



Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies

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URL:<http://www.kcgs.us>

Newsletter

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Memorial Day is over for another year. I hope all of you had a nice week-end. I hope also that those of you who wanted to decorate graves were able to do so, and that as genealogists you may even have had an opportunity to learn some more family history as you shared memories with your family members. These opportunities must not be missed. When the older generations are passed, it will be much more difficult to find out the things they can still tell you right now.

The most important item I need to call to your attention this month, is the upcoming June 10th conference with Billie Stone Fogarty. We will be meeting in Newton, Kansas at the Grace Community Church Activity Center 1600 S. Anderson. If you have not yet sent your registration in, you still have a few days to get in on the early registration and save some money. We would really like to have a good crowd for Ms Fogarty's presentations. We used the feedback from our membership in choosing the sessions we thought would be of most interest to you.

The food will be good and the location superb. If you need a form to register, go to our website www.kcgs.us print one out, and mail it in this week.

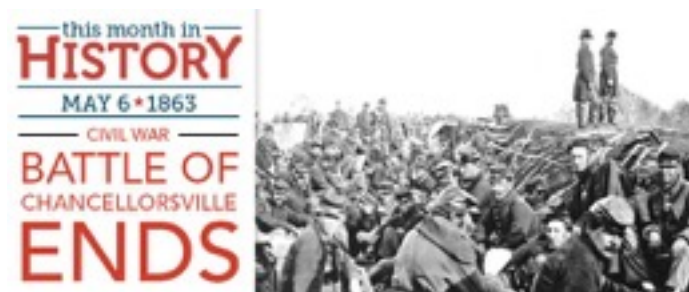
There is a group on Facebook right now that is working on Kansas Genealogy. They are very welcoming and several of them are quite willing to do some looking up of other people's ancestors in the records that are local to where they are. I have referred them to our website and the Forgotten Settlers books that are available in most libraries across the state. This might be an opportunity for you and for others who live out of state to get some help with some trouble spots in your research. It cannot hurt to check it out. If you are not on Facebook, but would like to take advantage of this group's help, do go there, make up a page or ask me to friend you so you can have access to their posts. You will need to identify yourselves as KCGS folks so I will know what to do. Or send me an email and I can ask your questions for you.

I hope you are aware of our new website sections. Darren is posting our orphan photographs with what information we have about them. He would really like copies of any that you have. This might be a way to get them identified. Also several of us are sending him items from old newspapers and he has a page for that. If you find anything that might be of interest to other researchers, take a minute to either type it up or scan it and send it to him. We would like to make our website as useful as possible.

For example, I have found several death notices that were not actual obituaries and posted them. If you have trouble finding a death notice for your ancestor, check there.

I have been reading some interesting History articles and this one is appropriate for this month.

Battle of Chancellorsville Ends: May 6, 1863



May 6, 1863, was the final day of the [Battle of Chancellorsville](#), which ended in a Confederate victory that is often considered General [Robert E. Lee](#)'s "perfect battle," as he successfully defeated an army more than twice the size of his own.

In April, Union general [Joseph Hooker](#)—the new commander of the Army of the Potomac—decided to move against Lee, whose Army of Northern Virginia was situated at Fredericksburg, Virginia. Hooker wanted to avoid attacking Fredericksburg head on, as that had proved a disaster [in the past](#), so he planned to send a third of his army to Fredericksburg to hold Lee there, while his cavalry would cut Lee's communication lines and the majority of his army would sweep around to outflank Lee from the rear and left.

Hooker's movement to [Chancellorsville](#), a crossroads not far from Lee's left flank, was well-executed, but Lee—although outnumbered

more than two to one (roughly 130,000 to 60,000)—left only a small part of his troops at Fredericksburg and [moved](#) the rest under [Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson](#) to face Hooker rather than retreat. When Jackson began to push back against Hooker's vanguard, Hooker lost his nerve and had his troops take up defensive positions in a brushy, difficult area known as the [Wilderness](#).



Defying conventional military wisdom, Lee and Jackson decided to split the army once again, leaving a portion of troops under Lee to distract Hooker's front, while Jackson would take

the bulk of the troops on a 12-mile march to hit the Union's exposed **right flank**. The gamble **paid off**, and on the **evening of May 2**, Jackson's troops caught the Union right by surprise and it crumbled.

The **fighting** continued for a few more days, with the most intense occurring on **May 3**. Besides fighting around Chancellorsville, there was also fighting at **Fredericksburg** and **Salem Church**. Eventually, Hooker **retreated** across the Rappahannock River, giving the Confederates the **victory**, despite heavy **casualties** on both sides.

However, although the battle was a Confederate **triumph**, the Lee sustained a major loss in the **death** of Jackson, one of the best Confederate generals. On the night of the 2nd, Jackson and some others had been returning from scouting Union positions when they were fired on by their own pickets. Jackson was wounded, and his left arm had to be amputated. Complications arose following the surgery, and on May 10, Jackson died of pneumonia.

Lee's victory at the **Battle of Chancellorsville** would give him the necessary momentum for his campaign into the North, where he would face the Union on its home soil at the **Battle of Gettysburg** that July.

This is a summary of an article from the Manhattan Mercury that was handed to me. The author is Ron Wilson

Historical Society Connects the Dots for Local Families, Preserves History for All.

The Cheyenne County Historical Society has begun a program of preserving unique family histories in the county. It is collecting the family stories of people from all ages and all walks of life. Using a grant from the Dane G. Hansen

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Foundation of Logan they purchased digital equipment that would help in the endeavor.

They advertised the project in local newspapers, filmed interviews and hosted a "Tell Your Story" workshop led by a local published author to help participants write their own histories.

They learned that smart phones were handy to record oral histories and videos of the participants. They contacted the families personally and many of their family histories are now located in their Genealogy Center Legacy Family Project.

This seems like a great idea for local societies to utilize. I see possibilities for youth as well as senior involvement. A project like this might very well rejuvenate some of our smaller, perhaps shrinking societies and bring a new interest that would draw new members. and keep the old ones involved.

I imagine some of you have projects like this already, but if you don't, you might like to try one. If you want more information contact: <www.cncoks.us/historymuseum>

Do let me know if you have something like this already and would like us to help promote it in our publications.

Summer is here and many of you have children and grandchildren who are out of school and wondering around looking for something to do.

B.J. Kerr who was a speaker at one of my GFWC Portia Club meetings has made up a list of ideas for some volunteering that might help.

1. Check out the recreation program of your local community. Your City Hall can point you to the people who are in charge. Usually there are softball and other games for all ages.
2. If you have a community garden program perhaps there is a need for volunteers to help with the weeding, watering, harvesting.etc.
3. Your local library needs good readers for their programs with the children.

4. Maybe there is a need for dog walkers for some who cannot do it themselves. Might even be some money in it.
5. Is there a child who has trouble with classes and could use some mentoring by an older student?
6. Do you have some smaller cleaning and painting projects? Or does a neighbor?
7. Are Swimming lessons available? or tennis or golf?
8. Would the young folks like to learn to sew or knit or crochet? Is there someone who would teach them?
9. Is there somewhere they can go fishing?

*Just thinking out loud.
til next time
Janeice*

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