



Tennessee Genealogical Society

Spring 2022

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Little Leprechaun Parade

Erin, Houston County, Tennessee celebrated its 60th Annual Irish Celebration in 2022. Although the date isn't known, pictured is a Little Leprechaun Parade which precedes the Grand Parade held each year during Erin's St. Patrick's Day Irish celebrations. Notice the goat being led by one of the children. No one in this photograph is identified but it was taken in front of the Houston County Courthouse. *Picture courtesy of the Houston County Archives.*



From TNGS President

I cannot believe that I turned around and it's already Spring! How did that happen? I imagine that I'm not the only one who has experienced that feeling in these unusual days. The days seem to flow into each other and pass by so quickly.

But what I truly cannot believe is that the long-awaited 1950 U.S. federal census is almost out! (It may already be out when you read this.) It seems as though we've been waiting forever for it. Okay, maybe we have! I know that I've been particularly excited for this one because I will actually appear in it as a two-year-old (and ten months, but who's counting?). It will be so nice to see my name, my brother's, my mother's, and my grandparents' names, all living together in an apartment on Madison Avenue in Memphis, Tennessee.

If you want to know how to find your way through that census, be sure to go to the 'Members Only' section of our website and find John Ware's excellent presentation on navigating the 1950 census. ("The Census is Coming! The 1950 Census.") I've watched a few webinars on that topic, and I can tell you that his ranks up there as one of the best. It's detailed and easy to understand, which is exactly what I need!

I'm also delighted to be a part of the first TNGS newsletter produced and edited by our wonderfully talented Sherri Onorati. Sherri

Panchaud Onorati, a retired U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer, is the Archivist and Program Coordinator at the Tipton County, TN Museum and a TN State Certified Archives Manager. In her spare time (what little she has!) she is a wife, mother and grandmother. We are very happy to have her on board as Editor for this newsletter. (She is also the person who redesigned our website last year!)

I particularly want to acknowledge the excellence of past newsletters edited by long-time member and former librarian, Jennifer Baker. She has taken a much-deserved retirement, but she's still active in the genealogy community, and we are glad about that! Thank you so much, Jennifer, for your outstanding work and dedication to our Society and to the Germantown Regional History and Genealogy Library.

Also new to the 2022 Board is Melissa LeMaster Barker, who will take over the role of Director of Public Relations. Many of you already know Melissa – the Archive Lady. She is the Archivist for the Houston County, TN Archives and often posts in our Facebook group. Melissa is a professional genealogist, a Certified Archives Manager and Public Historian. She writes, lectures and is now our PR Director! We are truly happy about that. Finally, I want to let each member know that your 2022 – 2024 Board of Directors and Advisors has completed our goals for this Administration. Each newly-elected

Administration creates and/or develops the main goals that they want to accomplish during their term in office. This year, we added not only goals, but also objectives for each goal, and strategies to obtain those objectives. The list of those will appear elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter.

I hope to see each of you at the Quarterly Membership Meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 2022. After a brief business meeting bringing you up to date on the budget, future events, etc., we will have Maury Nicely with us as a guest speaker. Maury is an attorney and historian who will give us all the interesting details of the 1964 Jimmy Hoffa trial that took place in Chattanooga, TN.

Be sure to scroll through the upcoming events section of our website and register for those that have already been opened up for registration. As you will see, we are not letting the beautiful springtime grass grow under our feet!

Wishing you all the best in your genealogical research,

Carla

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TNGS 2nd Quarter Membership Meeting

Please join us for the Second Membership Meeting for the year open to members and non-members. We encourage everyone to attend this meeting in order to receive an overview of what is going on with our Society, upcoming programs and events.

Our speaker after the membership meeting will be Maury Nicely, attorney and historian. He will speak on the 1964 Jimmy Hoffa trial in Chattanooga.

In January 1964, Jimmy Hoffa, the president of the Teamsters labor union, was put on trial along with five other men in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on charges of jury tampering. The six-week trial, probably the most

notorious to ever occur in Chattanooga, was beset with allegations of government surveillance, wiretapping, juror misconduct, fabricated testimony, Cuban gunrunning, threats of assassination, and even the procurement of prostitutes for jurors by the federal government. The outcome of the trial would set into motion events that would culminate in the disappearance of Hoffa a decade later. In this program, Maury Nicely, the author of *Hoffa in*

Tennessee: The Chattanooga Trial That Brought Down an Icon, will share the lively story of the "Hoffa trial," its beginnings, and its aftermath.



