



# WCGHA Newsletter

JANUARY  
2023

201 LOCUST ST., MCMINNVILLE, TN 37110



President

Ann Brown



Vice President

Mary Don Bixby



Secretary

Barbara Bates



Treasurer

J.B. Brown



Past President

Cheryl W. Mingle

**Come Join Us  
on January 21**  
**For the next WCGHA Meeting**

**“Show and Tell”**  
**Please bring your historical  
treasures to share**

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

Hello 2023!

It's time to make plans for the new year! Have you made a list of genealogy goals that you want to accomplish in 2023? Did you make a list for 2022? If so, how did you do?

The 2022 Fall & Winter Bulletin has been mailed. We apologize for the delay but hope that you will enjoy the articles. The Sedberry Hotel, Fairview School, Boyd Nursery and the John Armstrong Family provide some unique and interesting insights to the history of Warren County. Be sure to stop by the office and enjoy researching on our table from the Sedberry Hotel.

Welcome our new Vice-President Mary Don Bixby to our Board of Directors. I am grateful for all of our team and their contributions to our Association as well as all those who contribute their time and money to our success.

Wishing all our members a safe, healthy and prosperous year in 2023!

Ann

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Jan 12th—Board of Directors Meeting

Jan 18th—Town Talk on WBMC

Jan 21st—Show & Tell

Feb 9th—Board of Directors Meeting

Feb 18th—Members Meeting

Mar 9th—Board of Directors Meeting

Mar 18th—Members Meeting

Apr 6th—Board of Directors Meeting

Apr 15th—Members Meeting

May 11th—Board of Directors Meeting

May 20th—Members Meeting

Jun 8th—Board of Directors Meeting

Jun 17th—Members Meeting

Jul 6th—Board of Directors Meeting

Jul 15th—Members Meeting

Aug 10th—Board of Directors Meeting

Aug 19th—Members Meeting

Sep 7th—Board of Directors Meeting

Sep 16th—Members Meeting

Oct 12th—Board of Directors Meeting

Oct 21st—Members Meeting

Nov 9th—Board of Directors Meeting

Nov 18th—Members Meeting

December—No Meetings

Welcome to our new members:

David E. Martin of Whites Creek, TN

Kerry and Terry Mullican of McMinnville, TN

**Don't forget!**

***Membership Renewal deadline is February 28th!***



# WCGHA Christmas 2022



## RECAP OF 2022

For those who missed the Christmas gathering.....

### LOCAL HISTORY QUIZ

(answers will be published in next newsletter)

1. How much was paid for Lot 1 in McMinnville in 1811?  
A. \$310.00    B. \$975.00    C. \$160.00
2. As of 1881, where was the strongest sulfur water in the state? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What school was built and opened in 1924 and closed in 1966? \_\_\_\_\_
4. There was a school operating in 1913 near Irving College called \_\_\_\_\_ Bottom.
5. Who was the first postmaster in McMinnville? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Modern banking began in McMinnville in \_\_\_\_\_ and reorganized as \_\_\_\_\_ in 1905.
7. Washington Brittain was elected \_\_\_\_\_ in 1859.
8. How many distilleries operated in Warren Co. in 1890? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What is the oldest civic club and when was it organized?  
A. 1918    b. 1921    c. 1929
10. In 1883 the first \_\_\_\_\_ were installed in McMinnville.

JANUARY - SHOW & TELL

FEBRUARY - BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM TOUR

MARCH - WAYNE WOLFORD/MICKEY GWYN, "BLACK CEMETERIES IN WARREN COUNTY"

APRIL - DAVID STOUT, "HISTORY OF CAST IRON"

MAY - ANN BROWN, "LET'S TALK ABOUT THE 1950 CENSUS"

JUNE - WAYNE HASTON, "DANIEL HASTON, REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOT"

JULY - SHOW & TELL

AUGUST - CHUCK SHERRILL, "TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES"

SEPTEMBER - MARY DON BIXBY, "BOBBY RAY, MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT"

OCTOBER - PHIL HODGE, "CARDWELL MOUNTAIN AND NATIVE AMERICAN BURIEL GROUND"

NOVEMBER - WOODY MCMILLEN, "TENNESSEE MANEUVERS"

DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS "COME & GO" HOSTED BY MARY DON BIXBY



# AEDC researches on-base historic cemeteries

*Courtesy of Christine Bouldin from the "Manchester Times"*



## BRADLEY HICKS

**A**RNOLD AIR FORCE BASE, Tenn. – Much mystery surrounds the eight cemeteries contained within the 40,000 sprawling acres of Arnold Air Force Base.

For years, natural and cultural resources personnel at Arnold were left with the same questions concerning these graveyards:

“How old are they?”

“How many are interred within each?”

“Are there any unmarked plots?”

