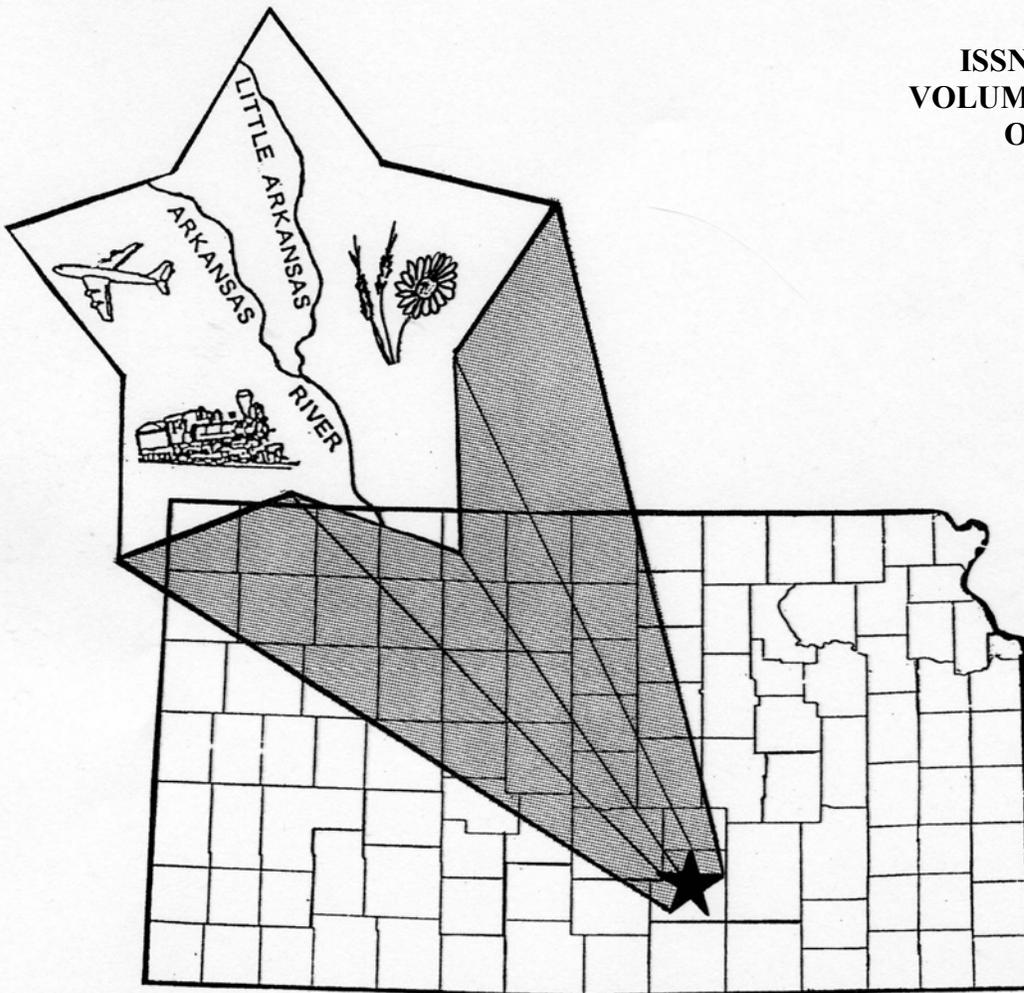


THE ARK VALLEY CROSSROADS

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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

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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 or change your email address. Send your mailing label and your new address, including Zip + 4 to W. G. S. Attn: Membership/ PO Box 3705/ Wichita, KS 67201-3705, so your mailings will be uninterrupted. Please include your current mail & email address when corresponding with WGS. You may also submit this information to membership@wichitagensoc.org

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.

Ark Valley Crossroads

Volume 26

Number 4

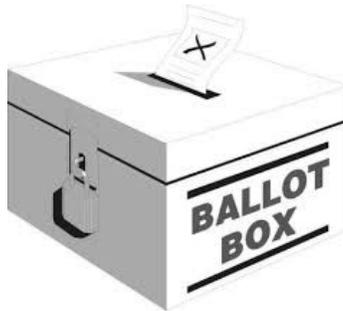
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**Don’t forget to check our webpage—<http://www.wichitagensoc.org>
Like us on Facebook: Wichita Genealogical Society**

2016 WGS Officer Nominations



President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Registrar

Marilyn Small
Helen Cole
Kathie Butler
Rosie Wiley
Phyllis Schanbacher

These people have been nominated to serve on the 2016 WGS Board
Voting will take place at the 2015 November Quarterly Meeting
At that time additional names may be nominated and included in the voting process



From the Editor's Desk

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR WGS MEMBERS

In January 2016 WGS will transition to sending the Ark Valley Crossroads via email rather than through the US Postal Service. This decision is based on the results of our recent survey that the majority of our members would prefer the digital version. We understand there are those of you who do not have email access, don't like to read newsletters on a computer screen or just want a copy to hold in your hands. IF you prefer to receive a printed copy, please contact WGS Attn: Membership/ PO Box 3705/ Wichita, KS 67201-3705 or email us (membership@wichitagensoc.org). Please include your name, mailing address, zip+4 in your correspondence. We will continue to print a limited number of copies for our Exchanges with other Societies and for those who prefer a hard-copy for their reference library.

Why should WGS go digital? Of course, rising postage & printing costs are obvious reasons. But you as a member also benefit. The on-line / PDF email versions will include color pictures vs the black/white pictures in the printed copy. You will get it faster—no bent edges from the postal machines—no 'getting lost' in the mail system—you can print out only the pages you want to keep in your file—you can save information to your computer for easy reference. As a member you will also be able to view the quarterly on-line at the new, improved website <http://www.wichitagensoc.org>. You will need Adobe Reader installed on your computer, if you don't already have it. Visit <https://get.adobe.com/reader> to download the program.



FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK:

“Preserving the Past for the Future”



Hello, Everyone

It's really hard to believe this is the last AVC for 2015 and the end of my term as President of WGS. Being President has been a wonderful learning experience. I've never served on a board for any organization and I've learned what it really takes to run an organization of approx. 200 plus membership. Every WGS member plays a big part in keeping WGS sound.

