



WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

September 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***

The September 19, 2020 Meeting of WCGHA

HAS BEEN CANCELLED

It's been a while since we have been able to gather for our monthly meeting. Actually, it's been 6 months and sadly the September 19 meeting will not be held.

Stopping the spread of the Covid-19 virus has been a challenge for all of us. Please follow the guidelines set up to protect yourself and those around you. Until a vaccine is found, this is the only way we will stop it.

I miss seeing everyone and am looking forward to the next meeting.

Continued prayers and concern for everyone.

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

On the Web:

www.tngenweb.org/wcgatn

On Facebook:
Warren County
Genealogical & Historical
Association

and

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

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FROM YOUR EDITOR:

Dear Members,

I wish I could say I'm looking forward to our next meeting but, you guessed it, I don't know when that will be.

I've gotten so used to the social distancing that it doesn't seem we will ever have a get-to-gather with our friends, I miss that.

I chose Shiloh United Methodist Church, located south-east on the Beersheba Hwy., for the second installment of Our Older Churches. It's wonderful that the congregation is still active since its organization in 1806.

The selection for Cemetery Art was brought to my attention by my wife who noticed it while on a drive through the Shellsford Cemetery. We often drive through area cemeteries looking for family Surnames. It's unique and tells a great love story at the same time.

The Cemetery Road Sign Project continues to dominate the activity with the Association. J.B. and Ann Brown spear-headed this project and have done an outstanding job with the first order of signs completed. See story in this issue.

A story about finding siblings with the use of social media can be found in the story "It truly is a small world".

*Doyle Speaks, Newsletter Editor
Speaksanddm@aol.com*

Phase 1

Cemetery Road Sign Project Very Successful



Ann and J.B. Brown are pictured with some of the cemetery signs that arrived recently. They are in the process of setting up a date with the Warren County Road Maintenance Department to install the signs.

By Ann Brown

We received donations for 20 road signs for our unmarked cemeteries in Warren County. We had so much interest that we could not process all the requests by the deadline for the special discount that we had obtained so we will have a Phase II in a few months when we get this group installed. The Committee would like to thank everyone who donated to this project. The Committee plans to distribute Certificates of Appreciation to donors and place a copy of those certificates in each cemetery file to provide a record of road signs that have been placed in the community.

Phase 2 of this project will be announced at a later date

List of those who purchased signs in Phase 1

CEMETERY ROAD SIGNS - PHASE I	
Bailey Cemetery	Sharon Gammon
Cardwell Cemetery	Barbara Bates
Crisp Cemetery	Extra Donations
Douglas Cemetery	Marie Blair
Evans Cemetery	Roger Arrick
Flatwoods Cemetery	Cheryl Mingle
Hammer Cemetery	Sharon Gammon
Hash Cemetery	Doyle Speaks
Jaco Cemetery	Allen Jaco
Johnson Cemetery	Donna Sullivan
Kell Cemetery	Sharon Gammon
Lance Cemetery	Bobby & Carolyn Lance
Neal Cemetery	Vicki Stoner
Old Philadelphia Cemetery	Marion Speaks
Overton Cemetery	Gail Woodlee
Ramsey Cemetery	Glenda Cantrell
Sanders Cemetery	Dewey & JoAnn Cantrell In Memory of Lee Cantrell
Shellsford Cemetery	Glenda Cantrell
Slaughter Cemetery	Glenda Cantrell
Stubblefield Cemetery on Stubblefield Rd	Extra Donations

We have the Weaver family cemetery on our property. I have found a page on them in the Magness library but the location says near Charles Creek Church. It's actually on K Prater Road. I was wondering if any one has ties to them and could give me more info about them or if any one could give me information on relocating it if possible. I was told it would cost us \$5000 to relocate. Thanks!

Weaver Cemetery Update

A recent post (at left) about Weaver Cemetery raised some questions about the laws and regulations regarding cemeteries that are located on private property. We have been in communication with a Historic Preservation

Specialist-Cemeteries at the Tennessee Historical Commission. He has generously provided documentation regarding Tennessee's current laws governing cemeteries which may help to clarify issues. You can find links to these documents on our website: <https://tngenweb.org/wcgatn/cemeteries-of-warren-county/>. In addition to answering many questions about cemeteries and graves, the laws and requirements to move a cemetery are clearly defined.

History of Our Older Churches

SHILOH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Attending church is an integral part of so many of our lives and I felt it would be good to do a series of history from several of our older congregations. The churches chosen are in no certain order and here is the first in this new series for the Newsletter.

Second in a series



Shiloh United Methodist Church began with the formation of a church called “The Head of Collins River Church” on June 3, 1809. Elder Jesse Dodson, a well-known preacher of Warren and White Counties assisted in its formation. The Shiloh Church organized originally as a Union Church by the Primitive Baptists and Methodist.

