



201 LOCUST ST., MCMINNVILLE, TN 37100

WCGHA Newsletter

SEPTEMBER
2025



President

Mary Oaks



Vice President

Bettye Pack



Secretary

Barbara Bates



Treasurer

Ann Brown



Past President

Mary Don Bixby

***Come Join Us
on September 20
at 2 p.m.***

For the next WCGHA Meeting

***“The History of
Cumberland
Homesteads”***

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 have a change in plans for our program this month and while we are disappointed to miss the opportunity to hear Savannah Grandey of the M.T.S.U. Center of Historic Preservation group, we know that you will enjoy hearing about Cumberland Homesteads history which is only a short drive from McMinnville.

Many thanks to Bryan Denton for an entertaining presentation on law enforcement in Warren County.

The fair is here and so is cooler weather. We hope you are enjoying both and look forward to seeing you on the 20th!

Mary

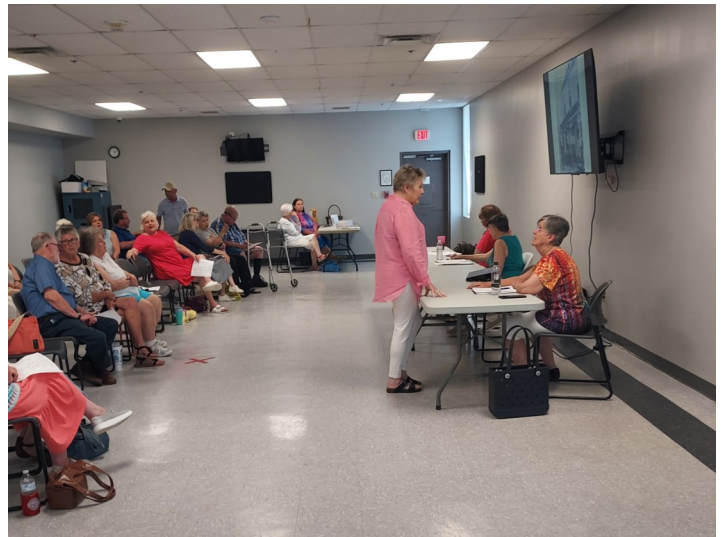
Calendar of Upcoming Events

Sep 10th—**WCGHA Board of Directors**

Sep 20th—**The History of Cumberland Homesteads**



Mary Oaks presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Bryan Denton



WARREN COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT by Bryan Denton

Bryan Denton is a retired deputy from the Warren Co. Sheriff's office. He started his career as a jailor/dispatcher in August 1981. Bryan shared the history of Warren Co. Law Enforcement, as well as some interesting facts about law enforcement in general. Modern law enforcement is based on Roman practices (due process, public order, property rights, fair trials, etc.).

The first jail was built in Warren Co. in 1808, and the first sheriff was Wm Cheek Smartt (1808-1816). The current facility was built in 1965. The McMinnville Police Department was formed in 1933. E. F. Chambers was the first, part-time Police Chief. The department was housed with the county jail until it moved to Courthouse Square in the mid-1950's. All police department positions were elected until 1941, when they became appointed positions. Currently, the largest force in Tennessee is in Memphis with 1900; Nashville has 1600, and Warren Co. has 40 of 41 positions filled.

Fun fact: In 1829, Sir Robert Peel formed the London Metropolitan Police Force, hence the term "Bobbies" given to law enforcement officers.



Photo courtesy Bryan Denton



Photo courtesy Bryan Denton

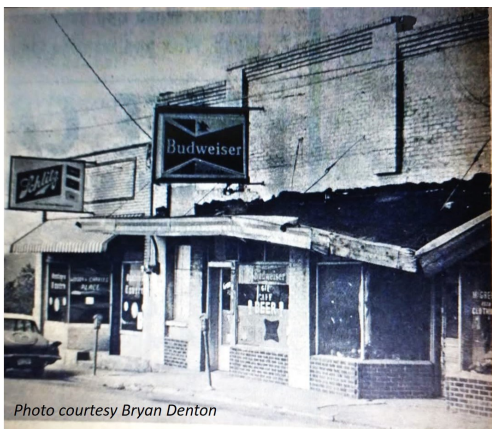


Photo courtesy Bryan Denton

TO BE EVICTED—Operators of the two beer taverns on South Spring Street, housed in the buildings shown above at left, have been served notice they will be evicted from the city-owned buildings on Christmas eve. The buildings were the first to be

acquired by the city in the area to be cleared for the Colville Street Urban Renewal Project. Efforts of the city to relocate the taverns in other areas of the city have been blocked by citizen protests.



