



WCGHA

Newsletter

AUGUST
2025

201 LOCUST ST., MCMINNVILLE, TN 37100



President

Mary Oaks



Vice President

Bettye Pack



Secretary

Barbara Bates



Treasurer

Ann Brown



Past President

Mary Don Bixby

***Come Join Us
on August 16
at 2 p.m.***

For the next WCGHA Meeting

***“McMinnville
Police Dept”
By Brian Denton***

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!

We want to thank everyone who brought items to Show and Tell. There were lots of interesting items and stories told!

We are looking forward to Bryan Denton's presentation on Law Enforcement this month! You won't want to miss it!

We want to thank everyone who made contributions to the WCGHA! Lots of good books, photos, and memorabilia have been added to our resources!

Hope everyone is enjoying the cooler weather!

Mary

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Aug 6th—**WCGHA Board of Directors**

Aug 16th—**McMinnville Police Dept. by Brian Denton**



Harriett Martin stopped by the office to research her Pioneer Ancestor, Rock Martin. Marie Blair, Chairman of the committee, was happy to help Harriett with her research. Feel free to stop by the office anytime on Monday or Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Applications are available in the office or online at:

www.tngenweb.org/wcga/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Projects-Guidelines-Pioneer-Family-Application-2023.09.07.pdf



SHOW & TELL

If you've never attended a Show & Tell at the WCGHA, you are really missing out on some unique and interesting history of Warren County! There is always an interesting variety of items each having a story from our past shedding insight into the lives of our ancestors.



Karen Carr stumped everyone with this melting pot from her father, Thomas Carr. He attended MTSU and worked in a foundry there while in college. The building still stands on campus today.



Barbara Bates brought these treasured photos of her grandfather, Benjamin Hugh Brandon, in his World War I uniform and her grandmother, Carrie Priscilla Watson, with her brother, Roy B. Watson.





Charlotte Hamby shared her spoon collection from the 1897 World's Fair in Chicago each featuring a different building. Charlotte's great, great uncle, Peter G. Litz, travelled by train (not with a ticket but by boxcar) and brought these back with him.



Bonnie Davis shared these books from North Side School (1975-76). The students were required to sign their name when they read the book and it was then passed to another student. Do you recognize any of the names?

