



# WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

# Newsletter

**November 2020**

201 Locust Street

McMinnville, Tennessee

## WCGHA OFFICERS



**President:**  
**Cheryl W. Mingle**



**Vice President:**  
**Marion Rhea Speaks**



**Secretary:**  
**Donna Sullivan**



**Treasurer:**  
**J.B. Brown**



**Past President:**  
**Ann Brown**

*Our office is located at  
201 Locust Street  
in the lower level of the  
County Administrative Building*

**Due to Covid-19  
A DECISION  
WAS MADE  
BY A MAJORITY OF OUR  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
TO CANCEL  
MEMBER MEETINGS  
AND KEEP THE OFFICE  
CLOSED FOR THE  
REMAINDER OF 2020**

My continued prayers and concerns for all of you,



Cheryl Watson Mingle, WCGHA President

## Committee And Chairs

### Membership:

*J. B. Brown*



### Circulation Manager:

*Debra Wilcher McBride*



### Programs:

*Marion Rhea Speaks*



### Bulletin Editor:

Position Open

### Newsletter Editor:

*Doyle Speaks*



### Publicity:

*Ann Brown*



### Refreshments:

*Christine Bouldin*



### Research:

*Bonita Mangrum*



*Mary Oaks*



### Office:

*Evelyn Wade & Ann Brown*



### Historian:

*Brad Walker*



*Come Visit Us*

**Due to Covid-19  
Our office is  
Presently closed**

**Our normal  
hours are**

**Monday  
&  
Friday**

**9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
931-474-4227**

Email:

[wcggha.tn@gmail.com](mailto:wcggha.tn@gmail.com)

On the Web:

[www.tngenweb.org/wcggha](http://www.tngenweb.org/wcggha)

On Facebook:  
Warren County  
Genealogical & Historical  
Association

and

WCGHA's Old Warren  
County, TN Family  
History/Photos

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Building**

# Saying Goodbye to Wilma Davenport



It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our friend and fellow WCGHA member Wilma Davenport.

In her 28 years as a member, she served as Secretary for 2 years and recently ended her 10th year as Circulation Manager. She was always a team player. She is shown in the left photo sharing her "Show and Tell" entry to everyone.

Wilma was not only active with our association, she was involved in lots of community activities, most notably the Barren Fork Baptist Church where she was secretary/treasurer for several years. She

taught children's Sunday School class for many years and served for several years as secretary/treasurer for the Oak Grove Cemetery. Wilma was a very active member of Warren County FCE Club for 60 years. She was also a volunteer at Centertown School and was a member of the Centertown Community Club. She was retired from First National Bank after several years of service.

She attended secretarial school at Andrew Jackson in Nashville and worked as a secretary for 2 years. She and her husband Morris Davenport was married in 1949 and they were married for 43 years. He passed in 1992. They were blessed with two daughters, 3 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Farewell Dear Wilma.

+-----+

***Obituary reprinted from the Southern Standard Newspaper, Friday, October 30, 2020***

Wilma Davenport  
June 24, 1928 - October 30, 2020

Mrs. Wilma Davenport age 92 of McMinnville, TN, died Friday, October 30, 2020, at home. She was born June 24, 1928, in McMinnville, TN, was retired from First National Bank, and was a member of Barren Fork Baptist Church since 1949. Mrs. Davenport was preceded in death by parents Gordon and Louise Martin Cates, husband Morris Leon Davenport, sister Mary Sue Lance, and son-in-law Keith Mohler.

Wilma is survived by daughters Elena Mohler and Phyllis (David) Graham, grandchildren Jennifer (Marty) King, Shannon (Nate) Morison, Kyla Mohler, Jamie (Caren) Graham, and Bryan Graham, great grandchildren Margaret and Mackenzie Morison, and Andrew, Willow, Isabel, and Aidan Graham, special niece Sandra Blair, and many friends.

