

Kansas Kin

A semi-annual publication of Riley County Genealogical Society
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Aerial photo of the town of Randolph, looking north. Photo taken before flooding for Tuttle Creek Dam. Fancy Creek, tributary of the Blue River, lined with trees is at the left and bottom of photo.

Photo courtesy of Kevin Larson



Riley County Genealogical Society

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Mission Statement:

***Kansas Kin* is a semi-annual publication of Riley County
Genealogical Society whose purpose is to collect, preserve and share information
for researching Kansas family histories.**

A Message From the Editor



Dear Readers of *Kansas Kin*:

In this issue of *Kansas Kin*, we feature the building of the Tuttle Creek Dam, which is near Manhattan, Kansas. We include an article by Kevin Larson on the general history of the dam, including the efforts to stop it. We also include the story of one family and how the dam project affected them. We thank Mary Stamey for contributing the story of the McManis family.

We'd like to invite you to send us your stories about the building of Tuttle Creek Dam and how it affected you and your family. Were your parents or grandparents displaced by the dam? If so, we'd like to hear from you.

Kansas Kin strives to record family stories. A family tree comes alive only when there are stories to tell about the ancestors in that tree. *Kansas Kin* is indexed and, if we are diligent, will be available to researchers long after we are gone — available for the future generations who want to take a peek into their ancestors' lives.

Please note the volume number on the first page of this issue of *Kansas Kin*. It is Volume 60! That means this is the sixtieth year of publishing *Kansas Kin*! Our mission, as stated on page 3 of this issue, is:

Mission Statement

***Kansas Kin* is a semi-annual publication of Riley County Genealogical Society whose purpose is to collect, preserve and share information for researching Kansas family histories.**

Judy Regehr, Editor

judy@rileycgs.com

If you or your family were affected by the building of Tuttle Creek Dam,
please send us your story !

My Rag Doll

By Joan Smith

I never really knew any of my grandparents. Well not quite true. I knew my paternal grandmother. She died when I was 6 years old. She was a strong hardworking woman who was born in the south in 1870. I never knew any of my cousins on my paternal side. They were all about 25 or 30 years older. If I ever saw them, I did not know they were my cousins. When my grandmother died, a bookcase with a drawer of pictures came to my father and the player piano, which I dearly loved, went to a cousin up in the northwest. I missed the piano – it reminded me of times with my grandmother.

As I grew up and started working on family history, I was able to identify most of the pictures in the bookcase. There was one that kept fascinating me. It was a picture of a cousin, DeDe



Sabra Alice Tucker Hampton in about 1952. My Grandmother and Jennifer's Great Grandmother



My Rag Doll

(Winifred Leona), holding her 2 ½ month old baby, Jennifer C----- (it is not a common last name). It looked like it was taken in the late 40's or early 50's. DeDe's father, Bill Hampton, my uncle, had died when she was about three or four years old (in the early 1920's) so I never knew him.

I wanted to find Jennifer, but how? DeDe had died in Washington state so I thought I would start there. I was certain that Jennifer would not still have her birth name but as to her current last name, it was a mystery.

As I searched the internet, I found a Jennifer C-----, but I was hesitant. After nearly 70 years? Finally, about 7 years ago, I wrote to this Jennifer explaining who I was looking for. Shortly a letter came back saying that I had found her! She had used C----- as her business name. She had never had a cousin before and was really surprised. We corresponded and exchanged pictures and stories. One story she talked about was a player piano from her great grandmother that she dearly loved and learned to play. She loved and missed that piano. It was the same player piano I had played as a child at

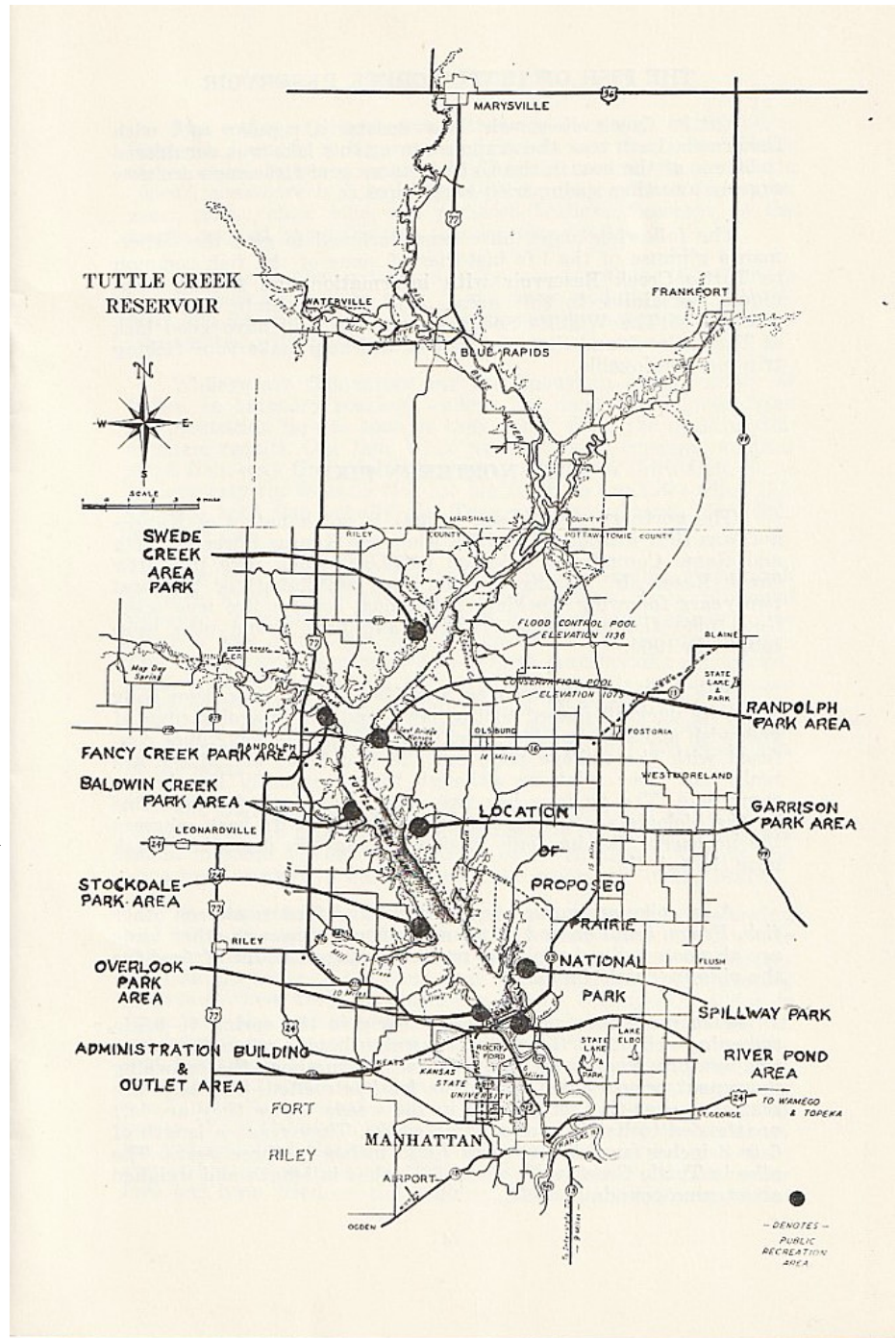
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The Building of Tuttle Creek Dam

By Kevin Larson

Seventy years ago in 1952, the area of the Blue River Valley near Manhattan, Kansas, and surrounding area was caught up in political excitement. It was a Presidential election year. Dwight Eisenhower, the Republican candidate, was capturing the excitement of possibly having a Republican in the White House for the first time in thirty years. The nation might have been sharing such interest, but in the Blue Valley attention was being focused on the construction of the Tuttle Creek Dam which had started earlier that year. Funded by the United States Congress, the Army Corps of Engineers had started on a flood control project, which had been authorized back in 1938.

Floods were a perennial issue in the Eastern Kansas area. When they occurred, flooding affected cities, low lying farmlands and industries. The original concern over flooding and the need to address the concern was found with the stockyards and cattle interest in Kansas City. Every time flooding occurred, their interests were flooded. Originally, they promoted the idea of building dikes to protect their areas of concern. When that issue was presented, the railroad interests gave quick protests. If dikes were built, they would have to raise the height of their bridges and



Map of the finished Tuttle Creek Dam Reservoir near Manhattan, Kansas, from "Tuttle Creek Fishing Guide," Map year unknown. Probably 1965.

railway tracks, a costly and unwieldy proposition.

With that suggestion being negated, the next

viable solution seemed to be the construction of dams that would hold back the water and give flood control to the impacted areas. The first proposal called for the construction of a dam on the Kansas River near Kiro, Kansas, an area just east of the town of Silver Lake. It would have made a lake that would have flooded the Kansas River Valley back west to the city of Wamego. The impact of such a construction was noted and it was decided that instead of the Kiro Dam, if dams were built on the Republican River and the Blue River it would equal the same results and the impact would not be as severe. In fact, when the proposal for these dams was presented to the United States Congress, the head of the Army Corps was asked if any towns or settlements would be impacted and he assured the Congress that none would be impacted, possibly because it was because the reference was for the Tuttle Creek tributary to the Blue river, a tributary and valley located just north of where the project would eventually be located.

Thus the authorization was given. In 1938, shortly thereafter the world became engrossed in War. The resources and interests of the nation were given over to the efforts of the nation in World War II. When it became apparent in 1944 that the war might be ending, the Army Corps again began to consider projects they could work on after the War had ended. They went to the Congress to ask for money to start the projects that would be key to the critical issue of flood control.

With such a request being made known, the Blue Valley residents found out for the first time that such a project was being considered for the Blue River. Again, there was confusion over the naming of the project "Tuttle Creek" instead of "Blue River." Once the scope of the project was realized, it immediately raised alarms and questions. A Blue Valley Study Association was formed and it was determined that it had to be stopped.

They were surprised when they made such an

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assertion, that the project was already authorized and that the only thing they could do if they wanted it stopped was to get Congress to deauthorize its construction. With that direction, efforts were made and contacts established to get Congress to deauthorize the Tuttle Creek construction. Many reputable sources indicate that by 1950, important strides were being successfully established to have the votes to make such a deauthorization possible.

Then in 1951, a flood of historic proportions occurred. From the headwaters of the Kansas River Valley to the Kansas City, Missouri, area floodwaters caused damages that would challenge the history books and immediate calls were given for flood control and the construction of dams to accomplish that goal. Colonel Potter of the Army Corps of Engineers was bold in his commentary that, even when floodwaters covered the city of Manhattan, that Manhattan would be dry today if Tuttle Creek Dam had been built.

The 1951 flood changed the perspective of many members of Congress, Kansas included. And with that new perspective, Congress gave in and voted five million dollars to start the construction of Tuttle Creek Dam. With such funding, land was acquired and construction was begun. The Blue Valley residents viewed such construction with alarm and vowed that it was not to be completed.

The Blue Valley Study Association worked diligently to counter the need expressed for the dam. The ladies of the Valley formed the Blue Valley Belles and they undertook measures to counter the construction as well. They first re-

Continued on next page

quested a visit with President Truman. They were granted such a visit with him in Kansas City. He was not very receptive to their requests. As a result, they sent a notice to Eisenhower's campaign that while he was in Denver they were coming out and would want a visit with him. The visit was granted and Eisenhower listened and said he would take their arguments and requests under consideration.

Still there was the consideration of their current Congressman Albert Cole. He had been a steady supporter of their efforts over the years, but after the 1951 Flood, he had changed his opinion and had indicated support to the Tuttle Creek Dam project. Discouraged with such a statement of support, efforts were made to find a Congressional candidate that would oppose the Tuttle Creek Dam. Howard S. Miller, a farmer from Hiawatha, Kansas, stated that he would be opposed to the project and they induced him to be a candidate for the Congressional seat.

The ladies of the Valley formed the Blue Valley Belles They first requested a visit with President Truman. They were granted such a visit with him in Kansas City. He was not very receptive to their requests. As a result, they sent a notice to Eisenhower's campaign that while he was in Denver they were coming out and would want a visit with him.

It was a spirited campaign. Meetings were held, car caravans toured the Congressional District and numerous meetings with the press took place. "Big Dam Foolishness" became the motto of the day along with "Stop the Water Where it Falls" illustrated by two babies sitting together in their diapers. Miller was a Democrat and Cole was a Republican. Eisenhower, an extremely popular individual due to his war efforts, was heading the Republican ticket and appeared headed for a landslide victory, which he ultimately achieved. But in the First Congressional District of Kansas, in spite of the Republican victory for Ei-



Campaigning against the building of Tuttle Creek Dam in October, 1952, in Sabetha. Photo courtesy of Kevin Larson.

senhower, the first Democrat ever elected to Congress by the First District was elected in the person of Howard S. Miller.

Miller went back to Washington D.C. with the purpose of stopping Tuttle Creek Dam. His efforts, combined with a sympathetic ear of Eisenhower, resulted in funding for Tuttle Creek kicked out of the budget. With such a deletion, the construction came to a cessation for the Tuttle Creek project. It appeared that the efforts of the Blue Valley citizenry had secured a victory and the threat of annihilation was thwarted. A film was made to highlight the Tuttle Creek experience and to give cause for why the dam should not be built. But elections happen every two years and in 1954, Miller came up for reelection. Republicans had taken notice of the Miller success and William Avery was chosen to be their candidate to op-

pose him. Avery was an affirmed opponent of the dam as was Miller. For many residents of the First district, they felt justified in the fact that whichever candidate won, they had an anti-dam person representing them. Eisenhower who had certainly favored them by negating funding for Tuttle Creek, was asking for a Republican Congress to help him with his agenda, so a vote for Avery could be affirmed. As a result Avery won.

When the budget came up for a vote in 1955, the House voted for its funding with appropriations for Tuttle Creek included. This sent a shock wave through the opponents of the dam. They immediately flew representatives to Washington to present their arguments against the funding. A busload of citizens

Continued on next page



1953 sign on the town square in Randolph in the Blue Valley, protesting the flooding of the town. Photo: Kevin Larson.



Raising money for a film to highlight the Blue Valley experience and to give cause for why the dam should not be built. Photo: Courtesy of Kevin Larson.

from the Valley was sent to Washington to supplement and add additional input to members of the Senate, which still had to vote on the budget for the cause of denying funding. The people at home who could not be in Washington organized a letter-writing campaign for members of the Senate Appropriations Com-

mittee. The push was given, arguments delivered, speeches given, but when the Budget Bill came up for a vote in the Senate it was passed with the funding for Tuttle Creek included. A final effort was given to have President Eisenhower remove the funding from the bill before he signed it, but with regret, he signed the whole bill into law. It was a defeat and a setback, but the Valley citizens were not ready to give up the fight.

In October of 1955, they organized and had an open house for the valley. They thought if they could open up the valley for the citizens of the area, they could come, drive through the valley, tour the churches, farms and homes and after everyone saw what was going to be lost, there would come a groundswell of support that would carry over to the 1956 election in which Howard Miller could be elected again and put an end to the Tuttle Creek Dam project. It was a success. Over 5,000 people attended and the valley put on its best showing.



1955 Kansas Pottawatomie County license plate holder protesting the dam. Courtesy of Kevin Larson.

However, during this time construction was continuing and additional land was being acquired.

The election of 1956 saw Miller entering the race for Congress against Avery. Again, it was a spirited campaign, but Avery prevailed and with Miller's defeat, the writing on the wall was fairly evident and the grim realization was sinking in for the valley residents that the Dam was going to win.

As the years progressed from 1955 onward, various plans were proposed. The project could be a dry dam, holding back water only in a time of flooding conditions. But when the dry years of 1956 and 1957 occurred, pressure intensified for a lake to be established that would hold needed water resources. Despite such discussion the overall project continued. The area saw land acquisition proceed up the valley,

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towns were bought out, farm land acquired, residents moved out, buildings were either being destroyed or moved to other locations, cemeteries were relocated and the valley was being readied for its role of flood control. In 1962, the Tuttle Creek Dam was completed and officially dedicated in 1963.

In 1953, the *Farm Journal Magazine* published an article entitled, "The Battle of the Big

Continued on next page



At the Dam Site. 1953 *Farm Journal* photo. L to r: Stockwell, Hawkinson, Phillips, Germann. Photo courtesy of Kevin Larson.

So the rest is history. The dam is a reality and the farmlands and towns of the Valley are no longer. Eminent Domain is provided for the government to use when it is decreed that the land is needed for the welfare and protection of the greater public.

Blue.” In the article, they highlighted the fight to defeat the building of the Tuttle Creek Dam. In 1979, they reprised the article with an article entitled, “Who won the Battle of the Big Blue?” After interviewing several of the individuals who had been interviewed in 1953 and making other observations, they concluded that the winner of the Battle of the Big Blue was the riv-

er. Eventually, the valley would be filled with siltation, flood control would be limited, but the river would continue to flow and be unrelenting in its ability to survive. Mankind could exert its will, but in the end, nature would take its course.

Thus today the Tuttle Creek Dam stands a barrier to flooding of cities, homes and farmlands. Yes, there have been times when flooding has occurred even with the existence of the dam, but generally estimates conclude that the cost of damages that have been avoided far exceed the total cost of the building and acquisition of land that it cost to build the Tuttle Creek Dam.

Yes, a valiant fight was given to stop the building of the dam. I find that the whole experience of the Tuttle Creek Dam was a great illustration of how common citizens could go against the powers of the Government and win, even if it was only for a short while. In the end, I am of the opinion that the Tuttle Creek Dam had to be built, because if the citizens of the Blue Valley could have stopped the project from being completed, all future dam projects would have faced similar anti-dam campaigns.

