



News & Views

Newsletter

www.tgstopeka.org

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What's Happening at TGS?

It has been another busy month! We're continuing to chip away at transferring books and other items from our library collection to other regional repositories. We're making progress, but still have a long way to go. Here's what we have accomplished to date:

- 800+ volumes of Columbian Title Abstract books have been transferred to FamilySearch and are currently being digitized. As they complete the digitization and quality check processes, images of the book pages should begin to show up on FamilySearch in the near future!
- The Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library has completed their selection of items to be added to their genealogy and local history rooms. They have taken about 240 items.
- Midwest Genealogy Center has selected about 900 items from a list of our Family Histories, City Directories and School Yearbooks that they would like to receive. We are currently pulling those books off the library shelves and boxing them up in preparation for being transferred.
- Now that the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library has completed their selection process, we are creating lists of remaining items from other parts of the collection and will be offering those to Midwest Genealogy Center for their selection.
- Internet Archive has agreed to accept our Courthouse books, remaining City Directories and School Yearbooks. They will be offered additional items when we know what remains after Midwest Genealogy Center has made their selections.



Nancy Appelhanz boxes up books

It is a slow and somewhat daunting process, but we are chipping away at it! When you have to handle each of more than 10,000 items to process and transfer them, you really begin to appreciate just how large our collection is!

- *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!

- Dana Gordon, Chicago Heights, IL
- Margaret Kline, Manhattan, KS
- Cynthia Sprenkle, Haysville, KS
- Tom Granger, Topeka, KS

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.

- **New program recordings** added (in the Past Programs section):
 - June Monthly Program – **William Allen White**, presented by Tom Luellen
 - July Foundations of Family History SIG – **Resources Available on the AmercianAncestors.org Website**
- **Resources added** – none this month
- **New databases** – approximately 100 additional records have been added to the index for Shawnee County Marriage License Applications (documents were returned from the research papers of Ike Appelhanz)



There are now more than 50 recordings of past TGS programs and presentations available on our website! 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!

The TGS Pedigree Chart Project has been Completed!



Our amazing TGS volunteers have reached another big milestone! Indexing of TGS's collection of Pedigree charts has been completed. For those not familiar with these records, TGS members were encouraged for many years to submit copies of the Pedigree charts that they had compiled for branches of their families, accompanied by index cards with names and pertinent facts for the individuals who were recorded in the charts. The index cards were filed in alphabetical order by surname, and functioned as an indexing system for the charts (yes, it sounds a bit strange today, but this was prior to the era of Internet and online trees!). There had been discussion for many years of trying to digitize all of this paper-based information, and some efforts had begun but the project languished for years.

In early March of 2025, a team of project volunteers led by Dave Haslett met to review the project and consider how to move it forward. The decision was made that the best course would be to re-design the approach to indexing and start over. Dave designed a data entry system, the team went to work, and on July 21 they completed the indexing and digitization of the charts! The end result is a database (index) containing more than 20,200 records plus a set of digital images of the charts. The next step is to get the index and linked images uploaded to the searchable databases on our website!

Thanks to those who worked so hard to get this re-vamped project completed: Dave Haslett, Carol Glotzbach, Alma Baker, Robert Runion, Ed Nakoneczny, Mary Lou Burke, Nancy Appelhanz, Paula Meuffel, and Sandi Kassebaum. You guys are awesome!

Upcoming 2025 Elections – Slate of Nominees

Each year, half of the positions on our Board of Directors come open for election in September. This year, we will be voting for the positions of President, Recording Secretary and Director at Large. All individual TGS members in good standing will be eligible to vote, and we will be distributing the ballot and voting information via direct email in early September. Our Nominating Committee has worked hard to identify strong candidates for each of the open offices, and we are very pleased to announce this slate of candidates:

President – Cindy Cruz: Cindy is a retired public school music teacher who has lived in Topeka for over forty years. She has been a member of TGS for more than ten years and has dedicated many volunteer hours to our society. She was a library volunteer and has served on the TGS Board for several years, in two terms as recording secretary, and as chairman of the Education Committee. She has presented several lectures and classes for TGS, researched families for two Topeka Identity Quest genealogy conferences, currently serves as the facilitator for the Brick Wall Special Interest Group, and schedules the speakers for our monthly program meetings at the public library. She has also assisted in membership activities, conference planning, publicity, and social events for members. Cindy credits TGS members for guiding her as a beginning family history researcher and she feels privileged to “pay it forward” by helping others in their research!



Recording Secretary – Theresa Wilson: Theresa has been a TGS member since 2011. She currently lives in Manhattan but grew up in Topeka - moving away after graduating from Washburn University. Theresa says, "I was honored to be asked to run for Recording Secretary. I belong to several genealogical societies and the Topeka Genealogical Society ranks up there with the best with its Special Interest Group offerings via Zoom."



Director at Large – Mechelle Foos: Mechelle has been a member of TGS since 2008 and was the *TGS Quarterly* Editor for 13 years. She has assisted with staffing TGS information booths at outreach events and has served on the Annual Conference planning committee for three years. At the Board's request, she stepped in mid-term to fill the Director at Large Board position after the previous Director was unable to complete their term. She is running as an incumbent to continue in that position.



