The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 created Nebraska Territory, which initially comprised Montana, as well as parts of what became South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming and Colorado. The Nemaha and Nebraska City land offices opened for the pre-emption of lands in 1857. Once the land was surveyed and open for sale, Germans were among the many people who came to settle here.

The Homestead Act of 1861 brought another wave of settlers; many of them Germans who had “stopped over” in places east like New York, Ohio, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa. Be aware that the completed Nebraska Homestead land case entry files have been digitized and are available at www.fold3.com. Those land entries not completed may be found in local county deed offices. Nebraska became a state in 1867.

If your German family arrived in Nebraska before statehood, there are territorial records available in the manuscripts division.

**Genealogy Tips**

You will want to collect as much information as you can in local, state, and federal records, much as you would with any individual. Start with what you know. Collect vital records, census records, cemetery records, land records, county and local histories, probate records, etc.

The more you know about the individual, the more likely you are to be successful in finding out more about his or her lineage and place of origin for further progress in your genealogical research.

If your direct ancestor does not yield the clues you are seeking, expand your search to family members and close associates. One of them may have left more records to point you in the right direction.

**Finding the Germanic place of birth**

- Obituaries from local newspapers
- Obituaries from German language newspapers
- Naturalization records – we have a pre-1907 naturalization index for Nebraska and eastern Iowa. Later naturalizations are in the county district court records and are more likely to have the hometown.

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1 This term was used in the 1800s to refer to a settler’s right to purchase public land at a minimum price—much like a right of first refusal.
• County and local histories – these are arranged alphabetically by county
• Local church records
• Probate records – we do not have these for all counties
• German POW Camp papers on 15 reels of microfilm
• Nebraska 1890 Gazetteer as a substitute for the 1890 census, which was largely destroyed in a fire.
• Passenger lists, both arrival records and departure records from German ports.
• Bibles
• Genealogies for your surname and associated families
• Funeral cards
• Birth and death certificates (these often only have the country)
• Auswanderer lists – in books and also online
• Oaths of allegiance
• Passport applications
• Military pensions

**Church Records in Nebraska Archives** – One of the best sources of information for Germanic ancestors are records from their local church. Look at finding aids for manuscript collections – Even if the church name does not indicate the church was German, many of these churches have changed names through the years and may have German immigrant ancestors in them.

Tip: Many obituaries indicate what church held the funeral, which can help to identify the correct church to explore. Here are just a few of the titles you may want to check on microfilm at History Nebraska:

• Alexandria Meridian German Presbyterian Church (Alexandria, Neb.), 1873-1925 [RG4904]
• Hickman German Presbyterian Church (Hickman, Neb.), 1878-1968 [RG2655]
• Humboldt German Evangelical Church Society (Humboldt, Neb.), 1880-1980 [RG4008]
• Humboldt German Methodist Church (Humboldt, Neb.), 1860-1924 [RG3078]
• Humboldt German Reformed Salem Church Society (Humboldt, Neb.), 1880-1980 [RG4008]
• Lincoln First German Congregational Church (Lincoln, Neb.), 1889-1977 [RG3022]
• Lincoln German Evangelical Congregational Salem Church (Lincoln, Neb.), 1901-1967 [RG4040]
• Lincoln German Evangelical Congregational Zion Church (Lincoln, Neb.), 1900-1966 [RG3037]
• Lincoln German Evangelical Lutheran Friedens Church (Lincoln, Neb.), 1907-1985 [RG4212]
• Lincoln German Evangelical Zion Church (Lincoln, Neb.), 1900-1966 [RG3037]
• McWilliams Precinct St. John's Parish, German Evangelical Church (McWilliams Precinct, Otoe County, Neb.), 1871-1917 [RG4361]
- Meridian German Presbyterian Church (Meridian, Neb.), 1873-1925 [RG4904]
- Seward Frieden German Evangelical Church (Seward, Neb.), 1878-1973 [RG3228]
- Stockham German Evangelical Congregational Church (Stockham, Neb.), 1898-1906 [RG4412]
- Stamford German Emmanuel Lutheran Church (Stamford, Neb.), 1899-1924 [RG4413]
- Sutton Federated Church (Sutton, Neb.), 1947-1962 [RG4173]
- Sutton First Congregational Church (Sutton, Neb.), 1892-1949 [RG4173]
- Sutton Free German Reformed Hope Church (Sutton, Neb.), 1908-1975 [RG3998]
- Sutton German Evangelical Congregational Church (Sutton, Neb.), 1876-1953 [RG4412]
- Sutton German Reformed Church (Sutton, Neb.), 1874-1946 [RG3218]
- Sutton Hope Reformed Church (Sutton, Neb.), 1908-1975 [RG3998]
- Sutton Methodist Episcopal Church (Sutton, Neb.), 1875-1949 [RG4173]
- York German Evangelical Lutheran Church (York, Neb.), 1879-1972 [RG3232]

