

### From Your President -

The Holiday Season is nearly upon us! For many of us, the year-end Holidays are a time for family gathering and celebration of family traditions. They are also a great opportunity to gather and share family memories, and to honor those who went before us. Now is a great time to consider how you might share some of that family history information that you have gathered with other non-genealogist family members. Maybe a game of "I remember when..." with everyone gathered around the table after the meal has been cleared away. Maybe it is a good time to break out some old photos and reminisce together. Or, maybe it is a good time to break out a recording device and capture some oral history.



Enjoying favorite family recipes is another way to share and honor family history. No matter what Holidays or how you celebrate, family and family traditions are at center stage at this time of year. From those of us at the Topeka Genealogical Society, we extend our best wishes to all of you for a joyous Holiday Season.

Our volunteers will be taking a little time off over the Holidays, too. There will be no Monthly Programs in November or December, and all Special Interest Groups will be taking December off. If you are planning a visit to our library, be sure to check our website (<https://www.tgstopeka.org/cpage.php?pt=53>) for closure dates and special Holiday schedules.

-- Barb

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### Membership Begins in January

As the year-end approaches it is time to renew your Topeka Genealogical Society membership. Our membership runs on a calendar year cycle and will expire on December 31. Membership fees will remain the same as last year. \*\*Please note that we are putting the Quarterly publication on hold for a year while we re-evaluate its purpose and value.

You may renew online at: [www.tgstopeka.org](http://www.tgstopeka.org).

Choose "Members Only" in the left-hand menu column and login. Forgot your login and password? Send an email to: [membership@tgstopeka.org](mailto:membership@tgstopeka.org)

Choose "Profile" under Members Only in left-hand column - please review your profile information and if personal information needs updating or level of membership, please contact me at: [membership@tgstopeka.org](mailto:membership@tgstopeka.org).

Click on the "Renew Membership" button. Read carefully and follow the guides. Check the box and enter code that appears.

To complete your purchase, you must click "Buy Now" and enter your payment information. Another option if you choose not to pay online is the option to send a check. Please include a confirmation page with your check.

For those wishing to do a traditional paper renewal, a membership form is available on the TGS website. [Click here to access it. https://tgstopeka.org/upload/files/2024\\_Rev\\_Member\\_Renewal.pdf](https://tgstopeka.org/upload/files/2024_Rev_Member_Renewal.pdf)

Our primary method of distribution for the News and Views is electronic. For those that would prefer to receive monthly printed copies through the USPS mail, that option is available for an additional \$10 fee (see membership form).

We appreciate your membership and support of your Society!

Sincerely,  
Nancy Appelhantz  
Membership Chairman



## Monthly Programs at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library- Hosted by TGS

**Please note: Monthly programs will not be presented in November and December.**

**Best Wishes to all. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**



## From the Diary of John Quincy Adams - 1785

25th.  
Christmas day.1 [see footnote].



**Foundations of Family History SIG** | 2nd Tuesday of each month | Virtually by Zoom.

To sign up for this class, [click here](#) or go to the TGS website at [tgstopeka.org](https://tgstopeka.org) and click on the Events and Education link on the left side of the page.  
No class in December  
7:00 - 8:30 pm  
Topic:

**Computer Genealogy & Software SIG** | 2nd Thursday of each month | Virtually by Zoom.

Contact Rich at: [rlm4017@gmail.com](mailto:rlm4017@gmail.com) to sign up.  
No class in December  
9:30 - 11:30 am

**Brick Wall SIG** | 3rd Tuesday of each month | Virtually by Zoom.

Contact Cindy at: [clcruz32153@aol.com](mailto:clcruz32153@aol.com) to sign up.  
No class in December  
9:30 - 11:30 am