One of the early Baptist preachers in this section was Henry J.A. Hill, from Edcomb County, North Carolina, who came to this area in 1802. He and his wife Susannah, soon after locating here, joined the Methodist Church.

Founders of the Shiloh Church are not known but

the first members listed on an existing church register were James Clendenon, Sarah Clendenon, Thomas Brown, Sara Brown, Mary Brown, Barsha Coppinger, Absolom B. Brown, Russell Brown and Esther Morton.

The church register from August 1835 until 1874 lists 114 members. Some of those families (members) during this time were Bess, Bonner, Brown, Cagle, Coppinger, Dykes, Hill, McCollum, Madewell, Mooneyham, Tate, Ray, Sparks, Abernathy, Dugan, Cheeke, Bower, Nunley, Stepp, Meadows, Christian, Meeks, Scruggs, Mansfield, Rogers, Green, Killian, Turner and Roberts. At the close of the conference year 1879-80 new family names were added to this list: Walters, Williams, Turner, England, Stokes, Besheares, Speigle, Woodlee, Elkins, Hobbs, Smith, McCollum and Madewell.

The mouth of the Spring Branch near the Collins River was the site of the first building. This was about one-half mile south of the present building. The second building was near the residence of the



Continued on next page

SHILOH Continued

late I.C. Scott on the Beersheba Highway. The two acres of land for the church was given by Evan Lawler and land for the cemetery, located adjacent to the church, was given by Frederick Stepp. The present white stone structure was erected in 1954 and sets a short distance behind the former building.

It was stated by Jeanette T. Acklen (Tennessee Tombstone Inscriptions) that Bishop Ashberry visited Shiloh after its erection and that Henry Waterhouse preached at Shiloh when he was a circuit rider. He later became the president of Emery and Henry Colleges. Among the early circuit riders were Joseph G. Stephenson, A. W. Smith, I.C. Woodward, Jesse G. Rice and Joseph G. Myers.

A partial list of some of the early pastors, assistant pastors and presiding elders (1845-1872) were A.M. Reams, Jno P. Hill, Jas Myers, Cincinnatus Meadows, Jno Comer and John Abernathy. Presiding Elders were Wm. Burr, Wm. Johnson, J.C. Putnam, R.P. Ransom, J.B. Anderson, F.E. Pitts, Adam Riggs and G.T. Henderson.

As with most churches during this time period, trials were held for “Erring” members. Such trials were held for five Shiloh members between the years 1835-1909. Three members were dismissed in 1873 for drunkenness. One member (female) was expelled for immoral conduct and one dismissed on April 9, 1885 with no reason given.

The Methodist Church encouraged young men to go into the ministry. Those young men, known as exhorters, began by preaching in their own neighboring communities. They later became traveling preachers and after proper study they became ministers of the Church. Some exhorters from Shiloh church were John W. Mansefield 1873, L.V. Brown 1909, and J.B. Bonner 1909.

Most church buildings served as their community schools. According to Tom Barnes Records, Shiloh was “one of Warren County’s noted educational institutions at the turn of the century.” Mrs. Lemma Barnes Walker attended the Shiloh School. She was one of forty-four students listed on the 1904 honor roll for the school year ending on November 18, 1904. Teachers at the school were Mrs. Carlie Meadows Etter, Miss Wagner, Rilla Etter Smith, and Athelia Barnes Peden.

Families began to move from the community after the Civil War. Some members transferred to the McMinnville Church, others to Beersheba Springs while other families moved to neighboring



communities. This decreased the membership at Shiloh.

Shiloh United Methodist Church, after 211 years, is still an active Church. Rev. Danny Moore is the present pastor. They meet each week on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. for Sunday School and at 11:00 a.m. for Worship Service.

This article excerpted from the book “The Heritage of Warren County, TN”., copyright 2005, The Warren County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage, Inc. Used by permission. Also excerpted from “Legacy of the Circuit Riders: The Methodist Churches of Warren County, TN”, compiled and edited by Larry C. Boyd and Copyrighted 1984 by Larry C. Boyd. Information for Shiloh United Methodist Church was from a historical sketch by Mr. and Mrs. H. Clay Barker. Used by permission. Both books are available for purchase.



The 2021 Picnic and Auction set for June 19

Cemetery Art



This is true love to the end

Tombstone is in the Shellsford Cemetery located in the Eastern part of Warren County.

*This is the third in a series of unique grave markers you will find in some of our local cemeteries.
Let me know if you run across one of interest*



Thank You Facebook

It truly is A Small World

What do you do as a researcher of genealogy when you think all of your resources have run dry? Maybe turn to family, (if they haven't died), go to friends or better yet turn to Social Media using Facebook, Ancestry.com, Family Research or many others. Perhaps you will do the DNA test and wait for results.

Marion Rhea Speaks is the primary subject of the above paragraph.

