



Topeka Genealogical Society

Founded in 1965

NEWS & VIEWS

Editor:

Nora Patton Taylor

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Microfiche Machine

Library Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday - 1:00 - 4:00pm

Internet Access

Computerized searches of selected files

CALL FIRST IN BAD WEATHER - CHECK FOR HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Member Forum: 1st Thursday of each month - 7:00 p.m., - TGS Memorial Library, 2717 SE Indiana
Regular Meeting: 4th Thursday of each month - 7:00 p.m. - Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library
Board Meeting: 2nd Thursday of each month - 7:00 p.m. - TGS Memorial Library - 2717 SE Indiana

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Special Interest Groups (SIG) meetings are announced in the calendar.

Please note that all Regular meetings will be held at the

Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library (TSCPL) on THURSDAY nights at 7 p.m.

January

January 7th, 7-8:30 pm TGS Member Forum: Sharing & Problem Solving at TGS Library
January 14th, 7 pm TGS Board Meeting, TGS Library
January 16th, 9 am-4:30 pm Basics of Family History Class (Single Day Format) TGS Library
January 28th, 7 pm TGS Monthly Meeting: "Abe Lincoln and Me," Dr. Herschel Stroud, TSCPL

February

February 4th, 7-8:30 pm TGS Member Forum: Sharing & Problem Solving, TGS Library
February 6th, 1-4 pm African American Family History, TSCPL
February 11th, 7 pm TGS Board Meeting, TGS Library
February 13th, 9:30-11:30 am Native American SIG, TGS Library
February 25th, TGS Monthly Meeting, Archiving our Digital Images, (Basics of storage and care) - Steve Wilde of Wolfe's Camera, TSCPL

March

March 4th, 7-8:30 pm TGS Member Forum: Sharing & Problem Solving, TGS Library
March 11th, 7 pm TGS Board Meeting, TGS Library
March 25th, 7 pm TGS Monthly Meeting, "Our Town Topeka-Pre Civil Car, Don Chubb, Historian - & TGS Member at TSCPL
March 27th, 9 am-noon Genealogical Records Workshop: Land Records, at TGS Library

April

April 1st, 7-8:30 pm TGS Member Forum: Sharing & Problem Solving, TGS Library
April 3rd, 9 am-noon Internet Genealogy Workshop, TGS Library
April 8th, 7 pm TGS Board Meeting, TGS Library
April 24th, 8 am-4 pm 38th Annual TGS Conference featuring speaker Michael John Neill - see TGS website for details

Please check the TGS Website: www.tgstopeka.org for more program and event information

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Simple Gifts

*"Tis the gift to be simple,
"Tis the gift to be free,
"Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be."*

These words are the beginning of one of my favorite pieces of music, written by Joseph Brackett, Jr., in 1848. While the melody is beautiful, and one that often runs through my head over and over, it is the words that I find especially meaningful and relevant today.

A few months ago, I took a trip back in time to conduct some research on a branch of my family that lived in the Allegheny mountains in an area that straddles the state line between Virginia and West Virginia. For four wonderful days, I not only poured over old documents in the local historical societies and courthouses, but also had the time to explore the countryside and really get a feeling for the beautiful region in which my ancestors lived. As a very special treat, I stayed for two nights in the building that my ggg-grandfather built as a tannery about 1830, which has been renovated and is now a vacation cottage. I had hopes of finding answers to several family history questions that have had me stumped for some time, such as where that same grandfather disappeared to following his enumeration in the 1880 census at the age of 75. After that I find no trace of him in the West Virginia death records (which are surprisingly complete for that time period), nor the cemeteries where other members of the family were buried. I searched high and low, prowled through local archives of historical materials, looked at courthouse records and old newspapers, and trudged through the cemeteries, but came home without an answer.