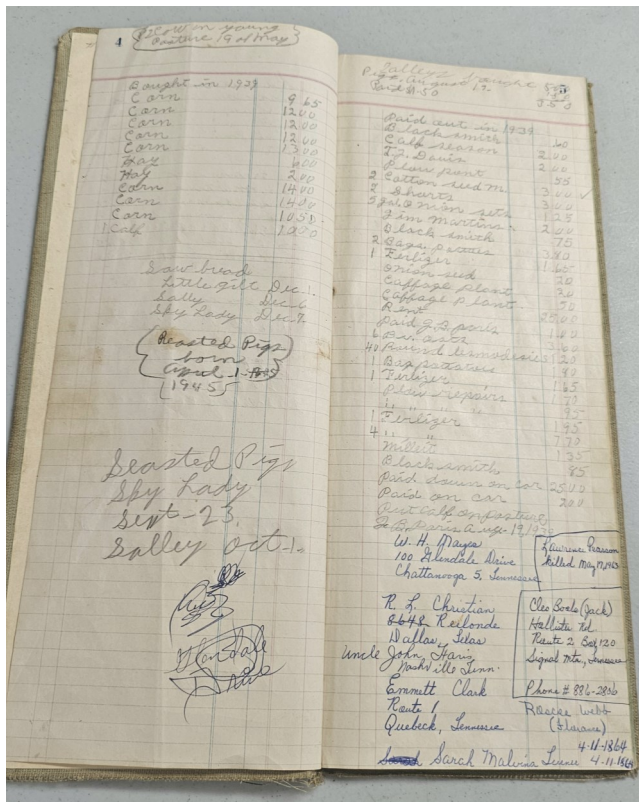
Class of 1975-76

Becky Reynolds	Lisa Winfrey
Shirley Nokes	Shirley Brown
James P. Tman	Donna Adcock
Michelle Jones	Monica Lisa
Judy McCloud	Williams
Dorothy DeMontreux	Phyllis Neal
Alan Young	Windy Little
Lana McSee	Roger Griffin
Edie Ruckard	Bryan
Lisa Bush	Michelle
Kenneth Womack	Leo
Lisa Hillis	PEARSON
Rita Dodson	
Nancy Cowans	
Angeline Mitchell	
LouAnn Runkley	
Marilyn Blevins	
Rachel Dooen	
Arlene Grissom	
Dale Ann	
Johnny	
Steve Montgomery	





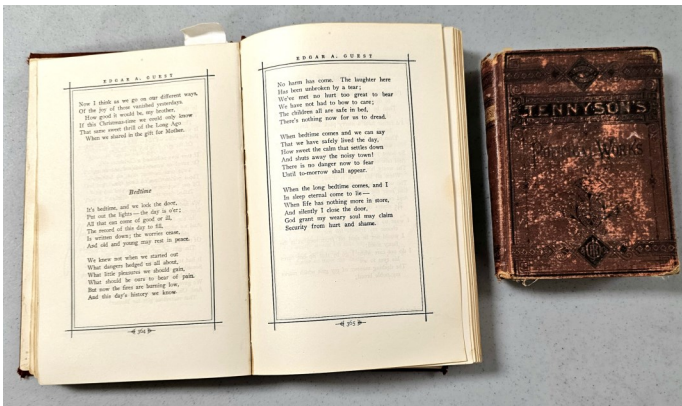
Mary Oaks shared one of her most treasured possessions—a teapot from her mother, Viola Elliott Martens, along with some family stories that are part of the teapot history.



Marie Blair's grandfather, Oscar Mayes, owned a farm in Viola and kept a detailed journal of the operation including the names of the cows and pigs and how much it cost to operate the farm in the 1939 providing a glimpse into the life in those days.



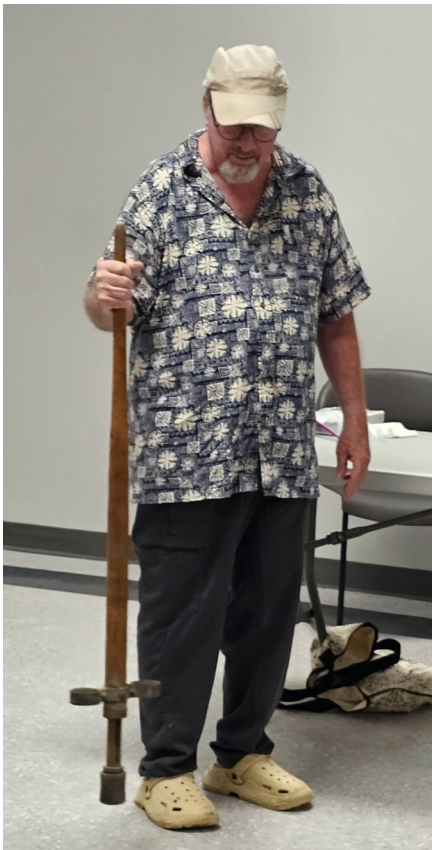
Earl Blair's great grandfather, John Carlton Blair and his wife, Julie Ann. John built munition boxes for the Confederate Army and travelled from North Carolina to Warren County, TN through Rabun County, GA.



These treasured books belonged to Freda Clifton's grandmother, Mary Ethel Golden Grandey. Freda has fond memories of spending summer days with her and listening to her read poetry to her grandchildren.



