



# TSLAFriends

Friends of the Tennessee State Library and Archives

Issue 18

Spring 2016

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## 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



## Dear TSLAFriends,

Our new president, J. Mark Lowe, is still recovering from his hip injury last fall and is not yet up to par so I am continuing as president until he is able to take over. I speak for all of us, Mark, in that you have our very best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery.

As we enter 2016, it is hoped that the TN Legislature will fund a new TSLA building this year so that will become a much needed reality.

Following is the schedule of the TSLA/TSLAF workshops which we hope many of you will be able to attend. They are on Saturdays from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. which also allows attendees time to get some research at TSLA in afterwards; an added feature at each workshop is a door prize from the TSLAFriends of a \$30 Individual Membership for one year. If you win and are already a member, your membership will be extended for a year.

### January 30

"*The Ghosts of the Green Grass: A Vietnam War Journey*" by J. L. "Bud" Alley

### April 2

"*Finding Your World War I Ancestor*" by Gordon Belt, Director of Public Services, TSLA

### May 21

"*World War I Centennial Exhibit*" by Dr. Lisa M. Budreau, Senior Curator of Military History at the Tennessee State Museum

### July 30

"*Folk Life*" by Carol Roberts, Conservation Manager of Preservation Services Section, TSLA

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Katheryne Cowan,  
Secretary  
Virginia Gooch Watson,  
Past President

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#### Quick Links

[Visit us on Facebook!](#)

[Email us!](#)

[TSLAFriends.org](http://TSLAFriends.org)

[Tennessee State Library &  
Archives](#)

[Tennessee Electronic  
Library \(TEL\)](#)

#### September 24

*To be announced*

#### November 26

*"Family History Day" by the TSLA staff*

Another project TSLA has embarked on is "Tennessee Remembers: Korean Veterans" collection. ANYONE who has memorabilia, photographs, artifacts, LETTERS, maps, or other items from the Korean War, is encouraged to donate them to TSLA to enable them to record their war experience. Contact Dr. Wayne C. Moore, Assistant State Archivist, at 615.253.3458 or Cathi Carmack, Director of Archival Technical Services, at 615.253.3168. For further information, click on the TSLA website at [www.tennessee.gov/tsla/e.gov/tsla/](http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/e.gov/tsla/) and the tab for Korean War Veterans Project.

The TSLAFriends will again sponsor Staff Appreciation Day for the TSLA staff during National Library Week which will be during the week of April 10 - 16. The Friends provide refreshments, door prizes of five or more \$10 bills for staff to use for lunches as well as other items such as books, children's books/games, etc. When a date is set and posted on our website and Facebook, I encourage you to drop by and thank the staff for providing us as patrons of TSLA with excellent source material as well as easy access to "hopefully" find a missing ancestor or place where an historic event occurred and lending their expertise to help us.

The current exhibit in the TSLA lobby on "The New Deal" will continue this winter to allow visitors the opportunity to learn more about this important topic.

Our new Vice President and President Elect, John F. Baker, Jr., who wrote the script for the 30-minute documentary video on Wessynton Plantation located in Springfield, TN, has been nominated for an Emmy Award at the 30th Annual MidSouth Regional Emmy Awards in February 2016. The title is "Wessynton Plantation: A Family's Road to Freedom". This video is based on John's book "The Washingtons of Wessynton Plantation" and John's descent from the African Americans at Wessynton. John used the vast collection of manuscripts and pictures at TSLA for his book, the 2014 exhibit at the Tennessee State Museum and the documentary. You can view a video presentation of John's book on the TSLAFriends Member's Tab and get an idea of the nominated documentary. We do hope you win that Emmy John!

Does one of your New Year's Resolutions include making MORE visits to TSLA to research and benefit from their many collections, exhibits and workshops?

**Virginia Gooch Watson,**

Past President, TSLAFriends

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  
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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  
background in history or  
library work.

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



## The Ghosts of the Green Grass

### A Vietnam War Journey

Presented by J. L. "Bud" Alley

Saturday, January 30, 2016,

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Join author J. L. "Bud" Alley as he recalls his gripping account of one of the bloodiest battles of the Vietnam War, as told in his book, *The Ghosts of the Green Grass*. In the book, Second Lieutenant Bud Alley introduces the officers and enlisted men of Second Battalion Seventh U.S. Cavalry in a compelling, insightful narrative, detailing his personal journey from his home on the banks of the Chattahoochee River in Georgia into the thick of battle in the Ia Drang Valley in November of 1965.

Alley struggled for years to grasp the events of that day and their place in history. It took longer to figure out how to tell the story. Acknowledging the rich history of the Seventh Cavalry, first led by General George A. Custer following the Civil War, Alley's tale integrates the history of Custer's journey to the Little Bighorn nearly a century earlier into his own journey to Vietnam. His personal recollections as well as searing memories of many of his fellow soldiers form the backbone of the story of *The Ghosts of the Green Grass*.



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

For more information contact:

Tennessee State Library & Archives Public Services

Phone: (615) 741-2764



## TSLAFriends Spotlight

Susan Gordon,

Archivist II,

Archival Technical Services

**What is Archival Technical Services?**

We're the folks who are responsible for acquiring both state records and manuscript collections and preparing them for use by our researchers, and we also are the home of the Legislative Recording Program.

***As an Archivist in that department, what are your responsibilities?***

I have the best job in the building. Tech Services archivists prepare manuscript collections, personal papers, and state records for public use. For example, when a collection of family papers is acquired, we get to read the materials, place them in a logical order, analyze them for content and historical significance, then write a finding aid, which is a detailed guide to the collection. Such a finding aid includes a description of the collection's scope and content, biographical-historical notes, index terms, a container list, and other information relevant to the papers. I am also responsible for editing all departmental finding aids--and I've learned along the way that we have some very bright archivists putting their writing skills to good use. Academics, family historians, and students depend on finding aids to zero in on primary materials that will aid their research.

My Library and Archives work includes committee participation, which I particularly enjoy: Archives Review deals with the acquisition of materials (meaning we get the skinny on new items before anybody else); Education Outreach provides an opportunity to showcase our collections for teachers and students interested in using primary sources; and Exhibits gives me the chance to help highlight photographic and textual materials for public exhibitions and displays. I also enjoy contributing to the ongoing Tennessee Virtual Archives (TeVA) project (check it out on our website), and participating as a metadata specialist in Looking Back: The Civil War in Tennessee--a five-year outreach venture to make a digital record of period documents, photographs, and artifacts. Archivists visited nearly every county and documented local Civil war keepsakes.

***What is your favorite part of your job?***

That's a tough one. I can't honestly say that there is a single favorite part. Finding aid editing informs my knowledge of the collections and allows me to work with some gifted young (and older) historians and archivists. Processing collections is right up there because I have an opportunity to get my (gloved) hands on historic materials before they go public. Working with teachers, students, historians, and fellow archivists is always filled with surprises (usually good ones) and informs my view. Best of all is the collegiality between professionals in this building.

***Do you have a favorite piece that you have found/seen during your career?***

Hands-down, my favorite thing is an entire collection of family papers that I helped acquire in 2014. The Inman family of Morristown gifted us a collection of beautiful Civil War era love letters, essays, and letters to the editor. They have already been digitized thanks to our Digital Work Group.

