



Tree Climber
Smoky Valley Genealogical
Society and Library, Inc

211 West Iron Avenue
Suite 205
Salina, Kansas 67401

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WHEN TRANSLATING HANDWRITTEN DOCUMENTS here are some clues

<u>Actual Letter</u>	<u>Possible Transcription Error</u>
A, a	N, O, o, u
B, b	K, P, R, h, lr, ls, t
C, c	E, O, e, i, o
cl, ct	d
D, d	O, cl, ct, el, et
E, e	C, c, i, l
ee	n, u
el, et	d
F, f,	L, T, l, ss
Fl	H
G, g	T, Y, Z, j, q, y, z
H, h	Fl, Th, Tl, b, k, ln, lr, ls
I, i	J, Y, c, e, l, r
in	m
J, j	I, Y, g, p, q, y, z
K, k	B, R, h, le, lr, ls
L, l	F, S, T, Z, e, f, i, t
lc	k
ln	h
lr, ls	b, h, k
M, m	W, in, ne, rn
N, n	A, V, ee, u
ne	m
O, o	A, C, D, a, c
P, p	B, R, T, j, ss
Q, q	Z, g, j, Y, z
R, r	B, K, P, i, s, v
r n	m
rv	w
S, s	L, A, r
ss	f, p
T, t	F, G, L, p, b, l
Th, Tl	H
U, u	V, a, cc, n, v
V, v	N, U, r, u
W, w	M, m, rv
Y, y	G, I, J, g, j, q, z
Z, z	G, L, Q, S, g, j, q, y

Reprinted from an entry in the Amarillo Genealogical Society publication.

Word Meanings of Court Documents

Official documents of all sorts are filled with words whose meanings may not be familiar to some folks. Genealogists, too, keep running into such words and have to know their meaning. Failure to do such can throw research off the track. For that reason, from time to time in these pages, list of “legal” and “official” words have appeared. Some of those lists have even concerned “foreign” words genealogists may come across, while other listings concern our own country. So, again, we share a lot of terms used over the last several centuries here in our own country’s courthouse and in other places, mostly British. (As written by John W Heisey)

1. **ABSTRACT**: a summary of important parts of a legal or other document.
2. **AFFINITY**: the relationship of individuals to other people by marriage only, not by blood
3. **ANCILLARY**: the describing of some legal action, like a will being probated when land is owned by the deceased in several different counties and states and must be disposed of in those other places.
4. **ASSET**: any kind of property (real or personal) possessed by an individual living or dead.
5. **BENEFICIARY**: any individual who inherits or gets something from another person, usually because of the settlement of a deceased individual’s estate
6. **CENOTAPH**: a monument to a deceased person, but not at the place where that person is buried
7. **CHATTEL**: any property, other than real estate, which an individual possesses. Real chattels are tangible property, while personal chattels are intangible property
8. **COLLATERAL LINES**: (or branches): all persons who are related to you by blood, but not directly.
9. **CONSANGUINITY**: refers to any person who is descended from the same ancestor as you.
10. **DESCENDENT**: any individual who is deceased, usually meaning a person who has recently died.
11. **EPITAPH**: the working on a monument about the deceased, usually praising that individual
12. **ESTATE**: everything owned or possessed by an individual who is either alive or deceased. To day, however, we usually think of an estate as belonging to someone who is deceased
13. **EXECUTOR (male) EXECUTRIX (female)**: the individual who is designated in a will to carry out the actions directed by the writer of the will in settling up an estate
14. **EXTRACT**: information taken verbatim from any document, usually not the complete contents of that document
15. **HOLOGRAPHIC WILL**: a will which was personally written, dated and signed in his or her own handwriting by any individual
16. **INCHOATE RIGHTS**: in real estate, any interest or portion an individual is to inherit, but usually is not effective until the death of the spouse
17. **.INSTANT**: in early days it meant the current month
18. **INTANGIBLE PROPERTY**: stocks, bonds, monies due, or other such items owned by an individual
19. **INTESTATE**: term used to describe a deceased person who did not have a will
20. **LIEN**: a legal claim against a person’s property or assets in order to pay for services done by that individual to someone else
21. **LITIGATION**: the act of taking disputes to be settled in a court
22. **NUNCUPATIVE WILL**: a will dictated orally by a dying person but written down and witnessed after the individual’s death.
23. **OUTCRY**: a term used in earlier days to mean the public sale property at an auction as directed by either the court or the owners of the property