So the rest is history. The dam is a reality and the farmlands and towns of the Valley are no longer. Eminent Domain is



Two postcards advertising the appeal of Tuttle Creek Dam and Reservoir.

provided for the government to use when it is decreed that the land is needed for the welfare and protection of the greater public. With that in hand, the greater good was acquired and the Tuttle Creek Dam stands today, although with historic resistance, as a measure of protection for one and all from the ravages of floods.

By Kevin J. Larson

Credible resources of information on the Tuttle Creek Dam and its opposition can be found in

various publications including issues of the *Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle* and *Manhattan Tribune-News* newspapers and a study written and published by Philip E. Meyer entitled, "Tuttle Creek Dam, A Case Study in Local Opposition."

Kevin J. Larson is a retired Riley County High School history teacher, long-time scholar of Riley County history, and is currently serving as pastor of Sedalia Community Church in Riley County.

Continued from page 5, "My Rag Doll"

my grandmother's home. I loved that piano too. It became the rest of the story. Just before Christmas she wrote and said she was sending a package and I needed to be home to receive it. I was to open it on Christmas.

As I opened the package, I saw a rag doll. The letter explained that the doll was made by my grandmother, her great grandmother for her mother, DeDe, when DeDe's father died. DeDe and then Jennifer had kept the doll all those years. She said that since she did not have children, my family needed this heirloom. To anyone else, this doll is only worth a couple of hundred dollars but to us it is priceless. It is one of my most treasured possessions and certainly links our family together where before there was no link. Now after all these years, I am so glad that she had the piano and I had the pictures to bring us together.

DeDe and
Jennifer



In Memoriam

Nadine Stueve

Nadine Stueve, longtime volunteer in the Riley County Genealogical Society Library, died on April 2, 2022. She was 91 years old.

Nadine was a longtime resident of Wamego, Kansas, and an active member of the Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church. She is survived by four daughters, seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Fred Stueve.

The family held a celebration of her life on April 10 at the Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Wamego. Nadine was interred in the St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery on Clarks Creek Road in rural Junction City.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church or Good Shepherd Hospice House in care of the Campanella and Stewart Funeral Home in Wamego, Kansas.

(Information from the obituary published on the Campanella and Stewart Funeral Home web page.)

Revisiting Garrison: Tuttle Creek Dam's Impact

By Mary McManis Stamey and Jon McManis



The McManis Family Home in Garrison in 1957 before Tuttle Creek Dam was built. After the dam, this site was under water.

Their romance began as high school sweethearts in the 1930's. Along the way, they matured through a depression, faced financial setbacks towards their dreams, welcomed a growing family, made commitments to their community, and shared their love and laughter with others. Alex and Helen McManis began their married life together in September of 1941 after Helen graduated from college at Kansas State, and Alex had established a business as an automotive mechanic and gas station manager. By 1948, they had three children, were participating in church activities, serving on the school board, and thinking of expansion possibilities of their businesses. In that same time period, from the late 1930's to the early 1940's, the US federal government

was creating conservation districts, and talking of establishing a dam in the Blue Valley area of eastern Kansas.

In a letter dated July 1952, Helen wrote to her high school friends that the US Congress had passed legislation creating Tuttle Creek dam that would inundate the Blue Valley area, including our little town of Garrison. She wrote of plans to fight the injustice the community felt. I remember having the chicken pox and measles as Mother mentioned in the letter, but as a five year old at that time, I don't have any direct memory of that legislation nor the ensuing community effort to stop what came to be called the "Big Dam Foolishness." What I well



The McManis garage and gas station operated by Alec 1934-51 and by Helen and her aunt, 1951-1957.

remember of that time period are the feelings and emotions that accompany stressful times.

Recently my brother Jon and I reminisced about life for us in Garrison. We are thirteen months apart and were often described as being like twins since we are so close in age. For ten years, we shared an idyllic early childhood in Garrison with our older brother Larry. We played all kinds of games on the main street of town, hide and seek until dark, and multi-generations of us playing football in the cornfield. We were never at a loss for something to do. Sunday School, 4-H meetings, chores around the house, paper routes, ball games, kite flying, a Davy Crockett musical program, and, for us, piano lessons surrounded our school day hours. Roller skating on Friday nights at the school gym was a community affair raising money for a new organ for the church. I even won 3rd place in third grade for best cos-

tume during the Halloween skating party. To watch us, we were barely aware of any happenings of Tuttle Creek dam, being cussed or discussed. We did remember a photo session in front of our garage business. Jon and classmate Donnie pretended to be fighting Big Dam Foolishness.



Jon McManis and friend Donnie pretending to fight, which was to be used for a Big Dam Foolishness promotional poster.



The Garrison Methodist church women raised funds and erected this sign in protest of the dam being built.

In January of 1951, dipping into their entire savings, Dad bought into a Ford tractor dealership in Manhattan. All of his inventory was destroyed six months later, during the flood of July 1951. My grandparents were flooded out of their home and came to live with us. Laundry time was a huge task as all clothing worn in Manhattan had to be washed the moment Dad or my grandparents came home from work in Manhattan.

Together Mom and Dad decided to rebuild the tractor business in the same location, 315 South 3rd Street, and together they intended to stay in Garrison running the gas station and little grocery store where I later learned how to earn seven cents a week dusting the shelves. My rebuilding act from the 1951 flood was to be a brave four year old girl when I went to Ahearn Fieldhouse to get shots poked into my back side. That memory is vivid! As I reflect back on those days, I know our parents were against the creation of the Tuttle Creek dam. They were realistic in their outlook, having just begun a business in Manhattan, yet they did not wish to move away from their dear Garrison town.

When the final decision was made to actually complete the Tuttle Creek Dam project, and eminent domain was instituted, my parents sued the federal government for more money for their home as well as the business my par-

ents had had for seventeen years, the garage and gas station next door. While we sorted through papers recently, Jon relived the memory of a cold ride to Kansas City in a convertible to visit the hired attorney. Jon and I figured we were along to strengthen the sympathy portion of our parents' plea. We survived the ride and they received a \$4000 increase in the payment for their property. Our move to Manhattan came in June of 1957, about five years before the dam was full of water.

My grandfather, Marshall Ensign, my mother's father was the rural mail carrier for the Garrison area for forty-six years. He and my aunt were the last residents of Garrison. After I left Garrison at the ripe ole' age of ten, I vowed to never return, except to see Grandpa Ensign and to get some well water. I did not like "city water" as I called the Manhattan water. Today I know my little self didn't like seeing buildings without life in them, streets without people visiting, and a community without anything happening. I still do not like a view of abandoned buildings. I also have a hard time crossing a bridge with high water underneath it. Some fears never fade.

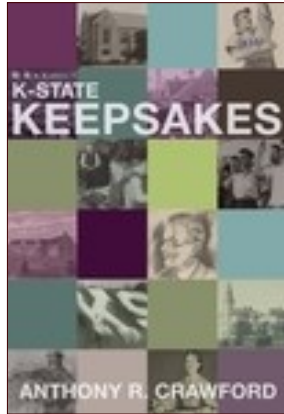
Today I see the benefits of the building of Tuttle Creek Dam. All these years later, I don't feel the benefits, and prefer not to talk about any of them, unless what was displaced and disrupted is also discussed. I know now the im-

Continued on bottom of next page.



Garrison Grade and High School, 1950. By the mid-1950's the high school students attended Randolph High School.

Kansas State University Archives Holds Velen Sisters Collection on History of Tuttle Creek Dam



Anthony Crawford, in his book, *K-State Keepsakes*, includes a chapter on the history of Tuttle Creek Dam. This book is published by New Prairie Press. The full text may be downloaded free of charge here:

cause it provides excellent documentation of the controversy between citizens and the U.S. Government, the Army Corps of Engineers in particular, over the flooding of land and communities throughout the country. The contents include correspondence with political leaders around the state and country, speeches, documents concerning meetings and events, pamphlets, scrapbooks, related material, and of course the file. A [description of the collection](#) is available.”

<https://newprairiepress.org/ebooks/3/>

Mr. Crawford includes a chapter on the Velen Collection, donated by Kevin J. Larson to the K-State University Archives. Here is a description of the collection:

“Construction of the dam began in 1952 and it was completed in 1962 after several delays. The Velen Collection is one of several in the University Archives that documents the Tuttle Creek Dam and the history of the area. The collection is significant to researchers, not only for the information it contains about Tuttle Creek Dam, but be-

Researchers interested in this collection or the related collection of Doris H. Fenton can find these preserved in the Archives of Kansas State University. According to Crawford, “These are two of the numerous collections of personal papers and records preserved in the holdings related to ‘Agriculture and Rural Life’ in Kansas, a strategic collecting emphasis of the Morse Department of Special Collections. A general list of items in the Velen Collection may be accessed here:

<https://findingaids.lib.k-state.edu/doris-and-leona-velen-papers>

Revisiting Garrison, Continued from previous page.

pact of that disruption had on me and my family. We survived, yes, but there were consequences, some positive, some negative. I regret not being able to go back and see my old school, my old house, my favorite climb to the top of a hill, or even a reunion where I might run into someone who lived there when I did. I distrust decisions made by government entities without public input from the beginning. I rejoice about the work ethic my parents displayed every day, protecting their children from the harsh realities while instilling the benefits of hard work to never give up. I benefitted as a school administrator years later when a building where I worked was threatened to be shut

down. I benefitted when I could console children about changes over which they had no control. Most of all, my feelings today are stronger than my direct memories of Garrison. Nothing can replace the feelings of the energy, the safety, or the caring ways of life in a small town.

All photos courtesy of Mary McManis Stamey and Jon McManis.

Written by Mary McManis Stamey with help from Jon McManis.

Tuttle Creek Dam In Newspaper Clippings

By Sherry Butler

Newspapers
by 

The Manhattan Mercury (Manhattan, Kansas) · 1 Mar 1950, Wed · Page 1
Downloaded on Mar 24, 2022

Tuttle Creek Dam Opposed By City Commissioners

Resolution Passed
Against Dam, For
Auditorium Site
Vote April 5

March 1, 1950

Resolution by City- Opposed Mar 1950



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The Manhattan Mercury (Manhattan, Kansas) · 19 Mar 1952, Wed · Page 4

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To build the Tuttle Creek dam or to adopt the Blue River Valley watershed plan: that is the question most perplexing to inhabitants of this area since the disastrous flood of July, 1951.

Individuals and groups from Manhattan and the Blue River Valley returned from the nation's capital recently where they argued the merits of both plans before congressmen.

The Mercury-Chronicle decided to determine the opinions of the housewife, the man-in-the-street, and the businessman to test the pulse of public sentiment since the President approved construction of the Tuttle Creek reservoir.

The question posed was: "Do you favor the building of Tuttle Creek dam?" Most of those polled had some comment to make, although some businessmen feared to express an opinion. Here are some typical comments:

March 19, 1952

Poll shows divided opinions



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Newspapers
by 

By BILL COLVIN
Mercury-Chronicle Managing Editor

WASHINGTON—Resolutions from both Houses of the Kansas legislature opposing the construction of Tuttle Creek dam were introduced as testimony before a congressional subcommittee today as evidence that the Blue Valley structure is frowned upon by most of the people in the state.

In addition, Manhattan's former Mayor, Richard Rogers, proposed a compromise to the "bitter controversy" on the question of the dam.

He suggested a two-part program consisting of protecting Manhattan and other downstream cities by a system of dikes and flowways as recommended by Governor Edward F. Arn's independent engineers' survey, and (2) the watershed treatment program recommended by Cong. Clifford Hope.

Resolution



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Thu, Mar 24, 2022

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Aug. 15, 1955

Oct. 24, 1956

Newspapers
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Manhattan Republic (Manhattan, Kansas) · 4 Jan 1956, Wed · Page 5
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Aug. 15 — Speculation that funds for Tuttle Creek dam may be frozen by the President ends with the announcement that the money has been released to the Corps of Engineers. At the same time the Corps announces a new land procurement program whereby not as much land as previously indicated would be needed. Flood easements will be acquired on other land needed in periods of peak capacity of the dam.

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Manhattan Republic (Manhattan, Kansas) · 4 Jan 1956, Wed · Page 5
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Oct. 24 — Tecon Co., begins work on Tuttle Creek dam with the first jobs to be completing the excavation for the outlet structure and the relocating of highway K-13.

Work begins on dam



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Speculation funds may be frozen



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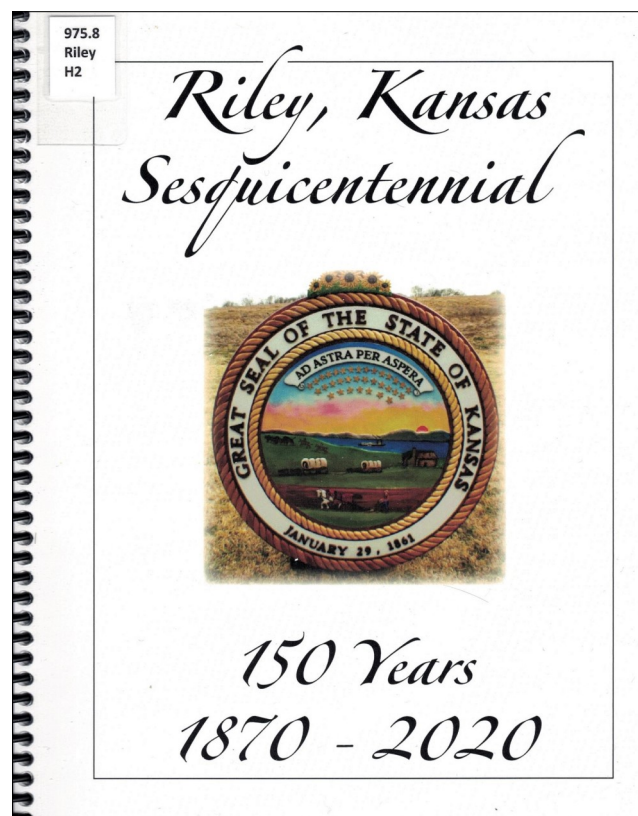
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New Books at the Research Library

By Virginia Beddow



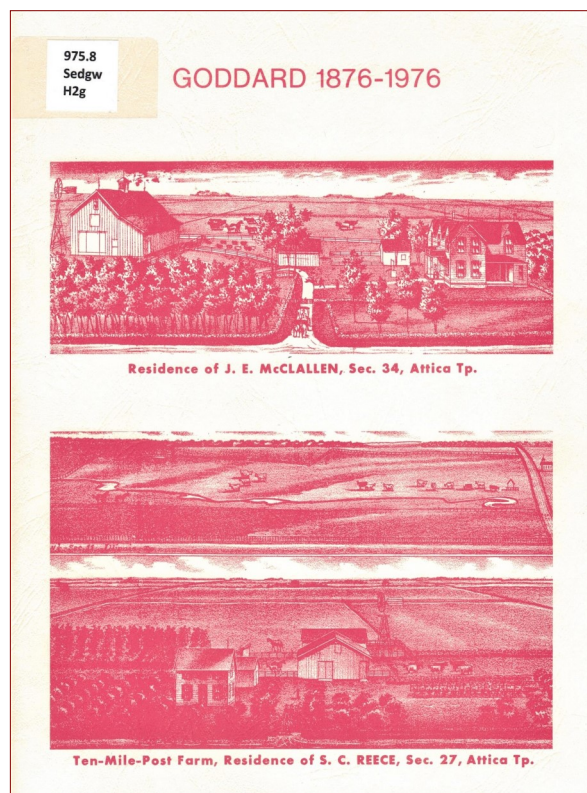
Atchison Centennial: 1854-1954: A Historic Album of Atchison, Kansas. Compiled by the Centennial Association. Printed by the Lockwood Company, Inc. 1954.

The album is dedicated to “all those Atchisonians who have helped to make Atchison the thriving, friendly city which we so proudly call home.” There may not be a table of contents or an index, but there is a lot of information. Subhead titles will guide your reading. There are 64 pages of history of the city, organizations, and individuals. In addition there is a 27-page section titled, “The Atchison Centurama in Celebration of Atchison’s Centennial Birthday.” Photographs enhance the book. The inside back cover contains a map of “Places to See in Atchison.”

Riley, Kansas Sesquicentennial: 150 Years, 1870-2020. Carol Williams, editor. Riley: 150th Anniversary History Committee. 2020.

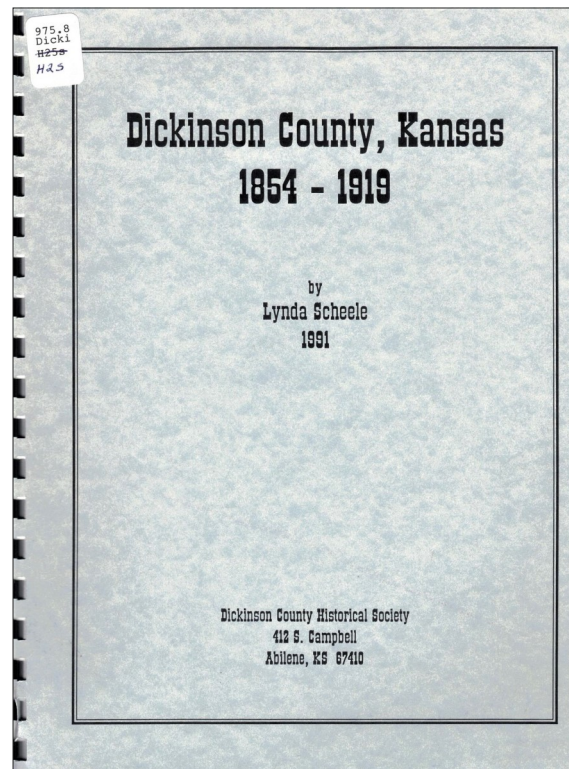
Many people contributed to this book of history of the town of Riley. They wrote chapters, interviewed long-time members of the community, compiled materials, checked historical accuracy, shared memories, and provided photographs. Articles were contributed from *The Riley Countian*.

