



WCGHA Newsletter

OCTOBER
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 October 15**

For the next WCGHA Meeting

**“Cardwell Mountain
and Native American
Burial Ground”**

**By Phil Hodge, Director , TN
Division of Archaeology**

We will meet in the Early Voting Room
located at the back of the Warren
County Administration building,
201 Locust Street

You will be required to sign in and ob-
serve social distancing.

No refreshments will be served.

Ann Brown, WCGHA President

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We have continued to enjoy our members and visitors who have stopped by to research, work on projects, or just to see what's going on! This is your Association and we want our members to enjoy the many resources here.

Contributions have continued to arrive and we are striving to work through those as well as maintain the normal office duties! We are working to find ways to share these items with our members. We hope everyone enjoyed seeing the display of "Bulldog Barker" newsletters from Central High School that were donated by Allen Jaco. They have been scanned and added to the Research Aids in the office.

It's hard to believe that we are in the final quarter of the year! We have some great programs lined up to close out the year, thanks to our VP, Douglas Woodlee. He has done a great job of getting a variety of programs for us!

Be sure to check out Mary Oak's interview with Bobby Bond. We hope you can help us identify the football players from the 1916 McMinnville High School Football Team. Thanks to Bobby Bond for sharing his grandmother's "Diploma of Honor" to be included in our School Files.

If you have an idea or would like to submit an article for our Newsletter, I know Susan would love to hear from you!

Hope to see you on October 15th!

Ann

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Oct 6th - Board of Directors Meeting

Oct 15th - Members Meeting

Program: Cardwell Mountain and Native American Burial Grounds, by Phil Hodge, Director, TN Division of Archaeology

Nov 10th - Board of Directors Meeting

Nov 19th—Members Meeting

Program—Tennessee Maneuvers by Woody McMillen, Public Relations Officer for the TN Military Collector's Association on TN Maneuvers with a special exhibit of World War II posters from the collection of Robert Norton

Nov 25th - Closed for Thanksgiving

Save the date!

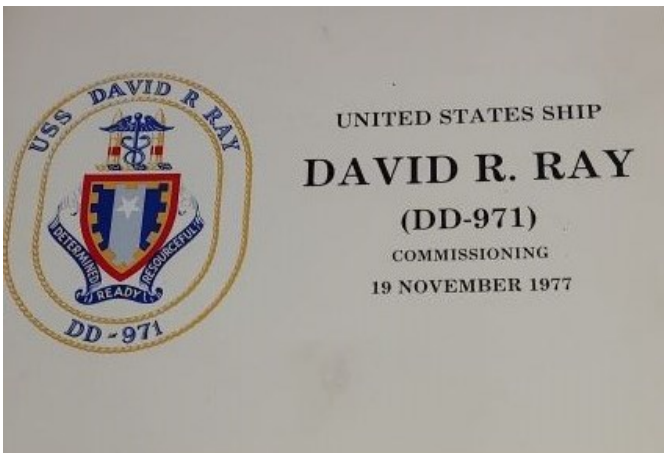
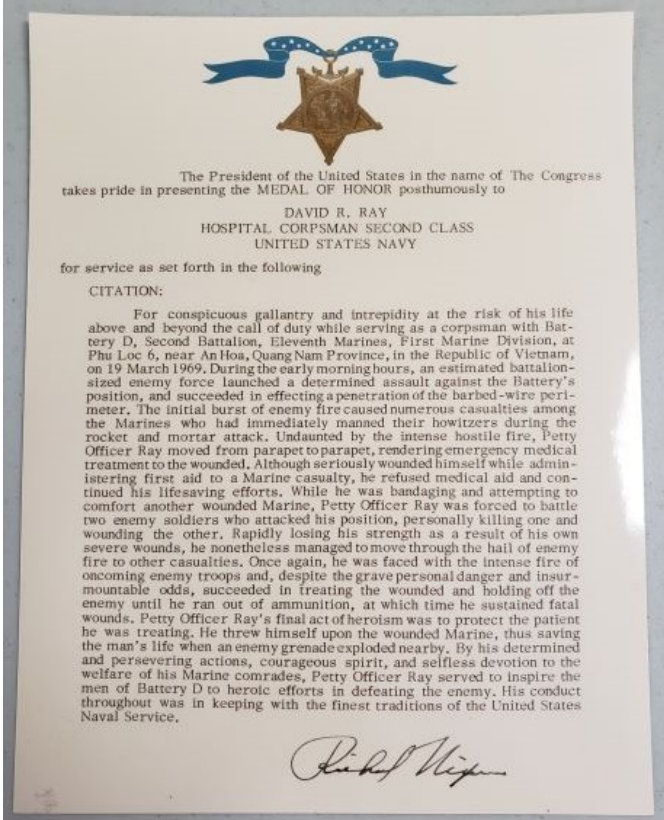
Dec 10th - Christmas Social 2-4 p.m.