Believe me when I say its not just one person or a few who keeps an organization such as this running. A combination of elected board members, committee members and all members works hard to make Wichita Genealogical Society thrive. WGS members has a passion for Genealogy and are dedicated in keeping our organization alive and committed to “Preserving the Past for the Future”.

Thank you to each board member who give their time and commitment in keeping WGS running smoothly. As President I witnessed first hand how hard you work together to make each meeting, conference and trips, fun, interesting and informative.

No matter how long a person has been doing genealogy there is always something new to learn. Not just about your ancestor, but about history, DNA, research techniques and finding new friends. Being a member of WGS give us these opportunities.

I wish the next President the very best of luck and I know for a fact he or she will join a great group of people and have the same positive experience I've had.

I am close to retirement and life is taking a few turns, but my genealogy will still be a main focus and you will still see me at meetings, conferences and trips.

We would not be a strong thriving organization without each of you coming to the meetings, classes, and conferences.

Thank you for making my past 2 years as President a positive and fun experience!

Tracy Tauber
2015 President



<p>Become a member of Wichita Genealogical Society! What is included with the \$20 membership fee?</p>	
<p>7 educational monthly meetings 4 presentations by outside experts Ark Valley Crossroads Newsletter</p>	<p>Find out about new genealogy resources Fellowship with other Ancestry Hunters Research trips</p>
<p>IT’S A BARGAIN!</p>	

**Wichita Genealogical Society
Invites You to Join Us for Our Quarterly Meetings
Lionel Alford Library, 3447 S. Meridian, Wichita KS**

November 21, 2015 @ 1:00 P. M.

— **Don Zook** will present

“Seagoing Cowboys”



In the summer of 1946, a young 16-year-old Don Zook from Pawnee County, Kansas was one of thirty cowboys from throughout the United States who attended 840 bred mares as they were shipped across the Atlantic to Danzig, Poland. From 1945 to 1947 hundreds of young men sailed across the Atlantic with adventure upon their minds and a mission in their hearts. Don Zook will share about the program that helped to bring relief to war-torn Europe. He will share an informative video, share about his own experiences and answer questions.

Don and his spouse, Natalie, married for sixty years, have shared in the ministry in the United Methodist Church, moving around the Kansas West Conference. In retirement they served in “International Churches Abroad” in such places as Bali, Belfast, Bogota, Brasilia, Durham and London in the United Kingdom

Learn more at www.seagoingcowboys.com



February 20, 2016 @ 1:00 P. M.

— **D. W. Carter** will present

“Topeka’s Greatest Trial: The Brown v. Board of Education Story”

In the fall of 1950, Oliver Brown tried to enroll his 7-year-old daughter, Linda, at nearby Sumner Elementary, their neighborhood school, but she was refused entrance because she was African American. This presentation tells the local story and events leading up to Brown’s involvement in the class action lawsuit, including direct testimony from the 1951 trial that was first argued in downtown Topeka. Participants will engage in a discussion about this and other events that eventually led to the desegregation of public schools across the nation.

D.W. Carter is a Kansas author, military historian, and educator



*Topeka's Greatest Trial: The Brown vs Board of Education is part of the
Kansas Humanities Council's Speakers Bureau.*

*A non-profit organization promoting understanding of the history and ideas
that shape our lives and strengthen our sense of community.*





Wichita Genealogical Society
1987

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- Membership - Join Us +
- Members Area
- Annual Conference +
- Events Calendar
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- Sedgwick Co. Cemeteries
- Surname Research
- File Downloads
- Genealogy Links
- Wichita Public Library +
- Research Requests
- Contact

WICHITA

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Sedgwick County, Kansas

Preserving the Past for the Future.

WOW! WGS Built a New Website

Yes We did. The Wichita Genealogical Society (WGS) is excited to introduce a new website to help you with your genealogy research. Beautiful isn't it? More than a pretty face though, there are many new features and options, along with a navigation scheme that allows you to easily discover and use the new information. In addition to the content you see now, this website allows the Wichita Genealogical Society to easily bring new information to your fingertips.

Some New Features Include

- Member access to current and past issues of Ark Valley Crossroads..
- A convenient list of near-term events, with all events just a click away.
- Secure member updates for your address, email, and other info.
- A blog about recent events or other news
- Sedgwick County cemetery listings with helpful info
- ... and all previous data organized for easy viewing.

This website is desinged for easy navigation and use. We have written a brief **Quick Start** page to help understand many options and features. This **Quick Start** page is directly under the Home page and can be reached [here](#).

Click through the menu in the left column to explore your new website. We are not stopping here however, new features and data will be added monthly. *Enjoy.*

Coming VERY Soon! Walk-in Registrations Welcome

4th Annual Genealogy Conference

Opening Up To New Discoveries

Saturday, October 10, 2015

Hughes Metropolitan Complex - Wichita



Early Wichita City Hall and Carnegie Library

October 5

WGS Interest Group - (WGS Members Only)

This is an informal format to discuss a variety of genealogy topics with others with the same interest. Seating is limited. Contact Mary Hursey to RSVP WGSclasses@hotmail.com

[View Full Listing](#)

October 10

WGS - 4th Annual Conference - "Opening Up To New Discoveries"

"Early Bird" Discount has expired, "mail-in" registration is still open. "Walk-in's" are welcome the day of conference. Guest Speakers: Diane C. Loosle, is an Accredited Genealogist® and a Certified GenealogistSM. She has a Bachelors degree in History with an emphasis in Family History and Genealogy and a Masters of ...

[View Full Listing](#)

Quick Start Guide

Event Calendar

WGS Info in one place

Contact Us

***Be sure you visit our new and improved website
Same web address with lots of cool features
Thank you to the team that has spent so much time
building and training on the site***

***If you have any questions or have trouble accessing it,
please contact us at info@wichitagensoc.org***

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LOOKING FOR CONNECTIONS—Query

I'm looking to see if I can find the connection to a match on GEDMatch.com in Wichita area who is related to the **McCandless** family of Hutchinson, which may fill in a hole in my family tree where my great-great grandmother (**Anna Lavern Schroll**) had 2 children, one of them my great-grandmother, in her teens in Hutchinson before she was married.

