

MAPPING YOUR MIGRATING ANCESTORS

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What types of property records exist?

- Property sales and transfers
- Wills and probate
- Chancery court/small claims
- Tax assessments
- Land surveys/subdivision plats

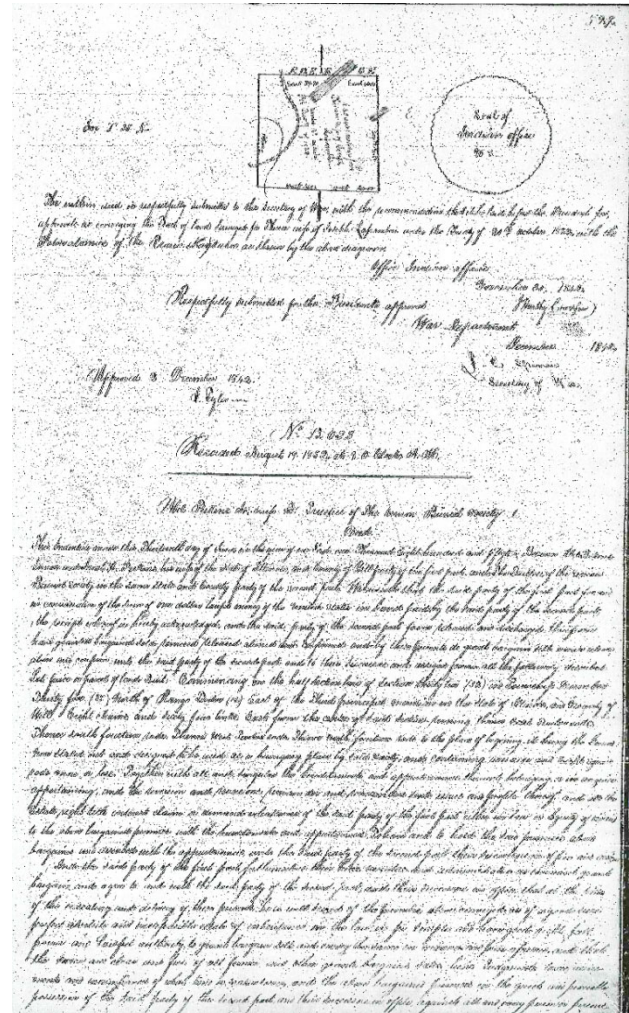
Where can I find property records?

- County courthouse
- Local historical society or library
- University library/archives
- State archives
- National archives
- Land & Property Records

County Records

Recorder of Deeds

- Deeds
- Incorporations
- Mortgages
- Maps
- Wills/Affidavits



When an estate is settled, and property is sold/divided, a copy of the will is typically filed with the Recorder's Office and within the deceased's probate at the Circuit Clerk's office.

If the deceased owned land in multiple counties, the will would need to be filed in each location where ownership occurred.

Property deeds will often give you an exact legal description of the property helping you to identify it on a map and assist in searching tax and assessment records.

Tax Collector/Treasurer

- Taxes on real estate and personal property

Township/City Assessor

- Address
- Legal description of property
- Age of the structure
- Additions or remodels

Circuit Court Clerk

- Wills
- Probate
- Chancery lawsuits (division of property)

Land Use

- Building permits
- Historic property landmarks
- Highway Commissioner's reports and early road maps

Local Historical Societies and Libraries

- County plat and atlas books
- Old city maps or directories
- Indexes to property owners and tax payers
- Old newspapers (tax rolls, land sales etc.)

