



WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

June 2021

201 Locust Street

McMinnville, Tennessee

WCGHA OFFICERS



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Cheryl Watson Mingle



Vice President:
Marion Rhea Speaks



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J.B. Brown



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Ann Brown

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

**Come Join Us
at our June 19
meeting
for a presentation by**



J.B. Brown on

**“The Wonderful World of GPS &
How to Use It for Locating Items”**

We will meet in the early voting room located in the rear of the Warren County Administration building.

You will be required to sign in and observe social distancing.

(Refreshments will not be served)

Cheryl Watson Mingle, WCGHA President

Committees

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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 Administrative
Building**

May's Outstanding Meeting

By Doyle Speaks

A large crowd attended the May 15 meeting of the Warren County Genealogical & Historical Association. This was the second meeting held in over a year.

Graham Perry, Historic Cemetery Preservation Specialist with the Tennessee Historical Commission, did not disappoint the crowd with his presentation on Cemetery Law.

Mr. Perry shared his extensive knowledge of the laws protecting our cemeteries in the state of Tennessee. Some of those laws have been on the books for sometime, yet, a lot of people are not aware that they exist.



G. Graham Perry III, ABD, Historic Cemetery Preservation Specialist
CHERYL WATSON MINGLE PHOTO

His presentation began with Tennessee Cemetery Act (TCA) 46-1-102 which describes the definition



of cemetery "as any land or structure in this state (Tennessee) dedicated to and used, or intended to be used, for interment of human remains". A cemetery

can have only 1 grave, or even no graves, the intention of its use is all that is needed.

He continued to explain TCA 46-4 which explains the termination of the use of land as a cemetery.

TCA 46-4-101 defines the purpose of the act to determine if the cemetery is abandoned or neglected. It also defines the purpose of property surrounding a cemetery inconsistent with proper reverence.

TCA 46-4-102 defines that interested parties to a cemetery can be family members, relatives and anyone who has a right of easement to the cemetery. This applies to ALL cemeteries in Tennessee.

TCA 46-4-103 explains the actions and proceedings to be taken when a cemetery is located on private property. Land owners should check to see if they really own the cemetery. Actually, you may not own it.

Even if you own the land where a cemetery is located, you must follow established law if you intend to terminate and remove such. That law states

that a complainant must first publish notice of intent using the press sources common to the county where located. The County Chancery Court must then be contacted to petition for termination and must be filed with the Tennessee Historical Commission and posted on the THC website.

THC 46-4-104 explains the judgments and decrees for termination and removal of a cemetery. The Circuit Court determines the outcome based on evidence tied to the case.

A major area of interest to everyone was TCA 46-8 which is Family Burial Grounds Protection.

The intention of TCA 46-8-101 is to provide notice to buyers of property with known burial grounds and gravesites.

TCA 46-8-102 is the law that defines crypts, gravesites and human remains and TCA 46-8-103 explains the duty of land owners to protect graves or crypts and explains that they are not to be disturbed,

It further explains the rules for transfer of remains.

Owners of land that have known cemeteries must ensure that the cemetery is on the deed prior to sale or transfer to prospective buyers. Those cemeteries



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Outstanding Meeting

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have a prohibited area of 10 feet from a grave and 5 feet from a crypt. Prospective buyers must be notified that an option to remove graves or crypts is included in Tennessee law TCA 46-4.



Mr. Perry explained in detail TCA 39-17-3 which explains the criminal penalties related to cemeteries and

corpse abuse. TCA 39-17-311 explains that a person may not desecrate a place of worship or burial. It is a class A misdemeanor subject to 11 months in jail and 29 days in jail with fines of up to \$2,500. TCA 39-17-312 is a class E Felony for corpse abuse. A guilty party could receive prison time of 1-6 years with a fine of up to \$3,000.

What should one do if you find desecration of a cemetery? You should first report it as soon as possible to local police and contact the County Court. These entities MUST uphold Tennessee Law. If they refuse, call the regional District Attorney then notify Mr. Perry at graham.perry@tn.gov . If the regional District Attorney doesn't act, then contact the state District Attorney and contact Mr. Perry as well.

If you find acts of corpse abuse or if you accidentally become a party to disinterment you should stop work immediately and call the local police. It is possible you may have found a murder victim. You don't want to become an accessory to murder. The Tennessee Dept. of Archeology MUST be notified by law at (615) 741-1588.