When the archive does not have the record for your ancestor’s hometown, and the church is still in existence, a telephone call to the church secretary may indicate that the records are still in the home church. Louisville, Nebraska, for instance, has an old country Lutheran church whose records are still at the church.

**DDC 929.43**

This Dewey Decimal classification area has many helpful titles in German genealogy. An example is Roger Minert’s *German immigrants in American church records: Volume 6: Nebraska Protestant records* (2008 Rockport, ME, Picton Press) at 929.43 G373c

This is not a complete record of German church records available in Nebraska, but it is a helpful first stop. This compilation does not include churches attended by Germans from Russia.

NOTE: If you do an “anywhere” search in the online library catalog for 929.43 it will bring up all the titles in this area (43 hits as of this writing).

**Government Finding Aids – for Federal, State, County, Municipal**

The federal records consist of censuses, some fort records, federal land records, and federal department records. If your ancestor was in the post office, we also have Post office department records. https://history.nebraska.gov/collections/federal-government-records

For a list of finding aids for state-level records, go to: https://history.nebraska.gov/collections/state-government-records

County records will be particularly helpful to your research. Nebraska has records for almost all the counties of Nebraska, but the holdings for each county will differ. Go to this finding aid, https://history.nebraska.gov/collections/county-government-records and click on the county of your ancestor’s residence to see what we have for that location. One record set of particular interest is the marriage records, which we have on microfilm for most counties.
Municipal Records:  https://history.nebraska.gov/collections/municipal-government-records

**Federal Tract Book Index**

This index is not for Germans only but helpful in identifying your Germanic ancestral land holdings. This index has all “first deeds” from the federal government to the owner. If your ancestor bought land from an individual, he or she would not appear in this index.

**Nebraska Homestead Land Records**

Be sure to try different names, including the German form of your ancestor’s first and middle names. For instance, there are entries for William Koch and Wilhelm Koch in this database.

**Deed Records**

The History Nebraska Library/Archives have some early deed records for some counties. You can check the finding aid for that county to see if they have deeds available. If not, you may need to go to the courthouse to investigate their land records.

**Maps and Plat Books**

Maps and plat books may not only show your German ancestor’s land holdings but will provide a snapshot of who his or her neighbors were. Because the first generation of settlers tended to settle in kinship and ethnic groups, you may want to check the maps for your Nebraska locality and get to know your ancestor’s neighbors, some of whom will probably be relations.

History Nebraska has a searchable County Atlas Name Index search. The index does not include “fuzzy” searches (which automatically look for other spellings), so be sure to try different spellings of your Germanic ancestral name. This index can be found at:

[History Nebraska Atlases/Plat Books](https://history.nebraska.gov/collections/municipal-government-records)
### Atlas Name Index Search Results

**Search Parameters:** Name=**Ruskamp**, County=, Year=

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Reel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RUSKAMP, HENRY</td>
<td>Cuming</td>
<td>1919</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Directory Lincoln</td>
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<td>RUSKAMP, JOHN</td>
<td>Cuming</td>
<td>1919</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Directory Lincoln</td>
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<td>RUSKAMP, JOSEPH</td>
<td>Colfax</td>
<td>1925</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>Atlas Index</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUSKAMP, L</td>
<td>Cuming</td>
<td>1908</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>T21N.R4E, Lincoln</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSKAMP, LORENZ</td>
<td>Colfax</td>
<td>1917</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>T20N, R4E</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSKAMP, LORENZ</td>
<td>Cuming</td>
<td>1919</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Directory Lincoln</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example of a search for “Ruskamp,” a German family from Westphalia. The right-most column provides the microfilm reel you can check for a copy of the record.

