

1203 N. Main  
P.O. Box 1121  
Wichita, KS 67201

316-264-3611

[info@mhgswichita.org](mailto:info@mhgswichita.org)

[mhgswichita.org](http://mhgswichita.org)

Library Hours:

Tuesday and Saturday  
10 to 4 pm.

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### The Special House At 1902 N. Arkansas

The house is there, at 1902, because my grandfather, Ernest Leroy Craig, contracted to have it moved to that location. At the time, my maternal grandfather was living in the home to the east, at 530 W. 18<sup>th</sup>. Eighteenth Street was the end of Wichita City Limits going north from Douglas Avenue, the center of the city, and the Chisholm Trail Road from the late 1800's.

Grandfather and his brothers grew up at 1716 N. Waco. His wife grew up on East 18<sup>th</sup> Street, where the parking lot is now. The home used to be at 206 W. 18<sup>th</sup>. My great grandfather, Michael, lived on 19<sup>th</sup> Street, the same position as the 530 W 18<sup>th</sup>, and that house is still in existence. The property to the west of Grandfather's was a vacant lot. The street of Arkansas was not paved until the late 1940s or early 1950s. The river bank looked similar to what the west side of the river now looks, with trees and brush.

The seven railroad companies putting in tracks for seven lines were now completed. The companies had provided housing along the tracks for their workers. Each "house" contained 2 rooms, same size and a front door. The houses were put up for bid and the winner was responsible for moving them. Grandfather purchased 2 houses and had them moved west from the tracks by mule. He put them together, that is why the front four rooms are the same size. The front, south room, was the living/parlor room, to the east was the original kitchen. The two rooms now on the north side were the bedrooms. He moved/gave this home to his sister, Lena Craig Naramore and two daughters, Melita and Jacquelyn "Jackie". Eventually they added plumbing and a bathroom between the two bedrooms on the north side. Originally there was a "privy" between the two family homes, just east of 1902. Both families/houses used the same privy. It would be east of where the garage now sits. (I do not know when the garage was built, possibly in the 1940s.

There had been a cellar, for canned goods, and to keep produce cool but also as a storm shelter. My great aunt Lena kept a turtle or two in the cellar to eat bugs. They would toss lettuce down for food for the turtles.

True to the day, on a cold morning, a pot-belly stove was used to heat the house. You know that because of the chimney which is still there. In the late 1940s, other heating was placed in the home. Electric panels surrounded the outside interior wall of the home, at the baseboards. This was quite common at the time for homes to become more modern.

My grandfather,, E.L Craig, also built the Flatiron Building on the SE corner of 21<sup>st</sup> and N. Broadway, the Fairview Apartments at 18<sup>th</sup> and N. Market, three homes across from St. Patrick's and had other businesses throughout the 1930s. He is also the founder of TAMKO Roofing Company, headquartered in Joplin, Missouri.

Francene Davis Sharp

## TIME FOR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS APPROACHING

Time to reNEW our searches for ancestors

Time to reNEW our membership

Come to the library to check out our NEW items of interest.

## BYGONE WORDS

In the bygone automotive world, there existed FENDER SKIRTS and the CONTINENTAL KIT. Made your car look pretty classy but could be a real pain when you needed to change a tire. How about CURB FEELERS and STEERING KNOBS.

The EMERGENCY BRAKE is now called the parking brake which is more in line with it's true function. Emergency brake did, however, conjure up a certain sense of drama. Most folks are probably gone that remember the FOOT FEED. Ever ride on the RUNNING BOARD? There's probably a few of us left.

This one goes a long way back -STORE-BOUGHT. Of course, just about everything is store-bought these days. But once it was bragging material to have a store-bought dress or a store-bought bag of candy. COAST TO COAST is a phrase that once held all sorts of excitement and now means almost nothing. Now we take the term WORLD WIDE for granted.

WALL-TO-WALL was once a magical term in our homes. In the '50s, everyone covered his or her hardwood floors with wall-to-wall carpeting! Today everyone replaces their wall -to-wall carpeting with hardwood floors. Apparently we have some trouble in getting it right.

PICTURE SHOW was something that used to take up an evening or a Saturday afternoon. It somehow became MOVIES and now that sometimes obscure word VIDEO that includes a length of moving images that can be lost in an eye blink.

## ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

A History of Ellsworth County, Kansas	R-210 EW 05
Wichita Art Museum: 75 Years of American Art	R-210 SG 262
Seward County, Kansas	R-210 SW 03
History of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania	R-410 381
The Faye and Martin Leach Collection	VF Leach 01-36
Carl Montgomery Collection	VF Montgomery 01
School Facilities Plan, U. S. D. 259 Wichita, Kansas	Online—link in catalog
Wichita, Kansas Riverside Parks	R-210 SG 273

## NEW WEBSITE FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

This new site specializes in documentation and records in the southern states. There are many eBooks that can be downloaded to your computer for a fraction of the cost of printed materials.

Documentation includes records such as: Marriages, deeds and land records, birth and death records, county court records, military and militia records naturalization and orphan records.

The website address is: <http://www.southerngenealogybooks.com>.

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Please see the Google calendar or our Facebook page for details.

<b>GENEALOGY ROUNDTABLE 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>Led by Julia Langel</b>	<b>Second Saturday @ 1:30 to 3 pm</b> <b>Led by Julia Langel</b> <b>January, February, March</b>
<b>PHOTO MYSTERIES</b>	<b>DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION</b>
<b>Third Tuesday @ 1:30 to 3 pm</b>  <b>Led by Rex Riley</b>	<b>Fourth Tuesday @ 1:30 pm</b>  <b>Led by Twila Ackley Brown</b>

Midwest Historical & Genealogical Society

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Change Service Requested