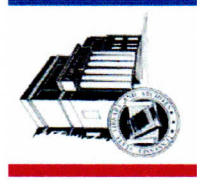




TSLA Friends

- [Home](#)
 - [About Us](#)
 - [Membership](#)
 - [Events](#)
 - [Board of Directors](#)
 - [Members-Only](#)
 - [Contact Us](#)
- [Guestbook](#)
 - [Newsletters](#)

Preserving the Past, Informing the Future



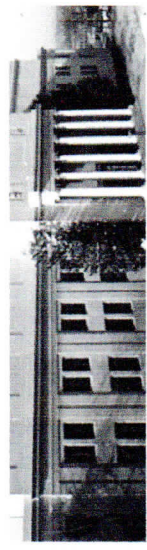
TSLA Friends

Friends of the Tennessee State Library and Archives

Issue ~~X~~ 13

Winter 2015

- [In This Issue](#)
- [President's Letter](#)
- [TSLA Friends Spotlight](#)



Dear TSLA Friends,

As 2016 approaches, my tenure as President of TSLAF will come to an end and new officers and board members will take over January 1st. It has certainly been gratifying as well as challenging to serve in that office for two years and to support TSLA's mission. I've been associated with TSLA for a long time and to be able to help forward its programs and projects has been and will continue to be an honor. Pictured are some of your new officers and board members:

MEMBERSHIP DUES: It is renewal time!

It's that time of year again" as the 2016 dues are now due and payable either by check or by PayPal from the TSLAF website. Select a category from our

"Membership" tab on our website and help the Friends to support TSLA and all its many projects that will benefit us all.
[Click here to go there now->](#)

**TSLAFriends
 Board of Directors
 2016-2018**

**J. Mark Lowe,
 President**
 John F. Baker,
 Vice President/President Elect

Joseph L. Nave, Treasurer
 Katheryne Cowan, Secretary
 Virginia Gooch Watson,
 Past President



L-R are:
 Virginia Gooch Watson, Bill Hickerson, Katheryne Cowan, Joe Nave, Richard Evans, Susan Knowles and Andy Bennett
 NOT pictured are J. Mark Lowe, John F. Baker, Celia Walker, Chad Bailey, Betty Jane Hylton

Board of Directors

- Chad Bailey (East Tennessee)
- Andy D. Bennett (At Large)
- Richard Evans (West Tennessee)
- Bill Hickerson (West Tennessee)
- Betty Jane Hylton (East Tennessee)
- Susan W. Knowles (Middle Tennessee)
- Celia Walker (Middle Tennessee)

Ex Officio

Chuck Sherrill,
 State Librarian

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

Archivist
 Jami Awalt,
 TSLA Liaison

R. Stephen Richards, Finance
 Committee Chair

Quick Links

I certainly appreciate the support, time and expertise that all of the board, the TSLA staff and our members have rendered since The Friends began in 2010. At the TSLAF Annual Membership meeting on Monday, October 26, 2015, I recognized Charter and Board Members with President's Awards as follows:



An Honorary Lifetime Membership Award to Secretary of State Tre Hargett as a Charter Member and for his Significant Contributions to the goals of the TSLAFriends 2010 - 2016. In his absence, his Chief of Staff, Jonathan Rummel accepted the certificate.

An Honorary Lifetime Membership Award went to R. Stephen (Steve) Richards for his Dedication and Commitment as a Charter Member, First President and Board Member for the six year board term limit 2010-2016.

Chuck Sherrill, State Librarian and Archivist, wrote the following tribute which expressed the sentiments of the Board:

"I'd like to take a moment to especially recognize the contributions of Steve Richards. Steve was involved with TSLAFriends from the very beginning, when then-state librarian, Jeanne Sugg, approached him about helping start the group. He was willing to take on the presidency of an unorganized group, with all the problems and difficulties thereunto appertaining. That's a sign of commitment. That's something only a true Friend would do."



Since the group got started in 2010, Steve has remained involved and connected. During that time we established the group as a 501c3 organization, developed by laws, worked through the growing pains of a new group learning each others' styles, and set the stage for real

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[Tennessee Electronic Library](#)

(TEL)

[Tennessee Virtual Archives](#)

(TeVA)

**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:

[Facebook](#)

[Blog](#)



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 >>>



progress. Steve was at the helm when the Friends received a \$70,000 grant from Ancestry.com, along with several smaller grants, and helped us through the difficulties of establishing programs to use that money effectively for TSLA projects such as the Supreme Court records and the Union Burial Sheets.

Steve has always had a passion for the collections of the TSLA, and has pushed the Friends to make purchasing new materials a priority. Several very nice items have already come to TSLA through the generosity of the Friends.

Steve is also a bedrock supporter of the plan for a new TSLA building. That's why he is not retiring from this group, only moving to a new role as finance committee chair. I'm looking forward to watching him persuade influential Tennesseans to support and contribute to our new building.

So let's have a round of applause for the Friends very first president - long may he live!

Eight President's Certificates of Appreciation "for Commitment and Contributions as a Charter Member and Board Member for the Six Year Board Term Limit 2010 - 2016 were given to Paul Clements, David Ewing, Cherel Henderson, Paul A. Matthews, Steve McDaniel, Virginia Gooch Watson, Chuck Sherrill and Jami Awalt.



Left to Right - Steve McDaniel, Cherel Henderson, David Ewing, Paul A. Matthews, Virginia Gooch Watson



Virginia Gooch Watson and Chuck Sherrill

Virginia Gooch Watson
and Jami Awalt



And a Certificate of Appreciation to Fred L. James for his dedication and excellent record keeping as Treasurer 2012 - 2016.



