



TSLAFriends

Friends of the Tennessee State Library and Archives

Issue 2

Fall 2011

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Save the Date!

October 13

(NOT October 6 as was reported erroneously earlier):

Annual Friends Reception and Celebration

just before the Southern Festival of Books

See below to check out the Silent Auction Items available at the meeting!



Dear Ellen,

It's hard to believe that we are coming up on our first anniversary! We do hope you will join us for an evening with John Egerton and our annual membership meeting at the Tennessee State Library and Archives on Thursday, October 13. Please see below for more details. Meanwhile, we have several projects underway that fulfill our mission of preserving the past and informing the future so be sure to [join TSLAFriends for the first time](#) or [renew your membership!](#)

John Egerton to Share "Sleuthing in the Archives" for TSLAFriends Annual Meeting!



Thursday, October 13 from 5-6:30.

Noted historian and archival advocate John Egerton will share some of his secrets from the stacks in a talk that is the centerpiece of TSLAFriends' Second Annual Membership Meeting.

The evening kicks off at 5pm with refreshments and items on display for a silent auction (see list of items at left). Mr. Egerton will begin his talk at 5:30 after which he will be available to sign copies of his works. The silent auction will conclude at 6:15.

Please RSVP your attendance to libraryellen@gmail.com by October 10.

About John Egerton: John Egerton has been a "professional South-watcher" for half a century. An Atlantan by birth, a Kentuckian by nurture,

New Hours

Lean years in the state's budget have impacted the Tennessee State Library and Archives schedule.

Effective July 1, the hours during which TSLA is open to the public have changed. The library and archives is now **closed on Mondays**, and **open from 8-4:30 Tuesday through Saturday**.

A couple of bright spots appear, however. A new patron lounge is open - a small area with vending machines and a refrigerator where visitors can store and eat lunch without leaving the building (and losing their parking space!). Additionally, the Manuscripts area, now relocated near the library's reference desk, is now open for business on Saturdays.



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The TSLA Newsletter is written and edited by Ellen Myrick with special thanks to

and a Tennessean by choice since 1965, he has written more than a dozen books and scores of articles for magazines and newspapers. Virtually all of his work could be classified as nonfiction writing about the South--except for his last book, *Ali Dubyah and the Forty Thieves*, which was called "political-science fiction" and "a true fable" when it appeared in 2006.

Restoring Records and Dignity: The Federal Burial Sheets Project

by Fletch Coke

Nashville was occupied by the Federal Army in late February

1862. During the war years, there were 25 hospitals for sick and wounded soldiers established in Nashville. Hospitals were located in homes, warehouses, schools, factories and churches. Local undertaker W. R. Cornelius was employed by the Federal Army to bury soldiers in Nashville City Cemetery, the nearby U. S. Burial Grounds and other burial sites. Confederate soldiers were also buried in City Cemetery. As soon as the Nashville City Cemetery Association's website went online in 2006, Fletch Coke received many requests for tombstone photographs for Federal soldiers whose Records of Death & Interment listed burials in City Cemetery, Nashville, but today these soldiers have no tombstones. City Cemetery interment books listed only a few private burials of Federal soldiers during the Civil War.

Where were the names for all the Federal soldiers originally buried in Nashville City Cemetery?

The Final Disposition, Volume III, listed the numbers, but not the names, for 15,932 reburials, including 3,021 reburials from the Nashville City Cemetery, to the Nashville National Cemetery between October 1867 & January 1868. In the Roll of Honor, Volume XXII, published in 1869, the U.S. Quartermaster General gave his final report of the 16,485 re-interments at Nashville National Cemetery. These re-interments came from 251 burial places, listed by towns but not by exact burial locations. This report stated that "a full and complete record of all the interments in this cemetery, together with a complete copy of all burial sheets" had been deposited at the Nashville National Cemetery and in the Quartermaster's office in Washington. These Burial Sheets would give the original burial places in Nashville, throughout Tennessee and in Kentucky.

