



Jennifer Baker, Editor

# TENNESSEE GENEALOGICAL

*Society*

## Message from Your Board of Directors

### New Opportunities; New Learning Curves; New Mistakes!

As you all know, the Tennessee Genealogical Society set off to do great and wonderful things this year only to face the difficulties that arose due to the unexpected events around us. We had been planning for quite a while to offer webinars to our Society. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic compelled us to move –and move quickly!

With that said, we are very proud of our team of volunteers who stepped up to set up the technology, as well as those who have offered their expertise by presenting the webinars.

We recently changed two very important parts of our educational structure. We are now offering our workshops and seminars through GoToWebinar (GTW), rather than GoToMeeting. This change gives the attendee a number of benefits, including having the ability to download any handouts that might exist straight from the meeting itself. Registering through our website, the confirmation email from GTW also allows you to put your meeting on one of the major calendars that you might use. I put mine on my Google Calendar (which I will admit, controls my life!), and it not only has the day and time, etc., but it also includes the link on my calendar. I love that. If I happen to lose the email with the link, it's right there on my calendar!



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## Remembering Margaret Eleanor Barham, past president of TNGS



**Margaret Eleanor Barham**, 99, passed away on July 15, 2020, in Jensen Beach, FL.

**Margaret** was born in Memphis, Tennessee, where she was very active in genealogy. She became a professional genealogist, and having been past President of the Tennessee Genealogical Society in Memphis, she spent many years dedicated to her research.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 55 years, **Charles Russell Barham, Jr.**, her son, **Charles Russell Barham III**, sister **Elizabeth Nichols**, mother **Nellie Riggins**, and father **William Riggins**.

Survivors include her daughter-in-law, **Cathy**, granddaughter **Rachel**, grandson **Charles**, cousin **Penny Snyder**, cousin **Kim Crimmins**, and nephew **Jerry Nichols**. She will be greatly missed.

### (Message from Your Board of Directors, continued from page 1)

The second big thing we changed this year was a shift from using PayPal to using AffiniPay, which is part of our membership management server. This will save the Society a great deal of money in the long run, but change is always a nuisance, so please bear with us. Our Bookstore still offers the use of PayPal because it is separate from our main server.

With change come the inevitable mistakes. We've made a few –and will probably make more! We are still learning, but we have been encouraged by the support and comments made by many of you, our wonderful members. Thank you so much for your patience and understanding.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please feel free to contact me at [president@tngs.org](mailto:president@tngs.org) or anyone else on the Board of Directors. If you would like to volunteer your time or your expertise, please contact me or our Vice President, **Angie Menne**, at [programs@tngs.org](mailto:programs@tngs.org).

Wishing you the best and, as always, happy family history hunting!

**Carla Love Maitland**, President



## Things Your Board and Advisors are Doing NOT to be Bored!

*(What we are doing aside from working hard to make sure that TNGS members continue to receive quality genealogical learning resources and opportunities.)*

### **Angie Menne, Vice President**

I was really looking forward to having time to organize my many ongoing projects, including all my many genealogy papers I have printed out over the last few years. I would work on processing some of my thousands of photos that need to be processed. I would have time to watch videos from subscriptions I have such as Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems and photographer Scott Kelby's hundreds of classes. How much of this have I done? Zero. But all is not lost. I did manage to set up a Skype group for my trivia team to play a live trivia contest through Facebook with over 50 other teams. We managed to tie for second, so that was exciting even if we didn't win anything. And last but not least, I have been learning to set up webinars. Not really what I had expected to be doing, but that's ok. It has been very rewarding.



### **Catherine Wilson , TNGS Historian**

I wake up every morning, get my tea and a banana. I pull out my photo of the TNGS building and look and think about my life before the Lockdown. On Thursdays, I knew where I would be from 10 until 3. Now I am in my small apartment. ALL MY DAYS BLEND INTO EACH OTHER. I research on my computer but it is not the same. I miss you so much. I will never take you for granted anymore. I love you sooo much, TNGS!!!

I dreamed last night that Mahala appeared to me and said, "Catherine, I am at TNGS waiting for you to find me." Lock down is making me stir crazy.



### **Carla Love Maitland, President**

"I wish I could say that I've been super productive. You know, cleaned out every closet or organized all of my genealogy files. Those are lofty goals. Instead, I've done some personal genealogy research (which I never seem to find time to do!) and have made some exciting discoveries. I've also caught up on several TV series and movies that I've wanted to see, and I've talked to a number of friends and family members whom I've not spoken to in a while. What's been my biggest accomplishment? I haven't gained any weight - yet!"



