



# Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies

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URL: <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/kcgs/index.html>

Newsletter

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DIGGING DEEPER

40th Annual  
Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies

## Genealogy Conference

featuring



Valerie Eichler Lair  
Professional Genealogist & Nationally  
Renowned Educator & Author

**June 14, 2014**

**McPherson, Kansas**

Co-Hosted By McPherson County Genealogical Society

**Registration Is Now Open!**

[www.KCGS.us](http://www.KCGS.us)

*You are now down to the wire for early registration. We will take registrations at the door, of course, but there are a limited number of places and you might have to go elsewhere for lunch.*

*Conference is a great time to get to visit with folks you see only once a year.*

Please take the time to visit our new URL (<http://www.kcgs.us/>) That is so much easier to remember and input, isn't it? ;-)

*Do contact Helen if you are interested in her setting up a free website for you. She tells me she has done this for those she handled anyway, but others will have to get in touch. Blue skyways is shutting down in June.*

*Wichita is planning a bus trip to Salt Lake City this summer. If you would like to go along, contact the WGS for details.*

*Does your society have items for sale or events to be publicized? Get them to me and I will help out in this newsletter. The next issue will be just after the conference in mid-June.*

*I have been reading again:*

**From Mocavo which Is Now Free**

Since announcing our [Free Forever Revolution](#) in October, we have added more than 350,000 databases online to help you discover your story. To thank you for supporting us in our mission, today we are adding an additional 100 record indexes to the usual 1,000 databases we launch every day. These indexes document more than 10 million records from a

variety of countries including the United States, Canada, France, New Zealand and more.

### ***New Must-Search Collections***

#### **Millions of Birth, Marriage, Death Record Indexes**

From Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and more

#### **Record Indexes Spanning from 1800 to 2013**

From the United States, Canada, Ireland, France, New Zealand and more

Thousands of Military Record Indexes  
From the United States National Archives and more.

#### **Hundreds of Death Record Indexes**

From Canada, France, New Zealand, and more



### **3 Tips for Overcoming Spelling Variations**

Variations in spelling are one of the major challenges of genealogical research. Because standardized spelling is a twentieth-century concept, there can be all kinds of ways to spell words. This includes names, which can make researching very challenging. Many online search engines can account for some spelling variations, but there are always twists that can confuse things (such as having the wrong first letter in a name, which totally throws off the entire soundex system). Here are some tips to get past spelling variations.

#### 1. Phonetic

Think about how the names are pronounced. Are there different ways to spell the same sound? For example, a letter c, ch, and ck might all be pronounced with the hard “k” sound. The same goes for the letter f and gh (think rough and tough). Consider variations such as these when searching.

#### 2. Sound Shifts

Watch out for sound shifts, which can throw off even phonetic spellings. Names that are pronounced the same are not always spelled the same. And names that are spelled the same are not always pronounced the same. Regional and national dialects and accents can have a major affect on the way words are spelled. A perfect example comes to us from England, Connecticut, and North Carolina. Hertford is the shire town of Hertfordshire, England. The city of Hartford (capital of Connecticut) was named for it. The spelling changed because the English pronounce the “e” in Hertford similar to an “ah,” thus it sounds like “Hahrtford” to an American. The town of Hertford, North Carolina, was also named for the English town. It retained the English spelling, but the pronunciation has changed to “Hurtford.” The same sounds and spelling shifts can happen in your family’s names (both given names and surnames).

#### 3. Enlist Your Friends

One great way to get spelling variations is to hand friends a piece of paper and a pencil and ask them to write down the name you are looking for. Just tell them the name, don’t spell it for them. If they themselves are uncertain of how to spell it, ask them to write down every variation they can think of. By asking several friends to do this, you will undoubtedly find a few spelling variations you hadn’t thought of. This works best with someone who is unfamiliar with the name you are searching for. Indeed, asking non-genealogists is a great way to get variations because they don’t come with the same set of assumptions that family historians do. There may be more than one way to pronounce the name, for example Beaufort, North Carolina (pronounced Bowfort) and Beaufort, South Carolina (pronounced Bewfort).



### **Emporia Public Library to Celebrate 150th**

#### **CIVIL WAR 150**

**The Civil War 150 Exhibition Project** will continue into the summer and fall of 2014 at Emporia Public Library. The following programs were made available by a grant in conjunction with The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities; the Kansas Humanities Council, the Friends of the Emporia Public Library; and supported by LCHS Research Center, LCHS Museum, WAW Library Special Collections and Archives, and Community Theater of Emporia-

Reader's Theater Group. All programs are free and open to the public.

### **ABE AND MARY: A FAMILY PORTRAIT**

**May 22, 2014; 6:30 p.m.**

**Large meeting Room  
Emporia Public Library**

**Presented by Herschel and Jacque Stroud**

The Lincoln Album was kept by the Lincolns while in the White House. The album was lost, but found again in 1985. Harold Holzer and Mark Neely wrote a book about the album, and this presentation is based on their book, and what happened to the Lincoln descendants.

