



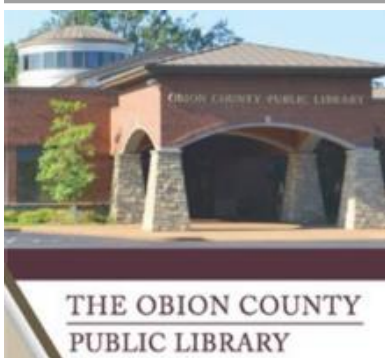
MTGS Messenger
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Jim Long, Editor

Our March 19 MTGS regular meeting will be **both in-person** at the Tennessee State Library and Archives (1001 Rep. John Lewis Way N, Nashville), **and on Zoom**. We are looking forward to seeing you, whether on the screen or in the flesh. The meeting starts at 1:00pm Central Time.

Our speaker is **Chuck Sherrill**, Tennessee State Librarian and Archivist, speaking on **“The Future of History.”** We will take a look at how records from the past are being brought to light with new technologies, and about future technologies that may help or hinder genealogists of the future in learning about our generation.

If joining us in person and this is your first time to the new State Library and Archives building, remember that there is 15-minute parking along Rep. John Lewis Way in front of the building so that you can pop in and get your TSLA Researcher Card that will allow access to the (wonderful, spacious) underground parking garage beneath the building.

The Zoom link for the meeting is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88304316195>



The 8th annual **Genealogical Workshop of the Obion County Public Library** in Union City, Tennessee will be May 7, 2022. This year’s speakers and programs are:

- Chuck Sherrill: *The New Tennessee State Library and Archives*, and *Patriot Paths: Tennessee Migration Trails from the Revolutionary War*
- Joe Burns, Germantown, TN – *E-Book Genealogy*
- Kim Richardson, Oxford, MS - *Turn Your Brick Wall into a Yellow Brick Road*, and *Beginners Colonial Era Research*
- Jason Terrell, Germantown, TN - *Native American Research*

Pre-registration runs from March 30 through May 1. For more information, contact Rebecca Dunning at the Obion Co. Public Library, email rebecca.dunning@oclibrary.org



The National Archives is holding virtual sessions on the upcoming **April 1 release of the 1950 Federal Census**. The events are free and do not require registration.

- March 2 at 1 p.m. ET Overview of What's on the 1950 Census (past event, but a video recording is available online)
- March 16 at 1 p.m. ET Mapping the 1950 Census: Census

Enumeration District Maps at the National Archives

- March 30 at 1 p.m. ET The 1950 Census Website: Design, Development, and Features to Expect
- April 27 at 1 p.m. ET The Story of the 1950 Census P8 Indian Reservation Schedule
- May 11 at 1 p.m. ET From Parchments to Printouts: History of the Census from 1790 to 1950
- May 18 at 1 p.m. ET History of Census Records and the National Archives
- May 25 at 1 p.m. ET Historic Census Bureau Sources for Filipino, Guamanian and Chamorro, American Samoan, and Native Hawaiian Research

Read more about the scheduled sessions, including how to watch and participate, on the National Archives' website at <https://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-series/2022>



This year, the Southern California Genealogical Society's **Genealogy**

Jamboree and Genetic Genealogy Conference will be 100% virtual and streamed on-line again—from August 19–27, 2022. All programs and presentations will be available to Jamboree and Genealogy Conference registrants through the end of October. Registration is already open. There's a regular conference, a DNA-focused conference, and a free conference available this year. For details, please visit <https://genealogyjamboree.com/>



[Rootstech 2022](#) has been over a week and I'm still wrapping my head around all of the sessions that are available to explore. I hope to tackle the DNA-related sessions first, as there's only 140 of

those! If I can tempt you to join me, the top 5 most-watched DNA sessions were:

- Associating Autosomal DNA Segments With Ancestors, by Roberta Estes, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHSCkNnX48>
- What to Do with Your DNA Test Results in 2022 (part 1 of 3), by Diahn Southard, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FENAKAYLXX4>
- Who Is FamilyTreeDNA?, by Bennett Greenspan, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHFtwoatJ-A>

- What to Do with Your DNA Test Results in 2022 (part 2 of 3), by Diahna Southard, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mllhtONhI>
- Latest DNA Painter Releases, by Jonny Perl, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLBThU8I33o>

The Virtual Expo Hall is something that I've already gotten lost in so far, and I was surprised that I would even find it interesting – being virtual. It's worth a browse as well.

