



News & Views *Newsletter*

www.tgstopeka.org

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What's Happening at TGS?

Over the past month, we have continued to work and make progress toward our long-term goals and completion of active projects. Here are a few highlights:

Library Closure & Dissolution:

Amy Bowen and her parents (Paul & Marcy Bowen) have been working on removal of the bundles of old newspapers that we have had stored in our back room (Annex 7), and the shelving that they were on. Once that has been done, we will have Annex 7 cleared out and will be able to use that space as a place for organizing and packing books to be transported to other facilities.

(Photos: remaining newspaper bundles in Annex 7)



Staff from the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library are continuing to work on identifying the items that they would like to receive. A date has been set for them to begin visiting our library in person to be able to look at the physical items as they make their selections. We anticipate soon beginning the process of transferring the first batches of materials in the near future.

Lists of the Family History books from our selection have been sent to Midwest Genealogy Center for their review, and for them to determine which they would like to receive. We have also offered them the City Directories and School Yearbooks from our collection. Decisions about those are pending. Items not accepted by Midwest Genealogy Center will likely then be offered to Internet Archive.

We have consulted with the Allen County Public Library (ACPL) about possible dispositions for our periodicals collection. They have identified a few titles which they do not currently hold; we will pull those out and send them to Allen County. ACPL has suggested that Internet Archive might be a good destination for the remainder of our periodical holdings. We will be consulting with Internet Archive about this in the near future.

2025 Conference, April 26th: The date for our 2025 Conference is drawing closer, and we are excited about the way details are shaping up. We have been busy making inquiries about donations of door prizes, and have had a very positive response. We will be giving away an impressive array of items, several of which we have not had in previous years. New venue + great speaker + interesting presentations + lots of door prizes + good food = a great conference! If you have not already registered, we hope that you will do so soon. **Early registration discounts end April 12th.** For details or to register, see the conference page on our website, <https://tgstopeka.org/annual-conference/>.

Pedigree Chart project: Long-time TGS members may recall that for many years, members were encouraged to submit copies of pedigree charts for their families, accompanied by a set of index cards that listed the names of individuals included on the charts and the number of the chart that they appeared on. The hard-copy charts and index cards were stored in file cabinets in our library, but have seen infrequent use in more recent years. There has been some interest in digitizing this information so that it could be made available online, and some TGS volunteers had been working intermittently on typing information from the index cards into a database. Unfortunately, the project had changed hands many times and technology options have progressed to the point where a major re-design of the project was felt to be necessary. Dave Haslett has offered to head up the re-design efforts, and a number of volunteers have stepped up to work on digitization of the charts and keying information from the cards into a digital index. There's a lot of work to be done, but the project is picking up steam.

With all of the changes and projects, there are lots of decisions and details to be worked out. We are grateful to all of our member/volunteers who are pitching in and helping us to keep everything moving forward.

- *Barb LaClair, President*

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!

- *No new members since the last newsletter*

Help us continue to grow our membership by telling your friends about us, and inviting them to check us out. Word of Mouth is the best advertising!

New on Our Website: <https://tgstopeka.org>

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:
 - February Monthly Program – Shawnee County Poor Farm
 - DNA SIG –
 - March 2025 – Review of Standards & Ethics
- Resources – none this month
- 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!

Upcoming TGS Events and Programs

There is always something happening at TGS. Check the events calendar on our website (<https://tgstopeka.org/events/#!event-list>) frequently to get more details on what's coming up and how you can participate!



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs):

These informal groups meet virtually (mostly 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 listings on our website for information about how to register and participate in each group.

- **Foundations of Family History SIG** (2nd Tuesday evening, 7pm, via Zoom) – **April 8, 2025, 7pm (Central Time)**. Our March program will be **“Land Patents – BLM and HistoryGeo Databases”** Will also include time for Q&A. Bring your genealogy questions, or just join us to see what questions are asked and maybe offer your answers or suggestions in response.
- **Computer & Genealogy Software SIG** – **NO MEETINGS. This group has been discontinued.**
- **Brick Wall Problem-Solving SIG** – (3rd Tuesday morning, 9:30am. Odd months are virtual, via Zoom. Even months in person at a local research facility) – **NO MEETING IN APRIL**

- **DNA and Genetic Genealogy SIG** – (3rd Friday morning, 10 am, via Zoom) – **April 18, 2025, 10:00am (Central Time) – The Power of Y DNA**

MONTHLY DINNER GATHERING/ FUNDRAISER

(We gather informally at a designated local restaurant prior to the monthly program for an opportunity to socialize. A percentage of total sales at the restaurant will be donated to TGS.)

- **March 27, 2025** – On the Border, 1235 SW Wanamaker. Please join us Thursday, March 27, for our monthly Topeka Genealogical Society fundraiser at On the Border Mexican Grill & Cantina, 1235 SW Wanamaker Rd, Topeka. You may order from 11:00 am - 9:00 pm or order online. You must mention the fundraiser to your server or show the attached flyer. TGS will receive 20% of the total sales.
- To review their menu: <https://www.ontheborder.com/>



MONTHLY PROGRAMS – 4th Thursday of the month, 7pm at the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library. Attend in person, or watch online via Zoom. Participation is free, and open to the public.

- **March 27, 2025** – **“Roots in East Friesland, Lower Saxony, Germany,”** presented by Kevin L. Groenhagen. Kevin is the editor of the *Kaw Valley Senior Monthly*. He will share his family history research in Illinois and Germany, his trip to his ancestral village in East Friesland, and how he connected with living relatives here and abroad.



- **April 24, 2025** - **“Making a Digital Family History Album,”** by Gail McGowan. Gail is a Special Interest Group facilitator for the Johnson County Genealogical Society where she leads their Digital Scrapbooking group. She will share some suggestions and tips for how to create your own digital family history scrapbook.



MORNING JOE & JAW – (1st Monday morning each month, 9:30am at Perkins Restaurant, Topeka)
Monday, April 7, 9:30-11am.



This is an informal opportunity for 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 – REGISTER NOW!

“Finding Your Keys to Success”

We're returning to a simpler (and less expensive) format in 2025. The Conference will be one day, with four presentations by our featured speaker **Michael John Neill**. We have a new venue this year - we will be holding our event at **Washburn Tech's conference center**. Michael will be presenting four lectures:

- *Where Could It Be Written?*
- *What it Does Not Say*
- *Organization of Information: Seeing the Patterns*
- *Is Your Process the Problem?*

No matter what your level of experience with genealogy research, we're confident that you will learn new tips for better research and leave at the end of the day inspired with lots of new ideas to try out. To see more details, or to register, see:

<https://tgstopeka.org/annual-conference/>

Register before **April 12** to receive the early registration discount!



UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

Midwest Genealogy Center Seminar – March 29, 2025.

<https://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/events/spring-seminar>

“From Ship to Shore: Uncovering Immigrant Origins”, led by renowned genealogist **Rich Venezia**.

Event Highlights:

- **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.