Photo courtesy Bryan Denton



Photo courtesy Bryan Denton



Photo courtesy Bryan Denton

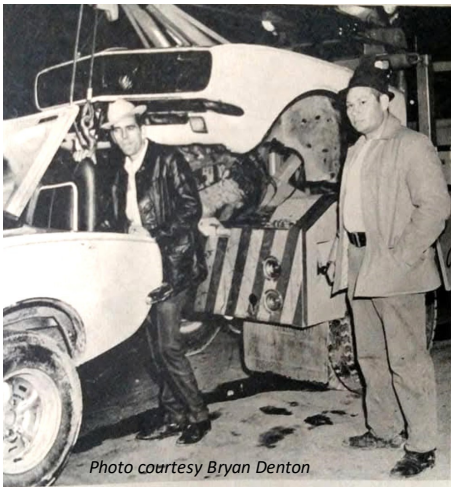


Photo courtesy Bryan Denton

REMAINS OF CAR—Sheriff Everett Pearsall, left, and Chief Deputy Billy Delaney are shown with the parts of I. L. Savage's 1967 Camaro following its return here on Thursday night. The car was stolen early Thursday morning, and was in the process of being stripped when officers discovered it in a "new car graveyard" near Gruett the same day. It was believed that all parts of the car were recovered, but a massive assembly effort will be required to restore the vehicle to running condition.



Photo courtesy Bryan Denton

From Left To Right: Deputy GERALD ROWLAND; JERRY BENTON; Chief Deputy BILL YOUNG; Sheriff EVERETT PEARSALL; Clerk HRS. EVERETT PEARSALL; Deputy SANDRA YOUNG.