To provide a more complete record, previous anniversary publications are included: *Riley, Kansas, Centennial 1870-1970* and *Riley, Kansas 125th Anniversary 1870-1995*. Together these three books provide over 200 pages of memories, photographs, and facts.



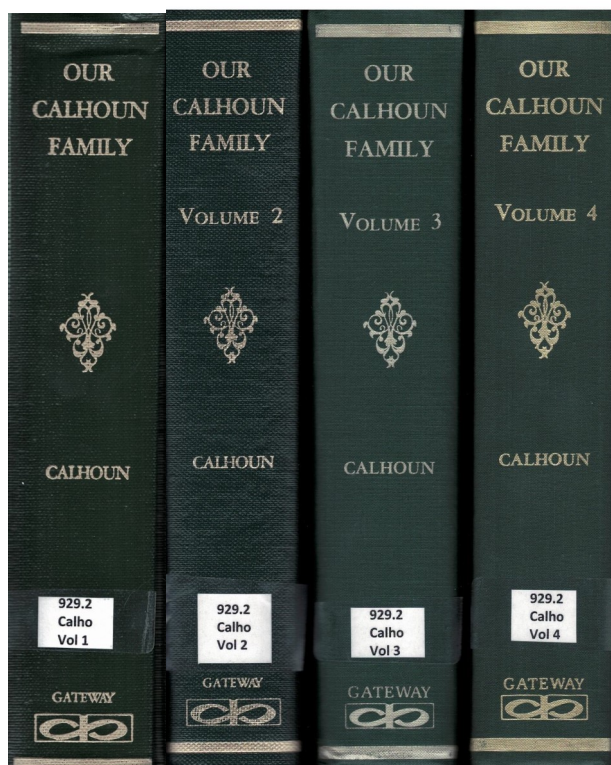
Goddard: 1876 – 1976. Book Committee. Goddard: Goddard Woman's Club. 1976.

The book was a bicentennial project for the Woman's Club of Goddard. A history is illustrated with photographs and maps. Churches, public schools, and organizations are described. Biography and business sections complete the eighty-six page book.



Dickinson County, Kansas: 1854-1919. Lynda Scheele. Abilene: Dickinson County Historical Society and Heritage Center. 1991.

This twelve-page history begins with the formation of the Kansas Territory and ends with the return of the Dickinson County Troops from World War I.

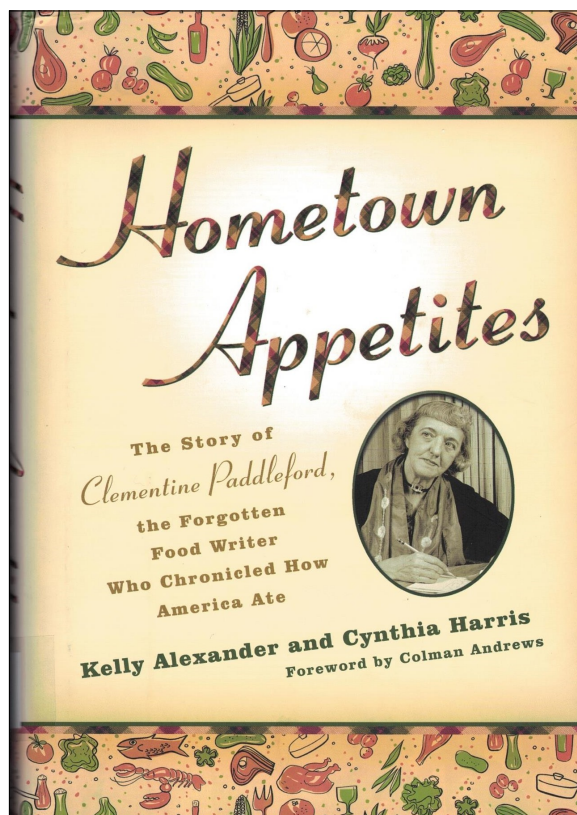


800 Years of Colquhoun, Colhoun, Calhoun, and Cahoon Family History in Ireland, Scotland, England, United States of America, Australia and Canada. Four Volumes. Orval O. Calhoun. Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc. 1976.

The author spent most of his life asking questions and compiling “bits and pieces” about his family. Then for eight years he and others examined all the best sources. The result is the listings of about thirty five generations of the Colquhoun family in Scotland, Ireland, the United States, Australia, and Canada. He divided the book into 4 volumes.

His table of contents in the first volume outlines all four volumes with enough detail to conduct a search. Indexes for each volume have been prepared. Because of the length of the indexes, they have been put on two CDs.

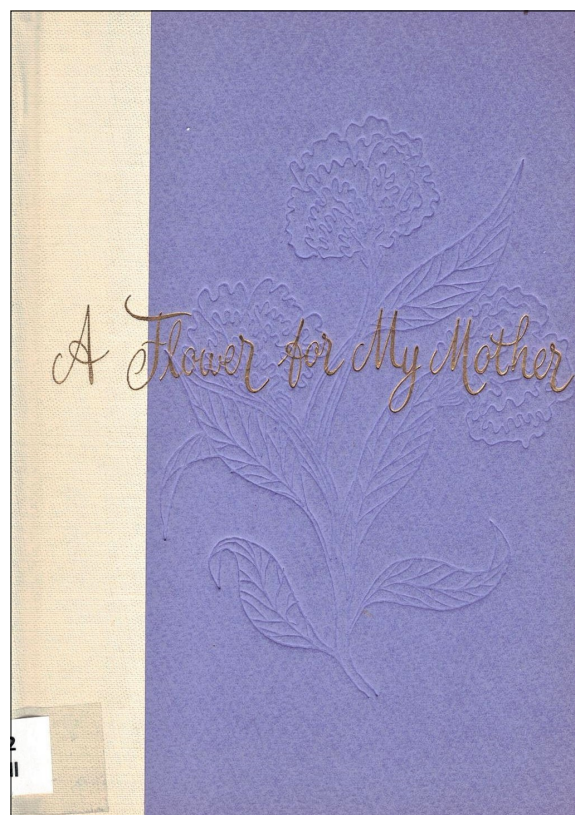
New books, continued



Hometown Appetites. Kelly Alexander and Cynthia Harris. New York: Gotham Books. 2008.

The authors subtitled this book, “The Story of Clementine Paddleford, the Forgotten Food Writer Who Chronicled How America Ate.” Alexander is a food editor and Harris was the Collections/Processor who worked with the 365-box Paddleford Collection in Hale Library at Kansas State University. They met when Alexander came to Kansas State to research an article on Paddleford for *The Saveur*. Then R.W. Apple, Jr. visited and wrote an article in *The New York Times*. In it he introduced readers to his gustatory forebear and announced that the Paddleford papers were being made available to scholars (2005). The next day the idea for this book was sold.

Apple’s opening paragraph provides a great description of Paddleford. “Clementine Paddleford was the Nellie Bly of culinary journalism, a go-anywhere, taste-anything, ask-everything kind of reporter who traveled more than 50,000 miles a year in search of stories in a day when very few food editors strayed from



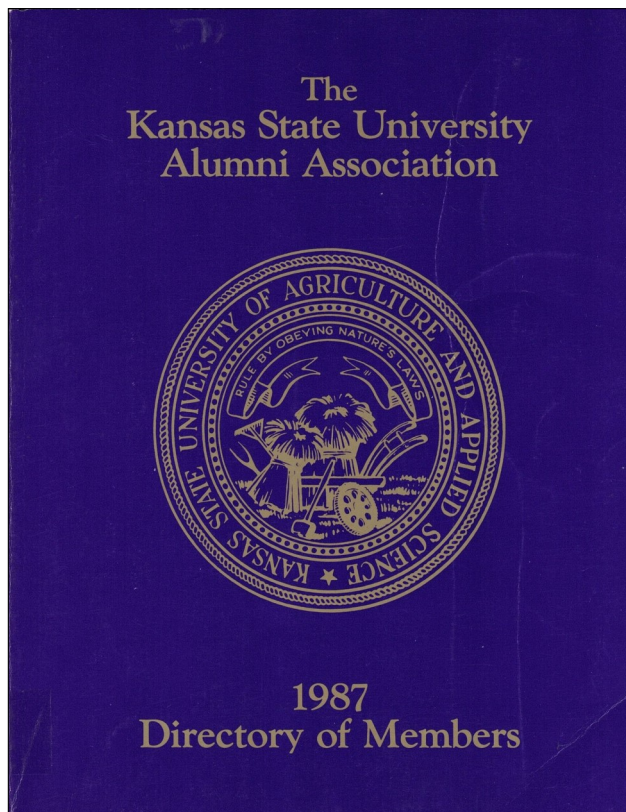
A Flower for My Mother. Clementine Paddleford. New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1958.

Seven chapters provide themed memories that illustrate life lessons learned from her mother. This hard back, small book of 64 pages is illustrated and has a table of contents.

their desks.”

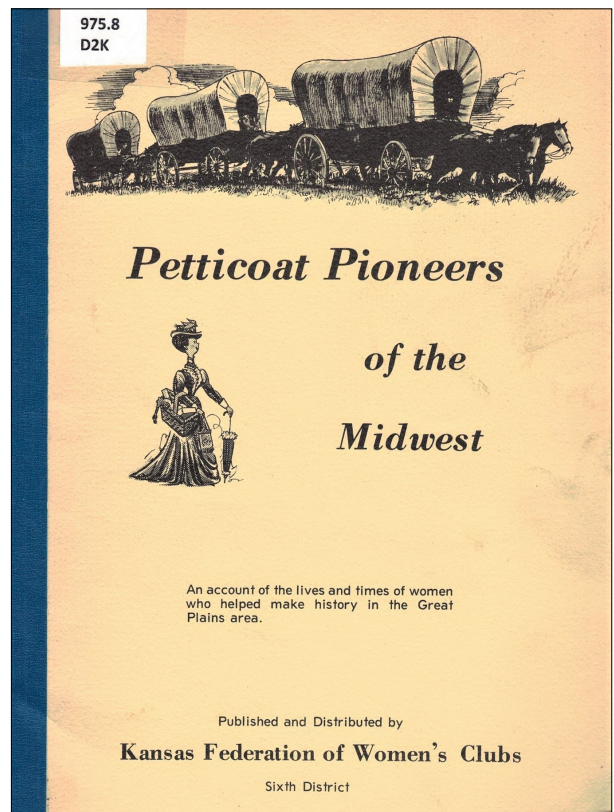
Paddleford was born in Stockdale, Kansas, in 1898 and grew up on land that was flooded by the Tuttle Creek Dam. She graduated from Kansas State Agricultural College in 1921. She became food editor of the *New York Herald Tribune* in 1936 where she worked until its demise in 1966. From 1940 until her death in 1967 she was a columnist for *This Week* magazine, a Sunday supplement that appeared in the *Trib* and forty-two other major U.S. newspapers. The column was read by thirteen million households.

The 318-page book contains the table of contents, biography, 55 recipes, photographs, end notes, and an index.



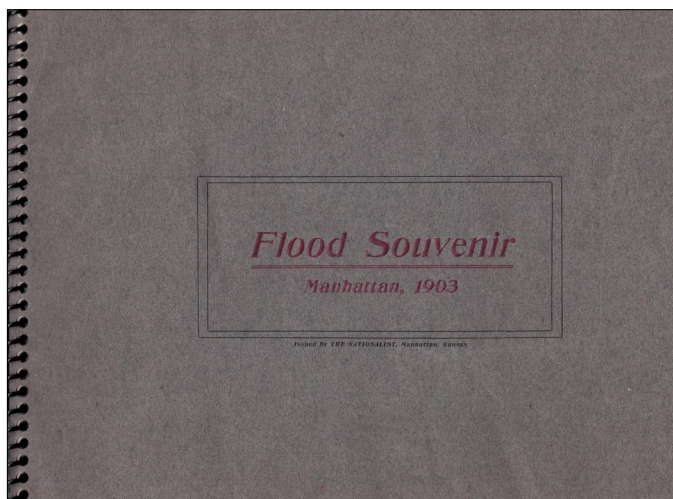
The Kansas State University Alumni Association: 1987 Directory of Members. Compiled by Carleton Graphics. South Bend: Carleton Graphics. 1987.

Since 1874 Kansas State University alumni have banded together to stay in touch with one another. The directory is a tool to help them do that as it lists the thousands of alumni who are members of the association. Twenty pages provide facts about the university and alumni, plus give guidance on using the directory.



Petticoat Pioneers of the Midwest: An account of the lives and times of women who helped make history in the Great Plains Area. Phillipsburg, Kansas: Kansas Federation of Women's Clubs. About 1975.

This ninety-eight page, hardback book is a compilation of personal stories, anecdotes, housekeeping hints, recipes, home remedies, etc. contributed directly or indirectly by the members of the clubs in the Sixth District, Kansas Federation of Women's Clubs.



Flood Souvenir: Manhattan, 1903. Manhattan: The Nationalist. 1903.

Eleven photographs by S. Orr, F. W. Amos, and H. L. Wolf are featured in this booklet issued by *The Nationalist* newspaper.

The photographs show views from Manhattan Kansas's Bluemont Avenue, Third Street, Juliette Avenue, Poyntz Avenue, Second Street, Blue River Bridges, Manhattan Mill, Dewey's Horseshow Crib, and the Rock Island Railroad.

New books, continued on page 25

Following an Ancestor to Citizenship

By Marcia Schuley

FamilySearch.org has excellent information on the process to citizenship for new migrants. The [U.S. Naturalization Records Class Handout](#) describes the process, terms and access to records.

Naturalization is the **legal process** our immigrant ancestors went through to become citizens of the United States. Becoming naturalized meant our foreign-born ancestors could vote, run for a government office, serve on a jury, pay taxes, receive the protection of the law. The choice of an ancestor to become a citizen of the United States affected their lives and is an essential part of their story that you will want to document.

To get to the naturalization handout, click the above link for more detail. If you are reading a paper copy here, go to your web browser to Familysearch.org. Search in the Familysearch Wiki for “U.S. Naturalization Records Class Handout.”

The following are excerpts from the U.S. Naturalization class handout.

Census Information -

- The 1820, 1830, 1840, and 1870 censuses have a column asking if a person was an alien or a citizen.
- The 1900, 1910, 1920, and 1930 censuses each ask the year an immigrant arrived to the United States and if the immigrant had begun or completed naturalization.
- The 1920 Census asked for the year the individual was naturalized.
- Abbreviations in the 1910, 1920, and 1930 census were as follows:

AL meaning the immigrant was not naturalized and had not begun the process. **PA** meaning the individual had started the naturalization process with a declaration of intention (first papers). **NA** meaning the individual has completed the naturalization process and is a US Citizen.

Naturalization from 1790-1906

• Declaration of Intent -

First Papers. The declaration of intent is sometimes referred to as the "first papers" and could be filed any time after the immigrant arrived. In a declaration of intent an immigrant would renounce allegiance to foreign governments and by filing the intent would document they had resided in the country long enough to apply for citizenship. In 1952, a declaration of intent was no longer required, although some immigrants continued to file them.

• Petition for Naturalization -

Second or Final Papers. After filing a declaration of intent and meeting the residency requirements (2 years from 1790-1795, 5 years from 1795-1798, 14 years from 1798 to 1802, and 5 years from 1802 to present) an immigrant could petition the court to become a citizen. Most often the petition was filed in a court nearest to the town where the immigrant had settled.

• Certificate of Citizenship -

After all requirements were completed, the immigrant was sworn in as a citizen and issued their certificate. The court where the petition was filed kept a record of those receiving citizenship certificates.

• Derivative citizenship -

is obtaining one's citizenship from or through another person. Starting in 1790, children under the age of 16 or 18 (depending on the year) received derivative citizenship from their father and no paperwork was created.

Beginning with the Act of May 26, 1824 an immigrant who arrived before their 18th birthday was allowed to petition for naturalization when they had reached the age of 21 without filing a declaration of intent.. From 1804 until 1922, derivative citizenship was granted to wives upon naturalization of their husband, or marriage to a man

who was a U.S. citizen, but her name would usually not be mentioned in the naturalization documents. To prove her citizenship a woman would have to supply a marriage certificate and her husband's naturalization certificate. From 1866 to 1907, a woman lost her U.S. citizenship by marrying an alien AND leaving the United States.

Locating National Immigration Records before 1906

Before 1906, immigrants could naturalize in

any of 5,000 federal, district, state, or local courts that had authority to grant citizenship.

You may need to search the court records of each place where your immigrant ancestor lived to locate all their naturalization records. He or she may have filed the declaration of intention in one court and state and filed the petition several years later in another court and state. Look first for the petition (second papers), because they are usually found in courts nearest where the immigrant eventually settled.

New books, continued

People Born in Sweden Who Resided in Riley County, Kansas or the Counties Adjacent. Sherry Butler. Vertical file at the Riley County Genealogical Society research library.

After researching for a client of the Riley County Genealogical Society, Sherry Butler developed this chart to help others searching for Swedish ancestors. These people all appear in the book published by the society in 1976, *Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie*. Copies are still available to purchase.

Index to Births, Marriages, Deaths in The Morning Chronicle, August 1929 to November 1930. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley County Genealogical Society, 2021.

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Published in the Manhattan Mercury During the Period of 1 July 1969 Thru 31 December 1969 at Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley County Genealogical Society. 2021

Index to the Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other Items Published in the Manhattan Mercury During the Period of 1 April 1974 Thru 30 September 1974 at Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas. Sylvester Ekart. Manhattan: Riley County Genealogical Society. 2021.

