



WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

May 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***

Our next meeting

Will be on May 18
2:00 p.m.

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

Our guest speaker
Brad Walker



Will give a talk about
**Warren County Deeds, Grants, TN Grants,
Military Grants, Hand Writing,
Duplicate Numbers in Grants, etc....
Also Family Bibles**

This is another meeting you don't want to miss!

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



Committees

Refreshments:

Christine Bouldin



Research:

Bonita Mangrum



Bobby Bond



Office:

Evelyn Wade



Wilma Davenport



Come Visit Us

**Our office
is open**

Monday &

Friday

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

931-474-4227

email:

[wgggha.tn@gmail.com](mailto:wcggha.tn@gmail.com)

On the Web:

www.tngenweb.org/wcggha

On Facebook:

Warren County
Genealogical & Historical
Association

And

WCGHA's Old Warren
County, TN Family
History/Photos

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in the basement of the
County Administrative
Building

Cody Prince Talked About

Historic High's Funeral Home



Cody Prince was the guest speaker for our April WCGHA meeting. Everyone enjoyed the talk and pictures shared of the historic High's Funeral Home.

The large crowd at the April meeting of the Warren County Genealogical and Historical Association enjoyed a wonderful program on the history of High's Funeral Home. The program was presented by Cody Prince.

Cody, who has been employed by High's for five years, grew up in McMinnville where he resides. He recently graduated with an Associates of Applied Science from John A. Gupton College in Nashville. He earned his Associates degree from Motlow State Community College and will soon take the state boards to get his Tennessee Funeral Directors license.

John High was born 17 Sep 1896 in Jackson, TN to his parents Robert and Valley B. Anderson High and died on September 8, 1981. He attended Tennessee Technical Institute in Cookeville (now Tennessee Technical College) and in 1919 received his diploma from The Cincinnati College of Embalming.



He began his career with Conger Brothers Funeral Home in Smithville. He and his wife Louise

Evans moved to McMinnville in 1922 where he operated his business from the Lively Furniture Store.

Between 1926 and 1929 he bought the 3 story private home of Zeb Martin located on Main Street. This is where the present High's Funeral Home still operates. He and his wife lived



there until 1956 when he purchased a home on Nashville Hwy. He competed with the Jones & Warren funeral home until 1930 when he bought them out.



The original chapel extended out to College Street and was added in 1950. Remodels to the structure were completed in 1969 and again in 2004.

John and his wife Louise had no children although they raised 2 boys as their own.

(Continued on page 4)

Historic High's

(Continued from page 3)

Mr. High was a man of many talents. He was a kind religious and generous man, a great speaker and a man with a wonderful singing voice. He often was asked to preach or sing at funerals. He taught a class on Sunday mornings for 52 consecutive years at Central Church of Christ. The class started with 8 and ended with 150 people. He was a member of the church for 60 years.

This horse-drawn carriage was once owned by John High and later sold to Don Paris

He was also quite a jokester. A local resident was accidentally shot in a hunting accident. Mr. High was alerted that the man would not make it through the night and he should expect his body the next morning. The man miraculously survived and later in life came to the funeral home for a calling. When Mr. High met him he gave him a stoic look and told him "I'm still waiting on you".

It was told that he was lying in a casket one evening waiting for the cleaning lady and when she arrived he sat up and spoke to her. She left with a flash.

Many years ago, when a person died, the undertakers prepared the bodies for burial at the home of those who died. They traveled to the home of the deceased to prepare them for burial. They were embalmed, clothed and placed in the caskets, ready to be shown with wakes usually lasting 2 nights. Caskets were usually homemade or purchased from the local hardware store.



This Model T with the casket of John Montgomery Elrod got stuck in the mud on the way to the Oak Grove Cemetery. Thankfully, a farmer came to the rescue with his horses.

Funeral homes no longer remain open for all night wakes. State fire codes prohibit this. The doors must be locked at night.

Cody entertained a multitude of questions from the crowd. A lot of people expressed concerns for unkept and abandoned cemeteries. We were advised to check out the Rules and Regulations for Cemeteries in the State of Tennessee.

In 1967 Mr. High incorporated the funeral home and brought in 3 partners, Clarence Warren, Edwin Hammer and Tommy Carney. Steve West joined Highs in 1978 and became a partner in 1984. Steve is now retired and the current partners are Rocky Davenport, Joe Michael Woodside and Brandon Harris.

"The greatest desire in the heart of any human being is to go to that City where the roses never fade and to hear that still small voice that says, 'It is I, be not afraid'. No one who is left behind should begrudge the Child of God that sleeps, who will know no awakening until the Trumpet of God shall sound. For death is but the doorway through which we pass into God's tomorrow." –John W. High (From a talk given at the funeral of Johnie Hall)

Welcome special guests



Clayton D. and Kathy Walden from Pleasant View, TN attended our April meeting. Earlier in the week they had visited the genealogy department of Magness Library in search of info on the Sparkman line. Cheryl Watson Mingle, who manages that department, extended an invite to join us at the meeting.

