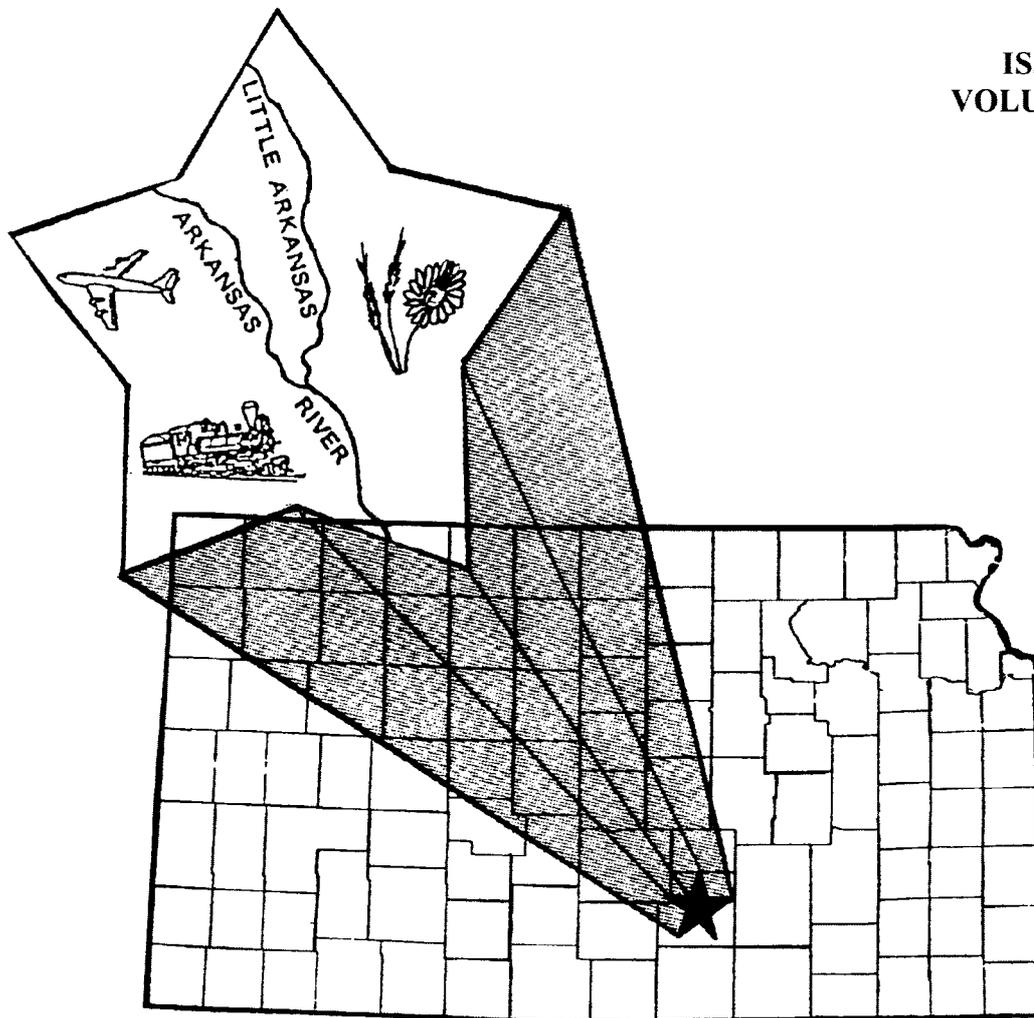


THE ARK VALLEY CROSSROADS

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A PUBLICATION OF
THE WICHITA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
A SUPPORT GROUP TO THE WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY
P.O. BOX 3705
WICHITA, KS 67201-3705

THE WICHITA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

A Support Group to The Wichita Public Library

P.O. Box 3705

Wichita, KS 67201-3705

2013 OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

President	Linda King	Postal Recorder	Jo Cahill
Vice President	Julie Crawford	Publicity	
Secretary	Kathy Butler	Research Requests	Mary Addis-Brown
Treasurer	Rosy Wiley	Publication Exchanges	
Registrar	Mary Hursey	Historian	Kaye Hamlin
Web Master	Sage Joyner	Education	Virginia Downing
Trips Director	Claudia Vickery	Genealogy Librarian	Michelle Enke
WPL Liaison	Jim Byrum	Special Projects	Claudia Vickery
AVC Editor	Pat Patterson	Hospitality	Barbara Jones
Circulation Editor			

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in W. G. S. is open to anyone interested in genealogy and family history research. Yearly dues will begin the month your check is received. Individual dues are \$20.00 per year, with each additional household member \$10.00. Dues for organizations and institutions are \$20.00. Members will be issued membership cards IF a SASE is sent with their dues. Members will receive *The Ark Valley Crossroads* along with notices of special events, classes, workshops and activities pertaining to genealogy. Please notify the society as soon as possible when you anticipate an address change. Send your mailing label and your new address, including Zip + 4 to W. G. S. Attn: Registrar, so your mailings will be uninterrupted.

MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at 1:00 p.m. on the third Saturday of February, May, August, and November. Locations may vary and will be announced one month prior to the meeting.

PURPOSE AND POLICIES

W.G.S. is a not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to facilitate the gathering of genealogical and family history information for the researcher and to support the Local History and Genealogy Department of the Wichita Public Library.

Editorial Policy: *The Ark Valley Crossroads* is published four times a year (beginning with the April, 1993 issue) in January, April, July, and October. Past issues may be purchased as long as they are available at \$3.25 per issue (\$4.00 for those which require mailing). The material in *The Crossroads* does not necessarily reflect the views of the Wichita Public Library, the Wichita Genealogical Society, its principles or volunteers. The officers and editorial surface are in no way liable for inconvenience or monetary loss to readers which may be the fault of recommendations made in articles. Materials in this publication are compiled or collected by members and other interested persons. We encourage submissions of articles and especially data pertaining to Sedgwick County. No material will be returned unless requested and accompanied by a SASE. Submissions will be published on a space available basis. Articles for publication may be sent to W.G.S. Attn: Editor, and will be subject to editing. W. G. S. and the editor will not be responsible for errors in this issue. Corrections of proven errors will be published. This publication is protected by copyright. Information contained herein is not to be extracted for re-publication. Original articles may be quoted without prior permission, however, credit to this publication is requested.

Book Review Policy: We will be happy to review genealogical publications (currently in print and available for sale) upon receipt of a complimentary copy donated to the Wichita Public Library, 223 South Main Street, Wichita, KS 67202

Query Policy: Effective 01 April 1997, members queries will be published first and without cost. Non-member queries will be published on receipt of \$2.00 per query. They should be typed or clearly hand printed without abbreviations and should be brief and to the point. Each query should be on a separate page and must include your name, postal address and e-mail address (if applicable). The Query Editor and staff is not responsible for accuracy of queries and reserves the right to edit the text. Queries may be sent to W.G.S. Attn: Research Requests

Quarterly Exchange Policy: We encourage the exchange of quarterly publications with other societies and organizations throughout the United States as a means of sharing and expanding our knowledge in the pursuit of genealogy. Exchange inquiries may be sent to W. G. S. Attn: Library Exchanges

Gifts, Acquisitions & Donations: We welcome donations of genealogical material. That which is suitable for use in *The Crossroads* will be published as appropriate. Suitable books and reference material will be placed in the Genealogy Section of Wichita Public Library for optimum access by researchers. To arrange a gift or donations, write W. G. S. Attn: President.

Research Policy: One hour of limited research will be performed by members of W. G. S. upon receipt of a \$5.00 donation to the society. If additional, or in-depth research, is required, a list of qualified area researchers will be provided upon request.

The Ark Valley Crossroads

Volume 24, Number 1

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Don't forget to check our webpage—<http://www.wichitagensoc.org>



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

"Preserving the Past for the Future"



I hope that you have all had a Very Happy New Year and are ready for 2013. WGS has a full calendar of activities planned for this year. Virginia Downing, our Education Chairperson has a list of very interesting subjects that she will be presenting at the regular monthly meetings. Our Vice President, Julie Crawford is lining up some very fascinating speakers for our quarterly meetings (February, May, August and November).

