



# MTGS Messenger



Vol. 15, No. 3

May 2019

## **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 next MTGS regular meeting is next **Saturday, May 18, 2019, at 1:00pm at the John P. Holt Brentwood Library**, 8109 Concord Rd, Brentwood, TN.

Our speaker will be **Ken Fieth**, Archivist of the [Metro-Davidson County Archives](#), who will present a program on the **Giers Glass Plate Negative Collection at the Metro Archives, 1890-1905**, a collection of negatives of 19<sup>th</sup>-century photographs by well-known Nashville photographers Otto and C. C. Giers.

In addition to bringing our program, Mr. Fieth will also present our annual **Writer's Award** for the best-judged article from the previous year's issues of our [Middle Tennessee Journal of Genealogy & History](#).



Our popular **DNA Chat, with Dr. David Dowell**, is back by popular demand and will follow the meeting.

**Please don't let the train to genealogy fun leave without you !!**



The **MTGS Membership Renewal** period is here. **Current memberships expire May 31, 2019**. You can renew your membership (\$25.00) via check (payable to MTGS) at our May meeting. You can also mail a check to us at P. O. Box 59085, Nashville, TN, 37205-9085, or renew your membership online via PayPal at our web page <http://www.mtgs.org/contact/>.

**BillionGraves** is hosting a large **cemetery documentation project** in the Nashville area on **May 18th and 19th**. Volunteers will be documenting the headstones of four large historical cemeteries: [Calvary Catholic Cemetery](#), [Mt. Olivet Cemetery](#), [Greenwood Cemetery](#) and [Greenwood West Cemetery](#).

The information that is collected will be shared with other companies such as FamilySearch, MyHeritage, and FindMyPast, and everything that is documented is available to the general public for free on their website, <https://billiongraves.com/>

For more information about volunteering at this 2-day event, visit <https://billiongraves.com/volunteer>

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The **31st Annual MTGS Genealogical Seminar** will be **Saturday, November 16, 2019**, from 9:00am – 4:00pm, at the **John P. Holt Brentwood Library**, 8109 Concord Rd, Brentwood, TN. **Dick Eastman**, renowned long-time genealogy lecturer and blogger, and founder of [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#), will be our presenter.

Join us for these great topics:

- Genealogy Searches on Google
- The Organized Genealogist
- Using Online Genealogy Programs
- Mobile Apps for Genealogy

The Seminar Brochure will be emailed to current MTGS members in August, with registration beginning September 1. Mark your calendars to join us for a day of genealogy fun and education!

## Upcoming Local and Regional Genealogy Events

- Portland Genealogy Club Meeting, **June 1**, 10:30am, Cold Springs School House (in Richland Park, across from the Library), Portland, TN; Topic: a history of the school and teaching in the early days
- [TSLA Workshop Series](#), **June 1**, 9:30am - 11:00am, **Tennessee Statehood Day and the Tennessee Constitutions**, presented by **Hon. Andy D. Bennett**, Tennessee Court of Appeals
- MTGS Regular Meeting, **July 20**, The John P. Holt Brentwood Library; **Veronica Sales** from TSLA will present a program on finding and using **Church Records in Genealogical Research**
- [Kentucky Genealogical Society \(KGS\) Annual Seminar](#) with Blaine T. Bettinger, **August 3**, Center for Kentucky History, Frankfort, KY
- [Federation of Genealogical Societies \(FGS\) Conference](#), **August 21-24**, Washington, DC
- [TSLA Workshop Series](#), **September 14**, 9:30am - 11:00am, **Runaways, Coffles and Fancy Girls: A History of Slavery in Tennessee**, presented by **Bill Carey**
- MTGS Regular Meeting, **September 20**, The John P. Holt Brentwood Library - Speaker: **Paul White**, on accessing and using **wills and probate records**
- **31st Annual MTGS Genealogical Seminar with Dick Eastman**, **November 16**, The John P. Holt Brentwood Library
- [TSLA Workshop Series](#), **November 30**, 9:30am - 11:00am, **TSLA Family History Day**, speaker and topic TBA

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The [Williamson County Public Library's Special Collections](#) department is seeking genealogists to help with its **Pioneer Family program**. Volunteers would help to screen Pioneer Family applications and help to administer the program.

Interested genealogists, and would-be genealogists, may contact Marcia Fraser, Special Collections Librarian, at 615-595-1246 or [marcia.fraser@williamsoncounty-tn.gov](mailto:marcia.fraser@williamsoncounty-tn.gov).

At the [Federation of Genealogical Society's national conference](#), August 21-24 in Washington, DC, a couple of Middle Tennesseans will be presenters:

Deborah Wilbrink, BJ, will present:

- Using Photographs To Illustrate Your Family History
- Save Your Family Story: Write Your Family History

Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS, FUGA, will present:

- GPS + FAN + DNA: The Problem-Solver's Great Trifecta
- Poor? Black? Female? Enslaved? Southern Research Strategies: Philomene of Cane River (Nineteenth Century)
- Poor? Black? Female? Enslaved? Southern Research Strategies: Coincidence of Isle of Canes (Eighteenth Century)

MTGS President **Bob Dennison** is celebrating a decision to split his time between Tennessee and Florida and enjoy retirement even more. While we will be sad to see him less-often at MTGS events, we wish him every happiness. MTGS Vice-President **Carolyn Lallemand** has graciously agreed to serve as MTGS President. Thank you, Carolyn!

It's heartbreaking to see the loss of historic structures and records in **Loudon, Tennessee**, due to the [fire in the historic courthouse](#). Reports that many of the historic records had been removed from the courthouse for indexing seem to be incorrect. Thankfully, [TSLA's Loudon County microfilm inventory](#) reveals that most of the historic bound volumes from the courthouse had been microfilmed. However, the inventory does not mention that any of the loose records had been microfilmed.

Are the records in your county well-preserved? Reach out to [your local County Archives](#) and find out how you can volunteer in preservation efforts.

The [TNGenWeb Project](#) group on Facebook is a great place to get genealogy help. There are also Facebook groups dedicated to each Tennessee county.

The MTGS **Freebie Table** is a regular feature at our bi-monthly meetings. If you have genealogical or historical books or magazines to share, please bring them to a meeting.