



Kenneth Spencer Research Library

<http://spencer.lib.ku.edu/>

RESOURCES FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH AT THE SPENCER RESEARCH LIBRARY AND SELECTED REPOSITORIES AND INTERNET SITES

The Kenneth Spencer Research Library, comprised of the Department of Special Collections, Kansas Collection, and University Archives, contains numerous resources of potential interest to genealogists, cited here.

While the Library does not emphasize the needs of genealogical research in its collecting policies or genealogical expertise in the capabilities of its staff, genealogists are welcome to use the Library's resources. Library staff are not available to conduct genealogical research, but will provide information about the scope of library holdings and services. For assistance, contact the Reader Services department in person (3rd floor of Spencer Library) or call 785-864-4334. Spencer Library's web site (<http://spencer.lib.ku.edu/>) also provides general information regarding the Library's resources and services.

- **Douglas County records**

Spencer Library's Kansas Collection is the official repository for Douglas County, Kansas records. Many (but not all) early records from the Treasurer's Office, Clerk of the Court, Appraiser's Office, and the Douglas County Court system have been transferred to Spencer Library and are available for use. Spencer Library's holdings of Douglas County records include the following:

- **Birth records.** Although some Kansas counties have courthouse records of births prior to July 1, 1911, none appear in either the archived Douglas County records at the Spencer Library or in records retained at the Douglas County Courthouse. Records of Baldwin City births and deaths from 1911-1958 can be found in holdings of the Watkins Community Museum of History in Lawrence (<http://www.dchsk.org/>). For Kansas birth records on and after July 1, 1911, contact the State Division of Vital Statistics (<http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/vital/>)
- **Marriage records.** In the Spencer Library's guide to Douglas County records (hereinafter cited as "the Douglas County records guide"), see *Marriage Records Indexes, 1863-1920* (in 4 volumes), *Marriage Records for 1863-April 1913* (11 volumes), and *Marriage Licenses, Sept. 6, 1962-Sept.3, 1964*. Kansas marriage certificates issued from May 1, 1913 forward are available from the State Division of Vital Statistics (<http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/vital/>). Records of the most recent five years of Douglas County marriage certificates are located at the Douglas County District Court Clerk's Office, Lawrence.
- **Death records.** Douglas County records do not include death *certificates* for decedents, but the County's Probate Court records, which date from 1857, include decedent death dates and the full texts of wills, including named heirs and size and disposition of estates. For records of court appearances, actions, and case files related to estates, consult the *Probate Records Index, 1857-1965*, listed in the Douglas County records guide. Surname entries in the *Index* are listed alphabetically, then chronologically from earliest to most recent deaths. Entries show page numbers of related entries in Probate Court *Journals, Dockets, and Final Accounts* of estates. Records of wills date from 1890 (indexed from 1941 to 1962). For Kansas death certificates from July 1, 1911 forward, contact the State Division of Vital Statistics (<http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/vital/>).
- **Adoption records.** Records of many Douglas County adoptions can be found in the Douglas County *Probate Records Index, 1857-1965*. See the Douglas County records guide.

- **Divorce records.** Divorces are indexed within the Douglas County Court *Civil Appearance Dockets, 1945-1973*. In the Douglas County records guide, see District Court Civil Cases, including "Douglas County Divorce Petitions, 1864-1884" (alphabetical by surname of plaintiff, with the related Civil Court case file's number identified). For divorce records from July 1, 1951 forward, contact the State Division of Vital Statistics (<http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/vital/>).
- **Property records.** Go to "Real Estate Records" in the Douglas County records guide (see *Deeds Indexes* for the years 1855-1900, in 17 volumes, and a corresponding inventory of deed records). For property tax records, see the Library's holdings of tax rolls for Lawrence and Douglas County, 1863-1967. Entries in these volumes are by street address or legal description of the property. Estate inventories are sometimes included in Probate Court records (see *Probate Records Index, 1857-1965*).
- **Naturalization and immigration records.** Spencer Library holdings are approximately for the years 1867 to 1955 (see index in its guide to Douglas County Records). Declarations of intent by applicants sometimes yield considerable information, including not only country of origin but also birthplace, names of other family members, etc.
- **School records.** Spencer Library's holdings of Douglas County records contain some public school records roughly dating from 1922 to 1967. Also see the Library's manuscript holdings for Lawrence Unified School District 497 and for the Douglas County Historical Society, whose school records date from 1888. For University of Kansas records, see the Library's index files.

