

Topeka Genealogical Society

Founded in 1965

NEWS & VIEWS

Editor:

Nora Patton Taylor

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Library Location: 2717 SE Indiana - Phone (785) 233-5762
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Library Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday - 1:00 - 4:00pm

Microfiche Machine

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 pm - TGS Memorial Library, 2717 SE Indiana

Regular Meeting: 4th Thursday of each month-7:00 pm - Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library

Board Meeting: 2nd Thursday of each month-7:00 pm -TGS Memorial Library, 2717 SE Indiana

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Special Interest Group (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.

July 2010

July 1st, 7 pm

TGS Member Forum: "Sharing and Problem Solving"
TGS Memorial Library

July 8th, 7 pm

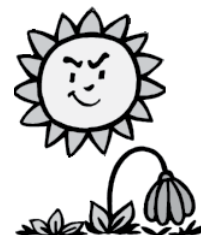
TGS Board Meeting, TGS Memorial Library

July 19th, 7 pm

PAF SIG, TGS Memorial Library

July 22nd, 7 pm

"Origin and History of the Wyandot Indian Tribe" by Holly ZANE, Member Wyandot Indian Tribe, TSCPL



August 2010

Aug 5th, 7 pm

TGS Member Forum: "Sharing and Problem Solving"
TGS Memorial Library

Aug 12th, 7 pm

TGS Board Meeting, TGS Memorial Library

Aug 16th, 7 pm

PAF SIG, TGS Memorial Library

Aug 26nd, 7 pm

TGS Regular Meeting "Past and Future Works of the LDS Church" Jan WILKES, TGS Member

Aug 28th, 9-noon

Genealogical Records Series: Military Records, TGS Memorial Library



September 2010

Sept 2nd, 7 pm

TGS Member Forum: "Sharing and Problem Solving" TGS Memorial Library

Sept 9th, 7 pm

TGS Board Meeting, TGS Memorial Library

Sept 20th, 7 pm

PAF SIG, TGS Memorial Library

Sept 23rd, 7 pm

TGS Regular Meeting: "Inside the New Midwest Genealogy Center" Gary TOMS, Mid-Continent Library

Sept 28th, 9-noon

Genealogical Records Series: Manuscripts, TGS Library



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

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Better Off?

Summer is in full swing at our house. Our gardens bestow their daily gifts of fresh and tasty fruits and vegetables, and we are busily engaged in enjoying the fruits of our labors and preserving the surplus to extend our enjoyment into the dark winter months to come.

As I work away in my kitchen canning, pickling and preserving our harvest, my mind wanders back to the grandmothers before me who performed the same roles. But, while I do these things by choice, their labors would have been necessary for survival. Why do I choose to spend my time and energy on such chores when I could just as easily go to the store and buy some canned goods and jellies?

Although some members of my family think that I am a bit daft for making the choices that I do, I find that in return for my efforts I gain something more precious than what money can buy. I feel a strong connection to the past, and to those who went before me. I feel a stronger connection to the earth, and its natural cycles. I get an amazing sense of satisfaction by being able to step back and look with pride upon the products of my labor (not to mention the satisfaction that will later come to my taste buds and stomach!). And, there is a satisfying comfort in knowing that we do still have the skills and ability to raise our own food if we have to.

It seems to me that some of the "convenience" that has come with our modern lifestyles has also exacted a heavy price on our quality of life. By far the majority of us have traded in the roles of providing directly for our own needs and have opted for a steady job and paycheck working for someone else. We then use the paycheck we earn to pay someone else to provide the basic goods and services essential to our survival. By doing so, we have largely lost touch with nature and core values. Many of today's children, and some adults, have no idea where their food comes from and what processes it is subjected to before arriving on the dinner table. Work done for someone else's purposes tends to be far less satisfying than work we do to meet our own needs and goals. We miss out on the emotional satisfaction and sense of security that comes with being able to provide for our own needs.

Are we better off than our ancestors were? Without much thought, many of us would probably answer "yes." Personally, I'm not so sure. .. Barb



Quick Facts from Early America

In the early days of the U.S., food preservation was critical to ensure a family's survival, particularly during the long winter months. It was the custom for mothers and grandmothers to pass cooking and food preservation techniques to their daughters and female relatives. By the 1700's, many cookbooks provided a variety of preservation methodologies and recipes. Fruits were made into jellies, jams and preserves, and a variety of vegetables were pickled with salt and vinegar. Fruits, vegetables and meats were also preserved by drying.

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 preceeding 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

Another great TGS Conference has come and gone. If you missed it, Michael John Neill was entertaining and informative. Michael gently reminded you if you haven't taken a look at all your ancestors' siblings, you should. He also reminded us not to be so "tunnel-visioned" when looking for information. You know, the old mind-set that the name has only been spelled "one way" throughout the years, etc.

