



MTGS Messenger

Martha Gerdeman, Editor



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September 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 [September 19](#) meeting of the society will return to FiftyForward Knowles, our usual meeting place, 174 Rains Avenue, Nashville, across from the fairgrounds. The meeting begins at [1:00 p.m.](#) and refreshments will follow.

The speaker for this meeting will be [Gordon T. Belt](#), Director of Public Services for the Tennessee State Library and Archives, founding editor and publisher of award-winning blog, "[The Posterity Project](#)", and author of [John Sevier: Tennessee's First Hero](#). Mr. Belt has a lifelong passion for history and has worked in special collections libraries and archives in the Volunteer State since 1995. He is a past president of the Society of Tennessee Archivists and a member of the Society of American Archivists, the National Council on Public History, the Tennessee Historical Society and a charter member and first treasurer of the Tennessee State Library and Archives Friends. His topic will be "[Who were the Melungeons? A Mysterious Sect of People living in Tennessee.](#)"

Registration is OPEN for the [annual all-day workshop on November 21 with presenter Elizabeth Shown Mills](#). Be sure to register early: it is expected to reach capacity attendance very quickly. Workshop payments may also be made by PayPal, but please check to see that the account name and the MTGS membership name are the same. If they are not, add a comment to that effect in the "Special Note to Seller" section.

Have you renewed your 2015-2016 memberships? Since June 1 is past, dues are now \$30.00. This year it's easier than ever to renew because MTGS now takes PayPal payments. Go to the website <http://www.mtgs.org/contact/default.html> and click on the "PayPal" button. Or send your check to PO Box 59085, Nashville, Tennessee 34205-9085.

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Do you have an ancestor who served as a [physician in the Confederate army](#)? TSLA has an **online index** about six sources that could include evidence of his service. Tennessee Confederate Physicians: An Introduction is located at [https://share.tn.gov/tsla/history/military/docintor.htm#Listing_of Physicians](https://share.tn.gov/tsla/history/military/docintor.htm#Listing_of_Physicians).

Another helpful website is the GenDisasters site located at <http://www3.gendisasters.com>. Here you can find newspaper accounts of all manner of disaster, such as the Dutchman's Curve train wreck in Nashville on 9 July 1918 when 101 people died and 171 were injured.

The next [TSLA workshop](#) will be held on [September 26 from 9:30 until 11:00 a.m.](#) MTGS's own **Jim Long** will be using case studies to explain "[Using TSLA Resources to Turn Small Clues into Big Discoveries](#)."

Jim will show the information that can be found in the many resources at TSLA, including photographs, and will provide tips about searching county records and using the TSLA directory as a resource. The workshop is free, but space is limited to 60 people, so register in advance by visiting <http://tslaworkshop-jimlong.eventbrite.com>. As of September 12, only 19 places remained.

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.