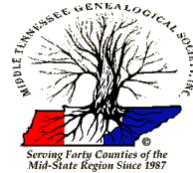




MTGS Messenger



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Maratha Gerdeman, Editor

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The next meeting of the *Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society* will be at 1:00 p.m. on January 15, 2011, at the FiftyForward Knowles Center beside the State Fairgrounds in Nashville. This will be the ever-popular "Show and Tell," with members sharing artifacts from their families. Past meetings have featured everything from photos to chairs to linens to the wishbone from a turkey served at an ancestor's wedding feast. Please do not bring family histories. Think of this meeting as *Antiques Roadshow* without the appraisers.

'Tis the season to be registering for conferences! If you have never attended a major conference, you should seriously consider it. Imagine the *MTGS* all-day seminar in November stretched out into 3 to 5 days, with dozens of classes from which to choose. The *National Genealogical Society* annual meeting will be held May 11-14 in Charleston, South Carolina. Registration is open now and information is on the website (http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info). Two *MTGS* members, *Elizabeth Shown Mills* and *Mark Lowe*, will be among the presenters.

The *NGS* website also features a schedule of upcoming seminars and conferences from around the country (http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/event_calendar). Regional or state conferences are usually less expensive than the *NGS* conference but often feature the same speakers. Being a transplanted Buckeye, I personally try to attend the *Ohio Genealogical Society* annual conference as often as possible. You might find a conference in the area your ancestors came from and get in some on-site research while near there.

The *Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research* is held annually at Samford University in Birmingham. (<http://www4.samford.edu/schools/ighr/>) This year's dates are June 12-17. Ten courses are available in a number of areas: land, military, genealogical writing, and methodology, just to name a few. University housing and a meal ticket, available to attendees, keeps the cost low; and Birmingham is an easy drive from Middle Tennessee. Learning new skills and sharpening the ones we already have are vital parts of any genealogist's work. Consider investing in one of these opportunities for growth.

Coming in March: *Solving Mysteries using County Records and Loose Case Files*, presented by *Carol Roberts*, Director of Preservation Services Section of Tennessee State Library and Archives. Mark your calendars for this March 19 meeting.

Note from the Webmaster: I am in the process of trying to deactivate our first *MTGS* "group" on facebook and create a "page" for *MTGS*. You may expect email when the process is completed. Thanks for your patience.