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Genealogy & Local History at the Library of Congress

Kathy McGuigan

Supervisory Educational Resources Specialist

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Educational Resources Specialist



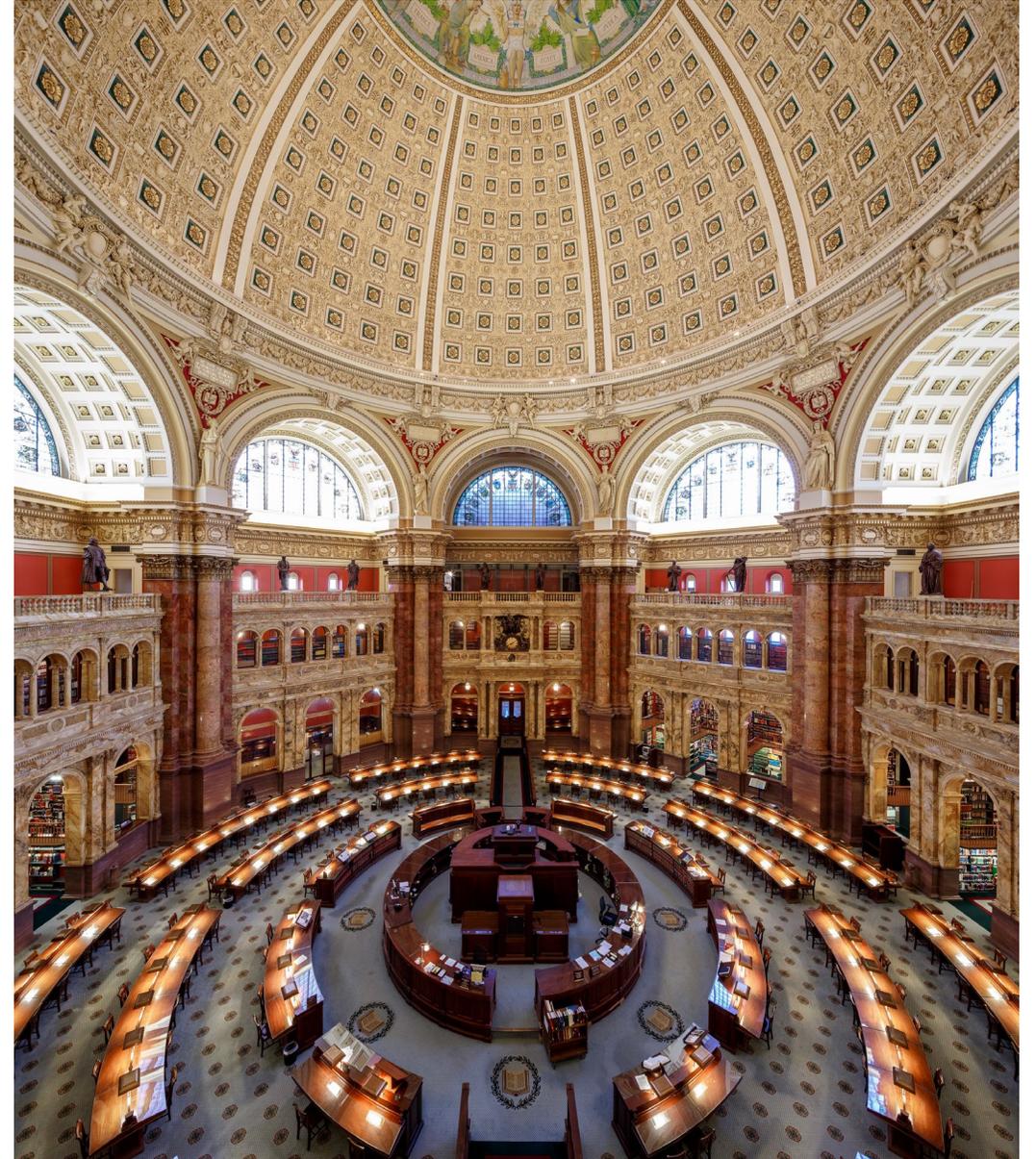
The Library of Congress is the Largest Library in the World.

It holds the greatest collection of human knowledge and creativity ever assembled.



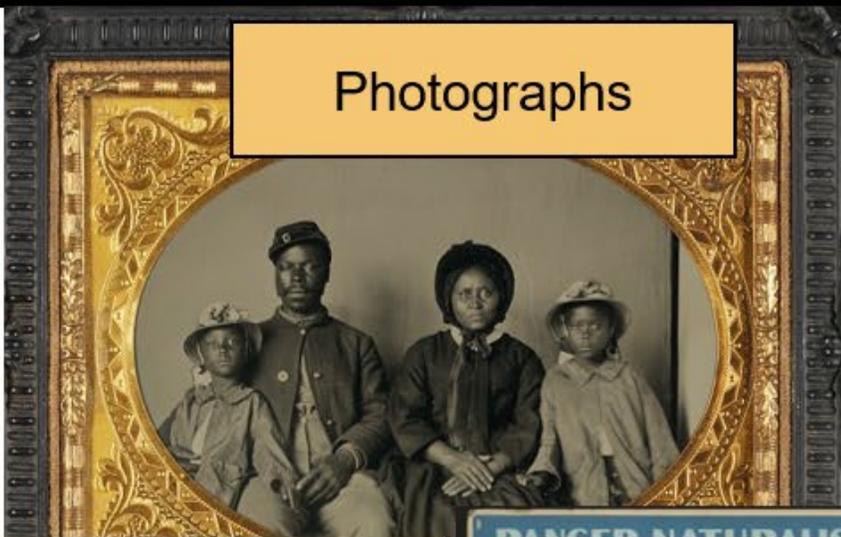
LOC Fun Facts:

