

**WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL &
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

Newsletter

February 2022

**Please join us for the
February Members Meeting
Saturday, February 19, 2:00pm.
We will meet in the
Early Voting Room, 201 Locust St.**

After our Regular Meeting, we will regroup to tour the Black History Museum, located at 203 W Main Street

***Come Visit Our Research
Library!***

**Monday & Friday
9 a.m.-3 p.m.
931-474-4227**

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

Email:

wcgha.tn@gmail.com

On the Web:

www.tngenweb.org/wcgatn

Warren County
Genealogical & Historical
Association

and

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

Message from the President...

2022 has us off to a rough start with weather and COVID, but we did manage to have our Show and Tell in January just ahead of the snow! Our crowd was small but we had some really interesting items presented. Thanks to all who participated in making our Show and Tell a success.

2022 dues should be in by February 28th. Membership dues are our major source of income for the Association and we are grateful for the loyalty of our members through the years. Do you know someone who loves genealogy and/or history? Invite them to join our Association!

We have been adding technology to our resources over the past few years and our ability to provide assistance to our members and visitors will be greatly enhanced by these additions. Our latest addition is our Desktop computer which along with the research aids that we have added will allow the office staff to search cemetery books, bulletins, newsletters, and other sources to quickly locate information for our members and visitors.

We would love to have you stop by the Association office and see what we have available for you! The office is open on Monday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. And, if you would like to become one of our office volunteers, we would love to have you even if you can only volunteer for a half day. Volunteering is a great way to get to know about all the great resources at the Association.

Hope to see you at the Members Meeting on February 19th!

Ann

The **"Spring 2022 Cemetery Preservation Workshop"** has been scheduled for April 9th. We will be hosting the workshop which will be presented by Dr. Stacey Graham through the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation. The workshop will consist of a morning session from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. with presentations by Dr. Graham and her staff. Lunch will be from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at which time we will meet at the Old City Cemetery for hands on demonstrations and training for the proper techniques to use when cleaning tombstones. Registration will be required and will begin around the first of March. Backup date will be April 23rd. Many thanks to Debra McBride for initiating the effort to bring this workshop to McMinnville. Debra is handing the chair of this workshop off to Earl and Marie Blair and we appreciate them stepping up to make this event possible. Marie will be contacting committee members in the near future with more details.

SHOW & TELL - January 15th



Douglas Woodlee's grandfather, Dewitt Woodlee (1/7/1867 - 2/15/1948) hand carved this maple fiddle front. He is shown in the picture (below the fiddle) playing one of the many fiddles that he made during his life.

He also has this Woodmen of the World life insurance policy dated June 22, 1929



Douglas Woodlee gifted Lucas Holt with this handwritten letter dated January 13, 1912. The letter was written by Addison Monroe Harrison Barnes, 3rd great grandfather of Lucas to Dewitt Woodlee, grandfather of Douglas. Addison's brother Isaac married Susanna Elinor Hill. Their daughter Louvisa Barnes married Dewitt Woodlee. I know it will be a treasured heirloom in Lucas's genealogy collection.



Barbara Bates brought a box of letters from her uncle, Pvt. Robert Leighton Baldwin, (1925-2005), written to his mother, Nellys Cardwell Baldwin (1897-1974) between October, 1943 and December, 1945. Barbara's mother, Billie West Baldwin Brandon, and her grandmother saved all his letters, leaving the legacy of Robert's service to Barbara for safekeeping.. During his 36 months in the U.S. Army, Baldwin served in England, France, Belgium, Germany, and the U.S. He was assigned to the U.S. Third Army under the command of Gen. George S. Patton and received credit for involvement in the Battle of the Bulge. He was discharged in 1946 with the rating of Technical Sargent as Personnel Sargent Major of the battalion.

One of Barbara's favorites is a poem written approximately December, 1944, titled:

"My Thoughts"

We were started all the same
The big, little, rich and poor,
And as we journeyed through our training
We got the knocks and pains which had no cure.

We have had the stiff inspections,
The many guardmounts and K.P. days,
And heard a thousand lectures
Just to learn the Army's ways.

So when the last gun is fired
And Peace is signed in black and white,
Come my fellow soldiers
We're going home tonight.

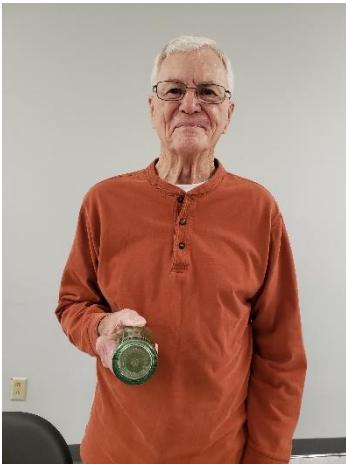
But as we return we'll notice
There is something very strange
Some of our buddies are not there.
Just remember, they died upon the range.

