



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
July 2015

P.O. Box 860477, Plano, TX, 75086-0477

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Schedule of Events

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2015. Meetings are held in the Program Room at the Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd., Plano, TX from 10:15 to 12:30 unless otherwise noted:

Today's Topic:

July 18, 2015—"Dallas Library Genealogy Collection" by Gayla Bush

Future Topics

August 15, 2015—"Changing FamilySearch" by Lynell Moss

September 19, 2015—All Day Seminar, "A Genealogist's Road Map" speaker is Tresa Tatyrek

October 17, 2015—Great Family Search conference at the Plano Family History Center.

October 24, 2015—"Writing Your Family History" speakers are Jerry Lincecum and Peggy Redshaw.

November 21, 2015—"Google –Everything New the you need to know for Genealogy" by Lisa Louise Cook

December 19, 2015—Show and Tell

The Legacy Users Group meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, downstairs at Haggard Library from 1:30 to 3:30. There is an after meeting session if you need one on one help. Contact ptxlegacyug@verizon.net

If you have an idea about a program or a speaker, email Charlie Law at programs@genealogyfriends.org.

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Publications for Sale

The following are available from Genealogy Friends:

Public Land Survey Systems	\$5
Plano Star Courier Index 1904-1910	\$20
Plano Star Courier Index 1911-1917	\$20
Cemeteries of Collin County, TX	\$40
Collin County, TX Voter Registration Index 1867	\$20
Place Names of Collin County, TX	\$10
Railroads in Collin County, TX	\$10
Colonial Ills, Brews & Concoctions	\$10
Library 101: Using Dewey Decimal Sys	\$10
Compiled Newsletters with Index	\$15

Genfriends Membership

It's time to renew your membership!

Our membership year runs from October 1 to September 30. Individual memberships are \$30 a year and family memberships are \$50.

The money we raise is used to purchase materials for the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library.

Download the membership form on our website <http://genealogyfriends.org/news/> send it in with payment to

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc
PO Box 860477
Plano, TX 75086-0477

Research Aids

Attention Ohio Researchers? The secret is knowing which documents are where and what exactly is available. Those answers are solved with the handy \$9 four-page laminated guides such as *Ohio Genealogy Research*, by Michael A. Ports, that weighs only ounces and easily fits into your research notebook that all of us carry on these trips to the library, or have handy while searching on our home computer. It quickly gives me information regarding my Pennsylvania-Germans and Scotch-Irish who traveled through the state. Genealogical Publishing Company calls these laminated guides, *Genealogy at a Glance*, or GAAG. There is almost anything you want to know about Ohio on these four pages be it in hard copy or digital files. It focuses on traditional sources such as vital records, court records, land records, and probate records with useful tips on successful research tips, advice. It even gives clues to finding the records in state and local repositories. They are so handy I do not need any other items or heavy books. Available from Genealogical Publishing Company, 3600 Clipper Mill Rd., #260, Baltimore, MD 21211. Order by phone toll-free 1-800-296-6687. Order over the Internet at <http://www.genealogical.com/products/Genealogy%20at%20a%20Glance%20Ohio%20Genealogy%20Research/4667.html>.

Attention German Researchers. This 5th edition of *In Search of Your German Roots* by Angus Baxter is designed to help you trace your German ancestry, not only in Germany but in all the German-speaking areas of Europe, from the Baltic to the Crimea, from the Czech Republic to Belgium. It shows you how to conduct your research from your own home—at your computer, using a variety of online resources—and also points you to the most useful repositories of records abroad. It highlights all the archives, new facilities, new websites, and newly available records making German family research so much easier. Purchase the book for \$19.95 from Genealogical Publishing Company, <http://www.genealogical.com/products/In%20Search%20of%20Your%20German%20Roots/398.html>.

