



The Kansas Historical Society: How to Search for Newspapers & Genealogical Records

Before you begin, consider:

- Kansas residents have access to newspapers and genealogical records through the Kansas Historical Society for free. Some KS newspapers published before 1923 are not available in digital form yet.
- The patron will need to provide a Kansas Driver's License or state ID. There is no limit regarding the amount of times a resident can log in.
 - For non-residents, this link provides open access to KSHS content published on Newspapers.com for more than three years; no residency verification required. Click [here](#) or go to: <https://kansashistoricalopencontent.newspapers.com/>
- It is possible to visit KSHS in Topeka, but an appointment is required: (785) 272-8681.
- Options for out-of-state research include: 1) locating the local historical society; 2) completing an online ILL request on swkls.org [here](#); or, 3) purchasing a personal subscription.
 - Most American newspapers have been scanned and are available online. If the patron specifically requests a microfilm reel, it may not be possible. Microfilm is delicate and sometimes irreplaceable. Additional charges might occur.
 - KSHS fees: If paper copies are made, or if the librarian performs additional research, a fee will be charged. Paper copies cost 35¢/page, and each request costs \$25.
- Personal subscription options available:
 - [Newspapers.com](#)
 - 1) Free 7-day trial.
 - 2) Paid subscription for \$8 - \$20/month.
 - [Ancestry.com](#)
 - 3) Free 14-day trial.
 - 4) Paid subscription for \$22-\$50/month.

KSHS digital partner websites

Kansas residents with a valid driver's license or state ID may freely access KSHS content on the following sites by logging in below.


- Ancestry.com includes millions of Kansas records from the State Archives and Research Collections, among them Kansas State Census Records from 1865-1925, Civil War Enlistment Papers of Kansas Volunteer Regiments (1862, 1863, 1868), and selected World War I manuscripts.
- Newspapers.com is digitizing historic Kansas newspapers from the Society's near-comprehensive collections.

Searching:

lower case L

1. Click [here](#) or go to <https://www.kshs.org/ancestry/drivers/dlverify>.
2. Patron enters her/his name, DL or ID #, and DOB. Click [enter](#).
3. Patron clicks either:
 - Ancestry.com
 - The next screen will lead the patron to a search screen. Enter relevant information, then click search.
 - At the very bottom of the screen is a “data collection list” that can be browsed.
 - KSHS also has these genealogy indexes available for free use. Click [here](#) or go to: <https://www.kshs.org/p/genealogy-indexes/18943>
 - Newspapers.com (It may take a moment to load.)
 - Type the name of newspaper, keyword, person’s name, year, etc. directly in the bar at the top labeled “search this collection”.
 - *“Digitization of pre-1923 newspapers published in Kansas is nearly complete with about 12 pages now available. There are a few pre-1923 titles still waiting to be digitized, and [KSHS] will be working [to complete] those in the near future.”*
4. The patron can access additional newspapers for free through the Library of Congress. Click [here](#) or go to: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Kansasðnicity=&language=>
 - Titles are listed in alphabetical order.
5. If the patron is unable to find the information s/he is seeking, then s/he is welcome to ask KSHS directly. Click [here](#) or go to <https://www.kshs.org/p/ask-a-research-question/10096>. Example:

State Archives, Topeka



Beginning August 2, visitors six and older are required to wear masks in the State Archives. Some medical exemptions apply.

We encourage visitors to contact by phone or email to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome if there is availability.

- megan.burton@ks.gov
- 785-272-8681, ext. 272

For more information:

- Questions about holdings [contact reference staff](#)
- Search the [Archives Catalog](#) for unpublished records

Ask a research question

For help with your research questions we invite you to visit our research room in person for free, where our knowledgeable staff members can provide you with guidance. If you are not able to visit in person our staff members can check our card catalogs, indexes, and guides (as time permits) to determine if we have resources on your topic. Please contact us by:

Email: KSHS.reference@ks.gov

Phone: 785-272-8681, ext. 117

We are able to conduct some additional research for a fee.

How to submit a request for research

Requests submitted by mail should include payment and be addressed to:

Kansas Historical Society
Reference
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka KS 66615-1099

Please include your full name, mailing address, phone number and email address (if available) with all requests. Our staff responds either by email or U.S. mail in the order the requests are received. We check our email every weekday, but because we receive a large volume of mail, it can sometimes be several weeks before we can respond to requests. Please read our [frequently asked questions](#) page as well.

Please do not submit credit card information in an email request, since we cannot ensure the security of your information. If you would like to charge your research request to a credit card, please contact our reference staff by phone at 785-272-8681, ext. 117; or ask for information about using our online store.

Staff research fee - payable at time of request

\$25 per request; for newspaper searches, we need to know the date and place