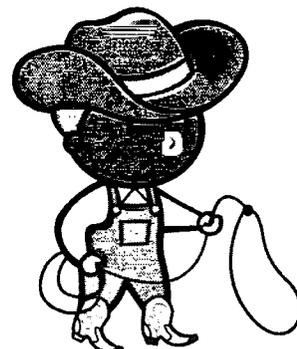
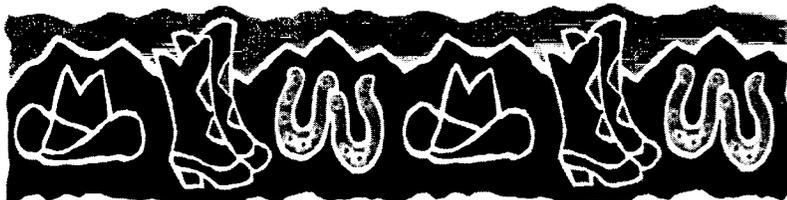
Planning for the research trips to Mid-Continent Library in Independence, Missouri scheduled for April 15, 16 and 17 and the trips to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah September 14 through 22, is well underway.

Mary Hursey is the Chairperson for our Genealogy 101 and 201 classes. The "Gene 201" class is scheduled for April 4 through May 23 with the "Gene 102" class June 6 through July 25 (excluding the July 4 holiday).

Full details can be found on our WGS web site: www.wichitagensoc.org as soon as they are available.

We have several new Board Members this year who are bringing a lot of new ideas and energy to our organization. I do hope that you will "meet and greet" them all. Their names are listed on the inside cover of each issue of the AVC.

Whew! And on the home front: My nephew-in-law sent me an e-mail asking if I could help connect the dots on his family tree that he had recently put on Ancestry.com. We have talked about working on his family in the past but he is now more serious since the person that had been working on that lineage recently passed away. He can trace his line back 4 generations but then there is one huge brick wall. He has what he thinks, is his immigrant ancestors (1585 in England) and wanted to know "how to connect them". That person has an impressive background and it would be nice to be able to claim him but I had to plant the seed of skepticism. *Contn'd on p.4*



What I have done is to set up another tree on Ancestry as sort of a “fishing expedition”. I entered the family and 3 generations of the immigrant possibility in hopes of finding some clues. I have found a lot of information on that family and although the family names would seem to indicate they might be linked, I have yet to find that solid source. So if anyone has any family with the surname of “FROST” in their background, particularly if they traveled through North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama and ended up in Texas, I would enjoy sharing information. I have yet to find a “Jack Frost” in the family line!

Keep on hunting for those elusive ancestors.

Linda King, President

Notes from the Editor:

Hi, everyone! I'm Pat Patterson, recently appointed Editor of The Ark Valley Crossroads. The first thing I would like to do is to say Thank You to Judy Hall for all of the hours and years she put into the Crossroads to make it an excellent publication. She not only helped the organization to grow strong, with all of the information she provided through the years she helped a lot of people track their ancestors and families to know where they came from. She is still a great asset for the state of Kansas.

I hope we can continue Judy's work of giving the WGS membership information that will enable people to trace their family trees. One way I would like to do that is to ask you to share your journey searching for your ancestors. I am asking you to submit stories about your trials and tribulations finding your family roots. Let me know how you broke through those brick walls that we all have faced at one time or another. Explain how you looked through hundreds of books and thousands of microfilm and found nothing about your Great-Grandfather then one day your second cousin handed you a family Bible that contained all of your family information for three generations, including your Great-Grandfather.

I truly hope we can help each other be successful in answering questions that we have searched long and hard for. If you have questions or stories or comments or just need a little help, don't hesitate to ask one of the Board members, check the web page <http://www.wichitagensoc.org> or contact me at lpatterson@cox.net.

Become a member of **Wichita Genealogical Society!**

What is included with the \$20 membership fee?

7 educational monthly meetings Find out about new genealogy resources
4 presentations by outside experts Fellowship with other Ancestry Hunter
2 research trips available each year. 4 issues of the Ark Valley Crossroads

IT'S A BARGAIN!

**BYLAWS OF
THE WICHITA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
(Revised 2013)**

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of the corporation is "The Wichita Genealogical Society" ("WGS.")

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

Section 1. General: One purpose of WGS is to promote interest in and encourage the study of genealogy and family and local history through:

- (a) Holding meetings, classes, field trips and study groups;
- (b) Locating, cataloging, and preserving genealogical records and making them available to the public; and
- (c) Publishing genealogical and historical information periodically in a newsletter, magazine, or other publication.

WGS is also a support group of the Genealogy Department of the Wichita Public Library with the purpose of:

- (a) Assisting and supporting the Wichita Public Library Genealogy and Local History Department through acquisitions and special projects.
- (b) Providing volunteer support for the Genealogy Department of the Wichita Public Library.

ARTICLE III NATURE OF CORPORATION

Section 1. Non-Profit: WGS is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes that qualify as exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Code or Laws (hereinafter referred to as "the Code.")

It is the responsibility collectively and individually of the Board of Directors for the solvency of the Corporation.

No part of its earnings shall inure to the benefit of any Director, Officer, Member, or Advisor, or any other private individual. WGS shall never declare, make or pay any such persons any dividend or other distribution; provided, nevertheless, that nothing herein shall prevent the payments of reasonable compensation for services actually rendered by employees or consultants or the reimbursement of reasonable expenses actually incurred in connection with fulfilling WGS's purposes.

Section 2. Non-Discriminatory: WGS shall be operated in all respects in a manner that is non-partisan, non-sectarian, and non-discriminatory as to racial origin, religious creed, linguistic background, sex or any other feature not related to need or merit.

ARTICLE IV PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

Section 1. General: WGS shall neither have nor exercise any power, nor shall it engage directly or indirectly in any activity, that would invalidate its status as an organization exempt from Federal Income Taxation as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, or as an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2), 2055, or 2522 of the Code, nor shall it engage in activities prohibited by the following sections of Article IV, or their successor provisions under any future provisions of the Code.

Section 2. Political Activities: No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall consist of using propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Corporation shall not participate or intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Section 3. Loans to Officers and Directors: No loans shall be made by the Corporation to its Officers and/or Directors, and any and all Directors, voting or assenting, to the making of any such loan, and any and all officers participating in the making of any such loan shall be jointly and severally liable to the Corporation for the amount of such loan until repayment thereof.

ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. General Qualifications. Membership shall be open to all persons and organizations interested in genealogy, local history, and the purposes of the Society. An applicant shall be accepted for membership upon submission of a completed application form and payment of dues.

By-laws cont'd

Section 2. Categories. The categories of membership shall be, but not limited to the following:

- (a) Individual Member. Any person who meets the requirements for membership and who has paid the dues.
- (b) Household Member. Additional individuals living at the same address as a member and who meets the requirements for membership may become members at a reduced dues rate. A household shall receive only one copy of Society publications.
- (c) Organizational Member. Any organization that supports the purposes of the Society and which has paid the dues. An Organizational Member shall be a non-voting member.
- (d) Charter Member. A member who joined the Society prior to the 31st day of May 1988.

Honorary Member. Any person who by majority vote of the Board of Directors shall be awarded an Honorary Membership with the same privileges as any other Member and for the duration specified by the Board.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS

Section 1. Elected Officers. The elected officers of the Society shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Registrar, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer and shall be known as the Executive Board.

Section 2. Eligibility. Only active Individual or Household Members in good standing and who have belonged to the Society for at least one year prior to the election shall be eligible to hold elective office.

Section 3. Term. Officers shall be elected for a one-year term by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. The term of office shall begin on January 1 following the date of election.

Section 4. Consecutive Term. Any member willing to continue serving a consecutive term of office shall be deemed eligible for nomination for the succeeding year.

