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“Tennessee's 524 Dead Men Walking:
The Story of Researching Legal Executions in Tennessee.”

Presented by
Dr. Lewis L. Laska

August 20, 2011
9:30-11am

A new type of research, called fact-based death penalty research, seeks to show the modern reader what the jury saw and heard in each case. This new emphasis on facts, not on law or "due process" considerations, makes Laska's work different from anything you have seen – or think you know – about legal executions in Tennessee. From firing squad executions ordered by Andrew Jackson, to a legal execution that may have influenced the course of the Civil War, to the five Christmas Killers who were electrocuted on the same day in 1922, professor Laska's new book *Legal Executions in Tennessee: A Comprehensive Registry, 1782-2009*, provides an in-depth look at each person's crime and punishment.

Lewis Laska began researching a famous list of persons legally executed in Tennessee in 1999. Expanding his research to tell the stories of the 524 people legally executed in Tennessee, Laska used materials mostly from the holdings of the Tennessee State Library and Archives such as records of Civil War executions, newspapers, and old court records, as well as National Archives files.

Lewis L. Laska is a lawyer and professor of business law, College of Business, Tennessee State University. He earned a B. S., from Belmont University, J.D. from Vanderbilt University, and Ph.D. from Peabody. He has written a book on the Tennessee Constitution and several articles published in the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*.

Those wishing to attend the workshop must contact TSLA to reserve a spot. Reservations can be made via e-mail to workshop.tsla@tn.gov Patrons can also register by telephone by calling 615-741-2764. Seating is limited, so please reserve your space now. The workshop is free and open to the public.

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TSLA Public Services
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37243

Phone: 615-741-2764
Fax: 615-253-6471
Email: workshop.tsla@tn.gov