**City Directories**

Remember that many immigrants settled in towns and cities. Others would settle first in a city before going to more rural areas. The Nebraska State Archives website has a searchable city/county directory index database. You can use this to see if your ancestor’s town or city is represented among our holdings and for what years these resources are available.

**Municipal Government Records**

For instance, a search in this index for Hall County turns up numerous years of coverage for Grand Island, as well as a farm and village directory in 1916 & 1917 for Hallam.

**Germans in Omaha**

In the earliest days of Germanic settlement in Omaha, the largest concentration was between South 10th and 13th streets, where there were several German merchants and meat markets. There were also several boarding houses run by Germans in this area. St. Joseph’s church was established in 1887 to serve German-speaking Catholics. Protestant Germans built a German Methodist church in 1886.²

In 1890, Germans made up 23% of Omaha’s populations. By 1910, Omaha’s percentage of Germans reached 57.4%. You will want to check the city records for your German Omaha

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records as well as the Douglas County finding aid. Of particular interest to genealogists are the Douglas County Health Department records, which show births and deaths.

**Nebraska German Language Newspapers**

History Nebraska has more than 35,000 rolls of Nebraska newspapers, arranged alphabetically by town. The microfilms are arranged alphabetically by the name of the town where the newspaper was published.

The library has separate notebooks for those film numbers not in the 071 series. The German language newspapers are in the 073 series, so check these notebooks to see what might be available for your locality of interest and for what dates.

Go to the [Newspaper Index & Inventory](#) and click on the letter of the alphabet for your ancestor’s hometown (or others nearby) to check what newspapers may be available for your place and time. Do not forget to check English language newspapers as well.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FILM BEATRICE</td>
<td><strong>Gage County, Nebraska</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>FILM 073</td>
<td>Beatrice Post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FILM N27</td>
<td><em>Die Nebraska Post</em> (new title beginning Apr 1, 1897) Weekly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reel 1</td>
<td>Sept 5, 1895—May 13, 1897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FILM BLOOMFIELD</td>
<td><strong>Knox County, Nebraska</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FILM 071</td>
<td><em>Die Bloomfield Germania</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reels 1-2</td>
<td>Apr 9, 1908—May 28, 1914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FILM BUTTE</td>
<td><strong>Boyd County, Nebraska</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FILM 071</td>
<td><em>Der Nebraska Hermanns-Sohn</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reels 34, #27</td>
<td>Oct 1910</td>
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Vorwärts
Reel 40, #4: Nov 3, 1899

COLLEGE VIEW (Lancaster County, Nebraska)
Christlicher Hausfreund
Religious journal
Bound volumes (2): Aug 29, 1912—Dec 20, 1917
Moved to Brookfield, Illinois, in 1916.

COLLEGE VIEW (Lancaster County, Nebraska)
Zeichen der Zeit
Religious quarterly.
Bound volume: 1913-1917
Moved to Brookfield, Illinois, in 1916.

COLUMBUS (Platte County, Nebraska)
Nebraska Biene
Weekly.
Rolls 1-6+3A: Jan 1, 1897—June 28, 1918

COLUMBUS (Platte County, Nebraska)
Das Wochenblatt
Reel 33, #18: Apr 22, 1892; May 13, 1892; May 20, 1892

FREMONT (Dodge County, Nebraska)
Nebraska Demokrat
Reel 4, #6: Dec 1, 1892

FREMONT (Dodge County, Nebraska)
Platte River Zeitung
Weekly. Absorbed by the Tägliche Omaha Tribüne, Jan 12, 1917.
Reels 1-7: Nov 25, 1892—Jan 11, 1917 (incomplete)

GRAND ISLAND (Hall County, Nebraska)
Grand Island Anzeiger
Weekly.
Reel 34, #3: Mar 7, 1890—Mar 21, 1890; Oct 3, 1890; Mar 13, 1891