Section 5. Vacancies. Should an elected or appointed officer resign or vacate his/her office with or without notice, that vacancy will constitute a resignation from that position. Upon a majority vote of the Executive Board, an elected or appointed officer may be asked for his/her resignation. An office shall be deemed vacated after two unsuccessful attempts to contact the person filling the office in question. Resignations or vacancies in any elective office shall be filled by approval of the Board of Directors until the next election, except the office of President, which shall be filled by the Vice-President. Should the office of Vice-President be vacant, then the office of President shall be filled as any other vacant elective office.

ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The general duties of the elected officers shall include the following. Additional or specific duties and responsibilities may be detailed in the "Officer Procedural Manual".

Section 1. General Duties. All officers shall:

- (a) Perform the duties as prescribed by the Bylaws and parliamentary authority adopted by the Society.
- (b) Deliver within 15 days to the successor all monies, accounts, records, books, papers, and other property belonging to the Society upon retiring from office.
- (c) Present in writing for acceptance at the meeting of the Board of Directors prior to the Annual General Meeting the Annual Reports of the Executive Board.
- (d) Implement plans to sustain and enlarge the active membership of the society

Section 2. President. The President shall:

- (a) Be the Executive Officer of the Society and be the official spokesperson for the Society. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and Board of Directors, and, except as otherwise provided, shall appoint all standing and special committees and committee members, defining their duties, with the approval of the Board of Directors.
- (b) Be ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.
- (c) Receive the written Annual Reports of the Executive Board, subject to acceptance at the meeting of the Board of Directors prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- (d) Prepare an Annual Report of the Society for submission to the Director of the Wichita Public Library.
- (e) Call special meetings.

By-laws cont'd

Section 3. Vice-President. The Vice-President shall:

- (a) Assume the duties of the President in the absence of or at the request of the President;
- (b) Assume the duties of the President in the event of a vacancy in such office,
- (c) Arrange for programs for Quarterly meetings.

Section 4. Registrar. The Registrar shall:

- (a) Receive all membership applications, disburse membership cards to all members upon receipt of payment of dues, and maintain membership records.
- (b) Notify the President of a quorum in attendance at regularly scheduled meetings of the Society in which a vote of the membership will be required.

Section 5. Secretary. The Secretary shall:

- (a) Keep the minutes of all the proceedings of the Society, the Board of Directors, and any meetings of the Executive Board;
- (b) Be custodian of the records of the Society, except such as are specifically assigned to other officers.
- (c) Maintain record books in which the Bylaws, Special Rules of Order, Standing Rules, and Minutes are entered, with amendments to those documents properly recorded and have on hand at every meeting.
- (d) Preside over meetings in the absence of both the President and Vice-President.
- (e) Handle all correspondence of the Society at the direction of the President.

Section 6. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall:

- (a) Be custodian of the funds of the Society and deposit all funds in a bank or banks, as the Board of Directors shall designate.
- (b) Make a detailed log and detailed deposit slips showing the source and purpose of the transaction. A copy of the log or deposit slips shall be kept by the treasurer.
- (c) Collect all dues and assessments and shall keep a proper account thereof.
- (d) Present a monthly and a quarterly financial report to all Board of Directors meetings.
- (e) Publish an annual report in the Society quarterly publication and prepare a financial statement at the end of the fiscal year for presentation at the Annual General Meeting.
- (f) Make disbursements by check as authorized by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting of the members shall be held at the last Regular Meeting of the Society of the Calendar Year.

Section 2. Regular Meetings. The Regular Meetings of the Society shall be held quarterly at a time and place determined by the Board of Directors and as announced by the media.

Section 3. Quorum. A quorum at Regular Meetings shall consist of 10% of the members in good standing at the time of the meetings for transaction of business.

Section 4. Alternate Meeting Dates. The Executive Board shall determine exceptions of Section 1 or Section 2 due to inclement weather and/or unforeseen circumstances. The Executive Board shall also establish provision for alternate meeting dates..

ARTICLE IX BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Members. The Board of Directors shall consist of the Executive Board and Chairs of Standing Committees. Chairs shall be voting members of the Board.

The Immediate Past President and the Director of Libraries or her designee shall be ex-officio non-voting members of the Board. The Immediate Past President shall serve as parliamentarian and shall act in an advisory capacity to the Board.

Section 2. Society Management. The Board of Directors shall have the control and management of the affairs and funds of the Society. The President or the Treasurer, along with any other officer, shall be authorized to sign checks.

Section 3. Vacancy. In event of a vacancy of the Board of Directors, other than the office of President, a member of the Society shall be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Board to fill said vacancy.

By-laws cont'd

Section 4. Meetings. The Board of Directors shall meet monthly at a predetermined time and place. The President, his/her appointed spokesperson, or the Vice President in the absence of the President may cancel a regular Board meeting. Should a Board meeting be canceled, a replacement meeting shall be determined and called as soon as possible.

Section 5. Special Meetings: Special meetings may be called by the President upon request of three (3) members of the Board of Directors after a three day notice to all Board members, except for an emergency.

Section 6. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of three (3) members of the Executive Board.

Section 7. Absences. Two consecutive unexcused absences by any member of the Board of Directors from the regularly scheduled Board Meetings shall constitute a resignation, and the office shall be filled as provided herein.

ARTICLE X COMMITTEES

Section 1. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall consist of the Executive Board. In addition to the duties of the Executive Board as set forth above, the additional duties of the Executive Committee are as follows:

- (a) Approve opening or closing any financial account and specify the person(s) responsible for doing so. Any unauthorized person(s) opening or closing a financial account will be removed from membership in the society and any office held. Further action will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- (b) Approve the person(s) permitted to sign any checks on those accounts on behalf of the Corporation.
- (c) Take immediate action to remove the signature authorization of any person(s) who resigned, vacated, or was removed from an elected office, an appointed position, or Executive Committee approved signator(s).

Section 2. Board Committees. Board committees are charged with performing necessary functions of the Society. Committees are appointed by the President. The duties and responsibilities of the committees are listed in the Officers Procedural Manual

Section 3. Special Committees. The President with the approval of the Board of Directors shall establish special committees.

Section 4. Activities. All committees shall report their activities to the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Audit Committee. The Audit committee shall be appointed by the President at the January meeting of the Board of Directors for the purpose of auditing the books of the preceding fiscal year.

Section 6. Nominating Committee. A Nominating committee consisting of a Chair from the Board of Directors and two (2) non-board members recommended by the Nominating Chairperson, shall be elected by the Board of Directors at the meeting of the Board of Directors prior to the third Quarterly General Meeting of the Society. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to nominate at least one member for each position as officer to be filled at the next election. Members may submit in writing to the Committee for their consideration the names of persons eligible and available for nomination. Other nominations may be made from the floor. The consent of each nominee must have been obtained prior to his or her nomination.

ARTICLE XI DUES AND FINANCE

Section 1. Annual Dues. The Board of Directors shall determine the annual membership dues, and other fees, and in no instance will be less than the cost of the publications issued to Society Members.

Section 2. Membership Fiscal Year. Dues for Yearly Membership are payable at any time during the year. Membership is for one year starting at the beginning of the month following payment and ending 12 months later.

Section 3. Society Fiscal Year. The fiscal year for the Society is from January 1 to December 31

By-laws cont'd

ARTICLE XII NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Election of Officers. Election of Officers shall be held every year at the Fourth Quarterly Meeting.

Section 2. Nominations. The Nominating Committee's nominations shall be published in the AVC prior to the Annual General Meeting.

ARTICLE XIII AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

These Bylaws may be amended at any Regular General Meeting of the Society by a two-thirds vote following Board of Directors consideration and recommendation and published in the Quarterly preceding that meeting.