McMinnville Police Department
Circa 1957

Photo courtesy Bryan Denton

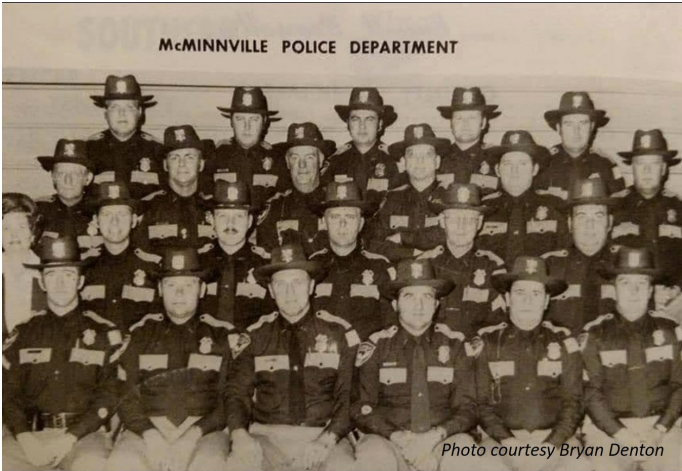
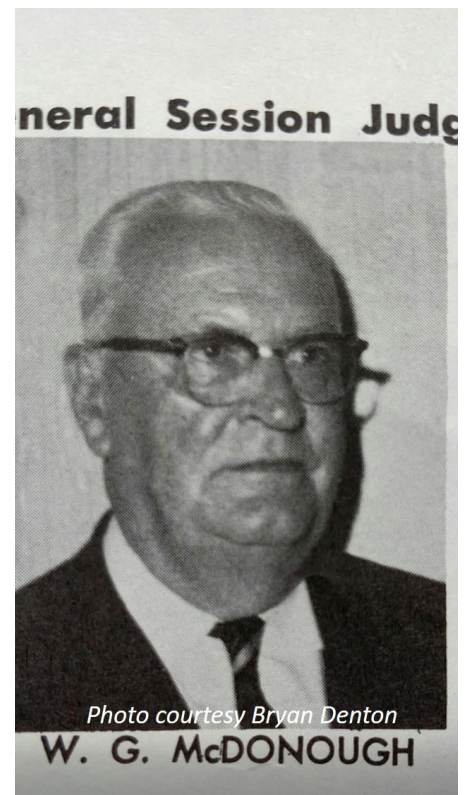
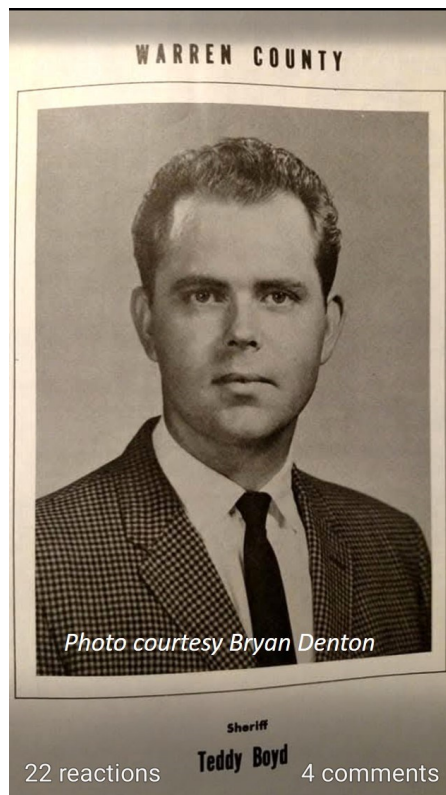
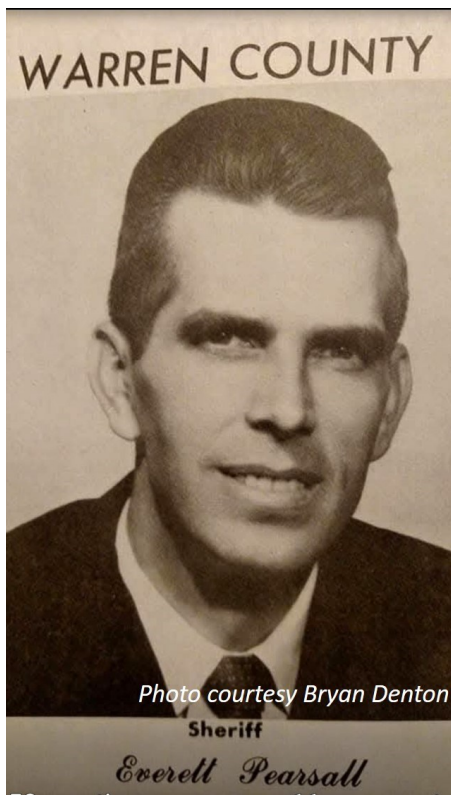
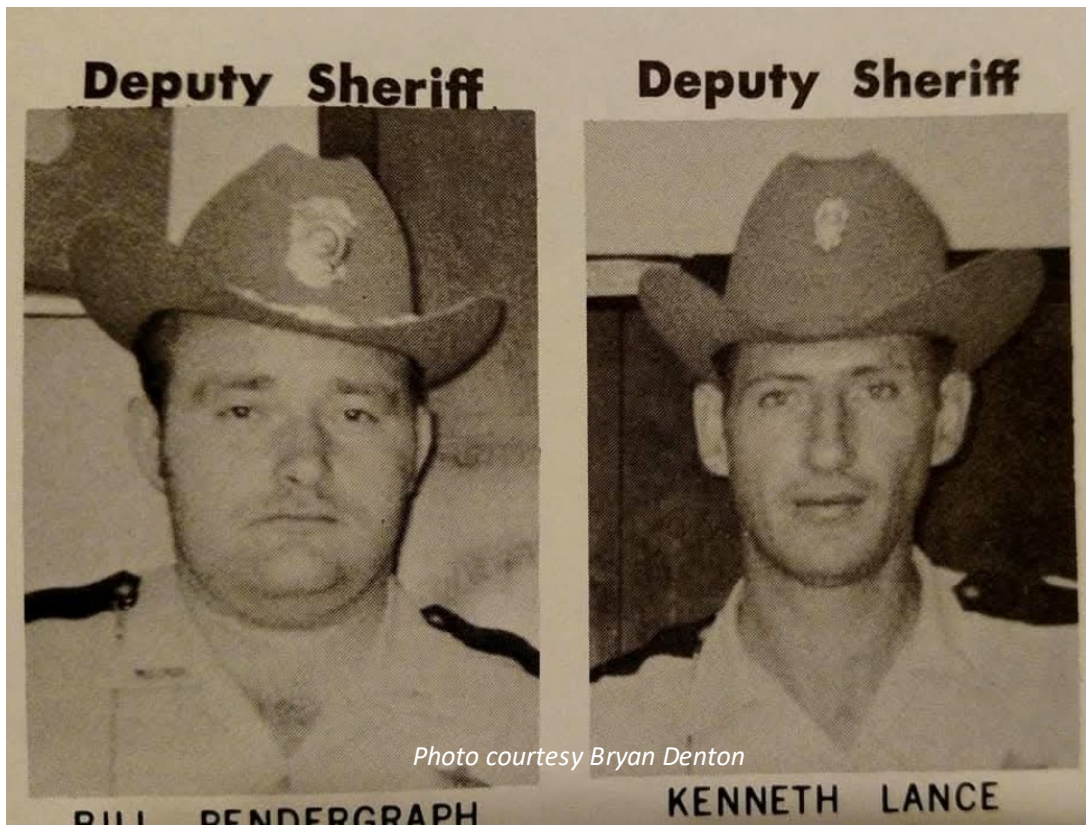


