

# FYI

## For Your Information



Volume 11, No. 4  
November, 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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## Upcoming Events

### 2009 Annual Meeting

Monday, November 9, RCGS will hold its annual meeting at the Zeandale Community Church. The meeting will start at 5:30 pm, followed by dinner at 6:30 and the program at 7:30. Jim Sharp will talk about the Black Settlers in the Kaw Indian Reservation. The

### President's Letter

Dear RCGS Members,  
Another year has gone past and the prediction is for snow. That is right, the four-letter "s" word—it is so early! This year our Society has had a good year. We started 2009 with a \$12,600 budget. To date we have managed to stay within that budget. We have attempted to find new ways of doing things. One example is the FYI

cost of dinner is \$11.00. Make your check payable to RCGS. Reservations can be made by stopping by the RCGS Library, or mailing your check to RCGS, 2005 Claflin Rd, Manhattan, KS 66502. Reservations must be made by Nov 2. Guests are welcome. We look forward to seeing everyone.

publication. To date we have saved \$372 (with a projected savings of \$496 for the year) in publication cost by just using email to deliver this publication versus the old way of mailing it. Of course there are some subscribers for which the email method does not work.

Having said that, we are now coming around to the new year and the need for a new

### Spring Genealogy Classes

For information about the classes, see page 3 or contact:

Le Juan Shrimplin  
[lejuan@kansas.net](mailto:lejuan@kansas.net)  
785-776-5904.

**Remember to send in your Annual RCGS Membership Form!**

budget—one for 2010. As we approach that time we will have new items competing for our budget dollars. We will need to be very diligent in making the 2010 budget simply because we are limited as to sources of funding for our future. We have a committee working to determine where we are going and how we will get there. Reminds me

Continued next page

President's letter, cont.

of the song with the words "We've got a long way to go and a short time to get there" by Jerry Reed.

In this FYI we announce the date and time for our Annual Meeting. I would hasten to point out that there will be a great meal served. There is a charge and the cooks are very good. I would plea with each of you to attend the meeting even

if you decline to eat. We need your participation. Election of Officers will be held and a great program is planned. Further information is elsewhere in the FYI.

See you there.

**Jim Bradley, President**

Also from Jim: Driving down the road this time of year, you are sure to see dust rising from the fields from the combines cutting grain. Trucks going to the elevator are sometimes

back to back traveling the highway, some empty and some full. Harvest is in full swing and is one of the busiest times of the year for farmers. It's also an exhausting season, with our area farmers pushing constantly against time and weather. One can only appreciate the efforts so diligently displayed by the farming community; making sure to provide food for their families and neighbors.



Tree planted in memorium of Homer Socolofsky, long-time member of RCGS, who made many contributions to the history of Kansas as Professor of History at Kansas State University.

## Basic Genealogy Classes Held in October at RCGS Library

Le Juan Shrimplin coordinated a series of Saturday-morning classes in October. Some of the topics covered in the class included:

"Citing your Sources--Documentation," by Sherry Butler, Research Librarian.

"Tour of the RCGS Library," by Millie Combs.

"Software, LDS Internet Site, Research Etiquette," by Ila Morrill, Director of the Manhattan Latter Day Saints (LDS) Family History Center.



Ila Morrill, presenting, and class attendees — Millie Combs, Irene Wienck, and Jolene Agan.



Basic Genealogy Class students Marsha Knox, Nancy Williams, Madeline Dunn

## Spring Genealogy Classes Planned — What about You?

This spring, Le Juan Shrimplin will be repeating the **Basic Genealogy Class** that was taught this fall.

She will also teach more advanced topics. The purpose of the new

spring classes will be to take a subject for one or two sessions and “dig” into it a bit deeper. These classes would also be open to anyone that wanted to take them with the idea of increas-

ing their knowledge, members of the Society or not.

Attached to the email for this issue of the newsletter is a survey for you to fill out and email with your ideas

for the spring classes. If you received this issue by USPS mail, you may mail the survey to the Genealogical Library. See below for the email and USPS addresses.

