



TSLAFriends

Friends of the Tennessee State Library and Archives

Issue 12

Fall 2014

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WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS

TSLA welcomes interns and volunteers who would like to be involved in aspects of library and archival work.

All interested candidates should be detail-oriented and have some background in history or library work.

[For available opportunities click here >>>](#)



Dear TSLAFriends,

With Fall around the corner, Ancestry.com will make its debut to Nashville, TN on Saturday, September 20, 2014 with the "Tennessee Ancestry Library Event" sponsored by TSLA and co-sponsored by the TSLAFriends.

Prior to Saturday there will be Free daily workshops at TSLA in the mornings and afternoon covering the following topics:

- Tennessee Land Grants
- Civil War Ancestors on the Home Front: Union Provost Records
- Getting the Most Out of Tennessee Records on Ancestry.com
- Behind the Scenes Tour of TSLA
- Finding your Ancestors in Tennessee Court Records
- How to Use Family Tree Maker
- Family Tree Maker Q&A Session

as well as Librarian's Day on Friday, September 19 for Tennessee Librarians.

Registration is now open for both the Saturday Ancestry.com event and the Tuesday-Friday pre-event activities at TSLA. Follow the two emails below so you can arrive in September for an exciting genealogical and historical event.

Ancestry Day - Tennessee Ancestry Library Event (TALE)



[Tennessee Ancestry Library Event \(TALE\)](#)

Ancestry.com and Tennessee State Library & Archives

Saturday, September 20, 2014
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (CDT)

TSLAFriends Board of Directors

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Chuck Sherrill,
State Librarian

Dr. Carroll Van West
TN State Historian (Ex
Officio)

Archivist
Jami Awalt,
TSLA Liaison

*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.

and.. Pre-Ancestry Day Events at TSLA



Tennessee Ancestry Library Pre- event Activities

Ancestry.com and Tennessee State Library & Archives Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 7:00 PM - Friday, September 19, 2014 at 10:00 PM (CDT)

Tennessee Ancestry Library Event Pre-event Activities

The bi-monthly Saturday workshops are continuing as scheduled in our last newsletter, Issue 11, Summer 2014 with plans for 2015 in the works.

Visit our webpage where you can view our newly revised TSLAFriends brochure for which we owe our appreciation to Kate Williams, Exhibits Coordinator and Scanning Specialist at TSLA, for her creativity in a new design and for added updates

If you have suggestions and ideas that TSLAFriends could implement to help in "Preserving the Past and Informing the Future, please let us hear from you.

Hope to see you at some of the Ancestry.com events and if you'd like to take that tour of TSLA conducted by Chuck Sherrill, Tennessee State Librarian and Archivist, now is your chance to see how things are done at TSLA.

Virginia Gooch Watson

President
TSLAFriends



TN State Library & Archives Puts Family Bible Records Online

Visitors to the website of the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) can now access family Bible records previously available only to patrons visiting TSLA's building. Over the past few years, TSLA volunteer Cinamon Collins scanned more than 1,500 family Bible records held at TSLA.

Most of the records were photocopied from privately-held family Bibles and preserved at TSLA by archivists and librarians. A new database on the TSLA website allows researchers to browse these records in their entirety,

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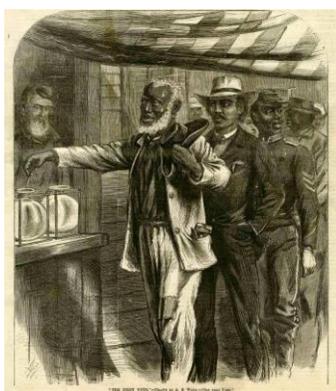


and a search function will ultimately include all of the thousands of names written in these unique documents.

"I am thrilled that the State Library and Archives and our volunteers have worked to make these resources accessible to all Tennesseans," Secretary of State Tre Hargett said. "The information recorded in TSLA's collection of Bible records is not only helpful for genealogy, but also a wonderful display of history at a very personal level."

"A major stumbling block in Southern genealogical research is the lack of recorded vital records prior to the 20th Century," State Librarian and Archivist Chuck Sherrill said. "Often, inscriptions in Bibles handed down from one generation to the next offer the only details about our ancestors' births, marriages, and deaths. This new tool lets Tennesseans browse hundreds of Bible records and perhaps find the missing links to complete their family trees."

To see if TSLA holds a Bible record for your family, visit the project online at <http://tnsos.net/TSLA/Bibleproject>. Individual names in most Bibles for surnames A through J have also been indexed.



*New TSLA Exhibit presents:
"Emancipation &
Reconstruction:
Challenges and
Achievements of the
19th Century African
American Legislators"*

In November 1872, Tennessee voters elected their first African-American representative to the General Assembly. In all, 14 African Americans, most of them former slaves, were elected to the General Assembly between 1872 and 1896. These African-American legislators represent a significant part of Tennessee state history. They laid the groundwork for the later achievements of the Civil Rights Movement and the legacy of their tireless struggle for equality lives on today.

A new exhibit, with 16 panels full of images and information on this fascinating period in our history, opened last Thursday at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. The exhibit will continue through the month of August. The public is invited to explore the achievements of these 14 men, their legislative service, and the times in which they lived.

With emancipation came the hope of new opportunities for African Americans: the chance to get an education, the prospect of owning land, the right to vote, and even the opportunity to hold public office. However,

with this hope came many challenges as blacks and whites struggled to find their place in this changing new world.

The exhibit, free and open to all visitors, is located in the building's lobby directly behind the main entrance. The Tennessee State Library and Archives is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., with the exception of state holidays.



TSLA Friends Spotlight

Jessica Short, Digital Materials Librarian

What is TeVA?

TeVA stands for the Tennessee Virtual Archive. It serves as the digital repository for the State Library and Archives and centers on Tennessee history and culture. TeVA's mission is to bring digital versions of our state's rich collections to a wider audience.

What types of materials are available on TeVA?

TeVA offers a broad range of materials, with everything from the landmark documents of the state's founding, to historical maps of Tennessee, to local family scrapbooks.

Do you have any new collections that will be available soon?

This fall we will be releasing a primarily audio and photograph collection of Tennessee folk life materials such as shape-note singing, dulcimer playing, and storytelling.

How is TeVA accessed?

You can find Tennessee related photographs, manuscripts, maps, and more by searching at <http://teva.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/> or via the Tennessee State Library and Archive's Digital Collections page.

What do you love about your job?

I work with talented people who are invested in Tennessee history and in making our cultural materials accessible to the community. I am very thankful to be a part of such a wonderful group!