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TGS Location:
2717 SE Indiana
Phone (785) 233-5762
Mailing Address:
PO Box 4048, Topeka, KS 66604-0048
E-mail: president1@tgstopeka.org
Website:
http://www.tgstopeka.org
Blog:
http://tgstopeka.blogspot.com
Email Address Changes:
membership@tgstopeka.org

MONTHLY PROGRAM MEETINGS
are held on the 4th Thursday of the month at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library at 1515 SW 10th Street.

TGS Library Hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 - 4:00 p.m.

CALL FIRST IN BAD WEATHER -- CHECK FOR HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

COMING UP AT TGS

This Thursday, October 26, is our regular monthly program, open to all. This month the Topeka Genealogical Society's Writers Group will honor the children who came west on "orphan trains" and the families who took them in by sharing some of their stories. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library. Hope to see you there!

October 26, 7:00 - Monthly Program, "Orphan Train Riders in Northeast Kansas," TSCPL
October 29, 2:00 -- DNA Testing with Other Companies, TGS - register here
November 3, 9:30 - Family History Writers' Group, TGS
November 9, 9:30 -- Family Tree Maker Computer Genealogy Group, TGS
November 9, 1:00 -- TGS Board Meeting, TGS
November 22 -- TGS LIBRARY CLOSED FOR VETERANS' DAY HOLIDAY
November 13, 9:30 - DIG (DNA Interest Group), TGS
November 13, 1:00 - Brick Wall Session, TGS
November 17-18 -- "What's in Your DNA?" TSCPL
November 19, 2:00 -- Computer Genealogy (formerly PAF group), TGS
November 22 - 25 -- TGS LIBRARY CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

November 14, 9:30 -- Family Tree Maker Computer Genealogy Group, TGS
November 14, 1:00 -- TGS Board Meeting, TGS
November 24-January 2 -- TGS LIBRARY CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS/NEW YEARS HOLIDAY
No program meeting in November.

December 1, 9:30 - Family History Writers' Group, TGS
December 11, 9:30 - DIG (DNA Interest Group), TGS
December 11, 1:00 - Brick Wall Session, TGS
December 14, 9:30 -- Family Tree Maker Computer Genealogy Group, TGS
December 14, 1:00 -- TGS Board Meeting, TGS
December 24-January 2 -- TGS LIBRARY CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS/NEW YEARS HOLIDAY
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NEWS FROM THE PREZ

Halloween is the time each year I start thinking about winter. I hate winter, but here are my tricks to survive. I start planning my winter project, what brick wall will I smash. I have several projects that have stalled and need to rest. So, I'm going to start working on my 3rd Great Grandmother's line. This is the first line I balked at about 5 years ago because she has 4 lines of Rice's and I have no clue if they are related or not. It is going to be a massive puzzle. I plan to use the techniques I learned in our Brick Wall SIG this past year and see what rolls out. Will I end up with Rice pudding or spilled Rice? "Stay Tuned." The Brick Wall group meets on the 2nd Monday of each month from 1 PM to 3 PM. On November 13, the topic is mining every drop of information out of the 1950 to 1940 census. Please come and learn with us.

We welcomed 15 folks into our DNA classes this past week. I sure hope they decide to attend the monthly DIG (DNA Interest Group) and keep growing in knowledge about DNA. Our topic on November 13, "How to
Let's blast to the past to discover your ancestors! Try our new online "join us" option!

A 2-day DNA Symposium is scheduled on November 17th and 18th in conjunction with Topeka Shawnee County Public Library. We are pleased that TGS and TSCPL will host this first ever DNA Symposium featuring Kathleen Brandt. Pre-registration is a must, but it is free. Each day will cover DNA topics plus Saturday afternoon will host multi mini-workshop tables manned by many research groups from the Topeka area on a variety of topics including starting a family tree, the main 5 testing companies, ethnicity research, resources available to help you, and many more topics. This is a once in a lifetime event. An event like this has never been held in Topeka. I promise you will walk away understanding DNA testing and if it is right for you. If you have skills and have tested, no matter what level, you will learn additional information to help you.

Marty Flanagan, President

WHAT'S IN YOUR DNA?

The Topeka Genealogy Society and Topeka Shawnee County Public Library are co-sponsoring “What’s in Your DNA?” - a 2-day workshop that will give a comprehensive look at DNA and your genealogy. The event will be held November 17 and 18 at TSCPL. It is free but participants must register through EventBrite on the TSCPL website.

Friday is dedicated to introducing the novice to DNA and discovering genetic genealogy. Sessions will discuss the various types of DNA and what you can expect from getting tested.

Saturday is dedicated to what happens after you have been tested, which tests tell you what information, how to use your results and how to keep it organized. Kathleen Brandt, a nationally-recognized genealogy consultant, will be the guest speaker.

DO YOU ENJOY DOING RESEARCH?

The Research Committee is looking for volunteers to occasionally provide assistance to requests received from out of town. TGS frequently receives requests for look-ups. These projects usually take 1-2 hours at the most. With a committee of volunteers, these duties are spread around so that no one person has to do it all. If you're interested, please contact Brenda Kelly at 785-845-2686.

NOW YOU CAN JOIN TGS OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE!

We have added a new, convenient feature to make your experience of joining or renewing a breeze. On our website click on “Membership – Join Us”, then choose “online join” and follow the guidance. It’s that simple!

To renew online please await the reminder email notice which should be sent around the end of November. Should you try renewing now it will only accept you as a new member. Thank you for your membership in TGS!

DO YOU HAVE WITCHES AMONG YOUR ANCESTORS?
If you have ancestry from early Essex County, Massachusetts, you have an excellent chance of finding a connection to the Salem Witch Trials of 1692. Salem, Massachusetts, and the surrounding towns in Essex County were amongst the first settled in this country. Most of the towns were established prior to 1640. By the time of the witchcraft trials of 1692, a complete legal system of courts and clerks was well established. Records were written, and many of them have been preserved. Even if your ancestors are not among those accused, it is quite possible that you can find them mentioned as witnesses, those who gave depositions, or perhaps even those who served on a jury. Read more of this story in Dick Eastman’s online genealogical newsletter here.

FREE SHOWING OF "TE ATA"

On November 28 at 6:30, the Topeka and Shawnee County Library will present a free showing of a movie called “Te Ata” about a Chickasaw storyteller named Mary Thompson Fisher, who defied stereotypes on various levels as a Native American, as well as a woman, at a time when both presented difficulties and challenges. The film was written by Esther Luttrell, a local writer.

YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THESE OTHER EVENTS

There will be a Swedish Heritage event Saturday, October 28 at TSCPL from 2:00 – 5:00 pm.

The Midwest Genealogy Center is offering a class on “Germans from Russia; History & Research” on Saturday, November 4 at 2:00 pm. Find out more about it and their many other clubs and classes here. The Center is at 3440 S. Lee’s Summit Rd. Independence, MO 64055  816-252-7228. All events are free, but registration is required.

Johnson County Genealogical Seminar, October 28 -- Featured speaker is Thomas MacEntee. More information here.

Don't forget the free online webinars on the 4th Wednesday of every month, sponsored by the Georgia Genealogy Society. The Society’s website can be found here: www.gagensociety.org