Maury Nicely

Access will be through GoToWebinar. Instructions and Connectivity Link will be forwarded via email to all registrants upon registration, six days prior and again one hour prior to the event. Making the connection is quick and easy only requiring a computer and Internet connectivity from wherever you chose to watch the event. Your questions help drive the meetings, and we will be there to help

Goals for the TNGS 2022 Administration

GOAL 1:

To continue to maintain and grow the society's membership

Objective: To include a more diverse population within the membership.

Strategies:

1. Develop and implement a plan to introduce genealogy to young people. (Includes young adults and students.)
2. Develop a plan to reach out to other states that will draw in members who have roots and interests in common with our society's.
3. Embrace people with a variety of ethnic, cultural, and historic backgrounds, providing educational offerings, increased research materials, and other opportunities for them.
4. Increase our visibility and reputation, making more people aware of our society.

GOAL 2:

To continue to maintain and grow the Society's Partnership Program

Objective: To reach out to as many societies, libraries,

archives and other genealogically-oriented organizations as possible

Strategies:

1. Ensure that the current Partners are receiving the publicity and help that was promised to them in the agreement.
2. Continue to support the Melrose Historic Project, increasing involvement whenever possible.
3. Collect the names of more organizations through networking and other means.
4. Consider establishing a Regional Partnership program with our sister societies in Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Missouri, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.
5. Provide speakers and other help for local, regional and state organizations (libraries, archives, museums, etc.) whenever possible.

GOAL 3: To continue to maintain and improve the educational opportunities provided to members and others

Objective: To attain as many qualified presenters as possible for the presentations, seminars and webinars provided by the society

Con't Goals pg. 10

TNGS Upcoming Events

REGISTER

You Can't Avoid Taxes . . . At Least Not in Genealogy!

James Long

Wednesday, April 13, 2022 7:00 PM, CST

Where: GoToWebinar Broadcast

REGISTER

First Families of Tennessee

Ann Blomquist

Friday, April 22, 2022 10 AM, CST

Where: GoToWebinar Broadcast

REGISTER

Let's Discuss It!

Facilitator - John Ware

Saturday, April 23, 2022 10AM - 12PM

Location GoToWebinar-Remote

REGISTER

Louisiana Genealogy Research

Marie Scott

Saturday, May 07, 2022 10AM - 12PM

Location: GoToWebinar Broadcast

REGISTER

Grandpa Got Hit By a Train and Lived to Tell the Tale

Amie Bowser Tennant

Thursday, May 12, 2022 10AM - 12PM

Location: GoToWebinar Remote

Access will be through GoToWebinar. Instructions and Connectivity Link will be forwarded via email to all registrants upon registration, six days prior and again 1 hour prior to the event. Making the connection is quick and easy only requiring a computer and Internet connectivity from wherever you chose to watch the event. Your questions help drive the meetings, and we will be there to help each other.

Education

[REGISTER](#)

Writing Your Family History

Facilitator - Carla Maitland

These sessions are currently scheduled for one Wednesday morning every three months at 10 a.m. (CST), and will last approximately 1 1/2 to 2 hours each session.

Session 2 – Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 10 a.m.
Session 3 – Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022, at 10 a.m.
Session 4 – Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2022, at 10 a.m.
Location: GoToWebinar Broadcast

[REGISTER](#)

Tips for Navigating Rhode Island Records

Diane Maclean Boumenot

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 10AM - 12PM
Location: GoToWebinar Broadcast

[REGISTER](#)

Black Holes of Genealogy

James L. Douthat

Thursday, June 16, 2022 6 - 7:30 PM
Location: GoToWebinar Broadcast

[REGISTER](#)

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot: A Juneteenth Celebration!

Teresa Hill Mays

Saturday, June 18, 2022 10 AM - 12 PM
Location: GoToWebinar Remote

TNGS Partnership Program

The TNGS Partnership Program was created to help fulfill the society's goal "to reach out and form associations with genealogical and historical societies, and archives across the state."

Benefits of being a TNGS Partner

- Complimentary registration at the TNGS Spring and Fall Seminar for one of the partner's officers.
- Publication of any news items from your organization in the TNGS Newsletter, our Blog, and numerous other of our online platforms whenever possible.
- Links provided to your organization on the TNGS website (if available).
- Assistance with identification and evaluation of speakers if needed.
- Assistance and advice on planning your own events.