Citing Genetic Sources by Elizabeth Shown Mills. Elizabeth Mills' "QuickSheet: Citing Genetic Sources for History Research *Evidence! Style*" is now available for purchase. Today, everyone is having their DNA done or has already and when they get the results do not know what to do with it. I fall into this category. Mills explains the different types of DNA, yDNA, mtDNA and autosomal DNA (atDNA) and shows how to create the citation for each. It is a laminated 4-page handy reference that I keep right on my desk for quick reference.

My husband and I recently tested for autosomal DNA results. It was interesting to see that my husband had a greater British percentage than a normal British person did. Mine has a great deal of Irish plus British, French, German, and Scandinavian. Examining the difference between my sister and my autosomal links was interesting. Where she has stronger ties to various cousins on different bloodlines, I had some of each and some stronger connected to other bloodlines. This is all so fascinating. Now, with Mills laminated guide, under \$9.95, I know how to cite the information we found when I pass it along to family members. In addition, the size is manageable and fits in a regular notebook. I got mine from Genealogical Publishing Company, www.genealogical.com.

Flashback—Tracing Our Collin County Roots

By Brenda Kellow

The Plano Star-Courier, Plano, Collin County, Texas

June 28, 1956

Volume 69, No. 8

Compiled by Brenda Burns Kellow, 2015

Mayor McCall asked City for voluntary restrictions on watering lawns in Plano.

Next Wednesday, July 4, will be marked by a general closing of all businesses in Plano to mark this special holiday.

Weldon Brinlee, 26 of Garland, drowned Sunday at Lavon Lake when he fell from his outboard motor boat. He is the first to drown this year and the sixth to drown in the lake's three years history. He was not wearing a life jacket. Funeral services were held at 1 o'clock Wednesday at the First Baptist Church with burial at Restland. He is survived by his wife Lorene and parents Mr. and Mrs. Austin F. Brinlee.

Ardell Dye, 31 of Grand Prairie, drowned Sunday at Lake Texoma. No further information.

The Women's Society of Christian Service met Monday at the First Methodist Church. Mrs. Eva Hughston is the leader.

Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Fortner spent the weekend with his mother on their vacation to North Carolina.

George Haldemar returned to the Veterans Hospital in McKinney after he became ill again.

Grayson County Sheriff Woody Blanton Monday identified the remains of 94 year old John Benson of Antlers, Oklahoma, who had been missing since June 1. His son-in-law, George Wright, of Antlers, is charged with the murder.

Miss Betty Jo Askue returned home after spending two weeks in the Texas Lions Club Camp for Crippled Children near Kerrville. She is the daughter of Mrs. Dorothy Askue.

Mrs. W. A. Mitchell and son attend the funeral of her aunt, Mrs. Effie Cox Robbins, 82. Burial is in Chambersville in McKinney. She is the daughter of James and Mary Ann Cox, settlers of the Roland Community. Mrs. Stella Cox Allen passed away May 27, 1947. Mrs. Robbins is survived by her father, Robert B. Allen, and sister-in-law Mrs. Ann Cox of McKinney.

Mr. and Mrs. James Ray Wright returned home to Tacoma after vacationing with relatives and friends. Mrs. Wright's mother, Mrs. Ruth Deason, accompanied them home to Tacoma for a few weeks' vacation.

Carl Shimick of the firm, Forest and Cotton engineers, in his talk to the Rotary Club estimated Plano would have a population of 15,000 in 15 years, necessitating the need for a 500,000 gallon water storage tank.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Jones of the Magic Valley are visiting friends in Plano. Mrs. Jones is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Dean and a sister of John Dean.

Capt. Henley Worth Williams, 39, a Braniff Airline pilot, were held at 10 p.m. in Dallas. Injured in the crash on McKinney and Highway 75 was Miss Marjorie Bates, 28, a Braniff stewardess. Capt. Williams was born in Fanin County and attended Parks Air College in Saint Louis, Missouri.

Three shooting victims were sent to City County Hospital in McKinney. The injured were Horace Dorty, Red Brown, and Maymon Harris. The shooter is being held in the Collin County jail.

