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

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COMING UP AT TGS
No Monthly Program in Nov.
Nov. 17, 2:00 PM - Computer Genealogy (PAF) SIG Group, contact Eileen Davis at 785-235-5845

Nov. 27th - 30th - TGS Library is CLOSED
Dec. 9, 9:30 AM - DNA SIG Group, topic - "AncestryDNA", at TGS Lib.
Dec. 9, 1:00 PM - Brick Wall SIG Group, topic - "cont. Pennsylvania genealogy", at TGS Lib.
Dec. 12, 1:00 PM - TGS Board Meeting

Dec. 16th - Jan. 2 - TGS Library is CLOSED
NO Monthly Program in Dec.
Jan. 9, 9:30 AM - Computer Genealogy & Software SIG Group, topic - TBA, at TGS Lib.
Jan. 9, 1:00 PM - TGS Board Meeting, at TGS Lib.
Jan. 13, 1:00 PM - Brick Wall SIG, "German genealogy research", at TGS Lib.

NEWS FROM THE PREZ

TGS and our members are wrapping up another year. It is the time of the year for thanking all those who have been in our lives. I want to thank all of you who have helped make TGS great - the many volunteers who work behind the scenes (about 60), the many who attended programs, meetings, classes, SIGS, and our conference. Many positive things have taken place this year and a few negatives. I’m wrapping all my good thoughts and prayers and wishing you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving.

TGS members voted to authorize the BOD to fix a large part of the roof that is giving us a major headache. This is the flat roof which cover about 50% of the roof area. When the work is completed, we will let you know the cost. This repair does have a few years warranty. There were many questions and concerns related to this vote. Here are a few answers. We had 126 members voted out of 270 members. 124 voted yes and 2 voted no. It is important as a member to be active and vote when it is called. We want all members to play an active part in making major decisions for the society. The roof has been an ongoing issue for 3 years. The subject was brought up at annual member meetings, meetings held at TGS, Newsletters, and the Quarterly. Here is a review of the BOD actions concerning the roof. We received 3 bids early on for a complete roof
replacement. The bid was $28,000.00 to $36,000.00. The BOD tabled the purchase and decided to do a patch on the roof because of the cost. This helped for about 2 years. When the roof failed this year, the BOD got 4 bids on a partial repair of the flat roof. In this investigation, we determine there are two companies that are recommended for flat roof. After careful deliberation we chose Midwest Roofing. We are in the process of getting on their schedule, but in the mean time they came out and patched the major leaks. We are hoping it holds.

TGS has contacted a commercial real estate agent. He came to our BOD meeting several months ago. The BOD received important information regarding the process, whether we could afford it, and what was really available to buy or lease. The overall report from this meeting was to purchase building for our space requirements would be $250-$350 thousand dollars. Leasing a building in Topeka would run between $1500 to $2000 per month. The rest of expense would continue to be the same. FYI: Our income to date this year was about $17,000 as of 10/31/2019. Estimated for the year because of memberships coming in this December will boost this ($4000?)

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES EARLY IN DECEMBER.

As you can see leasing would be $24,000 per year without any of our normal yearly expenses. At the present income level, we cannot afford moving. The new BOD will have tough decisions ahead and will need the membership’s full engagement to make the best decision for TGS.

Several have sent donations in for this much needed repair. We thank you supporting this much needed repair. Your society earns income through donations, annual conference, memberships, classes, and periodical sales. The annual conference income was about $1000 less this year, donations were about $2000 less, and the total of other lines of income were off about $1000. Expenses were up slightly for repairs, furnace, guttering, and some electrical repair not including roof repair. Our expenses to date are $16,000. We have 2 more months of expenses and one more month of income.

Please help out as you can with a donation and early renewal of your membership, but better yet sign up a new member.

In my 5 years serving as your president, this is the first year with a potential expense over income. I’m praying for a miracle as several members stated in their comments.

TGS is pleased to announce that behind the member wall you can read up to 150 periodicals from Kansas and Missouri. This number will change as our own Nancy Appelhanz has been loading up our web page. These are electronic copies (digital copies) of other Genealogical Societies that we exchange for a copy of ours. If you have never logged on to our web site as a member please contact Nancy for instructions.

Areas to volunteer at TGS – Building Committee, Finance Committee, Research Committee plus Barb will have a few other positions so contact Barb or Janice Ashby. This is your opportunity to be part of the solution and make a difference at TGS.

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

Q: Why does everyone make such a fuss about citing sources in genealogy? If I don’t plan to publish an article or write a book, why is it important for my own personal family history? It feels really intimidating, like writing a research report! I don’t even know where to start.

A: There are several good reasons to cite your sources, mostly which have to do with benefiting you and your family. Even if you never plan to share your research outside your family, your descendants will appreciate a well-documented history. New information can always arise, but making it as accurate as you can lets your family know the care and time you put into it!

“Oh I’ll Remember That!”

Have you ever picked up an article or page from a book that you copied a while back, and asked yourself, “I wonder where I got this?” Most of us in the beginning of our research enthusiastically copied things and transcribed information thinking “I’ll remember where that came from” or “I’ll write down the book title and author later”, but then later never comes. A few months or years later we find that information and are scratching our heads.