State Archives

- Land Patents/Surveys
- Taxable lands
- School land sale records
- Local sources for maps & property

National Archives

- Bankruptcies
- Census records
- Military records
- Land patents

IS MOVING DAY IN PLAINFIELD VILLAGE

Plainfield, Ill., March 3.—Many changes are taking place in Plainfield. The following is a list of the changes: Edward LeVan is moving to the Spangler house on the Joliet road; J. Russell to the Earl Norton house in Main street; J. E. Bressler to the Olin Keene house in Fox River street; Frank Gilbert to the Herren house on Joliet road; Fred Jahnke to the John Needham house in Main street; E. R. Gaylord to the Foran house in Lockport street; Frank Eaton to his home purchased of the Evarts estate in Bartlett avenue; Mr. and Mrs. William Lockwood to the home purchased of the Barron estate in Bartlett avenue; Edward Day to the Tyler house in Main street; J. E. Andrews moves to Hammond, Ind.; J. Broderick of Wilton Center moves to the L. H. Darling house in Lockport street; John Imery is moving to the Siegel house.

Some directories will include the non-working spouse's name in parentheses i.e. (Marie)

Things to look for when viewing old city directories and road maps

- Names of streets can change from block to block
- Street name can change over time
- Address changes happen frequently

<http://stevemorse.org/census/changes.html> includes a national listing of street name changes.

