

Little Known Midwest Records and Where to Find Them

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Illinois Records:

➤..... *Family Research Files*. These family research files (referred to as the Local and Family History Vertical Files) have been donated to the Newberry Library by genealogists or their families. They include an eclectic mix of materials such as copies of original records, research notes, correspondence, newspaper clippings, personal diaries, and bibliographies. The surname indexes are online at: <http://www.newberry.org/genealogy/verticalfiles.html>

➤..... Illinois Genealogical Databases online:

a) IRAD:

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html>

b) Elgin/Kane County newspaper index:

<http://innovative.gailborden.info:82/>

c) Pape Funeral Home records in Danville; this database has over 275,000 records. The employees at Pape's are constantly adding new records to the database as well as updating existing records.

<http://www.papemortuary.com/database.asp>

d) Death records from all over Illinois:

<http://www.deathindexes.com/illinois/>

e) Some Illinois naturalization indexes: <http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/illinoisnat.html>

f) Illinois Newspaper Project

<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/inp/database.php> All microfilm produced for INP is made available through interlibrary loan.

g) Some Illinois biographies:

<http://geneasearch.com/biography/states/illinois.htm>

h) Biographies with Illinois connections:

<http://www.accessgenealogy.com/scripts/data/database.cgi?file=Data&report=BioLocation&pagename=1bio&SearchTerm=Illinois>

i) Gravestone pictures in Illinois: <http://illinoisgravestones.org/>

j) Federal Township Plats of Il1804-1891:

<http://landplats.ilsos.net/Flash/Welcome.html>

Indiana Records

➤ Indiana State Library has many online indexes including the state's largest newspaper collection. They have many newspapers on microfilm and an index of names and obituaries in Indianapolis newspapers since 1898. Their newspaper microfilms are available through interlibrary loan. As of June 2008 some were off the site due to technical difficulties but were expected to be up shortly. <http://www.in.gov/library/2306.htm>

➤ Some Indiana deaths and obituaries:

<http://www.deathindexes.com/indiana/>

➤ Indiana Naturalization records from before 1951 are being indexed at: http://www.state.in.us/serv/icpr_naturalization

➤ The Allen County Public Library has a collection second only to the Family History Library with many databases online:

<http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/>

Iowa Records

- Iowa Biographies Project-- This is a single entry point to Iowa biographies. There are currently over 16,900 biographies available at this site and links to over 12,000 biographies located at other Iowa project sites.
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~iabiog/>
- Iowa Gravestone Photo Project: Browse over 362,000 gravestone photo records from across the state of Iowa.
<http://iowagravestones.org/search.php?search=index>
- Iowa Genealogical Society database:
http://www.iowagenealogy.org/research_resources/index.htm
- IaGenWeb Genealogy Message Boards:
<http://iagenweb.org/state/countygrid.htm>
- WPA grave registration: 654,155 records within 82 Iowa counties <http://iowawpagraves.org/>

Kansas Records

- Kansas State Historical Society (great databases: <http://www.kshs.org/>) has an almost complete set of newspapers available through interlibrary loan: <http://www.kshs.org/library/news.htm>
- Kansas Biographies:
<http://www.kansasgenealogy.com/bios/index.htm>
- Kansas deaths and obituaries:
<http://www.deathindexes.com/kansas/index.html>
- Kansas GenWeb... excellent databases and some online books:
<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/>
- Kansas Cemeteries: <http://www.interment.net/us/ks/index.htm>