Always Great Refreshments



Serving refreshments at our April meeting were Bettie Pack and Christine Bouldin. Scheduled for the May meeting are On board for the April meeting are Bonita Mangrum and Evelyn Wade.

Turn Your Radio On



WCGHA was represented as guests on "Town Talk" for the April 18 program. The show is broadcast on radio WBMC 960 AM-FM in McMinnville and is co-hosted by Kelly Marlow and Jason Hillis. Pictured, l-r are Marion Rhea Speaks, Cody Prince and Kelly Marlow. "Town Talk" is broadcast Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Tune in on Thursday, April 18 at 8:30 a.m. when WCGHA will again be a guest on the show.

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 WCGHA 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 WCGHA and mail to: WCGHA, P.O. Box 411, McMinnville, TN 37111. Or come by the WCGHA office on Mondays or Fridays 9-3 p.m., County Administrative Building, 201 Locust St., McMinnville, Tennessee.

A Great Civil War Book



Barbara Bates talked about her recent purchase of the book “L. Virginia French’s WAR JOURNAL 1862-1865”.

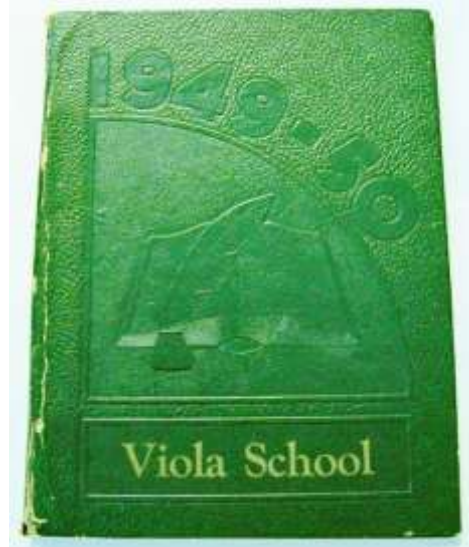
The book, written by Jerry W. Smith in 2007, contains daily entries in the journal of Lucy Virginia Smith French (1825-1881) during the American Civil War. She was a poet, author and editor who lived in McMinnville and Beersheba Springs, TN during this time period. Lucy and her husband, Colonel John Hopkins French (1817-1892) are buried at the Riverside (Depot Bottom) cemetery in McMinnville.



A copy of the book can be purchased at the web site blockaderunner.com.

Our Historical Collection Continues to Grow

Contribution	By	Date
1965 & 1966 Midlander	Carilyn Lance	1/14/2019
General Marshall's Victory Report	Ronald C. Barnes	2/4/2019
Virginia Wills 1632-1800	Bonita Mangrum	3/1/2019
The Cherokee Trail of Tears	Paul & Victoria Matheny	3/16/2019
Brief History of Dobbins Area	Bettye Pack	3/29/2019
Writings of Vera Serrano	Susan Faete	4/5/2019
Brief Talks and Poems		
Mt. View Cemetery Plot	Ricky Burks	4/26/2019
Norton Contributions	Pat Norton Bryan	4/26/2019
WW2 Parts		
Fictional History of Westwood Bridge		
The U.S. Constitution & Other Key Documents		
Somewhere in TN with 2 nd Army		
Songs that Got Us through WW2		
Long May She Wave		
Paperweight (McMinnville 1860-1960)		
18 WW2 Posters		
1949-1960 Viola School Annual	George & Helen Wilson	5/1/2019



Welcome New Members

Linda Fisher

William McClanahan

Thomas Mingle

Sharon Brakefield

Susan Driver

Joyce Marchbanks

Linda Wiedmer

Warren Co. Genealogical & Historical Association

Facebook.com/Warren County Genealogical & Historical Association

Members Meeting Agenda

May 18th, 2019

2:00 p.m.

WCGHA Office

OFFICERS

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

COMMITTEES

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Webpage Editor
Ann Brown

Publicity:
Ann Brown

Research:
Bonita Mangrum
Bobby Bond

Office:
Evelyn Wade
Wilma Davenport

Refreshments

- 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

- 501c3 Update
- Scanner Updates

NEW BUSINESS

- Grange Hall

PROGRAM

May 18 – Brad Walker
Deeds, Grants and Family Bibles

WBMC Town Talk – May16th at 8:30, Marion Speaks
Adjournment
Refreshments: Bonita Mangrum – Evelyn Wade

Webpage: www.tngenweb.org/wcga

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.



Sedberry Hotel, court square 1900's

Submitted by Rickey Burks, April 26, 2019