

---

# TENNESSEE ARCHIVIST

## THE NEWSLETTER

---

### President's Letter

Greetings!

Before introducing myself, I wanted to say thank you to everyone who planned and attended our annual meeting in Cookeville in October. Every presentation was wonderful and filled with thoughtful



discussion, and I personally enjoyed making some new friends in the Tennessee archives world.

Megan Atkinson, Archivist at Tennessee Tech, did an outstanding job planning the logistics of the conference, and we could not have succeeded without her help, so a special thank you to her! Stay tuned for news about the 2020 annual meeting.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve as President of the Society of Tennessee Archivists.

Here is a little bit about me...I was raised in Gainesville, Florida and received my B.A. in History from the University of Florida in 2013, so I hope none of you Vols fans hold that against me! I moved to Murfreesboro in 2014 to pursue my M.A. in Public History from MTSU.

Since February 2017, I have held the position of Archivist for the political and regional collections at the Albert Gore Research Center. Like a lot of us, I wear many hats at the Gore Center. I process collections, create exhibits, teach classes, manage digital collections, conduct oral histories and public programming, and I help train the next generation of public historians and archivists. Apparently, I cannot get enough of school, though, since I am now pursuing a M.S. in Information Science from UTK's online program. In my spare time, I like to go to the movies, try new (and old) restaurants with friends, and occasionally attend a professional wrestling match.

I look forward to planning our next annual meeting, especially during all of the 100th anniversary celebrations for the passage of the 19th Amendment. Naturally, archives institutions have been at the forefront of these reflective programs, which exemplifies the enduring value of all that we do as

archivists. I also look forward to revamping our STA website, membership recruitment, and educational workshops. If you have any educational workshop ideas or other suggestions on how we can improve STA, do not hesitate to email me at Sarah.Calise@mtsu.edu. Finally, please welcome our new slate of officers for 2020: Ken Fieth, Vice President/President-Elect; Megan Atkinson, Secretary; and Aimee Saunders, Treasurer.

I hope everyone has a joyous holiday season! See you in the next decade!

Sarah Calise  
President, Society of Tennessee Archivists

## A Note from the Vice President

First, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you!

Attending my first STA meeting with John Thweatt years ago, we drove along chatting about history, his school-teaching days in Virginia and his favorite pastime—baseball. I didn't know anything about baseball, but I learned a great deal on that trip, especially about the clever and inventive mind that delivered the most obscure player statistics imaginable.



I learned that Jackie Mitchell, the Chattanooga Lookouts teenage female pitcher, in an exhibition game, struck out Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig in succession.

As fascinating as that is, I was more amazed at how content and casual he was about speaking at the conference. The anxiety of public speaking that enveloped me like a baseball glove was lost on John. Over time, my own fear of the podium subsided a bit, but I was told it's always good to be a little on edge. Well, I got that part.

The executive committee will meet in January to plan for the 2020 STA meeting. We'll work hard to provide a great conference with enjoyable and informative sessions for all our membership. As we move forward, my wish for the new year is that everyone attend and participate.

We need you. We need your ideas. We need your experience. We need your talents. We need your presence. As the new year begins and I assume the lofty office of Vice-President, I sincerely hope the Archival community in Tennessee will grow and prosper.

All the best for the coming year,

Ken Fieth

Vice-President

Society of Tennessee Archivists

## Thweatt Award Winners 2019

### **Darla Brock**, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Darla Brock worked here at TSLA for over 19 years. Before that she worked at Memphis Shelby County History room when they managed the historic county records and Memphis historic manuscripts. She is an archivist's archivist. She has had the research abilities to find the best hidden gems in otherwise nondescript historic records. She navigates the records to find the details of archival provenance adding depth to any researchers' use of historic records. She can answer the "why and where" about the preservation of records. For example she tracked historic state records storage from archival boxes of today back to the actual bins of the capitol attic and the lifespan of many records' journey through the south during the Civil War during Nashville's Union occupation.

### **Yolanda Reid**, Robertson County Archives

Yolanda Reid is a county archivist who brought county records preservation to new levels – from volunteer projects to full time county employees in the archives. Her abilities as both county archivist and county historian brings life to Robertson county Local history. From the early 1980s she managed the county records program. She started with the usual dirty damaged loose court cases and has added to the county archives by taking responsibility for the bound historic records and then the modern records management. She coordinated the very successful conversion of a strong sturdy old jail into a strong archives to protect Robertson County records and also create a very comfortable and accessible research area.

**Doris Martinson, Knox County Archivist**

Doris Rivers Martinson is manager of the Knox County Archives, located in the East Tennessee History Center, in downtown Knoxville, Tennessee. She has served as Archivist since 1987. She has a Bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee, a Master's degree from the Chicago Art Institute, and a Master of Information Science degree from the University of Tennessee (1996). In December 1989, Ms. Martinson became a Certified Archivist and was recognized as a Charter Member of the Academy of Certified Archivists in 2001. She has served as president of the Knoxville-Knox County League of Women Voters (1983-1985), Society of Tennessee Archivists (1998-1999), the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Information Science Alumni Association and the Knoxville-East Tennessee chapter of the Association of Records Managers and Administrators International (1988-1989, 1992-1993). She was awarded their ARMA Chapter Member of the Year. In May 1992, she was selected as a consultant to the State of Tennessee for the Historical Records Needs Assessment Project.

