

The Genealogy Center *at the* Allen County Public Library



The Genealogy Center is a remarkable family history destination for genealogists, historians, and others.

All are welcome – from child to senior citizen, from beginner to experienced researcher. The immense collection, featuring more than 1.2 million physical items and access to the largest and best databases, is complemented by an experienced staff committed to your research success and enjoyment.

As the collection continues to grow by more than 1,000 items per month, it's always a good time to browse our online catalog by surname, place, and topic.

Family Histories

Compiled family histories can provide clues and sources, if not specific information about one's family. The Center has more than 72,000 family histories browsable by principal surname or discoverable in our online catalog. The advantage to using the online catalog is that most surnames in a particular work are discoverable, not just the principal ones. Families from all over North America, the British Isles, and areas of Europe can be found in this collection.

Census Records and City Directories

Enumerations of all kinds are invaluable to genealogists as they look to discover their family stories. The Genealogy Center is rich in this significant type of record both in print and online, providing patrons with access to tens of millions of enumeration images. Major census collections include the following:

- All United States federal census schedules including agricultural, Indian (First Nations), mortality, and slave
- State and territorial census records
- Town and local enumerations
- Largest collection of Polk and other city and county directories
- State bluebooks and manuals
- School and college yearbooks from across the United States

Passenger Lists and Naturalization Records

Access to extensive indices as well as images of actual documents for North American passenger lists, immigration records, and naturalization papers are readily available in the Genealogy Center. Many millions of record images are presented on the numerous online databases available for customer use. These records and indices include National Archives passenger lists and naturalization records as well as marque works such as *Germans to America, 1840-1897* and P. William Filby's *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index*. Most of all the sources referenced in Filby's seminal work are available in the Center's collection.

Military Records

In every generation, from colonial times until present day, there exists the possibility that a family member provided military service. The Genealogy Center's military collection reflects this significance. Many thousands of company, regimental, and division histories, as well as state adjutant general reports and general histories, make up the print collection. The Center also provides customers with access to some of the largest and best military databases.

Military records are so important in family history research that The Genealogy Center maintains an "Our Military Heritage" section on its website at www.GenealogyCenter.info/military. This section is devoted to posting original letters and diaries, copies of official records, and vital compilations that detail units, engagements, and individuals who served. We grow this collection by donations of records and scans from our patrons.

U.S. Local Records & Special Collections

More than 372,000 printed volumes containing the history and records of town and counties across the United States are testimony to the Center's efforts to comprehensively collect U.S. genealogy and local history publications. County and town histories, enumerations of all types, vital, cemetery, church, court, land, probate, and naturalization records, as well as yearbooks, directories, lineage society publications can all be identified in the online catalog and easily accessed on open shelves.

Several important manuscript resources, and record series of regional or national scope, are available for customer use, and include the following:

- *American Home Missionary Society Papers, 1816-1894*
- *American Missionary Association Manuscripts, 1839-1882*
- *American State Papers & U.S. Serial Set (Gov. Docs.)*
- *Bexar Archives (TX & Mexico)*
- Colonial newspapers from MD, PA, and VA
- *Draper Manuscript Collection & Shane Papers*
- Library of Congress Land Ownership Maps
- *New England Women and Their Families*
- *Pamphlets in American History*
- *Robert R. Livingston Papers (NY)*
- *Southern Women and Their Families*



Native American/ First Nations Records

Both The Genealogy Center's collection and the Main Library's collection are rich with resources for the researcher of Native American and First Nations history and life. Tens of thousands of print materials and key online resources are accessible in the Center. A best first step in using these materials is to identify them and their associated guides through the Center's "Native American Gateway." To learn more, visit www.GenealogyCenter.info/NativeAmerican.

African American Records

The Genealogy Center's collection of African American records and resources, as well as online data, is among the best in the country. Rated among the top 100 African American genealogy websites, the Center's "African American Gateway," can be found at www.GenealogyCenter.info/AfricanAmerican.

It lists the collection's extensive print resources in tandem with thousands of relevant websites. Organized primarily by location, this resource is available 24-7 without cost. Other important resources include the following:

- *Black Biographical Dictionaries 1790-1950*
- All federal census slave schedules for 1850 and 1860
- *Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War & Records of Southern Plantations from Emancipation to the Great Migration*
- Records of the Freedmen's Bureau (1865-1870), Freedmen's Savings & Trust Co. (1865-74), Freedmen's Aid Society (1866-1932), and Freedmen's Hospital (1872-1910)
- *Pennsylvania Abolition Society Papers*
- *Race, Slavery, and Free Black* (various series, 1775-1867)
- *Slavery in Ante-Bellum Southern Industries*
- *State Slavery Statutes*
- African American Historical Newspapers