### Class Survey for Spring 2010, Riley County Genealogical Society

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Spring 2010** Indicate classes you are interested in: If you check more than one, number your preferences, starting with 1.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Evaluating Evidence:** Learn the difference between the six types of evidence, including primary and secondary evidence. Find out why you should care.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Colonial and American Government Lands:** Terms dealing with land, layout of land including Kansas, laws dealing with land, and more. The class will help when you start working with land owners. The Homestead Acts enabled an estimated 783,000 citizens or intended citizens to become landowners. There is a good chance one or more of your ancestors were one of these.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Planning a Genealogy Trip:** This is a must. What should you do before you leave on that trip and during the trip.

Would you be interested in teaching a class, if so what subject?

\_\_\_\_\_

Indicate your preference. If you check more than one, number your preferences, starting with 1 .

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning						
Afternoon						
Evening						

Contact person and survey responses sent to: Le Juan Shrimplin, [lejuan@kansas.net](mailto:lejuan@kansas.net) or 785.776.5904

By USPS: Class Survey, Le Juan Shrimplin  
The Riley County Genealogical Society  
2005 Claffin Road, Manhattan, KS 66502-3415

## 2009 Annual Report

### President

**Jim Bradley:** I have served the society as President for the past three years. I hope that the society has moved forward in that time. I think it has. Our budget has grown modestly, we have made an inventory valuation, and our holdings are now on the computer for easier use in the future. Our volunteers work very hard to make the society better. They all deserve a big THANK YOU from all of us. Please renew your membership in our society by paying your 2010 dues. I have enjoyed these past three years. I will still be around as the Past President. See you at the Annual Meeting.

### Membership

**Ted Hopkins:** RCGS has a total of 151 active members including both dues-paying and life members for 2009. Although membership numbers declined compared to 2008, the bright side is that we have received 15 new members during the year. There were also some inactive members that became active. New programs now under development by the RCGS Board should help to attract new members and retain our current members. Of the total membership, 91 are in Manhattan, 31 are in Kansas outside of Manhattan, 27 are in other states, and 2 are from other countries. One of our new members is from Sweden and joined during a visit to our library. We have several genealogy libraries that are paying members to receive the Kansas Kin. Therefore, RCGS membership with its diverse makeup appears to remain strong both now and in the future.

### Library

**Millie Combs:** The sign-in sheets of Library Visitors show from January 1 through October 20, 2009, there were 190 visits to our Library. (Note this number is not a total number of different people, because some persons made numerous visits.) Of these 190 visits, 35 were from 15 other states. The states represented were Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho,

Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Washington. One visit was from another country....Sweden!

Our librarians and computer assistants faithfully volunteer every month to assist patrons who come to the RCGS Genealogical Library. Their knowledge of our librarian collection is helpful to our library patrons, and their dedication is very much appreciated by schedulers, Judy Lookhart and Millie Combs. We continue to need additional librarians and computer assistants.

### Publications

**Judy Regehr:** We have published 11 new books in 2009 to date. In 2008, we published 18 new books. Sy Ekart is the author of nearly all the new books, which we have available for sale. Imogene Farley authored a book of actual obituaries in 2008. We updated our sales catalog to include all publications as of the end of July 2009. Book sales are a major contributor to income for the Society. Carol Regehr, Publications Distribution, sends the Sales Catalog to Libraries around the country and fulfills all book orders.

We continue to work on the Sunset Cemetery tombstones book. We are verifying and matching information with Sexton's records.

We converted the FYI newsletter to email form this year, saving most of the money that we used to spend on printing and mailing. The FYI paper copies cost us 79 cents each to print and mail. Email is free.

### Computer Coordinator

**Patty Wadick:** The board approved funds to update the RCGS web site. We will soon begin work to improve the web site with a new, easier to use design and more information. We have several features we wish to add and new services we hope to offer. We will be writing more on this subject as the development progresses.

There is little change in the computer systems used at the RCGS library this year. All computers are

aging gracefully, with the normal amount of breakdowns attributed to older equipment. The society will need to be looking at replacing the systems, increasing computer capacity and beefing up security in the next 1 or 2 years.

