



# Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies

PO Box 3858, Topeka, KS 66604-6858

Newsletter

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The KCGS Board met at Emporia on Saturday, August 15th. Congratulations all around for our successful conference and annual meeting in June. We would like to have another just as successful next June. We are considering taking one out to the western part of our state, perhaps to Hays or Garden City. If any society out in that vicinity is interested in co-hosting, just let me know and I will pass on the word. KCGS pays all expenses and asks only that a local society assists with finding a venue and helping Darren with arrangements. Plus we need a few local folks to assist with welcoming and helping with check in for attendees. We do not need a big town for that matter, only a large room, maybe a church hall, that will hold maybe 100 persons and a few vendors. We have used church basements, and one year we were fortunate to be able to utilize the auditorium of Wellington's lovely high school.

The board also wants to issue a challenge to any of you or your neighbors to get your ancestors who lived in Kansas prior to 1900 listed in our archives and their information archived in the Kansas State Historical Library by applying for a Forgotten Settlers certificate and sending in the necessary proof of their residence. Everything is spelled out on our website <[www.kcgs.us](http://www.kcgs.us)>.

If you need assistance, let me know and I will alert Emma. We would like to get this information published in our latest volume, Vol 29. These volumes can be found in many of our larger libraries, plus in many nation libraries as well., such as the Library of Congress, the Library of the DAR, The Family Search Library in Salt Lake City and many more. The certificate makes a great gift to a member of your family and also a wonderful addition to your family genealogy book.

It is not necessary to be a member of our society to submit your applications. We'd love to have you join, however.

Here it is already late August and most kids are back in school or soon will be. It is a somewhat nostalgic time for me and for lots of other retired educators. When the school bus goes by in the morning we almost pull on the old harness and go out the door. Well, not quite, I guess. But I certainly remember my days working with students. Some of them even remember me. ;-)

Do remember Wichita Genealogy Society is holding a conference on October 10th in the same room as our June conference was held. The focus will be on using Family Search resources. LDS has been making some improvements and adding many records. You will want to learn all about them. Registration cost includes lunch and evening banquet.

I have been reading :

**Sumner County Historical  
& Genealogical Society  
August Meeting 17 August 2015**

**Sherry Kline, 620-326-3401**

On Monday, August 24th, at 6:30 p.m, Amber Schmitz, [SumnerNewscow.com](http://SumnerNewscow.com) writer, will present "The History of Drury" to Sumner County Historical and Genealogical Society members and guests at the Good Taste Chinese Buffet, 1311 E. 16<sup>th</sup> St., Wellington. No cost for the program; guests are welcome, and meal time is 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. For possible weather cancellations, contact Jane Moore at 620-447-3266 or the restaurant at 620-399-8401.

When Amber Schmitz moved to Drury at the age of seven, she enjoyed playing on the old schoolhouse playground and walking over the cement bridge that was built over the Chikaskia River in the 1920'S. She also enjoyed the interesting stories that she began hearing about her new hometown. The stories fascinated her

There were stories about a booming little river resort with boats, a beach, and a hotel for the vacationers that came by train and stage-coach. And there were stories about a grocery store owner that disappeared and nearly 100 years later, may (or may not) be 'buried' in one of the cement bridge supports. And there was also a story about a man that woke up, saw an axe hanging just over his head, and screamed so loud that all the dogs barked and the neighbors all woke up.

Schmitz found these stories compelling, and she has written them down, collected photographs, and explored the possibilities of some of the legends being true.

"I've wanted to write a book about Drury since I was 14 or 15," Schmitz said, "Every time some older person told me something, I went home and wrote it down in a notebook."

More than 1,000 biographies posted on [GenealogyMagazine.com](http://GenealogyMagazine.com)

The following is a press release from [GenealogyMagazine.com](http://GenealogyMagazine.com):

More than 1,300 biographical sketches are now freely accessible at [www.genealogy-magazine.com/biographies.html](http://www.genealogy-magazine.com/biographies.html). Each biography identifies the original source, long out-of-print books such as Paddock's *History and Biographical Record of North and West Texas*, published in 1906 by Lewis Publishing Company in Chicago.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Lewis and other publishing companies sent representatives across America to compile local histories and interview area residents. To finance the printing, representatives sold pre-publication copies. These volumes are sometimes known as "mug books." Those wanting to see their biography in print had to purchase the book in advance.

