



WCGHA

Newsletter

DECEMBER
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



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Fellow Members!

December is here and what a year it has been! We hope you have enjoyed all the programs this year. Jimmy Haley once again wowed us with his knowledge of McMinnville to round out the year.

We hope you've signed up for the Christmas Social! It's going to be a great event!

As we wind down the year, the office staff will be taking a well-deserved break. The office will be closed beginning December 22, 2025 through January 2, 2026. We will re-open on January 5th, 2026!

We have some exciting plans for 2026 as America celebrates her 250th birthday. Stay tuned!

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mary



WCGHA Christmas Party

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

At Magnolia Room

Lunch—Buffet

12:15 Entertainment

Warren County Christmas Trivia

Recorded Christmas Music



HISTORIC MCMINNVILLE PART III by Jimmy Haley



FOUNDATION
STONE
FIRST COURT
HOUSE
1807 - 1811



SECOND COURTHOUSE

1811-1858



FOUNDATION
STONE
THIRD COURT
HOUSE
1858 - 1897

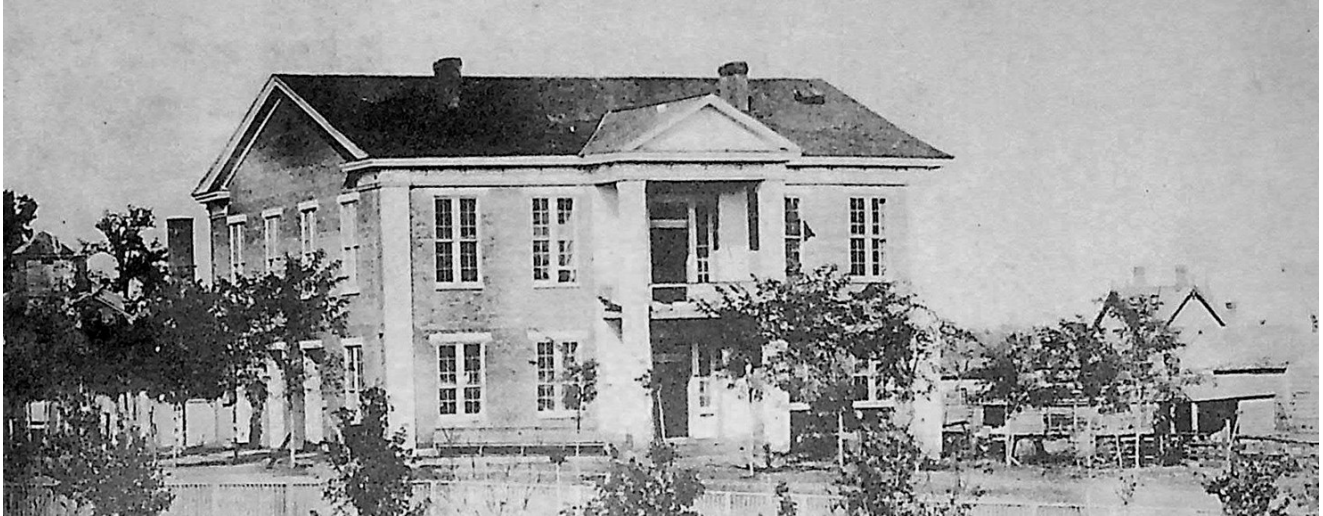


FOURTH COURTHOUSE

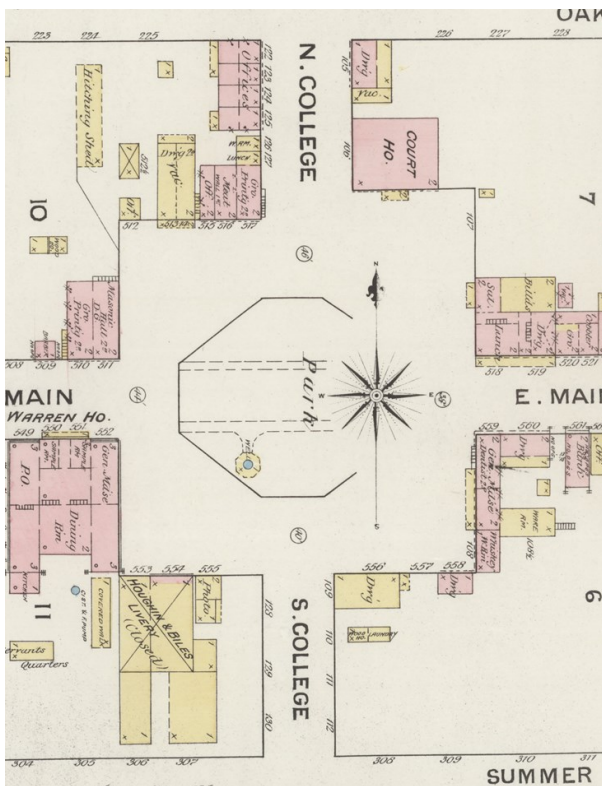
CORNERSTONE

1897-

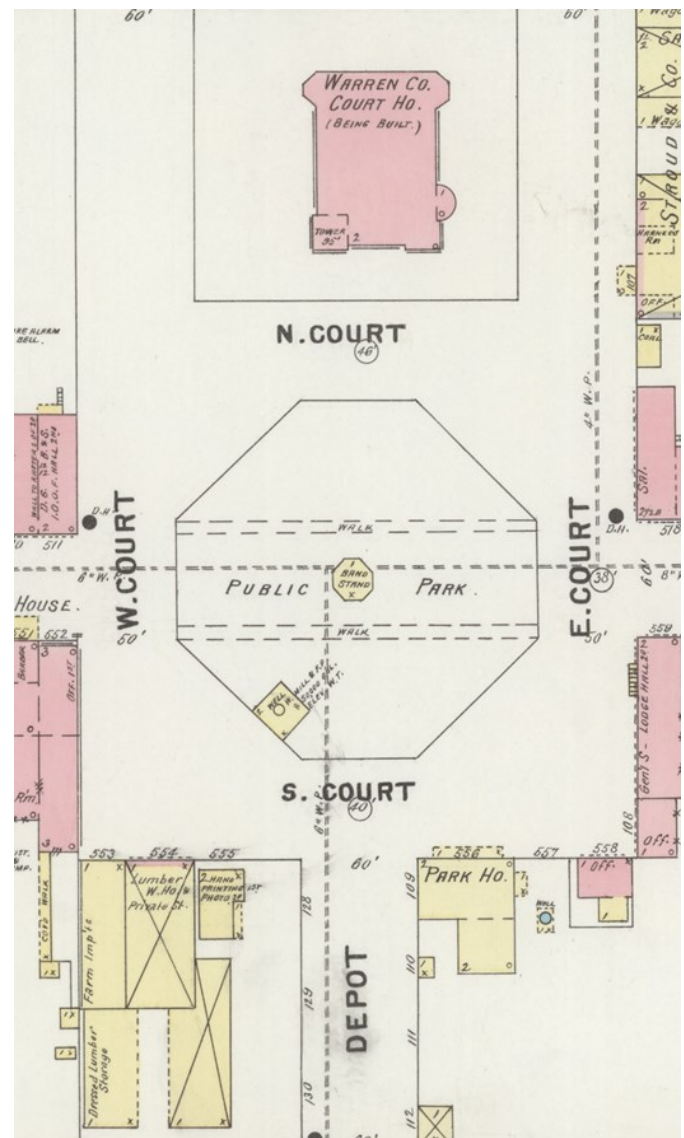
*Courtesy Tennessee State Library and Archives, Looking Back at Tennessee
Photographs, 1890-1981, 1988-017*



THIRD COURTHOUSE 1858-1897 (archive photo 12421)



LEFT, SANBORN MAPS JUNE 1887



RIGHT, SEPTEMBER 1897

*Library of Congress Geography and Map
Division Washington, D.C. 20540-4650 USA*

Courtesy Tennessee State Library and Archives, Looking Back at Tennessee Photographs, 1890-1981, 1988-017



