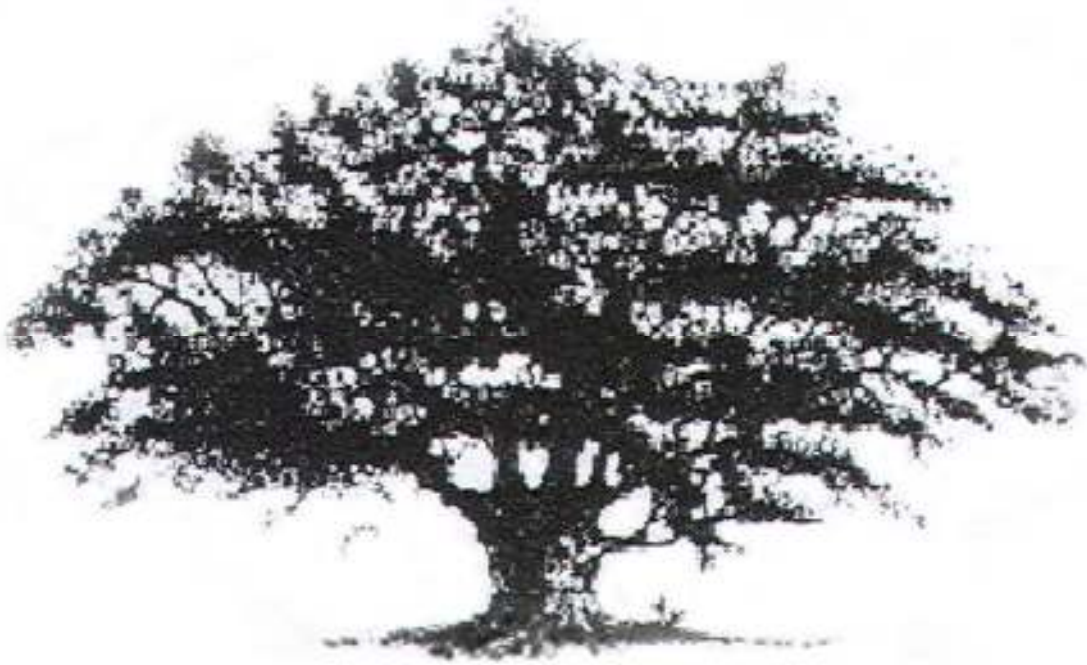


TREE CLIMBER



SMOKY VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY AND LIBRARY, INC.

Smoky Hill Museum Building
211 West Iron Avenue
Suite 205
Salina, Kansas 67401
785-825-7573

Library Hours

Monday through Saturday – 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~kssvgs/

2015 TREE CLIMBER - ISSUE FOUR

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MONTHLY MEETINGS

*Held the second Saturday of each month from September to May
2:00 p.m. in Community Room 208 at the Smoky Hill Museum Building*

SMOKY VALLEY GENEALOGY SOCIETY

January—May 2016

PROGRAMS

January 9- Genealogy—**Questions and Answers session.** We all struggle with a research brick wall finding that elusive relative, or something in our software that will not do what we want it to do, so bring your questions and we will try to help you with answerer.

February 13- Mike Bieberle will share with us the newest and greatest about **Family Search** and perhaps some other tid bits that the LDS have to offer us genealogists

March 12– Mic Mcdermott and Sandy Farrell will help us to further or understanding of the new **Windows 10**, though not the challenges of previous Windows programs have been, there are a few new things that we may want to learn about.

April 9– Vince Marshall will share the “mystery” (or magical) of **Grave Dowsing** through a slide program followed by a demonstration of the process. Weather permitting, and members desire, we may proceed to a cemetery in the area for further study.

Refreshments for the monthly SVGS meetings.

