

MIDWEST HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

ALERT

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Library Hours:

Tuesday and Saturday
12 to 4 pm.

[\(library@mhgswichita.org\)](mailto:library@mhgswichita.org)

Inside this issue:

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

LIBRARY OPEN!

We are open Tuesdays and Saturdays, noon to 4. As more of us get vaccinated, we'll add more hours.

We're planning to restart the special interest groups this summer. Photo Mysteries will restart on June 15 at 1:30. PowerUp will restart in July.

We're thinking about an ice cream social in July, maybe. Contact Jim if you are interested in helping with this or to request a specific flavor.

The new House History workshop will start in September.

THE POWER OF PROCRASTINATION

At the beginning of the "enforced down-time of 2020/2021" otherwise known as the pandemic, I had great plans and a massive to-do list as I was going to make the best of a bad situation.

I was going to use my time wisely and actually accomplish things that had been put aside! I was going to clean one area in my house each day- one shelf at a time was my plan. That lasted for two days before I lost interest.

I was going to sew my own wardrobe. I made a blouse. I also took a lot of naps. The problem is that I have a lot of hobbies. It seems that when I'm trying to sew, I'd rather be reading. When I'm reading, I'd rather be crocheting. I've NEVER enjoyed cleaning. That's a chore, not a hobby. Sometimes when I sit down to rest a few minutes, I fall asleep and wake up hours later.

And the truth is, all of my hobbies take a backseat to my obsession – genealogy!

Just like I love to read a good mystery, I love hunting for clues to fill in the blanks in my family tree. Sometimes, it seems so easy that I can't understand why everyone doesn't do it. At other times, a roadblock stops all forward progress and it feels like I'm beating my head against a wall. Attacking the road block from different directions sometimes helps, but not always. Sometimes you just can't get past it. You can't know what's not available to know. And that is when my own personal super-power becomes evident: I am a procrastinator. And I'm good at it!

Over a year ago, I hit a roadblock while researching my maternal 2nd great grandfather, I had found few details of his life beyond his name and the names of his children. I knew he was from the east – somewhere between Pennsylvania and South Carolina.

PROCRASTINATION CONTINUED

None of my living relatives had any reliable information to help me in my search. I had tried everything I could think of, all different directions had been pursued, than I did what I do best. I PROCRASTINATED. I put it aside and went weeks or maybe even months without touching the computer. I got a lot of crocheting done! I may have even cleaned my house a bit. I took a lot of naps.

Then the fateful day arrived. My membership to Ancestry.com auto-renewed and it cost me money! That financial reminder finally kickstarted me back to my laptop.

On reviewing my overall tree, I looked at his name and there was a hint! The first one ever! While I had been busily avoiding my roadblock, someone somewhere had added information to their account which led back to me!

Suddenly, I had a bridge over my roadblock and a helping hand. And they even had documentation to prove when he was born, where, and where he died. I had not been able to find any proof until now. Now there he was on Familysearch.org and Ancestry.com and in all of my usual areas of research. Once I had the location, documentation began flowing in.

Breaking down that roadblock began a flood of information. I've gotten beyond him for two generations back, and I'm so excited! It was so satisfying, finally, like sunshine after a long period of cloudiness. Had I not been able to verify the information, I might have wanted to believe it anyway, but that could have been a mistake. It's unpleasant to think of, but people are human and they make mistakes, so relying on unverifiable data is sometimes risky. You can't believe everything you read on the internet. You don't know the people who are adding data to their family trees and you don't know where they got their information, unless there's documentation. That's when you need to verify, verify, verify. In those old family photos, not everyone with long dark hair and smoking a corncob pipe is a Native American. Not everyone wearing a kilt is Scottish. Sometimes, family lore is just wrong, but it gets repeated often enough that it becomes "fact" even though it isn't true.

The main thing I learned from this experience is not to give up. Just because vital information is missing today doesn't mean you'll never find it. New people are adding information to sites such as Ancestry and Family Search every day, and you have to keep researching, keep hunting for your missing information. Somewhere out there, somebody knows something that you don't. Somebody has that old family Bible or photograph or document that will open up a flood of information once they share it. Keep adding information that you have too, in case you're holding a significant clue in someone else's mystery. When you feel like you're banging your head against a wall take a step back and maybe do something else awhile until your head clears. Sometimes, procrastination is a tool. Use it wisely!

Teresa Cansell

PHOTO MYSTERIES STARTING AGAIN IN JUNE!

Rex is starting up the Photo Mysteries Special Interest Group again at 1:30 p.m. on June 15. Once again, anyone can bring in an old photograph and Rex will walk the group through analyzing it for clues to its date, location and event. The library also has a good collection of photo reference books for you to use. If you would like to have your photo scanned, we can help you use our scanning and digitizing equipment (just bring a flash drive for the resulting digital file.)

As with all our special interest groups, this one is free and open to everyone. No reservations required. Come learn how to analyze photographs or just to see some cool old pictures!

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Kentucky Genealogical Records & Abstracts	R-220 145
History of the Town of Exeter, New Hampshire	R-340 032
History of Stratham, New Hampshire 1631-1900	R-340 033
History of Hampton Falls, New Hampshire	R-340 034
History of Hampton, New Hampshire 1638-1988	R-340 035
Auglaize County, Ohio Probate Death Records V1-3 1867-1898	R-380 352
Early Marriages Paulding Co, Ohio 1839-1902	R-380 353
Memorial Records of Shelby Co, Ohio 1819-1975	R-380 354
Cemetery Inscriptions Paulding Co, Ohio (to 1986)	R-380 355
Trinity Lutheran Church of Reading, Berks Co, Pennsylvania	R-410 141
Abstracts & Identification of European Origins Church Records – Pa	R-410 375
Venango County, Pennsylvania Records	R-410 376
1852-1854 Vital Statistics, Venango Co, Pennsylvania	R-410 377
Venango Co, Pa Soldiers	R-410 378
Venango Co, Pa Cemetery Records & Church Histories	R-410 379
Washington Co, Tennessee Tombstone Inscriptions	R-430 195 v1-3
Campbell Co, Tennessee Marriage Records 1881-1890	R-430 197

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Library open Tuesday & Saturday 12 – 4 Email library@mhgswichita.org

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	Third Saturday @ 1:30 to 3 pm
Led by Julia Langel	Led by Julia Langel
Restarting July 13!	Will start in September
PHOTO MYSTERIES	AFRO-AMERICAN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP
Third Tuesday @ 1:30	Fourth Saturday @ 1 pm
Led by Rex Riley	ON HIATUS
Restarting June 15!	

Midwest Historical & Genealogical Society

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Change Service Requested