

German Sources at the Nebraska State Historical Society

Updated September 2024

Government Records

[U.S. Works Project Administration Federal Writers Project-Nebraska State Historical Society, 1932-1942 \(RG515\)](#)

Germans (sheet 17, Subgroup 2, Series 1, Research Files, Ethnic History, Germans, Box 36, 262.8)

German-Russian(sheet 17, Subgroup 2, Series 1, Research Files, Ethnic History, German-Russian, Box 36, 264.2)

Photograph Collections

Below is a sampling of German related photograph collections.

[American Volga Relief Society \(Lincoln, Neb.\) \(RG4879.PH\)](#)

Rohrke-Zutz Family (Hoskins, Neb.) (RG5330.PH)

[Stolley, William, 1831-1911 \(RG2617.AM\)](#)

Germans from Russia (RG4427.PH)

Audiovisual Collections

Below is a sampling of the German related material in the audiovisual collections.

Nebraska Quasquicentennial Commission (RG0125.MI)

This collection includes a VHS tape of the Germanfest held in Fairbury.

Nebraska Folklife Center Oral History Project (RG4798.AU)

Contains various oral history interviews and a sound recording of a German-Russian Wedding dance

Manuscript Collections

Below is a sampling of the German related material in the Manuscript collection.

[American Volga Relief Society \(RG4879.AM\)](#)

This collection relates to the starvation of the Volga German colonists in Russia, and the efforts of the American Volga Relief Society to supply food and other aid to the region.

[Beutler, Jacob \(RG0729.AM\)](#) of Sembach Germany, Nebraska City, Nebraska.

The collection contains two letters in German with English translations.

[Ernst, Carl Julius, 1854-1932 \(RG3164.AM\)](#)

The bulk of this collection consists of personal correspondence and various family materials of Carl Julius Ernst and the Ernst family. Much of the correspondence is written in German.

[Forward League \(Lincoln, Neb.\) \(RG4024.AM\)](#)

This small collection relates to the Forward League, which was organized in 1917 by the Germans from Russia group in Lincoln, Nebraska to demonstrate their full support of the war effort against Germany during World War I, and their loyalty to the U.S.

[Grasmick Family \(Scotts Bluff, Neb.\) \(RG5545.AM\)](#) (Germans from Russia)

This collection contains the passports of Henry and Catherine Grasmick, biographical and genealogical information about the Grasmick family, and two oversized religious history documents (in German) created by Henry Grasmick.

[Koenig, William, ?-1863 \(RG0790.AM\)](#) Berlin; St. Louis, Omaha.

Correspondence includes Koenig's comparisons of his experiences and life on the frontier with his former life in Germany.

[Krebs, Karl Gottlieb \(RG1146.AM\)](#)

The collection consists of a diary (in German) kept by Karl Krebs while a missionary among the Indians at Deer Creek Mission.

[Rohke-Zutz Family \(Hoskins, Neb.\) \(RG5330.AM\)](#)

The collection includes family letters and documents written in German.

[Sack Family \(RG5488.AM\)](#)

The collection includes genealogical information and correspondence in German about the family.

[Schormann, August A. \(RG5098.AM\)](#)

This collection consists of three pages of notes (photocopies only) in German taken by Rev. August A. Schormann in 1918 summarizing talks he gave as a "Four Minute Man" at his church in Staplehurst, Nebraska during World War I.

[Schwader, Maria \(Rickli\) \(RG1650.AM\)](#)

The collection consists of one folder containing typed transcripts [18 pages] of letters written to Maria Rickli Flückiger Schwader by her brother-in-law, Jacob Maurer, her brother, John Ulrich Rickli, and her son, John Fluckiger. They span the dates 1875-1902. The original letters were written in old German script handwriting, from which the translated transcripts were made.

[Staack-Ehmen Family \(RG4198.AM\)](#)

The collection consists mostly of family correspondence, primarily written in German. English translations are available.

[Stolley, William, 1831-1911 \(RG2617.AM\)](#)

The bulk of this collection consists of correspondence dated between 1852 and 1894. Much of this material is written in German script.

Church Records

These records may contain information of church members, such as marriages, births, deaths, and membership. For a complete list of church records held at the Nebraska State Historical Society, please see the [Church Records leaflet](#).

[Alexandria Meridian German Presbyterian Church 1873-1925 \(RG4904\)](#)

[Hickman German Presbyterian Church 1878-1968 \(RG2655\)](#)

[Humboldt German Evangelical Church Society 1880-1980 \(RG4008\)](#)

[Humboldt German Methodist Church , 1860-1924 \(RG3078\)](#)

[Humboldt German Reformed Salem Church Society 1880-1980 \(RG4008\)](#)

[Lincoln First German Congregational Church 1889-1977 \(RG3022\)](#)

[Lincoln German Evangelical Congregational Salem Church 1901-1967 \(RG4040\)](#)

[Lincoln German Evangelical Congregational Zion Church 1900-1966 \(RG3037\)](#)

[Lincoln German Evangelical Lutheran Friedens Church 1907-1985 \(RG4212\)](#)

[Lincoln German Evangelical Zion Church 1900-1966 \(RG3037\)](#)

[McWilliams Precinct St. John's Parish, German Evangelical Church 1871-1917 \(RG4361\)](#)

[Meridian German Presbyterian Church 1873-1925 \(RG4904\)](#)

[Seward Frieden German Evangelical Church 1878-1973 \(RG3228\)](#)

[Stockham German Evangelical Congregational Church 1898-1906 \(RG4412\)](#)

[Stamford German Emmanuel Lutheran Church 1899-1924 \(RG4413\)](#)

[Sutton Federated Church 1947-1962 \(RG4173\)](#)

[Sutton First Congregational Church 1892-1949 \(RG4173\)](#)

[Sutton Free German Reformed Hope Church 1908-1975 \(RG3998\)](#)

[Sutton German Evangelical Congregational Church 1876-1953 \(RG4412\)](#)

[Sutton German Reformed Church 1874-1946 \(RG3218\)](#)

[Sutton Hope Reformed Church 1908-1975 \(RG3998\)](#)

[Sutton Methodist Episcopal Church 1875-1949 \(RG4173\)](#)

[York German Evangelical Lutheran Church 1879-1972 \(RG3232\)](#)

Library Collection

Below is a sampling of the German related material in the Library Collection.

Arends, Shirley Fischer, *The Central Dakota Germans: their history, language, and culture*, 1989.

Brunner Edmund de S. *Immigrant Farmers and Their Children*, 1929.

Faust, Albert Bernhardt, *The German Element in the United States: with special reference to its political, moral, social , and educational influence*, 1927.

Furer, Howard B. *The Germans in America 1607-1970, a chronology & fact book*, 1973.

Luebke, Frederick C. *Immigrants and Politics: The Germans of Nebraska 1880-1900*, 1969.

Riemer, Shirley J. *The German Research Companion*, 2010.

Schenk, Trudy, *The Württemberg Emigration Index*, 1986.

Family Histories

The Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) library holds over 3000 genealogies, many of which are families of German descent. Search the [online library catalog](#) for specific surnames, counties, or towns.

Serials (Newspapers & Periodicals)

NSHS has many local community newspapers that can be found on microfilm and digitized on newspapers.com. See our full listing [here](#).