**Join our email list**

There is a new way to keep in touch with the latest news from STA. [Sign up for our email list](#)

Send announcements or job postings that you'd like to share to our treasurer, Aimee Saunders.  
[saunders.aimee@gmail.com](mailto:saunders.aimee@gmail.com)



## In Memoriam



### Mancil Johnson

From left to right: Doris Martinson, Jay Richiuso, Norma Myers Riddle, Mancil Johnson, Taffey Hall, Ken Fieth, and Carol Roberts at the 2008 STA Conference in Monteagle, Tennessee.

Mancil Malvin Johnson, 71, of Cookeville, Tennessee, and a native of Alabama passed away on Thursday, August 8, 2019 at home with his canine friend, Abbie at his side. Never one to want attention, there was no official service as he chose cremation and to become part of the special collections at “easily one of the most spiritual places” he’d ever been, White Sands National Monument, New Mexico.

Mancil loved to travel and tell stories -- he has had a leading role in many of his friends best stories. He was grizzly bear and teddy bear in equal measure. He has disturbed the peace and not afraid to call the police when his peace was disturbed. He has been homeless and went on to fill his home with love and compassion for several stray and rescue dogs over the years.

Always believing in continual education, he loved reading and graduated from Jacksonville State University in 1971. Continuing his education, he earned two graduate degrees in the fields of Education and History. He taught middle school and at the Georgia School for the Deaf and later managed a group home for exceptional people. With his love for history, he worked at the Tennessee State Archives in Nashville. Mancil became a Certified Archivist. He joined the faculty of the University Library at Tennessee Technological University in 1985 and retired in 2015. As the University Archivist, he was responsible for the acquisition and processing of research collections, including the papers of US Congressman Joe L. Evins, State Senator Tommy Burks and the Harding Studio Photography collection. He mentored student workers, was active in professional associations, and exhibited the highest professional archival standards. After many years of experience working with complex bureaucratic institutions, he found himself relying on a favorite saying. “It's easier to



ask forgiveness than get permission.” He will be fondly remembered by his many two and four legged friends.

## Tom Aud

Thomas LaVerne Aud, a native of Daviess County, Kentucky, born August 1st, 1946, died November 26th, 2019, at his home in Jackson, Tennessee. He earned degrees in Latin and Library Science, served in the U. S. Air Force as a Czech linguist, and as a public librarian in London, Kentucky, and at the Jackson/Madison County Library for a total of 34 years. He worked as a library consultant, an adjunct professor for Jackson State Community College, Local Office Manager for the Census Bureau, Chairman of the Madison County Public Records Commission, and as the Madison County Archivist, while also serving on the Madison County Public Records Commission and on the Tennessee Historical Records Advisory Board.

He has written a non-fiction book about a local murder and bank robbery, co-authored a pictorial history book about Jackson and Madison County, and served as the editor of a genealogical quarterly. He has done extensive genealogical and historical research and enjoys local history and novels. He was an avid Kentucky fan and enjoyed crossword puzzles and watching Jeopardy.

He served on multiple committees at St. Mary's Catholic Church including St. Mary's School Board and St. Mary's Parish Council and in the Jackson Rotary Club, as past president and club secretary. He lived in Jackson, Tennessee, with his wife, Celeste, and has two children and three grandchildren.

Survived by: wife, Celeste Beattie Aud, children Angela Claire Aud Latham (John) of Greenville, Kentucky, and Matthew Thomas (Melissa) of Jackson, Tennessee. Grandchildren: Audrey Claire Latham, Amelia Estelle Latham, and Noel Thomas Aud, and three brothers Leon Aud of Owensboro, Kentucky; Raymond Aud of Lansing, Illinois; and Charles Aud of Ensor, Kentucky.

Preceded in Death by his parents Sylvester Leo Aud and Lattie Aud Payne, his brother William Aud and his sister Mary Sebree. Funeral services were held on November 29, 2019, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Jackson, Tennessee, with burial following at Calvary Cemetery.



From left to right: Tom Aud, Sarah Calise, and Jennifer Randles at the 2019 STA Conference.



From left to right: Dorothy Cain, Faye Cain, Virginia Whitworth, Dr. Wayne Moore, Artie Griffith, and Brenda Griffith. 2001 Thweatt Award.

## Faye Cain

Funeral Services were held for Faye Cain age 94 of Holladay, Tennessee, on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at Plunk Funeral Home Chapel in Camden with Bro. Stan Brantley officiating. Burial followed in McIlwain Cemetery in Holladay, Tennessee.

Mr. Cain died November 30, 2019, at Green Crest Assisted Living in Parsons, Tennessee.

He was born June 24, 1925, in Holladay to the late Jesse Thomas Cain and Ada Albritton Cain. He was a member of the Camden Church of Christ and a Veteran of the U.S. Army.

He is survived by: Sons: Dennis Cain – Camden, Tennessee; James Cain – Holladay, Tennessee; Grandchildren: Robin Arnold, Jessica Stricklin, Jennie J. Cain, and Stephanie Cain; Great-Grandchildren: Tommy Hardin and Morgan Whitfield

Along with his parents he is preceded in death by: Wife: Dorothy Cain; Sons: Thomas Cain and Tony Cain; Sister: Robbie Sue Cain; Brothers: Jesse Thomas Cain and Joel Van Cain.

Mr. Cain, along with Virginia Whitworth, received one of STA's first Thweatt Awards in 2001 for his work with the Benton County Genealogical Society and helping to establish the Benton County Archives. He was also among the first attendees of the Tennessee Archives Institute at the Tennessee State Library and Archives.