- Distribution of flyers and brochures (when available) at all TNGS in-person events and online when appropriate.
- Help with publishing and selling your local genealogical information/books.

There are no fees to join the program. If you are interested, please contact your area advisor.

East Tennessee Partners
Advisor - Cynthia Guffey
easttnadvisor@tngs.org

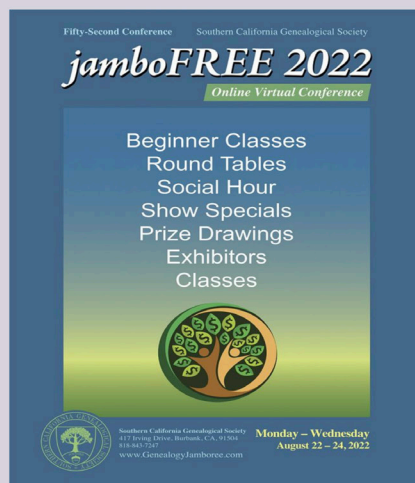
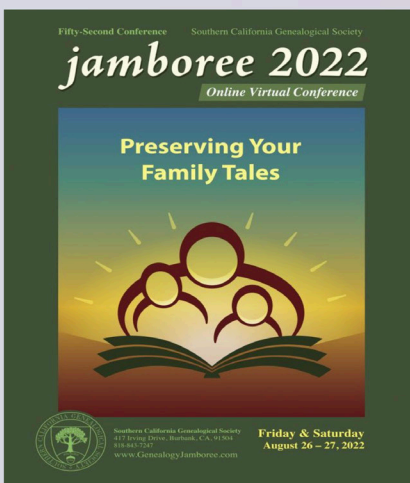
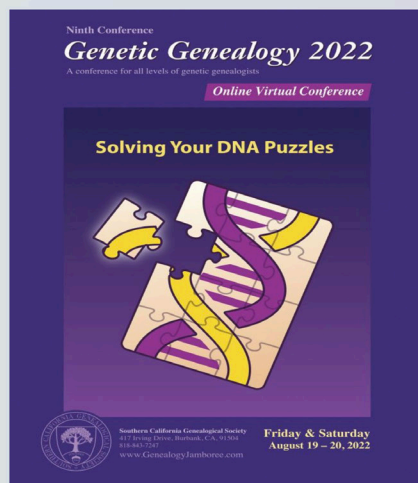
Middle Tennessee Partners
Advisor - Donna Garrett
midtnadvisor@tngs.org

West Tennessee Partners
Advisor - Linda Hayes
westtnadvisor@tngs.org



<https://genealogyjamboree.com/>

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!



**“The more YOU know of
YOUR HISTORY
the more liberated
YOU are.” -Maya Angelou**



This photograph depicting the C. E. Proctor family was created near Fort Loudoun, Tennessee in association with the Fort Loudoun Dam Project conducted by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Photo courtesy National Archives, photo no. 281272

Partner Updates

West TN Historical Society

An event for railroad enthusiasts young and old at the Morton Museum of Collierville

Beebe and Clegg: Their Enduring Photographic Legacy

On view thru May 28, 2022

Lucius Beebe — joined in 1941 by his life partner Charles Clegg — introduced railroad photography

and the world of railroading to wide popular audiences with striking images of railroads across the continent. This exhibition of twenty black and white prints documents the importance of railroading in community life and the duo's contribution to America's historical legacy. Online exhibition: <https://railphoto-art.org/exhibits/beebe-and-clegg/>

Jonesborough Genealogical Society



Genealogy Help Night: Thursday, April 14th at 6 pm at the Washington County-Jonesborough Library, 200 Sabin Drive, Jonesborough,

The Jonesborough Genealogical Society (JGS) will be celebrating its 32nd anniversary and induct the "Hall of Fame" Class of 2022, Maggie Rowe, into the Jonesborough Genealogical Society "Hall of Fame" on Saturday, April 23, at 9:30 a.m. at the Jonesborough Visitors Center, 117 Boone Street, Jonesborough, Tennessee. The public is invited. Dr. Candace Forbes Bright will present a presentation entitled, "The Importance of Minority Representation in Heritage Tourism." This Annual Membership Meeting will also be dedicated to the late Elaine Scott Cantrell.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Nashville

The 1950 Census for Genealogists (Zoom)

April 24, 2022 from 2 - 4PM

Contact Scott Newman at nashvillejgs@gmail.com or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/JGSNashville> for more info.