If it turns out not to be the link, at least it'll be useful to turn me around to go another route. If your have done DNA testing via 23andMe, Ancestry.com or FamilyTreeDNA on the **McCandless** family in Wichita, KS, could you please e-mail me so we could compare DNA matches results.

Jan Michael Steen jmsteen@gmail.com

FROM FOUR TO THOUSANDS!!

HI! Let me introduce myself, my name is Rosetta Wiley but everyone knows me as “Rosie”. I am currently the treasurer and trip co-coordinator for WGS. How did I get involved in WGS you ask? My first meeting I attended, in 2011, the President came up to me and asked if I would be interested in being on the Board as they were looking for a publicity chairman. I have learned if you really want to get the most out of your membership you have to be active, so I of course said “Sure, I’ll try it.” I’ve been on the WGS Board ever since and met many wonderful people.

To tell you a little bit about myself, I am married with four boys, two daughters-in-law, and four grandchildren that are the light of my life. I have a degree in accounting and have previously worked in the corporate accounting department of a vegetable packing plant in Wisconsin for many years and had worked for eleven years doing taxes for H&R Block. Since moving back to Kansas, I run my own sewing business, and do genealogy for hire for those who want a little help. I much prefer to be my own boss and I’m one that has to keep busy.

So, you probably want to know how I got involved in genealogy. My parents died when I was young and I had wonderful guardian parents who raised us. I never knew any of my dad’s family and very few of my mom’s family. When I was in my early twenties my father’s family located us and we were able to meet them all at a family reunion. Now my dad came from a family of thirteen children and other than himself all were alive except for his oldest brother. Each family had from four to twelve children each – quite overwhelming for someone who knew no one but her three siblings! My cousin had started the family history and was able to share pictures and stories. This was awesome since I only had one picture each of my mom and dad. I began to wonder where did our family originate and who else was out there that was related to me that I didn’t know. I was hooked from that point on!!!

I started attending all types of conferences and took online courses to learn everything I could about how to do genealogy. I am still learning! Shortly after meeting the family, we started moving around and gradually settled in Wisconsin. There I joined the Manitowoc Genealogical Society and held several offices on their board. My suggestion to everyone is to learn as much as you can about how to find information, how to source your information and anything else you possibly can. There is so much to learn and so many ways to do things - you want to find what works best for you. I have attended the Federal Genealogical Society conferences, state and regional conferences, and many local conferences. I learn something new at each and every one of them.

Have I hit brick walls? Sure, who hasn’t, but don’t give up when you least expect it something will pop up and you will be so excited!!! For example, I just found my great grandmother’s second marriage certificate after a twenty year search– I was beginning to think the marriage never existed and he was just a figment of her imagination, she was about eighty when she used to tell me the story and I was only seven years old. I’m sure you feel that way sometimes too but don’t give up! Take a rest and come back to it, a fresh mind helps and sometimes pure luck works too!

Well, it’s great getting to share a little about myself and my interest in genealogy with you and I hope to hear more of your stories. So, if you have an interesting story on your family please share it with us all by contacting our AVC editors so they can put it in an upcoming newsletter. They are always looking for stories and interesting tidbits.



Book Review

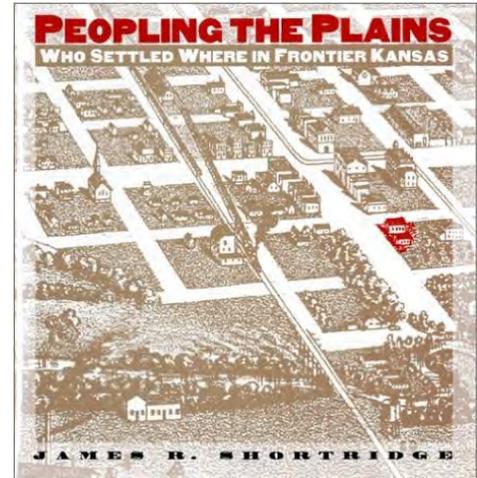
Peopling the Plains: Who Settled Where in Frontier Kansas

James R. Shortridge

University Press of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, 1995

ISBN: 0-7006-06970-1

I recently attended a presentation titled *Lost Kansas Communities*, by M.J. Morgan, a Kansas State University history professor. Her presentation itself deserved a review, which I have supplied as a blog on the WGS website. Some information in her lecture was drawn from a great book that she shared with us. That is how I found this book; which I felt could benefit many fellow Kansas genealogists.



Author James R. Shortridge is a Kansas University geography professor who has published numerous books about Kansas and the Midwest. He admits this book. *Peopling the Plains: Who Settled Where in Frontier Kansas* was “conceived rather indirectly out of a personal, long-term curiosity about the political and social geography of Kansas.” *Peopling the Plains* was difficult for him to classify; it is not exactly an atlas, though much of it included typical atlas material. What helped me as a genealogist, as it may with you, is he wrote “more text than is typical of atlases.” His statement of ‘more text’ is what brought me to write this review. He explained, in easily understood language, the “selective migration to Kansas of people from different places . . .”

He researched and wrote of German, Scandinavian, European, Russian, English, Irish, black, Missourian, Civil War veteran and other immigrant groups. In addition, Shortridge introduces some geographic population terms defining areas in the U.S. that were frequently the source of new Kansans. These include *North-Midland*, *Upper-Midland*, *South-Midland*, *Southern*, *Yankee*, and others. I actually found these helpful and accurate in understanding migration patterns of my ancestors. The book also includes scores of maps representing the density of various groups throughout Kansas counties. I found the maps difficult to understand, but do not let them intimidate you. His *more text* gives us the associated history of the people and their journey into Kansas.