Although my ancestors held fast to their secrets, I delighted in the "simple gift" of a chance to step back in time for a while, to a place that has been largely untouched by the hustle and bustle of today's lifestyle. Time to reflect, to lounge in a hammock hung between gnarly apple trees behind the tannery building, to think about a simpler time where "work" was largely focused on satisfying life's basic necessities, and to reflect upon the blessings (and hardships) of a simpler lifestyle. Perhaps more importantly, time to really understand the lives of these ancestors by seeing the places where they lived and worked. For these simple gifts, I am grateful. To all of you, who share our common interests in family history, I hope that you find such rich rewards in your own research.

Barb LaCLAIR

Changes to TGS Publications in 2010

In an effort to bring you maximum benefit for your membership dollars, we will be altering our publication schedule in 2010. Beginning with this edition, January 2010, the Newsletter and Quarterly will be published on the same schedule (January/April/July/October). The *News and Views* newsletter will be inserted in the center of each Quarterly. Same content, just a different mailing schedule. This will save us quite a bit on postage and printing costs. To keep up with news in between the quarterly mailings, remember to check the TGS website (www.tgstopeka.org) and TGS Blog (<http://tgstopeka.blogspot.com>). That's where we will be posting current news and events.

News & Views is published quarterly in January, April, July, October by the Topeka Genealogical Society (TGS). News items are welcome and are due by the first of the month preceding each quarterly issue. Send items to the newsletter at the address below.
Membership in TGS is \$25.00 per year for individuals and organizations, \$30.00 per family and \$40.00 for a sustaining membership.
Members receive the Newsletter and the TGS Quarterly. For a free fact folder write to:
TGS, PO Box 4048, TOPEKA, KS 66604-0048



Editor's Corner

April 24, 2010 is TGS' upcoming annual conference with Michael John Neill speaking on "Our Elusive Female Ancestors." Yes, we all have them - the ones who came in spaceships, crawled out from under rocks, all those stories. Like my one ancestor who I've only seen referenced in one place as the "Widow McDowell." That's really helpful.

The topics this year are: "The Oft-Married Sarah-Marriage, Re-marriage and Inheritance in 18th Century Virginia"; "Female Ancestors-After the Marriage"; "Barbara's Beaus and Gesche's Girls" and "Widows Denied-Pension for Widows." We're hopeful that anything we glean from his presentations will help us find those elusive women.

Now, on that same topic, I actually got to do the "happy dance." One of those sleepless nights when looking at the ceiling no longer was an option, I went to the computer. On a whim I plugged Nathan Kingsley (a second great-grandfather on dad's side) into Ancestry.com. After playing around a little I found four people who had him in their tree. After looking at their trees, I Emailed all of them and ultimately heard back from three. Two are related to my Grandmother (Babcock) Patton's oldest brother, Fred, and his wife Maggie. We corresponded and I sent copies of pictures of Fred and his family, including Maggie's dad, "Uncle Mike." BUT, the best thing was finding Charlie in Vermont! Charlie's great-grandmother and mine were sisters. Lovina (his ancestor) was the oldest and Cecelia was the youngest - 23 years apart. Nathan Kingsley died in 1859 when Cecelia was 9. Charlie and I had Emails flying back and forth. His family had a disaster a number of years ago when his grandmother's house burned with all family pictures and memorabilia. How incredibly sad. Anyway, here I sit in Kansas with all kinds of Babcock and allied family pictures. I sent Charlie many pictures, ones that I've identified. I also sent him a copy of a picture of two women I was convinced were Lois Hazen Kingsley and Cecelia Kingsley Babcock. It was a Civil War era picture according to the Historical Society. This fits with the fact that Cecelia and William Babcock came to Kansas in 1868. Cecelia was the youngest and probably wanted a picture with her mother. The family thought she was coming to the ends of the earth in Kansas. Charlie did some photo magic and there was the young Cecelia and the aged Cecelia. Same bone structure, same eyes, etc. Then you add my grandmother Lois' picture to the mix and the faces are nearly the same. Mom and I were long convinced this was who they were but now we actually have some confirmation. I also have a tintype of Lois and one of her son, Hiram, and a cabinet card of another sister, Laura Kingsley Hazen. Laura and Dan Hazen also lived in the Hiawatha area. See where I'm going with this? I got to do the happy dance and so did Charlie!! Then Charlie and I were talking about Civil War soldiers and he sent a picture from the Vermont archives of a Nathan K. Martin, Lovina's son. Guess whose picture was in that Babcock album? Nathan K. Martin, signed by him on the back "on leave." I scanned it and sent the original to Charlie. That's where the picture should be. Now, you and I both know I probably won't be doing the happy dance again any time soon, but it sure was fun!!

