



WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

October 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 lower level of the
County Administrative Building*

Our next meeting

Will be October 19
2:00 p.m.

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

Our guest speaker
Will Be Our Own
Warren County Native



Ann Brown

Will present
a program on

Are We Cousins?

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 Mary Oaks



Office:

Evelyn Wade



Wilma Davenport



Come Visit Us

**Our office
is open**

Monday &

Friday

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

931-474-4227

Email:

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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County Administrative
Building**

Another great program at WCGHA

Another great program was presented to the Warren County Genealogical & Historical Association at the September 21 meeting. The overflow crowd enjoyed the program presented by Charles Priest, DMA on the musical composer Charles Faulkner Bryan 1911-1955 who was a McMinnville native.

This article was written by Dr. Priest and we're happy to share with you.

Charles Faulkner Bryan (1911-1955) was a composer with one foot in the traditional "classical music" world and the other in the world of traditional music. He collected folksongs of the American south in his travels, including an interview and field recording with Uncle Dave Macon. Something that set Bryan apart from other American composers was the use of regional elements in his music. Other composers dabbled in folklike elements in order to feign authenticity, but Bryan was different. He used specific musical and cultural elements from his own background in and around McMinnville, giving us a voice in the classical concert hall. In a letter to the conductor Eugene Goossens, Bryan expressed his desire to use American folk music "so that the general public will know that our American themes are as fine as any in the world."

One of the most famous pieces Bryan composed was *The Bell Witch*, which Bryan described as a "secular cantata." A cantata is basically an opera without the scenery and acting that we usually see. A story is told through song, including different characters who participate as singers. Bryan used the story of the Bell Witch, a story most all Tennesseans would recognize. In this cantata John Bell tell his daughter Nancy to not go to a dance that night because he senses evil is afoot. Nancy goes anyway and arrives at a barn dance where we hear music like we would expect at a bluegrass jam session or old time music performance. Nancy faints and the choir then



sings a shape-note hymn tune in the style of Southern Harmony or Sacred Harp. Despite the title of this work, the witch has no dialogue anywhere. Evil is never given a voice. This work was written after Bryan studied at Yale with the composer Paul Hindemith as part of his Guggenheim Fellowship. It premiered at Carnegie Hall in New York.

Another famous work for Bryan was *Singin' Billy*, an operetta based on a scene in the life of William Walker. Walker was a singing school master and the publisher of *Southern Harmony*, a major collection of southern shape note tunes. Much of the music would be familiar to anyone that grew up in churches around McMinnville, as Bryan



used five different hymn tunes throughout the work. The most prominent is the tune for “What wondrous love is this,” which serves as a unifying passage that connects all the movements. It is also the battleground between the secular and the sacred. The sacred ultimately wins.

One of the ways composers support a culture or nation is to write works based on their mythology and history. Bryan’s Cumberland Interlude: 1790 was another cantata set within the mythology of Tennessee. One of our state’s most famous figures was Andrew Jackson, hero of the Battle of New Orleans. Cumberland Interlude: 1790 tells the story of a mother who wants her daughter to get noticed by Andrew Jackson as a possible mate. The daughter tells her mother that “everybody knows he’s in love with Rachel.” The lyrics in this piece use the Appalachian dialect we

all know from the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee. They also described scenes of daily life we would all recognize.

White Spiritual Symphony was an orchestral work based on the religious folk tunes that Bryan heard in and around Warren County, as well as those chronicled in Songs of the Old Campground by L. L. McDowell. This latter volume included descriptions of camp meetings held near Walling, TN and the songs they sang there. The most significant moment comes in the second movement where we hear the tune for “Amazing Grace.” Bryan has the violins imitate an old Appalachian singing style with decorations and other ornaments unique to our area. What’s important here is that the notation for this passage was written when Bryan was only 14 years old. That means he heard that singing style somewhere around McMinnville. You can go to the very location of the Old Campground today and walk the ground where many of these songs were sung.

Another even closer connection to McMinnville was the musical Rebel Academy. The story was based on a girl’s boarding school in the south during the Civil War. There are love interests and intrigue and shenanigans as both Union and Confederate forces find themselves interacting with the residents of the school. A very clear image Bryan would have had was the old Southern School of Photography that stood at the top of the hill on Lively Circle near First Baptist Church. Bryan was a member of this church and would have known this location very well.



Every town wants to identify their famous residents. Bryan is a shining light of someone who made their mark in the world and at the same time never forgot who they were or where they came from. He did this by telling his story and the story of his people in the music he created. Why is this so important for us? His story was also OUR story. Tennessee, Warren County and McMinnville were the center of the stories he told.

Thank you for this wonderful article and the great program you presented.

Charles Priest, DMA is Associate Professor, Music Department Chair and Director of Instrumental Studies at Bluefield College in Bluefield, VA. He grew up in McMinnville where his mother still resides.

