



Gateway Family Historian

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Welcome to the twenty-third issue of **Gateway Family Historian**. This issue's focus is a state to which Missouri has furnished many immigrants—Kansas.

NOTE: We welcome your suggestions for topics (tpearson@spl.org) for future issues. Topics can be states, countries, or research specialties such as census or death records. Thanks!

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OUR TOWN— Events at the St. Louis Public Library

The St. Louis Public Library Events Calendar at spl.org can provide you with an up-to-the-minute listing of what's happening at the Library!

Metered parking around Central Library is FREE on Saturdays, and the Scottrade Center MetroLink stop is only four blocks away. Other free parking is available on weekdays to Library users. Call or e-mail us for details. *Registration for our programs is strongly suggested.* Please call 314-539-0385, or e-mail tpearson@spl.org to register or for further information.

The St. Louis Public Library loves being able to help so many genealogists. We are sometimes asked if there is anything patrons can do to help us. If you would like to support the Library, you might consider donating a copy of your printed family history book to us. We will gladly add it to our permanent collection. You might also want to make a Tribute donation through the St. Louis Public Library Foundation. A Tribute allows you to donate tax-deductible funds for the purchase of books or materials that will be added to the genealogy collection. You can honor a family you are researching, or an individual of your choice, with a bookplate that is added to each Tribute item. This program benefits the Library and your fellow genealogists. If you would like to consider making a Tribute gift, visit the Foundation's website at www.splfoundation.org. Thanks to all of our readers for your support of the Library! 

New Arrivals

1. Boyd, Gregory A. **Family Maps of Boone County, Missouri: With Homesteads, Roads, Waterways, Towns, Cemeteries, Railroads, and More.** Norman, OK: Arphax Publishing Co., 2005. H/G 912.778

This is just one book in an excellent series of plat maps with information taken from the General Land Office, Bureau of Land Management records. The Library has over 150 volumes covering counties in Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas. The publisher's goal is to cover every county in public land states. The Library will order additional counties in the above states when available.

2. Dollarhide, William. **Census Substitutes & State Census Records: An Annotated Bibliography of Published Name Lists for all 50 U.S. States and State Censuses for 37 States.** 2 Volumes. Bountiful, UT: Family Roots Publishing Company, 2008. H/G 317.3

This two-volume set provides helpful timelines and lists of Federal census substitutes for each state. Eastern states are in Volume 1 and western states in Volume 2. Suggestions range from colonial and territorial census records to voters lists and tax lists. The author provides full bibliographic information for published items. Locations are given if the documents are on

microfilm and found only in a certain location, or if the records are found on a website.

3. **Italians to America: Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports.** 26 Volumes. Ed. by Ira A. Glazier. Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, 1992-. H/G 929.308951

Volume 26 brings the passenger lists up to May 1904. Beginning in 1880, this set lists Italian passengers coming to America. Information provided includes name, age, sex, occupation, origin, and destination. Also included is the name of the ship, arrival date, and port of arrival (usually New York, but other ports are included).

4. McGhee, James E. **Guide to Missouri Confederate Units, 1861-1865.** Fayetteville, AR: University of Arkansas Press, 2008. H/G 973.7478

Since accurate information on Confederate units can often be difficult to find, this book should prove invaluable to Civil War researchers and genealogists alike. It offers alternate names of the units, commanding officers, companies and their commanders, and gives a brief history of each of the 69 Missouri units. A bibliography is provided at the end of each entry.

5. Ott, George E. **Guide to the Genealogical Resources of Italy, With Maps and Full Index of Included Towns.** Salt Lake City, UT:

Heritage Creations, 2004. H/G 929.345

Useful features of this book include an atlas and gazetteer of Sicily, a directory of the records repositories, a guide to the resources available on microfilm at the Family History Library, and the phone numbers, postal, e-mail, and Web addresses for all civil and religious repositories found on this island.

...And Some Venerated Ancestors

These are just a few of the items we own that can assist you in researching your Kansas ancestors.

1. **Factual Pioneer Stories: An Unpublished History.** Cawker City, Kansas: North Central Kansas Genealogical Society and Library, Inc., 1988. H/G 929.3781

A compilation of histories, reminiscences, and anecdotes as told by Kansas pioneers looking back at the events in their lives and communities during the early 1900s. An index of narrators and subjects is included.

