



Jennifer Baker, Editor

TENNESSEE GENEALOGICAL

Society

Virtual Quarterly Membership Meeting of the Tennessee Genealogical Society

Holocaust Survivor Steven Hess

Saturday, July 10, 2021

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



Please join us for the third 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 what is going on with our Society, upcoming programs and events.

Our featured speaker is **Steven Hess** of Rochester NY. **Steven** will talk to us about his family's experience as holocaust survivors. He and his sister were among the very few twins to have survived the concentration camps and now among the last.

Non-member broadcast - \$5.00

Register at <https://tngs.org/event-4278100>

Via Go To Webinar Broadcast

Tennessee County Database

NEW

The **Tennessee Genealogical Society** is pleased to announce a new addition to our website. As part of our recently formed **Tennessee Partnership Program**, we are releasing the **Tennessee County Database**. This database can be accessed from our **Tennessee Research Tab** and will be open to anyone visiting our site. The database has been designed to provide basic genealogical information and lists available resources specific to each county in Tennessee. Conceptually, this database should provide each researcher with a centralized starting point for examining any county in Tennessee.

You can access a county by either clicking on the county shown on the Tennessee map or by selecting it by name from the alphabetized list below the map. Finally, there is a link to the **Tennessee County Formation Data** from the **Newberry Library**. We want this database to be as accurate as possible and to grow with the needs of the society and of our researchers. Please send any corrections, additions, or suggestions to TCD@tngs.org.



New 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."

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

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.

Middle Tennessee Partners

Advisor - Donna Garrett midtnadvisor@tngs.org

Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Nashville Chapter <https://aahgsnashville.org/>

Annette Levy Ratkin Jewish Community Archives <https://www.jewishnashville.org/resources/annette-levy-ratkin-archives>

Clarksville-Montgomery County Public Library <https://mcgtn.org/publiclibrary>

Dickson County Historical and Genealogical Society

Fisk University Special Collections and Archives <https://www.fisk.edu/>

Jewish Genealogical Society of Nashville

John P. Holt Brentwood Library <https://www.brentwoodtn.gov/departments/library>

Macon County Public Library <https://sites.google.com/site/maconcountypubliclibrarysystem/home>

Magness Public Library <http://www.magnesslibrary.org/>

Putnam County Library <https://pclibrary.org/>

Tennessee Technological University Archives and Special Collections <https://www.tntech.edu/library/archives.php>

Trousdale County Historical Society <https://trousdalehistory.org/>

Warren County Genealogical & Historical Association <https://tngenweb.org/wcgatn/>

White County Genealogical Historical Society <http://web.blomand.net/~wcolley/wcghs.html>

Williamson County Public Library <https://www.wcpltn.org/>





East Tennessee Partners

Advisor - Cynthia Guffey easttnadvisor@tngs.org

Archives of Appalachia - East TN State University www.etsu.edu/archives
Bledsoe County Historical and Genealogical Society
Bledsoe County Public Library <https://sites.google.com/view/bledsoelibrary>
Blount County Genealogical and Historical Society <https://www.blountcountytngenealogy.org/>
Blount County Public Library www.blountlibrary.org
Campbell County Historical Society
Chattanooga Public Library, Local History and Genealogy Dept. <https://chattlibrary.org/>
Claiborne County Public Library www.claibornelibrary.org
Cumberland County Archives and Family Heritage Center <https://artcirclelibrary.info/c.php?g=838398>
East Tennessee Historical Society www.easttnhistory.org
E.G. Fisher Public Library (Athens) <https://fisherlibrary.org/>
Grainger County Archives www.graingerarchives.org
Hamblen County Genealogical Society
Johnson County Historical Society <https://www.jctcuzins.org/>
Jonesborough Genealogical Society <https://jgstn.org/>
Kingsport Public Library and Archives <https://www.kingsportlibrary.org/>
Loudon Public Library
Luttrell Public Library <https://www.luttrelllibrary.org/>
Madisonville Public Library www.madisonvillelibrary.org
McMinn County Historical Society
Meigs County Historical Society
Morgan County Genealogical and Historical Society www.tngenweb.org/morgan
Oak Ridge Public Library <http://orpl.org/>
Orena Humphreys Public Library (Whitwell)
Polk County - East Polk County Public Library (Ducktown) <https://sites.google.com/site/eastpolklibrary/home>
Polk County - West Polk County Public Library <https://sites.google.com/site/westpolklibrary/>
Scott County Historical Society
Sevier County Public Library System: King Family Library <https://www.sevierlibrary.org/locations/king-family-library/>
Signal Mountain Genealogy Society
T. Elmer Cox Genealogical and Historical Library (Greeneville) <https://www.telmercoxlibrary.org/>
Tellico Plains Public Library <https://www.tellicoplainspubliclibrary.org/>
Washington County Archives <https://wctnarchives.org/>

West Tennessee Partners

Advisor - Connie Lewis westtnadvisor@tngs.org

Hardin County Public Library <http://hardincountylibrary.org/>
Obion County Public Library www.oclibrary.org
West Tennessee Historical Society <https://wthstn.org/>



Meet our new Middle Tennessee Area Partnership Advisor, Donna Garrett



I am a native Tennessean, born and raised in Nashville. A graduate of **Tennessee Technological University** and **Memphis State University**, I taught English for **Metro Nashville Schools** and **Shelby County Schools** and was a long-time librarian with **Shelby County Schools**.

