

1203 N. Main

P.O. Box 1121

Wichita, KS 67201

316-264-3611

info@mhgswichita.org

mhgswichita.org

Library Hours:

Tuesday and Saturday  
10 to 4 pm.

(library@mhgswichita.org)

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- Latest Library Additions
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## DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF THE INTERNET

While researching people, common surnames like Smith or Johnson can be difficult to work with because there are so many with the same given names. Known birth dates can be useful for verifying identity, but the individual must be winnowed from a large collection into a manageable size.

The best tool for achieving that goal is to limit by locations. Ancestry.com has 1,107,491 records for people named John Smith, but only 2,321 in Wichita, Kansas. This eliminates 99.8% of the search. Any additional knowledge of the person can further narrow the number down to find who you're looking for.

The number of sources based on location are surprising. City Directories, Census Records, Court Records, Birth and Death Records, and the ubiquitous public records are all based on location. When you are able to specify a mailing address from a reliable source, that information can be used to find additional records to research.

One of the revelations I've found is that names are a matter of convention, not legal requirement. Different cultures name children in different ways. Customs are usually followed, but not always. Surnames get changed for a variety of reasons. Given names are handed down from generation to generation, then dropped.

I didn't find out about the German custom of giving the first son the father's name as a middle name until after my son was born. I had unknowingly followed the custom.

Spanish cultures give children two surnames, the father's and the mother's. The first surname is the father's but using both can help narrow a search. Research the naming conventions of an ethnicity before starting your research and save time.

Jim Scharnhorst

## TERRIFIC WICHITA DOCUMENTARY

Local filmmakers Sara and Charity Harmon made a documentary called "Who Scammed Rajah Rabbit?" about a local business scam from the 1930s. MHGS member June Johnson is interviewed extensively. It's terrific! There is a showing at the Wichita Art Museum on Wednesday, October 5, at 10:30 A.M. as part of Senior Wednesday. Free for WAM members, \$5 for others.

## FREE GENEALOGY WEBSITES YOU MAY BE OVERLOOKING

- Internet Archive, [archive.org](https://archive.org), has free books, movies, software, music, websites and more.
- State Archive, State Library, or State Historical Society of the state in which you are researching.
- State and Local Genealogy Society of the state or area in which you are researching.
- Digital Public Library of America, <https://dp.la>, brings together America's libraries, archives, and museums.
- Linkpendium, [www.linkpendium.com](http://www.linkpendium.com), is a list of genealogy and historical websites across the United States and UK, as well as family and surname websites.
- WorldCat, [www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org), connects you to collections of more than 10,000 libraries worldwide.
- FamilySearch Research Wiki, [familysearch.org/wiki](https://familysearch.org/wiki), is a genealogy resource guide to help you find sources from a region or country of ancestry.

From the Melting Pot Genealogy Society

## WE RESCUED A QUILT!

Rex recovered a quilt top at an auction in Belle Plaine and brought it in to show us. Phyllis Schanbacher took it home, quilted it on her long-arm quilting machine and put a binding around the edge. We have donated it to a fundraising auction.



## NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR LIBRARY COLLECTION

Etta Semple: Kansas Freethinker and 'Ideal' Woman	G-S 169
Planning a Future for Your Family's Past	I-331
Combination Atlas of McHenry County, Illinois 1872	A- 180 007
Early Maps of Keene, New Hampshire 1733-1892	A-340 003
Isis Temple, Salina, Kansas 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	R-210 SA 18
Project Beauty Collection	VF Project Beauty 1988-1998
The Alert	R-210 SG 155 Current
History of LaSalle County, Illinois	R-180 245
A Century of Kanza Cooperative: 1915-2015	R-210 289
The Wichita 4: Cessna, Moellendick, Beech & Stearman	R-210 SG 288
From oxen to jets; a history of DeKalb County 1835-1963	R-180 246
Wichita Country Club: Centennial Edition	R-210 SG 289
The Kansas School of Medicine: Eyewitness Reflections	R-210 WY 04
A History of the Town of Keene	R-340 037
Leavenworth	R-210 LV 10
McConnell Air Force Base	R-210 SG 286
The Best I Could Do: A 20-Year Kansas Sports History	R-210 283
Sympathy & Science: Women Physicians in American Medicine	R-600 105

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Library open Tuesday & Saturday 10 – 4 Email [library@mhgswichita.org](mailto:library@mhgswichita.org)

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

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

Midwest Historical and Genealogical Society

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Change Service Requested