

Warren County Heritage Museum

The Heritage Center and Museum located in downtown McMinnville is currently housing the Bicentennial exhibit - “200 Years of Warren County in Pictures” in its galleries. Jimmy Haley, curator and long time resident of Warren County is proud to have such a fine area to display the local history. McMinnville, known as the “Nursery Capital of the World” with over 600 nurseries, was founded in 1810 as the county seat of government, and was named in honor of Joseph McMinn. Joseph McMinn was a transplanted Quaker from Pennsylvania who became the speaker of the Tennessee Senate, a three term Governor of the great State of Tennessee, and superintendant of the Cherokee Agency.

Today, McMinnville boasts of a revitalized bustling downtown historic district full of shops, antiques, eateries, professional and government offices, and roots that go back for centuries. In its heyday, McMinnville overflowed with commerce thriving on the textile industry of the 19th century, with many doctors, lawyers, pastors and educators coming to town to build fine homes, academies, and churches in addition to first class stores, shops, and businesses. Scholars from all over the world came to McMinnville-Warren County (which was also known as a center for learning with such establishments as the Edmondson Academy and The Cumberland Female College – both were established in the early to mid 19th century). The Southern School of Photography officially opened its doors in 1904 and quickly became a Mecca for photographers from all around the world who wanted to study under the tutelage of William Spencer “Dad” Lively. McMinnville was known as one of the state’s most popular summer resorts after the Civil War. In the 1920’s, folks would flock to McMinnville to enjoy the gracious southern hospitality at the legendary Sedberry Hotel with its first-class service - for which it was named the “best little hotel on the North American Continent” in 1927 by an official from AAA.

Jimmy Haley, the Warren County Heritage Center and Museum,

and the Heritage Alliance are commencing their Bicentennial Celebration by showcasing a fine collection of photographs, historical exhibits, and events planned throughout the year with the grand finale Bicentennial Birthday Extravaganza being held in August 2010. This will include a USO Tour at the Airport with a musical show in June and an open house at the Museum during the 4th of July with a scavenger hunt downtown. The Bicentennial Birthday Celebration will happen in August with many activities and fun for all ages. Jimmy Haley and the Heritage Alliance organization are passionate about preserving the past and their fine museum is a testimony to their dedication to display history. The Warren County Heritage Center and Museum is open on Sunday and Thursday, from 2-6PM, and Tuesday from 2-4 PM. For more information and up-to-date information on the Bicentennial Celebration, visit www.LivelyPhotoMuseum.com or call the Museum, 931-474-2717. For scheduling special hours or a personal tour, call Jimmy Haley at 931-668-1330.