I have studied several branches of my German ancestors that arrived in Kansas during the 1870s and felt I had a fair understanding why and how they chose places to settle. I was surprised and pleased how this book greatly expanded my knowledge. This book is a must-read for the German immigrant researcher, as Kansas welcomed thousands of German immigrants in the later part of the 19th century. Shortridge explains the movements of many German groups including the German-Swiss, Hungarian-Germans, Catholic, Baptist, Lutheran, Mennonite, Volga-Germans and other distinct groups that settled in clusters throughout Kansas. His descriptions of other ethnic or national groups are detailed also, though a larger number of distinct German groups came to Kansas.

Shortbridge used the 1865, 1885, 1905, and 1925 Kansas state censuses as the basis for his immigrant studies. These censuses included places of birth, parent’s birthplaces, and their residence in previous time, nationality, and other useful information that helped him establish immigrant patterns. While Shortridge’s words have not yet helped me uncover new ancestors or specific records of marriage, homesteading, and other documents, they have helped me develop the story of their lives.

For Wichita area residents, this book is available for checkout from the Wichita Public Library at the Main library, Alford, and Linwood branches. In addition, a copy is also available in the Genealogy Collection for in-library reference. The book can be found at the Wichita State Library (Ablah Library) for those with a student, staff, or community card. It is also can be purchased from Amazon.com.

What is *Descendancy* Research?

by Linda King, WGS member



In a recent online newsletter that I receive I found out that what I have been doing when tracing my ancestors, actually has a name. I have just thought that it was a neat way to find out more about the family and how they lived.

In the two paragraph statement by Donna Potter Phillips of *Your Genealogy Today* and *Internet Genealogy* author, descendancy research is defined as “tracing the descendants”. Tracing the numerable descending family lines from one ancestral couple can be just as fascinating and rewarding as the climb up your family tree,” stated Steven C. Young, Project Manager for FamilySearch. “Descendancy Research is the process of find-

ing all of the descendants (children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, etc.) of one of your ancestors. Descendancy research is a great way of connecting with living relatives and gives you the opportunity to continue learning about your family even if research on your ancestral lines has stalled.”

In days gone by, we just wanted to push our family tree back as far as possible with little thought given to the branches spreading out from that family tree. Besides finding distant and previously unknown cousins, you can discern naming patterns, settlements and migrations and occupations. When you connect with these new cousins you might find letters, documents and photographs. More can be learned by going to www.FamilySearch.org and then to the Learning Center and then type in “Descendancy Research.”

This method has been extremely rewarding in my search for my ancestors. On the one family line my “book” I created using the publishing process on my Family Tree Maker software, has grown from about 300 pages on my direct family line to over 1,500. I started looking at the siblings and their families over 20 years ago, just trying to figure this family out. In this process I have had the pleasure and joy in finding and meeting several distant cousins – albeit 4th and 5th cousins. I have learned so much more about this family. We have helped each other over the years in a number of different ways.

In the mid 1980’s I had located one of these cousins who lived in the area that my 2x great grandfather lived and raised his family. In one of my visits she showed me a box of old letters, many written during the Civil War, which told the story of how the family fared during this conflict. The majority of these letters had been written to the parents of this large family. One of the letters had been written by my great grandfather while he was proudly serving in the Union Army. This cousin gave me this precious letter and allowed me take and make copies of the remaining letters. I paid for over 150 copies. What a story these letters tell.

I had made the acquaintance of another 5th cousin, living in Pennsylvania where my 3x great grandfather and many of his siblings raised their families. In a visit to her last year she took me on a driving tour of the county where we stopped at one house. This house had been built by my 3x great grandfather ca. 1840. It is still being lived in today but has had additions and modernized. The original part is clearly discernible as it was built out of stone. It stood on the edge of the 3x great grandfather’s farm.

Another 5th cousin, living in Maryland used information that I had provided to him to join the Sons of the American Revolution involving the 4x great grandfather of this family. Benefits of ‘descendancy research’ can lead to more opportunities.

Never Give Up On a Difficult Ancestor!

Printed with permission of the author, Dave Obee who runs CanGenealogy.com, a link site devoted to Canadian resources. This article appeared in the 'Internet Genealogy' magazine

I needed confirmation of some sort, anything that would tell me I was on the right track.

It's not good enough, after all, to find someone with the same name as the person you are looking for. Even if that person is in the same city, that's not good enough.

We need evidence, hard evidence, something that could connect the dots, making it possible to prove that we are on the right track.

I was doing a bit of research into a family that was connected, briefly through marriage, to a family that was connected, also briefly through marriage, to my own family, kind of. One of the delights about family history research is that we can head down any roads we choose.

And that is what happened in this case. I had been looking into the first marriage of one of my relatives, and to confirm that I had the right spouse, I had to research the rest of her life, and that meant looking into the lives of the other people she married. And the other marriages of the other people, too. And their children.

The idea was that one of these children, if still alive, might be able to provide some nugget of information that would connect the families together for me.

The root problem was quite simple, really. I believed that I had found references to the person of interest, with only a couple of niggling issues to contend with.

For a start, the given name as listed in the official records was not the one that my relatives remembered. Oh, and the surname as listed was not the one that she used. Other than that, her name was a perfect match, one might say.

I relied on the memories of relatives since departed, so any clues that I uncovered could not be bounced off anyone. I was on my own.

What to do? As I worked on the line, I would need to find confirmation in other sources.

All of that brings me to the point at hand: We live in a wonderful age, and by the time you read this, it will be even more wonderful. Next year, better still.

The amount of material available online is breathtaking, and it's getting better every day.

In this case, a quick search on the Ancestry website revealed a border crossing record, providing a later married name for the spouse of interest. Another search revealed her new husband, and I wanted to know more about him.

He had a common name, though, and that can be a pain. I didn't want to grab the wrong person in a rush of excited research.

The border entry record included his address. A directory online confirmed that address, and searching it in other years gave me the names of more family members. A death registration, also online, gave the same address for another family member.

Continues on page 11

"He who has no fools, knaves, or beggars in his family was begot by a flash of lightning."
-- Old English proverb

Never Give Up on a Difficult Ancestor (continued from page 11)

I was off and running. In a matter of hours I was able to find the family I wanted, and confirm the find with supplementary sources.

I don't have a lot of faith in submitted trees, but the major genealogy sites are filled with information drawn from historical records. It's possible to go further, faster than ever before.