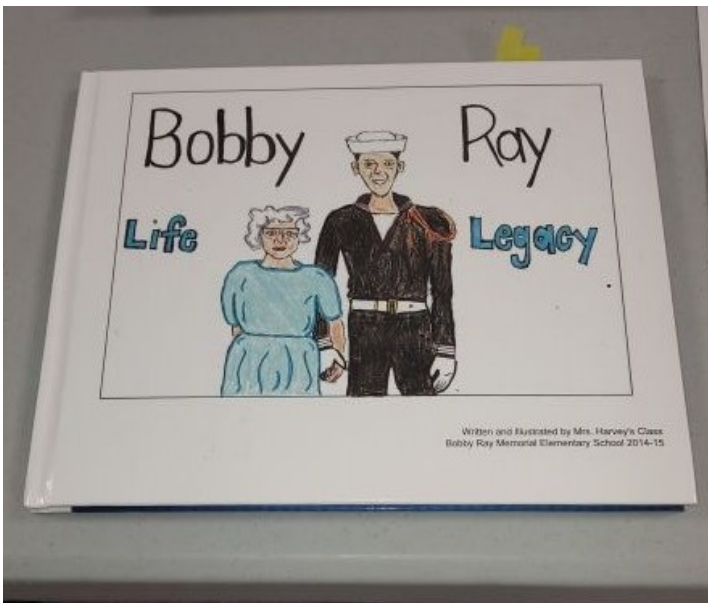
More details to come



Presentation by Marie Blair of Pioneer Certificate to Kent Starkey

Bobby Ray, Medal Of Honor Recipient By Mary Don Bixby





1916 McMinnville High School Football Team



Can you identify any of these members of the 1916 McMinnville High School Football Team? This photo was donated to the Association by Daniel Odell Gregory. It was given to him by the family of Tim Grandey (1957-2021), son of Phillip and Willodene Tuck Grandey.

“The Legend of Dixie” by Bobby Newby has several team pictures of these early years. According to the book, the first football team was established in 1910 and contains an early 1915 photo as well as several photos of later years.

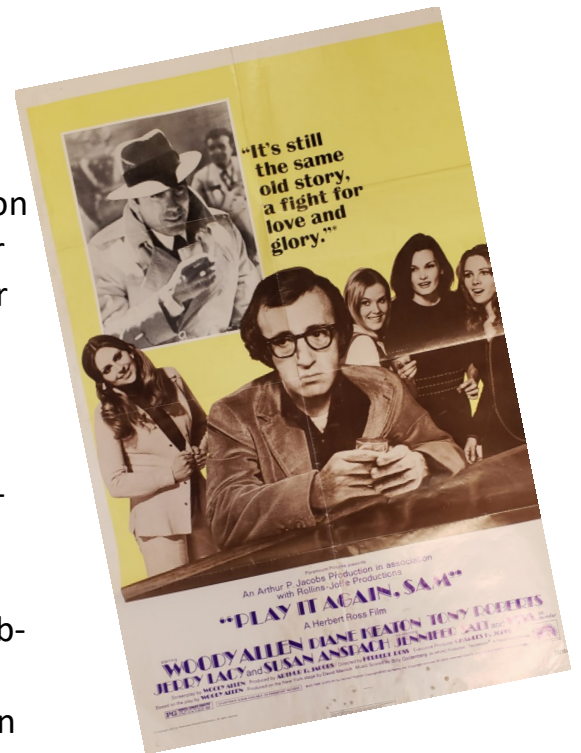
Memories of the Park Theater

by Mary Oaks

Bobby Bond's memories of the Park Theater are intertwined with his varied and interesting life. He grew up in the country and says he was an average student in school. Not exactly A's, but always hard working. He believes in working smarter not harder.

