**COMING UP AT TGS**

**Thursday, February 28 - Monthly Program**  
The Exodusters after the Civil War and Kansas, the "Land of Honey"  
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm; at Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library  
Joel Meyers from Manhattan will present this program, focused on Exodusters who came to Topeka.

Program is free, and open to the Public. No registration required.

Mar. 2, 9:00 AM - (Class) "Native American Genealogy", at TGS [register here]
Mar. 11, 9:30 AM - DNA SIG, topic- DNA Painter, at TGS
Mar. 11, 1:00 PM - Brick Wall SIG, topic- using FamilySearch.org to find vital records, at TGS
Mar. 14, 1:00 PM - TGS Board Meeting, at TGS
Mar. 17, 2:00 PM - Computer Genealogy SIG, contact Eileen Davis at 785.235.5845 for more info.
Mar. 17, 2:00 PM - (Monthly Program) "Railroads: The Industry That Shaped Kansas", at TSPL
Apr. 5 & 6 - TGS Annual Conference, at KS Historical Society, 6425 SW 6th St, Topeka, KS; [register here]
Apr. 8, 9:30 AM - DNA SIG, topic- updated GedMatch.com/Genesis, at TGS
Apr. 8, 1:00 PM - Brick Wall SIG, topic- field trip to TSCPL / using FamilySearch.org & microfilms online, at TSCPL
Apr. 11, 9:30 AM - Computer Genealogy & Software SIG, topic- to be announced, at TGS
Apr. 11, 1:00 PM - TGS Board Meeting, at TGS
Apr. 20, 1:00 PM - (Class) "Using Newspapers in Genealogical Research"; [register here]

**NEWS FROM THE PREZ**

Hey! March 10th is daylight savings time. Does that mean we can say Spring? It has been an interesting winter. I must tell you we have had several serious issues at TGS. Our roof has about 8 leaks in various locations. Most are new ones which were not leaking before. We discovered a plug-in heater was plugged into an outlet that was not working. This was used to keep the guttering free of ice. It failed as it did not have electricity. You might not know about our furnaces, yes, we have two. The one in the training room decided to stop working in the very cold weather. Cost to repair was around $500. As you can see, we have problems that are going to take major dollars to fix. You will receive in the next 6 weeks a proposal that will need an immediate vote. Here is a close up view of the cost but the figures are estimating the cost of repair. The estimate to fix just the flat part of the roof is about $20,500.00. We will need several bids before we present our proposal to you the member. As you know, we need member vote to spend this amount. You can see from our financial statement in the quarterly that it will serious deplete our cash on hand. We need new guttering (estimate $2000), the building needs painting ($1500), and we are running on borrowed time for the furnace ($8000), gravel on back drive way, ($1500), tear down shed and replace roof in back with shingles ($5000). The estimated cost of refreshing and bringing the building up to minimum code will run $36 K or more. These are serious structural issues for the outside of the building and does not tackle the updating inside.
We had hoped for additional donations during our membership drive but at this point we have only received $243.00. So, another alternative is to buy or lease another building and move the library or close our library. These are serious questions must be addressed by your Board of Directors. You can expect us to do our due diligence and get updated information to you very soon, but it will be your responsibility to vote and give us guidance.

We are running behind on registrants to our conference the first weekend of April. Please sign up because the deadline in March is fast approaching. There are several missing positions that are needed on the BOD. Financial Chair, Education Chair, and Publicity Chair. We need a media/blog chair who will be part of the Publicity committee. If you are interested in these positions contact me at tgsstopeka.president@gmail.com or Janice Ashby, Director at, at janiceashby3131@yahoo.com

Irish tidbits for the newsletter from The Wichita Eagle: “March is my birthday month and the 17th is my day. Did you know the University of Kansas mascot, the Jayhawk is Irish? Here is the story: During the 1850’s, when pro-slavery forces clashed with abolitionists on the Kansas-Missouri state line, Kansans were given the nickname “Jayhawkers” after a mythical bird in Irish folklore that worried its prey to death.” K-State basketball team should start worrying. Go Big Blue. “There are several Kansas communities that are filled with Irish names, Chapman and Solomon in Dickinson County, Vesper in Lincoln county and St. Benedict in Nemaha county. Hurray for Irish counties in Kansas. Did you know that during the Civil War, Irish labor helped build the Kansas Pacific railroad, while other worked in the coal mines in SE Kansas?”

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**Education Committee** - Do you have 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 worked in business or banking and are familiar with forecasting budgets and revenues, or worked in insurance or real estate or have a bookkeeping background, then you might be the right person 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, manages our Facebook page, both public and members only. We would like to have more exposure on Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest. We are looking to expand our online presence.

**Research and Records Preservation** - Oversee, direct and perform duties related to research services and record preservation projects. These are Board level positions requiring attending Board meetings once a month.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact Marty Flanagan at tgsstopeka.president@gmail.com or Janice Ashby at janiceashby3131@yahoo.com.

