

MIDWEST HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

ALERT

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 3

JUNE 2018

BLACK HISTORY IN KANSAS

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Library Hours:

Tuesday & Saturday

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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The African American Interest Group met on April 28, 2018 . The topic was “What did you or your family member contribute to Black History?” Since Genealogy and Family History often contain family stories we thought this topic would be interesting. Here are some examples of the stories that were shared.

One person brought her hand crafted African American Cookie Jar. She told how her grandmother in Oklahoma made similar cookie jars. Her example was a beautiful cookie jar designed of an older sister and her younger brother. Everyone was so impressed with the design. She did the design, and worked the clay from the beginning to the finish.

Another participant said her mother and grandmother were mortuary owners in both Coffeyville and Wichita, Kansas. Her mother was the first Black woman in Kansas to hold dual license as a funeral director and embalmer in 1942. She brought a scrapbook or photos and news articles that discussed all the accomplishments. All enjoyed looking through the articles.

A man stated he and a friend owned an African American Book Store in 1960's. This store sold books to some of the schools in the Wichita school district for a short time. One of the other attendees said she still owns an encyclopedia bought from that store. There were not many other stores featuring Black books and authors etc at that time.

Another person said her grandmother was the first Black woman that was employed by the unemployment office in Wichita. She later became probably the first Sedgwick County social worker. She said her work hours included Saturday mornings when she surprised some male client family members.

Next meeting with be the 4th Saturday of June , we will be continuing this conversation.

Jozel Smith Eckels

DUPLICATE BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

The library has been blessed with donations and as a result we have some duplicate copies for sale. Yearbooks are \$5.00 and genealogy books are priced individually. Books include family histories, history of counties and states. So much information right at the library, come by and check it out.

JUST A REMINDER

Flag Day is June 14 and Independence Day is July 4.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need volunteers to help index the Sedgwick County marriage books. We've set up a station on the main floor of the library and created a spreadsheet, so all you need to do is show up and type!

We are also starting a project to index some items at the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum. This work will have to be done at the museum, but once we get it started, we can work any day of the week while they are open. We'll start with a pair of ledgers from the Probate Court that track the cases of juveniles, mostly girls, who got in trouble or needed assistance in 1918-1919. These records are just blocks of handwritten text that we'll transcribe. Next, we'll work on a City Court docket ledger from 1910-11, which covers all sorts of interesting cases, from mis-measuring cranberries to assault. If we don't run out of steam, they have tax records from 1872!

If you are interested in either of these projects, please come by the library or email Julia at library@mhgswichita.org

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & LIBRARY EVENTS

RESEARCHING AND WRITING ABOUT YOUR WORLD WAR I ANCESTOR. Saturday, June 16 . Led by Julia Langel. A workshop to get you started writing your family history.

POWER UP YOUR GENEALOGY. Tuesday, June 12 @ 1:30 to 3 pm. Led by Julia Langel. We'll be watching a video. Bring ideas for future sessions.

GENEALOGY DNA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP. Saturday, June 9 @ 1 pm to 2 pm. Led by Paul Renner Smith. Discover the latest news in the field of Genealogical DNA study. This informal discussion group uses the newest information available to learn what DNA can tell us about our ancestors. Learn what different tests are available.

PHOTO MYSTERIES, Tuesday, June 19 @1:30. Led by Rex Riley. Bring your photographs and let our photo detectives go to work to solve the unknown facts regarding the images.

GENEALOGY ON THE INTERNET. Saturday, June 16 @ 10 am. 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 problems that have developed, and learning what the future holds.

AFRO-AMERICAN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP. Saturday, June 23 @ 1 pm. 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.

NOTES FROM THE LIBRARIAN

WSU Parnassus 1926	R-210	SG 006
KSU Royal Purple 1991, 1997	R-210	RL 01
Friends U The Talisman 1974, 1975	R-210	SG 008
Southeast High School Hoofbeats 1963, 1964	R-210	SG210
Old Cowtown Museum	R-210	SG 211

INTERESTED IN NATIVE AMERICAN GENEALOGY?

The Five Tribes Ancestry Conference "Understanding Native American genealogy among the Five Tribes" will be June 7-9, 2018 at the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur, OK. For information, go to cherokeeheritage.org/cherokee-ancestry-conference.

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

GENEALOGY --- Chasing your own tale ! Milwaukee Co. Genealogy Society Reporter Vol 48 #3

GENEALOGY -- Small pieces of the world's largest puzzle. Walter M. Minte

REPORT OF THE ROAD TRIP TO THE WORLD WAR I MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

WWI SIG members took a field trip to the WWI museum in Kansas City on May 19 and we had a terrific time! There are several resources there you should know about:

- The museum itself is large and extremely well done; try to take one of the guided tours if you can, since the volunteers really know their stuff
- The bookstore has an extensive selection of books on all aspects of the war (as well as the usual tee shirts and other stuff)
- The research center has access to Ancestry.com and a collection of books, particularly unit and training camp histories, and biographies. We found that the volunteers who staff the center on Saturdays aren't really prepared to help you do deeper research, so if you really want to dig in, make an appointment with the archivist, who seems really helpful. His email address is on the website.
- The YouTube channel has videos of all the presentations that have been done at the museum in the last few years. These presentations include book authors talking about their topics (a recent author talked about the "Hello Girls" who ran the telephone system in France) and scholars discussing themes such as the causes of the war, or how the issues of WWI are still playing out in conflicts today. They have also digitized original films from the war years and posted them in their channel.

The website for the museum is theworldwar.org. The YouTube channel is at <https://www.youtube.com/user/NationalWWIMuseum>

2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Library open Tuesdays and Saturdays, 9 to 4

Call 316-264-3611 for information or to check on library closing

RESEARCHING AND WRITING ABOUT YOUR WORLD WAR I ANCESTOR

Third Saturday @ 1:30

Led by Julia Langel

GENEALOGY DNA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Second Saturday @ 1:30

Led by Paul Renner Smith

POWER-UP SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Second Tuesday @ 1:30 to 3 pm

Led by Julia Langel

GENEALOGY ON THE INTERNET

Third Saturday @ 10 am

Led by Jim Scharnhorst

PHOTO MYSTERIES

Third Tuesday @ 1:30

Led by Rex Riley

AFRO-AMERICAN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Fourth Saturday @ 1 pm

Led by Jozel Smith Eckels

Midwest Historical & Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 1121
Wichita, KS 67201

Change Service Requested