

**Riley County
Genealogical Society**
The Platt House - Historical Register
2005 Claflin, Manhattan, Kansas 66502



The Riley County Genealogical Society is a Designated FamilySearch Affiliate Library.

FYI September 2026

September Pie Party



Join us for our Annual Pie Party

Sunday, September 20th

2:00-3:30 PM

Serving Pie and Ice Cream

This Event is Free and Open to the Public!

Entertainment by:

The Tallgrass Express
<https://tallgrassexpress.com/>

Bring your own lawn chairs!



October Educational Program



Photo Preservation and Digitization Workshop

Sunday, October 18, 2026

2:30-3:30 PM

**Manhattan Public Library Auditorium
629 Poyntz Avenue**

Preservation and digitization are key components to keeping family photographs safe for generations to come. In this workshop, experts from the Riley County Historical Museum and the Chapman Center for Rural Studies will teach best practices for archiving and scanning. Participants are invited to bring no more than five standard-sized photographs that they can digitize during the workshop. Speakers will also share details about the Riley County Historical Museum's new Digital Collections.

Presented by: Mary Kohn, Director, Chapman Center for Rural Studies, K-State; Melanie Highsmith, Curator of Education and Design, Riley County Historical Museum; and Dawn Munger, Curator of Collections, Riley County Historical Museum.

This Event is Free and Open to the Public!

Chautauqua at Home in Manhattan

Chautauqua at Home in Manhattan

September 19-20, 2026

1:00-5:00 PM

City Park Stage & Pavilion

The Chautauqua explores what being at home means in Manhattan - from personal experience to public expression in designs, policies, and aspirations. Stories will be told of residency, settlement, and development. Themes will be explored about belonging, continuity, and change.



Come enjoy the food, drink, gaming, presentations, table-top conversations, and more!

Request for Volunteers!

RCGS will host a table at the **Chautauqua** on **Saturday, September 19th**, and if you would like to help, let us know! We will need at least two volunteers for each shift. Our table will be inside the **Wefald Pavilion** at **City Park**.

Times Needed

1:00 - 3:00 PM

3:00 - 5:00 PM

Please stop by the library to sign up or give us a call at: **785-565-6495**. ***Now's your change to get involved at a local event!***

America250 Time Capsule Event



Mark your calendars now for **November 15, 2026**, for a community event to view the time capsule and its contents. The event will be held at the **Midwest Dream Car Collection Museum; 3007 Anderson Avenue; Manhattan, KS**.

The capsule will be sealed and then at a later date, buried on the grounds of the **Riley**

County Historical Museum (as an exhibit) for the next fifty years with a reopening planned in 2076, during the nation's 300th birthday. This event is free and open to the public.

Educational Opportunities



**1st Friday
Training Session**

October 2, 2026 10:00 AM

"TBA"

**RCGS Library
2005 Claflin Rd**



**RCGS Roundtable
September 18 - 10:00 AM**

Join us this month for the **RCGS Roundtable** held at the **Vista Drive Inn, 1911 Tuttle Creek Blvd. in Manhattan, KS.**

This informal gathering is a great chance to share information and connect with fellow family-history enthusiasts.



Annual Meeting

**Sunday, Nov 22
2:00 PM**

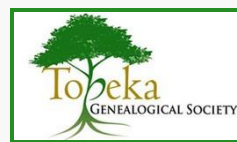
**Manhattan Public Library
Auditorium**

Starting at 2:30 PM

**Cowboy Poet
Betty Burlingham**



Betty is a two-time winner of the Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest and was named **2026 Champion Cowgirl Poet** at the Crossroads Gathering in Oklahoma.



**Civil War Medicine: Medical
Treatments of the Mid-Nineteenth
Century**

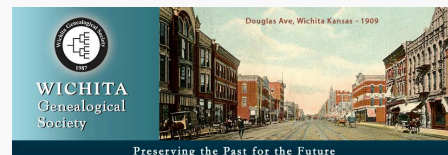
**Topeka & Shawnee
County Library
1515 SW 10th Ave
Topeka, KS**

**Thursday, September 24, 2026
7:00 - 8:30 PM**

Sarah Bader-King, Executive Director of the Wornall/Majors House Museum in Kansas City, will discuss medicine during the Civil War and show some of the different types of medical equipment that surgeons used during the era.

