



WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

March 2019

201 Locust Street

McMinnville, Tennessee

WCGHA OFFICERS



President:
Cheryl W. Mingle



Vice President:
Marion Rhea Speaks



Secretary:
Donna Sullivan



Treasurer:
Allen Jaco



Past President:
Ann Brown

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

We're off to A Great Start

The Warren County Genealogical & Historical Association is off to another outstanding year. Our members continue to be involved with several activities such as:

- a. Donations of historical items and papers that have continued to grow;*
- b. A very active Cemetery Project committee who are busy gathering information on the 250-300 cemeteries in our area;*
- c. The Pioneer Families committee just completed their 85th certificate and look for completion of 100 in the near future;*
- d. Ann Brown, WCGHA member and Past President, has typed and indexed our Surname Registry and it is available to view at our office;*
- e. We have recently partnered with the Warren County Middle School History Club to offer a series of workshops on the county archives, Civil War research, Family research and Cemetery research; We are in the process of helping with a Genealogy workshop with the Bonner FCE group.*
- f. We have very informative and entertaining monthly meetings.*

If you're a member, we would like for you to become involved with our many activities. We're sure there are many talents you possess that would be helpful to our Association.

If you are not a member, we invite you to join our Association and become involved. Membership is only \$25 for a single member or \$35 for a couple sharing the same household.

Committees

Membership:

Allen Jaco



Circulation Manager:

Wilma Davenport



Programs:

Marion Rhea Speaks



Bulletin Editor:

Chris Keathley



Newsletter Editor:

Doyle Speaks



Web Page Editor & Publicity:

Ann Brown



Refreshments:

Christine Bouldin



WCGHA's office
is located at
201 Locust Street
McMinnville, Tennessee
in the basement of the
County Administrative
Building

Committees

Research:

Bonita Mangrum



Bobby Bond



Office:

Evelyn Wade



Wilma Davenport



Our next WCGHA meeting

Will be on March 16
2:00 p.m.

201 Locust Street
Located in the basement of the
County Administration Building
McMinnville, TN

Our guest speaker

**Warren County Native
Paul D. Matheny**

Will give a talk on

"The Trail of Tears"



Dr. David Ross
Youngwolf and Paul D.
Matheny are shown
standing by one of
David's Eagle carvings.
A lot of the information
Mr. Matheny will be
sharing came from
David's research.

Rachel Killebrew Salutes Carl Rowan



Rachel Killebrew, shown with some of her favorite books by author Carl T. Rowan, addressed an overflow crowd at the February meeting of the Warren County Genealogical & Historical Association.

Rachel presented an outstanding program on the life of Warren County native Carl Thomas Rowan who was born on August 11, 1925, in Ravenscroft, Tennessee. He was one of five children born to Thomas David and Johnnie B. Rowan and was raised in McMinnville, Tennessee.

The following story was written as a condensed version of a **“Summary by Rachel Killebrew of Carl Rowan”**. The complete summary will be published in the 2019 WCGHA Spring **Bulletin** that should be available in May.

Growing up in McMinnville, TN in the 30s and 40s presented many challenges to an African American. The racial divide was often forefront and it was difficult to accomplish many things that were taken for granted by many white folks. Access to the local library was one of those things. Thanks to several people who saw across the racial divide, they made sure Rowan had access to several great books.

Carl grew up on Congo Street in McMinnville in what was considered a poor neighborhood. As a youth he did many odd jobs, when available, was paid 10 cents an hour and was determined to get a good education to pull himself out of poverty.

He graduated as valedictorian of his class in 1942 from Bernard High School in McMinnville. In the fall of the same year, he moved to Nashville to live with his grandparents and enrolled at the Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State College in Nashville.

He served in the Navy during WWII and became one of the “first fifteen black Navy officers”.

After leaving the Navy, he earned his bachelor’s degree in mathematics at Oberlin College. He later received his master’s degree in journalism from the University of Minnesota.

In 1953 he was married to Vivien Louise Murphy, a public health nurse, and they had 3 children.

Rowan became one of the first black reporters employed by a major newspaper working for the Minneapolis Tribune.