GRAND ISLAND (Hall County, Nebraska)
Grand Island Anzeiger
Grand Island Anzeiger und Herold
Nebraska Staats-Anzeiger und Herold
Weekly.
Reels 1-15: Sept 18, 1891—June 27, 1918
GRAND ISLAND  (Hall County, Nebraska)
075  Der Herold
G76h  Weekly.  (Est. 1880)  Absorbed by Der Anzeiger, forming the Grand Island Anzeiger und Herold, Apr 1893.
Reel 34, #1:  May 25, 1883—June 1, 1883

FILM  GRAND ISLAND  (Hall County, Nebraska)
075  Der Herold
G76h  Weekly.  (Est. 1880)
Reel 1:  Sept 16, 1886—June 16, 1892 (incomplete)

GRAND ISLAND  (Hall County, Nebraska)
075  Nebraska Staats-Zeitung-Tribüne
G76szt  Reel 15, #1:  Dec 6, 1879

GRAND ISLAND  (Hall County, Nebraska)
075  Nebraska Staats-Zeitung-Tribüne
G76szt  Reel 34, #2:  Mar 6, 1880

HARTINGTON  (Cedar County, Nebraska)
073  Cedar County Wächter
H25w  Weekly.
Reels 1-4:  Jan 2, 1908—Aug 22, 1918 (incomplete)

HASTINGS  (Adams County, Nebraska)
071  Nebraska Volksfreund
H27v  Weekly.
Reel 1:  Nov 22, 1895—Mar 3, 1899

HASTINGS  (Adams County, Nebraska)
071  Nebraska Volksfreund
H27v  Reel 9, #5:  Sept 16, 1886

HASTINGS  (Adams County, Nebraska)
071  Nebraska Volksfreund
H27v  Reel 6, #45:  Aug 29, 1889

LINCOLN  (Lancaster County, Nebraska)
630.5  Deutsch-Amerikanischer Farmer
D48  Fortnightly, then weekly.
Reels 1-9:  Nov 18, 1897—Nov 26, 1924
FILM LINCOLN (Lancaster County, Nebraska)
053
Deutscher Westen
D49
Literary weekly.
Reel 1: Dec 8, 1894—Feb 23, 1895

FILM LINCOLN (Lancaster County, Nebraska)
075
Lincoln Freie Presse
L63fp
Weekly.
Reels 1-12: Sept 3, 1891—Apr 14, 1925

Stacks LINCOLN (Lancaster County, Nebraska)
075
Lincoln Freie Presse
L63fk
1913 Kalender

FILM LINCOLN (Lancaster County, Nebraska)
075
Der Nebraska Ansiedler
N27a
Monthly.
Reel 1: June 1878—May 1880

FILM LINCOLN (Lancaster County, Nebraska)
073
Nebraska Staats-Anzeiger
N28
Weekly.
Merged with Grand Island Anzeiger und Herold to form the Nebraska Anzeiger und Herold, and later the Grand Island Herold.
Reels 1-5: Nov 2, 1883—Mar 7, 1901 (incomplete)

Note: Der Sonntagsgast (Aug 5, 1897), Supplement to the Nebraska Staats-Anzeiger: see Filmstrip Reel 5, #37.

FILM NEBRASKA CITY (Otoe County, Nebraska)
073
Nebraska Staats-Zeitung
N25
Supplement titled: Beilage zur Nebraska Staats-Zeitung.
Weekly.
Reels 1-3: July 15, 1892—Jan 31, 1912 (incomplete)

Filmstrip NORFOLK (Madison County, Nebraska)
071
Norfolk Monatlicher Anzeiger
N76a
Norfolk Anzeiger
Reel 3, #15: Feb 15, 1887; July 29, 1892 (2 issues)

