We had interesting presentations at our March and April meetings. Nicole Johnson made a presentation on historic clothing in March. Watch for Vikki Pauley’s article about the presentation in an upcoming issue of our GSCM Reporter.

In April Tara Griffin shared pictures of her trip to Ireland a couple years ago. While there, she was able to visit the town where her ancestors used to live. This was a once-in-a-lifetime trip for Tara and her husband.

UPCOMING MEETINGS and EVENTS

Please note the different venues for both our May and June meetings. Also, while we will meet at the usual 7 p.m. time for our May meeting, our June potluck will start a half hour earlier, at 6:30 p.m.

May meeting: Tuesday, May 1

From 1854 to 1929 Orphan Trains transported homeless children from crowded Eastern cities to the Midwest in hopes of finding suitable foster homes for the children. At our May meeting Shirley Andrews will tell the story of her mother’s experiences as she traveled west on one of the Orphan Trains.

Please note the special location for this meeting: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 904 Old 63 South, Columbia, MO.

June meeting: Tuesday, June 5

Our June meeting is always our potluck dinner at the Boone County History and Culture Center (formerly called the museum). This year another group has reserved the Veranda, so we will meet at the gazebo at Cosmo Corner at 6:30 p.m. Please bring food to share.
Memorial Flower Arrangement Sale

Our fund-raising project was a success! We plan to repeat this project next year, with perhaps a few logistical changes. Extra flower arrangements for sale are currently located in the Genealogy Library. Stop by the library to see what's available.

Figure 2. Belinda Luke and Rob Taylor picked up our orders. Here's Belinda's vehicle, full of flower arrangements.

Cemetery Cleanup Project

The Wright Family Cemetery cleanup, planned for April, was cancelled due to bad weather. Stay tuned for information about rescheduling.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We have one new member. Welcome to:

- Sharon Naylor, Columbia

LIBRARY DONATIONS

Thanks to the Boone County History and Culture Center for donating some selected volumes of “Cemetery Records of Boone County, Missouri,” compiled by Elizabeth Ellsberry.

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

Mary Helen Allen
Mary Margaret Bayer
Nerma Bennett
Susan Burns
Thresa Chism
Tara Cox
Tim Dollens
Marilyn Earley
Deborah Furnell
Tara Griffin
Gina Hall
Mary Jo Herde
Robert Hill
Kayde Holton
Edith Jespersen
Marjory Johnson
Carol Lee
Mary Lusk
Betty McKinley
Sharon Naylor
Larry Joe Pauley
Vikki Pauley
Nancy Thomas
Jennifer Walker
Virginia Winters
Nancy Workman
EDITORIAL MUSINGS ABOUT OUR GSCM LIBRARY

When Bill Crawford was alive and would visit the museum, he would always stop by the library to chat. He and his wife Midge were part of the group that started our genealogy society. Bill talked about the days when the bookcases in the library were empty. GSCM members donated their personal collections to the library, just so there would be some books on the shelves.

What a change over the years! Just look at our bookcases now! There are eleven tall (almost floor to ceiling) bookcases in our library, each one filled to capacity. Our library is literally bursting at the seams.

Since we no longer hold our meetings at the museum, some of our new members (and maybe even some of our long-time members) may not be familiar with all the resources offered by our library and the changes that have occurred over the last couple of years.

Four of our eleven bookcases hold resources about the state of Missouri. Approximately one and a half bookcases contain Boone County information – marriage records, cemetery records, church records, county histories, and more. For those whose Missouri ancestors were not Boone County residents, the library also contains 1880-vintage histories of many other Missouri counties. Check them out!

And if all your ancestors resided in other states, three bookcases are full of books with records from other states in the union. Although several books are about Kentucky and Virginia, states from which many Missourians migrated, many other states are represented on these shelves.

Figure 3. Here's our fantastic library. See how full the bookcases are!

Figure 4. Here are some books about Kentucky. Note that all the shelves are labeled, making it easy to locate materials.

Three of the remaining bookcases contain family histories. Many Boone County families are documented here. The eleventh bookcase contains records pertaining to immigration, Europeans, Colonial America, and Native Americans.
There is one additional low bookcase across the far end of the room. This bookcase contains various items including high school and college yearbooks, DAR and other society books. In addition, our library collection includes many personal scrapbooks full of newspaper clippings and other historical memorabilia.

Figure 5 pictures a set of file cabinets that contain “family folders.” These folders contain information that is often donated by family members – including family tree information, newspaper clippings, pictures, etc. Don’t overlook these folders when doing your research – you might find some really special information here.

Figure 5. File cabinets containing family folders.

A few file cabinets adjacent to those in Figure 5 contain some personal collections. These appear to be documents collected over a lifetime of research by these individuals. Each collection covers multiple family names. Check them out to see if your family name might appear in the records.

The shelves pictured in Figure 6 contain atlases. The topmost shelves contain atlases of Boone and surrounding counties. A few days ago I looked at the labels on the lower shelves and was delighted to see atlases from other states. There was even an “Atlas of County Boundary Changes in Virginia: 1634-1895.” I have an ancestor who came to Virginia in the mid 1650s as an indentured servant, so I especially enjoyed looking through this book.

Figure 6. Atlases and card catalog.

Figure 7. This Illustrated Historical 1876 Atlas of Boone County is part of our collection.
The card catalog in Figure 6 contains references to newspaper articles published in the Columbia Missourian from 1908 – 1929.

Volunteers are critical to the success of the library. We appreciate all of volunteers, many of whom volunteer multiple times every month. Special thanks are due to our new members who are volunteering. We hope you’re able to utilize the library’s many resources while you’re there.

Although there are days when no visitors come, on other days the library is busy all day long. A couple years ago we had a visitor from the state of CA who basically camped out at the library for about three days. We want to keep the library available for people like this, so please volunteer when you can.

When you’re not busy helping someone, you can always use one of the two computers in the library to access the Internet and work on your own research.

I would also challenge all of our members to take another look at the resources available in the library. The first three or four times I volunteered at the library when I joined GSCM several years ago, I was busy all day long searching through Boone County records. Over the years, I thought I’d exhausted the records. Then, a few months ago, I decided to look at the out-of-state resources. Figure 8 shows a page out of a book of newspaper items from the state of Ohio from the early 1800s. I found an item about a great-great or great-great-great uncle from 1807. What a surprise! The item itself isn’t of much importance, but it does establish the fact that my relative lived in that location in 1807 and it does provide a snapshot of life at that time. Visit the library and see what you can discover about your own family.

Figure 8. The item about my relative appears in the lower half of the page. Under the heading “Saturday, 5 December 1807” it reads: “Thomas Barrett reports that Roger Toothaker and John Long have appraised a horse found by William Welling, of Cadiz township, Jefferson County.” William Welling is my relative.

Marjory Johnson, Editor
Contributors
Thresa Chism
Belinda Luke