Michigan Records

- 1894 Michigan State Census; This document lists the names by ward, township, and county of United States Soldiers of the Civil War Residing in Michigan, June 1, 1894.
http://www.accessgenealogy.com/michigan/1894_state_census.htm
- The Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library began life as the private library of Clarence Monroe Burton. Realizing that Detroit's history was inextricably connected to that of Michigan and the Old Northwest and those histories to that of Canada and New France, he assembled a collection that was one of the most important private historical collections in the country. <http://www.detroit.lib.mi.us/index.htm>
- Michigan Biographical Index: <http://www.michlist.com/>
- Michigan Cemeteries:
<http://www.interment.net/us/mi/index.htm>
- Michigan digital census online: 1870:
<http://www.hal.state.mi.us/1870census/>
- Michigan Naturalization Index:
http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17449_18635_20684---,00.html
- Michigan Death Records, 1897-1920 will be digitized; all scanned images will be provided for FREE on the Library of Michigan's Web site when completed
- Michigan births 1867-1902, marriages 1868-1925, deaths 1867-1897 indexed and digitized: www.familysearchlabs.org

- Michigan Death Indexes:
<http://www.deathindexes.com/michigan/>
- Western Michigan Genealogical Databases:
<http://data.wmgs.org/>
- GENDIS has over 205,000 deaths from 1867-1885
<http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132--14297--,00.html>

Minnesota Records

- Minnesota Historical Society: <http://www.mnhs.org/genealogy/>.
- Naturalization records from district courts in all of Minnesota's remaining counties have been transferred to the Minnesota Historical Society Library. As records are microfilmed there, the films become available from the Minnesota Historical Society through interlibrary loan to public libraries.
- Minnesota Biographies Project:
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~froghursh2/Minnesota/mnpg.html>
- A list of Minnesota newspapers available through interlibrary loan is at: <http://collections.mnhs.org/newspapers/arsearch.html>
- Minnesota Tombstone Transcription Project:
http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cemetery/minnesota/?cj=1&o_xid=0001177077&o_lid=0001177077
- Dalby Database: Lots of information on Southern Minnesota families: <http://www.dalbydata.com/user.php?action=history>
- Minnesota Obituaries Project:
<http://www.usgwarchives.org/obits/mn/obitsmn.htm>
- Minnesota Death Certificate Index:
<http://people.mnhs.org/dci/Search.cfm?bhcp=1>
- Minnesota Birth Certificate Index:
<http://people.mnhs.org/bci/search.cfm?bhcp=1>

Missouri Records

- *Dictionary of Missouri Biography*:
<http://books.google.com/books?id=6gyxWHRLAWgC&dq=missouri+biography&pg=PP1&ots=D8Oorvm7bY&source=citation&sig=BVvKN2QsqQPYpdLRH6wtSEykM4&hl=en&prev=http://www.google.com/search%3Fhl%3Den%26q%3Dmissouri%2Bbiography&sa=X&oi=print&ct=result&cd=1&cad=bottom-3results#PPP1,M1>
- Missouri Cemeteries:
<http://www.interment.net/us/mo/index.htm>
- Missouri Naturalization Records:
<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/naturalization/>
- Missouri Death and Obituary Indexes:
<http://www.deathindexes.com/missouri/>
- Missouri Birth and Death Records Database, Pre-1910:
<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/birthdeath/>
- Missouri Newspapers:
<http://shs.umsystem.edu/newspaper/index.shtml>
- Missouri Probate Records:
<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/stlprobate/>
- Missouri Death Certificates 1910-1957:
<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/>

Nebraska Records

- Some online Nebraska records are at:
<http://www.deathindexes.com/nebraska/index.html>
- Some online cemetery records and gravestone pictures:
<http://nebraskagravestones.org/>
- Some Nebraska marriages arranged by county online at:
<http://www.idreamof.com/marriage/ne.html>
- The Nebraska State Historical Society has more than 35,000 rolls of Nebraska newspapers on microfilm dating from the territorial period to the present. <http://www.nebraskahistory.org/lib-arch/research/library/newspapr.htm>
- Some of the early and Territorial censuses for Nebraska are online at: <http://www.censusfinder.com/nebraska.htm>
- *Compendium of History Reminiscence and Biography of Nebraska*
http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ne/topic/resources/OLLibrary/Comp_NE/index.htm#Table%20of%20Contents

