



# MTGS Messenger



Vol. 13, No. 5

September 2017

## **Our 40 Counties**

Bedford  
Cannon  
Cheatham  
Clay  
Coffee  
Davidson  
DeKalb  
Dickson  
Fentress  
Franklin  
Giles  
Grundy  
Hickman  
Houston  
Humphreys  
Jackson  
Lawrence  
Lewis  
Lincoln  
Macon  
Marshall  
Maury  
Montgomery  
Moore  
Overton  
Perry  
Pickett  
Putnam  
Robertson  
Rutherford  
Smith  
Stewart  
Sumner  
Trousdale  
Van Buren  
Warren  
Wayne  
White  
Williamson  
Wilson

The **September 16 regular meeting** will be at [The Brentwood Library](#), 8109 Concord Rd., Brentwood, TN 37027. Our program will be something new to MTGS, a program we're calling "**Genealogy in the Round.**" We have designed a program to **help you find answers to questions on 4 separate topics.** This may help you break through a Brick Wall.

All attendees will rotate every 1/2 hour to a different station, so you won't miss out on any topic! Our experienced MTGS presenters will give information to possibly point you in the right direction in your search for ancestors. Topics for the day are:

- [Computers in Genealogy](#)
- [Reliable Research Records](#)
- [Beginning Tips in Genealogy](#)
- [DNA as a Source](#)

We are excited to embark on this unique format for our September Meeting. Come learn with us.

As ever, the meeting, which is free and open to the public, will begin at **1:00 p.m.** And if you are not currently a member of MTGS, we hope you will attend and consider joining.

Registration is now **OPEN** for our **29<sup>th</sup> Annual Genealogical Seminar on Saturday, November 18** at the Brentwood Library. We are thrilled to welcome, as this year's speaker, the incomparable [Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL](#), the "[Legal Genealogist](#)". Judy will present these four great topics:

- How Old Did He Have to Be...?
- When Worlds Collide: Resolving Conflicts in Genealogical Records
- "Don't Forget the Ladies" – A Genealogist's Guide to Women and the Law
- After the Courthouse Burns: Rekindling Family History through DNA

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The seminar cost is \$40 for MTGS or THS members, and \$45 for non-members. Registration includes handouts and choice of boxed lunch, plus our memorable refreshments!

Come join us for a fun day of learning and genealogical camaraderie. Download the brochure from the MTGS Seminar page at <http://www.mtgs.org/seminar.html>. Payment can be made via check or PayPal. We hope to see you in November!

**FamilySearch** announced in June that they would **end microfilm distribution** on August 31 ☹, with a goal of having their **entire microfilm collection online** at FamilySearch by 2020. 😊

I spot-checked a few of my Middle Tennessee counties this week and was surprised at **how much was already online**. Will book microfilms (titled on FamilySearch as Tennessee Probate Books) have been online there for a while now, as well as marriage records, but I found Court Minute Books and even some Deed Books. 😊😊😊 I can now browse those microfilms right from my comfy couch.

Log onto [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) (the account is free) and choose the **Search -> Catalog** menu option to search the catalog for your research locale.



From the list of record types that appears, expand one of the record types to see a list of titles, which may look something like this:

### ▼ **United States, Tennessee, Stewart - Court records ( 16 )**

Look for titles whose Author is a County office, such as Circuit Court like this:

**Minute books, 1821-1967**

**Author:** Tennessee. Circuit Court (Stewart County)

as these titles will be *microfilmed* records (other titles may lead you to *printed* materials that are not online). Click on a title to see a list of the microfilm reels, then look to the right of the film title for a camera icon (  ), denoting that the microfilm reel is online, as opposed to the microfilm icon (  ), which means you'll have to wait!

Viewing the reels this way can be a bit time-consuming, as you have to guess which Image Number on the reel is the one you need, but at least you'll be guessing from your comfy couch.

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## Upcoming Events:

- Sept. 16     **MTGS regular meeting**, Brentwood Library  
“Genealogy in the Round”, a roadshow/roundtable meeting. Four moderated tables will be available on these topics, with 30-minute rotations at each table:
- Beginning Genealogy
  - Researching Records
  - Using Computers and Websites for Genealogy
  - DNA Testing for Genealogy
- Sept. 23     TSLA Workshop Series     **Registration is now full**  
“Land Platting: State Grants and Local Deeds”  
Presented by J. Mark Lowe, CG, FUGA
- Oct. 21     [Louisville Genealogical Society](#)’s Family Seminar &  
Book Fair, Louisville, KY  
Full-day genealogy seminar with Cyndi Ingle, founder of [Cyndi’s List](#).
- Nov. 18     **MTGS 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Genealogy Seminar:  
Tracing Your Family History: DNA, Legal Records  
and More**  
with nationally-known speaker **Judy G. Russell, JD,  
CG, CG, The “[Legal Genealogist](#)”**  
The Brentwood Library, Brentwood, TN
- May 2-5, 2018  
[National Genealogical Society 2018 Conference](#)  
Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Aug. 23-26, 2018  
[Federation of Genealogical Societies 2018 Conference](#)  
Fort Wayne, Indiana