When he was sixteen years old he started working at the Park Theater in McMinnville at the concession counter, which he quickly organized, putting the butter next to the popcorn and the cups next to the drinks for faster service. His good friend Bobby Cunningham worked concession with him.

It wasn't long before he was trained to run the projector. Maintenance duties on the marquee included changing letters and light bulbs (which had to be checked to be sure they had brass bottoms not aluminum so they could withstand the weather). He and Bobby Cunningham performed clean up after the show. They had a large dust pan for scooping up spilt popcorn and, boys will be boys, stomping on empty cups to flatten them. For all this, he earned the grand sum of sixty cents an hour.



Bobby said they only sold high quality all beef hot dogs. Bobby remembered "Mr. Oldham always wore three piece suits and would come in and get himself a hot dog and smother it in mustard till you couldn't see the meat, then he would lean over the counter to keep mustard from running down his suit as he ate it."

Mr. Harry Preston was manager of the theater at that time. He is ninety-two years old and lives at the Webb House now. Bobby visits him occasionally. Bobby also mowed and did lawn work for both Mr. Oldham and Mr. Preston on Saturdays.

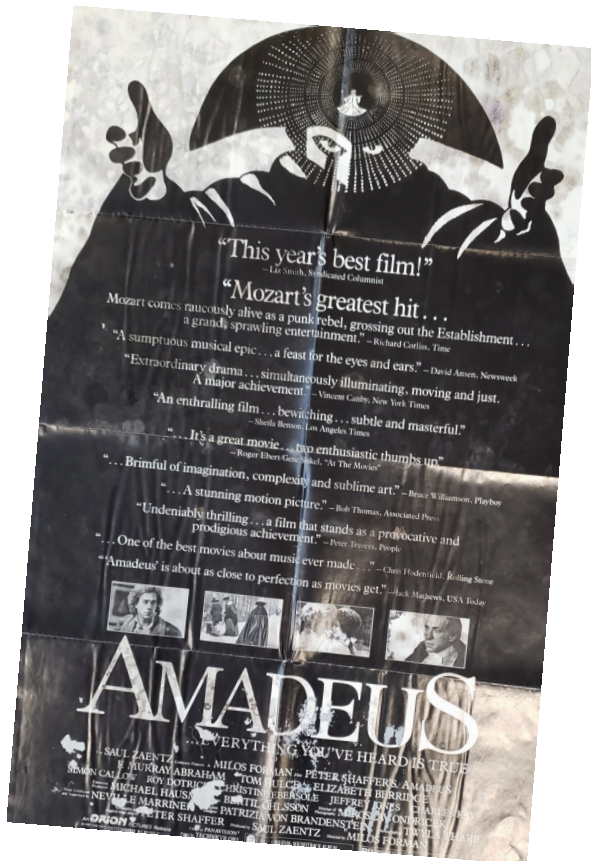
In those days, you could pay your way in with twelve Pepsi bottle caps and popcorn was ten cents a bag. Tickets were fifty cents for adults, twenty-five cents for blacks who were seated in the balcony. Bobby says these were the best seats in the house. Just below the balcony were raised seats where the “important people” liked to sit. He would hear them say how sad it was that those people had to sit in the balcony and he would think to himself “if you only knew, they got the better seats and for half the price.”

The movie screen or silver screen, as it was called, had small pin holes in it. They would stand behind it where they could not be seen looking through to see what the audience was doing. They had to watch for people bringing beer and liquor in. They would have to throw people out or call the police.

After two years, Bobby decided to try a semester of college but before he started his first class, he received his draft notice. The recruiting officer gave him a choice of Fort Benning, Georgia with the Army or the Great Lakes Naval Base in Chicago with the Navy. Bobby being a practical man and knowing winter was coming, decided to go south. He received cooking and baking training for two weeks and became a cook, which he enjoyed. When he was off duty he worked at a restaurant part time in La Grange, Ga. After two years in the Army he returned to theater work in La Grange running the projector.



