



TSLAFriends

Friends of the Tennessee State Library and Archives

Issue: 1

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Save the Date!

October 6: Annual Friends Reception and Celebration, just before the Southern Festival of Books

Genealogy Snapshot

Genealogy is one of the most popular hobbies in America today - and the Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL) is the place to get started with genealogical research.

Through the library's web site, Tennesseans can discover their family histories with HeritageQuest, an easy-



Dear Virginia,

Welcome to this first issue of the TSLAFriends Newsletter! Look here for insights into the Tennessee State Library and Archives collections, advance notice for exhibits and events, and spotlights on the people that make TSLA the treasure it is!

For the Record: Saving the Supreme Court

TSLAFriends' first major project is underway!

A project to preserve historic records of the Tennessee Supreme Court is moving forward, thanks to assistance from the Friends of the Tennessee State Library and Archives. The Friends group received a \$70,000 grant from Ancestry.com, a leading provider of online genealogy information, and has agreed to devote the funds to help open the Supreme Court case files stored at Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) for research.

One of the project's goals is to restore, index and create a searchable database for the court's case files at TSLA, which date from 1796 to 1950.

The project was launched with grant funding from the Supreme Court Historical Society and a Byrne grant in 2007. The project's leaders plan to use funding from the Friends of TSLA to supplement staff, supplies and equipment so that work may proceed at a much quicker pace.

to-search collection of genealogical and historical sources that goes back to the 1700s. Search by name, year or location to find family information.

HeritageQuest includes Census records going back to 1790, more than 28,000 digitized genealogy and local history books, and Revolutionary War records.

Check out [HeritageQuest](#), and look for the "Genealogy" button at TEL

The Tennessee Electronic Library is funded by the Tennessee General Assembly and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. For more information about the resources available through TEL, e-mail: tel.tsla@tn.gov



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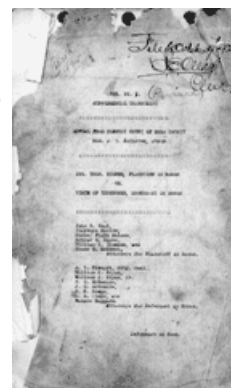
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The TSLA Newsletter is written and edited by Ellen Myrick with special thanks to Chuck Sherrill for the Supreme Court Project update.

The Supreme Court case files, with 11,000 boxes containing approximately 250,000 cases, are a treasure trove of historical information for researchers. The project database - which will include names of plaintiffs and defendants as well as causes of action and topical information that would be of interest to historians, genealogists, and others - will be available online soon. The online index will be updated regularly as additional work is completed.



One World, Many Stories

Tennessee's Summer Reading Program

Every year, thousands of children and teens take part in Tennessee's Summer Reading Program. This year's theme of "One World, Many Stories" lends itself to an especially wide variety of suggested books, activities and programs. TSLA staff, led by Lindsey Wesson, has provided a plethora of resources housed on the [TSLA website](#).

Friend Spotlight

Virginia Gooch Watson, Board member, aka "Ginny-ology"

As a genealogist, I feel TSLA is the area "Mecca" for genealogical research as one can begin with records in a city then move to the county and state as well as utilize those of Tennessee's parent states, North Carolina and Virginia. TSLA has one of the best collections in the southeast and continues to enhance it and make their holdings available to the public both in print and in digital form on their website. As a past staff member beginning on the current building's opening day in June 1953, I continually find new acquisitions and avenues to pursue and working with the very knowledgeable staff is a real pleasure. It is indeed a privilege to be a part of the TSLA Friends and its mission to support TSLA.



Thank you for your support of TSLA!

Steve Richards

President, TSLAFriends