2. **Forgotten Settlers of Kansas.** 10 Volumes-in-3. Topeka, Kansas: Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies, 1983-1987. H/G 929.3781

Reproduces the applications and pedigree charts that were submitted for entry into the Kansas

And Some Venerated Ancestors
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Territorial and Pioneer Certificate Program. A list of applicants and an index of pioneer names are at the end of each volume.

3. **Kansas Historical Quarterly, 1852-1859.** Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1931- current. Stacks and H/G "P"

Changed title to *Kansas History* with the 1978 issue, this long-running historical magazine contains articles covering all aspects of Kansas history and biography.

4. Kansas State Historical Society. **Comprehensive Index, 1875 – 1930, to Collections, Biennial Reports, and Publications of the Kansas State Historical Society.** Comp. by Louise Barry. Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1959. H/G 978.1

A name and subject index to the early publications of the Kansas State Historical Society. The Library has the Collections, Publications, and Reports in the Stacks, 978.1

5. Kusek, Joan. **Federal Naturalizations for the 1st District of Kansas, Northeast – 1856 to 1902.** Overland Park, Kansas: The author, 1990. H/G 929.3781

Abstracts of records taken from the United States District Court dating 1856-1902 found in the National Archives, Central Plains Region, in Kansas City, Missouri. These are not just naturalizations of European settlers, but also include Native Americans from the Delaware, Kickapoo, and

Pottawatomie tribes who became citizens before 1902. Includes name, date of citizenship, book and page of record, and country or tribe of origin.

6. **Military History of Kansas Regiments During the War for the Suppression of the Great Rebellion.** Leavenworth, Kansas: W. S. Burke, 1994. Stacks 973.7481

This history of the Kansas Union troops, both cavalry and infantry, is an account of what each regiment did during the Civil War, taken from the official reports of the commanding officers.

7. Polk, R. L. Co. **Polk's Kansas State Gazetteer and Business Directory Including a Complete Business Directory of Kansas City, Mo., 1904.** Chicago: R. L. Polk & Co., 1904. Stacks 917.81

A directory of residents and businesses for most towns and cities in Kansas for the year 1904.

8. Robertson, Clara. **Kansas Territorial Settlers of 1860 Who Were Born in Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.** Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Company, Inc., 1990. H/G 929.3781

This book lists settlers of Kansas in two separate lists—those born in Tennessee, plus another list for those born in Virginia and the Carolinas. Information provided includes name; place of birth; place of residence in Kansas in 1860; age; sex; and volume and page of the census records where this information can be found. Several excellent maps accompanying the text show the Kansas Territory prior to 1861 statehood, and include its roads,

trails, Indian lands, Post Offices, rivers, county boundaries, census divisions, and much more.

9. **The United States Biographical Dictionary, Kansas Volume: Containing Accurately Compiled Biographical Sketches, Into Which is Woven the History of the State and Its Leading Interests.** Chicago and Kansas City: S. Lewis & Co., Publishers, 1879. Stacks 920.07

Biographical entries for the movers and shakers in Kansas history, often accompanied by portrait engravings.

10. Whitfield, John H. **Champions of the Exodusters: The Saga of Reverend Moses Dickson, Charlton Hunt Tandy, and the Black Pioneers.** Prattville, AL: Afritel Productions, 2004. H/G 929.3778

An account of two St. Louisans, the Rev. Dickson and Captain Tandy, and how they helped migrating African Americans as they passed through St. Louis on their way to Kansas and points west.



Site Seeing

Cyndi's List-US States-Kansas
<http://www.cyndislist.com/ks.htm>

We shouldn't need to tell you that a good first stop when researching your Kansas ancestors is the *Cyndi's List* page for that state. The website includes an extensive Categories List, plus a list of Related Categories, all of which may prove useful to the person researching Kansas ancestors. Categories include How-To; Libraries, Archives & Museums; Maps, Gazetteers & Geographical Information; Mailing lists, News Groups & Chat; and Military (to name just a few). Jump-start your KS genie research with a trip to *Cyndi's List*!