Photo courtesy Bryan Denton





Two New Early Warren County Settlers Approved as Pioneer Ancestors

Lusk Colville and Jacob Martin were added to the list of Pioneer Ancestors during the month of August and their descendants are being awarded certificates.

Michael David Pennington is receiving a certificate for his maternal 3rd great grandfather, Lusk Colville. Mr. Colville was born in 1791 and died 5 July 1865. He is buried in Liberty Cemetary in Warren County. Michael is a descendant of the Colville's daughter, Mary, born In 1843. She married William Harrison Stubblefield in 1863 in Warren County.

Lusk Colville claimed land in Warren County in 1819 according to the TN Early Land Registers and he also appears on the 1820 Warren County Census. Lusk Colville, age 59 and wife, Manerva, age 39 appear on the 1850 Warren County Census with their daughters, Susan, 18, Mary, 5, Amanda C, 3 and Catherine, age 1.

Congratulations to Michael for documenting his descent and recognizing his Warren County Pioneer Ancestor.

Lucas Holt is receiving a certificate for his maternal 5th great grandfather, Jacob Martin. Jacob was born in 1772 in North Carolina and died in 1860 in Warren County. Jacob Martin is the Smyrna Cemetary in Warren County along with his wife, Catherine Myers. Jacob was in the area now known as Warren County as he appears on an 1805 Tax List before Warrant County Was actually established. Mr. Martin also appears as a Locator on an 1811 Land Register for Warren County and also on the 1820 Census for Warren County.

Lucas descends from Jacob and Catherine Martin's daughter, Letty. Letty was married to David Argo, who passed way by 1848 and she and her children John, 12, Catherine, 7 and Theodore, 5, are in the home with her parents in the 1850 Census for Warren County.

Congratulations to Lucas for researching Jacob Martin and Jacob's family in order to prove he was a very early settler and his ancestor.

The Bookshelf

by Mary Don Bixby

Being a “book person” means that I love to peruse book shelves anytime, anywhere. It is especially fun here at the WCGHA because our shelves are filled with titles that aren’t seen very often. One of those is *Under the Lake*, which is also the title of several fictional mysteries written over the years. I was intrigued by the title on the spine and just had to see what it was all about.

Under the Lake – Historic Images, Stories and Genealogy of Life Along the Caney Fork River Before the Center Hill Lake. In DeKalb, Putnam, Warren and White Counties of Tennessee – was authored by Carol Denson Williams, Judy Taylor Fuson and Rita Baker and was published in 2016. It is dedicated to Thomas Gray “Tommy” Webb, DeKalb County Historian. Our copy was donated to the WCGHA in memory of Ladye Jane Hunter.

Under the Lake is divided into several sections:

The History of the Caney Fork River

Building the Center Hill Dam

The Families of the Caney.

This book is remarkable for many reasons. It contains 304 pages of colorful maps, hundreds of photographs. Informative text, and a detailed index. It presents as a beautiful “coffee table” book, but is so much more. It is one of those books that I can’t imagine the effort that it took to compile. Apparently, it is no longer in print, so visit the office to see it.



THIS DAY IN SEPTEMBER....

September 2, 1969: The first ATM in the U.S. made its debut.

September 4, 2016: Mother Teresa was canonized as a saint.

September 5, 1975: President Gerald R. Ford survived an assassination attempt.

September 7, 1940: Germany began the Blitz, bombing London for 57 consecutive nights.

