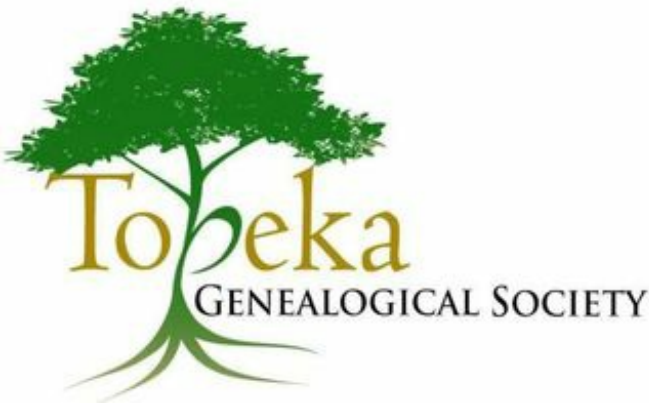




July 2024
Vol. 32 No. 7

From Your President

Time marches on, and the Kansas weather has clearly shifted from Spring into Summer. The signs are all here – heat, high humidity, fireflies, pesky biting insects and weeds that thrive in this hot weather.

In the past week I have been working in my garden, trying to bring the weeds under control before they take the entire place over. As I am doing work like this, or cooking favorite family recipes, or canning or preserving some of our garden harvest, I often think about when and where I learned to do these things. Most were learned at the side of an elder family member that I remember fondly.



Carrying on what they taught me and the knowledge that they shared with me is one way to honor and preserve their memories. I know that activities like growing and preserving your own food are not for everyone. I can just imagine my father (who was not particularly sentimental about preserving the old ways) asking me why I choose to work so hard to grow and preserve food when I could just as easily go the nearby grocery store and pick up a can or package of the same thing at significantly less effort.

While part of my answer might speak to the quality and freshness of the food and being able to control how it is grown, preserving and carrying on those family traditions is really the driving factor in my decisions. For me, these are optional choices. For my ancestors, there was no choice. There were no nearby grocery stores, and most of my family was not affluent. Many were poor farm families that barely scraped by. If they wanted to have fruits and vegetables to eat, they had to grow and preserve them to last through the winter months. They survived the lean years of the Great Depression by being able to produce some of their own foods.

Even through the scorching heat that I know is coming, I will continue to tend my garden and put the harvest by because I like the food and the satisfaction that is brought by knowing that I have the knowledge and skills to feed myself, but more importantly because of the fond memories that are evoked by these activities. There are many ways to honor our ancestors – this one feels right to me

- Barb

Our New Website Has Launched!

June 6, 2024, was a milestone date for the Topeka Genealogical Society.

After more than two years of exploration, evaluating options and developing our website development skills, we finally unveiled a brand-new website. It feels a bit like giving birth to a new baby, and we are excited to show it off.

If you have not already looked at it, we hope that you will do so soon. It is at the same website address as before (tgstopeka.org), but has a totally new look and feel. We invite you to check it out.

Researching Your Shawnee County Ancestors Just Got a Lot Easier!

If you are researching ancestors who lived in or near Shawnee County, or maybe trying to learn more about historical figures from our area, things just got a whole lot easier.

Our volunteers have labored for more than 50 years to compile indexes, finding aids, and abstracts of local records of genealogical or historical interest.

Up until now, many of those have only been available in our library or our published materials. Now, with the launch of our new website, we are excited to be able to put them online and make them easily searchable from wherever you are.

With our new systems, users will be able to search most of the numerous indexes and record sets with a single search! At this time, we have more than 350,000 records online in the system, and we will be adding more as we complete data formatting and new record preservation projects.

Just this week, we have added an every-name Index to the 2011-2022 issues of the TGS Quarterly, and an index to Druggist Permits to Sell Intoxicating Liquors (permits issued by the Shawnee County Probate Court).

Look under the Resources tab (<https://tgstopeka.org/search-our-records/>) on our website menu to find the searchable databases and other helpful Shawnee County Resources. You might be surprised what you find there!

Categories	
> Births & Deaths	7,595
> Cemeteries	117,785
> Census	13,844
> Immigration & Naturalization	142
> Land & Property	30,183
> Library Catalog	11,842
> Marriages & Divorces	74,781
> Military	2,831
> Miscellaneous	58,351
> Naturalization	4,506
> Osage County, Kansas	44,582
> Probate	6,466
Collection Location	
> United States	365,723

Step Right Up!

Leadership Opportunities Are Available!

Our Elected Board Members serve staggered two-year terms. Each year, one-half of the elected Board positions come up for elections in September. Leading up to the election, we form a Nominating Committee in June to identify candidates and assemble the slate for elections.



This year, the offices of Vice President, Treasurer, and Corresponding Secretary will be up for election. Position descriptions are available on our website at <https://tgstopeka.org/position-descriptions/>.

We need some help with this process and invite our members to get more involved by helping us out. Libby Tidwell has agreed to Chair the Nominating Committee.

Here's how you could help: Volunteer to assist Libby on the Nominating Committee – A short-term job. Identify

and screen candidates.

- If you know of other members who you think would be strong candidates for any of the upcoming Board positions, send your suggestions to Libby and the nominating committee. They will follow up with the suggested candidate(s).
- Volunteer to stand for election in one of the upcoming Board slots (for a 2-year term).
- If you think you might be interested in serving on the Board in the future, but aren't quite ready yet, we would also like to recruit individuals to serve as "assistants-in-training" for any of our Board and Committee Chair roles. This would be a good opportunity to build skills and learn more about the job before making a commitment.

If you are willing to help in any of these ways, contact Libby Tidwell at libby.tidwell@gmail.com . We thank you!

Save the Date!

Our new website includes a calendar with all the upcoming events listed in an easy-to-read format. Check it out here! https://tgstopeka.org/events_calendar-view/#!calendar. You can automatically add TGS events to your personal Google or default calendar on your laptop. Use the Subscribe drop-down menu on the calendar page to choose an option.

TGS Member Resources

We provide the following resources to members of the Topeka Genealogical Society.

- Member Directory - provides a list of all TGS members (members can choose to opt out of this feature).
 - Member Resources - includes key organizational documents like by-laws.
 - Past Programs - video recordings, handouts, slides, and other materials from our past programs and special interest group events. A wealth of knowledge available to members only!
 - Quarterly - every quarterly published since 1973. Searchable in PERSI.
 - Searchable Databases - Members will have access to full records in the databases
 - Volunteer Resources - for those who want to become more involved in the TGS organization.
-

Monthly Programs

"The Richard L.D. and Marjorie J. Morse Department of Special Collections at K-State" by Cliff Hight

Thursday, July 25

7:00 pm

Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, or online with Zoom

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 July. 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

July 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.

July 11

9:30 - 11:30 am

Topic: TBA

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

July 16

9:30 - 11:30 am

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

Topic:

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, July 15, or bring other questions to the meeting.)

[Download: Research Question Form](#)

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

July 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.

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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