



201 LOCUST ST., MCMINNVILLE, TN 37100

WCGHA

Newsletter

OCTOBER
2025



President

Mary Oaks



Vice President

Bettye Pack



Secretary

Barbara Bates



Treasurer

Ann Brown



Past President

Mary Don Bixby

***Come Join Us
on October 18
at 2 p.m.***

For the next WCGHA Meeting

***“U.S. Army PFC Joe
Lynn Delong by Dr.
Tara Mitchell
Mielnik”***

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!

I so hated to miss last month's program on the Cumberland Estates but I have heard good reviews. Several attendees have indicated a road trip in their future. Our thanks to Robert Boyd for the informative presentation.

We are excited to hear Dr. Tara Mitchell Mielnik's program honoring one of Warren County's fallen soldiers, U.S. Army Pvt. 1st Class Joe Lynn DeLong.

We only have one more program this month and 2025 will be in the books, so to speak. We hope that our members have enjoyed the presentations and our members who are unable to attend have enjoyed reading about our activities.

Catch us on the Warren First Podcast on Monday, the 13th.

Hope to see you on the 18th.
Mary

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Oct 8th—**WCGHA Board of Directors**

Oct 13th—**Warren First Podcast at 9:15 a.m.**

Oct 18th—**U.S. Army PFC Joe Lynn DeLong by
Dr. Tara Mitchell Mielnik**



WCGHA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

December 6, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.

Warren County Admin Building

201 Locust Street

Magnolia Room

Catered by Helens on the Green

Reservation forms will be available at the October and November members' meeting, and at the WCGHA office on Mondays and Fridays from 9-3. The cost is \$20.00 per person, and may be paid in cash or by check made out to Helens on the Green. **Reservations and payment are due by November 21, 2025.**

CUMBERLAND HOMESTEADS by Robert Boyd

By the early 1930's, decades of poor farming practices had rendered many of the small farms in East Tennessee untenable, and the Great Depression had left thousands of coal miners and other industrial workers unemployed. In January 1934, the Division of Subsistence Homesteads chose Cumberland County as a site for one of its "stranded" agricultural communities. Cumberland Homesteads is located in a hilly area atop the Cumberland Plateau, just south of Crossville. The community was envisioned by the federal planners as a model of cooperative living for the region's distressed farmers, coal miners, and factory workers.

Over 20,000 acres of land were purchased from the Missouri Land Company, and Cumberland Homesteads, Inc., was created to administer the project. Of the initial 233 families selected for the Cumberland Homesteads project, 30% were distressed farmers, 30% were unemployed miners, 30% were unemployed textile workers, and 10% were struggling professionals (including teachers, nurses, and a doctor).

The Cumberland Homesteads, including roads and all of its buildings, were designed by architect William Macy Stanton. Stanton divided the land into small farm plots (the average size of which was about 50 acres on which houses were to be built and which families were expected to live. As families moved to the Homesteads, the men whose families had been chosen to live there began building all the structures Stanton had designed.

A community-owned store (the "Trading Post") and cannery were established in 1934, but both struggled with inexperienced management. Wage-paying industries never relocated to the Homesteads as the government had hoped, and attempts by homesteaders to establish a coal mine and sorghum mill failed. Throughout the 1930's, the Homesteads project was overseen by a succession of agencies with differing philosophies, leaving the project without a clear purpose. By 1945, the federal government had extricated itself from the Homesteads project after allowing the remaining homesteaders to purchase their farms. Although the original purpose of the Homesteads project failed, the community survived, and over half the farms remained in the hands of the original homesteaders through the 1950's. In 1988, several hundred of the community's original houses and other buildings, which are characterized by the native "crab orchard" sandstone used in their construction, were added to the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district.

Most of the original 251 houses are still standing. Fifteen distinct housing designs have been identified, with eleven of the designs found multiple times, as they followed basic patterns provided by the original architect. His designs include rectangular houses, L-shaped houses, and T-shaped houses, most of which are 1.5 stories with gable roofs and one or two chimneys. Most houses originally had covered-porch entrances and batten doors. Typical interiors consisted of pine paneling with built-in bookcases. Attics contained water storage tanks, and most house were wired in anticipation of TVA providing electrical power. Most farmsteads included a barn, a smoke house, a chicken house, and toolsheds.



