



MTGS Messenger
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Jim Long, Editor

The MTGS September 18 meeting will be virtual only. Please join us at the usual time, **1:00pm Central Time on Saturday, September 18**, for one of our most-talented speakers, **Taneya Koonce, MSLS, MPH**, who will present on **Surname Studies and One-Name Studies**, training us on genealogical skills for studying a particular surname and for studying a particular location. Taneya is a past MTGS Board Member and Seminar speaker, and leads the [Nashville Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society](#).



The Zoom link for the September 18 meeting is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84392877784>

Please join us!



MTGS November Seminar Will Be Virtual Again This Year

We had planned to offer an in-person option for this year's **33rd Annual Genealogical Seminar**. However, the [St. Jude Rock 'n' Roll Nashville Marathon](#) will be surrounding the State Library and Archives the same day, making access to the building a marathon in and of itself. The Seminar will instead be [Zoomed on Saturday, November 20](#), with no in-person option.

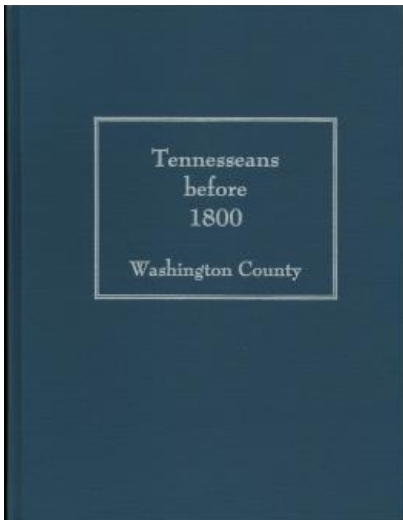
Our speaker is Tina Beaird, author, historian and genealogical lecturer, who is a member of the [Association of Professional Genealogists](#) and the [Genealogical Speakers Guild](#). Seminar topics will include:

- CSI: Cemetery Search and Investigation
- Mapping Your Migrating Ancestors
- Researching Family History at the Library of Congress
- Scotland's Resources: There's More to Scottish Research Than Scotland's People!

Tina, who owns [Tamarack Genealogy](#), is a genealogy & local history librarian at a mid-sized Chicagoland public library, and lectures nationally on topics including genealogical methodology, military records, Scottish research and photo and archival preservation.

The Seminar will be **free to current MTGS members, and just \$10.00 for non-members**. As we did last year, non-members who sign up for the Seminar will receive a 6-month membership to MTGS.

Stay tuned for Seminar registration information. We will email registration information to current MTGS members and former Seminar attendees soon. Feel free to share the information with a friend!



Special Davidson and Washington County Research Books Still Available

We still have some copies available of two special, out-of-print books, ***Tennesseans Before 1800: Davidson County*** and ***Tennesseans Before 1800: Washington County***, authored by Marjorie Hood Fischer in 1996 and 1997. MTGS made special arrangements with the owner of the remaining stock of books to purchase some at a special price – and pass the savings on to you!

These two books index the earliest records in Davidson and Washington counties. The index entries give the name, type of record, book number or other identifying information, page number and TSLA Microfilm Number. Mrs. Fischer only published indexes of Davidson and Washington counties, but many westbound settlers passed through or settled in these two pioneer Tennessee counties.

The books are hardcover and are **\$25.00 each for current (2021-22) MTGS members and \$30.00 for former members and non-members**. The Davidson County book runs 406 pages and the Washington County book is 334 pages.

Visit the ***NEW*** [MTGS Store web page](#) for details on how to get your copies of these great resources.



[Academy of Legacy Leaders™: A Group for Family History Enthusiasts](#) is a vibrant Facebook group for genealogy and family history enthusiasts, created and hosted by our September speaker, **Taneya Koonce**. She offers great guides, tips and discussions there – check it out!



A great way to keep your genealogical skills sharp is to research a person or family whom you know nothing about. This eliminates preconceptions that you may have acquired unintentionally about your own family and about your past research efforts.

Try it sometime – perhaps by helping someone with unknown parentage, as that is especially rewarding to both you and them. Researching living or recently-deceased individuals can be challenging – thankfully – due to privacy laws, but it's quite amazing how much you can learn from newspapers.



When you start a new genealogy research project in a new county, the best place to start is the local library in that county, right? Or the local county archive, if there is one, right?

I recently undertook a paid local research project for someone who lives far away. The client wanted me to research her ancestors in Christian County, Kentucky, which is adjacent to my home county in Middle Tennessee. The Christian County Public Library has a nice genealogy room, but as I was

preparing my research plan in advance of traveling there, I learned that a long-time genealogist and publisher in Christian County had donated his large personal collection to the genealogy room in my town, Clarksville. I've heard rumors of why he didn't donate them to his local library, but to my benefit, I can do a lot of research for the client in my own library first.

Check the libraries near your target library for resources that the target library may not have, even if they're across a state line!



In May, the Family History Library in Salt Lake City launched a new [Library Lookup Service](#) that has been very helpful during the Library's closure, and continues even after the Library has reopened. With a free FamilySearch account, we've long been able to determine which books of interest to us are in the FHL,

but most of those books are only accessible in person at the Family History Library.

If you provide the title or call number of a book, along with the page numbers to have copied, if known, they will email you a PDF copy. They ask that you be as specific as possible since they are unable, due to copyright restrictions, to copy a large number of pages from any one book. Please keep in mind that this is not a research service, but a targeted search in a specific book whose title/call number you've already determined. If you don't know specific page numbers, they will look in the book's index for the name or chosen term of interest.