Genealogical Memoir of the Cunnabell, Conable, or Connable Family: John Cunnabell, London, England, and Boston, Massachusetts and His Descendants: 1650-1886. Edward J. Connable and John B. Newcomb. Jackson, Michigan: Daily Citizen Book Printing House. 1886.

An introduction dated January 1, 1886, traces the research, describes the organization of the book, analysis of family characteristics, and thanks family members who helped. The "purpose of the work was to preserve—to keep alive—the memory of the departed; to preserve from oblivion and for the use of future generations the scattered and rapidly disappearing records and memorials, of the family."

Cheryl Collins on Centennial Books: The history of a community is the element that links its residents, buildings, and place. Our collective memory of the people, places, and events of the past is the thread that connects us to all that has gone before, and all that will be in the future. Generations build history. Collecting, preserving, remembering, and reflecting on that history is critical to our understanding of our present and future. D. Cheryl Collins in *Riley, Kansas Sesquicentennial*.

What is Autosomal DNA?

What is Autosomal DNA? Is it useful for genealogy?

First of all, there are 4 types of DNA used in genealogy:

1. Autosomal DNA
2. The Y Chromosome
3. The X Chromosome
4. Mitochondrial DNA

Humans have 22 pairs of autosomes and one pair of sex chromosomes, the X or the Y chromosome. Autosomal DNA is the inherited material on these chromosomes that is coded to make you what you are. You inherit your DNA from your two parents.

23andMe was the first company to offer autosomal DNA for genealogical purposes. Their “Relative Finder” feature was quite popular when it was introduced in 2009 according to Tim Janzen, Professional Genealogist and presenter at genealogy conferences and webinars.

In 2010, Family Tree DNA introduced an autosomal DNA test called “Family Finder,” which is a competing product to 23andMe’s test. Most recently, Ancestry.com has also introduced a DNA test.

How are these tests useful? 23andMe has a feature called “Relative Finder.” Of course, the only relatives 23andMe can find are people who are 23andMe customers. The second criteria is that you share a long identical segment of DNA. The more distant a pair of cousins, the less identical DNA they share. Very small fragments of DNA are hard to detect by a company like 23andMe.

Their detection success is much higher for more closely related cousins. They can detect about 46% of 4th cousin pairs and 90% of 3rd cousin pairs. According to 23andMe, first cousins share about 12.5 % of their DNA, but this can range from 4 to 23%. Autosomal DNA is an imprecise way of determining who your relatives are, but it can be useful in supporting findings through other means.

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Kansas Kin submission guidelines

We are pleased that you have considered submitting an article to the Riley County Genealogical Society for possible publication. The *Kansas Kin* focuses on articles ranging from useful genealogical strategies and sources, to interesting accounts of personal research, to local histories as they relate to Kansas. We strive to bring your ancestors to life through their stories.

MANUSCRIPTS

500 to 2,000 words, including reference notes, is the suggested length of submissions. Submit your document in Word format via email. Topical headings are preferred for longer pieces. All manuscripts and references should follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*. End notes are recommended, especially for books, articles, and websites.

IMAGES

Whenever possible, please provide images to accompany your submission. The image must be over 1MB in size, with good quality resolution. Please also include a caption for each picture which includes a photo credit or source. All images must be sent as separate files. We prefer jpg format.

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Please provide a few sentences about the author(s) to accompany the manuscript.

DEADLINES

Submissions are due the first of the month in April and October. Address submissions to the editor at judy@rileycgs.com.

All submissions to *Kansas Kin* are subject to review by the RCGS Editorial Board and revisions may be made, either by the writer or the editor.

Editor: Judy Regehr

Assistant Editor: Margaret Parker

Editorial Board: Barry Michie, Sherry Butler, Virginia Beddow

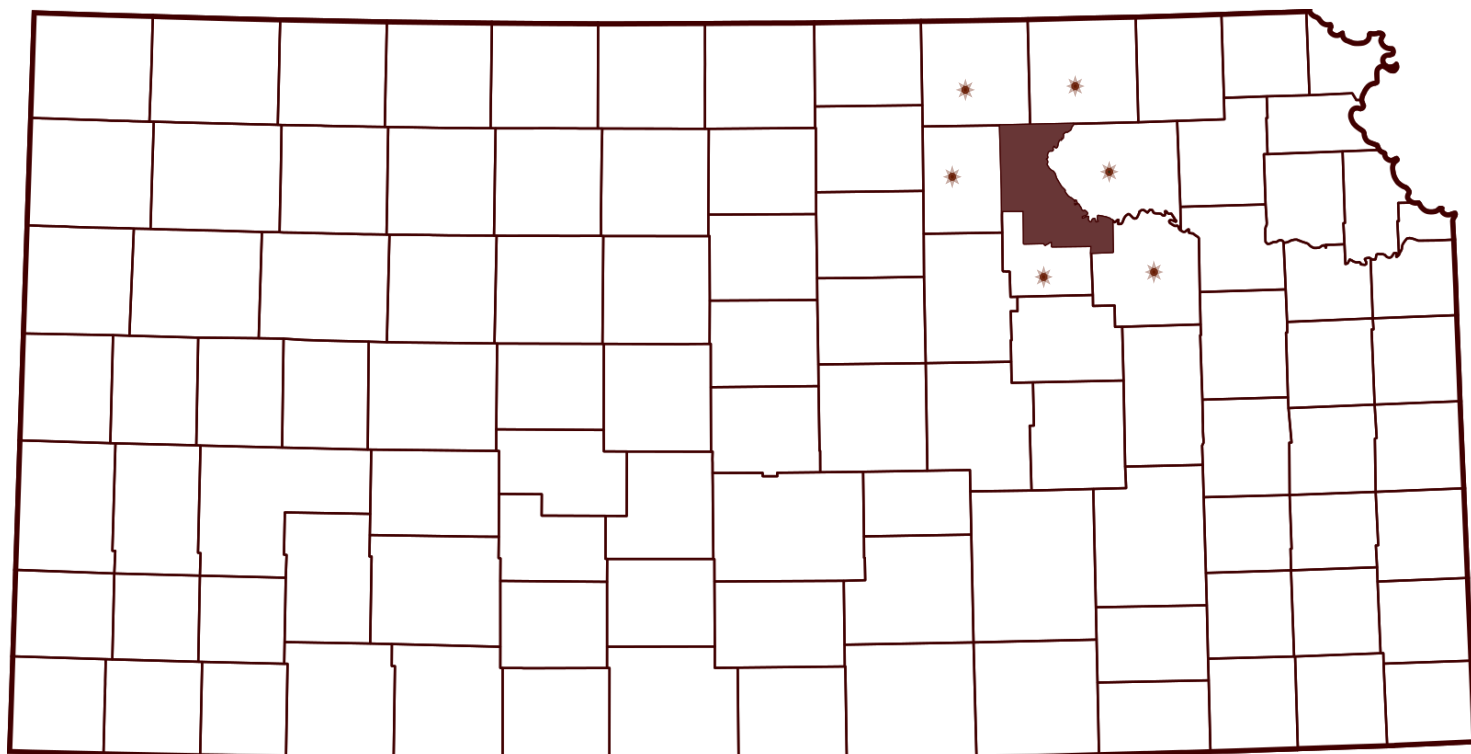




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Kansas Kin, May 2022, Vol. 60, No. 1



Kansas Kin

A semi-annual publication of Riley County Genealogical Society
November 2022 Vol. 60, No. 2



"Autographed by Kansas" is a project that focuses on women in Kansas, analyzing fifteen albums donated to the Chapman Center, all dating from the 1880s to early 1900s.



Riley County Genealogical Society

2005 Claflin Road
Manhattan, Kansas 66502-3415
Phone: (785) 565-6495

Library Hours:

Tuesday 10:00 pm—4:00 pm
Thursday 1:00 pm—4:00 pm
Wednesday and Saturday 1:00 pm—4:00 pm

Website: www.rileycgs.com

Email: info@rileycgs.com

Membership: Membership is open to individuals at all levels of genealogical experience. The membership year is January 1 — December 31. Memberships received after October 1 will get the balance of the year free with a paid membership for the following year. **Dues: \$30 per calendar year.** For a full list of member benefits, go to:

<https://rileycgs.com/about.php>

Click to join or renew online.

<https://rileycgs.com/onlineJoin.php>

Donations to RCGS are tax deductible. RCGS is a tax exempt, educational and scientific organization under Section 501(c)(3) of IRS code, 1954.

Memorial Gifts: Families of a deceased member or non-member will be notified when a donation is received by RCGS. Donors may designate the gift for a specific purpose. Otherwise, the Board will identify projects for the funds within 90 days.

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Mission Statement:

***Kansas Kin* is a semi-annual publication of Riley County
Genealogical Society whose purpose is to collect, preserve and share information**

A Message From the Editor

With an Article from Ginny Petersen

Dear Readers of *Kansas Kin*:

Did you ever wish that you could “take a peek” into the lives of an ancestor? Ginny Petersen found an opportunity in a newspaper article. Ginny has ancestors who were members of the Sedalia Church in Riley County.

This is part of the mission of *Kansas Kin* — to help you learn the personal side of the names in your family tree.

Judy Regehr, Editor

judy@rileycgs.com



If you’ve ever spent time reading old newspapers, you know that they were the “social media” of their age. Community correspondents wrote weekly columns about the happenings in their communities, and they can contain a treasure-trove of information and glimpses into the lives of our ancestors. The following was published in the **Manhattan Nationalist, September 10, 1884**, and discovered while researching my great grandfather, O. Dodge. By Ginny Petersen

“Sedalia Sabbath School had a picnic last Saturday. They formed at the school house, at 10 a.m., the little ones all in one wagon, on which was a hay rack especially for the occasion. They carried their Sunday School banner and their ten foot American flag and proceeded to Mr. O. Dodge’s grove where everything was in readiness for their reception. There was plenty of shade, and shelter, in case of rain, in Mr. Dodge’s large barn. Numerous swings, two croquet grounds and seats in abundance. The dinner in the grove was a splendid affair, everything to be wished for. G. W. Zeller raised a large kite and amused the little ones by sending up messengers and at last tied the kite to the fence when a gust of wind broke the string and his kiteship started for Nebraska, but changed its mind and hid in a cornfield, where

it was found, discovered by the tell tale string. The little ones also formed themselves into two companies and threw a ball at an apple perched on a stick (Wm Tell’s son.) This was especially interesting for a while but nobody beat Wm Tell bad. A wheelbarrow race was next in order, and then a foot race between some of the older ladies interspersed with singing and any amount of small talk. But the sun would set and, like all good things, the picnic had to come to an end. The little ones were again perched in their wagon with flag and banner, and after cheering for most everything, and Mr. Dodge in particular, they started for home a happy set. Several visitors from Manhattan were present who greatly added to the pleasure of the occasion.”

Serendipity Brings A Family Heirloom By Barry Michie

I have experienced serendipity fully only once. Serendipity is a happening that occurs unexpectedly by chance, luck or from “out of the blue.” This happened in 2002 in the course of my surname study of my maternal grandmother’s maiden name, Shatto. Lady Serendipity dropped into my hands a nearly 200 year old book that belonged to my 3rd great grandparents David Shatto Sr. and Julianna nee Gardner, David’s second wife, who lived in Pennsylvania.

The book is a modest four by six inches, bound in brown leather published in 1826 in Reading, Pennsylvania., in Pennsylvania German. The book is meant for the pious as a collection of readings for reflection,

contemplation and discussions on religion and God. David Shatto’s possession of a book in German is not incidental. The Shattos were of French Huguenot descent whose families had left/fled France for Germany during the religious wars in

previous centuries. Although proud of their French heritage they were effectively enculturated Germans. The immigrant ancestor, Jean Nicholas Shatto (a.k.a. Jan Nicklaus Schatto) arrived in Philadelphia with wife and one son in 1739. This Protestant boy had eloped with a Catholic. They most probably found Pennsyl-

vania known for religious tolerance a safe haven where both could practice their faith. The family settled in York County. By 1800 grandson David Shatto, Sr., is found in that part of Cumberland County now Perry County, Pennsylvania, where many of the children were born.

The book’s middle pages contain the names and birth dates of 12 Shatto children, the death of one son and also their father, David Shatto Sr., from smallpox between the years of 1810 and 1841. The first three children listed, all daughters, were by David Shatto’s first wife, Susannah Shatto, a first cousin. One of the sons by his second wife was my 2nd great grandfather, William, born 1815, who brought his family from Pennsylvania to Kansas in the 1870’s.

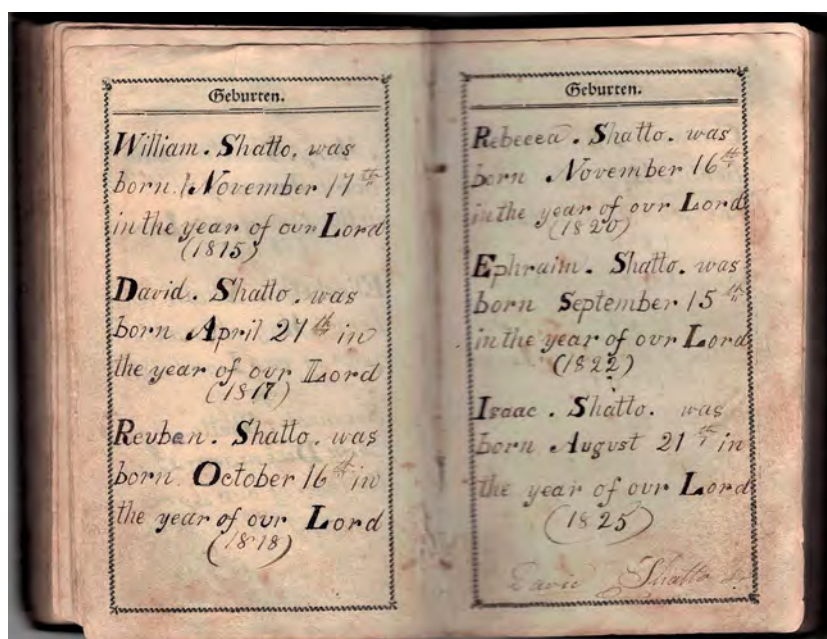
Two other children by the second marriage are important for this discussion. Daughter Sarah Ellen “Sallie” Shatto was born in 1841 about three weeks after the death of her father. The

widow, Julianna, and illiterate, was left with 4 children under the age of 15. She remarried an older widower. Poignantly, on the book’s front fly leaf she practiced her signature. Son John Gardner Shatto and his wife died by 1880 making their daughter Laurena born in 1870 an orphan. Sallie Shatto married a John Howell but had no

children. She took in and raised Laurena who went by the nickname Rena. The family lived in Findlay, Ohio.

Here is serendipity at work. A Dick Hurlan

Continued on page 40



Book belonging to David Shatto Sr. and Julianna nee Gardner

Autographed by Kansas: A Look into Women's History

By Kim Westcott

Autograph albums are important primary documents that give us insights into women's history, social classes, and insights into social networks prior to more recent technological revolutions. Previous researchers have used autograph albums to examine social movements, and broader social structures such as class and race. Despite their popularity throughout the 19th century, the historical significance of autograph albums is commonly overlooked. "Autographed by Kansas" is a project that focuses on women in Kansas, analyzing fifteen albums that were donated to the Chapman Center by Rosalea Carter, all dating from the

1880s to early 1900s. During this time period, women were winning the right to vote, going on political tours, and attending college for the first time. For this project, I transcribed and digitized each of the inscriptions in the books, conducted research on the time period in which they were maintained, and investigated the history of the women who wrote in the autograph albums.

Primarily child-bearers and homemakers in the 19th century, women were discouraged from entering the workforce or political office. Strict gender roles maintained the cultural status quo in middle class and wealthy families.



Figure 1: A collection of autograph albums dating from the 1880s to early 1900s were donated by Rosalea Carter. Each of these albums belonged to a young woman who made Kansas her home.

This began to change in the latter part of the 19th century; with the Progressive Era right around the corner, shifts in gender roles were well on the way. Lorelee MacPike emphasizes this in her article “The New Woman, Childbearing, and Reconstruction of Gender, 1880-1900,” by describing the transformations women went through during this time. MacPike affirms the identity of the “New Woman:”

“The needs of single women were increasingly being met, on many socioeconomic levels, by opportunities for training and by some increase in both scope and number of jobs; these opportunities placed women in the world, not in the home, and made independence as visible a possibility as motherhood.”¹

Womanhood began to change during the Civil War, a time when women took care of everything back home, leading to the eventual change from true womanhood to real womanhood: “Real womanhood encouraged strenuous exercise and activities. Instead of remaining docile, as the conventions of True Womanhood dictated, girls and young women who adopted the tenets of Real Womanhood were encouraged to participate in sports activities such as archery, gymnastics, rowing, skating, and horseback riding.”²

This transition surrounding womanhood led to a difference in relationship dynamics between women. Since women were able to leave their homesteads for school and coed colleges, many women moved away from family and close friends. This is where the autograph albums come into prominence as a tool for friendship maintenance. Scholar Jenifer Blouin analyzes the importance of women’s friendships and how the “friendship albums” allowed for their affections for one another to be preserved within the albums: “Work like this encompasses how important autograph albums truly are and their significance within history, as they give intimate details into the world of women and their relationships.”³

Autograph albums were a critical component of women’s rhetorical and literary genres dur-

Since women were able to leave their homesteads for school and coed colleges, many women moved away from family and close friends. This is where the autograph albums come into prominence as a tool for friendship maintenance. ...

ing the late 19th century. By studying the materiality of these objects, Gernes shows how women created a literary genre, using clippings, stickers, and popular literature written throughout the pages to track their societal developments. These “friendship albums” were among the most popular genres of writing for middle class white women during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. And while all the autograph albums donated to the Chapman Center were owned by women within these racial and class demographics, it is important to note that Black women of the era also kept up autograph albums to maintain relationships with those in their friendship and family circles as well. ⁴

Methods:

The first step of the project was to digitize the albums by scanning individual pages from the books. Once the scanning was finished, I transcribed each inscription in the autograph albums. A spreadsheet of metadata was created to create an easily accessible corpus. Three books were selected for further research, using genealogical resources such as *Find a Grave*, *Ancestry*, Census data, and working with the Riley County Genealogical Society to learn more about these women’s lives. A website archive will be created on the Chapman Center for Rural Studies website to harbor this information and to highlight the exceptional women in the autograph albums.