WASHINGTON INVOLVEMENT



QUARRYING CRAB ORCHARD STONE



TYPICAL CRAB ORCHARD STONE HOUSE



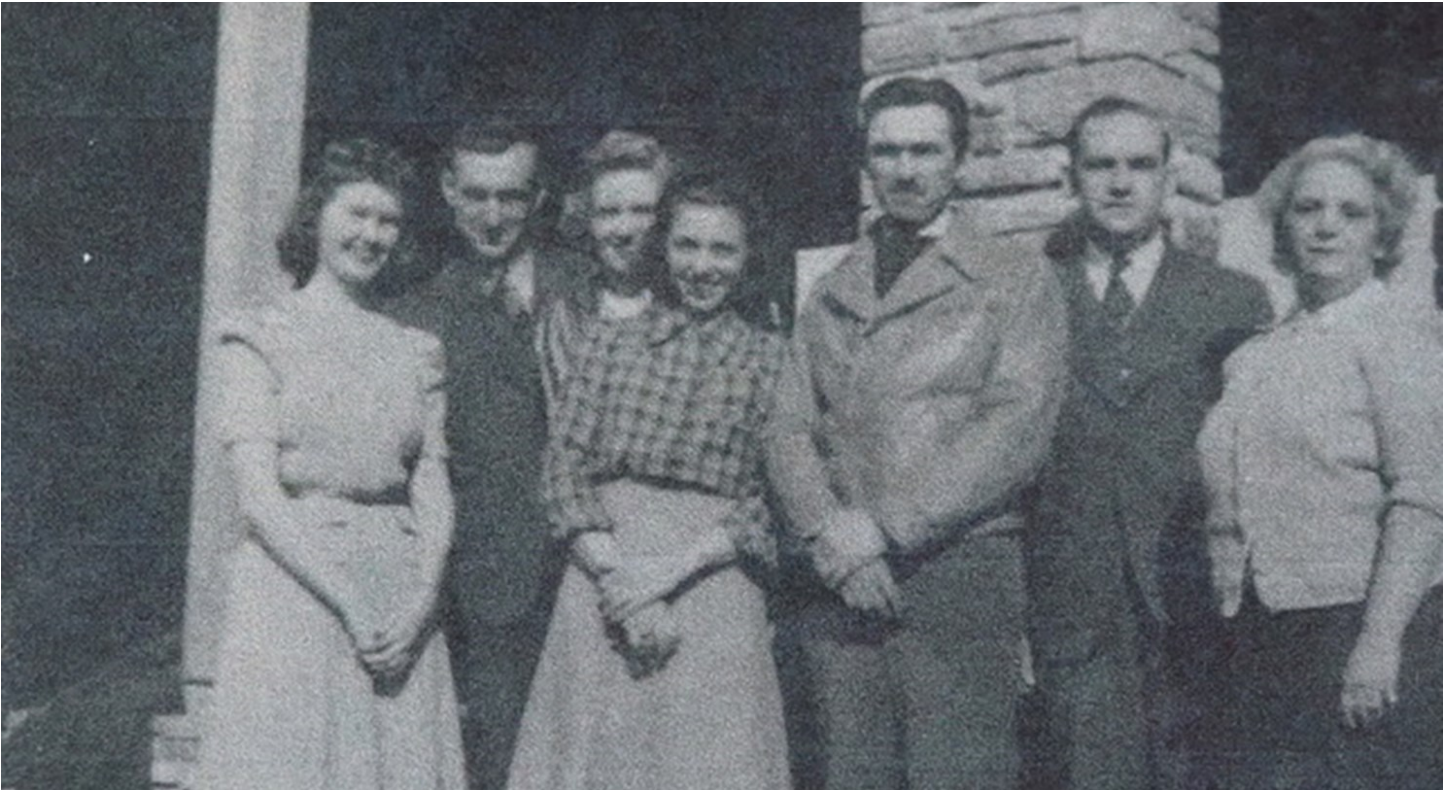
THE HOMESTEADSTOWER



BRIDGE OVER BYRD CREEK



CUMBERLAND HOMESTEADS SCHOOL



1942 FACULTY

Aaron Tate, Sr. approved as Warren County Pioneer

Sebrena and Trena Wade will be awarded certificates as descendants of Aaron Tate, Sr., thanks to the research of their mother, Evelyn Wade. Aaron Tate, Sr., is their paternal 5th great grandfather.

Aaron Tate, Sr. was born in 1788 in Russel County, Virginia and died in Fort Payne, DeKalb County, Alabama in 1862. However, he was in Warren County, Tennessee in 1812 as listed on the tax list for that year. A land grant (No. 3664) in the 3rd district of Warren County, on the waters of the Collins River near where Tate was living, was claimed in 1819. Aaron Tate is listed on the 1820 Warren County Census with seven children under 16, and two free white persons over 25, one person engaged in agriculture. He is also on the 1830 Warren County Census. By 1850, Aaron Tate, wife Elizabeth and a son John, age 17, appear on the Census of DeKalb County, Alabama.

Aaron Tate, Sr. is said to have married Elizabeth Connelly about 1810. Aaron, Sr. and Elizabeth had a son, Aaron Tate, Jr, born about 1814, probably in Warren County. Sebrena and Trena Wade descend from Aaron Tate, Jr.

Aaron Tate, Jr. married Seletha Ward 23 March 1839. The 1850 DeKalb County, Alabama Census lists Aaron, wife, Seletha, and 5 children. Aaron Tate, Jr. died in 1893 and is buried in the Gravel Hill Baptist Church Cemetery in Fort Payne, DeKalb County, Alabama.

