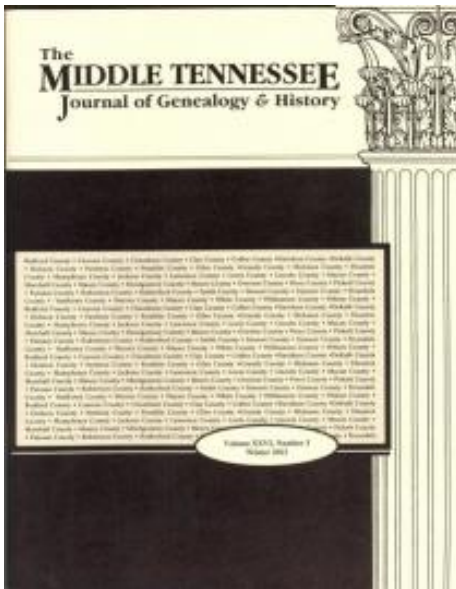




MTGS Messenger
Vol. 19, No. 2
March 2023
Jim Long, Editor



The Journey of the *Journal*

The next MTGS meeting will be **Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 1:00pm Central Time**, both in-person at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, and online via Zoom.

Our speaker is **Chuck Sherrill**, Editor of the *MTGS Journal* and former Tennessee State Librarian and Archivist. Chuck will be speaking on **the history of the *MTGS Journal***, will share **helpful tips for genealogical writing**, and will talk about **the benefits to researchers of genealogical journals**.

Come to the meeting and be inspired to put some of your genealogical research into print – maybe even in our *Journal*!

Speaking of genealogical journals, the Freebie Table at the meeting should have a healthy number of genealogical journals to browse and take home.

The Zoom link for this meeting is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81694556136>

A Very Brief - but Happy - Family Search

My former workmate Ruth heard from a mutual friend that I was a genealogy “guru”. She reached out to me via Facebook, explaining that she was working on applying for dual citizenship to honor her Italian roots, and that she had an Ancestry subscription but let it lapse. She wondered if I could help her with one document she had failed to look up in collecting her documentation. I replied “sure!”

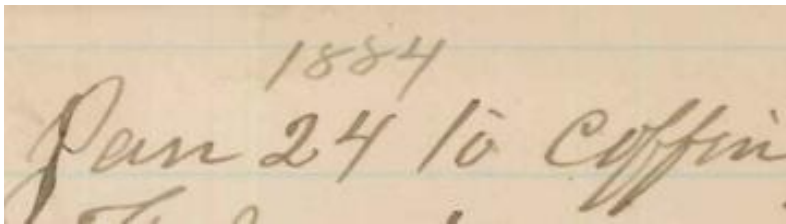


She messaged me that she needed the marriage date for her grandmother’s second marriage, and provided me the names Emerson Liddle and Frances

Bartlett, and a location of Lucas County, Ohio. She indicated that she needed their marriage date in order to write to Lucas County for a copy of the marriage record. We continued reminiscing back and forth through Messenger.

But while we were chatting, I jumped onto **FamilySearch** (a favorite destination of mine for original records) and found an online marriage database for Lucas County, Ohio. I entered the names Ruth had provided, and within seconds was looking at an image of the original, microfilmed record. I downloaded the image from microfilm, pasted it into the chat window, and of course she was shocked - and delighted. We continued to visit for a while.

If you know about [FamilySearch's millions of reels of online-for-free microfilm](#) – and how to use them - you need not depend on a genealogy subscription service for many of the records you seek. And you just might be called a “guru” by an old friend.



I'm Glad They Were "Too Poor to Trace"

For years, my genealogy pal Debbie has been trying to figure out what became of her ancestor Emily (Carney) Joyce

Lancaster, whose **last record was the 1880 census**, living with her 2nd husband (Richard Lancaster). Family tradition was that she had **died a few weeks after childbirth**, and that she was buried with other family members at a community cemetery, in an unmarked grave.

She had found a **March 1884 marriage** for a Richard Lancaster, who was either a different person, the widower of Emily, or, I suppose, a bigamist. But it didn't tell her what happened to Emily.