- Founded in 1800
- 178+ million items
- 15,000 items are received daily
- 450+ Languages represented
- Includes the U.S. Copyright Office
- World's largest comic book collection
- Presidential Papers of the first 23 U.S. presidents: from George Washington to Calvin Coolidge

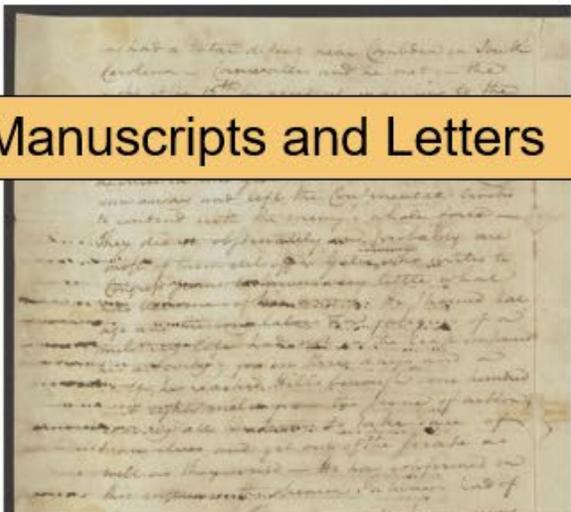


LOC.gov is a great place to find..