It's easy these days to be critical of what we find online. I agree that compiled family trees are not trustworthy. I agree that indexes can be flawed.

But ignore these genealogy sites at your peril. Ancestry alone has carried me through a half-dozen brick walls, including the one described here.

Is it a big deal? You be the judge. I first rammed my head against this wall in 1985. I broke through it in 2015, and it was painless.



DID YOU KNOW?

Ancestry.com has a YouTube Channel! This channel has many opportunities for helping you in your research. There are videos of 5 minutes or less to much longer ones. A good place to start is with the introductory video in this section. It will introduce you to the over 700 video options that are offered. You don't even need to be a member of Ancestry to access this. Just visit YouTube.com and search 'ancestry'. From the Ancestry.com site, click on 'help', then 'learning center'. Under the 'Extras' tab you will find 'ancestry academy', another learning option (some will cost money so be sure you check it out first).

Familysearch.org also has a 'learning center'. (Find it by clicking on 'get help' option in top right hand corner). There are many options for short videos (free) to aid you in your research.

National Archives (www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/) offers many learning opportunities without actually leaving your home. Free forms are also available on this site.

Cyndi's List (www.cyndislist.com) is a collection of genealogy websites in one place. No matter what your topic, state, country or whatever, this is the place to find a link to the site. It is updated constantly and well maintained.

Need assistance with your **Native American Indian Roots**? Be sure to check out this site for many options for this research — www.narf.org/nill/resources/roots.html

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness is active. (www.raogk.org) RAOGK is a global volunteer organization. Volunteers take time to do everything from looking up courthouse records to taking pictures of tombstones. All they ask in return is reimbursement for their expenses (never their time) and a 'thank you'.

There are many more free options for research & learning available to us.
All we have to do is take the time to do a little online searching and reading &/or listening.

*Just think — you can do all of this without ever leaving your house! At 2:00am. In your pajamas.
Sleep may be 'highly over-rated' when you hit that goldmine!*

Deadly Diseases and Epidemics – The Ancestors that “Could Have Been”

by Linda King, WGS member

As I was recently working on a branch of one of my family lines I noticed that there were many deaths in this family that occurred in the same year. Wanting to find out more on this family I began research epidemics that most likely caused these deaths, which in some cases almost (and in some cases did) wiped out entire families.

While researching the major epidemics throughout the history of the world and checking the different areas of the world my DNA tells me I am associated with, it brought to mind the thought that “I am a really lucky person to have been born”. How did my ancestors escape these deadly outbreaks? Was it a matter of just not being in the particular areas where the outbreaks occurred? One article covering the London Plague suggested that the few persons in that area at the time who did survive may have passed on genes to their descendants, making them less susceptible to diseases. It is a lot to think about. By today’s standards the numbers listed may appear small but related to the populations in the particular time periods these numbers represented a substantial amount of the then current populations.

For a complete list of epidemics worldwide go to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_epidemics

In 430 B.C., smallpox killed more than 30,000 people in Athens, Greece, reducing the city’s population by at least 20%.

The Plague of Justinian, which began in 541 A.D. and continued on and off for nearly 200 years, killed 50 million people in the Middle East, Asia and the Mediterranean basin, according to some estimates. The plague is caused by bacteria that are spread by rats that were bitten by infected fleas.

What’s known as the Great Plague of London actually started in China in 1334 A.D. and spread along trade routes, wiping out entire towns. Florence, Italy, lost a third of its 90,000 residents in the first six months. Overall, Europe lost 25 million people.

1519: Smallpox in Mexico

There were approximately 25 million people living in what is now called Mexico when Hernando Cortes arrived in 1519. A smallpox epidemic killed between 5 and 8 million of the native population in the following two years. Over the next century, less than 2 million would survive this and other communicable diseases brought by European explorers.

1633-1634: Smallpox Epidemic in New England

The first truly terrible disease outbreak came to America with the first Europeans. While smallpox has been around for thousands of years, European settlers first brought smallpox to North America in the 1600s. In 1633-1634, the disease swept through the Northeast, wiping out entire Native American tribes. Native populations in New England are thought to have plummeted by over 70 percent due to this outbreak (Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, 2012). Another source states that historians estimate some 20 million may have died after the Europeans landed. According to the Centers for Disease Control, the last case of smallpox in the United States was in 1949 (CDC, 2009).

1721: Smallpox in Boston and success of inoculation

Between April and December 1721, 5,889 Bostonians had smallpox, and 844 died of it. October was the worst month, with 411 deaths. Smallpox caused more than three-quarters of all the deaths in Boston that year.

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In Europe and the United States, bouts of smallpox were considered to be almost inevitable, and the disease was greatly feared. Epidemics could kill 30% of those infected and cause permanent disfiguration in the rest.

It was widely known that survivors of smallpox were immune to later occurrences of the disease. This led to the practice of inoculation—the deliberate introduction of living smallpox virus to cause a mild (it was to be hoped) case of the disease that would provide immunity. The practice of inoculation developed in many parts of the world, often as part of a system of folk medicine.

By the mid-1700s, China, India, and parts of Africa had probably practiced inoculation for centuries; laypeople in Europe probably had been doing so for generations as well. The practice was discussed in the Royal Society in 1699 and published in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society in 1714 and 1716. Inoculation was further popularized among England’s elites after Lady Mary Montague’s 1718 publication of her letters, which related her observation of the procedure in Turkey.

Despite the promise that inoculation seemed to hold for controlling smallpox, the Boston smallpox epidemic of 1721 is known for the passionate controversy over inoculation that erupted in the city, most visibly between Reverend Cotton Mather and Boston physician William Douglass. Mather had learned about the procedure from the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society and from one of his slaves. After inoculating his own son, Mather advocated strongly for inoculation as the Boston epidemic grew.

Most Boston physicians, as well as the general public, however, argued with equal passion against inoculation on the grounds that it could spread the disease rather than prevent it; that it could cause a fatal case of smallpox in the inoculated subject; and that it could make the subject susceptible to other diseases. These fears were not groundless: inoculation could indeed cause fatal cases of smallpox, and because inoculation proceeded by the direct transmission of bodily matter from one person to another through an open cut, diseases like syphilis could be spread by the procedure as well. Feelings ran high, and one protestor threw a lighted bomb through the window of Mather’s house.

