

# MIDWEST HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## *ALERT*

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### HOLIDAY TO-DO LIST

The holiday season is a family-rich time of year, making this a primo opportunity to ask questions, copy photographs, swab DNA tests and otherwise make a little progress on our genealogy research! But it only works if you know the questions, have a DNA test kit ready, and remember to bring a scanner or cell phone! So let's get planning...

#### Opportunities

- Who will you be seeing in the next couple of months? Do you have questions for them? Do you want to record interviews? Do you want to ask them to take a DNA test? Is this the time to get those cool 4-generation photos? Do they have photos or other records or memorabilia you'd like to get digital images of? Do you have any unidentified photos you'd like them to look at? Do you have anything for them, such as written profiles, thumb drives of digital images, photo books, pedigree charts or printed trees?
- Will you be traveling? Will you be near any cemeteries or repositories? Will you be near any sites that you'd like photos of, such as old houses, schools, or churches? Will you be near any Facebook friends or others that you could stop and meet in person?
- Will you be sending holiday cards or gifts? Do you want to include any forms to request information? Do you want to include any family history gifts?
- Will anyone ask you for a gift list? Are there any genealogy reference materials you'd like? Perhaps a subscription to a new website, membership in a genealogy society, or even a trip to a genealogy conference? How about some archival boxes for your treasures?

#### Get Out Your Calendar

Now it's time to look up some dates. What are the dates of your family events? What are the shipping dates for the major vendors and shipping companies? Are there lead times for printing a photo book or getting a DNA kit?

#### Make A List!

List your tasks, including things you need to get. Make sure to note all your due dates, and, if it's a long list, indicate your priorities, so you know what to jettison if time gets short or you get a better offer.

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#### Library Hours:

Tuesday and Saturday  
10 to 4 pm.

(library@mhgswichita.org)

#### Inside this issue:

- Holiday Planning
- Items of Interest
- Calendar of Events

## HOLIDAY TO-DO (CONT)

### Resources

- Family Chart Masters: <http://familychartmasters.com/>
- USPS Mailing Deadlines: <https://about.usps.com/holidaynews/mail-by-dates/#tables>
- UPS Holiday Schedule: <https://www.ups.com/us/en/help-center/shipping-support/days-of-operation-us/holiday-shipping.page>
- Writing a Photo Book: <https://familytreemagazine.com/projects/open-book-creating-family-history-books/>

Julia Langel

## GHOSTS OF HALLOWEEN PAST



Unknown Photographer, "Latham, Kansas Band Stand after Halloween," *MHGS Digital Collections*, accessed October 31, 2023, <http://mhgswichita.org/om/admin/items/show/13425>.

Around the turn of the last century, Halloween on the prairie was much more trick than treat. While we don't know exactly when this postcard photo was taken, we do know that the Latham newspapers mention both vandalism and parties almost every year. For example, the November 7, 1903 Latham Mirror reports that "Saturday night was Hallowe'en and in spite of the extreme muddy condition of the streets the usual depra-dations were carried on. One telephone pole was decorated with a half dozen or more buggy wheels, boxes and vehicles were piled on the sidewalks and streets, and a cart was place on the top of Jones' livery barn where it still peacefully remains." In 1904, the Mirror related that "Hallowe'en was observed in a light way in Latham Monday night. No damage to property was done because of a diligent corps of officers appointed

## HALLOWEEN (CONT)

to keep the mischief-making young people from carrying things too far. However, a few boxes found their way to the center of Main street and several ludicrous signs were tacked up in front of some of the business houses.”

Halloween wasn’t much fun for the adults in Wichita, either. In 1898, the Wichita Daily Eagle carried a story on October 20, reporting that:

“Chief of Police, C. M. Jones, is making preparations for a hot time on Halloween. In the past, the boys have had a great time according to their idea of fun and it has invariably resulted in a great many property owners having to pay out a good many dollars to repair the damage for the one night stand of the boys.

Judge Mitchell will, before Halloween, swear in no less than eighty special police, without compensation. Probably half will be citizens, who will have the star of authority and law, with which to arrest any boys or young men who may be caught wilfully destroying fences, gates, outhouses, etc.

For years the boys have been too much for the authorities, but the scheme which originated in Chief Jones’ mind of making citizens policemen for the night, will no doubt break up the vandalism which has been practiced here with impunity for nearly one score years.

Vandalism has decreased with each succeeding year but nevertheless, no chances are to be taken. In former years it was frequently the custom of householders and property owners to stay awake until nearly morning protecting their property. The boys would congregate in gangs of from ten to sixty and go about town doing all the damage to property it was possible for their youthful hands to do and their young and agile minds to think of. Even though there will be a large number of policemen, by three hundred percent than ever before, it might be well for any one having a loose gate or one that easily lifts off its swivel hinge, to take it in doors. For the boys are wily and will do everything to outwit the police.”

## 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*

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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 more information.

MHGS Library will be closed Saturday, November 25, for the Thanksgiving weekend.

GENEALOGY ROUNDTABLE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP	DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
<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>
PHOTO MYSTERIES	
<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