

Doing a Genealogical Search

Digging Up Your Roots

Racine Public Library
Adult Reference Services
262-636-9217

75 Seventh Street
racinelibrary.info

Racine, Wisconsin 53403
Interlibrary Loan Office
262-636-9299

Before You Begin

Each genealogical search is as unique as your family itself. Such a search requires patience, investigative skills, and a bit of luck. Racine Public Library has a limited number of resources, but many items can be borrowed for you from other libraries through interlibrary loan. Please consult the reference librarians for assistance.

I. How to Search

The following books and manuals, owned by the Racine Public Library, provide an overview of methods and sources to use in your search.

929.1 B945B Burroughs, Tony
Black roots: a beginners guide to tracing the African American family tree

929.1 R7202C2 Rose, Christine
The complete idiots guide to genealogy

929.1072 R494F Rising, Marsha Hoffman
The family tree problem solver: proven methods for scaling the inevitable brick wall

929.1 AL53F Allen, Desmond Walls
First steps in genealogy: a beginner's guide to researching your family history

929.1 W527F Westin, Jeane Eddy
Finding your roots: how to trace your ancestors at home and abroad.

929.1 K329F Kempthorne, Charley
For all time: a complete guide to writing your family history

921.1 C886 Croom, Emily Anne
The genealogist's companion & sourcebook

929.1 B464G Best, Laura
Genealogy for the first time: research your family history

929.1 G859R3 Greenwood, Val D.
The researcher's guide to American genealogy

929.1 C21O Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo
Organizing your family history search: efficient and effective ways to gather and protect your genealogical research

929.1 B326SN Baugrud, Kim
Searching for your family

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I. How to Search
(continued)

929.1 H877T Hull, Lise
Tracing your family history: the complete guide to locating you ancestors and finding out where you came from

929.1 C882U4 Croom, Emily Anne
Unpuzzling your past: the best –selling basic guide to genealogy

II. Racine and Racine County Sources

RACINE & RACINE COUNTY BIOGRAPHICAL & HISTORICAL RECORDS

The Racine Public Library also owns several books that examine resources available in Racine and Racine County.

R 920 B392 (Ask at Reference Desk) Beers, J.H. & Co.
Commemorative biographical record of prominent and representative men of Racine and Kenosha counties, Wisconsin, containing biographical sketches of business and professional men and of many of the early settled families

OS 977.596 G769 (Reference and Circulating)
The Grassroots history of Racine County

977.596 C67HI Colbo, Ella Stratton
Historic Heg Memorial Park: photographic views and brief historical sketches of the outstanding points of interest in and about Heg Memorial Park, Racine County, Wisconsin

977.596 B982H Butterfield, Consul Willshire
The history of Racine and Kenosha Counties, Wisconsin

Wisconsin Collection
920 P838BI (Ask at Reference Desk) Bailey, Sturges W., Mrs.
Index to portrait and biographical album of Racine & Kenosha Counties, Wisconsin

R 920 P838 (Ask at Reference Desk)
Portrait and biographical album of Racine and Kenosha Counties, Wisconsin, containing biographical sketches of prominent and representative citizens

977.596 ST72 (Also J 977.596 RAC) Stone, Fanny S.
Racine, belle city of the lakes, and Racine County, Wisconsin: a record of settlement, organization, progress and achievement

940.3 H125R Haight, Walter L.
Racine County in the World War: a history

R 929.3 B41SOR Belden, Elvera K.
Sources for local and family history research, Racine County, Wisconsin

Racine Collection
929.3 B41SR (Ask at Reference Desk) Belden, Elvera K.
Suggested sources for genealogical researching in Racine County, Wisconsin

RACINE AND RACINE COUNTY PLAT MAPS AND DIRECTORIES

Racine Collection

R 912.775 AT65A OS 1931 (Ask at Reference Desk)

Atlas and plat book, Racine County, Wisconsin : compiled from surveys and the public records of Racine, Count Wisconsin

Racine Collection

917.75 Sm55R (Ask at Reference Desk) Smith, Edgar

Business and farmers' directory of Racine and Kenosha Counties for 1897-98: containing a list of post offices, a list of farmers, also a classified business directory of both counties.

R 917.75 C679 (1980-1995, 1997) (Ask at Reference Desk)

Cole's cross reference directory, Racine, Wisconsin

917.75 R11 (Also, reference copies Ask at Reference Desk)

Racine city directory: including Wind Point—1850-2006

Microfilm (Ask at Reference Desk)

Racine County census for 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930

R 917.75 R1155R

Racine county directory, including directories of the villages, lakes, and farm and rural homes of Racine County.

Microfilm (Ask at Reference Desk)

Racine Journal Times

Microfilm (Ask at Reference Des)

Sanborn fire insurance maps - Wisconsin.

Reel #21 includes Racine. Five map collections for Racine include: January 1887, 1894, 1908, 1933, 1949

Microfilm (Ask at Reference Desk)

Wisconsin State census for 1855, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905.

III. Sources Beyond the Racine Public Library Collections

The Racine Heritage Museum and the UW-Parkside Area Archives and Research Center have genealogical and historical records you may wish to consult. The Wisconsin Historical Society Archives is also an excellent source for genealogical research and we highly recommend that you visit there, since most of their genealogical holdings cannot be borrowed through interlibrary loan. The Church of the Latter Day Saints has libraries in Kenosha and Hales Corners which will also assist you in your search.

Birth, Death and Adoption Resources

R 312 AG31 1990

Age search information

R 304.6021 K32I4 (Ask at Reference)

Kemp, Thomas Jay

International vital records handbook

R 304.6021 W574 1999 (Ask at Reference Desk)

Where to write for vital records: births, deaths, marriages, and divorces

Census and Newspaper Records

R 929.373 Am35A4

Heritage Quest

R 929.373 L143S

Lainhart, Ann S.

State census records

Microfilm Roll #1 (Ask at Reference Desk)

Wisconsin Territorial Census: 1836, 1838, 1842

Microfilm Roll #2 (Ask at Reference Desk)

Wisconsin Territorial Census: 1846

Microfilm Roll #3 (Ask at Reference Desk)

Wisconsin Territorial Census: 1847

See also the listings for Heritagequest online and Ancestry.com in the section on Genealogy on the Internet

Immigration, Land, Deed, Military, and Probate Records

929.1 T268A

Tepper, Michael

American passenger arrival records: a guide to the records of immigrants arriving at American ports by sail and steam

R 929.3 B446G4

Bentley, Elizabeth Petty

The genealogist's address book

929.1 C245SLR

Carter, Fran

Searching American land and deed records

929.1 C245SM2

Carter, Fran

Searching American military records

929.1 C245SPR

Carter, Fran

Searching American probate records

National Resources

026.9291 P226G3R Parker, J. Carlyle
Going to Salt Lake City to do family history research

R 016.929 UN3G United States, National Archives and Records Service
Guide to genealogical research in the National Archives

929.1072 N249L Neagles, James C.
The Library of Congress: a guide to genealogical and historical research

IV. Genealogy on the Internet

929.10285 M132C McClure, Rhonda
The complete idiot's guide to online genealogy

929.10285 H839C Howells, Cyndi
Cyndi's list: a comprehensive list of 40,000 genealogy sites on the Internet

929.10285 M459D McClure, Rhonda R.
Digitizing your family history: easy methods for preserving your heirloom documents, photos, home movies and more in a digital format

929.2 M132G McClure, Rhonda R.
The genealogist's computer companion

929.1 K32G Kemp, Thomas Jay
The genealogist's virtual library: full-text books on the World Wide Web

929.10285 F646G Flinn, Cherri Melton
Genealogy basics online: a step-by-step introduction to finding your ancestors through the Internet

929.10285 C886G5 Crowe, Elizabeth Powell
Genealogy online

929.1 H368G3 Helm, Matthew L.
Genealogy online for dummies

929.10285 R543G Roberts, Ralph
Genealogy via the Internet: tracing your family roots quickly and easily: computerized genealogy in plain English

929.10285 W697P Wilson, Richard S.
Publishing your family history on the Internet

V. Web Sites

www.CyndisList.com

This web site has more than 200,000 links to genealogy web sites.

www.wisconsinhistory.org

The Wisconsin Historical Society's website has a link for "genealogy." From there, you can search more than 150,000 Wisconsin obituaries and biographical sketches, browse historic Wisconsin images from the 19th and 20th centuries, search 16,000 historical and biographical articles, and much more.

www.genhomepage.com

The Genealogy Home Page gathers links for more than 4,000 genealogy web sites on many topics.

www.ancestry.com

This site says it has the largest collection of family history records on the web. Offers a 14 day free trial otherwise fee based searching.

www.lakeshores.lib.wi.us click on the HeritageQuest online link (library card number needed)

This site is available free to residents of the Lakeshores Library system. Consult a reference librarian for information regarding access to this site, which includes a complete set of U.S. Census records from 1790 - 1930, over 25,000 family and local history books, and information about people and places from an index to over 1.9 million genealogy and local history articles.