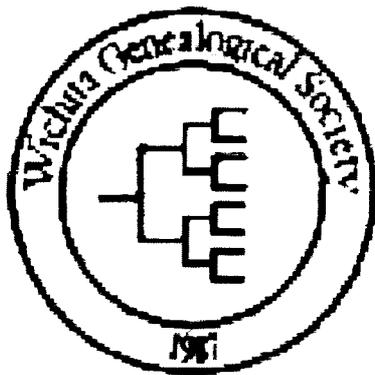
ARTICLE XIV PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised, shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the Society may adopt.

ARTICLE XV DISSOLUTION

In the event of any dissolution of the Society, its assets shall be transferred to the Wichita Public Library's Foundation with a request that the funds be used to enhance the genealogy collection.

Revised 2013



F.Y.I.

The board of the Wichita Genealogical Society meets on the **second Tuesday** of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the board room of the Wichita Public Library.

The public is welcome to attend.



**Wichita Genealogical Society
Registration Form**

Intermediate Genealogy 201 Classes

**Meets Every Thursday
March 28-May 16, 2013
From 6:00 to 7:30 P.M. at the
Alford Branch Library, 3447 S. Meridian, Wichita, KS**

Please print this page, complete, and mail to address below.
Please use a separate sheet for each person registering.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

Member \$20.00

Non-Member \$40.00 (Includes \$20.00 annual membership)

Enclosed is my check for _____ for the non-refundable registration fee.

Please make check out to "WGS" and put in the memo section "Gen 201".

Mail To: WGS Classes
c/o Mary Hursey
1123 Dayton
Wichita, KS 67213

Class size is limited to 35 participants.

Wichita Genealogical Society 2013 Intermediate Genealogy Classes

**Alford Branch Library
3447 S. Meridian
6:00-7:30 PM**

Class Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
March 28	Tools of the Trade	Mary Hursey
April 4	Immigration/Migration	Mary Hursey
April 11	Court House Land Records	Donnis Crane
April 18	Court Records	Virginia Downing
April 25	Military Records	Mary Hursey
May 2	The Internet	Mary Hursey
May 9	How to Write Your Family History	Linda King
May 16	DNA	Sage Joyner

For further information go to <http://www.wichitagensoc.org/> or e-mail Mary Hursey at wgsregistrar@hotmail.com.



**Wichita Genealogical Society
Announces its
2013 Mini Research Trip to Midwest
Genealogy Center Library
April 15 – 17, 2013**



The 2013 Mini Research Trip is to the Midwest Genealogical Center Library in Independence, Missouri (MGC), home of the largest public Library Genealogy Collection **WEST** of the Mississippi River. The round trip to Independence, Missouri with two days at the Library leaves Wichita April 15, 2013 and returns April 17, 2013.

Some MGC Facts:

The Midwest Genealogy Center is housed in a new 52,000 square foot facility. There are over 80,000 title collections of family genealogies. Microfilm Collections, Genealogy Periodical Collection, and County Records and Histories are found there. Many genealogy guides are available to help your research.

MGC Library has access to several online databases including America's Genealogy Bank which contain historical newspapers, books, documents, obituaries, and the Social Security Death Index. America's Obituaries and Death Notices is a collection published since 1980, searchable by name, date range, residence, occupation, hobbies, family members, etc. With the Archive Finder thousands of archival collections in the United States, the UK, and Ireland are searchable. The Biography and Genealogy Master Index is a comprehensive index to over 13 million biographical sketches. The Digital Sanborn Maps has images for more than 12,000 American cities and towns.

In addition to the many family genealogies in book form, don't overlook the extensive Microfilm collection including Biographies and Manuscripts, Census Records, Jackson County, Missouri Records, Military Records, Missouri State and County Records, Native American Indian

Some Trip Facts:

We leave on Monday April 15, 2013 for THE bus trip to Independence, Missouri, home of the MGC. We will arrive in Independence in time for lunch (on your own). Then it is on to the Hilton Garden Hotel for a quick check in after which we go to the library. The bus will pick us up at the library for dinner at Bob Evans and then return us to the Library. For those who want to go back to the Hotel at that time, just stay on the bus for the drive to the Hotel. The bus then comes back to the Library to pick us up at 9 P.M. for return to the Hotel.

The following morning we have a hot breakfast at the Hotel then board the bus for the Library. Lunch will be delivered to the Library and dinner will be at Bob Evans with return to the Library or Hotel. Again we can stay until 9 P.M.

The last day will start as before with a hot breakfast then check out of the Hotel. We return to the Library where lunch will be delivered. We will leave the Library at about 4:00 P.M. for the return trip home to Wichita.

Trip Cost Facts:

After some negotiations, we are able to offer this trip to members for only \$230 per person for a double or \$300 for a single. (non-members: per person double - \$250 or \$320 for a single). *This includes all transportation and all accommodations with a hot breakfast both days at the Hotel and box lunches both days at the Library.*

Space is limited, so be sure to register now to reserve your space. A waiting list will be made if necessary. Entertainment is provided by your fellow travelers!

Registration Forms may be downloaded from our Website: www.wichitagensoc.org or you may e-mail wgs.wichitagensoc.org for forms and / or additional information.

Wichita Beacon Obits Index March-April 1910

LAST NAME	First Name	Date of Paper	LAST NAME	First Name	Date of Paper
Flint	Evelyn	March 29, 1910	Moore	Mrs.	April 12, 1910
Graham	Cora Millison, Mrs.	April 18, 1910	Mulhall	Richard	April 27, 1910
Hansen	M.	March 10, 1910	Newton	Susannah, Miss	March 8, 1910
Hoffman	Harold	April 19, 1910	Nies	Son of A. C. NIES	March 11, 1910
Houchin	Mary L.	April 26, 1910	Nothstine	J. H.	March 3, 1910
Innes	George, Mrs.	April 20, 1910	Pendergast	Daniel	April 4, 1910
Johnston	P. P., Mrs.	March 1, 1910	Peters	Samuel R.	April 22, 1910
Kanke	E. B.	April 8, 1910	Pratt	Leola, Mrs.	March 10, 1910
Kaufman	Alice, Mrs.	April 7, 1910	Purdue	G. C., Dr.	April 12, 1910
Kern	Morris	April 2, 1910	Purdue	G. C., Dr.	April 13, 1910
Kramer	Mrs.	April 19, 1910	Purdue	G. C., Dr.	April 14, 1910
Kriebel	Anna, Mrs.	April 18, 1910	Rhodes	J. H.	March 30, 1910
Lank	Louise L., Mrs.	April 13, 1910	Richards	Reuben	April 6, 1910
Lee	Ira F.	April 12, 1910	Rickards	G. M.	April 7, 1910
Limerick	A. H.	April 13, 1910	Rickards	George Manlove	April 13, 1910
Lindley	Maxine	March 10, 1910	Riggs	Clara Stewart	March 8, 1910
Lindley	Maxine	March 15, 1910	Riggs	Mrs.	March 9, 1910
Martin	Byron E.	March 8, 1910	Riggs	Clara	March 11, 1910
Martin	Lura	April 30, 1910	Riggs	Clara	March 30, 1910
Mccallen	J. N., son of	April 27, 1910	Rodgers	Clarice, Miss	March 9, 1910
Mcclaughlin	Mary, Mrs.	April 1910	Rogers	Charles E.	April 19, 1910
McNutt	John St. Roses	April 26, 1910	Rosset	Josephine, Mrs.	March 22, 1910
Mead	Sarah J., Mrs.	March 8, 1910	Shaw	C. A.	March 23, 1910
Mead	J. R.	April 2, 1910	Shaw	Charles A.	March 23, 1910
Mead	J. R.	April 2, 1910	Sheldon	Franklin	April 13, 1910
Mendenhall	Mary E.	March 15, 1910	Smyth	Rebecca, Mrs.	April 14, 1910
Millison	Cora (Mrs. Graham)	April 18, 1910	Spaulding	Earl LeRoy	March 3, 1910
			Stephenson	Bert L.	April 13, 1910

Wichita Beacon 1910 Obituary Index March & April

Prepared by Claudia Vickery

This obituary transcription project involves reading the microfilm, typing the obituaries, and alphabetizing the list for the *Ark Valley Crossroads*. The following is the list of March—April 1910 obituaries that she found. You will see some duplications which mean the death notice or obituary appeared in more than one issue of the Beacon. Contact WGS at wichitagensoc@cox.net for information on how to obtain a copy of these obituaries.