- **Census Records**

From 1855 through 1925, a Kansas census (a territorial census, from 1855 to 1859) was conducted at ten-year intervals. From 1860 to the present, a federal census of Kansas has been conducted every ten years. With the exception of the 1890 federal census, the source documents of which were destroyed by fire, these combined censuses provide Kansas census data at five-year intervals for the period 1855 through 1930.

The 1855 through 1925 Kansas censuses are open to the public. Federal census records are closed by law for 72 years, and are currently open to the public through 1930. Census records include much genealogical information. The 1895 Kansas census, for example, lists all members of households by name, including age, sex, race or color, state or country of birth, military record, and where from (state or country) prior to Kansas residency. The 1930 Federal census includes occupation; citizenship; number of years in the U.S.; mortgage holder; marital status; length of unemployment in past year; whether deaf, dumb, blind, or insane; ability to read and write; whether attending school; birthplace of parents; number of children born and living; Civil War service; years in present marriage; and mother tongue.

Spencer Library's holdings include neither the Kansas nor federal censuses of Kansas. On the University's Lawrence campus, these are available at the Anschutz Library (a U.S. government documents depository). No borrower card is required for their on-site use. Kansas censuses are also available at the Kansas State Historical Society's Kansas History Center in Topeka. Years for which Kansas censuses are available can be found at the Society's website: <http://www.kshs.org/genealogists/census/index.htm>.

- **Manuscripts**

The Spencer Library's Kansas Collection holdings of individual and family papers include personal correspondence, memoirs, diaries, travel journals, family bibles, family histories, and photographs. Its business and organizational records include those of schools, churches, social and civic organizations, historical societies, and funeral homes. Douglas County Historical Society manuscripts held in the Kansas Collection include records of Douglas County's early settlers and Civil War volunteers. See the Kansas Collection's catalog and manuscript finding aids for records of these and other manuscripts. Records of University of Kansas faculty, staff and students are located in the Spencer Library's holdings within the University Archives, and include departmental and organizational records, personal papers, morgue (biographical) files, oral histories, scrapbooks, and photographs.

- **Photographs**

The large photograph collections of the Spencer Library's Kansas Collection and University Archives include archived holdings of photographs taken by staff of the *Lawrence Journal-World*. In the Kansas Collection's subject listings of its photograph holdings, see the categories "people" and "portraits," as well as a separate subject index to its Lawrence Photo Collection. Consult the University Archives' alphabetical subject index for record group numbers at which its photographs are housed.

- **Maps and atlases**

The Kansas Collection's historical maps include detailed Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Lawrence (1883-1927) and for many other Kansas communities. Sanborn Map holdings for later years are available on microfilm. Names of property owners can be found on the Library's many plat maps of Kansas townships.

- **Newspapers**

The Kansas Collection has holdings of many Kansas community newspapers. Most, including many African-American newspapers, are on microfilm and date from the 1800s through the early 1900s. The Library's microfilm holdings of Lawrence and Leavenworth newspapers date from 1854. *Lawrence Journal-World* holdings from 1912 to the present are housed in KU's Watson Library. The Kansas Collection also holds microfilmed scrapbooks of newspaper clippings from Lawrence, Kansas City, Wichita, and Topeka newspapers for roughly the 1940s through 1960s, indexed by subject and personal name. University Archives holdings include microfilmed issues of the University's student newspaper (the *University Daily Kansan* and its predecessors), dating from their earliest years of issuance. Some subject indexing of University-related news items is available for the student newspaper and for Lawrence and area newspapers.

- **City directories and telephone directories**

Spencer Library has Lawrence city directories dating from 1860, as well as city and telephone directories for many other Kansas communities. Online catalog records of the city directories can be found by a keyword search of the city name + "directories."

