Kansas
Research Outline

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This outline describes major sources of information about families from Kansas. As you read this outline, study the United States Research Outline (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

**RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY**

The Family History Library has many of the records listed in this outline. The major holdings are federal and state censuses and indexes to them.

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, and microfiche numbers. These are preceded by FHL, the abbreviation for Family History Library. These numbers may be used to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at family history centers.

**FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG**

The Family History Library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog found at the library and at each family history center. To find a record, look in the Locality Search of the catalog for:

- The place where your ancestor lived, such as:

  **UNITED STATES - CENSUS RECORDS**
  **KANSAS - BIOGRAPHY**
  **KANSAS, MONTGOMERY - VITAL RECORDS**
  **KANSAS, SHAWNEE, TOPEKA - DIRECTORIES**

- The record type you want to search, such as:

  **UNITED STATES - CENSUS RECORDS**
  **KANSAS - BIOGRAPHY**
  **KANSAS, MONTGOMERY - VITAL RECORDS**
  **KANSAS, SHAWNEE, TOPEKA - DIRECTORIES**

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the catalog.

**ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES**

The following archives, libraries, and societies have collections or services helpful for genealogical research.

- **Kansas State Historical Society**
  6425 SW Sixth Ave
  Topeka, KS 66615-1099
  Telephone: 913-272-8681 Ext. 117
  Fax: 913-272-8682

  The Kansas State Historical Society has several important facilities for genealogists. The Reference Library houses printed materials and the Department of Archives maintains original records of Kansas government jurisdictions, newspapers, and other historical documents. The Manuscript Department has unpublished papers, maps, and photographs.

- **National Archives—Central Plains Region**
  2312 East Bannister Road
  Kansas City, MO 64131
  Telephone: 816-926-6934
  Fax: 816-926-6982

- **Kansas Genealogical Society, Inc.**
  P.O. Box 103
  Dodge City, KS 67801
  Telephone: 316-225-1951

- **Kansas State Library**
  State Capitol Bldg.
  Room 343 N
  300 SW 10th
  Topeka, KS 66612-1593
  Telephone: 913-296-3296
  Fax: 913-296-6650

- **University of Kansas**
  Spencer Research Library—Kansan Collections
  Lawrence, KS 66045-2800
  Telephone: 913-864-4274
  Fax: 913-864-5803
To learn more about the history and record-keeping systems of Kansas counties, use the 14 inventories of county archives published by the Historical Records Survey around 1940. Copies of these inventories are at the Family History Library.

**Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards**

Computers with modems can be useful tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers
- Post queries
- Send and receive e-mail
- Search large databases
- Search computer libraries
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from Kansas in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

Addresses on the Internet change frequently. As of April 1997, the following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

- **USGenWeb**
  
  [www.usgenweb.com/](http://www.usgenweb.com/)
  
  A cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county, state, and country.

- **Roots-L**
  
  
  A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly-updated research coordination list.

For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the United States Research Outline (30972), 2nd ed., “Archives and Libraries” section.

**FamilySearch™**

The Family History Library and some family history centers have computers with FamilySearch. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing several million names. FamilySearch is a good place to begin your research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; some have been automated from original sources.

An increasing number of family history centers have access to the Internet. These services are also available at many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations.

**BIBLE RECORDS**

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains some Bible records. This collection is described in the “Genealogy” section of this outline. It is partially indexed by E. Kay Kirkham, An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States, vol. 2 (Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1984; FHL book 973 D22kk v.2; fiche 6089184).

**BIOGRAPHY**

The Kansas State Historical Society and the Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas have extensive collections of biographical material, but there is no statewide biographical index. You may also search the biographical sections of statewide, regional, and county histories. Some representative biographical encyclopedias are:

*The United States Biographical Dictionary: Kansas.*

Chicago and Kansas City: S. Lewis & Co., 1879. (FHL book 978.1 D3u; film 0874388.)


**CEMETERIES**

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains tombstone inscriptions from Kansas cemeteries. This collection is described in the “Genealogy” section of this outline. Inscriptions from headstones in hundreds of small graveyards in every county of the state are recorded in Don L. Ford, *Abandoned and Semi-Active Cemeteries of Kansas*, 3 vols. (Decorah, Iowa: Anundsen Publishing, 1983-85; FHL book 978.1 V3f).

Another collection of tombstone inscriptions is *Cemetery Records of Kansas*, 18 vols. (Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society, 1956-64; FHL book 978.1 V22;
films 0873686-90; fiche 6051176. The index is in FHL book 978.1 V22 index; film 1320674 item 42.

CENSUS

Federal

Many federal census records are found at the Family History Library and the National Archives and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more detailed information regarding these records.

The Family History Library has the federal censuses for the state of Kansas from 1870 to 1920. The 1890 census was destroyed.

A soundex (phonetic) index is available on microfilm for part of the 1880 and all of the 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses. The Family History Library also has a street index for Kansas City (FHL fiche 6331481) for use with the 1910 census.

Mortality schedules exist for the 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses. The schedules and indexes are available in book or microfilm format at the Family History Library and at the Kansas State Historical Society.

Territorial and State

The Family History Library has the 1860 federal census for the Territory of Kansas and parts of Colorado and an index.

Censuses taken by the territory and the state also exist for 1855, 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, and 1925. The 1855 census sometimes lists all the members of the family, but in some cases gives only the head of household and number of family members. The later censuses give information on the entire household and, after 1875, include the county or state of former residence. The Family History Library has the 1855 to 1895 censuses on 305 microfilms. All are available at the Kansas State Historical Society.

The Family History Library has a published statewide index for 1855 and countywide indexes for other years. The State Historical Society has indexes to the 1855, 1860, and 1865 censuses, and to most of the 1875 census.

Voters censuses exist for 1856, 1857, and 1859 for some counties. The original records are at the Kansas State Historical Society. Many of these were printed in vols. 17-19 of *Kansas Kin* (see the “Periodicals” section of this outline).

CHURCH RECORDS

Before 1900 the largest religious groups in Kansas were the Methodist-Episcopal, Catholic, Baptist, Presbyterian, and Disciples of Christ. A brief history of the establishment of the various denominations is in Edward R. DeZurko, *Early Kansas Churches* (Manhattan, Kans.: Kansas State College, 1949; FHL book 978.1 A1 no. 35; film 0928360 item 4).

The Family History Library has a few original church records for Kansas, such as files from the Jesuit missions and microfilm copies of records at the Presbyterian Historical Society. Many denominations have collected their records into central repositories. You can write to the following addresses to learn where their records are located:

**Baptist**

American Baptist—Samuel Colgate Historical Society
1106 South Goodman St.
Rochester, NY 14620
Telephone: 716-473-1740
Fax: 716-473-1740

**Disciples of Christ**

Disciples of Christ Historical Society
1101 19th Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37212
Telephone: 615-327-1444
Fax: 615-327-1445

**Methodist**

Baker University Library
606 Eighth Street
Baldwin City, KS 66006
Telephone: 913-594-8414
Fax: 913-594-6721

Memorial Library
Southwestern College
100 College Street
Winfield, KS 67156
Telephone: 316-221-8225
Fax: 316-221-2499
COURT RECORDS

Major Kansas courts that kept records of genealogical value were established as follows:

District courts have districtwide jurisdiction over civil and criminal cases, including divorces.

County courts have countywide jurisdiction over some criminal cases, including traffic violations, and minor civil cases.

Magistrate and city courts have citywide jurisdiction over minor criminal matters and traffic matters in some cities.

Supreme court serves as the statewide appellate court.

The Family History Library does not presently have copies of Kansas court records. Records are available at the clerk's office in the various courthouses.

DIRECTORIES

Directories of heads of households have been published for major cities in Kansas. For example, the Family History Library has:

- Kansas City
  1860-1935 .......... Beginning on FHL film 1376961; fiche 6044015
  1940, 1945, 1959, 1964,
  1972, 1975, 1979,
  1980, and 1982 ........ FHL book 978.139/K1 E4p

- Wichita
  1878, 1883, 1885 . . . FHL book 978.186/W1 E4w
  1918, 1942,
  1910, etc. ........... FHL book 978.186/W1 E4p
  1910 also on ........ FHL film 1689397

- Suburban Wichita
  1958, 1963, etc. . . . . FHL book 978.186/W2 E4p

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

People

Kansas was considered part of the Great American Desert and did not attract white settlers until the 1850s. The early settlers generally arrived from the states of Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana. Other families immigrated from the British Isles and Germany.

After the Civil War, many Union veterans settled in Kansas when the Homestead Act (1862) and other public laws opened the land for settlement. Many were from the Ohio River Valley (especially Kentucky and Tennessee) and from the Middle Atlantic and New England states. By 1870 many of the Indian tribes had been removed to what is now Oklahoma, although Potawatomi, Sauk, Fox, and Kickapoo Indians still live on small reservations in the state.

About 7,000 blacks from Tennessee settled in Cherokee County beginning in 1873, and several thousand blacks came from the lower Mississippi Valley states to Kansas City in the “Great Exodus” of 1879 and 1880.

The post-Civil War boom also attracted new settlers from overseas. Between 1870 and 1890, many Scandinavians and thousands of Germans from Russia joined the immigration to Kansas, as did smaller groups of Czechs and French. Settlement of Kansas progressed from east to west until by about 1890 all areas of the state had been settled.