My husband, **Bill**, had passed and I had retired, so in 2019 I moved “home” to Franklin, 3 miles from the Davidson/Williamson County line and 11 miles from my childhood home which is ironic. I laugh now remembering all the times I was frustrated and grumbled while researching ancestors who settled in Williamson, Maury, Rutherford, or Wilson counties 150+ years ago and always seemed to live near the county line. It felt like they were playing hide-and-seek!

I’ve always been interested in history, but I was an adult before I became interested in genealogy and retired before I began actively researching my roots. Growing up I was lucky to know and see my grandparents weekly and my aunts, uncles, and cousins often. I was aware of extended family, but life was busy, and we had little contact with them.

Aunt Mary was the family “genealogist.” She wasn’t a trained genealogist, and she lived before the internet. She didn’t research family, but she “knew” her family. She talked to people, and she wrote things down on scraps of paper. She was always saying, “You know you are related to ____” -- to the point that we were skeptical. **Aunt Mary** died in 1988, and my sister and I inherited her pictures and family papers with names and dates going back to North Carolina in the late 1700s. With the internet it was easy for us to verify her information (and she was right) giving us a head start on our **DAR** applications.

You can never predict what surprises genealogical research has in store for you. While waiting in line at a **DAR** conference, I was chatting with a lovely lady when we realized we shared an ancestor who lived in Virginia in the early 1800s. Her family moved from VA to KY and later to east TN. Mine moved from VA to AL and then to middle TN. In 2018 she was living in east TN, and I was living in west TN, and we met in a coffee line in middle TN! As the Gecko says, in the **Geico** commercial, “Serendipity!”

Genealogy is fun, rewarding and addictive. Two of the perks of my research have been reconnecting and developing a closer relationship with some family members and identifying and connecting with others that I did not know.

I miss my family and friends in Shelby County, but I have enjoyed being “home,” spending time with family (especially my sister), reconnecting with childhood friends, and making new friends. In addition to genealogy, I enjoy reading, gardening, decorating, working crossword puzzles, and just “chilling out,” with **Tiger Leigh**, my new dog, a four-year old rehomed rescue pug-Italian greyhound mix -- much more fun than decluttering and organizing a downsized condo!

I have been a member **TNGS** since 2013. I was Research Director and later Recording Secretary. Of course, when I moved, I kept my membership, but it was different. I was excited when I was asked to be the **Middle Tennessee Advisor** for **TNGS’s** new **Organizational Partnership Program**. You can contact me at midtnadvisor@tngs.org. HAPPY RESEARCHING!

The Legal Genealogist

Judy G. Russell, May 23, 2021



DNA at NGS 2021

So... you were busy this past week. You didn't register in time. You couldn't quite swing the cost then. Whatever the reason, you missed out on **DNA at NGS — the 2021 LIVE!** portion of the **National Genealogical Society's 2021 Family History Conference**, held virtually over this past week.

Because you can still get access to almost all of the **NGS 2021 LIVE!** sessions — plus a whole lot more in an on-demand format — from speakers like... well... **The Legal Genealogist** and a whole lot of others.

As explained on the **NGS** website:

The **NGS 2021 On-Demand!** lecture series is available to view from home on your computer or mobile device and offers you the opportunity to develop exceptional genealogy skills with a highly comprehensive set of on-demand webinars from **NGS's** expert conference speakers. **On-Demand!** packages of audio-visual lectures will be available for purchase soon at playbackngs.com.

Select from the 20 or 40 **On-Demand!** lecture packages with over 85 sessions to choose from. **Watch starting 15 June 2021 through 31 December 2021.** Both packages come with access to two full days of **NGS 2021 Live!** from **19-20 May 2021**, the virtual conference syllabus, and 20+ sponsored bonus sessions. Plus, view the sessions from **NGS 2021 Live!** and any sessions you did or did not choose from the breakouts beginning **15 June**. All sessions will be closed captioned.

And if you do register for these on-demand packages — registration will open soon at the PlayBackNGS website — you can still get a terrific grounding in DNA-related topics.

