



WCGHA

Newsletter

201 LOCUST ST., MCMINNVILLE, TN 37100

JULY
2025



President

Mary Oaks



Vice President

Bettye Pack



Secretary

Barbara Bates



Treasurer

Ann Brown



Past President

Mary Don Bixby

***Come Join Us
on July 19
at 2 p.m.***

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

Mary Oaks, WCGHA President

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Fellow Members!

First of all, I would like to thank the office volunteers for filling in for me this past month when I was unable to be in the office! We hope everyone had a safe and happy 4th with family and friends!

What a treat to learn about Native American history from Dr. Troy Smith at our June meeting. It was a very enlightening experience.

Do you have your item picked out for Show & Tell? We hope to see you on the 19th!

Mary

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Jul 9th—**WCGHA Board of Directors**

Jul 16th—**WBMC's Town Talk**

Jul 19th—**Show and Tell**



Independence Day, known colloquially as the Fourth of July, is a federal holiday in the United States which commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, establishing the United States of America.



June 21, 2025 Members Meeting

Our speaker was Dr. Troy Smith, Professor of History at Tennessee Tech University. His area of expertise is the Chickamauga Indians of Middle Tennessee. While the presentation was on the Battle of Rock Island, Dr. Smith began by covering over one hundred years of history leading up to this battle.

Most people believe that the Cherokee were the first tribes in Middle Tennessee, however, the Yuchi Indians came to our area in the late 1600's. They are responsible for the mounds that can still be found here. The Cherokee pushed the Yuchi out, and Middle Tennessee became their winter hunting grounds, while they continued to live in the mountains.

In the late 1770's, a group of Cherokee separated from the main body. They were led by a warrior named Dragging Canoe, who believed the British would continue to force the Cherokee to give up their land and move further West. He moved his group to the Chattanooga area and established the Chickamauga tribe at Chickamauga Creek. There they continued to fiercely oppose American expansion.

On November 9, 1893, a militia group scouting along the Cumberland River encountered a small group of Chickamauga led by Double Head. This "skirmish" was the Battle of Rock Island, and was the last battle of the Chickamauga wars. The remaining members of the tribe surrendered and were allowed to rejoin the Cherokee. Twenty years later, Dragging Canoe's prophecy came true as the Cherokee were forced out of Tennessee in what is known as the Trail of Tears.



This day in July:

July 6, 1885: Louis Pasteur prevents rabies.

After being mauled by a rabid dog on his way to school, a 9 year old boy named Joseph Meister is brought to the lab of the French scientist.

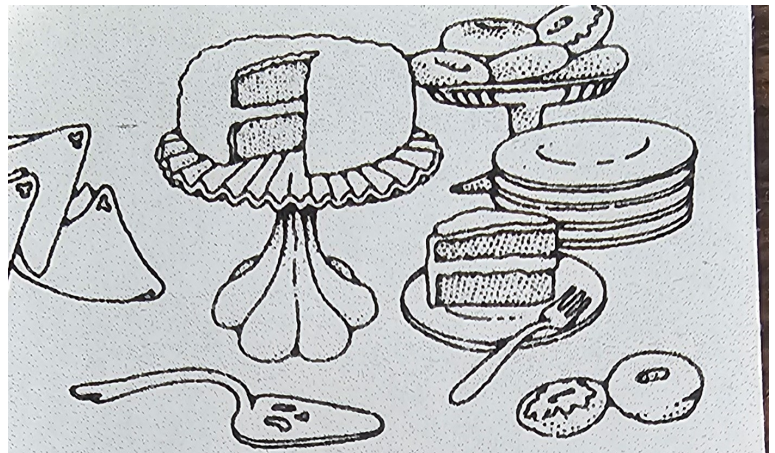
July 13, 586 BCE: Solomon's Temple is destroyed. On or near this date, the temple of the Israelite King Solomon, described in great detail in the Old Testament, was destroyed by the Babylonians.

July 18, 1817: Jane Austen dies. It is said that when Jane Austen died her family wanted to keep her authorship a secret.

