

MIDWEST HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

ALERT

VOLUME 43 NUMBER 4

JULY 2021

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Library Hours:
Tuesday and Saturday
10 to 4 pm.

(library@mhgswichita.org)

Inside this issue:

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

LIBRARY OPEN! PLEASE COME VISIT!

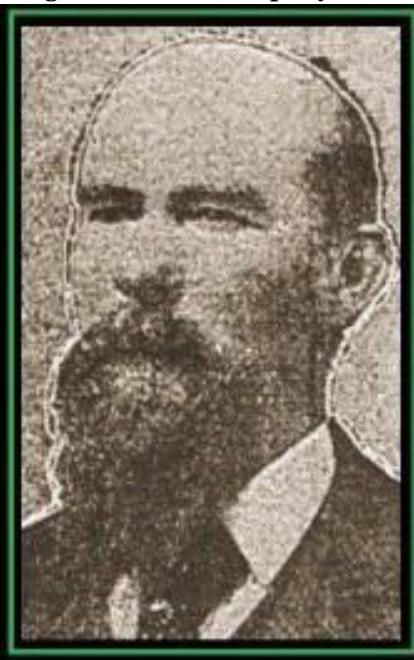
We are open Tuesdays and Saturdays 10 to 4.

We have two special interest groups meeting this month. Photo Mysteries will be July 20 at 1:30. PowerUp will be July 13 at 1:30; this month we'll just be catching up with each other and planning for the next few months.

The new House History workshop will start in September.

CANNONBALL GREEN AND THE CANNONBALL HIGHWAY

Parts of U.S. Highway 54 was originally known as the Cannonball Highway. It was named after Donald Robertson "Cannonball" Green, a loud, burly, flashy stagecoach driver who moved his prosperous stage line from Kingman to Wichita in 1882. He earned the nickname "Cannonball" because he could make the run from Wichita to Coldwater in 10-hours, a break-neck speed for a stagecoach. His company was called the Cannonball Stage Company.



Green ran 70 bright yellow and green stagecoaches, and he had around 1000 matched horses to pull them. A large herd was necessary since he switched teams about every 20 miles.

Green was known for his remarkable ability as a driver and for his smooth relay changes. His skill with a bullwhip was legendary. It is said he could flick a fly off a galloping horse at twenty feet!

Cannonball Green became friends with *Wichita Eagle* editor, Marshall Murdock, who gave him free advertising in the paper, and also offered him a contract for delivering newspapers and mail to the fledgling towns west of Wichita. Green also hauled passengers. His coaches could carry nine inside, with additional space up top for budget-minded, yet

courageous riders who could desperately cling to the roof. One of his noteworthy passengers was Carry Nation; however, her trip was cut short. Green kicked her off the stage when she snatched a lit cigar from his mouth.

Cannonball was a flamboyant man, who wore a gray suit with a diamond studded chain he liked to twirl. He drove with a rifle across his lap and a Colt revolver at the side of his seat, yet he boasted that he had never been the victim of a holdup, and never lost a cent of his passengers' money.

The Cannonball Highway was actually present-day Maple Street, beginning at West Street and running west to "10 Mile Corner" (Colwich Road), where it turned south for one mile, then continued west along the route of today's US 54. The Cannonball Stage Line helped build towns west of Wichita such as Garden City, Pratt, Meade, Wellsford, and Green's namesake, Greensburg. Green organized Kiowa County, making Greensburg the county seat. In 1889, he represented Greensburg in the Kansas State Legislature.

With the Depression of 1889-1890, and the decreasing need for stage travel due to railroad expansion, Green's fortune dwindled away. He drove for a time in Indian Territory, then moved to California and performed in a few rodeos. He spent his last years living a quiet life until his death in 1922. He is buried in Wichita's Maple Grove Cemetery. Though written during his time in Wichita, the following is a fitting tribute: "Colonel D.R. Green, proprietor of the Cannonball Stageline...has done more with his stageline to build up the western part of the state than perhaps any other one individual." *The Wichita Beacon*, May 1, 1886.