January - Florence Jester

February - Sue Harmon

March - Karlene Propst

April - Mitzie Lewis

May - need a volunteer

Our volunteers bring their favorite dish for refreshments at our meeting. SVGS provides table coverings (unless the volunteer would like to do this) as well as plates, napkins, plastic-ware and coffee. Please contact Nanc Scholl, abileneresearcher@yahoo.com or (785) 263-7012,

HELP WANTED - Librarians

We have lost several of our librarians for various reason and are in need of some "replacements". Please call **Nanc Scholl (785) 263-7012** for the day you are available.

This is purely a volunteer position:

Hours - noon to 4 p.m.

Days - the library is open Monday through Saturday.

Pay - Personal satisfaction. This is a very rewarding position being able to help someone find answers in their genealogy search.

Qualifications - Desire to help with genealogy research.

Experience - minimal (we will train, if needed)

2015 New Holdings at SVGS Archive

APRIL

FAM HIS 739 CONRAD, IVORY AND BRANIFF FAMILY HISTORIES
KS 18 33 CLAYCOUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND NEWSLETTER
PA 57 4 SOMERSET COUNTY, PA - BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
RES 187 FOOTPRINTS TO LAND RECORDS
FAM HIS 740 JOSIE-A PIONEER GIRL - A GENEALOGICAL REVIEW
FAM HIS 741 THESE KALEIDOSCOPE HILLS

MAY

FOR GER 38 ADLER'S GERMAN & ENGLISH DICTIONARY
KS 100 68 ST. JOHN'S MILITARY SCHOOL KIT V. 3
KS 98 5 MCCracken, KS HISTORY, 1963-1987, VOL. II

JULY

MIL REV 35 THE CYMRY OF '76
MIL REV 36 PENSIONERS OF REVOLUTIONARY WAR STRUCK OFF ROLL
MIL REV 37 MARINERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
MIL REV 38 AMERICAN PENSIONERS OF THE REVOLUTION
AM GEN 155 INDEX TO AMERICAN GENEALOGIES WITH SUPPLEMENT

AM GEN 156 LIST OF PRIVATE CLAIMS, VOL 1, 2, 3

AM GEN 157 NATURALIZATIONS OF FOREIGN PROTESTANTS IN THE AMERICAN COLONIES

HER HUG 13 MEMORIALS OF THE HUGUENOTS IN AMERICA

FOR ENG 61 BURKE'S GENERAL ARMORY OF ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, IRELAND AND WALES

CT 1 6 HISTORY AND GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILIES OF OLD FAIRFIELD VOL. 1, VOL 2 PT 1, VOL
2 PT 2

CT 6 9 HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF STONINGTON

GA 0 18 THE GEORGIA LAND LOTTERY PAPERS 1805-1914

GA 161 2 THE WILKES COUNTY PAPERS 1773-1833

IL 55 2 HISTORY OF LOGAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN 7 1 BROWN COUNTY, INDIANA CEMETERIES

IN 8 1 HISTORY OF CARROLL COUNTY, INDIANA

IN 9 1 HISTORY OF CASS COUNTY, INDIANA

IN 38 1 HISTORY OF JAY COUNTY

IN 38 2 HISTORY OF JAY COUNTY, INDIANA

IN 42 1 KNOX COUNTY, AN INDEX PERSONS AND FIRMS

IN 42 2 KNOX COUNTY EARLY LAND RECORDS AND COURT INDEXES 1873-1806

IN 80 2 BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD AND PORTRAIT ALBUM OF TIPPECANOE CO. IN

KY 5 BARREN COUNTY, KENTUCKY CEMETERY RECORDS VOL. AND 2

KY 0 53A CALENDAR OF WARRANTS FOR LAND IN KENTUCKY, GRANTED FOR SERVICES
IN THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

MA 12 12 PLYMOUTH CHURCH RECORDS 1620-1859 VOL. 1, 2

MO 49 2 CEMETERY DIRECTORY OF HICKORY COUNTY, MISSOURI

NC 0 38 INDEX TO HATHAWAY'S REGISTER

NC 65 2 THE MECKLENBURG SIGNERS AND THEIR NEIGHBORS

OH 0 53 OLD CHILLICOTHE-SHAWNEE AND PIONEER HISTORY

OH 12 1 HISTORY OF CLARK COUNTY, OHIO

OH 19 1 A BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY OF DRAKE COUNTY, OH