### **Shared Stories of the Civil War:**

#### **Reader's Theater**

The "Shared Stories of the Civil War: Reader's Theater" project features stories created from historical letters, diaries, newspaper articles, and other materials. These voices from history provide insight into how 19th century Americans living in Kansas and Missouri struggled to define the meaning of freedom during the Bleeding Kansas and Civil War years.

The Community Theater of Emporia-Reader's Theater Group will provide the dramatic presentations.

### **The Underground Railroad**

Nowhere in the U.S. was the Underground Railroad more dangerous than in western Missouri and eastern Kansas in the late 1850s.

**June 25 6:30 p.m.**

**Large meeting room**

Historian Anne Hawkins will then lead a discussion about the events that shaped Kansas during and after the Civil War.

### **Pledging Allegiance**

North or South? Union or Confederacy? The choices grew more complicated in the early months of the Civil War, especially for Missourians living along the border.

**August 20 6:30 p.m.**

**Large meeting room**

Loren Pennington, Emporia State University Emeritus Professor of History will lead discussion following the performance.

These programs are made possible by Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area and the Kansas Humanities Council. FFFNHA is a partnership of 41 counties in eastern Kansas and western Missouri dedicated to connecting the stories of settlement, the Border War and the Enduring Struggle for Freedom in this area. KHC is a nonprofit organization promoting understanding of the history and ideas that shape our lives and strengthen our sense of community. For more information, visit [www.freedomsfrontier.org](http://www.freedomsfrontier.org) or [www.kansashumanities.org](http://www.kansashumanities.org).

### **The Border War: Kansas & Missouri**

**July 16; 2014; 6:30 p.m.**

**Large meeting Room  
Emporia Public Library**

**Presented by Darren Biggs**

Darren Biggs, a Civil War reenactor, will tell the story of Sean McCorkle, an Irish immigrant, who was brought to Kansas by Bostonites in the late 1850's. This was an effort

to make Kansas "a free state" under the rules of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. The result was that pro- and anti-slavery elements flooded into Kansas with the goal of voting slavery up or down, leading to a bloody civil war. McCorkle joined the 8th Regiment Kansas Volunteer Infantry to fight in the war.

Mr. Biggs will share stories of being a Civil War reenactor, how he started and where his interests have led him, for example, making movies.

### **The Santa Fe Trail and the Civil War**

**September 23, 2014; 6:30 p.m.**

**Large meeting room**

**Presented by Leo Oliva, Historian**

During the Civil War, events at both ends of the Santa Fe Trail contributed to the war's outcome while another war in the middle—the Plains Indian Wars—grew in intensity and eventually resulted in removal of the Plains tribes from Kansas. This presentation introduces key conflicts along the Santa Fe Trail, including significant but largely forgotten battles in New Mexico and the period of accelerated conflict that ended with the destruction of Plains tribes as they had existed for over a century

"The Santa Fe Trail and the Civil War" is part of the Kansas Humanities Council's *Humanities* Speakers Bureau, featuring presentations and discussions that examine our shared human experience—our innovations, culture, heritage, and conflicts.

### **"John Brown: Saint or Sinner"**

**October 16, 2014; 6:30 p.m.**

**Large meeting room**

**Presented by Grady Atwater**

**Site Administrator, John Brown Museum State Historic Site**

### **CIVIL WAR 150 Traveling Exhibit Arrives Early in November, 2014.**

The Civil War is the most transformative period in US history. Drawing upon letters, personal accounts, and images, *Civil War 150* invites Americans to understand how soldiers, presidents, freedmen, and families grappled with the end of slavery, the nature of democracy and citizenship, the human toll of civil war, and the role of a president in wartime.

### **"Kansas and the Civil War in American History and Memory"**

**November 10, 2014**

**5:30 pm Reception; 6:30 pm Program**

**Presented by Brian Craig Miller**

As we move to celebrate the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War, most Americans will not think of the events in Kansas... unless, of course, you're IN Kansas. Yet Kansas' birthday coincides with the Civil War. Join us for a critical re-examination on how the Civil War affected the state of Kansas and why the Kansas struggles have been largely ignored in American history.

Paraprosdokians: (Winston Churchill loved them) are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected, and generally humorous. Some are close to oxymorons.

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right -- only who is left.
7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. I didn't say it was your fault; I said I was blaming you.
10. In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of emergency, Notify:" I put, "DOC-TOR".
11. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut and still think they are sexy.
12. You do not need a parachute to skydive, you only need a parachute to skydive twice.
13. I used to be indecisive, now I'm not so sure..

14. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.

15. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

16. You're never too old to learn something stupid.

17. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.



Dogs Have Owners ~ Cats Have Staff

Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.

*Please do take a look at Kansas Council's new website [www.kcgs.us](http://www.kcgs.us) We have our Forgotten Settler certificate applications available there as well as the registration forms for the June conference. Helen is still willing to help any of our member societies move their own websites if requested. Remember Blue Skyways closes down in June.*

*Til next time, Janeice*