



WCGHA Newsletter

MAY 2022

201 LOCUST ST., MCMINNVILLE, TN 37110



President

Ann Brown



Vice President

Douglas Woodlee



Secretary

Barbara Bates



Treasurer

J.B. Brown



Past President

Cheryl W. Mingle

Come Join Us on May 21

For the next WCGHA Meeting



**Ann Brown will present, "Let's
Talk About The 1950 Census"**

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 ob-
serve social distancing.

(Refreshments will not be served)

Ann Brown, WCGHA President

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome Spring!

I love that warmer weather and spring-time blooms are finally here! We had a busy April at the Association. I know that everyone who attended our April Members Meeting really enjoyed David Stout's presentation on Cast Iron and Families. If you missed it, you really missed a great time.

The 2022 Cemetery Workshop was a great success. We were honored to have Dr. Stacey Graham with MTSU Center for Historic Preservation present the workshop and hands-on training on Saturday, April 23rd. They only do two workshops per year, so we are grateful to have the opportunity to host this event.

The office volunteers have been busy researching for our "School Files". They have found some neat information but there is still a lot of work to do. We are especially interested in locating old school pictures (not newspaper copy) to be included in this project.

May is going to be another busy month! We will be welcoming our first summer intern. Jalen Smith is a History major at Freed Hardeman University. He will be completing 40 hours internship with us in May.

We are happy to welcome several new members this month. It is our members who make our organization strong. We are blessed to have members who continue to support us year after year. It is that loyalty which enables the Association to continue to provide support for the genealogical and historical community.

Wishing all our members a Happy Spring and hope to see you at a meeting soon!

Ann

Agenda for Members Meeting

May 21st, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. in the Early Voting Room

- Call to Order – President Ann Brown
- Reading of Minutes – Secretary Barbara Bates
- Treasurer's Report – Treasurer J. B. Brown

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Membership – J. B. Brown
- Circulation – Debra McBride
- Programs – Douglas Woodlee
- Publicity – Brad Walker
- Research – Bonita Mangrum, Mary Oaks
- Office – Evelyn Wade, Mary Oaks
- Bulletin – Bob Bates
- Newsletter - Susan Driver
- Webpage - Ann Brown

PROJECT REPORTS

- Pioneer Families of Warren County
- Cemeteries of Warren County – Ann/J.B. Brown
- High Funeral Home Records – J.B. Brown

OLD BUSINESS

- School Files

NEW BUSINESS

- Intern – Jalen Smith

David Stout - Wilson County Cast Iron Community

What a great presentation by David Stout on the history of cast iron and how it is intertwined with his family. His stories of the women in his family and their cast iron cookware that he has inherited brought the history of cast iron cookware alive. David's great grandparents were John Henry and Betty Ann Nix. They had 10 children (2 sets of twins). His grandparents were Zachary Daniel and Sadie Frances Madden Nix. David's parents were Thomas David and Nell Willodean Nix Stout. David's twin sister is Joyce Stout Woodlee.



Many of our members brought their own special pieces and Dave's knowledge of cast iron cookware gave us insight to their different pieces. Those who brought items from home included: Wanda Gant (corn stick pan), Carolyn Lance (waffle iron w/ low base), Doyle Speaks (Vienna bread pan), Gail Woodlee (square skillet), Marie Blair (gate mark), Mary Oaks (turks head muffin pan), Barbara Bates (aluminum corn stick pan by Wagner), John Douglas (candle holder), and David Stout with "Sadie's Skillet", a wedding gift to his grandmother in 1913. We're told it still makes a great pan of cornbread! Not pictured: Ann Brown (abelskivar - used for apple dumplings).

We learned about so many things; here are just a few:

Joseph Lodge was Vice President at Blacklock Foundry for 13 years until the business was destroyed by fire. He then established Lodge Manufacturing Company.

Lodge had no logo but used notches for inventory control by Lodge which helps to date items. Pre-1900 skillets had no notch with an outside heat ring to match stoves of that period. A #8 heat ring was sized to match a #8 stove eye. Employees were paid by the piece so an "H" would identify the maker's mark. By the 1940's, skillets had 3 notches. In the 1960's, the size number was moved to the bottom and "Made in the USA" was added. Notches were completely omitted by the year 2000.

