



News & Views Newsletter

www.tgstopeka.org

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

Volume 33 No. 8

August 2025

What's Happening at TGS?

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 in the past month:

- Midwest Genealogy Center has selected about 900 items that they would like to receive from a list of our Family Histories, City Directories and School Yearbooks. We have been working on pulling those books off the library shelves and boxing them up in preparation for being transferred, and have nearly completed this list.
- We have created lists of remaining items from other parts of the collection and have sent those to Midwest Genealogy Center for their selection. We are awaiting their reply.
- We are currently exploring options for how all of these materials, and others yet to be selected, will be transferred to Midwest Genealogy Center. Is there anyone out there who is comfortable driving a box truck and would be willing to help with this? Anyone with strong backs who would be willing to help load (and possibly unload) the truck?

It is a slow and somewhat daunting process, but we are making progress. As we have been working, we have discovered some really interesting and unique books and resource materials that none of us knew TGS had. It is encouraging to see that many of them will be going to Midwest Genealogy Center where they will be more readily accessible to researchers.

Barb LaClair, President



The stack of boxes of books is growing!

TGS Out and About

In addition to our continued work on re-distributing our library collection, we have been busy with our ongoing educational programming and community outreach activities. In the past month, Barb LaClair provided a program to the Grey Wolves group of the Meriden United Methodist Church. On August 16th, Barb LaClair and Cindy Cruz staffed the TGS table at the Manhattan area Genealogy and History Fair. Several additional TGS members also participated in the Fair, representing other organizations. It is always fun to get out, meet new people, and tell them about TGS!



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!

- Susan Krehbiel William, Topeka, KS
- Lisa Zeller, Topeka, KS
- Bobbe Mansfield, 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>

Updates and new content are added to our website on an ongoing basis. So that you don't miss anything, here are highlights of changes and new additions in the past month.

- **New program recordings** added (in the Past Programs section):
 - July Monthly Program – **I've Been Working on the Railroad**, presented by Danni Altman-Newell
 - August Foundations of Family History SIG – **Using Military Records in Genealogy Research**
- **Resources added** – **1921 Kansas Farmer and Mail & Breeze, Atlas and Plat Book of Shawnee County, KS.**

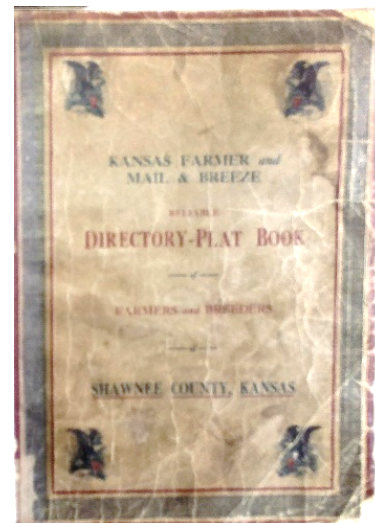


There are now more than 50 recordings of past TGS programs and presentations available on our website! We hope that you are taking full advantage of all of the resources and information

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!

Were There Shawnee County Farmers in Your Family?

If so, you will want to check out the **1921 Kansas Farmer and Mail & Breeze, Atlas and Plat Book of Shawnee County, KS**. This resource is packed full of fascinating information about Shawnee County farms in the early 1920s. In addition to maps that show the landowners' names and parcels, the atlas includes lists of the types of trucks and tractors owned by the farmers, and the breeds of livestock that they were raising, and more! We will be transferring the physical book to the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, but we have also created a digital copy before we hand it off. The physical copy of the book will soon be available in the Topeka Room at the Public Library. The digital copy has been uploaded to our website, and is available to the public on our Resources page (https://tgstopeka.org/resources_sn-county/).



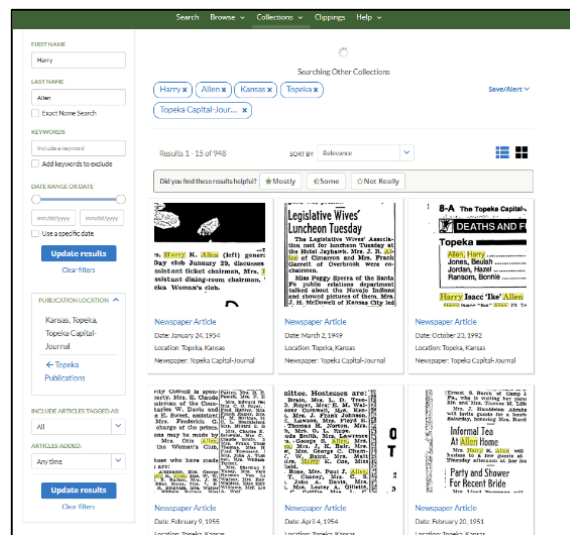
New! Recent Topeka Newspapers Online at GenealogyBank.com!



