



Editor: Lucille Williams

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Established 1966

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Library Hours:

Tuesday & Saturday  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Email:

info@mhgswichita.org

Online Alert:

go to web-  
site>Newsletter: The Alert

# Alert

## Midwest Historical & Genealogical Society



MHGS is Open Tuesday and Saturday, 9am-4pm. Wi-fi is available with knowledgeable volunteers to help you with your research and answer questions. We have yearly memberships and non-members can do research for a fee. (316) 264-3611 MHGS Website: <http://mhgswichita.org>



We're celebrating a milestone! We've reorganized our collections and our floor-space to make our library more useful and comfortable, and we're having an open house on November 7 to show it off! Come by between 1 and 4 to take a tour, learn about our plans for 2016, browse our used book sale, and maybe munch a cookie or two. Everybody's welcome!

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### All About the Next Census

(Taken from the National Genealogical Society Quarterly Register, Vol. 103, No. 3, Sept. 2015)

There is a determination all over the country to have the next census taken differently from the last . . . Here is what the [New York] Herald says about it, and for once we will give that paper the credit of saying a good thing: —

“The United States Census for 1860. —It is an acknowledged fact that a complete census of this country has never been taken. Although under special acts of Congress, provision is made for this service every tenth year, and large sums of money appropriated for the purpose . . . There has never been anything reliable or authentic collected. It is a perfect waste of money to undertake the taking of another census in the manner in which all others have been conducted . . . In the first place the manner of selecting special marshals is decidedly improper . . . Their selections are from the men whose politics alone is deemed a sufficient qualification. The question of capacity is never thought of. Heretofore scores of those deputies were so illiterate that they were incapable of adding up a column of figures or making an accurate return of their transactions. The consequence has been that this census taking was a mere farce, given to political favorites, employed during some six months, receiving large pay and accomplishing nothing reliable.

The entire census of the population, and all statistical information of England, is obtained in a single day. Hence we are six months about it, and when gathered it is not

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## Upcoming Programs & Library Events

**Open House. Saturday, November 7 @ 1pm to 4pm. Book Sale and Refreshments.**

**Board Meeting. Saturday, November 14 @ 10:30am.**

**Genealogy DNA Special Interest Group. Saturday, November 14 @ 1pm to 2pm.** Led by Paul Renner Smith. Discover the latest news in the field of Genealogical DNA study. This informed discussion group uses the newest information available to learn what DNA can tell us about our ancestors. Learn what different tests are available and where.

**Genealogy on the Internet. Saturday, November 21 @ 10am to 11am.** Led by Jim Scharnhorst. Genealogy research has embraced the computer as not only the most efficient way to organize data, but the quickest way to access historical records. The ongoing digitization of documents for preservation purposes makes them searchable, economical, and immediately available. Our meeting is for sharing the sites we find most useful, finding solutions to the problems that have developed, and learning what the future holds.

**Daughters of the American Revolution Special Interest Group. Saturday, Nov. 21 @ 1pm-2pm.** Led by Sandi Bush and Lucille Williams. Do you have ancestors who served in the American Revolution, either in a military unit or by providing service in another way? We can help you with the application process, show you what records you need to qualify for membership, and give you all the details.

**Afro-American Special Interest Group. Saturday, November 21 @ 1pm.** Led by Jozel Smith Eckels. Interest group that encourages historical and genealogical study of families with special emphasis on African-Americans. This informal group seeks to learn more of the history and factors within the family stories that we have been given. We will demonstrate how to research your family tree with the goal of discovering and understanding your family history.

**Check our website at [mhgswichita.org](http://mhgswichita.org) periodically for up to date information.**

### EARTHQUAKE

The Earthquake of 1811-12-Destruction of New Madrid.

The earthquake gave Tecomseh, the Shawnee chieftain, the reputation of a prophet among the Indians of Alabama. [When his talk of war was dismissed at Tuckhabatchee, Florida, he said he would go to Detroit.] "When I arrive there, I will stamp on the ground with my foot and shake down every house in Tuckhabatchee." [The New Madrid earthquake happened] on the very day on which Tecomseh arrived in Detroit in exact fulfillment of his threat.  
(*Washington Reporter*, Washington, Pa., 2 November 1870, page 6, col. 2.)

#### The Earthquake at New-Madrid in 1812.

The following is an interesting account of the Earthquakes which destroyed New Madrid and the surrounding country on the Mississippi, in 1812. —Congress was petitioned by the sufferers, and a considerable donation of land as granted to them which subsequently became a distinct subject of speculation by the land-jobbers on Missouri.

From Flint's "Ten Years in the Valley of the Mississippi" Earthquake at New Madrid in 1812.

(Both articles taken from the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, Vol. 101, No. 3, Sept. 2013)

### Why Apply for DAR Membership???

I begin with the assumption that we agree on the value of family history: honoring our ancestry, understanding our heritage, satisfying our curiosity, etc. But, specifically, WHY SEEK MEMBERSHIP IN THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR)?

The answer to that question has grown slowly in my mind as I labored away on my application. But — broadly — the answer is “process.” A successful application requires imaginative research, determination, and a rigor that — until now — I was not practicing.

Much of my family tree is probably true. But I can't prove (way too) much of it. Often, I have accepted geographical proximity, suggestive naming patterns, family legends, secondary sources, and even non-sourced internet trees as factual when, of course, they may be wrong.

Applying to the DAR required me to take just one family line — not an overwhelming batch of data — and to examine it meticulously. Could I prove every birth, marriage, death, and generational link? Oh dear, no. Not even close.

That discovery has sent me in directions never explored in my years of ‘doing genealogy.’ By narrowing my focus to single and specific items (for example: proof that Nancy was the daughter of Benjamin and Ruth or that Mary Caroline married Jesse), I began to comb through town and church records, probate documents, cemetery lists, military rosters, old newspapers, and diaries. I contacted historical societies and town clerks — all in the search for proof of one assumption.

It has been frustrating, fun, illuminating, confusing, and — I feel like a grown up genealogist for the very first time! And I think my application is getting very close to done.

Join DAR representatives Sandi and Lucille on 3rd Saturdays, 1 PM, at the MHGS library. They will guide you toward becoming a Grown-Up Genealogist too.

~*Elaine Sunde*

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worth the paper containing it. Then why not shorten the time here? The whole can be done in six or ten days . . . . But as there has never been one which has been reliable, but full of errors, omissions and conclusions jumped at, we think the time has come when Congress should revise the laws upon the subject . . . .”

(Originally printed in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Cleveland, Ohio, 3 November 1859, page 2, col. 3)

#### **2014-2015 Board of Directors**

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**Midwest Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 1121**  
**Wichita, KS 67201**

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**November Calendar of Events**

**Library**  
**Open Tues. & Sat.. 9am to 4pm**

**Library Open House**  
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**Board Meeting**  
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**Call 316-264-3611 for information or**  
**to check on library closings.**