At the meeting, Chuck Sherrill gave status reports on the following TSLA projects and events as follows:

1. TSLA's focus for 2016: the primary goal is to obtain funding from the upcoming Legislature to build a new TSLA structure. Chuck has been visiting Tennessee cities asking for favorable press coverage to generate public support to sway lawmakers to make funding a priority in 2016. Many articles have been published and posted on Facebook as a result. YOU as members can help us achieve that goal by talking with your legislative representatives and making them aware of the need for a new structure.
2. The Supreme Court Records project has 40,000 cases on the website which are indexed and the project is just over 50% complete; the Bible project is on-going with an on-line index, and TSLA has a new 20 minute video promoting the library and staff which will soon be on the website.
3. Another important project to all Tennesseans that TSLA is working on is the "Land Records Office" original loose records from 1779 into the early 1800's. These records, known as Record Group 50, consists of surveys, warrants, entries and related records that are NOT recorded elsewhere. These detailed land ownership and exchanges cover all counties in Tennessee & include a surprising high number of women's land grants & women's names in other grants. They require a great deal of processing and conservation work before public access can be allowed because of their fragile condition. If you belong to other groups with like interests, donating any amount to hire an intern to help expedite this project would really help. A \$2,000 donation in May hired an intern for the summer but TSLAFriends will have a separate account to accept any amount and when enough is accumulated, like \$1,000, an intern can be hired. If you're interested, contact Chuck Sherrill, State Library and Archivist at Chuck.Sherrill@tn.gov.

The TSLA/TSLAF Workshops will continue in 2016 and will be recorded and placed on both the TSLA and TSLAF websites for all to view.

The next one will be Saturday, November 28 which celebrates "Family History Day at TSLA". (Already completed)

The Saturday, January 30, 2016, workshop features Bud Alley on his recent book "The Ghosts of the Green Grass" which is on the Vietnam War.

An added feature to each of our workshops will be a door prize of a \$30 Individual One-Year Membership to the TSLAFriends. The first recipient to receive the door prize was Glen Alan Graham, TSLA staff member, at the September workshop.

Our annual "treat" (without any tricking) at the October 26th meeting were that members were again shown "Highlights from the TSLA Collection" by seven TSLA staff members. They selected their favorite ORIGINAL documents that they have worked with this past year "showing and telling" about it. Being able to view, touch and learn about unusual encapsulated originals is a real treat for all of us. The presenters and items were:

1. Dr. Wayne Moore showed a business card of Nathan Bedford Forrest as a slave trader in Memphis along with his partner and brother, Billy Forrest. The item was found in the William Hicks collection, owner of the Belle Meade Plantation in Nashville.
2. Myers Brown showed a map of the Battle of Tehofuska on Horseshoe Bend prepared by General Andrew Jackson & presented to Gov. Willie Blount in 1812. Carroll Van West gave a brief summary of Tennessee's involvement in the War of 1812.
3. Ralph Sowell gave a biographical sketch on David (not Davy) Crockett showing a power of attorney for David Crockett from Lawrence County dated 1822 as Crockett was a large landowner in that county.
4. Susan Gordon gave a summary of the presidential election of 1856 showing a series of letters by John Meigs which included an unfinished drawing of the state Capitol and a picture of Johnson's Island.
5. Ashley Bowers talked about Women's Suffrage showing a Broadside from the Ryman Auditorium titled "Save the South from Women's Suffrage" which was done AFTER the Legislature had voted to let women vote; Other documents included the Women's Building at the Tennessee Centennial Celebration on which David Ewing discussed that building and others.
6. Heather Atkins spoke on the Cooper Family papers that contained weather charts and weather patterns and their importance to farmers.
7. Ron Lee brought "The Laws of Tennessee" and the House Journal for 1861-1862, House Bill 92 which was a bill to protect the property rights of women. His humorous account of legislation about women seducing men, the methods used, etc. was most entertaining! He also talked about the Senate Bill in 1976 discussing state marble, zinc, agate, & the history of crinoid fossil to possibly be designated as a state symbol.

These jewels from the TSLA's collection are rarely known about and I want to thank the staff for sharing their discoveries.

I hope that a new TSLA building will become a reality in 2016 and feel the future is bright for TSLAFriends under new leadership. I wish Mark and the new board much success in their new roles.

Virginia Gooch Watson,
President, TSLAFriends



TSLAFriends Spotlight

Blake Fontenay,

Tri-Star Chronicles Coordinator

What are the Tri-Star Chronicles?

Tri-Star Chronicles is a new feature on the Tennessee State Library and Archives site in which we provide profiles with text, photos and video clips of people who have had significant impact on the state's history. The subjects of our profiles are all living, so we are not focusing on historical figures from long ago.

Where can I see the Tri-Star Chronicles?

You can read these profiles at this link:

<http://sos.tn.gov/products/tsla/tri-star-chronicles>

What are your other responsibilities in your Department?

I also handle the State Library and Archives' other communications needs. This mostly involves trying to promote TSLA's many positive programs and initiatives through the media.

I do news releases about upcoming workshops, new collections that become available to the public, interesting research projects and other items of interest. One of our biggest initiatives right now is trying to build support for a new building for TSLA. State Librarian and Archivist Chuck Sherrill and I have been meeting with the editorial boards of newspapers across the state to spread that message.

What is your favorite part of your job?

I get to talk to interesting people about their lives and careers and then share their stories for current and future generations of Tennesseans. For a former newspaper reporter who's interested in history and loves to write, it's a dream job!