

WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION



Newsletter



November- December 2017

201 Locust Street

McMinnville, Tennessee



2017 OFFICERS

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Vice Pres: Rachel Scott Hillis
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Membership Dues...

Your WCGA membership dues for calendar year 2018 are due January 1, 2018.

Annual dues are \$25 per calendar year for members within the 50 states. Foreign membership is \$30 per year.

Please make your checks payable to the Warren County Genealogical Association and can be brought to our next meeting or mailed to WCGA, P.O. Box 411, McMinnville, TN 37111

*Don't Miss Next Month's Meeting of the
Warren County Genealogical Association*

SHOW & TELL

Saturday, January 20, 2:00 p.m.
201 Locust Street, McMinnville, TN
Located in the rear of the
Warren County Administration Building

Curtis's Skillet Rock

November's trip was to tour a site on 53 Mountain Top Lane in McMinnville owned by Avery and Teresa Curtis, but due to the weather we discussed the following information at the WCGA office and plan to visit the site at a future date.

The site was discovered by Mr. Avery Curtis, the land owner who was wanting more information about the site and the "skillet rock" he found there when a tree was removed from the flat sandstone area.

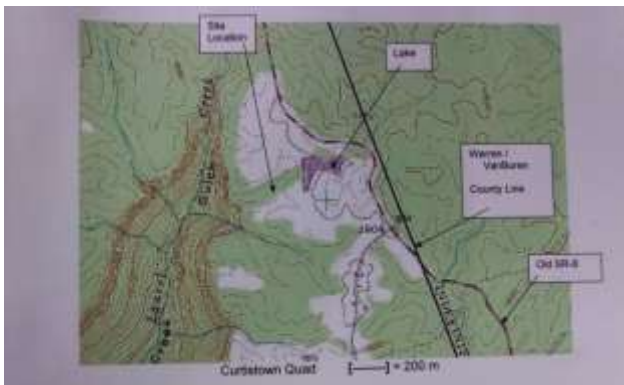
Listed below is the report by the site reporter Don Merritt, TN-NRCS, 13 July 2009, Archeology Specialist (USDA NRCS.) Natural Resources Conservation Service. The National Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources.



Sandstone Outcropping, View to West

Site 40 Warren

Landowner: Avery Curtis, 53 Mountain Top Lane, McMinnville, TN 37110



Directions: Site is about 200 meters southeast of the lake dam behind Mr. Curtis' house in Warren Co. Tennessee.

Setting, landform, and distance/direction to water: The site is exposed sandstone outcropping on the top of the eastern edge of the Laurel Creek Gulch. Several springs originate in the small lake. Overflow from the lake follows the original steam flow area just beside the outcropping and water is still heard flowing down into the Gulch. Several other headwater streams have formed in this area feeding Laurel Creek.

Survey purpose, methods, and limitations in determining site boundary: The site was discovered by the land owner who was wanting more information about the site and the

"skillet rock" he found there when a tree was removed from the flat sandstone area.

Past and anticipated disturbance: A tree was removed from the outcropping, and some digging had been done in the small sandstone overhang below the western edge of the outcropping.



Bedrock Mortar, Trowel points North

Cultural affiliation, site type, date range, features, artifact summary: The original question that the landowner had was, "What is the skillet rock he had found there?" The round pit feature found in the sandstone was a typical bedrock mortar hole like other similar ones found on the Cumberland Plateau. There were many flakes scattered over the sandstone outcropping and in the diggings soil from under the overhang. The land owner had found several points and tools in the area. These were mostly Archaic period pieces. The bedrock mortar did have a single ramp-type extension coming out of the north side of the mortar, which when viewed in plane did resemble a skillet handle. The shelter area was small and mostly filled with soil. Over the years some flint tools have probably been removed from the site area. One pestle type stone was observed in the back dirt from the overhang diggings.



Relationship to nearby site: *While there is no known relationship to any other known sites in the area, there probably are more of these bedrock mortars in the area in similar settings as this one, but they have not been found or recorded yet.*

Location of additional information: *The landowner and previous visitors are probably the main sources.*

Repositories: *14 Digital photos by Merritt*

Report: *The site form*

Site reporter: *Don Merritt, TN-NRCS, 13 July 2009*



Bedrock mortar is a set of manmade circular depressions in a rock outcrop or naturally occurring slab, used by early peoples of grinding of grain, acorns or other food products. There are often a cluster of a considerable number of such holes in proximity indicating women gathered in teams to conduct food grinding in prehistoric cultures.