Nora

NEW TGS BLOG

What's a Blog and why do we need one? Blog is short for weblog. A weblog is a journal (or newsletter) that is frequently updated and intended for general public consumption. Blogs are a powerful new option for communicating current news and reaching out to a broad audience. We will use our new blog, called the *TGS Update*, to bring you genealogical news, and an occasional editorial column. Content will be similar to what we publish in printed form in our News and Views newsletter, but you won't have to wait three months to get the latest news. Check out the TGS Update at <http://tgstopeka.blogspot.com>.



We are looking for someone to take over as editor for the TGS Quarterly. Dave Murray, who has been producing our TGS Quarterly for the past eight years, has announced that he will retire as editor at the end of 2010. We are starting to look for a new editor now, so that the incoming editor will have a chance to work with Dave during 2010 to learn the production process. You don't have to write the content - just be responsible for gathering submitted materials and formatting it to create the publication layout. Some familiarity with publication software, such as Pagemaker or InDesign would be helpful. This is a job that could be done at home on a flexible schedule. If you are interested in becoming our new editor, contact Barb LaCLAIR at president1@tgstopeka.org.

In the same vein, we are also looking for a News & Views editor. Nora will also be retiring at the end of 2010 and plans to travel with her husband, Dave. Nora has been the News and View editor for a number of years and is looking forward to working on all her families (Dave's too!). The Newsletter will remain the same, but now will be combined with the Quarterly. Again, some familiarity with publication software would be helpful. This is a job that could be done at home, on a flexible schedule, If you are interested in becoming our new editor, contact Barb LaCLAIR at president1@tgstopeka.org.

With Nora's retirement, TGS will also be looking for a Conference Coordinator. The Conference is a once a year event. This could be a co-chaired effort.

The Computer Genealogy SIG and the Family Tree Maker User Groups are being temporarily discontinued. Larry Henderson, Education Chairman, has been facilitating these groups for the last eight years and is moving on to other adventures. If you would like to facilitate either or both of these groups, please contact me at president1@tgstopeka.org.

Barb LaCLAIR

While it seems that we are having a number of retirements from various positions, TGS is a volunteer organization and volunteers do move on and new ones come along. This is YOUR organization and the Board needs your input and assistance.

NEW MEMBER FORUM BEGINNING IN 2010

Here's another new benefit of TGS membership. As we have talked with many of our members about the programs we offer, we have often heard that folks would like to have more opportunities for sharing what they are working on, and getting ideas for getting past those genealogical roadblocks that we all have. So, beginning in February 2010, we will be hosting a monthly TGS Member Forum on the 1st Thursday of each month from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the TGS library.

The format will be informal - no planned programs. Just bring your questions and share with other genealogists your expertise and your new discoveries. This will be a great opportunity to learn from one another, to share your enthusiasm for genealogy, and to get to know other TGS members. BUT, it will only be successful if we have good participation. Mark your calendars for February 4th and join us as we kick off the new TGS member forum.

February is Black History Month

TGS and the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library will join in celebration of Black History month by offering a special half-day program on African-American Family History on Saturday, February 6th from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library. The featured speaker will be Traci Wilson-Kleekamp from Columbia, MO. Traci has had many years of experience in tracing her own family, and in helping others with their family research. Traci is very familiar with slave records from the central Missouri region. Thanks to the support of TSCPL, this program will be free and open to the public!