## Education

**Jan Wichman:** Feb. 22, Carol Regehr presented a very informative and well-attended program on DNA research at the Manhattan Public Library. March 23, Patty Wadick presented a workshop on how to use the [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) Data Base. April 14, Judy Regehr presented a workshop on how to use The Grandma Database of Low German Mennonite Ancestry. On April 19, Kevin Larson presented a program on “The Construction of Tuttle Creek Dam” and how it affected the surrounding communities. On June 14, Lowell Jack presented a well-attended program on “Fun Facts about Manhattan” at the Manhattan Train Depot. Oct. 22, Patty Wadick presented a workshop at the Manhattan Public Library on how to write your own genealogy book using Microsoft Word.

## Buildings and Grounds

**Report by Jim Bradley:** We still do not have a Building & Grounds Coordinator so several have taken the responsibility of making repairs that need doing. We passed the City’s annual fire inspection. The entryway steps were listed as repaired in the last year report; but the concrete froze before setting properly and it is in the process of being repaired. The front storm door latch was replaced. There are some water leak issues with the ceiling in the Kansas Room that will be worked as weather permits. A Ketty Reppert volunteered to work on the rose garden and made some progress with it. A portion of the exterior of the building needs the paint scraped and a new coat of paint applied. The job is one that will require climbing to the eaves of the second floor. During the year obsolete furniture and equipment were gotten rid of from the basement. Some pictures have been hung and the lighting in the Eye-stone Addition has had some tubes replaced.

## Society Financial Strength

**Dick Phillips:** The Riley County Genealogical Society is chartered as a Kansas non-profit corporation with officers and staff who serve without compensation. The Society’s total assets are valued at just over \$200,000, excluding the Platt House building, which is owned by Riley County. Library books and reference materials represent the major portion of assets, followed by computers and related equipment. Total annual cash flow is about \$12,500. Major sources of income are membership fees, donations, and sales of publications. Major expense items are utilities, insurance and the quarterly publication to members, “Kansas Kin”.

## Financial Advisory Committee

**Shirley M. DeLano:** The Riley County Board of County Commissioners appropriated \$3,083 to the Riley County Genealogical Society and Library for 2010 which is the amount that they appropriated for 2009. The grant that was awarded from the Manhattan Fund-Caroline Peine Charitable Foundation was completed and the Power point presentation is available to any organizations in Manhattan that have a need for a history lesson.

## Greater Manhattan Community Foundation

**GMCF** serves as a legal vehicle for charitable investments for our community. RCGS, as an affiliate of GMCF, has established two funds to assist you in providing support for the future of the RCGS Library. **The Endowment Fund** is a permanent fund providing annual income to the Organization Fund. **The Organization Fund** is used for special projects and capital improvements.

Support from the genealogical community and friends of the Society—volunteer service, participation, gifts, and memorials—allows the Library and Society to operate with on-going efficiency. For the long-term, your support is needed to guarantee a viable future. We invite you to contact the Society or the Manhattan Community Foundation to determine which gifting option best fits your wishes. Thank you for your past and future support.

## Searching for Josef Anderson

In June 2009, we received a letter from Sweden, from a Mr. Josefsson researching his grandfather, who had lived in Riley, County, Kansas. By email, we got dates and a bit of information on another family with whom he associated.

July 22, the Josefssons arrived at our library. Jean Johnson, resident of Riley County, and one of our dedicated members, agreed to be at the library with Sherry Butler, Research Librarian. It was a joy to present him with bits of information we had gathered. Using current maps and the old plat map for Riley County, we identified where we think his grandfather and the other family resided.

We were able to find a bit more positive identification from the KS History Center in Topeka. Before leaving Manhattan, Gustav Josefsson and his wife, Birgit, were able to drive to the area near Swede Creek, and to other landmarks we pointed out to them. The Josefssons, joined our society. He recently sent a summary of his research trip in Kansas, as well as photos taken in our library. We at RCGS welcome our new members in Sweden!



Sherry Butler and Jean Johnson help Gustav Josefsson from Sweden find information on his grandfather.