So when the final taps have sounded
And the rest we're due has come,
Forget the battle if you can
Thanks be to God - we've won!



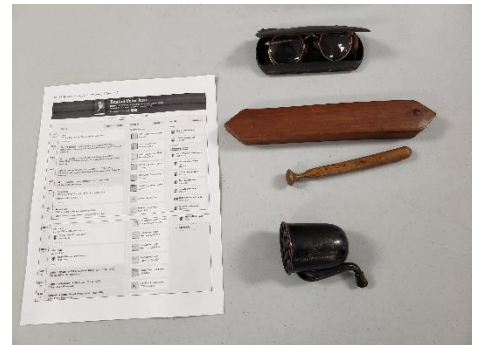


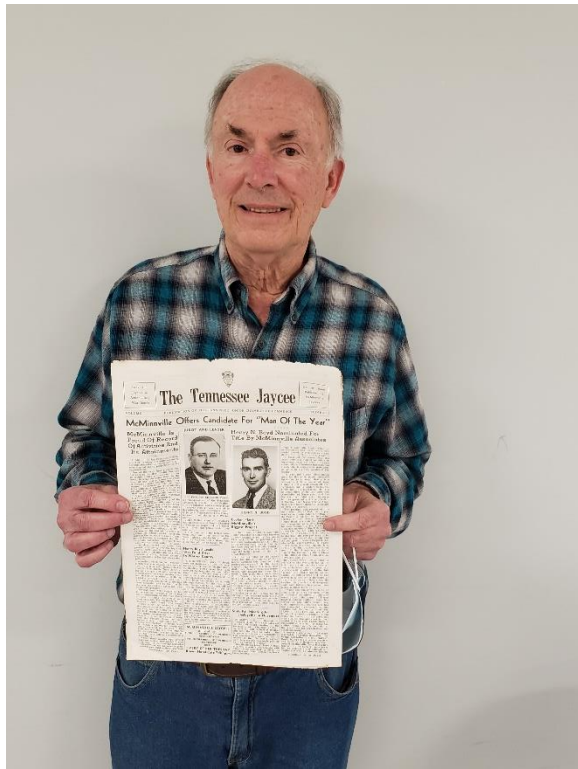
This unique family tree chart was hand drawn in 1985 by Mary's sister, Elizabeth 'Beth' Martens Bruder (1938-2001). The roots trace their Martens, Knipping, Elliott, and Prichard ancestors. Each of Mary's siblings received a copy. It is a treasured family heirloom in Mary's family.



Allen Jaco brought a Coca Cola bottle manufactured in McMinnville and gave a brief history of the Coca Cola Bottling Company that was located here. He also shared his introduction to genealogy when he read **ALL** the telephone books in the New York City Public Library and found 142 Jaco's which marked the beginning of his 64 years of genealogy research.

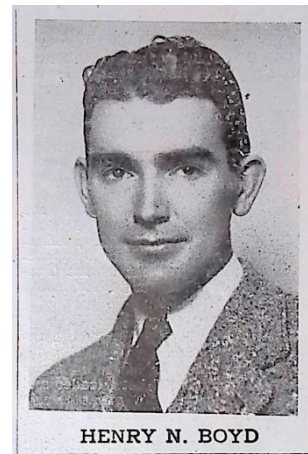
These items were given to him from a descendant of Benton Peter Jaco (1863-1956) who is his 1st cousin 3X removed. The items include a pair of glasses, a turkey caller, a tool used with a cotton spinning wheel, and an early hearing aid