I want to personally thank all the hard-working, dedicated TGS volunteers. Without them, the conference wouldn't happen. And a special 'thank you' to Dave, who every year moves all the TGS materials from the TGS Library to the History Museum and then back again.

Obviously Mother Nature is continuing to show us who is in charge with all the crazy weather around the world. Have you ever thought about that "brick wall" and could it be related to a natural disaster? It could have been a flood. It could be a war, tornado, hurricane, earthquake, insects, extremes of fires, cold or ice. How many times have we heard about the "burned courthouse?" Our ancestors weren't immune to natural disasters, neither are we, nor will we ever be. The loss of life and destruction of homes and businesses left lasting impressions/effects on families. There are many online and published sources with information on natural disasters and extreme weather events. Many books and websites are specific to a state, county, location, or even a particular disaster in local history. Earthquakes are most common in geologically active regions, but earthquakes have shaken the eastern and western U.S. The New Madrid Earthquakes terrified people in much of the Mississippi River valley. One of the most famous is probably the San Francisco earthquake in 1906. Volcanic eruptions in distant parts of the world have affected the entire world. The southern part of the U.S. and the East coast are well aware of hurricanes or tropical storms and the damage they can do. Today's disaster is the oil spill in the Gulf. It will impact the lives of many families for years to come - just like Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. A hurricane in 1667 did extensive damage to Jamestown and colonial Virginia. Floods like the infamous Johnstown, PA flood took the lives of approximately 2,200 people in 1889. Levees can only hold back so much water. Blizzards and snowstorms have also played an unwelcome role in history. In early days, if a fire broke out during a cold snap, a city/community could be wiped out due to lack of water to fight the fire!

According to the National Weather Service, on average there are about 800 tornadoes a year in the U.S. "Most" of them do little damage but sending us scurrying to the basement, grumbling about how they disrupt our lives. Tornadoes can hit anywhere! Topeka can attest to that. On June 8, 1966 Topeka was struck by a F5 tornado at 6:37 p.m. The state-of-the art radar of the day, donated to the weather bureau by the military after WWII, didn't show the tornado - unlike today's Doplar radar. It ripped across Washburn Campus and the downtown, obliterating homes, businesses, tossing cars, buses, even rail cars and locomotives around as it roared through. Perhaps you've seen the aftermath of a tornado. Our ancestors did too. No matter where they lived, whether it was in the U.S. or overseas, they witnessed their share of natural and man-made disasters. I can't even imagine the number of documents destroyed by war in nearly every nation of the world.

Your ancestor(s) might also have moved because of the Dust Bowl. The Dust Bowl got its name after Black Sunday, April 14, 1935. More and more dust storms had been blowing up in the years leading up to that day. By 1934, it was estimated that 100 million acres of farmland had lost all or most of the topsoil to the winds. By April 1935, there had been weeks of dust storms, but the cloud that appeared on the horizon that Sunday was the worst. Winds were clocked at 60 mph. A major disaster to farmers and the economy. Also check out www.gendisasters.com

Check your local library or your favorite search engine to see what disasters, natural or man-made may have affected your ancestors. Maybe you can verify or add information to an old family story or at least learn about a disaster that would/could have affected your ancestors.

Nora



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 an interesting job that could be done at home on a flexible schedule. If you are interested in becoming our new editor, please contact Barb LaCLAIR at president1@tgstopeka.org.

NOTES FROM THE TGS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Shawnee County Honor Roll, WW I



The Shawnee County Honor Roll book, which includes a full list of draftees and volunteers in the First World War, was conceived early in 1919 by the local newspapers and military officials in Shawnee County. The necessary material was gathered from the men and their families, and the book was published "so that the people of this county might have a permanent record of their total sacrifice as called forth by the Great World War. The brave lads who fought "over there", those who were left at camps at home, and the loyal ones who stood behind them all, each have attained a niche in world history. If, in years to come, this book calls forth a mirrored image of the stirring days of 1917-1918, its publishers will have considered their work worthwhile."

Dedication: "To the brave boys of this country who have so willingly and so courageously given their lives in the service of their country, the Honor Roll is Reverently Dedicated."

Dave MURRAY, TGS member, spent an enormous amount of time putting together an expanded Shawnee County WWI casualty list, including those buried in American Military Cemeteries in Europe, in Arlington National Cemetery, Commonwealth Military Cemeteries, and local cemeteries. Please check out this information on the TGS website. Also, for a few of the men, there is a link to another website which contains more in-depth details for some of these casualties and a link to the National World War 1 Museum in Kansas City, MO.

If you have a chance and are in the area, a visit to the WW I Museum in Kansas City is well worth your time.

