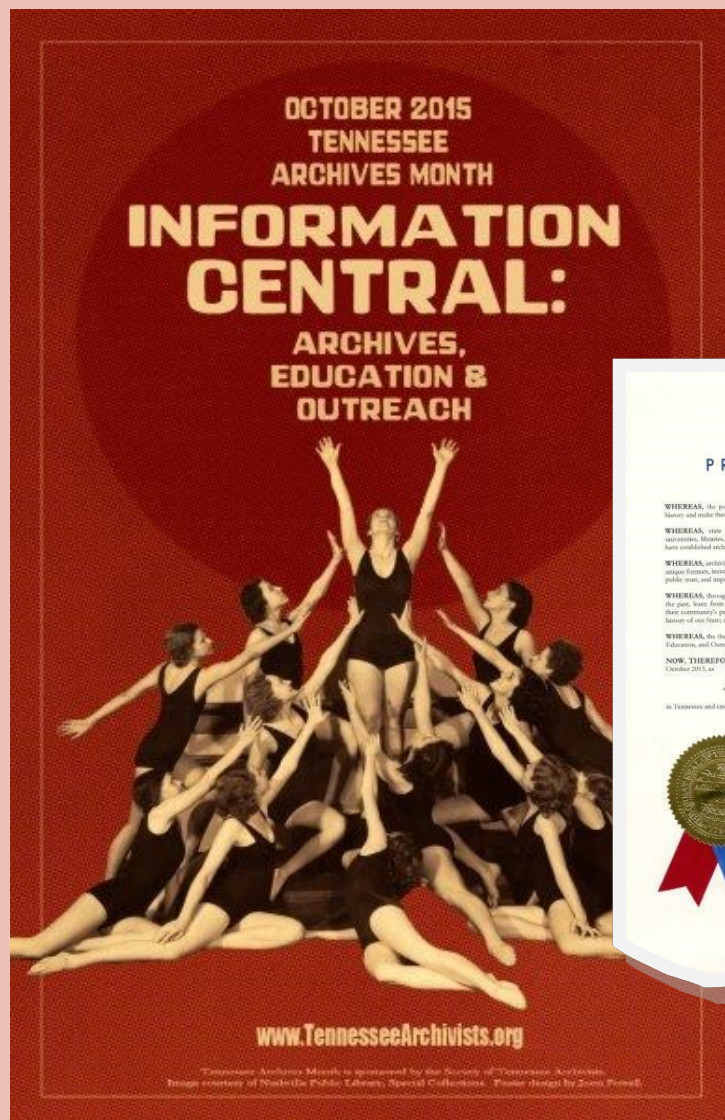


## STA Annual Meeting Pickwick Landing State Park Counce, TN October 21 - 23, 2015



## STA Officers 2015

**Susan Knight Gore**  
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Historical Foundation of the  
Cumberland Presbyterian Church  
Memphis, TN

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Memphis, TN

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**Zachary Keith**  
Newsletter Co-Editor  
Tennessee State Library  
and Archives  
Nashville, TN

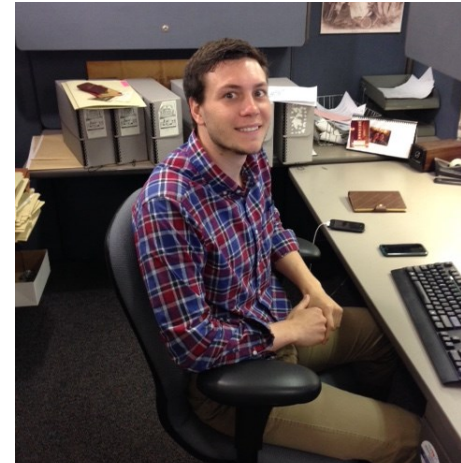
**Andrea Fowler**  
Newsletter Co-Editor  
Trevecca Nazarene University  
Nashville, TN

# Editors' Message

## Zachary Keith

Greetings Tennessee Archivists,

I have been recruited as the newest co-editor of the newsletter to assist Andrea Fowler. I would like to introduce myself as this is my first issue, and I have not met most of you. My name is Zachary Keith. I work at the Tennessee State Library and Archives as an archival assistant.



Zachary Keith

I am still very much a novice, but everyone I have encountered in the field thus far has been an enormous help and inspiration to me. I had wanted to get more involved in the archival community and fortuitously an officer position became available shortly thereafter, which I graciously accepted.

