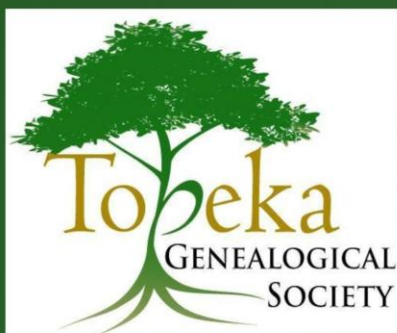




News & Views

Newsletter

www.tgstopeka.org

2717 SE Indiana Ave. , Topeka, KS
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October 2024

What's Happening at TGS?

(You might notice the change in title for this column - instead of having a column from the President each month, we have decided that we will use this "top of the fold" space to highlight recent happenings within our organization.)

The News In a Nutshell:

- Our Board and Leadership team continue to explore options and define plans for closure of the library and disposition of materials from the library collection.
- We are planning to close our Library as of October 31st.
- We have recently been approached by an individual who has expressed interest in purchasing our building. We are beginning to look at items that are stored in our building, and consider what we no longer need that we could dispose of.
- We are currently in discussion with FamilySearch to have them come out and digitize our Columbian Title Abstract books, plus some additional materials.
- We have an individual who has expressed interest in taking the bundles of newspapers that we have stored in our back room. Those will be moved in the near future.
- We are still awaiting decisions from the Topeka & Shawnee County Public library about which of the items in the library collection they would be interested in receiving; we have begun conversations with Midwest Genealogy Center about transferring some of the remaining items (probably the Family History books, possibly others) to them.
- We have had new leaks in the flat roof that covers the south section of our building - we are awaiting recommendations and bids from a roofing company to see what our best course of action will be at this time. Stay tuned for updates as we know more.

- We are starting to make plans for monthly programs and other possible educational programs and offerings in 2025. If you have program suggestions, please send them to us!

As you can see, we are staying busy and there is a lot to think about. We appreciate the support of our members, and invite our "non-member friends" who receive this newsletter to consider becoming members and getting involved as we work toward charting bright new future for TGS!

Welcome, New Members!

We want to extend a warm welcome to new members who have joined our organization since we brought the new website up in June. We hope that you will take full advantage of everything that we have to offer, and don't hesitate to let us know if we can assist you in your family history quest!



- September 2024 - Samuel Butler, Newberg, Oregon

Welcome, and we look forward to getting to know you better!

New on Our Website

We update and add content to our website on an ongoing basis. So that you don't miss anything, here's a short list highlighting new additions in the past month or so.



- New program recordings added - August 2024, "You've Got Mail"; recording of Business Meeting presentation from TGS Annual Meeting
- Resources - Updated and expanded *Guide to Research in Shawnee County*, list of Shawnee County cemeteries and their locations
- New databases - none this month, but more are in the works! We currently have over 350,000 searchable records online.

We hope that you are taking full advantage of all of the resources and information on our website. Access to some content is restricted to our members. To gain full access, we invite you to visit the membership page on our website and become a member today!

[**Visit Our Website**](#)

REPORT FROM OUR 2024 ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING - Saturday, September 21, 10am - 1pm



We had a nice turnout for our Annual Meeting. We want to thank everyone who attended, and hope you enjoyed the refreshments and conversation. At the Business Meeting portion of the meeting, Barb discussed the reasons for and where we are in working out the details for our plans to close the TGS library and then sell or dispose of our building.

These are both huge and critically important changes for TGS. Before we move forward to implement either of these changes, we will be providing our members with more detailed proposals and asking for their approval through a member vote.

We want to make sure that all members have the opportunity to stay informed and fully understand our proposals. **IF YOU WERE NOT ABLE TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING, WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO [VIEW THE RECORDED VERSION OF OUR BUSINESS MEETING](#), ONLINE ON OUR WEBSITE!** (You will need to sign in with your member sign-in to access it.)

We hope that all of our members will stay engaged and informed as we progress through this planning process, and be ready to cast your vote of approval when we ask for your support.

Introducing - the TGS Speakers' Bureau

Do you know of a club or organization that is looking for a speaker for an upcoming program? Volunteers from the Topeka Genealogical Society would love to provide a program related to genealogy and family history. Currently, we have three program titles to select from: *Get to Know Your Ancestors*, *Preserving Your Family Heritage in 10 Easy Steps*, and *How to Get Started in Researching Your Family History*. For short descriptions of each, or to request a program for your group, [see our website](#).



Requests for programs have been coming in! If you know of a group that might be looking for a program, please refer them to us.