East 94th Street		22639	900	22642	918
1535	12699	1538		22643	928
1537	12704	1541	22645	929	
1539	12692	1544	22647	940	22648
1543	12690	1548	22649	950	22654
1547	1254	1548	22653		22654
1557	1244	1550	22655	962	
2055	101	2056	22657	964	
2057	308	2058	22659	966	
	2059	2060	22661	968	
	2062	2063	22663	970	
	2064	2065	22665	972	
	2066	2067	22667	974	
	2068	2069	22669	976	
	2070	2071	22671	978	
	2072	2073	22673	980	
	2074	2075	22675	982	
	2076	2077	22677	984	
	2078	2079	22679	986	
	2080	2081	22681	988	
	2082	2083	22683	990	
	2084	2085	22685	992	
	2086	2087	22687	994	
	2088	2089	22689	996	
	2090	2091	22691	998	
	2092	2093	22693	1000	
	2094	2095	22695	1002	
	2096	2097	22697	1004	
	2098	2099	22699	1006	
	2100	2101	22701	1008	
	2102	2103	22703	1010	
	2104	2105	22705	1012	
	2106	2107	22707	1014	
	2108	2109	22709	1016	
	2110	2111	22711	1018	
	2112	2113	22713	1020	
	2114	2115	22715	1022	
	2116	2117	22717	1024	
	2118	2119	22719	1026	
	2120	2121	22721	1028	
	2122	2123	22723	1030	
	2124	2125	22725	1032	
	2126	2127	22727	1034	
	2128	2129	22729	1036	
	2130	2131	22731	1038	
	2132	2133	22733	1040	
	2134	2135	22735	1042	
	2136	2137	22737	1044	
	2138	2139	22739	1046	
	2140	2141	22741	1048	
	2142	2143	22743	1050	
	2144	2145	22745	1052	
	2146	2147	22747	1054	
	2148	2149	22749	1056	
	2150	2151	22751	1058	
	2152	2153	22753	1060	
	2154	2155	22755	1062	
	2156	2157	22757	1064	
	2158	2159	22759	1066	
	2160	2161	22761	1068	
	2162	2163	22763	1070	
	2164	2165	22765	1072	
	2166	2167	22767	1074	
	2168	2169	22769	1076	
	2170	2171	22771	1078	
	2172	2173	22773	1080	
	2174	2175	22775	1082	
	2176	2177	22777	1084	
	2178	2179	22779	1086	
	2180	2181	22781	1088	
	2182	2183	22783	1090	
	2184	2185	22785	1092	
	2186	2187	22787	1094	
	2188	2189	22789	1096	
	2190	2191	22791	1098	
	2192	2193	22793	1100	
	2194	2195	22795	1102	
	2196	2197	22797	1104	
	2198	2199	22799	1106	
	2200	2201	22801	1108	
	2202	2203	22803	1110	
	2204	2205	22805	1112	
	2206	2207	22807	1114	
	2208	2209	22809	1116	
	2210	2211	22811	1118	
	2212	2213	22813	1120	
	2214	2215	22815	1122	
	2216	2217	22817	1124	
	2218	2219	22819	1126	
	2220	2221	22821	1128	
	2222	2223	22823	1130	
	2224	2225	22825	1132	
	2226	2227	22827	1134	
	2228	2229	22829	1136	
	2230	2231	22831	1138	
	2232	2233	22833	1140	
	2234	2235	22835	1142	
	2236	2237	22837	1144	
	2238	2239	22839	1146	
	2240	2241	22841	1148	
	2242	2243	22843	1150	
	2244	2245	22845	1152	
	2246	2247	22847	1154	
	2248	2249	22849	1156	
	2250	2251	22851	1158	
	2252	2253	22853	1160	
	2254	2255	22855	1162	
	2256	2257	22857	1164	
	2258	2259	22859	1166	
	2260	2261	22861	1168	
	2262	2263	22863	1170	
	2264	2265	22865	1172	
	2266	2267	22867	1174	
	2268	2269	22869	1176	
	2270	2271	22871	1178	
	2272	2273	22873	1180	
	2274	2275	22875	1182	
	2276	2277	22877	1184	
	2278	2279	22879	1186	
	2280	2281	22881	1188	
	2282	2283	22883	1190	
	2284	2285	22885	1192	
	2286	2287	22887	1194	
	2288	2289	22889	1196	
	2290	2291	22891	1198	
	2292	2293	22893	1200	
	2294	2295	22895	1202	
	2296	2297	22897	1204	
	2298	2299	22899	1206	
	2300	2301	22901	1208	
	2302	2303	22903	1210	
	2304	2305	22905	1212	
	2306	2307	22907	1214	
	2308	2309	22909	1216	
	2310	2311	22911	1218	
	2312	2313	22913	1220	
	2314	2315	22915	1222	
	2316	2317	22917	1224	
	2318	2319	22919	1226	
	2320	2321	22921	1228	
	2322	2323	22923	1230	
	2324	2325	22925	1232	
	2326	2327	22927	1234	
	2328	2329	22929	1236	
	2330	2331	22931	1238	
	2332	2333	22933	1240	
	2334	2335	22935	1242	
	2336	2337	22937	1244	
	2338	2339	22939	1246	
	2340	2341	22941	1248	
	2342	2343	22943	1250	
	2344	2345	22945	1252	
	2346	2347	22947	1254	
	2348	2349	22949	1256	
	2350	2351	22951	1258	
	2352	2353	22953	1260	
	2354	2355	22955	1262	
	2356	2357	22957	1264	
	2358	2359	22959	1266	
	2360	2361	22961	1268	
	2362	2363	22963	1270	
	2364	2365	22965	1272	
	2366	2367	22967	1274	
	2368	2369	22969	1276	
	2370	2371	22971	1278	
	2372	2373	22973	1280	
	2374	2375	22975	1282	
	2376	2377	22977	1284	
	2378	2379	22979	1286	
	2380	2381	22981	1288	
	2382	2383	22983	1290	
	2384	2385	22985	1292	
	2386	2387	22987	1294	
	2388	2389	22989	1296	
	2390	2391	22991	1298	
	2392	2393	22993	1300	
	2394	2395	22995	1302	
	2396	2397	22997	1304	
	2398	2399	22999	1306	
	2400	2401	23001	1308	
	2402	2403	23003	1310	
	2404	2405	23005	1312	
	2406	2407	23007	1314	
	2408	2409	23009	1316	
	2410	2411	23011	1318	
	2412	2413	23013	1320	
	2414	2415	23015	1322	
	2416	2417	23017	1324	
	2418	2419	23019	1326	
	2420	2421	23021	1328	
	2422	2423	23023	1330	
	2424	2425	23025	1332	
	2426	2427	23027	1334	
	2428	2429	23029	1336	
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	2432	2433	23033	1340	
	2434	2435	23035	1342	
	2436	2437	23037	1344	
	2438	2439	23039	1346	
	2440	2441	23041	1348	
	2442	2443	23043	1350	
	2444	2445	23045	1352	
	2446	2447	23047	1354	
	2448	2449	23049	1356	
	2450	2451	23051	1358	
	2452	2453	23053	1360	
	2454	2455	23055	1362	
	2456	2457	23057	1364	
	2458	2459	23059	1366	
	2460	2461	23061	1368	
	2462	2463	23063	1370	
	2464	2465	23065	1372	
	2466	2467	23067	1374	
	2468	2469	23069	1376	
	2470	2471	23071	1378	
	2472	2473	23073	1380	
	2474	2475	23075	1382	
	2476	2477	23077	1384	
	2478	2479	23079	1386	
	2480	2481	23081	1388	
	2482	2483	23083	1390	
	2484	2485	23085	1392	
	2486	2487	23087	1394	
	2488	2489	23089	1396	
	2490	2491	23091	1398	
	2492	2493	23093	1400	
	2494	2495	23095	1402	
	2496	2497	23097	1404	
	2498	2499	23099	1406	
	2500	2501	23101	1408	
	2502	2503	23103	1410	
	2504	2505	23105	1412	
	2506	2507	23107	1414	
	2508	2509	23109	1416	
	2510	2511	23111	1418	
	2512	2513	23113	1420	
	2514	2515	23115	1422	
	2516	2517	23117	1424	
	2518	2519	23119	1426	
	2520	2521	23121	1428	
	2522	2523	23123	1430	
	2524	2525	23125	1432	
	2526	2527	23127	1434	
	2528	2529	23129	1436	
	2530	2531	23131	1438	
	2532	2533	23133	1440	
	2534	2535	23135	1442	
	2536	2537	23137	1444	
	2538	2539	23139	1446	
	2540	2541	23141	1448	
	2542	2543	23143	1450	
	2544	2545	23145	1452	

