

# MIDWEST HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## ALERT

VOLUME 46 NUMBER 10

FEB 2025

### Location

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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### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We have two important volunteer positions open – membership chair and building and grounds chair. Can you help? Contact Ann at [president@mhgswichita.org](mailto:president@mhgswichita.org), Julia at [library@mhgswichita.org](mailto:library@mhgswichita.org), or stop by the library on a Tuesday or Saturday.

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR INTRODUCTION

Renée M. Hanrahan has volunteered to take on this position for 2025. She is a lifetime member of MHGS, born and raised in Wichita, graduated from Wichita State University with a BA in psychology and sociology and an MA in sociology with emphasis in research, medical and aging. She attended The University of Kansas where she was editor of the Mid-America Review of Sociology, a student-led journal while working on a PhD in Sociology.

Renée is anxious to get started and invites all members to participate in a new column “News for You to Share.” So be sure to read about this interactive column below. Welcome aboard Renee!

### DID YOU KNOW?

There were 270+ new Genealogy events added to the Genealogy ConferenceKeeper.org during the first week of January 2025? Want to see what else is new? Join the ConferenceKeeper's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/groups/ConferenceKeeper](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ConferenceKeeper). (Note many of these events have associated costs.)

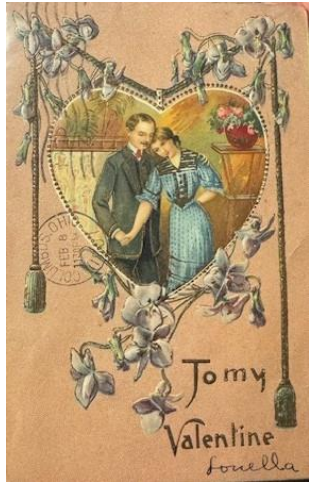
In 2024, 285 million visits were made to the FamilySearch.org website? Were you one of their visitors?

MyHeritage acquired MesAieux.com, a leading family history website in Quebec which is a valuable tool for genealogists looking for French Canadian records.

The Midwest Genealogy Center's Annual Spring Seminar will feature Rich Venezia who will explore the journeys of our immigrant ancestors took to reach new shores? For more information go to <https://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/events/spring-seminar>.

## NEWS FOR YOU TO SHARE

This column is designed especially for our members to share old and new genealogy resources that have helped them with their ancestry research. So, please feel free to submit your suggestions to [alert@mhgswichita.org](mailto:alert@mhgswichita.org) to share with others. It can be a simple find, an old hint that may be a gem for genealogy beginners, or maybe a new website that has a lot of appeal for a special population group. So, here's your opportunity to get involved and have a voice in the monthly newsletter. Here's an example straight from my desk:



**Old Family Postcards** certainly a lost art since email has taken the world by storm but may offer interesting finds. This postcard was mailed in time for Valentines Day in 1907 by my paternal grandmother to her first husband! WHAT! I didn't know she had another husband! Apparently he was living in Ohio and once my great-grandfather found out about the covert marriage, it was short-lived! Good thing, or I might not be here! But other old postcards found gave me the addresses of distant cousins, validated relationships I was unsure about and are just fun to look at when you realize they are over 120 years old. So, if I don't hear anything from our readers, you may get more postcard stories from me!

If you have suggestions for a new Alert column, feel free to send an email to [Alert@mhgswichita.org](mailto:Alert@mhgswichita.org).

## IRISH CORNER

Would you like a little cultural taste of Ireland for free? Mike Collins ([mike@alletterfromireland.com](mailto:mike@alletterfromireland.com)) puts out a weekly newsletter on an Irish topic. The newsletter is call "Greetings from Ireland" and he always gives a little history lesson or an article on a genealogical topic. Always nice to receive while drinking a cup of Barry's hot tea and learn about the old country. For example, one reader's question that Mike answered was "Which Irish records were destroyed in the 1922 fire?"

Mike's response was "The 1922 Four Courts Fire is often presented as a genealogical brick wall, but the reality is far more nuanced, and far more hopeful, than many would lead you to believe." He goes on to explain that while many records were destroyed during the Irish Civil War, many other Irish records survived in different locations and can still be accessed. So, what specific records were lost, according to Mike's newsletter?