Congratulations to Evelyn Wade for documenting another Warren County Pioneer, and for research that provides the evidence to prove her daughters are his descendants. Thank you, Evelyn!

Lusk Colville, Pioneer Ancestor

David Michael Pennington is awarded a Pioneer Ancestor Certificate recognizing him as a descendant of Lusk Colville, his 3rd great-grandfather.

Michael has also documented the line of descent from Lusk Colville for his maternal aunt, Ida Belle Robb and Jeff Robb, a maternal first cousin, who are residents of Ohio. Michael plans to deliver those certificates in person later this year.



The Bookshelf

by Mary Don Bixby

Last night I watched a new PBS series called “Gold.” It is a true story about a group of men in London who decided to rob the Brinks vault at Heathrow Airport. The Brinks employee who knew the entry code to the vault was so nervous (probably because he was being held at gunpoint) that he couldn’t remember the correct numbers. The bad guys thought it was a failed effort until they realized that there was \$31 million in gold bullion being stored outside the vault. It remains the biggest heist in history.

Maybe having gold on my mind made one of our book titles jump off the shelf to my hand. It is called Volunteer Forty-Niners: Tennesseans and the California Gold Rush. It was written in 1997 by Walter T. Durham, a Middle Tennessee historian and scholar, and was donated to the WCGHA Resource Library by Rachel Hillis.

Apparently, Mr. Durham was the first person to examine the lives and contributions that these Tennesseans made in creating a new state and a new society. He studied, among other documents, personal letters, diaries, public records and newspaper articles. In this book he reveals that Tennessee provided California with a governor, an assemblyman, a sheriff, state senator, secretary of state, state treasurer, controller, U.S. senator, U.S. marshal, U.S. surveyor general and Indian commissioner. Go Vols of a different sort!

Volunteer Forty-Niners is very well annotated and indexed. It might just be your next research source.



THIS DAY IN OCTOBER....

October 1, 1908: Henry Ford’s Model T, a “universal car” designed for the masses, first went on sale.

October 2, 1975: Japanese Emperor Hirohito made his first-ever visit to the White House.

October 6, 1927: The first “talkie”, *The Jazz Singer* starring Al Jolson, opened in New York.

October 12, 1492: After a 33-day voyage, Christopher Columbus made his first landfall in the New World in the Bahamas.

October 13, 1775: The United States Navy was born after the Second Continental Congress authorized the acquisition of a fleet of ships.

October 15, 1917: World War I spy Mata Hari was executed by a French firing squad at Vincennes Barracks in Paris.

In Memory Of



CHRISTINE BOULDIN

JULY 5, 1933 — SEPTEMBER 8, 2025



Remembered by:

Earl and Marie Blair on September 10, 2025

J. B. and Ann Brown on September 10, 2025

Bonita Mangrum on September 12, 2025

In Memory Of



BERNICE DRIVER

APRIL 15, 1951— SEPTEMBER 23, 2025



Remembered by:

J. B. and Ann Brown on September 26, 2025

Bonita Mangrum on September 26, 2025

Office News

The office volunteers were busy this month logging a total of 180.25 hours in the Association office. Many thanks to the Pioneer Committee: Marie Blair, Ann Brown, Freda Clifton, Bonita Mangrum and Bettye Pack for their diligent work and to Mary Oaks, Mary Don Bixby, Evelyn Wade, Bonita Mangrum for keeping the Association office open for visitors. If you would like to be part of the Office Volunteer Team, stop by and let us show you around. We would love to have you!

Research

Shirley Dake (Harrison and Grove)

Jimmy & Mary King (King)

Susan Wilson (Blue Spring Cove)

Page Smoot Hammond (Matilda Anderson Smoot, Smoot Cave)

Harriet Martin (Rock Martin)

Contributions—Resource Library

Heritage of Grundy County, TN—Bonita Mangrum

The Pathfinder, Vol. 30, No 3—Grundy County Historical Society

Northeastern Heroines of the American Revolution—Bonita Mangrum

The Alamo Heroes and their American Revolution Ancestors—Bonita Mangrum

British Light Cruisers—Bonita Mangrum

Miscellaneous Quarterlies—Bonita Mangrum

Contributions—Archives

Good Old Days Publication—Ronald Parrish

Contributions—Photo Archives

Postcards—Chris Keathley

Postcard—Mary Oaks



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



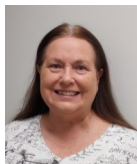
Historian:

Chris Keathley



Programs:

Bettye Pack



Web page/FB Admin:



Ann Brown

Research:

Bonita Mangrum

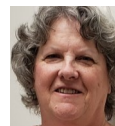


Mary Oaks



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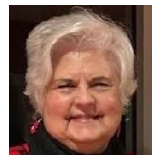
Bulletin:

Ann Brown



Publicity:

Freda Clifton



Office:

Evelyn Wade



Mary Oaks

