



Jennifer Baker, Editor

# TENNESSEE GENEALOGICAL

## *Society*

### Virtual Quarterly Membership Meeting of the Tennessee Genealogical Society

**Saturday, January 16, 2021**

**10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**Via Go To Webinar Broadcast**



Please join us for the first Membership Meeting of the year open to members and non-members. We encourage everyone to attend this meeting in order to receive an overview of the Society's 2021 goals, upcoming programs and events. After the brief meeting, our program will be **"The Manhattan Project and COVID-19: Oak Ridge on the Cutting Edge of Science"** by **Richard Cook**.

**Richard Cook** has written an oral history of Oak Ridge titled "Ignored Heroes of World War II: The Manhattan Project Workers of Oak Ridge, TN." Cook has lived in Oak Ridge since 2000. He has written over 160 op/ed columns which have appeared in The Oak Ridger, The Oak Ridge Observer, The Knoxville News-Sentinel and The Tennessean website. His book has been profiled on WBIR, WATE and PBS. He was interviewed on PBS in Japan in August of 2020 for the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. You may want to check out his website [ignoredheroes.com](http://ignoredheroes.com) to learn more about this subject in advance.

Non-member broadcast - \$5.00

Register at <https://tngs.org/event-3990151>

### Germantown Regional History and Genealogy Center

In keeping with the Shelby County Health Department's "SAFER AT HOME" Health Directive No. 16, and in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19, the Germantown Regional History and Genealogy Center will be closed until further notice.



## Meet Kay Dawson, Our TNGS

### Director of Membership



Although I was born in Memphis (at the old Baptist Hospital in Midtown), I was raised across the river in Lee County, Arkansas. I graduated from Arkansas State University with an accounting degree, passed the CPA exam, and came to work in Memphis. My husband **Scott** and I were married within a year and bought our first home in Germantown. We've been here ever since. After about 10 years, I "retired" to raise our two sons, **David**, who now lives in Los Angeles, and **Andrew**, who recently moved back to Memphis from Manhattan with his wife Emily, daughter Eleanor and identical twins Vivian and Clara. (The one positive of 2020!)

My love of genealogy was inherited from my mother along with all her research (Thank you Mom!!), and **Scott** caught the bug from me after being drug to numerous libraries with nothing to do. Aside from genealogy, we love to travel and we also run. In a moment of madness, we resolved to combine the two, and between 2012 and 2018 we ran a half-marathon (13.1 miles) in every state. (Have to confess to doing a bit of family research along the way.) It confirmed our belief that we live in an amazing and beautiful country!

I have way too many hobbies, but in addition to running and genealogy I love to cross stitch, knit, crochet, read, and garden. I enjoy volunteering at the St. Luke's Food Pantry, Colonial Methodist Mobile Pantry, MIFA's Meals on Wheels, and the Mid-South Food Bank. We belong to Balmoral Presbyterian Church where we are both active on the Outreach Committee. I also served as treasurer and bookkeeper at the church for several years. I'm a member of the Chief Piomingo Chapter of the DAR. I'm happy to serve as the Director of Membership for TNGS. I've used the resources offered at the Society and the Library so much through the years, it's a pleasure to be able to give back.

## Meet Octavia P. Ashby, Our TNGS Office Manager



I was born and raised in Memphis, TN. In 1994, I was part of the last graduating class from Memphis State University with a bachelor's degree in chemistry. That summer they changed their name to the University of Memphis. In 1996, I graduated with a Master of Library and Information Science from The University of Texas at Austin. My husband, **Michael**, and I will celebrate 15 years of marriage this year in October.

My first job after graduating with my master's degree was in the archives department at Graceland, the home of **Elvis Presley**. I have worked in libraries at Buckman Laboratories, Schering-Plough, Merck, Bayer and the Univ. of TN Health Science Center. I am currently on furlough due to the pandemic from my cataloging job with the Germantown Regional History and Genealogy Center.

My hobbies include horseback riding, counted cross stitch, reading, bird watching, fountain pens, gardening, dancing, genealogy and traveling. I have visited many states in the USA, parts of Canada, Italy, England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and Beijing and Xian, China.

# Message from Your Board of Directors

by Kay Dawson

I'm writing this on December 31<sup>st</sup>, and I can't say I'm sorry to say goodbye to 2020. (We were blessed with identical twin granddaughters on January 8<sup>th</sup>, but it was pretty much downhill from there). Besides the usual resolutions -- lose 5 pounds (10 now -- thank you 2020), and exercise more (in the vain hope not to see so much of my physical therapist in 2021) -- I thought about something a little more fun and entertaining: genealogy of course! If you haven't made your resolutions for the new year, let me suggest a few very simple ones.

If you haven't looked at the TNGS web site in a while, please take a good look at the webinars that are being offered. Challenge yourself to take a class or two. You don't have to drive or even get dressed for that matter; it's all done in the comfort of your home.

While we are on the subject of webinars, remember these are available to both members and non-members; HOWEVER, they are either free to members or at a reduced cost. Maybe your resolution is checking out the possibility of joining us. Also worth noting, members have the ability to watch the webinars anytime through the Members Only portal on the web site (So not only no driving or getting dressed, members don't even have to show up on time!) Membership as always is just \$25 for the year -- a true bargain!

When was the last time you searched our quarterly magazine, **Ansearchin' News**? There is a search feature for issues from 1954 to 2010 available to members and nonmembers alike. I only recently realized I had Tennessee ancestors buried deeply on my father's maternal side. These back issues were incredibly helpful. (Note that the more recent issues, 2010 forward, are available to members)

If you do have Tennessee ancestors, you can recognize the contributions of those ancestors by applying for and completing the Tennessee Ancestry Certificate Program for ancestors who resided in Tennessee anytime between the first settlement and 1880. Three volumes of ancestors have been published to date. This has become my personal goal for 2021 as I would prefer those elusive ancestors not getting "lost" again!

Whether you are a member or not, perhaps you'd like to commit to becoming more involved. We always have room for more volunteers with new ideas, talent, and energy! If you have time we can find a spot!

Now, the easiest one of all, if you haven't done so recently please login and update your profile. You might realize, like I did, that the phone number listed is the one you cut the cord on 2 years ago! We can't communicate with you if we can't reach you! Don't worry if you've forgotten your password, the system will send you a new one.

So, whatever you choose for your 2021 New Year's Resolutions, I wish you all the best for a safe, healthy, and FUN New Year! Cheers!





## Tennessee Ancestry Certificate Program

Do you have deep Tennessee Roots?

Join us in recognizing the contributions of your Tennessee settler ancestors (before 1880.) The Tennessee Genealogical Society will provide an attractive certificate, suitable for framing, with the prime ancestor's name, date and place of settlement, to each person whose application meets program qualifications.

**We invite you to place your ancestor(s) in this roll of honor.**

Certificates are issued for one of five settlement periods:

- Colonial -- prior to 1 June 1796
- Territorial -- prior to 15 June 1836
- Antebellum -- prior to 6 May 1861
- Civil War -- 1861-1865 or applied for TN Confederate War Pension
- Nineteenth Century -- prior to 31 Dec 1900

The cost is \$30. Complete the application that is found at: <https://tngs.org/Certificate-Instructions>, and then submit documents for each generation proving birth, marriage and death. Follow the instructions found at the link provided for more details and join the roll of honor for your Tennessee Ancestor!