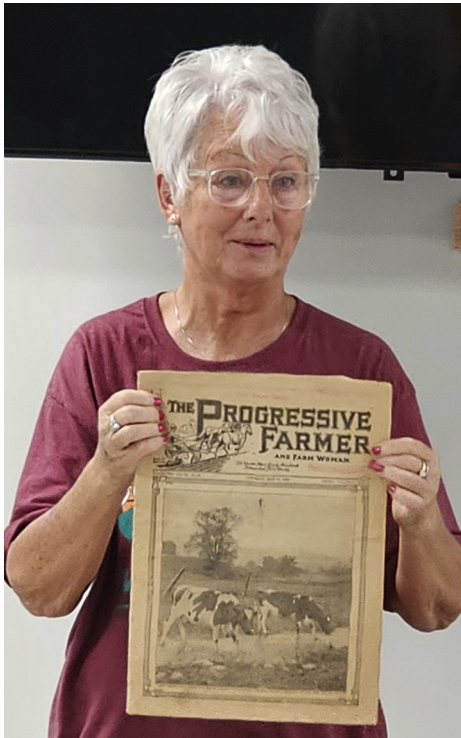
Mary attended Pleasant Hill Academy located near Sparta (which is now a museum) and would often share her love of books through her readings with various groups in the community.



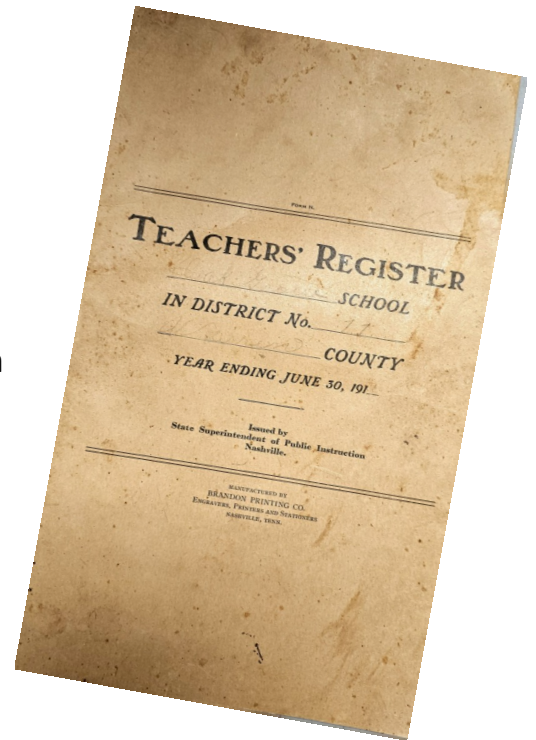
Bill Smallman brought this pogo stick that belonged to his father, Ernest Smallman, Sr. Bill declined to demonstrate this piece of history for the group and, although he offered, no one volunteered to take a turn on the pogo stick.



Lynette Moore brought this rare leather baby shoe which belonged to her grandfather, Isaac John Grizzell, Sr. Isaac was also the grandfather of Freda Clifton and this was a surprise for Freda as she had never seen the item. Lynette also displayed a baby brush from Isaac. Isaac was born on July 25, 1885 which makes this show 140 years old!



Shirley Yates brought a treasure trove of items from things her mother, Sepal "Goodie" Lance Scott, had saved. This Progressive Farmer was a popular magazine with farmers in rural areas.



This Teacher's Register is from Oak Grove. It belonged to Clay Lance, who was a teacher.



An early Oak Grove School, unknown year, when it was a log building.

This photo of unknown individuals is one of many unidentified photos from the collection of Shirley's mother, Sepal "Goodie" Lance Scott, and is unique for the metal.



Ollie Safley Russel's Quilt

This beauty was quilted by the "Get to Gether Club" in 1935. It is a community friendship quilt.

The ladies who participated each signed their name in a block: Birdie Safley, Leona Safley, Martha Simmons, Ola Mai Patton, Mary Green, Delma Kell, Alice Patton, Laura Mullican, Grace Young, Dicy Green, Maggie L?, and Mabel Gillete.