Religious groups also established some of the early settlements in Kansas. These included Quakers, River Brethren, Dunkards and German Baptists, and Mennonites from southern Russia.

A new wave of immigration from other countries began about 1895 and continued until 1915. During this period, small groups arrived from Mexico, Italy, Greece, and Yugoslavia.
Records

Most overseas immigrants came through east coast ports, especially New York. They then proceeded by railway inland to Kansas. Some earlier immigrants landed at the port of New Orleans and then took steamboats upriver to Kansas. The Family History Library and the National Archives have passenger lists or indexes of American ports for 1820 to 1940.

More detailed information on immigration sources is in the United States Research Outline. Further information on settlement patterns can be found in:


Records of major ethnic groups, including Czechs, Swedes, and Mennonites from Russia, are listed in the catalog under KANSAS - MINORITIES. Records of American Indians are listed under KANSAS - NATIVE RACES and in the Subject Search of the catalog under the names of the tribe.

GAZETTEERS

Several helpful guides to place-names in Kansas have been published, including:


Some Lost Towns of Kansas: and Extinct Geographical Locations. n.p.: Reprint of Kansas Historical Collections, vol. 12. (FHL film 0874251 item 3.)

GENEALOGY

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. These must usually be searched in person. One major genealogical collection is the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection. This collection includes transcripts of marriage and death records, obituaries, and wills, as well as Bible, cemetery, and church records. The collection was microfilmed in 1971 at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., and is on 20 films at the Family History Library (see KANSAS—GENEALOGY in the Family History Library Catalog). The volumes are generally arranged by county, and many have individual indexes.

The Kansas State Historical Society has biographical scrapbooks and records of early pioneers and a card index of various sources.

Genealogies compiled by descendants of Kansas settlers have been published in:


HISTORY

The following important events in the history of Kansas affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements:

1803 The United States acquired Kansas from France as part of the Louisiana Purchase.

1804- United States government expeditions explored the Kansas region, reporting it to be an arid wasteland. The resulting myth of the Great American Desert discouraged early white settlement.

1820 The Santa Fe Trail across Kansas was opened. It served as a wagon road from Missouri to the Southwest until 1880, when the railroad was completed.

1827- The United States Army built forts and roads in Kansas for frontier defense and to protect trade along the Santa Fe Trail.
1830- Kansas was part of Indian Territory, where 20 tribes from the east were relocated. The Indian Territory was closed to white settlement.

1854 The Kansas-Nebraska Act created two territories extending from the Missouri border westward to the tops of the Rocky Mountains and opened the area to white settlement. Migration to Kansas was stimulated by rivalry between North and South over the slavery issue and over the choice of a railroad route to the Pacific.

1861 Kansas, with its present boundaries, was admitted to the Union as a free state.

1861- In the Civil War, over 20,000 of the 30,000 Kansas men of military age served in the Union armed forces. Kansas suffered the highest mortality rate of any state in the Union.

1870- The post-Civil War boom brought thousands of settlers to build new railroads and to claim land under the Homestead Act.


**LAND AND PROPERTY**

**Federal Land Records**

When the United States acquired the area that is now Kansas, most of the land became part of the public domain. Available land was surveyed by the government and could then be transferred to private ownership, a process called land entry. The first general land office in Kansas was established at LeCompton in 1856. The local offices kept tractbooks (records of land transactions in each section) and township plats (maps of land entries in each township).

After a settler completed the requirements for land entry by either purchase (cash entry) or homesteading, his case file was sent to the General Land Office in Washington, D.C. Here a patent, or first-title deed, was issued, transferring the land from government to private ownership.

To locate the land entry or homestead case file for your ancestor, you will need to know either the patent number or the legal description (range, township, section of the land). The county recorder of deeds may be able to tell you the legal description of the land from county land records. Or you may be able to locate his tract by searching the tractbook covering the approximate area.

Township plats, patent records, and copies of the tractbooks are available at:

The Wyoming State Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
3353 Yellowstone
Cheyenne, WY 82009
Telephone: 307-775-6256
Fax: 307-775-6129

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, WY 82003

The National Archives has the original tract books, plats, homestead entry files, and cash entry files.

**Land Grants to Railroads**

Large sections of land were granted to railroad companies, primarily to the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad and to the Union Pacific Railroad. These two companies sold many acres of land to settlers through their own land offices. The Kansas State Historical Society has some records of the railroad grants.

**County Land Records**

After land was transferred from the government by sale or grant to private hands, it could be sold again, inherited, lost by foreclosure of a mortgage, or redistributed through a divorce. These transactions should be recorded by the county clerk in the form of deeds and mortgages. You can obtain copies of the documents by contacting the appropriate clerk's office in each county. The Family History Library is presently acquiring microfilm copies of the deeds in the county courthouses.
MAPS

The following statewide atlases may be helpful to you:

Baughman, Robert W. Kansas in Maps. Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1961. (FHL book Q 978.1 E7br.) The history of the state is depicted in a variety of maps.


The University of Kansas in Lawrence has the largest collection of maps in the state. Kansas State University in Manhattan also has a large collection. The Family History Library has a small collection of maps.

MILITARY

The U.S. Military Records Research Outline (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies.

Many military records are found at the Family History Library and the National Archives and other federal and state archives. The United States Research Outline provides more information regarding these records.

Civil War (1861-1865)

The Family History Library has the index to compiled military service records for Kansas soldiers who served in the Union Army (FHL films 0881837-46). The service and pension records have not been filmed and are available only at the National Archives.

Additional military records were kept by the state government. The Kansas Adjutant General's records include correspondence, orders, rosters, lists of draftees, and discharges from 1861 up to World War II. These files are kept by the State Historical Society. A helpful guide is Eugene Donald Decker, A Selected, Annotated Bibliography of Sources in the Kansas State Historical Society Pertaining to Kansas in the Civil War (Emporia, Kans.: Kansas State Teachers College, 1961; FHL film 0896829 item 3).

World War I (1917-1918)

World War I draft registration cards for men age 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for Kansas, see:


To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board.

Most counties had only one board; large cities had several. A map showing the boundaries of individual draft boards is available for most large cities. Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you in using the draft board map. There is an alphabetical list of cities that are on the map. For a copy of this map see:


NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization records up to 1906 have been kept in the Topeka Office of the U.S. Circuit Court and by the clerk of the district court of each county. Some records from the Topeka Circuit Court were transferred to the National Archives—Central Plains Region in Kansas City, Missouri. This office also has U.S. District Court records from 1916 to 1966. The Family History Library has not acquired copies of naturalization papers for the state.

For naturalization records after September 1906, contact the National Archives—Central Plains Region or the local office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.
The Kansas State Historical Society holds one of the largest newspaper collections in the United States. They have almost every newspaper that was printed in Kansas (well over 61,000 volumes) and more than 12,000 out-of-state volumes. These papers are in the Newspaper and Census Division, and many are on microfilm. The Family History Library has not collected copies of Kansas newspapers. A useful guide to Kansas materials is *History of Kansas Newspapers: 1854-1916* (Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1916; FHL book 978.1 B3k; film 1036378).

**PERIODICALS**

The major genealogical periodicals and magazines helpful for Kansas research are:

*Ark Valley Crossroads.* Published by Wichita Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 3705, Wichita, KS 67201.

*The Descender.* 1968-. Published by the Montgomery County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 444, Coffeyville, KS 67337. (FHL book 978.193 B2g; vols. 1-3 on film 0896537 item 6.)


*Johnson County Kansas Genealogist.* Published by Johnson County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 12666, ShawneeMission, KS 66282.


*Kansas Review.* Published by Kansas Council of Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 3858, Topeka, KS 66604. (FHL book 978.1 D25k - FHL has vol. 6 no. 1, June 1980 on –)

*Midwest Historical and Genealogical Register.* 1968-. Published by the Midwest Historical and Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1121, Wichita, KS 67201, Telephone: 316-264-3611. (FHL book 973 B2mg.)

*Old Fort Log.* Published by Old Fort Genealogical Society of South East Kansas, 502 S. National, Fort Scott, KS 66701.

*The Pioneer.* 1977-. Published by the Douglas County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 3664, Lawrence, KS 66044-0664. (FHL book 978.165 H25p.)

*The Seeker.* 1971-. Published by the Crawford County Genealogical Society of Southeast Kansas, 8 Pittsburg Library, 211 W. 4th St., Pittsburg, KS 66762. (FHL book 978.198 D25s; vols. 1-5, 8, pt. 4, 9-11, 12-15 on fiche 6048131.)

*Topeka Genealogical Society Quarterly.* Published by Topeka Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 4048, Topeka, KS 66040-0048. (FHL book 978.163 Btz; vol. 2, from January 1972 on –)

*Tree Climber.* Published by Smoky Valley Genealogical Society and Library, 211 W. Iron # 205, Salina, KS 67401.

*The Treesearcher.* 1959-. Published by the Kansas Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 103, Dodge City, KS 67801-0103. (FHL book 978.1 B2t.)

**PROBATE RECORDS**

Kansas probate records have been recorded by the clerk of the probate division of the county court in each county. Kansas probate records include dockets, wills, letters, bonds, oaths, inventories, appraisements, claims, accounts, court orders, and final settlements. The Family History Library has published transcripts of records, such as indexes of Shawnee County (Topeka) for the years 1855-1915, and is presently acquiring microfilm copies of county records.

