



April 2024
Vol. 32 No. 4

From Your President

Our Kansas weather has been a little schizophrenic lately, but the days are gradually getting longer and the temperatures are warming. Spring is (mostly) here, which brings lots of new opportunities to venture out and do some of the things that we love to do. For me, one of those things is gardening, and growing our own vegetables and fruits. Starting seedlings, preparing garden beds, and even organizing a conference for Community Gardeners has occupied much of my time in recent weeks. That, plus an uncooperative computer that finally gave up the ghost have meant that I have not had a lot of time to think about family history.



I did, however, manage to sneak in a little research time at the Wichita Public Library's Genealogy Center during a Spring Break trip with our extended family, and it was very productive time! Having not really planned ahead for this opportunity, I focused on one area (1700s Henrico County, Virginia) where my earliest confirmed Godsey ancestor can be found living among a group of Huguenots at a settlement called Manakintowne. I was so excited to find a couple of library resources that gave great historical insights, genealogical sketches, and even a map of the early land grants in the immediate area! What a find! With the limited time available to me, I quickly made notes and took photos, bringing it all back home to read and analyze more carefully. I hope that something in this new-to-me material will shed light on how and why my Godsey ancestors came to be living among this group of Huguenots, and whether or not they themselves were actually of the Huguenot persuasion.

I'm still in the process of recovering from my computer's untimely demise and putting the aftermath of the community garden conference to rest, but as soon as I get those tasks done you can bet I am going to carve out some time for a closer look at this newly-discovered information. I'm hopeful that I will find answers to some of my unsolved genealogy puzzles. I hope that all of you, also, will be able to find a little time to venture out and explore new genealogy resources, and that you also make some wonderful discoveries.

Best of Luck,
Barb LaClair

Monthly Programs

"Pioneer Anthony Ward; Original Owner of Old Prairie Town in Topeka" by Barbara LaClair

Thursday, April 25

7:00 pm

Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, or online with Zoom

Topeka Genealogical Society President Barb LaClair will compare the traditional story of how Ward acquired his Topeka property with recently retrieved original land documents.

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](#).



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.

April 9

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Topic: TBA



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

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

April 11 Zoom meeting is canceled.

9:30 - 11:30 am

Topic: TBA

Brick Wall SIG | 3rd Tuesday of each month | **In-Person**-even months | Zoom-odd months

April 16

9:30 - 11:30 am

Contact Cindy at: clcruz32153@aol.com to sign up.

Topic: Search Party at the Kansas State Archives

Participants can access databases from the Archives computers, search Kansas newspaper microfilms and request materials from the stacks. (Bring your research questions and a flash drive to save your documents!)

Address: 6425 SW 6th Ave, Topeka, KS 66615

Phone: (785) 272-8681

[Download: Research Question Form](#)

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

April 22

6:00 to 7:30 pm

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

Discussion in this group will focus on how to understand and use your DNA matches. Participants will find this

most helpful if they have done DNA testing and have received their results.

Upcoming Conferences Around the Country

April 6, 2024: Greater Omaha Genealogical Society presents their spring conference. It will be available as an in-person event or a Zoom event and features Cyndi Ingle of Cyndi's List. ([CyndisList.com](https://www.cyndislist.com))

Here is the link for more information and how to register. <https://www.gogsne.org/cpage.php?pt=52>

April 12-13, 2024: Wisconsin State Genealogical Society presents Gene-A-Rama 2024: Writing and Sharing Your Family History. For more information: <https://wsqs.org>. Registration: <https://wsqs.org/2024-GAR-Registration>

April 26-27, 2024: Nebraska State Genealogical Society presents Blaine Bettinger and others. For more information: <https://nsqs.org/>. Registration: <https://nsqs.org/cpage.php?pt=136>

May 16-18, 2024: National Genealogical Society Family History Conference. For more information: conference.ngsgenealogy.org. Registration: <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/registration-and-information/>

June 21 and 22, 2024: Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society presents their 50th Anniversary conference. For more information: <https://wpqs.org/50th-anniversary-conference/> Registration: <https://wpqs.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2024/03/50th-Registration-Information.pdf>

June 23-28, 2024: Virtual. 14-19 July 2024 at Pittsburgh. GRIP Genealogy Institute. For more information: grip.ngsgenealogy.org.

Researching Enslaved or Indentured Runaways?

The Geography of Slavery project presents full transcriptions and images of all runaway and captured ads for slaves and servants placed in Virginia newspapers from 1736 to 1790, and is in the process of compiling advertisements well into the nineteenth century. It is authored by Tom Costa from the University of Virginia's College at Wise.

In addition to newspaper ads the site includes resource material such as definitions of terms used in the ads (example: osnaburg: a coarse linen, named for Osnabruck, a town in Germany, used to clothe slaves and servants; also osnabrig, osnabrug, oznabrig, oznabrigg, oznabrug, oznaburg); Virginia laws and court documents; teaching materials; and links to other sites like [Virtual Jamestown](https://www.virtualjamestown.org).

<http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/gos/index.html>



Image Citation:

"File:The Generall Historie of Virginia, New-England, and the Summer Isles by Captain John Smith.jpg."

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<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:The_Generall_Historie_of_Virginia_New-England_and_the_Summer_Isles_by_Captain_John_Smith.jpg&oldid=766731111>.

**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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