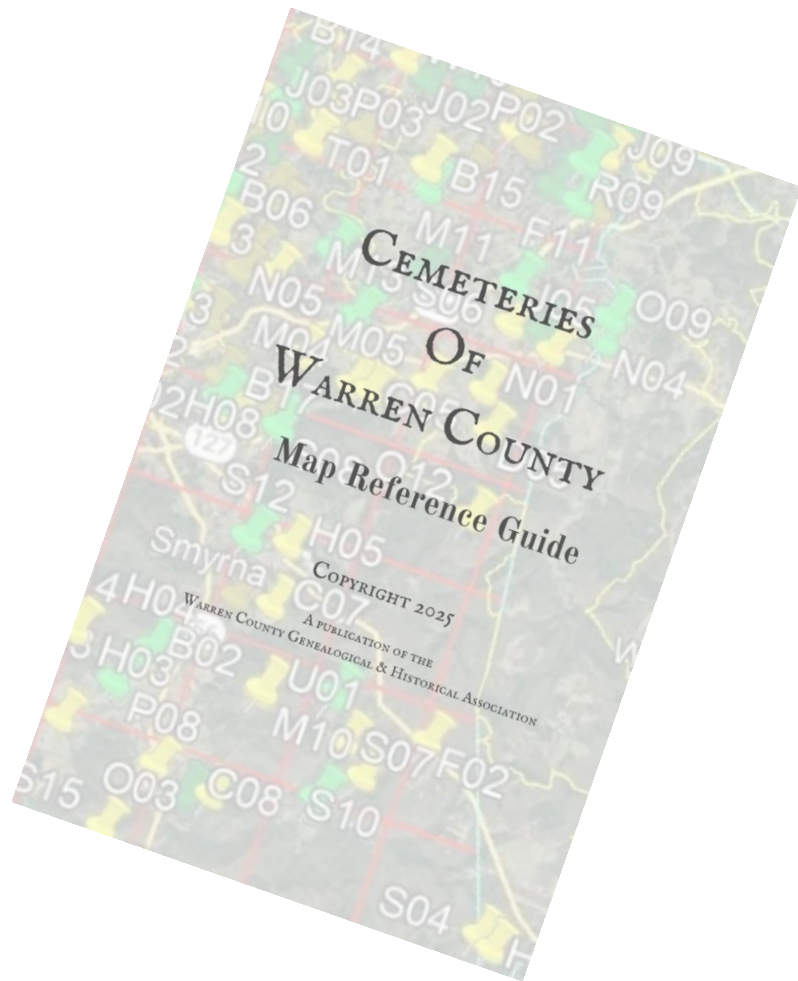
September 8, 2022: Queen Elizabeth II, the longest-reigning monarch in British history, died at age 96.

September 9, 1776: The Continental Congress officially changed the name of the new American nation from the “United Colonies” to the “United States” of America.

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](https://www.amazon.com/dp/9798289848529)

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;
Fred Jones—Whitman-Patterson;
Barbara Hancock—Daylight Store, Charles Creek Cemetery;
Debbie Allen—Charles Creek Cemetery;
Bryan & Amy Denton—McMinnville Police;
George Roberts—Vervilla;
Stephen Simmons—Vervilla;
Jimmy & Mary King—King;
Julie Denton Slaughter—Christian Shell;
Lucas Holt — Argo;
Tammy Clark—Johnny R Mead Jones

Contributions—Resource Library

Cemeteries of Warren County (In Memory of Almetia Cunningham & Martha Holt)

Contributions—Archives

Sister Cities—Carol Chambers
Faulkner Springs H D C Scrapbook—Jimmy Haley
2017 Calendar—Where Memories Live—Bettye Pack
Daylight Store Ledger—Barbara Hancock

Contributions—Family Files

Martin & Hash Family Files—Jimmy Haley

Contributions—Photo Archives

1936-37 Centertown, Grades 1 & 2—Bonita Mangrum
1953 McMinnville Service Station—Gail Woodlee



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



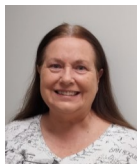
Historian:

Chris Keathley



Programs:

Bettye Pack



Web page/FB Admin:



Ann Brown

Research:

Bonita Mangrum

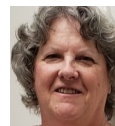


Mary Oaks



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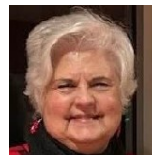
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Ann Brown



Publicity:

Freda Clifton



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Evelyn Wade



Mary Oaks

