

# PERSI Explorer: Tracing Your Roots using the Periodical Source Index

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PERSI is available on The Genealogy Center website: [www.genealogycenter.info/persi/](http://www.genealogycenter.info/persi/)

The PERiodical Source Index, PERSI, is a subject index of more than 8,000 historical and genealogical magazine (a.k.a. periodical) titles, covering the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, and Australia. The periodicals include articles, indexes, abstracts, and transcriptions to materials.

The articles are indexed primarily by location, subject categories and/or record types, which include church records, court records, deeds, military, probate, vital records, and much more. With more than 3.1 million entries, PERSI is the one place to locate historical and genealogical articles on a variety of locations and records.

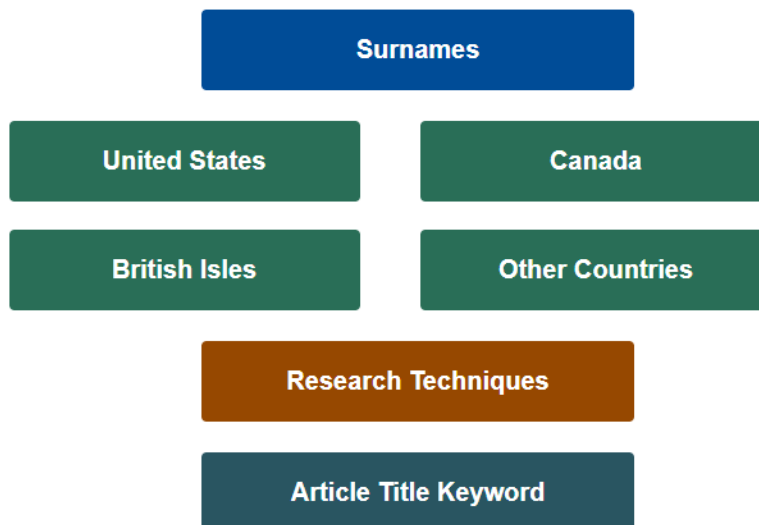
## Why Periodicals?

- May miss up to one third of source materials, leads, record copies, transcriptions, indices and the like if we ignore data in periodical literature.
- Using periodicals supports the first point of the Genealogical Proof Standard—reasonably exhaustive research has been completed.

## Periodical Source Index

PERSI is the premier subject index for genealogy and local history periodicals, and is produced by the staff of The Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library. This valuable resource provides more than 3 million citations to readily-available periodical sources.

Click a button below to start searching for articles.



## Surnames

- One can filter large surname search results by keying state abbreviations, key words, dates and the like in the “Search Article Title” search box at the bottom of “Article Title” column.

## Research Technique

- A dropdown menu provides one with the record types used in PERSI, and the ability to quickly identify articles in each of the twenty-three (23) categories.

## Article Title Keyword

- One can keyword search across the entire PERSI database. This is only recommended for real specific terms. Broad terms will compromise the speed of getting search results.

## Locations: United States, Canada, British Isles, and Other Countries

- Filtering a particular category of search results can be accomplished by keying locations, record descriptions, key words, etc. in the “Search Article Title” search box beneath the “Article Title” column.
- Once a location is chosen, a subject list will be available:

# Periodical Source Index: Location Search

[PERSI](#) > [Location Search: USA](#) > [AZ](#) > [Graham County](#)

Category	Number of Articles
<a href="#">Apache</a>	3
<a href="#">Biography</a>	2
<a href="#">Cemeteries</a>	1
<a href="#">Census Records</a>	1
<a href="#">Church Records</a>	3
<a href="#">Comanche</a>	1
<a href="#">Court Records</a>	4
<a href="#">History</a>	56
<a href="#">Indian Wars</a>	2
<a href="#">Institutions</a>	1
<a href="#">Land Records</a>	3
<a href="#">Maps</a>	3
<a href="#">Military Records</a>	8
<a href="#">Native American</a>	2
<a href="#">Other Records (Misc)</a>	4
<a href="#">School records</a>	12
<a href="#">Surname</a>	12
<a href="#">Vital Records</a>	1
<a href="#">World War I</a>	1

- Within the subject, search results page:
  - Article title
  - Periodical title
  - Publication year
  - Publisher

## Periodical Source Index: Location Search

PERSI > Location Search: USA > AZ > Graham County > Other Records (Misc)

[Click here](#) to order articles. (Will open in new tab.)