- Bush Ave., 13400 to 13800S Jeffery Ave.
- Bushnell St., 500 to 550W 23rd Pl.
- Bushnell St., 200 to 500W 23rd St.
- Busse Ave., 6750W 5000 to 5050N. Named after Mayor Fred Busse.
- Butchell Ave., 3300 to 3700W Shakespeare Ave.
- Butler Dr., 1250E 12800 to 12858S. Named after Lorin G. Butler.
- Butler St., 2200 to 3100S Keeler Ave.
- Butler St., 2350 to 12500S Normal Ave.
- Butler St., 4300 to 4400S and 8400 to 8700S Parnell Ave.
- Butterfield St., 1600 to 5500S Federal St., Armour
- Butterfield Alley, 700 to 800W Schiller St.
- Butterfield St., 5500 to 7900S 11100 to 11500S Perry Ave. Named after
- Byer Ave., 8700 to 9400S Aberdeen St.
- Byer St., 8700 to 9400S Aberdeen St.
- Byford Ave., 1400 to 1600S Drake Ave.
- Byrne Ave., 2800 to 3200N Spaulding Ave.
- Byron Ave., 2800 to 3000N McLean Ave.
- Byron St., 800 to 1000W Sheridan Rd.

Left: 1909 Chicago Street Numbering Guide

Right: 1912 Chicago Street Name Changes

www.chicagoancestors.org/tools

Homestead & Other Land Grants

National Archives: www.archives.gov/research/land

Bureau of Land Management: www.glorerecords.blm.gov

MAPS

- Aerial & Birdseye Maps
- Cadastral Maps
- County and State Maps
- Enumeration Maps
- Fire Insurance Maps
- Road Maps
- Rail Road Maps
- Modern Day Mapping



Aerial Maps

These maps are a great source for visual geographic data such as mountains, rivers, lakes and valleys
Useful for seeing property in relation to its surroundings like other homes, businesses, and roadways
Identifying changes in development and land usage patterns for an area over a period of time

Birdseye Maps

Birdseye maps are hand-drawn and red maps typically done in the 19th century. An artistic rendition of what a particular town or region look like from above. These perspective maps are not true to scale, but they are highly detailed.