Back in McMinnville, Bobby spent several years at the Park Theater, as well as managing the theater in Tullahoma. From Bobby's perspective, the Park was more family-friendly oriented. Both theaters in the summer ran “Summer Show Time” for six to eight weeks for children with little or no charge. Usually a local organization would buy the tickets and the theater would make their money on concessions. These shows were cartoons and family-friendly movies geared for children. Prices went up at the Park when Gone With The Wind came out. Bobby says some of his favorite movies were the Elvis movies.



Bobby still has a few posters from his days at the Park, but has recently donated some of his memorabilia, including a set of cuff links and tie clip engraved with Mr. Oldham’s initials and other items to the Park Theater.

Bobby has worked a variety of jobs over his life, although he doesn’t consider it work, he enjoys what he does. Besides the Park, the La-Grange and the theater in Tullahoma, he has sold insurance, worked for Orkin Pest control, sold Town Craft Cookware, which he swears is the best. He’s still using his original set he started with. He even had a furniture store. He is a go-getter, never without something in the works but always willing to help where he can.

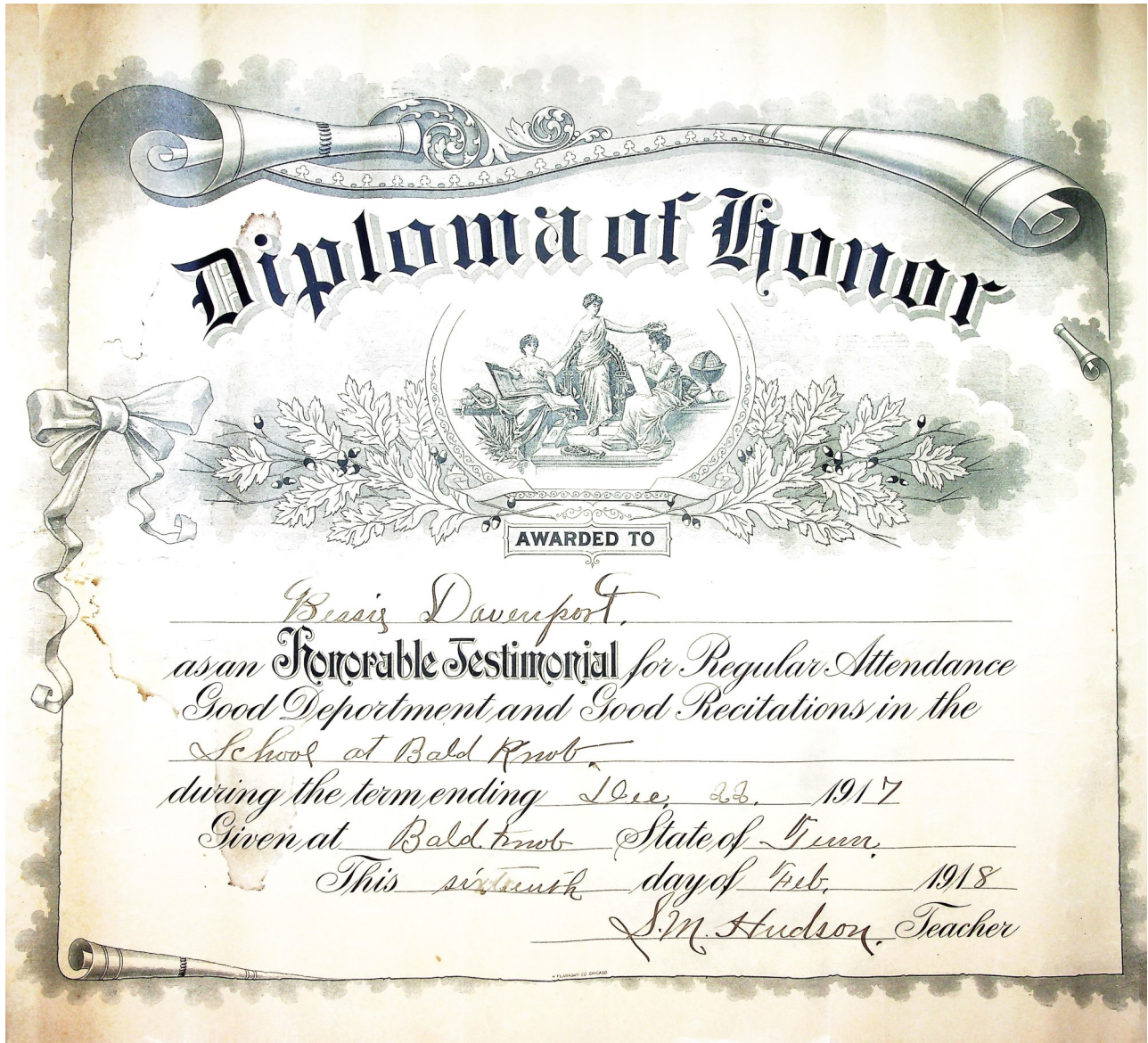
On a personal note, one of his fondest memories is attending Vacation Bible School in Chattanooga every summer with his sister. He found a good local church and on September 28, 1953 was saved. During this interview, Bobby repeated himself several times. This is what he said, “I have had the best of country and the best of city; I Have Been Blessed.”

