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COMING UP AT TGS

Dec. 16th- Jan. 2nd - TGS Library is CLOSED
Jan. 9, 9:30 AM - Computer Genealogy & Software SIG Group, topic - "Discussion & Demo of Fold3 - military records site", at TGS Lib.
Jan. 9, 1:00 PM - TGS Board Meeting, at TGS Lib.
Jan. 13, 1:00 PM - Brick Wall SIG, "Germans to Pennsylvania", at TGS Lib.
Jan. 19, 2:00 PM - Computer Genealogy (PAF) SIG Group, contact Eileen Davis at 785-235-5845 for more info.
Jan. 23, 7:00 PM - (Monthly Program) "Civilian Conservation Corps", presented by Tod Bevitt, at TSCPL

NEWS FROM THE PREZ

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Another year has almost ended. The years go faster and faster for me. The questions I ask myself each year: Have I researched the right ancestors? Do I have all the records? Can I start writing my story? What should I research next? Should I go to the state my ancestors lived in? Should I go to the national repository? So, here are my answers: I found I had the wrong parents for my 3rd Great Grandparents. Darn. No, I do not have all the records, I cannot find the ship records and proof of citizenship for most of my ancestors. No, it would not be accurate yet. I need to return to Pennsylvania and spend 2 weeks checking court houses. Yes, I must go to those states to insure a complete search for records. They are not all on line. Where did we get that idea it would be easy? Yes, I'm going to Salt Lake to Roots Tech. Will this end my quest? I do not know. What is my goal? My goal is to bring each ancestor to the pond and to prove through DNA my research is correct. Then, find the stories to bring them to life and write that book. Check back as you see me this coming year to see how things are going.

These same questions must be asked of your board as they close out the year: Here are a few questions you should ask yourself? Did TGS keep you informed? Do you know what the goals and needs are for TGS? Did we meet your research needs? Did we help you find ancestors? It is very important for you to remain in contact with your BOD and let them know your answers and ideas. I have served as your President for 5 years. There have been challenges, fun, education opportunities, many activities, and stabilization of membership. These were not accomplished by me, but the many volunteers who kept our building clean, open and in working order, TGS has taught many classes, planned
events at TGS, TSCPL and area travels to enrich your family history experience. We have about 275 members but only about 60 participate in our events each year. Some of our members live out of state and some have health issues that keep them housebound, but these very important members keep supporting us. THANK YOU. I want to thank all who renewed their membership early and made a donation this year. It has put us in the black. Thank you so very much.

Next year, will bring problems and challenges to the new BOD who are in the process of taking over. It brings TGS opportunities to change and grow. I’m excited about the new BOD who have many new ideas to grow TGS. The conference in 2020 will be a totally new experience and I look forward to seeing you all. I’m cutting back many activities but will continue to facilitate learning with DNA and solving Brick Wall. I plan on coordinating a trip or two to surrounding areas in Kansas and Missouri. I will serve as liaison for TGS on ID Quest 2020 which is an event the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library. This event will be an outstanding place to learn everything about genealogy, history, DNA, research strategies, and many surprises and ethnic entertainment. Place November 14, 2020 on your calendar. This event will be all day. Watch or detail in the near future.

I’ve enjoyed my time as your President and I know I could not accomplish anything without the many volunteers, BOD, and the financial support you have shown for this organization. I want to say, “THANK YOU”. Celebrate 2020 with your ancestors at TGS sponsored events. I look forward to seeing you in 2020.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

We have many wonderful volunteers who give of their time and talents every day but I know there are many more out there with talents to share. If you are wanting to get more involved at Topeka Genealogy Society, stop by and let us know where you would like to help. We have several options you might consider:

* **EDUCATION COMMITTEE** - We are always looking for new ideas for genealogy workshop topics that would be of broad interest. Help us continue to build and strengthen our educational offerings. Time requirement is variable.