Her mother and father divorced when she was 3.5 years old and her younger sister was 2. They were living in McMinnville and moved in with her maternal grandparents. At this period of time in the early 50s it was difficult for a woman to find a job in the area making enough money to run a household. With this in mind she moved to Indiana seeking a better job.

This temporary living arrangement with grandparents extended off and on for the next 7 years and at the age of 11 she and her sister joined their mother and new step-father in Indiana.

After the divorce there was no contact with the now divorced father or his family until early teen years. This can lead to some very interesting discoveries once you begin genealogy research. Interesting could be better described as shocked at some of the information discovered.

Marion has been doing family research since she was in the 8th grade. At that time she made written contact with her paternal grandmother, Beatrice Tosh Rhea, to gather ancestry information for a school assignment.

The following year, while on summer vacation to McMinnville, her mother took Marion and her sister to meet their grandmother.

It was 2 years later when they met their father Enoch B. Rhea at the Greyhound Bus station in Indianapolis where he was employed as a bus driver. Thus the long story of discovering the multitude of siblings began. She discovered her father had children thru several marriages, and a few through "relationships". All of those arrangements did not last very long, leaving the children to be raised alone by their mother or grandparents.



High school senior pictures of Marion Rhea Speaks and her half-sister Amy Estella Markum.

After several years her father revealed the names of 10 additional siblings and their mothers, all of which she was able to make contact with except Amy Burks who was adopted by her mother's husband Clifford Markum. Her father told Marion that Amy had been killed in an auto wreck at a young age. Her research was never productive until she posted a response on Facebook to someone's question about all of her brothers and sisters. She indicated she could not find information on Amy Burks Markum.



Much to her surprise, fellow WCGHA member and Facebook Friend Rickey Burks (left photo) saw the post and responded that Amy was his niece and her mother was his sister. She was born through a "relationship" and was killed in an automobile accident in Tullahoma, TN at the age of 18.

Rickey made contact with his sister's other

(See SMALL WORLD next page)

SMALL WORLD continued

daughter and made arrangements for her to speak with Marion and eventually talk with Amy's mother. They shared pictures of Amy and Marion and I made a trip to Spencer, TN to visit Amy's grave.

Marion met Rickey Burks when she contacted him to speak to our WCGHA group and also to lead a tour of the Mt. View Cemetery in McMinnville in 2019. She never made the Burks connection.

In late 2019 Marion was surprised to find another sibling through her Ancestry DNA. The son of the new sibling had submitted his DNA and it showed a direct connection to the Rhea line. When Marion contacted him and asked what his Rhea connection was she was thrilled to find his connection was to her father. This sibling connection was through a "relationship" and he had never taken the name "Rhea". Plans for a meet and greet with this new family this summer was sidelined by the Covid-19 pandemic. We will make that visit when it's safe to be among her new family.

Marion was also able to find four first cousins in California thru DNA and was able to meet with one of them 3 years ago in Indiana.

Who knows who might show up next. Don't ever give up your research!

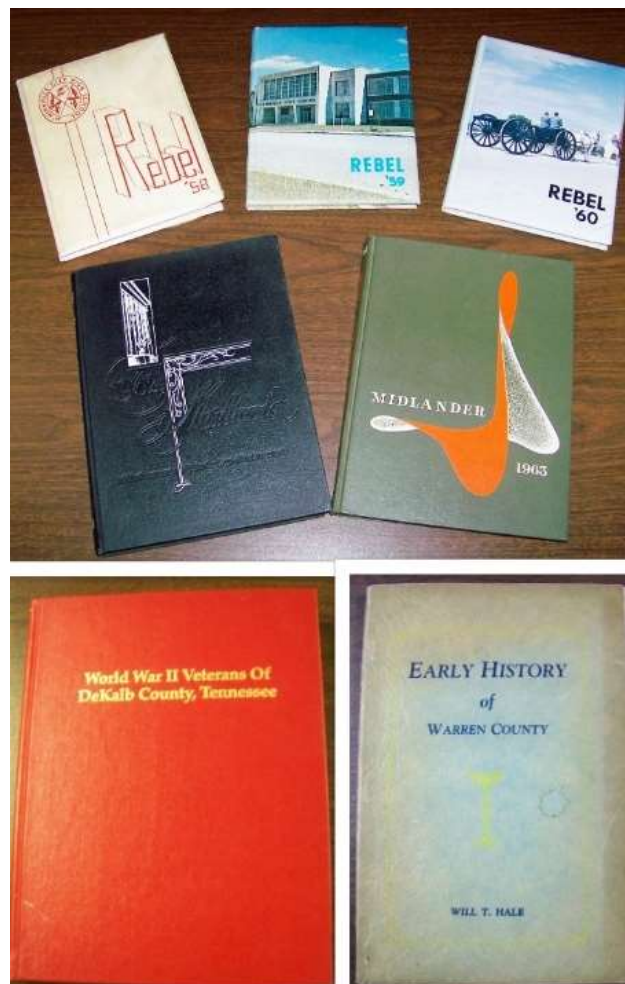
Isn't Social Media and Ancestry.com wonderful?



