



MTGS Messenger



Vol. 8, No. 1

Martha Gerdeman, Editor

January 2012

Our 40 Counties

Bedford
*
Cannon
Cheatham
Clay
Coffee
*
Davidson
DeKalb
Dickson
*
Fentress
Franklin
*
Giles
Grundy
*
Hickman
Houston
Humphreys
*
Jackson
*
Lawrence
Lewis
Lincoln
*
Macon
Marshall
Maury
Montgomery
Moore
*
Overton
*
Perry
Pickett
Putnam
*
Robertson
Rutherford
*
Smith
Stewart
Sumner
*
Trousdale
*
Van Buren
*
Warren
Wayne
White
Williamson
Wilson

The January meeting of **MTGS** will be the annual **Show-n-Tell**, but this year with a different twist: **Authors' Day**. Seven Tennessee authors will be showing their most recent works and discussing them. The authors are **Edward P. McCullough**, *Native Americans in Williamson County, Tennessee*; **Barry Lamb**, *Rutherford County's Civil War*; **Tom Clark**, *Courage for Living* (Overton/Travelers Rest); **Ross Massey**, *Nashville Battlefield Guide*; **Woody McMillin**, *In the Presence of Soldiers* (WWII maneuvers in TN); and **Traci Nichols-Belt** and **Gordon T. Belt**, *Onward, Southern Soldiers*. Books will be available for sale.

The meeting will be January 21 at 1:00 p.m. at the FiftyForward Knowles Center (across from the State Fairgrounds). Refreshments will be served. It is not necessary to be a member to attend. More information is available at our website: <http://www.mtgs.org>.

Robert T. Nash will be discussing *Early Tennessee Land Grants* at "First Tuesday" at Metro Archives on January 10 in the Conference Room from 2:30-3:30. The Archives address is 3801 Green Hills Village Drive, Nashville, TN 37215. Phone 862-5880 if you need further information.

Just a reminder: the **MTGS** fiscal year is from June 1 through May 31 each year. Membership includes four issues of our award-winning journal. Non-members are welcome at all meetings except the annual all-day seminar in November.

And speaking of the seminar, it was an outstanding success. **MTGS** members **Elizabeth Shown Mills**, **J. Mark Lowe**, and **Chuck Sherrill** presented programs that were both informative and entertaining. The Brentwood Library meeting room was filled with attendees not just from Tennessee but from Alabama; Florida; Illinois; Kentucky; Maryland; Missouri; Mississippi; Pennsylvania; and Utah.

2012 marks the continuing observation of the Civil War's sesquicentennial. It is also, however, the bicentennial of the War of 1812. This war is sometimes referred to as the "forgotten" war, overshadowed by the American Revolution—only about three decades before—and the Mexican War and Civil War that followed. However, the war generated 180,000 files, containing millions of papers, which have never been microfilmed.

The National Archives, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and the genealogical community are raising money to digitize these records. To date 113,422 documents from the War of 1812 Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application files have been placed online. That represents only 1% of the total.

The project seeks to raise \$3.2 million to cover the cost of digitizing all the records. Contributions are welcomed from individuals, and information is online at www.fgs.org/1812.

Remember: news of your local society is welcomed in the "Messenger." Send items to: marthagerdeman@att.net

<http://www.mtgs.org>