Photographs



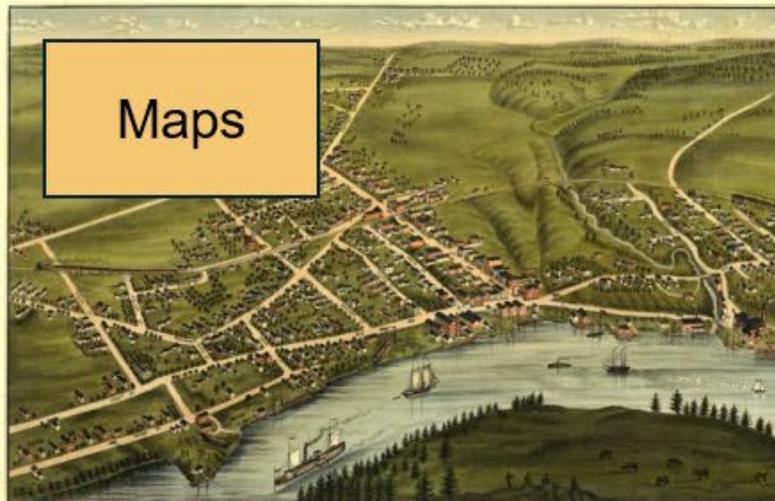
Manuscripts and Letters



Old Newspapers



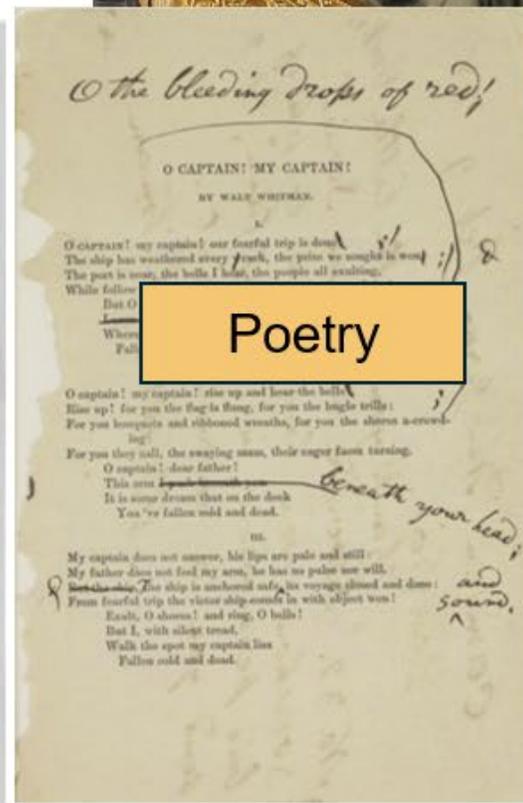
Maps



Music



Poetry



Posters



Free to Use and Reuse: Copyright-Free Sets of Library Collection Items



www.loc.gov/free-to-use/



Free to Use and Reuse: Winter



Free to Use and Reuse: Joy & Sorrow



Free to Use and Reuse: Walking



Free to Use and Reuse: Friendship



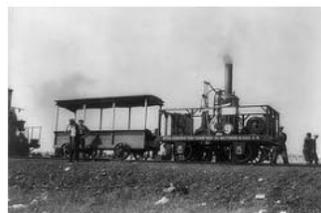
Free to Use and Reuse: Where We Live



Free to Use and Reuse: Artists & Photographers



Free to Use and Reuse: Arab American Heritage



Free to Use and Reuse: Ride the Rails



Free to Use and Reuse: Jewish American Heritage



Free to Use and Reuse: Flags & Symbols



Free to Use and Reuse: Scientists & Inventors



Free to Use and Reuse: Maritime Life and Coastal Cities



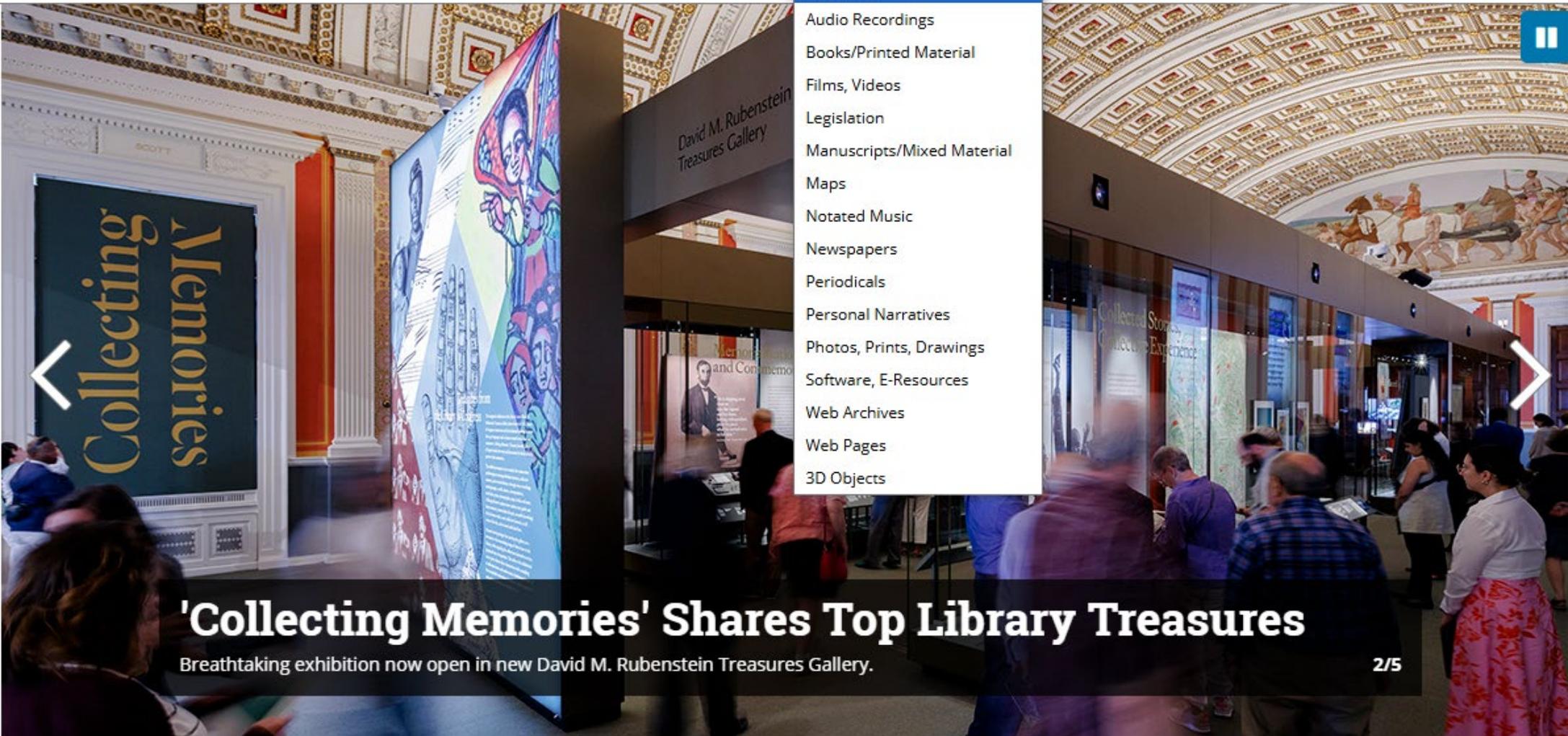
Free to Use and Reuse: Colors Tell





Everything

- Everything
- Audio Recordings
- Books/Printed Material
- Films, Videos
- Legislation
- Manuscripts/Mixed Material
- Maps
- Notated Music
- Newspapers
- Periodicals
- Personal Narratives
- Photos, Prints, Drawings
- Software, E-Resources
- Web Archives
- Web Pages
- 3D Objects



'Collecting Memories' Shares Top Library Treasures

Breathtaking exhibition now open in new David M. Rubenstein Treasures Gallery.

2/5

Results: 1-40 of 1,977,574 | Refined by: Available Online

Refine your results

Available Online 1,977,574

All Items 2,024,790

Original Format

Newspaper 1,787,277

Legislation 138,766

Book/Printed Material 29,598

Manuscript/Mixed Material 8,604

Photo, Print, Drawing 7,774

Personal Narrative 5,017

Film, Video 4,132

Periodical 3,940

Web Page 3,207

Audio Recording 1,367

Map 1,175

Software, E-Resource 373

Web Archive 175

Notated Music 173

3D Object 43

Event 11

Research-Center 1

View Gallery Go

Sort By Relevance Go



PHOTO, PRINT, DRAWING
Stockyards. Kansas City, Kansas

1 negative : nitrate ; 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 inches or smaller.



