



MTGS Messenger
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Shannon Yeatman, Editor

MTGS May 16 meeting - Tennessee Tech Archives and Special Collections: Preserving and Sharing Upper Cumberland History



For our May 16 regular meeting, which will be in person and on Zoom starting at 1:00pm Central Time, Megan Atkinson, from Tennessee Tech Archives and Special Collections, introduce us to the holdings at Tennessee Tech and remind us that universities often hold collections that we as genealogists want to use.

Megan will also present our annual Writers's Aware for the best-judged article in the previous 4 issues of our journal.

Megan Atkinson has served as the Director of Tennessee Tech Archives and Special Collections for over ten years and has been an archivist for over fifteen years. She has a Master's in Library and Information Sciences from Drexel University in Philadelphia, Penn., and worked as an archivist for the National Park Service and numerous universities. Megan is committed to ensuring universal access to historical documents and working with smaller local communities and groups to create, build, preserve, and make accessible at-risk collections. She works to bridge and fill gaps in historical documentation omitted by previous collection practices. She is also the Assistant Director of the Upper Cumberland Humanities and Social Sciences Institute and a history professor, specializing in digital humanities and archives.

Tennessee State Library and Archives
1001 Rep. John Lewis Way
Nashville TN 37219

[The Zoom link for this meeting is here.](#)

It is with heavy hearts that we report that our member, Sandra Curtis passed away in April. She was proud to be a ninth generation Nashvillian an Brentwoodian that descended from original Nashville and Brentwood pioneer families: Mayfield, Bradford, Campbell, McClanahan, Bradford, Edmiston, Sawyer Waller, Cator and Buford.

[Link to Sandra's obituary](#)



Add July 25, 2026 to your calendar for the Upper Cumberland Family History and Genealogical Festival in Granville TN.

[Link for more info](#)



**2026 Resource Booths
Granville Event Center**

- Cumberland Mountain Civil War Round Table
- Daughters of the American Revolution:
 - Caney Fork Chapter, NSDAR
 - Old Walton Road Chapter, NSDAR
- Jackson County Kin Seekers
- Jackson County Veterans Memorial Hall
- Captain Sally Tompkins Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy
- Cemetery Restoration and Preservation Society
- East Tennessee Historical Society
- Fentress County Historical Society
- Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society
- Overton County Archives
- Overton County Historical Society
- Pickett County Historical & Genealogical Society
- Putnam County Historical Society of Tennessee
- Putnam County Library - Tennessee Room
- Tennessee Tech University Archives and Special Collections
- TNGenWeb Project (New for 2026)
- Shawn Gray, Bookseller for History Books for Fentress, Overton and Pickett Counties
- White County Genealogical-Historical Society

2026 Event Presentations
Granville United Methodist Church

10:30 AM

"No Birth Certificate? No Problem!"

Jeff Bockman, Genealogy Lecturer, Author

This presentation looks at the variety of primary and secondary sources that can help to determine when and where a person was born and who were their parents.

1:00 PM

***"Welcoming Presidents to Pioneers:
The Raulston/McKinley Stand"***

David Reeves, Presenter

Hear the historical account of these two families who defined our area's hospitality for over 100 years to pioneers in the first western migration after the Revolutionary War.

2:00 PM

"Genealogy Research: Beginners and Pros Alike Meet at the Dead End!"

Anna Stephenson, Presenter

Practical tips and research tools for genealogists at every level when the trail reaches a dead end.