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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

Where's your family located?
We can help!
Join us!
Renew or join today!
Click here

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COMING UP AT TGS
This Thursday, August 24, is our regular monthly program, open to all.
This month, Angela Bates, Executive Director of the Nicodemus Historical Society, will present a pictorial history of Nicodemus, Kansas exploring the unique experiences of the children who were the first members of their families born free from the physical and psychological effects of slavery.
The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library.
Hope to see you there!

August 24, 7:00 -- Monthly Program, "The Children of Nicodemus," TSCPL
September 1, 9:30 - Family History Writers' Group, TGS
September 4 - Library closed for Labor Day holiday
September 11, 9:30 - DIG (DNA Interest Group), TGS
September 11, 1:00 - Brick Wall Session, TGS
September 14, 9:30 -- Family Tree Maker Computer Genealogy Group, TGS
September 14, 1:00 -- TGS Board Meeting, TGS
September 17, 2:00 -- PAF/Ancestral Quest Group, TGS
September 23, 9:00 - Intermediate Genealogy Class, TGS - register online here
September 28, 7:00 - Monthly Program, "Researching Your Elusive Irish Ancestors," TSCPL

October 6, 9:30 - Family History Writers' Group, TGS
October 9, 9:30 - DIG (DNA Interest Group), TGS
October 9, 1:00 - Brick Wall Session, TGS
October 12, 9:30 -- Family Tree Maker Computer Genealogy Group, TGS
October 12, 1:00 -- TGS Board Meeting, TGS
October 26, 7:00 - Monthly Program, "Orphan Train Riders in Northeast Kansas," TSCPL

NEWS FROM THE PREZ

Have you ever sat in front of your computer and your brain freezes and no words form in your brain cells to form coherent sentence your fingers could type. Welcome to my world today. I lost a friend this week. Someone who had a heart of gold and was always helping other folks. She will be missed. When these events happen in our life, it causes us to reexamine our life goals - have we taken care of everything, what if this had happened to me, would my family take care of the shutting down my online and organizational life and have I completed everything I needed to do? Woefully I have not left a plan. I'm always putting something off for another day. I will make the call tomorrow. I will ask for help next month. This is period of sad reflection for me.

So, what is new at TGS? It is time to vote for President, Recording Secretary, and Director at Large. The ballot was sent out by email and for those who receive and or paid to have things mailed you will receive the ballot in the mail. It is important to mail back the ballot or drop it off at TGS by September 24, 2017. The
Did you know that TGS has hundreds of publications of Shawnee County records, other Kansas records, and records from across the country? Click here to see what we have to offer.

An alternative is come to the September Program Meeting at TSCPL and vote in person. The speaker is Barb Scanlon on Irish Genealogy and it promises to be informative and interesting program. President, Marty Flanagan, Recording Secretary, Cindy Cruz, and Director at Large, Janice Ashby have agreed to have their names on the ballot for your officers for 2018-2020. Please mail your ballot to TGS, PO Box 4048, Topeka, KS 66604.

The other announcement is that the Intermediate and Beginner DNA SIGs (Special Interest Groups) will combine to meet on the second Monday of each month starting September 11, 2017 at 9:30 am to 11:30 am. We are planning on making this a fun day - bring a sack lunch or go out to eat but plan on staying for the Brick Wall SIG that has moved to the second Monday afternoon from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Remember we have plenty of volunteer activities for members. See you August 24, 2017 at 7:00 PM at TSCPL for a wonderful night of history.

Marty Flanagan

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT YOUR DUES**

When renewals are sent out this fall you will notice an increase in your membership dues by $5, except for the Student class which will remain at $10. This comes about due to increased expenses to run our wonderful library. An Individual membership will be $30 and a Joint membership will be $40. Benefits of your membership may be viewed on our website. If you haven't visited the library lately, please come visit!

**A GREAT TIME WAS HAD AT THE PICNIC!**

A good crowd enjoyed food and fellowship at the Annual Members' Meeting and Picnic, and heard an informative program about the homefront during World War II given by Duane and Joan Shufelberger.
**2020 CENSUS MAY BE IN DANGER**

In his online genealogy newsletter recently, Dick Eastman wrote about an article by Diane W. Schanzenbach and Michael R. Strain on the *Bloomberg News* web site which describes the risk of the 2020 US census not being taken, as required by the Constitution. The article blames “Bad budget planning and a lack of leadership threatening the most basic mission of government” as the primary cause of the problems.

The article also states, "You may have missed the news that the head of the Census Bureau, John Thompson, resigned a few months ago. In normal circumstances, the departure of a government statistician would not be worth highlighting. But Thompson’s departure adds to the growing uncertainty surrounding the success of the 2020 decennial census. About that, you should worry." You can read the entire article from the *Bloomberg News* [here](#).

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**LIBRARY GUIDE PROJECT UPDATE**

The Library Guide Project is steadily moving forward. Thanks to those who are contributing their time and talent. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 26, at 9:30.

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**"COLD-CALLING" YOUR KIN**

Have you found the name of a distant relative who may have information or photos that you need, but you're reluctant to call them out of the blue? In one of her recent "Genealogy Gems," Lisa Louise Cooke has some steps to follow to make that awkward contact easier. You can read her article [here](#).

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**YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THESE EVENTS**

- **The Midwest Genealogy Center** is starting a new Genealogy Scrapbooking Club which will meet September 7. 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](#).

- **TGS and the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library** are planning a **DNA symposium** featuring local presenters on Friday, November 17 and Kathleen Brandt on Saturday, November 18. Watch for more details in later newsletters.

- **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](http://www.gagensociety.org)