Filmstrip NORFOLK (Madison County, Nebraska)
071
Norfolk Anzeiger
N76a
Reel 28, #5: Sept 28, 1906 (1 issue)
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Filmstrip</th>
<th>NORFOLK  (Madison County, Nebraska)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>071</td>
<td>Die Westliche Rundschau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N76r</td>
<td>Reel 3, #16: July 1, 1916; July 14, 1916</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FILM</th>
<th>OMAHA  (Douglas County, Nebraska)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>075</td>
<td>America-Herold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Om1ah</td>
<td>Weekly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reels 1-5: Mar 12, 1975—May 28, 1982</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Filmstrip</th>
<th>OMAHA  (Douglas County, Nebraska)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>075</td>
<td>Central Chronik (&quot;ein katholisches Familienblatt&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Om1cc</td>
<td>Weekly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reel 19, #19: 1897: Apr 15, Apr 29, May 13, May 20; June 10—Aug 5; Sept 2, Dec 16 1898: Jan 6, Jan 13</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Filmstrip</th>
<th>OMAHA  (Douglas County, Nebraska)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>071</td>
<td>Der Flaneur (an “illustrated humorous magazine”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Om1df</td>
<td>Monthly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Reel 31, #12: Sept 1885</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>FILM</th>
<th>OMAHA  (Douglas County, Nebraska)</th>
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<tr>
<td>075</td>
<td>Katholisches Wochenblatt und der Landmann</td>
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<tr>
<td>Om1k</td>
<td>Weekly. Printed in Omaha, 1941-1966.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Reels 1-10: June 1, 1950—Jan 29, 1971</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>075</td>
<td>Katholisches Wochenblatt und Der Landmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Om1k</td>
<td>Reel 24, #11: Sept 24, 1942; Oct 22, 1942</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Filmstrip</th>
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<tr>
<td>073</td>
<td>Nebraska Banner</td>
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<td>Om1nb</td>
<td>Weekly.</td>
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<td>Reel 16, #6: June 1, 1892—June 8, 1892</td>
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<th>Filmstrip</th>
<th>OMAHA  (Douglas County, Nebraska)</th>
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<tr>
<td>071</td>
<td>Der Nebraska Hermanns-Sohn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Om1gn</td>
<td>Fraternal order publication</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reel 34, #25: Oct 1924</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Filmstrip</th>
<th>OMAHA  (Douglas County, Nebraska)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>075</td>
<td>Nebraska Staats-Journal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Om1nj</td>
<td>Weekly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reel 19, #17: Sept 19, 1868</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
FILM OMAHA  (Douglas County, Nebraska)
075 Nebraska Tribüne
Om1f Alternate titles: Omaha Tribüne Omaha Post-Tribüne
Reels 1-7:  Mar 17, 1892—Aug 25, 1926 (incomplete)

FILM OMAHA  (Douglas County, Nebraska)
075 Nebraska Vorwärts
Om1v Daily, then weekly.
Reel 1:  Sept 27, 1894—Sept 9, 1897 (incomplete)

FILM OMAHA  (Douglas County, Nebraska)
075 Omaha Tribüne
Om1f Alternate titles: Nebraska Tribüne, Omaha Post-Tribüne, Council Bluffs Freie Presse und Wöchentliche Omaha Tribüne.
Weekly.
Reel “A”:  Dec 1, 1892—July 25, 1925 (incomplete)

Filmstrip OMAHA  (Douglas County, Nebraska)
075 Omaha Tribüne
Om1vt Reel 34, #5:  Aug 3, 1911
See also: Tägliche Omaha Tribüne

FILM OMAHA  (Douglas County, Nebraska)
073 Sonntagspost
So5p Weekly (Sunday).
Reels 1-2:  Mar 16, 1975—Apr 1, 1979

Starting on Apr 6, 1979, the Sonntagspost was published with America Herold under the title America Herold und Sonntagspost.