A graveside service and interment will be conducted at 2:00 P.M. Sunday, November 01, 2020, at Oak Grove Cemetery at Barren Fork. Dave Dawson will officiate. The family will receive friends Saturday from 4:00 P.M. until 6:00 P.M. at the parlors of McMinnville Funeral Home. The family requests wearing facial masks and social distancing. On Sunday, all family members and friends will meet at the cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Barren Fork Baptist Church or to Oak Grove Cemetery at Barren Fork.



# Fall Issue of WCGHA Bulletin Mailed



Bulletin Editor Ann Brown and Circulation Manager Debra Wilcher McBride are shown with the Fall edition of the WCGHA BULLETIN. This is the first edition of the publication produced and edited by Ann who is our Past President and is co-chair of our office committee. Debra has completed the mailing process and you should have received yours by now.

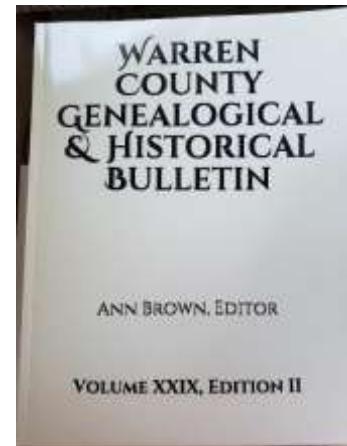
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# History of Our Older Churches

## THE BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST

Pictured to the right are the four Baptist Church of Christ located in Warren County. Top photo, left, is Charles Creek (being repaired from vandalism), to the right is Newtown. Bottom left is Long Mountain and to the right is Caney Branch.



*This is the Fourth in a series of stories on the history of several of our older congregations in the Warren and surrounding area. The churches chosen for the articles are in no certain order and are only a brief history of their denominations.*

Following the 16th century Protestant Reformation by Martin Luther, the stage was set for an influx of different church beliefs. Entering into this mix were the teachings of John Calvin whose teachings of predestination led to splits in a lot of denominations.

The churches of early America were a mix of Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist and Christian.

Early historians acknowledge that the first church congregations here in the Warren and surrounding areas were Primitive Baptist and Cumberland Presbyterians.

Most of the churches kept no records and early interviews with members revealed little knowledge of the history and founding of their home churches.

In 1807 minister Thomas Campbell immigrated to America where his primary ministry was the promotion of Christian unity. His son Alexander, also a clergyman, immigrated in 1809 and was founder of the Disciples of Christ and Bethany College.

Both were Presbyterians who, after a great deal



**Philadelphia, located just east of the Warren County line, is one of the older churches and was located in Warren County when it was built. The county line has since been moved and it is now part of Grundy.**

of Bible study, were convinced that they should remove themselves from the belief of predestination and felt the need to be baptized by emersion rather than sprinkling. This was a split from Calvinism (predestination) and Presbyterian belief and was the beginning of the Christian Churches.

The Baptist Church of Christ came into separate existence in Tennessee about the beginning of the

**Continued on page 6**

## **BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Continued from page 5**

19th century as a reaction against certain features of excessive Calvinism. General redemption and the perseverance of the saints form cardinal articles of their belief, and the washing of feet is practiced as an ordinance.

As a general rule, Baptist Church of Christ pastors are not salaried but are paid through free-will offerings. They have regular jobs and are self-supporting. They are expected to be called by God as ministers but they have no particular educational requirements.

Each individual church calls its own pastor by a vote of the entire congregation. The Association has no authority over the individual churches, though it may withdraw from a church which it feels is in error.

The first Warren County church of record was established in 1807 and located at what is now known as Viola.

It was constituted as the “Baptist Church of Christ on Hickory Creek”, later known as the Blue Springs Baptist Church. It was listed as a Primitive Baptist also known as Separate Baptist.

In 1825 the Baptist Church of Christ was organized in Beech Grove, TN at Garrison Fork and



**Garrison Fork Baptist Church is the home of the Duck River Association of the Baptist Church of Christ. In 1982 the Association consisted of 30 churches with over 3,000 members and corresponds with 7 sister associations of like faith and practice. Union and Mt. Zion are two of those sister Associations.**

**In the minutes of the 2018 Session of the Duck River Association they still listed 30 churches with a total membership of 2,596.**

was called Baptist Church of Christ. It is known as the father church and was the beginning of the Duck River Association.