Douglass, with his medical degree from Edinburgh, was Boston’s only university-trained doctor. He argued that Mather’s inoculations undermined legitimate medical authority and contended that inoculation without regulated quarantine of the inoculated afterwards would only make the epidemic worse. Given that Mather was neither carrying out his inoculations in an organized manner nor isolating newly inoculated patients appropriately, Douglass’s criticism was legitimate.

Only one physician, Zabdiel Boylston, publicly supported Mather’s efforts after trying out the procedure on his own son and two slaves. Boylston would eventually inoculate around 180 people, including many prominent Bostonians.

The religious debate was also important. Mather, who had lost his wife and three youngest children in a measles epidemic, argued that inoculation was a gift from God. Those opposed to inoculation argued that epidemic diseases afflicted the people for a divine reason, and that to attempt to prevent them was to oppose God’s will. Others argued that inoculation, with its roots in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, was a heathen practice not suitable for Christians. From the holdings of Houghton Library—Harvard College Library.

You live as long as you are remembered. --**Russian proverb**

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Philadelphia in 1793 .

1793: Yellow Fever Outbreak in Philadelphia

In 1793, Philadelphia was the nation’s capital and its busiest port. That summer, a group of refugees from the Caribbean Islands brought Yellow Fever with them to the city. Conditions were perfect for mosquitoes, which helped spread the disease that causes yellowing of the skin, fever, and vomiting of blood clots. People fled the city—including many signers of the Declaration of Independence—but an estimated 2,000 people still died before winter (Harvard University, 2012). Other estimates claim it killed 10% of the 45,000 population or 4,500 persons.

1830-1851: Second Cholera Pandemic

To this day, cholera, an infection of the small intestine, still affects between three and five million people and causes nearly 130,000 deaths a year worldwide (CDC, 2011). However, the last documented outbreak in the United States was in 1911 (Mayo Clinic, 2011). Before then, there were a number of outbreaks, but none worse than the Second Cholera Pandemic of the mid-1800s. The pandemic began in India, and then swiftly spread across the globe via trade routes. Settlers travelling along the Mormon and Oregon Trails brought cholera to the United States from East to West, killing an estimated 150,000 Americans (Beardslee, 2000).

1860: The Modern Plague began in the 1860’s and killed more than 12 million people in China, India and Hong Kong. It wasn’t until the 1890s that people figured out how the bacterial infection was being spread and a vaccine was created.

1901: Smallpox in Boston

A smallpox epidemic in Boston infected 1,500 people in 1901. There were 270 reported deaths.

1910: Manchurian Plague

The largest plague outbreak in the 20th century occurred in Manchuria between 1910 and 1911. Approximately 60,000 people died.

1918: Spanish Flu Pandemic – Three-Day Fever, The Flu.

The Spanish influenza pandemic, which began in 1918, caught every nation by surprise. It infected an estimated 500 million people and killed 50 to 100 million of them in three waves. Governments around the world responded in ways that were reactive and almost ineffective before the pandemic ended in 1919 just as suddenly as it began one year earlier.



1918 patients of Spanish flu

The Spanish influenza pandemic differed from previous influenza pandemics in its unprecedented virulence. Its unique characteristics included unusually high case fatality, especially among 20– to 40–year-olds.

Allies fighting in World War I designated this pandemic “Spanish” influenza because Spain’s uncensored press was the first to report freely on its widespread distribution. Elsewhere in Europe, governments feared that such newspaper reports would undermine public morale.

Epidemiological data indicate that pandemic began in the US in March 1918, at a crowded army camp in Fort Riley, Kansas. Subsequently, the transport of hundreds of thousands of infected troops in close

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physical contact between camps caused influenza to spread quickly even before troops assembled in East Coast ports en route to France. The troops brought the influenza to the trenches of the opposing armies and to other parts of Europe and beyond.

The overall response to the mild first wave of the influenza epidemic in the US was relatively subdued compared with the second and third more deadly waves.

The second wave struck lethally in September 1918 at a naval facility in Boston and at the Camp Devens military base in Massachusetts. At the nearby US Naval Radio School, located at Harvard University, however, few of the 5,000 trainees contracted Spanish influenza after the first cases were reported on September 6, 1918. Infected trainees were quarantined, and Harvard University took precautions to contain influenza and resume normal operations; nevertheless, six students died.

Nationwide, October 1918 was the most deadly month, when 195,000 Americans died. The supply of health care workers, morticians, and gravediggers dwindled, and mass graves were often dug to bury the dead. Among the survivors was Amelia Earhart.



The third wave of the pandemic, between late 1918 and March 1919, spread unevenly in the US and in parts of Europe, but with similar intensity as the second. The general public grew anxious and criticized public health officials for their incompetence. Medical practitioners and researchers struggled to unravel the confusing epidemiology and pathology of this extraordinarily deadly outbreak of influenza. Major US cities banned or enforced restrictions on public gatherings, and schools, town halls, and churches served as emergency hospitals. The rapid spread and unusually high case mortality of Spanish influenza called for global action against the recurrence of such a deadly influenza pandemic. To this end, international organizations (CDC and WHO) provided leadership in global health matters.

From the holdings of Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library—Harvard College Library.

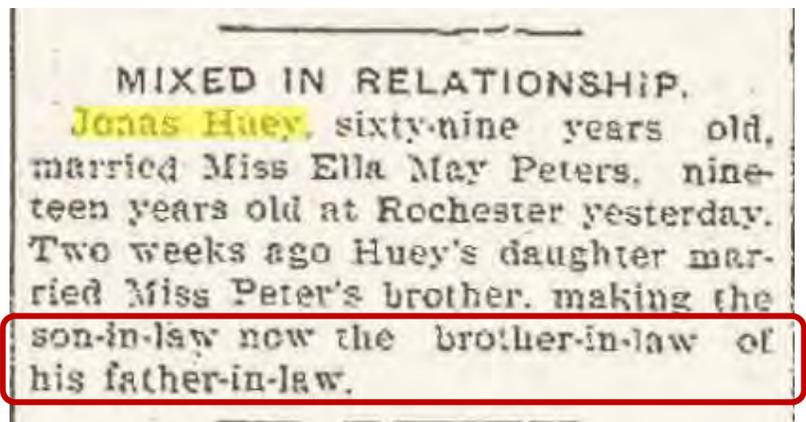


Clipping from an old newspaper

A little online research reveals that this was probably from Fulton County, Indiana.