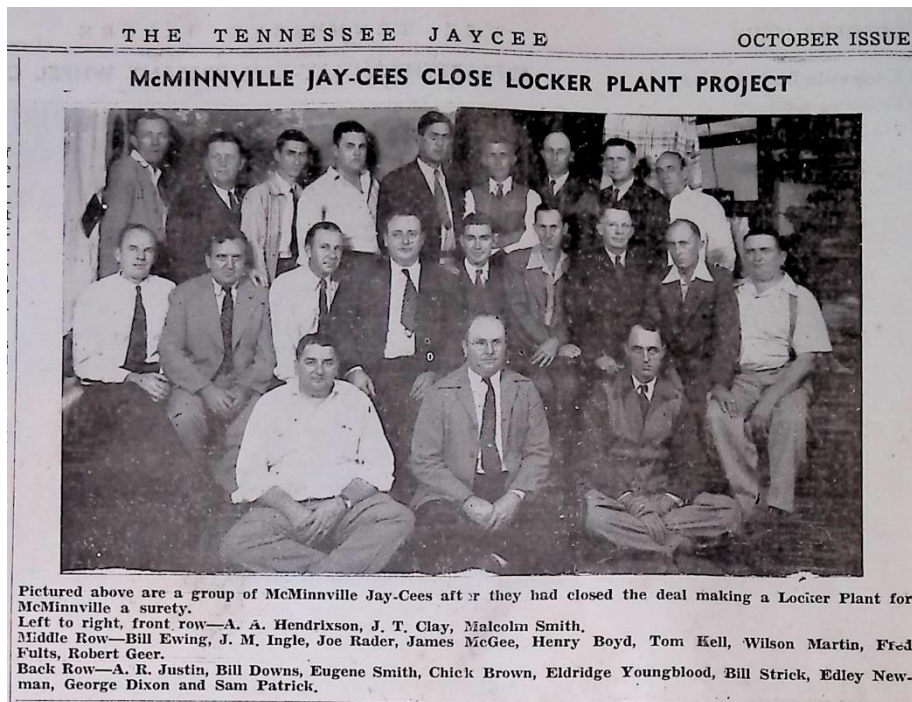


Larry Boyd gifted the WCGHA with this 1945 Volume I, Number 2 edition of the Tennessee Jaycees. McMinnville and Larry's uncle, Henry N. Boyd (1917-2001), are featured prominently in the publication.

McMinnville Offers Candidate for "Man of the Year"



Larry and his uncle were both born on January 23rd!



Have you ever heard of the Locker Plant Project? Let us know!

MONTHLY SUMMARY CONTRIBUTIONS/RESOURCE LIBRARY REPORT

Contribution	By	Status
The Pathfinder	Grundy County Historical Society	Library
Coffee County Historical Society Newsletter	Coffee County Historical Society	Library
History of White County, Tennessee	Bonita Mangrum In Memory of Arlan Smith	Library
Tennessee Jaycees, Vol 1, 1944	Larry Boyd	Archived (scanned)
History of the 94 th Infantry Division	Don Hale (Alma Shoemaker)	Library
Brittain's Homage to 28,000 American Dead	Don Hale (Alma Shoemaker)	Library
Christ Community Church Directory 2008 Christ Community Church Directory 2009	Paula Gillespie (Jimmy Haley)	Church Files
Sedberry Inn Recipes (original publication)	Carolyn Lance	Archived
First Annual Mt View Cemetery Decoration (brochure)	Carolyn Lance	Cemetery Files
Postcard - Early downtown Postcard - Street Presbyterian Church Postcard - Smartt Station Church (first)	Carolyn Lance	Archived (scanned)
Southern Standard 1929.01.24 (4 pgs)	Lannie Robinson	WC Archives (scanned)

Welcome our new members: Christopher Grissom and Terry & Ann Haston

DON'T FORGET!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 28TH!

Our new desktop computer is being impacted by the supply chain issues. We are in communication with Dell regularly and are hoping it will be shipped soon! The first ledger of the High Funeral Home Collection will be available as soon as the desktop is here and setup.

Member Spotlight!

Linda “Bonita” Bratcher Mangrum

Meeting Bonita is like meeting someone from the past because she knows so much about the past history of Warren County!

I sat down with her at the Association office and asked a few questions about her genealogy tree travels. She said she was first drawn to the State Archives in the early 1960’s when she lived in Nashville. Back then, nothing was on computer, and everything had to be looked up in original documents. She attributes her dad’s sister, Aunt Ramona, for giving her the incentive to start researching when she was in her 20’s

Her first brick wall came when researching her Grandfather, Major Passons. He had left Warren County and ended up in Rockmont, Paulding County, Georgia but none of his family knew what had happened to him or where he went. To top it off, and make matters worse, he had married twice in Alabama. Eventually, Bonita tracked down his grave site and her mother and uncle were able to visit and actually met the person who had dug his grave!

She still has another brick wall in the pursuit of her father’s line, and her Great Great Grandfather, Samuel Mitchell Bratcher, and his wife, Lucretia Newby and her father, Nathan Newby. If anyone has information to share with her, please do!