In 1845, the Separate Baptist removed themselves from the Duck River Association over a disagreement with preachers being retained on salary, mission work and Sunday School literature. Missionary Baptists came about from this disagreement.

There are several Baptist Church of Christ congregations in the Warren and surrounding areas. Newtown and Long Mountain churches belong to the Union Association located in the Belk Community of DeKalb County. Sixteen churches belong to this association with a membership in 2017 of 1,952. Caney Branch and Charles Creek are attached to the Mt. Zion Association of Baptists with 10 other churches. In 2018 their total membership was 1,172.

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*Thanks to Warren County native and resident Elder Timothy Pelham, Baptist Church of Christ minister, who assisted with information on the history of the church included in this article.*

*Elder Pelham received his call to ministry in 1977 and was ordained in 1978.*



*Elder Timothy Pelham*

\*-----\*

*This article excerpted in part from:*

*--Heritage of Warren County, TN 1807-2005 Submitted by Rev. Larry Johnson, 102 River Drive, McMinnville, TN 37110*  
*--McMinnville at a Milestone 1810-1960 By Walter Womack*  
*--History of New Union The Baptist Church 1888-2001, by Thomas G. Webb, DeKalb County Historian, August 2001*

# ***Cemetery Road Signs Are Being Installed***



***J.B. Brown, chairman of the Cemeteries of Warren County Project, is shown holding the Crisp Cemetery road sign and his wife, Ann Brown is pictured with the Old Philadelphia Cemetery road sign. This is just two of several signs that are being installed by the Warren County Road Department.***

***The Cemeteries of Warren County Project is pleased to see signs beginning to go up around the county. We have seen a few of them but haven't had a chance to check all the locations yet.***

***Our plans are to begin a second phase in the near future. We are in the process of developing a new list and if you know of a cemetery that needs a road sign, please let us know.***

***J. B. Brown [jbbrown3446@gmail.com](mailto:jbbrown3446@gmail.com)***

***Ann Brown [farmerbrownsgardens@gmail.com](mailto:farmerbrownsgardens@gmail.com)***



# Cemetery Art



This beautiful stone is located in the Philadelphia Cemetery located just across the Warren County line in Grundy County. The wolf has the word "COURAGE" inscribed on it; the cougar has "STRENGTH" on it and the eagle has "FREEDOM" on it.



This opulent stone is located in the Riverside Cemetery in McMinnville.

The stone is the marker for  
James C. Biles  
27 Jun 1843  
20 Jul 1920  
and his two wives.

1<sup>st</sup> wife: Jane Morford Biles  
26 Jul 1843  
27 Jul 1889.

2<sup>nd</sup> wife: Nellie Rogers Biles  
6 Mar 1849  
14 Apr 1920.



## From the Facebook files of



## WCGHA's Old Warren County, TN Family History/Photos

This is an on-going series of photos from *WCGHA's Old Warren County, TN Family History/Photos*. The Public Group site was organized several years ago and is co-administered by Cheryl Watson Mingle, President of the Warren County Genealogical & Historical Association along with Ann Brown, Past President.

You're invited to join our Facebook group, comment and submit photos and history.



### **Dibrell Brass Band**

The Dibrell brass band was the first organized band in the rural area of Warren County. The band was organized by Hackett Barnes and began in 1910. Members of the first band were, front row from left, Walter Bragg, Hal Tenpenny and director Barnes. Second row, Thomas

Chastain, John Roy Bragg, Perry West, Jim Green, Bob Clark and I.G. Gribble. Back row, Clyde Potter, G.W. Hinkley and Dr. G.G. Fisher. Members not pictured were Bernice Cantrell, Clayburn Zwingle and Comer Zwingle.

