



**MTGS Messenger**  
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**Jim Long, Editor**



## **Genealogy Trips: More Than Just Records!**

The next regular MTGS meeting is [this Saturday, July 20, at 1:00pm Central Time](#), both in-person at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, and on Zoom.

**Jeff Bockman**, MTGS member, long-time genealogy researcher, author and writer, will present [Genealogy Travels: More Than Just Records!](#)

Setting goals, Planning, Doing your Homework at Home, and Establishing Contacts will help you have a successful trip where you can meet cousins, see where your ancestors lived, worked, or just spent time. You can learn more about your ancestors and maybe even yourself. Examples include locating the property and an 1861 log cabin in Colorado, meeting cousins while visiting his grandmother's hometown in Slovenia, and visiting a town in France that his grandfather wrote about in his letters home during World War I.

Jeff has been doing genealogical research since 1988 and has been active in societies, society management, classes, and lectures since 1994. He is a project manager for the Johnson/Johnston DNA Project - specifically the Olive Group and for the Moorman DNA Project – and is a member of the [Genealogical Speakers Guild](#).

This meeting is open to the public and we hope that you can join us, either in-person or via Zoom.

The Zoom link for this meeting is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82124862886>.

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## MTGS November Seminar Line-Up Announced: Land, Court and Church Records

We are thrilled to share this year's lineup of [local speakers](#) for our all-day **36<sup>th</sup> Annual Genealogical Seminar**, to be held Saturday, November 16, in-person at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, and on Zoom. We will have 4 great topics at the Seminar, from these speakers:

- [Chuck Sherrill](#), MTGS Journal Editor and former State Librarian & Archivist, will present 2 sessions: one on **research in early Tennessee land records**, and one on **Tennessee's court systems and how to follow cases through the courts**
- [Gratia Strother](#), Conference Archivist for the [Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference of the United Methodist Church](#) in Nashville, will talk about **records held in the TWKUMC Archives**, and about **the various records that different denominations keep, and how to find them**
- [Taffey Hall](#), Director and Archivist for the [Southern Baptist Historical Library & Archives](#) in Nashville, will talk about **records held in the SBHLA and how to use them for genealogical research**

We'll send out an email notification to members when Registration opens for the Seminar, and will update our website accordingly.

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## Reminder about Granville – July 27

The [Upper Cumberland Family History and Genealogy Festival](#) in Granville, TN will take place this year on Saturday, July 27, from 9am to 4pm. The festival features special presentations, booths by a variety of genealogy and history organizations, military encampments and demonstrations, and family research resources.

Special presentations this year include:

- 10:00am - *Getting Started with Genealogy Research: Starting Your Family Tree*, by Anna Stephenson
- 11:30am - *Genealogy Work of Sue Maggart Petty*, by Mike Maggart
- 1:00pm - *The Simple Joys: Loreda Wood Davis' Cumberland County Memories*
- 2:00pm - *Interpreting Your Ancestor's Military Service Records*, by Myers Brown

MTGS sponsored a booth at last year's festival, and I understand that it was: (1) well-attended; (2) a bit hot; (3) a bit stormy; (4) a LOT of fun. We will be there again this year!

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THE JOHN P. HOLT  
**BRENTWOOD**  
LIBRARY  
*Illumination lies within.*

### Free Genealogy Classes Resume at the Brentwood Library

Who *doesn't* love things related to genealogy that are free?

MTGS' own [Dr. Holly Hebert](#) (well, MTSU gets to claim her too, and Congrats on recently completing her Ph. D.!) resumes her **free genealogy classes** this month at the John P.

Holt Brentwood Library. The first one is Thursday, July 25, from 6pm to 7pm, and they will be offered twice a month.

For more information, check out the Library's [Beginning Genealogy Class event page](#).

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### DNA News: Ancestry Pro Tools

Have you explored the Ancestry Pro Tools yet? I haven't, but at least one of the features intrigues me enough that I will likely give it a try. The [Advanced DNA Tools](#) allow you to see how much DNA is shared *between two of your Shared Matches* (let's call them A and B). Without the upgrade, you can already see how much DNA you share with A, and how much you share with B. The upgrade shows you how much DNA that A shares with B.

One DNA blogger whom I follow describes the feature as "immensely helpful," and one fellow MTGS member has called it a "game-changer" for her DNA research.

The Pro Tools cost \$10/month, and include more than just the Advanced DNA Tools.

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### MTGS Website – Now With More SSL Security!