Canadian Records

The Genealogy Center is also home to a significant collection of Canadiana. Print sources include local histories, cemetery records, and almost all available published French Canadian parish registers and marriage repertoires. The five Canadian snapshots under the Pathfinders tab of The Center's website, as well as the online catalog, will provide specific information about coverage and particular sources. Some collection highlights include the following:

- All published or microfilmed censuses from 1666
- Passenger Lists – Halifax (1881-1919) and Quebec (1865-1919)
- *Loiselle Marriage Index* (1640-1963) and Supplement
- *Drouin Collection* of church and notarial records 1602 – 1940s
- *Quebec Non-Catholic Registers* (1768-1941) and Index
- Ontario Birth (1869-1901), Death (1869-1926), and Marriage (1869-1916) Indexes
- *Ontario Archives Land Record Index*, 1780s-1914
- *Biographical Scrapbooks, Toronto*, 1911-67
- *Prince Edward Island Master Name Index 1700s-1900s*

British Isles

A complement to the Center's North American focus is a very significant collection of volumes from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The Irish materials available to researchers are particularly rich and deep, highlighted by the resources below.

- 1798 Rebellion Papers
- *Griffith's Valuation* and the *Tithe Applotment Books*
- 19th Century Irish Census Fragments
- *Ordnance Survey Maps of Ireland* (6-inch series)
- *Spinning Wheel Surname Index*, 1796
- *Biographical Notices of Cork & Kerry*, 1756-1827
- *Index to Biographical Notices in the Newspapers of Limerick, Ennis, Clonmel & Waterford*, 1758-1821
- *Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilization*

Further Information can be found online at GenealogyCenter.org under the "International" link of the Pathfinders tab.

Germany

Family historians with interest in German research and Germanic ancestors will find numerous guides, maps, emigration records and compiled genealogies for the nobility and middle class including *Deutsches Geschlechterbuch*, many *Ortsippenbuch* (local records) volumes, and *Siebmacher's Grossem Allgemeinen Wappenbuch* (local records) in the print collection. Consult the Genealogy Center's online "German and Germanic" subject snapshot for additional collection details.

Other Countries

Numerous other countries and ethnic groups are represented in the Center's print and online sources. The Genealogy Center has an extremely significant collection of research materials from South Africa. K.G. Saur's *Biographical Archives*, providing easy access to 10 million sketches on more than 5 million individuals throughout the world, is exemplary of many unique jewels in the collection.

Periodicals

The Genealogy Center holds one of the largest English language genealogy and local history periodical collections in the world, with thousands of current subscriptions and more than 10,000 titles. Individual articles can be accessed through a variety of indexes including the *PERiodical Source Index* (PERSI), compiled by Center staff and now available for free on the Genealogy Center website.

Online Databases

Valuable online genealogical sources are available when you visit, and include access to Ancestry, AmericanAncestors, FindMyPast, Fold3, MyHeritage, and Newspapers.com. Our own GenealogyCenter.org website provides access to a growing number of databases for a variety of states as well as for Allen County and Fort Wayne, IN.

Genealogy Endowment Fund

The Allen County community and its library have invested significant resources to develop and maintain this stellar research collection. Its future growth and viability requires cooperative partnerships and wide-ranging support. We welcome donations to the Genealogy Endowment Fund as part of these efforts. Contributors to this fund demonstrate in a tangible and meaningful way support for the Genealogy Center, ensuring its tradition of excellence for the benefit of future family historians everywhere.

Complementary Collections at the Allen County Public Library

The Genealogy Center's strengths are enhanced by the library's other significant collections of biographical sources, government documents, legal references, Native American first-hand accounts and early American travel and exploration accounts. All of these can be identified in the library's online catalog. We are also a FamilySearch Affiliate Library which provides our patrons with access to digitized records from all over the world.



Life Stories Center & Discovery Center

Our Life Stories initiative is an engaging program of recording, preserving, and presenting our community's oral history. The Life Stories Center is a place where individuals can be mentored in the art of interviewing as well as a place where interviews can be comfortably conducted. More information can be found at www.GenealogyCenter.info/LifeStories. The Discovery Center is a meeting space where genealogists can participate in programs offered by Genealogy Center staff and other experts, hold meetings and work sessions, and have collaborative work space.

When You Visit

Preparing in advance will make your research trip much more productive and enjoyable. Visit the Center's website for access to the online catalog and microtext catalog as well as any news that may affect your research visit. Librarians experienced in genealogical research are always on duty to answer your questions. Feel free to come with family and friends, or your local genealogical society – groups have a great time sharing and learning together. If you have questions, please email us at genealogy@acpl.info.

Open hours are:

Monday-Thursday 9:00 am to 9:00 pm
Friday-Saturday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Sunday 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm



Allen County Public Library
900 Library Plaza
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

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