2025 Annual Member Meeting – Save the Date!



Our Annual Member Meeting will be held on Saturday morning, September 20th from 9:30 -11:30 am. We will be meeting at the 1st Baptist Church, 3033 SW MacVicar Ave., in Topeka. TGS will be providing a brunch, and we will have a short business meeting and a program. Mark your calendars to save the date and watch for more details as they become available.

UPCOMING TGS EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

There is always something happening at TGS. Check the events calendar on our website

(<https://tgstopoka.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 mostly 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 listings on our website for information about how to register and participate in each group.

- **Foundations of Family History SIG** (2nd Tuesday evening, 7pm (Central Time), via Zoom). **August 12, 2025** - Program will be **“Records Related to Military Service.”** **September 9, 2025** - **“Ask a Genealogist”** – Bring your genealogy questions or problems to see what suggestions the group can come up, or just attend to see if you can offer help to someone else.
- **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) **August 19, 2025**. The August meeting will be a “Search Party” onsite at the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library.
- **DNA and Genetic Genealogy SIG** – (3rd Friday morning, 10 am, via Zoom) – There are some changes to the usual schedule over the next few months:
 - o **August 22**, 10:00 – noon, on Zoom. **Superpower of X.**
 - o **September 19**, 10:00am on Zoom. **Family Study/Brick Wall.** Apply what you have learned.

MORNING JOE & JAW – (1st Monday morning each month, 9:30am at Perkins Restaurant, Topeka)
Monday, August 4, 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!

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.)

August 28, 2025 - Join us for a little social time prior to our Monthly Program. We will meet at **On the Border**, **1235 SW Wanamaker**, at 5:30pm. If you cannot join us then, you have the option of dining in anytime between 11:00am-9:00pm, or ordering online or in person for carryout. Check the event listing on our website for the downloadable Fundraiser flyer and details. TGS will receive 20% of total sales credited to our group.



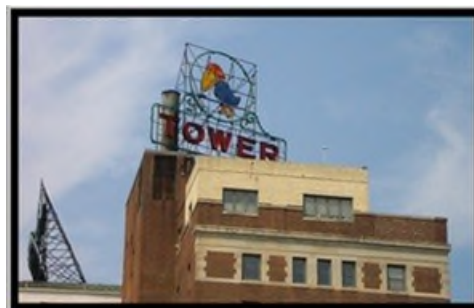
Following dinner, please plan to join us at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library at 7:00pm for our monthly program.

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. To obtain the Zoom link to watch online, see the event listing on our website (<https://tgstopeka.org>)

August 28, 2025 – “**Quilting and Genealogy: Stitching Together the Fabric of Our Lives,**” presented by John Manning. John is a member of the Johnson County Genealogical Society and the Topeka Genealogical Society. His presentation will focus on how quilts can reveal family history through their designs (e.g. commemoration/ military service quilts, celebration quilts, death/cemetery quilts, signature quilts, etc.), and include case studies to show how to use that data for genealogical research.



September 25, 2025 – “**Haunted Sites and Ghosts in Topeka,**” presented by Cathy Ramirez. Cathy Ramirez, owner and operator of Ghost Tours of Kansas, LLC, will talk about some of the haunted locations and resident ghosts of Topeka.

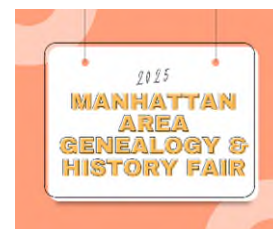


UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

August 8-9, 2025. MoSGA (Missouri State Genealogical Association) Annual Conference, with Judy Russell as featured speaker. See the MoSGA website for details and registration information, <https://www.mosga.org/> .



August 16, 2025 – **Manhattan & Riley County Genealogy & History Fair**, 10am – 3:30pm in Pottorf Hall in CICO Park, 1710 Avery Avenue, Manhattan, KS. Open to the public and free to attend. See <https://rileycgs.com/> for details. **TGS will have a table at this event – stop by to say hello!**



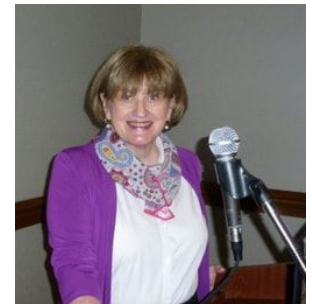
August 23, 2025 – Genealogy KC – “The Past Within Us.”

Registration is now open. See <https://genealogykc.org/genealogy-kc-2025> for details and registration.



October 11, 2025 – Wichita Genealogical Society Annual Conference

with Peggy Clemens Lauritzen as the Featured Speaker. See <https://wichitagensoc.org/2025-Details-&-Schedule> for details and registration. *(TGS members are eligible to register at discounted member rate!)*



October 28- November 1, 2025 – Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International Conference, in Overland Park, Kansas. Early registration discount ends July 31, 2025!

See <https://cgisi.org/2025-conference/sessions> for details and registration.



“When an elder dies, a library burns to the ground.” They take their stories and memories with them.

- Old African Proverb