David was kind enough to leave two of his favorite recipes with us and we can't wait to give them a try.

David says the goal of their group is to "Get younger generation back in the kitchen". We are all for that! You can join the Wilson County Cast Iron Community on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/810488125951719>.

Dave Stout's Award

Winning Cornbread Recipe

- Pre-heat a #8 cast iron skillet in the oven with two caps (from the bottle) of WESSON OIL to 450 degrees. DO NOT MIX ANYTHING UNTIL THE OVEN TEMP REACHES 445 TO 450 DEGREES.

You do not want the below mix rising until it is ready to pour into the hot skillet.

- Place one cup of MARTHA WHITE SELF-RISING CORNMEAL MIX in a mixing bowl. Pay attention to the label on the cornmeal - the MW Self-Rising has a dark red color label.

- Add to the mix **one** cap of Wesson Oil, a pinch of baking soda (NOT baking powder), and **one** egg.

- Shake a container of Cultured **Whole Fat** Buttermilk until your arm weakens, then pour at least two cups of buttermilk into the mix. Mix until pourable and creamy.

- The mixed batter should be freely pourable into the hot skillet. Place in the oven and bake until your desired color appears on the top - about 20 minutes (or more if you desire a browner top).

- Your cornbread should release freely from the skillet when turned upside down onto a plate.

Mama Sadie's Onion Biscuit

My maternal grandmother, SARAH FRANCES "SADIE" MADDEN NIX, was born in the year 1900 in rural Perry County, Tennessee. She married my grandfather, ZACHARIAH "ZACH" DANIEL NIX when she was 13 years old. They spent a considerable number of their lives in Perry County, but lived in Nashville several years and had three daughters, one of whom was my mother.

My formative years were spent living with my mother, sister and Mama Sadie and Daddy Zach. I have many memories of those times, and one is of how Mama Sadie ALWAYS made scratch biscuits for breakfast and of how she loved to eat a biscuit with a slice of onion in it. She used regular white onions - not the Vidalia or Texas sweet onions.

I developed my own biscuit/onion recipe that I hope you will like. I prefer sweet onions myself.

1 medium to large sweet onion (if you make a big "cat head" biscuit, use a large sweet onion)

Slice the onion to the thickness you like and place in a pot of cold water, being careful to keep the slice(s) intact. Bring water to a rolling boil, then turn off the burner and remove the pot from the stove eye. Drain the liquid and pat the onion dry, again being careful to keep the slice intact. This softens the onion some, but you can skip this part.

Slice the biscuit in half and place the onion on the sliced biscuit, then slather on Duke's mayo (or your favorite) and just enough Thousand Island dressing.

Then lock the back door, kick off your shoes and chill with a Mama Sadie's Onion Biscuit!

Dave's Southern Buttermilk Biscuits (for a # 8 Cast iron skillet)

Pre-heat the oven (not the skillet) to 450 degrees.

Ingredients:

2 cups of sifted White Lilly self-rising flour
1 stick of frozen salted butter
1 & 1/4th cup whole, cultured buttermilk.

Instructions:

Grate into the flour 1 stick of salted frozen butter. I use a blending fork to work the flour and butter into cornmeal size texture. The reason for the blending fork is to keep the blend as cold as possible.

Shake your whole cultured buttermilk very well and add in gently, adding a little more flour as needed.

Place the dough onto your favorite dough board or onto a counter top and gently work with a baker's bench knife so you can layer at least 5 times, until it can be rolled about half inch thick.

Use a 2 & 1/2 inch to 3 inch biscuit cutter, depending on how big around you want the biscuit to be. (You can use different sized empty vegetable cans with the bottom and top cut out if you don't have a biscuit cutter). About 12 biscuits of the smaller size or 9 of 3" size.

Place into skillet close together then into oven for about 20-25 minutes until desired golden brown. Have a pastry brush ready to apply melted butter on top when golden brown.

Welcome New Members!

Mary Don Bixby

Mickey Gwyn

Lisa Earp

Joyce Woodlee

(We also had 12 renewals, bringing our current membership to 110).