Old Occupations Explained

- **Accountant** – Accountant
- **Almoner** – Giver of charity to the needy
- **Amanuensis** – Secretary or stenographer
- **Artificer** – A soldier mechanic who does repairs
- **Baillie** – Bailiff
- **Baxter** – Baker
- **Bluestocking** – Female writer
- **Boniface** – Keeper of an inn
- **Brazier** – One who works with brass
- **Brewster** – Beer manufacturer
- **Brightsmith** – Metal Worker
- **Burghmaster** – Mayor
- **Caulker** – One who filled up cracks (in ships or windows or seams) to them watertight by using tar or oakum-hemp fiber produced by taking old ropes apart
- **Chaisemaker** – Carriage maker
- **Chandler** – Dealer or trader; one who makes or sells candles; retailer of groceries
- **Chiffonnier** – Wig maker
- **Clark** – Clerk
- **Clerk** – Clergyman, cleric
- **Clicker** – The servant of a salesman who stood at the door to invite customers; one who received the matter in the galley from the compositors and arranged it in due form ready for printing; one who makes eyelet holes in boots using a machine which clicked.
- **Cohen** – Priest (descendant of Levi)
- **Collier** – Coal miner
- **Colporteur** – Peddler of books
- **Cooper** – One who makes or repairs vessels made of staves and hoops, such as casks, barrels, tubs, etc.
- **Cordwainer** – Shoemaker, originally any leather worker using leather from Cordova/Cordoba in Spain
- **Costermonger** – Peddler of fruits and vegetables
- **Crocker** – Potter
- **Crowner** – Coroner
- **Carrier** – One who dresses the coat of a horse with a currycomb; one who tanned leather by incorporating oil or grease
- **Docker Stevedore**, dock worker who loads and unloads cargo
- **Dowser** – One who finds water using a rod or witching stick
- **Draper** – A dealer in dry goods
- **Drayman** – One who drives a long strong cart without fixed sides for carrying heavy loads
- **Dresser** – A surgeon's assistant in a hospital
- **Drover** – One who drives cattle, sheep, etc. to market; a dealer in cattle
- **Duffer** – Peddler
- **Factor** – Agent, commission merchant; one who acts or transacts business for another; Scottish steward or bailiff of an estate
- **Farrrier** A blacksmith, one who shoes horses
- **Faulkner** – Falconer
- **Fell monger** – One who removes hair or wool from hides in preparation for leather making
- **Fletcher** – One who made bows and arrows
- **Fuller** – One who fulls cloth; one who shrinks and thickens woolen cloth by moistening, heating, and pressing; one who cleans and finishes cloth
- **Gaoler** – A keeper of the goal, a jailer
- **Glazier** – Window glassman
- **Hacker** – Maker of hoes
- **Hatcheler** – One who combed out or carded flax
- **Haymonger** – Dealer in hay
- **Hayward** – Keeper of fences
- **Higgler** – Itinerant peddler
- **Hillier** – Roof tiler
- **Hind** – A farm laborer
- **Hostler** – A groom who took care of horses, often at an inn
- **Hooker** – Reaper
- **Hooper** – One who made hoops for casks and barrels
- **Huckster** – Sells small wares
- **Husbandman** – A farmer who cultivated the land
- **Jagger** – Fish peddler
- **Journeyman** – One who had served his apprenticeship and mastered his craft, not bound to serve a master, but hired by the day
- **Joyner / Joiner** A skilled carpenter
- **Keeler** – Bargeman
- **Kempster** – Wool comber
- **Lardner** – Keeper of the cupboard
- **Lavender** – Washer woman
- **Lederer** – Leather maker
- **Leech** – Physician
- **Longshoreman** – Stevedore
- **Lorner** – Maker of horse gear
- **Malender** – Farmer
- **Maltster** – Brewer
- **Manciple** – A steward
- **Mason** – Bricklayer
- **Mintmaster** – One who issued local currency
- **Monger** – Seller of goods (ale, fish)
- **Muleskinner** – Teamster
- **Neatherder** – Herds cows
- **Ordinary Keeper** – Innkeeper with fixed prices
- **Pattern Maker** – A maker of a clog shod with an iron ring. A clog was a wooden pole with a pattern cut into the end
- **Peregrinator** Itinerant wanderer
- **Peruker** – A wig maker
- **Pettifogger** – A shyster lawyer
- **Pigman** – Crockery dealer
- **Plumber** – One who applied sheet lead for roofing and set lead frames for plain or stained glass windows.
- **Porter** – Door keeper
- **Puddler** – Wrought iron worker
- **Quarrier** – Quarry worker

