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CALL FIRST IN BAD WEATHER
-- CHECK FOR HOLIDAYS & CLOSINGS

July 4 - TGS LIBRARY CLOSED
July 7, 1:00 PM - "Using Land Records in Genealogical Research" Class, TGS, register here
July 9, 9:30 AM - DNA Special Interest Group, TGS
July 9, 1:00 PM - Brick Wall Special Interest Group, TGS
July 12, 9:30 AM - Family Tree Maker/Computer Genealogy Special Interest Group, TGS
July 12, 1:00 PM - TGS Board Meeting, TGS
July 15, 2:00 PM - Computer User (was PAF users) Special Interest Group, TGS
July 21, 10:00 AM - Saturday Skillbuilder, "Finding Genealogical Treasures in the Columbia Title Company Records", TGS
July 26, 7:00 PM - Monthly Program, "Homesteading, Settling the West", Topeka Publ. Lib.

Aug. 3, 9:30 AM - Family History Writers Special Interest Group, TGS
Aug. 4 - TGS LIBRARY CLOSED
Aug. 4, 12:00-3:00 PM - Annual TGS Member Meeting & Picnic, Brookwood Covenant Church
Aug. 9, 9:30 AM - Family Tree Maker/Computer Genealogy Special Interest Group, TGS
Aug. 9, 1:00 PM - TGS Board Meeting, TGS
Aug. 13, 9:30 AM - DNA Special Interest Group, TGS
Aug. 13, 1:00 PM - Brick Wall Special Interest Group, TGS
Aug. 18, 10:00 AM - Saturday Skillbuilder, "Getting Results with Google Search", TGS

NEWS FROM THE PREZ

What’s going on at TGS and why you should be there! Dr. Carl Graves a local historian who taught at KU is an amazing man. He has presented many programs throughout the NE area. If you have never heard him speak, you must come to his presentation on June 28 at 7 PM at the TSCPL. His topic is on the Civil War and how it can enhance your genealogy. I bet you think – I do not have a Civil War Veteran and have no interest. Did you know there were several distinct units in Kansas? More than???. Come and learn just how many. Our own Barb LaClair will lead a class on land records on July 7 from 1-4 PM. The Skillbuilder on July 21 is on using the Columbian Title Company Records. This is a resource you will not find in any other library or online data base. It is only at TGS.
Did you know the Hovercam is up and running with the majority of the librarians trained on how to use it? Did you know that you can bring documents and use the Hovercam to scan in those documents or pictures to a flash drive for you to take home? We have flash drives for sale at $5.00 at the library. Come on over and see how it works. Don’t forget to bring the precious picture or document with you.

I’m attending a week-long conference on DNA in July. I plan on starting another series on DNA in September. I have several folks contact me about having the class on Saturday and Sunday. I would like to hear from any people who are considering taking classes what your choices would be. My email is tgsstopeka.president@gmail.com

Reminder – The Annual TGS Member Meeting Picnic is scheduled for August 4, 2018. This is a very important time for all members to come together. We will go over the Financial Health, results from the member survey, and answer any questions you might have for the Board of Directors, enjoy wonderful food, develop friendships and say hello to other friends. A very special program is planned by the committee after the short meeting. I will let the committee tell you their plans. A reminder to all members we will elect 3 officers this year, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Corresponding Secretary. We are still in need of our Education Chair. If you are interested let someone on the Board know. It is a great way to get involved with your Society. Just remember none of us stepped into our job knowing it. We grew into the position. See you soon and have a great summer.

- Marty Flanagan

Thank you everyone for coming out to support Topeka Genealogy Society through giving at Topeka Gives on June 5th. Topeka Genealogical Society received $ 2,482.54.

Marty Flanagan, Shirley Warden, & Nancy Appelhanz; & Elvis and Shirley

Volunteers Needed

We are still looking for an Education Chair, Social Media Coordinator, and a back-up for Dave our IT guy. Please contact me at janiceashby3131@yahoo.com.

These office positions are up for election this year. Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact the nominating committee chair, janiceashby3131@yahoo.com.

If you are interested in helping on projects at TGS contact Susie at: graberhaus2@gmail.com.

It takes a large neighborhood of volunteers to make a viable Society. I hope you will consider volunteering and give it a try.