However, "mug books" are often valuable sources for the genealogist. Interviewees were typically asked their full name, date and place of birth, names of parents (including mother's maiden name), name of spouse, names of spouse's parents, and names of children. Names of grandparents, siblings, and aunts and uncles are frequently found as well.

The biographies in [GenealogyMagazine.com](http://GenealogyMagazine.com)'s collection are also gleaned from rare sources such as Margaret Turner Stewart's *Two Hundred Clubwomen: Second District Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs, 1953*. An avid genealogist, Margaret Stewart sent questionnaires to 200 clubwomen in The Yellowhammer State, asking them to write a brief biographical sketch and include the names of their parents and grandparents.

## Online Petition to Save the “OLD” Ancestry.com “Classic” User Interface from Eastman

An on-line petition has been started that is directed to Tim Sullivan, President and Chief Executive Officer of Ancestry.com. The petition pleads for the retention of the Classic/Old interface, at least as a permanent option for people who prefer it. The online petition states (in part):

Dear Tim Sullivan, President and Chief Executive Officer, CEO@ Ancestry.com:

We, the undersigned, hereby sign this petition to acknowledge that we, do not like the look, style, color, and format and prefer the use of Ancestry.com “Classic” versus NEW ancestry.

We the undersigned who have signed, liked or shared the following are NOT resistant to change. The recent change of Ancestry.com “Classic” to NEW ancestry is the worst change that ancestry.com has ever made to its website. HELP SAVE Ancestry~com “Classic”!

We have been informed that Ancestry.com “Classic” will soon be deleted for use by members. We are not pleased with NEW ancestry, and prefer using Ancestry.com “Classic” versus the NEW ancestry.

HELP SAVE Ancestry~com “Classic”

Changing the name on the ancestry website from “Classic” to “OLD” does not change anything.

DAMAGE CONTROL to stop the NEW COKE comparison does NOT change anything.

“OLD” or “NEW” Ancestry-com~”Classic” is the real genealogy research thing!

You can read the full petition and possibly sign it yourself at: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/600/803/575/save-ancestrycom-classic>.

As of 11-August-2015, 1,168 people have signed the petition.

## Use GenDisasters.com to Find Out What May Have Happened to Your Family

frm Eastman

GenDisasters.com is a genealogy site that contains information on the historic disasters, events, and tragic accidents our ancestors endured, as well as, information about their life and death. Database and records searchable by surname as well as by the name of a disaster or by Year or by U.S. State. A separate section of the site contains information about disasters in Canada.

Gen Disasters may be found at [www.3.gendistester.com](http://www.3.gendistester.com)

If you want to find out what happened to your ancestor, this might have the news item that explains it.

## From my Overstreet family website

by Nancy Caton

A new feature that searches Google books with a very good algorithm has just been added. It searches through 80.000 books on Google Books that are already tagged as genealogy books and uses the date range that you put into the search field as well as name. Many compiled genealogies but also a lot of transcribed records from back in the days when there was no internet and not everything was microfilmed so genea societies and the like published transcriptions... I remember using those in the California Genealogical Library back when I was a high school student, shortly after my grandfather died and left me all of his notes.

It's probably especially good for new surnames that you have uncovered, but in testing it on my first well known Caton in the US, I came across a couple of items I hadn't read.

Cat videos are good for you?

with Alexandr Zhurkov

For those of you who can't resist a good internet cat video, here's some exciting news.

## Cat Videos Are Good for You

Watching cat videos appears to have significant health benefits. There are over two million cat videos on YouTube, and they've been viewed 26 billion times. That's more views-per-video than any other category.

Jessica Myrick, a communications professor at Indiana University, decided the popularity of these videos means "researchers can't ignore Internet cats anymore." So, she set out to study the effects cat videos have on their viewers. Myrick conducted a survey of over 7,000 avid cat video viewers and found the impact to be overwhelmingly positive.

The videos boosted energy levels and increased positive emotions. Participants also reported fewer negative emotions--including anxiety, annoyance and sadness--after watching cat-related content. To be fair to the cat-video-haters out there, respondents admitted they frequently watched the videos while at work or instead of studying. But the pleasure viewers gained outweighed any negative feelings of guilt or unproductivity.

The researchers hope cat videos might be used as a low-cost alternative to *pet therapy*, a practice where animals help people cope with or recover from a variety of health conditions.

*And so it goes. I am certain watching cat videos and dog videos and baby videos contributes to my well being. A good laugh can always help.*

*til next time, Janeice*