

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



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

FYI October 2026

October Educational Program



Photo Preservation and Digitization Workshop

Sunday, October 18, 2026

2:30-3:30 PM

Manhattan Public Library Auditorium
629 Poyntz Avenue

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

Presented by: Mary Kohn, Director, Chapman Center for Rural Studies, K-State; Melanie Highsmith, Curator of Education and Design, Riley County Historical Museum; and Carly Farrens, Curator of Archives & Library, Riley County Historical Museum.

This Event is Free and Open to the Public!

Celebrate Family History Month



Family History Month was officially recognized by the U.S. Senate in October 2001, just weeks after the events of September 11, 2001. Senator Orrin Hatch introduced the resolution on September 12, 2001, and the Senate unanimously passed it, encouraging Americans to reconnect with their roots during a time of national grief and reflection.

This year marks the ***25th anniversary of 9/11***, making October an especially meaningful time to honor our ancestors, strengthen family bonds, and preserve the stories that shape us.

Ways to Honor our Ancestors and Connect With Family

1. Create a family tree
2. Interview relatives before it's too late

3. Learn about your geographical origins and maybe plan a visit
4. Tell your own story
5. Get your DNA tested
6. Celebrate with a Family Reunion

Family history helps us understand who we are, where we come from, and how our families fit into the larger story of our communities and nation. Stop by the **Riley County Genealogical Society's Library** and let us help.

RCGS Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 22, 2026
2:00-2:30 PM
Manhattan Public Library Auditorium
629 Poyntz Avenue



The following candidates have been nominated to serve on the **2027 RCGS Board of Directors**:

Slate of Officers

Ginny Petersen - President
Charlene Brownson - Vice President
Julie McClure - Recording Secretary
Mary Siegle - Corresponding Secretary
LuAnn Callan - Treasurer

We are seeking a President-Elect for 2027.
This individual will shadow the President throughout the year, and then assume the role of President in 2028.

If you are interested becoming the President Elect for 2027, please call the RCGS Library (785)565-6495 or email, info@rileycgs.org and someone on the Nominating Committee will get in touch with you.

2027 Nominating Committee: Ginny Petersen, Jim Beck, and Paula Ellis

Bylaw Revisions Require a Membership Vote

The **RCGS Board** has approved sending a revised set of bylaws to the membership for ratification. The bylaws, both current and the proposed revision, are available [on this linked web page](#).
Summary of the key changes:



- **Appointed Positions:** The bylaws no longer list appointed positions individually. Instead, they now include a general statement authorizing the Board to appoint officers and reference a Board-approved Position Descriptions document. This update gives the Board flexibility to add, remove, or modify appointed positions and their responsibilities without requiring a bylaws revision, while still staying within the maximum number of Board members.
- **Voting Rights:** The bylaws now clearly state that all Board members are voting members. Each person is entitled to one vote, even if they hold more than one Board position.
- **Past President Term:** The term of the Past President is clarified as the year immediately following their service as President.
- **Responsibility Language:** Prescriptive "task-based" wording has been removed from Board position descriptions. Responsibilities are now expressed more broadly, allowing flexibility in how duties are carried out without changing the underlying role expectations.

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Membership Meeting for the election of the 2027 Executive Board and the ratification of the proposed Bylaw revisions.

November Educational Program

Cowboy Poetry by Betty Burlingham

Sunday, November 22, 2026

2:30-3:30 PM

(immediately following business meeting)

**Manhattan Public Library Auditorium
629 Poyntz Avenue**



Come listen to a program of Cowboy Poetry by **Betty Burlingham**. Cowboy poetry is a unique and celebrated form of American poetry that emerged from the cultural experiences of ranch workers in the West.

Betty, a molecular biologist by trade, gave it up unexpectedly for love and ranching 46 years ago, and has owned ranches in KS and NC. She's been writing and sharing poetry about her amazing and everyday experiences for 14 years, most recently on a trip to the Amazon. Betty is a two-time winner of the **KS Cowboy Poetry Contest** and was named **2026 Champion Cowgirl Poet** at the **Crossroads Gathering** in Oklahoma.

America250 Time Capsule Event



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

The capsule will be sealed and then at a later date, buried on the grounds of the **Riley County Historical Museum** (as an exhibit) for the next fifty years with a reopening planned in 2076, during the nation's 300th birthday. This event is free and open to the public.

Educational Opportunities

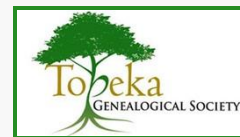


Midwest Genealogy
Center

3440 S. Lee's Summit Road
Independence, MO 64055
(816)252-7228

Lock-In 2026: America 250— Following the Paths of Our Ancestors

Join genealogist **Kathleen Brandt** for an evening exploring how migration shaped American Families. [Click Here](#) to register!