The Park Theater was once a thriving theater in downtown McMinnville. Built in 1939, by Cowan Oldham, it held 1,000 people, with one screen. Shut down in 1986, the building has been renovated to be a live entertainment center, and multi-use facility. The Theater is located on Main St.



Photo from <https://www.facebook.com/theparktheater/> photos

1917 Bald Knob Diploma of Honor



Bobby Bond stopped by the office with a copy of his Grandmother, Bessie Davenport's, Diploma of Honor to add to our school files. What a unique piece of history!

Bessie Agnes Davenport was born July 18, 1899. She was the daughter of Joseph Armstrong Davenport (1872-1953) and Laura Frances America Pope Davenport (1866-1955). She married John Herbert Bond on August 25th, 1918.

Office News

Our volunteers have been busy: Office: 238.25; Committee: 30; Individual: 5 for a total of 273.25 hours worked this month! You will notice the addition of individual hours this month. These are hours that are worked on projects at home by our members. We had gotten away from tracking these hours during Covid but we will try to resume in October.

Our office volunteers this month were: Marie Blair, Bettye Pack, Carolyn Lance, Cheryl Mingle, Allen Jaco, Gail Woodlee, Mary Don Bixby, Earl Blair, Bobby Bond, Bonita Mangrum, Evelyn Wade,

Research

Our visitors this month were:

Gratia Strother, Cottontown, TN researching Swann, Morris, Edwards & Brixey

Jimmy King, Manchester, TN researching yearbooks

Rachel Killebrew, McMinnville, TN researching Elkins

Kent & Gina Starkey, McMinnville, TN researching Sam McBride

Earl Blair, Smithville, TN researching Blair

Contributions

In Memory of Martha Holt


\$25.00 Christine Bouldin

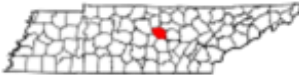
\$25.00 J.B. and Ann Brown

Annuals: 1939 Southerner, 1962 Eagle, 1970 Southside, 1979 Jr Pioneers, 1998 Bobby Ray Elementary, 1990 North Raiders, and 2001 WCMS Pioneers	Resource Library	Heritage Alliance
The Story of the Daniel Haston Family	Resource Library	Douglas Woodlee
Crim Family Documents	Family Files	Livy I. Simpson
Silver and Gold Band, ca 1920-1924	Photo Archives	Rachel Killebrew
Elkins Family Bible and Photos	WCGHA & Photo Archives	Linda Woods
Wheeler Family Photos and Genealogy	Photo Archives	Kitty Anderson
Miscellaneous newspapers	To be reviewed	Bobby Bond

Cannon & DeKalb Counties from our Resource Library

Did you know that our Resource Library has many items from other counties in Tennessee? This month we are sharing a list of our resources from Cannon and DeKalb counties, both of which were formed from Warren County, so many ties exist with these counties.