- Modern Birdseye Maps
www.virtualbirdseye.com
- Library of Congress Panoramic Map Collection:
www.loc.gov/collections/panoramic-maps
- www.bigmapblog.com/tag/birdseye



Cadastral Maps

Cadastral maps originally recorded metes and bounds. Its purpose is to record ownership and tenure of the land.

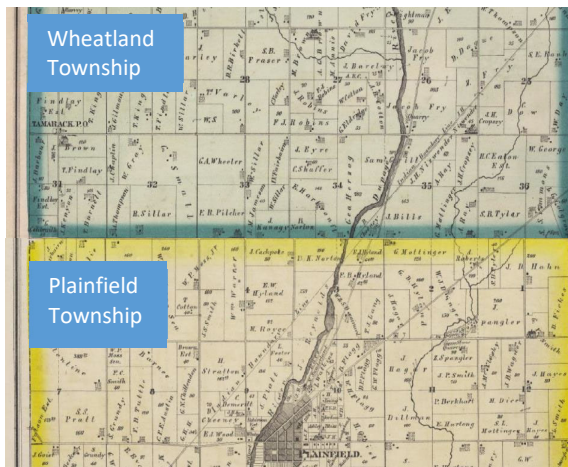
The term cadastral map has since come to include any map that includes property boundaries. Examples of cadastral maps are plat maps, city/town/ village maps, and subdivision plats.

These maps also often include landmarks like rivers, lakes, churches, cemeteries and other points of reference.

Cemetery maps are considered cadastral because they show owner and boundaries of grave lots.

Most municipalities use cadastral maps in their GIS planning departments. This computerized mapping system creates layers of maps for different topics like homes, roads, utilities, sewer systems etc.

When reading cadastral maps be sure to look across township, county, and state boundaries for names and familial connections



Be sure to align township or other maps to see any properties that carry across township, county or state boundaries.

Census Enumeration Maps

Census Enumeration maps are helpful in locating family through the U.S. Federal Census

Boundary lines change over time. Census maps help you pinpoint the exact district of your ancestors at a specific time and place

Ancestors that lived on or near the county or state line may have been counted under these nearby locations due to line changes

HeritageQuest has state census maps for years 1790-1920

Modern census maps are also available to download from the U.S. Census Bureau:

www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/reference.html

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps cover misc. years from 1867-1970

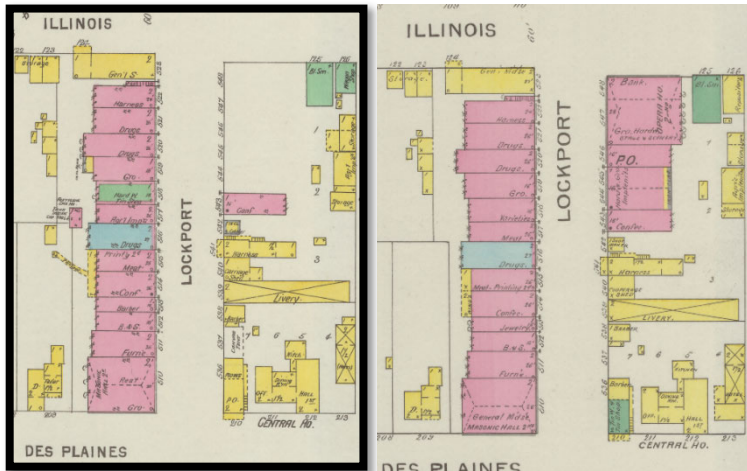
Detailed descriptions of individual properties including size, shape, location of windows & doors, construction materials etc.