Plano's nine mail boxes were freshly painted this week. The boxes are red and blue and the lettering is crisp white. Quincy Pannell did the work reported Postmaster W. G. Carlisle.

Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Anderson and children purchased a home in the new and beautiful Southwood Estates reported George A. Cox, one of the developers. Purchasing a home shortly afterwards was Mr. and Mrs. Homer Horton.

Engineers on Central Expressway through Plano estimate it will take 250 days to complete the job.

The Plano Assembly of God Church begins its revival Monday July 2 at 7:45 p.m. with Rev. Homer Pittsinger

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as the evangelist.

Dr. and Mrs. Floyd Poe injured in a wreck Tuesday night in Dallas. Dr. Poe is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Plano. He suffered chest injuries.

Dr. D. F. Howell of Amarillo spent Father's Day with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Howell.

Mr. J. D. Alderson returns home after an auto accident near Denton which killed his wife.

Services for Mrs. J. Duncan Holder, 78, were at 5 p.m. on Friday in the Crouch-Moore Funeral Home Chapel in McKinney. She was born in Floyd, Virginia, on July 3, 1877, but lived in Collin County most of her life. She is the daughter of G. M. D. and Sarah Epperly Williams. Surviving are husband Duncan Holder; daughters Marjorie and Kate of McKinney, and Mrs. Henry R. Honaker of Wichita Falls; two brothers Arthur Williams of Dallas and Luther of Sherman; and a sister Mrs. Lee Robinson of Celina. Mrs. Holder is an aunt of Charlie Painter. Those attending the funeral were Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Sigler, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Painter, Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle Taylor, Arthur Bagwill, Mrs. E. L. Sherrill, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Wilson, Mrs. Frank Armstrong, Mrs. David McCall.

p. 2 Vacation Bible School begins at Liberty Baptist Church July 2, from 8-11 a.m. The Revival begins on July 4 with Rev. Weir.

Mrs. Paul C. Stoneman vacationed in New Mexico and Colorado for two weeks, ending with her mother and sister in Denver.

Monday guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bagwill were Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Noble and daughter Mary, and another daughter Mrs. Everett O'Dowd and daughter Ann of Waco, Mrs. Rice Hays, Mr. and Mrs. Rowland Hays of Sacramento, California.

Mrs. W. F. Smart, daughter of Mrs. J. O. Brooks of Plano underwent surgery last Wednesday.

Arthur Williams and son Spencer of Dallas visited in the home of Mrs. Brook's niece, Mrs. A. A. Bagwill and husband. They had been to the funeral of Mrs. Duncan Holder.

p. 3 Mrs. Mattie Waggoner of Carrollton and her sister Mrs. Hester Wright visited Misses Carrie and Eva Hughton Saturday.

Visiting from Manchester, Tennessee, are J. J. Phelps, Jim Reed, wife and son, to visit Mr. and Mrs. Reed. Mr. Phelps is a brother of Mrs. Reed.

Mrs. W. L. Carter of Dallas and Mrs. W. M. Chaddick of Plano were guests of Mrs. J. H. Bowman Sunday.

p. 4 The Wildcats managed by Pappy Raines played the Engineers in Dallas Thursday and won by 20-1 in regulation nine-inning game. Chester Story hit a home run while Tommy Shields tripled with bases loaded.

Billy Fuller, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Fuller of Oklahoma City visited grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gallop of Plano.

Mrs. Will Armstrong returned home after a stay in Baylor Hospital where she recovered from a broken hip.

Mrs. Johnny Offutt thanked the community for their kindness during and after her illness.

Mrs. Lonnie Christian thanked everyone for their kindness during her illness.

D. W. Bagwill's, son-in-law and daughter Mr. and Mrs. Harold Reinhardt of Fort Worth visited with them in their home in Plano.

The second annual reunion of the residents and former residents of Viney Grove Community northwest of McKinney was held Sunday in Finch Park in McKinney. The reunion is held every fourth Sunday in June.

Q. Stevens was seriously burned Wednesday evening in a powder explosion.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Pannell and A. A. Bagwill attended the Viney Grove Reunion.