As most of you are aware, the annual meeting is quickly approaching and will be held at Pickwick Landing State Park on October 21-23, 2015. Many people have worked diligently to put the program together, and it is shaping up to be a fantastic event. I am looking forward to meeting many of you there, and I hope everyone enjoys the event!

**Zachary Keith**  
Co-Editor, Tennessee Archivist  
Tennessee State Library & Archives

# Vice-President's Message

## Gerald Chaudron

I attended the Society of American Archivists' meeting in Cleveland recently and while trawling the vendor tables I was struck by the fact that there were few new digitization gadgets on display but quite a lot of companies who would do the digitization for you—at a price. The issue for my institution, the University of Memphis Libraries, is not how to scan documents, unless they are large. Manuscript and published materials, photographs, both prints and negatives, even art works are within our capabilities. However, as is quite common, we have a number of digital formats which hold records: floppies of different sizes and discs of various generations, but no machines to open them. And then there are the various audio and video formats which Special Collections has acquired over the years. Just the other day I discovered an 8mm film cassette made in 1968, which remains a curiosity because I do not have the equipment to play it. Even reel to reel audio tapes are a challenge to digitize because our older machines, hand-me-downs in any case, need specialized care which is becoming harder to find. Archivists are very aware that time is against us to get our vulnerable media digitized. If we do not have the hardware to play the media, how do we know what is valuable and what is not? None of us is in the position to give vendors carte blanche to digitize all of our media without previewing it. With this in mind, a number of Memphis archives are looking at ways in which they can work together on this problem. The MidSouth Emerging Technologies and Digital Archives Work Group (METADAWG) was established to boost collaboration among archives in the city and a focus has been digitization. At the METADAWG summer workshop series this year, discussion turned to the problem of old media. It was decided to ask each institution to compile a list of hardware on hand and then combine these lists into an inventory for the city. Most of the member institutions have only a few examples of the various media types, which hardly justifies the expense of vendor digitization. If we could share the hardware, then we would all benefit from that access. The second objective is to identify hardware which we need and to share the cost of buying it. The project is still in the early stages but I can see merit in expanding its scope to include archives across the state and beyond, along the lines of library consortia. Few of us have the resources to do everything independently and our analog and digital media is moving rapidly from obsolescence to extinction. I urge you to talk to other archives to explore whether a similar initiative to that of METADAWG is possible in your area in order to save as much of this recorded information as possible.



Gerald Chaudron  
VP/President Elect  
SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS

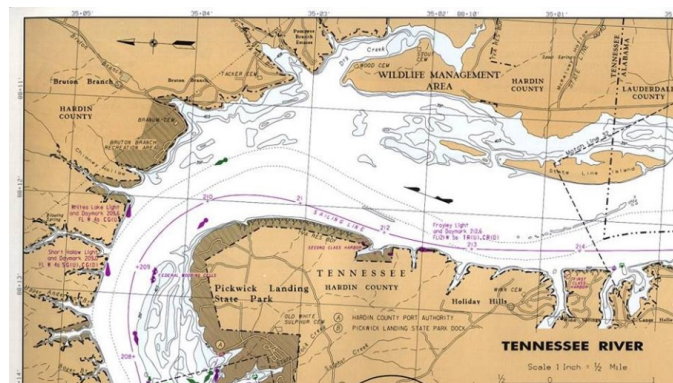
# Tennessee Archivist

## 2015 STA Annual Meeting

**2015 STA Annual Meeting**  
**October 21—October 23**  
*Information Central: Archives,  
Education, and Outreach*  
**Pickwick Landing State Park**  
**Counce, TN**

The meeting's theme, "Information Central: Archives, Education, and Outreach," explores the archives as a central nexus for various forms of education and outreach. Sessions will focus on avenues through which archival materials can be used as educational teaching tools in various educational settings, changes in the way researchers use archives (digital collections, interactive-online), and examples of how various archives build and create exhibits. Other topics include using GIS to explore Tennessee history and a session presented by Middle Tennessee State University graduate students discussing their interest in the field of archives. Myers Brown, an archivist at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, is conducting a self-drive tour of Shiloh National Military Park as a pre-conference activity on Wednesday, and the society banquet and annual business meeting will be held on Thursday evening.