On the (JP) Docket



At the County Archives where I volunteer, we recently discovered a whole set of records that, despite my decades of experience, I never knew existed. They had been mis-filed as loose records of the Circuit Court, when in fact they were **loose records of the Justice of the Peace**. JPs could try some cases right there on their front porch without the case ever going to trial at the county courthouse. JPs kept not only a docket book of the cases they heard, but also the little slips of paper involved in each case. Many JP records never found their way back to the courthouse, but that shouldn't stop us from asking about them when we visit a courthouse or a county archives.

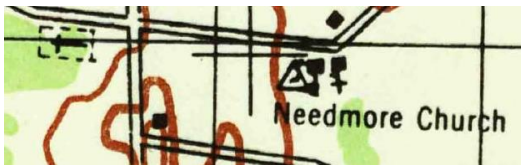
As these are relatively minor cases (think small-claims court or today's General Sessions Court), not everyone is going to find genealogical gold in them. But last week we found a murder case from 1870, tried by a JP and filed away with his papers. We recognized the victim as the ancestor of someone who had visited our Archives a few years ago, and we contacted them to let them know of the discovery, which **destroyed the brick wall** that the descendant had found no other way around on that ancestral line. Ask your local, friendly archivist about Justice of the Peace records!



Latin Meets Genealogy

A friend who is a high school Latin teacher in the Memphis area contacted me recently with a Latin+genealogy challenge. She had taken her Senior students to historic Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis, with the challenge of finding Latin inscriptions on the tombstones there. Working with the cemetery historian, they were a bit disappointed to learn that only 2 markers in the cemetery were known to include Latin inscriptions. She emailed me a photo of one of the markers, asking my help in how to research the person memorialized, who herself was said to have been a Latin teacher.

The exercise of answering her how-to-research genealogy question was a good exercise for me, and it reminded me of some great free tools available to the beginner-level genealogist who may not yet be ready to sign up for one of those expensive pay-wall genealogy sites. The [Tennessee Electronic Library](#) (TEL) includes free access to a great collection of Tennessee records on Ancestry (*accessible to Tennesseans only). On the same page are links to the free Chronicling America newspaper site, HeritageQuest Online (with a large collection of city directories I'd not noticed before), and TSLA's ever-growing Tennessee Virtual Archive (TeVA).



It Takes a Village To...Document a Cemetery

Recently I was contacted by my local American Legion Post who had adopted a long-neglected cemetery. The Post had decided to clean the cemetery and fence it, to try and protect it from encroaching development. Their longer-term goal is to identify veterans buried in the cemetery and mark their graves.

With the Post's description of its location, I was able to find the cemetery on Find-a-Grave, and a few people had already done some fine work in documenting the burials there. It was there I learned that the cemetery is an African-American cemetery, long known as Needmore Cemetery. I was asked by the Post to help find the history of the cemetery itself. I contacted one of the Find-a-Grave contributors, who manages the genealogy room at the local library, but he didn't know of the cemetery's history – his focus had been on the interments, and it had been a couple of years since he did that work.

The map snippet here is a 1944 USGS topo map showing the cemetery at left, not far from a church and a school also bearing the Needmore name. I *assumed* (and you can guess how that's going to turn out) that the cemetery was associated with the church. I began researching the church, but didn't find any information on the cemetery. I asked some 'old-timers' in that community, who knew about the cemetery (and the church) but nothing of its history. I researched the local newspaper for mentions of the church, with no breakthrough.

I then went to the local County Archives, which is our county's focal point for cemetery information, to see what might have been collected on the cemetery. The County Archivist pointed me to a 1920 deed that the cemetery wasn't associated with the nearby church, but rather with an organization called **The North American African Industrial Union, No. 8 Lodge, Sunshine Chapter**.

This is going to be a fascinating research project. And you can't help but appreciate the phrase "Needmore Church."