PHOTO IDENTIFICATIONS:

Page 3 – (top right) Charles Priest is shown holding a copy of his Doctoral Dissertation. Page 3 (bottom left) Joining Charles at the meeting was his mother Cheryl Priest, left, and his wife Lenore Priest.
Page 4 (top left) – Charles is pictured with his Little League Baseball Coach James Jones who also attended the meeting. Page 4 (bottom right) The Bryan family tombstone at Mt. View cemetery where Charles Faulkner Bryan is buried.



Pictured L-R Gail Woodlee, Edwin Roberts, Carolyn Roberts and Marie Blair who recently discovered they are DNA matches to the Roberts line. Gail and Marie are sisters who are DNA matches to Edwin. Edwin and his wife Carolyn are residents of Wyoming as well as Chattanooga and came from Chattanooga to attend the September 21 meeting. They are all WCGHA members. So glad to see these members from so far away.

Great Refreshments



Glenda Cantrell and Larry Boyd provided refreshments for the September meeting. On board for October are Marie Blair and Gail Woodlee.

Turn Your Radio On



Representing WCGHA as a guest on the September 19 "Town Talk" radio program was Marion Rhea Speaks and Allen Jaco. The show is broadcast on radio WBMC 960 AM-FM in McMinnville and is co-hosted by Kelly Marlow and Jason Hillis. Kelly Marlow is pictured with Marion and Allen. "Town Talk" is broadcast Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Tune in on Thursday, October 17 at 8:15 a.m. when WCGHA will again be a guest on the show.

Members Meeting Agenda

October 19th, 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

Membership:
Allen Jaco

Circulation Manager:
Wilma Davenport

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Ann Brown

Publicity:
Ann Brown

Research:
Bonita Mangrum
Mary Oaks

Office:
Evelyn Wade
Wilma Davenport

Refreshments
Christine Bouldin

- Call to Order – Vice President Marion Speaks
- Reading of Members Meeting Minutes – Donna Sullivan
- Treasurer’s Report – Allen Jaco

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

OLD BUSINESS

- Membership Benefits
- Scanning Update
- Christmas Dinner

NEW BUSINESS

- Carpet Cleaning
- Pioneer Family
- Nominating Committee

PROGRAM

***October 19th – Are We Cousins?
Presented by Ann Brown***

WBMC 960 AM & 977 FM Town Talk – October 17th at 8:00,
Marion Speaks, Ann Brown

Adjournment

Refreshments: Marie Blair & Gail Woodlee

Webpage: www.tngenweb.org/wcga

The Cemetery Preservation Project

Our goal is to bring attention to those county cemeteries that are not maintained and to help ensure that they are not forgotten.

Chairperson, Debra Wilcher McBride

Phone # 931-808-9900

Email: debmcbride59@gmail.com



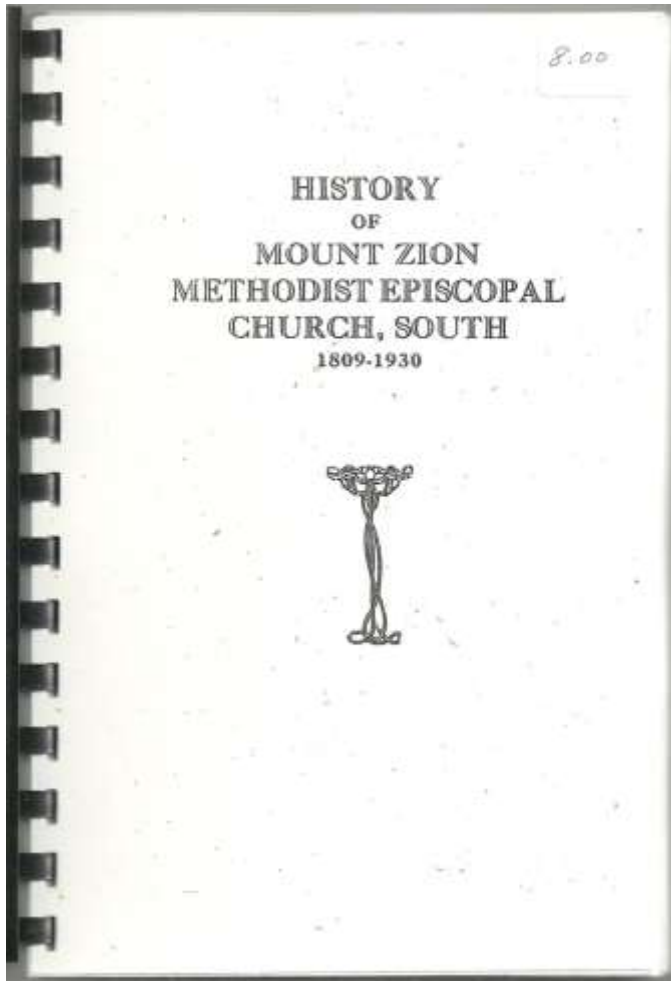
We are in need of volunteers for this project. We're looking for persons who are willing to adopt a cemetery and make sure the grounds are maintained. That can be accomplished by making surviving descendants aware of the need and by asking for help from youth groups, churches, social organizations and etc. If not able to adopt, please volunteer to help others with their cemetery projects.