## RCGS Group Visits National Archives in Kansas City

Seven people from the area traveled to Kansas City, Missouri, on October 6 to visit the National Archives. The trip was sponsored and arranged by Riley County Genealogical Society. The National Archives is a wonderful resource for Federal records for the Central Plains states. For information, go to their website at <http://www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city/>.



The Archives preserves over 50,000 cubic feet of original records from over 90 Federal agencies.



The National Archives at Kansas City 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO 64108

## It Is Time to Renew Your Membership — Or Join Our Society as a New Member

If you received this issue of the newsletter by email, you will find a membership form attached to the email. Please print it and send it to us.

**Family Membership is \$30 per year.** We think that is a bargain. We work hard to make resources available to you for researching your family history.



### What did I learn at the National Archives?

Nancy Williams was one of the people taking the RCGS tour to the NARA in Kansas City. Nancy reports she was researching New York passenger lists from 1820 - 1957. She discovered when the incoming ships were sent to New York harbor and other harbors instead of Ellis Island. The Immigration Act of 1924 restricted immigration

- We have many publications for sale that could contain just what you are looking for!
- Sherry Butler, Research Librarian is willing to look up those family tree items that you are “stumped on.”
- Our Library contains a wealth of

from entering the U. S. at Ellis Island. Nancy could not find family on Ellis Island. The attendant at the Archives found the New York Passenger Lists. Bingo - She found both Father and Father-in-law families entering NY in 1924 and 1926. They printed the Manifest from the Ship. Also the Record of Aliens held for Special Inquiry. The Father-in-law was sent to Ellis Island until the doctors could check him out, which is why the family thought they entered there. So a story waiting for an answer for 60 years made Nancy’s Mother-in-law very happy.

information that we will gladly help you with.

- Ancestry.com is available for you to use free of charge at our library.
- We hope to provide ever more information on our website.

**Please join us today!  
Mail the attached form to the address listed on the form.**

Most of the records kept at the Archives are military, land purchase records, census records, including maps, Revolutionary War, pension records, War of 1812, Military service from 1784 - 1811, Indian Wars, Union and Confederate Service Records, African-American Resources, WWI, WWII, American Indians Records

Nancy found Civil War Records for her Great Grandfather. Pension and imprisonment records are available, too.

Nancy reports she was very happy with what she found and the staff was great!

## Slate of RCGS Officers Presented for Annual Meeting

President:  
pending  
Vice President:  
Rebecca Rose  
Treasurer:  
Richard Phillips  
Recording Secretary:  
Nancy Williams  
Corresponding Secretary:  
Candace Pannbacker  
Past President:  
Jim Bradley

Submitted by the Nominating Committee — Judy Regehr, Chair; Cecil Eyestone, Mabel Goehring



A reception was held in Independence, Kansas, on Oct. 4 to honor Cecil L. Eyestone, retired Montgomery County 4-H agent and state 4-H extension specialist. He was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame. Cecil is an active member of RCGS.

### Winter Library Hours Start Dec. 1

Tues & Thurs 10am 4pm  
Wed & Sat 1 to 4 pm  
Sundays Dec. through April by appointment only

**Elected Officers:**

President James Bradley 785-457-3579  
Vice President Jan Wichman 785-539-8030  
Treasurer Richard Phillips 785-537-7735  
Recording Sec. Nancy Williams 785-537-4390  
Corresp. Sec. Candace Pannbacker  
Past President Fred DeLano 785-776-4845

**Library:**

Lib. Coordinator *position needs to be filled*  
Computers Patty Wadick 785-539-6009

***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 Jim Bradley, Sherry Butler, Judy Regehr, Le Juan Shrimplin, Jan Wichman, Nancy Williams. We thank all the members of the RCGS Board for their Annual Reports.***

**Riley County Genealogical Society**

Phone: (785) 565-6495



**Reminder RCGS Annual meeting:**

The RCGS Annual Meeting is Monday, November 9

Zeandale Community Church.

Meeting at 5:30, Dinner at 6:30, Program at 7:30

**Riley County Genealogical Society  
2005 Claflin Road  
Manhattan, KS 66502-3415**