- **Angie Bush**, “Leveraging Genetic Networks to Break Down Brick Walls.” With millions of testers in genetic genealogy databases, learn how to identify groups of shared matches or networks to break through brick walls.
- **Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG**, “Writing About and Documenting Genealogical Conclusions Using DNA Test Results.” Examples from peer-reviewed articles show how to integrate DNA and documentary evidence in genealogical writing and to address issues of documenting living people's lineages.

And the **NGS 2021 LIVE!** also included a session by **Ancestry's Crista Cowan**: “Putting Your DNA Results to Work to Further Your Research.” Learn how AncestryDNA® can power your research and help you discover your story. ThruLines and better matching tools help get more from your DNA information.

In the on-demand sessions, you can add 10 more:

- **Shannon Combs-Bennett**, “Creating a Research Plan for DNA Testing.” Have you tested your DNA, or are you thinking about it? Learn how to integrate those results into a genealogy research plan to unlock more clues to your family's past.
- **Libby Copeland**, “How Home DNA Testing is Changing Family Histories and the Implications for American Culture.” Explore the impact of DNA testing on family histories, from individual seekers to communities including adoptees and the donor-conceived, and broadly on American culture at large.
- **Patti Lee Hobbs, CG**, “Extending DNA Evidence: More is Better.” Often passively observing DNA results to prove a relationship fails to yield sufficient evidence. Learn ways to identify more and make DNA evidence more robust.



- **Renate Yarborough Sanders**, “What’s Done in the Dark... DNA Doesn’t Lie!” Following a brief overview of DNA test types and companies, real-life examples of how DNA has revealed truthful answers to genealogical questions will be shared.
- **Diahan Southard**, “The Power of the ‘Other’ DNA Tests: YDNA, mtDNA, and XDNA.” YDNA, mtDNA, and XDNA are three other DNA tests that may be just what you need to break down that brick wall.
- **Diahan Southard**, “Your DNA Research Log: How to Stay Organized.” A methodical approach to your DNA match list will save you hours of time and lead to faster discoveries.
- **Karen Stanbary, CG**, “Creation of a Meaningful Lump of Wax out of Teeny, Tiny Drips.” Creative use of DNA test results provides clues leading to additional records and a successful reconstruction of several early 19th century families.
- **Karen Stanbary, CG**, “Chasing Opportunity from Bas Rhin to Burlington, Iowa.” A deep dive into documentary records follows an Alsatian immigrant on a journey through three states accompanied by three wives. DNA accurately reconstructs his family.
- **Paula Kay Williams**, “Solving a Virginia Mystery Using DNA.” Family lore tells a different story than the records for the paternity of a southwest Virginia great-grandfather. Learn how DNA helps solve the mystery!

And last, but I hope not least, my own presentation, “‘To protect people who provide DNA samples’: The Ethics of DNA Testing.” Based on the changes to the Genealogist’s Code of Ethics, this talk explores how using DNA in genealogy means finding new-technology solutions for old-time ethical dilemmas. What are our ethical obligations when using this twenty-first century tool?

Not enough yet? You’ll also get five sponsored sessions. From **Family Tree DNA’s Janine Cloud**:

- “Why BigY? The Benefits of Advanced Y-DNA Testing.” A look at FamilyTreeDNA’s Big Y-700 sequenced Y-DNA test, its features, benefits, and challenges, with focus on how it’s useful in genealogical research.
- “Real Questions About DNA Testing.” Whether you’re a new tester, or have had results for a while, this talk answers common questions actual customers ask about DNA testing.
- “Y-DNA Testing for Genealogy.” From the basics to advanced testing, this talk looks at using Y-DNA for genealogical research.
- “Which DNA Test is Right for You?” Many people don’t realize there’s more than one type of DNA test. This talk provides an overview of autosomal, mitochondrial, X, and Y-DNA testing.

And from **MyHeritage’s Daniel Horowitz**, “Using the AutoCluster and Chromosome Browser to Understand Your MyHeritage DNA Matches.” Hear about the latest developments on MyHeritage integration between family history research, billions of records, and the powerful DNA Matching technology.

And ... well ... since this is my blog, after all, I’ll also mention that with any package you’ll get my own **NGS 2021 LIVE!** presentation, “Wilde Beasts, Sabbath Breakers, and Incurable Rogues: Early Virginia Laws.” The laws our ancestors lived by tell the story of earlier times and Virginia laws tell of Sunday frolics, wild animals, and those who needed humbling. And, in addition to my DNA ethics talk, your on-demand package can include:

- “May I Please Have Your Permission? Using the Work of Others.” Genealogists use other people’s work as building blocks in family histories. Learn the rules of using it in a way that’s legal, ethical, and smart.
- “The Common Law: From Mr. Justice Blackstone to Mr. Justice Tucker.” Understanding the common law and its role in shaping the principles underlying early legal records helps us correctly reconstruct our families.