LAST NAME	First Name	Date of Paper
Alexander	L. J., Mrs.	March 2, 1910
Anderson	Charlotte, Mrs.	March 10, 1910
Bazzle	Thomas	March 16, 1910
Belford	Jane Allen	March 8, 1910
Bodenhamer	Edward E.	March 3, 1910
Bolton	Lydia, Miss	April 8, 1910
Bowers	Lelia	March 16, 1910
Burson	Leon Curtis	April 12, 1910
Campbell	J. M.	March 1, 1910
Carothers	Austin N.	March 17, 1910
Chenoweth	Charles	April 20, 1910
Clark	W. W.	April 13, 1910
Davis	Mary M.	March 3, 1910
De Ross	Mrs.	March 30, 1910
De Ross	Martha, Mrs.	March 31, 1910
Dorsey	James T.	March 31, 1910
Dowd	Julia	April 7, 1910
Draper	B. F.	April 27, 1910
Eckert	Reuben	March 9, 1910
Fain	J. S., Captain	March 25, 1910
Fain	J. P.	March 25, 1910
Fetter	Caroline C., Mrs.	April 19, 1910
Fleschman	William	April 27, 1910

Wednesday, March 2, 1910

MRS. L. J. ALEXANDER DEAD
Aged Woman Passed Away at Her Home West of city Last Night.

Mrs. L. J. **ALEXANDER**, who for many years had lived one-half mile west of the Hoover orchard on the Central avenue road, died at 8 o'clock last night. Mrs. **ALEXANDER** was more than eighty years old. She is survived by her husband and several children, all but one of whom reside out of the city. Mrs. **ALEXANDER** was a native of Germany, as is her husband. Although they have lived in this country for many years they never became naturalized Americans. The family lived much to itself and largely after the fashion of the native Germans. The body of Mrs. **ALEXANDER** was brought to the A. G. Mueller undertaking establishment this morning to be prepared for burial. Funeral arrangements have not been made

MRS. MARY M. DAVIS DEAD

Mary M. **DAVIS**, the wife of C. W. **DAVIS**, died at her home near Clearwater yesterday. She was 67 years old. Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Clearwater Methodist church. Interment will be made in Clearwater cemetery.

Mrs. **DAVIS** was one of the first settlers in the Ninnescah Valley. She came to that section in the early seventies and had resided there ever since.



Cont'd on page 15

1910 March - April Obituaries, Wichita Beacon

Tuesday, March 1, 1910

J. M. CAMPBELL died at his home, 1339 Lafayette avenue yesterday. He was 64 years old. Funeral services will be held tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock from the residence. Interment will be made in the Maple Grove cemetery.

Mrs. P. P. JOHNSTON died at her home near Rose Hill this morning. She was 60 years old. Funeral services will be held tomorrow at 10 o'clock from her late residence. Interment will be made in Branson cemetery.

Wednesday, March 2, 1910

MRS. L. J. ALEXANDER DEAD

Aged Woman Passed Away at Her Home West of city Last Night.

Mrs. L. J. ALEXANDER, who for many years had lived one-half mile west of the Hoover orchard on the Central avenue road, died at 8 o'clock last night. Mrs. ALEXANDER was more than eighty years old. She is survived by her husband and several children, all but one of whom reside out of the city. Mrs. ALEXANDER was a native of Germany, as is her husband. Although they have lived in this country for many years they never became naturalized Americans. The family lived much to itself and largely after the fashion of the native Germans. The body of Mrs. ALEXANDER was brought to the A. G. Mueller undertaking establishment this morning to be prepared for burial. Funeral arrangements have not been made.

Thursday, March 3, 1910

DEATH OF J. H. NOTHSTINE

J. H. NOTHSTINE died at his home at two o'clock this morning., He was 65 years old. Funeral services will be held at his home on 1814 South Mead avenue, Friday morning at 10 o'clock. He was a soldier in the Civil war.

MRS. MARY M. DAVIS DEAD

Mary M. DAVIS, the wife of C. W. DAVIS, died at her home near Clearwater yesterday. She was 67 years old. Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Clearwater Methodist church. Interment will be made in Clearwater cemetery.

Mrs. DAVIS was one of the first settlers in the Ninnescah valley. She came to that section in the early seventies and had resided there ever since.

EDWARD BODENHAMER DEAD

Edward E. BODENHAMER, the 7-year-old son of Dr. E. A. BODENHAMER, died at the family residence, 1901 West Douglas avenue this morning. The funeral will take place from the Trinity Methodist church at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. Interment will be made in Maple Grove cemetery.

EARL LEROY SPAULDING DEAD

Earl LeRoy SPAULDING, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry SPAULDING, died last night at the home of his parents, 1705 North Topeka avenue. He was 1 ½ years old. Funeral services were held this afternoon from the I. W. Gill chapel.

1910 March - April Obituaries, Wichita Beacon

Tuesday, March 8, 1910

BYRON E. MARTIN DEAD

Byron E. MARTIN died this morning at his home, 124 Grace street. He was 31 years old. The body will be taken to Mt. Washington, Ind., for interment.

MRS. CLARA RIGGS OBITUARY

Mrs. Clara Stewart RIGGS died Sunday February 27 at 6 p.m. Clara STEWART was born in Fulton county, Ill., Dec 29, 1858. At the age of two years her parents removed with her to McLean county, Ill. She was married to Melville Lewis RIGGS at the age of 22 years, living in Saybrook three years after her marriage when she came with her husband to Wichita, where she has since made her home. She leaves a husband and three children to mourn her loss, all of whom live here. The children are Mrs. Grace A. RICH. William Roscoe and Guy W. RIGGS. She was for years an earnest worker in the Daughters of Rebekah, being a past president of the Rebekah assembly and a retired member of the home board. She was also identified with the royal Neighbors of America holding the office of past oracle. She was a conscientious Christian being a member of the Methodist church since childhood. She has been a member of St. Paul's M. E. church here for 26 years and was President of the Foreign Missionary Society of this church for 12 years. Mrs. RIGGS was beloved by all who knew her and will be sadly missed for her words of love and cheer and her example of purity and faith.

Miss Susannah Newton Obituary

After a long and painful illness Miss Susannah NEWTON passed to a higher life early Tuesday morning February 22, 1910. Miss NEWTON was born June 2, 1839 at York, Mich. She was the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sheffield B. NEWTON who came from Connecticut in an early day. Seven years ago Miss NEWTON whose health had begun to decline, came to Wichita to spend some time with her brother. She continued to fail and the physicians pronounced her disease incurable. She, realizing that eventually she would become helpless, often remarked she hoped God would release her before she became a burden to her family. The keynote of her whole life was doing for others.

FUNERAL OF MRS. MEAD

The funeral services of Mrs. Sarah J. MEAD who died last week in New York will be held Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock from the A. G. Mueller chapel. Interment will be made in Maple Grove cemetery. Services will be in charge of Rev. BLAKE of the Grace Presbyterian church and Dr. PARRY of the First Presbyterian church. Mrs. M. C. BUFFINGTON accompanied the body to Wichita. Mrs. MEAD was an old resident of this city.

CARD OF THANKS

Words fail us in trying to express our sincere appreciation of the many acts of kindness shown us during the recent illness and death of our dear wife, mother, daughter and sister, and for the many beautiful floral offerings from friends both in and out of the city—M. L. RIGGS, MR. AND MRS. C. E. RICH, MR. AND MRS. W. R. RIGGS, GUY W. RIGGS, W. A. STEWART, MRS. VERNON HODGES.

