



MTGS Messenger

Martha Gerdeman, Editor



Vol. 11, No. 6

November 2015

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 **annual November seminar** will be our next meeting, on **November 21** at the Brentwood Public Library. As expected, registration filled up quickly. If there are registrants who do not come to the seminar, there may be room for walk-ins, but their registration fee will be \$60 and they will not get handouts or lunch.

Everyone looks forward to this event. **Elizabeth Shown Mills** is certainly, in the words of the latest MTGS Journal—the *grande dame* of Southern research. “**Strategies and Understandings: Tracking Elusive Ancestors**” is a topic that anyone, no matter where under what bush their ancestors are hiding, will find helpful.

The **January 16** meeting will be back at our usual venue-- FiftyForward Knowles, Patricia Hart Building, 174 Rains Ave., (across from the State Fairgrounds). This program, “**Ancestors, Antiques, and Artifacts**,” will be presented by you—the members of the Society. **Bring an heirloom, a photograph, the results of your research, and even your questions to share with other members.** Who knows? You may happen to meet an unknown cousin or someone else researching your family.

The meeting will begin at 1:30 and refreshments will be provided. Everyone is welcome, both members and nonmembers.

An alert reader noticed that the URL for the **Tennessee State Library and Archives database of Confederate Physicians** was incorrect in the last “Messenger.” The URL should have been <http://sos.tn.gov/products/tsla/tennessee-confederate-physicians-annotated-list>. The editor’s apologies for the error.

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

Is your society looking for a project that will increase the members' ability to research in early Tennessee records? For the past two years TSLA has been working to make the **original loose records from the Tennessee Land Office** available. These records, which date from the 1700s and early 1800s, are in a very fragile condition and have never been available before. Because of their condition, they must be cleaned, de-acidified, flattened and repaired before they can be digitized.

The records detail land ownership and exchanges from the very early days. Some surprising finds have been made, including the number of women's names included.

MTGS donated \$2,000 to the project last summer. That amount pays for the work of an intern for ten weeks. If your society would like to donate any amount to saving these priceless records, contact Chuck Sherrill, the state librarian and archivist, at Chuck.Sherrill@tn.gov. **Any amount** will be appreciated. The [TSLA Friends](#) will be happy to keep and build a separate fund to further this most worthy cause.

As one long-time genealogist commented, "I didn't think I would live long enough to see these records available!"

Don't forget that MTGS welcomes notices of your family reunions or local events and will publicize them to the entire Middle Tennessee area.

For inclusion in the "Messenger," email them to marthagerdeman@att.net. Send them to jimlong@comcast.net for publication on the MTGS website.