A marriage between Jonas Huey & Ella May Peters was found to have taken place on November 5, 1904.

A marriage between Vida M. Huey & Sterling Peters took place on October 18, 1904, just two weeks prior.



A BIT OF HUMOR

I have had this in my files for several years and made no documentation where I found it or who gave it to me. It is a bit dated (floppy disks?) but every genealogist can relate to this possibility. Get a comfortable chair and put everything within throwing distance far away!

“CLEANING MOTHER’S HOUSE”



It has been nearly a year since fictional genealogist Barbara passed away. Her daughter Charlene reflects upon that year in a letter to her friend, Karen.

Charlene truly has been busy.

Barbara is probably rolling over in her grave.

Karen,

As usual, my cards are late. It has been a busy year. We spent much of the year settling up Mother’s estate. The house sold well, but the cleaning it took longer than we expected.

You are probably the only person who did not know Mother was a genealogy buff. She told practically every human she encountered. I’m convinced that genealogy “nut” was the most accurate phrase. The stuff was all over the house. The inheritance would have been enough to pay for my new Mercedes had she not insisted on spending money on that blasted hobby. I don’t know why she couldn’t be more like Tom’s mother. Nadine spends her day doing needlepoint and watching reruns of 50s television shows. Tom just does not realize how lucky he is, but men never do. My mother had to run off to cemeteries and courthouses. She even went to a conference in Davenport Iowa last year! Can you imagine? Davenport, Iowa! After she got back, she was so excited about all that she had learned and all the fun she had. She was planning on going to another one in California this year. Well the grim reaper took care of that.

Because of my promotion to head of knick kack sales at Garbageforless.com, I had not been home for several years. I was appalled to learn that Mother had converted my old bedroom into her family history “headquarters” My shelves of Teen Beat and other magazines documenting my adolescence had been replaced with old family photographs, copies of old documents and something called family group sheets. She even got rid of the pants I wore to my first junior high dance. I cried at the thought.

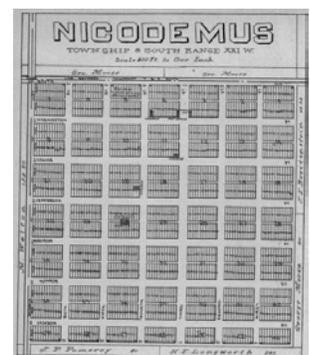
I could not bear to go in the room and be reminded that my childhood had been stripped from me and replaced with an obsession with the past. I told the children that if they would clean the room and prepare the items for the garage (should I say “garbage”?) sale they could have the proceeds. I learned what true entrepreneurs they are.

Kenny stripped Mother’s hard drive in under ten minutes. I kept hearing him say “GedCom is GedGone...GedCom is GedGone...” I have no idea what it meant, but the computer fetched a good price. Before he unplugged the computer, he erased all of Mom’s floppy disks and downloaded public domain games. He sold these at a nominal price.

Susan took the old photographs to a flea market and was able to sell many of them. Some special labels had to be taken off and we had to take them out of protective envelopes. Mother had written the names on the back of many of them. At least none of those pictures of depressing old dead people had our last name written on them. I don’t want to be associated with such sour people.

Mother had some type of old plat book — whatever that is. Kenny tore out the pages individually and sold them separately on Ebay. It was so clever. His dad said he got much more than if he left the book in one piece.

Susan didn’t tear the Bibles apart though. I thought that showed tremendously good



Continued on page 18

LIVED HARD LIVES IN PIONEER DAYS

Lincoln Courier-Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, December 4, 1917

Women of Early West Earned the Big Crops. Few of Their Descendants Realize How Much the wives of Early Settlers Went Through When country Was Building Up.

When a little frail instructor from the Kansas Agricultural College came to our town and was able to tell me the reason why my bread had been souring all summer and how to prevent it, and I got it through my head that she knew what she was talking about, I woke up to a lot that I had missed. **Elizabeth Sears** writes in Harper's Magazine.



Our problems of trying to do the work of three with nothing to hold with, has filled many a sanitarium. The hospitals are crowded with us. And how full the cemeteries were of us in the old days – the price we paid for the big crops and the prosperity of the state! And Kansas is not the only state that is full of the unwritten records of the women who paid for the crops with their lives. They are still paying for the wheat.

My mother died because she was too tired to try to make an effort to live any longer. Looking back on it now I cannot remember ever seeing my mother sit with folded hands. They said little of their hard lives, these brave women who helped build up the plains. They accepted it uncomplainingly. When our country club met at our house last week, my aunt was there as a guest. We have 30 members in our club. Ten of them drove their own automobiles. All but two live in modern houses with heat and water. We buy the latest thing in foot gear, which is the one sure sign of progress in a farm woman. One of the members was humorously relating the trials of having a frozen water pipe mended, and Aunt Kish told of the days when she had to carry water a quarter of a mile from a creek. My aunt is a gay old lady, and all the weight of her seventy years has not smothered her resilient disposition. Her husband died after their third big wheat crop – drank himself to death celebrating it in Kansas City – and she had the first real time of her life ever since.

When she came to Kansas in the early 'fifties she drove a team herself from St. Louis, with a ten-month old baby on the seat beside her. She and her husband took up a claim 40 miles from the settlement. Wandering Indians were their only neighbors, and terrified her daily by their company. When they had been there less than a year her husband returned to Illinois and remained three months. She was left alone to look after the crops, shuck the corn, and take care of the place. While he was gone her third baby was born. Her only help was an Indian squaw, who had chanced in to beg a loaf of bread and remained to help the young mother in her extremity.