Check out our list of cemeteries in need below and contact Debra from the information above.

Updated list of Cemeteries that need cleaning (As of September 17, 2019)

Baily	Fuston (off Red Rd.)	Old Rocky
Big Springs	Green	Potter
Byars	Hash	Ramsey
Caney Fork	Herndon	Sanders
Cotton	Holder (Earles/Holder)	Seitz
Crisp Springs	Hopewell	Street
Daughtery	Jaco – Off A.L. Cooper Rd.	Stubblefield (Off 108 onto
Dial	Jaco – Off Flat Shoals Rd.	White Hall then Stubblefield Rd
Douglas	Johnson	Tubb
Earles/Holder	Jones	Wagner
Evans	Lance	Weaver
Fellowship	McKey	Womack – Clyde Green Rd.
Flatwood	New Home	Womack – Roy Foster Rd.
Foster/(Scurlock)	Neal	

We have books for sale



This month we are featuring

History of Mount Zion Methodist Episcopal Church, South 1809-1930

By
Louise Biles Hill

Published by
Standard Printing Co.
McMinnville, TN

Reprinted 1995
By Warren County
Genealogical Assn.

\$8.00 + \$3.00 shipping

Supply is limited

Welcome New Members

Jim Brock
141 Hickory Ct.
McMinnville, TN 37110
212-4981
jwbrock1@blomand.net

Sandra Adcock
906 Faulkner Springs Rd.
McMinnville, TN 37110906
507-1113
sandrabouldin@gmail.com

WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY SUMMARY CONTRIBUTIONS/RESOURCE LIBRARY REPORT

Month: September, 2019

Contribution	By	Status
The Legend of Dixie	Patricia Norton Bryant	Library
1930 Cannon County Tennessee Federal Census Shady Grove Cemetery First Edition 1997, 98, 99 The History and Mystery of The Black House World War II Veterans of Dekalb County A Bicentennial History of Dekalb County Early Virginia Settlers	Glenda S Cantrell	Library



Our 501c3 Helper

Angela McCormack, an Enrolled Agent with Pure Logic Tax Service, was contracted to help us become a 501c3 Association that we received in June 2019. She donated her time and expertise. If you have an interest or are in need of her services, she can be reached at 931-507-7008, email: angela@purelogictax.com.

WCGHA Secretary Donna Sullivan, is shown presenting a copy of one of our Bulletins to



Landon Medley, Van Buren Co. Historian. A copy of each of our Bulletins was donated to the Van Buren County Historical & Heritage Museum. The newly established Museum at Spencer is located in the old Van Buren courthouse.

Are You A Good Typist?

We need a few volunteers to help rename files for our scanner data base.

Please see Ann or J.B. Brown at our next meeting

You may call 931-205-0451 or

Email: farmerbrownsgardens@gmail.com

**Check these folks out
they do great work**

SIGNS BY GENIA
2577 NASHVILLE HWY. McMINNVILLE, TN 37110

Banners • Magnetic Signs • Decals
Digital Printed Signs • Aluminum Signs
Semi Truck Lettering • Box Trailers
Window Lettering

PH: 931-668-9481 Fax: 931-668-9491
E-Mail: genias_signs@yahoo.com

**WCGHA's Old Warren County, TN Family History/Photos
MONTHLY INSIGHTS
September, 2019**

4,194 Group Members

Gender: 68% Women – 32% Men

0.2%	4.1%	11.7%	17.0%	19.2%	22.9%	24.9%
13-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+

77% Active Members

138 Posts	622 Comments	4,823 Reactions
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Top Cities

1. McMinnville
2. Rock Island
3. Murfreesboro
4. Morrison
5. Manchester
6. Nashville
7. Smithville
8. Sparta
9. Cookeville
10. Woodbury

Top Contributors

- Tommy Fairbanks
Milt Doyle
Barry Dixon
Chris Cash
DonaldandJeanine Miller
Lucas Holt
Carol A Phillips
Johnny Bond
Delana Golden
Billy Fay Vaughn

Top Countries

1. United States
2. Nigeria
3. Australia
4. Japan
5. Italy
6. Germany
7. Morocco
8. Phillipines
9. Columbia
10. Eucador

Top Post

DonaldandJeanineMiller: Bobby Love, Southern Standard, September 15, 1982

Comments: 16
Likes: 157
Reactions: 1,800

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WCGAoldwarrencountytnfamilies/permalink/2352168108233223/>

Peak Time: Tuesday and Thursday 5 pm to 9 pm

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.



This picture, taken of the Sun Valley Sorenaders of McMinnville Garment Company during the 1944 National War Fund drive includes, left to right, standing: Jay Hobbs, violin; J. B. Rader, manager of the Garment Co. Henry N. Boyd, chairman of the National War Fund Drive in Warren county, and Theron Killian, bass fiddle. Sitting, left to right: Price Smith, guitar; Please Taylor, banjo; Miss Bill Fults, guitar and singer; Eugene Clendonon, mandolin; J. W. (Red) Wilson, guitar.

Submitted by Tommy D. Fairbanks, October 1, 2019