PHOTO, PRINT, DRAWING
Stockyards. Kansas City, Kansas

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PHOTO, PRINT, DRAWING
Stockyards. Kansas City, Kansas

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PHOTO, PRINT, DRAWING
Oil refinery. Kansas City, Kansas

1 negative : nitrate ; 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 inches or smaller.



PHOTO, PRINT, DRAWING
Flour mill. Kansas City, Kansas

1 negative : nitrate ; 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 inches or smaller.



PHOTO, PRINT, DRAWING
Flour mill. Kansas City, Kansas

1 negative : nitrate ; 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 inches or smaller.

Online Format

PDF	1,960,381
Online Text	1,960,211
Image	1,831,744
Web Page	139,942
Video	4,121
Audio	1,330
Compressed Data	10
EPUB	1

Date

2000 to 2025	135,946
1900 to 1999	1,105,274
1800 to 1899	734,362
1700 to 1799	71
1600 to 1699	3
1500 to 1599	1
1400 to 1499	1

Location

United States	1,800,151
Washington	121,690
District of Columbia	77,307
Ohio	74,967
Washington D.C.	70,755
Minnesota	65,468
Texas	59,933
Nebraska	55,113
New York	53,120
Virginia	51,745

[More Locations >](#)

x 2 1/4 inches or smaller.

**PHOTO, PRINT, DRAWING**
Flour mill. Kansas City, Kansas

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Flour mill. Kansas City, Kansas

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**PHOTO, PRINT, DRAWING**
Inspecting cattle. Stockyards. Kansas City, Kansas

1 negative : nitrate ; 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 inches or smaller.

1 negative : nitrate ; 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 inches or smaller.

**PHOTO, PRINT, DRAWING**
Kansas City, Kansas. A railroad yard

1 negative : nitrate ; 3 1/4 x 4 1/4 inches or smaller.

**PHOTO, PRINT, DRAWING**
Kansas farmstead near Cimarron, Kansas

1 negative : safety ; 3 1/4 x 4 1/4 inches or smaller.

**PHOTO, PRINT, DRAWING**
Mad Jack's Fresh Fish, Kansas City, Kansas

1 photograph : color transparency ; 35 mm (slide format).

**PHOTO, PRINT, DRAWING**
Diamond Hedz Beauty Salon, Kansas City, Kansas

1 photograph : color transparency ; 35 mm (slide format).

**PHOTO, PRINT, DRAWING**
Big deal pending. Stockyards. Kansas City, Kansas

1 negative : nitrate ; 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 inches or smaller.

**PHOTO, PRINT, DRAWING****PHOTO, PRINT, DRAWING****PHOTO, PRINT, DRAWING****Group of Images**

Getting Started with Genealogy

Begin with the Lowest Hanging Fruit

- Start with yourself, and work backwards (parents, grandparents, and so on).
- Interview living relatives, family friends, and others who knew your relatives.
- Seek out vital records such as birth, marriage, and death certificates to confirm and add to your knowledge.
- Find your family in the 1950 Census and continue backward decade by decade.



Pro Tips

Ask for *full names* (no initials!), *complete dates*, and *detailed locations* for every person and event in your tree.

Spelling was not always standardized, so try variations.

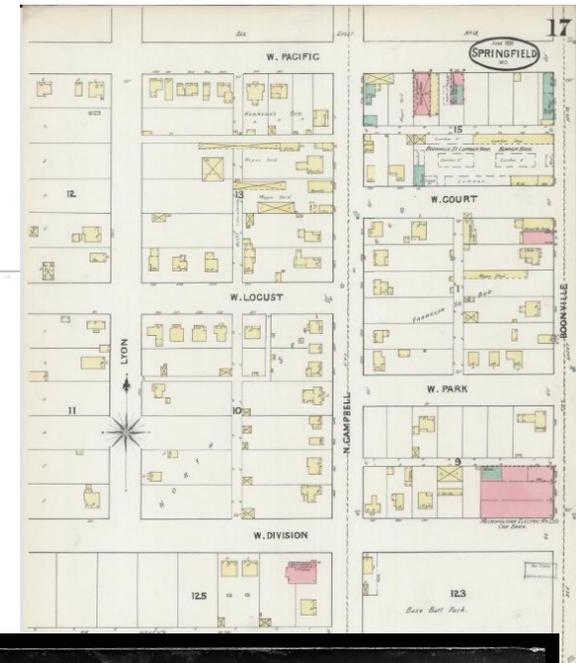
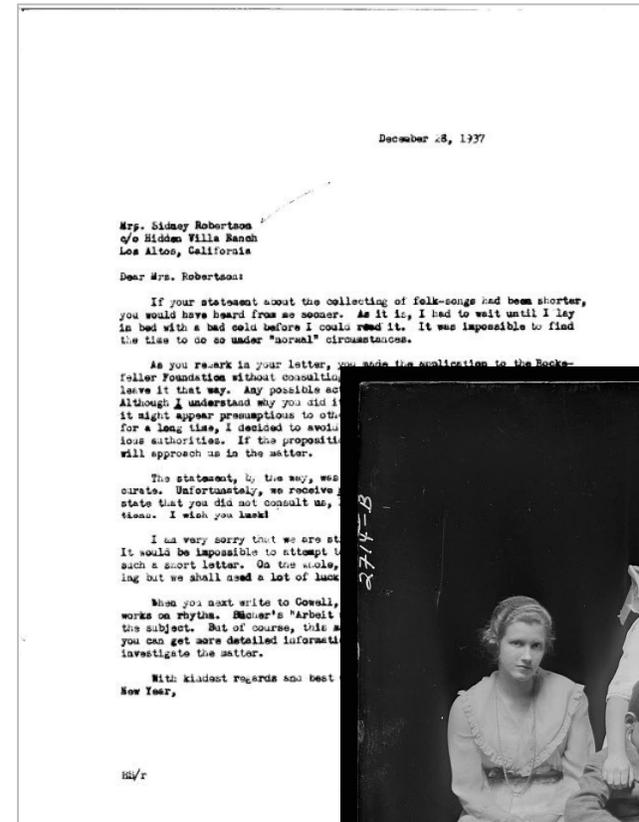
Our ancestors were only human, and that's OK.