It was a sad ending to Marion's search for her half-sister. She is buried at the Shockley Cemetery at Spencer, TN.



Recent Donations



The 3 Warren County High School Rebel and 2 Middle Tennessee State College yearbooks are a gift to the WCGHA from Murfreesboro resident Jimmie Leiderman. The World War II Veterans of DeKalb County, Tennessee book was presented to our Association by Magness Memorial Library. The Early History of Warren County by Will T. Hale is a gift from Terri Martin Wnuk. It was given in honor of her father, Ralph Martin. It was given to him by J. W. Womack Jr in 1942 on his 18th birthday.

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.



This group was photographed in the Rocky River Community in the early 1900s. In the first row are Arcie Mayfield, Joe (Tick) Hillis, Judie Roberts, Marvin Payne, Nelle Hillis, Letha Hillis, Mary Hillis, Lou Johnson, Eliza Hillis, Flora Hillis and Betty Hennessee. In the second row are A.C. Hennessee, Russ Hillis, Jim Hillis, Nennie

Hillis, C. Clark, Zona Allen, Maggie Hillis, Wanle Hillis, Lenna Hillis, Lonnie Hillis, and Clifton Hennessee. In the third row are Minnie Gulley, Mary Clark, Albert Hillis, Lennie Gulley, May Hillis, Irving Roberts, Jim Clark, Jim Hillis, Bill Clark, Ann Clark, and Mrs. Emma Barnes, teacher. (Photo courtesy of Evans Studio)

Submitted by Tommy D. Fairbanks, August 26, 2020

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

4,563 Group Members (+36 this month)

Gender: 68% Women – 32% Men

28 Posts	185 Comments	1,194 Reactions
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Top Post

Top Contributors

Lucas Holt
David Cope
Tommy D Fairbanks

DonaldandJeannineMiller: Remembering Ms Helen Elkins McMinnville
First Presbyterian Church SS--25 Aug. 1982
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WCGAoldwarrencountytnfamilies/permalink/3067966259986734/>

Comments: 21

Likes: 127

Shares: 4

Reactions: 2.2

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

Let's do everything possible to stop the spread of this virus

Be Safe...

Wear a mask

Honor the 6 ft. distance rule

Avoid crowds

Stay home when possible

BOOKS for SALE

Warren County Genealogical & Historical Association

P. O. Box 411 McMinnville, TN 37111-0411

WARREN COUNTY	Visitors	Members
The Heritage of Warren County (1807-2005)	\$72.00	\$57.60
BIRTH, DEATH, & FUNERAL RECORDS		
Warren County Funeral Notices 1878-1913	\$15.00	\$12.00
Warren County Death Certificates & Death Records 1914-1925	\$25.00	\$20.00
Warren County Births & Deaths 1926-1938		
Warren County Death Records 1927-1937	\$20.00	\$16.00
Funeral Home Records: Jacobs & Jarrell Store & Funeral Home, Morrison, TN 1902-1904	\$15.00	\$12.00
Some Early Coffee Co. Deaths & Guardianship Book 1838-1869	\$8.00	\$6.40
Van Buren County, TN Death Records 1914 - 1919	\$10.00	\$8.00
CENSUS RECORDS		
Warren County Census 1860	\$25.00	\$20.00
Warren County Census 1880	\$25.00	\$20.00
Warren County 1891 Tax Record	\$20.00	\$16.00
Warren County Census 1900	\$25.00	\$20.00
MARRIAGE RECORDS		
Warren County Marriages 1852-1900	\$25.00	\$20.00
Warren County Marriages 1900-1950	\$25.00	\$20.00
Warren County Marriages 1950-1975	\$25.00	\$20.00
MISCELLANEOUS TITLES		
John Hammon Lawsuit	\$15.00	\$12.00
Mt, Zion Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1809- 1930	\$8.00	\$6.40
Old Philadelphia Church History by James Dillon	\$5.00	\$4.00
TOUR BOOKS		
Plainview Tour Book (2007)	\$12.00	\$9.60
Rebel Hill/McMinnville Original Lots Tour	\$8.00	\$6.40
Viola Tour Book (2005)	\$10.00	\$8.00
All Three Tour Books	\$25.00	\$20.00
Riverside Tour by Rachel Hillis	\$5.00	\$4.00
WCGHA Bulletins		
WCGA Bulletins 1992 thru current	\$15.00	\$12.50
Add Shipping: Heritage of WC: \$7.00 All others: \$3.00 for first book; \$1.75 each additional book.		