Mr. Perry indicated that TCA 68-5-508 is the law that governs disinterment and reinterment. You must receive authorization by the state registrar who will issue authority to a licensed funeral director, or person acting as such, to do so. Funeral Homes are allowed to perform these services for graves after 1920s or Archaelogy companies can be used for any graves.

Several statutes have set precedence for the rights of interested parties to cemeteries. Those rights include the ability to repair and beautify; rights of visitation; rights of burial and it declares a cemetery is a cemetery forever (unless it applies to Title 46-4).

A land owner CANNOT obstruct an interested party for visitation, they cannot desecrate. This means plowing up headstones and using land for something else.

Several precedents have been set that allow persons to ingress (meaning the right to enter) and egress (meaning the right to exit) into cemeteries. In 1979 the Stoker vs. Brown precedent in Tennessee declared that a cemetery area is same as it ever was, even though it "miraculously shrank".

Mr. Perry left his audience with the following advice:

No. 1 – "If you are a landowner with a cemetery on your property you should follow the law. If you don't, you're going to lose. It's expensive and will take up your limited time on earth. You should be nice. Visitors may be annoying, but try to work something out if they request access. Don't just do what you want and hope no one finds out. If you do, interested parties will call and I'll investigate. Trust me, my investigation will really annoy you."



No. 2 – If you're a visitor to a cemetery on private property be courteous. Remember, there are many reasons a landowner is reluctant to have you on his/her property. If the landowner is a curmudgeon, be nice anyway (and document everything). You must follow the law. If you don't, you're going to incur unwanted expenses and penalties.

We were fortunate to have had Mr. Perry as our guest speaker. If you get a chance to hear his presentation on Cemetery Law, be sure to attend.

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For more information on Cemetery Law please contact:

Graham Perry – Historic Cemetery Preservation Specialist; Tennessee Historical Commission (615) 532-0087; or email to graham.perry@tn.gov

Or

Tennessee Division of Archeology – Phil Hodge (615) 687-4776; phil.hodge@tn.gov

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Thanks to Ann Brown for the Power Point presentation

Discover Your Heritage Workshop Planned



A committee has been formed and recently met to plan the upcoming “Discover Your Heritage Workshop”. This is a joint project between WCGHA and Magness Library and will be held at the library on Saturday, October 9 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Seated, l-r, Brad Walker, Ann Brown, Mary Oaks, Donna Sullivan and Cheryl Watson Mingle.

Bulletin Donated to Black History Museum

Cheryl Watson Mingle, President of the WCGHA and Ann Brown, Bulletin Editor are shown presenting a copy of the Spring and Summer 2021 issue of the Warren County Genealogical & Historical Association Bulletin to Wayne Wolford, curator of the Warren County Black History Museum. The issue included an in-depth story researched and written by Ann Brown on the National Memorial for Peace and Justice.



A Local Connection to a Movie Star



Jobyna Raulston is pictured with Jobyna (Ware) Barnes who is the great grandmother of WCGHA member Lucas Holt.

Photo provided by Brady-Hughes-Beasley Archives at Magness Library

By Doyle Speaks and Cheryl Watson Mingle

There are not many fellow WCGHA members who can claim they are related to a famous movie star, especially a “Silent Movie Star”.

Fellow member Lucas Holt has that claim to fame with his ancestor Jobyna Raulston who was the namesake of his great grandmother Jobyna (Ware) Barnes.

He is connected to the famous actress through the Brady line. His great-great grandmother Edna Earl Brady Ware was a sister to Sarah E. Brady Kemp, mother of Jobyna Raulston.

The following article was taken, in part, from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

Jobyna Ralston was born Jobyna Lancaster Raulston on November 21, 1899 in South Pittsburg, Tennessee. She was the eldest child and only

daughter born to Joe and Sarah Raulston. Her brother, Edward Angus joined the family a few years later.

Sarah Raulston worked as a photographer and was a lover of the arts. She actually named her daughter after stage actress Jobyna Howland, and she wanted her daughter to grow up and become an actress as well. Little Jobyna made her stage debut at age nine, playing Cinderella.

When she was old enough, Jobyna went to New York and attended acting school. She also began appearing in various Broadway productions. It was while acting on stage that she was discovered by the famous French silent comedian, Max Linder. He convinced Jobyna to go to Hollywood and he would put her in some of his films.

She made her film debut in the 1919 short,

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Jobyna Raulston

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“Starting Out in Life”, but she was mistakenly credited as 'Juliana Ralston.' The first film she appeared in under her real name (although now spelled 'Ralston') was “The Sultan of Djazz”. During this time, she was still acting on the stage as well.



