



THE BLUE PAGES TENNESSEE SECRETARY OF STATE Tre Hargett

Our mission is to exceed the expectations of our customers, the taxpayers, by operating at the highest levels of accuracy, cost-effectiveness, and accountability in a customer-centered environment.

From the Desk of the Secretary

For the second consecutive year, I am proud that the Office of the Secretary of State is a sponsor of Tennessee History Day. This event, which will be held April 2nd at the Legislative Plaza in Nashville, offers middle and high school students opportunities to showcase their knowledge of history.

More than 5,000 students from across our state prepared projects in keeping with this year's theme, which is "Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences." These projects included exhibits, documentaries, web sites, research papers and even live performances. The students who were judged to have the best projects at their school competitions and then at one of the four district

competitions will be competing in the statewide contest in Nashville.

I had the opportunity to speak at one of the district competitions in Murfreesboro for the second year in a row and met with lots of students who were very proud of their projects and excited about history.



SECRETARY HARGETT CONGRATULATED THIS YEAR'S WINNERS AT TENNESSEE HISTORY DAY'S MIDDLE DISTRICT COMPETITION

Recent studies have shown that it's important to develop a knowledge and appreciation for history at a young age. Students who participate in History Day tend to become adults who are more mature and aware of

what goes on in the world and their communities. The program also improves students' performance in the classroom and teaches valuable research and analysis skills that can help them in college and the workplace.

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Tennessee History Day is organized by the Tennessee Historical Society and sponsored at the state level by the Tennessee General Assembly, the Tennessee Office of the Secretary of State and Humanities Tennessee, with additional support from the Memorial Foundation, the Middle Tennessee State University Center for Historic Preservation and the Cracker Barrel Foundation. I want to thank these sponsors, as well as the East Tennessee Historical Society and the history departments at the University of Tennessee, Middle Tennessee State University, University of Memphis and University of Tennessee-Chattanooga for hosting the regional competitions.

The winners from the statewide competition will be eligible to participate in the National History Day finals in College Park, Maryland.

Last year, Emma Grace Thompson from Coker Creek won a silver medal in the national competition. We hope to have more great representatives from Tennessee in the national competition this year.

More details about History Day and the

competitions are available at <http://www.tennesseehistory.org/historyday.htm> or contact Kelly Wilkerson at 615-741-8934 or by e-mail at historyday@tennesseehistory.org.

In other news, we have had a few personnel changes here recently at the Office of the Secretary of State. Cody Ryan York, Assistant Director of our Publications Division, is taking on the added responsibility of serving as my Public Policy Advisor. He replaces Jonathan Rummel, who I have promoted to serve as my Executive Assistant. Also, Rose Case has joined our staff as Fiscal and Administrative Services Director. Rose has extensive experience in both the public and private sector.

I want to thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your Secretary of State. I hope you enjoy this month's issue of the Blue Pages. I welcome your input on this publication – or any other product of the work we do in the Office of the Secretary of State.



TENNESSEE ELECTRONIC LIBRARY LAUNCHES KIDS' SITE



The Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL) launched its new web site designed especially for use by elementary school children, teachers and parents. TEL4U, located at www.tel4u.org, offers quality information in a safe and fun format.

Kids InfoBits, one of the new features available, gives concise and easy-to-read information about various subjects, including the dawn of the electronic age, the seven wonders of the ancient world and the origin of the symbols used by the country's two major political parties.

This is just one of several online databases available under the new Homework Help section of the Kids' Page. Others include the LearningExpress Library, where students can take practice tests or sharpen their knowledge with skill-building exercises, and the Internet Public Library for Kids, a kid-friendly spot for web surfing.

Tennessee Electronic Library is a collection of more than 400,000 articles, videos, e-books, podcasts and other reference materials that are available to Tennesseans with Internet access free of charge. The link to TEL's main page is <http://tntel.tnsos.org/>.

As a feature of TEL, TEL4U guarantees kids

quality and scholarly material. In addition to helping kids with schoolwork, the new page also includes links to games and activities, a selection of e-books and collection of facts and figures about Tennessee, its government and its history.

TEL is funded by the Tennessee General Assembly, the U. S. Institute of Museum and Library Services and pledges from libraries across the state. TEL is administered by the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

“Libraries are uniquely positioned to help parents teach their children about safe and responsible

use of the Internet,” Secretary Hargett said. “As a parent myself, I appreciate the fact that the Tennessee Electronic Library links families to quality educational and entertainment web sites and other electronic resources. The new Kids’ Page will make it easier for parents and children to find these resources.”

Wendy Cornelisen, TEL’s coordinator, added: “The TEL Kids’ Page takes the best of what the web has to offer and consolidates these resources in one attractive and engaging site.” 

TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES TRACES LIONEL RICHIE’S ANCESTRY



LIONEL RICHIE

For the second time in a month, the Tennessee State Library and Archives was featured on the nationally-televised NBC program “Who Do You Think You Are?” Singer-songwriter Lionel Richie traced his Tennessee ancestry through Nashville and Chattanooga in the March 4th episode.

Local genealogists who frequently work from TSLA used state resources to research the singer’s relatives. Knowledgeable TSLA staff members were on hand to interpret difficult manuscripts, county records, state records and military records used to answer questions about Richie’s past.