We recently made a change to the MTGS website that removes the dire "Not Secure" label that appears in the address bar of most Internet browsers. We purchased what is called an [SSL Certificate](#), where SSL stands for Secure Sockets

Layer. Visitors to our website will now notice that our web address appears as <https://mtgs.org> instead of <http://mtgs.org>.

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### Follow-Up on Ancestry's AI tool for Facial Recognition

In the last Newsletter, I talked about a feature on Ancestry that I had stumbled upon that uses **facial-recognition technology** to make guesses at the identities of people you've tagged in your photos on Ancestry. I have spent a lot of time using this feature since then, and I'm still very happy with the tool.

In the little town where my mother's parents were from, there survives a collection of glass-plate negatives from the town photographer, containing about 1,700 images dating from 1905-1937. Over the past 15 years, we have used Internet crowd-sourcing to identify those pictured in the images, and had identified about 2,000 people so far.

Using the Ancestry AI photo tool, I have been able to identify **another 250 individuals**. In most cases, Ancestry was able to identify one person in a photo, but that was enough of a clue for me to build out a family tree for that person, using normal genealogy methods, and *deduce* who everyone else in the photo had to be. And if I can positively identify the youngest person in a photo, I can date the photo quite precisely, which helps with figuring out which family members can and can't be in the photo.

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### When That Elusive Record...*Disproves* the Lineage!

I was recently contacted by Mary, a DAR Registrar at a chapter in Idaho, seeking my help in finding records that could prove that Washington Rogers (1824-1904) of Stewart County was the son of Inman Rogers (1798-1862). She shared with me her research to-date, including a photocopy of a page from the **family Bible of Inman Rogers**, showing Washington Rogers, ostensibly as a son. But the *provenance* of that Bible page – posted to Ancestry a few years ago without attribution – could not be verified by Mary, and was therefore likely to be rejected by the NSDAR.

Mary shared with me the family *tradition* of the applicant – that Inman Rogers was married to Mary Shearman, citing a Shearman family history from decades ago – which had no source citations, of course! That family Bible page gave Mary’s birthdate, and their wedding date, but no surname for Mary. It was the Shearman line, already with an established DAR Ancestor, that the applicant, with Mary’s help, was attempting to join on.

I dug through the records of the Stewart County Archives and found four records to share with Mary that I thought, at first glance, could be helpful. Of course, none of them was a tidy will revealing the family genealogy!

- The 1861 county tax list, in which Inman Rogers owned 50 acres on Shelby Creek, while Washington Rogers, in the same district, owned 0 acres. The two had been the only Rogers in their district for the preceding 15 years.
- The 1865 county tax list (taken after Inman’s death in 1862), in which Washington Rogers was paying the tax on those 50 acres previously owned by Inman. I knew that, under Tennessee law, land *automatically* descended to the heirs without court involvement or a deed. The legal inference would be that Washington was at least an *heir* of Inman, and their respective ages suggested they were 1 generation apart (26 years). But lineage societies, in my experience, don’t accept Tennessee land laws as part of proof arguments.
- An 1865 deed in which “W. Rogers” leased the mineral rights on his farm, consisting of “*his entire interest in the lands on which he resides belonging to the heirs of Inman Rogers deceased lying on Shelby Creek in the County of Stewart, Tenn., consisting of one hundred and four acres or thereabouts...*” The “W. Rogers” with no clear first name was only briefly problematic, as tax records had confirmed that *Washington* Rogers was living on that land and paying the taxes on it from 1865 onward. How could Washington be in legal possession of Inman’s land without being a son/heir, right?
- An 1867 deed of gift from *William* Rogers, “son in heir [sic] of Jemima Rogers deceased”... “unto Washington Rogers my brother, for the love and respect I bare him”; the deed of gift conveyed William’s interest in adjoining tracts on Shelby Creek, on both sides of the Kentucky state line, with 54 of the acres being on the Stewart County side of the line.

And who is *Jemima*, you may ask? That’s what I want to know, too!

I found that William Rogers was born in 1829, so he was only a few years younger than Washington. He lived in an adjoining county. Researchers of this Rogers family state that Mary (Shearman) Rogers, wife of Inman, died in 1830, which would let her be the mother of both William and Washington. “Jemima” is not mentioned in that Bible page as a 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, nor

does she appear in any other county records. Even if Washington Rogers was proven to be a son of Inman Rogers, was he disproven to be a son of Mary Shearman?

I was able to offer Mary in Idaho a consolation prize, of sorts: if the DAR accepts the proof of Washington Rogers as the son of Inman Rogers, then the DAR applicant could go in on Inman's maternal grandfather, William Ross of Martin County, NC (1731/1801), who was already an accepted DAR Ancestor. Fingers crossed!

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