Publicity photo of Jobyna Ralston in 1924 from Stars of the Photoplay

In 1921, Jobyna reportedly appeared in the film “Humor Risk”, a film that was produced by the Marx Brothers but was never released and is now considered lost. One story suggests that the film was accidentally thrown out while another suggested that Groucho Marx burned the negatives because he was unhappy with how the film turned out. Since the film is lost, we can't for sure say that it was Jobyna in the film but she is the one most credited with appearing in it. Other actresses who have been rumored to be in the film are Esther Ralson, Helen Kane, and Mildred Davis. There is one picture floating around that reportedly shows the cast of the film and the girl in the picture appears to be Jobyna. Curiouser and curiouser...

The following year, she quit acting on the stage and made film acting her career. The higher income she was making was helping her pay her ailing mother's medical bills.

Jobyna was named a WAMPAS Baby Star in 1923. The WAMPAS Baby Stars was a promotional campaign sponsored by the United States Western Association of Motion Picture Advertisers, which honored 13 (15 in 1932) young actresses each year whom they believed to be on the threshold of movie stardom. Her fellow starlets that year included Evelyn Brent, Laura La Plante, and Eleanor Boardman.

Her star kept rising and rising and she was next picked as Harold Lloyd's leading lady in the film “Why Worry?” Jobyna would appear in five more of



Lucas Holt with his grandfather and mother. Left to right, Donnie Leon Barnes son of Leon and Jobyna Ware Barnes, Lucas Holt, Julie (Barnes) Holt, daughter of Donnie Leon and Faye (Richardson) Barnes.

Harold's films: “Hot Water” (1924), “Girl Shy” (1924), “The Freshman” (1925), “For Heaven's Sake” (1926), and “The Kid Brother” (1927).

Although her partnership with Harold Lloyd is most likely what she is known for nowadays, another claim to fame would be her appearance in the 1927 film “Wings” with Clara Bow. Wings was the first Oscar Winner for the best picture of the year. Also appearing in the film was Richard Arlen, the man who would become her second husband.

Even though her career was on the up and up, Jobyna decided to retire from acting in 1931. It seems that she would rather focus on her home and family rather than making it big as a movie star. There was also the issue of a noticeable lisp she had that made her unsuitable for talkies. Her last on-screen appearance was in the film, “Sheer Luck”.

Jobyna was married twice. Her first husband was a farmer named John Campbell, a childhood sweetheart of hers. She was only 16 years old when she married John and both families were against the marriage because they felt both of them were too young. She finally realized that they were right when she began getting restless being a farmer's wife in Tennessee, so, one day she told him, “Another month of this, Johnny, and I go to work. If I do, remember, it's all over with us.” (Photoplay, 1928)

Her second marriage was to her costar in Wings, Richard Arlen. They met on the set in 1927 and married later that year. In 1933, they had a son named Richard Jr. The union seemed to be a happy one and the two became darlings of the movie

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Jobyna Raulston

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magazines which told tales of tennis games played with another Hollywood couple, Bing and Dixie Lee Crosby. Unfortunately, the marriage began to fall apart and Jobyna filed for divorce in 1945 citing Arlen with desertion and cruelty. Interestingly enough, her headstone reads 'Jobyna Ralston Arlen.'

In 1926, she had to take time off to recover from an attack of "Klieg eyes." The film she was working on consisted of a lot of night and day shots, and the Klieg lights helped make the days brighter inside the studio. As a result, actors were frequently blinded on set by the lights and had to spend some time off with dark glasses on to rest their eyes.

In 1930, Jobyna was appearing in a play called "Bad Babies" in Los Angeles. The play, which dealt with the love lives and criminal activities of high school students, had been cited as being indecent and after a few weeks, the cast (including Jobyna), producer, playwright, and stage manager were all arrested. They were all eventually released on a \$500 bond and later had to pay a fine.



Jobyna Raulston is pictured with her second husband Richard Arlen.

One of Jobyna's hobbies was painting and she used to paint her friend's portraits. She also enjoyed horseback riding and golfing.

Ralston retired at the advent of sound after only two talkies due to a noticeable lisp.

Jobyna Ralston passed away on January 22, 1967 in Woodland Hills, California from pneumonia.

She was buried at the San Fernando Mission Cemetery in Mission Hills, California.

