



# TSLAFriends

Friends of the Tennessee State Library and Archives

Issue 19

Summer 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

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## Dear TSLAFriends,

I'm excited to be writing my first President's Letter with the Tennessee State Library and Archives Friends. As a lifelong researcher, the Library and Archives has been the center of my activity for local history and family research. As the collections continue to grow while available space does not, they are ever faced with how to preserve and protect our records.

The Friends are continuing to support efforts to provide Saturday presentations highlighting the records and resources of the Library and Archives. This provides opportunity to learn about additional historical resources and records that might provide assistance for your research. I've asked our board members to share their favorite resource at the facility. These will be shared through this newsletter, our website (<https://tslafriends.org/>), our facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/TSLAFriends/>), Pinterest (<https://www.pinterest.com/tslafriends/>) or through our twitter account (@TSLAFriends). We hope this will encourage you to make a visit to the Library and Archives and access these wondrous resources.

I would encourage you to take a look at the Tennessee Supreme Court records which have been indexed on the website of the Tennessee State Library and Archives. (<http://tnsos.org/tsla/SupremeCourtCases/>)

I reviewed the information provided on an early Robertson County case heard in 1849.

Style: Nancy Matthews v. R.K. Hicks, et al.,

Location: Robertson County

Cause: Petitions for Dower

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#### Quick Links

[Visit us on Facebook!](#)

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

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

Description: Nancy Matthews is the wife of the deceased Richard Matthews. He owed money on several trust deeds and had tried to get out of paying them by saying he was not mentally capable of understanding the agreement. His wife is arguing her rights to his assets.

Before visiting the Library and Archives and reviewing the file of the Supreme Court, I decided to review the Robertson County court case file housed in the Archives in Springfield.

"... Nancy Mathews prayed and obtained an appeal at the December term of the Chancery Court at Springfield from a decree of said court to the Supreme Court at Nashville in the cases of Robert Draughon, Administrator of Richard Mathews, deceased against the creditors and securities of said Mathews... " (Appeal Bond, Chancery Case #320, Mathews vs Hicks, Robertson County, TN)

Within the extant depositions for this case, we find one of Dr. Thomas Menees. Dr. Menees served as a Physician in Robertson county, and later served as Tennessee's Senator in the Confederate Congress. He later became the Dean of the medical departments of the University of Nashville and Vanderbilt University.

"... That ever since his recollection, he was acquainted with Richard Mathews deceased; that for a number of years past, just preceding the death of said Mathews, Witness was intimately acquainted with him... for a length of time the Family Physician of said deceased. ... Witness is and has been a Regular Practitioner of Medicine for several years. Said deceased was always rational whenever witness saw him, up to the time of this last illness. (which lasted about 3 weeks) During said illness, witness would sometimes find said deceased somewhat delirious.. on such occasions would talk incoherently, but could be roused by a few words from a friend, would then talk rationally." (Chancery Case #320, Mathews vs Hicks, Robertson County, TN)

You can see the index available on the website of the Tennessee State Library and Archives will provide access not only to the Tennessee Supreme Court cases, but encourage your entrance into the county cases and records mentioned within the papers. I'm hoping you will use this index and continue your research into these records and discover some new stories about your county or family. Stay tuned for more news from your Tennessee State Library and Archives Friends.

**J. Mark Lowe,**  
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  
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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 >>>](#)



## *Coffins and Gold Stars: American Remembrance in the Aftermath of the Great War*

**Presented by Dr. Lisa M. Budreau  
Saturday, May 21, 2016,  
10:30 a. m. - 12:00 noon**

Although the United States was a relatively late entry into World War I, the conflict took an enormous toll on American lives. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, more than 100,000 American deaths were attributed to the war, plus twice as many injuries. In a free lecture at the Tennessee State Library & Archives, historian Lisa M. Budreau will discuss the war's impact and how Americans sought to commemorate those who had died.

Dr. Budreau's talk, titled "Coffins and Gold Stars: The Story of American Remembrance in the Aftermath of the Great War," will be in the Library & Archives auditorium May 21 from 10:30 a.m. until noon.

"This is the saga of the war dead and the efforts of the living to honor their heroes," Dr. Budreau said. "It's a staggering, often-macabre tale steeped in the pathos and human drama of a democratic nation struggling to find meaning in war."

Dr. Budreau will touch on the political and social dynamics at work in America from the war's end through the early 1930s.

Dr. Budreau is the senior curator of military history for the Tennessee State Museum. She has also served as a freelance historical consultant for the American Battle Monuments Commission in Paris, France, vice president of education and collections for the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri and a research historian for the U.S. Army Surgeon General's medical history office in Washington, D.C. Her published works include "Bodies of War: World War I and the Politics of Commemoration in America, 1919-1933" and "Answering the Call: The U.S. Army Nurse Corps, 1917-1919."

Although the lecture is free and open to the public, registration is required due to limited seating in the auditorium. To register, please visit:  
<http://goldstarlecture.eventbrite.com>

For more information contact:  
Tennessee State Library & Archives Public Services  
Phone: (615) 741-2764



## *TSLAFriends Spotlight*

*Brooks Crowell,  
Facility Director,  
TN State Library and Archives*

### ***What is involved in facilities management for TSLA?***

As facility director over the facilities management section, my primary responsibility is to support the overall mission of TSLA by providing direct on-site management of daily operations and maintenance needs of all facility systems, including the fire alarm system, energy management system, security surveillance, elevators, fire pump, emergency generator and other systems unique to this facility. The section is comprised of administrative staff, custodial staff and security reception staff.

The administrative staff manages the building maintenance and operations. This includes coordinating maintenance support on all building systems, on-site coordination of facility-related contracted services, monitoring and adjusting temperature/humidity settings for proper collections storage, fire/life/safety training and planning/implementing facility-related projects that benefit all staff and patrons. We supervise the custodial staff and security reception staff. We also provide support to TSLA staff, working with each section to meet their individual needs, managing a building-wide general stock inventory and managing the surplus property process.

Security is provided 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The security reception team welcomes patrons, conducts security screening, and conducts building opening/closing procedures that include turnover procedures with contracted security officers. This section is also home to the custodial staff members that are required for the unique security requirements of the building and its collection. In addition to daily duties, we also provide support in event planning, set-up and custodial clean-up in support of TSLA's special events, tours, receptions and workshops.

The goal of the facilities management section at TSLA is to strive to keep our facility safe and clean for our staff, patrons and visitors by providing the best environment conducive to learning and research that is secure, attractive, functional and efficient, while using the most economic means possible to achieve these goals.

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

The most favorite part of my job is getting to work with so many different people each day. I get to work with and help TSLA staff members, visitors

and patrons every day. I get to work with designers, architects and contractors on projects both big and small. And I also get to see projects through from beginning to completion that benefit TSLA's overall mission.

***What is the one thing you wish others knew about TSLA?***

I wish that everyone knew what dedicated staff we have that are happy to help patrons find the hidden treasures residing in the vast collections housed here at TSLA. I am honored to work with such a dedicated group of people.