

RESEARCH IN INDIANA CHURCH RECORDS (updated 2022)

John D. Beatty, CG®

- . Importance of congregational records
 - Alternative source for public vital records
 - Additional information about ancestors outside of public records
 - Status/problems within the church
 - World view/politics of church tells a lot about ancestor
2. Common fallacies about church records and ancestral religion
3. Common steps for beginning research:
 - Survey all relevant documents from home/family sources, ie. Bibles, certificates
 - Expand search to Internet and websites
 - Research in a genealogy library, historical society, or denominational archives
 - Contact the church itself directly, if you can identify it (problem w/ mergers, defunct churches)
4. Sources for finding the Denomination and Congregation (county histories, obits, cemetery records, directories, marriage licenses, archival guides, PERSI)
5. Etiquette (church records are not public records)
6. Sacramental church registers (Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed, & Episcopal)
7. Mainline Protestant denominational records (some parish registers, always meeting minutes, membership lists) Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Congregational

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Guides

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Morton, Sunny Jane. *How to Find Your Ancestors in U.S. Church Records: A Guidebook*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2019.

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Suelflow, August R. *Preliminary Guide to Church Records Repositories*. St. Louis: Society of American Archivists, 1969.

Selected Denominational Histories and Sources

Alerding, Herman. *Diocese of Fort Wayne: A Book of Historical Reference 1669-1907*. Fort Wayne: Archer Printing Co., 1907.

_____. *History of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Vincennes*. Indianapolis: Carlon & Hollenback, 1883.

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Booth, Joyce Marks. *History of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis 1838-1988*. Indianapolis: Diocese of Indianapolis, 1988.

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Brethren Encyclopedia. 3 vols. Philadelphia: Brethren Encyclopedia Inc., 1983.

Cauble, Commodore Wesley. *Disciples of Christ in Indiana: Achievements of a Century*. Indianapolis: Meigs Publishing Co., 1930.

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_____. *List of All the Friends Meetings That Exist or Ever Have Existed in Indiana*. Indianapolis: John Wollman Press, 1961.

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- Minert, Roger P. *German Immigrants in American Church Records*. Rockport, ME: Picton Press, 2005. Volume 1: Indiana Protestant.
- Mohon, Timothy. *Hoosier Baptist Church Records, 1809-2006: A Roster of Indiana Associations with an Inventory of the Published Proceedings by Repository and a List of Associational Minutes Printed in the Annual Proceedings of the Indiana Baptist Convention*. <https://indianahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/Hoosier-Baptist-Records-Roster-1.pdf>
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Archival Addresses

African Methodist Episcopal:

African Methodist Episcopal Church Archives, 500 8th Ave. South, Nashville, TN 37203.

<https://www.amehistoryinthemaking.com/the-a-m-e-church-history>

Baptist:

Indiana Baptist Collection, Franklin College Library, 101 Branigin Blvd., Franklin, IN 46131-2623.

<http://library.franklincollege.edu/>

Brethren/Church of the Brethren (Dunkers):

Brethren Historical Collection, Funderburg Library, Manchester University, 604 E. College Ave., North Manchester, IN 46962. <https://www.manchester.edu/OAA/Library/Archives/index.aspx?collection=bc>

Catholic:

University of Notre Dame Archives, 607 Hesburgh Library, Notre Dame, IN 46556

<http://archives.nd.edu/>

Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Archives, 915 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802.

<https://diocesefwsb.org/diocesan-archives/>

Archdiocese of Indianapolis Archives, Xavier Building, PO Box 1410, Indianapolis, IN 46206

<https://www.archindy.org/archives/>

Diocese of Evansville, PO Box 4169, Evansville, IN 47724-0169.

<http://www.evdio.org/chancellor.html>

Diocese of Gary, 9292 Broadway, Merrillville, IN 46419

<https://www.dcgary.org/>

Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, PO Box 260, Lafayette, IN 47902-0260.

