

MIDWEST HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

ALERT

VOLUME 46 NUMBER 11

MARCH 2026

Location

1203 N. Main
P.O. Box 1121
Wichita, KS 67201
316-264-3611

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mhgswichita.org

Library hours

Tuesday and Saturday
10 to 4 pm.
(library@mhgswichita.org)

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ANNUAL MEETING – APRIL 11

The MHGS Annual Meeting will be April 11, 2026 at 1p.m. We will be electing officers and discussing some interesting new projects for the coming year, so please be sure to attend. We will be sending out proxy ballots for those who cannot attend.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

It's time to renew your membership for the coming year! Renewals are due by March 31. We'll be sending out a reminder letter with a renewal form in the next week or so. Remember, you have to have a current membership in order to vote in the election in April.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT FOR 2026

Are you looking for a place to volunteer where you can make a difference now and for future generations? The Midwest Historical and Genealogical Society has some openings for people who enjoy learning about history and genealogy. MHGS has openings on its board for a secretary and treasurer, which are elected positions, and a publicity/social media manager, which is not an elected position.

The publicity/social media manager will help with advertising our organization, our programs and resources available online as well as onsite. If you're interested in pursuing one of these positions, please contact Julia Langel or Ann Boll. Their email addresses are available under the Board of Directors section of this newsletter.

Many thanks to Gary Clark for volunteering to produce the Alert and to Renee, who has done such a great job with it for the last year, and to Francene, who is stepping down after doing publicity for as long as we can remember!

NEW BOOKS

Call Number	Title	Author/Publisher	Year
R-180 247	History of Jersey County, Illinois	Hamilton, Oscar B. Munsell Publishing Company	1979
R-180 248	Obituaries Knox County, Galesburg, Illinois Newspapers	Allaman, Durwood B.	1985
R-662 030	Walpdecker Truppen im amerikanischen Unabhängigkeitskrieg (HETRINA). Index nach Familiennamen, Band V	Auerbach, Inge	1976
R-210 191	Albert T. Reid's Sketchbook: Fads, Foibles & Politics 1896-1908	1971	
R-190 234 V2	Miami County, Indiana Cemeteries	Tombaugh, Wendell C.	1987
R-190 234 V1	Miami County, Indiana Cemeteries	Tombaugh, Wendell C.	1987
G-C 150	Ulster to Kansas: A 400 Year Journey. Ora & Maggie Struble Clark & Ancestors	Clark, Gary	2025
online -- link in catalog	American Indian Culture and Research Journal		
G-B 188	Wait...Now What?	Bing, Bonnie	2025
G-O 021	The Merchant Prince of Black Chicago: Anthony Overton and the Building of A Financial Empire	Weems, Robert E Jr	2020
R-667 015	Dreadnought: Britain, Germany, and the Coming of the Great War	Massie, Robert K.	1991
R-180 247	History of Jersey County, Illinois	Hamilton, Oscar B. Munsell Publishing Company	1979
R-180 248	Obituaries Knox County, Galesburg, Illinois Newspapers	Allaman, Durwood B.	1985
R-662 030	Walpdecker Truppen im amerikanischen Unabhängigkeitskrieg (HETRINA). Index nach Familiennamen, Band V	Auerbach, Inge	1976
R-210 191	Albert T. Reid's Sketchbook: Fads, Foibles & Politics 1896-1908	1971	
R-190 234 V2	Miami County, Indiana Cemeteries	Tombaugh, Wendell C.	1987
G-H 151	Newspaper Accounts of the Murder of Tom Hoffman, Santa Fe Brakeman	Gary Huffman	2026
R-060 104	Marriages of Surry County, North Carolina 1779-1868	Holcomb, Brent H.	1982
R-070 045 V7	South Carolina Marriages	Langdon, Barbara R.	1999
R-070 044	Indexes to the County Wills of South Carolina	Houston, Martha Lou	1970
R-070 046	7,500 Marriages from Ninety-Six and Abbeville District, S.C. 1774-1890	Pursley, Larry E.	1980
R-070 047	The Jury Lists of South Carolina 1778-1779	Hendrix, Ge Lee Corley	1980
G-C 151	Standing Up to Colonial Power: The Lives of Henry Roe and Elizabeth Bender Cloud	Ramirez, Renya K.	2018

LIBRARY RECATALOGING PROGRESS

We have been working hard! The upstairs books are all done, including published genealogist (the G- books) and the states from A to L. We are finishing up the vertical files and some random boxes before moving to the basement books in the next week or so. The computer catalog is up to 11,601 entries, which is about 72% complete.

GENEALOGY AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

AI’s ability to read handwritten text and transcribe it, and possibly translate it to English, has been greatly improved in the last couple of months. We’re going to take another look at the main AI websites and see if they can handle the kinds of tasks we need done! The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 14, at 1:30 (the March meeting is cancelled).

FIRE AT THE CRAWFORD THEATER

Bill Pennington brought in a set of fun postcards of the aftermath of a major fire at the Crawford Theater, at the corner of Topeka and William in downtown Wichita, April 1, 1913.



Unknown Photographer, “Fire at the Crawford Theater,” *MHGS Digital Collections*, accessed March 3, 2026, <https://mhgswichita.org/om/items/show/20462>.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026

President: Ann Boll president@mhgswichita.org Vice President: Micki Wright Stephans vp@mhgswichita.org Treasurer: Open Secretary: Open Librarian: Julia Langel (library@mhgswichita.org)	Alert Editor: Gary Clark (alert@mhgswichita.org) Building & Grounds: Jim Scharnhorst Computer Technology: Michael Urban tech@mhgswichita.org Membership: June Johnson (members@mhgswichita.org) Publicity: Open (publicity@mhgswichita.org) Register Editor: Jason Felihkatubbe register@mhgswichita.org
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Please visit our Facebook page for more information on local groups and our website.
(All meetings held at the MHGS library – 1203 N Main, Wichita, KS)

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP	FAMILY TREE MAKER SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP
Second Tuesday @ 1:30 to 3 pm (No meeting in March) Led by Julia Langel Topic in February: Update on AI Translation	Third Saturday @ 2 pm (not every month) Led by Donna Londeen
PHOTO MYSTERIES	DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
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
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Change Service Requested