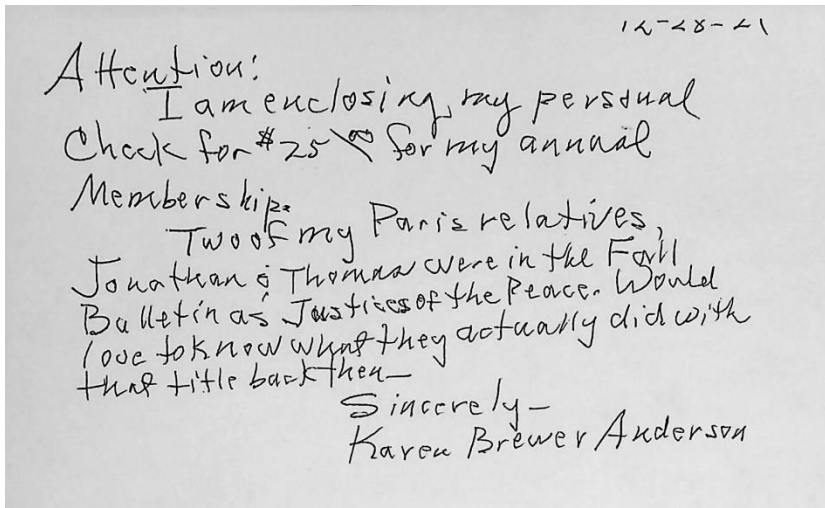
Bonita says she gets so wrapped up in working with other people’s trees that “it’s like I’ve got a new family”. She considers genealogy like working a big puzzle and being on a scavenger hunt. Plus, she says, “it is always interesting!” I have to agree with Bonita! Who doesn’t love a good mystery and solving it!!

Bonita documents all her finds and won’t accept if she can’t prove. In the age of computers and internet, we all need to be as conscientious as her.

Bonita is available on Fridays, 9am to 3pm, at the Association office. She’s the Research Coordinator, serves on the Pioneer Families of Warren County, Cemeteries of Warren County, and Bulletin committees. She says she works Genealogy 24 hours a day, and I certainly believe her!

Thank you, Bonita, for sharing your passion for history and genealogy with all of us!!

We Get Mail!



Justice of the Peace Story

A Justice of the Peace or “JP” could be elected or designated. They were the first line of defense in keeping order in the area. They came into the position by election of the voters or appointed by judges. Most terms were for six years. They had the ability to adjudicate for small civil cases, i.e. probates, noise, fighting, petty theft, slander, but not felonies, i.e. murder, rustling, bank robbery. They were usually unsalaried and were allowed to keep a portion of the fines they collected for the county where they lived. Once marriage became a taxable and “legal” responsibility, and licenses were necessary, they could issue a license and marry a couple. Most Districts had two JPs to rely on for “keeping the peace”.

Warren Co. Genealogical & Historical Association

201 Locust Street, McMinnville, TN 37110 – 931-474-4227 – wcggha.tn@gmail.com

Web: www.tngenweb.org/wcga [www.facebook.com/Warren County Genealogical and Historical](https://www.facebook.com/WarrenCountyGenealogicalandHistorical)

Feb 19th, 2022

2:00 p.m.

Early Voting Room

OFFICERS

President: Ann Brown
Vice Pres: Douglas Woodlee
Secretary: Barbara Bates
Treasurer: J. B. Brown
Past Pres: Cheryl Mingle

COMMITTEES

Membership:
J. B. Brown

Circulation Manager:
Debra McBride

Programs:
Douglas Woodlee

Bulletin Editor:
Bob Bates

Newsletter Editor
Kathy Finn

Webpage/Facebook Editor
Ann Brown

Publicity:
Brad Walker

Research:
Bonita Mangrum
Mary Oaks

Office:
Evelyn Wade
Mary Oaks

Historian
Brad Walker

Refreshments
Christine Bouldin

Agenda for Members Meeting

- Call to Order – President, Ann Brown
- Reading of Minutes – Secretary, Barbara Bates
- Treasurer's Report – Treasurer, J. B. Brown

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Membership – J. B. Brown
- Circulation – Debra McBride
- Programs – Douglas Woodlee
- Publicity – Brad Walker
- Research – Bonita Mangrum, Mary Oaks
- Office – Evelyn Wade, Mary Oaks
- Bulletin – Bob Bates
- Newsletter - Kathy Finn
- Webpage - Ann Brown

OLD BUSINESS

- Project Reports
Pioneer Families of Warren County
Certificate Awards to Marie Blair & Gail Woodlee
Cemeteries of Warren County
Cemetery Preservation
High Funeral Home Records
- Desktop Status
- Scholarship Status

TODAY'S PROGRAM

BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM TOUR

COVID GUIDELINES:

Refreshments will not be offered – bottled water will be available.
Masks and sanitizer will be available.

MARCH MEETINGS

BOARD MEETING – THURSDAY, THE 10TH AT 10:00 A.M.
MEMBERS MEETING – SATURDAY, THE 19TH AT 2:00 P.M.