Album Spotlights:

It is commonly thought that women during the 19th century were only mothers and homemakers, but these autograph albums and the

Continued on next page

women inside of them challenge this idea and ultimately disprove that notion. The autograph albums and their inscriptions are important because they show women's lives outside of the men in their lives. These are primary sources created by women, from other women, and maintained by them. They demonstrate women's ability to maintain relationships, their ability to read and write fluently, and a 19th century reimagining of womanhood. Here are three spotlights over individuals featured in the autograph books:

Margaret Bischoff

Margaret Reuther Bischoff was born on June 1, 1849, in Bavaria, Germany. When she turned 7 in 1856, she and her family migrated to the United States and landed in New Orleans, Louisiana, the first of many moves. From New Orleans, her family migrated to Hamilton, Ontario, where she would meet Oscar Bischoff, her future husband. Oscar was a United States Consul to Sonneburg, Germany. Their marriage led to another great trek across the United States, as Margaret made her way to Topeka, Kansas, with her new husband. She and

Oscar were pioneers.

Dora Hazen was one of their four daughters and the owner of the autograph album featured here. She was a lifelong Topekan and the only one of her siblings to marry. Margaret, her mother, gifted her this autograph album when Dora was a young girl and it was filled with loving inscriptions from family members. It also featured German inscriptions, as the family stayed close to their German heritage. All four of Margaret's daughters could read, write, and speak German and English. Their family was heavily involved in the Topeka community. Margaret was a member of the German-American Church in Topeka, a connection that helped promote the Bischoff family psychic medium business. As described in a local newspaper: "Spiritual work and readings being given by the Bischoffs are the most remarkable ever given in Topeka, and during the past week at least four hundred people were unable to secure appointments with them. The class of people visiting the Bischoffs included the best educated and refined." Along with their psychic medium business, her husband Oscar was a successful

real-estate business owner and he and his brother helped create the bureau for German Immigrants in Kansas.

Annie Baker

Annie Baker, formally known as Annie Coffey, was born in North Carolina on August 1, 1869. She was a part of a pioneer family that migrated west, in the 1870s-1880s. Her father was a confederate soldier, Isaac Boone Coffey, the great nephew of Daniel Boone. Local newspapers celebrated this family's pioneer spirit in Annie's husband's obituary: "In this manner we record the history of the



Figure 2: This tiny gold and black autograph album reveals the friendships and family ties maintained by German immigrants in the late 19th century



Figure 3: Frankie's autograph album, pictured on the left, features a maroon cover and gold lettering.

life and family of one of the pioneers of Manhattan." Annie's book was filled with loving inscriptions from friends and family in the Manhattan area. She married James Baker and had one child, who resided in Manhattan. Of their two grandchildren, one stayed in Manhattan while the other ventured off to Los Angeles, California. It was found in local census data that Annie attended school. She could read and write fluently. Annie lived most of her life in Manhattan as a homemaker on the Baker family farm. Yet, her life was not all idyllic. Toward the end of her father's life he was declared mentally insane by a court ruling, and was taken to a mental asylum. Annie demonstrated the fortitude of a pioneer woman, raising children and caring for her ailing father.

Frankie

Frankie held an autograph album filled with signatures from all over Kansas and the United States. Autograph albums were used to

keep friends and families signatures near and dear when life takes its next step. Frankie's book was filled with inscriptions like the following:

"Don't forget that pleasant six months we spent in the home of ours and may success find you during your school days and all through your future life. Your friend, Mary V. Murray."

Many of the autograph albums are filled with pop culture references, poems, and/or loving motifs from the 19th century such as:

"The tissues of the life to be, We weave with colors all our own, And in the field of destiny, We reap as we have sown. Your friend, Minnie Asher Colestock."

This album in particular shows how those friendships and family members maintained relationships from far distances. Traveling

Continued on next page

within the 1880s was not easy. This album shows the dedication between friends that the autograph albums preserved over hundreds of years, the love and kinship humans have held for one another throughout all of history. This also gives us a glimpse into a young woman's life, as inscription talks about a musical club Frankie and one of her schoolmates created:

"When we practiced together, And braved the weather, To meet at the 'Mozart,' And bear our part! In that merry musical club of ours. Your friend and schoolmate, Alice Ropes."

These books reveal that the maintainer of the autograph album cultivates clubs and societies. The encouragement for Frankie to grow up and find success in her life was sown with each signature within her book.

Project Conclusion:

The autograph albums show friendships and relationships within the 19th century, allowing

for these bonds to always be remembered, despite distance. Relationships were quite different in the ways that they were sustained compared to the way relationships are upheld now. These books emphasize the importance of the friendships women built with one another and how their notes to one another also spread the winds of change with gender roles.

The autograph albums give way to women's literary culture and how that impacted social spheres of the time. These spheres, whether the women knew they were making waves of change or not, show the incredible movement of societal norms in primary historical documents. Women's history and their ability to challenge society are written within many of their inscriptions. This project gives another layer of evidence to trace the progressive movement of women's history, during the time period in which the earliest feminist movements were beginning and women were challenging society to be more than what was ever thought possible.

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Endnotes:

¹Lorelee Macpike. "The New Woman, Childbearing, and the Reconstruction of Gender, 1880-1900." NWSA Journal 1, no. 3 (1989): 368–97.

²Lorelee Macpike. "The New Woman, Childbearing, and the Reconstruction of Gender, 1880-1900." NWSA Journal 1, no. 3 (1989): 368–97.

³Jenifer Blouin. "Eternal Perspectives in Nineteenth-Century Friendship Albums." The Hilltop Review, vol. 9, no. 1, 2016, p. 7.

⁴Todd Gernes Steven. Recasting the Culture of Ephemera: Young Women's Literary Culture in Nineteenth-Century America. Brown University.

Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies Offers Services to Local Societies

Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies offers a variety of services to people interested in learning more about other society's events, speakers on local topics, etc. There is a listing of genealogical societies in the state of Kansas, some with contact information.

Becoming a member for \$20 a year gives you access to additional information and to their quarterly newsletter, "Kansas Review."

Visit their website at:

<https://www.kcgs.us/index.php>

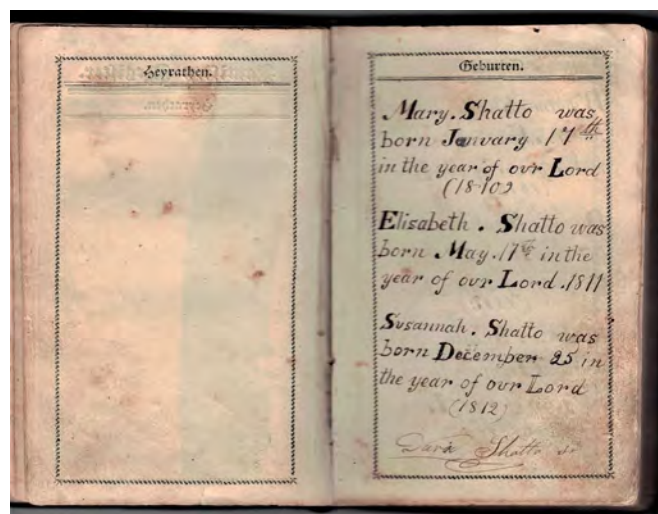
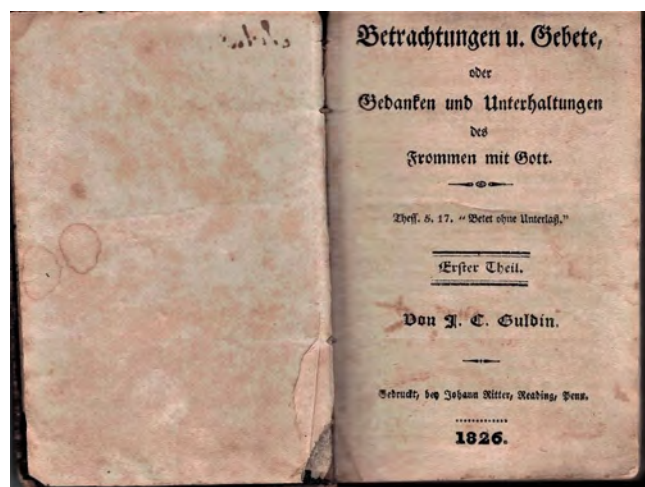
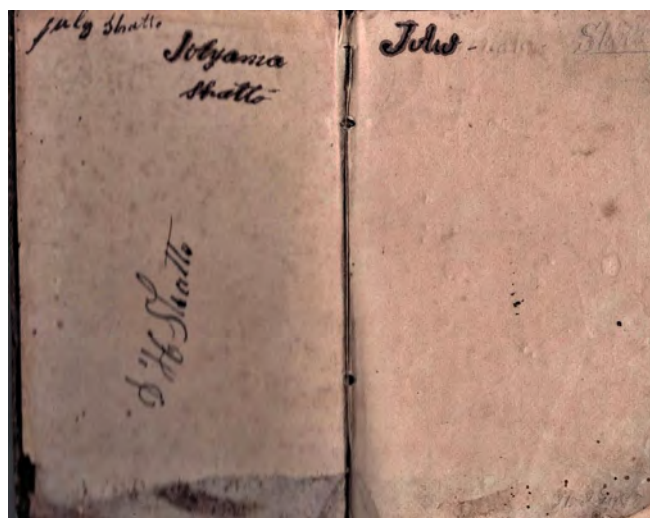


made a lot purchase on eBay that included this book. The lot included what he was really after, a 1915 letter to a Mrs. Jacob Niswander of Findlay, Ohio. The letter outlines a five-generation history of the Niswander family, whose 19th century Pennsylvania church music was the real focus of his interest. He had no interest in the Shatto family, this or any other book included in the lot. Yet, he took the trouble to perform an act of genealogical kindness by posting the names and dates of those found in the book's middle pages on the Rootsweb Shatto message board.

Finding his posting, I immediately made contact, asking for copies of these pages. In response he offered to sell me the book for what he paid for it, about fifteen dollars. I agreed and soon the mail brought a packet with the book, a copy of the above-mentioned Niswander letter and a treasure trove of newspaper clippings up through the 1920's that had been tucked inside the book. This letter and clippings were invaluable for the added information on this collateral Shatto line.

The preponderance of the newspaper clippings is of Rena's growing up, courtship and marriage to Jacob Niswander. Along with the 1915 Niswander letter they are evidence of how the book passed down through the generations. Rena and Jacob Niswander had two sons. But who came into possession of the book, letter and clippings later is not clear. Nor is it clear how and why it was put up for sale on eBay.

I can thank "Lady Serendipity" and Dick Hurlan's act of genealogical kindness for this heirloom coming into my hands.



Pages from book belonging to David Shatto Sr. and Julianna nee Gardner. Book currently is in possession of Barry Michie

Note to Readers:

The *Kansas Kin* Editorial Committee would be interested in an illustrated article about your family heirloom. This is a way to share an important memory with people today — as well as with descendants belonging to a younger generation, perhaps in the distant future.

Bill Washington Maintains 150 Year Cattle Grazing Tradition

By Tad Thompson

This article was originally published in *Grass & Grain, Agriculture's Local Newspaper* on September 29, 2020. We are reprinting it here with permission from the author and from the publisher. The Washington family farm was displaced by the building of Tuttle Creek Dam near Manhattan, Kansas. Like many others who were displaced, this caused distress for the family. This is a story of perseverance and determination to make the best of the situation.

In 2021, the Washington family in Pottawatomie County, Kansas, will achieve 150 consecutive years of maintaining a continuous ranch operation. Bill Washington, who turns 82 this year, sustains that noble tradition.

It was in 1871 that his great-grandfather, George Walter Washington settled on land in Kansas' Blue River Valley, after travers-

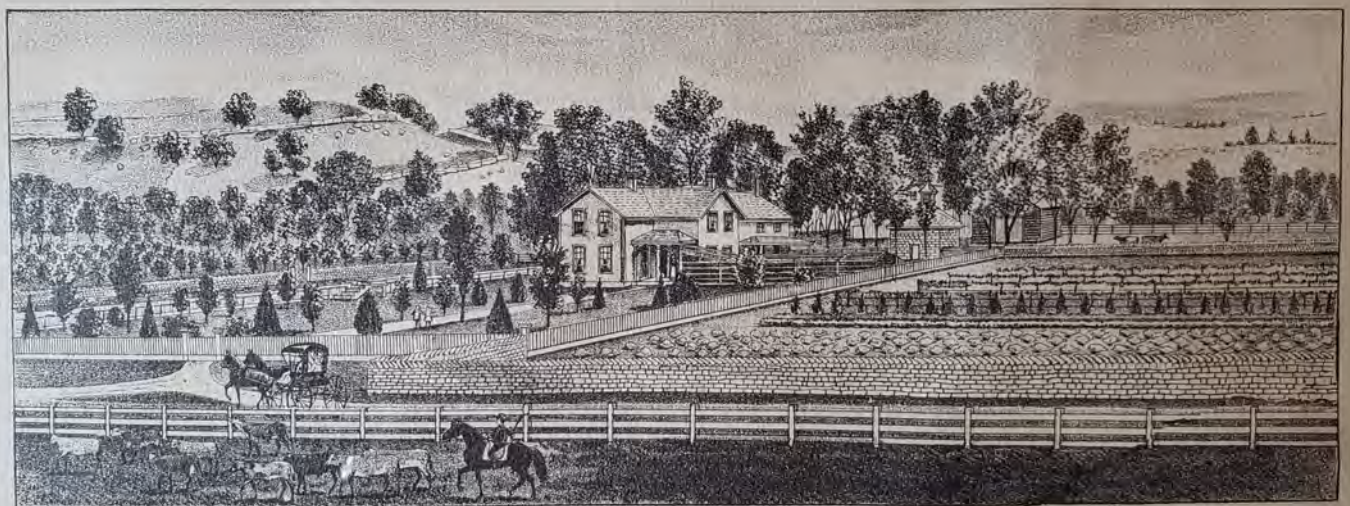
ing the vast, wild country from West Virginia. In 1872 George W. Washington purchased this property, which is about a mile north of Tuttle Creek Dam.

At one time, Washington said, his family was second only to John Vanier as Kansas' largest producer of registered pure-bred Hereford bulls and heifers. The farm and ranch involved a total of 2,880 acres.

Much of the family's property was taken by the U.S. Corps of Engineers in 1956 to make way for Tuttle Creek Lake. After a national search for property, Bill Washington's father, Vance, decided the best alternative was to buy the land adjacent to what he still owned.

It has been a few years since Bill Washington grazed his own cattle on the family ranch, but the pastureland has been leased to other cattle ranchers.

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RIDGEDALE. RESIDENCE OF GEORGE W. WASHINGTON
BLUE TOWNSHIP, POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY, KANSAS

The artist's accurate rendition of Ridgedale was once part of a calendar. The farm at the time of the drawing was operated by George W. Washington, who settled on the property in 1871.

When George Walter Washington bought the original property, which extended eastward into the Flint Hills from the Big Blue River, there was already an old house in place. But not long after 1872, Washington built a two-story frame house that was evacuated in 1956. This scenic farm overlooking the wide valley, came to be named Ridgedale. The Washington family farmed the rich, black bottom soil – and grazed cattle in the adjacent Flint Hills – for more than eighty years before the creation of the flood control lake.

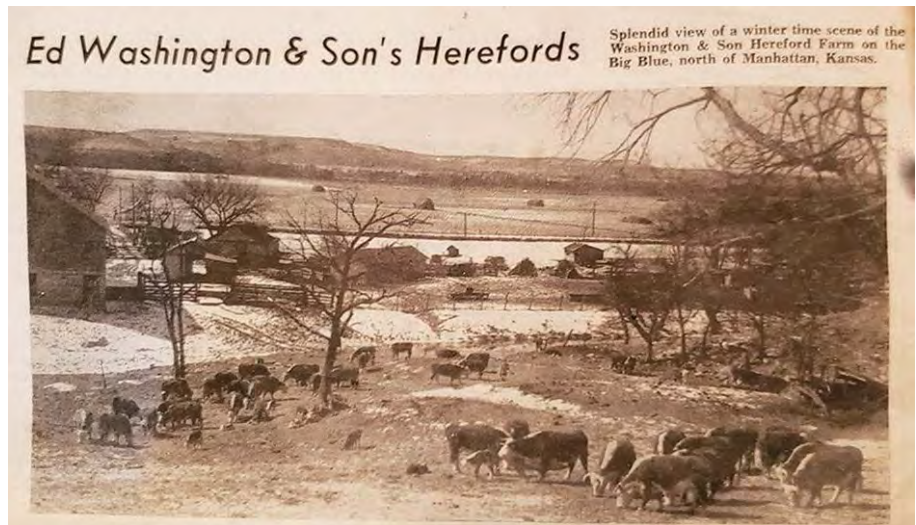
Ultimately, the Blue River Valley was doomed by the United States Congress' passage of the Flood Control Act of 1936.