Be prepared for every possibility!

Local History & Genealogy Collections at LOC

- 50,000 + genealogies from around the world*
- 100,000 + U.S. local histories*
- Diaries, Letters, and Oral Histories
- Access to electronic databases*
- Historic street maps
- And much more!

*Some of these items may only be accessible on-site at the Library of Congress.





www.loc.gov/collections/



'Collecting Memories' Shares Top Library Treasures

Breathtaking exhibition now open in new David M. Rubenstein Treasures Gallery.

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Digital Collections



<https://www.loc.gov/collections/>

Featured Content

Chronicing America: Historic American Newspapers

Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information ...

Cities and Towns

Civil War Maps

Refine your results

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- World Cultures & History 160
- Performing Arts 108
- War & Military 88
- Local History & Folklife 71
- Art & Architecture 57
- Social & Business History 46
- Geography & Places 35
- Science & Technology 29
- More Topics »

all Collections x Available Online x

Digital Collections

View Gallery Go Sort By Select Go



COLLECTION 10th-16th Century Liturgical Chants

The acquisition of medieval liturgical chant



COLLECTION A.P. Schmidt Company archives, 1869-1958

Arthur Paul Schmidt (1846-1921) was a



COLLECTION Aaron Copland Collection

The first release of the online collection contains



COLLECTION Abdul Hamid II Collection

This collection contains 1,819 photographs in 51

American Folklife Center Digital Collections (Just a few examples)



COLLECTION
Veterans History Project
Web Archive



COLLECTION
Tending the Commons:
Folklife and Landscape
in Southern West
Virginia



COLLECTION
Ethnic Heritage and
Language Schools in
America Project



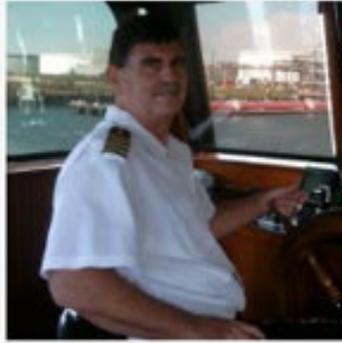
COLLECTION
Living Nations, Living
Words



COLLECTION
Voices from the Dust
Bowl: the Charles L.
Todd and Robert Sonkin
Migrant Worker
Collection, 1940-1941



COLLECTION
Ancestral Voices



COLLECTION
Occupational Folklife
Project



COLLECTION
Quilts and Quiltmaking
in America, 1978-1996



COLLECTION
Fiddle Tunes of the Old
Frontier: The Henry
Reed Collection



COLLECTION
Montana Folklife Survey
Collection



COLLECTION

Sanborn Maps

[About this Collection](#)

[Collection Items](#)

[Articles and Essays](#)

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Amarillo, Potter County,
Texas.



San Antonio, Bexar County,
Texas.



Springfield, Greene County,
Missouri.



Anderson, Madison County,
Indiana.



Hazleton, Luzerne County,
Pennsylvania.



About this Collection

[How to View Maps](#)

[Related Resources](#)

[Rights & Access](#)



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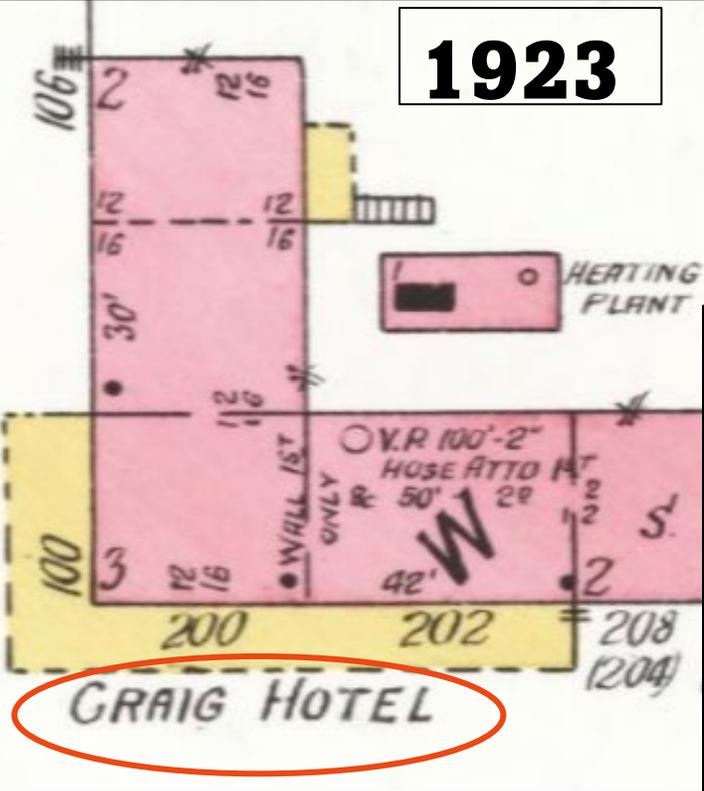
About this Collection