The search for answers began in early October with the initiation of a comprehensive cemetery survey.

Through this undertaking, a complete inventory of the cemeteries

will be compiled. This will assist Arnold team members in the management, monitoring and preservation of the sites.

The cemeteries located on Arnold Air Force Base are: Anderson Cemetery, Chapel Hill Cemetery, Elder-Fagg Cemetery, Fieldstone Cemetery, Hickerson Cemetery, Huffar Cemetery, Price-Essmann Cemetery and Rutherford-ShIPLEY Cemetery.

Information recorded at each of the cemeteries includes the number of graves, details present on the tombstones, and the conformation of individual gravesites and styles of tombstones. Additionally, an analysis of the condition of each gravesite and cemetery, as well as notation of any vandalism, erosion and other damage

or changes, was included in the survey.

The arrangement of gravesites in each of the cemeteries was also mapped as part of the effort.

Prior to the survey, Arnold personnel possessed a limited knowledge of the burial grounds, aware only of their locations and the rough dimensions of each.

“We’ve had archaeological projects in the past that have done the documentation showing the cemeteries are here and sort of a general size and that type of thing, but it’s all been very general and not a lot of specific information is known,” said base archaeologist Shawn Chapman.

Staff from WSP, an engineering, management and consulting company commissioned by Arnold



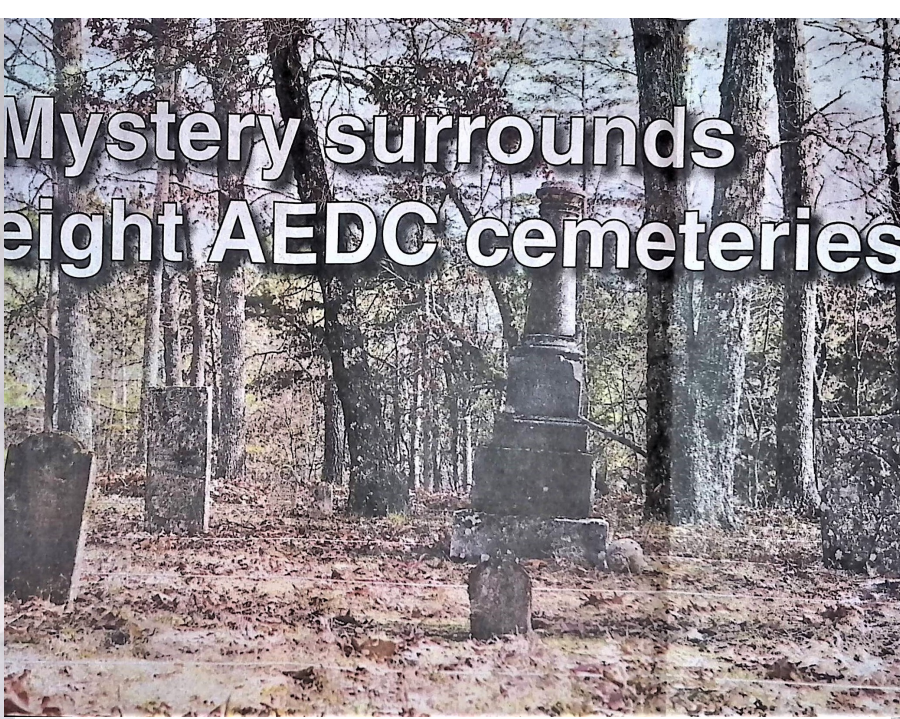
to complete the survey, conducted fieldwork in each of the cemeteries, documenting information through both narrative and photographic means. This was not the first survey foray for WSP at Arnold. In fact, one of the cemeteries located on Arnold property was discovered in the late 2000s during work performed by the firm.

Along with gathering information on the number of gravesites and the particulars of each, WSP personnel also explored each cemetery to locate potential unmarked graves.

To unearth this information, WSP personnel utilized both an electric resistivity meter and ground-penetrating radar, or GPR. The resistivity meter consists of probes inserted into the ground. During the meticulous survey, rows of each cemetery were probed at intervals of only a few inches. Electricity emanates from these probes and flows through the ground. The meter measures the electrical resistance of the soil, mapping the flow patterns it detects. Data collected can further be used to produce a grayscale map depicting what lies beneath the surface of the cemeteries.

This work was followed by the GPR examination. Resembling a lawnmower, this device was pushed across each graveyard, emitting radar pulses along the way. The device detects objects underneath the surface by measuring how long it takes for the transmitted pulses to "bounce" back to the GPR. Use of these tools allows archaeologists to see under the ground

# Mystery surrounds eight AEDC cemeteries



without having to dig or disturb the graves.

Steve Martin, a WSP archaeologist who specializes in geophysics, said each of these nondestructive methods displays different characteristics, adding a multi-technique approach ensures a more thorough analysis of each cemetery.