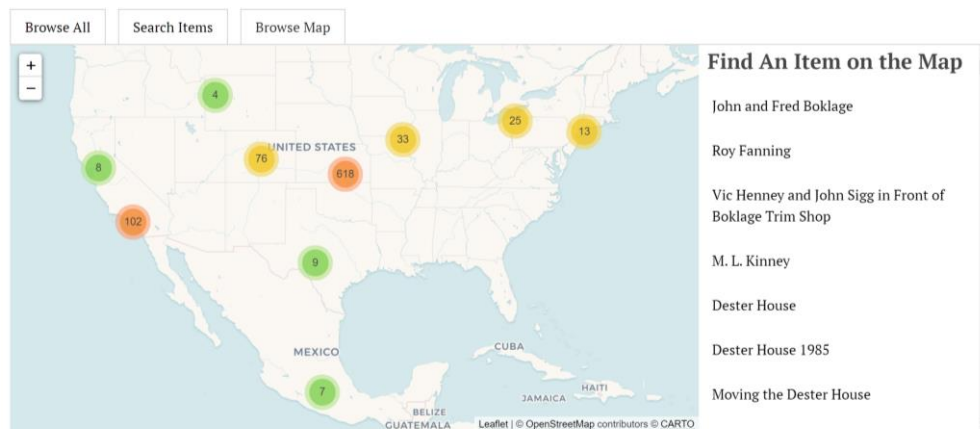
Barry Owens, "Green Could Flick a Fly at 20 Feet," *Neighbors West*, August 19, 2015; Obituary, *The Wichita Beacon*, August 2, 1922; Becky Tanner, "Speed, Diamonds Were His Signature," *The Wichita Eagle*; Annette Wood, "Recalling the Legend of Cannonball Green," *WestSide Story*, August, 1997.

June Johnson

NEW ON THE MHGS DIGITAL COLLECTIONS WEBSITE

Have you visited the MHGS Digital Collections website at <http://mhgswichita.org/om/> recently? We have enabled a new mapping feature! Now, when we know the location for a photograph, the page for it will show a little map of that location. Or, from the main menu, you can click on Map on the main menu, and see a map with pins for all the located photos. When the map view is zoomed out, the pins are lumped together in groups...just click on a pin group to zoom in.

Browse Items on the Map (939 total)



As you can see, as of today we have 939 items with locations attached – out of 8157 total items in the database.

AD ON CRAIGSLIST

Going out of business sale, Large granite tombstones. Several available. Perfect gift for anyone named Snith, Andersox, Kely, Jensan, or Ste wart

Thanks, Vince !

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Carter Co., Tennessee Death Record Abstracts	R-430 198
Tennessee Records: Tombstone Inscriptions & Manuscripts	R-430 199
Upon a Lonely Hill: The Cemeteries of Johnson Co., Tennessee	R-430 196
Tennessee Records: Bible Records and Marriage Bonds	R-430 200
Carter Co., Tennessee Marriage Records 1796-1870	R-430 201
Washington Co., Tennessee Wills 1777-1872	R-430 202
Unicoi Co., Tennessee Death Record Abstracts 1908-1936	R-430 203
Johnson Co., Tennessee Death Record Abstracts 1908-1941	R-430 204
Washington Co., Tennessee Marriages 1780-1870	R-430 205
Carter Co., Tennessee Marriages 1871-1920	R-430 206
Rockwall County History	R-440 083
John Fauquier Families 1759-1799	R-470 398
Forgotten Soldiers: History of the 4 th Tn Volunteer Infantry Regiment	R-670 187
History of the Thirteenth Regiment, Tn Volunteer Cavalry	R-670 286
Cathie Hockman Collection	VF Cox 1-10
Alberta Davida Otto Photograph Collection	VF Otto

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Library open Tuesday & Saturday 10 – 4 Email library@mhgswichita.org
Closed Saturday, July 3 for the holiday.

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

Midwest Historical & Genealogical Society

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Change Service Requested