

MIDWEST HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

ALERT

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Library Hours:

Tuesday and Saturday
10 to 4 pm.

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

Restart the special interest groups this summer!! Power Up will be watching and discussing a webinar on Civil War non-combatant personnel (cooks, teamsters, laundresses, sutlers, etc.)

A DAR special interest group will begin on the fourth Tuesday at 1:30. It will be led by Twila Ackley Brown. She will be able to assist with paperwork.

The new House History workshop will start in September (see inside)

10 MILE CORNER AND BLENDON

In the early 1870's, what is now known as Maple Street was just a rutted dirt track running from the new town of Wichita out into the open prairie. But by 1872, when the railroad came to Wichita, scores of settlers headed west along that road, and some decided to stay.

Attica Township was created in 1873 by a group of Civil War veterans, immigrants, and farmers looking for fertile land to homestead. Soon after that, a small settlement developed at the corner of Maple and Colwich Road. The former was called Ten-Mile Corner or Ten-Mile Post since it was 10 miles west of Wichita, and that was what the settlement was initially called as well. Then on February 11, 1875. The settlement officially became a town with the establishment of a post office: the town was named Blendon.

Blendon was described as "a beautiful little village." Besides the post office, it had a township hall, blacksmith shop, hotel with a restaurant, two stores, and five residences.

Attica School was built about a half-mile to the southeast. The school also served as a community center, and as a church shared by the Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterians. The denominations combined to organize a Sunday School in the Spring of 1875.

Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, located a mile and a half west, had been in use since 1870. Many of the original settlers were buried there, and it is still an active cemetery.

Local lore tells of an “enterprising woman” who owned a business in Blendon. She got hold of a horse and plow, enlisted a neighboring farmer, then helped him plow a furrow down the middle of the Cannonball Highway from Wichita to her “establishment.” This pioneer advertising promotion was created to guide travelers and settlers to her place. No mention is made of just what kind of business she owned.

Blendon was not without culture. Several of the young ladies had graduated from a finishing school back East and they returned home wearing the latest fashions. Music lessons were available in town, as well as tutoring in Greek and Latin. There was even a library of 150 volumes located in one of the stores! Some of the area menfolk went on to serve in local and state governments.

June Johnson

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

A Lady's life in the Rocky Mountains	G-B 174
Black Elk speaks: Life story of a holy man of the Ogalala Sioux	G-B 175
Ladies of the Canyons	G-C 145
History and Genealogy of Hoagland Family in America	G-H 171
Down the Santa Fe Trail and into Mexico: diary of Susan Shelby Magoffin 1846-1847	G-M 108
Frederic Remington's own West	G-R 074
Precious Memories, How They Linger: Jerome Lee & Edna McBride Swisher	G-S 166
Trelawny: a man's life	G-T 057
The Life and Times of Harvey Walker (and Descendants of Sylvanus Walker)	G-W 133
The Puritan Dilemma: the Story of John Winthrop	G-W 134
Good Pictures: a History of Popular Photography	I 320
Women in the Dark: Female Photographers in the US, 1850-1900	I 321
Colbertians: A History of Colbert County, Alabama, Pioneer Citizens before 1875	R-010 043
Distinguished Men, Women and Families of Franklin County, Alabama	R-010 044
The Romance of the Spanish Peaks	R-080 027
Ebenezer Record Book 1745-1781	R-150 048
Rock Island (Blackhawk) Genealogical Society Quarterly	R-180 198 V 43-44

WICHITA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

Registration is now open for the 9th Annual Genealogical Conference. It will be held at the Hughes Metroplex in Wichita, Kansas on October 9.

Lisa Louise Cooke will be sharing her genius in four sessions -- Google Search Methodology, How to Save your Research from Destruction, How to Organize All this Genealogy Stuff, How to Reopen & Work a Genealogical Cold Case. In addition, there will be a selection of vendors providing information and genealogy goodies for sale; MHGS will have a table there as usual.

Details and Registration: www.wichitagensoc.org

NEW RESEARCH AND WRITING WORKSHOP!

Julia will be starting a new research and writing workshop in September – Researching and Writing About a House, Business or Farm! We will be meeting six times, in September, October, November, January, February and March, on the second Saturdays at 1:30 p.m. We will cover topics like deed research, maps, architectural styles, researching previous owners, conducting oral research and finding photographs and other illustrations. Although we will discuss the resources available from the historic registry projects at the national, state and local levels, this class is not intended to address how to get a property listed on an Historic Registry, although it may help with the research for that process.

Our first session will be Saturday, September 11, at 1:30 p.m. Email Julia at library@mhgswichita.org if you have any questions!

For those of you who want to get all the information in a condensed format, we are tentatively planning a one-day version of the workshop in February or March. Email library@mhgswichita.org if you are interested.

Remember, as with all of Julia's research and writing workshops....there will be homework!

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Library open Tuesday & Saturday 10 – 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	Second Saturday @ 1:30 to 3 pm
Led by Julia Langel	Led by Julia Langel
	Will start in September
PHOTO MYSTERIES	DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION GROUP
Third Tuesday @ 1:30	Fourth Tuesday @ 1:30 pm
Led by Rex Riley	Will start in August
	Led by Twila Ackley Brown

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Change Service Requested