Ollie, Birdie and Leona were sisters. Ollie was born in Dec 13, 1876 in Texas. By 1880, she was living in Warren County, where she married Thomas Larry Russell in 1902. She died in Feb. 1, 1956 in Chattanooga, TN. and is buried in Mountain View Cemetery here in Warren County. The Safley family had strong roots in Warren County. Her parents were Richard (1853-1938) and Nancy Drake (1853-1928) Safley. Her grandparents were Henderson (1817-1894) and Mildred Barnes (1816-1863) Safley. Her great-grandparents were Jesse (1781-1861) and Phatha Stiles (1788-1870) Safley who migrated to Warren County from Virginia and North Carolina.



This quilt was preserved by Ollie's great grandson, David Russell, Jr. and came to us from David's widow, Mrs. Sandra Russell of Flintstone, GA. It was David's wish that the quilt be returned and preserved in Warren County.

The Bookshelf

by Mary Don Bixby

Sometimes it is nice to be reminded that all around us are very talented people: artists, woodworkers, quilters, birders, researchers, and so many more, including writers. I thought about this when I recently processed, "What My Grandfathers Taught Me" by our own Larry Boyd.

This little book is actually a compilation of memories: mostly about Larry's Boyd grandfather, a bit about his Davis grandfather, and several pages about the occasion of the 200th Anniversary of Warren County.

It is a very personal story told by an admiring and loving grandson. His account of the Ghost Walk held during the Warren County anniversary truly makes history come

This book is available in the Resource Library at the WCGHA office. The shelves are full, so come spend a morning with us and peruse them. You will no doubt find some fascinating reading material.

In Memory Of



RUBY HAWKINS WILLIAMSON

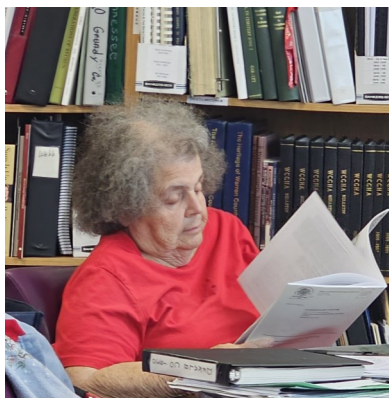
DECEMBER 23, 1493 — JUNE 25, 2025



Remembered by:

Bettye Pack, Shirley Yates, and Sue Clark on July 11, 2025

In Honor Of



BONITA BRATCHER
MANGRUM



Bettye Pack on July 11, 2025
"for her many years of research"