Vance Washington was among the many Blue River Valley residents who battled the lake's creation. They argued that ruining the richest bottomland in the country was a horrible means to controlling flooding.

The Washingtons continued farming in the valley as dam construction was underway. By contract they could not produce any crops that were subsidized by the USDA. Popcorn did not meet that criteria, so the Washingtons signed a contract with a movie theater chain and produced 600 acres. As he attended KSAC, Bill Washington hired his friends to come help with the farm. The popcorn was mechanically harvested but there was still an abundant need for farm labor.

For some years they leased their confiscated land back from the government and continued to grow sorghum and other crops in the valley.

Bill's memory is unclear on exactly when his family quit farming in the valley, which finally filled with water in 1962.



Bill Washington keeps a scrapbook of his family's ranch. This clipping from March 1945 in *Kansas Stockman* shows the Ridgedale farm when it was operated by Bill's grandfather and father, who were, respectively Ed and Vance Washington.

Vance and Bill Washington began converting their pastureland that was above Tuttle Creek's flood stage into the Washington Heights housing addition, which today is between Elks Cove and the Wildcat Marina.

Bill's work toward an advanced degree at the University of Wisconsin was cut short by his father's death in 1962. While his mind was attracted to interests other than agriculture, he returned to Manhattan to run the family farm and budding real estate development.

Bill Washington notes that good grassland management involves burning pastureland about every year. He added that housing subdivisions – and burning around homes – adds a special challenge to directing such fires.

Bill was too young to have been a leader in the fight against the creation of the reservoir. But to this day, he is emotional about the toll of what he insists was a poorly-planned project.

"It is pretty well summed up by saying the people were against it. The dam protected Manhattan from Blue River flooding. But, the Kaw, Missouri, and Mississippi still flood, and the water still needs to be stopped where it falls. We never have

solved that problem. I've read 'Grass Farmer' magazine for 30 years they still talk about the need for more grass and less cultivation. Cultivation provides run off. If you have more grass and under-cover it keeps the water in the soil. And small dams on farms and ranches are still the answer and we still haven't got it solved!"

The Kansas Stockman reported in March 1945 that George W. Washington's grandfather was a cousin of the father of our country, George Washington, who had no children. The Washingtons originally came from Fairfax County, Virginia.

Vance Washington was born in 1904 at his grandfather's Ridgedale farm. His father, Ed Washington, was born in 1872, also at Ridgedale. The men operated the farm as Washington & Son Hereford Farm.

The Washingtons raised shorthorns until 1900, when they bought their first purebred Herefords.

Bill Washington, who was born in 1938, was attending Manhattan High School as work commenced to build Tuttle Creek Dam. Before he graduated in 1956, "dodging earth movers" was a dangerous part of his daily drive to high school.

The more-elevated property purchased by the Washingtons in 1956 includes a two-story stone home. The northwest stone windowsill of the home includes a chiseled "1867". Bill Washington, and his wife, Sharron, have lived in the house throughout their married life.

Sharron and their daughter, Jennifer, are renowned in Manhattan for their operation of Washington Dance Studio. The women for years were or are the choreographers for the K-State Singers, Manhattan High School Pops Choir, and countless stage productions. Jennifer's daughters, Sophie, and Ellie are following in her dancing shoes.



Bill Washington stands outside his home, which has been in the family since 1958. This two-story stone structure was built in 1867 and was in place before Washington's great-grandfather bought adjacent property in 1872. The home is a mile northeast of the Tuttle Creek Lake spillway.

Preserving Your Family Heirlooms

by Dustin Vann and Melanie Highsmith

Do you have older family documents and photographs that you'd like to preserve for future generations? The Chapman Center for Rural Studies at Kansas State University, long committed to preserving the stories and history of the Great Plains, has some tips for digitizing your family heirlooms for long-term preservation.

1. Choose your format

For personally scanned files:² Thanks to advances in technology, archival quality scans can be created with a scanner you can purchase at your local office supply store. However, once these items are scanned, choosing the format these files are saved in becomes especially important. Formats like .tiff for images, photos, and documents or .wav for sound files are the gold standard for preservation because they retain more detailed information about the original file. However, these files also take up more space. Formats such as .jpg and .mp3 save space but result in poorer quality when reproducing files. However, these formats may be easier to store and transfer as their smaller size allows them to be easily transitioned to new formats as technology changes. Formats can be selected in settings or advanced settings when scanning your document. Also, be sure to choose a DPI of at least 300 for a high-quality image (see more below!)

For "born-digital" files: "Born-digital" files, or files that originated as a digital file (such as photos taken on a phone), usually default to .jpg format, so you'll want to choose a resolution that you are happy with. Unfortunately, when downloading photos, most phones will automatically export photos in a more compressed format, resulting in a blurrier photo. Download photos as 'actual size' by going into advanced settings to ensure a higher quality image if your phone has such settings.

Advanced settings on phones may allow you to

increase your resolution, but you can also avoid blurry photos by avoiding zoom features. When taking photos with a phone or iPad, move closer to the item you want to photograph instead of using the zoom feature on your phone or camera. This helps preserve a higher resolution. Also, be careful when blowing up the file as it may appear pixelated or blurry if the resolution is not high enough. Blowing up photos can reduce quality, but a new phone or camera can help prevent pixelation and blurriness. Try to avoid zooming in on the file or blowing up the file too large before saving the file and be sure to download the photo as actual size and at the highest resolution possible to produce great images.

2. Get organized

Librarians and archivists keep detailed track of metadata, or data about the materials they are storing. Consistent naming practices can help in this process. For example, when scanning documents, you might consider a naming schema such as:

Date_location_subject_number.tiff

In this example, the first part of the name is the date the photo was taken, followed by the photo's location, subject, and sequential number of the photo if multiple photos were taken at the same time. For example, if two family photos were taken from a birthday party in Council Grove in 1979, your file names may look like:

1979-3-7_Council-Grove_Frank-Barrow-BDAY-Party_001.tiff

1979-3-7_Council-Grove_Frank-Barrow-BDAY-Party_002.tiff

Organizing files in this way will help prevent loss and make files more searchable, especially when scanning many documents. Specifically, placing the date in Year-Month-Day format keeps files clustered by year and therefore easi-

ly searchable. Notice how much more informative these naming conventions are when compared to automatically generated file names like SCAN0034_21.jpg. Such naming conventions are equivalent to hand-writing a message on the back of a photo to help remind the next generation of when the photo was taken and who appeared in it.

You may also consider keeping a spreadsheet on Excel or Google Docs to preserve even more information. This will help the longevity of your collection as people will be able to see all relevant information in one space. You can choose to organize your data in any way, but it's best to make a documented plan and be consistent. For information on the kinds of metadata you might wish to include, see UNC Libraries metadata for a data management tutorial: <https://guides.lib.unc.edu/c.php?g=8749&p=44499>

Many phones automatically back up photos to the cloud, or online storage systems. These systems often connect a range of information to photos, allowing individuals to sort and search, though organizing photos into folders or renaming photos may be more challenging in these environments. For those who rely on cloud storage, such as google photos or iCloud, it is vital that you create a plan for family members to access your account in case of an emergency. You may also wish to download and back up some of your more cherished photos on an accessible hard drive.

3. Back up your files

Be sure to back up files in at least two places, such as on both a thumb drive and your computer's hard drive or cloud. To be extra-secure, try keeping these storage devices in different locations so that events like fire or flooding are less likely to destroy both copies. Always be sure you have a plan to rescue or share passwords to keep your digital photos safe!

4. Keep your physical copies safe

If possible, handle materials with cotton gloves. Do not eat, drink, or smoke around materials, and make sure your work surfaces are clean. Moisture is likely the biggest threat

Using Year-Month-Day format keeps files clustered by year and easily searchable

to your documents, so when possible, store in low humidity, low temperature environments. Acid-free containers are best as the acid found in cheap folders, photo books, and storage containers can degrade your documents. Consider acid-free products for mounting as well. To prevent bending and breaking, you can store in folders or rolled tubes. Finally, sun can cause bleaching. You can keep materials out of sun and fluorescent light by storing under ultraviolet filtering glass or acrylic. Photo paper can be written on with a standard #2 pencil, but a Stabilo pencil is recommended for pictures with a waxy or plastic backing. Companies such as Gaylord Archival (www.gaylord.com) are great resources for obtaining proper storage containers and materials.

These archival tips and techniques ensure the longevity of your files through both physical and digital formats and make possible the preservation of information easily accessible to future generations. We'll be back with a second installment in *Kansas Kin*, discussing the ways in which you can share your newly digitized files on social media!

Chapman Center's Digitization Day

Interested in gaining in-person experience with digitizing family documents? You can join us at one of our future Digitization Day events! Typically held twice a year or by request, Chapman Center staff will be on hand to lend their archiving expertise and help you to digitize old family photos and documents. We also are happy to do individual consultations by request. You can email us at chapman-center@ksu.edu for more information, and follow us for updates by giving us a like on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/chapmancenter/>

See next page for good-quality printing



Figure 1: High-quality TIFF image with a dpi of 900.



Figure 2: The resolution on this image is too low to print clearly.

Figures 1 and 2: The top image (previous page) is a high-quality TIFF image with a dpi of 900. The image at the bottom of the previous page is zoomed in and saved as .jpg. Notice how pixelated this image is. This is because the DPI is at 171. This resolution is too low and results in a pixelated image. Print shops will likely give a warning and refuse to print the bottom image unless the size is reduced or the resolution is increased. The DPIs for these photos were calculated at: <https://toolstud.io/photo/dpi.php>

What is DPI?

Resolutions are usually described in terms of DPI. DPI stands for 'dots per inch,' which is interchangeable with PPI, or 'Pixels per Inch.' DPI is a measure of the amount of information stored in your photo. **Usually, quality printing requires 300 DPI.** In this case, it means that the photo has at least 300 pixels per inch. A pixel is a single block of color in a photo. These little blocks of color combine to create the final image. Default resolutions vary by phone, with newer models typically having higher resolutions. For example, the iPhone 8 has an 8 Megapixel default resolution which means that its photos have 3456 pixels in width and 2304 pixels in height. Multiplying these two numbers results in roughly 8 megapixels.

Notice that the number of pixels for a photo does not change, but pixels per inch do change as you zoom in or out. With the resolution of an iPhone 6, photos can be printed up to 11 inches by 7 inches while maintaining a resolution above 300 DPI but zooming in any more than that will result in a lower DPI producing a poor quality image. The Samsung Galaxy 8 takes photos at 12 megapixels, and so photos can be printed even larger while maintaining good quality. There are many DPI calculators online to help you figure out how large you can make your photo while still preserving a good resolution. Here is one such calculator: <https://toolstud.io/photo/dpi.php>

New Books at the Research Library—Family History Collection

Descendants of David and Margaret (Carson) Byers of York County, PA and York County, SC. Compiled by Thurlo V. Byers. Asheville, NC: Ward Publishing Company. 1991.

These Byers are Scotch-Irish, who came to America after a sojourn in the Province of Ulster in Northern Ireland. This family settled first in Chester County, PA, then in York, PA, and finally in York, SC. The book of 101 pages contains a table of contents, maps, index, and lineage chart.

The Family of George Washington Parker and Anne Ormston Parker: 1860 Settlers in Blue Township of Pottawatomie County, Kansas and Anne Ormston's Parents –Jon Ormston and Jane Smith and her Siblings and Half Siblings. Sylvester Ekart.

This book of 273 pages contains the table of contents, appendix, index, and a plat map.

A Rothwell Book: The Descendants of Clairborne Rothwell of Albermarle County Virginia Through Nine Generations and Interesting Sketches About Some of His Descendants. Arr. and Compiled by Myra Smith Fischer. 1964.

This book is the result of the author's discovery of a Rothwell family tree that motivated her to go back another generation to obtain membership in Daughters of the American Revolution. This book of 434 pages contains letters about heraldry, a preface, photographs, and an index.

Some Vandivers of the Show-me State and Elsewhere: Family of William Vandiver and Elizabeth Lewis of Virginia. Compiled by Doris Savis Wallace, Ph.D.

The book will take the reader on a "walk on the paths of the garden state of NJ, on the country roads of wild wonderful WV, over the bi-ways of the show-me state of MO, and all over this land of ours." This is a 460-page book.

The Bower Family of Sunset Cemetery, Manhattan, Kansas

By Haley Dulniawka

This article represents the early immersion of a Manhattan newcomer who built a family and business despite tragedies of the time. The Bower family lost two young children to infectious disease, within weeks of each other. In his role as undertaker and Sunset Cemetery Superintendent, their father William H. Bower was likely responsible for the terrible job of internment of his children. Despite the concerns of this period, this family represents the hardness of early Americans who persevered. William H. Bower became an impactful leader for the Manhattan community and is worthy of investigation into his influence.

Haley Dulniawka is a 2021 K-State Graduate who studied Medical Biochemistry and History. Her interests lie in the history of medicine and associated topics. She currently works as a Surgical Technician at Via Christi Hospital. She plans to attend medical school in the upcoming future. This article was written for the class, "Death and Dying in History," taught by Dr. Heather McCrea, November 13, 2021.²⁰

"Twice within a week has the dread destroyer invaded this happy family circle, culling with ruthless hand its fairest flowers."¹ In May 1876, the Bower family lost two of its youngest members – Nellie (9) and Harry (7) to diphtheria. The deaths of these children warrant an investigation into the Manhattan community where the Bower family settled. The early settlement of Manhattan experienced bouts of disease including cholera, typhoid fever, smallpox, and diphtheria. "Cholera was the most dreaded disease in the Western world at the time – literally sending people fleeing from locations where it appeared."² Manhattan citizens were especially concerned about the nearby infestation of cholera at Fort Riley during 1855.² Luckily, the Bower family avoided this outbreak, arriving after this outbreak.



Bower Headstone in Sunset Cemetery

William H. Bower was born in New York in 1829, where as a teenager, he became skilled in cabinetmaking. After his apprenticeship, he traveled west into Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, and finally settled in Kansas.³ Newspapers first acknowledged Bower's presence in Manhattan around 1858 and census records in 1860 indicate he shared a home with James Humphrey.⁴ Together, Bower and Humphrey became involved with the City, serving as district clerks, marshals, and advocates for the Temperance movement.⁵ Bower continued working as a carpenter until the Civil War (1861-1865) when he enlisted as a private in April 1861 in the Second Kansas Volunteer Infantry. Six months later, Bower was discharged due to disability.⁶ When he returned to Manhattan, Bower resumed his carpentry business and civic involvement. In the absence of other city leaders, Bower rose to the role of Register.⁷ In the year after Bower's military service, he married his wife Han-

nah (Hornby) Bower on September 24, 1862.⁸ Census records indicate that shortly after their marriage, the couple had three children – Mary, Nellie, and Harry.⁹ On May 2, 1876, Nellie Bower (9) died. Her brother Harry (7) followed on May 13.¹ Nellie was described as a “little, timid, blue-eyed girl” and Harry “ [a] fair, winsome boy,” in a poem published by a family friend.¹⁰ In his carpentry services, Bower advertised coffins and caskets at \$5.00 and up. Use of a hearse for the funeral would also cost \$5.00 (\$126 today)¹⁵. Bower advertised white bronze monuments “the best and most durable monuments that are made.” His children would use this monument type as well.¹¹

The children’s deaths devastated the family and community. Although these deaths were tragic, they were not entirely uncommon. In 1875, Leavenworth recorded 354 burials, of which, about fifty percent were infants or children.¹² The majority of these deaths resulted from infectious diseases. With limited medical knowledge and rampant disease, parents often fretted over the likelihood of a child’s death. To prevent the progression of the disease, communities implemented quarantines and avoided public funerals.¹² However, these efforts did not seem to spread to the Bower family who held a funeral at their home for the children.¹

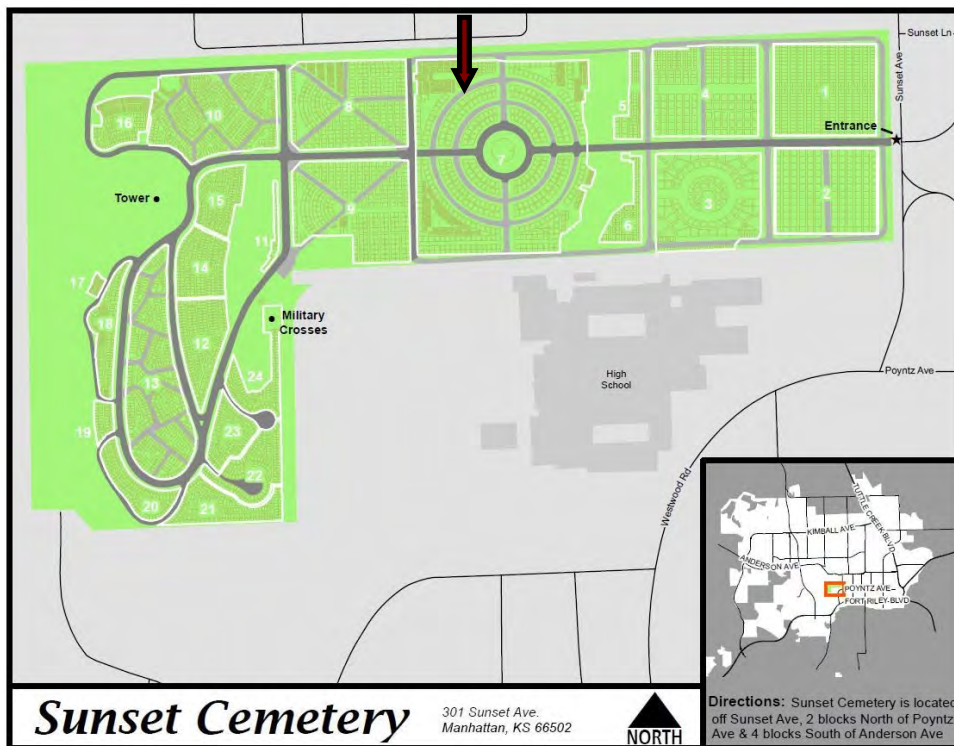
According to the Report on Mortality [...] and Census data from 1880, location resulted in greater deaths related to diphtheria. Rural areas experienced a 1.85% higher death rate attributed to diphtheria compared to cities.¹³ Furthermore, the age range from 5 to 15 had the highest prevalence of deaths. The total deaths in 1880 were 38,143, a sharp increase from the 6,303 deaths in 1870, making diphtheria the third highest cause of death (following pneumonia and consumption).¹³ Interestingly, a map of Kansas showed many Western counties had over 100 deaths from diphtheria. Many thought that Eastern counties, would have a lesser risk for diphtheria. However, Riley County was an outlier, showing a higher prevalence of deaths from diphtheria in 1880.¹³ Travel via waterways and railroad also encouraged the spread of infectious diseases.² Although there was no formal “outbreak” of diphtheria during this time, deaths (especially in childhood) relating to infection were exceedingly common. Therefore, the determination of diphtheria as the culprit of the Bower children’s death is not unlikely.