"It's kind of looking at it with different lenses, and sometimes things will show really well in one and not show up well in another set of data," he said.

The data collected through these techniques will not only be compared and contrasted but also used for validation if both detect the same peculiarity.

"If both techniques show the same anomaly, then there's likely something there," Martin said. "If one technique shows something that the other doesn't, often you can figure out why or what's going on there. The more data, the better."

The information-gathering portion of the project was set to be finished by the end of November. With their fieldwork complete, WSP staff will now take the data and documentation amassed and begin producing a broad report to serve as a complete inventory of the gravesites, including any unmarked graves found, in the eight cemeteries located within the boundaries of Arnold AFB.

Once complete, this report will be shared with Arnold personnel, providing them with an accurate gravesite database to bolster future cemetery management and maintenance. The findings will also be

shared with the public.

"When we have that report, it will also have a good sort of public outreach benefit, as well, from the project for local historical societies and genealogical societies," Chapman said.

Chapman said the completion of the cemetery survey ensures Arnold is in compliance with local, state and federal laws.

"As part of being caretakers of the 40,000 acres, there are a lot of requirements that fall outside of that strict research and testing mission," Chapman said. "We're also responsible for caretaking of the property and everything that is on it which involves all of the natural resources and cultural resources. This is part of our stewardship of doing that."

Dr. Amy Turner, National Environmental Policy Act, natural and cultural resources planner at Arnold, added that not only is the base meeting its regulatory responsibility through the gravesite inventory, but the effort will also aid in the preservation of cultural and historic resources. She said the project will prevent the sites from being impacted by the work that goes on at Arnold, assuring the descendants of those buried within that these artifacts of family history will remain protected for generations to come.

In that regard, Turner said surveying the cemeteries was simply the right thing to do.

"The gravesites that WSP potentially identified that we didn't know were here before the survey, that's an opportunity to ensure that we don't impact them in the future," she said.



## Can You Identify These Teachers from City Grammar School?



As we continue to build on photo archives from Warren County schools, we collect photos without names. Evidently this photo had names on the back but we do not have a copy of the names. Can you help us identify these teachers?

If you have school photos that you don't want to part with, we can scan them and add to our photo archives so they can be preserved for others who might be researching.



## The Sedberry Table is Ready for Researchers!



During the holiday break, we were able to get the protective top placed on the Sedberry Table and castors installed so that the table can be moved if necessary.

The glass top was generously donated by Gail Woodlee  
In Memory of Robert Maloney & Edna Mayes Woodlee  
and

In Honor of Marie and Earl Blair

The table was generously donated by Chris Keathley

The WCGHA is grateful to Chris and Gail for their support and excited to have such an historical addition to our Association office!



## Office News

Thanks to Evelyn Wade, Bonita Mangrum, Mary Oaks, Carolyn Lance, Allen Jaco, Ann & J. B. Brown for the hours that they dedicate to keeping the Association Office staffed! They took a much needed vacation the last couple of weeks of the year but everyone is back in the office and excited to see what 2023 brings! Office: 104.75; Committee: 5; for a total of 109.75 hours worked this month!

## Research

Barbara Holland from TX researching Whitlock and Derryberry.

## Contributions

1961, 1962 Southerner (Central High School)	Resource Library	Bobby Bond
Postcards: Courthouse (2), McMinnville High School (Blue Bldg), New Post Office, Main Street (showing Center Theater and Brown Hotel), and Magness Library	Photo Archives	Livy I. Simpson

To the Resource Library Fund:

In Memory Of  
Louise Jernigan

Donated by Gail Woodlee

\$50.00

## Pioneer Families of Warren County

The committee was honored to be able to process a Pioneer Certificate requested by Wanda Crouch Walker to be awarded to her son posthumously.

Certificate #131 was awarded Clinton Thomas Walker for his ancestor Richard Crouch!





## **Come Visit Us**

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

**Email:**  
[wcgha.tn@gmail.com](mailto:wcgha.tn@gmail.com)

**On the Web:**  
[www.tngenweb.org/wcgha](http://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***



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### **Historian:**

***Chris Keathley***



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### **Programs:**

***Mary Don Bixby***



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### **Web page/FB Admin:**



***Ann Brown***

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### **Research:**

***Bonita Mangrum***

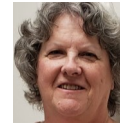


***Mary Oaks***



### **Newsletter Editor:**

***Susan Driver***



[susandriver801@gmail.com](mailto:susandriver801@gmail.com)

931-314-6959

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### **Bulletin:**

***Ann Brown***



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### **Publicity:**

***Gail Woodlee***



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### **Office:**

***Evelyn Wade***



***Mary Oaks***