North Dakota Records

- The North Dakota Naturalization Records index database is complete for all North Dakota Counties and contains over 212,000 entries. It includes information regarding name; country of emigration; dates of "first papers" (declaration of intent) and "second papers" (naturalization) and the county district court where the proceedings occurred.
<http://www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/ndirs/databases/naturalrec.php>
- The State Historical Society of N.D. has an extensive newspaper collection which is available through interlibrary loan. One paper, *Frontier Scout*, is available online from a link at this URL:
<http://www.nd.gov/hist/newshome.htm#Kidder> They also have many genealogical records including extensive biographies:
<http://www.nd.gov/hist/sal.htm>
- The North Dakota Public Death Index 1881-present. You must search in 10 year increments or less; 1881-c.1924 is incomplete.
<https://secure.apps.state.nd.us/doh/certificates/deathCertSearch.htm>

Ohio Records

- Digitized and indexed death certificates 1908-1953 at
www.familysearchlabs.org
- Ohio Newspaper Index...The OHS contains the largest collection of Ohio's newspapers in existence-- 4,500 titles, 20,000 volumes, and almost 48,000 rolls of microfilm of Ohio titles. They are available for use at the Reading Room or through interlibrary loan. A complete list, including both filmed and un-filmed (original paper) titles available for use at the Ohio Historical Society's Archives/Library can be accessed at:
<http://web2.ohiohistory.org/ipac20/ipac.jsp?session=Q084DL293035347&profile=newspap&menu=search&ts=1084562930625#focus>
- John's Ohio Counties Genealogical Resources:
<http://www.rootexinc.net/OhioCounties.html>
- The Ohio State Library recently transferred their genealogical collection to the Columbus Metropolitan Library. Many wonderful resources are now available through them.
<http://www.columbuslibrary.org/ebranch/index.cfm?pageid=69&parentid=48>

- The Cleveland Public Library has several databases including a necrology file and obituary file that cover 1833 to the present.
<http://cpl.org/index.php?q=node/241>

South Dakota Records

- South Dakota Birth Records Search Site for dates over 100 years ago: <http://apps.sd.gov/applications/PH14Over100BirthRec/index.asp>
- The SD Tombstone transcription project:
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cemetery/southdakota/sdakota.html>
- The South Dakota State Historical Society has a large collection of newspapers which can be accessed through interlibrary loan:
http://www.sdhistory.org/arc/arc_npap.htm

Wisconsin Records

- The Wisconsin Historical Society has a fabulous website with several online databases that are searchable including births, marriages, deaths and obituaries. They have the second-largest collection of newspapers in the United States. Many, including all Wisconsin newspapers, are on microfilm and can be loaned to public libraries through interlibrary loan. Newspapers produced by German and other ethnic groups are especially valuable for research on residents of the state.
<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/genealogy/>
- Wisconsin Pioneer and Century Certificate Project. The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society issues pioneer certificates to anyone whose ancestors settled in Wisconsin by 1850 and century certificates to those who can document pre-1876 Wisconsin ancestry. The applications contain detailed family history information. The applications are at the Historical Society of Wisconsin and are filed by county. You can request a search and photocopies of information in this file.
- Browse the 1855, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905 Wisconsin State censuses digitized, not complete and currently not indexed:
www.familysearchlabs.org

Some general websites and collections that may be helpful in Midwest research:

- The premier website for research advice:
<https://wiki.familysearch.org>
- Always check the County and State USGENWEB sites as the most amazing collections can be found there. **Example:**
<http://www.lawrencecountyohio.com/>
- <http://interment.net> and <http://www.findagrave.com/> are excellent sources for burials and tombstone inscriptions.
- <http://www.cyndislist.com/> can help locate online records for specific states.

Excellent records are found at www.ancestry.com and www.footnote.com , both subscription websites which might be accessed at your local

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