July 19, 1799: The Rosetta Stone is discovered. A rock inscribed with parallel passages of ancient Greek writing, Egyptian hieroglyphs and Demotic script.

July 20, 1969: One Giant Leap For Mankind. At 4:17 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time the Apollo 11 lunar module Eagle lands. Astronaut Neil Armstrong becomes the first American to set foot on the moon, followed 19 minutes later by Buzz Aldrin.

July 27, 1953: The Korean War ends. Fighting ended with an armistice but no peace treaty.



1917 WAR CAKE

Very popular in 1917 when sugar and butter were scarce and eggs too costly for luxuries such as cake. My mother used it for years.

1 cup corn syrup
1 cup cold water
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon cloves
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1 tablespoon Crisco
1 teaspoon soda
2 cups flour
1/2 teaspoon baking power

Put first 6 ingredients in saucepan; cook 3 minutes after reaching boiling point. Add Crisco. When cool, add soda dissolved in a little hot water; add flour and baking powder. Stir; pour into greased tube pan. Bake for one hour at 325 degrees.

The Bookshelf

by Mary Don Bixby

As most of you know, our Resource Library is filled with books, notebooks, pamphlets, and many other types of reading material. Some books contain lists that are very helpful but are a bit dry. Some are beautiful volumes that could be classified as “coffee table” books. This morning, thanks to Ann, I discovered a two-volume set that should be considered jewels. And one of the best things about this set is that it was compiled and edited by two WCGHA members: Bettye and James R. “Bob” Sherwood!

The first volume is entitled, “Viola Valley and Beyond – Pictures from the Past.” It was published in 2012. The second volume, published in 2014, is similarly entitled, “Viola Valley – Pictures from the Past to Present.

Since I had never noticed these books, I started paging through them. There was a bit of squealing involved as I discovered photographs of people I knew and know. There are photographs of individuals, school groups, sports teams, family reunions. Viola reunions, mules, churches, schools and so much more. There are Hoovers, Stubblefields. Sains, Gonders, Smartts, Hubbards, Wintons, and one of my favorites, the Jess Nunley family.

The Sherwoods deserve much recognition for publishing these beautiful and useful books. Plan a visit to the WCGHA office and get lost in the history of Viola.

In Memory Of



JOYCE LEE BARNES CRAIG

MAY 22, 1941 — MAY 22, 2022



Remembered by:

Kerry Mullican on June 21, 2025

Office News

We logged a total of 177 volunteer hours this month. We are thankful for all our members and visitors who stop by the office whether it is to volunteer, research or just visit for a while.

Research

Jeff Morton—Bank Robberies; Brandy LaCourt—deed research; Jamie Gothro—James Pinkney Womack Cemetery; John Kenneth Russell—Russell, Pennington, Redmon

Contributions—Business Files

CB&T—A Story of Progress 1912-1962—Kerry Mullican

Contributions—Resource Library

Abstracts of Cumberland Co., Va Will Books—Bonita Mangrum

North Caroline & the War of 1812—Bonita Mangrum

Basic Reference Books on Genealogy, Heraldry and Local History—Bonita Mangrum

Contributions—Special Collections

1935 Safley Quilt—Sandra Russell

New Members:

Lisa Martrone, Little Rock, AR; Peggie VanArsdale, Rock Island, TN.



Come Visit Us

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

Email:
wcgaha.tn@gmail.com

On the Web:
www.tngenweb.org/wcgatn

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



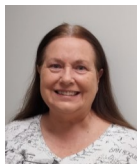
Historian:

Chris Keathley



Programs:

Bettye Pack



Web page/FB Admin:



Ann Brown

Research:

Bonita Mangrum

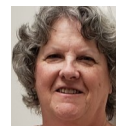


Mary Oaks



Newsletter Editor:

Susan Driver



susandriver801@gmail.com

931-314-6959

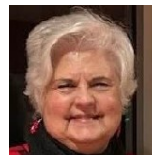
Bulletin:

Ann Brown



Publicity:

Freda Clifton



Office:

Evelyn Wade



Mary Oaks