Correspondingly the alternative name *gossip stone* is sometimes applied, indicating the social context of the food grinding activity. Typical dimensions of the circular indentations are approximately 12 centimeters in diameter by 10 centimeters deep, although a considerable range of depths of the cavities have been documented. The bedrock mortar has been identified in a number of world regions, but had been particularly intensely documented in the Americas. An alternative term for the bedrock mortar site is *bedrock milling station*. Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

Don's job is to survey areas to be impacted by new NRCS projects for evidence of prehistoric or historic sites that would be destroyed through construction activities. From the 1940's through the 70's, the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Army Corps of Engineers constructed large reservoirs which permanently flooded many sites. While some of the information was salvaged, much of the evidence of earlier, unknown cultures was lost. The prehistoric sites and artifacts at these sites are now irretrievable and the long-ago people who made them may forever be a mystery.

In an effort to prevent such losses to our country's historic heritage, state and federal agencies have been working with the National Register of Historic Places, evaluating proposed construction sites for evidence of cultural resources that should be investigated before groundbreaking begins. Don is one of those charged with the site and archival research necessary to survey an 'Area of Potential Effect' for the likelihood of cultural resources being present and reports his findings to the State Cultural Resource Coordinator. Don says most of the sites he surveys are the small prehistoric campsites in which he often finds traces of the previous occupations including campsites and

villages, lithic scatters (chips of the flint often used for arrowheads and other weapons), stone tools and, from later cultures, shards of ceramics. Some of what is found in these small campsites is evidence of prehistoric trade patterns, e.g., copper from the Michigan was traded for shells from the Gulf Coast.

Don's interest in archaeology started in junior high school when a teacher sponsored an archaeology club and then, later in college, he took a summer job digging with University of Tennessee students for the TVA's dam on the Duck River at Normandy. Back in college at Middle Tennessee State University, he could only minor in Anthropology because there were so few courses available. He then obtained a Masters degree from Florida State University and did post graduate work in Archaeology at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Since then, Don has worked for several public agencies and corporations in Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri.

Don's involvement with NRCS began as a consultant when federal agencies had no cultural resources officer and needed assistance with site surveys and training. When he heard about the ACES Program, he applied and has been providing archaeological assistance to NRCS on a full time basis ever since, thus demonstrating the surprising breadth of the agency's conservation efforts on behalf of the American people. Don says, "Since the Native Americans were the first farmers on our land, we need to preserve any information remaining about their contribution to our modern lives." Source: NOWCC Enrollee Spotlight



If you want to try cooking with acorn flour, Here's a recipe Acorn Bread

*2 cups of milk
2 tablespoons oil or butter
2 teaspoons salt
2 tablespoons dry yeast
4 2/3 cups acorn flour (see below)
1/3 cup honey
1/3 cup lukewarm water*

*To make Acorn flour:
Use white, burr, or chestnut, oak acorns collected in the fall when ripe. Remove shells Boil acorns for two - two and a half hours, changing the water each time it turns brown. Remove from water and layers on a sheet pan and roast for one hour then chop finely and grind in a flour grinder or processor. Dry again in oven for one half hour then put through the grinder again at least twice more until very smooth.*

Scald the milk then stir in oil or butter, honey, and salt. Pour into a large bowl and let cool to lukewarm. Dissolve yeast in warm water then add to mixture and gradually stir in the acorn flour. Cover bowl and let rise for two hours in a warm place, then knead for ten minutes and roll out like a thick pastry. Roll the dough like a jelly roll and shape into two loaves. Place in buttered bread pans, cover and let rise for two hours. Bake for forty minutes at 375 degrees then remove and brush with melted butter. Serve warm.