Ancestors-Kansas Resource Guide
<http://www.byub.org/ancestors/resourceguide/kansas.asp>

Here's a great second stop on your hunt for Kansas ancestors. They've got links for archives & libraries, genealogical & historical societies, and church record repositories. There are also links to similar resource guides for all fifty states.

Ancestor Search-Kansas Genealogy Search Engines
<http://www.searchforancestors.com/locality/us/kansas.html>

A great third stop on your Kansas ancestor research safari. Their free specialized search engines can help you search Kansas surnames, list serves, marriages, and cemetery listings.

NARA Central Plains Region
<http://www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city/>

This branch of the National Archives (located in Kansas City, Missouri) provides services to residents of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. A section of their website deals specifically with services available to genealogists:

- <http://www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city/public/>
- There's also a section with various finding aids of interest to the Kansas ancestor seeker:
- <http://www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city/finding-aids/index.html>

Plus an overall guide to the holdings of NARA Central Plains Region:

- <http://www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city/holdings/>

Kansas State Historical Society
<http://www.ksbs.org/genealogists/localgovt/index.htm>

This section of their website enumerates what's available in their Local Government Records Collection (counties, municipalities, and townships).

Directory of Kansas City-Area Record Repositories
<http://www.umkc.edu/KCAA/KCAADIR/KCAADIR.HTM>

Entries include the archival holdings in organizations, businesses, and institutions in the Kansas City region extending roughly from Jefferson City,

Missouri to Manhattan, Kansas. The info is arranged alphabetically by name of the archives or its parent institution, with cross-references provided when needed.

KSGenWeb Project
<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/index1.html>

Links to miscellaneous items of interest to the Kansas ancestor seeker, including lists of Kansas genealogical & historical societies, info on current and defunct Kansas counties, book transcriptions, and a special section on Kansas Civil War ancestors, to name just a few highlights of this extensive site.

Kansas Department of Health & Environment-Office of Vital Statistics
<http://www.kdheks.gov/vital/>

The Office of Vital Statistics receives and preserves vital records for events (births, deaths, marriages, and divorces) that occur in Kansas. The Office maintains more than 10 million vital records, adding approximately 100,000 new records annually. Over 360,000 certified copies of these records are issued to eligible requestors annually. The site provides forms to use when applying for the types of record maintained by this office (in Adobe Acrobat or Microsoft Word formats).



ETHNIC SPOTLIGHT— The Exodusters

Exodusters was the name bestowed on African Americans who fled southern states for Kansas in 1879-1880. The term refers to the exodus of the Jews from Egypt to the Promised Land under the guidance of their prophet, Moses. As Reconstruction ended, racial oppression and violence—plus persistent rumors about the impending reinstatement of slavery—led many free blacks from the South to seek new (and safer) places to live. Many headed for Kansas because of its reputation as a more progressive and tolerant state than most. Separatist leaders such as Benjamin “Pap” Singleton tirelessly promoted the state to black Americans.

The Kansas Exodus was an unorganized mass migration that began in earnest in 1879. By the time it ended, more than 15,000 black Americans had made the trek to the Jayhawker State. Many local relief agencies in Kansas made earnest efforts to provide aid to these travelers, but these agencies simply did not have sufficient resources to meet the needs of so many impoverished immigrants. The Exodusters continued coming to Kansas through summer 1880, by which time word had filtered down that Kansas was not, in fact, a Promised Land of milk and honey for oppressed black Americans.

References: Exodusters on the Missouri River: http://www.kanccoll.org/khq/1963/63_1_schwendemann.htm
Wikipedia – Exodusters: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exoduster>

Did You Know? Bleeding Kansas

Bleeding Kansas refers to a series of violent events involving anti-slavery (Free-Staters) and pro-slavery (Border Ruffian) groups that took place in Kansas Territory and in various locations in western Missouri between 1854 and 1858. These incidents were directly related to the question of whether Kansas Territory would enter the Union as a free or slave state. The term “Bleeding Kansas” was coined by Horace Greeley of the *New York Tribune*.

