



# TSLAFriends

Friends of the Tennessee State Library and Archives

Issue 16

Fall 2015

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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



## Dear TSLAFriends,

As we transition into fall, our summer heat won't give up until much later so you have a lot of time to spend INDOORS in comfort researching those historical and/or genealogical projects you've been postponing "until you have time." So take advantage of a research & combined vacation to TSLA in Nashville, OR use TSLA's many online resources in the comfort of your home.

The online database TeVA (TN Virtual Archives) offers many avenues to wander through for information of all kinds. One is the TN Map Collection which showcases many of the thousands of maps TSLA has. There is an 1822 map of Reelfoot Lake which was just a few years after the New Madrid earthquake created it; numerous military maps from all wars; a 1754 map of British American Plantations which is possibly the earliest map of the area that would become Tennessee and a multitude of others. The very detailed postal delivery maps include individual homes, churches, schools, stores, mills and cemeteries - these can be used to see where old roads were when the map was drawn so one can compare to today's map and pinpoint a road change so a structure or cemetery can be located with more accuracy. So enjoy "map searching" online at <http://tn.gov/tsla/TeVAsites/MapCollection/index.html>.

If you visit TSLA, view the current free TSLA lobby exhibit on TN maps which will continue through September 12th after which the next exhibit's topic will be the "New Deal in Tennessee."

Another useful database to access from home is TEL (TN Electronic Library). Among its many offerings are the TN Tax Records which are available for every county with some as early as 1783. These show all white males

background in history or library work.

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

### **TSLAFriends Board of Directors**

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*Current TSLA Newsfeed - Time to get Social!*

The Tennessee State Library and

between 21 and 50 which can give a researcher an approximate birth year, indicate whether property was owned, how many acres, property value, and is a good timeline of property acquired then gifted/sold which leads one to deeds and these can be ordered on interlibrary loan from TSLA.

The Friends celebrated the 62d birthday of the current TSLA building last June 17th for patrons, staff and the executive board which met after the party. A picture of the library and the June 17, 1953 invitation to the official opening were on display along with a floral arrangement with wood numbers "62" and a Happy Birthday sign on the lobby desk. Pictures from the event feature the Great Seal of Tennessee created in marble in the lobby foyer, one of the many original tables still being used in the South Reading Room and throughout the building, the lobby showing the original public catalog and marble trim. It was a festive time enjoyed by all but also a reminder that even though the building has aged well, it is bursting at its seams and in need of updating so the hope is that funds for a new building will be allocated in the next Legislative session.



TSLAFriends Executive Board: Front row: Katheryne A. Cowan, Secretary; Virginia Gooch Watson, President, Chuck Sherrill, State Librarian and Archivist; Back row: J. Mark Lowe, Vice President & President Elect, Celia S. Walker, Middle TN Representative, and Jami Awalt, TSLA Liaison. Not present were Fred James, Treasurer, and Steve Richards, Past President.



Lobby of TSLA showing the original card catalog with Jami Awalt, Genny Short, Gordon Belt & Chuck Sherrill enjoying the 62d TSLA building's 62d birthday



Refreshments on one of the original tables used in the Reading Room and throughout the building with Katheryne Cowan cutting the cake with staff and patrons waiting for a piece



The Great Seal of the State of Tennessee in the foyer floor

Archives provide updates on all the current programs and events on the Facebook page and the Blog.

Click here to view and subscribe:  
[Facebook](#)  
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Mark your calendars for the next free TSLA/TSLAFriends workshops:

- [August 1](#) - "Finding Your Ancestors Through 19th Century Photography" by Lynda Massey
- [September 26](#) - "In Case You've Missed Them: Case Studies Highlighting Special Resources at TSLA" by Jim Long
- [November 28](#) - "Genealogy 101" workshop will introduce you to the many family history resources available at TSLA and will be presented by the TSLA staff.

This will be a good opportunity for families to come and research their family history while visiting relatives during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Our website contains current and future events to take advantage of and new additions like the list of the Founding Members of TSLA under the tab "About Us" so visit it often. Hope to see you at one of our future meetings,

Virginia Gooch Watson  
President, TSLAFriends



*"Using TSLA Resources to  
Turn Small Clues into Big  
Discoveries"*

*September 26th*

*9:30am - 11:00am*

*TSLA Auditorium*

Every genealogical research project has to start somewhere, whether it's a Google search of an ancestor's name or an old family photograph unearthed from the attic. In this next installment of the Tennessee State Library and Archives free workshop series, veteran genealogist Jim Long will use case studies to demonstrate how even small bits of information can lead to important discoveries found among TSLA's collection of resources.

Mr. Long, president of the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society, will use real-life examples of how he utilized TSLA resources in his re-search. His lecture will touch on the information that can be found in old newspapers, deed books, land records and legislative petitions to learn more about long lost ancestors. He will also describe how photographs can provide clues that can assist in research. And he will provide tips on how to search through county records and use the Tennessee Archives Directory as a resource.

Mr. Long, a lifetime member of the Montgomery County Historical Society and a volunteer at the Stewart County Archives, has studied genealogy for more than 35 years. He has published nine books on Stewart County

genealogical records and maintains the websites for the Tennessee State Library and Archives Friends, the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society and the TNGenWeb sites for Stewart and Montgomery counties.

Those wishing to attend this free workshop must register online to make a reservation as the number of seats is limited to 60 attendees. Parking is available in the front, on the side, and in back of the Library and Archives building. Patrons can register by visiting: <http://tslaworkshop-jimlong.eventbrite.com>

For more information call (615) 741-2764 or email [workshop.tsla@tn.gov](mailto:workshop.tsla@tn.gov)



## *TSLAFriends Spotlight*

*Erin Loree,*

*TEL Administrator*

### ***What is TEL?***

TEL is the ***Tennessee Electronic Library*** which provides free access to electronic resources for all Tennessee residents on topics ranging from genealogy, health, homework help, and language learning to business, career guidance, academic skill-building, and standardized test preparation.

### ***What do you think are the best features of TEL?***

We have amazing content available to us via TEL, but one of my favorite features is that there are no barriers to access TEL. No library card number or username and password is required so it's very easy for the end user.

### ***What is available in TEL that most people don't know about?***

I find gems in TEL all the time. Just last week I discovered a "Middle School Math for Parents Tutorial" in Learning Express that shows parents the new methods for teaching math, so they can then help their children with their math homework.

We also have science fair project ideas in World Book Kids and primary sources in World Book Advanced and the Gale In Context series.

Few people realize that Powerpeak Languages has an ESL component that provides English language learning to Mandarin and Spanish speakers or that you can build a resume and cover letter in Career Transitions.

### ***What are some of the new features of TEL?***

We've had a lot of great updates to TEL since I started in February including the addition of two new databases, Research in Context for middle school students and a new Business Collection that provides full-text coverage of thousands of business and trade publications.

This spring, HeritageQuest added new content and a more powerful search engine as well as a new interactive image viewer. World Book revamped the Kids (k-5), Student (middle school), and Advanced (high school) products. These new streamlined interfaces improve navigation and the overall user experience and are fully tablet optimized.

Most of the remaining TEL resources, including PowerSearch, received a complete makeover in April so TEL users should have a much more user-friendly experience. The new modern design makes content easier to find, is mobile-friendly, and improves accessibility for those with disabilities like low vision or blindness.

If you've never used TEL before, I highly recommend seeing what we have to offer at [www.tntel.info](http://www.tntel.info). There really is something for everyone in TEL.