

# Tracking Illinois Ancestors: Repositories and Websites

by Sara Allen

## I. Print resources:

- Szucs, Loretto. *Chicago and Cook County: a Guide to Research*. Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry, 1996. 977.301 C77SZAA
- Walsh, Dianne. *Research in Illinois*. Arlington, Va.: National Genealogical Society, c2007. 977.3 W16R

## II. Government websites:

- Bureau of Land Management, *General Land Office*. Search Federal land records, <<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>>
- *Cook County Clerk*. Order birth, marriage, and death records. <https://genealogy.cookcountyclerk.il.gov/> or <https://www.cookcountyclerk.com/service/genealogy-records>
- Cook County Clerk of Court, *Naturalization Index*. <http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org/nr/>
- *IRAD (Illinois Regional Archives Depository)* Visit or request free research by mail from IL county and city records. <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/IRAD/home.html>
- *Illinois Department of Health*. Order birth and death records, post-1915. <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/birth-death-other-records>
- *Illinois State Archives*. Online indexes, finding aids, and records of state agencies. <<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/>>
- *National Archives, Chicago Branch*. Finding aids and online order forms for federal records from IL and other surrounding states including naturalizations <<http://www.archives.gov/chicago/>>
- *United States Citizenship and Immigration Services*. Copies of naturalization records, 1906-1956. <https://www.uscis.gov/records/genealogy>

## III. Ethnic Organizations:

- *The Afro-American Genealogical and Historical Society of Chicago*, <http://www.aaghsc.org/>
- *The Czech & Slovak American Genealogy Society of Illinois*. Research library in Chicago. <<http://www.csagsi.org/>>
- *Polish Genealogical Society of America*. Polish newspaper obituary indexes and more. <https://pgsa.org/>
- *Polish Museum of America*, Archives and library in Chicago. <https://www.polishmuseumofamerica.org/library/>
- *Swenson Center*, Augustana University. US and Swedish records for Swedish-American immigrants. <https://www.augustana.edu/swenson>
- *Swedish American Archives of Greater Chicago*, North Park University <http://library.northpark.edu/archives/collections/swedish-american-archives-greater-chicago>

## IV. Libraries:

- *Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library*. Manuscript collections, Obituary Index and newspaper microfilm. <https://www2.illinois.gov/alplm/library/Pages/default.aspx>
- *Allen County Public Library, The Genealogy Center*. <http://www.genealogycenter.org/>
- *Chicago History Museum* (formerly Chicago Historical Society) Research Center. City directories, newspapers, architectural drawings, artifacts, and much more. <<http://libguides.chicagohistory.org/research>>
- *Chicago Public Library, Harold Washington Library*: Newspapers, City directories, county histories, and more, < <http://www.chipublib.org/>>
- *Illinois State Library*. <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/home.html>
- *Newberry Library*. City directories online, maps, church records, finding aids, and more, <<http://www.newberry.org/>>

## V. Websites:

- *Encyclopedia of Chicago*. Chicago History Museum's online, reputable, free encyclopedia. <http://encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/>
- *Family Search Books*. View digitized books from FHL and other library collections. <https://books.familysearch.org/>
- *Family Search Catalog*. Search the catalog of the Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City, UT. Many records online and viewable at a Family History Center or Affiliate (ACPL is an affiliate) <https://familysearch.org/catalog-search>
- *Family Search Records*. Search indexes and browse digital records for Illinois. Includes Chicago Catholic records (browse); IL birth, marriage and death indexes, IL probate records (browse), and more Search all records at: <https://www.familysearch.org/search/hr/search/> or browse all collections at: <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list>
- *Family Search Wiki*. Learn how-tos and research tips about Illinois and Chicago (and other places). [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main\\_Page](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page)
- *Illinois Digital Archives*. Online digital collections from across the state. <http://www.idaillinois.org/>
- *Illinois Digital Newspaper Collections*. Free online digital newspapers for some counties/years. <https://idnc.library.illinois.edu/>
- *Illinois Newspaper Project*. Index to newspaper holdings statewide. <http://www.library.illinois.edu/inp/database.php>
- *Internet Archive*. pre-1924 digital books, city directories, microfilm. <https://archive.org/>
- Find libraries, archives, societies in any US location. <https://www.raogk.org/society-archives/>
- *Newspapers* at Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. <https://www2.illinois.gov/alplm/library/collections/xxnewspaper/Pages/default.aspx>
- *Newspapers* at Harold Washington Library. <https://www.chipublib.org/chicago-newspapers-on-microfilm/>

## VI. Databases:

- *Chicago Tribune, 1849-1923* on Fold3 (database available at some libraries, or for home subscription \$).
- *Newspaper Archive* (database available at some libraries, or for home subscription \$)
- *Newspapers.com* (database available at some libraries, or for home subscription \$)
- *PERSI – Periodical Source Index*, on Findmypast.com. Online index to genealogical periodicals. All periodical issues are located in The Genealogy Center, either view in person, or can request copies by mail for small copy fee. Free search available here: < <http://search.findmypast.com/search/periodical-source-index>>.