Printers

TGS is in need of new(er) printers. The ones at the library are wearing out and are old enough that replacement ink cartridges are no longer available. If you have a "newer" printer that you are replacing, please consider donating the old one to TGS.



You can contact any board member, or email the library at corresponding1@tgstopeka.org.

TGS librarians and patrons would be truly grateful!

Thanks!!

Illinois Adoptees Gain New Access to Birth Records



Excerpted from the Chicago Tribune: "Now anyone adopted before 1946 can gain immediate access to their birth certificates by filing a written request with the vital records division of the Illinois Department of Public Health. Adults 21 and over who were born after January 1, 1946 will be able to request the same information beginning in late 2011 through the state's adoption registry."
<http://www.idph.state.il.us/vitalrecords/>

1880 DDD Supplemental Census at Ancestry.com

In 1880, a special supplemental census was recorded for all individuals who were considered either temporarily or permanently disabled, including those who were blind, deaf and dumb, idiotic, insane, maimed, crippled, bedridden or otherwise disabled. If your ancestor's 1880 Census listing has a mark in columns 15 through 20, additional detail pertaining to his or her condition should have been recorded on the supplemental schedule, often referred to as the "DDD (Defective, Dependent & Delinquent) Schedule".

Until recently, accessing these schedules has been somewhat challenging as only a few state's records had been microfilmed by the National Archives. For other states, the records were retained in various repositories such as state archives, major libraries, and state historical societies. Access has recently become easier, as Ancestry.com has digitized and indexed the DDD schedules for the following states: California, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Washington Territory. Check out these very interesting resources at Ancestry.com

Source: TGS Blog, April 12, 2010

Chancery Records Index

The Chancery Records Index (CRI) is a result of archival processing and indexing projects overseen by the Library of Virginia (LVA) and funded, in part, by the Virginia Circuit Court Records Preservation Program (CCRP). Each of Virginia's circuit courts created chancery records that contain considerable historical and genealogical information. Because the records rely so heavily on testimony from witnesses, they offer a unique glimpse into the lives of Virginians from the early 18th century through the First World War.

The original court papers are flat-filed, indexed, and conserved using a set of standards developed by the LVA. Since the tri-folded records are often in poor condition, special attention is paid to preparing them for digital reformatting. This laborious process is undertaken so that the best quality images can be captured in one effort. The valuable original records are then retired to secure storage. The reformatted images whether digital scans or microfilm can be viewed at the Library of Virginia, at the circuit court clerk's office, or, in the case of digital images, from any internet connected computer. The indexed but-not-yet-reformatted original records in the Library's care can be viewed in the Archives Research Room prior to reformatting. During reformatting, some or all of the original records may be unavailable for viewing; however, the full index will remain available for research purposes. Information is added to the CRI in such instances to alert researchers regarding a collection's availability.

There are over 191,000 cases indexed in the database and a total of 4,292,871 images of chancery cases available online.

<http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/chancery/>



Military Cemeteries

Did you know, there are 24 overseas US military cemeteries and 25 memorials, monuments and markers, maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission? Sharing the same purpose, they honor the fallen - our war dead, missing in action, and those who fought at their sides. The most famous overseas cemetery that comes to mind is the one at Normandy. The ABMC cemeteries are spread throughout Europe.

The overseas cemeteries serve as resting places for 124,917 US war dead; 30,291 from World War I, 93,246 from World War II, and 750 from the Mexican-American War (1846-1848). Another 94,135 US servicemen and women who are missing in action, or were lost or buried at sea during the world wars and the Korean and Vietnam wars, are commemorated by name on Tablets of the Missing. Many of the dead are buried in cemeteries located on or near the battle-scarred fields where they fell. The American Battle Monuments website, www.abmc.gov, has descriptions of, and directions to, each cemetery. More US military personnel lie at rest at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in France than at any other US cemetery in all of Europe. Of the 119 Medal of Honor recipients of WWI, nine of the recipients are interred at Meuse-Argonne.

Source: Max Cleland, "The Whole Earth as Their Tomb," *The American Legion Magazine*, May 2010

Women in the Military

Women have served in the US Army since 1775. They nursed the ill and wounded, laundered and mended clothing, and cooked for the troops in camp and on campaign. Think of Molly Pitcher! One "Molly" was Mary Hays McCauley, and as the story goes, she would bring pitchers of water from a nearby creek to thirsty soldiers. When her husband collapsed while manning his cannon, Molly took over for him. She was awarded an annuity for life by the Legislature of Pennsylvania to repay her for her acts of kindness. Did you know that there are almost two million women veterans? From the American Revolution to Panama, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq, women have served in some way in every conflict.