MISS RODGERS'S FUNERAL

The funeral services for Miss Clarice, who died at the Wichita hospital Saturday were held Monday morning from the residence, 1601 University avenue. Many beautiful floral tokens were given. Interment was made in the Maple Grove cemetery. The services were in charge of Professor COSSAND of Friends university and Rev. W. STOUT of Friends church. The pall bearers were: Jesse GIDLEY, Morris HARVEY, Fred HADLEY, John STANLEY, Earl WOODWARD

1910 March - April Obituaries, Wichita Beacon

FOUND DEAD IN BED

REUBEN ECKERT WAS A VICTIM OF HEART FAILURE

Had Resigned His Place as Night Clerk in a Local Hotel Because of Ill Health, but Apparently Was Improving.

Heart failure, brought on by Bright's disease, caused the sudden death of Reuben **ECKERT** about 10:30 o'clock last night. **ECKERT** was found dead in his room in the Werner building, corner of Douglas and Washington avenues, by his own son, A. C. **ECKERT**. Coroner M. M. **MCCOLLISTER** examined the body and declared that death came from heart failure brought on by acute Bright's disease.

Mr. **ECKERT** was about 60 years old. He had been in the city for about five years. At one time he worked at the Pfeister cigar store, but for the past three years he has been clerk at the Santa Fe hotel. Two weeks ago he laid off because of ill health. Last Saturday he had recovered sufficiently to get out of doors. His death came suddenly and only a short time before the son went to his room for a visit.

He leaves surviving him, A. C. **ECKERT**, a son, who is connected with the freight department of the Santa Fe Railway company in this city and Ada **ECKERT**, a daughter, who is engaged in deaconess work in Kansas City.

Thursday, March 10, 1910

SEND BODY TO INDIANA

The body of M. **HANSEN**, who died Tuesday in the St. Francis hospital, was sent to Osgood, Ind., for funeral services and interment. His home was near Medford, Ok., where he had recently moved from Indiana. He was 68 (*unsure of age due to smear in newspaper*) years old.

MAXINE LINDLEY IS DEAD

Maxine **LINDLEY**, age 3 years, died this morning at her home, 1641 South Emporia avenue. Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon from the residence at 2 o'clock. Interment will be made in Maple Grove.

MRS. CHARLOTTE ANDERSON

Mrs. Charlotte **ANDERSON**, wife of L. J. **ANDERSON**, was born in Tibro, Sweden, April 28, 1829 and died at her home near Wichita, March 1, 1910, age 80 years. She came with her husband and family to this country in 1869 and to Wichita about thirty years ago. She was confirmed in the Lutheran church. After arriving at Wichita was united with the First Methodist church in this city. After an absence of some years, living near Argonia, Kansas, she transferred her membership to the Trinity Methodist church. She was a loving mother, sacrificing for her children to a fault. She leaves a husband and two sons and two daughters to mourn her loss. Rev. J. A. **HOLMS** of Little River, Kan., A. W. **ANDERSON** of Cherryvale. Mrs. Emma **JOHNSON** of Argonia and Miss Amanda **ANDERSON**, who remained at home to administer to her comfort. On account of feeble health she was unable to get around much during the last few years. She took great comfort in reading her church paper and Bible. The funeral was conducted by Rev. A. B. **HESTWOOD** in the A. G. Mueller chapel. She was laid to rest in Maple Grove cemetery.



Medical Miscellany

by Nancy Patterson

The average life expectancy in the United States in 1900 was only 47. What was killing these people? Certainly infant mortality was higher, with 10% of children dying before their first birthday as compared to less than one tenth of 1% today. Many causes of death were the same as they are now, heart disease, strokes, accidents. The most common causes in 1900 were pneumonia, influenza and tuberculosis. The cause of death was often given using terminology that is no longer familiar to us today. Symptoms were more obvious than underlying pathologies. So, for example, generalized edema or swelling from any source, would be given a diagnosis of dropsy. Let's look at some edited obituaries and death notices from that time.

From the Wednesday, March 30, 1910 *Wichita Beacon* – J. H. Rhodes died at his home this morning. He was 73 years old. Death was due to dropsy. Mr. Rhodes leaves two sons, one of whom lives in Wichita. He was a member of the Thirty-third Ohio Infantry. Mr. Rhodes probably died from heart failure which occurs when the pumping action of the heart becomes so weak that fluids back up into the tissues and edema or swelling results. There are numerous other causes of edema such as kidney and liver disease.

From the Thursday, April 7, 1910 *Wichita Beacon* – Alice Kaufman, the wife of H. Kaufman of the Kaufman Grain Company died last night at age 45. Her health has not been of the best for several months. She caught a cold last week which grew into acute la grippe. Mrs. Kaufman died of influenza or flu which was one of the leading causes of death at that time. Acute means it was of sudden onset or short duration so she probably took a turn for the worse and died suddenly.

From *The Tribune* (published in Holton, Kansas) January 19, 1900 - Last Sunday, Nellie, the five year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. White died three miles west of Holton. Nellie was sick with membranous croup. Nellie most likely died of diphtheria which results in a membrane or layer of tissue forming in the back of the throat resulting in death by suffocation. This was a major cause of death in children until a vaccine was developed three decades too late to help little Nellie.

Ella Allison, age 18, died July 19, 1892 in Guittard Township, Kansas. She died of erysipelas complicated by meningitis. Erysipelas is a skin infection that causes marked swelling, redness and pain and can progress to sepsis and death. It may follow trauma to the skin such as an abrasion or scrape or a cut. We now know that it is a bacterial infection, usually caused by streptococcus and is treatable by antibiotics which were not developed until many years later.

Rose McDonald, white, single, aged 25, died May 27, 1906 at Summerfield, Kansas of consumption. People suffering from tuberculosis became thin and wasted away as the disease appeared to consume the body, hence the name consumption. Tuberculosis is now known to be a bacterial disease affecting mainly the lungs, but can involve other organs. Rest, good nutrition and surgical collapse of the affected lung were early treatments used to help the body heal itself. But dependable cures with antibiotics were almost half a century in the future.

Knowing what caused the deaths of our ancestors is important information for genealogists as we fill in our work sheets and charts. But it can also give us a better feel for the lives they lived, helping us know them as the real people they were and not just distant historical figures. We may also gain insight into our own susceptibilities to inherited diseases.

Source for the White, Allison and McDonald obituaries was *Selected Death Notices from Jackson County, Kansas Newspapers, Volume V, 1900-1902* compiled by Dan Fenton, certain facts are from the Center for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov, and the cemetery photo is from accessgenealogy.com.

hnb





Towanda Hit by Tornado March 31, 1892

This article was provided by DONNIS SLUSSER CRANE. Her grandparents were Lewis and Dorothy Slusser.

Personal account written in 1980 by DOROTHY JOSEPHINE UHLER HOLISTER SLUSSER, as told to her by her husband LEWIS LEE SLUSSER, who lived through it.

"The tornado that hit Towanda, Kansas and vicinity. My husband LEWIS LEE SLUSSER and his family were living two miles northeast of Towanda and were all blown away out in the pasture. They were tenants on the E. LOOMIS farm located directly north of Towanda. They owned two lots in Benton. The house, barn, and all the buildings were gone. It was lucky no one was killed. But my husband, Lewis was just four years old. His right side of his head was shaved, just like a piece of glass cut or something sharp. He laid for days, they didn't think he would live and his brother who was eight, something struck him in the back and their father broke his ankle. Their clothes were all blown off them. The rain hadn't got there yet. They were all blown pretty close together. They could call to each other. They found a board and Grandpa RICHARD HENRY SLUSSER used that as a crutch. They seen a light in the distance. It was a neighbor, they made for it as it was lightning and thundering in the south and west. Grandpa got up on their porch and knocked. The neighbor, Mr. Garner (*the Walnut Valley Times* says the name was Gillespie) came and opened it and said, 'come in, come in'. Grandpa said, 'well, if you will throw us something to put around us'. So they, of course, did. Mr. Garner was reading the newspaper and Mrs. Garner was knitting. He said 'we heard it storming, but didn't know it was that bad'. Grandpa says, 'come out here and look. Your roof is gone'. They had a two-story rock house. Pretty soon the rain got there and they found out, plaster begun coming down and they all were like drowned rats. I have a picture of the house before it was blown away and a picture of where the depot of the Missouri Pacific Railroad sat. Just nothing but parts of lumber.