**VITAL RECORDS**

**City and County Records of Births and Deaths**

A few counties in Kansas began keeping records of births and deaths in 1885. These records may be obtained from the office of the county clerk.

Birth and death records are also available from many of the cities in the state. The beginning dates of these records vary from about 1910 to 1940. You can write to the city clerk for further information.

The Family History Library is presently acquiring copies of pre-1912 birth and death records at the
county courthouses in southeastern Kansas. The library also has a few files from mortuaries and funeral homes.

State Records of Births and Deaths

Statewide registration of births and deaths began in July 1911. Delayed registrations of births started in 1937. Copies of the state records may be obtained from:

Office of Vital Statistics
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
900 Jackson St
Topeka, KS 66612-1290
Telephone: 913-296-1400

The current fees for obtaining copies of the state's records are listed in Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces (Hyattsville, Md.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 1993; FHL book 973 V24wv). Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and many Family History Centers. You can also write to the Office of Vital Statistics (address above) for current information.

Marriage and Divorce Records

County clerks and clerks of probate courts have been keeping records of marriages since the creation of each county in the state. Some date from the mid-1850s. You can write to the clerk's office in the county where the license was issued. The Family History Library is presently acquiring copies of pre-1920 Kansas marriage records.

Marriage records since July 1913 have also been kept by the state. These may be obtained from the Office of Vital Statistics (see address above).

The district court in each county has had jurisdiction over divorces. Divorce information is interfiled with other court records. You can write to the clerk of the court for information. Since July 1951 a copy of the proceedings has been filed with the Bureau of Registration and Health Statistics.

Guide to Vital Records


FOR FURTHER READING


Eichholz, Alice, ed. Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources, Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992; computer number 594021.) Contains bibliographies and background information on history and ethnic groups. Also contains maps and tables showing when each county was created. See the chapter on Kansas.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

Publications Coordination
Family History Library
35 N. West Temple Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3440
USA

We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

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Family and Church History Department
50 E. North Temple Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3400
USA
Fax: 801-240-2494

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Kansas Historical Background

History

Effective family research requires some understanding of the historical events that may have affected your family and the records about them. Learning about wars, governments, laws, migrations, and religious trends may help you understand political boundaries, family movements, and settlement patterns. These events may have led to the creation of records that your family was listed in, such as land and military documents.

The following important events in the history of Kansas affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements.

1803 The United States acquired Kansas from France as part of the Louisiana Purchase.

1804-1820 United States government expeditions explored the Kansas region, reporting it to be an arid wasteland. The resulting myth of the Great American Desert discouraged early white settlement.

1821 The Santa Fe Trail across Kansas was opened. It served as a wagon road from Missouri to the Southwest until 1880, when the railroad was completed.

1827-1853 The United States Army built forts and roads in Kansas for frontier defense and to protect trade along the Santa Fe Trail.

1830-1854 Kansas was part of Indian Territory, where 20 tribes from the east were relocated. The Indian Territory was closed to white settlement.

1854 The Kansas-Nebraska Act created two territories extending from the Missouri border westward to the tops of the Rocky Mountains and opened the area to white settlement. Migration to Kansas was stimulated by rivalry between the North and South over the slavery issue and over the choice of a railroad route to the Pacific.

1861 Kansas, with its present boundaries, was admitted to the Union as a free state.

1861-1865 In the Civil War, over 20,000 of the 30,000 Kansas men of military age served in the Union armed forces. Kansas suffered the highest mortality rate of any state in the Union.

1867 Many of the remaining Indian tribes agreed to leave Kansas and move to Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma. Indian skirmishes continued in Kansas until 1878.

1870-1890 The post-Civil War boom brought thousands of settlers to obtain land under the Homestead Act, which was passed in 1862.

1898 Over 300,000 men were involved in the Spanish-American War, which was fought mainly in Cuba and the Philippines.
1917–1918 More than 26 million men from the United States ages 18 through 45 registered with the Selective Service for World War I, and over 4.7 million American men and women served during the war.

1930s The Great Depression closed many factories and mills. Many small farms were abandoned, and many families moved to cities.

1940–1945 Over 50.6 million men ages 18 to 65 registered with the Selective Service. Over 16.3 million American men and women served in the armed forces during World War II.

1950–1953 Over 5.7 million American men and women served in the Korean War.

1950s–1960s The building of interstate highways made it easier for people to move long distances.


Your ancestors will become more interesting to you if you also use histories to learn about the events that were of interest to them or that they may have been involved in. For example, by using a history you might learn about the events that occurred in the year your great-grandparents were married.

**Historical Sources**

You may find state or local histories in the Family History Library Catalog under Kansas or the county or the town. For descriptions of records available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. The descriptions give book or film numbers, which you need to find or to order the records.

**Local Histories**

Some of the most valuable sources for family history research are local histories. Published histories of towns, counties, and states usually contain accounts of families. They describe the settlement of the area and the founding of churches, schools, and businesses. You can also find lists of pioneers, soldiers, and civil officials. Even if your ancestor is not listed, information on other relatives may be included that will provide important clues for locating your ancestor. A local history may also suggest other records to search.

Most county and town histories include separate sections or volumes containing biographical information. These may include information on 50 percent or more of the families in the locality.

In addition, local histories should be studied and enjoyed for the background information they can provide about your family's lifestyle and the community and environment in which your family lived.

About 5,000 county histories have been published for over 80 percent of the counties in the United States. For many counties there is more than one history. In addition, tens of thousands of histories have been written about local towns and communities. Bibliographies that list these histories are available for nearly every state.

For descriptions of bibliographies for Kansas available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. Look under BIBLIOGRAPHY or HISTORY - BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Local histories are extensively collected by the Family History Library, public and university libraries, and state and local historical societies. Two useful guides are:
Kansas, Historical Background


**State History**


**United States History**

The following are only a few of the many sources that are available at most large libraries:


*Dictionary of American History*, Revised ed., 8 vols. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976. (FHL book 973 H2ad.) This includes historical sketches on various topics in U.S. history, such as wars, people, laws, and organizations.
Kansas Statewide Indexes and Collections

Guide

Introduction

In the United States, information about your ancestors is often found in town and county records. If you know which state but not the town or county your ancestor lived in, check the following statewide indexes to find the town or county. Then search records for that town or county.

The indexes and collections listed below index various sources of information, such as histories, vital records, biographies, tax lists, immigration records, etc. You may find additional information about your ancestor other than the town or county of residence. The listings may contain:

• The author and title of the source.
• Family History Library (FHL) book, film, fiche, or compact disc number. If the words beginning with appear before the film number, check the Family History Library Catalog for additional films.
• The name of the repository where the source can be found, if the source is not available at the Family History Library.

What You Are Looking For

• Your ancestor's name in an index or collection.
• Where the ancestor was living.

Steps

These 2 steps will help you find information about your ancestor in statewide indexes or collections.

Step 1. Find your ancestor's name in statewide indexes or collections.

On the list below, if your ancestor lived between the years shown on the left, he or she may be listed in the source on the right.

1580–1900s
   Ancestral File
   International Genealogical Index
   Family History Library Catalog - Surname Search
   To see these files, click here.

1580–1970
   Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Kansas: Organized November 21, 1914, Chartered November 21, 1814. (FHL film 873682 item 5.)

1700–1976
   Smith, Patricia D. Kansas Biographical Index: Statewide and Regional Histories: Citing More Than 35,500 Biographies From sixty-eight Volumes of Kansas Biographical Sources. (FHL book 978.1 D32s.) Author plans to index county histories in next volume.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Source Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1700–1976</td>
<td>Rooney, Doris Dockstader</td>
<td><em>Kansas Genealogical Society Six Generation Ancestor Tables</em></td>
<td>(FHL book 978.1 D2r; film 1036302 item 12.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700–1983</td>
<td>Durye, Pierre</td>
<td><em>Surname Index File</em></td>
<td>(FHL book 978.183/H1 C4s.)</td>
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<td>1700–1977</td>
<td>Topeka Genealogical Society</td>
<td><em>Surname Index, Geographic Index, Key to Surname &amp; Geographic Index</em> October, 1977.</td>
<td>(FHL book 978.1 A1 no. 179.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1700–1995</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Midwest Genealogical and Historical Register</em></td>
<td>(FHL book 973 B2mg.) Indexes are in the back of each volume.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1700s–1930</td>
<td>Barry, Louise</td>
<td><em>Comprehensive Index, 1875–1930 to Collections, Biennial Reports, and Publications of the Kansas State Historical Society.</em></td>
<td>(FHL book 978.1 B5c index.) Index to the Collections of the Kansas Historical Society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700–1860</td>
<td>White, Virgil D</td>
<td><em>Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files</em></td>
<td>(FHL book 973 M28g.) Has an every-name index to the pension files.</td>
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<td>1700–1992</td>
<td>Kansas Society</td>
<td><em>Sons of the American Revolution, Patriots' Registry and History of the Kansas SAR.</em></td>
<td>(FHL book 978.1 C4am.)</td>
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<td>1700–1959</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Sons of the American Revolution Kansas Society, Membership Registry and Roster of the Members of the Kansas Society of the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution, From 1892 to 1974: Showing Ancestor From Whom Descent is Claimed.</em></td>
<td>(FHL book 978.1 C4a; film 908755 item 5.)</td>
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<td>1700–1959</td>
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<td><em>Kansas Pioneers.</em></td>
<td>(FHL book 978.1 D3t.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1700–1970s</td>
<td>Kirkham, E. Kay</td>
<td><em>An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States 45,500 References as Taken From Microfilms at the Genealogical Society of Utah.</em></td>
<td>(FHL book 973 D22kk v. 2; fiche 6089184.) Indexes the next two DAR items below.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1700–1969</td>
<td>Daughters of the American Revolution (Kansas)</td>
<td><em>Genealogy of Early Kansas Settlers.</em></td>
<td>(FHL films beginning with 851221.) Indexes are in most volumes.</td>
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<td>1700–1969</td>
<td>Daughters of the American Revolution, Betty Bonney Chapter, Arkansas City, Kansas.</td>
<td><em>Bible and Family Records.</em></td>
<td>(FHL film 851221 item 6.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1720–1957</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Cemetery Records of Kansas.</em></td>
<td>(FHL book 978.1 V22 vols. 1–12; films 873686–690; fiche 6051176.) For index see item below.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1720–1957</td>
<td>Moore, James Davis</td>
<td><em>Cemetery Records of Kansas Combined Table of Contents.</em></td>
<td>(FHL book 978.1 V22 index.) Indexes the item above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1740–1900</td>
<td>White, Virgil D</td>
<td><em>Index to War of 1812 Pension Files.</em></td>
<td>(FHL book 973 M22i.) Mentions name of wife.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1761–1966</td>
<td>Daughters of American Colonists</td>
<td><em>Bible Records with Index From the Major John Mason Chapter of the Daughters of American Colonists, Pittsburg, Kansas.</em></td>
<td>(FHL book 978.1 D2b; film 1033750 item 6.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1780–1920</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Census indexes, 1860–1880 and 1900–1920.</em></td>
<td>In the window to the left click on Family History Library Catalog. Then select CENSUS or CENSUS - INDEXES from the topics that are listed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1790–1870</td>
<td>Franklin, Helen</td>
<td><em>1870 Mortality Schedule of Kansas.</em></td>
<td>(FHL book 978.1 X2f 1870; film 928153 item 2.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1800–1886  Ostertag, John A. *Births, Marriages, Deaths and Other News Items and Events.* (FHL book 978.1 V2o; fiche 6093681–683.)