FILM OMAHA  (Douglas County, Nebraska)
075 Tägliche Omaha Tribüne
Om1vt Alternate titles: Omaha Tribüne, Tägliche Volkszeitung-Tribüne, Volkszeitung Tribüne.
Daily except Sunday.
Reels 1-87:  Oct 2, 1912—May 28, 1982 (incomplete)

Filmstrip OMAHA  (Douglas County, Nebraska)
075 Tägliche Omaha Tribüne
Om1vt Alternate titles: Tägliche Volkszeitung-Tribüne, Volkszeitung Tribüne
Daily except Sunday.
Reel 19, #7:  These issues are missing on the original FILM:
1912:  Mar 14
1920:  Aug 5, Sept 15
1922:  Apr 3, Dec 30
1923: Feb 14, Oct 30, Nov 22  
1926: Nov 18  
1927: Aug 7  
1928: June 23, Aug 10  
1937: Dec 3  
1938: Feb 4

**OMAHA and LINCOLN** (Douglas/ Lancaster Counties, Nebraska)  
Filmstrip 075  
*Die Welt-Post* (“Organ of the Volga Germans in America”)  
Om1wp  
Weekly.  
Title changed to *Die Welt Post und Der Staats-Anzeiger*, Sept 25, 1970.  
Publication moved to Canada on May 28, 1982.  
Reels 1-29: Apr 13, 1916—May 28, 1982

**OMAHA and LINCOLN** (Douglas/ Lancaster Counties, Nebraska)  
Filmstrip 075  
*Die Welt-Post*  
Om1wp  
Weekly.  
Reel 6, #12: Mar 18, 1966

**OMAHA** (Douglas County, Nebraska)  
Filmstrip 075  
*Westliche Presse*  
Om1f  
Reel 51, #13: Dec 1, 1913

**SEWARD** (Seward County, Nebraska)  
Film 071  
*Nebraska Deutsche Farmer-Zeitung/ Deutsches Journal*  
Se8j  
Weekly.  
Reels 1-4: Jan 24, 1908—June 4, 1920 (incomplete)  
Published in German until June 28, 1918; beginning on July 5, 1918, it was published only in English as the *Seward Journal*.

**SEWARD** (Seward County, Nebraska)  
Filmstrip 071  
*Nebraska Deutsche Farmer-Zeitung*  
Se8j  
Reel 22, #10: July 25, 1902

**STEINAUER** (Pawnee County, Nebraska)  
Film 071  
*Steinauer Star/ Steinauer Star-Post*  
St23s  
Published in German and English; *History Nebraska has only the English version*. Reels 1-8: Nov 1, 1895—May 28, 1925

**STERLING** (Johnson County, Nebraska)  
Film 071  
*The Sterling Sun*  
St4s  
Published in German and English; History Nebraska has only the English version. Reels 1-23: July 18, 1890—Oct 11, 1945
FILM  SUTTON  (Clay County, Nebraska)
071  Sutton News
Su85n  Published in German and English; History Nebraska has only the English version. Reels 1-13: Sept 6, 1895—Feb 28, 1936

Filmstrip  WEST POINT  (Cuming County, Nebraska)
071  Lichtstrahlen
W524l  Reel 34, #26: May 2, 1900; Feb 18, 1903
For philosophy and knowledge of the occult and spiritualism.

FILM  WEST POINT  (Cuming County, Nebraska)
071  Nebraska Volksblatt
W524v  Reels 1-17: Sept 24, 1879—Dec 29, 1916

Out-of-State German-Language Newspapers

FILM  YANKTON/ABERDEEN  (South Dakota)
071.83  Dakota Freie Presse
D14  Reels 1-3: Apr 8, 1909—Sept 19, 1916 (incomplete)

286.7  BROOKFIELD  (Illinois /also College View, NE)
C46  Christlicher Hausfreund
Zeichen der Zeit
Seventh-Day Adventist.
Location NHT

Military Records

Many Germans and German-Americans served in the Civil War (1861-1865), in the Nebraska Battalion or elsewhere. History Nebraska has a Nebraska Civil War Veteran database. Try your German ancestor’s name and surname variants to see if he may have served.

Civil War Veterans from Nebraska

Your Nebraska ancestor may have served at a prior residence before moving to Nebraska. If you have access to Ancestry.com or Fold3.com, these databases have indexes, and, in the case of Fold3, digital images of some records.

History Nebraska also has a searchable index of WWI Draft Cards online, which you can then find on microfilm. This index can be found at:
World War I Draft Registration Cards (Nebraska)
Say you are researching a German Schmidt family in Saunders County. A search for “Schmidt” in Saunders County yields 9 hits in the WWI Draft Card index. The record for Bernhard Schmidt gives his birthdate and his exact birthplace.

