



June 2024
Vol. 32 No. 6

From Your President - Honoring Our Ancestors

May and early June is a time filled with special opportunities to honor our ancestors.

Mother's Day comes in early May, followed by Memorial Day at the end of May, and then Father's Day in early June.

Although for most genealogists and family historians, any time is a good time to honor our ancestors, these holidays serve as special reminders. Ever wonder how these holidays got started? Here's a short review.



Memorial Day was first celebrated in May 1868, proclaimed by Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the DAR, and was called Decoration Day to honor Union soldiers who had died in the Civil War.

Today, Memorial Day honors all those who died in military service. It is a time when many of us visit cemeteries to remember and decorate the graves of all our family members.

Mother's Day was started by American Activist Anna Jarvis in 1907 to honor mothers and their contributions to society. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson declared the 2nd Sunday of May as a national holiday.

To complement Mother's Day, Father's Day was founded in 1910 by Sonora Smart Dodd to celebrate fathers, fathering and fatherhood. This year, Father's Day is June 16.

No matter what our heritage or family backgrounds, we are all the products of those ancestors who came before us. Researching, discovering and preserving information about those ancestors is an important way of honoring them and making sure that they are not forgotten. The Family History work that we do is important; it matters.

- Barb

You live as long as you are remembered. Russian proverb

This Memorial Day, remember your loved ones by posting their name and/or photo on our public Facebook page. You can just use first names if you prefer. If you like, tell something about them that made them special to you. The link to the page is below. Thank you!

Save the Date

Annual Members Meeting September 21, 2024

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our Annual Member Meeting on Saturday, September 24 at the Peppertree Clubhouse.

We are changing things up a bit this year and plan to have a brunch instead of lunchtime meeting. Terry Stahl will be providing us with entertainment by sharing her program about Betty Crocker.

The entrance to Peppertree Park is off SW Burlingame between SW 33rd and SW 34th streets in Topeka.

Information about parking at Peppertree Clubhouse can be found at the link below.

<http://www.peppertreepark.org/guest-parking.html>

May 23 Fundraiser at Red Robin

Please join us at 5:00 pm on May 23 for our monthly fundraiser at Red Robin for some good food and lively conversation. If you cannot join us then, you have the option of dining anytime between 11:00 am - 10:00 pm, or ordering online or in person for carryout. Mention this fundraiser or show them the flyer at the checkout register for TGS to receive 20% of sales benefit.

Following dinner, join us at TSCPL at 7:00 pm for our monthly program.

We look forward to seeing you!

Link to flyer is below.

https://tgstopeka.org/upload/images/Red_Robin_fundraiser-flyer_May_2024.jpg

Tech Help Wanted

We have a couple of places where we currently need volunteers who have some tech skills. Short descriptions are below. If you would be willing and able to help in either of the roles, please contact Barb LaClair at

<http://tgstopeka.president@gmail.com>

Zoom Tech – We need someone who is comfortable in running Zoom meetings and setting up AV equipment to oversee the tech setup for our monthly programs which are held at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. These meetings are hybrid format, with an in-person audience and a remote audience connected by Zoom. Meetings are on the 4th Thursday evening of each month (no meetings in November or December), starting at 7 pm. On-site presence is needed.

Video Manager - We have been recording presentations from many of our Monthly Programs and Special Interest Groups, and then making them available to members for on-demand viewing. We need someone who



would take responsibility for obtaining or downloading the recordings (created in Zoom), do minor editing to clip out extraneous content at the beginning and end of the recording and occasionally additional editing when we have had a mid-presentation glitch, and then upload the edited videos to our online account with Vimeo. This work could be done remotely, on a flexible schedule.

Monthly Programs

“Kansas First Lady, Sarah Robinson” by Suzanne Germes

Thursday, June 27

7:00 pm

Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, or online with Zoom

Topekan Suzanne Germes will present a living history lecture about Sara Robinson's activities during the Civil War. She was the wife of Kansas Governor Charles Robinson.

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](#).



We usually have a get-together at a local restaurant before the Thursday program. We will send out an email to the newsletter group when plans are finalized for the place and time for June. This is a fundraiser for TGS and a portion of every purchase goes to our program. You must identify yourself as a TGS supporter in order for us to receive the funds.

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. Facilitated by Barb LaClair

June 11

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.

June 13

9:30 - 11:30 am

Topic: TBA

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

June 18

9:30 - 11:30 am

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

Topic: "Search Party" at the Topeka Genealogical Society Library

Participants can access TGS indexes, databases and finding aids, plus materials in the TGS Library collection. [Search our online Library catalog](#) ahead of time to see what we have that pertains to your research. Bring your research questions and a flash drive to save your documents!

Attendees can ask questions and the group will brainstorm resources which might help answer research questions from members. (Submit your research questions to Cindy by Monday, June 17, or bring other questions to the meeting.)

[Download: Research Question Form](#)

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

June 24

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

June 21 and 22, 2024: Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society presents their 50th Anniversary conference. For more information: <https://wpgs.org/50th-anniversary-conference/> Registration: <https://wpgs.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.

Apples - by Amelia Simmons, "American Cookery" 1796

Apples...rigidly retain their own species, and are highly useful in families, and ought to be more universally cultivated, excepting in the compacted cities. There is not a single family but might set a tree in some otherwise useless spot, which might serve the two fold use of shade and fruit; on which 12 or 14 kinds of fruit trees might easily be engrafted, and essentially preserve the orchard from the intrusions of boys, &c. which is too common in America. If the boy who thus planted a tree, and guarded and protected it in a useless corner, and carefully engrafted different fruits, was to be indulged free access into orchards, whilst the neglectful boy was prohibited--how many millions of fruit trees would spring into growth--and what a saving to the union. The net saving would in time extinguish the public debt, and enrich our cookery.

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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