* **FINANCE COMMITTEE** - If you have a business or banking background and are familiar with forecasting budgets and revenues, or worked in insurance or real estate or have a bookkeeping background, then you might be a good fit for this committee.

* **PUBLICITY COMMITTEE** - This group makes and puts out brochures in the Topeka area for our classes and for membership. The group posts what is going on at TGS in our outreach media and manages our Facebook page. We would like to have more exposure on Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest. We are looking to expand our online presence. So if you are knowledgeable about this online world, we are looking for you.

* **RESEARCH AND RECORDS PRESERVATION** - Oversee, direct and perform duties related to research services and record preservation projects.

* **BUILDING COMMITTEE** - Oversee the maintenance of the building to see that the building is kept in good repair and systems are in working order. These are Board level positions requiring attending Board meetings once a month BUT we have many other ways in which you could help. If you are interested in any of these opportunities or have any questions, please contact Janice at janiceashby3131@yahoo.com.
ASK GEN-I

(Part 2 of the question on citing sources in your family history research)

Q. How do I cite the source of a document, article or photo I find on the web?

A. Let’s look at some examples of source citations for information you find online.

There are a variety of potential online sources of genealogical information too numerous to address individually here: online books, newspaper articles, genealogical websites and blogs and online genealogical databases like Ancestry® and FamilySearch®. But you can take a cue from the online databases and see how they cite sources.

Here is an example from Ancestry®. When inside your tree, open one of the sources you have attached. Your initial window will display as follows:

![Screenshot of Ancestry source citation](source-citation.png)

Within this window, you can open Citation Details and see this (above).

It is a simple matter to copy this information (copy/paste or hand copy) and incorporate into your own notebook or other area where you have your family history research.

Alternatively, if you simply go through the Ancestry® Search window from the home page and drill down through the available collections, you will reach a window that tells you all about a particular record collection as well as giving you source information such as this one for the 1870 US Census:

![Screenshot of Ancestry search results](search-results.png)

Either way, you can obtain complete source information. The only other thing to add at the end of your citation is the url (uniform resource locator, or the web “address”) for the website and the date you accessed it.

For your own use, ask yourself, is this sufficient information for someone else to quickly find it? If not, add more specifics. Use these source citations as examples of collecting information from other online sources you might use. Look at journals and see how they cite source materials. A good one to refer to is the National Genealogical Quarterly (1). A nice simplified discussion in how to cite sources is in Genealogy.com (2). Be consistent in how you cite sources, and consider following a particular style guide. A widely-accepted Style Guide used throughout the academic and literary world is The Chicago Manual of Style (3). It provides rules on punctuation, grammar and other writing topics as well as two specific chapters on source citations.

Within the genealogical community the recognized authority is the comprehensive guide
Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace by Elizabeth Shown Mills (4). It may seem a bit intimidating, but there are quick reference pages that can help you get right to the answer for your specific question. Different journals, publishers, online WIKI sites and proprietary web databases have their own preferred style guides so if you ever decide to publish your work, you will need to comply with their particular rules. If you have gathered all the pertinent information, it will be easy to reformat.

There are actually online tools to help you build bibliographies and source citations. Consider using one of those but remember no tool is perfect and you will have to review and possibly tweak the results.

1. National Genealogical Quarterly is a publication of the National Genealogical Society, 6400 Arlington Blvd., Suite 810, Falls Church, VA 22042-2318 USA Telephone +1 703-525-0050 or +1 800-473-0060  ngs@ngsgenealogy.org