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 30th - Association office closed for Memorial Day

June 9th - Board of Directors Meeting

June 18th - Members Meeting Program: Mary Don Bixby on Medal of Honor Recipient, David Ray

July 4th - Association office closed

July 7th - Board of Directors Meeting

July 16th - Members Meeting Program: Show & Tell

August 11th - Board of Directors Meeting

August 20th - Members Meeting Program: Chuck Sherrill on the Tennessee State Library and Archives

The Southern Standard published two articles about our 2022 Spring Cemetery Workshop. We appreciate their support of community events.

8C Southern Standard, McMinnville, Tenn., Friday, March 25, 2022

Preserving history

McMinnville's oldest cemetery holds wealth of stories of town's earliest days

BY LISA HOBBS
Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

McMinnville's first cemetery was added to the National Register of Historic Places 20 years ago and its markers continue to provide a link to McMinnville's earliest residents.

"The cemetery is located on South High Street and is the city's original cemetery," said Brad Walker, Warren County Genealogical and Historical Association historian.

Old City Cemetery, as it's locally called, was established in 1813. The city of McMinnville was founded in 1810. The cemetery is 209 years old and the city 212.

When a petition was filed in 2002 to add the

cemetery to the National Register of Historic Places, information provided included the following:

"The 90 readable monuments of the estimated 200 graves range from interment dates of 1813 to 1938. The majority of the monuments date from the 1830s to the 1880s and are tablets, obelisks, and pedestal tombs designed in classical revival styles with motifs, also called symbols, representing life, hope, nature, and salvation.

Symbols including weeping willows, lambs, acorns, doves, Masonic emblems, as well as non-traditional motifs such as a beehive with grapevines. Several graves are discernible by a rectangular outline of rough-cut stone, without markers. Scattered throughout, and along the west bluff, are

alternating mounds and indentions signifying unmarked graves."

According to local historians, the line of indentions along the bluff is where African Americans were buried before the Civil War, while other indentions likely represent either moved graves or missing monuments.

The most unique monument is in the White family plot close to South High Street. The White family included an early merchant, the founder of one of the first banks, and the builder of the second courthouse in McMinnville. The monument is a pedestal with a female figure at the top, facing South High Street.

The female figure kneels on a tasseled cushion with one knee, her hands clasped in prayer. On one side of the pedestal is a carving of a wreath with the names "Jennie and Sallie" in the center. Below the wreath, the pedestal reads "Jennie, daughter of Wm. T. and M.J. White," (1857-1862). The south side of the pedestal reads, "Sallie, daughter of Wm. T. and M.J. White," (1860-1862).

Many of the people buried in Old City Cemetery, in graves that are both marked and currently unmarked, directly impacted the early development of McMinnville in the 19th century.

The first burial was Samuel Colville, who served as postmaster for the community. He was interred in 1813. His father-in-law, Robert Cowan, gave the land for the cemetery. The most locally well-known McMinnville resident to be buried in the cemetery is likely Major Joseph Colville (1764-1834), father of Samuel Colville, who along with



Lisa Hobbs photos

A 2022 Spring Cemetery Workshop is being organized by Warren County Genealogical and Historical Association for April 9. The workshop, presented by MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, will focus on tombstone preservation.

two other men, donated 1,000 acres for the permanent county seat. In addition, Joseph Colville was the first county clerk, a postmaster, and the trustee for one of the first schools, Quincy Academy.

Also of note is Col. Samuel Henderson. He was a Revolutionary War hero and an early settler of Boonesboro with Daniel Boone. He helped to rescue Boone's daughter as well as his own future wife, Elizabeth Calloway, from the Indians. Henderson's son, Pleasant Henderson (death circa 1837), who died when lightning struck his house, was the first circuit court clerk of McMinnville.

Other early community leaders buried in the Old City Cemetery: Col. Samuel James Powell Thompson, a lawyer who bought the first lot in the center of the new community and built ornate brick buildings facing High Street. Landon A. Kincannon, who established the first bank, Kincannon's Bank, around 1825. William "Buck" White, who also opened a bank, owned a store, was

postmaster in 1828, and opened his home to orphan boys and girls.

Preservation of monuments, such as those at McMinnville's Old City Cemetery, will be the focus of a 2022 Spring Cemetery Workshop on April 9 organized by Warren County Genealogical and Historical Association. The workshop, presented by MTSU Center for Historic

Preservation, will consist of a morning session from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Early Voting Room of the Warren County Administrative Offices Building on Locust Street and an afternoon session from 1 to 3 p.m. at Old City Cemetery.