- **Published marriage, death, and cemetery records (sample items):**

- *Douglas County, Kansas marriages, v.1, 1854-1884.* Compiled by Donna M. Shogrin. Lawrence, KS, Douglas County, KS, Genealogical Society, c1989. (F687.D7685 1989)
[Indexed by groom's surname and also by bride's maiden name.]
- "Marriage Notices from Kansas Territorial Newspapers, 1854-1861," in *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, vol.21, no.2 (Summer, 1955). pp. 445-486. (F676.K33).
[Alphabetical by groom's surname].
- "Death Notices from Kansas Territorial Newspapers, 1854-1861," in *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, vol.18, no.3 (Aug. 1950). pp. 302-323 and no. 4 (Nov. 1950), pp. 408-426. (F676.K33).
[Alphabetical by surname].
- *Complete tombstone census of Douglas County, Kansas, v.1-2.* Lawrence, Kan., Douglas County, Kansas Genealogy Society, c1987, c1989. (v.1: Lawrence city cemeteries, Oak Hill and Maple Grove; v.2: all cemeteries and burial sites in Douglas County, excluding Oak Hill and Maple grove.) (F687.D7C66 1987).

- **Published family histories and biographies (sample items):**

- Francis, Carol Buhler. *Douglas County, Kansas, family histories, 1991-1992.* 1st ed. Lawrence, KS: Douglas County, Kansas, Genealogical Society, 1994- (v.1, 1991-1992) (F687.D769 1994).
[A published resource for the history of Douglas County families, arranged alphabetically by surname. Note: "1991-1992" denotes the period during which the histories were collected; the histories themselves date from the 1800s.]
- Baldwin, Mrs. Sara A. (Mullin), ed. *Illustriana Kansas; biographical sketches of Kansas men and women of achievement....* Hebron, Neb., Illustriana incorporated, 1933. (F680.B35 1933).
- *Genealogical and biographical record of north-eastern Kansas.* Salem, Mass., Higginson, 2000. (F680.G32 2000).
- *Kansas Biographical Dictionary; people of all times and places who have been important to the history and life of the State.* New York, Somerset Publishers [c1994]. (CT235.K36 1994).
- Markley, Walter M. *Builders of Topeka.* [1934 and 1956 editions]. (F689.T6 M37).
- Wilson, Hill Peebles. *A biographical history of eminent men of Kansas.* Topeka, Hall Lithographing Co., 1901. (F680.W5).
- Hyder, Clyde Kenneth. *Snow of Kansas; the life of Francis Huntington Snow....* Lawrence, Kans.: University of Kansas Press, 1953. (LD2686 1890.H9).
- Webb, Bernice Larson. *The basketball man, James Naismith.* Lawrence, Kans.: University of Kansas Press [1973]. (GV884.N34W42).

- **Published county and State histories (sample items):**

- Dary, David. *Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas; an informal history*. Lawrence, Kan., Allen Books, 1982. (F689.L4D37 1982).
- Connelley, William Elsey. *History of Kansas, State and People*. [5 volumes] Chicago, American Historical Society, 1928. (F681.C66 1928).
- Cutler, William G. *History of the State of Kansas*. Chicago, Ill., A.T. Andreas, 1883. (F681.C9 1976).
[Cutler's county histories from the 1800s contain extensive biographical sketches of Kansas county residents, arranged alphabetically by surname. Full text of Cutler's *History* is available at the "Carrie" website (see <http://www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/index.html>), created by KU Emeritus Professor of History Lynn Nelson.
- *Kansas, the first century*. New York, Lewis Historical Publishing Co, c1956. 4 volumes.). [Subtitle of vols. 3-4: Family and personal history.] (F681.K36 1956)

- **Published military service records (sample items):**

- Records of the Kansas adjutant general through World War II are located at the Kansas State Historical Society. The Spencer Library holdings named below list names of Civil War officers and soldiers from Kansas, including regiment, residence, date of enlistment and muster, date and cause of discharge, or date of death:
- Kansas. Adjutant General's Office. *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kansas, 1861-65*. Vol. I. Topeka, Kansas State Printing Company, 1896. (E508.2.K16).
- Kansas. Adjutant General's Office. *Roster of Kansas volunteers in the service of the United States*. Topeka, 1864. (E508.9.R67 1864).

- **Internet sites**

Kansas State Historical Society (<http://www.kshs.org>).

An indispensable resource and web site for Kansas genealogical information: newspapers, census records, lists of county histories and city directories, links to county and municipal records, searchable biographical files for "Notable Kansans" and for biographical information in KSHS vertical files. Contains a partial list of its manuscript collections, and searchable indexes to contents pages of KSHS *Transactions*, *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, *Kansas History*, and *Kansas Heritage*.

