

1203 N. Main

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Library Hours:

Tuesday and Saturday
10 to 4 pm.

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

Inside this issue:

- Items of Interest
- Calendar of Events

AN UNUSUAL TREASURE

Many years ago, in my paternal grandmother's home I was intrigued by a large square frame which housed a wreath made with bits of hair woven with wire. The frame was made by my paternal grandfather to house this wreath which family lore says was made by my grandmother's mother (my great grandmother). As a child I didn't understand how anyone could weave flowers and leaves with hair. This frame hung in the house until my grandmother died. Then, it apparently got misplaced. I have tried to investigate this mystery for years, but no one else in the family seems to remember this treasure. Many years later, a relative in my maternal family sent me an envelope of things which belonged to my great uncle. He served in France during World War I. In the envelope was a cigarette case made of brass and a note about a museum which displays jewelry and wreaths made from hair. It also included a woven hair watch chain belonging to my great great grandfather.

I did some research on this hair museum and to my great surprise found that it did exist and was near my home. In 2017, I visited this museum in Independence, Missouri and spent some valuable time with Leila Cohoon, a cosmetologist who founded the Independence College of Cosmetology. With a bigger space she had room for the museum of hair.

The wreaths, in their frames, were considered pieces of art. At the time I visited she had the only hair museum in the world, boasting over 600 hair wreaths and over 2000 pieces of jewelry made of human hair.

Each piece of jewelry in the museum tells a story of why it was made. Sometimes it will have the name of the person as well as their birth date and death date. Other times, it will include many names and could be used as a family tree for GENEALOGY purposes in a wreath form.

Leila said she was very proud to be the keeper of these family treasures. However, currently I am unable to find any current information regarding the hair museum in Independence, Missouri.

TIME FOR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Time to reNEW our searches for ancestors

Time to reNEW our membership

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

ATTENTION MHGS MEMBERS!!!!

ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING TO BE HELD IN MAY

Please mark Saturday, May 21, 2022 on your calendars. That is the date when Midwest Historical and Genealogical Society will be holding its Annual Members Meeting.

The meeting will be at our library, 1203 N. Main, Wichita, Kansas beginning at 1:00 p.m.

At this meeting we will be conducting our usual elections and any other business that requires a vote by our membership.

If it is possible for you to come, we would really like to see you there; though this year, members will have the option to vote by proxy if they wish.

You will be receiving more information soon but meanwhile SAVE THE DATE!

Rex Riley, President

A PRACTICE THAT HAS GONE OUT OF STYLE

Have you ever received an envelope in the mail all edged in black? Or perhaps its four corners had been dipped in ink so they appeared to be black triangles?

You most likely haven't.

The practice of sending notices of deceased relatives has its origins in times when communication was much slower.

Letters or envelopes 'edged in black' was properly known as mourning stationery or mourning paper and takes us back to the Victorian era when being in mourning meant strictly adhering to certain rules. Black-edged stationary informed friends and relatives of the loss of a loved one.

Then by the mid twentieth century the practice of black-edged or black-cornered envelopes had pretty much fallen out of fashion. This could well be due to an increased speed of communication, what with more reliable mail service by motor vehicle and telephone.

Thanks to Francine Sharp and Dave Norris

LOCAL AUTHOR AT MHGS ON APRIL 9

Carol Hill, who has written and self-published a history of the Walnut Grove neighborhood, will be joining our House History class on Saturday, April 9, at 1:30, to talk about the process of writing and publishing a local history book. You are all invited to join us for this interesting conversation. Bring your questions!

COME LOOK INSIDE THE DRAWER

Come, look with me inside this drawer
In this box I've often seen
At the pictures, black and white
Faces Proud, still and serene
I wish I knew the people
These strangers in the box
Their names and all their memories
Are lost among the socks.
I wonder what their lives were like,
How did they spend their days?
What about their special times?
I'll never know their ways.
If only someone would have taken time,
To tell who, what, and when,
Those faces of my heritage
Would come to life again.
Could this become the fate
Of the pictures we take today?
The faces and the memories
Someday to be tossed away.
Make time to save your pictures
Seize the opportunity when it knocks
Or someday you and yours could be
The Strangers in the box

Pam Harazim

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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.

GENEALOGY ROUNDTABLE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP	RESEARCHING THE HISTORY OF A HOUSE, BUSINESS OR A FARM
Second Tuesday @ 1:30 to 3 pm Led by Julia Langel April 12: How to Keep your Genealogy Out of the Trash When You Are Gone	Second Saturday @ 1:30 to 3 pm Led by Julia Langel April 9 – Carol Hill
PHOTO MYSTERIES	DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
Third Tuesday @ 1:30 to 3 pm Led by Rex Riley	Fourth Tuesday @ 1:30 pm Led by Twila Ackley Brown

Midwest Historical & Genealogical Society

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Change Service Requested