OH 24 1 HISTORY OF FAYETTE COUNTY, OH

OH 24 2 EARLY SETTLERS, AND SETTLEMENT OF FAYETTE COUNTY, OH

OH 25 6 HISTORY OF FRANKLIN AND PICKAWAY COUNTIES, OH

OH 29 4 HISTORY OF GREENE COUNTY, OH

OH 34 14 HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS OF HARRISON COUNTY IN THE STATE OF OHIO

OH 36 2 A HISTORY OF THE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF HIGHLAND COUNTY, OH

OH 42 1	HISTORY OF KNOX COUNTY, OHIO
OH 55 2	MEMOIRS OF THE MIAMI VALLEY, OH VOL 1, 2, 3
OH 55 3	HISTORY OF MIAMI COUNTY, OH
OH 73 6	PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORDS OF THE SCIOTO VALLEY
OH 56 5	CALDWELL'S ATLAS OF MONROE COUNTY, OH
OH 61 3	ILLUSTRATED ATLAS OF NOBLE COUNTY, OH
PA 36 24	LANCASTER COUNTY, PA DEED ABSTRACTS AND DEED ABSTRACTS AND OATHS OF ALLEGIANCE
PA 64 13	LIST OF INHABITANTS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, PA 1800 OR BEFORE
SC 0 34	ORIGINAL LISTS OF PROTESTANTS IMMIGRANTS TO SOUTH CAROLINA
SC 0 35	REVOLUTIONARY CLAIMS IN SOUTH CAROLINA
SC 0 36	INDEX TO SOUTH CAROLINA LAND GRANTS 1784-1800
SC 13 3	MARRIAGE AND DEATH NOTICES FROM THE CHARLESTON TIMES 1800-1821
SC 45 1	ANNALS OF NEWBERRY, SOUTH CAROLINA
VA 0 81	LIST OF THE COLONIAL SOLDIERS OF VIRGINIA
VA 0 81	VIRGINIA SOLDIERS OF 1777 VOL. 1, 2 3
VA 0 82	INDEX TO HENING'S STATUTES
VA 0 83	HISTORY OF THE EARLY SETTLEMENT AND INDIANS OF WESTERN VIRGINIA
VA 77 1	A HISTORY OF HIGHLAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA
VA 0 84	PARISH LINES: DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA
VA 163 1	ALBEMARLE PARISH REGISTER: BIRTHS AND DEATHS
VA 0 85	A LIST OF NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS OF THE VIRGINIA LINE
VA 59 1	GERMAN NEW RIVER SETTLEMENT OF GILES COUNTY IN VIRGINIA
VA 109 3	GERMAN NEW RIVER SETTLEMENT IN MONTGOMERY CO IN VIRGINIA
VA 139 1	GERMAN NEW RIVER SETTLEMENT IN PULASKI CO IN VIRGINIA
WV 0 16	WEST VIRGINIANS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
WV 16 1	HISTORY OF HARDY COUNTY OF THE BORDERLAND
FAM HIS 742	OUR WILLIAMS FAMILY OF MARYLAND AND KENTUCKY AND OTHER STATES
KS 56 22	1ST NATIONAL BANK IN MANKATO, KS
KS 100 96	THE NATIONAL BANK OF AMERICA 1887-1987 THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS
KS 0 37	HISTORY OF THE GERMAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCHES
KS 100 96	YEAR IN REVIEW - LOCAL EVENTS AS REPORTED IN THE SALINE DAILY UNION OR SALINE EVENING JOURNAL 1909-1919 AND 1909-1924