Diphtheria was first mentioned as one of the ailments cured by Holloway Ointment, popu-

Continued on next page.



Pictured above, is Potter’s field located in Section 7 of the cemetery. Although the cemetery plot indicates this section is full, few headstones can be seen. ²⁰



Map courtesy Manhattan Parks & Recreation Department.
Arrow points to Potters Field.

larly advertised around the 1860s in Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois. This ointment was recommended for at least thirty different conditions.¹⁴ Some local doctors claimed they had the cure for diphtheria. Dr. Crans wagered \$500 (over \$13,000 today)¹⁵ that he could cure diphtheria.¹⁶ Dr. Crans' method seemed successful, and Crans even petitioned to put his name to the method. Other physicians were not as confident, "a physician not many miles distant" recommended droplets for one part of the throat and powders on another.¹⁷ Perhaps the physician did not want to put his name to a potentially unsuccessful treatment? Or the physician could be trying to avoid the social stigma of coming into contact with a "diseased" patient.

Often during periods of fast spreading pestilence, communities were rightfully concerned about public health and burial practices. Military deaths during the Civil War helped to establish regularized burial procedures to minimize infection risks to the public. When possible, Army hospitals provided a "dead house" to store bodies before their burial.¹⁸ Following the war, William H. Bower took on the role of city undertaker and Sunset Cemetery Superinten-

dent (in 1875). Around the time of his children's deaths, Bower also faced concerns over burials. Bower notified people that anyone buried in Potter's Field would be moved "as they are in the street, and it must be cleared... otherwise, city authorities will make such disposition of them as they see fit."¹

Throughout history, Potter's field has been known as the burial grounds for "paupers", criminals, or unknown/unclaimed people. In some areas, Potter's field was known as a vulnerable place for "body

snatching" as bodies were used for medical training.²² In Manhattan, the Potter's Field seems to have undergone some transition that resulted in Bower's publication. For an undisclosed reason, bodies belonging to Potter's field were in the street.

In 1875, the Manhattan area experienced an earthquake.²³ Potentially causing damage to buildings, infrastructure, and surrounding landscape. Moving into 1876, Manhattan experienced unusual amounts of precipitation and destruction. In April, Judge Blain found that a storm uncovered the body of a cow that had long been buried.²⁴ In nearby Leavenworth, the same storm uncovered skeletal remains, which enlivened the town. The next week, yet another storm resulted in "the washout at Poyntz Ave."²⁵ Over the several weeks preceding Bower's announcement, several large storms resulted in damage that could have contributed to the instability in Potter's field.

Another likely cause for Bower's publication could have been due to remodeling of the cemetery. The 35-acre lot was purchased in 1860 and plots were filled from the Northeast section westward.²⁶ In the time before the lot was purchased, people relied on burials on

their homestead. In many cases, these bodies were exhumed and reburied in the family lot.²⁷ When first designed, the Potter's field was located near the main gate in the northern section, an area later considered to be "desirable".²⁸ Prof. Correll suggests it was advantageous for the city and the superintendent to obtain payment for these plots.²⁷ The expense associated with internment into Potter's field was often absorbed by the city or the office of the Superintendent. These factors could have influenced a displacement of Potter's field westward to allow more prime burial sites for paying customers.

Acknowledging its early development, it is also possible that new plot arrangements resulted in altered routes of travel throughout the cemetery. Bower could have meant that "[the bodies] were in the streets" because they wanted to build a new street where Potter's field once lay.

The important remodeling of the cemetery was chronicled in *The Nationalist* newspaper during Bower's tenure as Superintendent. This paper often kept records of city proceedings and the upkeep of Manhattan. Early in the cemetery's history residents considered the place a "bleak and desolate hill" few people wanted buried on.²⁷ Under Bower's instruction, the cemetery became known for its beauty. Unlike any year before, Sunset cemetery was "desirable to be rendered pleasant and beautiful, for the city of the dead."²⁹ However, the beautification was not without criticism. *The Nationalist* writers expressed the only way improvements occurred was by the appointment of new city leaders. Chastising leaders, they wrote "one can tell where the city fathers live by the recent improvements."³⁰

The Nationalist paper was significant for Manhattan's history as its statement on each publication was "an advocate of purity, and progressive in all things."³⁰ From the clear statements above, it is likely the progressive attitude taken reflected the political and social reform of the 19th and 20th centuries. Due to immigration, industrialization, and the end of the Civil War, the U.S. exhibited a changing economic, social, and political climate.³¹ Goals

of the Progressive era often included strengthening the needs of citizens to improve society. Furthermore, Progressives hoped to avoid corruption in business and government, representing "advocates of purity." With the support of the paper, the public, and his many friends William H. Bower became the mayor of Manhattan. He was "one of the best-known and respected old-timers" of the Manhattan community. The prominent history of William H. Bower extended from his family, business, and political roles.

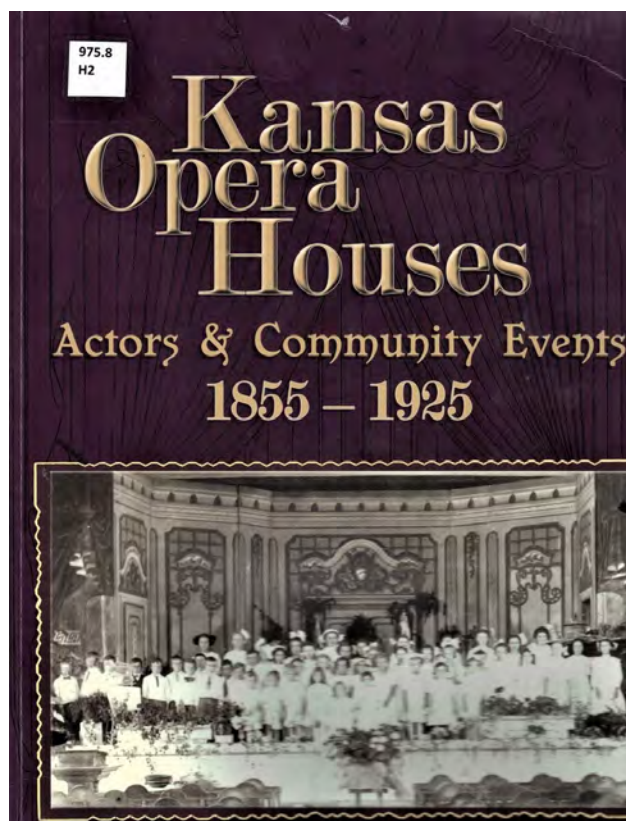
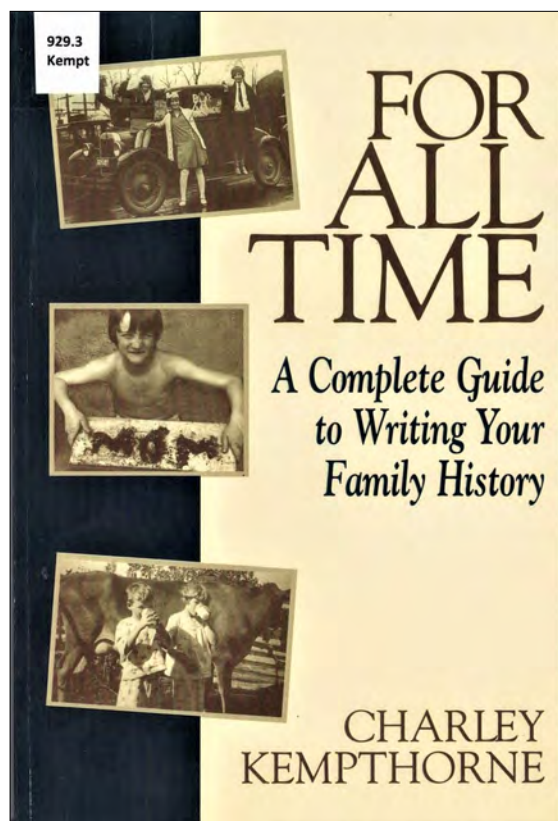
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- 2 Olson, Kevin. "Frontier Manhattan: Yankee Settlement to Kansas Town, 1854-1894." University Press of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, 2012.
- 3 William G. "Riley County, Part 7: Biographical Sketches (Allen-Long)." History of the State of Kansas, A.T. Andreas, Chicago, IL, 1883.
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- 12 King, Charles R. "Childhood Death: The Health Care of Children on the Kansas Frontier." Journal of the Central Plains, vol. 14, no. 1, 1991, pp. 26-36., <https://www.kshs.org/p/kansas-history-spring-1991/15232>.
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- 14 The Topeka Tribune (Topeka, KS) from 1855-1860.
- 15 Historical Currency Conversions. <https://futureboy.us/fsp/dollar.fsp?quantity=500¤cy=dollars&fromYear=1877>
- 16 The Nationalist (Manhattan, KS) January 19, 1877.
- 17 The Nationalist (Manhattan, KS) September 21, 1877.
- 18 Faust, Drew Gilpin. "This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War." New York, 2008. Page 79.

(Continued on page 57)

New Books at the Research Library

By Virginia Beddow



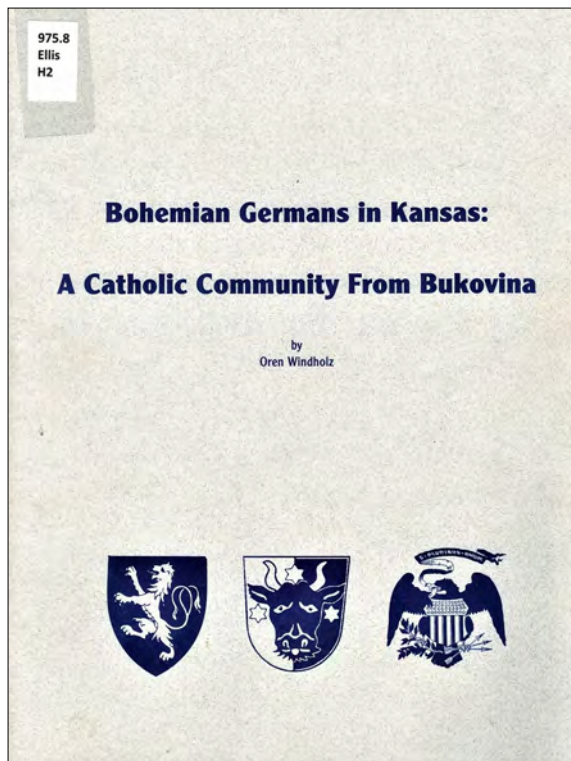
For All Time: A Complete Guide to Writing Your Family History. Charley Kempthorne. Portsmouth, NH: Boynton/Cook Publishers HEINEMANN. 1996.

Charley Kempthorne, the author of this book who founded *LifeStory Magazine*, led interactive workshops on this subject in the Manhattan, Kansas, area. He begins by persuading us of the importance of family history, explaining that it is more than reciting facts.

Kempthorne explains how to get started, how to use dialogue and physical detail to make a scene come alive, how to mix summary and anecdote, how to be specific, and when to employ other tools used by historians and novelists. There is also a chapter on printing and publishing your family history. This 150-page book is peppered throughout with suggested writing topics.

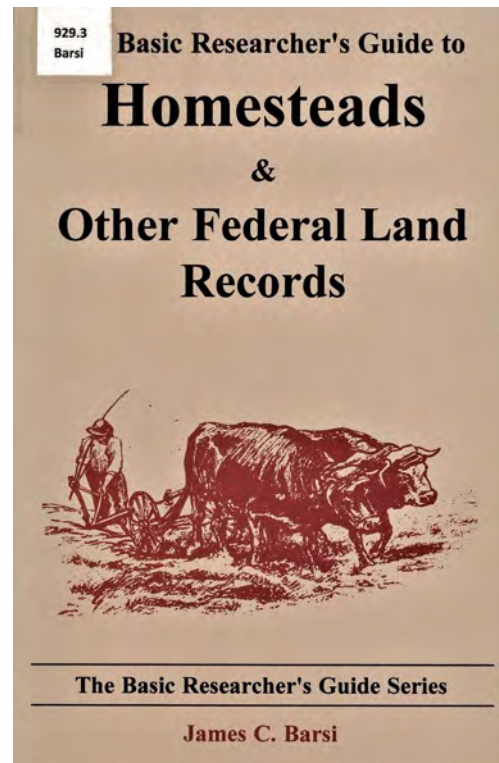
Kansas Opera Houses, Actors, and Community Events 1855-1925. Jane Glotfelty Rhoads. Newton Kansas: Mennonite Press. 2008.

Kansas' opera houses were important to the cultural and social development of Kansas during the last half of the 19th century and the early 20th century. The types of civic, cultural and dramatic entertainments that occurred in these structures and the actors who graced their stages are discussed. Nine hundred opera houses located in 400 Kansas communities are listed with the activities that were held there. This 158-page book includes the table of contents, list of illustrations, list of 479 Kansas communities with information concerning their opera houses, notes, and the bibliography.



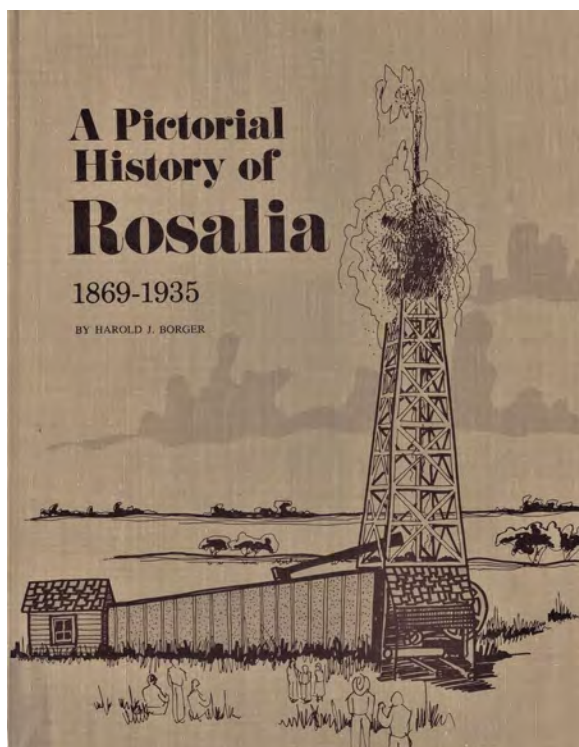
Bohemian Germans in Kansas: A Catholic Community From Bukovina. Oren Windholz. Hays: Kansas. 1993.

Windholz traces the migration of Bohemian Germans from ethnic German villages or communities in Bukovina to Kansas. This 50-page book is well illustrated with photographs and illustrations.



Basic Researcher's Guide to Homesteads and Other Federal Land Records. James C. Barsi. Colorado Springs: Nuthatch Grove Press. 1994.

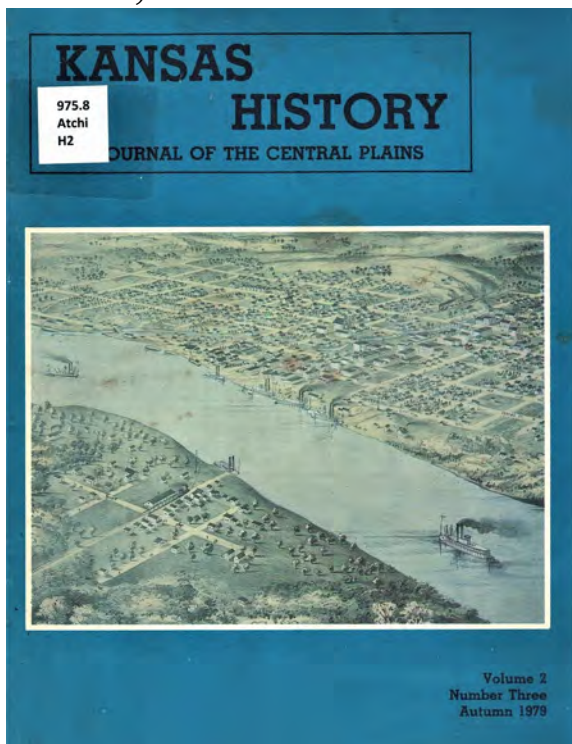
This guide is part of the *The Basic Researcher's Guide Series*. The 80-page book has a table of contents, a table of illustrations (29), and a bibliography.



A Pictorial History of Rosalia: 1869-1935, second edition. Harold J. Borger, 1972.