Lucas Holt 6 generations connection to Jobyna Raulston Arlen:

Lucas Holt 1999

Julie Barnes Holt 1978

Donnie Leon Barnes 1941

Jobyna Ware Barnes 1920-2017

Edna Earl Brady Ware 1892-1952

Samuel Houston Brady 1845-1924



One of two signs located in South Pittsburg, TN

Born November 21, 1899, Jobyna L. Ralston became a silent movie actress, appearing in more than 90 films during her career. She made her stage-acting debut at Wilson Theatre (opera house) in South Pittsburg at age nine. Raulston later studied theatre in New York, around 1915, where she dropped the letter "u" from her surname. She became a Broadway chorus dancer, and about 1920, she made her silent film debut in short comedies. She starred in some Marx Brothers' films.

Contributions to Our Resource Library

A copy of the book “Warren County, Tennessee Genealogical Notes from the McMinnville Newspapers 1880-1914”, Second Edition, Edited by Don Martini was recently donated to the WCGHA Resource library. Cheryl Watson Mingle, President of WCGHA is shown accepting the gift from Brad Walker, Executive Director of the Magness Memorial Library.



The book “Sum It Up” written by Pat Summitt was recently donated to our WCGHA Resource Library. Mary Oaks, left, WCGHA Research co-chairperson, is shown accepting the gift from WCGHA member Glenda Stubblefield Cantrell. Pat Summitt served as the head coach of the University of Tennessee Lady Vols basketball team from 1974 to 2012. Glenda is a longtime basketball player herself and can be found on the court on a weekly basis.

Warren County Genealogical & Historical Association
Bulletin Committee



BULLETIN SURVEY!

We want your input! Tell us what you are interested in and what you would like to see in our Bulletins!

I would like to see more (check the items you are most interested in):

- Biographies
- Genealogies
- Schools
- Churches
- Cemeteries
- Buildings (historical homes and/or businesses)
- Events
- Newspapers (whole editions)
- Historical Items (letters, invoices, etc.)
- Other (please specify)

Which articles have you enjoyed the most over the past few years?

Would you be willing to contribute an article for the Bulletin?

Comments:

Submit your reply to farmerbrownsgardens@gmail.com or bring to the WCGHA Members Meeting.
Thank you!

Turn Your Radio On - WBMC Town Talk

960 AM-FM or log on to
<https://www.facebook.com/RadioWBMC97.7FM>

Representing the WCGHA this month on "Town Talk" was Vice President Marion Rhea Speaks (left) and Treasurer J.B. Brown (right). They are shown with Jeff Barnes (center) who is co-host of the talk show. A WCGHA representative will appear monthly on radio WBMC 960 AM-FM on Tuesday morning, prior to the 3rd Saturday of each month, at 8:00 a.m. to give a talk on the upcoming meeting.



WCGHA's Old Warren County, TN Family History/Photos MONTHLY INSIGHTS May, 2021

4,860 Group Members (+4 this month)
Gender: 68% Women – 32% Men

17
Posts

Comments

436
Reactions

Top Contributors

Lucas Holt
Barry Dixon
Sandra Bouldin
Cindy Neely
Charles Craven

Top Post

Lucas Holt
Fielding Turner at a Confederate reunion. He was my 4th great uncle. Born 17 Jan 1842 and died 14 November 1920... parents was David Turner and Mariah Pinegar.
[WCGHA's Old Warren County, TN Family History/Photos : Fielding Turner at a Confederate reunion | Facebook](#)

Comments: 20 Likes: 90 Shares: 2 Post Reach: 2,000

Don't forget to follow our Facebook page and post your Warren County ancestors and historical photos at Warren County Genealogical & Historical Association and stay up to date on Association upcoming events, and posts and links relating to genealogy and history

The Pioneer Family Research Committee Meets



The WCGHA Pioneer Families Research Committee met recently for the first time this year. They reviewed 5 requests with certificates being rewarded to three people, one corrected and re-issued and one placed on hold for further research. The committee, posing for a photo are, l-r, Bettye Pack, Bonita Mangrum, Marion Rhea Speaks, Carolyn Lance and new committee member Cheryl Watson Mingle.

Ladies in Deep Concentration



J.B. Brown recently captured this photo at the WCGHA office of Glenda Stubblefield Cantrell, Ann Brown and Mary Oaks who were busy indexing the Civil War files to be included in the WCGHA Files Registry. J.B. stepped away from scanning High's records long enough to take the picture. Our organization is run by volunteers and we're more than thankful for members who show up to help.