Kansas and the Underground Railroad. “It is likely that more slaves passed through Kansas on their way to freedom than ever lived here. Although estimates vary, as many as 1,000 people may have passed through Kansas Territory via the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad was a secret system of people who helped slaves escape in the years before and during the Civil War (1861-1865). There were routes all over the country, even through Kansas Territory where the slavery issue was in the process of being decided.

When Kansas Territory was created in 1854, it quickly became the center of the nation’s attention as people battled over whether the state would allow slavery within its borders. Some people came here to fight for a cause, but most were ordinary folks seeking new opportunities. Those who tried to remain neutral often had to choose sides, and individuals who stuck to their beliefs could become targets of violence in “[Bleeding Kansas](#).” It took seven years to resolve the issue, and even then Kansas became a state only after southern states began seceding from the Union.

Although most slaves fled through Kansas in the early years of its settlement, later many decided to settle here. This was particularly true after the Civil War began, when hundreds crossed the border from neighboring Missouri (a slave state). The name “Kansas” symbolized freedom because of the fame of [John Brown](#) and other abolitionists, and both free and slave came to see the territory as a land of opportunity.” Source: Kansas Historical Society

On July 28-31, 2010, the National Park Service will offer a program in Topeka regarding the National Underground Railroad Network. The program by the NPS demonstrates the significance of the Unerground Railroad not only in the eradication of slavery, but as a cornerstone of our national civil rights movement. The Program is coordinating preservation and education efforts nationwide, and is working to integrate local historical sites, museums, and interpretive programs associated the the Underground Railroad. There are three components to the program: Educating the public about the historical significance of the Underground Railroad; Providing technical assistance to organizations that are identifying, documenting, preserving and interpreting sites, etc.; and Development of a Network of sites, programs, and facilities with verifiable associations to the Underground Railroad, referred to as the “network to Freedom” or the “Network.”

Check out the NPS website for further information: <http://www.nps.gov/history/ugrr>



Picture from National Park Service Website

Example of Underground Railroad Stop.

Were there “safe houses” in your community? You might be surprised at what you find! There were safe houses in the Topeka area and farther north through Jackson and Brown Counties and north to Canada.

Life Before Computers

An application was for employment
A program was a TV show
A cursor used profanity
A keyboard was a piano!

Memory was something that you lost with age
A CD was a bank account
And if you had a 3 1/2 inch floppy
You hoped nobody found out!

Compress was something you did to garbage
Not something you did to a file
And if you unzipped anything in public
You'd be in jail for awhile!

Log on was adding wood to a fire
Hard drive was a long trip on the road
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived
And a backup happened to your commode!

Cut - you did with a pocket knife
Paste you did with glue
A web was a spider's home
And a virus was the flu!

I guess I'll stick to my pad and paper
And the memory in my head
I hear nobody's been killed in a computer crash
But when it happens they wish they were dead!

**HOURS REDUCED AT THE MISSOURI
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Due to budgetary cutbacks, the Missouri State Historical Society has reduced its hours to 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Monday-Thursday, effective immediately. The facility will no longer be open to researchers on Friday or Saturday. Staff members have taken 20 percent pay cuts. The Missouri History Speakers Bureau will also be discontinued.

Unfortunately this appears to be a trend that won't soon disappear as each and every state struggles to maintain and contain their spending.