The seeds of the violent guerrilla warfare that rocked eastern Kansas and western Missouri lay in the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. The Act, which nullified the 1850 Missouri Compromise, included a principle now known as “popular sovereignty”, an idea advocated by Stephen A.

Douglas, U.S. Senator from Illinois and Chairman of the powerful Senate Committee on Territories. Popular sovereignty was an attempt to appease the Southern states by making the expansion of slavery possible into any territory thereafter admitted to the Union. This doctrine was derisively known in Kansas Territory as “squatter sovereignty.” It declared that the question of the expansion of slavery into the soon-to-be-admitted states of Kansas and Nebraska would be decided by those states' inhabitants. It was initially assumed that few slave owners would attempt to settle in Kansas because it was thought to be too far north to be suitable for the profitable growth of crops normally grown by slaveholders. However, it soon became apparent that part of the eastern half of Kansas along

the Missouri River was as suitable for slave-based agriculture as was the nearby “black belt” of Missouri in which many of that state's slaves resided.

Trouble began almost immediately, as pro-slavery settlers poured into Kansas in an effort to bring the territory into the Union as a slave state. In response several northern anti-slavery societies funneled money and guns into the territory in an effort to ensure that Kansas Territory entered the Union as a free state. The presence of money, guns, and violent differences in opinion led inevitably to physical violence. John Brown and his sons murdered five “Border Ruffians” at Pottawatomie Creek in 1856 while pro-slavery men

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They Came From . . . Kansas!



1541 – The Spanish explorer, Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, marched north from Mexico and reached the Arkansas River in Kansas in the summer of 1541.

1804-1806 – Meriwether Lewis and William Clark explored the Louisiana Purchase by order of President Thomas Jefferson, making camp at several points in Kansas along the Missouri River.

1806 – Lt. Zebulon Pike of the U.S. Army entered Kansas on an expedition during which he met and signed treaties with Indian tribes.

1825 – By treaty with the Osage Indians, the United States Government obtained the right of way for a public thoroughfare originating in Kansas Territory (the Santa Fe Trail).

1854 – The Kansas-Nebraska Act was signed by President Franklin Pierce, formally organizing and opening for settlement the Kansas Territory. (See "Did You Know")

1859 – Presidential candidate Abraham Lincoln spent a week campaigning in Kansas.

1860 – Pony Express was launched in Kansas. More than 125 miles and 11 stations of the Pony Express route were in Kansas.

1861 – Kansas admitted into the Union as the 34th state. In answer to President Lincoln's April call for troops to suppress the rebellion, Kansas supplied 650 men. By war's end, Kansas had contributed 20,097 men to the Union Army. 2,080 black soldiers were credited to Kansas, though the 1860 census listed fewer than 300 black men of military age in the state; most of them undoubtedly came from Arkansas and Missouri.

1862 – The Homestead Act granted 160 acres of federal land to any citizen or person declaring the intent to naturalize as a citizen. Prospective landowners had to pay a small filing fee and then live upon their chosen land for five years (and make specific improvements to it). Union Army veterans could reduce the residency requirement by one year for each year of service in the army.

1863 – A raid on Lawrence by Confederate guerrillas was led by William C. Quantrill. 180 men and boys were killed during the raid, the town sacked and burned, and about \$1.5 million worth of property destroyed.

1864 – The only major battle fought in Kansas occurred at Mine Run Creek in Linn County. This battle involved some 25,000 men. Union Army soldiers under Generals Curtis, Blunt, and Pleasanton defeated a Confederate Army contingent under Generals Price and Marmaduke, thus ending the threat of a Confederate invasion of Kansas.

1866 – The first Kansas orphanage, St.

Vincent's Home, was opened by the Sisters of Charity.

1867-1868 – A famine in Sweden combined with a repressive government brought many Swedes to Kansas. Swedish colonies were established in McPherson, Republic, Osage, Riley, and Pottawatomie counties.

1870-1880 – Crawford County, the center of coal mining in Kansas, was founded during the 1870s. Many Italian families came to Kansas at this time.

1871 – James Butler ("Wild Bill") Hickok replaced Tom Smith as Marshal of Abilene.

1873-1874 – German Mennonites came to Kansas and South Dakota from Russia. They settled in McPherson, Marion, Harvey, and Reno counties.