Carl Uland was in a Dallas hospital last week following a tractor accident.

p. 5 Mrs. Vivian Rhea Newsome, librarian, will keep the library open from 9-11 each Friday during the summer.

Mrs. R. C. Hays of Sacramento, formerly of Plano, visited Mr. and Mrs. Earl Wetsel Thursday.

Mrs. J. A. Baxter of McKinney was a week-end guest of Mrs. R. C. Fortner

The steering committee for the Fair building in McKinney was voted to proceed on the \$10,000 building. The Collin County Fair is September 26-29.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Clem and daughter Carolyn returned home after two weeks in Little Rock.

p. 6 Virginia Ann Mathis is bride of C. H. Wood in Sherman ceremony. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Mathis. The groom, Charles Howard Wood, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Wood, all of Sherman.

Flashback—Tracing Our Collin County Roots

Cpl. Sammy Newman, stationed at Ft. Hood, spent several days visiting his mother Mrs. Fred Newman, who has been ill. She is salesperson at Murrell's Hardware.

p. 7 Mr. and Mrs. Sid Merritt hosted a patio supper June 21 at their home 914 18th Street. The supper was prior to the wedding of their son, Charles to Miss Betty Lou James of Richardson. Guests were members of the wedding party.

p. 8 Bassett Watson was named General Sales Manager of Texas Power and Light Company.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Adams are attending the 39th annual meeting of the International Lions Club in Miami, Florida.

Senate-House voted to renovate the Veterans Hospital in McKinney. The Veterans Administration wanted to close the McKinney VA Hospital when the new wing of the Lisbon VA was completed.

Mrs. Blanch Cox, valued employee of Miller's Dress Shop is vacationing in Brownwood.

Hence Eugene Coldwell passed away June 24 in a Dallas hospital. He was born September 2, 1888 in the Big Springs community to Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Coldwell. Interment was at Restland. Survivors are his wife Lela Coldwell; three sons, E. M., C.E. and R. E. Coldwell; daughter Mrs. C. A. Barnett; seven grandchildren; nieces of Plano are Lillian and Ruth Coldwell.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Bernard Langford and daughters, Melody Kay and Treasure Ann, bought several acres of land and built a home in southern Collin along FM544 overlooking the countryside. Mr. Langford is treasurer of the Southland Corporation. Mrs. Langford is the former Miss Gertrude Brannon of Plano, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Langford of Richardson.

Miss Nancy Angel presided over the meeting of World Friendship of Girls in Vickery for a swim party. Miss Margie Prince and Mrs. Lee Talmadge Uland were hostesses.

Mrs. Reese Henry is getting better after surgery in Dallas this week.

Mrs. Lonnie Christian is improving at home after surgery in City County Hospital in McKinney.

Larry Uland left Saturday to visit his friend Ronnie Martin in Michigan.

Mrs. Johnny Offutt returned home after surgery in St. Paul Hospital.

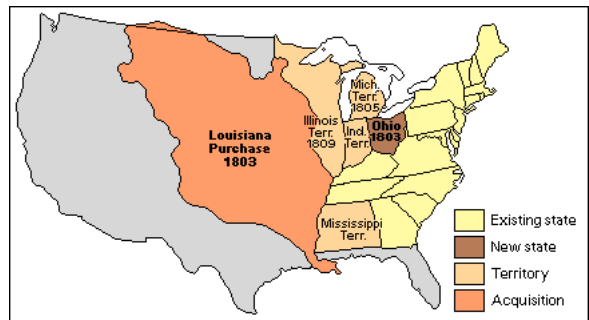
D. B. Powell of McKinney is a candidate for sheriff of Collin County.

Germans in Kansas

By Brenda Kellow

Kansas was inhabited by nomadic Native American tribes who hunted the buffalo that roamed the plains in enormous numbers. In the 16th century, the Spanish conquistadores and French fur trappers explored and traded with the Native Americans.