“Wonder If It Said Anything About Her Children?”

I have several boxes full of bits and pieces of newspaper articles many missing the name of the paper or date, copied pages from those marvelous county histories only I don’t know what book or where it was found, and many of my own notes from the early days where I extracted what I wanted to know without regard to where I found the information. Now that I am further in my research journey, I would like to go back and see if those sources contain additional information I might have missed only I don’t know where to look!

“I Always Thought Grandpa Was A War Hero”

You find conflicting information in your research. You run into that right away and so you also begin to understand the difference in the quality of the information you have and how to evaluate their relative merits. You learn about primary sources, secondary and beyond, and you know now that extracts from family narratives without any documentary evidence doesn’t carry as much credence as those facts that have sources cited and documents to go with them. For example, the family story is about Grandpa who was a war hero but you find a draft card that says he couldn’t serve because of his flat feet. How do we reconcile the family story with the draft card?

For the family narratives you may need to look further. There could still be truth to it but maybe it’s the wrong Grandpa? or the wrong generation, perhaps a Great Grandpa? For those family narratives you need to know who told it/wrote it, were they contemporary to the events, or re-telling a family story, was it published and when. If you can trace back to
the origin of the story, you may get closer to the truth.

Timing is everything!
The document or story told closest to the event in time is generally more accurate than what is recorded later. For example, if we are uncertain about the birth year for an ancestor, would you choose the date from the US Census taken 8 years after the birth, or from a letter written by the mother to her sister about her new baby? Is the letter dated and signed? Are you in possession of the original letter, or you know where the original is? Even if the letter is not published and is privately held, it is likely more accurate than the Census record, since it is recorded closer to the time of the birth. If you subsequently use the information from the letter in your family tree, you will want to cite the source so your descendants don’t think you just made it up!

Ok, So How Do I Cite My Sources? Are you convinced that you should cite your sources? Well, don’t be intimidated by that. Put yourself in the shoes of someone else who is reading your research and wants to find the original source you used. Use the 5 W’s and H: who, when, where, what, why and how. Answer those questions and you have the making of a source citation.

Ex:

Ex:
Original letters handwritten by Mary E. Pittman, 1897, sent to her daughter, Eugenia Gore in Winona, MS, letters in the possession of Eugenia’s granddaughter, Janiece Gilbert Coss, Ozawkie, Kansas, 2019. Two pages, front and back, written in pencil and transcribed by Eugenia Gilbert Sostrich, 2010.

Are these examples enough to tell your family members where to find these documents? If not, add more information. You might add: “transcriptions are scanned and posted on the family blog, url for the blog”. Or perhaps you found the scanned copies of the letters on a web-based tree, so include what site url and the date and whose tree you accessed. Much more can be said about citing sources and referring to information or photos found on the web. What are the ethics of copying information from someone else’s work? When should I cite those sources and how? Stay tuned for next month’s newsletter for a more in-depth discussion of that!

CHINA HERITAGE PROGRAM AT TSCPL
TGS participate in the China Heritage program at TSCPL.

TGS’s UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAMS 2020

January 23, 2020
The Civilian Conservation Corps was arguably one of Roosevelt’s most successful New
Deal programs. The C.C.C. was a program of conservation and construction that changed the lives of over three million men and their families. For the past 10 years, Tod Bevitt has been studying the C.C.C. in Kansas, researching the men, their camps and the projects they completed. In 2018, he and his wife contracted with the Kansas Historical Society to document what remains of the C.C.C. camps in Kansas. His presentation will give an overview of the impacts of the Kansas C.C.C. Tod Bevitt is the owner and principal investigator for Buried Past Consulting, LLC, performing cultural resource investigations throughout the state of Kansas and the Great Plains.

February 27, 2020
Students from Mr. Nathan McAlister’s Seaman High School history class will report on their project to research and document every veteran of the Civil War buried in Rochester Cemetery. They will share their methods and findings.

March 26, 2020
Mr. Fred Holroyd, a volunteer at Mount Hope Cemetery in Topeka, has recently organized and digitized the cemetery’s records. As the former Vice-President of Penwell Mortuary, he is knowledgeable about funeral and burial customs in this area and has a wealth of information to share. Currently, Mr. Holroyd is working to identify veterans buried at the cemetery without headstones and then is applying to the government for headstones.

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
As a reminder you can renew or join on our website by clicking on "Membership - Join Us", then choose "online join" and follow the guidance. It's that simple!
TO RENEW ONLINE - REMEMBER: You must login to your TGS account. The option to renew begins 45 days prior to the end of the year (beginning Nov 17). If you have trouble with your login, please contact me at: membership@tgstopeka.org
If you prefer, you can print a membership form on the website by clicking on "Membership - Join Us", scroll to the bottom of the page and choose "Personal Membership Form" and print. You also have the option of stopping by the TGS Library for a printed form.
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".
Membership dues are the same as last year and due by December 31. We look forward to another great year! Thank you for your membership in TGS!

**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 the Topeka Genealogical Society, we are passionate about genealogy and family history, 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 to 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 to 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@tgstopkeka.org. If you have questions, send them to the above email address. If we have questions about your submission, we will contact you.
Read the VerticalResponse marketing policy.