BENEFITS OF JOINING TGS

Membership is open to anyone who has an interest in family history. Our membership year runs on a calendar year basis from January 1 to December 31.
* Subscription to the electronic version of the TGS Quarterly, our magazine containing genealogical information covering Shawnee County and northeast Kansas.
* Free use of the TGS library, with checkout privileges for circulating materials.
* Discounted registration fees for TGS classes, workshops and Annual Conference.
* Members-only discount opportunities on purchases of computers, software, and more.
* Participation in TGS Special Interest Groups.
* Monthly programs on genealogical and historical topics.
* Opportunities for networking with other genealogists and family historians.
* Opportunities to learn new skills, or get involved with record preservation through volunteering with TGS.
* Access to members-to-members forum, and TGS databases in the members-only section of our website.
* Voting privileges in TGS electronics and decisions that require a vote of the membership.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN - MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Renewals are coming in steady which is wonderful! Thank you for your early attention to renewing. If you haven't renewed yet, below are 3 options to do so:
1. To renew online - Remember: You must login to your TGS account. If you have forgotten your login and/or password please let me know.
2. If you prefer, you can print a membership form from the website by clicking on "Membership - Join Us", scroll to the bottom of the page and choose "Personal Membership Form" and print.
If you are a society or institution you may print a membership form from the website although you must choose the "Institutional/Organizational Membership Form".

3. You also have the option of stopping by the TGS Library for a printed form.

That's it...easy-peasy!

Membership dues deadline is December 31. We look forward to another great year!

Thank you for your membership in TGS!

Nancy Appelhanz, Membership Chair / membership@tgstopke.org

DO HOLIDAY SHOPPING & SUPPORT TGS! DONATE TO TGS THROUGH AMAZON SMILE

What is AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the Topeka Genealogical Society—a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization—every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same selection as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to NGS.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile? To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile? Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile? On your first visit to Amazon Smile, you will need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. To start generating donations to TGS from the Amazon Smile Foundation, go to AmazonSmile (https://smile.amazon.com) and log into the site using your existing Amazon.com email and password. Under the Account drop-down at the top of the page, select “Your AmazonSmile,” and search for the “Topeka Genealogical Society.” Select the Topeka Genealogical Society as your designated charity. Every eligible purchase you make at Amazon Smile will result in a donation to TGS.

How much of my purchase does Amazon donate? The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping and handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges.

Thank You for Supporting TGS!

YEAR-END FUNDRAISING APPEAL - HELP BUILD OUR LEGACY

At TGS, we are passionate about genealogy, and believe that knowledge of family history and family narratives can have life-changing impact. We believe that every individual is important, that their lives matter, and that every family has important stories that are worthy of preservation for future generations. We know that, without purposeful efforts to preserve them, memories of our beloved family members can be forgotten in just three generations. Since 1965, we have been helping people discover and preserve their family stories. Our role as an organization is to encourage people to be curious and want to learn about their family history, and support them in their efforts to do so. We offer resources, training and encouragement to genealogists and family historians of all backgrounds, ages, and skill levels. We believe that the work that we do is important, adds meaning to peoples’ lives, and should be continued.
As many of you know, we operate our organization on a minimal budget. We do not receive any funding support through taxes or local government support. Our income comes almost entirely from memberships, net proceeds from our Annual Conference, donations and the small amount of income from class registrations. As our membership numbers continue to decline and expenses of operating and maintaining our building increase, we find it increasingly difficult to balance our budget and still be able to offer the services that we believe are fundamental to our mission. The building repairs that we have had to make in the past year (furnace repair, guttering, gravel in parking lot) and those that we will be making in upcoming months (replacement of part of our roof) have put a significant dent in our reserve fund balances. Our lack of a strong reserve fund seriously limits our options as we consider whether to stay in our current building and make additional repairs and upgrades or to try to relocate. In either case, we will need to do some significant fundraising.

Year-end is traditionally a time when would-be donors consider how they will allocate funds to the causes that they support. As the end of 2019 rapidly approaches, we ask you to consider how you might be able to make a financial contribution to support our work. Because we are a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization, there may be tax advantages to your contribution (please check with your accountant or financial advisor). We would be appreciative of donations in any amount – gifts of all sizes make an impact.