## Meet Lisa Junkins - Our New Director of Public Relations

**Lisa Junkins** is a West Virginia native, but only lived there for six years. In 1986, **Lisa** moved to Memphis to train as an air traffic controller. **Lisa** was a second-generation controller and all three of her sons are now third-generation controllers. **Lisa** took an early retirement after 25 years. With all five children out on their own and retired, she decided to investigate if she could join Daughters of the American Revolution. This started her on a passion for genealogy.

February 2013, **Lisa** received her DAR National Number. She has served as Chapter Registrar. She is now serving as First Vice Regent and District Vice Chair for the State Regent's Cookbook. She also volunteers as a Correspondent Docent for the DAR Museum. She has proven 5 patriots and is working on more.

In 2015 when TNGS brought **D. Joshua Taylor** to Germantown for a seminar, **Lisa** knew she had to support the society that was working hard to provide quality learning opportunities. As **Lisa** started attending more seminars and workshops, she started committing some of her time to volunteer with TNGS. **Lisa** is now serving as Director of Public Relations.

It has only been in the last year, while researching another patriot, **Lisa** learned that she does have a Tennessee connection in her family! Her ancestor **Moses Ball, Jr.**, purchased property in Hawkins County in 1797. Now she is working on applying for the Tennessee Ancestry Certificate offered by TNGS. If you descend from a Hawkins County Ball, **Lisa** would love to talk to you.

**Lisa** and her husband **Paul**, also a retired air traffic controller, are self-isolating in their Collierville home. She is keeping sane by listening to church service via livestream, keeping a bullet journal with details about coronavirus for her descendants, doing spring cleaning, video-calling family and reading books to grandchildren, and of course, doing genealogy.



# Pandemic Living

By Lisa Junkins

26 July 2020



Our world has turned upside down. We are living a life that seems like it should only happen in history books. Some of us have learned how to sew face masks. Many of us have learned how to order groceries online for pickup. All of us have our lives impacted. I doubt many of us ever imagined being so concerned about going to the hospital or doctor's office for fear of catching a deadly virus. A new mantra of daily life is "Wash your hands, don't touch your face." Funny how hard it can be to avoid touching your face.

Limiting how much news we intake has become sound mental health advice. The constant updating of rising virus cases, rising death toll, and current hot spots is depressing. The updates doctors regularly give that only partly tell the story because they don't know the rest yet, seem to cause more stress than they alleviate. One of the hardest parts for everyone is not having any idea when it will end. We have learned that people with underlying health conditions have the hardest time recovering.

Then, there is school. The spring semester was cut short and thrown into chaos. Graduations cancelled or postponed. Celebrations were held by cars driving by a graduate's house, honking horns, and waving to the graduate. Now school districts, teachers, and parents are all agonizing over the 2020-21 school term. Whether you want your child in school to help meet their special needs or you want your child at home for your family's health, it isn't a decision you came to lightly. Teachers are in a struggle of whether or not they feel safe enough to return to the classroom. The news reported some teachers are getting or updating living wills. Meanwhile school districts are trying to figure out what going to school might look like and what learning virtually might look like.

Most people were not familiar with video calls before COVID-19. They were strictly for work or higher education. In the last few months, we have learned how to FaceTime, Skype, and Zoom. All kinds of organizations are learning to have virtual meetings. Families are staying in touch with video calls.

I grew up hearing about the Spanish Flu Pandemic. We now know it didn't start in Spain, but because of WWI and news blackouts, Spain was the first country to honestly report about it. The first known case actually occurred in Kansas on March 11, 1918. Within two weeks, 1,100 soldiers were admitted to the hospital, with thousands sick in barracks. The pandemic lasted 15 months. Total deaths are unlikely to ever be determined due to the lack of records at the time, but estimates range from 50 million to 100 million people worldwide. Cities closed schools, movie theaters and banned public gatherings. Citizens in San Francisco were fined if they were caught in public without a mask.

My great-grandparents and their children were sick from the Spanish Flu. When she recovered, my great-grandmother, **Mary Etta Pratt Osburn**, took homemade soup to her neighbors who were still sick. I love the story my mother tells about my great-grandfather being ill. **Mary Etta** had recovered but he was still sick. He was telling her just how sick he was. She replied she knew because she had just gotten over it. He said something to the effect of "but you weren't as sick as I am!"