Newly Elected WCGA Officers for 2018 will assume duties at the January WCGA Meeting

President Cheryl Watson Mingle

Vice President Marion Rhea Speaks

Secretary Donna Sullivan

Treasurer Allen Jaco

WCGA Committee Chairpersons

Membership Allen Jaco

Circulation Wilma Davenport

Programs Marion Speaks

Bulletin Chris Keathley

Newsletter Doyle Speaks

Publicity Ann Brown

Research Bonita Mangrum, Bobby Bond

Office Evelyn Wade, Martha Holt

Refreshments Christine Bouldin

Webpage Ann Brown



Before construction of Bonnie Blue



After construction of Bonnie Blue

W C G A Well Represented At Bonnie Blue Inn



Left to Right: Bonita Mangrum, John Mitchell, Donna Sullivan, Scarlett & Morris Griffith, Ann & JB Brown, Wilma Davenport & Thomas Mingle

Photos provided by Doyle Speaks



Janice & Larry Boyd



Ruth Ann Burris & Barbara Bates



John Mitchell & Donna Sullivan



Carolyn Lance



Bonita Mangrum



Scarlett & Morris Griffith



Thomas & Cheryl Mingle



Wilma Davenport



Doyle & Marion Speaks



Ann & JB Brown



Rebecca Merritt owner of Bonnie Blue

Memberships begin on 1 Jan of each year.
NOTICE 2018 Memberships dues will be \$25.



Allen & Barbara Jaco



**WCGA next Member meeting
Saturday, January 20th, 2 p.m.**



WCGA On The Radio



WCGA guest speakers were Avery Curtis and Cheryl Watson Mingle "Behind The Mike" radio show on November 16, 2017. Pictured: Curtis, Watson-Mingle and Kelly Marlowe, who is host for the AM radio in McMinnville.

30 Nov 2017 Membership

Complimentary Memberships (Receive Bulletins, at no fee)	3
Exchange Memberships (Swap of Bulletins, at no fee)	3
Honorary Life Memberships (Receive Bulletins, at no fee)	2
Renewed Memberships (A member in prior year - Full fee)	88
New Memberships	10
Total Memberships 30 Nov 2017	106

**Do You Have
CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS
who lived in WARREN
COUNTY before, during or
after the war?**

Submit your Civil War Soldier
for entry in our upcoming
Warren County Civil War Soldiers BOOK'S

You may obtain forms
on our Facebook Page or at the
Magness Library Genealogy Department.

WCGA is on Facebook!

Come visit us at:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Warren-County-Genealogical-Association/135126859883450>

We're also on the web, visit us at
www.tngenweb.org/wcgatn

Give a piece of Warren County History



The Courthouse, McMinnville, TN
(First in a series)

First Methodist Church, McMinnville, TN
(Second in a series)

The Birthing Tree, McMinnville, TN
(Third in a series)

Hebe, McMinnville, TN
(Forth in a series)

All four available for \$18 each at
Southern Museum
210 E. Main Street, McMinnville
Open Wed., Fri., Sat. 10:00 a.m.-4 p.m.
and
Warren Co. Genealogical Association Office
County Administrative Building
201 Locust St. Look for our sign at rear of building.

WCGA New Office Hours



Mondays 9:00-3:00 p.m.
Fridays 1:00-4:00 p.m

You are cordially invited to join . . .

Warren County Genealogical Association

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

WCGA web site: <http://tngenweb.org/wcgatn>

Membership is open to anyone interested in genealogical research in Warren and surrounding counties in Tennessee. We meet at 2:00 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month at the Warren County Administration building, 201 Locust Street, McMinnville, TN 37110. Members receive our WCGA BULLETIN published twice a year in May and November. Members with e-mail addresses also receive our informative monthly newsletter, which tells of our meetings past and future, projects your association is working on, participating events and other items of interest to our members.

Membership is on an annual basis (January-December). **Annual dues are \$25.00** for each calendar year in the 50 states, **foreign members \$30.00**. However, persons joining or renewing after the first publication in May will receive both issues of the WCGA BULLETIN.

Queries are accepted without limit and will be published in the WCGA BULLETIN. Queries from non-members will be used as space is available.

Pedigree charts and family genealogy articles with connections to Warren County, Tennessee are welcomed for publication in the WCGA BULLETIN and will also be kept in our Family Files in the office and made available for individual research.

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MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

(Please print)

Name _____
Address (1) _____
Address (2) _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail Address _____

Enclosed Dues for which Year _____ Family names you are researching:
 Pedigree chart _____
 Family Genealogy _____

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GIFT SUBSCRIPTION

(Please print)

I'd like to give a gift membership. My gift is for an:

_____ Individual _____ Institution*

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

_____ Please notify the recipient of my gift. _____ I prefer to remain anonymous.

*Please consider a gift membership to your local historical or genealogical society or to your school or public library.

Please mail this application with a check for your annual dues to the above address.