AUGUST

KS 0 138 HISTORY OF KANSAS MASONRY

SEPTEMBER

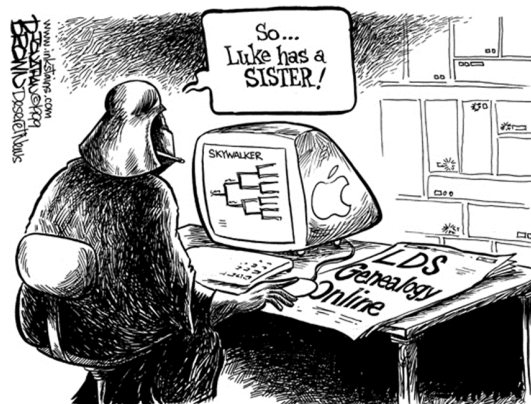
FAM HIS 743 GASTON, ROBERT FAMILY HISTORY

FAM HIS 744 CALKINS, FREDERICK WM FAMILY HISTORY

KS 18 34 INDEX OF NAMES FOUND IN HISTORICAL PLAT BOOK OF CLAY COUNTY, KS
DATED 1881

OCTOBER

KS 109 14 HISTORIES OF SMITH CO., KS BY MINNIE MARGARET FERRIS FLEMING AND
EARLY DAYS BY EMILY DUPUY HADDEN



Ancestry to Retire Family Tree Maker Software

Posted by Kendall Hulet
on December 8, 2015
in Family Tree Maker

Ancestry is proud to have made a significant investment this year to bring valuable new content and records to the Ancestry site. In 2015, we've made 220 million searchable historical records from Mexico available, more than 170 million pages from the largest collection of U.S. will and probate records, among others. We've also introduced new features such as Ancestry Academy and major advancements for Ancestry DNA.

We remain dedicated to helping people gain new levels of understanding about their lives, and who and what led to them, harnessing the information found in family trees, historical records and genetics. As a company, we're also continually evaluating ways to focus our efforts to provide the most impact and best product experience for our users through our core offerings.

True to this focus, we've taken a hard look at the declining desktop software market and the impact this has on being able to continue to provide product enhancements and support that our users need. With that, we've made the decision to stop selling Family Tree Maker as of December 31, 2015.

Our subscription business and website, on the other hand, continue to grow and we are doubling down our efforts to make that experience even better for our Ancestry community.

Ancestry will continue to support current owners of Family Tree Maker at least through January 1, 2017. During this time, all features of the software, including TreeSync™, will continue to work, and Member Services will be available to assist with user questions. We will also address major software bugs that may occur, as well as compatibility updates.

These changes are never easy, but by focusing our efforts, we can concentrate on continuing to build great products for our loyal Ancestry community.

If you have inquiries regarding Family Tree Maker, please reach out to our Member Services team. We'll also provide updates on our blog as needed leading up to January 1, 2017

Remembering The Picture Show at the Plaza!

For the past 6 decades, the citizens of Abilene have been able to enjoy the efforts of one of our departed citizens and his family. Homer Strowig had a vision - a motion picture screen. He was a true promoter of what he strongly believed in - the motion picture entertainment field.

Upon arriving in Abilene in 1926, Mr. Strowig began managing the Seelye Theatre, which ran 2nd rate films. Two years later he purchased the Lyric Theatre from Fite Brothers, stating "that in owning the two Abilene theaters it will enable him to get better pictures for the local trade and with the All-Talking Vitaphone picture which he installed on the 16th in the Seelye, he will be in position to furnish a variety of entertainment and the best picture at all times" according to an article in the Abilene Daily Chronicle in 1928.

Mr. Strowig continued his involvement in the Abilene theatres, with the exception of 1 year, Feb. 1931 to Feb. 1932, when he leased his movie houses to the Glen W. Dickinson Co., until his untimely death in an automobile accident in 1953 at the age of 57.

Mr. Strowig left a legacy that is remembered by the community, many of the older generation knowing him personally. He was twice mayor of Abilene, 1945-46 and 1948-49, being the first mayor to own his own plane, he was the driving force in the construction of the Abilene Municipal Airport located on the south-west edge of our community, which was constructed in 1947-48. Homer was an avid pilot, as were his sons, Robert and Calvin, using his plane to pick up the films in Kansas City for his theatres.