1874-1877 – Several Kansas towns such as Catherine, Schoenchen, and Liebenthal were founded by Volga Germans (German-speaking Catholics from Russia).

1875 – Kansas State Historical Society was organized.

1892 – The Dalton Gang rode into Coffeyville, Kansas, and attempted to rob two banks. They netted about \$25,000 in twelve minutes' time. A shootout ensued, however, that claimed the lives of four desperadoes and four townspeople: three townspeople were wounded.

1898 – Kansas raised four regiments to serve in the Spanish-American War.

1912 – Women gained the right to vote in the state.

1917-1918 – 80,261 Kansans served in the armed forces.

1941-45 – POW camps for German prisoners built in Concordia and Peabody. German POWs supplied labor for many area farms. 227,000 Kansans served in the armed forces during World War II.

1952 – Dwight D. Eisenhower became the first Kansan to be elected President of the United States.

1954 – Brown vs. Board of Education was an historical and controversial case originating in Topeka that was taken to the United States Supreme Court.

1969 – President Dwight D. Eisenhower died.

Did You Know?

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massacred five "Free-Staters" at Marais des Cygnes in 1858. Before the violence subsided in 1858, at least fifty people had been killed and several times that number injured in various violent clashes. Kansas Territory finally entered the Union as a free state on January 29, 1861.

References:

Bleeding Kansas Gallery: <http://www.kancoll.org/galbks.htm>

Fort Scott National Historic Site- Bleeding Kansas: <http://www.nps.gov/archive/fosc/bleeding.htm>

Wikipedia – Bleeding Kansas: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bleeding_Kansas

Wikipedia – John Brown: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Brown_%28abolitionist%29

Wikipedia – Stephen A. Douglas: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_A._Douglas

Help!!

Help!! provides an opportunity for readers to ask for assistance with genealogical queries. We invite our readers to contribute solutions to questions featured in this section. See the **Contact** section for e-mail and postal addresses. Put GFH-HELP!! in the subject line.

Q: Help! My ancestor settled on homestead land in Kansas after the Civil War. How do I find more information about the land he acquired?

A: The Homestead Act was a federal law that granted an applicant title to 160 acres (also known as a quarter section) in the states and

territories west of the Mississippi River. The new law required applicants to take three steps: 1) File an application, 2) Reside on and improve the land, and 3) File for deed of title. Eligibility was limited to persons who had never taken up arms against the United States (including freed slaves). The Act was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on May 20, 1862. Eventually, 1.6 million homesteads were granted and 270 million acres privatized between 1862-1986, a total of 10% of all land in the United States.

Homesteading was ended in 1976 everywhere except Alaska, where it was allowed until 1986. The last deed for homestead land was presented to Kenneth Deardorff in 1988 (he had actually fulfilled all requirements as of 1979).

References: General Land Office Records: <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>
Kansas State Historical Society- Land Records & Maps: <http://www.ksbs.org/genealogists/land/index.htm>
NARA- Homestead Land Records Project: <http://www.nps.gov/home/historyculture/landrecordsproject.htm>
NARA- The Homestead Act of 1862: <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/homestead-act/>

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Cynthia Millar & Thomas Pearson

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St. Louis Public Library
1301 Olive Street
St. Louis, MO 63103
314-539-0386 or 314-539-0381
Fax: 314-539-0393
E-mail: webref@spl.org

Contact!

The staff of our History & Genealogy Department can do limited genealogical research for persons making inquiries. Please be specific about who and what you are looking for. We will search our collection and make copies of any materials that answer your questions. We charge \$.25/page for microfilm copies, and \$.15/page for photocopies. There is a postage and handling charge of \$1.00

per inquiry per Library department (non-U.S. requests are billed actual postage costs). Materials from more than one department may be necessary to answer inquiries. Do not send payment with your order; we prefer to bill you. We cannot make refunds or keep accounts for our customers. Questions will be answered in the order in which they are received.

The St. Louis Public Library's website, with our online catalog, events calendar, special indexes for St. Louis historical and biographical materials, an index of selected *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* newspaper obituaries, death notices, and burial permits, and an archive of past issues of this newsletter is located at spl.org.