**The full meeting agenda and registration information is available at [www.tennesseearchivists.org/meeting-eventinfo.html](http://www.tennesseearchivists.org/meeting-eventinfo.html)**





# Tennessee Archivists

## STA, TAM, & TPT Meeting March 2016

### Historic Meeting of Three Organizations

by Kathleen Smith, Vanderbilt University

For the first time in the history of the state three of the most prominent historical and cultural organizations will hold a joint meeting. The Society of Tennessee Archivists (STA) is joining forces with the Tennessee Association of Museums (TAM) and the Tennessee Preservation Trust (TPT) at the Inn at Opryland [www.TheInnAtOpryland.com](http://www.TheInnAtOpryland.com) in Nashville for a special joint conference March 15-18, 2016.

The conference theme is “Three Part Harmony: Interpretation, Preservation, and Inspiration.” It is expected that the members of STA will benefit from the sharing of experiences and ideas with these other two organizations. The Tennessee Association of Museums <http://www.tnmuseums.org/> is an organization with a long history of advocating for museums in the state. Their mission is to encourage best management practices in Tennessee museums; to stimulate public interest, support, and understanding; and to promote the interchange of ideas and cooperation among museums and museum personnel. The third partner for the meeting, the Tennessee Preservation Trust <http://www.tennesseepreservationtrust.org/>, was created in 1999 to promote, preserve, and protect our state’s diverse historic resources through education, advocacy, and collaborative partnerships.

The meeting will include sessions on best practices in archives, museum management, and historic preservation as well as how all three of these fields collaborate together to provide access to the public. There will be guided tours of local museums such as the Johnny Cash Museum, the Country Music Hall of Fame, and Hatch Show Print. There will also be a reception at the Vanderbilt University Library and a walking tour of downtown Nashville.

Additionally, this meeting will serve as the bi-annual meeting of the Southern Archives Conference which is slated for 2016. We welcome all who are interested to the conference. It is proving to be an incredible collaboration with professionals who we as archivists often work with but rarely have the opportunity to really sit down and talk to.

Session proposals are currently being accepted. The deadline for session proposals is October 30, 2015.

Information on submitting proposals and conference registration is available on the Tennessee Association of Museum’s website.



TENNESSEE PRESERVATION TRUST  
*Promoting Preservation in the 21st Century*

# Tennessee Archivist

## John H. Thweatt Archival Achievement Award

Ed Frank, University of Memphis Libraries (UML), is the 2015 recipient of the John H. Thweatt Archival Achievement Award. Mr. Frank is a native of Memphis and has been employed by the University of Memphis since 1976. He earned his MLIS degree from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and was hired by UML as an assistant professor of libraries and curator of special collections. During his tenure, UML Special Collections has acquired such collections as the Benjamin L. Hooks Papers, papers of Roy Harrover (Memphis' "starchitect"), the papers of the artist Carroll Cloar, and the Original Fayette County Civic Welfare Papers – the "Tent City" collection. Frank has served as an officer with the West Tennessee Historical Society, twice as chair of the Local History Committee of the History Section of RUSA/ALA, and also as a member of the UML SACS Reaccreditation Committee. Frank has also been a popular speaker on historical topics, presenting to groups as diverse as the Civil War Roundtable in Huntsville and Cincinnati, the University of Mississippi's Civil War Conference, the German Association for American Studies, the Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs, and a variety of local public and private school classes. Mr. Frank will retire as curator of special collections at UML in 2015.



Ed Frank

The John H. Thweatt Archival Achievement Award was established in 2001 by the Society of Tennessee Archivists to recognize individuals, groups, and organizations that have made significant contributions to the advancement of archives and archival issues in the state of Tennessee.

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## STA Officer Nominations 2015-2016:

### Nominations:

**VP/President Elect:** Kathleen I. Smith - Associate University Archivist, Vanderbilt University

**Secretary:** Aimee Saunders - County Archivist, Williamson County Archives

**Treasurer:** Carol Roberts - Conservation Manager, Preservation Services Division, TSLA

**Further nominations may be made during the Business Meeting at STA2015, Pickwick Landing State Park, October 21-23, 2015.**

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# Tennessee Archivist

## Article

### **New Guide for Taxation in Tennessee: 1796-1899**

**By Dr. Kevin Cason**

Public Services  
Tennessee State Library & Archives

Did you know that in 1803 Tennesseans had to pay a tax of \$1,000 if they owned a billiard table? Or that in 1875 Tennesseans were taxed if they owned a dog? Facts such as these show the historical value of researching tax records. These records tend to be one of the least used resources available to genealogists and historical researchers, but they can be valuable in a number of ways. Tax lists offer a better understanding of the status and wealth of people during a certain era of time; such records can help pinpoint when an ancestor lived in a certain community between the years U.S. censuses were taken; they can also be used to help determine when a person died; and land ownership questions are often answered through a search of tax records. In addition, tax data can offer beneficial historical insights about specific taxable items and the rate owners were taxed. In short, tax records can reflect the social and cultural values of the time period.