FOURTH COURTHOUSE 1897
during construction
(archive photo 12428)



HEBE FOUNTAIN CA 1930 (archive photo 12393)



MCMINNVILLE CURB MARKET CA 1940
(archive photo 12448)



“BIG JOHN”

Southern Standard

August 25, 1989



IN MEMORY OF
THOSE MEMBERS OF THE
16TH TENN. REGT. C.S.A.
KILLED IN BATTLE
WHOSE NAMES
ARE INSCRIBED HEREON.
ERECTED BY
THEIR COUNSEL
JOHN H. SAVAGE
1904.



UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
THE WOMAN'S CIVIC LEAGUE
1914



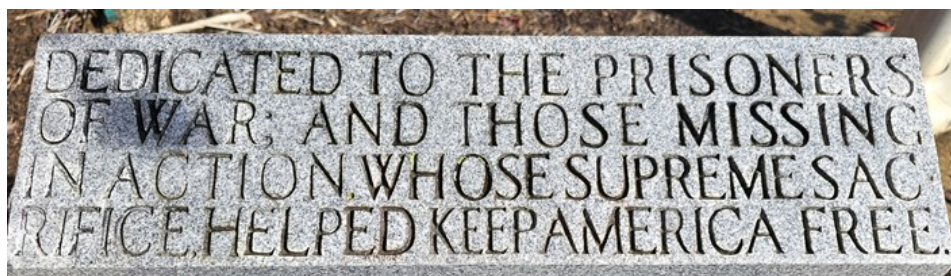
OWEN WATKINS DAVIS
ELIZABETH SAVAGE DAVIS
BY THEIR DAUGHTERS

OUR ROOTS RUN DEEP

ON THE 5TH OF JULY 2006
THE CITIZENS OF WARREN COUNTY,
TENNESSEE THE CULMINATION
OF OUR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
DID SEAL A TIME CAPSULE HEREIN.

THE CAPSULE HOUSES MEMENTOS
COMMENTS AND DOCUMENTATION
COMMENTORATING OUR FIRST
200 YEARS.

IT IS TO BE OPENED BY OUR
DESCENDANTS ON JULY 4TH 2108.



Luther A. Solomon
Joe H. Green
J. E. Ferrell
Oliver E. Bess
John H. Biddle
Price O. Fults
Robert M. Russell
B. Magness Jordan
Louie Hillis
Sutton Gribble
Herman L. Starkey
John D. Mullican



The Bookshelf

by Mary Don Bixby

In keeping with our upcoming focus on the American Revolution, I wanted to let our readers know about some reference books that we have in the WCGHA Resource Library. These are books of names, which certainly do not read like novels. They are, however, so necessary in researching our soldiers who fought in the Revolution.

The four books are:

1. Some Tennessee Heroes of the Revolution by Zella Armstrong. These records were compiled from Pension Lists of 1806, 1818, 1832 and 1840.
2. The Pension Lists of 1792-1795 compiled by Murtie June Clark, was published by 1961. It also contains other Revolutionary War Pension records.
3. Tennessee Soldiers in the Revolution by Penelope Johnson Allen. This is a roster of soldiers who lived during the Revolutionary War in the counties of Washington and Sullivan.
4. Twenty-Four Hundred Tennessee Pensioners [in the } Revolution and War of 1812. This list is compiled by Zella Armstrong.



THIS DAY IN DECEMBER....

December 1, 1919: Lady Nancy Astor became the first woman in the British House of Commons.

November 2, 1804: Napoleon Bonaparte was crowned Emperor of France by Pope Pius VII in Paris.

December 7, 1787: Delaware became the first state to adopt the new constitution of the United States.

December 10, 1948: The United Nations General Assembly adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

December 11, 1901: The first transatlantic radio signal was transmitted by Guglielmo Marconi from Cornwall, England to St. John's, Newfoundland.