Missing an Ancestor? Look West!

Many times, while researching our ancestors, they just “disappear” from where they “should be” located. Is this true with your ancestor? Perhaps the young man or woman in your lineage decided to heed Horace Greeley’s quote, “Go West, young man, go West and grow up with the country.”¹ Opportunities abounded with cheap land, the lure of gold / silver / precious gems, religious freedom, or just the opportunity to start a new life. Perhaps your ancestor came to Arizona for one of these reasons?

The Arizona Genealogical Advisory Board (AzGAB) is honoring those people and their descendants who lived in the geographical area of what is now Arizona prior to statehood on 14 February 1912 with an Arizona Pioneer Descendant certificate. Certificates will be awarded to a descendant who submits evidence acceptable to AzGAB (vital records, territory or federal census, church records, brand books [livestock markings], city directory listings, etc.). Records showing relationship from the pioneer to the applicant is required for the certificate. (<https://azgab.org/cpage.php?pt=14>).

For those ancestors / relatives who lived in Arizona from statehood until 01 April 1950, a Second Wave Certificate is available. (<https://azgab.org/cpage.php?pt=51>). The same chain of descendency is required.

Not sure if your ancestor “was” in Arizona on their way to California, Nevada or other points West? Please use the Arizona Pioneers Database on the AzGAB website, https://azgab.org/cstm_pioneer.php, to see if their names appear. Female names as well as male names are mentioned.

This is a meaningful way to honor your ancestors and have a preserved record of it. The approved application forms, photos and accompanying documentation are housed in the Arizona State Archives. A modest fee for the certificate is expected at the time of submission. If two certificates are requested for the **same** ancestor from different descendants, there is a reduced fee for the second certificate. Questions? Contact the Arizona Pioneer Descendant Administrator, Peggy Morphew at certificates@azgab.org.

¹ *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*. Oxford University Press, TME. 1999.

p. 351. ISBN 9780198601739. Retrieved 12 October 2023.

(article submitted by Linda McCleary, Vice President of the Az Genealogical Advisory Board)

Upcoming TGS Events and Programs

(Please refer to the [events calendar](#) on our website to see all upcoming SIG meetings, classes and programs)

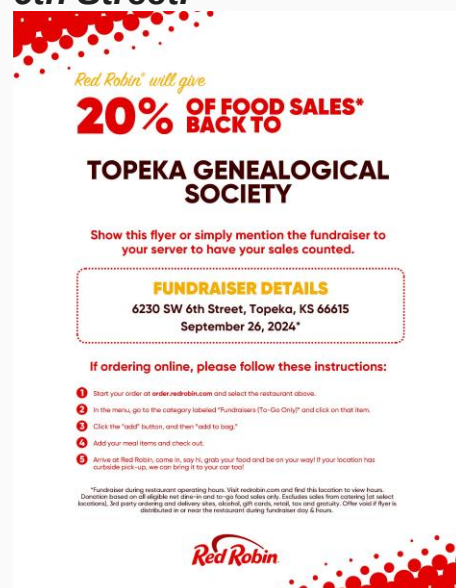
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS:

These informal groups meet on a monthly basis for information sharing and learning around a topic or area of shared interest. Participation is free, and open to the public. Refer to the [events listing on our website](#) for information about how to register to participate.

- **October 8, 7:00pm** - Foundations of Family History SIG
- **October 10, 9:30am** - Computer & Genealogy Software SIG
- **October 15, 9:30am** - Brick Wall Problem-Solving SIG
- **October 28, 6:00pm** - DNA and Genetic Genealogy SIG

DINNER GATHERING/FUNDRAISER

Thursday, September 26, 2024, 5:00 pm, at Red Robin, 6230 SW 6th Street.



We invite you to join us for some socializing time with other TGS members, just prior to our September Monthly Program. Each month, we make arrangements to gather at a local eating establishment prior to our Monthly Programs. In most months, the designated restaurant has agreed to donate a percentage of the total purchases made by our group members. We welcome participation and support of our fundraising efforts by anyone who is interested.

Please plan to join us!

If you are unable to join us for dinner, purchases made any time between

11am and 9pm at the restaurant, or online for pickup/carry out will count toward our fundraiser if you show the flyer to the cashier, or follow the directions on the flyer for online orders.

Following dinner please join us for our monthly program, "*A Locality Guide for Researching in Shawnee County.*", presented by Barbara LaClair. Program starts at 7:00 pm at the TSCPL.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you on the 26th!

