marie Blair, Bettye Pack, Freda Clifton, Lucas Holt, Lynette Moore and Ann Brown. Stop by and see us on Mondays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Research

No visitors researching this month.

## Contributions

So Many Moores	Resource Library	Correction: contributed by Paul Moore
Photos, Bible Records, Family papers	Photo Archives Warren County Archives	Phyllis Graham
Photos	Photo Archives	Susan Driver
100 Year Anniversary Celebration 1924-2024	School Files	Centertown School
Fraley's wooden plaques	WCGHA Archives	Raven Young



## **Come Visit Us**

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

**Email:**  
[wcgha.tn@gmail.com](mailto:wcgha.tn@gmail.com)

**On the Web:**  
[www.tngenweb.org/wcgha](http://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***



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### **Historian:**

***Chris Keathley***



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### **Programs:**

***Mary Oaks***



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### **Web page/FB Admin:**



***Ann Brown***

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### **Research:**

***Bonita Mangrum***

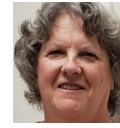


***Mary Oaks***



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### **Bulletin:**

***Ann Brown***



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### **Publicity:**

***Gail Woodlee***



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### **Office:**

***Evelyn Wade***



***Mary Oaks***

