



Vol. 7, No. 2

MTGS Messenger

Martha Gerdeman, Editor



March 2011

Our 40 Counties

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

The next meeting of the *Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society* will be at 1:00 p.m. on March 19, 2011, at the FiftyForward Knowles Center beside the State Fairgrounds in Nashville. **Carol Roberts, Director of the Preservation Services Section of the Tennessee State Library and Archives**, will be speaking on **Solving Mysteries using County Records and Loose Case Files**: an example of how preserving county historic records can help answer questions and solve mysteries. The presentation will include

- How to use county bound volumes and loose county case files effectively.
- How to use indexes and community names to focus in on the specific individual to be studied.
- How to use the "unexpected" records, district tax records, maps, and other techniques to add clues to accuracy of community history.
- Finally how to "gently" tell the story of documentation of unsolved crimes when families still live near one another in a community.

Descendants of two families of Bedford and Moore Counties had personal interests in marking several farmland gravesites that they knew about where there were only stones, no names. One grave led to an old community legend about a murder mystery. This "ghost story" and mystery went from absolutely no evidence to the full documentation of a murder inquiry, depositions, tax cases, and estate settlements; and yet no one was ever charged with the murder.

Dues are Due: Still only \$25.00 for individual or couple.

The March 9 issue of *The Tennessean* included an article about the beginning genealogy workshop held on Saturday, March 5, at **Tennessee State Library & Archives**. Twenty people, including a couple who drove two hours from McKenzie, braved the rainstorms to get an introduction to using **TSLA** records for family history research. Several members of **MTGS** were on hand to help the attendees.

The workshop was planned to take advantage of our very own **TSLA** having been featured on two episodes of the NBC series "Who Do You Think You Are?" We're finally "in," folks!

The **Society** meeting in May will be the annual election, as well as the presentation of the yearly award for the best article in the **MTGS Journal**. Paul R. White, Nashville attorney and genealogist and the author of several genealogical and historical books and articles will judge the competition and will be the featured speaker. Mr. White has held three legal workshops at **TSLA** and is working on his certification from the Board for Certification of Genealogists.

If anyone would like to have a new genealogical/historical book reviewed, please send to our Book Review Editor, Mrs. Shirley Wilson, 106 Leeward Place, Hendersonville, TN 37075. All materials become the property of the review editor to be distributed as appropriate to genealogical depositories.

<http://www.mtgs.org>