Roy Hiller will give a presentation on the recently released 1950 census discussing differences from previous censuses and covering the 1950 census questions with an emphasis on what's new.

Sponsor: Jewish Genealogical Society of Nashville



Cooperation

John P. Holt Brentwood Library



Join Us for The Quarterly Book Sale Presented by The Friends of Brentwood Library!

The next book sale is April 8th - April 10th

Friday April 8th 10am-5:30pm

Saturday April 9th 10am-5:30pm

Sunday April 10th 1pm-5:30pm (half price day!)

All proceeds benefit the John P. Holt Brentwood Library!

Don't want to wait for the next book sale? Visit the [Friends of the Brentwood Library's Amazon Store](#) anytime, anywhere!

To donate books for the sale, simply drop them off at the black cart outside the Meeting Room patio at the front of the library. Your contributions are always appreciated!

Washington County Archives

We have lost one of our own in the archives with the passing of volunteer Georgia Greer on Sunday, March 27th, 2022. A kind soul with a generous spirit, Georgia will be missed. She was a friend to any who ever knew her.

Born Georgia Housewright in Church Hill, Tennessee, she grew up and attended school there. She was always proud of her heritage. Later, she researched and co-authored a history of her family and helped host an annual family reunion for many years. She graduated from Hiwassee College and East Tennessee State University.

Georgia married a former high school classmate, Andrew (Andy) Greer. Andy was a Methodist minister, and Georgia enjoyed the life of a minister's wife. She was active in the various churches they served in southwest Virginia and East Ten-

nessee, moving every few years as Methodist preachers do in the Holston Conference. In 1988, she became department secretary for the Archives of Appalachia at her alma mater, ETSU. She continued to work there until her retirement in 2013.

I first met Georgia in February 1994, when I began work as an archivist at the Archives of Appalachia. There Georgia and I became co-workers, friends, and for many years also neighbors in Jonesborough. Following her retirement, she began volunteering with the Washington County



Archives when we first began using volunteers in 2016. Most every Tuesday and Thursday from the fall of that year until the fall of 2020, she worked faithfully in the archives. Georgia loved to type, and she spent her time with us typing the many (often lengthy) written guides to the various collections as these were processed. Her guides now posted online on the department's website are a lasting monument to the lady and benefit all future researchers.

Declining health finally forced her to stop volunteering, but she and we always held out the hope that one day she would come back to work. She comes back now in our memories of her instead. She is survived by her children, Dawn and Jeff.

—Ned Irwin, County Archivist

Goals from pg. 3

Strategies:

1. Use networking tactics to gain speakers from across the nation that are experts in their field.
2. Seek grants that will help pay for these speakers, utilizing the Grant Coordinator with the Germantown Library System whenever possible.
3. Formulate a plan to obtain sponsors who might be willing to support our efforts.
4. Continue to utilize our own 'in-house' presenters/experts and help them improve their presentation skills.
5. Develop and promote a Cemetery Committee that will be given the task of collecting the names and locations of cemeteries across the state of Tennessee and gathering other pertinent information and records that will be useful for researchers.

GOAL 4: To continue to collect, catalogue, and publicize genealogical and historical books, records, and other research materials for the Germantown Regional Genealogy and History Center (GRHGC)

Objective: To ensure that the GRHGC has a viable, growing, and well-recognized collection of genealogy research materials for the public

Strategies:

1. Complete and publish the Memphis Belle book.
2. Encourage members to send in ideas for books for the society to publish.
3. Request help from members to submit books, records and other research materials that they might have in their own possession or may have found in their own research excursions.
4. Strengthen the Certificates program for our society, encouraging others to submit their information for a certificate, and then asking their permission to allow us to add their information to our records in the Vertical Files.
5. Provide an area that will serve as a repository for files and other research materials (not just books) on African American research, including collections and collaboration not only in the library itself, but also on our website.
6. Create databases of various organizations (i.e. a list of past presidents of TNGS, lists of various college administrators, school administrators, students, unique tax lists, etc. and other organizations that might be specific to Tennessee research.

Partner Spotlight

T. Elmer Cox Genealogical & Historical Library

The T. Elmer Cox Genealogical & Historical Library, a branch of Greeneville/Greene County Public Library, opened Nov. 14, 2000. Located at 229 North Main Street, Greeneville, TN 37745, the Cox Library houses materials collected by T. Elmer Cox over his lifetime, as well as materials previously located in the Tennessee Room of the Main Library. The Cox Library also acts as a repository for records from the Greene County Courthouse.