The [Sanborn Maps Collection Advanced Search](#) provides a searchable database of the fire insurance maps published by the Sanborn Map Company housed in the collections of the Geography and Map Division. The online checklist is based upon the Library's 1981 publication *Fire Insurance Maps in the Library of Congress* and will be continually updated to reflect new acquisitions.

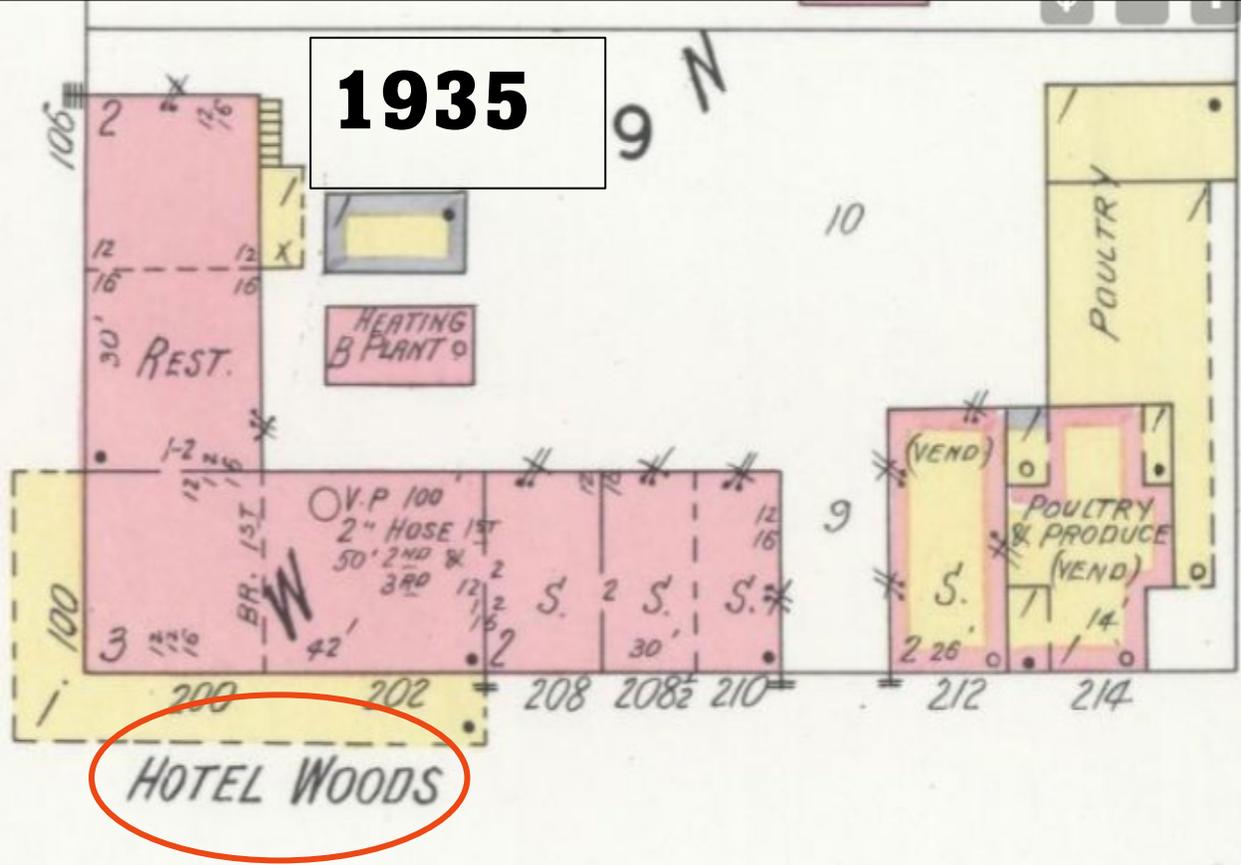
1890

HOTEL ST. JAMES.

1923



1935



2025

112

105

Girard Lotus Express
Chinese



Girard Civic Center

E Forest Ave

E Forest Ave

E Forest Ave



Gazebo on the Square
Recently viewed



Motor Vehicle
Department
Recently viewed



Jenny Collins American
Family Insurance

211



C4 Coffeehouse
& Country Store



Ron's Dental Lab

110

zark St



Kansas: Local History & Genealogy Resource Guide

Compiled by reference specialists at the Library of Congress, this guide identifies key print and online resources for pursuing family history, as well as state, county and municipal historical research, for the state of Kansas.