He wrote what it was like to be black in the very racial south. He covered the Civil Rights Movement including the bus boycott in Montgomery, AL and the March on Selma. He was closely acquainted with Martin Luther King, Jr.

In 1961 he was appointed deputy assistant Secretary of State for public affairs in the administration of President John F. Kennedy and was appointed Ambassador to Finland from January 1963 to January 1964. He later became Director of the U.S. Information Agency under President Lyndon Johnson. In 1965 he resigned his position in government and began writing a national column for the Field Newspaper Service Syndicate and did three weekly radio commentaries for Westinghouse Broadcasting Company.

In his lifetime Carl Rowan was credited as author of several books. Some of his most popular were:

- *South of Freedom* (1952)
- *The Pitiful and the Proud* (1956)
- *Go South to Sorrow* (1957)
- *Wait till Next Year: The Life Story of Jackie Robinson* (1960)
- *Just Between Us Blacks* (1974)
- *Breaking Barriers: A Memoir* (1991)
- *Growing up Black: From The Slave Days to the Present - 25 African-Americans Reveal the Trials and Triumphs of Their Childhoods* (contributor, 1992)
- *Dream Makers, Dream Breakers: The World of Justice Thurgood Marshall* (1993)
- *The Coming Race War in America: A Wake-Up Call* (1996)



One of his unique achievements, and lasting one, is Project Excellence that he created in 1987. In conjunction with Freedom Forum, the organization has awarded more than \$79 million in scholarships to 3,050 local high school graduates throughout America.

One of Rachel Killebrew’s goals is to see a special Carl Rowan tribute case with memorabilia, books and photographs to honor him in the Magness Library.

Rachel Elkins Killebrew grew up on Main St. in McMinnville and graduated from City High School in McMinnville where she also enjoyed playing basketball. She received a bachelor’s degree in Math and German from Tennessee Tech. She acquired a MBA in Finance and Management from Rockhurst, a Jesuit College in Kansas City, MO. She worked for several years at the Kennedy Space Center on the Aero Space Saturn 5 program. She also played basketball with a team at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. She presently resides in McMinnville and is involved with many activities throughout the city.



J.B. Brown offered an impromptu training class on the new CZUR Scanner recently purchased by our association. Shown, l-r, are Jean Hobbs, Marion Rhea Speaks, J.B. Brown, Doyle Speaks and Allen Jaco. "This is awesome" was the general consensus of everyone. It is a step in the right direction to be able to scan books and documents and download to a computer, printer or a stand-alone storage device. Official training for office personnel and others will be scheduled later.



Ann Brown is all smiles as she shows a sample of a color print from the Canon Lazer Printer she recently installed at our office. J.B. Brown is shown doing a final check on the new CZUR Scanner he recently installed for the office.

Memories from 38 Years ago



WCGHA member and Circulation Manager Wilma Davenport recently shared her copy of the Southern Standard from May 25, 1981. The page was a story on the Centertown CIC (Community Improvement Club) of which she was a member. Her late husband Morris Davenport, photo at the bottom left, is shown purchasing a ticket to the fund-raising dinner scheduled to collect funds to aid the work of the American Cancer Society. Some of Wilma's recipes were included on this page. She is the lady in the bottom photo on the far right.

(These photos were produced with the new CZUR Scanner)

hour before serving. Top with favorite topping and serve.

LINDA LORANCE'S SFFTING BULL

1 small box Dream Whip
12 ooz. pecans
1/2 bag vanilla wafers
1 jar blackberry jelly

Spread blackberry jelly on wafer and put another wafer on top to form a cookie. Then take a pan of milk and put the cookies in it to soak. Don't let them get soggy but soft, and then turn other side over and do the same. Then take as follows for layers of dish:

1st layer—Dream Whip

WILMA DAVENPORT'S CHESS PIE

1 1/2 cups sugar
1 stick margarine
1 1/2 tablespoons vinegar

Stir and bring to boil. Set off and cool. Add to cooled mixture 3 eggs, beaten until thick and lemon colored. Add 1 teaspoon vanilla. Pour in 3-inch unbaked pie shell. Bake at 325 degrees for 30-35 minutes.