1940 Saline County Marriage Licenses (continued)

Merryman, Verna	28 Jan	Albert W. Thompson
Darlene		
Mettlen, Ila	23 May	Wayne Rutter
Meyer, Myrtle Idelle	11 Jul	Nathan Ade
Miller, Charles A.	5 Jun	Ulilla Wheatley
Clarence Elwood	3 Aug	Viola Evelyn Ammons
Della	11 Sep	F. Leslie Parvin
Dorothy Irene	11 May	Walter Connor
Eulala	16 Jul	Wayne Mast
Helen	24 May	Harry H. Adams
Leonard W.	23 Mar	Inez DeMars
Misare, Charles	5 Sep	Maurine Blundon
Mitchell, John F.	8 Jun	Arlene H. Chigbrow
Monroe, William Henry	24 Dec	Leone Lentz
Montgomery, Darlene	3 Jul	LeRoy Simpson Price
Wilberta	7 Sep	B. Archie Taylor
Moon, Helen	22 Feb	Andrew Lee Boyce
Moore, Fred D.	1 Jun	Alice Howard
Marjorie Elaine	18 Jul	A. R. McDonald
Morgan, Alice Patricia	27 Mar	Kenneth Fradd
Velma	7 Dec	Alfred L. Palmer
Mortimer, Loine	11 Oct	Lloyd Andrew
Moses, Avis	30 Apr	Aubrey Slick
Doris Butler	10 Jul	Milfred G. McDowell
Mosher, Frank D.	13 Dec	Sylvia Ellen Trimmer Gardner
Mary Jane	17 Aug	C. W. Hilton
Mullen, Keith M.	21 Sep	Jeanice Percival
Muller, June	2 Jul	Alvin Klein
Mullett, Lillian	10 Oct	Ivan F. Shull
LeNore		
McAtee, Irene	27 Apr	Jerome Williams
McCabe, Hobart Jr.	22 Nov	Charlotte Geneva Rhoades
McCready, Dorothy	11 Oct	Merle DeLaney
Lucile		
McCullough, Robert	14 Dec	Nora Ellen Hurtig
William		
McDonald, A. R.	18 Jul	Marjorie Elaine Moore
George A.	9 Jul	Louise Knoch
Nellie G.	6 Jul	Lewis H. Baker
McDowell, Milfred G.	10 Jul	Doris Butler Moses
McGee, J. C.	15 Jun	Loine Allison
McGinness, Loretta	22 Mar	Kasper Erickson
McKimson, Charles E.	3 Feb	Lena M. Goudy
McKnight, Jessie	3 Aug	Willard Harbison

Neeland, Lucille	22 Jun	Elmer Erland Polson
Genevia		
Nelson, Clarabelle	14 Sep	Leo F. Geis
Doris E.	5 Jul	W. Keith Schuerman
Elmer G.	30 Mar	Lee Duvall
Harriet	29 Nov	Lester Joe Lowery
Frances		
J. Robert	22 Jun	Signe Danielson
Zoe Marie	14 May	John L. Evans
Newland, Lottie E.	17 May	Paul E. Slabaugh
Newton, Mary Louise	22 Jun	William Logan Cumberland, Jr.
Nichols, Dorothy M.	16 Mar	Wallace F. Paschal
Wayne Edward	26 Jan	Helen Irene Mason
Ninke, Wilbert Carl	2 Dec	Anna Marie Heiman
O'Bryan, Henry	8 Apr	Juanita Swift
Eugene, Jr.		
O'Connor, Robert J.	29 Jun	Mary Alice Baker
Oelschlaeger, Berlene	18 May	Vernie Earl Beisch
Doris		
Oleen, Allen William	6 Sep	Rosella Ethelyne Lindblom
Olsen, Dorothy Fern	29 May	William B. Wallerius
Olson, Charles J.	28 Sep	Helen Thomas
Nona	11 Mar	James Ferguson
Owens, Wilma Roberta	14 Jun	Harold Wilson Grigsby
Palmer, Alfred L.	7 Dec	Velma Morgan
Roy Bunce	15 Jun	Janice Winifred Kehler
Parker, Winona	6 Jan	Wyeth Hickerson
Parsons, Vernon	20 Jul	Dorothy Ike
Parvin, F. Leslie	11 Sep	Della Miller
Paschal, Wallace F.	16 Mar	Dorothy M. Nichols
Paugh, Clare Nell	3 Sep	Alton A. Register
Payne, Aldythe	29 May	Rex L. Fossnight
Edna	25 May	Ralph Grossman
Pedersen, Della	6 Nov	Roy Huhl
Percival, Jeanice	21 Sep	Keith M. Mullen
Perdue, Edwin	27 Aug	Virginia Cheney
Perry, Viola	23 Apr	H. R. Lindeman
Peterson, Georgia B.	29 May	B. W. Hancock
Mildred	27 Sep	Gilbert J. Dowling
Pettey, Forrest W.	17 Feb	Mary Lou Barker
Phelps, David F.	3 May	Maxine Kimerling
Phillips, Clinton	13 Apr	Esther Karber
Pihl, Earl H.	30 Oct	Jane Johnson
Lavinia Marie	22 Jan	Clarence DeVere Gray
Paul Raymond	10 Oct	Goldie Mae Ailer
Teddy A.	11 Oct	Lola K. Rupe

