



WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

April 2020

201 Locust Street

McMinnville, Tennessee

WCGHA OFFICERS



President:
Cheryl W. Mingle



Vice President:
Marion Rhea Speaks



Secretary:
Donna Sullivan



Treasurer:
J.B. Brown



Past President:
Ann Brown

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

Our Saturday April 18 WCGHA meeting HAS BEEN CANCELLED

We are in compliance with our state directive to stay home and help fight the spread of Coronavirus.

As always, the health and safety of our members and friends are our first priority.

A decision on the May 16 meeting will be made as soon as the public health officials feel the virus has been contained.

We will notify you of our plans for this upcoming meeting as soon as possible.

Continued prayers for everyone

Cheryl Watson Mingle, WCGHA President

Committees

Membership:

J. B. Brown



Circulation Manager:

Debra Wilcher McBride



Programs:

Marion Rhea Speaks



Bulletin Editor:

Chris Keathley



Newsletter Editor:

Doyle Speaks



Publicity:

Ann Brown



Refreshments:

Christine Bouldin



Research:

Bonita Mangrum



Mary Oaks



Office:

Evelyn Wade & Ann Brown



Historian:

Brad Walker



Come Visit Us

**Our office
Presently closed
is open**

**Monday
&
Friday**

**9 a.m.-3 p.m.
931-474-4227**

Email:
wcgaha.tn@gmail.com

On the Web:
www.tngenweb.org/wcgatn

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 Administrative
Building

FROM OUR WCGHA PRESIDENT:

Dear Members,

When our Board of Directors met on Thursday, March 12, a week prior to the scheduled Saturday, March 21 meeting, I don't think any of us realized how our lives would be re-arranged.

The decision to cancel the March meeting happened after hearing reports from our state and local government officials asking residents to steer clear of large gatherings.

Two weeks later we find ourselves, family, friends and neighbors all living in fear of the "silent enemy". It seems we are in a war with little or no means to defend ourselves.

The best way to fight the virus is to "stay home and don't go out in public except for essentials".

While you're home-bound it's a great time to work on your family tree, read a book, try a new recipe and check on your family, friends and neighbors by phone. And don't forget to wash your hands.

We hope we will see everyone at our May meeting on Saturday, May 16. We'll keep you informed.

*We are **STRONGER TOGETHER**...*

Cheryl Watson Mingle, WCGHA President

Time to Remember



A time capsule and its contents were on display during a recent McMinnville Board of Mayor and Alderman meeting. Pictured, from left, with the items are board members Rachel Kirby, Steve Harvey, Vice Mayor Ryle Chastain, Mayor Ben Newman, Everett Brock, Mike Neal and Kate Alsbrook. LISA HOBBS photo

By LISA HOBBS

Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Stories used by permission

A 50-year-old time capsule was discovered Thursday inside the exterior concrete wall of McMinnville City Hall.

The discovery was made by Waymon Hale Construction employees John Proctor, Darryl Pedigo and Lief Ghrist when renovation began Thursday morning to repair the corner of the building. It sustained damage in December 2018 during a motor vehicle accident. “We didn’t know what it was until we opened it,” said Proctor. “It’s the first time capsule I’ve ever found. There were some pretty cool items in it.”



John Proctor, left, and Lief Ghrist are two of the three workers who discovered the time capsule on March 5.

This one was placed by City Bank & Trust during construction of the building in 1968. Made of copper, the time capsule container is slightly smaller than a bread box.

Inside were numerous articles clipped from Southern Standard editions in 1968, a complete Oct. 4, 1902 edition donated by Cowan Oldham, a written transcript of the groundbreaking ceremony for City Bank & Trust Company held at 4 p.m. on May 31, 1968, signed by Board of Directors chairman Clarence Walling, a letter from the city of McMinnville signed by Mayor Franklin P. Blue, a letter from Chamber of Commerce’s executive secretary-manager Lynwood Smith, pictures taken during the groundbreaking, a 1923 silver dollar bill, a yellow Herbert Hoover pencil, and “A Story of Progress” that relayed the first 50 years of the bank (1912-1962). It was sealed inside the wall without a hinged opening or a plaque to alert anyone of its presence.

The building is currently in the hands of McMinnville city government and is used as its City Hall.

“I think this is a tremendous discovery,” said Mayor Ben Newman. “I wonder what their plan was. Was it for the time capsule to stay there until the building got demolished or did they have some plan for it to be opened at a certain time? Usually those things are known and somebody plans to open it at a certain time.”

The box’s fate is once again to be sealed.

“First, I think what I’ll do is take a lot of this down to the library and see if they can get it scanned in,” said Newman. “Then, we will coordinate with Waymon on putting it back into the building. Leave it there for future generations to find. They’re leaving a spot open for it.”

