

# MIDWEST HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## ALERT

VOLUME 47 NUMBER

1 APRIL 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)

### Inside this issue

MHGS Treasurer

Did you know?

Annual Genealogical  
Conference in Topeka

New Books

News for You to Share

Irish Corner

MHGS Board

Special Interest Group  
Calendar

### MEET MHGS'S LONG-TIME TREASURER

Jim Scharnhorst was born in Joplin, Missouri, but has lived in Wichita since infancy. He attended McCormick Elementary and Allison Middle Schools and graduated from Wichita West High School. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Wichita State University. At the age of ten, Jim started throwing *The Beacon* newspapers; by age eleven, he worked in a grocery store, and then began working as a small engine mechanic at 13 in a shop started by his father. He continued in that position for 35 years until the late 1990s. He then went to work for Cessna Aircraft, where he retired in 2008 after 13 years as a Senior Quality Inspector.

After three years of marriage, Jim's first wife, Sharon, passed away from surgical complications. He married Peggy Ann Chambers in 1981 and had two sons, Brian and Kevin. His sons have blessed them with four grandchildren: Brian's children, Rami, 8 years old, and her sister Zoey, age 5, both have Down Syndrome. Jim and his wife, Peggy, are their primary caregivers during the day. Lily and Henry are Kevin's children. Lily and Henry are slightly younger but have ADHD.

Jim began doing genealogy in his mid-thirties with a program called Family Reunion. After receiving a gift subscription from his son to Ancestry and a warning from his son that his research would be lost if he passed, Jim began exploring his family history.

After retiring, Jim began attending MHGS, where he quickly learned the value of associating with more experienced genealogists when he encountered research challenges.

For over a decade, Jim has been very involved in MHGS leadership. He has decided to step down as the organization's treasurer. If you're interested in volunteering for this position, please get in touch with Julia Langel.

### DID YOU KNOW?

That MHGS volunteers digitized 286 items just in February? Currently, a total of 17,456 items have been digitized for researchers like you. Visit our website and discover the new treasures it has to offer!

That during the 2024 calendar year, there were 96,660 visits to the MHGS webpage by 62,251 unique visitors? Are you one of them? If not, take a moment to explore what you're missing at [www.mhgswichita.org](http://www.mhgswichita.org).

## ANNUAL GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE IN TOPEKA

The Topeka Genealogical Society's 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference will take place on April 26, 2025, at the Conference Center on the Washburn Tech West Campus, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This year's conference will feature Michael John Neill. He's an author, a blogger (*Genealogy Tip of the Day*), and a frequent guest on the YouTube TV Show Genealogy Quickstart. Visit [tgstopoka.org](http://tgstopoka.org) for more information and registration.

## NEW BOOKS

Call Number	Title	Author	Date
A-210 013 NTBCO	Historical Atlas of Sedgwick County Kansas	Edwards, John P	1882
		Davis, Major	1983
A-600 028	The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War	George B.	
A-620 023	Blaeu's The Grand Atlas of the 17 <sup>th</sup> -Century World	Goss, John	1991
G-A 056	Historical Sketches of the Addington and Kindred Families	Addington, Jacquelyn Snyder	1995
G-A 057	Some Askew Family History	Glover, Earl Scott	1987
G-G 001	Enduring Contributions of Henry K Beecher to Medicine, Science, and Society	Lowenstein, Edward	2007
G-P 005 V12 N1	Pennington Pedigrees V12-38 (1980-2006)	Holmes, Bee	
		Brink,	
R-180 106	History of Macon County Illinois	McDonough & Co	1985
R-210 BU 33 1995	The Pride		1995
R-210 KM 09 1980	Kingman County Kansas Rural Directory		1980
R-210 KM 09 1981	Kingman County Kansas Rural Directory		1981
R-210 KM 09 1982	Kingman County Kansas Rural Directory		1982
R-210 LY 18 1996	Emporia High School Alumni Directory		1996
R-210 NO 09	Looking Back: A Pictorial History of Chanute, Kansas	Bell, Tom	1994
R-210 RL 16	Bala Heritage: Bala, Riley County, Kansas		1981
R-210 SG 092 B	Wichita Fire Department 1872-1978	Wichita Fire Dept	1978
R-210 SG 105 1971	Wichita Public Schools Employee Telephone Directory (1971-1993)	Wichita Public Schools	
R-210 SG 226 1951	Wichita Consistory Scottish Rite Yearbook		1951
R-210 SG 321 1994	Wichita High School South Alumni Directory		1994
R-210 SG 322 2002	Wichita High School North Alumni Directory		2002
R-210 SG 323 1997	Wichita High School West Alumni Directory		1997
R-210 SG-324	Standing Proudly on the Hill: A Pictorial History of Wichita State University (1895-1995)	Hammond, Geraldine E	1995
R-210 SG 325 1999	WABA Membership Directory		1999
R-210 SG 325 2003	WABA Membership Directory		2003
R-210 SG 325 2004	WABA Membership Directory		2004
R-210 SG 326	Wichita: Where Aviation Took Wings	Greteman Group	2019
R-210 SG 327	Our Musical Heritage: A History of the Music from 1870-1986 The First Presbyterian Church	First Presbyterian Church	1994

