COMING UP AT TGS

Reminder - there is no program meeting in December due to the Christmas holiday

December 23-26 -- Library closed for the Christmas holiday.
December 30-January 3 -- Library closed for the New Year's holiday.
January 3, 9:30 -- Brick Wall Session, TGS Memorial Library
January 9, 9:30 - Intermediate DIG (DNA Interest Group), TGS Memorial Library
January 12, 9:30 -- Family Tree Maker Computer Genealogy Group, TGS Memorial Library
January 12, 1:00 -- Family History Writers’ Group, TGS Memorial Library
January 12, 3:00 -- TGS Board Meeting , TGS Memorial Library
January 19, 12:00 -- Beginner DIG, TGS Memorial Library
January 21, 10:00 -- Free Event at TGS - Using Members-Only section of TGS website
January 26, 7:00 -- Monthly Program: Captured; the Extraordinary Adventures of Col Hughes, TSCPL

February 7, 9:30 -- Brick Wall Session, TGS Memorial Library
February 9, 9:30 -- Family Tree Maker Computer Genealogy Group, TGS Memorial Library
February 9, 1:00 -- Family History Writers’ Group, TGS Memorial Library
February 9, 3:00 -- TGS Board Meeting, TGS Memorial Library
February 13, 9:30 -- Intermediate DIG, TGS Memorial Library
February 16, 12:00 -- Beginner DIG, TGS Memorial Library
February 23, 7:00 -- Monthly Program: The Underground Railway in Kansas, TSCPL

NEWS FROM THE PREZ

This time of the year brings reflection on what went well and what we need to improve on. I’m still recovering from a serious surgery of my right elbow. My goal is to develop patience as the healing is slow going. Patience is a good word for all of us. Are you getting impatient regarding your family research or have you just given up? Have you taken a break or do you need a boost of energy? So, how does Topeka Genealogy Society, TGS, fit into your 2017 plans?

The Board of Directors, BOD, have planned a free monthly event on a Saturday each month. All the events will be scheduled from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. The first event will cover our TGS website and how to use it to your advantage. Have you signed in to the members-only location on TGStopeka.org? If not, come and see what you have been missing. If time allows, I will help anyone who is interested in Facebook to set up an account and demonstrate how to use it for genealogy and answer questions. You do not need to bring a computer as I can set you up without your computer, but if you have a laptop bring it.

As an organization, we have reviewed what went well. Here is the short list: the volunteers who are the heart and soul of TGS put many hours in each month, Annual April Conference (Lisa Louise Cooke was one of our best presenters), Annual Picnic (Great food, program, and people), nine great programs (Hazel Hill Chocolates-yummy was my favorite) held at Topeka Shawnee County Public library, two open houses, great classes and SIGS/DIGS and we dodged the roof replacement for now. According to the review on the roof, we have about 5 years more or
What improvement does TGS need? We need more online resources that our members can access on our web page (a team is in place so watch for updates), more books added to our library (Lyn has picked out some great ones), to meet our schedule on our Quarterly (can you write an ancestral story and send it to Brenda Kelly, editor), we need more members attending events (we average about 40 out of 260 and this does not include non-members) and TGS still needs someone to volunteer as Library Coordinator and we still need an Administration Chair. Email me at marty.flanagan@outlook.com if you are interested.

I’m creating a special building committee to research possible outcomes for the future of TGS. What do we need to do in the near future to make TGS stronger - do we fix the roof, do we move, do we fix up the building, and discover other possible outcomes? Are you good at brainstorming and putting a cost to it? Are you the family financial planner or accountant? Are you good at finding gems in the real estate market? Do you have skills in viewing our building and see what we should do or could do and putting a cost to it? I’m needing 5 to 10 people to volunteer for a committee. These folks should be willing to meet at least once a month for 8+ months to develop several alternative plans for the future of TGS. If you would like to be part of this committee, please send me an email at marty.flanagan@outlook.com.

January changes due to New Year’s Day:
Beginner DIG – January 19th at 12:00 PM – Using Ancestry DNA to find ancestors.
Free event at Library January 21st at 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM – How to log on to members site on Web.

Marty Flanagan

HAVE YOU RENEWED FOR 2017?

Your membership renewal for 2017 is due, if you haven't already sent it in. A renewal application can be obtained from our website. Click here for the membership page and download the application using the link at the bottom of the page. We have wonderful programs and activities planned for 2017 and we don't want you to miss out.

LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY

Our program meeting in January will be Captured: The Extraordinary Adventures of Colonel Hughes, a Topekan’s Experiences in WWI & WWII  Whether you are interested in history or your family's role in it, this program, hosted by the Topeka Genealogical Society, is for you. The public is invited. 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. The meeting will be at 7:00 on Thursday, January 26, at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN IN 2017?
The TGS Education Committee needs your help with planning classes for 2017. In addition to the on-going SIG and DIG meetings this winter and spring, we plan to include a free class for beginners’ taught in three, two-hour sessions; a cemetery class offered on a Saturday, and perhaps a courthouse research and documents class. Are there other classes you are interested in, and, if so, when would you like them scheduled? Please provide your input by emailing Terry Stahl at t.stahl@cox.net.

NEWS FROM BRUCE BUZBEE, FOUNDER OF ROOTS MAGIC

Years ago, I got burned giving a date for a feature we were adding, and I promised myself I would never do that again. But users dislike uncertainty and like to press us for an estimated release date. Usually, I just say something like “it will be done when it is ready” and leave it at that. When Ancestry and RootsMagic announced our agreement to create a version of RootsMagic which would be able to sync with Ancestry trees and display WebHints from Ancestry, we were bombarded with the question of “when?”

So, apparently not having learned my lesson, we picked the end of the year as a safe guess. But to be honest, I underestimated the amount of time necessary to finish and properly test this awesome new feature.

So the bad news is that the Ancestry sync features won’t be released by the end of the year. But the good news is that it is close, it looks amazing, and we aren’t talking about a huge 6-month delay or anything like that. We know many of you are excited to share your data between RootsMagic and your Ancestry tree, and we are excited to be working to offer it. We just want to make sure that when we release these new features, you can depend on them working right, and keeping your data safe.

And for everyone wanting to know the new exact release date… it will be done when it is ready. I’ve learned my lesson (again).

HELP BRING GENEALOGY ROADSHOW TO TOPEKA!

Hopefully you have had a chance to follow the link to the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library's website to learn more about the campaign to bring the PBS program to Topeka to film an episode and to sign the petition to the producers of the show. If you haven’t done that yet, here is the link - www.tscpl.org/roadshow

If you have never seen Genealogy Roadshow, it features 3 professional genealogists who visit a city and meet with folks there to help them with their brick walls or solve a family mystery. Those persons that the genealogists work with are chosen ahead of time, and you can apply to be one of those persons through the library website.

The professional genealogists on the program are Kenyatta Berry, Mary Tedesco and Joshua Taylor (our featured speaker at next spring’s conference!) You can watch past episodes of the show at PBS.org.

YEAREND GIVING

If you generally make a yearend donation to TGS, try this idea. Put aside the amount you intend to donate and save until the Topeka Gives date in June. Give that amount and it will be proportionally matched that day resulting in a larger donation to TGS, or designate a monthly amount to be saved each month. Save until June and donate at the Topeka Gives event. Once proportionally matched, either method will result in a larger donation to TGS. Thank you!
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