Introduction

Vital Records

Courthouse Records

Digital Collections and Resources

External Websites

Print Resources

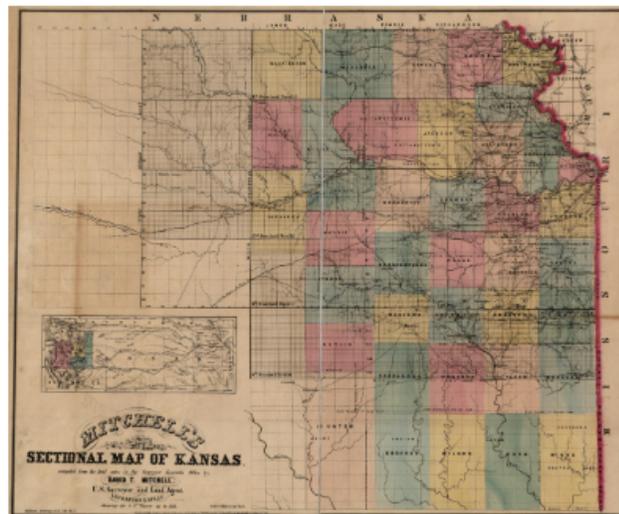
Genealogy Basics

Using the Library of Congress

Introduction

Kansas was admitted to the Union as a free state on January 29, 1861. Topeka, the state's capitol, was the center of the major 1954 civil rights case, *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* in which the plaintiffs successfully challenged segregation in the city's public schools. This landmark case began the process of desegregating public schools throughout the United States.

This guide offers a selection of resources and strategies for Kansas local history and genealogy research. These include the print and digital collections of the Library of Congress, as well as external repositories and web sites key to finding forebears in the Sunflower state.



David T. Mitchell. *Mitchell's sectional map of Kansas*. 1859. Library of Congress Geography and Map Division.

<https://guides.loc.gov/kansas-local-history-genealogy>

Local History & Genealogy

Ask
a Librarian

Have a question? Need assistance? Use our [online form](#) to ask a librarian for help.

Author:

Karen B. Walfall, *Reference Librarian*,

About Local History & Genealogy Reference Services

The Library of Congress has one of the world's premier collections of U.S. and foreign genealogical and local historical publications, numbering more than 50,000 compiled family histories and over 100,000 U.S. local histories. The Library's genealogy collection began as early as 1815 with the purchase of Thomas Jefferson's library.



Kansas: Local History & Genealogy Resource Guide

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Digital Collections and Resources

The digital collections and online resources of the Library of Congress contain a wide variety of primary source and educational materials related to the local history for each U.S. state and territory.

Architecture and Historic Buildings

Part of the digitized image collections, these architectural and engineering records can be useful in researching local history and genealogy.



[Historic American Buildings Survey/](#)[Historic American Engineering Record/](#)[Historic American Landscapes Survey](#)

The collection includes photographs, measured drawings, and written historical documentation on thousands of structures from about 1933 to the present. Search the collection to find the communities and buildings where your ancestors lived, worked, or visited.

Bibliographies and Guides

These research guides provide additional digital and print state-specific resources.

- [Great Southwest Railroad Strike of 1886: Topics in Chronicling America](#)
In 1886, Knights of Labor led a strike, spanning over four states, for better wages and treatment. This guide provides access to material related to "Great Southwest Railroad Strike" in the Chronicling America digital collection of historic newspapers.
- [Guide to Law Online: U.S. Kansas](#)
This guide, prepared by the Law Library of Congress, includes links to free online legal resources regarding Kansas, focusing on its constitution; executive, legislative, and judicial branches; legal guides; and general sources.
- [Kansas-Nebraska Act: Primary Documents in American History](#)
Enacted on May 30, 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Act repealed the Missouri Compromise. This guide compiles Library of Congress digital materials, external websites, and a print bibliography related to the act.
- [Kansas: State Resource Guide](#)
This guide provides access to digital materials related to the state of Kansas at the Library of Congress, as well as links to external websites and a selected print bibliography.
- [Kansas: Local History & Genealogy Resource Guide](#)

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Using the Library of Congress

City and Telephone Directories

City and telephone directories allow you to look for individuals, families, or businesses to view such details as: addresses, occupations, and household residents. Observed broadly, they will also provide a community perspective. The following resources provide an inventory of the city and telephone directories available at the Library of Congress.



Directories By Address: Inventories of Library Collections

There are directories that organize alphabetically and there are directories that organize by street address. The Library has both types, but this guide is primarily an inventory of directory collections where the directories are organized by address.



United States: City and Telephone Directories

City and telephone directories are used to identify people and businesses from a specific time and place. This guide provides an index to the extensive collection of United States city and telephone directories available at the Library of Congress.

Maps

The following online map collections include maps and views of cities, counties, battlefields, transportation, and general geography. Explore each collection using the search box on the upper-right. Type in city or town names to view related items. Search all [digitized map collections](#) to find additional local and state geographical documentation of communities from the colonial era to present day.



Cities and Towns

These maps depict a range from individual buildings to panoramic views of large urban areas. They record the evolution of cities illustrating the development and nature of economic activities, educational and religious facilities, parks, street patterns and widths, and transportation systems.