"Finding and Preserving Your Family's Historical Artifacts"

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

**Thursday, October 22, 2026
7:00 - 8:30 PM**

Chad Sidesinger, a third-generation family historian and



**1st Friday
Training Session**

November 6 10:00 AM

***"Modern Tools for Traditional
Genealogy: Using Records, DNA,
and AI Effectively"***

Margaret Kline, RCGS Webmaster, will provide a session that blends traditional genealogy practices with today's digital tools—full-text record searches, DNA analysis, and AI-assisted research—to help RCGS members work more efficiently and collaborate with confidence. You'll be introduced to the technologies that have transformed family history research and learn a practical, generation-by-generation method for building a reliable family tree.

**RCGS Library
2005 Claflin Rd**

longtime **Topeka Genealogical Society** member, will present an enlightening program on Finding and Preserving Your Family's Historical Artifacts. He will demonstrate how to set up search terms on popular websites to automatically have hints get directly emailed to you! Several examples will also be shown of what can be found.

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

[Click Here](#)

**rootstech 2027
by FamilySearch
Registration Now Open**

March 5-6, 2027

The online event is free: [Click Here](#) for more information.

New Website



RCGS is rolling out a brand-new website and updating our email addresses from rileycgs.com to rileycgs.org. Our new site features a contemporary layout, expanded content, and improved navigation to better support family historians and researchers. Moving to **.org** also ensures our online presence reflects who we truly are—a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing family history.

Please update your contact lists with our new @rileycgs.org addresses and take a look at our redesigned website at rileycgs.org. And don't worry—unlike that elusive record you've hunted for years, our new website will be easy to find, and our old [@rileycgs.com](http://rileycgs.com) addresses (and the old site) will still reach us for quite a while.

Margaret Kline
RCGS Webmaster.

Renewal Reminder



You can renew your membership in four different ways!

1. **Online:** If this is your first visit to the new RCGS website, you will need to update your password before renewing. Follow the directions under the LOGIN menu on rileycgs.org. Simply select LOGIN from the menu and follow the update password instructions. Then log back in and click on **renew** in the red box (as shown below) and follow the

instructions. Please contact us with any issues, and don't forget to update your profile if needed.

Your plan expires on 12/31/2026. Your account will be in a grace period until 02/14/2027. Please [renew](#) your plan.

2. **Mail a Check**: RCGS; 2005 Claflin Rd; Manhattan, KS 66502, include any changes to your profile such as mailing address and email.
3. **Drop Off a Check** at the RCGS Library at 2005 Claflin Rd; Manhattan, KS 66502.
4. **Bring a Check** to the next Educational Program on October 18th or the Annual Meeting on November 22nd!

Membership fees are only \$30/year and this gives you access to our online Surname Search! We thank you for renewing!

Society News



RCGS Roundtable **October 16** **10:00 AM**

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

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

Pie Party 2026!

Another one is in the books! We feared for another hot afternoon or possibly rain, but the day was cloudy and overcast and all was well. It was a lovely afternoon, and "gooseberry" was the top choice of pies!

The folk music by the ***Flint Hills Express*** was great!!



Chautauqua Home Recap

The ***Riley County Genealogical Society*** shared a table on September 19th with the

Chapman Center at Manhattan City Park for the ***Chautauqua Home*** event.

Attendance was light, but we did have a few potential patrons stop by our table to pick up a brochure.

The ***USD 383 Student Commemorative Quilt*** and the ***Walking Through History on the Linear Trail*** educational panels were on display

Charlene Brownson, VP of RCGS, won the raffle, a ***Home Depot*** gift card!



If you missed a monthly educational programs, you can watch it here:

****<https://www.youtube.com/@thechapmancenter/videos>***



Dates to Remember!!

- **October 16 (Friday):** *RCGS Roundtable*, 10:00 AM, Vista Drive In, 1911 Tuttle Creek Blvd.
- **October 18 (Sunday):** *Educational Program*, 2:30-3:30 PM, Manhattan Public Library Auditorium, 629 Poyntz Ave, "*Photo Preservation and Digitization Workshop*."
- **November 6 (Friday):** *First Friday Program*, 10:00 AM, RCGS Library, 2005 Claflin Rd.
- **November 20 (Friday):** *RCGS Roundtable*, 10:00 AM, Vista Drive In, 1911 Tuttle Creek Blvd.
- **November 22 (Sunday):** *Annual Meeting*, 2:00-2:30 PM, *Program, followed by "The Cowboy Poet, Betty Burlingham,"* Manhattan Public Library Auditorium, 629 Poyntz Ave.

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

Library Hours

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



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



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