So take a look at the **PlayBackNGS website**, download **the Conference Program**, consider what package you might want, and be prepared when the on-demand recordings become available **June 15**.

DNA at NGS. And a whole lot more.

Judy G. Russell, “DNA at NGS 2021,” *The Legal Genealogist* (<https://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog> : posted 23 May 2021)

East Tennessee Historical Society Events

The African American Experience Project in Great Smoky Mountains National Park on Zoom -- Wednesday, June 16, 2021 -- 11:00am



Join the **East Tennessee Historical Society** on June 16, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom as Project Lead **Antoine Fletcher** and Research Assistant **Atalya Dorfield** introduce us to the **African American Experience Project** in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Begun in 2018, this project is a collaborative effort with park partners and the community to document and share the untold stories of African Americans in and outside the Smokies. These stories have been shared by many African Americans around crackling campfires, sun-beaten front porches, and lamp lit bedrooms, but they have yet to be shared with the world. To tell this story, the park is conducting research into African American experiences in the Great Smoky Mountains region of Appalachia from constructed 1540s to the present day.

The “**African American Experience**” program is free. We ask participants to email eths@eastTNhistory.org to register. We will email the Zoom link prior to the program.



Dickson-Williams Mansion to Host Let's Put the Icing on the Cake Event

Re-Enactment Celebration of Catharine Dickson and Dr. Alexander Williams' Wedding
Dickson-Williams Mansion in Greeneville, Sunday, August 29, 2021 - 5:00pm



The **Dickson-Williams Mansion** is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the completion of the home with an announcement of a major event and fundraiser to be held on the evening of Sunday, August 29, 2021. Festivities will begin at 5:00 p.m. featuring tours and stories of the mansion's history, followed at 7:00 p.m. with the reenactment of the wedding of **Catharine Dickson** and **Dr. Alexander Williams**, the original owners of the mansion. The wedding will be followed by a delightful summer supper and celebration with the guests.

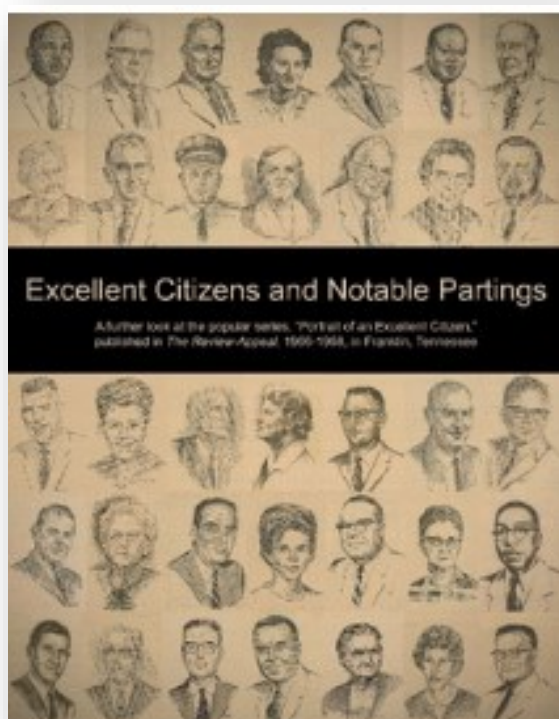
Tickets to attend the “**Let's Put the Icing on the Cake**” event are \$100 per couple or \$50 for singles, and the proceeds will go to fund replications of 1820's era shutters on the mansion's 18 windows that will put “the icing on the cake,” and complete the exterior restoration of Greeneville's historic **Dickson-Williams Mansion**.

Invitations to the wedding will be sent in June, and sponsorships are also being sought to underwrite and present the celebration event of the 200th anniversary of the completion of the mansion.

Please contact **Wilhelmina Williams** at wcwilliams@embargmail.com or call 423-257-4235 if you have an interest in sponsoring this event or would like to reserve your tickets.

TENNESSEE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 381824
GERMANTOWN, TN 38183-1824

New Williamson County Public Library Book



Excellent Citizens and Notable Partings, was recently published by the **Special Collections Department of Williamson County Public Library**. This handy reference is a compilation of portraits and profiles of noteworthy citizens of Williamson County, as published in the series, "**Portrait of an Excellent Citizen**," in ***The Review-Appeal***, between the years 1966 and 1968. One hundred and forty-three local citizens are portrayed in short biographies and hand drawn portraits. This book enlarges their lives by including their obituaries, feature articles, family-submitted entries, ads of the era, and quotations from other local writers. This is a useful resource for Williamson County history and family connections, as well as a fun and quick look into the lives of some of the people making things happen in the Sixties.

Please contact the **Special Collections Department at WCPL** for more information about the book at 615-595-1246.