Submitted by Cheryl Watson-Mingle  
October 21, 2020

**WCGHA's Old Warren County, TN Family History/Photos**  
**MONTHLY INSIGHTS**  
**October, 2020**

4,707 Group Members (+101 this month)

Gender: 68% Women – 32% Men

88 Posts	918 Comments	5,024 Reactions
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**Top Contributors**

DonaldandJeannine Miller  
Cynthia Hale

**Top Post**

Cheryl Watson-Mingle: Warren County General Hospital.  
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=3920003508015148&set=gm.3288766791240012>

Comments: 109

Likes: 253

Shares: 66

Reactions: 9,181

**Peak Time:** Thursday, 8 p.m.

Don't forget to follow our Facebook page at  
Warren County Genealogical & Historical Association  
for information about our Association, upcoming events, and posts and links relating to genealogy and history

***FROM YOUR EDITOR:***

I can't count the number of times lately that I wished I could snap my finger and things would automatically return to normal. But, I'm hoping and praying that the Covid 19 vaccine is the light at the end of the tunnel.

Preparing the Newsletter is not an easy task, especially when the Association has not met since March. That doesn't mean that several of our members haven't continued performing their duties.

Our members should have received the Fall issue of the Bulletin. Ann Brown edited this issue with several members submitting articles for the publication.

It was sad saying good-bye to fellow member Wilma Davenport. What a great lady she was.

I enjoyed writing this month's History of Our Older Churches. Thanks to Elder Timothy Pelham who assisted with the story that features The Baptist Church of Christ.

Cemetery Signs are being installed by the Warren County Road Department. The second phase of this project is set to begin soon.

Have a Safe and Blessed Thanksgiving.

Doyle Speaks, Newsletter Editor

[Speaksanddm@aol.com](mailto:Speaksanddm@aol.com)

## Seaman Crim is Home at Last

# Memorial service honors Victim of Pearl Harbor attack

By **JAMES CLARK**

Editor for the Southern Standard

McMinnville, Tennessee

Sunday, October 25, 2020

Firetrucks and Patriot Riders led the funeral procession Saturday afternoon, some 79 years after the death of a Warren County sailor killed during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Warren Harding Crim was killed during the surprise attack by Japanese aircrafts on Pearl Harbor, a U.S. naval base near Honolulu, Hawaii, in the early morning hours of Dec. 7, 1941.

Numerous torpedo strikes capsized the USS Oklahoma, which was Crim's ship. He was 21 and was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart, World War II Victory Medal and American Defense Service Medal.

Crim was born in the Daylight community and enlisted in the military on July 10, 1940.

"This is about respect," said Johnny Fielder, one of the Patriot Riders who gathered outside Gardens of Memory Funeral Home on Saturday. "He's a soldier and he fought for this country just like we did."

Added fellow Patriot Rider George Chambers, "It's pretty amazing to finally identify his remains and lay him to rest after 79 years."

There were 429 men who lost their lives when the USS Oklahoma sank. There have been 242 identified.

Crim's body wasn't identified until 2018 due to the large number of men inside the ship who couldn't get out, resulting in their remains deteriorating into bones. When DNA testing started, identification became possible.

"I'm proud to call him part of my family," said Patricia Keel, a cousin, who spearheaded efforts to bring him back to Warren County for a proper burial. "I felt like it was up to someone in the family who was still living to honor his memory by having him brought home."



**Warren Harding Crim**

### **Obituary from the Southern Standard Newspaper Tuesday, October 20, 2020**

Warren Harding Crim, age 20 of McMinnville, Tennessee passed from this life on Sunday, December 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

Warren was born Thursday, October 13, 1921 in Daylight, Tennessee. The son of the late Vernon Crim and the late Maude Maie Stubblefield Crim.

Crim was a Navy Fireman 3rd Class who enlisted July 10, 1940. He was assigned to the USS Oklahoma in 1941. Crim had been in the Navy a little over a year when on the morning of December 7, 1941, Japanese Aircrafts attacked Pearl Harbor in Honolulu Hawaii. Numerous torpedo strikes capsized the USS Oklahoma. Crim was one of over 400 men who drowned when the ship sank.

Crim was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart, World War II Victory Medal and American Defense Service Medal.

Crim had one sister Mona Alta Crim Moore. He was married to Hildred Smith.