



Vol. 32 No. 1
January 2024

News and Views

From Your President

It seems like it has happened so quickly – 2023 is nearly gone!

It has been another busy year at TGS, and we are making plans for some exciting changes in 2024.

After lots of research, experimentation, and trial and error we think that we finally have identified a good model for our new website and anticipate that we will have it ready for implementation in the spring of 2024.

If you are wondering why this has taken us so long, our current website is more than just a website – it also serves as our membership database, events calendar, online store, searchable access to our indexes and databases, and more. We have been evaluating various options for replacing and updating all those functions as well as giving the website a fresh new appearance.

We are still waiting for an answer from the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library about whether they are interested in receiving our library collection. We anticipate that their answer should be coming soon. Whatever they decide, once we have the answer, we will begin to move forward again with the next steps for closing our library and transferring the collection elsewhere (we do have a Plan B).

Our Education Chair, Cindy Cruz, has been busy lining up a new set of monthly programs for 2024, and the list is looking good. Check our website for details. We will continue with a hybrid program format so you will be able to attend either in person or online. There may also be some format changes coming with the Brick Wall and Foundations of Family History Special Interest Groups.

We still need to work out some logistical details but are planning to implement a new member benefit of brief (1 hour) one-on-one genealogy consultations. Members will be able to schedule consultations with one of our experienced volunteers to ask questions and receive guidance and suggestions for where to look to find answers to your genealogy puzzles. We're working hard to bring our members more value and services, and to adapt to changing times and learning environments. It is, at times, exhausting trying to keep up with everything, but it is a labor of love.

I'm going to give myself a short break to celebrate the holidays with my family and then will be back to work as the new year rolls in. We wish all of you a joyous holiday season, and a great start to the new year. We'll see you in 2024!



Help Wanted – Seeking a New Membership Chair

After many years of great service to TGS, Nancy Appelhanz has indicated that she would like to retire from her role as membership chair. We are working on transitioning to a new member management system as we implement a new website, and now would be a good time to get involved with the new system from the beginning.

This job involves maintaining and updating member information in a software application designed to manage membership, and providing regular reports and updates to the Board. The system will be set up to automatically generate email reminders and receipts when memberships approach their expiration dates or are renewed, or new memberships are purchased.

Skills needed: a strong customer service orientation, good communication skills, good organizational skills, attention to detail, basic computer skills. Training on the software application will be provided.

This is a non-voting Board position, and the Membership Chair is encouraged to attend and participate in monthly Board meetings. If you think that you might be interested in taking on this role, please contact Barb at: tgstopeka.president@gmail.com.



Monthly Programs

“Visiting My Great-Grandfather’s Homestead,” by Duane Herrmann

Thursday, January 25, 2024

7:00 pm

Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, or online with Zoom

TGS member and published poet, Duane Herrmann will explain how he located his great-grandfather Andreas Herrmann’s homestead near White Lake, SD. Join Duane as he shares photos of the “little house on the

Time is Running Out! Have You Renewed Your Membership?

Our memberships run on a calendar year basis – all will expire on December 31. If you have not already done so, it is time to renew. We hope that you have found your membership with us worthwhile and will be continuing.

To renew your membership, there are a couple of options. To renew by mail, go to the Membership Page: <https://www.tgstopeka.org/cpage.php?pt=7> on our website and download a form, print it, fill it out, and mail it in with your payment. To renew online, go to the Members-Only page: <https://tgstopeka.org/members.php> of the website and log in with your username and password.

Once you have logged in, open your member profile (look under the members-only menu heading) and you should see a red button at the top that will take you to the renewal page. If you do not know your username or password, please click the ? at the end of the field for help.

We **THANK YOU** for your support of TGS.



Special Interest Groups

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 and click on the Events and Education link on the left side of the page.

January 9

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Topic: TBD

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

Contact Rich at: rlm4017@gmail.com to sign up.

prairie” his grandfather left in 1896 and the emotions he experienced as he traced Andreas’ footsteps on his land.

Monthly programs are free and open to the public. No registration is needed to attend in person. To get a link to attend virtually with Zoom, [click here](#).

Dinner Fundraiser



Please join us for our January Fundraiser at 5:30 pm for yummy food and lively conversation on Thursday the 25th at Qdoba Mexican Eats, 1025 SW Wanamaker Rd, Topeka.

Purchase food anytime between 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm to receive a donation for TGS. The above flyer is required at checkout for TGS to receive the 25% sales donation!

Following dinner, please join us for the monthly program, “Visiting My Great-Grandfather’s Homestead,” by Duane Herrmann at the TSCPL at 7:00 pm. Duane, a TGS member, will share photos of the prairie home his grandfather left in 1896 and the experiences he had as he traced the life of his grandfather.

See you there!
Nancy Appelhanz

January 11
9:30 - 11:30 am
Topic: Finding Church Records

Brick Wall SIG | 3rd Tuesday of each month | In-Person-even months | Zoom-odd months
January 16, 2024
9:30 - 11:30 am
Contact Cindy at: clcruz32153@aol.com to sign up.

NEW FORMAT FOR 2024 BRICK WALL SIG "Members Helping Members"

We will have Zoom meetings on odd-numbered months and in-person meetings at various Topeka libraries on even-numbered months.

Cindy will send a brick wall questionnaire to those who have signed up for each class. During the Zoom meetings, everyone will brainstorm suggestions to help each other solve their brick wall research questions. During in-person meetings, Cindy will help members research answers to their brick wall questions on online databases at the Topeka public library, the TGS library or the Kansas Archives.

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

Contact Marty at marty.flanagan3@gmail.com to sign up.

January 22, 2024

6:00 to 7:30 pm *Note time change

Roots Tech 2004

February 29 to March 4, 2024

Registration is open for the largest genealogy conference in the world.

Attend in person in Salt Lake City, Utah, for a nominal fee or online worldwide for free. For more information, click the link.

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/>

Spring Seminar 2024: A Day with the Genetic Genealogist**

March 16th, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Presented by the Midwest Genealogy Center,
3440 S. Lee's Summit Road,
Independence, MO 64055, (816)252-7228

Join us on March 16th for A Day with the Genetic Genealogist. Blaine Bettinger, The Genetic



"I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something." —Neil Gaiman

"The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written." —Melody Beattie

"The beginning is the most important part of the work." —Plato

"To the old, long life and treasure; to the young, all health and pleasure." —Ben Johnson

"Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring, happy bells, across the snow: The year is going, let him go; Ring out the false, ring in the true." —Alfred Lord Tennyson

"Happy New Year. May we all have a vision now and then of a world where every neighbor is a friend." —ABBA

Genealogist and author, will provide four presentations that link the use of DNA to genealogy research. Join us as you learn how to use DNA to explore your ancestry! Tickets are \$50, and lunch will be provided.

This is an in person-only event.

Refunds will only be granted through February 16, 2024. To register, go to:

<https://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/events/spring-seminar>

****REGISTRATION ENDS MARCH 4, 2024, 11:59 pm**

Topeka Genealogical Society Library
2717 SE Indiana Ave.
Topeka, Kansas
tgstopeka.org
(785) 233-5762

Email: tgstopeka.president@gmail.com

LIBRARY HOURS

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

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