Street level descriptions of towns and cities including location of streets, sidewalks, trolley lines, railroad tracks, wells and more

Locations and descriptions of businesses & industry

Documents changes to an area over the years

Maps can be saved and printed



Library of Congress Sanborn Maps: www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/sanborn

University of Pennsylvania online fire insurance maps:

<http://guides.library.upenn.edu/content.php?pid=387313&sid=3190707>

Historic Road Maps and Guides

www.us-highways.com

www.dot.il.gov/maps/travelmaps.htm

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_highway

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Numbered_highways_in_the_United_States#State_highways_and_other_similar_systems

Old Maps Online www.oldmapsonline.org

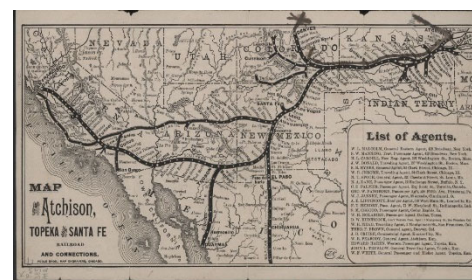
Railroad Maps and Records

Railroad maps are extremely useful for plotting your migrating ancestors. Schedules, maps, and ticket fares help tell the story of your ancestral past

Dozens of railroad companies operated over 200,000 miles of track by the start of the 20th Century. These companies employed thousands of employees nationwide

Hundreds of towns sprang up as railroad stops and some disappeared just as quickly. Old railroad maps are important to locating these abandoned towns

Railroad maps can also be used to find right-of-way land sales



Railroad Websites

Railroad Gazetteer Collection: [https://archive.org/details/smithsonian?and\[\]=subject%3A%22Railroads%22](https://archive.org/details/smithsonian?and[]=subject%3A%22Railroads%22)

Newberry Library: www.newberry.org/railroad-archives

Chicago & Northwestern Historical Society: www.cnwhs.org

Atchison, Topeka, Santa Fe: www.kshs.org/p/railroad-research/15983

Union Pacific Railroad Historical Society: <http://uphs.org>

www.historicmapsrestored.com/old-railroad-maps.html

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/rrhtml>

Central Pacific Railroad Maps www.cpr.org/Museum/Maps

Modern Day Mapping

GIS: Graphic Information Services

Mapping system that allows a governmental body to create an “overlay” over an existing map to highlight a specific service

<http://lib.guides.umd.edu/c.php?g=326454&p=2192920>

Google Maps

You can build your own interactive maps, plot your family history, and share it with others

<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&tab=wl>

MapsGL interactive 3D imagery for buildings and landmarks

GPS: Global Positioning Systems

A space-based satellite navigation system that provides location and time information. Those coordinates can be plotted on a map to identify your position anywhere in the world

Interactive Mapping

Many museums and archives are creating interactive google maps, overlaying historic maps with modern images and vice-versa. Here are a few really cool examples:

www.smithsonianmag.com/history/what-did-chicago-look-great-fire-180947929

<http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch/index.html>

<http://rumsey.geogarage.com/maps/g0140000.html>

Newberry Library Chicago www.chicagoancestors.org

<http://historypin.com>

www.whatwasthere.com



National & World Map Websites

- Atlas of the Historical Geography of the U.S.: <http://dsl.richmond.edu/historicalatlas>
- Bureau of Land management land survey maps
www.geocommunicator.gov/blmMap/MapLSIS.jsp
- David Rumsey Map Collection www.davidrumsey.com
- Google Maps World Gazetteer www.maplandia.com
- Library of Congress Map Collection
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/gmdhome.html>
- New York Public Library Map Collection <http://maps.nypl.org/warper>
- U.S. Geological Survey http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic/wwv_flow.accept
- North Carolina State Library Map Collection www.lib.ncsu.edu/maps/citingmaps.html
- www.geocaching.com
- www.gps.gov

Helpful Books

- Dollarhide, William and William Thorndale. Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920. Genealogical Publishing Co. Baltimore, MD. 1987.
- Dollarhide, William. Map Guide to American Migration Routes 1735-1815. HeritageQuest. Bountiful, UT. 1997.
- Hatcher, Patricia Law. Locating Your Roots: Discover Your Ancestors Using Land Records. Better Way Books, Cincinnati, OH. 2003.
- Kashuba, Melinda. Walking With Your Ancestors: A Genealogist's Guide to Using Maps and Geography. Family Tree Books. Cincinnati, OH. 2005.
- Light, Sally, House Histories. Goldenhill Press. Spencer Hill, N.Y. 1989.