1800–1861  *Marriage Notices from Kansas Territorial Newspapers, 1854–1861.* (FHL book 978.1 A1 no. 114; film 1320825 item 3.)

1800–1880  Carpenter, Thelma. *Index to 1880 Mortality Schedule of Kansas.* (FHL book 978.1 X2c 1880 index; film 973277 item 4.)


1800–1865  Haupt, John. compiler. *Index to the Kansas Militia in the Civil War.* (FHL book 978.1 M22i.)

1800–1934  United States. Veterans Administration. *General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934.* (On 544 FHL films beginning with 540757.) This is a card index to pension applications of Civil War and Spanish-American War veterans. Copies of the original files may be ordered from the National Archives.

1840–1898  Kansas. Adjutant General. *Kansas Troops in the Volunteer Service of the United States in the Spanish and Philippine Wars, Mustered in Under the First and Second Calls of the President of the United States: May 9, 1898- October 28, 1899.* (FHL film 1404234.)


1878–1918  United States Selective Service System. *Kansas, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918.* (On 71 FHL films beginning with 1643420) Men ages 18 to 45 are listed by county or draft boards.

For ideas on ways your ancestor's name might be spelled by indexers or in collections, see Name Variations.

**Step 2. Copy and document the information.**

The best method is to:

- Make a photocopy of the page(s) with your ancestor's name.
- Document where the information came from by writing the title, call number, and page number of the index or collection on the photocopy. Also write the name of the library or archive.

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**Where to Find It**

**Family History Centers and the Family History Library**

You can use the Family History Library book collection only at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, but many of our books have been microfilmed. Most of our films can be requested and used at our Family History Centers. To locate the address for the nearest Family History Center, [click here](#).

For information about contacting or visiting the library or a center, see Family History Library and Family History Centers.
Libraries and Archives

You may be able to find the books at public or college libraries. If these libraries do not have a copy of the book you need, they may be able to order it from another library on interlibrary loan.

To use interlibrary loan:

- Go to a public or college library.
- Ask the librarian to order a book or microfilm for you through interlibrary loan from another library. You will need the title of the item and the name of the author.
- The library staff will direct you in their procedures. Sometimes this is free; sometimes there is a small fee.

You can find addresses and phone numbers for most libraries and archives in the *American Library Directory*, published by the American Library Association. The *American Library Directory* is available at most public and college libraries.
Maps

Computer Resources

MapQuest Maps
Summary: Must know address, city, state, and zip code; more recent maps

Animap
BYU FHL – on computer
Summary: Has each state with maps. Shows county boundary changes and allows marking of cities and finds distances.

Google Maps
Summary: Has address finder, allows keyword searching, and allows street, satellite, or terrain views

Geology.com Maps
Summary: Has Relief, Elevation, Drainage, Political and Road Maps for each state.
Kansas Maps Bibliography

Mic/Gen Ref - G 1201.F7 A5 1991

Summary: Shows the townships in a particular county for each state except Hawaii and Alaska. Maps start after 1930.


Summary: The previous map was copied from page 237 of this book. On the next page is a listing of the counties, the date the county was formed and parent county, and the date of first recorded deeds and certificates. The section on Kansas also includes a brief history and genealogical research information.


Summary: Shows changes in boundaries in United States from Colonial days up to 1909. Civil War maps and information.


Summary: Kansas maps and information on pages III - 117. Includes maps comparing Kansas to other states, cultural features, population density, agriculture, economic facts, etc. Also includes a brief state history.

Mic/Gen Ref - G 1201.F7 T5 1987

Summary: History of Federal Censuses, records, and completeness. U.S. Maps from 1790 - 1920 showing U.S. boundary changes. Maps of each state for each census year beginning when the state was created up through 1920.
Evaluation of Kansas maps: pp. 118 - 121.
Map Collection on the 2nd Floor of the old section of HBLL library. One map drawer for the state of Kansas.

G4200 - 4204 State maps from 1800s to 2000. Many of the maps show county boundaries and county seats, railroad lines, private land grants, population, etc. Some maps include information about what was happening that year.

To find more maps, search the HBLL Online Catalog for Kansas maps, atlases, and gazetteers.
Kansas Federal Census Population Schedules, 1860 to 1920

Guide

Introduction

Federal censuses are taken every 10 years. Kansas residents are included in territorial and federal censuses from 1860 through 1880, and 1900 through 1920. The 1890 census of Kansas was destroyed.

• The 1850 census was the first federal census to give the names of all members of each household.

For more information about the U.S. Federal Censuses, see Background.

What You Are Looking For

The information you find varies from record to record. These records may include:

• Names of family members.
• Ages of family members, which you can use to calculate birth or marriage years.
• The county and state where your ancestors lived.
• People living with (or gone from) the family.
• Relatives that may have lived nearby.

Steps

These 5 steps will help you use census records.

Step 1. Determine which censuses might include your ancestors.

Match the probable time your ancestor was in Kansas with the census years. This will determine which censuses you will search.
Step 2. Determine a census to start with.

Start with the last census taken during the life of your ancestor. The censuses from 1850 to 1920 give more information and include the name, age, and birthplace of every person in each household.

The censuses from 1790 to 1840 give the name of the head of each household and the number of males and females in age groups without their names.

The censuses for 1930 and later are available from the U.S. Census Bureau only. For ways the census can help you find your ancestor's parents, see Tip 1.

Step 3. Search the census.

For instructions on how to search a specific census, click on one of the following years:

1860  1870  1880  1900  1910  1920

For information about archives and libraries that have census records, see Where to Find It.

Step 4. Search another census.

Repeat Steps 2 and 3 until you search all the censuses taken during the life span of your ancestor. Each census may contain additional information.

If you skip a census taken when your ancestor lived, you risk missing additional information such as names of in-laws or other relatives who may have lived with or near the family. Those names and relationships may help you identify earlier generations.

For other information about how to search the census, see Tips.

Step 5. Analyze the information you obtain from the censuses.

To effectively use the information from the census, ask yourself these questions:

• Who was in the family?
• About when were they born?
• Where were they born? (Birthplaces are shown in censuses for 1850 to 1920.)
• Where were they living—town or township, county, and state?
• Where were their parents born? (Birthplaces are shown in censuses for 1880 to 1920.)
• Do they have neighbors with the same last name? Could they be relatives?

For more about comparing information in several censuses, see Tip 3.
Tips

Tip 1. How can the census help me find my ancestor’s parents?

Searching the census taken closest to the time the ancestor married has the best possibility of finding your ancestor and spouse living close to their parents and other family members.

Tip 2. How can I understand the information better?

Sometimes knowing why the census taker asked a question can help you understand the answer. Detailed instructions given to census takers are in the book Twenty Censuses: Population and Housing Questions 1790-1980, updated as 200 Years of U.S. Census Taking, both by the United States Census Bureau.

Tip 3. How can comparing information in more than one census help me?

Comparing censuses indicates:

- Changes in who was in the household, such as children leaving home or the death of grandparents or a child.
- Changes in neighbors. Remember, neighbors might be relatives or in-laws.
- Changes about each individual, such as age.
- Movement of the family within Kansas to a different county or town.
- Movement of the family out of Kansas if the family no longer appears in the census for Kansas.

You will eventually want to know every country, state, county, township, and town where your ancestor was located. You can then check information in other records for those places. A careful check of all available federal census records can help you identify those places.