As part of the Louisiana Purchase, Kansas became part of the United States in 1803. It was opened for settlement by the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. It next became a battlefield during the Civil War with both settlers from the North and South. The southern influx did not influence slavery, because the state remained free.



Who migrated into Kansas?

Kansas, like most states enjoy the rich blend of Native Americans, Americans and Europeans from England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland. The frontier towns grew up around railroads and cattle drives. But, this is where my research on the state became cloudy. We know there was an extreme German presence in the state from the late 1700s, but it has not been revealed until 1968. (*Germans in Kansas*, Eleanor L. Turk, Ph.D. Review Essay Series, http://www.kshs.org/publicat/history/2005spring_turk.pdf) These German Palatines were from the Electorate area, orig-

Germans in Kansas

inally historical territory of the Holy Roman Empire, although a few had come from Switzerland and entered into Kansas in the late 1700s. But, they were not recognized as Palatinates. Like many nationalities, they migrated from their countries to other countries. Instead of identifying them as Palatinates, historians placed them with that country from which they migrated, rather than by language. Turk says they overcame the rivalries with their American neighbors and assimilated their acceptance into Kansas Territory.

I wanted to know the reason. Suddenly, I was startled when the answer hit me!

Why were Germans not recognized as such?

The base year for Kansas state census data used was 1865. There was no known nation at that time called Germany. Thus, the Germans were counted as being from the country they migrated from rather than identifying them by their language. I wonder if historians have made that mistake with other nationalities.

Why did they migrate?

Basically, the German speaking people coming into the American colonies came because of the same reasons as the French Huguenots and other emigrants. They came for religious, political and for economic reasons. They, and other nationalities, could not resist the American golden door of opportunity.

Histories of Germans in Kansas

In the 1870s, Germans made up 30% of the population of Kansas. Unfortunately, history does not give us an accurate number of the Germans of Kansas.

Dr. Eleanor L. Turk shares in her paper the following concerning German research being stymied by those researchers unable to read the language. The language that makes them Germans also isolates them from historians who could correct the history.

“One significant clue is that neither the five state histories just cited nor the Annotated Bibliography list any sources in the German language. Yet my own research on the German-language press held in the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka indicated that twenty-one German newspaper companies were founded in Kansas during the last half of the nineteenth century; that more than 120 German-language newspapers and periodicals were published at some time in the state; and that between 1885 and 1910 more than fifteen regularly circulated throughout the state.

“These papers are a treasure trove of information, but only to those who can handle the language. Clearly the lack of German language proficiency cuts Kansas’s historians off from primary sources about the German-born immigrants who migrated and merged into the larger population. Instead, those immigrants who tended to cluster in relatively isolated and distinctive culture groups—the Mennonites, Volga Germans, Swedes, and Bohemians—were much easier to identify, observe, and discuss. Thus, the very language that distinguishes the other Germans isolates them from the typical state historian.”

If you have German ancestors from Kansas, Dr. Turk’s 28 page paper will enlighten your understanding of the problems with research. I highly recommend it. Although I have no ancestors from Kansas at this time, I do have German ancestors, as well as English, Scottish, Irish, Welch, French, Spanish and Danish.

Kansas research for genealogists.

Kansas indexes, archival guides, Mennonite Library and Archives are held at the Bethel College in Kansas: <http://www.bethelks.edu/community/affiliate-organizations/mennonite-library-and-archives/archival-guides/indexes/>

The Kansas Historical Society: Has high quality primary source scans available to browse by location, time period or subject, <http://www.kshs.org/>

The Kansas Memory: <http://www.kansasmemory.org/>

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The National Archives at Kansas City has a variety of guides, reference information papers, lists and other finding aids. Unfortunately, the entire collection is not yet available online. Access it at www.archives.gov/kansas-city/finding-aids/subject-list.html.