Items on hand at the library:

- Marriage Records (1780-1987)
- Wills (1780-1986)
- Estate Settlements (1802-1950)
- Estate Inventories (1802-1817, -1828-1952)
- Land Deeds (1785-1985)
- Trust Deeds (1841-1947)
- Tax Lists (various dates, 1783-

1913)

- Guardian Records (1872-1960)
- County Court Minutes (1783-1954)
- Chancery Court Minutes (1825-1973)
- Circuit Court (civil) Minutes (1809-1950)
- Circuit Court (criminal) Minutes (1815-early 1900's)
- Loose County Court Records (1851-early 1900's)
- Loose Circuit Court Records (1809-1900)
- Loose Chancery Court Records (1825-c.-1950)

Other items include:

Maps, Local Newspapers (Various dates from 1805 – Present) Death Certificates, Birth Records, City Directories, Phone Directories, School Yearbooks, Photograph Scrapbooks, Ephemerals,

Census Records, Cemetery Records, Land Grants, Family Files & Local History Files.

Mr. Cox was a noted historian and businessman in Greeneville. His generous bequests made the T. Elmer Cox Library possible. Through his gifts, the Greeneville/Greene County Public Library was able to purchase and renovate the historic building that now houses his collection.

An engineer and architect by profession, Cox's interests included not only historical buildings, but daily lives of the early pioneers of Greeneville and Greene County, as well as the times in which they lived.

1950 US Federal Census Release

As in 1930 and 1940, the 1950 Census was conducted according to the terms of the Fifteenth Census Act. The enumeration began on April 1, 1950, with 90 percent of the population having been enumerated by the end of the month (weather delayed enumeration in some areas until mid-May). All but one percent of the population had been enumerated by the end of June 1950.

The 1950 census encompassed the continental United States, the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii, American Samoa, the Canal Zone, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and some of the smaller islands and island groups within the United States' possession. The census also made special provisions for the enumeration of American citizens living abroad (and their dependents), including the armed forces of the United States, employees of the United States Government, and the crews of vessels in the American Merchant Marine at sea or in foreign ports.

The census of Americans living abroad was attempted through cooperative arrangements with the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the United States Maritime Administration, and other federal agencies concerned. These agencies took the responsibility for the distribution and collection of specially designed census questionnaires for individuals and households. Other persons living abroad were to be reported by their families or neighbors in the United States; however, the quality of these data was considered suspect and they were not included in the published statistics.

Several aids were employed to improve the completeness of the 1950 Census coverage. The most prominent were as follows:

- A longer and better planned period of training was provided for enumerators.
- Each enumerator was furnished with a map of his enumeration district, showing the boundaries of the area for which they were responsible.
- An infant card had to be completed for each baby born after January 1, 1950 (since experience had shown that babies are easily missed).
- A crew leader was assigned to supervise each group of approximately 15 enumerators. The crew leader was responsible for helping enumerators with "problem cases" and for spot-checking a sample of the dwelling units assigned to them.
- A special enumeration of persons in hotels, tourist courts, and other places where transients usually pay for quarters was made the night of April 11, 1950. "Missed Person" forms were published in newspapers at the end of the field canvassing operations so persons who thought they had been missed could complete a form and mail it to the district supervisors.
- District supervisors made preliminary announcements of the population counted so that any complaints concerning the completeness of the enumeration could be submitted before the field offices were closed. If the evidence indicated an appreciable undercount, a re-enumeration of the area was conducted.
- Rates of population change were studied to evaluate the enumeration's completeness.
- Vital and immigration statistics were used in conjunction with census data. (Since the population at a given census should represent the population at the previous census, with additions and subtractions resulting from births, deaths, and immigration, it is possible to calculate the expected population on a given census date and compare the actual total received.)

Following these procedures improved the coverage of the 1950 census over that of the 1940 census.

Post-Enumeration Survey. The 1950 census was further checked using a post-enumeration survey, in which a re-enumeration, on a sample basis, was conducted. The Census Bureau recanvassed a probability sample of about 3,500 small areas and compared these to the original census listings to identify households omitted from the enumeration. In addition to the check for omitted households, a sample of about 22,000 households was reinterviewed to determine the number of persons omitted in cases where the household had been included.



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