TGS SHIRTS

Steps to purchase a TGS logo shirt have changed a little. You may still turn your order into the Society although checks must be made out to Embroidery Plus. Visit the library or the TGS website to obtain an order form for more information or contact Nancy Appelhanz at 785-925-0651 or membership@tgstopeka.org

TGS ANNUAL PICNIC

The Annual Topeka Genealogical Society Meeting and Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 4th, at the
Brookwood Covenant Church, 3601 SW 33rd Street, in Topeka. The planning committee has arranged for a potluck dinner to be served at noon, followed by a special program given by Bill McFarland, author of “Keep the Flag to the Front”, the story of the 8th Kansas Infantry, a Civil War regiment from eastern Kansas. We will also have an annual meeting to discuss the finance statement and explore the changes that have taken place in the last year.

Chicken, drinks and table service will be provided by TGS. Members are asked to provide a side dish for the dinner. Reservations would be appreciated, but not required. Please RSVP by signing in at the July TGS meeting at TSCPL or respond to Janice Ashby at 785-234-2372 or janiceashby3131@yahoo.com.

Bill McFarland is a native Kansan and has lived in Topeka since 1967. His interest in the Civil War began with a family legend that claims that one of his ancestors founded the town of Gettysburg. He has taught history for over 40 years in the public school system and in 2015, he was named as a Kansas Master Teacher. He is also a Civil War reenactor with a group that portrays the 8th Kansas Infantry.

In his presentation, Bill McFarland will discuss the history of the 8th Kansas Infantry through the use of photographs and stories of individual soldiers who served in the regiment.

Directions to Brookwood Covenant Church are 29th Street to Arnold Street, south on Arnold to 33rd, right on 33rd to 3601 SW 33rd Street. Enter the church from the north door facing 33rd Street.

Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend this special event! It will be a great opportunity to become better acquainted with other TGS members who share your zeal for recording family history. How can you possibly pass up delicious food, delightful fellowship and a captivating program? We hope to see you there!

Another major reason to join, support TGS, and come to the TGS Library...

"Are You Missing Most of the Available Genealogy Information?"
by Dick Eastman

https://blog.eogn.com/2018/06/12/are-you-missing-most-of-the-available-genealogy-information/

I recently received a message from a newsletter reader that disturbed me a bit. He wrote, “I have been doing genealogy research for 10-15 years but only through the Internet.” He then went on to describe some of the frustrations he has encountered trying to find information. In short, he was disappointed at how little information he has found online.

I read the entire message, but my eyes kept jumping back to the words in his first sentence: “… but only through the Internet.”

Doesn’t he realize that 95% of the information of interest to genealogists is not yet available on the Internet?

To be sure, many of the biggest and most valuable resources are now available online, including national census records, the Social Security Death Index, military pension applications, draft cards, many passenger lists, land patent databases, and more.

The national databases were the “low hanging fruit” a few years ago as the providers of online information rushed to place large genealogy databases online. These huge collections benefited a lot of genealogists; these databases were the first to become indexed, digitized, and placed online. We all should be thankful that these databases are easily available today and are in common use.

As the national databases became available to all, the online providers moved on to digitize regional and statewide information. State or provincial censuses, birth records, marriage records, death records, naturalization records (which originally were recorded in many local and state courts), county histories, and much, much more are still being placed online...

Yet, I am guessing that 95% of the information of interest to genealogists has not yet been digitized. Why would anyone want to look for genealogy information “… only through the Internet?”

State censuses, birth records, marriage records, death records, naturalization records, county histories, and more are all “work in progress” projects. That is, they are not yet complete. In fact, I doubt if all of them will be available online for at least another two decades! If you only look online, you are missing a lot.

In many cases, church parish records, local tax lists, school records, land records (other than Federal land grants), and many more records are not yet...
available online and probably won’t be available for many years. If you are limiting yourself to “… only through the Internet,” you are missing 95% of the available information.

If you have the luxury of living near the places where your ancestors lived, I’d suggest you jump in an automobile and drive to the repositories where those records are kept. There is nothing that matches the feeling of holding original records in your hand. Make photocopies or scan them or take pictures of them or do whatever is possible to collect images of the original records...

Which option would you prefer: accessing 5% of the available records or 100% of the available records?

**OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN & RESEARCH:**

**Topeka Genealogical Society** - TGS Library; Special Interest Groups; Skillbuilders; Classes; Events; go to [https://tgstopeka.org/](https://tgstopeka.org/) and find out more.

**Topeka Shawnee County Public Library** - 2nd floor, Genealogy Center; check out their newsletter/website & sign up for genealogy & computer classes at [https://tscpl.org/](https://tscpl.org/).

**Wichita Genealogical Society** is conducting a research trip to St. Louis, MO & Fort Wayne, IN Sept. 8-16; Arrangements can be made to pick up travelers in Emporia & Kansas City area!! For more details- [https://wichitagensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=63](https://wichitagensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=63)