The Selective Service System at the National Archives at Kansas City has: Farm Ownership Case Files and Index for Region 7, <http://www.archives.gov/kansas-city/finding-aids/farm-ownership.html>

Name Index to Rural Rehabilitation Loan Case Files for Region 7: <http://www.archives.gov/kansas-city/finding-aids/farm-ownership-kansas.html>

A Quick Guide to Federal Naturalization Records: <http://www.archives.gov/kansas-city/finding-aids/naturalization-records.html>

The Spanish Flu epidemic in Kansas of 1918: <http://www.fold3.com/search/#query=spanish+flu&ocr=1>

FHL RESOURCE GUIDE: Handwriting Guide: German Gothic, including handwriting guide. http://feefhs.org/guides/German_Gothic.pdf.

Browse Ravenstein Atlas des Deutschen Reichs, <http://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/German/Ravenstein>

Translating German text. Google is not the only place where you can go to translate a document. Steve Morse has something for everyone using genealogy and his widget for deciphering Germanic records is a hit. <http://stevemorse.org/german/germanprintcurs.html?casing=lower&font=print&script=suetterlin&leftposition=9&rightposition=9&german>. He covers Fraktur, Kurrent (Kurrentschrift), and Suetterlin (Sütterlinschrift) including a description of when these began and ended.

Attention researchers hunting Germany families in the old country. I used to look for the Resource Guides when I was at the Family History Center in Salt Lake City. I have most of them. They were available at the Family History Library for free and I picked up all that I didn't have each time I was there on a research trip. When I came home, I would file them in three-ring notebooks so they would always be handy. I still have them in a three-ring notebook. I recently found one I did not have and thought my readers might appreciate it, also. It is, *Old German Handwriting Guide*. I found it on the Family Search Wiki site, http://feefhs.org/guides/German_Gothic.pdf. I downloaded the PDF, printed it, indexed it, and filed it in the book with the other Guides. After a quick search, I also found their German handwriting guide, https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/File:Old_German_Handwriting.jpg. I also downloaded the handwriting guide, printed it and filed it in the book with the German Resource Guide. Remember these Resource Guides as you tackle other topics and countries.

Genealogist's Translation Digital Toolkit: Code 5TRANSLATE. How do you say great-uncle in German? What is a birth record called in Italy? There will come a time in your genealogy research when you're ready to make that jump to foreign records. With the Genealogist's Translation Digital Kit, you'll have at your fingertips all the tools you need to translate any foreign term that surfaces in your family history. http://www.shopfamilytree.com/genealogists-translation-digital-toolkit?et_mid=755387&rid=249777519.

Old German gothic handwriting and print are very different from the Roman script most English-speaking genealogists use. For examples of old German Gothic handwriting see [Old German Handwriting \(Gothic\)](#) and the [Handwriting Guide: German Gothic](#).

Sütterlin or Suetterlin writing ("old German hand") is a practiced style of writing similar to earlier styles. This is a script, created by the Berlin graphic artist Ludwig Sütterlin (1865-1917), which was taught from 1915 to 1941 in German schools. It is also called the "deutsche Schrift". The website



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suetterlinschrift.de allows you to type any word and see what it would look like in that script. This is a very useful learning tool. [This comparison page](#) for the alphabet gives multiple examples of each letter.

Kansas indexes found in college collections. The Kansas indexes are found as Archival Guides in the Mennonite Library and Archives of Bethel College, <http://www.bethelks.edu/community/affiliate-organizations/mennonite-library-and-archives/archival-guides/indexes/>.

Bethel College has the following:

[Biograph biographical wiki](#) (obituary indexes, etc.)