### Nebraska WWI Draft Cards Index Search Results

Search Parameters: Name=Schmidt, Birthdate=, Birthplace=, City/County=Saunders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birthdate</th>
<th>Birthplace</th>
<th>City/County</th>
<th>Film Reel No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCHMIDT, BERNHARD</td>
<td>2/06/1888</td>
<td>STREHLA, GERMANY</td>
<td>Saunders</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHMIDT, CLEMENT M</td>
<td>18/01/1890</td>
<td>TOUHY</td>
<td>Saunders</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHMIDT, FREDERICH ADOLPH</td>
<td>8/05/1878</td>
<td></td>
<td>Saunders</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHMIDT, HARRY AUGUST</td>
<td>22/05/1899</td>
<td></td>
<td>Saunders</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHMIDT, HERMAN</td>
<td>15/11/1875</td>
<td></td>
<td>Saunders</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHMIDT, HERMAN J</td>
<td>31/12/1887</td>
<td>CERESCO</td>
<td>Saunders</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHMIDT, IVAN ARND</td>
<td>21/01/1884</td>
<td></td>
<td>Saunders</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHMIDT, JOHN D</td>
<td>15/10/1885</td>
<td></td>
<td>Saunders</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHMIDT, JOHN OSCAR</td>
<td>12/12/1881</td>
<td></td>
<td>Saunders</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To get a copy of Bernhard Schmidt’s draft registration, you would look at Record Group (RG) 544, Roll 44. This series is arranged alphabetically by county, then by surname.

History Nebraska also has Selective Service Records at Record Group 18; the seven rolls are arranged alphabetically by surname. These Adjutant General records often show dates of service, the names of company, rank, transfers, as well as place of birth.
Not only does this record furnish Bernhard Schmidt’s birthplace, but provides additional information to enhance your family history, including that he was a non-commissioned officer in German colonial Africa, his occupation is watchmaker, and he works for Anderson and Thorsen in Wahoo. Further, Bernhard Schmidt had not yet been naturalized. Knowing this, a check of the Saunders County finding aid shows the microfilm reels to see if you can collect his naturalization record. For instance you would check, RG204 (Saunders County) Roll #2 Card Index to Naturalizations, Papian-Zuhlke to find out when Bernard was naturalized. The actual records are filmed in chronological order.

**German Prisoners of War**

Germans were held at various military installations in Nebraska during WWII. Some of these men went back to the homeland, while others stayed and became Americans.
In RG 1517.AM, the Fort Robinson Reference collection has a wide variety of records, which includes records (some in German) for German prisoners of war held at that outpost. The detailed finding aid for this collection can be found at history.nebraska.gov.

Series 4, Prisoners of War 1943-1961, has a variety of records, including correspondence, daybooks, diaries, reminiscences, certificates for completion of classes, interviews, etc. Anyone with a family member who was a prisoner of war at Fort Robinson should look at this collection.

See also RG 501, Fort Robinson, Nebraska, Roll #19 for POW Camp reports.

**Family Manuscript Collections with ties to German ancestors**

The list below may not be a complete list of German material located in the manuscript collections. Staff at the archives/library will be happy to assist you with the card catalog and other inventories not available online.

- George A. Berlinghof, native of Germany, Gage and Lancaster counties
- Jacob Beutler of Sembach Germany, Nebraska City, Nebraska.
- Grasmick Family of Scotts Bluff (Germans from Russia)
- Augustus Theodore Haase collection 1835-1920, from Hanover, Germany
- August Hasse – letter of 1894, in German with English translation
- Ernst Herman Herminghaus
- Ketelnut-Meyer-Guse Families
- Klinker, Margarite
- Kloberdanz Family
- Koenig, William, ?-1863 Berlin; St. Louis, Omaha.
- Krebs, Karl G
- Krontz Family
- Lau Family
- Loder, John P. 1828-1908
- Overholser Family
- Rohke-Zutz Family (Hoskins, Nebraska)
- August A. Schormann 1918 photocopies of German notes, as a “Four Minute Man” Staplehurst, Nebraska
- Schwader, Maria Rickli Flueckiger
- Stolley, William 1831-1911
- Vennemann, Otto K
- Wagner, John P. or Johann Peter – 1914, York German Cong. Church pastor.
- Wuerth, John F.
Germans from Russia