At the Archives where I volunteer, we have, for years, been processing the **loose records** that were generated in the cases heard in the courts. We were recently finishing the processing of the **loose records for the Justices of the Peace** in the 1880s. (Yes, JPs generated loose records in the cases they heard, too, even if those cases were heard on their front porch and never went to the courthouse). I came across the 1884 case of Martin & Allan (the local undertakers) **suing Richard Lancaster for an unpaid bill**. Among the only 5 slips of paper in this case was the unpaid bill itself, bearing the lines:

Jan. 24, 1884 – to coffin for Lancaster's child, \$8.00
Feb. 14, 1884 – to coffin for Lancaster's wife, \$20.00
Feb. 19, 1884 – by cash from Lancaster, \$15.00
Balance due - \$13.00

Bingo! Richard Lancaster's wife had died a few weeks after her child. Richard could not afford to pay for the coffins, so he was sued for \$13.00 before a Justice of the Peace.

If Richard had been able to pay his bill, my pal Debbie would never have learned what became of Emily. If you haven't explored the **loose records** in the counties where you research, ask about them!

(If you've been analyzing the dates above, you'll see that Richard's March 1884 marriage makes him, thankfully, a widower and not a bigamist).

Institutes Aplenty

Every summer, genealogists look forward to institutes of multi-day, intensive courses of study. The courses are popular and many have waiting lists. Here are a few to ponder adding to your calendar:

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| Texas Institute of Genealogical Research (TIGR) | June 12-16, 2023 (virtual only) 7 courses of study offered | \$425.00 (\$375.00 for Texas State Genealogical Society members) |
| Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP) | June 18-23, 2023 (virtual only, 12 courses) July 9-14, 2023 (in-person in Latrobe, PA, 8 courses) | \$550.00 course fee Plus \$395.00-\$515.00 housing fee if staying on-campus |
| Midwest African American Genealogy Institute (MAAGI) | July 11-13, 2023 (virtual only) 4 tracks of study offered | \$325.00 |
| Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR, formerly affectionately known as 'Samford') | July 24-28, 2023 (virtual only) 13 courses of study offered | \$545.00 (\$495.00 for Georgia Genealogical Society members) |
| Genealogical Institute on Federal Records (Gen-Fed) | August 7-12, 2023 (in-person at NARA, Washington, DC) | \$575.00 Limited seating determined by drawing from submitted applications |



What Are You Saving in your Family Collection?

I had a chance recently to examine a family collection outside of my own family. It was a treat for me, as house fires have destroyed any similar collections that might have found their way to me as the family genealogist.

Examining the collection made me think about what items I should be saving for later generations. Right now, my 'legacy' is limited to haphazard file folders of personal research on specific surnames, a nicely-organized set of research material on a laptop that probably only makes sense to me, plus a collection of books that I've compiled on records that I've deep-dived. Oh, and my collection of MTGS Journals, of course...

The items in the other family collection that most intrigued me were:

- A couple *hundred* letters of family correspondence, spanning several decades
- Tintype photos tucked into a graduation invitation from 1892
- Confederate bills
- 3 locks of Grandma's hair from 100 years ago (which made me think, "The family needs to get Grandma's DNA from these")

On a Lighter Note...

Richard Lancaster, Widower and Brief Husband

Earlier, I mentioned helping my genealogy pal Debbie find out what happened to her ancestor Emily. Just a month after Emily died, her 2nd husband Richard Lancaster got remarried. This was not at all unusual, as he had 7 children at home, ranging in age from 19 to 5.

Well...a month after his remarriage, Richard was back in the courthouse, filing for a divorce from his new bride. His divorce petition, nicely preserved at the County Archives, states: "...he and Defendant...lived together for about 2 weeks, or till last Sunday a week ago, when he discovered that she was pregnant, and on the next day admitted to him that she was pregnant, by a man in Missouri who afterwards was drowned."

The phrase 'who afterwards was drowned' seemed odd to me – did the unfortunate Missourian meet with an accident, or did the soon-to-be-ex Mrs. Lancaster dispatch him "afterwards"?