Pre-registration is required to attend. Register by email to wgha.tn@gmail.com or by calling 931-474-4227.



Giving new life to tombstones

Volunteers help preserve cemetery

by LISA HOBBS
Special to the Southern Standard
McMinerVA, Tenn

Backing preservationists "dig" into tombstone maintenance on Saturday.

"Today's weather will be perfect for clearing tombstones," said Dr. Stacy Graham, class instructor. "Never clear tombstones in freezing temperatures. That's lesson No. 1, which is why our original date for this session was cancelled."

Graham is the research professor for the Center of Historic Preservation at MTSU. She holds a Cemetery Preservation Workshop in McMinerVA on Saturday. In two parts, the two-hour morning session was educational, while the two-hour afternoon session was hands-on experience at McMinerVA City Cemetery on South High Street.

First, remove debris and

overgrowth and inspect the tombstone.

"Only clean stable tombstones," said Graham. "If it wiggles when you touch it, it will fall when you clean it."

Use approved cleaners only. Graham recommended D/2, a solution that kills biological growth. It safely removes dirt, soot, pollution, and biological discoloration from most masonry surfaces. Never use harsh cleaners, such as bleach, detergent, dish soap, or any other household cleaner. Definitely do not use a power washer.

Use approved clearing supplies only. Those include a soft plastic squeegee to remove loose debris, a bamboo pick for the inscription, and natural bristle brush to gently apply the D/2 solution. After a gentle scrub, rinse the tombstone with water.

Give the tombstone a

sprite of D/2 and leave it alone.

Before an after picture should be taken with the date and timestamp to document when the tombstone was cleaned. With D/2, cleaning once every 2-3 years is enough.

Among those in attendance was Ken Miller, his wife is Richard, his family is Rock Island and ancestors in Mud Creek State Cemetery.

"I am the Mud Creek Skilled Cemetery Association president," said Miller. "I want to learn about tombstone preservation and I'm interested in laws regarding cemeteries."

Miller questioned how to get descendants involved in protection and preservation of the cemetery.

"That's a cleanup day," said Graham. "That would be enough to get someone like me there, but not everyone. I would suggest focusing on interesting historical aspects of the cemetery. What notable people are buried there? Get the word out about those and that might get people's attention."

Tombstone laws protecting cemeteries were also touched on during the morning session.

"There's a balance between property owner rights and descendant rights when it comes to old family plots," said Graham. "Always get permission before going onto someone's property, but descendants have the right to visit their ancestors."

If an old family plot exists on the property, the landowner has obligations to protect the cemetery. They must allow descendants to visit the gravesite of an ancestor. With a judge's approval, the landowner may be permitted to move the cemetery. Property owners must remove and relocate the graves at their own expense. Relocation must be done with due care and decency.

Ken and Richard celebrated her birthday on Saturday.

"My daughter asked me what I wanted to do on my birthday and this is what I wanted to do," said Harwood, in attendance with daughters Joanne and Caroline.

"We have a family plot," said Joanne. "We have been



Joanna Harwood participates in a Cemetery Preservation Workshop on Saturday.



Lisa Earp uses care in scrubbing a small tombstone at McMinerVA City Cemetery on South High Street.

looking into cleaning it up and taking care of the tombstone, so this session was very helpful. I'm pretty confident we would have done a lot of damage, because we had no idea how to clean a tombstone."

Lee and Leslie Crabtree were divided in their team efforts, each taking a tombstone's side.

"We both like genealogy," said Rex. "This could be our future hobby, cleaning tombstones. We are enjoying it so far. The session was very educational."

Session members described the hands-on experience as therapeutic, rewarding, honoring the dead, and providing them a "Zan toiling" as they cleaned.

Warren County historian Krissy Hilly offered a history of the cemetery. It is the first cemetery established in McMinerVA, between 200 and 300 individuals are interred there. Because there are only 85 to 95 markers, an exact number is unknown.