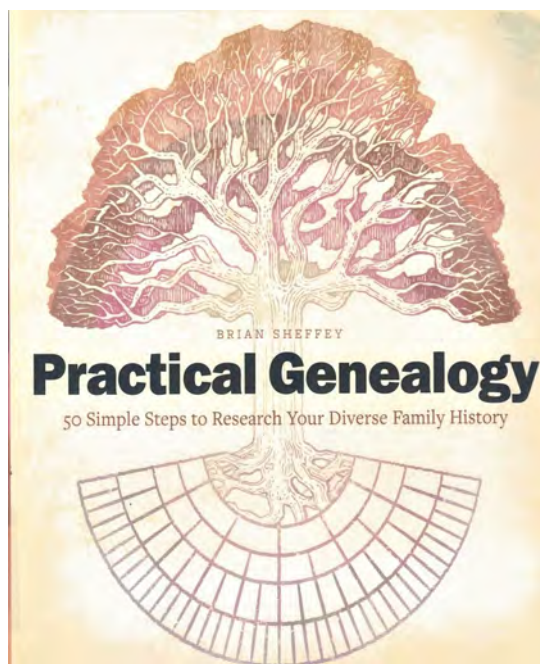
“Why a pictorial history of Rosalia and Rosalia Township?” That question opens the book that honors the author’s grandparents who homesteaded in Rosalia Township in 1872. He wanted to use pictures to illustrate the story of the area. The stories and photographs are organized in 126 pages in the following categories: Township Pioneers, Founding of Rosalia, History of Rosalia Township, Transportation, Agriculture, Mail Delivery, Oil, Business District, Churches, Lodges, Homes, Education, School Sports, Utilities, Health, Recreation, World War I, County Government, Kafir Corn Carnivals, Fires, Time Marches on, Index.

New books, continued



Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains. Topeka: The Kansas State Historical Society. Autumn, 1979.

A copy of this individual issue is available in the Atchison county section of the RCGS Kansas room. The lead article will be valuable to those researching their German roots. It is titled, "The Germans of Atchison, 1854-1859: Development of an Ethnic Community." We also have the complete set of the journal.

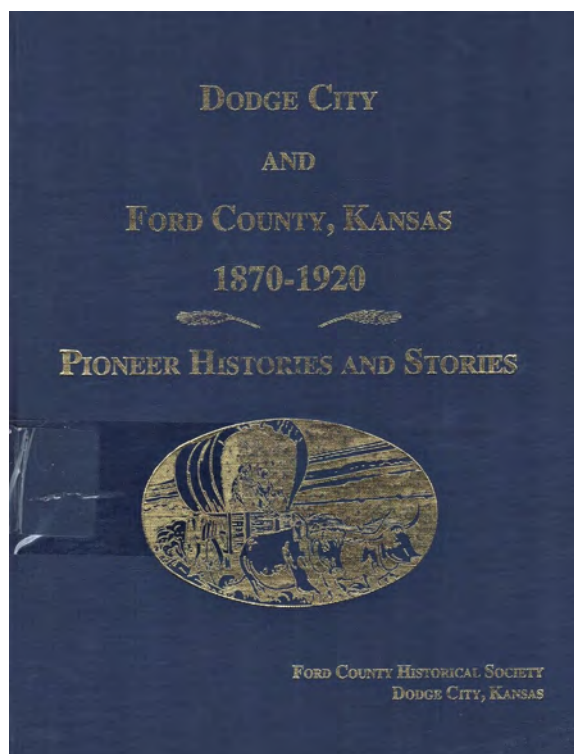


Trace Your Roots With DNA: Using Genetic Tests to Explore Your Family Tree. Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak and Ann Turner. Rodale. 2004.

This early book on DNA introduces us to the field. Part one covers the fundamentals; part two explains the testing options; part three describes how to run a project; part four suggests the future. This 272-page book includes an introduction, table of contents, appendices, and an index. Appendix C, a glossary, may be helpful to those just now getting into DNA.

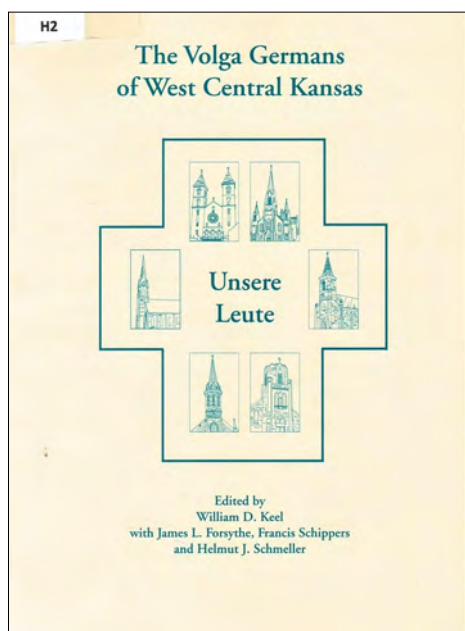
Practical Genealogy: 50 Simple Steps to Research Your Diverse Family History. Brian Sheffey. Emeryville, CA: Rockridge Press. 2020.

Sheffey suggests 50 steps that will help fill in the puzzle of your lineage so that you can find the information necessary to piece together your heritage. He writes from his own research and years of helping others through his website Genealogy Adventure.com and podcasts. This 179-page book breaks down the complex research process into actionable tips that can be conducted over a period of time.



Dodge City and Ford County, Kansas 1870-1920: Pioneer Histories and Stories. Dodge City: The Ford County Historical Society, Inc. 1996.

The book is organized into five sections: Ford County, Cities and Towns of Ford County, Education Past and Present, Memories of Ford County Pioneers, Family Biographies. This 373-page book contains a complete table of contents, many photographs, and a plat map of the county.



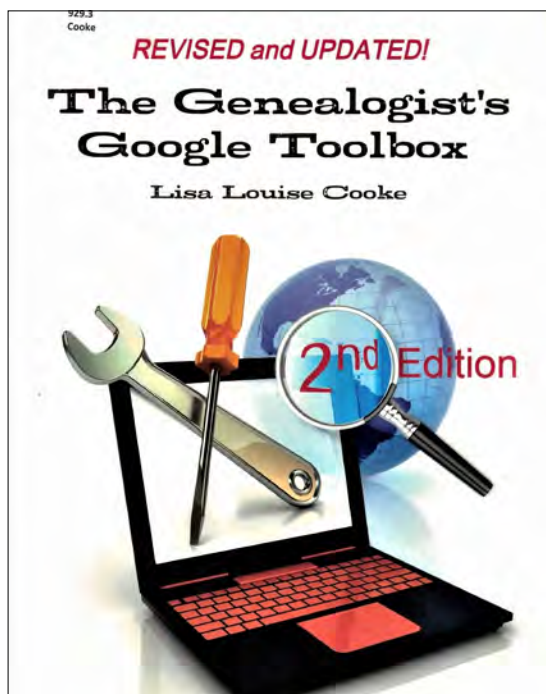
Land & Property Research in the United States. E. Wade Hone With Heritage Consulting and Services. Provo: ancestry publishing. 1997.

“Nowhere else will a researcher find the information as conveniently assembled . . . This book is the most comprehensive and useful review of land and property research to date.” With those words William Dollarhide, a land records expert, recommends this guide to help genealogists research the records that go back further than any other kind of record. This 517-page book includes maps, illustrations, examples, and index.

Unsere Leute. The Volga Germans of West Central Kansas. Edited by William D. Keel. Lawrence: Max Kede Center for German-American Studies, University of Kansas. 2004.

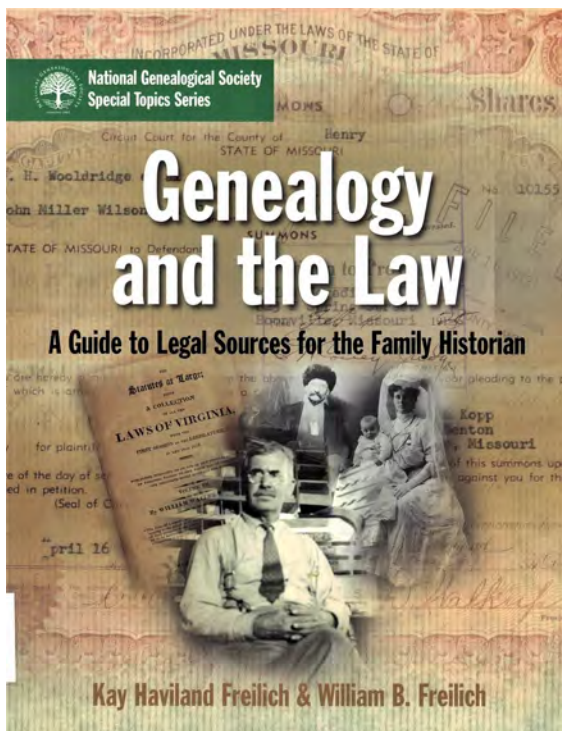
It is the hope of the editors to present the story of the Volga Germans in Kansas from a variety of perspectives. These twenty-one essays look at History, Legal and Political Life, Culture and Folklore, Religion and Education, Volga German Dialects, with a Photographic Essay. This 258 page includes an introduction, dedication, and suggestions for further reading.

New books, continued



The Genealogist's Google Toolbox. Second Edition. Lisa Louise Cooke. 2015.

Cooke's goal is to teach innovative ways to use existing online tools specifically for genealogy research. She helps you stuff your genealogy toolbox with FREE state-of-the-art tools that are built to search, translate, message, and span the globe. This 212-page book is loaded with illustrations.

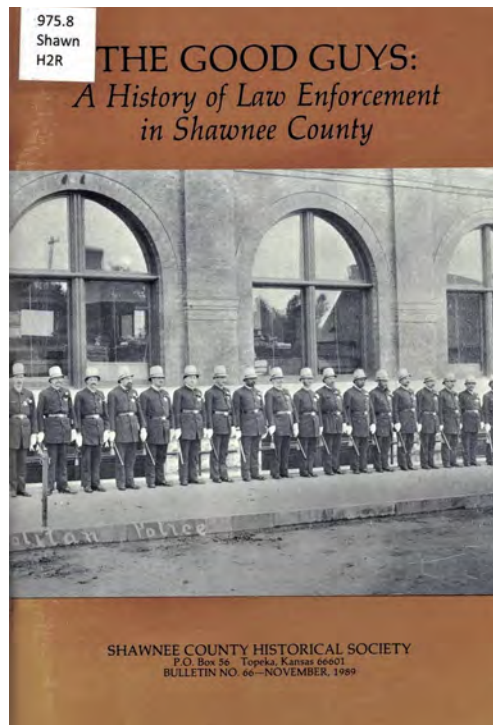


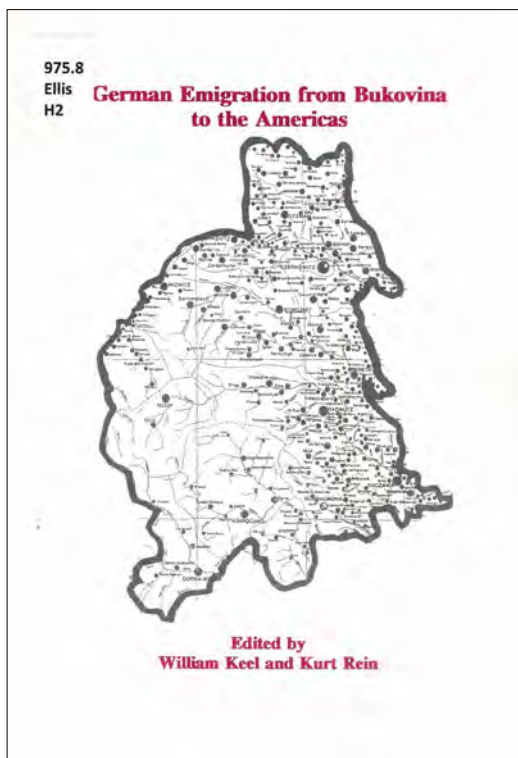
The Good Guys: A History of Law Enforcement in Shawnee County. Bulletin No. 66—Nov., 1989. John W. Ripley, editor. Topeka: Shawnee County Historical Society. 1989.

Bulletin No. 66 highlights some of the famous sheriffs and police chiefs, as well as the criminals and crimes, that have occurred since the territorial period. The appendix lists all the marshals, the chiefs of police, and the sheriffs of Shawnee County and then provides brief paragraph on 41 sheriffs. An index is provided for the 110-page book

Genealogy and the Law: A Guide to Legal Sources for the Family Historian. Kay Haviland Freilich and William Freilich. 2008.

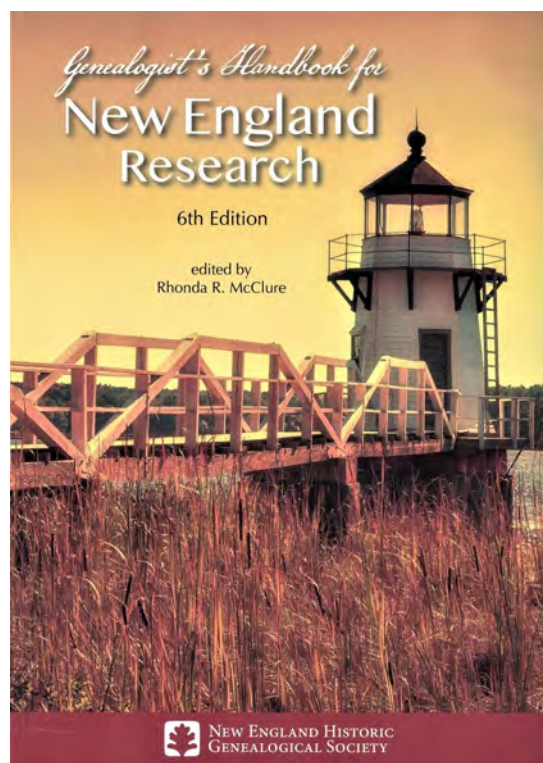
Writing jointly, a genealogist and an attorney guide genealogists and family historians in finding and understanding laws and legal concepts that throw light on events and solve problems that arise in the course of their genealogical research. This 138-page book includes three appendices: Vocabulary of the Law, Selected Bibliography, and Answers to the Quizzes. Quizzes at the end of each chapter help the reader review and apply the contents of the chapter.





German Emigration from Bukovina to the Americas; Results of Initial Investigations and a Guide to Further Research. Edited by William Keel and Kurt Rein. Lawrence: Max Kade Center for German-American Studies The University of Kansas. 1996.

This book is the result of mutual efforts of the Bukowina-Institut in Augsburg and the Bukovina Society of the Americans in Ellis, Kansas. It is a first attempt to sum up what has been investigated concerning the history of the German emigration from Bukovina to the New World during the 1880s and 1890s.



Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research: 6th Edition. Edited by Rhomonda R. McClure. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society. 2022.

This edition is an extensive update of the 2012 research guide. The format across all states has been standardized to make it easier to use. All the resources, repositories, and organizations for each of the six states have been updated. Color has been utilized to increase navigability and clarity. This 454-page book includes a section on how to use the book, an index of subjects, and an index of places.

Endnotes, continued from page 51

- 19 Van Dyke, B.C. "Sunset Cemetery-Manhattan, KS: From Beginnings to Preservation Outlook." (Courtesy of Riley County Historical Society and Museum.) May 1983.
- 20 Haley Dulniawka (my own collection) taken on Thursday, November 11, 2021.
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- 27 Correll, C.M. "A History of Sunset Cemetery, Manhattan, KS" (Courtesy of Riley County Historical Society and Museum.) (1936) Page 3-24.
- 28 Handwritten notes from Riley County Historical Society and Museum. Vertical file on Sunset Cemetery.
- 29 The Nationalist (Manhattan, KS) June 23, 1876.
- 30 The Nationalist (Manhattan, KS) June 2, 1876.
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- 32 The Manhattan Mercury (Manhattan, KS) May 20, 1912.

Special thanks to Riley County Historical Society and Museum and the Riley County Genealogical Society.

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Using Social Media for Genealogy

This issue of *Kansas Kin* featured an article on “Preserving Your Family Heirlooms” by Dustin Vann and Melanie Highsmith from The Chapman Center for Rural Studies at Kansas State University. See pages 44-47 of this issue. They emphasized the need to digitize your family photos, etc.

These authors will be back with a second article in *Kansas Kin* — in the May 2023 issue. They will be discussing the ways in which you can share your newly digitized files on social media! Be sure to look for this article in our next issue!

Kansas Kin submission guidelines

We are pleased that you have considered submitting an article to the Riley County Genealogical Society for possible publication. The *Kansas Kin* focuses on articles ranging from useful genealogical strategies and sources, to interesting accounts of personal research, to local histories as they relate to Kansas. We strive to bring your ancestors to life through their stories.

MANUSCRIPTS

500 to 2,000 words, including reference notes, is the suggested length of submissions. Submit your document in Word format via email. Topical headings are preferred for longer pieces. All manuscripts and references should follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*. End notes are recommended, especially for books, articles, and websites.

IMAGES

Whenever possible, please provide images to accompany your submission. The image must be over 1MB in size, with good quality resolution. Please also include a caption for each picture which includes a photo credit or source. All images must be sent as separate files. We prefer jpg format.

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Please provide a few sentences about the author(s) to accompany the manuscript.

DEADLINES

Submissions are due the first of the month in April and October. Address submissions to the editor at judy@rileycgs.com.

All submissions to *Kansas Kin* are subject to review by the RCGS Editorial Board and revisions may be made, either by the writer or the editor.

Editor: Judy Regehr

Assistant Editor: Margaret Parker

Editorial Board: Barry Michie, Sherry Butler, Virginia Beddow





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