ORA HILLIS' APPLE POUND CAKE

1 1/2 cups corn oil
2 cups sugar
3 eggs

Lending A Hand

Even the younger members of the club get involved as Brent MacDougal and Gina Hillis lend assistance during the recent supper given on behalf of the Cancer Society.

3 cups sugar
6 eggs
3 cups cake flour, sifted
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 pint sour cream
1 teaspoon vanilla

Cream butter and sugar. Beat in an egg at a time. Add combined flour and salt alternately with sour cream and vanilla. Pour in a 10-inch greased tube pan or three loaf pans. Bake at 350° F. for about 1 hour or until tests done.

Story And Photos
By Pat Zechman

Aiding The Fight

Morris Davenport, left, purchases his ticket for the benefit meal from Centertown CIC President Ed Vinton during the fundraising effort on behalf of the Cancer Society.

Kitchen Crew

Forming just a part of the kitchen crew during the dinner are Centertown CIC members, from left, Ora Hillis, Irene Larance and Wilma Davenport. Members contributed their time, efforts and a great deal of food in support of the Cancer Society benefit supper.

TURN YOUR RADIO ON...



Once again the WCGHA appeared on WBMC radio 960 AM-FM McMinnville on February 14 as guests of "Talk Talk". Pictured, l-r are Marion Rhea Speaks, co-host Jason Hillis, Rachel Killebrew and co-host Kelly Marlow. "Town Talk" is broadcast Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Tune in on Thursday, March 14 at 8:30 a.m. when our organization will again be a guest on the show.

Always Great Refreshments



We always have great refreshments at our meetings and our February meeting was no exception. Barbara Bates and Jean Hobbs prepared the treats. On board for the March meeting are Carolyn Lance and Ann Brown.

Welcome New Members

(As of February 28, 2019)

Brian Kell

Rachel Elkins Killebrew

Bob Sherwood

Bettye Sherwood

Kenneth Stoner

Vickie Stoner

Mike Weatherspoon

Our Scanner Donors

As of February 28, 2019

We are humbled by the generosity of your gifts to help purchase our new CZUR Scanner. Those who have donated to date are:

Karen Anderson

J.B. Brown

Thomas Fisher

Allen Jaco

Darryl Norris

Josh Robertson

Doyle Speaks

Gail Woodlee

Members Agenda

March 16, 2019

2:00 p.m.

WCGHA Office

OFFICERS

President: Cheryl Watson Mingle
Vice Pres: Marion Rhea Speaks
Secretary: Donna Sullivan
Treasurer: Allen Jaco
Past Pres: Ann Brown

COMMITTEES

Membership:
Allen Jaco

Circulation Manager:
Wilma Davenport

Programs:
Marion Rhea Speaks

Bulletin Editor:
Chris Keathley

Newsletter Editor
Doyle Speaks

Webpage Editor
Ann Brown

Publicity:
Ann Brown

Research:
Bonita Mangrum
Bobby Bond

Office:
Evelyn Wade
Wilma Davenport

Refreshments
Christine Bouldin

- Call to Order – President Cheryl Watson Mingle
- Approval of Previous Members Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Report – Allen Jaco

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Membership – Allen Jaco
- Circulation – Wilma Davenport
- Programs – Marion Speaks
- Publicity – Ann Brown
- Research – Bonita Mangrum & Bobby Bond
- Office – Evelyn Wade & Wilma Davenport
- Bulletin – Chris Keathley
- Newsletter - Doyle Speaks
- Webpage - Ann Brown

OLD BUSINESS

- WCMS History Club Workshops
- Bonner FCE Genealogy Workshop

NEW BUSINESS

- Pioneer Family Awards

PROGRAM

***March 16 – Trail of Tears
by Paul Matheny***

WBMC Town Talk – March 14th at 8:30, Marion Speaks
Adjournment

Refreshments: Carolyn Lance – Ann Brown

Webpage: www.tngenweb.org/wcga

Email: wcgha.tn@gmail.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.

20—Southern Standard, McMinnville, Tennessee, Thursday, July 13, 1967

CAN YOU REMEMBER



... the year that Viola ceased to be the home of a four-year high school. Surviving members of this group, many of whom will be getting together to renew acquaintances and talk over old times on August 8, recall the year vividly. It was 1929, and they formed the four upper classes and high school faculty at Viola for the 1928-29 term.