Recently, Dr. Kevin Cason, an archivist who works in the Public Services department at the Tennessee State Library & Archives (TSLA), completed a guide entitled “Taxation in Tennessee, 1796-1899,” that provides a listing of the personal property items that were taxed on Tennesseans during the nineteenth century. The information was gathered from researching the volumes of the *Acts of Tennessee* that are housed in the Legislative History section of TSLA. The guide provides a listing of the items that were taxed, the date that the tax on the item began, and some notations of changes in the tax fees. The tax listings have been put in two types of charts. The first chart offers a chronological listing on the taxation of items, while the second chart provides a listing by item type. The guide should be a helpful resource for genealogists and historical researchers who visit TSLA and want to use the tax lists that are available on microfilm.

# Tennessee Archivist

## In Memory of Sherry Kilgore

### Sherry J. Hansen Kilgore

Historian Sherry H. Kilgore of Dickson, Tenn. died suddenly September 24, 2015 at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville.

Native to Chicago, Illinois, she was a graduate of Texas Women's University (B.S.) and Middle Tennessee State University with a Master's in History and Historic Preservation. An avid researcher of Tennessee History, Mrs. Kilgore was employed as a Historical Site Specialist with the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) working with state and non-state owned historical sites throughout Tennessee before going to work at the Tennessee Department of Conservation & Environment, Division of Natural Heritage in 1995. She retired from the Tennessee Department of Conservation & Environment in 2004. In 2010 Governor Phil Bredesen appointed her to the Board of Directors of the THC. Mrs. Kilgore served on the Charlotte City Council and the Charlotte Planning Commission. She also served as a volunteer at the Tennessee State Library and Archives and at the Dickson County Archives and was a member of the Dickson County Historical Society, the Clement Railroad Hotel Museum (Halbrook Hotel), the Nashville Chapter of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities (APTA), the Belle Meade Mansion Board of Directors, the Tennessee Preservation Trust, the American Association for State and Local History, the Tennessee Association of Museums, and several other societies and organizations. Mrs. Kilgore presented twice at the Society of Tennessee Archivists' annual conference.

She is survived by her husband of 47 years, Ronald W. Kilgore, sons, daughters, and grandchildren.

The family asks that remembrances of Mrs. Kilgore be given in lieu of flowers to the Tennessee Preservation Trust, the Dickson County Historical & Genealogical Society, or to the Tennessee Historical Commission Endowment Trust.

The Society expresses its condolences to the family of Sherry J. (Hansen) Kilgore.



Sherry Kilgore



# Tennessee Archivist

## Membership

### Not a Member of STA? Then Join!

Membership is open to any individual or institution interested in the work of historical preservation. There are three categories of membership: *Regular, Associate and Institutional*.

*Regular members* are those who are employed in the field of archives, historical manuscripts, library special collections, or records management.

*Associate members* are those interested in allied disciplines, students and others who do not qualify for regular membership; they enjoy all the privileges and benefits of regular membership except voting at the Annual Meeting and holding office.

*Institutions* (ie. state, local and private archives, historical societies, libraries, businesses, government agencies and other organizations) are encouraged to maintain membership in order to receive STA publications and web updates.

Membership is on a calendar-year basis and dues are as follows:

- Regular - \$30.00 per year
- Associate - \$10.00 per year
- Institutional - \$30.00 per year

Please include institution name, phone number, and email address (if applicable). Make checks payable to **The Society of Tennessee Archivists** and mail to:

*STA Treasurer*  
*Society of Tennessee Archivists*  
*MTSU Box 242*  
*1301 East Main Street*  
*Murfreesboro, TN 37132*  
*Phone: (615) 898-5884*  
*Fax: (615) 898-5829*  
*treasurer@tennesseearchivists.org*