A letter from Mayor Newman and this Southern Standard article about the discovery will be added to the box.

The process to repair City Hall took over a year due to the city officials’ desire to preserve the building’s appearance which prompted difficulty in finding materials.

THIS FOLLOW UP STORY APPEARED IN THE FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020 EDITION OF THE SOUTHERN STANDARD AND WRITTEN BY LISA HOBBS.

Items in a 50-year-old time capsule discovered recently inside the exterior concrete wall of McMinnville City Hall are on display via the city’s website.

“I took the time capsule to Magness Library and staff there cataloged the contents, scanned and took pictures of everything,” said McMinnville Mayor Ben Newman.

“Everything was placed on a flash drive. People can go onto the city’s website and view the items.”

The city's website is www.mcminnvilletn.gov and the items can be viewed by clicking on "Time Capsule Contents March 2020."

Workers from Waymon Hale Construction found the time capsule March 5 during repairs to the building. It was placed there in 1968 during the building's construction.

Items were on display during a recent McMinnville Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting with specific instructions to not touch a 1902 Southern Standard edition donated to the time capsule by Cowan Oldham due to its rarity and delicate condition.

"Brad Walker (Magness Library director) says he knows of only four of those newspapers in existence," said Newman. "This would be number five so it is very rare. It's also very delicate, as you can tell. Brad and his staff did scan the pages. Some of the neatest things are some of the old ads in there. Some of the buildings are still around today, but some of them are not."

Within the 118-year-old newspaper edition is a write-up about and drawing of the old Opera House. "McMinnville can boast of having one of the handsomest opera houses in the state," it said. "It has a seating capacity for five or six hundred ... McMinnville is a good show town and some of the best theatrical and musical attractions in the United States have been booked for the coming season."

The opera house was built in 1888 and was destroyed in March 2008 when a fire erupted leveling that building. Also featured was the Bostick Bros. Drug Store established in 1895. J.P. Bostick entered the "drug business" in 1875. T.K. Bostick joined the business in 1884. "Prescriptions a specialty," but also offered were stationery, wall paper, paints, oils, cigars, tobacco, and fancy drug sundries. Most would recognize the building depicted as the old City Drug. It was destroyed by fire in 2011.

The time capsule will be placed back into the wall with a few additions. Newman said he wants to include the Southern Standard newspaper that featured the time capsule's discovery, pictures of downtown courtesy of the Standard, and a written correspondence from the city of McMinnville.

A plaque will be placed once work is complete.



WCGHA President Cheryl Watson Mingle is pictured with the time capsule that was on display at the Magness Library. She is the genealogist at the library.



J. B. Brown, WCGHA Treasurer and Ann Brown, WCGHA Past President answered the call to scan the contents in the time capsule. Check out their work on Facebook at City of McMinnville TN. click on posts and then type in timeline capsule, go to City of McMinnville Government then to the link OneDrive.



Computer Class Offered At Area Senior Center



WCGHA Treasurer, J.B. Brown, recently presented a class on Computer Basics at the McMinnville Warren County Senior Center.



Ann Brown, WCGHA Past President offers assistance to Sonny McCormick while Peggy Couch checks out the newest discovery on her computer.



WCGHA members took advantage of the training. From left to right are Mary Oaks, Doyle Speaks, Alan Jaco and WCGHA Vice President Marion Rhea Speaks. Additional classes will be added once the center opens back up to the public.

Bobby Bond photos

Turn Your Radio On



WCGHA Vice President Marion Rhea Speaks and WBMC radio host Kelly Marlow greet each other with an elbow greeting before they began their March 19 interview. Marion was the guest on WBMC's "Town Talk". Radio 960 AM-FM McMinnville is broadcast Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Kelly and Marion would learn a few days after the interview that a stay home order was in effect and a 6 foot distance between people should be observed if that trip out in public became a necessity. The monthly interviews will resume as soon as the all clear from the Coronavirus is issued.

Welcome New Members

Linda Irby lirby@frontiernet.net

Joe Scott Poff joe.poff@bakerbotts.com

Hilda Sparks schipsx2@knology.net

Melanie Turner woodbadge45@yahoo.com

Reba Walker no email

What I've Done While Staying Home

Three weeks out from the “stay home” requests from our state and local government officials, I called the members of our Board of Directors to tell us what they have been doing with all of this “home” time. Here’s what a they had to say:

Christine Bouldin – “Recuperating from heart valve procedures and I’m doing fine.”

Marion Rhea Speaks – “Doing genealogy research, spring cleaning and nursing a knee replacement.”