**DNA SIG** | 4th Monday of each month | Virtually by Zoom.

Contact Marty at [marty.flanagan3@gmail.com](mailto:marty.flanagan3@gmail.com) to sign up.  
No class in December  
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Among the Roman Catholics and the followers of the Church of England it is a great and Important day, but it is not observed in this Country, nor any where I believe by the dissenters. We had a couple of doctrinal Sermons to day. One from Isaiah XLIV. 23. Sing, o ye heavens; for the Lord hath done it: shout, ye lower parts of the Earth; break forth into singing, ye mountains o forest and every tree therein; for the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel. The other from John XIII. 8. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

The weather has been very pleasant. Eliza is unwell and was not at meeting. In the Evening I read to the Ladies, the 2d. book of the Conquest of Canaan; it is not inferior to the first, but the hero has nothing to do in it, and it consists all in relation, as the 2d. and 3d. Books of the Æneid. The hymn to the Sun, is beautiful. Mina's account of the Creation, and the subsequent history, is as concise, and comprehensive, as any thing of the kind I have read: the observation she makes concerning the Sun,

Yon orb, whose brightness claims thy raptur'd praise,  
Is but a beam of his unbounded blaze.<sup>2</sup> [see footnote].

is admirable, but the author must have supposed that the Education of young Ladies, at the time he writes of, was much more excellent, than is given them in this age of the world. It is probable, that the reading of history has since been replaced by that of novels and plays, which were not invented then; young Ladies now, would be much more expert at giving an account of some high flown Romance, than of any history, even that of their own Country.

1. A Sunday.
2. Bk. II, lines 153–154.

"25th.," Founders Online, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Adams/03-01-02-0007-0014-0025>. [Original source: The Adams Papers, Diary of John Quincy Adams, vol. 1, November 1779–March 1786, ed. Robert J. Taylor and Marc Friedlaender. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1981, pp. 376–377.]

## Research Nuggets



The College of Arms is the official heraldic authority for England, Wales, Northern Ireland and much of the Commonwealth including Australia and New Zealand. Coats of arms belong to specific individuals

## Winter Solstice Celebrations

Winter solstice is the day when the length of available sunlight during the day is shortest. In the Northern Hemisphere it occurs between December 20 and 23.



Winter is marked by cold weather, limited food, and the need for warmth, light, and shelter in order to survive. Ancient civilizations who didn't have the luxury of modern electricity relied on the sun and fire for their light and warmth. They would grow anxious as the December daylight hours shortened. After a few days passed, when they could see daylight hours getting longer again, people wanted to celebrate.

Ancient Romans celebrated Saturnalia, a weeklong holiday in honor of Saturn, the god of agriculture. Businesses and schools were closed and food and drink were plentiful.

Roman upper classes also celebrated the birth of Mithra on December 25. Mithra was an ancient Persian god of light. .

Yule was celebrated by the ancient Norsemen of Scandinavia. The men of the family would bring home a large log which would be set alight at one end. The celebration would last many days until the log burned out.

The Norse believed that each spark from the fire represented a new piglet or calf that would be born during the coming year.

Dong Zhi which means "winter arrives" is a Chinese celebration and exists today as a time for families to gather and celebrate the old year and the new one to come with traditional foods.

In Japan, Toji is a celebration to encourage the sun to return. People light huge bonfires on Mt. Fuji on December 22 to welcome the returning sun.

To read more about winter celebrations, go to the website below for the full article.

Citation Information  
Article Title: Winter Solstice

and families and there is no such thing as a coat of arms for a family name. The College of Arms does, however, have a process for granting a new coat of arms to Americans. See the Services menu for more information. Here is the link to their website.  
<https://www.college-of-arms.gov.uk/>.

A research guide to Kentucky Genealogy presented by Eastern Kentucky University.  
Here's the website.  
<https://libguides.eku.edu/c.php?g=185009&p=1348513>

North Carolina digital archives. Searchable link here.  
<https://digital.ncdcr.gov/>

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Author: History.com Editors  
Website Name: HISTORY  
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#### LIBRARY HOURS

1-4 pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday  
Noon - 3 pm Saturday

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