

MIDWEST HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

ALERT

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Library Hours:

Tuesday and Saturday
10 to 4 pm.

library@mhgswichita.org

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WHAT DO WE DO WITH DONATED BOOKS?

Have you wondered what we do with the boxes of books and journals you donate to us? Do you worry that we throw books away? Here's a look at our process:

First, Julia checks the catalog and shelves to see if we already have a copy of a book in our library. If yes, the books go to the front hall. If we don't, she decides whether we need the book. If it has useful information, we keep it. If it is obsolete (for example, a how-to research book that pre-dates the internet or a previous edition of a book we already own) or doesn't fit our collections policy (we don't keep historical fiction, no matter how well researched) it goes to the front hall.

Second, the books are available in the front hall for purchase. Visitors to the library can make an offer on any book on the front shelves. Earlier this summer, a visitor from out of town left with two boxes of books!

Third, Kathy offers the books for sale on Facebook Marketplace. We don't sell many books this way – there are a lot of scammers out there.

Fourth, Kathy offers the books to a couple of email lists of genealogy librarians and genealogy societies. These lists are 'trade for postage' lists, and this year we've sent almost a hundred books to libraries all over the country and gotten reimbursed for the postage. For one especially heavy load of yearbooks that were going to the library in Independence, Missouri, Kathy and Micki made a road trip to Kansas City!

Finally, we donate unsold books to the Friends of the Library or Friends of the Art Museum to put in their used book sales.

The only things we put in the recycle bin are books that are too damaged to repair and journals that didn't get traded for postage (the used book sales won't take them.)

COME SEE US AT OPEN STREETS ICT ON SEPTEMBER 17

We're sharing a tent with Wichita Genealogy Society at the Open Streets ICT street fair on Douglas on Sunday, September 17. We'll be talking about Wichita history, local historical organizations, and having a social media scavenger hunt. We'll post our location on Facebook as soon as we know it. It should be a fun afternoon of sun, street food, and local history!

WICHITA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE REGISTER BEFORE 9/10

The Wichita Genealogical Society conference will be Saturday, October 7, at the Hughes Metroplex. The speaker will be Cheri Hudson Passey, a professional genealogist, teacher and podcaster, who will be speaking on probate records, location research, city directories and the categories of genealogical evidence. The cost will be \$65 for members, \$75 for non-members, including lunch, if you register before September 10. MHGS will have a table there as usual. For more information: <https://wichitagensoc.org/page-18198>

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!!

Are you looking for something fun to do? We can always use more volunteers at the library!

We have some volunteers who are looking for help. Jim would like an assistant treasurer, Micki needs articles for the Alert newsletter, and Ann would like someone to help publish the Register (we use Microsoft Word.) We have been operating without a Building and Ground chairperson for more than a year and the building and grounds definitely show it!

We also have some projects we'd like to do. There is a publication at First Presbyterian that they would like help digitizing and indexing; when complete, we would have a copy to put on our website and they would have a copy for internal use. We are doing a lot of digitizing these days, and Julia can use help with getting digital images ready to put online (involving a spreadsheet, a little Google research, and maps.)

We'd like to add some new special interest groups to our schedule. We currently have a Genealogy Roundtable, the Photo Mysteries group, and a DAR research group. We miss our African-American group and would love to restart it. We're also open to new groups, if you've got an idea. Group leaders just need to do some organizing; they don't have to be particular experts.

Please email Julia at library@mhgswichita.org or stop by the library if you are interested in helping us out. We have a good time, and provide an important community service.

HAPPY BACK TO SCHOOL!



Unknown Photographer, "College Hill Elementary School," *MHGS Digital Collections*, accessed August 29, 2023, <http://mhgswichita.org/om/items/show/6605>.

WHAT'S UP WITH OUR LIBRARY CATALOG? SORRY, STILL NOT WORKING!

We're having technical difficulties with our library catalog, so it's not available at the moment. In the meantime, you can try searching for the items that have been added in about the last ten years by doing a site-specific google search:
site:mhgswichita.org search term

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE 1890 CENSUS?

The 1890 census is a sore subject for genealogists. It sparks bad dreams, anguished “if only’s”, and anxieties over brick walls. More than 99 percent of the records were destroyed January 10, 1921, during a fire in the basement of the commerce building in Washington, DC.

When the fire broke out, firefighters flooded the basement with water. The flames didn’t spread to upper floors, but the 1890 census records -piled outside a storage vault-were soaked. Even some of the census schedules stored inside the supposedly waterproof vault got wet. The cause of the blaze couldn’t be determined.

The records sat in storage for a while, and no restoration efforts were made. Rumors circulated that they’d be disposed of, various groups protesting such measures were assured the rumors were unfounded. But sometime between 1933 and 1935, the records were destroyed along with other papers the Census Bureau deemed no longer necessary. Fragments of the 1890 census bearing 6,160 names later turned up.

Also surviving are special schedules of Union veterans and their widows for half of Kentucky and states alphabetically following it.

In a precursor to the 1921 tragedy, an 1896 fire damaged 1890 supplemental schedules of mortality, crime, pauperism, and “special classes”. They were later destroyed by order of the Interior Department.

Family Tree, July

They say genes skip generations.

Maybe that’s why grandparents find their grandchildren so likeable.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023-2024

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Library open Tuesday & Saturday 10 – 4 Email library@mhgswichita.org

Please see the Google calendar or our Facebook page for more information

The library will be CLOSED Saturday September 2

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

Midwest Historical and Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 1121

Wichita, Kansas 67201

Change Service Requested