



News & Views

Newsletter

www.tgstopeka.org

2717 SE Indiana Ave. , Topeka, KS
(785) 233-5762

Volume 32: No.10

November 2024

What's Happening at TGS?

We have had another busy month at TGS. We had a great group of students in attendance at our Intro to Genealogy Research class on October 5th. About 15 members attended our Library Lock-In on October 11, where they enjoyed visiting with one another, researching, and lots of yummy food (several genealogy-themed board and card games were also available, but we didn't get to those!). On October 12, several TGS members travelled to Midwest Genealogy Center to attend a full-day seminar on AI (Artificial Intelligence) in Genealogy – it was really interesting and mind-boggling to think about how this emerging technology may change the way we research and write about our findings!

We're continuing to make contacts and inquiries as we try to identify new homes for all of the items from our library collection, and working on an agreement with FamilySearch for digitization (and eventual publishing online) of the Columbian Title Abstract Books. We're gathering estimates and recommendations for our roof issues, and trying to plan and organize projects to complete additional indexing and digitization projects that will eventually allow us to dispose of paper copies of various documents and materials in our library. It seems like there are a million details to work out as we prepare for closure of the library and eventual sale of our building, and there's a lot of work to be done.

We're all volunteer, and none of us work for TGS full-time, so progress is slow. But, we will keep moving forward and will eventually reach our goals.

- *Barb LaClair, President*

TGS Members - Out and About



October 11 Library Lock-In



AI in Genealogy Seminar at Midwest Genealogy Center

Welcome New Members!



We want to extend a warm welcome to new members who have recently joined our organization. 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 – Laura Dalrymple, Topeka (returning member)
- September 2024 – Christina Hollenbeck, Topeka
- September 2024 – Bertha Dunn, Cheyenne, WY
- October 2024 – James & Lisa Tignor, Topeka
- October 2024 – Susan Gruber, Signal Mountain, TN

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 changes and new additions in the past month or so.

- New program recordings added – September 2024 Monthly Program – “Researching in Shawnee County, A Locality Guide”
- Resources – Updated version of TGS Pedigree Chart
- New databases – None this month. Several are “in the works”!



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

Visit Our Website – <https://tgstopeka.org>

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 (SIGs):

These informal groups meet virtually (on Zoom) 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 and participate.

- Foundations of Family History SIG – **November 12, 2025, 7:00 pm**
- Computer & Genealogy Software SIG – *No meetings in November or December*
- Brick Wall Problem-Solving SIG – **November 19, 2025, 9:30 am**
- DNA and Genetic Genealogy SIG – *No meetings in November or December*

DINNER GATHERING/ FUNDRAISER

Thursday, October 24, 5:30 pm at Jason's Deli.

Our October dining out fundraiser will be at Jason's Deli at 6121 SW 12th St, Topeka. We will gather in person at the restaurant starting at 5:30 pm on Thursday, October 24 for conversation and fellowship prior to our monthly program at the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library. You must mention the fundraiser at the register or show the attached flyer if ordering in person.

If you are not able to join our group at 5:30, you can still help to support us by dining in or placing online orders for takeout any time between 10:00 am and 8:00 pm on October 24th. If you place an online order, use the code FUND20.

Download the Flyer: <https://tgstopeka.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Jasons-Deli-Fundraiser-Flyer-oct2024.png>

We do not meet or host monthly programs in November and December, so our next fundraiser will be scheduled for January 2025.

**HONEST ^{TO}
GOODNESS**
FUNDRAISING
WITH FOLKS WHO CARE

Jason's Deli is proud to support
TOPEKA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Please join us in raising funds on

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24TH | 10:00 AM TO 8:00 PM

Order online using code FUND20 or present this flyer when you dine-in and Jason's Deli will donate a percentage of your total food purchase back to your organization.



8121 SW 12TH ST.
TOPEKA, KS 66606
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MONTHLY PROGRAM - Thursday, October 24, 2024, 7:00 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.



Note: We will not be able to address complex research or “Brick Wall” problems during this program. We will accept basic questions about DNA and genetic genealogy. Our “expert” panelists will not do the research for you; they will provide suggestions and guidance that may help you to find the answers.

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.

REMINDER – THERE WILL BE NO MONTHLY PROGRAMS IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER

MORNING JOE & JAW – Monday, November 4, 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!

2025 ANNUAL TGS CONFERENCE – April 26, 2025 – SAVE THE DATE!

Featured speaker will be **Michael John Neill**. This will be a single-day, in-person-only event. Watch for more details and registration information 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.

Identity Quest 2024 – Saturday, November 16, 2025



A free event, hosted by the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library 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.

For more information, or to register:

<https://tscpl.org/genealogy/identity-quest>

Midwest Genealogy Center Seminar – March 29, 2025 – Save the Date!

Midwest Genealogy Center is hosting a full-day seminar titled **“From Ship to Shore: Uncovering Immigrant Origins”**, led by renowned genealogist **Rich Venezia**. This seminar will provide attendees with in-depth insights into tracing their immigrant ancestors through key records such as ship manifests, naturalization documents, and alien registration records.



Event Highlights:

- **Date:** March 29, 2025
- **Location:** In-Person at the Midwest Genealogy Center — Independence, MO
- **Key Topics:** Discovering immigrant origins, navigating ship manifests, and understanding alien registration records.
- **Interactive Session:** Attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in an **Immigration Records Roadshow**, where they can present their personal research challenges for expert advice.

Rich Venezia is known for his expertise in immigration and naturalization records, and his presentations offer valuable tools and strategies for breaking through genealogical “brick walls.” Whether beginners or seasoned researchers, participants will walk away with new approaches and a deeper understanding of their ancestors’ journeys.