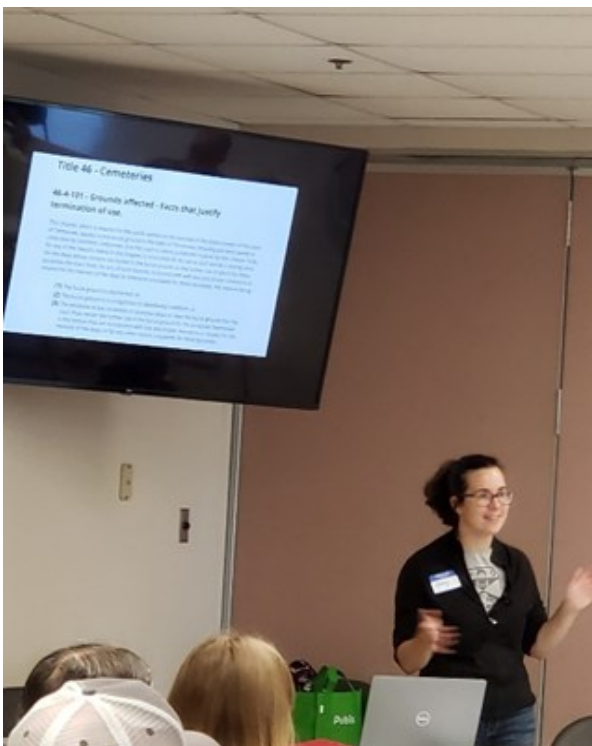
Rex Crabtree enjoys genealogy and says cleaning tombstones could become a future hobby.

2022 SPRING CEMETERY PRESERVATION WORKSHOP

We were excited to have a great turn out for the workshop on April 23rd. We had a good crowd for the presentations and the weather couldn't have been better for the afternoon hands on training.



Jimmy Haley, County Executive and Historian, talked about the history of Old City Cemetery, the citizens of Warren County who were buried there, and stories of these families and their lives in Warren County.



Dr. Stacey Graham, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, presented a very informative workshop on the basics of cemetery preservation:

- Tennessee cemetery laws
- Documentation
- Cleaning
- Do's and Don'ts

Tennessee Cemetery Laws

Cemeteries are protected under Tennessee state laws. Headstones are not required for a burial plot to be classified as a cemetery. Property owners cannot bulldoze, develop, or use cemeteries for commercial purposes. Property owners are required to disclose the location of cemeteries on their property (if known) when selling the property. Property owners are required to allow access to cemeteries to descendants. Descendants (or family members) are required to obtain permission and schedule a time before visiting a cemetery on private property. Be respectful and polite when requesting access to cemeteries. There are strict guidelines for moving graves in a cemetery. Perry Graham, Historic Preservation Specialist oversees The Tennessee Historic Cemetery Preservation Program. Their website offers a wealth of information on this topic.

<https://www.tn.gov/historicalcommission/state-programs/tennessee-historic-cemetery-preservation-program/>

Documentation

- Cemetery information can be found on www.findagrave.com, in deeds, property assessments, maps, and cemetery books or other historical documents.
- Record inscriptions



Cleaning

- Remove debris and overgrowth
- Only clean stable tombstones (leaning and/or stones that can be moved should be avoided).
- Use approved cleaning solution
- Use approved cleaning supplies



D/2 is recommended by National Cemeteries.

D/2 is a solution which kills biological growth.

A list of suppliers is provided by the manufacturer at www.d2bio.com

It is currently listed at www.walmart.com



A one- or two-gallon pump sprayer is a good way to carry water for cleaning. Small hand sprayers are useful for applying D-2. Use only natural bristle brushes (no plastic or metal). A 5-gallon bucket is useful for carrying your supplies. Use only flexible spatulas for cleaning lichen. Bamboo skewers are useful for cleaning small crevices. Nitrile gloves and safety glasses protect you.

