

MIDWEST HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

ALERT

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AUGUST 2020

HAPPY 150 TH BIRTHDAY TO WICHITA

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

316-264-3611

info@mhgswichita.org

mhgswichita.org

Library Hours:

Tuesday & Saturday

10 a.m. to noon

Inside this issue:

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

The month of July 2020 marks the 150th birthday of the city of Wichita, Kansas. The birthday is celebrated on the 21st of the month which was the day that the small town of Wichita became officially incorporated, in the recently formed Sedgwick County.

In order to obtain incorporation for their town, 124 residents signed a petition which described the boundaries of the town and asked for its incorporation. The petition was given to Judge Reuben Riggs who officially recognized that the petition represented a majority of the town's residents and therefore approved incorporation on the same day in a special session of the Probate Court. The newly appointed Board of Trustees had their first meeting the next day.

The petition itself was an interesting document. Among the signers were some of Wichita's well-known names: Griffenstein, Sowers, Campbell, Waterman, Schweiter, Munger, Allen, etc. Along with them were many who were not so well known, but some of their descendants achieved fame or, in at least one case, infamy.

Some people today know that there was one woman among the 124 signers. She was a laundress in town, who also had land outside Wichita at what is now the southeast corner of 21st and Oliver. Her name was Catherine McCarty. Next to her signature on the petition was a man's – W. H. Antrim. He also owned acreage across the road from Catherine. They would later marry in New Mexico. Catherine was the mother of a young boy who probably lived here too, though there does not seem to be any official records for him. He would, however, be shown a few years later in the official records of New Mexico where he used the last names of Antrim or Bonney but was known to history as "Billy the Kid".

Also on the list of signers was John Price Hilton, an Englishman who served for a while as Wichita's first preacher. By 1876 he had left Wichita after the death of his wife. He left behind several children in the care of others. One of these, a daughter named Alice, met an early Wichitan named Henry Clay Day, and married him in 1879 when she was 18 and he was 35. Mr. Day was a very good businessman and started a ranch in southeast Arizona in the early 1880's which grew to be one of the largest in that state, while still having business dealings in Wichita.

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ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Colonists of New England & Nova Scotia: Burgess & Heckman families	G-B 170
Three Days on the White Mountains	G-B 171
Seven Generations of the Descendants of Aquila & Thomas Chase	G-C 142
Heartbeat of History: A Collection of tales from the Saltbox House	G-H 165
Seventeen Years at Eighth & Jackson: the story of life in the Lincoln Home	G-L 051
That Great Pattillo	G-P 074
Cross Reference Directory 1962 Greater Wichita and Vicinity	R-210 SG 048
The Free State of Winston: A History of Winston Co, Alabama	R-010 041
Annals of Northwest Alabama	R-010 042 V1-4
A History Lover's Guide to Wilmington & Lower Cape Fear	R-060 131
Lighthouses of the Carolinas	R-060 132
North Carolina's State Historic Sites	R-060 133
Boone Hall Plantation	R-070 036
Colorado Ghost Towns- past and present	R-080 023
Unique Ghost Towns and Mountain Spots	R-080 024
Newgate, from copper mine to state prison: A History	R-090 039
Newgate of Connecticut	R-090 040
Our Nation's Capitol: Washington, D.C.	R-130 002
Whitfield County, Georgia Cemeteries	R-150 038
Murray County, Georgia Heritage	R-150 039
An Official History of Whitfield County, Georgia 1852-1999	R-150 040
Murray County, Georgia School Days: Moravian to modern	R-150 041
Civil War stories, letters etc. of Murray and Whitfield Counties, Ga	R-150 042
Scenic, Historic Lookout Mountain	R-150 043
Murray County, Georgia Marriage Records Books 1-6 1835-1905	R-150 044
The Story of the marking of the Santa Fe Trail by Kansas DAR	R-210 167

BIRTHDAY CONTINUED

Later, Mr. and Mrs. Day would have a granddaughter, Sandra, who grew up on the ranch in Arizona. She too, had a kind of run-in with the law when as Sandra Day O'Connor, she became the first woman Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

What I would like to know, is what happened to all those other signers? I'm thinking of tackling this question. I believe it would make an interesting project for historians and genealogists alike during this 150th Birthday year. So, if any of you have any information or thoughts, let me know.

Rex Riley, President MHGS

MHGS PANDEMIC ARCHIVE UPDATE

Julia has been assembling an archive about the coronavirus pandemic's effects in Sedgwick County – and has collected over 950 items so far! We have a small gallery of some of the photos online at <http://mhgswichita.org/om/exhibits/show/archivingcovid19sedgwickcounty/archiving-covid-19> If you have anything to contribute, please email it to library@mhgswichita.org.

FGS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER

The Federation of Genealogical Societies has moved its 2020 conference online. Watch genealogy rock stars like Judy Russell, Lisa Louise Cooke and CeCe Moore from your living room! Attend a national conference for as little as \$150 with no travel or hotel expenses.

Check out all the educational opportunities and pricing options at <https://fgs.org/annual-conference/>

BIG THANK YOU !!!!!

Peggy Scharnhorst, our intrepid garage sale shopper has done it again. She obtained a new refrigerator for the library, that is in perfect working condition. No more frozen cans to explode and cause a disaster. Thanks so much, Peggy. You are awesome!

2019 – 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Library open limited hours only in August: Tuesday and Saturday, 10 to noon.

Please see the Google calendar or our Facebook page for details.

POWER-UP SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP	RESEARCHING THE HISTORY OF A HOUSE, BUSINESS OR A FARM
Second Tuesday @ 1:30 to 3 pm Led by Julia Langel ON HIATUS	Third Saturday @ 1:30 to 3 pm Led by Julia Langel ON HIATUS
PHOTO MYSTERIES	AFRO-AMERICAN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP
Third Tuesday @ 1:30 Led by Rex Riley ON HIATUS	Fourth Saturday @ 1 pm ON HIATUS

Midwest Historical & Genealogical Society

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Change Service Requested