Show  entries Search:

Article Title ▲	Periodical ⇅	Year Published ⇅	Publisher ⇅
Graham county history and research	<b>Family Connections</b> Vol. 4, Issue 2 (Sum 1987) ACPL Call #: 979.1 F21f	1987	<b>Family History Society of Arizona</b> P.O. Box 63094 Phoenix, AZ 85082-3094
Safford photos, early 20th C.	<b>Journal of Graham County History</b> Vol. 6, Issue 1 (1970) ACPL Call #: 979.101 G76jo	1970	<b>Graham County Historical Society</b> POB 127 Safford, AZ 85548
Sheriffs, 1881-1968	<b>Journal of Graham County History</b> Vol. 4, Issue 1 (1968) ACPL Call #: 979.101 G76jo	1968	<b>Graham County Historical Society</b> POB 127 Safford, AZ 85548
Solomonville baseball team photo, 1898	<b>Journal of Graham County History</b> Vol. 6, Issue 1 (1970) ACPL Call #: 979.101 G76jo	1970	<b>Graham County Historical Society</b> POB 127 Safford, AZ 85548
<input type="text" value="Search Article Title"/>	<input type="text" value="Search Periodical"/>	<input type="text" value="Search Year Published"/>	<input type="text" value="Search Publisher"/>

### Tips for Searching PERSI

Tips and considerations when searching PERSI.

- Search using a variety of terms and abbreviations.
- Consider abbreviations such as:
  - England – Eng.
  - Ireland – Ire.
  - Germany – Ger.
  - Company – co.
  - Baptist – Bapt.
  - Protestant – Prot.
  - Methodist – Meth.
  - Biography – bio.
  - Selected – sel.
  - Cemeteries – cem.
  - Family – fam.
  - History – hist.
- Consider word use such as:
  - Woman / Women
  - Railroad / Railway / R.R.
  - Photos / Pictures
- Surnames were only indexed when an article was entirely based on a particular surname.
- **PERSI is not an every surname index.**
- Towns were not always indexed.
- Keyword search options:
  - The search box at the top of your search results searches all four columns at once.
  - There are additional search boxes at the bottom of the list that allows you to filter your results down by searching in each individual column.

- If you are wanting to filter your results down to a location, type the beginning part of the location or the location's abbreviation.
  - Example: Type NY in a search box to see articles that mention New York in the title or type Ind in a search box to see articles that mention Indiana in the title. Beware, this can bring up other results with those letters (i.e. WILliam for IL).
- If you are wanting to filter your results down to a specific timeframe, type the beginning part of a year to filter it down.
  - Example: Type 185 in a search box to see articles that mention the 1850s in the title.

### **Strength of PERSI**

- Access to millions of articles that have a wealth of information from a variety of organizations across the globe concerning genealogical and historical records.
- **With the citation from PERSI, you can obtain articles in a variety of different ways:**
  - Visit The Genealogy Center and pull every article of interest from the original materials indexed into PERSI.
  - Contact the Publisher to see if they would be willing to share a copy of the article. This can sometimes be the fastest way to obtain an article.
  - Search your local library and/or archives to see if the periodical title, volume and issue is available. Use [www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org) to see if there are any copies locally.
  - Check with the publisher to see if they have copies available.
  - Request a copy of the article by using the PERSI Order Form: <https://www.genealogycenter.info/pdf/Article-ORDER-FORM.pdf> [Using current fee structure: \$7.50 (up to and including 6 articles) plus \$0.20 per page (not charged for periodical cover / title pages).]
    - Articles we cannot copy:
      - Any periodical published in Europe.

<b>Article ORDER FORM</b>				
Name _____				
Address _____ _____				
Email _____				
<p>To obtain copies of periodical articles contact The Genealogy Center (Genealogy@ACPL.Info). Send this form describing the articles to be copied, provide the full article title from PERSI and the name of the journal. Request only six articles at a time separately. <b>The charge is \$7.50 for each order form (up to and including 6 articles), pre-paid to ACPLF. Once the order is completed, \$0.20 per page copied will be billed to you. Requests not accepted by phone. Please allow 6-8 weeks.</b></p>				
Title of Article: _____				
Title of Journal: _____				
Call #:	Vol:	No:	Mon:	Yr: