

# MIDWEST HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## ALERT

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SEPTEMBER 2019

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Library Hours:  
Tuesday & Saturday  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Inside this issue:

- Upcoming Programs
- Latest Library Additions
- Items of Interest
- Calendar of Events

### WHAT HAPPENED ON THE TRIP WEST?

Last month I made a trip west along the route of the Santa Fe Trail and began to think of the pioneers who travelled this popular trail. One can see the wagon ruts along the highway just west of Dodge City, Kansas.

The large Conestoga Wagons of the East were too heavy for western expansion so farm wagons were fitted with five or six wooden or metal bows arched over the wagon, covered with stretched canvas or other sturdy cloth, creating a silhouette which looked like the sails of the ship crossing the sea, which earned them the name of Prairie Schooners.

These wagons carried no more than 2,000 pounds and were pulled usually by 6 yoked oxen. Travelling at the rate of two miles an hour the pioneers could make ten to twenty miles a day. Some wagon trains did not travel on Sundays. Between 1840 and 1860 more than 300,000 travelers crossed the prairies either to Oregon by using the Oregon Trail or to California by the way of the Santa Fe Trail, a trip of about five months with good weather.

Major threats to pioneer life and limb came from accidents, exhaustion and disease. The river crossings were the most dangerous. Nearly one in ten did not survive. How many graves lay unmarked on the prairie, I wondered.

Can you imagine getting your necessary belongings in a 10' by 3.5' body of a wagon or travelling with kids with no wi-fi or television, no McDonald's for them to stretch out and play for a bit? The pioneers were a hardy bunch with a determination to have their own land to plow and plant.

Too bad they didn't leave us more journals so we could follow their trip across this broad wonderful land that we call home. KANSAS

### INTERESTED IN COLONIAL NORTH AMERICA?

Harvard University is digitizing their entire collection of manuscripts from that period—currently over 300,000 items. According to the website, “The digitized materials provide insights through the eyes of people who not only wrote about revolution and politics but also about topics such as education, trade, finance, law, science, medicine, religion, family affairs and social life, women, Native Americans, slavery, food and agriculture.”

<https://colonialnorthamerica.library.harvard.edu/spotlight/cna>

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS & LIBRARY EVENTS

*POWER UP YOUR GENEALOGY.* Tuesday, Sept 10 @ 1:30 to 3 pm. Led by Julia Langel. This month we'll be discussing old fashioned medical practices.

*PHOTO MYSTERIES,* Tuesday, Sept 17 @ 1:30 pm. Led by Rex Riley. Bring your mystery pictures and let our photo detectives go to work finding clues about the dates, places and people.

*AFRO-AMERICAN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP.* Saturday, Sept. 28 @ 1pm. This group is welcoming Jozel back! We missed you. 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. We will have a guest to speak to us about Nicodemus, Kansas. We will be looking for you.

## ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Engagement and Wedding Announcements from the Wichita Eagle and Beacon	R-210 SG 236
Index to Marriage Book "A" Maries Co, Mo 1868-1881	R-300 292
New Mexico's best ghost towns: a practical guide	R-360 010
Index to Franklin Co, Ohio Guardianships and Estates 1803-1850	R-380 351
McIntosh Co, Ok 1990 Plat Book	R-390 148
Lincoln Co, Tn Pioneers	R-430 184 V 16
Davidson Co, Tn, county court minutes, 1783-1792	R-430 192
Pioneers of Dickson Co, TN: genealogical abstract of early minute books	R-430 193
History of Navarro Co, Tx	R-440 076
Coryell Co, Tx Families	R-440 077 V 01 & 2
Fairmont Cemetery, San Angelo, Tx	R-440 078
Quaker marriage certificates Delaware Co, Pa 1679-1808	R-470 371
A Pictorial History of Shenandoah Co through the lens of Hugh Morrison Jr.	R-470 394
Federally Recognized Tribes of the United States and Canada	R-630 125
Place Files (1810 S Wichita)	VF 003
J.L. Law Collection	VF Law
The Johnson Co, Ks Genealogist	R-210 JO 06 V 46
Westward into Nebraska	R-320 028 V 41-42
Branching Out from St. Clair Co.	R-180 201 V 45
Licking Lantern	R-380 328 V 40-43
Theakiki (The A-KI-KI)	R-180 234 V 48

## CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES

- 2019 Chisholm Trail Conference, September 12-14, Old Cowtown Museum, Wichita, Kansas. Download the brochure at <http://www.oldcowtown.org/Documents/Chisholm%20Trail%20Conference%20Brochure.pdf>
- 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Wichita Genealogical Society Conference, October 5, 2019. For details, visit [www.wichitagensoc.org](http://www.wichitagensoc.org)
- NARA Virtual Genealogy Fair, October 23, 2019. A full day of free lectures online at <https://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair>
- RootsTech 2019 in London, October 24-26. Can't get to London? There will be a full schedule of sessions live-streamed for free at <https://www.rootstech.org/london>

## HELP WANTED

MHGS and the Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) are working jointly on a project that will allow researchers to access a listing of genealogical and historical resource repositories. This listing will include the libraries, museums, government offices, etc. in each county throughout the state of Kansas, and will be maintained on the FamilySearch Wiki. Twila and Margaret have been collecting a preliminary master list of organizations and have found hundreds of potential sources of intriguing and useful records, photographs and other information.

We need volunteers to verify the information (location, phone number, hours of operation, etc) for these facilities. This work can be done at home, at your convenience. All you need is access to the internet and a phone. You do not need to know how to use the FamilySearch Wiki.

Please call the MHGS library (316-264-3611) or email Twila at [twila2734@hotmail.com](mailto:twila2734@hotmail.com) and let us know you will help with this exciting project!

## GENEALOGIST (NOUN)

A person who cannot remember their own wedding anniversary but knows the birth date of his great-great grandmother!

## 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.

Library Closed Aug 31, 2019 for Labor Day.

<b>POWER-UP SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP</b>	<b>PHOTO MYSTERIES</b>
<b>Second Tuesday @ 1:30 to 3 pm</b> <b>Led by Julia Langel</b>	<b>Third Tuesday @ 1:30</b> <b>Led by Rex Riley</b>
	<b>AFRO-AMERICAN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP</b>
	<b>Fourth Saturday @ 1 pm YES! We're back!!!!</b> <b>Led by Jozel Smith Eckels</b>

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Change Service Requested