## NEWS FOR YOU TO SHARE

**This column allows our members to share old and new genealogy resources and opportunities. So, please feel free to submit your suggestions to [alert@mhgswichita.org](mailto:alert@mhgswichita.org) and share them with others.**

In next month's *Alert*, there will be a survey link for MHGS readers to provide your insights. The MHGS leadership is inviting you to participate in a brief, five-minute survey. Your feedback will directly influence how we continue to bring you news that you can use in your genealogy research. Please respond to this survey in May to help us create a better newsletter experience for you. Thanks in advance for your help.

## IRISH CORNER

Since the New Year, the *Alert* has focused on news about Ireland and its history. What group of people would you like to see covered in the next quarter? German? French? Swiss? African? English? Scottish? Russian? The *Alert* editor is listening and will respond to your interests, so please don't hesitate to contact us at [alert@mhgswichita.org](mailto:alert@mhgswichita.org).

Mike Collins, in his email at [mike@alletterfromireland.com](mailto:mike@alletterfromireland.com), provided a historical account of how Irish railways transformed our ancestors' lives. Ireland's first railway line opened December 17, 1834 and ran between Dublin City and Kingstown (now Dun Laoghaire). The first steam engine, named "Hibernia," travelled at 20 miles per hour! The fare was one shilling for first class, eight pence for second class, and six pence for third class. By 1946, the railway had expanded from Dublin to Carlow, and by 1850, it continued to grow rapidly.

Before the railways, a journey from Dublin to Cork would take three days by horse-drawn coach; however, by 1849, this journey had been reduced to just seven hours. What did that mean? Fish caught around Galway could be on Dublin dinner tables on the same day. The railway line to Queenstown (now Cobh) became known as the "American Line" because it carried a large number of emigrants to the port for their voyage across the Atlantic.

Like other communities, the railways brought jobs, progress, and a new way of life. They became the heart of many communities as the arrival of the daily train became a social occasion, bringing mail, newspapers, and visitors from all over the country. Skilled railway workers who emigrated to other countries possessed a valuable and transferable skill, helping to build railways across many countries as they expanded their lines.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2024-2025

President: Ann Boll ( <a href="mailto:president@mhgswichita.org">president@mhgswichita.org</a> )	Alert Editor: Renée Hanrahan ( <a href="mailto:alert@mhgswichita.org">alert@mhgswichita.org</a> )
Vice President: Micki Wright Stephans ( <a href="mailto:vp@mhgswichita.org">vp@mhgswichita.org</a> )	Building & Grounds: Open
Treasurer: Jim Scharnhorst ( <a href="mailto:treasurer@mhgswichita.org">treasurer@mhgswichita.org</a> )	Computer Technology: Michael Urban ( <a href="mailto:tech@mhgswichita.org">tech@mhgswichita.org</a> )
Secretary: Twila Ackley Brown ( <a href="mailto:secretary@mhgswichita.org">secretary@mhgswichita.org</a> )	Membership: June Johnson ( <a href="mailto:members@mhgswichita.org">members@mhgswichita.org</a> )
Librarian: Julia Langel ( <a href="mailto:library@mhgswichita.org">library@mhgswichita.org</a> )	Publicity: Francene Davis Sharp ( <a href="mailto:publicity@mhgswichita.org">publicity@mhgswichita.org</a> )
	Register Editor: Jason Felihkatubbe ( <a href="mailto:register@mhgswichita.org">register@mhgswichita.org</a> )

Please visit our Facebook page for more information on local groups, as well as our Google calendar.

(All meetings are held at the MHGS library – 1203 N Main, Wichita, KS)

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

Midwest Historical and Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 1121  
Wichita, Kansas 67201

Change Service Requested