Blue Skyways (<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/>)

A service of the Kansas State Library, Topeka, which includes lists and links to Kansas county and city libraries and historical museums, city newspapers (for direct searching of newspaper archives, where available), and to addresses and contact information for city and county offices. The web site's genealogy link is to the KSGenWeb Project (described below).

KSGenWeb Project (<http://www.skyways.org/genweb.org/>).

Part of the USGenWeb Project, developed by nationwide volunteers for the development of state web pages for purposes of genealogical research. The Kansas web page has maps of Kansas counties and has lists and links for Kansas cemeteries, city/county offices and related databases, community genealogical societies, and databases of Kansans who served in the Civil War. A link at the KSGenWeb site to Kansas Native American genealogy provides excellent links to resources (including some full-text files).

Kansas Heritage Center for Family and Local History (http://www.ku.edu/heritage/heritage_main.html)

Click on this site's "Kansas Interactive Genealogy" link for further links to many Kansas genealogical sites; has links to "Interactive Genealogy" sites of other states, listed alphabetically.

CARRIE; an electronic library (<http://history.cc.ukans.edu/carrie/>).

A full-text database created by Lynn Nelson, KU Emeritus Professor of History. Because CARRIE has a "Kansas Collection" component (<http://www.kancoll.org/>) and bears a University of Kansas web address, it is often mistaken as the website of Spencer Library's Kansas Collection. The site contains many full-text books and articles concerning Kansas history and biography, including William G. Cutler's *History of the State of Kansas* (Chicago, Ill., A.T. Andreas, 1883).

National Archives and Records Administration (<http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/genindex.html>)

The genealogy site for NARA, whose many visitors are comprised primarily of genealogists. Identifies NARA's extensive holdings of importance to genealogists. For services and holdings of NARA's Central Plains Region facility (2312 East Bannister Road, Kansas City, Missouri) visit http://www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/kansas_city.html.

Social Security Death Index

A searchable database of Social Security Administration records (nearly 70 million as of January 2003) for persons whose deaths were reported to the SSA (about 98% of the reported deaths occurring since 1962, but some dating from 1937). Links to this index are available at many genealogy web sites. The Ancestry.com site (<http://www.ancestry.com/ssdi/advanced.htm>) permits searching by state and last known place of residence. Records display social security number, surname and given name, dates of birth and death, and state of residence.

United States Civil War Center (<http://www.cwc.lsu.edu/>)

A web site of Louisiana State University, containing numerous nationwide links to Civil War web sites and resources.

Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/>)

A web site of the National Park Service, searchable for 2.5 million Civil War personnel. Provides searching by name, Union or Confederate affiliation, and state of residence.

Cemetery Records Online (<http://www.interment.net/us/index.htm>)

Described as the Internet's largest cemetery web site, with worldwide listings. U.S. listings are searchable by state and county, and include war veteran cemeteries (including Fort Leavenworth). Includes links to obituaries. Grave listings (few for some cemeteries; complete for others) are contributed largely by volunteers.

Cemetery Junction (<http://www.daddezio.com/cemetery/>)

U.S. cemeteries, searchable within each state by *name* of cemetery. Search results show all locations of cemeteries bearing that name, together with links. The site also includes links to funeral homes and to obituaries.

Ellis Island American Family Immigration History Center (<http://www.ellislandrecords.org/>).

A searchable database of over 22 million passenger names (roughly 70% of the immigrants) processed through Ellis Island between 1892 and 1924. Records provide names of passengers, country of origin, ship of arrival, U.S. destination, and digital images of handwritten documents. Made available to the public on April 17, 2001, the web site received over 50 million access requests in its first six hours.

FamilySearch (<http://www.familysearch.org>)

The important genealogical web site of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, which searches a large network of databases, including the U.S. Social Security Death Index and Vital Records Index.

Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet (<http://www.cyndislist.com/>).

An extensive list of categorized links to genealogical web sites. Links can be searched alphabetically by name and by topic, the latter including such categories as country, religion, ethnicity, etc. Annotations accompany many of the links.

RootsWeb.com (<http://www.rootsweb.com/>)

Self-described as the Internet's oldest and largest free genealogy site. Has links to many web sites.

Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com/search/main.htm>)

A subscription database of over 1 billion searchable genealogical records, but affords free searching of the Social Security Death Index, updated monthly. Provides access to full text of over 20,000 pages of slave narratives.