Many of us have been aware that most Kansas newspapers published through the mid-1920s have been digitized and are available online at Newspapers.com (or free access for Kansas residents if accessed through the Kansas State Historical Society's web portal, <https://www.kansashistory.gov/p/kansas-digital-newspaper-program/16126>). While we are all thankful for that online access, we have sometimes been frustrated by lack of online access to more recent local newspapers.

But now, we have some great news! We have recently learned that more current issues of Topeka's primary newspapers are available online at GenealogyBank. Here's what is available:

- *Topeka Capital Journal* - 1/1/1948- 12/31/2017 (newspapers)
- *Topeka Capital Journal* - 10/1/2001-current (obits)
- *Topeka State Journal* - 1/1/1894 – 12/30/1922 (newspapers)



Our thanks to Sherri Camp, Genealogy Librarian at the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, for bringing this to our attention!

Ask a Genealogist! We're Here to Help!



Do you have questions about genealogy, where to find the information you are seeking, or how to organize and put it all together? TGS and our experienced volunteers are here to help! Although we are happy to help at any time, we are now scheduling quarterly online sessions just to take questions and help you find solutions. Once each quarter, the discussion topic for our Foundations of Family History Special Interest Group will be "Ask a Genealogist", where we invite questions and use the power of crowdsourcing with other participants to brainstorm and try to help you find answers. Our upcoming meeting on **Tuesday, September 9, at 7:00pm** will be an *Ask a Genealogist* opportunity. We invite you to attend and bring your genealogy questions, or just attend to listen, learn and maybe contribute to the discussion! See the program listing on our website's events calendar to register and get the Zoom link

(<https://tgstopeka.org/events/#!event/2025/9/9/foundations-of-family-history-sig-quot-ask-a-genealogist-quot>).

Vote in Our Upcoming 2025 Elections

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. We will be distributing the ballot and voting information via direct email to all current individual members in early September. Please watch for this email and exercise your member privileges by voting. Our candidates:

**President
Cindy Cruz**



**Recording Secretary
Theresa Wilson**



**Director at Large
Mechelle Foos**



2025 Annual Member Meeting – Coming Soon!



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 provide a brunch, and we will have a short business meeting and program. If you are planning to attend, we request that your **please register in advance** so that we will know how

many people to purchase food and set up for. To register, see our website:
<https://tgstopeka.org/events/#!event/2025/9/20/annual-member-meeting>

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 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). **September 9, 2025 - "Ask a Genealogist"** – Bring your genealogy questions or problems to see what suggestions the group can come up, or just join in to learn or 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)
 - o **September 16, 2025** – Group will meet on Zoom.
- **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, September 1, 9:30 – 11am (Yes, we know it is Labor Day!)
Monday, October 6, 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.



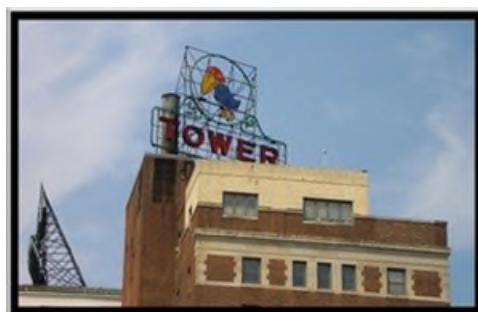
Following dinner, please plan to join us at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library at 7:00pm for our monthly program.

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.



October 23, 2025 – “Curating Old Photos: Scan-Sort-Share,” presented by Jim Mathis. Jim owns a photo restoration and photography studio in Overland Park and is a member of the Johnson County Genealogical Society. He will talk about the history of photography, preserving images, and restoring damaged or faded images.



Reminder: No monthly programs in November or December.

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

August 23, 2025 – **Genealogy KC** – “The Past Within Us.” Free conference event. 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. See <https://cgisi.org/2025-conference/sessions> for details and registration.