"Grandma MARY BELLE MATHERS SLUSSER said she found some of her pictures that were blown away, but not all of them. A hand dug well with the rope and bucket to draw the water up for stock in the pasture had all blown away and Grandma had her two year old daughter ELSIE SLUSSER in her arms and she would have fallen in the well if it hadn't lightening and she could see it was in front of her.

"Another thing, Grandma Mary Belle set an old hen in a nail keg just north of the foundation of the house. Grandpa had staked two stakes against the keg to keep it from rolling. When the storm struck and took the house and all the buildings, the old hen set quietly by, as if nothing ever happened. She went ahead and hatched all her chicks."



Article in The Walnut Valley Times, El Dorado, Kansas 8 Apr 1892; ALVAH SHELDEN, Editor; Article written by NOBLE DEEDS

Such awful events as the storm at Towanda stir all the better emotions and impulses of the human heart. The sight of death, of pain and trouble brings for the sincerest expressions and manifestations of sympathy. The good people of Wichita were first on the ground after the awful devastation of the storm at Towanda. They could not bring back the dead nor manage pain, but they do lift the fallen, cheer the faint and ennoble for the giver and the receiver. They probe the apothegm "It is more blessed to give than to receive".

The brotherhood of man could not be better exemplified that was in this case done by Wichita's people whose surgeons, physicians and helpers came swiftly and labored faithfully for the relief of the stricken. Their proffers of further relief in taking the injured to the hospital in Wichita seem to have been misunderstood or misinterpreted both by some El Dorado people and a few at Towanda. They meant well—meant simply to be generous.

The officers of the Missouri Pacific Railway are deserving of the highest praise for their quick and full response to the call of humanity. Extra trains were run whenever called for and every effort made to alleviate the distress of the stricken people.

It is impossible to too highly praise these manifestations of generosity and humanity.

TERRIFIC WIND STORM – TOWANDA IN RUINS –

(Author Unknown) Four people killed – A large number injured. Awful wreck of home and barns – Wide spread destruction

The hurricane –for that is what it was – seemed to be about a half a mile in width and went rising and falling in great bounds across the country. Where ever it struck directly it swept everything away. Telegraph wires were down between here and there and Wichita and message were sent here via Newton. North of Towanda E. NORTON'S house and barn was demolished and the family went half undressed to the house of G. M. SANDIFER, whose home fortunately escaped. John HAYES house and barn were torn literally to pieces. HAYES was severely injured but is up and about this morning.

On the farm of E. LOOMIS, the house and barn were blown away, and the tenant's family, SLUSSER ^{THESE ARE MY ANCESTORS} by name was more or less hurt. Heads were battered, teeth were knocked out and a sister of Mrs. SLUSSER'S ^{MISS CARRIE MATHERS} was severely injured. They were taken to the F. P. GILLISPIE house.

The house and barn on the REED farm was blown to pieces—the house is completely gone. The tenant family, MOSSMAN had taken refuge in the cellar and escaped unhurt. JOHN EDMISTON'S barn was demolished but he saved both the cattle and horses from the wreck.

The house on the ELLIS place was unroofed. It was occupied by Jno GILL. No one was hurt.

The upper part of the F. P. GILLISPIE'S barn was blown away. There was 20 head of horses on the ground floor and were found unhurt. His wind-mill was blown down, 40 acres of shock corn was blown completely away and his house – the frame part of it was racked and injured by timbers blowing against it. The stone part stood solid and the family was unhurt. Will and GUY GILLESPIE were out all night aiding their distressed neighbors.

Become a member of **Wichita Genealogical Society!**

What is included with the \$20 membership fee?

- 7 educational monthly meetings Find out about new genealogy resources
- 4 presentations by outside experts Fellowship with other Ancestry Hunter
- 2 research trips available each year. 4 issues of the Ark Valley Crossroads

IT'S A BARGAIN!

The dead: Dr. J. A. GODFREY, HERSCHEL CUPP, JOHN BAILEY, smothered in POORBAUGH'S hotel, and infant child of JOHN BLAKE, head and leg cut off. Mrs. G. A. ROBBINS, assistant postmaster, right arm fractured and lower portion crushed pieces of wood driven into lung, another into lower abdominal cavity and right leg broken. Fatal.

ELMER HALL wife and two children badly injured. MRS. WALTER MOONEY, hit by a heating stove. HARRY ROACH, rib broken. MRS. TESA CORY, two ribs broken, hemorrhage of lungs. ALICE THORNTON carried 20 rods through the air from the second story of BORTER'S hotel and fell on a horse in an unroofed barn. Little hurt. MRS. JOHN KERR very badly hurt and her boy with crushed skull trephined. Young man named GIBBS, rib broken. GEORGE CORNELIUS and wife severely bruised. C.L. WESTOVER considerably injured, bruised. LUCY POORBOUGH injured. MR. & MRS. BORTER, old folks at the BORTER Hotel, not serious. Mrs. M. H. GIBBS heavy scalp wound-perhaps fracture of the skull. GEORGE MAXWELL slightly injured. His thirteen year old girl, skull crushed, a 14 year old boy with fractured skull. A grandchild, babe in arms, left leg cut two-thirds off, bone broken. WILLIAM MITCHELL badly bruised. Mrs. MITCHELL, broken collar bone and shoulder blade, heavy scalp wound and badly bruised. Also child heavy scalp wound and contusions of the brain. Woman, unknown, hip broken.

At 11:30 last night an extra train carrying physicians and surgeons went from El Dorado to Towanda. Another went over today at 10 a.m. A similar train was sent from Wichita.

Captain WEBB reports two children and two adults killed on Four Mile Creek south and west of Augusta. J. A. PORTER of Towanda was in the upper portion of his house and heard last night's storm coming. With a little child in his arms he stepped out on the verandah, when the entire upper portion of the house was carried away. He found himself off the roof somehow and he and his wife were not seriously injured and the child was unhurt. W.A. AIKMAN'S house just north of Towanda had flues blown off and lightning rods bent. His barn was totally destroyed. The house of MARTHA REYNOLDS (colored) in Fairview was totally wrecked and blown away. The family escaped with several bruises save an 8 year old boy who was thrown among the trees of an orchard and is believed to be fatally injured.

Postmaster JAMES GODFREY had bruises on head and limbs. Mrs. NANCY GODFREY head and body bruised, JOHN HAYES considerably injured body and limbs. RICHARD SLUSSER, wife and three children all seriously scratched and bruised. Miss CARRIE MATHERS head bruised and skull fractured. The little child of JOHN KERR died this afternoon and Mrs. KERR can hardly survive until morning. South-east of Towanda several light houses and barns were destroyed. The house on the RAFFERTY farm, 4 miles west of town was injured while the old house in the peach orchard, just beyond RAFFERTY'S on the south side of the road was unroofed and the surround trees broken and thrown to the road. In Fairview on the old RAYBURN ranch occupied by A. LANG the barn was injured and a portion of the house was demolished the chimney blown off. Wagons, hay racks and farming utensils were scattered. Almost every house from the west end of main Street to WESTCOTT'S store was demolished-both hotels, BORTER'S livery barn, stores, dwellings, etc. from south to west to north-west were leveled. The church was entirely blown away save the floor, the chairs and the organ. The north-east corner, one-third of the large brick school building was blown out-the corner opposite from where the wind came. The east part of the town perhaps half a dozen houses-was left standing but the chimneys are blown off, the buildings racked and moved from their foundations.

Considering the awful force of the storm the mortality is wonderfully small. Four persons are dead and five more are believed to be fatally injured. The office of Dr. J. D. GODFREY, deceased mainly remembered by a pile of stone on its foundation. GEORGE MAXWELL'S meat shop is only remembered by a couple of butcher's blocks and scattered meat hooks. M. ORBAN'S general merchandise store was partially destroyed. He is able to do about all the business in town. The building is considerably wrecked.

