



TSLAFriends

Friends of the Tennessee State Library and Archives

Issue 10

Spring 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,

I'd like to welcome the new officers and board members as well as express our appreciation to our former and founding president, Steve Richards, and those who have served with him from our beginning in 2010.

Some planned events for 2014 will include sponsoring the TSLA Ancestry.com Library Event for a two-day genealogy lecture event in September; sponsoring historical & genealogical workshops throughout the year at TSLA; supporting TSLA to further digitize and place on their website historical & genealogical resources/indexes from their vast collection for all to access. Our newsletter and website will post forthcoming events.

Our first workshop will be for Black History month on Saturday, February 22nd, at TSLA with John Baker, historian, genealogist and author of *The Washingtons of Wessyngton Plantation: Stories of My Family's Journey to Freedom*. Using the vast collection of the Washington family papers housed at TSLA, he will explain the pathway that led him to find from whence he came. I represented the Friends at The Hermitage Feb 1st for an African American genealogy workshop prior to John's presentation of his book for their Black History Month activities.

Membership renewal notices will be emailed soon and I hope each of you will continue to support and take part in our future plans. TSLA houses Tennessee's rich history for the benefit of us all - historians, genealogists, teachers, school children alike and we need to be sure it continues to do so for the future of all Tennesseans. And, we look forward to the long-awaited new building on the Bicentennial Mall.

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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.

Welcome to our newest officers and board members: J. Mark Lowe, Vice-President & President Elect, Ann Gray from Chattanooga representing East TN, and Dr. Carroll Van West, the Tennessee State Historian as Ex Officio. They join our previous officers Treasurer Fred James, Secretary Bonnie Kunzel, Past President Steve Richards along with Board members Paul Clements & Celia Walker, Middle TN; Cherel Henderson, East TN; Paul A. Matthews and Rep. Steve McDaniel, West TN; David Ewing, At Large, along with Chuck Sherrill, State Librarian & Archivist & Jami Awalt, TSLA Liaison.



It is an honor to be your president and I look forward to working with our membership and the TSLA staff to broaden the public's knowledge of Tennessee heritage and the treasured holdings TSLA maintains.

Virginia Gooch Watson
President
TSLAFriends



Love and War in Sumner County

It started with a love letter, more than 100 years old, that Judith Morgan found tucked in the pages of a book recovered from a Gallatin mansion that had been demolished decades earlier.

Morgan began doing some research and discovered that the woman who received the letter and the man who had sent it eventually married - but only after a courtship that lasted more than 20 years.

Morgan, a retired state employee, kept digging until she had discovered details about the lives of the mysterious couple, their families and their town's place in some of the country's most significant historical events.

Those details emerged in Morgan's book, "The Lost World of Langley Hall," which is the subject of an upcoming free workshop sponsored by the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA).

At the workshop, Morgan will discuss how her chance discovery of the letter launched a research project chronicling the lives of the Trousdale and Allen families from 1853 through 1952. While delving into the lives of those two prominent Gallatin families, Morgan learned details about other town residents who played prominent roles in the wars and other major national events of the era.

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The workshop will be held Feb. 15 from 9:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. in the auditorium at the State Library and Archives building. The building is located at 403 Seventh Avenue North, directly west of the State Capitol building in downtown Nashville.

Although the workshop is free and open to the public, reservations are required due to limited seating availability in the auditorium. To make a reservation, call: (615) 741-2764 or e-mail: workshop.tsla@tn.gov.



New TSLA Exhibit: Johnny Beazley and Baseball in Tennessee

Opening February 4th, the Tennessee State Library and Archives presents a new exhibit: "Johnny Beazley and Baseball in Tennessee."

This exhibit offers baseball researchers and fans a rare opportunity to follow the career of a major league baseball player, local business owner, and civic leader. This new exhibit tells the story of Nashville native Johnny Beazley, major league baseball pitcher from the 1940s, and features items from the John Andrew Beazley collection.

Start your journey with Johnny's high school days at Hume-Fogg and his time in the minor leagues. Celebrate his triumphant victory in the World Series 1942, where he earned the nickname "Yankee Killer" for his performance against the New York Yankees. Stand with him during his military service in World War II. And follow his post-war return to baseball, retirement, and civic service.

"Johnny Beazley and Baseball in Tennessee" weaves the history of Beazley's baseball career together with other baseball topics of the era, such as Sulphur Dell baseball stadium, the Negro Leagues and integration of baseball, and the business side of professional baseball.

TSLA Launches Federal Civil War Burial Sheets Project



Following years of effort, and through the support of TSLAFriends and the vision and drive of one of TSLA's most passionate supporters, the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) is pleased to offer online access to its Federal Civil War Burial Sheets.

This online portal provides access to information contained in the burial sheets for the Federal soldiers disinterred shortly after the war at gravesites in Tennessee and Kentucky and then reburied at Nashville National Cemetery.

Of special interest to researchers and genealogists was the identification of 3,021 soldiers disinterred from the Nashville City Cemetery as well as of 8,593 soldiers disinterred from U.S. Burial Grounds Due West City Cemetery, Nashville, and U.S. Burials Grounds Southwest City Cemetery, Nashville.

A researcher combing files in the National Archives discovered these long-lost Tennessee records, and the TSLA contracted with the National Archives to create a copy on microfilm. The next step was a transcription and database project for the "burial sheets." TSLAFriends offered to seek funds. The first donation came from Nashville City Cemetery Association and later other individual donors to underwrite the project.

Transcription work was conducted under the auspices of TSLAFriends, employing transcriptionists who used digital images created from the microfilm. This position was funded by donations from individuals and the Nashville City Cemetery Association as well as through grant funding from the Tennessee Wars Commission.

Entries were transcribed as accurately and thoroughly as possible, including handwritten changes to names and other information. Crossed-out text is noted as such. All columns in the original ledger books were included in the transcriptions. Names were cross-checked with those listed in the Roll of Honor to help verify identity and names were also checked by a supervisor to ensure accuracy. Capitalization, punctuation and spelling were kept as found in the original ledgers.

We gratefully acknowledge the leadership of Fletch Coke, who first suggested this project and assisted in many ways to bring it to completion.

We encourage you to explore this unique collection. Visit the Federal Civil War Burial Sheets Project website at <http://www.tnsos.net/TSLA/BurialSheetsProject/index.php> for more information.