Pinkenburg, Marie	16 Sep	Edwin Dent
Polson, Elmer Erland	22 Jun	Lucille Genevia Neeland
Poore, Ray	28 Sep	Catherine Schuler
Pope, Sowell G., Jr.	2 Nov	Cleta M. Cloud
Porter, Dean	10 Nov	Loaine Mastellar
Powell, Ruth L.	15 Nov	Alfred M. Brittendall
Price, Alda	27 Nov	W. J. Lacy
LeRoy Simpson	3 Jul	Darlene Montgomery
Pruter, Iva C.	31 Mar	Cecil F. Stiers
Purdy, Leslie J.	20 Jul	Doris Marie Bunch
Puyear, Jimmie G.	8 Jun	Marie Blossom Sampson
Quinn, James L.	1 Oct	Ethel Weber
Raines, Louise	23 Jul	Mason Tennant
Rainey, Lloyd V.	18 Sep	Luella Wait
Ralston, Violet	4 Jul	Thomas W. Wilson
Randall, Wilbur A.	31 Aug	Mary M. Tink
Rankin, Wanda	13 Dec	Kermit Bjurstrom
Ratliff, Pauline	18 May	Archie Hartzell
Raynesford, Justin	19 Jun	Ruth Harold Woertendyke
Dale		
Reck, Clara Gertrude	16 Aug	Elmer P. Lorson
Redden, Merton L.	13 Jul	Evelyn Rose Swisher
Rees, Evelynbelle	3 Oct	Archie W. Hazen
Reeves, Jessie Geneva	25 Jan	Gerald Roebke
Register, Alton A.	3 Sep	Clare Nell Paugh
Riegel, Sarah	21 Dec	Frank A. Swanson
Reissig, Carl	31 Aug	Helene Johnson
Renard, Laura Agnes	5 Jan	J. Vernon Bradshaw
Rhoades, Charlotte	22 Nov	Hobart Jr. McCabe
Geneva		
Richardson, Lawrence	20 Jul	Genevieve Gragg
Rickey, Henrietta	29 Jul	Francis Bulleigh
Rinehart, Catherine	30 Jun	Charles Cross
Riordan, Paul	25 Nov	Helen Shirack
Ritchey, Marie A.	16 Feb	Raymond E. Haggart
Roberts, Edith C.	26 Oct	Danton Grover
Fred R.	14 Dec	Dorothy Evans
Rodriguez, Ramona	31 Aug	Hilario Leon Gil
Roebke, Gerald	25 Jan	Jessie Geneva Reeves
Roehrman, Arlene	20 Jul	Junior Albert Watkins
Gwendolyn		
Roeser, Richard	2 Apr	Lola Kubitscheck
Rogers, Lavya	1 Apr	Othello Meadows
Ruth	14 Sep	Otto Steffensmeyer
Rohrs, Herman	7 Jun	Helen Frances Bice
Roscoe, Margaret	26 Jul	Eldred Woolverton