CANNON COUNTY	
1840 Census Cannon County, Tennessee	
1850 Census Cannon County, Tennessee	
Federal Census 1840 Cannon County, Tennessee	
Population Schedule of U. S. Census for 1860 Cannon County, Tennessee	
1870 Cannon County, Tennessee Federal Census	
1930 Cannon County Tennessee Federal Census	
Abstract of Cannon County, Tennessee Will Book Vol A (1836-1895) based on the WPA	
Cannon County, Tennessee Marriage Records (1838-1873)	
Cannon County, Tennessee Marriage Records (1838-1899)	
Our Loved Ones, Vol I A Listing of Tombstones and Unmarked Grave in Cannon County	
Our Loved Ones, Vol II A Listing of Tombstones and Unmarked Grave in Cannon County	
Mechanicsville	

DEKALB COUNTY	
1840 Census Dekalb County TN	
1880 Census Dekalb County, TN	
Index to 1840 Census, Dekalb Co, TN	
U S Census of 1860 Dekalb Co, TN	
U S Census of 1880 Dekalb Co, TN	
U S Census of 1880 Dekalb Co, TN	
1930 U S Census of Dekalb Co, TN	
Wills Dekalb County Tennessee 1854-1900 Incomplete Book - No Index	
Dekalb County Administrator's Settlement Books	
Dekalb County, TN Marriages 1848-1880	
Dekalb County Cemeteries	
Dekalb County Cemeteries	
Whorton Springs Cemetery	
Dekalb County - Images of America	
A Bicentennial History of Dekalb County	
Early Virginia Settlers	
In a Place Called Watertown	
The Redmon and Turner Families of Dekalb County	
Under the Lake (also Putnam, Warren and White)	
World War II Veterans of Dekalb County	

Warren Co. Genealogical & Historical Association

201 Locust Street, McMinnville, TN 37110 – 931-474-4227 – wcgaha.tn@gmail.com

Web: www.tngenweb.org/wcga [www.facebook.com/Warren County Genealogical and Historical](https://www.facebook.com/WarrenCountyGenealogicalandHistorical)

Agenda for Members Meeting

October 15th, 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

OFFICERS

President: Ann Brown
Vice Pres: Douglas Woodlee
Secretary: Barbara Bates
Treasurer: J. B. Brown
Past Pres: Cheryl Mingle

COMMITTEES

Membership:
J. B. Brown

Circulation Manager:
Debra McBride

Programs:
Douglas Woodlee

Bulletin Editor:
Bob Bates

Newsletter Editor
Susan Driver

Webpage/Facebook Editor
Ann Brown

Publicity: Gail Woodlee

Research:
Bonita Mangrum
Mary Oaks

Office:
Evelyn Wade
Mary Oaks

Historian:
Chris Keathley

Refreshments:
Christine Bouldin

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership –	J. B. Brown
Circulation –	Debra McBride
Programs –	Douglas Woodlee
Publicity –	Gail Woodlee
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 – (no activity)
Cemeteries of Warren County – (no activity)
High Funeral Home Records – J.B. Brown

OLD BUSINESS

- 1905 Post Office Ledger
- Christmas "Come & Go"

NEW BUSINESS

- Monetary Donations
- Tables for Association
- Nominating Committee

OCTOBER 15TH PROGRAM

CARDWELL MOUNTAIN & NATIVE AMERICAN BURIAL GROUNDS

PHIL HODGE, TN DIVISION OF ARCHAEOLOGY

NOVEMBER MEETINGS

BOARD MEETING – THURSDAY, THE 10TH AT 10:00 P.M.

TOWN TALK, WEDNESDAY, THE 16TH AT 8:00 A.M.

MEMBERS MEETING – SATURDAY, THE 19TH AT 2:00 P.M.



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



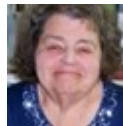
Web page/FB Admin:

Ann Brown



Research:

Bonita Mangrum

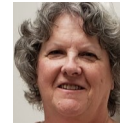


Mary Oaks



Newsletter Editor:

Susan Driver



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931-314-6959

Bulletin:

Bob Bates



Refreshments:

Christine Bouldin



Office:

Evelyn Wade



Mary Oaks



Historian/Publicity:

Chris Keathley/Gail Woodlee