The age and estimated birth date of an individual may vary greatly from census to census. Often ages are listed more accurately for young children than for adults.

Background

Description

A census is a count and a description of the population of a country, colony, territory, state, county, or city. Census records are also called census schedules or population schedules.

Early censuses are basically head counts. Later censuses give information about marriage, immigration, and literacy. United States censuses are useful because they begin early and cover a large portion of the population.

What U.S. Federal Censuses Are Available

Censuses have been taken by the United States government every 10 years since 1790. The 1920 census is the most recent federal census available to the public; the 1930 census will be released in 2002.

The 1890 federal census of Kansas was destroyed by fire.
Types of Census Schedules

The following census schedules are available for Kansas and were created in various years by the federal government:

- **Population schedules** list a large portion of the population; most are well-indexed and are available at many repositories.
- **Mortality schedules** list those who died in the 12 months prior to the day the census was taken for the 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.
- **Agricultural schedules** list data about farms and the names of the farmers for the 1870 and 1880 censuses.
- **Manufacturing or industrial schedules** list data about businesses and industries for the 1870 and 1880 censuses.

How Censuses Were Taken

People called enumerators were hired by the United States government to take the census. The enumerators were given forms to fill out and were assigned to gather information about everyone living in a certain area or district. Enumerators could visit houses in any order, so families who are listed together in the census may or may not have been neighbors. The accuracy of the enumerators and the readability of their handwriting varies.

After the census was taken, usually one copy was sent to the state and another to the federal government. Sometimes copies were also kept by the counties. Few of the state and county copies survived.

When Censuses Were Taken

Census takers were supposed to gather information about the people who were part of each household on the following dates:

- 1790 to 1820: First Monday in August
- 1830 to 1900: 1 June (2 June in 1890)
- 1910: 15 April
- 1920: 1 January
- 1930: 1 April

If your ancestor was born in the census year, your ancestor should be listed only if he or she was born before the census date.

If your ancestor died in the census year, your ancestor should be listed only if he or she died after the census date.

The census may have actually taken several months to complete and may reflect births and deaths after the census date.

Censuses from 1930 to the Present

U.S. Federal Censuses from 1930 to the present are confidential. The 1930 census will be available in 2002. You may ask the U.S. Census Bureau to send information about:

- Yourself.
- Another living person, if you are that person's "authorized representative."
- Deceased individuals, if you are "their heirs or administrators."
You may request information for only one person at a time. There is a fee for each search. To request information, you must provide the person's name, address at the time of the census, and other details on Form BC-600, available from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For the address of the U.S. Census Bureau, see Where to Find It.

Territorial, State, and Local Censuses

Territorial, state, and local governments also took censuses. Nonfederal censuses generally contain information similar to and sometimes more than federal censuses of the same period. There are territorial censuses for Kansas for 1855 and 1860.

Kansas became a state in 1861. Kansas has state censuses for 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, and 1925. For more information, see the census section of the Kansas Research Outline.

Territorial, state, and local censuses may be available on the Internet, at Family History Centers, at the Family History Library, and in state and local archives and libraries.

Where to Find It

Internet

Many Internet sites include census records, census indexes, or information about censuses. You may find the following sites helpful:

- Kansas GenWeb and USGenWeb have links to indexes and records and may have links to archives, libraries, and genealogical and historical societies.
- Censuslinks on the 'Net includes links to Internet sites that have United States and Canada censuses and indexes. It includes information about censuses and how to use them, a Soundex calculator, census forms you can print, an age calculator, and more.
- The Archives and Libraries section of the Kansas Research Outline lists Internet addresses for several Kansas archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Kansas census records, and the Internet sites may list what records they have.

Family History Centers

Many Family History Centers keep copies of some census microfilms. Family History Centers can borrow microfilms of a U.S. Federal Census from the Family History Library. A small fee is charged to have a microfilm sent to a center.

You may request photocopies of U.S. Federal Censuses from the Family History Library. Staff at the Family History Center can show you how to request this service.

Family History Centers are located throughout the United States and other areas of the world. See Family History Centers for the address and phone number of the center nearest you.

Family History Library

The Family History Library has complete sets of the existing U.S. Federal Censuses from 1790 to 1920. No fee is charged for using census microfilms in person.

For a list of indexes and other census records, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. Select from the list of titles to see descriptions of the records with the film or book call numbers. Use that information to obtain the records at a family history center or at the Family History Library.
For information about contacting or visiting the library, see *Family History Library and Family History Centers*.

**National Archives**

Copies of the existing federal censuses from 1790 to 1920 are available in the Microfilm Research Room in the National Archives Building and at the 13 Regional National Archives. The National Archives has a microfilm rental program for census records. Call 301-604-3699 for rental information. For information on how to order photocopies of census records from the National Archives, [click here](#).

**College and Public Libraries**

Many college libraries have copies of census microfilms, particularly for their own states. Many larger public libraries have copies of the census soundex and populations schedules. Smaller public libraries may be able to obtain the records through interlibrary loan.

**State Library, Archives, and Historical Societies**

The Archives and Libraries section of the *Kansas Research Outline* lists Internet and mailing addresses for several Kansas libraries, archives, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Kansas census records, and the Internet sites may list what records they have.

**U.S. Census Bureau**

To request information from the 1930 census and later censuses, you must provide your relative's name, address, and other details on Form BC-600, available from:

```markdown
The U.S. Census Bureau
P.O. Box 1545
Jeffersonville, IN 47131
Telephone: 812-218-3300
```

**Genealogical Search Services**

Many genealogical search services will search the census for a fee. These sources can help you find a genealogical search service:

- CyndisList lists many companies and individuals who do research and mentions publications about how to hire a professional genealogist.
- Advertisements in major genealogical journals may help you find a researcher.

For more information, see Hiring a Professional Genealogist.
U.S. State Censuses

KANSAS

1855
Kansas 1855 Territorial census index.

FHC Table 7
CS49.Z99 K2

1855
Territory of Kansas

FILM 0570188

1855
The census of the territory of Kansas, February 1855, with index and map of Kansas election districts in 1854.

CS 49 .Z99 K2
1855

1855
Statistical Census

State Census
Microfiche
Cards 1 of 1

1859
Statistical Census

State Census
Microfiche
Cards 1 of 1

1865
Allen - Atchinson counties
Bourbon - Coffey counties
Davis - Doniphan counties
Douglas County
Franklin - Johnson counties
Leavenworth County
Linn - Morris counties
Nemaha - Wyandotte counties
Compendium of social statistics reported legislature

0570189
0570190
0570191
0570192
0570193
0570194
0570195
0570196

1875
Allen - Barber counties
Barton - Brown counties
Butler - Cherokee counties
Clay - Coffey counties
Cowley - Dickinson counties
Doniphan - Douglas counties
Edwards - Greenwood counties
Harvey - Jackson counties
Jefferson - Jewell counties
Johnson and Labette counties
Leavenworth and Lincoln counties
Linn County
Lyon - McPherson counties
Marion - Marshall counties
Miami - Mitchell counties
Montgomery - Nemaha counties
Neosho - Osborne counties
Ottawa - Pottawatomie counties
Reno - Russell counties
Saline - Sedgwick counties
Shawnee County
Smith - Washington counties
Wilson - Wyandotte

0570198
0570199
0570200
0570201
0570202
0570203
0570204
0570205
0570206
0570207
0570208
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<td></td>
<td>Iola Twp.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Allen Co.</td>
<td>Townships C-S</td>
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<td>Anderson Co.</td>
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<td>Atchison Co.</td>
<td>Atchison ward 1-2</td>
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<td>Atchison ward 3-(S)</td>
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<td>Atchison Co.</td>
<td>Townships B-W</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barton Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bourbon Co.</td>
<td>Fort Scott</td>
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<td>Bourbon Co.</td>
<td>Townships D-M</td>
<td>0975708</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bourbon Co.</td>
<td>Townships O-W; Scott Twp.</td>
<td>0975709</td>
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<td>Brown Co.</td>
<td>Hiawatha; Townships H-M</td>
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<td>Brown Co.</td>
<td>Townships P-W</td>
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<td>Butler Co.</td>
<td>Cities; Townships A-C</td>
<td>0975712</td>
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<td>Townships He-W</td>
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<td>Cherokee Co.</td>
<td>Cities; Townships C-G</td>
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<td>Cherokee Co.</td>
<td>Townships L-R</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cherokee Co.</td>
<td>Townships S</td>
<td>0975720</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheyenne Co.</td>
<td>(See also Rawlings Co.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clay Co.</td>
<td>Clay Center; Townships A-H</td>
<td>0975721</td>
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<td>Clay Co.</td>
<td>Townships M-U</td>
<td>0975722</td>
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<td>Cloud Co.</td>
<td>Cities; Townships A-G</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cloud Co.</td>
<td>Townships L-S</td>
<td>0975724</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coffey Co.</td>
<td>Cities; Townships A-O</td>
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**1885 Statistical Census**

**1895**

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Holloway, John N.  History of Kansas: From the First Exploration of the Mississippi Valley, to Its Admission into the Union: Embracing a Concise Sketch of Louisiana; American Slavery, and Its Onward March; The Conflict of Free and Slave Labor in the Settlement of Kansas, and the Overthrow of the Latter, with All Other Items of General Interest.  Lafayette, IN: James, Emmons and Co., 1868.  Fiche F 685 .H7 1868 also F 685 .H7  (Special Collections: Americana Rare)


Allen County  Allen County was established in 1855 as an original county. Iola is the county seat.