The students and faculty, from left to right, are:

Front row—Brown Sain, D. J. Willis, Ben Rowland, Hoover Hancock, Harold Sain, Blanton Hoover, Euclid Smartt and Woodrow Ramsey.

Second row—Mildred Bonner, Mary Virginia Ramsey and Atenas Ramsey.

Third row—Lucille Stubblefield, Anna Belle Wooten, Lillie Bond, Pauline Thaxton, Lillian Lewis, Grace Pugh, Zelma Barnes, Hattileen Bonner, Lillian Wooten, Hattie Louise Stubblefield and Hazel Thaxton.

Fourth row—Celia Hillis, Edna Talley, Okla Lowe, Mamie Kidd, Georgia Hillis, Tommy J. Sain, Alice Milstead, Sue Smartt, Elizabeth Hillis, Thomas B. Thaxton, Jane McColloch, Richard R. Smartt, Irene Stubblefield, Matilda Nelson and Leora Thaxton.

Back row—Miss Violet Lackey and Miss Lena Rankin, teachers; Charles Lewis, Dillard Stubblefield, Charles Smartt, Elma Griswold and J. W. Rector, principal.

Absent when the picture was made were Thomas Stubblefield, Clarence Jacobs, Emma Bond and Homa Lowe. Mildred Bonner and Charles Smartt are now deceased.

The picture was furnished by Charles F. Lewis, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N. C. The annual "get-together" of former Viola students is set Sunday, Aug. 12, and will begin at noon at the school.

Submitted by Cheryl Watson Mingle, March 2, 2019

The Heritage of Warren County, TN Available Again!



The Heritage of Warren County, TN, published in 2005, is now available for sale again. Recently the WCGA purchased from the publisher, County Heritage, Inc., the last of these informative, hardback books, which were thought to be out of

print. This book can be purchased for just \$72.00 plus \$7.00 shipping and makes a nice gift. Make checks out to WCGA and mail to: WCGA, P.O. Box 411, McMinnville, TN 37111. Or come by the WCGA office on Mondays or Fridays 9-3 p.m., County Administrative Building, 201 Locust St., McMinnville, Tennessee.

Information on the Heritage Book:

- 618 pages
- 48 pages of Index
- 29,840 +/- names in Index
- Approximately 1,715 photos
- 1,730 numbered articles
- 6.2 pounds (weight)
- 12 3/8 x 9 1/4 x 2 inches (size)

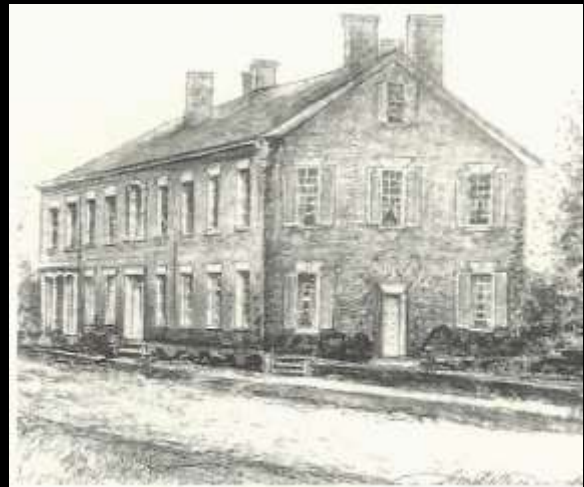
For more information contact:

Allen Jaco, Treasurer @ allenjaco@blomand.net

or

Cheryl Watson Mingle @ ctmingle@blomand.net.

17 JOHN AND BEERSHEBA PORTER
CAIN HOUSE
WEST MAIN STREET, MCMINNVILLE



John & Beersheba Cain House



John and Beersheba Cain

Submitted by: Monty Wanamaker and Chris Keathley-
Southern Museum & Galleries of Photography, Culture &
History, 210 E. Main St., McMinnville, TN 37110
Sources: Southern Standard; McMinnville at a Milestone
by Walter Womack, 1960. Beersheba Springs and The
Natches Trace by Blanche Spurlock Bentley circa 1930.

You will find this great story
among the more than 1700
photos and articles in this book.