



TSLAFriends

Friends of the Tennessee State Library and Archives

Issue 7

Summer 2013

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**Current TSLA
Newsfeed -
Time to get
Social!**

The Tennessee State Library and Archives provide updates on all the current programs and events on the Facebook page and the Blog.

Click here to view and subscribe:



Dear Jim,



We celebrated TSLA Staff Appreciation Day in April. I joined our lovely TSLAFriends volunteers Kathy Cowan and Sue Edwards to honor the staff of the library we love. TSLAFriends provided breakfast and door prizes to say a big thank you for all they do.

Our next board meeting is coming up in October, at that time Virginia Watson will be your new TSLAFriends President for 2013-2014! This is my last year as President and it has been an honor to help launch such a worthwhile organization. Don't worry - I won't be going far. Tennessee history is my passion and I intend to be an active part of the group for years to come.

We will have board seats to fill and committees that desperately need your help. If you are interested in donating some of your time, please contact us at info@tslafriends.org. We have many places that your time could help.

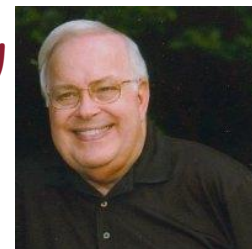
Steve Richards

TSLAFriends President



Recording Your Family's Story in a Print or Oral History

Presented by
Jim Taulman
Saturday, June 1, 2013 - 9:30-11:00AM
TSLA Auditorium



[Facebook](#)
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TSLA Friends

Steve Richards, President

Virginia Gooch Watson, Vice
President/President Elect
Fred James, Treasurer
Bonnie Kunzel, Secretary

Board of Directors

Paul Clements (Middle
Tennessee)
Celia Walker (Middle
Tennessee)
David Ewing (At Large)
Bruce Wheeler (East
Tennessee)
Rep. Steve McDaniel (West
Tennessee)
Paul A. Matthews (West
Tennessee)
Cherel Henderson (East
Tennessee)

Ex Officio

Chuck Sherrill,
State Librarian
and Archivist
Jami Awalt,
TSLA Liaison

This workshop will provide an opportunity to explore the process of gathering your family story and will provide you with the tools to record your own family story or that of a family member. It will also challenge and motivate you to get started on your project.

Jim Taulman has 35 years of writing and editorial experience, and has written and published five books, over a thousand articles, and has edited numerous periodicals, historical journals, and other materials. He is a member of the Association of Personal Historians and adheres to their code of ethics.

Those wishing to attend this free workshop must contact TSLA to reserve a seat as the number of attendees is limited. Patrons can register by telephone by calling 615-741-2764, or by email at: workshop.tsla@tn.gov



Looking Back: The Civil War in TN

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War (2011-2015), the staff of the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) are hitting the state's highways and byways in search of Civil War memorabilia.

Individuals may schedule an appointment, and we will digitally copy and assist in the preservation of your Civil War era manuscripts, artifacts and photographs.

The TSLA will be hosting a digitization event in Sewanee, TN!
Location: University of the South Archives
81 Alabama Ave., Sewanee, TN 37383

Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2013
Time: 11:00 am -- 4:00 pm

[To register for a time to bring you items - download form here.](#)

[To see other areas that will be hosting events - click here](#)



Digital copies of the items shared by Tennessee residents, representing the rich Civil War heritage of Tennessee families, will become part of a virtual exhibit commemorating the 150th anniversary of the war in Tennessee..

Early TN Tax Lists

Now Online

Paying taxes can be painful today, but our ancestors didn't have it much easier. Although our federal income tax only dates back to the Civil War era, Tennesseans have been paying state and local taxes since long before then.



Name	Land	Taxes	Other	Total
John Doe	100	10		10
John Smith	200	20		20
John Brown	300	30		30
John White	400	40		40
John Black	500	50		50
John Green	600	60		60
John Grey	700	70		70
John Blue	800	80		80
John Yellow	900	90		90
John Purple	1000	100		100

Now Tennessee tax records dating back to 1783 are available free online to Tennesseans, thanks to a partnership between the Tennessee State Library and Archives and Ancestry.com. The online database contains records from 71 of Tennessee's 95 counties. Famous notables like Andrew Jackson (who paid \$66 in taxes to Davidson County in 1829) appear side by side with ordinary farmers, millers and laborers.

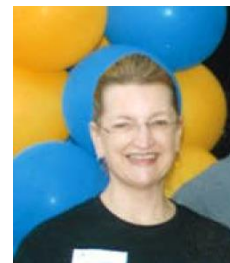
Tennessee law did not require tax lists to be kept permanently, so many of the early records have been destroyed. However, those that survived are excellent tools for historical and genealogical research. The tax lists in the database have the names of white males over age 21 for each of the counties, along with additional information about each listed person's land, slaves, and other property.

The records also show the different types of taxes levied through the years. In some years, the state assessed a tax on each carriage. In others, owners of stud horses had to pay an additional levy. The lists show which taxpayers had these "luxuries" along with the number of acres and town lots owned. This information can be useful for locating ancestors and learning about their financial circumstances.

The database contains 262,784 records and 7,720 images. Here is the URL for the tax list database: <http://search.ancestry.com/iexec/?htx=List&dbid=2883>.

TSLA Friends Spotlight

Ruth Hemphill, Director of the Tennessee Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped



Tell us a little about TNLBPH and its services?

The Tennessee Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is Tennessee's public library for anyone who has a physical print disability. We have books and magazines in braille, audio, and large print formats that we loan to people all over the State of Tennessee, using the US Postal Service's "Free Matter" mailing privilege. Since, like any library, we do want these materials back, people can return them to us the same way-through the US Postal Service, via "Free Matter for the Blind & Physically Handicapped." We also loan "talking book players" for use with

our audio books. The players are on extended loan for as long as someone actively borrows audio books from us. If it should malfunction, the player just needs to be returned to us and we will replace it, free-of-charge.

Who is eligible for TNLBPH services?

People who are eligible to borrow books from us are Tennessee residents who are blind, of course, but also people who cannot see well enough to read standard print. In other words, if you need large print to read for any length of time, you are eligible to borrow books and magazines from us. In addition, people who may have perfect vision, but who have a manual dexterity problem which prevents them from holding a book and turning pages can borrow our audio books and magazines. Our service is completely free to the patron, since we are publicly funded, with state and federal funds---it's your tax dollars at work!

How do people apply for the services at TNLBPH?

They need to complete an application, which is on our website, <http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/lbph> , or we would be happy to mail one through the U.S. Postal Service. The application with the original signature of a certifying authority (who signs the application certifying that the person has a disability that prevents them from reading standard print) must be sent to us, either through the US Postal Service, or it can be brought to our office in the TSLA building.

What is the one thing you love most about working for TNLBPH?

The fact that what I do each day makes a difference for people and I enjoy that our patrons tell me that, each and every day!