In Honor Of



EVELYN WADE

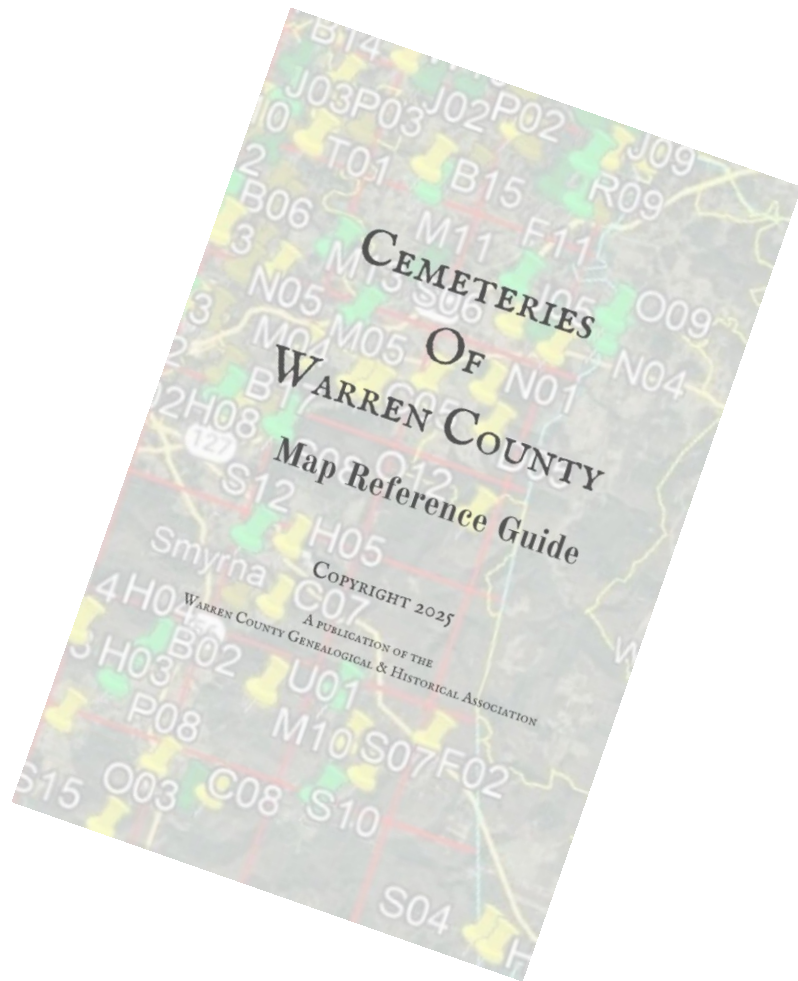


Bettye Pack on July 11, 2025
"for her many years of research"

ANNOUNCING!

Now available at the
WCGHA office or
online at Amazon!

Providing a listing of the cemeteries of Warren County, this book gives the location of cemeteries as well as information about them. Is it public or private? What about the condition? Map Grids provide a visual representation of the location in the county and the relationship to other cemeteries located near by. Completely cross-referenced and indexed, containing AKA's as well as the cemetery names, the book provides valuable information about over 200 cemeteries in Warren County.



\$20.00 plus shipping

. As one of the first individuals who purchased the book put it, "It's the perfect companion to the Warren County Cemetery Books."

[Cemeteries of Warren County: Map Reference Guide: Brown, J.B. and Ann, Lance, Carolyn, Mangrum, Bonita, McBride, Deborah, Moore, Lynette, Oaks, Mary, Pack, Bettye, Wade, Evelyn: 9798289848529: Amazon.com: Books](#)

New Member:

John Kenneth Russell, McMinnville, TN

Office News

Thanks to all our members and volunteers who supported us this month with a total of 139 volunteer hours!

Research

Barbara Page—Oak Grove Cemetery; Harriett Martin—Rock Martin; Betty Whitlock—Charles Creek Cemetery; and Debbie Allen—Charles Creek Cemetery.

Contributions—Resource Library

Soldiers of the War of 1812 Buried in Tennessee—Bettye Pack
Tennessee Soldiers in the Revolution—Bettye Pack
Twenty-four Hundred Tennessee Petitioners—Bettye Pack
What My Grandfather Taught Me—Larry Boyd
School Annuals—WC Pioneer & Valley Recall—Bobby Bond
Middle Tennessee Journal of Genealogy—WCGHA
School Annuals—WC Pioneer & McMinnville Central—Lynette Moore
Wesley Chapel Church and Cemetery—Marie Blair
County Histories (McMinn, Fayette, Montgomery, Benton, Decatur, Henderson, Sequatchie and Weakley) - Bonita Mangrum
Grundy County Pathfinder—Grundy County Historical Assn.

Contributions—School Files

Various McMinnville City High programs—Sally Warren Duke
Central High School Reunions—Larry Boyd

Contributions—Photo Archives

1937 Dibrell School—Betty Whitlock
Irving College School (Mollie Rogers Barnes, teacher) - Wanda Gant
Pucket Motos—Jimmy Haley
Oak Grove—Barbara Page



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

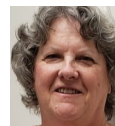


Mary Oaks



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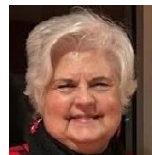
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Ann Brown



Publicity:

Freda Clifton



Office:

Evelyn Wade



Mary Oaks