[Registration of German Alien Enemies index 1918](#)

[1875 Census, Harvey County, Kansas](#)

[1875 Census, Marion County, Kansas, Selected Townships](#)

[1875 Census, McPherson County, Kansas, Selected Townships](#)

[Harvey County, Kansas, Marriage License Index 1872-April 1913](#)

[Mennonite Yearbook and Directory \("Old" Mennonite Church\) obituaries 1933-1965 \(pdf\)](#)

[Obituaries and biographies in the *Bundesbote Kalender* \(1886-1947\) and *Mennonitisches Jahrbuch* \(Newton, Kansas\) \(1948-1957\) \(pdf\)](#)

[Obituaries and biographies in the *Mennonite Year Book and Almanac* \(1895-1930\) and *General Conference Mennonite Church Year Book* \(1931-1946\) \(pdf\)](#)

[Obituaries and biographical sketches in *Doopsgezind Jaarboekje* 1902-1984 \(pdf\)](#)

[Leisy Orphan Aid Society \(Halstead, Kansas\) Record of Children \(ca. 1917\) \(mixture of German and English\)](#)

[American Historical Society of Germans from Russia obituary database](#)

<http://www.bethelks.edu/community/affiliate-organizations/mennonite-library-and-archives/archival-guides/indexes/>

Kansas Indexes found on the Internet

A biography at the Kansas Genealogical Society featuring German-Russians to Kansas encompassing Germans, German-Russians, and Russians to Kansas.

<https://www.kshs.org/p/german-russians-to-kansas-bibliography/13544>.

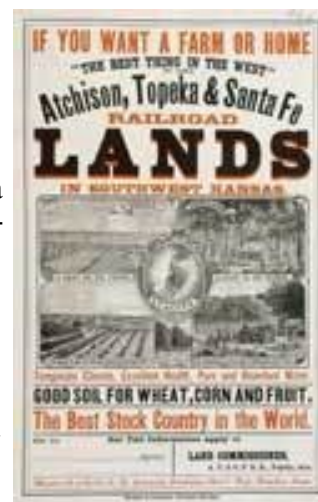
o Carman, J. Neale. "Germans in Kansas." *American-German Review* 27 (April/May 1961): 4-8.

o _____, editor and translator. "German Settlements Along the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway." *Kansas Historical Quarterly* 28 (Autumn 1962): 310-316. Probable author of essay was C. B. Schmidt, European immigrant agent for AT&SF.

o Coburn, Carol K. *Life at Four Corners: Religion, Gender, and Education in a German-Lutheran Community, 1868-1945*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1992. A scholarly study of an ethnic community in eastern Kansas (Block, Miami County).

o Higgins, Cindy. "Kansas Breweries, 1854-1911." *Kansas History* 16 (Spring 1993): 2-21. Concentrates on the cultural significance of this industry to the German community and its economic importance in the state prior to state-wide prohibition and the eventual enforcement of the prohibitory law.

o Hoover, M.S. "The Alien Contribution to the History of Barton County, Kansas." Master's thesis, Ft. Hays State College, 1930. (K/325.1/H769).



Germans in Kansas

o Keel, William D. "The German Heritage of Kansas: An Introduction." *Heritage of the Great Plains* 27 (Summer 1994): 5-8. This special issue contains article by Christopher Johnson, "Russian Loan Words in Ellis County Volga German Dialects," John McCabe-Juhnke, "Enacting Gemeinde in the Language and Style of Swiss Volhynian Mennonite Storytelling," William D. Keel, "From the Netherlands to Kansas: Mennonite Low German," and Gabriele Lunte, "The German Bohemian Cultural and Linguistic Heritage of the Catholic Bucovinians in Ellis, Kansas."

_____. "Rural German-Speaking Women in Early Nebraska and Kansas: Ethnicity as a Factor in Frontier Adaptation." *Great Plains Quarterly* 9 (Fall 1989): 239-251.

Tutorials and Classes

A three-part online class called [Reading German Handwritten Records](#) is available on the FamilySearch.org website.

Another helpful learning tool is the [German Script Tutorial](#). This tutorial shows how letters are formed, provides practice exercises, and allows students to test their knowledge.

Taking a course in German genealogy from a reputable college is also a worthwhile option for those who want to succeed in reading old German script. Such a course provides opportunities to practice your reading ability. For example, Brigham Young University - Independent Study offers such a free course in [German Research](#).