Don't	Do
Clean, handle, or otherwise touch any marker that is not stable.	Specifically select markers that are solid, stable, and specifically in need of cleaning. Contact a professional to address stones that are in need of repair.
Use chemical cleaners or bleach. Also, don't use herbicides or pesticides near markers.	Use only cleaning solutions that specify that they are safe for use on tombstones, such as D/2.
Apply any kind of filler on the stone in order to read the inscriptions better. No shaving cream, no flour, no chalk, etc.	Take advantage of the foam created when scrubbing with D/2 and wipe it across the tombstone inscriptions. This is a safe and easy way to highlight the lettering.
Use any tools that will harm markers, such as wire brushes, plastic-bristle brushes, or anything that can scratch the stone.	Use natural bristle brushes with peanut shaped bodies, like those used for brushing horses.
Run lawnmowers close to markers. Don't even get close with a weed eater.	Use a nylon whip on a weed eater, or simply use hand clippers to keep the grass down around the marker.
Sandblast or pressure wash anything in a cemetery.	Use buckets, spray bottles, and pump sprayers to apply solution and water.
Clean markers within 24 hours of freezing temperature, or during very hot, sunny weather.	Reschedule cleaning activities when the weather isn't co-operating. Do what's best for the tombstones.
Clean with solution more than once every few years.	Keep good records on which markers were cleaned and when.

Restoration

Restoration often requires the expertise of a professional and should only be attempted after extensive research and planning. A good source for information can be found in the Video: Lifting and Hoisting Stone Grave markers from NCPTT (National Center for Preservation Technology and Training): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KK3DMn_Z-pY&list=PLwMEpGnotnAVQp5G4AH6w1fKo5mllGcrh&index=7&t=38s, which is included in MTSU Center for Historic Preservation "Resources for Cemeteries" playlist on the CHP YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=>

Our Community Team



Ben Lomand Connect was on hand to film the presentation and plans to air the workshop on their YouTube channel. We appreciate their support of our community.

The Southern Standard was also on hand for our workshop and hands-on training at the Old City Cemetery. Check our "In the News" Section for articles about the 2022 Spring Cemetery Workshop.

A big shout out to McMinnville Parks and Recreation for cleaning limbs and mowing in preparation for the workshop and providing a tank of water to be used by the volunteers.

Thanks to County Executive, Jimmy Haley, for taking the time to share his knowledge of the history of Old City Cemetery. A special thanks to our Workshop Committee: Marie and Earl Blair, Gail Woodlee, Mary Oaks, Evelyn Wade and all our members who pitched in to make the workshop a success!

And, most of all, thanks to Dr. Stacey Graham and her team from the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation for conducting the workshop!



Association Volunteers:

We logged 195 $\frac{1}{4}$ office volunteer hours and 20 $\frac{1}{4}$ committee volunteer hours in the month of April. Thanks to the following committees and volunteers for their hard work: Pioneer Families of Warren County, 2022 Spring Cemetery Workshop Committee, Board of Directors, Marie Blair, Gail Woodlee, Mary Oaks, Bonita Mangrum, Carolyn Lance, Bettye Pack, Cheryl Mingle, Brad Walker, Kathy Finn, Evelyn Wade, Allen Jaco, Douglas Woodlee, Barbara Bates, J. B. Brown, Wanda Gant, Glenda Stubblefield, Larry Boyd, and Ann Brown for their contributions.

Contributions to the Resource Library:

- 1963 & 1964 Eagle Annuals
- Baxter-Short-Miller-Gill & Related Families by Douglas Woodlee

Contributions to the Photo Archives:

- 1937-38 Centertown School (grade unknown, teacher Lula Chisam)
- 1948 Centertown Girls Basketball Cheerleaders
- 1937-38 Centertown School (second grade)
- Bernard School Building (no year)
- 1934 Smartt School students

The office volunteers are actively working on our school files and would love to have pictures (not newspaper clippings) of our older schools.

Pioneer Families of Warren County

Two certificates were approved and mailed to the following recipients:

-Certificate #119 mailed to Sheran Townsend McNatt for her ancestor, Elisha Pepper

-Certificate #120 was mailed to a family member which will be gifted as a Christmas surprise!

High Funeral Home

Scanning is ongoing for death records in the 1970's.

The ledger records for the 1st High Funeral Home 1889-1901 Ledger are now available.



Come Visit Us

**Our hours are
Monday & Friday
9 a.m.-3 p.m.
931-474-4227**

Email:

wcgha.tn@gmail.com

On the Web:

www.tngenweb.org/wcgha

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:

J. B. Brown



Circulation Manager:

Debra Wilcher McBride



Programs:

Douglas Woodlee



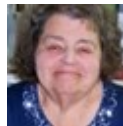
Web page/FB Admin:

Ann Brown



Research:

Bonita Mangrum

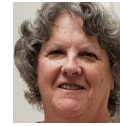


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