Article in the Davenport Daily Leader, Davenport, IA 3 Apr 1892

TOWANDA, KAS., HAS BUT ONE BUILDING LEFT-FIVE KILLED OUTRIGHT.

Wichita, Kans., April 2. -- A tornado, attended by the greatest number of fatalities ever credited to as single storm in the west swept over southwestern Kansas Thursday night, leaving in its wake death and destruction. It almost annihilated the villages of Augusta and Towanda, leaving so little standing in the latter that it is a marvel how as soul escaped. But one building was left intact in Towanda, a place of 300 souls. Five people were killed outright, namely: Dr. J. D. GODFREY, H. CUPP, J. B. BAILEY, John BLAKE, George BLAKE. Ten other are fatally injured and a half hundred more or less seriously maimed.

Two Caves in Sedgwick County



Caves exist in Sedgwick County, Kansas.. One cave was originally discovered by David Payne in 1870. DAVID PAYNE was an interesting historical figure in early day Kansas and what would become Oklahoma. He lived northeast of Wichita, KS in the 1870s. Payne Township in Sedgwick County, KS was named for DAVID PAYNE and is where the cave David discovered is located. In 1925 another cave was found by EDGAR WARRENBURG, also in northeast Sedgwick County. Interestingly, the two caves are right next to each other. The following passages for newspaper articles help to detail aspects of the two cave discoveries.

The Wichita Vidette, August 13, 1870; Page 2

“There is another natural curiosity, eight miles east of Wichita near the head of Dry Creek. It is a large aperture or cave, about thirty feet underground, through which flows a stream of pure clear water, containing several varieties of fish. It was first discovered by Captain Payne, whose curiosity was excited at finding a shallow ravine, along which was occasionally a hole that had apparently been made by the earth being removed from the bottom which upon investigation, proved to be correct.”

“Captain Payne made a rope fast a few feet back from the aperture, then fastened the other end around his waist and descended into it through one of those holes to this great cave. Its extent as yet has not been explored. The distance from where the Captain tapped this cavern to the foot of the bluff is about a quarter of a mile. The water flows directly in that direction, but sinks, as it approaches it, in the sand below. The height of the opening is about three and a half feet; the width varies from two to nine feet. The water flows south. The other end of this curious subterranean passage was explored by the Captain and some other gentlemen a few days since, for a distance, as they supposed, of about 500 yards.

The main channel is nearly straight. At a short distance from the opening there is a chamber of about 10 by 14 feet and six to six and a half feet high, with limestone rock above and sand stone below, perfectly dry. The sides are lime stone and yellow clay. There are other chambers, the extent and formation of which we have not yet learned. The Captain says he is determined to know more about this curious cave just as soon as he can find time to give it a thorough examination. The most singular part of this discovery is that fish should live where they are entirely excluded from the light.”

The Wichita Daily Eagle, March 10, 1925; Page 1

“Much interest centers about the discovery of a mystery cae on a Sedgwick county farm. The size and depth of the cavern has not been determined, but it is already known that it is many feet in depth, and that through it there runs a great stream of ice cold water. Further explorations will be made.”

“A subterranean stream, possibly a river, of unknown depth, length and width, has hollowed out a cave on the Marshall farm, nine miles east of Lawrence Avenue and four miles north of Central Avenue. The cavern is in the middle of a corn stubble field.”

“The river made its appearance about three weeks ago. The opening was only a few feet across when discovered by EDGAR WARRENBURG, 13 year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. PETER HUFF. He was discing the field with a Fordson tractor and heavy disc when he drove close to the cave mouth and started to investigate. The opening was enlarged slightly and HAROLD SLOAN, neighbor boy 14 years of age, decided to play FLOYD COLLINS and investigate. He was lowered into the dark opening with ropes.”

“News of the strange river and still stranger cave spread rapidly over the neighborhood. Visitors came by the score. In time the cave became common and appeared safe, so a ladder was made and lowered through the hole to a mound of earth below. Since the discovery was made, several hundred persons have braved the terrors of falling earth and a fate similar to that of FLOYD COLLINS of Kentucky, to explore the mysterious hole, which appeared in a field which has been worked for years. At one time 28 high school students from Andover clambered into the cave to explore it.”

“There is a formation of rock at the water line, but the arched cavern, more than 23 feet deep, has sides of sandy clay. It runs north and south for more than 100 feet and is about 25 feet wide, the only light coming from the top opening, which has been enlarged to a diameter of approximately seven feet.”

Two Caves cont'd

"The general supposition is that the underground river has worn away its cap rock through countless ages and the water has caused the clay soil above to gradually cave in and be carried away. The earth which caved in has partially filled up the stream bed and offers a convenient though hazardous place to view the cavern."

"When discovered the river or cave had a population of several muskrats, one of which was shot by boys and carried out. It was red and different in many ways from the common gray variety trapped in the neighborhood."

"While water at the Hoff home, less than a quarter of a mile away, is hard and reached only at a depth of 60 feet, the subterranean stream is only about 35 or 40 feet from the surface and the water is very soft. A quantity taken to Mr. Marshall had laxative qualities he says although it smelled and tasted like rain water."

"An El Dorado man who visited the cave last week declared the underground stream might feed Excelsior springs half a mile east and seven miles south. This theory is derided by farmers residing nearby, as the springs give forth a soda water and this appears to be unusually free from chemical content."

"All visitors to the cave are warned to stay away from the edge by Mr. Hoff, as there is some of the sides caving. He has placed a sign in the field warning visitors that they approach the cave or enter it at their own risk."

"While a number of boys in the neighborhood made trips down to the water, it is far from sage. The explosion of a quantity of flashlight powder when a picture was made Monday night caused a section of the cave roof to fall."

"Attempts have been made to sound the stream and discover the depth according to Mr. Hoff, but explorers gave up when a weight on a 26 foot rope attached to a 16 foot fishing pole failed to find bottom. No fish have been discovered in the water, but the presence of muskrats give recedence to the belief there are other unknown openings to the stream."

"There is space between the water and river roof for a small man to explore, and there has been some talk of an exploring party attempting to trace the course of the stream. This might be done with a very small boat and even larger caves might reward the searchers."

The Wichita Eagle March 12, 1925

"Dr. S. E. SWARTZ of Fairmount College has made a partial analysis of water taken from the underground stream. His tests show it is soft, as soft as any yet found in this part of the country. He has found it full of animal life or bacteria, as is water confined in a cistern. The animal life shows that the water has not been filtering through sand, as has the great underflow of the Arkansas River valley: neither has it been exposed to the air. It would appear the water is from a long subterranean conduit or large lake, according to tests made thus far."

"Dr. Swartz says caverns similar to the one reported on the Marshall farm are not uncommon in a limestone country, where soluble elements of the soil are washed away by subterranean streams, but in this country they are practically unknown."

"The recent earthquake shocks will be taken into consideration by Dr. Swartz when he makes his investigation at the cave, although he is inclined to doubt there is any connection between the two. Presence of muskrats in the stream at the end of the cavern is a peculiar feature of the cave and may open up new fields of research. If fish are found they will help identify the stream."

This information was provided by JOHN GREEN, Library Assistant at the Wichita Public Library. John researched and documented the articles of both cave finds that were published in the newspapers of the day. WGS thanks John for allowing us to bring this information to our members.



Mark these dates!

February 16, 2013
WGS Quarterly Meeting
**BLACK HISTORY
IN KANSAS**

March 28, 2013
"Intermediate Genealogy 201
Classes" Begin.

Alford Library
6:00—7:30

March 16, 2013
WGS Meeting
"A Fast Ride through
Texas History"

Mid-West Genealogical Center
Library in Independence, MO
April 15—17, 2013

Classes / Trips

Monthly Educational Programs

What is New at the WPL!



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