The question was asked by Dr. Wayne Moore and Fletch Coke: Where were the Burial Sheets? Inquiry to the Nashville National Cemetery found that these "Burial Sheets" were not on-site. Dr. Moore and Fred Prouty contacted their research associate Dale Floyd in Washington who, after much diligent search in 2009 in the National Archives, was able to locate the volume with the "Burial Sheets." The volume was microfilmed by TSLA. In 2011, TSLAFriends Volunteer Fletch Coke and Intern Gianna Richiuso have embarked on transcribing the over 16,000 records which will be entered in a database and made available to the public. Progress

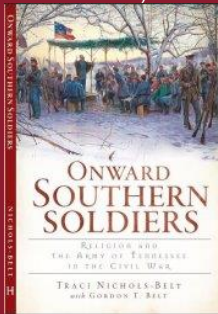
contributors Chuck Sherrill and Fletch Coke

Check out these Silent Auction Items available at the Annual Membership Meeting on October 13:

A Civil War newspaper featuring an intricate map of the Battle of Knoxville (donated from the George A. Everett collection)



A signed first edition copy of *Onward Southern Soldiers* co-authored by Gordon Belt (donated by the author)



A signed first edition of *The Cheshire Cheese Cat* by New York Times best-selling author Carmen Deedy (donated by Peachtree Publishers)



A collection of classic books on audio including *The Count of Monte Cristo*, *Persuasion* and *Martin Chuzzlewit*, (donated by Franklin-based Naxos Audio)

updates on this and other projects funded by TSLAFriends will be available in future issues of this newsletter.

Suggested Readings:

Drew Gilpin Faust, *The Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*

John R. Neff, *Honoring the Civil War Dead*



Sesquicentennial Commemoration: Looks Back for Archival Gems

TSLA is involved in many projects related to the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War. Most prominent is the "Looking Back" project, in which teams of archives and

museum experts are visiting each county to turn up Civil War era treasures owned by families in that area.

Prior to the visit of the Looking Back crew, publicity announces the event in the county and invites people with Civil War photos, documents and artifacts to bring them to the event. On the appointed day, a team of experts from TSLA and the Tennessee State Museum talks with each visitor about the items they have brought, ranging from ceremonial swords to love letters from soldiers. Each item is digitally scanned or photographed and a detailed account of its history is recorded.

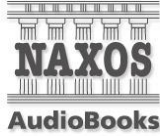
Eventually the entire collection will be available on the TSLA web site for use by students, researchers and collectors. Samples such as the picture of the Ammons brothers pictured above are online now at: [TSLA's Civil War in Tennessee site](#).

TSLA Staff Spotlight

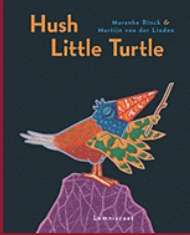
Carol Roberts, Director of Preservation Services

What do you enjoy most about your job? I enjoy the folks I work with the most. We are all perfectionists at what we do and have a big dose of common sense to go with hard work. I love the variety of things we preserve; maps, daguerreotypes, county record books, audio cylinders and everything. I love getting to go into county courthouses' basements, attics and bell towers. I have been in about 10 old bell or clock towers around the state searching for county records to microfilm, and I lost count of how many





A collection of books for **Baby's First Library** including board books and beautiful picture books (donated by several publishers)



A collection of audiobook bestsellers featuring *The Help*, *Started Early, Took My Dog*; and a Michael Connelly boxed set (donated by various publishers)



basements and coal bins I have had the privilege to search. I lack seven counties out of Tennessee's 95.

What one item did you most enjoy preserving and why?

I can't really choose one item, there are so many ranging from newspaper clippings about Alvin York to the State Constitution. Two things do stand out: First, as Conservator, I worked on cleaning and stabilizing a hand-drawn map of Williamson County then studied it to find two sets of great-great grandparents home-places identified with names. Second, it was a great honor to help Jill Hastings Johnson move the archives of permanent county records and microfilming equipment out of the condemned Montgomery County Clerks' Office and into better space after the January 1999 tornado.

What is the most surprising thing that has passed through your department?

That's easy: a 1929 solid cast iron brake fluid cylinder and embalming fluid, both from Supreme Court case exhibits. I have to add a signed photograph of Eleanor Roosevelt to Cordell Hull.

These are just a few of the treasures of the Tennessee State Library and Archives! To learn more visit [TSLA!](#) *Carol Roberts holds a BA in Education and History with a Minor in Chemistry from David Lipscomb University and a MA in History and Historic Preservation from Middle Tennessee State University. September 1, 2011 marked her 25th anniversary with TSLA!*

Thank you for your support of TSLA!

Steve Richards

President, TSLAFriends