

# MIDWEST HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## ALERT

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Library Hours:

Tuesday and Saturday  
12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Inside this issue:

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

### LIBRARY REOPENING

We're going to reopen library in April! We're planning on Tuesdays and Saturdays, noon to 4, starting April 6. As more of us get vaccinated, we'll add more hours. We will continue to use masks, social distancing and common sense to keep everyone safe.

We have a few volunteer projects underway, and would love to have some new folks helping out. Email Julia at [library@mhgswichita.org](mailto:library@mhgswichita.org) if you are interested in helping with scanning photos, indexing records or putting the Register online.

Special interest groups and classes will have to wait a little longer.

### ANNUAL MEETING MAY 15, 2021

Attention MHGS members! The Annual Meeting will be Saturday, May 15, at 1pm.

At this meeting we will conduct our usual elections and vote on a by-law change to allow mail-in voting (currently we are only allowed to vote in person.) If you would be interested in serving on the board, please contact Rex at [president@mhgswichita.org](mailto:president@mhgswichita.org).

We are hoping that this later date will allow us all to have a safer meeting. Meanwhile we will keep you informed through the newsletter.

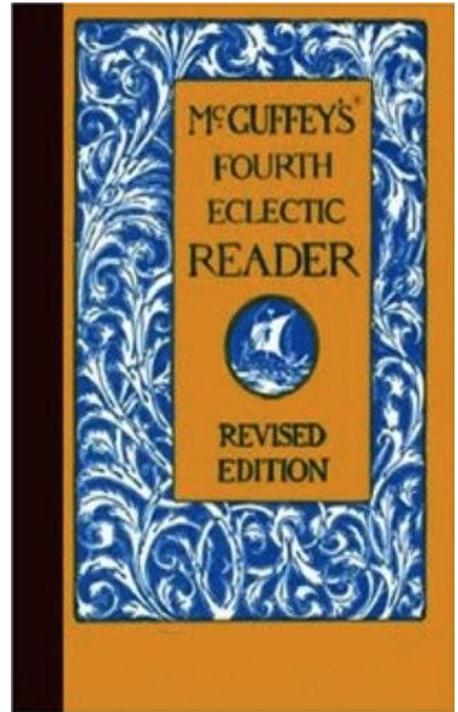
### MCGUFFEY'S READERS

I stumbled on a copy of McGuffey's Fourth Eclectic Reader on a day trip last week. I knew a little about its' history but had never actually seen one before. At two dollars and in mint condition, I thought it was worth adding to my collection. As I looked through my find, I realized many of my assumptions about it were wrong. A little research enlightened me. The first readers were published in 1836, even older than I thought. New printings are still being used in private and home schools. I assumed they were too dated. I didn't know there were several levels that allowed students to progressively learn reading and spelling skills. Religion was a large component of the early editions, but was gradually replaced by more

secular instruction. I looked through my issue, copyrighted 1879 and printed in 1920, and was surprised at the sophistication of content.

Part of my fascination with the textbook was due to my research about my grandmother, who died before I was born. She was a teacher in Cherryvale, Kansas before WW1. I had already learned that much of my assumed facts about education and teachers was wrong. I thought of her in terms of MY experience in school. I only changed my attitude about her after going to a museum in Independence and finding some of her records. I was shocked to learn that most teachers at that time only had an eighth grade education. There were no certifications, no normal (teacher) schools, and no freedoms. Teachers were nearly all female, could not be married, and were paid less than a living wage. Small wonder that she quit at twenty eight and married my grandfather. Her politics were progressive and she joined and promoted the Populist party in Kansas. I wish I had met her.

I find the need to research my assumptions more frequently as I expand my genealogical studies. Most of my stories are colored by my bias as an old white guy. I learned my history at school and only now do I realize how much was omitted. My values have been colored by my cultural experience, and I realize it wasn't typical. I'd like to think I have matured in my thinking and no longer accept the conventional wisdom as accurate. Finding artifacts that challenge my beliefs, and lead me down rabbit holes, educate me in really interesting history. My new favorite pet: the squirrel.



Jim Scharnhorst

## DID THEY EVER USE THEIR "REAL" NAME????

My great-grandmother was born Frances Iona Rampley. There is only one record on her that uses that name: her birth certificate. Her marriage record, mortgages she signed, her social security death index entry, 1900 -1940 census enumerations, court documents, estate papers, tombstone, etc. all list her as Fannie.

Your ancestor may never have used their "real" name. And if they never used their "real" name was that their real name? In the case of my great-grandmother, I list her as Fannie and in my notes indicate what her record of birth says.

Posted by Michael John Neill

## ROOTSTECH VIDEOS

The first virtual RootsTech conference is over, but the videos are still available! There are hundreds of videos, varying in length from a couple of minutes to a couple of hours, but most are about 20 minutes. The RootsTech folks have grouped them in thematic groups to make it easier to wander about, but you can also search by a topic, like DNA, or a geographic region, like Mexico, or by speaker, like Judy Russell. Check it out at

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021/series>

## ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Castillo	R-140 011
The Hills of Habersham	R-150 046
With Head Held High	G-H 168
Joseph Hill and Mary Emily Cannon Hill	G-H 167
Laura Greer Morrow Collection	VB Morrow V 01-10
Beeler Broncos 1923-1966 Alumni	R-210 NS 05
Greer International Newsletter	G-G 090
Zug/Zuck/Zouck/Zook Genealogy	G-Z 010
Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Scrapbook	R-210 SG 256
Olathe High Schools Alumni Directory	R-210 JO 09
St Francis of Assisi Church Parish Directory 2000	R-210 SG 257
St Francis of Assisi Church Parish Directory 1985	R-210 SG 257
St Francis of Assisi Church Parish Directory 1990	R-210 SG 257
History of Bedminster, Bucks County, Pennsylvania	R-410 374
The Black Legends of Kansas	R-210 169
Stones, Saints and Sinners	R-620 285

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Library open Tuesday and Saturday, noon to 4 pm; email [library@mhgswichita.org](mailto:library@mhgswichita.org)

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