“We didn't think anything of it,” said my aunt. “We were too busy while it was happening to think about it. We went through a lot those days; but, land of Goshen! We are making up for it now, with our furnaces, and our gasoline engines for the churns and washing machines, and our automobiles.”

Editors Note: Many of our Kansas ancestors immigrated to Kansas from Illinois.



**Wichita Public Library Acquisitions Genealogy Collection July through September 2015
By Michelle Enke, Manager of the Wulmeyer Genealogy Center**

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 1850 United States census of Christian County, Illinois. (R 312 I29C555 1850)
 1870 Mortality Schedule of Kansas. (R 978.1 FRA)
 2nd Maine Cavalry in the Civil War: a History and Roster. (R 973.7441 SMITH N)
 21st North Carolina Infantry: a Civil War History, with a Roster of Officers. (R 973.7456 SHE)
 49ers': As Reported by Miscellaneous Papers. (R 977.8 WEA Vol. 1-10)
 83rd Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Civil War. (R 973.7448 SCH)
 Abstracts of Deeds, Edgecombe Precinct, Edgecombe County, North Carolina, 1732 through 1758: as Found in Halifax County, North Carolina Public Registry Deed Books 1-2-3-4-5-6. (R 975.646 HOF)
 Alias Frank Canton. (R 973 DEA)
 Alumni Directory Ottawa University 1998. (R 378.7 OTT 1998)
 American Indian Wars: a Chronology of Confrontations Between Native Peoples and Settlers and the United States Military, 1500s-1901. (R 973.0497 NUN)
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 Callaway County, Missouri, 1876 Missouri Special Farm Census. (R 977.8335 WEA V.12)
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**Wulfmeyer Genealogy Center is located on the lower level of the Wichita Public Library
 223 S Main St, Wichita KS 67202
www.wichita.lib.ks.us**

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ALL CLASSES ARE HELD AT THE CENTRAL LIBRARY—223 S MAIN / WICHITA

BIG READ: Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestors / Thursday, October 29, 2:00—3:30 pm

Your genealogy search doesn't need to stop at the border. Learn how to track down family from far away. Michelle Enke, Manager of the Genealogy & Special Collections Center, provides tips and sources to locate your immigrant ancestor.

Family Search Tips / Thursday, November 12, 2:00—3:30pm

Did you know that FamilySearch.org offers genealogy information comparable to Ancestry, but for free? Michelle Enke, the manager of the Genealogy & Special Collections Center, will provide an overview of the website and its databases, along with tips to improve your search results.

Beginning Genealogy Resources / Thursday, December 10, 2:00—3:30pm

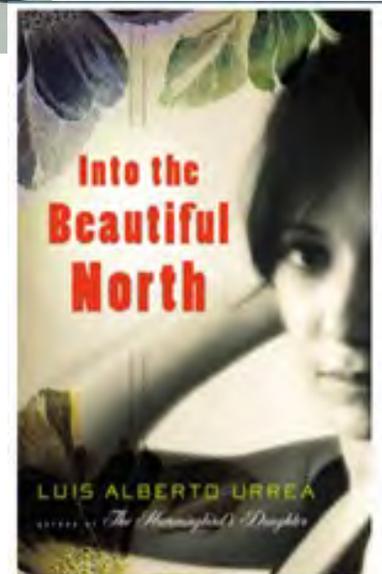
There are thousands of genealogy sources, but where to begin your search? Michelle Enke, the manager of the Genealogy & Special Collections Center, will provide an introduction to databases and websites to start your search.

BIG READ WICHITA 2015
OCTOBER 1 - NOVEMBER 15

Join nineteen year old Nayeli on her journey north and south of the border to protect her home in Urrea's skillfully crafted novel that "transcends the 'us against them' discourse of immigration and writes with compassion, complexity, and humor about the people and places caught up in the border wars."



For more information visit
www.wichita.lib.ks.us
www.bigreadwichita.org



Mark These Dates!

Wichita Genealogical Society 2015 Lectures

Presented by Virginia Downing
Alford Public Library / 3447 S Meridian/ Wichita, KS
All regular monthly/ quarterly meetings begin at 1:00pm
Free and Open to the Public

OCTOBER 10, 2015—Annual WGS Conference

(2nd Saturday)

“Opening Up To New Discoveries”

Presented by Diane C. Loosle & Michelle Enke
Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex
5015 E 29th street N / Wichita, Kansas

NOVEMBER 21, 2015—Quarterly Meeting

“Seagoing Cowboys”

Presented by Don Zook
(see page 6 for full details)

DECEMBER 2015— No Meeting

JANUARY 2016— “Researching Your Female Ancestor: Women and the Law”

"Identities of women who lived prior to the twentieth century are often very tangled in those of their husbands, both by law and by custom. In many places, women were not allowed to own real estate in their name, to sign legal documents, or to participate in government. Men paid the taxes, participated in the military and left wills. Men were also the ones whose surname was carried into the next generation by the children. As a result, female ancestors names are often omitted from family histories and genealogies—listed with only a first name and approximate dates for birth and death."

FEBRUARY 20, 2016—Quarterly Meeting

“Topeka’s Greatest Trial”

Presented by D. W. Carter
(see page 6 for full details)

**WGS Interest Group
FOR MEMBERS ONLY**
First Monday of Each Month
6:00—7:30pm
at the Westlink Public Library
(8515 Bekemeyer—Wichita)
All genealogy topics welcome
see inside cover for more details
on becoming a member of WGS

Did you know that WGS keeps scrapbooks of notable events & persons of genealogical interest over the years? Scrapbooks may be viewed at the Wulfmeyer Genealogy Center of the main Wichita Public Library

If you would like to view scrapbooks, please ask at the Wulfmeyer Genealogy Center desk.

Watch for information on classes

Alford Public Library
3447 S Meridian / Wichita KS

Contact Mary Hursey to sign up
wgsclasses@hotmail.com

For more information go to
<http://www.wichitagensoc.org>

The board of the Wichita Genealogical Society meets on the **Second Monday** of each month at 6:00pm in the board room of the main Wichita Public Library
The public is welcome to attend

"Those who forget their past are destined to repeat it."
-- Robert A. Heinlein

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