Missouri State Flag

**NEW NATIVE AMERICAN COLLECTION ON
FOOTNOTE.COM**

Footnote.com has organized several sets of records pertaining to Native American tribes into a new Native American Collection. The group includes digital images of all treaties between the U. S. government and Native tribes, Indian Census rolls, Guion Miller applications, Dawes packets and more. If you are looking for documentation on a Native American ancestor, you won't want to miss this. www.footnote.com

**SUBSCRIPTION DATABASES
NOW AVAILABLE AT TGS LIBRARY**

TGS library users will now have access to two great subscription databases - the New England Historical and Genealogical Society and Footnote.com. If you have New England Ancestors, the NEHGS database is full of wonderful resources. This subscription also provides access to several digitized publications, including the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* and the *Virginia Genealogist*. Footnote.com provides access to digitized images of important source materials. The Footnote collection, which is being added to at an impressive rate, includes the complete Revolutionary War Pension files, many Civil War era records, Southern Claim Commission files, and much more. If you are looking for Native American ancestors, you will want to check out Footnote - it includes all treaties with the U. S. government, application packets for the Guion Miller and Dawes Rolls and the Indian Census Rolls. These are two terrific resources!

**HOW TO REQUEST MILITARY
SERVICE RECORDS
OR
PROVE MILITARY SERVICE**

Military personnel records can be used for proving military service, or as a valuable tool in genealogical research. Most veterans and their next-of-kin can obtain free copies of their DD Form 214 (Report of Separation) and other military and medical records by going to:

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/get-service-records.html>

Source: American Legion Post 400 January 2010 Issue

NEW AND FREE DAR ONLINE DATABASES

The following announcement was written by the Daughters of the American Revolution:

After nearly a decade of scanning, indexing, and other behind-the-scenes work by DAR members and employees, the Daughters of the American Revolution is pleased to announce the availability of the DAR Genealogical Research System on our public website. Here are the direct links:

http://www.dar.org/library/online_research.cfm or www.dar.org (click on the Library button at the top, then the second tab in the left-hand column).

The GRS is a growing collection of databases that provide access to many materials collected by the DAR over the past 119 years. Included in this collection of databases is the GRC National Index which has been available to researchers for the past few years. There are still some kinks being working out.

When you go to the link above, you will find several tabs that will enable searching in the various databases:

Ancestor – established DAR Revolutionary War Ancestors and basic information about them with listings of the applications submitted by descendants who joined the DAR [updated daily].

Member – limited access to information on deceased/former DAR members – not current members.

Descendants – index of generations in applications between the DAR member and the Revolutionary War ancestor. There is much eighteenth and nineteenth-century information here. [ongoing indexing project]

GRC – everyname index to 20,000 typescript volumes (some still being indexed) of genealogical records such as cemeteries, Bibles, etc. This index is not limited to the period of the American Revolution.

Resources, in particular, the digitized DAR Library Revolutionary Pension Extract Card Index and the Analytical Index Cards, are available.

Other information sources will be coming in the near future, mostly relating to Revolutionary War service, bibliographies, Forgotten Patriots (updates), etc. Read the introductions to these to learn why these are both important genealogical indexes. For example, the Rev. War pension index includes the names of people mentioned in those pensions that were abstracted [(not just the pensioner or widow)!!!!]

Library Catalog – a book, periodical, and manuscript holdings

Each of these has interrelated content, and a description of each is given more fully on the website. You will notice restricted information in many search results. This is the result of a concerted effort to protect the identity of our members while providing historical genealogical information to researchers.

The national numbers of members (without the names of living members) given in the search results are needed to order copies of applications and supplemental applications. They do not lead online researchers to any other information about the member.

Posted by Dick Eastman on November 18, 2009



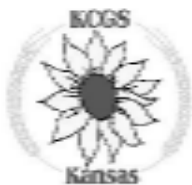
**Researching African-American Genealogy
&
Family History**

**Featuring speaker: Traci Wilson-Kleekamp
Saturday, February 6, 2010
1:00 - 5:00 pm**

Free & Open to the Public

**Co-sponsored by:
Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library
and
Topeka Genealogical Society**

MEMBER SOCIETY OF:



**Topeka Genealogical Society
38th Annual Conference**

Co-Hosted by and held at the
Kansas Historical Society
6425 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka, KS

**Speaker:
Michael John Neill
"Our Elusive
Female" Ancestors"**



**April 24, 2010
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**