<https://dol-in.org/diocesan-directory>

Church of God:

Archives, Nicholson Library, Anderson University, 1100 E. Fifth St., Anderson, IN 46012

<https://library.anderson.edu/archives>

Congregational (now part of United Church of Christ):

Congregational Library and Archives, 14 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108

<http://www.congregationallibrary.org/>

Disciples of Christ/Christian Church

Christian Theological Seminary Collection, 1000 W. 42nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46208.

<https://cts.libguides.com/c.php?g=167447&p=7613397>

Disciples of Christ Historical Society, 1101 19th S., Nashville, TN 37212

<https://www.discipleshistory.org/>

Episcopal (Protestant Episcopal):

Archives of the Episcopal Church, PO Box 2247, Austin, TX 78786

www.episcopalarchives.org

Diocese of Indianapolis Archives, 1100 W. 42nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46208

www.indydio.org

Diocese of Northern Indiana Archives, c/o Trinity Episcopal Church, 611 W. Berry St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802.

<https://ednin.org/archives>

Evangelical Covenant (Swedish):

Covenant Archives & Historical Library, 3225 W. Foster Ave., Chicago, IL 60625.

<https://www.northpark.edu/archives/collections/covenant-archives-and-historical-library/>

Free Methodist:

Marston Memorial Historical Center, Box 375002, Indianapolis, IN 46253-5002

<https://fmcusa.org/ministries/marston-memorial-historical-center>

Jewish:

American Jewish Archives, 3101 Clifton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45220

<http://americanjewisharchives.org>

Indiana Jewish Historical Society, 5743 Wilkie Dr., No. 1, Fort Wayne, IN 46804. Archival material for this society is housed at the Indiana Historical Society, 450 W. Ohio St., Indianapolis, IN 46202.

<http://www.ijhs.org/>

Lutheran:

ELCA Region 6 Archives, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, 2199 E. Main St., Columbus, OH 43209-2334

<https://www.capital.edu/elca-region-6-archives/>

Missouri Synod: Concordia Historical Institute, Dept. of Archives & History, 804 Seminary Pl., St. Louis, MO 63105-3014. <https://concordiahistoricalinstitute.org>

Wisconsin Synod: WELS Center for Mission and Ministry, M16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive, Waukesha, WI 53188 <https://wels.net/about-wels/history/wels-archives/>

Mennonite:

Archives of the Mennonite Church, Goshen College, 1700 S. Main St., Goshen, IN 46526
<https://www.goshen.edu/mhl/>

Missionary Church:

Missionary Church Archives, Bethel University, 1001 Bethel Circle, Mishawaka, IN 46545.
<https://bethelindiana.libguides.com/c.php?g=1058600>

Presbyterian:

Duggan Library, Hanover College, PO Box 287, Hanover, IN 47243
<https://library.hanover.edu/research/search.php>
Presbyterian Historical Society, 425 Lombard St., Philadelphia, PA 19147-1516
<https://www.history.pcusa.org/>

Quaker (Society of Friends):

Earlham College Library, 801 National Road, Richmond, IN 47374-4095.
<https://library.earlham.edu/ecarchives/>

Reformed Church in America:

RCA Archives, 21 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
<https://www.rca.org/about/history/archives/>

Christian Reformed Church:

Hekman Library, Heritage Hall, 1855 Knollcrest Circle SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546
https://library.calvin.edu/guide/collections/hh/crc_archives

Evangelical Synod of North America:

Luhr Library, Eden Theological Seminary, 475 E. Lockwood Ave., St. Louis, MO 63119
<https://www.eden.edu/the-archives-at-eden-theological-seminary/>

United Brethren in Christ:

United Brethren Historical Center, Huntington University, 2303 College Ave., Huntington, IN 46750.
<https://www.huntington.edu/united-brethren-historical-center-1>

United Methodist:

Special Collections, Roy O. West Library, DePauw University, 11 E. Larabee St., Greencastle, IN 46135
<https://www.depauw.edu/libraries/about/librarylocations/archives/methodism/>

Wesleyan:

Indiana Wesleyan University, Jackson Library, 4201 S. Washington St., Marion, IN 46953
<https://www.indwes.edu/adult-graduate/locations/marion/library-services>