"The balding round-faced man with rimless spectacles was often on an aerial roundup of stray cattle as he flies the Chisholm Trail countryside on a regular basis to check his 'feeders' - the Texas long-horn cattle that inhabit his two "pastures", each one a full country size of more than two thousand acres," according to Jack Stark who wrote the article Chisholm Trail Skyman in 1946 about Abilene's former politician.

The year of 1935, brought a major change in the building located at 408 West North Second Street - a major remodeling project, overseen by Homer Strowig as he transformed the former Bone-break Opera House, later known as the Seelye Theatre, into a first class "movie house" as theatres were known in that day, and renaming it the Plaza Theatre. Pictures show scaffolding erected on the entire south side of the building, with men all over the wooden structure changing the facade from brick to stucco; changing the skyline; the windows; and transforming the entrance to the elaborate Art Deco decor including the manqué and ticket booth, the likes of which could not be found for many miles surrounding the "cowtown" of Abilene.

An article appearing in the Abilene Daily Chronicle on Sunday, October 6, 1935 states, "Abilene's new theatre, the \$75,000 Plaza, will be formally opened Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock

with a matinee showing of "Here Comes the Band", featuring Ted Lewis and his music.

"The Abilene High School band and the Solomon High School band will be guests of Homer F. Strowig, manager, on the occasion of the opening and presentation of this musical film. They will parade immediately preceding the show."

It went on to say, "The admission price for the initial afternoon showing will be 30 cents. Matinees will ordinarily begin at 2:30 o'clock." This was a celebration like none other in the community.

The Plaza's interior also received a "face lift" which can still be seen by moviegoers today. The tapestries on the north and south walls were designed and installed by the Kansas City Scenic Company, who designed such scenery on tapestries in the 1930's for theatres. Beautiful, intricate movie theatres were a way for American's to escape the drudgery of living through the Great Depression.

"Large theatres were in vogue when Art Deco was in style and used symbols, angular styles and geometric patterns" according to Homer's granddaughter, Cathy Strowig, a graphic artist in Abilene and owner of Last Chance Graphics, Inc. "Even the seats are original from 1935. And if you sit in them for two hours you'll realize it," jokes Cathy, the third generation of Strowigs to own and operate the theatre.

Homer Strowig expanded on his "motion picture vision" when he built the Trials End Drive-In in 1949 just west of the city limits and his family continued to operate it until the mid 1980's when it was closed. Drive-In's are now a part of our history. It was very modern, with all new equipment, and able to accommodate over 300 automobiles to see the latest of movies. This was "family entertainment" at its best.

The Plaza has seen three, count them, three, world premiers, with the first one being Jules Levey's "Abilene Town". In an article in the January 19, 1946 issue of Boxoffice magazine, it states "To celebrate the event, Levey stages a five-day program in the Kansas City area, the highlight of which was a journey by bus to Abilene for the premier. The stars, Randolph Scott, Ann Dvorak and Rhonda Fleming; Herbert Biberman, associated producer, and a corps of newspaper men bundled themselves into the bus at Kansas City and toured 170 miles into the heart of Kansas. There was a stop at Topeka, the state capital, a parade in Abilene, a reception for the town's leading citizens, a statewide network broadcast, the premier, and a screen test for Maj. Jean Swann of the Wac, whom Levey met in Washington, D.C. recently."

Little did the community realize just how publicized the premier would be. It could be said that there was not an event of that magnitude until the celebration of Gen. Eisenhower's 100th birthday in 1990.

Following the end of W.W.II, the second premier, an Army documentary titled "True Glory"

made its debut to the nation at the Plaza.

And most recently, in 1990 while Abilene, and the nation, celebrated Eisenhower's 100th birthday, the World Premier of "Dwight David Eisenhower: American" was seen.

