

MIDWEST HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

ALERT

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

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A GRAVE MARKER – AT LAST !

The Friends of the Wichita Pioneers are proud to announce that the final resting place of Delano Dance Hall owner and Union Veteran Edward T. “Red” Beard will finally have a grave marker at Highland Cemetery (1005 N. Hillside, Wichita).

“Red” Beard is a well – known figure in Wichita’s early history due to the epic 1873 gunfight with fellow dance hall owner Joseph “Rowdy Joe” Lowe that has been recounted by many historians through the years.

The gunfight ended with Lowe shooting Beard on October 27, 1873. Beard’s death occurred on November 4, 1873 and he was buried in an unmarked grave at Highland Cemetery.

The Friends of the Wichita Pioneers have worked with numerous local historians and the Veteran’s Administration to secure a military marker, as Beard was a member of the Union Army in 1861. That marker will be revealed on November 7, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at Highland Cemetery.

The military service will be held by members of the Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution; Company A 8th Kansas Volunteer Infantry Civil War reenactors; and the Cpl. Pat Coyne Camp 1 Sons of the Unions Veterans of the Civil War.

Speaker for the event is local historian, Keith Wondra with Chisholm Trail 150th Anniversary committee members expected to be in attendance.

For more information, please contact Barb Myers 316-371-7254



MARRIAGE RECORDS

Marriage records are a primary source of genealogical information. The names, ages, and residences are reliably printed on a legal document. Other details may be gleaned from researching the witnesses, the officiant, and perhaps consenting parent.

However, there are some considerations that need to be recognized in the legal process of marriage. Over its history, marriage as an institution has evolved. Prior to the 1500's, a marriage was arranged as a way to strengthen families. The bride and groom usually did not know each other.

The Protestant Reformation had a large effect on marriage. When the Roman Catholic Church mandated a wedding could not take place without a priest and witnesses, Puritans defied the requirement by refusing to marry unless it was a secular event by a government official. The status of women slowly changed from chattel to legally equal. The institution changed from a contract to a sacrament, and then neither.

Customs, such as wedding rings, the need to be married in a church, the legal recognition of a union, all evolved in the last 500 years. The state replaced the church as the institution that regulated marriage.

Consent to be married became an important factor. Girls were married at ages as low as ten in Kansas in the 1880's, and in Tennessee as recently as 2001. States have now regulated ages of consent much higher. It is sixteen for girls in Kansas, though exceptions to fifteen may be granted by courts. Eighteen is the current age for boys, though it has been as high as twenty one. Kansas banned marriage between first cousins in 1858, but twenty six states allow it, twenty without restrictions. At one point in our history, Kansas refused to recognize a wedding performed out of state with a license issued here. The law refused to allow the recording of the marriage.

The Supreme Court ruled that the right to marry was a constitutional right in 2015.

We currently have a three day waiting period, but no other preconditions, such as a blood test. The license, if not used, expires after six months. Who you marry, where you marry, and why you marry are no longer discriminated against.

Jim Scharnhorst

TOPEKA HEARTLAND FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

The Topeka Genealogical Society has reconfigured its genealogy conference to be virtual and rescheduled it to start on October 31!

The virtual conference will include a full day of live-streamed presentations from Lisa Alzo, plus on-demand access to dozens of other pre-recorded presentations until January 31, 2021.

Check out the details and register for the conference here: <https://tgstopeka.org/cpage.php?pt=9>

Julia has already filmed her virtual presentation on photographs!

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Down East: A Maritime History of Maine	R-240 031
New Portland Register, 1902	R-240 032
Maine Rubicon: Downeast Settlers during the American Revolution	R-240 033
Maine Historical & Genealogical Recorder	R-034 V 01-09
Vital Records of Portland, Maine: Births, marriages, deaths, 1786-1814	R-240 035 V 1
Westbrook, Maine Cemeteries	R-240 036
The Sixteenth Maine Regiment in the War of the Rebellion	R-240 037 V1-2
Pemaquid Lost and Found	R-240 038
Down East.: Maine, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and the Gaspé	R-240 039
Portland: A Collection of 19th Century Engravings	R-240 040
Counties, Cities, Towns and Plantations of Maine	R-240 041
Portland, Maine	R-240 042
An Index of Revolutionary Pensioners living in Maine	R-240 043
The Lighthouses of Maine	R-240 044
An Historical Sketch of Deer Isle, Maine	R-240 045
Early Mackinac: A sketch, historical and descriptive	R-270 022
Early Mt Washington Cog Railway Picture Book	R-340 028
North Hampton, N. H. Vital Statistics, 1742-1942	R-340 029

2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Library open limited hours only in October: 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