

MIDWEST HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

ALERT

VOLUME 41 NUMBER 7

NOV/DEC 2019

1203 N. Main,
P.O. Box 1121
Wichita, KS 67201

316-264-3611

info@mhgswichita.org

hmgswichita.org

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

SEDGWICK COUNTY PIONEER CERTIFICATES

Were your ancestors living in Sedgwick County between February 26, 1867, when Sedgwick County was formed, to December 31, 1880?

We want to recognize and honor them (and you) with our pioneer certificate. The rules are simple—fill out the forms on our website and provide proof that A) your ancestor was living here and B) you are a descendant. Certificate holders don't need to be residents of Sedgwick County or MHGS members, so get certificates for your siblings or grandkids, too!

The fee is \$15 for the first certificate and \$5 for each additional descendant of the same pioneer. And don't forget the women—you can get a certificate for a couple that settled together, or a separate certificate for each person; if the documentation is all the same, you can get both certificates for the same fee.

MHGS has been offering Pioneer Certificates since the 1980s; you can find a list of the pioneers we've already recognized on our website or in the next issue of the Register.

Find all the information about the pioneer certificate program at <http://mhgswichita.org/wp/sedgwick-county-pioneer-certificate-instructions/>

PEA RIDGE NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

The Civil War was a defining moment in American history and continues to be debated today. Confederate flags are forbidden, and monuments are removed at the request of those who are offended by what they represent. The underlying reasons for the war are argued endlessly and change with the political climate. We cannot hope to gain perspective without an extensive study of that conflict.

One of the most important conflicts for Kansas is largely overlooked by historians today. The Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, also known as Elkhorn Tavern, took place early in the war. The Federals defeated a Confederate force that outnumbered them and effectively narrowed the war to east of the Mississippi River. Why does such an important result garner little attention? The number of casualties was significant. Over 3,300 men lost their lives in two days of fighting. The artillery battle was the largest ever to that time. The armies were sizable, over 10,000 Union and 16,000 Confederate troops engaged. Major newspaper coverage was given to the atrocities reported by combatants. The outcome determined Missouri's allegiance as the Missouri State Guard was the nucleus of the Confederate

Army. The state of Arkansas was effectively lost to the Confederacy as a result.

The National Park Service dedicated the Pea Ridge National Military Park during the Civil War Centennial in 1963. Over 4,000 acres were acquired to preserve the site and create a visitors center. Monuments dedicated by the veterans and the Elkhorn Tavern were restored. A driving tour and a hiking trail were created. A portion of the "Telegraph Road" used for the Cherokee Trail of Tears is also on the property. It has been acknowledged as one of the best preserved Civil War battlefields.

The park is a 250 mile drive from Wichita. It is close to Bentonville but is otherwise a very rural area. Cell service is spotty. The entrance was moved this year and is no longer where most GPS maps take you. The NPS recommends using Google Maps and searching for "Pea Ridge National Military Park" to find it. There is a fee of \$20 per car unless you have a NPS pass. In my opinion, it is worth it.

Jim Scharnhorst

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & LIBRARY EVENTS

POWER UP YOUR GENEALOGY. Tuesday, Nov. 12, Dec. 10 @ 1:30 to 3 pm. Led by Julia Langel. In November, we'll be learning about Homestead Records and in December, we'll be covering Women and the Law.

PHOTO MYSTERIES, Tuesday, Nov 19. Dec. 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. This group is on hiatus. We are looking for a volunteer to coordinate this group.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

A Family Genealogy of Mitten, Mittan, Moore, Smith, and allied families	G-M 105
Beckners in America: the first 250 years	G-B 168
American Boyers	G-B 167 V 01-07
The Ancestry of Gen James Robertson "Father of Tennessee"	G-R 072
A DeHart Journey	G-D 081
800 years of Colquhoun, Colhoun, Calhoun, and Cahoon family history	G-C 140 V 01-04
A Genea-biographical history of the Rittenhouse family and its branches	G-R 071
The DeMoss Family in America	G-D 079 V 02
The Woolfolk tragedy: the murders, the trials, the hanging, and now, finally, the truth	G-W 127
The book of Dow	G-D 080
The Henthorn Family, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia	G-H 160
A History of the Seymour Family	G-S 157
Worcester County, Maryland Land Records	R-250 140
Antecedents and Descendants of Levi Underwood (1831-1885) and families	G-U 005
Marriage Bonds of Greensville County, Virginia 1781-1825	R-470 395

CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES

- South Central Kansas Family History Fair: November 2, 2019, Wellington, KS. For information, see ksschgs.com
- Watch the videos from the My Heritage conference in Amsterdam for free! There's a good list of links at <https://abundantgenealogy.com/free-myheritage-live-2019-videos-now-available-online/>
- Dedication of Sons of the American Revolution emblem at the crypt of James R. Mead. Nov. 2 at 3:00 at Maple Grove Cemetery. Mr. Mead was one of the founders of the City of Wichita.

IN OUR ARCHIVE

Do you have photos or other items that you'd like to share with the world? You can donate the items, or just bring them in for digitizing, and we'll post the items online in our Digital Collections website for other researchers to use and enjoy. Bring the photos to the library and learn to scan and protect them as well as enjoying the hunt for answers. The scanning is FREE and you can take the photos home with you. We have a great time unravelling the mysteries.



Studio portrait of Fern Keller Hyde. Handwritten on back "Fern Keller Hyde or Mrs Bert Hyde taken to raise by Mr & Mrs Mean"
Baldwin (Studio), Wichita, Kansas

2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Rex Riley (president@mhgswichita.org)	Committee Chairs:
Vice President: programs@mhgswichita.org	Alert Editor: Micki Wright Stephans (alert@mhgswichita.org">alert@mhgswichita.org)
Treasurer: Jim Scharnhorst (treasurer@mhgswichita.org)	Building & Grounds: Open
Secretary: Michelle Pickett (secretary@mhgswichita.org)	Computer Technology: Vincent Hancock (tech@mhgswichita.org)
Librarian: Julia Langel (library@mhgswichita.org)	Publicity: Francene Davis Sharp (publicity@mhgswichita.org)
	Register Editor: Ann Hathaway Boll (register@mhgswichita.org)
	Membership: Bev Jackson (members@mhgswichita.org)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Library open Tuesdays and Saturdays, 9 to 4

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

Closed Thanksgiving weekend (November 30) and

Christmas/New Year (December 24, 28 and 31)

POWER-UP SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP	PHOTO MYSTERIES
Second Tuesday @ 1:30 to 3 pm Led by Julia Langel	Third Tuesday @ 1:30 Led by Rex Riley
	AFRO-AMERICAN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP
	Fourth Saturday @ 1 pm On hiatus

Midwest Historical & Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 1121
Wichita, KS 67201

Change Service Requested