

THE TENNESSEE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
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THE TENNESSEE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Summer Issue -- 2017

Gail Braddock, acting Editor

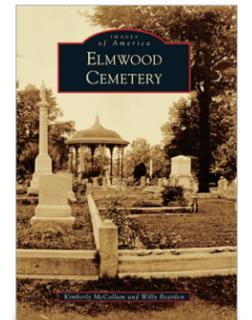
Quarterly Members' Meeting Saturday, July 15, 2017 at 10 a.m.

The Quarterly Members Meeting of the Tennessee Genealogical Society will be held on Saturday, July 15th, at 10:00 a.m. at the Tennessee Genealogical Society, 7779 Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN.

We encourage all members to attend this meeting as we focus on a wonderful resource of information that can be found at Elmwood Cemetery. Author **Kimberly Bearden** is our special guest!

Refreshments will be served.

Following the meeting, **Kimberly Bearden** will tell us about how she and **Willie Bearden** came about gathering 150 years of images from the Memphis Room at the Memphis Public Library and Special Collections at the University of Memphis Libraries. Kimberly will share some the images and the stories of the people who rest at Elmwood in their resource, *Elmwood Cemetery*.



Elmwood Cemetery was founded in August 1852 by 50 prominent Memphians who resolved to create a new burial site just two and a half miles outside the city limits. The name of the cemetery was drawn out of a hat by one of the founding fathers. A nurseryman from Scotland was hired to lay out the grounds, and Elmwood was opened to people from all backgrounds to use as their family cemetery. Elmwood has survived wars, military occupation, epidemic disease, and the bankruptcy and near collapse of Memphis, only to emerge as one of the premier outdoor museums in the United States. Its massive collection of Victorian memorial statuary is almost unrivaled, but Elmwood's true allure lies in the stories of those who rest beneath the lush canopy of trees on its 80 acres. The graves at Elmwood belong to soldiers and statesmen, scoundrels and scalawags, writers and musicians, martyrs and madams, the notorious and the anointed, and so many more.

Have YOU Tried Our New Website?

In early May, TNGS's new website was launched. This upgraded software provides better administration of our member records and supports our society events. Members are able to join, renew and maintain their own information online. There is a more extensive capability to **register and pay** for events.

Have you figured out how to enter the surnames you are researching and then see who else is also working on the same name? There are discussion forums. Members, the capability to participate in different topics and exchange ideas. Did you find the back issues of *Ansearchin' News*?

Try it tngs.org !

TNGS Memebers Appreciate Our Director of Research, Nancy Walczyk

A native Floridian, who has been researching her Florida, Georgia and South Carolina roots for the past twenty years, our Director of Research, **Nancy Walczyk**, has no Tennessee ancestors, but enjoys helping other people find their Tennessee connections. She recently retired after 36 years in the paper industry, working as a Forester and an Information Technology Manager. Retirement has brought more time for genealogy, travel, volunteering and leading the Technology Guild at her church.



**Nancy Walczyk,
Director of Research**

Nancy is also a member of the Society of American Foresters, the Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society, the Georgia Historical Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution, currently serving as Historian for the Chief Piomingo Chapter.

Spring Seminar Will Soon Be Here!



Debbie Parker Wayne

Debbie Parker Wayne, CGSM, CGLSM will be the guest speaker for the Annual Fall Seminar to be held on Saturday, Oct 28, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Pickering Center, 7771 Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN 38138.

Debbie Parker Wayne, CGSM, CGLSM, is a board-certified genealogist and genealogical lecturer experienced using DNA analysis and traditional techniques for genealogical research. Debbie is the co-author with Blaine T. Bettinger of the award-winning DNA workbook, *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*, published by the National Genealogical Society (NGS).

She is the author of the online, self-paced course Continuing Genealogical Studies: Autosomal DNA, offered by NGS. She is the DNA Project Chair for the Texas State Genealogical Society and the Early Texans DNA Project. Her publications include a column on using DNA analysis for genealogical research in NGS Magazine. She coordinates and presents workshops, seminars, and comprehensive, interactive genetic genealogy courses at genealogy institutes. See <http://debbiewayne.com>

Be sure to mark your calendars now and set aside that date for an exciting genealogical adventure! The event registration form contains times, topics and registration information, and can be downloaded at tngs.org, or you can register on-line at the same website location.

Deadline for Registration: Friday, October 21, 2017

Limited Space Available

President's Message

Hopefully your summer has started off restfully. Are you taking time this summer on a raining afternoon to go over research to evaluate where to focus your attention for the rest of this year? It is so important to step back and to look at all your notes because you may be able to piece something together that you had not thought of previously.

Perhaps you have a trip planned. Could you visit one county archive to check their files? Our Spring Seminar speaker **Melissa Barker** gave us great ideas about what you might find in a local archive and how you should store documents to preserve them. Perhaps you might take a trip to a family cemetery and take pictures that might help you identify that family history. Then on a rainy day, you could sit on the front porch and listen to family stories told by an older family member. Have you taken the time to record stories that you remember or that you have heard? This might be just *the* summer to do that sort of activity.

On July 15th our Quarterly Members Meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. After a bit of business, our speaker will be author **Kimberly Bearden**, who along with **Willie Bearden** researched, wrote, and published *Elmwood Cemetery*. Elmwood is the final resting place of those who created Memphis history, and has emerged today as Memphis' finest and oldest active cemetery. Kimberly will share with us photographs and stories of that beautiful cemetery as she takes us back in Memphis history.

Living my dream,
Gail Braddock, President



Gail Braddock with her daughter Mary

TGS Supports New Bethel Cemetery Project

The Tennessee Genealogy Society is very proud that **Joe Burns**, past TNGS president, connected us with the University North Alabama-Florence professors **Dr. George Makowski** and **Dr. Analey Quiros** professors and the New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church on Poplar Pike. The professors brought eleven students and a videographer from Vassar College to provide some hands-on learning. They interviewed members of the New Bethel congregation to help create a publicly accessible history of the church and its congregation.



The students from UNA worked with the New Bethel Church members gathering oral history and with the Tennessee Genealogy Society they learned how to help digitize the history of the church both on paper and oral history. They learned how to map the marked and unmarked graves. One day the TNGS paid for the students and workers to attend a class at Elmwood Cemetery here in Memphis about how to properly clean and take care of gravestones. **Kelly Sowell**, Elmwood Historian was the class instructor for that session.



As the group completed the physical work of mapping the 250-300 marked graves in the cemetery, they met with the church families and collected a great deal of information from the oral histories to learn about those people. Students used clues they learned in the classroom. By using rods that go down in the earth to determine if the earth was disturbed they figured out where others were buried. Special thanks to the TNGS and others for providing lunches. We appreciate **Joe Burns, John Ware, Kitty Cox, Sandra Beibers, Catherine Wilson, and Andy Pouncey**.

Dr. Makowski said, "What we're doing is building skills for our students and for the volunteers, who are here working with them, whether they are from the church or the genealogical society, spreading that idea that 'Hey, we can do this!'"

HELP WANTED

Do you have some extra time to give to help the TN Genealogy Society improve or fill one of our needs? We have the following positions open:

Executive Secretary
Let's Discuss It Leadership
Newsletter Editor
Sunday afternoon Volunteer (1-4 pm)
Monday Volunteer (10am-2pm) ANSEARCHIN'
NEWS Editor (as of Dec. 2017)
Research Assistant



Contact Gail Braddock for more details. president@tngs.org