

Resources for finding your ancestors at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library

In the Topeka Room/Genealogy (Room 204) at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, we have many resources to help you find your ancestors, learn more about their lives, jobs, homes, activities, etc. The following collections are just a few of the resources we have to help you search for information.



Newspapers on Microfilm

- Topeka Capital Journal (Jan. 1, 1981-present)
- Topeka Daily Capital (April 22 1879-Dec. 1980)
- Topeka State Journal (Oct. 1879-Dec. 1980)
- Topeka Metro News (Sept. 17, 1987-Dec. 31, 2008; paper copies 2009-2010)
- Commonwealth (May 1, 1869-Oct. 31, 1888)
- North Topeka Mail (Oct. 20, 1882-Sept. 25, 1896)
- Topeka Daily Herald (July 1, 1901-July 22, 1907)
- Topeka Plain Dealer (Jan. 6, 1899-Nov. 7, 1958)
- Additional reels for other early Topeka newspapers

Databases via www.tscpl.org/blog/local-history/ (available from home with your library card as well as in the library)

- Ancestry.com Library Edition (available in library only)
- African American Newspapers
- American Ancestors.com (New England Historical and Genealogical Society, NEHGS)
- Fold3
- HeritageQuest On-line
- Genealogy Connect
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Kansas (Topeka: 1883; 1885; 1889; 1896; 1913; 1913-50; 1913-55)
- Local Obituary Index for Topeka Newspapers (1897 – 2015, still partially under construction)

City Directories

- Radge's City Directory (1870-1924)
- Hall's City Directory & Street Guide (1924-1925)
- Polk's Topeka City Directory (1926-2010)
- Kansas Gazetteer Business Directory (1886-87, 1891, 1894, 1904, 1908-09, 1912)

Maps & Plat Books

- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (TSCPL database, see above; Topeka: 1913-50 & 1913-55 both in hard copy)
- Maps 1850's to current for Topeka & Shawnee County
- Shawnee County Platbooks 1873, 1898, 1913, 1921

Yearbooks (not all years available in the collection, some years are missing)

- Washburn University (1897, 1906-1991)
- Topeka High School (1905-2007)
- Topeka Catholic High School/Hayden High School (1924-2007)
- Washburn Rural High School (1923-1929, 1957-2008)
- Highland Park High School (1930-2007)
- Silver Lake High School (1939-1941, 1968-1970)
- Seaman High School (1955-2000)
- Topeka West High School (1962-2007)
- Shawnee Heights High School (1963-2007)

Vertical Files for Topeka & Shawnee County (newspaper articles, photos, programs, etc.)

- Biography
- Houses
- Businesses
- Schools
- Churches
- Clubs