For early pioneer women, "home defense" was as routine as drawing well water. During the Mexican War, Elizabeth Newcome, in male attire, was mustered into military service at Fort Leavenworth in September 1847. Numbers of women joined the military during the American Civil War as men and fought gallantly alongside their male counterparts. Many were never found out. The first and only woman to receive the Medal of Honor was Dr. Mary E. Walker, a contract surgeon during the Civil War. The first woman to receive the Purple Heart was Annie G. Fox while serving at Hickam Field in Hawaii during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. Philadelphian Loretta Walsh was the first to enlist on March 1917 and became the first Yeoman (F) of the Navy. Dr. Anita Newcomb Magee - 1864-1940 - first woman Army surgeon in 1898, assigned to secure and train nurses for the Spanish American War. When the war ended she organized the Army Nurse Corps under the U.S. Surgeon General and served as its first director and the first woman assistant surgeon general.

During WW II, there were many opportunities for women to serve their country: the WACs (Women's Army Corps); the WAVES-Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service; the WAFS (Women Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron) and its successor organization, the WASPs (Women Airforce Service Pilots); the WAVES in the Navy and the SPARS in the Coast Guard Service. The Navy Nurse Corps was founded in May 1908. Today, women serve in 91% of the Army's occupations and make up about 14% of the active Army.

Thank a veteran for her/his service. Without their sacrifices, our world wouldn't be what we enjoy today!

Want to Find Your Ancestors?!

A recent article in the Lawrence Journal World, May 30, 2011 indicated the city is making it easier for genealogists, florists and others to find graves in Douglas County cemeteries. Hurrah for them! I didn't know that florists delivered flowers to graves! The maintenance supervisor of the cemeteries for Lawrence Parks and Recreation said his staff receives about 20 phone calls and 10 emails or letters each week asking about grave locations. It used to be that families knew where their loved ones are buried, but with families moving away and people having less time to visit cemeteries, that has gone by the wayside. Mary Burchill, a leader of the Douglas County Genealogical Society, hunts graves - literally - by poking a rod into the ground where a grave is supposed to be. Sometimes old headstones sink, topple or become covered. Maybe, just maybe, the stone is hidden just beneath the soil. To use the city's new cemetery search function, go to www.gis.ci.lawrence.ks.us/CemeterySearch/index.html, or the Douglas County Genealogical Society at www.skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/douglas/dckgs.html.

While you're looking, don't forget that TGS has information on numerous cemeteries in the area. Be sure to check out the TGS website and call the library for more information.

Source: Lawrence Journal World, May 30, 2011 & Tom MUTH, TGS Member

The Vietnam Wall, Washington, DC

The link below is a virtual wall of all those lost during the Vietnam War with the names, bio's and other information on our lost heroes. Those who remember that timeframe, or perhaps lost family and friends can look them up on this site.

First click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city and the names will appear. Then click on their names, It should show you a picture of the person, or at least their bio and medals.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>



The Vietnam memorial is dedicated to the 2.7 million men and women who served in the designated war zone. During the Vietnam War, 244 men were awarded the Medal of Honor, 153 are listed on the Wall. As of Memorial Day 2010, there are 58,267 names on the Wall of Honor, eight are women, and 2,056 are listed as "body not recovered." The average age was 22.8 years old. Further information can be obtained at: <http://thewall-usa.com/> the National Park Service site <http://www.nps.gov/vive/index.htm> and many other sites.

Family members and friends routinely leave memorials/remembrances at the Wall in tribute. All are collected each day by NPS employees and delivered to the Archives. There is a rotating selection of materials, left at the Wall, in the Smithsonian Museum of American History.



Three Soldiers

Wall

Nurse's Memorial



April 30, 2011

Speaker:

Barbara Vines LITTLE



**Co-Hosted by and held at the
Kansas Historical Society**

6425 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka, KS

Barbara Vines LITTLE is a lecturer and full-time professional genealogist specializing in Virginia and West Virginia record sources, land platting, neighborhood reconstruction, and problem-solving. She currently serves as the president of the National Genealogical Society and is the former president and current governor of the Virginia Genealogical Society. She served as Track II coordinator of the Virginia Institute of Genealogical Research; is the editor of the quarterly *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* and former editor of the bi-monthly *Virginia Genealogical Society Newsletter* and MidAtlantic Germanic society's newsletter, *Der Kurier*. She has published three volumes of Virginia Court Records and edited others for publication.

HELP WANTED!

TGS is looking for a Conference Coordinator. As you can see, the 2011 conference has been set with a speaker and location. TGS is looking for an entergenic person who can coordinate the speaker, location, vendors and volunteers.

TGS has marvelous volunteers who make the conference run smoothly.

If you are interested in assisting with making the Conference a success, please contact President Barbara LaCLAIR at

barb.laclair@sbcglobal.net

or

president1@tgstopeka.org