

# FYI

## For Your Information



Volume 11, No. 1  
February, 2009

**Riley County Genealogical  
Society and Library**

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**Library Hours**

Tues & Thurs 10 am to 4 pm  
Wed & Sat 1 to 4 pm  
Sundays May through Nov.  
2 to 5 pm  
Sundays Dec. through April  
by appointment

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## Dates to Remember for 2009

### Meetings:

**Using DNA in your genealogy research.**

Sunday February 22, 2 pm  
Carol Regehr, speaker  
Manhattan Public Library  
Auditorium

**Review of Blue Valley and Tuttle Creek experience**

Sunday April 19, 2 pm  
Manhattan Public Library  
Auditorium  
Kevin Larson, speaker

### Classes:

**Internet Genealogy Research**

Thursday March 26, 5:30 pm  
Concentrating on Heritage Quest; Ancestry. Com; Footnotes. Com  
Patty Wadick and Jan Wichman  
Manhattan Public Library  
Computer Room

**Using the "Grandma" Mennonite database**

Tuesday, April 14, 5:30 pm  
Judy Regehr  
RCGS Library

NOTE: Sign up for all classes at the RCGS Library 565-6495

### Annual Meeting:

Monday Nov. 9, 2009,  
Zeandale Community Church

## President's Letter

As I write this the weather is getting colder. The forecast is for single digit temperatures over night the next few days. Makes you want to get a book to read! So it is with that in mind, why not do some family history research. The RCGS Library will be open for business and there are volunteers that are willing to help you dig deeper into your past—maybe find out some things you might not know about the characters in your family.

Our VP and Program Chair, Jan Wichman, has planned a great set of programs for 2009. They are mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. We just finished the 2009 Budget and think we have a viable budget that will keep the organization going for the coming year.

The Coordinators for the various parts of the Board of Directors have been appointed. We are still in need of one Coordinator to bring together the maintenance of

the Building & Grounds. If you are interested, please give me a call. Don Mock has ably accomplished this for some years. Anyone with a "green thumb" would work fine or someone that is savvy about maintaining a house would work also. Don, we will miss you. Volunteer as a Building & Grounds Coordinator!  
I am looking forward to the year of 2009.

Happy Hunting!  
**Jim Bradley, President**

**Did you get this issue of FYI by email?**

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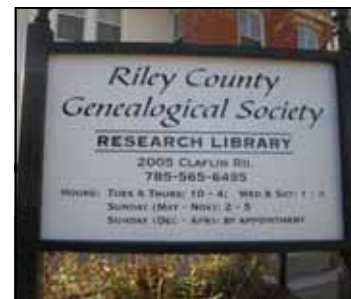
**RCGS Library Displays New Sign**

The RCGS Library is happy to display the new sign facing the parking lot of the Library.

The donation for the sign included four \$25.00 donations in memory of Professors Frank Orazem, John Sjo, John McCoy, and Paul Kelly.

Richard "Dick" Akin was responsible for taking the old sign apart, designing the lettering, securing the sign painter and re-erecting and painting the sign and black metal railing.

Our thanks to Dick Akin for a beautiful and professional addition to our facility.

**Annual Meeting Held November 10**

**Jim Bradley Presides at Annual Meeting**

The 2008 Annual meeting was held November 10 at Zeandale Community Church. Jim Bradley led the business meeting. Dinner was served by Zeandale Church ladies.

The program consisted of a presentation by Candace Pannbacker and Jan Wichman on

recently-found artifacts from the Jeremiah Platt house, where the Library is housed. The House is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The restoration was funded by a \$2000 Carolyn Peine Grant.



**Candace Pannbacker & Jan Wichman**

**Grandma (Genealogical Registry and Database of Mennonite Ancestry) Is Available**

The RCGS Library has a copy of the **Grandma Database**. This database contains genealogical information for over 941,000 individuals. Some families can trace their ancestry back to the 1700's and earlier.

Various church and

family records have been entered into one single database by the California Mennonite Historical Society's Genealogy Project Committee.

If you have Low German Mennonite ancestors in your family tree,

there may be a wealth of information easily available for you.

For best results, call the RCGS Library before coming in to use the database so we can assure that somebody knowledgeable will be there to help you.

## Walkers Wanted for St. Patrick's Day Parade

**WANTED 2009!** Walkers in the March 14<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick's Day Parade.

- You may wear a costume or not.
- Wearing green is appropriate.
- We have a large banner promoting Riley County Genealogical Society.

Let's have a large group

of enthusiastic walkers following our sign.

It is a short parade starting at 11 a.m. in City Park, marching along Moro St. through Aggieville and ending back in City Park.

Everyone has a lot of fun!

Call Wann Towers 776-3128 for information and ideas.



### Join us!

We need volunteers. There are many opportunities including the Building and Grounds Coordinator position mentioned by Jim Bradley.

What better way to research your own family history while helping others do the same!

Contact the RCGS Library to become a member.

Phone: 565-6495

## Come Read in Your Library — Here Are Some Ideas

Our Riley county shelves are loaded with interesting materials. Why not come to the library, look through our shelves for entertaining reading materials.

Community history books of Randolph, Wildcat (Keats), Odgen, Leonardville, Bala, Riley, Stockdale and Blue Valley. Some of these community locations are now under Tuttle Creek Lake.

There are many first person accounts.

Manhattan histories and first person stories.

Newspaper clippings of obituaries. Large collection assembled by Imogene Farley.

Riley County School records indexed from microfilm for the years 1909,1910. Many teenagers were in the lower

primary grades.

Military records WWI and WWII. Spanish-American War veterans researched.

Censuses - territory and state censuses to 1925.

Rural Riley county cemeteries from the beginning to 2000.

Manhattan's large old cemetery, Sunset, index is in progress.

Church history books from the small community and rural churches.

Kansas Kin and Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie have been indexed.

Local authors Gerry Walton and Pat O'Brien have new books with many photos.

Please don't be bored this winter. Come see us!

## Volunteers Working on Sunset Cemetery Book

A group of volunteers has put in many hours toward cataloging the tombstones for the new Sunset Cemetery Book. The work is now being verified with the Sexton's records.

Many thanks to all who have worked so hard:

The volunteers are: Barton Brown, Jane Brown, Sherry Butler, Annie Cunningham, Fred DeLano, Shirley DeLano, Dorothy Dickerhoof, Glee Eggers, Darlene Hagan, Fritz Hagen, Mary Jo Hawkinson, Jean Johnson, Joyce Marr, Joel Meyers, Ila Morrell, Candace

Pannbacker, Margaret Parker, Judy Regehr, Rebecca Rose, Teresa Shippy, Wann Towers, Patty Wadick, Nancy Webb, Sharon Wells, Jan Wickman, Nancy Williams, Mary Yonning.



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**Elected Officers:**

President: James Bradley  
Vice President: Jan Wichman  
Treasurer: Richard Phillips  
Recording Sec. Nancy Williams  
Corresponding Sec. Candace  
Pannbacker  
Past President: Fred DeLano

**Library:**

Library Coordinator:  
Computer Coordinator & Webmaster:

***FYI* is published periodically and available to RCGS membership. RCGS members are invited to submit articles for publication.**

**RCGS strives for correctness and regrets any errors, but assumes no responsibility for errors of fact or opinions expressed by contributors.**

**Contributors to articles in this issue of *FYI* include Jan Wichman, Fred DeLano, Wann Towers, Jim Bradley, Judy Regehr.**

**Riley County Genealogical Society**

