

Wichita Genealogical Society – 2024 Program Calendar

Last Updated January 1, 2024

January 20, 2024

Finding the Farm and Its Records

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | Advanced Learning Library

Part I of a two-part presentation includes interpreting old homestead documents, deed records, and plat maps to reveal the exact location of ancestral homesteads, farms, and residences – including GPS driving instruction. Part II reveals where Homestead certificates, early land-office logs, and complete homestead files are found and how to get them. Part I is 40-50 minutes, Part II is 20-30 minutes with a break in between parts. Presented by Gary W. Clark. Sponsored by the Wichita Genealogical Society.

February 17, 2024

A Creative Guide to Writing Your Family's Stories

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Advanced Learning Library

We all love discovering a fantastic tale of our family's past. But how do we share these stories in engaging ways? This workshop provides the tools to enrich genealogical research. By incorporating story and memory, readers will feel what it was like to be in that moment. Exercises include developing characters, describing places and events of importance, and finding the heart of a story with the goal of creating an irresistible read. Presented by Kim Stanley in conjunction with Kansas Humanities. Sponsored by the Wichita Genealogical Society.

March 23, 2024

You've Taken the DNA Test, What's Next?

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Advanced Learning Library

Beginning DNA: Did you get an Ancestry DNA kit for Christmas? Not sure what to do with the information? I'll help you determine a goal. Show you how to sort your matches to help break down brick walls. Do you need help to determine parentage? I can help you get started. Presented by Connie Bishop. Sponsored by the Wichita Genealogical Society.

April 20, 2024

Discover Your Family's Story at the Wichita Public Library

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Advanced Learning Library

Remember that most history is local history. The Genealogy Collection of the Wichita Public Library has over 46,000 volumes and covers every state in the country. The Kansas Reference Collection has over 20,000 volumes and covers a variety of Kansas and the Great Plains topics. Learn tips and tricks from the Genealogy Librarian, Michelle Enke, to help discover your family's story. Presented by Michelle Enke. Sponsored by the Wichita Genealogical Society.

May 18, 2023

Ten Things to Know Before Starting Research in Germany!

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Advanced Learning Library

Would you like to research your German ancestors but don't know how to start research in Germany? Then this presentation is perfect for you. Learn everything you need to know about German history as well as church and state archives to get you started on the right track from the beginning. Presented by Ursula C. Krause. Sponsored by the Wichita Genealogical Society.

June 15, 2024

Research Methods for Success

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Advanced Learning Library

Learn how to: Identify your research goal. How to develop a research plan. How to implement that research plan. Included methods for success are: Creating a timeline. Building a case. Identifying record sources and how to obtain said records. Presented by Jason Felihkatubbe. Sponsored by the Wichita Genealogical Society.

July 20, 2024

The Quest for Your English Ancestors

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Advanced Learning Library

English civil and church records as well as census records make doing research back to 1837 feasible. Pre-1837 requires more skill and a greater knowledge of the large variety of little-known resources to conduct this research, which can bring you back to the 1600's and beyond. Presented by Clair Brisson-Banks. Sponsored by the Wichita Genealogical Society.

August 17, 2024

Researching Your Home and the People Who Lived There

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Advanced Learning Library

Researching a property, be it an old home, a new business, or a section of pastureland, can do more than tell us the history of a space. It can also build a human connection to the people who came before us and the times in which they lived. This talk shares creative ways to study documents and assemble relevant narratives from maps, deeds, newspapers, and often unsought or unknown resources. This is ideal for those new to seeking out family and community stories, and helpful for those stymied by a dead end. Presented by Diana Staresinic-Deane in conjunction with Kansas Humanities. Sponsored by the Wichita Genealogical Society.

September 21, 2024

Gravestone Cleaning and Preservation

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Advanced Learning Library

Learn how to safely clean your ancestor's gravestones so they are readable, and you can be proud of them. This is easily accomplished by any genealogist and family historian using professional-endorsed techniques. This presentation will demonstrate removal of the most common types of growth and pollution with easy-to-find professional solutions, simple brushes, and water. Presented by Gary W. Clark. Sponsored by the Wichita Genealogical Society.

October 2024

No Monthly Meeting – Annual Conference with Cari A. Taplin, CG

November 16, 2024

Discover Midwest Historical & Genealogical Society Library

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Advanced Learning Library

MHGS is a local history and genealogical society on North Main in Wichita that is entirely owned by members and operated by volunteers. Learn about our library, with more than 10,000 items from around the country, with a focus on Kansas and Sedgwick County (we have original courthouse records!), our vertical files with more than 2500 surname files and binders from local genealogists, our special interest groups, and our volunteer projects. Presented by Julia Langel. Sponsored by the Wichita Genealogical Society.

December 2024

No Monthly Meeting – Happy Holidays