



Research Your History @ Omaha Public Library

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Genealogy & Local History Room

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Omaha Public Library has collected genealogy and local history materials since 1877; the result is an extensive and eclectic collection of materials useful to genealogists and historians, housed at the Genealogy & Local History Room, one of 13 Omaha Public Library branches. Start your explorations at

<https://omahalibrary.org/genealogy-local-history/>

Materials on site:

- Over 15,000 genealogy books and periodicals
- Over 13,000 Nebraska reference items, including complete run of Omaha city directories (1866-current), partial runs for other Nebraska cities and Council Bluffs, and Omaha and suburban phone books (1920-2019)
- Obituaries on cards, 1890s-2020s, Greater Omaha area
- Thousands of reels of genealogy microfilm (census, newspapers, etc.)

Including:

- Marriage records from 38 Nebraska counties:
<https://omahalibrary.org/nebraska-county-marriage-records/>
- A few dozen local newspapers: <https://tinyurl.com/5bvvhv6x>
- Assorted church, cemetery, and other records:
<https://omahalibrary.org/omaha-and-nebraska-historical-microfilm/>

- Nearly 500,000 government documents and maps

Books, periodicals, and microfilm are findable in online catalog, <https://omahalibrary.org/>



Unique resources:

- Surname file (local families, donated research)
- Funeral pamphlet file
- Historic map collections, 1847-late 1900s
Indexes to all of these can be found online at
<https://omahalibrary.org/resources-reference-materials/>
- Original membership records of local Scottish Rite Masons (indexed)
- Douglas County birth and death registers, 1869-1915 (on microfilm, indexes at <https://omahalibrary.contentdm.oclc.org/>)
- Menu collection (digitized selection at <https://omahalibrary.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16747coll8>)
- Postcard collection (many online at <https://memories.ne.gov/>)
- William Wallace photograph collection—Omaha and Lake Okoboji in late 1890s, early 1900s
(<https://omahalibrary.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16747coll6>)
- Omaha water permits, 1882-1968
- Trans-Mississippi & International Exposition (Omaha's world fair, 1898): photographs, papers, and memorabilia (viewable in part at <https://omahalibrary.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16747coll1>)
- Photos of the Indian Congress, 1898:
<https://omahalibrary.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16747coll2>
- Vertical files: 30+ cabinets of clipping files on all topics of Nebraska history; company clippings and histories; ephemera; biography files

Databases (under Resource Center tab)

<https://omahalibrary.org/resources/genealogy/>

- Ancestry Library Edition (in-library use only)
- Fire Insurance Maps Online (FIMo): high-definition, color fire insurance and real estate maps, covering Nebraska and Iowa, ca 1880s-1960s
- MyHeritage Library Edition
- Marriage and obituary indexes provided by Greater Omaha Genealogical Society (no card needed)
- Omaha Star Digital Archive, 1938-2011
- Omaha World-Herald Digital Archive, 1878-1983; 2018-current (1983-current available in electronic text-based format through Newsbank)

Except for Ancestry Library Edition, all databases are available from home with an Omaha Public Library card.