Anderson County  Anderson County was created in 1855 as an original county. Garnett is the county seat.


Arapahoe County  Arapahoe County (defunct), not to be confused with old Arapahoe County which covered a different area of Kansas, was created in 1873 from the unorganized lands in southwestern Kansas. It was absorbed by Finney County in 1883 and reappeared in 1887 under the name of Haskell County.

Arapahoe County (Old)  Now defunct, (Old) Arapahoe County was established in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. It became part of the Colorado Territory in 1861.

Atchison County  Atchison County was created in 1855 as an original county. Atchison is the county seat.

Barber County  Barber County, spelled Barbour until 1883, was created in 1867. The county seat is Medicine Lodge.

Dyer, T.J.  Old Kiowa in History and Romance: A Partial History of the Old Town, Established in 1874, Now Known as Old Kiowa.  s.l.: s.n., 1934.  978.182 D9880 (Special Collections: Hafen)


Barton County  Created in 1867 from Peketon (or Marion County as it was later called) area but was not formally organized until 1872. Great Bend is the current county seat.

Biographical History of Barton County, Kansas.  Great Bend, KS: Great Bend Tribune, c1912.  Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH12034


Billings County  See Norton County.

Bourbon County  Bourbon County was created in 1855 as an original county. Fort Scott is the county seat.

Goodlander, Charles W.  Memoirs and Recollection of C.W. Goodlander of the Early Days of Fort Scott from April 29, 1858, to January 1, 1870, Covering the Time Prior to the Advent of the Railroad and During the Days of the Ox-team and Stage Transportation; And Biographies of Col. H.L. Wilson and Geo. A. Crawford, the Fathers of Fort Scott.  Fort Scott, KS: Monitor Printing Co., 1900.  978.1 G61 also Fiche 917.8 G61 also F 689 .F7 G6 1900 (Special Collections: Americana Rare)


Robley, Thomas F.  History of Bourbon County, Kansas, to the Close of 1865.  Fort Scott, KS: s.n., 1894.  F 687 .B73 R6 also Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH11787
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Breckinridge County  Breckinridge County (defunct) was established in 1855. It was renamed Lyon County in 1862. Alternate spelling is ‘Breckenridge.’

Brown County  Created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. Hiawatha is the county seat.


Morrill, E. N.  History and Statistics of Brown County, Kansas; From Its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time, Embracing Incidents and Hardships of Pioneer Life.  Hiawatha, KS: Kansas Herald Book, News and Job Office, 1876.  978.134 M83h also Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH11781

Buffalo County  Buffalo County (defunct) was created in 1873 from the southwestern unorganized area. It became part of Gray and Lane counties in 1881.

Butler County  Butler County was created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. In 1861 (some sources say 1864) it was enlarged with the addition of Irving, Hunter and Otoe counties. Its size was later reduced as other counties was organized from it. El Dorado is the county seat.


Stratford, Jessie P.  Butler County’s Eighty Years, 1855-1935.  s.l.: s.n., c1934.  Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH11776

Calhoun County  Calhoun County (defunct) was created in 1855 (some sources say 1857) as an original county under the territory of Kansas. Its name was changed in 1859 to Jackson County.

Chase County  Chase County was created in 1859 from Wise and Butler counties. The county seat is Cottonwood Falls.

Chase County Historical Sketches.  Cottonwood Falls, KS: Chase County Historical Society, 1940.  F 687 .C35 C46

Chautauqua County  Created in 1875 from Howard County. Sedan is the county seat.

Last updated 06/04
Cherokee County  Cherokee County was created in 1855 as McGee County and was an original county under the territory of Kansas. Its name was changed in 1866 to Cherokee when it was formally organized. The county seat is Columbus.


Cheyenne County  Cheyenne County was created in 1873 from unorganized lands but was not formally organized until 1886. St. Francis is the county seat.


Clark County  Clark County was created in 1867 from Marion County (formally Peketon area) but was absorbed by Ford County in 1883. In 1885 it was recreated from basically the same area in Ford County. Ashland is the county seat.

Notes on Early Clark County, Kansas.  Ashland, KS: Clark County Chapter of the Kansas State Historical Society, 1939.  Fiche CS 43 .G46x GS207


Clay County  Clay County, created in 1857 from unorganized lands as an original county under the territory of Kansas, was not formally organized until 1866. Clay Center is the county seat.


Cloud County  Cloud County was created in 1860 as Shirley County, an original county under the territory of Kansas. Its name was changed in 1867 to Cloud County. The county seat is Concordia.

Coffey County  Created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. The county seat is Burlington.

Early Day History of Coffey County Dating Back to the 1870s; Complied from Interviews and Articles Written by Old-Timers.  Burlington, KS: The Daily Republican, n.d.  F 687 .C7 E37x
Comanche County  Comanche County was created in 1867 from Marion County (previously Peketon area). It was formally organized in 1885. Coldwater is the county seat.

    Comanche County History: Comanche County, Kansas. Coldwater, KS: Comanche County Historical Society, 1981. F 687 .C75 C65


Cowley County  Cowley County was created in 1867 from that part of Butler County which originally was Hunter County. Some sources indicate it may have been named Hunter County until 1870 when it was formally organized under the name of Cowley. The county seat is Winfield.

Crawford County  Crawford County was created in 1867 from Bourbon and Cherokee counties. Girard is the county seat.


Davis County  Davis County (defunct) was created in 1855, but became Geary County in 1889.

Decatur County  Created in 1873 from unorganized lands in northwestern Kansas. It was formally organized in 1879. Oberlin is the county seat.


Dickinson County  Organized in 1857 from Davis County and unorganized land. Abilene is the county seat.


Doniphan County  Created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. Troy is the county seat.


Last updated 06/04
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Smith, R.F., ed.  Doniphan County, Kansas, History and Directory for 1868-9: Containing the State Constitution, a Concise History of Kansas, also of Doniphan County, and Sketches of Each Village in the County, Citizens’ and Business Directory, Revenue and Postal Information, Legal Forms, etc.  S.l.: Smith, Vaughan & Co., 1868.  Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH11784

Dorn County  Dorn county (defunct) was created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. Its name was changed in 1861 to Neosho County.

Douglas County  Douglas County was created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. Lawrence is the county seat.

Cordley, Richard.  A History of Lawrence, Kansas.  Lawrence, KS: E.F. Caldwell, 1895.  F 689 .L4 C7 also Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH11791


Edwards County  Edwards County was created in 1874 from Kiowa County. Kinsley is the county seat.


Elk County  Elk County was created in 1875 from Howard County. The County seat is Howard.

Pioneer Days; Interesting Incidents and History of Early Days in Elk County.  s.l.: s.n., n.d.  F 687 .E28 P56x

Last updated 06/04 7
Ellis County  Ellis County was created and organized in 1867 from unorganized lands in Kansas. The county seat is Hays.


Ellsworth County  Ellsworth County was created and organized in 1867 from Marion County (formally Peketon area) and unorganized lands in Kansas. The county seat is Ellsworth.


Finney County  Finney County was originally created in 1873 as Sequoyah County from Marion County (formally Peketon area). It was renamed and enlarged in 1883 when it annexed Arapahoe, Grant, Gray and Kearney counties. Its area was reduced as these counties were later taken from it. In 1893 it annexed Garfield Co. Garden City is the county seat.


Foote County  Established in 1873 from Marion County, Foote County became defunct in 1881 when it became part of Gray County.

Ford County  Ford County was created in 1867 from Marion County (formally Peketon area) and organized in 1873. Its size was enlarged in 1883 when it absorbed Clark County. But it was again reduced in 1885 when Clark County was reorganized. The county seat is Dodge City.
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Wright, Robert M. *Dodge City, the Cowboy Capital: And the Great Southwest in the Days of the Wild Indian, the Buffalo, the Cowboy, Dance Halls, Gambling Halls and Bad Men*. Wichita, KS: Wichita Eagle Press, 1913. F 689 .C64 W9 also Fiche Z 1236 .L5 1971 no.10367 also 978.1 W93 (Special Collections: Hafen)

**Franklin County** Franklin County was created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. Ottawa is the county seat.


**Garfield County** Garfield County (defunct) was established in 1887. It was annexed to Finney County in 1893.

**Geary County** Geary County was created in 1855 as Davis County, an original county under the territory of Kansas. The name was changed to Geary in 1889. The County seat is Junction City.

**Godfrey County**  Godfrey County (defunct) was created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. The name was changed to Seward (old) County in 1861. Then in 1867 the name was changed to Howard County. Howard County was divided in 1875 into Elk and Chautauqua counties.

**Gove County**  Gove County was created in 1868 from unorganized lands in western Kansas. It was formally organized in 1886. The county seat is Gove.


**Graham County**  Graham County was created in 1867 from unorganized lands in western Kansas. It was formally organized in 1880. Hill City is the county seat.

**Grant County**  Grant County was created in 1873 from the unorganized lands in southwestern Kansas. It was absorbed by Finney County in 1883 but was reorganized in 1887 with its original boundaries. It was formally organized in 1889.

Grant County, Kansas.  Ulysses, KS: Grant County History Commission, 1982.  F 687 .G75 G76x 1982


**Gray County**  Gray County was created in 1881 from Foote County and part of Buffalo County. It disappeared in 1883 when it was absorbed into Ford and Finney counties. It was reorganized in 1887. Cimarron is the county seat.