Panoramic Maps

The panoramic map was a popular cartographic form used to depict U.S. and Canadian cities and towns during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Known also as bird's-eye views, perspective maps, and aero views, panoramic maps are nonphotographic representations of cities portrayed as if viewed from above at an oblique angle. Although not generally drawn to scale, they show street patterns, individual buildings, and major landscape features in perspective.



Railroad Maps, 1828-1900

Type the state name into the search box on the upper-right to reveal state-specific railroad maps that

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Personal Papers Related to Kansas

The Library's manuscript collections provide a wealth of research materials related to important individuals in state and local history.



Alexander Hamilton Stephens Papers

The papers of Alexander Hamilton Stephens (1812-1883), lawyer, journalist, governor of Georgia, member of both houses of the United States Congress, and vice president of the Confederate States of America, span the years 1784-1886, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1850-1883. The collection consists primarily of correspondence, supplemented by an autobiography and journal and miscellaneous memoranda, legal documents, and clippings. The papers are organized in three series: General Correspondence, Letters from Servants, and Autobiography and Journal. Specific topics discussed include plantation management, slavery, Texas annexation, territorial expansion, political parties, states' rights, the compromise of 1850, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, the Dred Scott decision, secession, formation of the Confederate government, the conduct of the Civil War, Reconstruction in the South, and the disputed election of 1876.

Prints and Photographs

The Library of Congress has digitized a wealth of unique and historical visual materials important when researching local and family history. Search the [digitized print and photographic collections](#) to view images related to the state's history, locations, events, and people.

Research Guides



Using Local and Family History Photographs to Tell the Stories of Your Ancestors

This guide offers research strategies to search the Library of Congress print and digital collections for photographs that focus the lens on your family and strengthen your genealogical research.

The Teacher's Page

The resources on this site are designed for teachers of elementary through high school teachers and students.

- [Primary Source Set: Kansas](#)

The extensive collections at the Library of Congress contain historic artifacts and cultural materials from across the U.S. This list is just a sample of the many resources available for free on the Library's Web site.

Today in History

Kansas: Local History & Genealogy Resource Guide

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Genealogy Basics

This is *your* Library. So, what better way to use it than to learn about *your own* local and family history! The Library has dedicated staff, collections, and resources to help researchers at every experience level.

We have collected over 50,000 family histories and over 100,000 local histories for communities across the country (and around the world). Even more may be found throughout the Library in maps, newspapers, photographs, and more.

Reach us online through our [Ask a Librarian service](#), call us at (202) 707-3399, or visit us in person in Room LJ-100 ([Main Reading Room](#)) of the Library's Thomas Jefferson building in Washington, D.C.

Get started with these tools for talking to living relatives and neighbors, exploring records in your hometown, and searching Library collections!

-  [Genealogy Basics: Getting Started \(Handout\)](#)
-  [Genealogy Basics: Searching Library Collections \(Handout\)](#)

Local History & Genealogy

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a Librarian

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[Guidebooks](#)

[Library of Congress Catalog](#)

[Library of Congress Digital Collections](#)

[Beyond the Library: Local Records](#)

[Beyond the Library: Online Records](#)

Family History Is Human History

20 Research Centers to Explore

General Collections

[Main Reading Room](#)

(incl. Local History & Genealogy)

[Law Library](#)

[Newspaper & Current Periodicals](#)

(incl. [Chronicling America](#))

[Science, Business & Technology](#)

International Collections

[African & Middle Eastern](#)

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[European](#)

[Hispanic](#)

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[American Folklife Center](#)

(incl. [Veterans History Project](#))

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[Browse Frequently Asked Questions](#)

We encourage you to ask a specialist using one of the links below. To ask a general question or browse our FAQs use the tabs above. Areas offering chat service are indicated using the "chat" icon .

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- [Law](#)
- [Manuscripts](#)
- [Map, Geography](#)
- [Newspapers, Periodicals, Comic Books](#) 
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- [Prints and Photographs](#)
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- [Science, Technical Reports](#)

Regions & Languages

- [Africa, Middle East](#)
- [Asia](#)
- [Caribbean, Iberia, Latin America](#)
- [Europe](#)

Programs & Services

- [American Folklife Center](#)
- [Congress.gov](#)
- [Copyright](#)
- [Loan, Reserves, Accounts](#)
- [Services for the Blind and Print Disabled](#)
- [Poetry, Literature](#)
- [Preservation](#)
- [Teacher Resources](#)
- [Veterans History Project](#)

Other Ways to Connect

We offer online chat service from Monday-Friday, 12:00-4:00 pm (ET).



Chat is Offline

Related Resources

[Research Guides](#)

Access hundreds of resource guides created by Library of Congress subject experts.

[Video Tutorials](#)

View short tutorials illustrate how to use our many services and research centers.

[Researcher Orientations](#)

Learn about and register for orientations and tours for researchers.

When Your Research Is Ready to Share... Donate to the Library of Congress!



<https://ask.loc.gov/genealogy-local-history/faq/>

- The Library of Congress accepts **published** genealogy and local history publications (subject to review). We will accept unpublished materials on a case-by-case basis.
- To propose a donation, contact the History and Genealogy Section (or Ask a Librarian) to discuss your publication.



Ask Us Questions!