INDEXES AND FINDING AIDS

Topeka Genealogical Society Shawnee County surname index:  www.tgstopeka.org

Kansas Historical Society Kansas name index:  http://www.kshs.org/p/genealogy-combined-names-search/15899

RECORDS

Vital Records:

Mandatory reporting to the state began July 1, 1911 for births and deaths; May 1, 1913 for marriages, and July 1, 1951 for divorces. Records of events occurring on or after these dates may be requested from the Kansas Department of Health & Environment, Office of Vital Statistics, http://www.kdheks.gov/vital/.

Marriages – Kansas State Historical Society has microfilmed marriage index, 1865-1994 and marriage licenses 1856-1989. Topeka Genealogical Society has index to first three volumes of Shawnee County marriages (1856 – 1913), and original copies of many early marriage license applications (collection is incomplete).

Births – Topeka City Clerk maintained register of Birth, Deaths and Infectious Diseases from 1885-1912. Available on microfilm at the Kansas State Historical Society, film AR 1233-1235. Shawnee County Clerk maintained records of Births & Deaths 1894-1911. Available at http://www.snco.us/clerk/administrative.asp. Neither are complete, but they are the only existing records of early births and deaths. Beginning with 1911, all birth records are maintained by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Office of Vital Statistics, (http://www.kdheks.gov/vital/).

Deaths - Topeka City Clerk maintained register of Birth, Deaths and Infectious Diseases from 1885-1912. Available on microfilm at the Kansas Historical Society, film AR 1233-1235. Shawnee County Clerk maintained records of Births & Deaths 1894-1911. Available at http://www.snco.us/clerk/administrative.asp. Neither are complete, but are the only existing records of early births and deaths. Beginning with 1911, all death records are maintained by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Office of Vital Statistics.

**Land Records**

Official deed records are maintained by the Shawnee County Registrar of Deeds. Microfilmed copies of the index to deeds (1856-1901), and deed records (1855-1927) are available at the Kansas Historical Society. The Topeka Genealogical Society library collection includes the original volumes of abstracts by the Columbian Title Company in Topeka. Approximately 50 of the 800 volumes have been indexed. In addition to information about property ownership, the abstracts frequently include additional information about family relationships and locations.

**Tax Records**

Original Tax Books from 1861 to 1870 are housed at the Topeka Genealogical Society Library. Books have been indexed. Microfilmed copies of real and personal property tax records, 1861-1968 are available at the Kansas Historical Society.

**Naturalization Records**

Topeka Genealogical Society Library houses original Naturalization records from 1865 to 1929. Index is available. The Kansas Historical Society has microfilm copies.

**Probate Records**

The Topeka Genealogical Society Library holds original probate books from 1855 through approximately 1918. Indexes to Shawnee County probate proceedings are available for the time period 1855-1994. The Kansas Historical Society has microfilmed copies of the probate books from 1860 to 1919, wills from 1920 to 1956 and probate case files from 1895 to 1942.

**Cemetery Records**

Topeka Genealogical Society has internment records for all Shawnee County cemeteries except Mt. Hope. Some are in searchable databases, others are in the form of printed lists. Databases may include various additional information, such as last residence, cause of death, occupation, family relationships and lot owners.

**Obituaries**

The Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library maintains an index of obituaries appearing in Topeka Newspapers from 1906 to the present. The index is currently being converted to electronic format; portions that have been converted are available online at http://catalog.tscpl.org/polaris/default.aspx?ctx=85.
Newspapers

Microfilms of Topeka newspapers are available at the Topeka and Shawnee County Library. The Kansas Historical Society maintains a comprehensive microfilm collection of all Kansas newspapers, including those published in Shawnee County. For a searchable listing, see http://www.kshs.org/p/newspapers-in-kansas/11528. Newspaper microfilms from the Kansas Historical Society are available through interlibrary loan.

City Directories

Both the Topeka Genealogical Society and the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library collections include nearly complete sets of Topeka City Directories.

School Yearbooks, Directories

Both the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, and the Topeka Genealogical Society Library collections include yearbooks and alumni directories from local schools.

Funeral Home records


Military Records

Civil War discharges 1864-18866 are available on microfilm at the Kansas Historical Society. The Topeka Genealogical Society has information on Shawnee County soldiers who served in WWI, and WWI casualties. Kansas Historical Society has online Kansas Military Index at: http://www.kshs.org/p/kansas-military-index/15797.

Research Repositories


Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10th. Hours Mon-Fri 9am-9pm, Sat 9am-6pm, Sun 12pm-9pm. Phone (785) 580-4400. Website: www.tscpl.org

Kansas Historical Society, State Archives and Library, 6425 SW 6th. Hours Tue-Sat 9am-4:30pm. Phone (785) 272-8681, ext 117. Website: www.kshs.org.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Family History Center, 2401 SW Kingsrow Road. Hours Tue 12pm-8:30pm, Wed 12 pm – 4pm, Sat 9am-4pm. Phone (785) 271-6818.