German Word Lists

If you do not know German, additional helps may be required such as the [German Word List](#) page on this wiki or a list of [German Numbers](#) from about.com. In order to not be overwhelmed, focus on [key words](#). Numbers are often written out, such as when they appear in paragraph form church register entries. These numbers represent birth, christening, marriage and other important dates within church registers. They can be especially difficult to read when the German word is not known.

Books

These books include significant sections to help read the writing in German language documents:

Angus Baxter, *In Search of Your German Roots, A complete Guide to Tracing Your Ancestors in the Germanic Areas of Europe*, 5th ed., 2008. Genealogical Publishing Company,

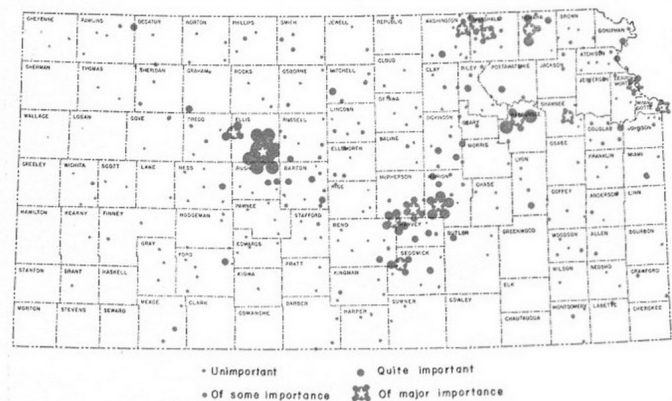
<http://www.genealogical.com/products/In%20Search%20of%20Your%20German%20Roots/398.html>. With this book you can trace your German ancestry from your home including all German speaking areas of Europe. This is true for the Baltic to the Crimea, from Czech Republic to Belgium. Edna M. Bentz, *If I Can, You Can: Decipher Germanic Records* (San Diego, Calif.: E.M. Bentz, 1982). [At various libraries \(WorldCat\)](#); [FHL Book 943 G3b 1992](#).

Roger P. Minert, *Deciphering Handwriting in German Documents* (Woods Cross, Utah: GRT Publications, 2001). [At various libraries \(WorldCat\)](#); [FHL Book 417.7 M662d 2001](#). An excellent textbook for studying German script.

George K. Schweitzer, *German Genealogical Research* (Knoxville, Tennessee, USA: Schweitzer, 1995), 239-70. [1995 digital edition](#).

Kenneth L. Smith, *German Church Books: Beyond the Basics* (Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1989), 171-97. [At various libraries \(WorldCat\)](#); [FHL Book 943 D27skL](#). Including a chart showing how each letter of the alphabet looks in Gothic handwriting and type.

GERMAN SETTLEMENTS IN KANSAS



German Handwriting

From FamilySearch Wiki, Handwriting Examples and Tools

Old German Type and Handwriting

Roman Type	German Type	German Script	Roman Type	German Type	German Script
Aa	Aa	A a	Vv	Vv	V v
Bb	Bb	B b	Ww	Ww	W w
Cc	Cc	C c	Xx	Xx	X x
Dd	Dd	D d	Yy	Yy	Y y
Ee	Ee	E e	Zz	Zz	Z z
Ff	Ff	F f			
Gg	Gg	G g			
Hh	Hh	H h			
Ii	Ii	I i			
Jj	Jj	J j			
Kk	Kk	K k			
Ll	Ll	L l			
Mm	Mm	M m			
Nn	Nn	N n			
Oo	Oo	O o			
Pp	Pp	P p			
Qq	Qq	Q q			
Rr	Rr	R r			
Ss	Ss	S s			
Tt	Tt	T t			
Uu	Uu	U u			

Modified Vowels (Umlaute)		
Ää	Ä ä	Ä ä
Öö	Ö ö	Ö ö
Üü	Ü ü	Ü ü

Compound Consonants		
ch	ch	ch
sch	sch	sch
ck	ck	ck
ss	ss	ss
B (SZ, SS)	B (ß ß)	B
st	st	st
tz	tz	tz
ph	ph	ph