J.B. Brown – “Scanning has replaced my job as a substitute teacher. We are still scanning High's records and have all the Treasurer's records older than 7 years scanned for preservation and paper records destroyed. Also, I have been working on some new magic tricks for my kids!”

Ann Brown – “The first High's Ledger is now in the Family Tree Database and on the Association laptop. Printed brochures ready to be placed at the library and Southern Museum when business returns to normal. Updated the Resource Library Index. Loving this pretty weather and working in the yard but after the last 5 days, I'm praying for rain.”

Doyle Speaks – “Trying to get caught up on a Facebook site that I administer, been busy with yard work and started a small garden. Almost forgot, working on the Newsletter.”

Donna Sullivan – “I’ve been working on my family genealogy, making home-made bread, shelled a bunch of pecans, spring cleaning and yard work as much as I am physically able to do.”

Cheryl Watson Mingle – “Steering clear of the public and definitely staying home. The internet has been running slow in my area so haven’t done much with genealogy research. We had a bad storm that did damage to some of our buildings and I’ve helped as much as possible to clean that up. This storm made spring yard work a bit more difficult.”

Mary Oaks – “Staying home and catching up on the spring yard work.”

Debra McBride – “I’m still working every day. Waiting for this virus to be over with so I can visit with my new great nephew as well as the rest of my family.”

Chris Keathly – “Of course I’ve been working on the Bulletin and working on projects I’ve neglected. It’s hard to focus with everything going on. I’ve been trying to keep up with the news and trying to stay well which I’ve managed to do so far. In the Spring & Summer issue of the Bulletin I’m doing a cemetery spotlight on Higginbotham Cemetery so I’ve been there a few times and picked up limbs and twigs. I’ve been caretaker of the cemetery since 1992. Decoration is in May each year and that will be here before you know it and hopefully by then the virus will not be such a threat. The museum is closed temporarily of course.”

Bonita Mangrum – “I read a lot, and had purchased some history books recently and hope to check them out. And probably like the rest of you, I’ve been out working in the yard.”

Evelyn Wade – “Staying in, spring cleaning, working on closets and sorting things to donate along with a bit of yard work.”

Brad Walker – “Been busy in the greenhouse getting ready to transplant a bunch of seedlings. I’m also spending a lot of time on Ancestry fixing family trees and connecting my DNA with their truline feature.”

Stay in if possible

Keep a Six Foot distance from others if possible

Wash your hands

WCGHA Resource Library and Contributions Report for March 2020

Submitted by Ann Brown

Resource Library Additions (March 2020)	
Coffee County Historical Society Newsletter 2020-03	exchange
Desota Descendants Vol 38 - # 1	complimentary
Our Confederate Ancestors	purchase

WCGHA's Old Warren County, TN Family History/Photos MONTHLY INSIGHTS March, 2020

4,413 Group Members (+28 this month)

Gender: 68% Women – 32% Men

85 Posts	299 Comments	2.543 Reactions
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Top Post

Top Contributors

Connie Talley Tuggle
Tommy D Fairbanks
Ricky Burks
Carole Cathcart
DonaldandJeannineMiller

Connie Talley Tuggle: 1955-Statement for birth and 8 day stay. \$152!
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WCGAoldwarrencountytnfamilies/permalink/2687535741363123/>

Comments: 28

Likes: 86

Shares: 7

Reactions: 1,500

Peak Time: Saturday, 7 p.m.

Don't forget to follow our Facebook page at
Warren County Genealogical & Historical Association
for information about our Association, upcoming events, and posts and links relating to genealogy and
history

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.

Can You Remember

... the former Pleasant Hill School in the 11th Civil District near Centertown? The facility operated, mainly as a one-teacher school, for many years before being consolidated to offer better opportunities to students of the area it served.

In 1909, when the above picture was made, classes were being held in a log building erected by the men of the community several years earlier. It was later replaced by a frame building.

Walter Meyers was the teacher in 1909, and composing the student body were, from left:

First row — Oscar Medley, John H. Couch, Harold Medley and Roy Fennell.

Second row — Ina Fennell, Daisy Wilson, Cora Bess, Mary Freed, Emma Wilson, Charley Fordice, John Bess, Robert Roach, Joe Talley and Roy Lance.

Third row — Clarence Brewer, Doyle York, Hassie Medley, Walter Myers, the teacher, Bertha Fennell, Tom Brewer, Charley Medley and Joe Medley.

Fourth row — Bessie Medley, Willie York, Belle Roach, Myrtle York, Flora Medley and Annie Bess.

The picture is the property of John Bess of Route 1, McMinnville. It was brought to the Standard office by John H. Couch of Indiana, who recently visited here enroute to Florida.

Pleasant Hill School 1909

Submitted by Tommy D. Fairbanks, February 12, 2020