**Greeley County**  Greeley County was created in 1873 from the unorganized lands in western Kansas. It was formally organized in 1889. Tribune is the county seat.


**Greenwood County**  Greenwood County was created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. In 1862 it annexed part of Madison County. Eureka is the county seat.

**Hamilton County**  Hamilton County was created in 1873 from the unorganized lands in southwestern Kansas. Its area was enlarged when it annexed Stanton and parts of Kearney and Grant counties. In 1887 it resumed its original 1873 boundaries. Syracuse is the county seat.
Harper County  Harper County was created in 1867 from Marion County (formally Peketon area). It was organized in 1873 with the organization becoming legal in 1878. The county seat is Anthony.

Harvey County  Harvey County was created in 1872 from parts of Marion, McPherson and Sedgwick counties. Newton is the county seat.

Harvey County History. Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corp., 1990. F 687 .H45 H37 1990 (Oversize Quarto)

Haskell County  Haskell County was organized in 1887 out of that part of Finney County which had originally been Arapahoe County. The county seat is Sublette.

Hodgeman County  Hodgeman County was created in 1867 from Marion County (previously Peketon area). It was formally organized in 1879. It lost some area to Garfield County in 1887. The name is sometimes spelled Hageman. Jetmore is the county seat.

Howard County  Howard County (defunct) was first established as Godfrey County in 1855, and in 1861 became Seward County. Howard County was established in 1867. Howard County was divided in 1875 into Elk and Chautauqua counties.

Hunter County  Hunter County, defunct in 1864, was created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. It was annexed to Butler County in 1864. It may also have been the name of Cowley County from 1867-1870. The greater portion of what was Hunter County is now Cowley County.

Irving County  Irving County (defunct) was created in 1860 from the northern part of what was Hunter County. It was never organized and became part of Butler County in 1864 (some sources say 1861).

Jackson County  Jackson County was created in 1855 (some sources say 1857) as Calhoun County, an original county under the territory of Kansas. Its name was changed to Jackson in 1859. Holton is the county seat.

Portrait and Biographical Album of Jackson, Jefferson and Pottawatomie Counties, Kansas; Containing Full Page Portraits and Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens of the County, Together with Portraits and Biographies of All the Governors of the State and the Presidents of the United States. Chicago: Chapman brothers, 1890. F 687 .J2 P8
Jefferson County  Jefferson County was created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. Oskaloosa is the county seat.

Portrait and Biographical Album of Jackson, Jefferson and Pottawatomie Counties, Kansas; Containing Full Page Portraits and Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens of the County, Together with Portraits and Biographies of All the Governors of the State and the Presidents of the United States. Chicago: Chapman brothers, 1890. F 687.J2 P8

Jewell County  Jewell County was created in 1867 from unorganized lands in Kansas. It was formally organized in 1870. Mankoto is the county seat.


Johnson County  Johnson County was created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. Olathe is the county seat.


Kansas County  Kansas County (defunct) was created in 1873, but was never organized. In 1883, Seward County expanded to include Kansas County. The territory was reestablished as Morton County in 1886.

Kearny County  Kearny County was created in 1873 from the unorganized lands in southwestern Kansas. It was absorbed by Finney and Hamilton counties in 1883. In 1887 it was recreated with the same boundaries and was formally organized in 1889. The name is sometimes spelled Kearney. Lakin is the county seat.


Kingman County  Kingman County was created in 1869 from Reno County. It was formally organized in 1874. Kingman is the county seat.

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**Kiowa County**  Created in 1867 from Marion County (previously Peketon area). In 1875 it was divided between Edwards and Comanche counties. It was recreated and organized in 1886 with slightly different boundaries. Greensburg is the county seat.


Smith, Patricia D.  *Crescent Community of Kiowa and Bethel Cemetery Tombstone Inscriptions, Bethel Church, Bethany Free Methodist Church, Salem School.*  Garden City, KS: P.D.  Smith, 1997.  F 687 .K6 C74

**Labette County**  Labette County was created in 1867 from Neosho County. Oswego is the county seat.


**Lane County**  Lane County was created in 1873 from the unorganized lands in western Kansas. A part of Buffalo County was added in 1881 and Lane was formally organized in 1886. The county seat is Dighton.


**Leavenworth County**  Created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. Leavenworth is the county seat.


Moore, Henry M.  *Early History of Leavenworth City and County: Also an Appendix Containing a List of the Lawyers, with a Sketch of Each, of the First Judicial District, and Who Signed the Roll of Attorneys from 1855 to the
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Admission of the State. Leavenworth, KS: Samuel Dodsworth Book Co., 1906. F 687 .L4 M8 also Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH12035


Lincoln County Created in 1867 from unorganized lands in Kansas. It was formally organized in 1870. The county seat is Lincoln.


Linn County Linn County was created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. Mound City is the county seat.


Logan County Logan County was created in 1881 as Saint John County from Wallace County. Its name was changed to Logan County in 1887 when it was formally organized. Oakley is the county seat.
Lykins County  Lykins County (defunct) was created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. Its name was changed in 1861 to Miami County.

Lyon County  Lyon County was created in 1855 as Breckenridge County, an original county under the territory of Kansas. Its name was changed in 1862 to Lyon. Emporia is the county seat.

French, Laura M.  History of Emporia and Lyon County.  Emporia, KS: Emporia Gazette Print, 1929.  F 689 .E5 F87 1929a also Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH11794


Van Gundy, John C.  Reminiscences of Frontier Life of the Upper Neosho.  s.l.: s.n., 1925.  F 687 .N4 V36x 1925 (Special Collections: Americana)

Madison County  Madison County (defunct) was created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. In 1862 it was divided between Greenwood and Breckinridge (now Lyon) counties.

Marion County  Marion County was created in 1855. The county seat is Marion.

Marshall County  Marshall County was created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. The county seat is Marysville.

Forter, Emma E.  History of Marshall County, Kansas; Its People, Industries and Institutions, with Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families.  Indianapolis, IN: s.n., 1917.  F 687 .M3 F6 also Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH11785


Portrait and Biographical Album of Marshall County, Kansas: Containing Full Page Portraits and Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens of the County, Together with Portraits and Biographies of All the
Governors of the State, and of the Presidents of the United States. Chicago: Chapman, 1889. F 687.M35 P8

McGee County  McGee County (defunct) was one of the original 33 counties created by the first territorial legislature in 1855. The county was attached to Bourbon County for all civil and military purposes, and was never organized. An alternate spelling for the county is McGhee. The name was change to Cherokee County in 1866 when it was formally organized.

McPherson County  McPherson County was created in 1867 from Marion County (previously Peketon area) and was formally organized in 1870. McPherson is the county seat.

Bergin, Alfred. The Story of Lindsborg. Lindsborg, KS: The Luther Leagues of the Bethany Church, 1929. F 689.L5 B36x


Meade County  Meade County was created in 1873 from the unorganized lands in southwestern Kansas. It was divided in 1883 between Seward, Finney and Ford counties. In 1885 it was reorganized in the same area but with slightly different boundaries. Meade is the county seat.


Miami County  Created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. It was originally named Lykins County but the name was changed in 1861 to Miami. Paola is the county seat.

Mitchell County  Mitchell County was created in 1867 from unorganized lands in Kansas. It was formally organized in 1870. Beloit is the county seat.

Emigh, Tula D. The Story of Lincoln Park, Cawker City, Kansas and the Marvelous Chartaquas Held There at the Turn of the Century. Cawker City, KS: Cawker City Ledger, n.d. F 569.C3 E65x

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**Montgomery County**  Montgomery County was created in 1867 from Wilson County and was formally organized in 1869. Independence is the county seat.


**Morris County**  Morris County was created in 1855 as Wise County and was an original county under the territory of Kansas. Its name was changed in 1859 to Morris. Council Grove is the county seat.

Brigham, Lalla M. *The Story of Council Grove on the Santa Fe Trail.* s.l.: s.n., 1921. Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH11435

**Morton County**  Morton County was created in 1873 as Kansas County from the unorganized lands in southwestern Kansas. It was absorbed in 1883 by Seward County. In 1886 it was reorganized under the name of Morton County. Elkhart is the county seat.

**Nemaha County**  Nemaha County was created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. The county courthouse burned in 1876. Some records were destroyed. The county seat is Seneca.

Crevecoeur, F.F. *Old Settlers' Tales: Historical and Biographical Sketches of the Early Settlement and Settlers of Pottawatomie and Southwestern Nemaha Counties Kansas, from Earliest Settlement to the Year 1877.* Onaga, KS?: Onaga Republican?, 1902. Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH11795
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Neosho County Neosho County was created in 1855 as Dorn County and was an original county under the territory of Kansas. Its name was changed to Neosho in 1861 and was formally organized in 1864. Erie is the county seat.


Ness County Ness County was created in 1867 from unorganized lands in western Kansas. It was first organized in 1873, then disorganized in 1874, and reorganized in 1880. The county seat is Ness City.


Norton County Norton County was created in 1867. The name was changed in 1873 to Billings, but restored to Norton in 1874.


Osage County Osage County was created in 1855 as Weller County and was an original county under the territory of Kansas. Its name was changed in 1859 to Osage. Lyndon is the county seat.


Osborne County Osborne County was created in 1867 from unorganized lands in Kansas. It was formally organized in 1871. Osborne is the county seat.


