COMING UP AT TGS

Don’t miss our monthly program this Thursday, January 26, at 7:00 at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. Mary Madden, from the Kansas Historical Society, will share an insider’s view of the special exhibit at the Kansas Museum of History documenting the life of Col. Hughes with diaries, photographs and artifacts.

February 6, 9:30 -- Intermediate DIG (DNA Interest Group), TGS Memorial Library
February 7, 8:15 -- Brick Wall Group, trip to NARA
February 9, 3:00 -- TGS Board Meeting, TGS Memorial Library
February 11, 10:00 -- Free Workshop on Digitizing Photos, TGS Memorial Library
February 16, 12:00 -- Beginner DIG, TGS Memorial Library
February 17, 10:00 -- Basic DNA for Novices, TGS Memorial Library
February 23, 7:00 -- Monthly Program: The Underground Railway in Kansas, TSCPL
February 25, 9:00 -- Native American Genealogy Class, TGS Memorial Library - registration here

March 3, 10:00 -- Basic DNA for Novices, TGS Memorial Library
March 6, 9:30 -- Intermediate DIG (DNA Interest Group), TGS Memorial Library
March 7, 9:30 -- Brick Wall Session, TGS Memorial Library
March 9, 9:30 -- Family Tree Maker Computer Genealogy Group, TGS Memorial Library
March 9, 1:00 -- Family History Writers’ Group, TGS Memorial Library
March 9, 3:00 -- TGS Board Meeting, TGS Memorial Library
March 17, 10:00 -- Basic DNA for Novices, TGS Memorial Library
March 19, 2:00 -- PAF/Ancestral Quest Group, TGS Memorial Library
March 23, 7:00 -- Monthly Program: The Osage Indians and the Catholic Osage Mission, TSCPL
March 22-24 -- TGS Garage Sale

NEWS FROM THE PREZ

Great things are coming to TGS this year! Activities are being planned and organized by volunteer members with member and community needs in mind. Please thank those members for their dedication to TGS. We welcome any member to find a niche in this great organization. Please invite someone to come to one of our events. We all have a responsibility to share how great TGS is and develop a sustaining membership.

I do not know where to begin. We have so many exciting events planned this year. Our Education Chair, Terry Stahl, has been an Energizer Bunny. In fact, I’m thinking of renaming Terry. Saturday, January 21, 2017 at 10 AM, TGS had a short workshop to help you take advantage of our Web page. This is the first of 12 FREE workshops for members and the public. On February 11, at 10 AM, Bob Miller will hold a workshop...
Renew or join us today! Click here

Did you know that TGS has hundreds of publications of Shawnee County records, other Kansas records, and records from across the country? Click here to see what we have to offer.

on converting photos to digital. It is FREE. The monthly program on Thursday evening, January 26, 2017, at the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library, will get you in the mood to discover your family’s military records. Classes are going full steam in February so check them out on our web page. Handouts are available on January 26, 2017 for many of these events. We are very close to completing our schedule for the year of FREE workshops at TGS.

I hope you are looking ahead to our Conference in April and planning on being there. It will be a sell out with Josh Taylor. Sign up early to insure a spot. TGS is participating in Topeka Gives in June. If you are so inclined to donate to our organization, put a few dollars away each week. Your money multiplies with a % of matching funds. Our Garage Sale is March 22-24, 2017. Our annual Member Picnic Meeting in August always brings fellowship and friendship. Please plan on coming to meet new friends and reacquaint with old ones. Plans are underway for trips close by, sponsored by TGS. TGS hopes you will become an active member this year. Watch for more information on these awesome events.

TGS needs a Librarian Coordinator and Administration Chair. I’m sure you think, I could not do that, but I’m sure you can. It sounds like a big job with a big name, but it might be fun (and it is not that BIG). Please give it a try. If you have any questions or concerns or would like to volunteer, email me at marty.flanagan@outlook.com.

I’m establishing a unique special committee, “Looking Forward 2017 and Beyond.” I’m hoping for at least 10 volunteers who will meet once a month for about a year. Garry Macha is the chairperson, Julie Bernhardt and Jill Frese have agreed to serve on this committee at this time. This committee will look at what is best for TGS in the future and present their evaluation to the Board and members. For example, a new roof, buy another building, lease a building, or some other alternative. We are looking for anyone who has expertise in real estate, construction, organizational skills, note taking, financial expertise, visionary view of the future, and good common sense. Contact me at marty.flanagan@outlook.com if you are interested.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR OUR CONFERENCE!

Registrations are coming in at a fast pace for our annual conference April 7 & 8, so you are urged to register soon before the event fills. You can register online through Eventbrite at this link or you can download and mail in a registration form here. More details and a schedule for the event can be found with the printable registration form.

Well-known genealogist Joshua Taylor will be the keynote speaker. The conference will also include break-out sessions, vendors, and door prizes. Don't miss it!

FREEDMAN'S BUREAU INDEXING PROJECT COMPLETED

In December, 2016, at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, the completed index to the records of the Freedmen’s Bureau was presented by representatives of the indexing project, led by FamilySearch.

The project was an effort by 25,550 volunteers to index nearly 1.8 million records. The records themselves are digitized and available online at DiscoverFreedmen.org, made available by FamilySearch, the National Archives, the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Afro-American
Historical & Genealogical Society and the California African American Museum.

Anyone who had ancestors anywhere south of the Mason-Dixon line after the Civil War can hope to find their families by delving into these records, with the help of the index. It’s a record set that extends far beyond its name to just about anyone who lived or worked in the south in those years right after the Civil War.

If you’re looking for a “random acts of genealogical kindness” project, the Smithsonian hopes to create an every-word-searchable transcription to make the records even more useful. You can get more information at the Smithsonian Digital Transcription Center.

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**GENEALOGY SEMINAR TO BE HELD IN KANSAS CITY**

The Midwest Genealogy Center's Spring Seminar will be held Saturday, March 4th, 9:00am-4:00pm. The featured speaker will be Judy Russell, “The Legal Genealogist”

The seminar will be held at Adam's Pointe Conference Center
1400 NE Coronado Dr.
Blue Springs, MO 64014

Lunch will be provided. Register now at Eventbrite.com!

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**GPC OFFERS E-BOOKS NOW**

The Genealogical Publishing Company, the major provider of genealogy and local history books, has added a new section to their web site: one that is dedicated to genealogy and local history e-books.

The site at library.genealogical.com offers almost 800 titles on the site now and most of them are available as e-books that can be read on your Kindle, iPad, Android tablet, or web browser within seconds. You can also review pages in a book and search within the text of a book before ordering.

The publishing company says, “Just so you know, we will continue to produce good old-fashioned books. In the not too distant future, however, you will have your choice of print or electronic every time.”
Read the VerticalResponse marketing policy.