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Library 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 Shawnee County
Public Library at 1515 SW 10th
Street.

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

CALL FIRST IN BAD WEATHER --
CHECK FOR HOLIDAY CLOSINGS.

COMING UP AT TGS

Don't miss our Monthly Program, "The History of Schools," by Jerry & Helen Miller
The meeting is this Thursday, August 25, at the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library
at 7:00 - hope to see you there!

September 6, 9:30 am --- Brick Wall Special Interest Group, TGS Memorial Library
September 8, 9:30 am --- Family Treemaker/Computer Genealogy Group, TGS Mem. Library
September 8, 1:00 pm --- Family History Writers’ Group, TGS Memorial Library
September 8, 3:00 pm --- TGS Board Meeting, TGS Memorial Library
September 12, 9:30 am --- Intermediate DNA Special Interest Group, TGS Memorial Library
September 17, 1:00 pm --- Introductory DNA Free 6-week Class, TGS Memorial Library
September 18, 2:00 pm --- Computer Users Group (was PAF Group), TGS Memorial Library
September 22, 7:00 pm --- Monthly Program, "Friendship Quilts" by Sandy Kassebaum, TSCPL

October 1, 1:00 pm --- Introductory DNA Free 6-week Class, TGS Memorial Library
October 3, 9:30 am --- Intermediate DNA Special Interest Group, TGS Memorial Library
October 4, 9:30 am --- Brick Wall Special Interest Group, TGS Memorial Library
October 13, 9:30 am --- Family Treemaker/Computer Genealogy Group, TGS Mem. Library
October 13, 1:00 pm --- Family History Writers’ Group, TGS Memorial Library
October 13, 3:00 pm --- TGS Board Meeting, TGS Memorial Library
October 15, 1:00 pm --- Introductory DNA Free 6-week Class, TGS Memorial Library
October 22, 10:00-4:00 -- Beginning DNA Class, TGS Memorial Library
October 27, 7:00 pm -- Monthly Program, “Ghost Stories of Topeka,” by Cathy Ramirez, TSCPL

NEWS FROM THE PREZ

Summer is almost over, and it is time to plan those fall research projects. I’m so excited that our library will be open from 9AM to 4PM on every Saturday in September. If we get enough volunteers, we will continue with the Saturday hours. I love getting into a project and completing it without stopping. I’m always afraid I will not remember where I stopped. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to explore our library. We have 12,000 books, vertical files of information by surnames, property and probate wills, Kansas marriage licenses, phone directories, and family genealogies on many surnames. The family section takes two bookcases of 6 shelves to hold this collection. Our knowledgeable librarians will help you navigate our resources. We have Fold-3 and American Ancestry and can help you navigate the many free sites on the internet. Come on down and let the fun begin.

Please let Linda Davis know if you are interested in becoming a volunteer librarian. TGS is having a training session in September. This will be the last one for this year. Contact Linda Davis at bobandlinda125@yahoo.com. We will need a few who are willing to give 3 or 4 hours once a month to continue our services.

I want to thank the Picnic Committee for an event so well done. The food was superb and entertainment top notch. I cannot wait until next year. I hope to see more members participate next year. The location is wonderful and would hold every member. It was such a good time to talk and learn stories from fellow members.

The DNA DIG (DNA Interest Group) has been very successful with interest from members, but as all things grow a few problems have emerged. What I have determined is that the knowledge level must be similar to be successful. First, if you are a novice and are considering DNA testing, please come to a six-week Introductory Class
beginning on Saturday, September 17, at 1:00 PM. The class will be for 2 1/2 hours and will meet every two weeks. This will be a free class and provide the information you will need to make a decision and we will look at each of the DNA sites. There will be light homework. The dates are September 17, October 1st, and October 15th. Time invested 7-8 hours.

A Beginner Class for DNA will be held October 22, 2016 from 10 AM to 4 PM with an hour lunch. The class will cost $25 and will have handouts and actual demonstration on using each of the sites. This class is only for folks who have completed the 6-week class and have their DNA results back from one of the three sites, Ancestry, 23 and Me or Family Tree DNA. We will not cover any Y DNA tests. This class will be presented about every 2 months. After completing the 6-week class and one paid class you are ready to participate in a DNA DIG.

The DNA DIG will be divided into two groups; the beginner group (these members will be from the 6-week class this September and October and have taken a beginner paid class on DNA) and have their DNA results. We will meet on Saturday date and time determined by members. The intermediate group consists of the members who took the 6-week class last year and have been participating in DIG for almost a year. This group will continue to meet on the first Monday of each month at 9:30 AM.

The goal is to bring the beginning DIG up to the knowledge of the intermediate group and to combine. I want you to call me if you have any questions or concerns on this format. It is a volunteer effort and I want to meet your needs on DNA.

Marty Flanagan

EXCITING NEWS ABOUT OUR 2017 CONFERENCE

We are happy to announce that well-known genealogist Joshua Taylor has agreed to be our keynote speaker for the Topeka Genealogical Society conference next April 7-8!

He is a nationally known and recognized genealogical author, lecturer, and researcher and a frequent speaker at family history events across the globe. Passionate about family history, Joshua is the President and Executive Director of the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society (NYG&B). He also serves the genealogical community as the President for the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS). He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including RootsTech’s Distinguished Presenter Award, the Federation of Genealogical Societies Award of Merit, and the Rubincam Youth Award from the National Genealogical Society.

He holds an MLS (Archival Management) and an MA (History) from Simmons College and has been a featured genealogist on Who Do You Think You Are? with Sarah Jessica Parker, Kelly Clarkson, Ashley Judd, Reba McEntire, and Rob Lowe. At the present time Joshua can be seen taking America through their past as a host on the popular PBS show Genealogy Roadshow.

SCHOOL DAYS, SCHOOL DAYS

Appropriately, as classes begin for the fall semester, our August program will be about the history of schools in our state, presented by TGS members Jerry and Helen Miller. Nebraska natives, they came to Topeka in 1954 when Jerry, a Mennonite, served his alternative to military service at Topeka State Hospital. When his service was over, they remained in Topeka and he spent nearly 40 years with USD 501 as a teacher, counselor and administrator.
Jerry has been interested in researching his family history for many years and, since retiring in 1993, he has finalized and published the findings for the benefit of his parent’s siblings and their offspring. With Helen’s help, he published two books, one on his Scots-Irish Hawthorns and the other on his Swedish Skoglund-Svensson family. He also co-authored a history book on the Hardscrabble grade school in Nebraska and is nearing completion of his Miller Family History.

SUMMER PHOTO ALBUM

A nice crowd feasted on BBQ sandwiches and potluck dishes on Saturday, August 6, and thoroughly enjoyed a presentation by siblings Joel Meyers and Jill Meyers Frese about their ancestor, Sarah Jane Goldsberry.

The July program meeting was a delightful presentation about Lecompton in Kansas' territorial days

A group of TGS members visited the National Orphan Train Museum in Concordia in August.

LOOKING AHEAD

TASTE OF KANSAS - September 16-17. The Kansas Historical Foundation is sponsoring this bus trip following the footsteps of John Brown. More information here.

OCTOBER 22 - If you missed seeing Lisa Louise Cooke at our conference, you can catch her next October at the Johnson County Genealogical Society’s annual seminar in Overland Park. More information here.
Read the VerticalResponse marketing policy.