

Self-guided Tour of the Genealogy Department at the Central Resource Library

By Marsha Bennett, JCGS Member

When was the last time you looked at what is available in the genealogy area of the Johnson County Central Resource Library? Would you be able to help a friend find the resources they need for their family research? This is truly a genealogy gem information destination, from the helpful genealogy volunteers to the more than 8,000 items in the JCGS collection. Make a New Year's resolution to familiarize yourself with these resources by taking this self-guided tour. Your mission will be to find at least one of your ancestors' names in printed materials or by using an online database you haven't yet searched. Are you up for the challenge?

The locations of the numbered items in this article are shown on page 11 of the department's map.

1. Genealogy Desk: A great place to start with your family history questions, brick walls, and information about online databases and materials in the JCGS collection. Genealogy society member volunteers staff the desk from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



2. Old Book Cabinet: It is locked and located behind the genealogy desk and houses older

books in delicate condition for more protection. Ask the genealogy desk volunteer to unlock it if you need one of these items.

3. 1977-2000 Johnson County Obituaries:

Search for local obituaries in both the wooden card file drawers and index clippings located behind the desk and in the cabinet facing the west wall.

4. Bookcase with Often-used Materials: *Red Book, The Source, County Courthouse Book, Family Associations, the Handbook for Genealogists*, and other ready reference materials are on the shelves and can help you locate resources and get you started.

5. Free Handouts Wall: Pick up these information sheets to help with basic genealogy. The collection includes census forms, worksheets, checklists, general website information, biographical timeline sheet, relationship charts such as *Right Name for Right Cousin*, and other basic and ethnic genealogy information for beginners and experienced genealogists.

6. Computers & Printer: Three computers are available which may be used to access free library edition genealogical databases such as Ancestry, Fold3, American Ancestors, FamilySearch, Heritage Hub, Black Life in America, and others. You can save information to a flash drive, email, or print a hard copy for a small fee. A list of databases is available at www.jocolibrary.org/research/genealogy.

7. New Book Display: Find the newest genealogy books purchased by JCGS on these display shelves as soon as they are processed and available for reference use by patrons.

8. Black Cabinets: Microfilm rolls are stored here for the *Kansas City Star* (all) and Johnson County newspapers. There are also a few miscellaneous Johnson County printed family histories. Check the top of the cabinets for signs identifying the publications' names and dates.



9. Microfilm/ fiche Readers and Free Printer: Use these three machines to read microfilm and microfiche from the cabinets or that you have requested through an inter-

library loan. Easy-to-follow instructions are displayed for DIY operations.

10. Current Genealogy Periodicals and Magazines: Stay updated with genealogy magazines and current periodicals from other genealogy organizations. Family Tree Magazine, Internet Genealogy, American Ancestors, NGS Magazine, The American Genealogist, The NEGS Register and some quarterly publications are included.

11. Informational Triangle: Find additional helpful flyers with genealogy information on this multi-sided rack near the west wall, including an example of a large family tree chart.

12. Back Side of Black Microfilm Cabinets: Here, you will find back issues of the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* (Eastern Edition), and various magazines on microfiche.



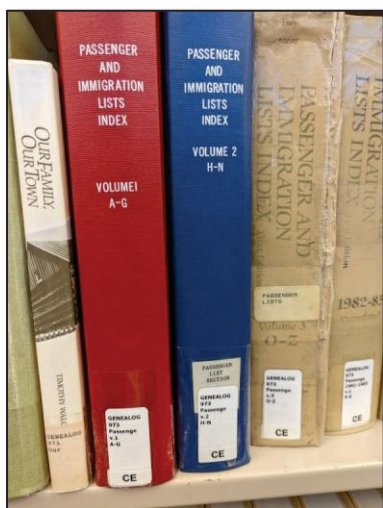
13. Double-sided Shelving JCGS library collection: This is where the real research fun begins. From general "how-to" books to specific family histories, there is definitely

something for everyone's genealogy.

Periodicals: A large variety of print journals and quarterlies have been filed alphabetically by the state for the last 50 years. Also, general journals such as the *Northeast Journal of Genealogical Studies*, the *New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEGS) Nexus*, and the *National Genealogical Society (NGS) Newsletter* are in this area. Find that article you missed in back issues of subscription periodicals such as *Family Tree Magazine*, *Internet Genealogy*, or *The American Genealogist (TAG)*. Search for your specific articles in PERSI (Periodical Source Index). PERSI is a subject matter index for periodical articles relating to local history and genealogy. It can be accessed for free through the [Allen County \(IN\) Public Library website](#).

Book Collection: These books represent a broad range of subjects. There are basic re-

sources such as how-to books on genealogy, cemeteries, and overviews of ethnic groups such as Irish, German, and Scandinavian. There are atlases, gazetteers, dictionaries of place names, and books on royal or noble ancestors. You will also find books on immigration from specific countries, passenger lists, German-American surnames, Native American ancestry, descendants of colonial and 19th-century ancestors, and family histories. You can learn more about the 13 colonies and the states they became. General topics include Civil War (Union and Confederate), Colonists, Patriots, Military, New England, Mayflower, local histories, and genealogical information for specific cities, counties, and states.



These provide great reading for ancestry and general background information. The materials are listed in the Johnson County Library catalog,

www.jocolibrary.org, and can be searched by keyword, title, subject, or author.

14. Urban and Local History collection

across the main aisle toward north windows: Here, you can find city directories, local school yearbooks, and local histories of the area. Most local phone books have been removed for digitizing.

15. Map Collection cabinets near north windows: Looking for an old map of the local

area. There is an 1860 Territorial Survey Map, 1874, 1902, and 1922 Historical Atlas Maps of Johnson County. There are also geological survey and topographic maps, Sandborn maps, Kansas City and Kansas/County Road and highway maps.



16. Vertical files cabinet: This file contains

clippings, brochures, and other ephemera relating to local histories, individuals (like Quantrill and Wild Bill Hickock, who were present in this area), local cities, and other topics, alphabetically by name or subject.

There are several tables in the Genealogy area where you may work, as well as nearby study rooms, numbered 11 to 19, that may be [reserved online](#) for 2 hours or used by walk-ins if no one is signed up or using the room. Wi-Fi is available throughout the library.

For the past 50 years, the Johnson County Library and the Johnson County Genealogical Society have been collecting and cataloging items and providing online databases for the public to access in their genealogy research. Don't overlook these resources no matter where your ancestors resided. Please get to know them and use them often.

Map of the Genealogy Department at the Central Resource Library