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**Otoe County**  Otoe County (now defunct) was created in 1860. Former boundaries of Otoe reside mainly within Butler County.

**Ottawa County**  Ottawa County was created in 1860 from unorganized lands (some sources say from Saline County). It was formally organized in 1866. Minneapolis is the county seat.


**Pawnee County**  Pawnee County was created in 1867 from Marion County (previously Peketon area). It was formally organized in 1872. The county seat is Larned.

**Peketon County**  Peketon County (defunct) was created in 1855 as Washington County which covered the southern half of Kansas from central Kansas into Colorado. In 1857 Washington County disappeared but reappeared in 1860 as Peketon area (or territory). In 1865 (some sources say 1867) it became part of Marion County when that county was enlarged.

**Phillips County**  Phillips County was created in 1867 from unorganized lands in Kansas. It was formally organized in 1872. Phillipsburg is the county seat.


**Pottawatomie County**  Pottawatomie County was created in 1857 from Calhoun and Riley counties. Westmoreland is the county seat.

Crevecoeur, F.F.  *Old Settlers’ Tales: Historical and Biographical Sketches of the Early Settlement and Settlers of Pottawatomie and Southwestern Nemaha Counties Kansas, from Earliest Settlement to the Year 1877*. Onaga, KS?: Onaga Republican?, 1902.  Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH11795

Early History of Pottawatomie County. KS: Historical Research Committee, 1954.  978.1 A1 #64 (Special Collections: Hafen)


Portrait and Biographical Album of Jackson, Jefferson and Pottawatomie Counties, Kansas; Containing Full Page Portraits and Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens of the County, Together with Portraits
and Biographies of All the Governors of the State and the Presidents of the United States. Chicago: Chapman brothers, 1890. F 687.J2 P8

Pratt County Pratt County was created in 1867 from Marion County (previously Peketon area). It was first organized in 1873 but it was not recognized due to fraud. It was reorganized in 1879. The county seat is Pratt.

Rawlins County Rawlins County was created in 1873 from the unorganized lands in northwestern Kansas. It was formally organized in 1881. Atwood is the county seat.


Reno County Reno County was created in 1867 from Marion County (previously Peketon area). It was formally organized in 1873. The county seat is Hutchinson.


Republic County Republic County was created in 1860 from unorganized lands as an original county under the territory of Kansas. It was formally organized in 1868 (or 1867). The County seat is Belleville.


Savage, Isaac O. A History of Republic County, Kansas; Embracing a Full and Complete Account of All the Leading Events in Its History, from Its First Settlement Down to June 1, '01. Beloit, KS: Jones and Chubbic, Art Printers, 1901. F 687 .R4 S3 also Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH11799

Rice County Rice County was created in 1867 from Marion County (previously Peketon area). It was formally organized 1871. Lyons is the county seat.

Richardson County Richardson County (defunct) was created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. Its name was changed in 1859 to Wabaunsee County.

Riley County Riley county was created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. In 1860, 1861, 1871 and 1873 there were land exchanges between Riley County and the counties of Davis and Wabaunsee. Manhattan is the county seat.


Pride, Woodbury F. The History of Fort Riley. s.l.: s.n., 1926. F 689 .F69 P7 1926 also F 689 .F69 P7 1926 (Special Collections: Americana)

Rooks County Rooks County was created in 1867 from unorganized lands in Kansas and was formally organized in 1872. The county seat is Stockton.


Rush County Rush County was created in 1867 from unorganized lands in Kansas. It was formally organized in 1874. The county seat is LaCrosse.


Golden Jubilee of the German-Russian Settlements of Ellis and Rush Counties, Kansas. s.l.: s.n., 1926. F 687 .E3 D72 1926

Russell County Russell County was created in 1867 from unorganized lands in central Kansas. It was formally organized in 1872. Russell is the county seat.

Saline County Saline County was created in 1860 from unorganized land as an original county under the territory of Kansas. The county seat is Salina.

Scott County Scott County was created in 1873 from the unorganized lands in western Kansas. It was formally organized in 1886. Scott City is the county seat.
Sedgwick County  Created in 1867 from Butler and Marion (previously Peketon area) counties. It was formally organized in 1870. Wichita is the county seat.


Sequoyah County  Sequoyah County (now defunct) was created in 1873 from Marion County (formally Peketon area). It was renamed Finney County in 1883.

Seward County  Seward County was created in 1873 from the unorganized lands in southwestern Kansas. (It is not to be confused with old Seward County in eastern Kansas.) It absorbed Kansas, Stevens and part of Meade counties in 1883. In 1886 it was organized and the size reduced as counties were divided from it. Liberal is the county seat.


Seward County (old)  This county (now defunct) was created in 1855 as Godfrey County and was an original county. In 1861 its name was changed to Seward (not the modern southwestern county of Seward). Its name was changed again in 1867 to Howard County. In 1875 Howard County was divided into Elk and Chautauqua counties.

Shawnee County  Shawnee County was created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. Topeka is the county seat.


Williams, Giles F.  Historical Sketch of Shawnee County, Kansas.  Topeka, KS: Commonwealth Steam Book and Job Print House, 1876.  978.1 H62s also F 687 .S5 G4 1876 (Special Collections: Americana Rare)
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**Sheridan County** Sheridan County was created in 1873 from unorganized lands in northwestern Kansas. It was formally organized in 1880. The county seat is Hoxie.


**Sherman County** Sherman County was created in 1873 from the unorganized lands of northwestern Kansas. It was formally organized in 1886. The county seat is Goodland.


**Shirley County** Shirley County (defunct) was created in 1860 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. Shirley County was attached to Marshall County for judicial purposes prior to its organization. Its name was changed in 1867 to Cloud County.

**Smith County** Smith County was created in 1867 from unorganized lands in Kansas. It was formally organized in 1872. The county seat is Smith Center.


**St. John County** St. John County (defunct) was created in 1881 from Wallace County. The name was changed to Logan County in 1887 when the county was formally organized.

**Stafford County** Stafford County was created in 1867 from Marion County (previously Peketon area). It was formally organized in 1879. The county seat is St. John.

**Stanton County** Stanton County was created in 1873 from the unorganized lands in southwestern Kansas. It was absorbed by Hamilton County in 1883. In 1887 it was recreated with the same boundaries as 1873. It was formally organized in 1887. Johnson City is the county seat.


**Stevens County** Stevens County was created in 1873 from the unorganized lands in southwestern Kansas. It was absorbed by Seward County in 1883. In 1886 it was reorganized with the same boundaries as 1873. Hugoton is the county seat.

**Sumner County** Sumner County was created in 1867 from Butler and Marion (previously Peketon area) counties. It was formally organized in 1871. Wellington is the county seat.


*The History of Sumner County, Kansas.* Dallas: Curtis Media Corp., 1987.  [F 687 .S9 H57 1987 (Oversize Quarto)]

*Portrait and Biographical Album of Sumner County, Kansas: Containing Full-Page Portraits and Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens of the County and of the Presidents of the United States.* Chicago: Chapman Bros., 1890.  [F 687 .S7 P8]

**Thomas County** Thomas County was created in 1873 from the unorganized lands in northwestern Kansas. It was formally organized in 1885. The county seat is Colby.


**Trego County** Trego County was created in 1867 from unorganized lands in western Kansas. It was formally organized in 1879. WaKeeney is the county seat.

**Wabaunsee County** Wabaunsee County was created in 1855 as Richardson County, an original county under the territory of Kansas. Its name was changed in 1859 to Wabaunsee. Alma is the county seat.


**Wallace County** Wallace County was created in 1868 from unorganized lands in western Kansas. It was dissolved on charges on fraud in 1879. However, it was recreated in 1881 out of the western part of the original county while the eastern part became St. John (now Logan) County. The county seat is Sharon Springs.
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Washington County Washington County was created in 1859 (or 1860) from unorganized lands along the northern border of the territory of Kansas. It should not be confused with the old Washington County which covered a large portion of the southwestern part of the territory and disappeared in 1857 (or 1859). The county seat is Washington.


Weller County Weller County (defunct) was created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. Its name was changed in 1859 to Osage County.

Wichita County Wichita County was created in 1873 from the unorganized lands in western Kansas. It was formally organized in 1886. Leoti is the county seat.


Wilson County Wilson County was created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. It was formally organized in 1867. Fredonia is the county seat.


Wise County Wise County (defunct) was created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. Its name was changed in 1859 to Morris County.

Woodson County Woodson County was created in 1855 as an original county under the territory of Kansas. Yates Center is the county seat.


Wyandotte County Wyandotte County was created in 1859 from Leavenworth and Johnson counties. The county seat is Kansas City.

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Other Sources to Check for General County/Local Histories


Halverson, Frank Douglas and Eva H.T. Halverson. County Histories of the United States Giving Present Name, Date Formed, Parent County, and County Seat. [Salt Lake City, 1937]. E 180 .H35


Other Materials

Rootsweb Kansas links
http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/ks.html

Cyndi’s List Kansas Genealogy Links
http://www.cyndislist.com/ks.htm

Kansas State Historical Society Genealogists Page
http://www.kshs.org/genealogists/index.htm

Kansas Family History Centers
http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHC/FHC_Results.asp?FHCCountry=United+States&FHCStateProv=Kansas&FHCCounty=&FHCCity=&Submit=Search

State Library of Kansas
http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/