The Plaza continued to be in the spotlight, when on June 6, 1952, after announcement to the citizens of Abilene at the Fair Grounds the day before, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower held his first press conference at the theatre. Calvin Strowig recalls "the place was full of news people. The TV and the Newsreel people were fighting about where they could put their cameras. My dad told them to be set up by 3 PM or he'd kick them out."

National, state and local journalists, including the late Edward R. Morrow, traveled to Abilene to hear the five-star general speak. Morrow referred to the theatre as "a little theatre" during his report about the press conference, and Calvin said he always resented Morrow's remark. After all, the Plaza can seat over 600 people.

Because of its unique history and architecture, the Plaza was added to the National List of Historic Theatre Buildings in 1977, joining more than 200 historically significant theatres in 43 states given this special designation, according to an article published in The Boxoffice magazine published September 19, 1977.

To keep up with ever-changing motion picture technology, Mr. Strowig brought Cinema-scope, and the big screen to the Plaza in 1950. With the addition of the larger screen, the entire stage area was now alive.

The Plaza has been a "family" business with both of Homer's sons, Calvin, starting in 6th grade, and Robert beginning at the age of 12, both working "from the bottom up", selling popcorn, later being promoted to Usher, Doorman, Projectionist, Assistant Manager, Manager, and, in later years, owners.

Upon his father's death, Robert became the active part of the Strowig family in the theatre, while Calvin pursued his political ambitions. Although Calvin was never the Mayor of Abilene, he served the citizens of his "hometown" of Abilene in the House of Representatives for over a decade.

The Strowig dynasty lives on through Calvin's wife Betty, and their daughter, Cathy, as they oversee the day to day operation of the Plaza, the only remaining "motion picture" theatre in the city. Movies are shown 364 days a year, Christmas Eve being the only night they are closed.

Another era drew to an end at the Plaza Theatre in November 1995 with the retirement of Richard Cowan, who, like Homer's sons, started in the industry from the "bottom" and has held an undying loyalty to the Strowig family and the Plaza Theatre. Richard started working for the Strowig family when he was in junior high school, stating, with a very big grin and a twinkle in his eyes, that he was not completely truthful about his age. Richard has been with the Plaza for over 4 decades.

Longevity is not unusual for the Plaza "employees"; Ron Hostetler has been in the projection booth since September 22, 1976 when "Alive" was playing, and Pete Terres since the 1977 showing of "Grease".

It has been a tradition at the Plaza to hire high school students to work in the concession stand. Over the years, many of Abilene's citizens, and their brothers and sisters, can remember their days selling popcorn, soda and candy to the patrons of the Plaza.

Nanc Scholl, November 1995.

Family - Homer is Calvin and Robert's father. He died in an automobile accident in 1958.

Stella is Calvin and Robert's mother. She died in July 1993.

Robert died in 1992. He was Calvin's brother.

Calvin died November 10, 1994.

Cathy Strowig is Calvin and Betty's daughter.

Pam Tate is Calvin and Betty's daughter and she lives in Topeka with her son, Josh, and husband Bob.

Documentation – It is not that difficult:

There is only one hard and fast rule for general documentation: Record enough information so that another researcher can determine what you have documented. Answer these questions when documenting your find:

1. **Who**, is the individual I am discussing?
2. **What** am I documenting, Census record, birth, death etc.?
3. **When** did the event or fact occur? 1930 US Federal Census, etc.
4. **Where** was the event or record recorded, McPherson County, KS, USA
5. **How** was the document or record discovered? Research trip to Smokey Valley Genealogical Society Library, Salina Kansas 12/5/2014

Thus it is not enough to say "U.S. Census" for a source. That is not specific: Which year? Which county and state? What page number? You would want to record, for example, "1850 census, Berrien County, Michigan, page 213." This however is the bare minimum. This is adequate for many research purposes, and it is information that is already on your research log. If you are consistent in your approach to documenting your findings you will always be able to provide true documentation of your family's history. The same thought process also works for planning your next research trip. Who are you researching, What fact are you looking for, during what date range (When), in what location (Where) was this individual living, .Happy Searching!