- 1) "The Irish Census returns for 1821, 1831, 1841 and 1851. (The government had already destroyed the 1861-1891 censuses as part of routine paper recycling, once statistical analysis of the results was complete. This was common practice at the time, as censuses were seen as administrative documents rather than the valuable genealogical resources we consider them today.)
- 2) Many Church of Ireland parish registers (as distinct from Roman Catholic registers)
- 3) Prerogative and Diocesan wills pre-1922
- 4) Original wills and administration papers
- 5) Early court records and legal documents"

But Mike likes to focus on the positive side of the fire and details what documents survived the fire as many records were stored elsewhere. The records that survived included:

- 1) "All Civil Registration records (births, marriages, deaths from 1864)
- 2) All Roman Catholic parish registers

- 3) Land records including Griffith's Valuation
- 4) Census returns for 1901 and 1911
- 5) Tithe Applotment Books (1823-37)
- 6) Many Landed Estate records
- 7) Some Church of Ireland registers (those that weren't sent to the Public Record Office for safekeeping, though most Church of Ireland records stored in the Four Courts were destroyed)
- 8) Presbyterian, Methodist, and other non-conformist church records (which were kept by their congregations)
- 9) Military, prison, school records and newspaper archives."

Mike's newsletter is FREE and you can sign-up at <https://www.letterfromireland.com/letter/>.

**HAPPY VALENTINES DAY – ENJOY SOME FREE ONLINE NATIONAL TRAININGS**

<p>Friday – Feb 14, 2:00 pm CT          Host: Midwest Genealogy Center, Independence, MO          Topic: U.S. Probate Records for Genealogy.          Details:  <a href="http://www.mymcpl.org/events/101667/us-probate-records-genealogy-hybrid">www.mymcpl.org/events/101667/us-probate-records-genealogy-hybrid</a>          (In-person and online)</p>	<p>Friday – Feb 14, 11:00 am CT          Host: Legacy Family Tree Webinars          Topic: Creating Children's Stories from Ancestral Lives with Michael John Neill          Details: <a href="http://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/creating-childrens-stories-from-ancestral-lives">familytreewebinars.com/webinar/creating-childrens-stories-from-ancestral-lives</a></p>
<p>Friday – Feb 14, 1:00 pm CT          Host: Legacy Family Tree Webinars          Topic: Introducing 10 Million Names with Cynthia Evans          Details:  <a href="http://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/introducing-10-million-names">familytreewebinars.com/webinar/introducing-10-million-names</a></p>	<p>Friday – Feb 14, 10:30 am CT          Host: Society of Genealogists Virtual Café          Topic: Grab your favorite cup of coffee and join this genealogical chat with like-minded individuals on various topics. Details:  <a href="http://members.sog.org.uk/events/6760284a7acf77000874ef00">members.sog.org.uk/events/6760284a7acf77000874ef00</a></p>

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2025**

<p>President: Ann Boll  <a href="mailto:president@mhgswichita.org">president@mhgswichita.org</a></p> <p>Vice President: Micki Wright Stephans  <a href="mailto:vp@mhgswichita.org">vp@mhgswichita.org</a></p> <p>Treasurer: Jim Scharnhorst  <a href="mailto:treasurer@mhgswichita.org">treasurer@mhgswichita.org</a></p> <p>Secretary: Twila Ackley Brown  <a href="mailto:secretary@mhgswichita.org">secretary@mhgswichita.org</a></p> <p>Librarian: Julia Langel  <a href="mailto:library@mhgswichita.org">library@mhgswichita.org</a></p>	<p>Alert Editor: Renée Hanrahan  <a href="mailto:alert@ahgswichita.org">alert@ahgswichita.org</a></p> <p>Building &amp; Grounds: Open</p> <p>Computer Technology: Michael Urban  <a href="mailto:tech@mhgswichita.org">tech@mhgswichita.org</a></p> <p>Membership: Open</p> <p>Publicity: Francene Davis Sharp  <a href="mailto:publicity@mhgswichita.org">publicity@mhgswichita.org</a></p> <p>Register Editor: Jason Felihkatubbe  <a href="mailto:register@mhgswichita.org">register@mhgswichita.org</a></p>
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**MHGS Annual Meeting will be March 8 at 1:30;  
membership renewals due by April 1, 2025.**

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

<p><b>ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP</b></p>	<p><b>FAMILY TREE MAKER SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP</b></p>
<p><b>Second Tuesday @ 1:30 to 3 pm Led by Julia Langel (Note: 1<sup>st</sup> session postponed from January to February)</b></p>	<p><b>Third Saturday @ 2 pm (not every month) Led by Donna Londeen</b></p>
<p><b>PHOTO MYSTERIES</b></p>	<p><b>DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION</b></p>
<p><b>Third Tuesday @ 1:30 to 3 pm Led by Rex Riley</b></p>	<p><b>Fourth Tuesday @ 1:30 pm Led by Twila Ackley Brown</b></p>

Midwest Historical and Genealogical Society  
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Wichita, Kansas 67201

Change Service Requested