Then polio struck in the early 1950s. This new virus caused cities to close pools, movie theaters, schools and churches. For one out of 200, polio led to paralysis. For two of 10 suffering paralysis, polio ended in death. Some blamed Italian immigrants.

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## (Pandemic, continued from page 4)

Some blamed cats. A 1952 survey found Americans feared only nuclear annihilation more than polio. My mother remembers that schools were really emphasizing hand washing, lining up kids to wash before lunch. March of Dimes posters were in schools and the Post Office. When the vaccine finally came out, they were taken by the school bus to the County Health Department to get the vaccine.

Now, life is on hold as we wait for a vaccine. As I write this, Johns Hopkins is reporting over 16 million confirmed cases worldwide. The United States is over 4 million confirmed cases. Globally, 646,837 people have died. We keep watching the numbers. We are watching curves, hoping they will flatten. We are learning new terms like positivity rate, contact tracing, and self-quarantine.

As a society of genealogists, we understand the importance of family history. We try to have conversations with our parents and our aunts and uncles. We encourage others to start sooner while they still have grandparents to ask. Pandemic Living means we need to look forward because our descendants will be looking back at us. They will be curious about how life through coronavirus was. Were we in a hot spot? Did we have trouble finding toilet paper and bleach? I would encourage you to keep a journal. If you already keep a journal, I want to suggest you be very intentional about including details of your life this year and next. If you haven't been keeping one, any kind of notebook will do. The best one is the one that will get you started. Use a dark ink that will be easy to read. Don't stress about archival quality or you won't get it done. Imagine your great-grandchild is sitting at your feet listening to you. What will you say?

### Citations

History.com, originally published 12 Oct 2010, updated 17 July 2020, A&E Television Networks, *Spanish Flu* by history.com Editors

History.com, published 27 Mar 202, updated 2 Apr 2020, A&E Television Networks, *When Polio Triggered Fear and Panic in the 1950s* by **Volker Janssen**

Smithsonianmagazine.com, November 2017 issue, How the Horrific 1918 Flu Spread Across America by **John M. Barry**

Gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com, *COVID-19 Dashboard*, Johns Hopkins Center for Systems Science and Engineering

## Why Should I Join TNGS? Because of these terrific reasons:



- Free access to the information in the TNGS surname files in the TNGS office.
- Free access to the Members Only section on the TNGS website. This includes the surname cross reference, digital books, presentations, the last 10 years issues of *Ansearchin' News* and all recorded educational sessions and webinars.
- Free access to Tennessee Genealogical Society webinars via GoToWebinar and/or GoToMeeting.
- A one year subscription of *Ansearchin' News*, our quarterly magazine.
- A Germantown library card, which is included with the membership and is in lieu of the \$50 annual fee charged by the library to non-Germantown residents. The library card is good at the Germantown, Arlington, and Millington libraries. (You must apply in-person at the Germantown Regional History and Genealogical Library to obtain a card, and you must renew it there each year.)
- The opportunity of submitting two FREE queries each year. (These queries will be published in the Tennessee Genealogical Magazine, *Ansearchin' News*, and on the TNGS website.)
- A discount on all "pay" educational events and seminars.
- A discount on Research Requests.
- A discount on TNGS-published books from our Bookstore.
- The privilege of voting at general membership meetings.
- The opportunity to serve as an officer, either on the Board of Directors or in an appointed position.
- The chance to serve as a volunteer either for the Society itself or for the Germantown Regional History and Genealogical Center.



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## Upcoming Webinars



Be sure to join us for one of our upcoming webinars! Remember to check the website ([www.tngs.org](http://www.tngs.org)) for specific details on each of these events and for any upcoming sessions that will be posted soon.

Already scheduled for August are the following learning opportunities:

Virtual Summer Seminar Saturday, August 8, 2020. 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Featuring nationally renowned speakers, J. Mark Lowe and Kim Richardson.

Family Tree Maker, Exporting and Syncing Wednesday, August 12, 2020. 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Featuring P.Z. Horton.

Ancestry-DNA Tools Tuesday, August 18, 2020. 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Featuring Deborah Atchley.

Translating Genealogical Research into Museum Exhibitions Thursday, August 20, 2020. 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Featuring Andrew Ross.

So many more sessions will be added to the August calendar and to our future monthly events. Check back regularly!