Germans from Russia Photograph Collection at RG 4427

American Volga Relief Society (AVRS) letters and documents
The original manuscript documents for the AVRS are kept at the archives at RG 4879.AM

Russia under the Bolsheviks began a campaign against German Russians called the “age of the Great Massacres,” from 1917-1921. This period was followed by a period of mass starvation. Germans from Russia who had immigrated to other countries still had family back in the old country and in 1921, George Repp of Portland, Oregon organized the Volga Relief Society. The Central States Volga Relief Society was formed in Lincoln, Nebraska and the two organizations merged in 1922.

https://history.nebraska.gov/collections/american-volga-relief-society-lincoln-neb-rg4879am

Study the finding aid for additional letters and documents: https://history.nebraska.gov/collections/american-volga-relief-society-lincoln-neb-rg4879am

Staack, Ehmen family correspondence


We also have many books on Germans from Russia that are too numerous to list. Use the online library catalog to identify titles of interest.

Books:

The History Nebraska Library and Archives have a wide variety of books that may assist you in your research. Below is not an exhaustive list of German titles, but examples of what you may find in the library catalog.

- Arends, Shirley Fischer, The central Dakota Germans: their history, language, and culture 978.3 A681c
- Germans in the New World, Chapter 2, The German-American Alliance in Nebraska 1910-17
- Brunner Edmund de S. Immigrant Farmers and Their Children (1929), sociological study 978.3 A681c
- Faust, Albert Bernhardt, The German Element in the United States: 978.3 A681c
- Luebke, Frederick C. Immigrants and Politics: The Germans of Nebraska 1880-1900 (Lincoln: Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1969), Chaps. 2 and 3. 325.243 L96i
- Riemer, Shirley J. The German Research Companion, 325.243 L96
• Luebke, Frederick C., German immigrants and churches in Nebraska 1889-1915, 325.243 L96
• The Württemberg Emigration Index by Schenk (For earlier immigrants) 929.43 S324w

**Genealogies (not a comprehensive list)** Search with your surname as well as with keywords *German American*, with and without the hyphen. A search for *German genealogy* brings up over 100 hits. Arranged by Author, Title and History Nebraska Call Number:

• Junkin, William Sumner, *Excerpts of the Henckel Genealogy* 325.243 L96
• Goff, Lois B., *Ancestry and descendants of Andreas and Maria Elisabeth (Waldschmidt) Sauer: immigrants in 1850* 929 S355a
• Foster, Karen, *From Hanover to Nebraska*, Hamme Fooken Mueller 929 M958f
• Petersen, Helen Wenzel, et al., *The Wenzel Family from Germany to Nebraska, Cass and Lancaster counties and their Frohlich and Griffin Connections* 929 W482f
• Sand, Paul Frederick, *Family History of Joseph Anton Sand: A Nebraska Pioneer, immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1838* (Otoe County, Nebr.) 929 S213h
• Hellerich, Janice May, *Johann Gottfried Schnitter: coming to America on the ship SS Werra, came November 11, 1883*, (Raymond, Nebr.) 929 S361j
• Hellerich, Janice May, *The Hellerich’s (six) coming from Korb, Germany* (Lancaster County, Neb).
• Bose, H. Maxine & Andrew Bose, Konrad Boese-Bose Family 1806-1984, 929 L772l
• Lovell, Evelyn Lissman, *The Lissman family's long journey: Germany to Russia 1766, Russia to America, 1900-1913*, (E. L. Lovell 2000). 929 L772l
• Jira, Helen, *Schaeffer genealogy* (Newton Ks, Mennonite Press). 929 L772l
• Ziegler, Marvin E., *The Stricker-Ziegler families from 1849-to 1990* 929 L772l

Be aware that if you are old Pennsylvania German, there are many more titles for these earlier arrivals.