To make a donation, you may either mail a check to us, or donate online through the donation page on our website.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND SUPPORT.
- Barb LaClair

REMEMBERING THE PAST

Starting in January 2020, the Topeka Genealogical Society (TGS) would like to have a different subject for each Quarterly. To make this happen, we need submissions from you!

We know there are many of you out there with memories of your school years. Now is your chance to share them! The subject for the January Quarterly is School Memories. Submissions could include class membership lists, one-room schoolhouse memories, grade schools, middle schools, high schools, colleges, class stories, class clowns, recess, school awards, teachers, principals, janitors, etc. The ideas are endless and we want you to share them.

Remember, as genealogists, we like names and dates so include as much of that information as you can in your submission.

Photos add lots of interest to an article so be sure to include photos from your collection or from newspapers.

If you have old newspaper articles that you think would be of interest to our members, feel free to submit those also. Let's have fun with this new idea!

Submit as much information as you would like. It's always better to have more than less. All submissions will be considered with the target area being Northeast Kansas.

Future subjects will be: April - Sports; July - Holidays; October - No subject for the Oct. Quarterly due to yearly index & limited space.

Send your articles and photos to tgseditor@tgstopeka.org. If you have questions, send them to the above email address. If we have questions about your submission, we will contact you.
We are very excited to tell you that **REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN** for our 2020 Conference which will take place on **April 3-4 2020**! Our theme for this year is “**Passports to the Past: Discover Your Family Stories**.”

Your conference planning team has been hard at work, and we hope that you will be as excited as we are about the changes that you will see this year. The need to find a new venue for our 2020 Conference (holding it at the Kansas Historical Society was no longer an option) presented us with both challenges and opportunities, and we have opted to make the most of those opportunities. Among the changes that you will see this year:

- **A new conference identity**, the **Heartland Family History Conference**, designed and marketed as a regional event

- **A new location** – the Maner Conference Center in Topeka, which will provide us with expanded space, separate rooms for breakout sessions (no more competing sound systems!), space to have seminar tables in the meeting rooms, more exhibitor space and a separate space for luncheon.

- **Expanded programming** – Two full days, four presentations by popular keynote speaker **John P. Colletta** plus 30 breakout sessions to choose from (5 tracks of breakout sessions!). Breakout speakers from across the Midwest, with new and varied presentation topics.

- **Sit-down, plated luncheons** both days, with interesting programs during lunch—no more balancing a box lunch and a drink on your lap! The cost of the lunches is included in the conference registration.

- **Expanded, separate space for exhibitors/vendors**

- **Friday Evening ‘Mix and Mingle’ Reception** - light refreshments will be served, and there will be a cash bar.

- **Convenient hotel accommodations** – Stay conveniently close to all of the Conference happenings at the beautiful, newly remodeled Capitol Plaza Hotel. Sleep in and take a leisurely walk down the hall to the conference. Discounted Conference rates are available for Wednesday night, April 1 - Saturday night, April 4. See the TGS website for details. Come to town early to take advantage of research or sightseeing in Topeka!

**We think that things are shaping up for a great event that you will not want to miss!** Those of you have attended our conferences in recent years will probably also note the increase in registration prices. While we have done our best to manage costs and keep prices as low as possible, these changes all mean that it costs us more to produce the Conference. When you consider that the price of two luncheons are included in the registration and that there are two full days of great high-quality programming, we think that the registration prices are still a bargain. We have done some comparison shopping, and found that our prices compare very favorably to other conferences of similar scope. To help ease the pain of higher registration fees, we will be able to offer online conference registrants the option to pay their registration in two installments. We
hope to also be able to offer a limited number of scholarships for TGS members who would like to attend but are unable to pay for registration due to financial hardship. Details about the conference, speakers, presentations and more are available on the TGS Website. From the conference registration page, you will find a link to the online registration system, and a link to download and print a registration form (also attached to this message).

If you have questions, please feel free to email the conference team at tgstopokea.conference@gmail.com.

CLICK HERE to REGISTER

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US

Read the VerticalResponse marketing policy.