



## Make your reservations **now** for the **2026 Zeisset Reunion**

The **August 28-30, 2026 Zeisset Reunion**, in Clay Center and Leonardville, promises to be an exciting event of learning and sharing about our heritage. The tentative agenda is below. With little more than two months to go, it is time to make arrangements.

First, if you will be coming from out of town, you have just a few more weeks to make motel reservations. For Friday and Saturday nights, August 28 and 29, rooms are available at the Cedar Court Motel in Clay Center, KS, just 3 miles from our reunion venue. Most rooms are \$97 plus tax per night, but there are also smaller rooms in an older part of the hotel (\$87 or \$77). **Call the Cedar Court at 785-632-2148** to reserve your room before July 28, and tell them you are with the "Zeisset Reunion". (Do you have a group of 4 to 6? A 2-bedroom cabin may still be available at <http://lifesfinermoments.com/cabins/> or 785-447-1678.)

Second, we need you to **return the attached form and a check, by Tuesday, July 28**. Why? We need to tell our caterers how many meals to prepare. If paying in advance is not possible for you, at least send the form now. Send your form and your check to—

Zeisset Reunion, % Vonda Copeland, PO Box 128, Riley, KS 66531

If you prefer to pay electronically using Zelle, first complete the registration form on your computer, save it, and email it to [Vonda@copelandmail.com](mailto:Vonda@copelandmail.com). Vonda will reply with Zelle instructions.

The Saturday program will focus on the lives of our six immigrant ancestors. We have found an interesting new way to share information about them. Loretta Hoerman, with some help from a few others, has written a short play or skit in three parts: depicting our ancestors as new immigrants fresh off the boat, again later in life, and finally in an epilogue. We have separate speaking parts for each of the six siblings as both young people (10 to 21 years old) and adults, plus 2 more roles, for a total of 14. Would you like to be one of the 14 actors/readers? No memorization is required. The parts are not long and we will give you the script to read in advance. For extra credit, recruit a younger person in your family to take one of the younger parts!

The Sunday program will focus on our German roots. What better way to start than to feature German food for Sunday dinner, catered by Schatzi's Schnitzel Haus in Riley. The afternoon presentations will include Loretta's "Zeisset Roots in Germany 101" and new information that we didn't have when we met last in 2019.

We hope to have some participation by Zeissets beyond our own group, some who live in Europe, either in person or visiting by Zoom.

Please bring stories to tell of your ancestors or of your travels in search of them. What was special when you visited your grandparents, or what family traditions did you enjoy? Feel free to bring music to share, old photos to display, or keepsakes passed down through your family.

Time will be available for visiting Saturday afternoon within family groups, as well as other activities. Now is a good time to contact other members of your family to make sure they will be there. If you have family members who have not been getting our emails, send us their contact information.

In the meantime, check out <http://ZeissetGenealogy.org>. Any updates to the schedule will be noted there.

Feel free to write us with your program ideas, at any time, but the sooner the better. Email [paul@zeisset.com](mailto:paul@zeisset.com).

So make those motel reservations, send in your registration form and check, and we will see you in August!

Paul Zeisset ([paul@zeisset.com](mailto:paul@zeisset.com)), Loretta Hoerman, Vonda Copeland,  
Gay Stewart, Diane Potts, Kathy Cott-Johnson, Jan Heikes, Becky Swart

# 2026 Zeisset Reunion Program

## **Friday, August 28**

5:30 pm and after Greet other family members at the El Puerto Restaurant, 901 Crawford, Clay Center, KS, next to the Cedar Court Motel, where many of us will be staying (pay on your own)

## **Saturday, August 29**

*All Saturday activities originate at Life's Finer Moments, 1285 16<sup>th</sup> Rd, Clay Center, KS (2 mi south of US 24 on KS 15, then 1.1 mi west)*

9:30 am Registration and get acquainted

10:00 am

- Introductions and mixer
- Meet our European cousins and other Zeisset families
- Lives of our Ancestors, Part 1: Fresh off the boat
- Discussion

12:00 pm Lunch (Taco bar, \$12)

1:00 pm Family group photos

1:30 pm

- Lives of our Ancestors, Part 2: Gathering in 1908
- Farms and homes of the Immigrant Generation
- Lives of our Ancestors, Part 3: Epilogue
- Discussion

3:30 pm Optional activities (tentative list):

- Demonstration of drones that aid in modern farming
- Demonstration of what you can find on our website: [ZeissetGenealogy.org](http://ZeissetGenealogy.org)
- Games
- Hiking trails on Life's Finer Moments property
- Discussions with others on researching your own family story
- Visiting with family members in the comfortable spaces of the lodge

5:30 pm Supper (\$15)

6:30 pm Music or impromptu talent

Zeisset trivia contest

Tell your own stories of your grandparents, family traditions, games you played as children, genealogical quests, etc.

## **Sunday, August 30**

9:30 am Leonardville Methodist Cemetery (The cemetery is ½ mile east and ½ mile south of Leonardville)  
Memorial meditation starts at 9:45 am

10:15 am Coffee in Zeisset Hall, Leonardville Community Church, US 24 @ Colorado

11:00 am Service at the Leonardville Community Church

12:15 pm Visiting, family pictures, and set up for dinner

12:30 pm Dinner (\$25 per person, \$20 for ages 6-12)

1:30 pm to 3:30pm Recognition of families

Program:

- Family history in Germany
- Connections with other Zeisset families
- Finding our earliest ancestors