"ARE YOU RECORDING FAIRY TALES IN YOUR GENEALOGY RECORDS?”, by Dick Eastman

excerpts from - https://blog.eogn.com/2019/02/06/are-you-recording-fairy-tales-in-your-genealogy-records/

“A newsletter reader wrote to me recently expressing unhappiness with all the erroneous information found in online family trees. The bogus information is usually found in family tree information submitted by other users of whatever online family tree service is being used at the moment…Instead of spending your time looking at other people's fairy tales and complaining about the errors, I (Dick Eastman) suggest you look at original records and newspapers (or digital images of original records and newspapers). That’s the manner that experienced genealogists have used for decades, and it has always worked well…I (Dick Eastman) suggest that online databases of genealogy information intermixed with fairy tales hasn’t really changed genealogy very much. The only difference today is that computers and online capabilities allow genealogists to publish accurate and inaccurate information alike faster, easier, and at less expense than ever before. My belief is that the PERCENTAGE of inaccurate genealogy information hasn’t changed much in many decades. What has changed is the QUANTITY of both accurate and inaccurate information available today. The reality is that the basics of good genealogy research haven’t changed in the past century, even though we certainly have more convenient access today than ever. In short, any genealogy claims you find that are not accompanied by verifiable source citations to original records should be treated as a potential fairy tale...Knowing someone else's guesses is still better than knowing nothing at all about an ancestor. There are times when someone else’s guess gives me a clue as to what to look for to see if I can confirm or refute it. I (Dick Eastman) never, ever enter possible fairy tale information into my primary genealogy database until I have independently verified its accuracy in the original records. In other words, I don't enter any information into my primary genealogy database until I have independently verified its accuracy in the original records. My (Dick Eastman) belief is that your genealogy collection of facts can be better and more accurate today than ever before – if you really care about accuracy...What's in your (possibly bogus) family tree?"
This is an excellent reason to encourage everyone - you, your friends, neighbors, & relatives to JOIN TGS, use our TGS Library to research, attend SIG’s/Classes & Workshops/Monthly Programs, & ATTEND OUR TGS ANNUAL CONFERENCE. Come research for accuracy and come to learn how to research effectively!

A CALL TO ACTION

We are a membership-based, all volunteer organization. Without our members and volunteers, we could not exist. Again, we want to extend a big THANK YOU to all who have supported us through membership, active participation, volunteering and donations over the past year. We are looking forward to 2019, and the continued growth and development of our organization. There are several ways in which our members can help us in those efforts over the upcoming year. Those include:

- **Continued membership** – we hope that you will be continuing your membership with us in 2019.
- **Active participation** – we encourage you to make the most of your membership benefits by actively participating in our events and offerings.
- **Volunteering for a leadership position** – new ideas and leaders are always needed and welcome. If you are interested in taking on a leadership role with TGS, let any of your Board members know.
- **Promoting our organization to others** – we need to grow our membership numbers, and we hope that you will help us by telling your friends about us and encouraging them to join TGS! Having more members will help us to spread our fixed costs such as utilities and building maintenance out across more members, allowing us to keep the price of individual memberships lower.
- **Fundraising** – As we have mentioned in this report several times, we operate on a very limited budget and are facing some significant financial needs. You can help us by watching for funding opportunities or possible corporate sponsorships that might be a good match to our organization and bringing those to the attention of the Board. You may wish to consider supporting TGS in your estate plans. There are a number of options, including a bequest in your will, small life insurance policies with TGS designated as the beneficiary, or direct contributions from your retirement accounts (which may offer tax advantages to you). Check with your financial or tax adviser for more information about these possible options. Of course, simple monetary donations in any amount are always appreciated, too. Donations may be made online through the “Donate” page on our website, or in the form of a check mailed to our office.

Again, we want to thank everyone for supporting us in 2018. TGS is YOUR organization. We invite and encourage you to take full advantage of your membership by participating actively, and telling us what you need and what you want to see us do!

WITHOUT YOU, TGS WILL NOT SURVIVE!

REGISTER FOR TGS’s 47th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

We are pleased to announce that registration is now open for our 2019 Annual Conference. This year’s conference will take place on April 5 and 6th, at the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka. We will have breakout sessions on Friday afternoon, and a full day with our keynote speaker Michael J. Hall on Saturday. Mr. Hall has Kansas roots and is the Deputy Chief Genealogical Officer at FamilySearch, and we’re really looking forward to hearing his presentations! His presentation topics will be:

- Over the Flint Hills and Over the Plains: The Value of Military Records and Newspapers
- Inspiring Family Stories: Finding the Grain of Truth
- Ad Astra Per Aspera: Kansas Land Records
- A Little of This and a Little of That: Effectively Using FamilySearch.org

For more details about the conference schedule and breakout session selections, see the TGS website or the attached conference brochure/registration form. Register by mail using the downloadable form, or CLICK HERE to register online.

Register early - you won’t want to miss it!
TGS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you haven’t renewed your membership please consider doing so right away. Your membership ended December 31, 2018. If you have already renewed.....THANK YOU!

You can visit the TGS website and download and print a paper copy, visit the library to pay your membership or you can renew online by logging in to your account and follow the guidance.

If you are having trouble logging in please contact me at: membership@tgstopeka.org
We have a great year planned and hope you will join us.
Thank you for your membership in TGS!

-Nancy Appelhans, Membership Chair