

# MIDWEST HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## ALERT

VOLUME 42 NUMBER 5

SEPT 2020

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Wichita, KS 67201

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mhgswichita.org

Library Hours:  
Tuesday & Saturday  
10 a.m. to noon

Inside this issue:

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

### FINDING PHOTOS OF HISTORIC WICHITA BUILDINGS

At the library, we are often asked if we have photographs of an old house or business in the Sedgwick County area. There are several sources for historic photographs, and you'll probably have to check all of them.

At MHGS, we have hundreds of photographs. In general, they fall into two categories -- the ones that are digitized and indexed on our Digital Collections website [mhgswichita.org/om](http://mhgswichita.org/om), and the ones that are still stuck in boxes and are unindexed mysteries. If you've searched the website, you pretty much know what we know about our photos. Many of the mystery photographs are part of personal research collections that have been donated to the library; if you search our library catalog for a surname and find it associated with one of these collections, it may be worth your time to come rummage through the photo boxes (or you can wait until we get the collection digitized and online. Which we will, eventually.)

There are three main other organizations with photographs: the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, the Wichita Public Library, and WSU Special Collections. Several years ago, they collaborated to digitize about a thousand of what they thought were their most interesting historical photographs and put them online at [wichtaphotos.org](http://wichtaphotos.org). This is a terrific site -- you can search by topic, residents' surname, architect, street name and more. All three of these organizations have more photos than are digitized on the site, with indexes that are not online, and you will need to contact them directly to find out if they have an image of your house.

Newspapers can be another interesting source. Old newspapers have drawings and photos of significant houses and buildings. Ordinary houses may show up in "for sale" or "rooms for rent" ads with descriptions of the building and amenities, or in an article about the builder and first owner. Newer newspapers include photographs in the real estate sections. Check [newspapers.com](http://newspapers.com), [genealogybank.com](http://genealogybank.com), and the microfilm at the public library.

**Google.com** can also be helpful. Try searching on the address, the neighborhood or development name, and the names of the architect and any former homeowners or residents. Even if you don't find something during your first search, set up a Google Alert ([google.com/alerts](http://google.com/alerts)) -- Google will run your search every day and send you an email if it finds something.

(continued on page 3)

## ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Plainville, Kansas 1888-1988 The Pioneer Spirit Continues	R-210 RO 04
The Story of Council Grove on the Santa Fe Trail	R-210 MR 05
Vital Records of Calais, Maine prior to 1892	R-240 019 V1
The Maine Historical Magazine	R-240 020 N14 V1-3
Marriage returns of Washington Co, Maine, prior to 1892	R-240 020 N15
Vital Records from Eastport Sentinel, Eastport, Maine 1818-1900	R-240 020 N24
Vital Records of Biddeford, Maine prior to 1856	R-240 020 N28
Marriage Returns of Cumberland Co, Maine prior to 1892	R-240 020 N29
Maine Families in 1790	R-240 020 N31
Maine Families in 1790	R-240 020 N36
Vital Records of Rockland, Maine	R-240 020 N37
Marriage Returns of Lincoln Co., Maine to 1866	R-240 020 N39
Maine Families in 1790	R-240 020 N42
Vital Records of St. George, Maine	R-240 020 N43
Maine Families in 1790	R-240 020 N48
Calais, Maine Families: They came and they went	R-240 021
Collections from Cape Elizabeth, Maine	R-240 022
Vital Records of Lubec, Maine, prior to 1892	R-240 023
Early Narraguagus River Families of Washington Co, Maine	R-240 024 V1,2
Early Jonesborough Families of Washington Co, Maine	R-240 025
Early Pleasant River Families of Washington Co, Maine	R-240 026
Eastport and Passamaquoddy; a collection of Historical & Biographical sketches	R-240 027
Broad Bay Pioneers: 18 <sup>th</sup> Century German-speaking settlers of Waldoboro, Maine	R-240 028
The Maine Seine	R-240 029 V07-12
Ancient North Yarmouth and Yarmouth, Maine 1636-1936	R-240 030
Down East: a Maritime History of Maine	R-240 031

## HOUSE PHOTOS (CONT.)

If you are on **Facebook.com**, ask to join the group "Wichita History From My Perspective." This is a huge group of almost 15,000 Wichita history nerds, many of whom have private photograph collections. Be sure to search first, looking for street, architect and residents; if you don't find anything, you can post a message asking if anyone has a photograph to share.

And finally, don't leave future Wichitans in the lurch! Take a picture of your house or business, as it appears today. Put a copy in your family history files, to go to your descendants. Put a copy in your property files, to remember to give to the next owner. Send a digital copy to MHGS, and we'll put it in our digital collection.

Do you have any other ideas on where to find photos? Do you know of a cache of photos that ought to be digitized and put online? Let us know! Stop by the library or email Julia at [library@mhgswichita.org](mailto:library@mhgswichita.org)

## 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](mailto: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 !!!!!

Thanks, Vince for taking the obsolete technology to be e-cycled and tidying up the library.

## 2019 – 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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

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

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Change Service Requested