TGS monthly programs are free and open to the public, and there is no registration needed to attend in person. To attend via **ZOOM**:

[Click Here](#)



**Wichita Genealogical Society's
14th Annual Conference**

**Saturday, October 10, 2026
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**Advance Learning Library
711 W. 2nd St. North
Wichita, Kansas**

- 1. Muskets and Manuscripts**
- 2. Dirt, Dollars, and Disputes**
- 3. Reading Between the Lines**
- 4. Trust but Verify**

**Conference Speaker:
Megan Clark Young,
Professional Genealogist**

**For more information
or to register:**



The Tech Corner - Margaret Kline

RCGS is gearing up to launch a brand-new website—complete with a fresh look, richer content, and a screen that politely reshapes itself no matter what device you use. Behind the scenes, we're also building our new **Record Search** database, the successor to **Surname Search**, and with 1.3 million records to wrangle, it's taking... well, longer than our optimistic selves predicted. Our heartfelt thanks to

our fearless reviewers—Judy Regehr, Wann Towers, Theresa Wilson, Hannah Palsa, Paula Ellis, and Virginia Peterson—whose brutally honest feedback kept us humble, laughing, and improving. And a special thank-you to Doreen Towne, Margaret Parker, Mary Hammel, and Debra Wood, whose content contributions have been absolutely essential.

Society News

Welcome Our New Members

Teresa Monhollon
Tamie Redding
Todd Ubben
T. William Varney



New Library Volunteers

Please welcome our new volunteers!

Deb Wood
Donna VanGilder
Julie McClure
Teri Monhollon

and returning volunteer,
Darlene Hagen



Return of the Sacred Red Rock Documentary

The August educational program was both deeply interesting and profoundly humbling, centering on the powerful story of the **Sacred Red Rock**. This 28-ton quartzite boulder—long separated from the Kaw Nation—was finally returned to the tribe in June 2024. The documentary traced its history, its cultural meaning, and the emotional journey that led to its homecoming.

The auditorium was filled with attendees eager to learn about this important moment in Kansas and Kaw Nation history. The program offered a moving reflection on heritage, stewardship, and the significance of restoring sacred objects to their rightful communities.

Missed the program? Watch it here:

[*https://www.youtube.com/@thechapmancenter/videos](https://www.youtube.com/@thechapmancenter/videos)

Yuma District Cultural Festival Recap

The **Riley County Genealogical Society** enjoyed a lively day at the **Yuma District Cultural Festival**, sharing information about our publications and library resources with visitors. Co-located with our frequent collaborators—the **Riley County Historical Museum** and the **Chapman Center**—we helped create a rich, immersive history space that sparked meaningful conversations. The standout feature of the room (aside from **RCGS**, naturally) was an extraordinary tableau highlighting African American history in Manhattan and the power of genealogy to preserve those stories.



Dates to Remember!!

- **September 18 (Friday):** *RCGS Roundtable*, 10:00 AM, Vista Drive In, 1911 Tuttle Creek Blvd.
- **September 20 (Sunday):** *Annual Pie Party*, 2:00-3:30 PM, RCGS Library, 2005 Claflin Rd.
- **October 2 (Friday):** *First Friday Program*, 10:00 AM, RCGS Library, 2005 Claflin Rd.
- **October 18 (Sunday):** Educational Program, 2:30-3:30 PM, Manhattan Public Library Auditorium, 629 Poyntz Ave, "*Photo Preservation and Digitization Workshop*."
- **November 22 (Sunday):** *Annual Meeting*, 2:00-2:30 PM, Program, followed by "*The Cowboy Poet, Betty Burlingham*," Manhattan Public Library Auditorium, 629 Poyntz Ave.

Visit our website at:
<https://rileycgs.com/index.php>
 and Facebook page:
[Riley County Genealogical Society](#)
 Like, Share, and Follow our news!

Library Hours

Tuesday & Thursday 10 AM - 4 PM
 Wednesday & Saturday 1-4 PM
 (785)565-6495



Doreen Towne
 FYI Editor
ddtowne@cox.net
<https://rileycgs.com/>



Stay connected and "Like" us on our Facebook page!!

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