Ross, Lee	4 Mar	Lorraine Crabs
Rupe, Lola K.	11 Oct	Teddy A. Pihl
Rutter, Wayne	23 May	Ila Mettlen
Rutz, Donald Louis	15 Apr	Kathleen Lois Beech
Ryan, Virginia	26 Jun	Oliver Ferguson
Sampson, Marie Blossom	8 Jun	Jimmie G. Puyear
Sanberg, Letha	26 Aug	Delbert D. Evans
Saum, Lloyd Keith	4 Jan	Edna May Fisher
Scheaffer, Raymond R.	29 Jun	Maurine Adele Spencer
Schmidt, John N.	23 Sep	Madeline Helstrom
Schmitt, Marian	13 Jun	Harold H. Chase
Schneeman, Albert M.	13 Jul	Katherine M. Jensen
Schneider, Henry A.	3 Aug	May Butcher
Schoenberger, Anthony	17 Apr	Ruth Houston
Schoenecker, George F.	22 Aug	Marcy Barbra Gilbertson
Schott, Mary Louise	5 Jul	Edward Jones
Schriner, Zada	4 Apr	Wayne Mahan
Schroff, Arlyn Faye	1 Aug	Gene Fairchild
Schuerman, W. Keith	5 Jul	Doris E. Nelson
Schuler, Catherine	28 Sep	Ray Poore
Schwartz, Albert J.	26 Apr	Mary Anne Jameson
Scott, Donald K.	23 Sep	Lillian Lucile Kopf
Seitz, Charles F. W., Jr.	10 Jun	Hertha Hamilton Wilson
Velma A.	28 Mar	Cloyd M. Wolf
Serrault, Leona	25 Apr	Cleo Trowbridge
Seward, Laura	1 Jun	Delbert Dunbar
Shaffer, Vern V.	3 Aug	Dorothy A. Wiggins
Shannon, Letia Mae	7 Aug	Austin Walter Gay
Shaw, Berniece	26 Dec	Eugene Dupree
Sheaffer, Milton Clark	6 Feb	Margaret Rose Fitch
Shearer, Velma	29 Aug	Martin Welsh
Sheely, Etta	15 Oct	Charles Albert Jones
Stella	30 Dec	Clarence Dewey
Shehorn, Lyinia	27 May	Emil Ehrenbold
Shelton, Charles	1 Oct	Catherine Cairns
Frank E., Jr.	30 Aug	Edythe W. Anderson
Ilola	18 Mar	Walter A. Surface
Sherman, Gertrude	23 Dec	John F. Campbell
Shirack, Helen	25 Nov	Paul Riordan
Shive, Keith	2 Apr	Dorothy Base
Shull, Ivan F.	10 Oct	Lillian LeNore Mullett
Shure, Maxine Le	31 Aug	Kenneth Keith
Shute, J. B.	25 Jan	Odessa Southworth
Slabaugh, Paul E.	17 May	Lottie E. Newland
Slick, Aubrey	30 Apr	Avis Moses

Smith, Clena Eunice	12 Oct	Frederick Boileau
Earl	18 Oct	Fern Guion
Elizabeth Ruth	25 May	Nels Carl Johnson
Howard	23 Aug	Eunice Jo Engstrom
Joan	27 Dec	Obie Young
Paul L.	19 Mar	Bonnie Rose Coyle
Vernon E.	27 Jul	Fern M. Henderson
Smitley, Shirley	6 Nov	Frederick Arthur Dietrich
Charlene		
Snapp, Dale	20 Apr	Evelyn Clark
Southworth, Odessa	25 Jan	J. B. Shute
Spencer, Maurine Adele	29 Jun	Raymond R. Scheaffer
Springer, Calvin E.	7 Aug	Marjorie Walmsley
Stanley, Inez	21 Jun	Clarence Liby
Stansberry, Woodrow	1 Jun	Evelyn Brown
Wilson		
St. Clair, V. A.	1 Jan	Vera O. Charter
Steffensmeyer, Otto	14 Sep	Ruth Rogers
Steinert, Leon Lavern	10 Jul	Lenora Dolezal
Steinle, Elsie	23 Aug	Alex Bay
Stephens, Ethel	5 Nov	James B. Burnette
Stewart, Myrtle	23 Mar	Walter J. Cox
Stiers, Cecil F.	31 Mar	Iva C. Pruter
Stover, Glenn E.	16 Dec	Esther Weseloh
Stratton, Hunter	24 May	Mary Louise Grecian
Sullivan, Elizabeth E.	18 May	Arthur H. Davis
Surface, Walter A.	18 Mar	Ilola Shelton
Swanson, Earl Florian	30 Dec	Ellen Louise DeLaney
Frank A.	21 Dec	Sarah Reigel
Swift, Juanita	8 Apr	Henry Eugene O'Bryan, Jr.
Swisher, Evelyn Rose	13 Jul	Merton L. Redden
Taylor, B. Archie	7 Sep	Wilberta Montgomery
Betty	29 Aug	Everett Dahl
Tennant, Mason	23 Jul	Louise Raines
Thacker, Opal	8 Aug	Glenn A. Howie
Thomas, Helen	28 Sep	Charles J. Olson
Thompson, Albert W.	28 Jan	Verna Darlene Merryman
Delma Lee	15 Jun	Vesta Faye Thompson
Vesta Faye	15 Jun	Delma Lee Thompson
		Above couple were formerly husband and wife but were divorced.
Timberlike, Excel	28 Dec	Murray Edward Kizer
Tink, Mary M.	31 Aug	Wilbur A. Randall
Trevelyan, Howard	4 May	Helen Hollis
Trimmer Gardner,	13 Dec	Frank D. Mosher
Sylvia Ellen		

Do you know the names of these women?
Picture was taken by A. S. Moore, Photographer
Salina, Kansas