Welcome New Members

Sandra Adcock sandrabouldin@gmail.com

Chris Avery postitnotejunkie@gmail.com

Mark Brown mbrown2424@yahoo.com

Tammy Corona tfbouldin@gmail.com

James Hamby jhamby1@aol.com

Rachel Hillis rhillis@blomand.net

Ridley Politiski rpolitiskifamily@gmail.com

Phillip Scott tonyascott@me.com

Tonya Scott tonyascott@me.com

J. Kent Starkey

Gina Starkey

WHY COMB GRAVES SHOULD BE PRESERVED

What is a comb grave?

A “comb grave” is a grave that is covered by a gable roof-like structure that sits directly on the ground, with no supporting walls or corner posts. The term “comb” is an old architectural term formerly used, mainly in the South, to refer to the crest of a gable roof. Typically, the comb is made of two rectangular slabs of sandstone, each slab being somewhat longer than the grave itself, leaned together to form the comb or gable roof over the grave. More often than not the comb slabs are supported by two triangular stones, one at each end of the gable. The resulting structure can also be compared to a pup tent, and for this reason people unfamiliar with the original term “comb grave” frequently refer to these graves as “tent graves”; however, the proper term is comb.

Why comb graves are disappearing:

Time is taking its toll on the combs. Rocks, even hard sandstone, do weather and crumble. Comb stones sometimes settle into the ground with time and the comb structure comes apart, eventually collapsing. Trees fall and smash combs. Metal combs on wooden frames eventually collapse when the wood rots. Cemeteries unprotected from livestock can be utterly destroyed by cattle and hogs rubbing against and rooting under the stones. Very probably accidents with mowers and other mechanical equipment damage combs in still active cemeteries. All these factors serve to destroy combs here and there.

Furthermore, cemetery groundskeepers sometimes find combs, especially combs that are in poor condition due to partial collapse, a hindrance to mowing and upkeep. Groundskeepers sometimes remove combs for this reason. In some instances, descendants of the deceased remove combs because they are “old fashioned” and they wish to replace them with modern grave markers.

There are cases where combs have been removed because people feared the fact that



animals—groundhogs and sometimes snakes—find shelter under combs.

Sadly, comb slabs are sometimes simply stolen by people who want to use the big sandstone slabs for other purposes.

For all these reasons, the comb graves of Tennessee are slowly disappearing. The author of these notes knows of some 41 cemeteries which once had comb graves but which no longer do.

Why we should protect and preserve the comb graves:

Comb graves are part of our heritage, part of our material culture. While not completely unique to Tennessee, the comb custom appears to have started in Tennessee, and certainly reached its apogee in Tennessee. In Tennessee, the comb graves are special to our region, a cultural artifact very rarely found elsewhere in the state. This tradition adds a distinctive and delightful bit of color to our local history.

Comb graves were placed on graves at the request of the deceased or at the wishes of the surviving loved ones. These wishes should continue to be respected. It matters not that those buried under combs and those who erected the combs are long dead, we the living should respect their customs and wishes.

Natural attrition is slowly diminishing the number of extant combs. Those who care for cemeteries should work to maintain the remaining combs.

Richard C. Finch, Oct. 2019

For further information on comb graves visit:
www.graterutabaga.com

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.

Southern Standard, McMinnville, Tenn., Wednesday, August 15, 2001 - 3-C

Central High Class of 1941



Photo provided

Members of Central High School Class of 1941 attending their 60th reunion June 22 at the Country Club include, seated front left, Malcolm Bounds, Willie Mayes, Phillip Grandey, Charles Jones, Arlene Tittle Gross, Lendel Conley, Roberta Lankford and Virginia Bragg. Standing, Betty Anderson Bridgewater, Josephine Jones Tomes, Kathleen Malone Pennington, Edna Mantooth Webb, Mildred Gribble Glenn, Lois Phillips Tate, Douglas Fairbanks, Viola Fann Sparkman, Wilma Hillis Dunlap, Ray Spivey Sr., Pauline Wood Hillis, Everett Brock, Betty Yager Lively, J.D. Mullican, Georgia Smith Hayes, Eugene Christian, Stella Womack Lance, Novella Luna McVey, Mary Hask Mason, Edward Oliver, Jacqueline Hask Haley and Claudine Denton Sproul.

Submitted by Tommy D. Fairbanks -- September 8, 2020, 2020