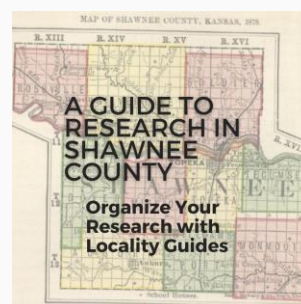
[Download the Flyer Here](#)

MONTHLY PROGRAM

Thursday, August 22, 2024, 7 pm. *A Locality Guide for Researching in Shawnee County.*

TGS is making research in Shawnee County so much easier! **Barbara LaClair will review and demonstrate several new resources that make it easier to research ancestors or local history in Shawnee County, Kansas.** Attendance is free, and open to the public.

Attend in person (at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library), or online via Zoom. See the [event listing on our website](#) to register to obtain the Zoom link.



INTRO TO FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH CLASS, Saturday, October 5, 1:30-5:00pm

(Class will be held at the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library)

Would you like to learn more about your family history, but need a little help in knowing how to get started? Improve your chances of success by learning

a few basics and starting off on the right foot! This free class will cover the basics of how to research your family history ---- how and where to search for clues (both online and offline), understanding the most commonly used records and sources, using the major online database resources, and how to organize and keep track of the information that you find.

Class is free and open to the public, but **PRE-REGISTRATION IS**



REQUIRED. Class size is limited, so register early.

[See the event listing on our website to register.](#)

MORNING JOE & JAW - Monday, October 7, 9:30 - 11am.



This is a new opportunity for some socializing and networking with other members. Meet us at Perkins Restaurant, 1720 SW Wanamaker, for some lively conversation while you enjoy a morning coffee, pastry or breakfast. No need to register. Just drop by to say hello.

LAST-CHANCE LIBRARY LOCK-IN, Friday, October 11, 4-11pm



Join us at the TGS Library for an evening of "last-chance" research in our library, socializing and genealogy fun before we close down the Library and begin the process of transferring items in the collection to other area repositories. Spend your

time researching, socializing and connecting with other members, or playing genealogy board and card games (or a little of each - it's up to you to decide!) We will have library volunteers on hand to help you find items in the library collection, and we have a collection of genealogy games ready for your enjoyment. Snacks and a light dinner of pizza, salad and cookies will be included.

Space is limited, so register soon! *This event is open only to current TGS members, and pre-registration is required. Registration fee of \$10 to cover food costs. See the [event listing on our website to register.](#)*

MONTHLY PROGRAM

Thursday, October 24, 2024, 7 pm. Ask a Genealogist!

Do you have a genealogy question that you have not been able to find answers to, or don't know where to look? Use the power of crowdsourcing to get new ideas and suggestions for how to find the answers! We will present selected questions to our panel of "expert" genealogists and to our audience members,



and gather their best ideas for where you should look next. To submit your question, [download and complete the submission form](#) , and then email a digital copy of it to us at programs@tgstopeka.org by Friday, October 18th to be considered.

Note: We will not be able to address complex research or "Brick Wall" questions during this forum. We will accept basic questions about DNA and Genetic Genealogy. Our "expert" panelists will not do research to find the answers to your questions for you; they will provide suggestions and guidance that may help you to find the answers.

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE - April 26, 2025 - SAVE THE DATE!

Featured speaker will be **Michael John Neill**. Watch for more details as they become available.



Upcoming Regional Events

There are lots of interesting and fun learning opportunities coming up in our region, hosted by our friends and colleagues. We encourage you to attend and support their efforts.

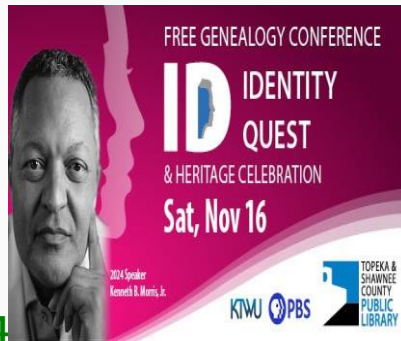
WICHITA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE Saturday, October 5, 2024

Registration is now open for the Wichita Genealogical Society's Annual Conference, which will take place on Saturday, October 5, 2024, with Cari Taplin as featured speaker.

Register soon to take advantage of reciprocal member discounts for TGS members. To see conference details and registration information, visit the WGS



website, <https://wichitagensoc.org/event-5746648>.



IDENTITY QUEST 2024 Saturday, November 16, 2024

A free event, hosted by the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library event and supported with participation by TGS. The 2024 IDQ Conference & Heritage Celebration will include heritage society exhibitors, genealogy speakers, and heritage music, dance, and art.

Registration is now open. See the [TSCPL website for details and registration](#).



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