

## *Volunteer Spotlight*

*Margaret Hougland*



Margaret has always been interested in volunteering. That interest and her love of our local history and genealogy led her to begin volunteering in the archives in June 2017, just a couple of months after we opened the archives to the public. Prior to that date, she was a strong proponent for establishing an archive program for Washington County and helped in the effort that ultimately established the department in 2011. She has also promoted the establishment of a county archive program in her home county of Carter.

She was born and grew up in Elizabethton, Tennessee, where she graduated from high school. Margaret left to attend college at Brigham Young University in Utah and later became the first woman to obtain a Ph.D. from the University of South Dakota. The opening of ETSU's Quillen College of Medicine in the 1970s brought her back to the area after a 25-year absence, where she was part of the college's inaugural faculty. She taught in the Anatomy Department for 38 years and was the first female president of ETSU's Faculty Senate.

Margaret enjoys researching and preserving family histories and has written and published several family history related books. She is an active and long-time member of the Watauga Association of Genealogists holding a variety of offices and currently edits the society's semi-annual *Bulletin*.

When asked what she enjoys about working in the archives, she says it is working with others and being able to help preserve the historical documents. Some of her most interesting work she finds in scanning and digitizing "old, old documents. Just getting to touch them and to contribute to their preservation was humbling." This included scanning the early tax lists for Washington County that can now be viewed by the public on the department's website.