December 14, 1799: George Washington died at Mount Vernon.

December 19, 1792: Benjamin Franklin first published *Poor Richard's Almanac* containing weather predictions, humor, proverbs and epigrams, eventually selling nearly 10,000 copies per year.

December 2, 1776: During the American Revolution, George Washington took 2,400 of his men across the Delaware River. He then conducted a surprise raid on 1,500 British-Hessians (German mercenaries) at Trenton, NJ, forcing a surrender after an hour with almost 1,000 Hessians being taken prisoner.

Another Successful Year for Pioneer Ancestors

By: Marie Blair, Chairperson, Pioneer Ancestor Committee

Thank you and congratulations to everyone who received a Pioneer Ancestor Certificate during 2025. You helped us surpass our goal of getting to Certificate # 200 by December 31, 2025. We will be awarding Certificate #208 at our Christmas get together on December 6. Thirty one certificates will have been awarded this year after our December presentations.

Several new Pioneers were added to our documented list of Pioneer Ancestors. A complete list of these early settlers who have been documented as owning land or living in Warren County during the time frame 1807 to 1820 is on our WCGHA webpage. The list contains 82 men and 7 women.

Our goal for 2026 is to reach Certificate #250 as part of the celebration of the 250 th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence—America's Semi-quincentennial.

To reach that goal, we will need 42 certificates to be awarded. It seems several people have researched their family member and given gifts to other family members this year. What a great way to help your family learn family history and celebrate their part in growing Warren County, Tennessee and ultimately the United States. Many of these early ancestors left Warren County and migrated to other states as they were forming. Some received land by homesteading. Those people contributed to the growth and development of communities far away from Warren County. You may discover other family members you never knew through this research process.

In January, we hope to provide a schedule of dates during each month that someone will be available at the WCGHA office to provide assistance to people who want to research their family and have not quite figured out how to do it or may not realize the many resources in our research library.

Special thanks to the Pioneer Ancestor Committee members Ann Brown, Freda Clifton, Bonita Mangrum and Bettye Pack. They are a valuable resource in helping find documents needed to establish relationships and more than willing to help others.

Please consider helping us establish more early settlers and the ways they connect to your own family history.

**PIONEER
FAMILY
CERTIFICATES**



Bonita Mangrum received certificates as Christmas gifts for two family members. Names of the recipients and the Pioneer Ancestor are a “secret” until after the gifts are given. The pioneer is a Revolutionary War veteran.



Ann Brown received certificates for herself and two biological half brothers for their ancestor, John Martin who was in the 1820 Warren County Census. Ann was able to document the half sibling relationship through DNA. She has had contact with one of these men who lives in California. Ann’s research to document the line of descent back to their 4th great grandfather will be a surprise, and added to family history.

Office News

Office volunteers and committees donated 153.5 hours to the projects of the Association in November. December will be a short month for the office as we give our volunteers a chance to spend time with family and friends. **The office will be closed December 22nd, 2025 through January 2nd, 2026.** We will be back in the office on Monday, January 5th!

Research

Darryl Norris researching Norris, Davis, Luna and Roberts

Mary Koelbl researching Hanlan Hotel

Contributions—Resource Library

The Civil War, Strange & Fascinating Facts—anonymous
Stubblefield—Bonner—King—Locke & Related Families

Contributions—Church Files

History of Charles Creek Baptist Church—Debbie Allen

Contributions—Photo Archives

City Drug Store photos—Bill Stewart



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



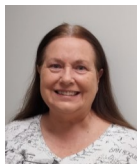
Historian:

Chris Keathley



Programs:

Bettye Pack



Web page/FB Admin:



Ann Brown

Research:

Bonita Mangrum

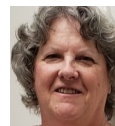


Mary Oaks



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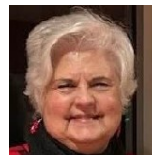
Bulletin:

Ann Brown



Publicity:

Freda Clifton



Office:

Evelyn Wade



Mary Oaks