Richie’s maternal grandmother, Adelaide Towson Foster, graduated from Fisk University and taught music at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, where her husband worked with famous educator Booker T. Washington. Richie attributes a great deal of his musical success in the industry to her advice. During his career, Richie has won five Grammys, an Oscar, a Golden Globe Award and numerous other honors.

Actress and singer Vanessa Williams, who was featured on the show’s season premiere, also visited TSLA to learn more about her ancestors, including one who served in the Tennessee General Assembly.

“We are glad to provide resources and historical expertise for the ‘Who Do You Think You Are?’ series,” Secretary Hargett said. “We hope that

“WE ARE GLAD TO PROVIDE RESOURCES AND HISTORICAL EXPERTISE FOR THE ‘WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?’ SERIES,” SECRETARY HARGETT SAID.

by having the State Library and Archives featured on the program, more Tennesseans will become more aware of the tremendous resources that are available to them there. We invite as many people as possible to visit TSLA to search the archives and learn from our experts.”

TSLA held a Genealogy Beginner’s Day on March 5th to help Tennesseans learn how to start their ancestry searches.

The TSLA building is located next to the State Capitol at 403 7th Avenue North in downtown Nashville. The State Library and Archives is open Mondays through Saturdays from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. CST, with the exception of state holidays. 

A SATISFIED CUSTOMER...

The staff at the Tennessee State Library and Archives recently received the following letter from a library visitor. It's an example of the type of service we strive to provide in the Office of the Secretary of State.

Mr Sherrill and Mr Sugherland:

If the mission of the Office of the Secretary of State is to “exceed the expectations of our customers” and to operate “at the highest levels of accuracy, cost-effectiveness, and accountability in a customer-centered environment,” then your genealogy staff at the Tennessee State Library has achieved those goals. However, I must say that exceeding my expectations isn't easy.

I've researched at the Natl Archives, Library of Congress, DAR Library, NC State Archives and Library, Lib of VA, Kentucky Archives and Lib, the Newberry Lib, Allen Co Lib in IN, the LDS library in Utah, the Natl Genealogical Society's holdings in St Louis Co Lib and many, many other libraries, archives and holdings ... the staff at your State Library is not just among the very best but they are absolutely "the" very best I've ever seen when it comes to personal and friendly service.

In addition, your staff is thoughtful and attentive, as well as professional, dedicated and thorough. However, it really is their outstanding personal attention that is head and shoulders above other similar institutions. From the front door security guard to the people at the research desks, the assistants and the folks who followed up on

my emails after I left - every single person was commendable.

I don't give faint praise. As a retired Colonel in the US Air Force, I've led and evaluated hundreds of people, programs and aircraft systems as well the associated units. I can distinguish between a unit climate that has fundamental flaws and a unit that has integrity, a unit that passes the grade and a unit that fails, a unit that is healthy and one that is not. I never hesitated to fail any unit or person that didn't pass a test. I'm usually the first to complain; I have high standards. I'm most impressed and write to you, not because I could not find fault or something to complain about, but ... I wanted you to know that to a person, your folks were all world class.

I didn't find what I was looking for but I'm convinced that if the genealogy material I was looking for even existed, they would have already helped me find it. So, think about that. How often does a customer write to you when they don't find what they're looking for and yet praise the staff? Simply put -- your folks are great!

Regards,

D. R. Kenerley

Colonel (Retired), US Air Force 🇺🇸

SECRETARY HARGETT TOURS SWIFTWICK PLANT



SECRETARY HARGETT AND
MARK CLEVELAND, COMPANY
PRESIDENT

During a recent trip to East Tennessee, Secretary Hargett took the opportunity to tour the Swiftwick manufacturing plant in Chattanooga. Swiftwick, founded in 2007, produces and sells high-performance athletic socks. “After touring their plant, I can understand

why Swiftwick is one of Tennessee’s business success stories,” Secretary Hargett said. “In less than four years, this company has developed a national reputation for providing the highest quality socks used by everyone from casual exercisers to serious competitive athletes.” The company’s socks are tightly knitted for comfort and to prevent blistering during active use. The company’s corporate headquarters are in Brentwood. 🇺🇸

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE STOVALL TO SPEAK TO SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION

Chief Administrative Judge Tom Stovall is one of the scheduled speakers this month at the Tennessee School Board Association’s employment law seminar. Judge Stovall will describe how contested case hearings are conducted by the Office of the Secretary of State’s Administrative Law Division,

with particular emphasis on hearings involving disciplinary action against teachers.

Judge Stovall is scheduled to speak for an hour, beginning at 12:30 p.m. March 25. The seminar is being held at the association’s headquarters in Nashville. 

RULE MAKING HEARINGS AND LISTS OF RULES

Rule making hearings are open to the public. The web link below will provide information about the location and times of the hearings. Information about the rules going into effect includes changes or additions to rules.

To view the rules scheduled to go into effect, go to: <http://tnsos.org/rules/PendingRules.php?>

If you have suggestions on how the online posting of the state’s rules could be more “user-friendly,” please contact Richard Arnold at 615-741-2650 or email him at: Richard.Arnold@tn.gov. 

To view the rule-making meeting notices online, go to: <http://tnsos.org/rules/RulemakingHearings.php?>

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