

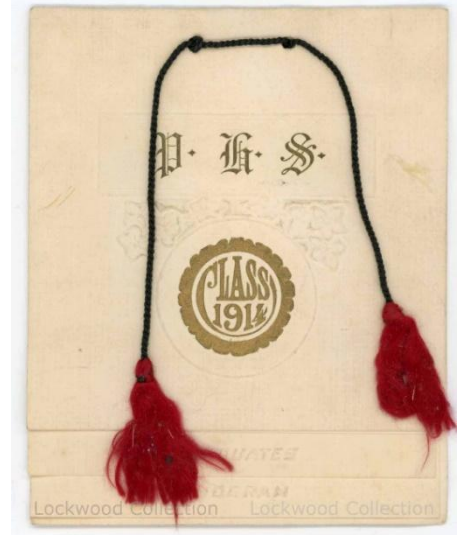
Back to School: Using School Records in Your Family Tree

Tina Beaird tbeaird@papl.info



Types of School Records

- Alumni Directories
- Awards
- Class Photos/ Annuals (yearbooks)
- Coursework/Tests/Papers
- Diplomas
- Graduation Announcements
- Programs and event flyers
- Report Cards/Transcripts
- Teacher Registers
- School Schedules



Places to find School Records

- School or School District Offices
- Regional Board of Education
- County Courthouse/Township Offices
- Public Libraries/Universities/ Archives
- Historical Societies
- State Libraries/ Archives
- Newspapers
- Online Genealogy Sites

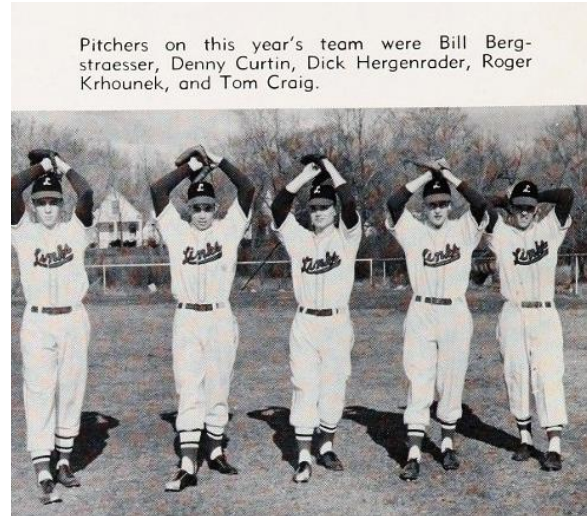
Schools/Board of Education

Class Photos & Yearbooks

- Check with the school or school district to see if they have class photos on-hand.
- Local Historical/Genealogical Societies and Libraries may have school report cards and teacher registers as well as a plethora of school photos.
- Yearbooks contain more than just school photos:
 - Business Advertisements



- Military service photos/announcements
- Memorials
- Photos of the town and school
- Alumni lists
- www.augustana.edu/library/special-collections/search
 - www.ancestry.com \$
 - www.archive.org
 - www.classmates.com \$
 - www.old-yearbooks.com



County and Township Records

- School Schedules (census)
- Election results
- School Tax records
- Annual Tax Assessments
- School Board Annual Reports

School Schedules (censuses)

Represent children of 'school age' from age 5 to 21 in a district (regardless of school attendance)

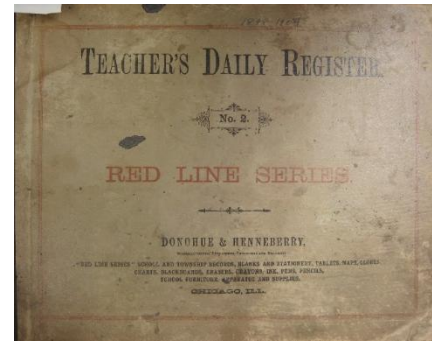
- May include: date of birth, age, siblings, name of parent/guardian, class, residence.
- The Head of Household would verify the number of children of school age. A good way to find remarried mothers and spouses of ladies under the age of 21.
- These often predate vital records in many states (IL began recording births in 1877).
 - www.familysearch.org
 - www.findmypast.com
 - www.ilsos.gov/departments/archives/IRAD/iradholdings.html
 - <https://theancestorhunt.com/blog/free-illinois-online-school-records>

Historical Societies/University Libraries/Archives

Teacher Registers

Registers are privately owned by each teacher and are not the property of the school, so they may be hard to find.

- Will often include:
 - Age of child
 - Coursework (grade level)
 - Attendance
 - Guests



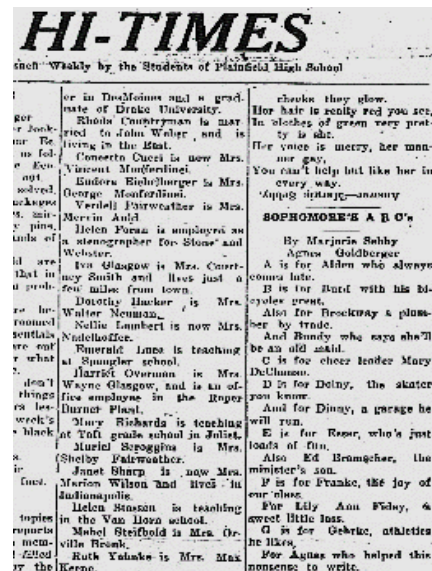
Places to find Teacher Registers:

- Regional Board of Education
- Local Historical/Genealogical Societies
- State Archives/Library

Newspapers

Newspapers are a great resource for school information

- Awards & Accomplishments
 - Dean's Lists
 - Sports Stars
- Events & Happenings
 - Homecoming
 - Clubs and Social
- Graduation: K to College
 - Graduation Announcements
 - Class photos
- Class Reunions



Online Resources for School Records & Photos

- Archivegrid <https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid>
- Chicago Archdiocese School Records Request <https://archives.archchicago.org/request-a-record>
- Chicago Public Schools www.cps.edu/services-and-supports/student-records-and-transcripts
- FamilySearch www.familysearch.org
- Library of Congress www.loc.gov
- U.S. Department of Education FERPA Regulations: www.ed.gov/media/document/idea-and-ferpa-confidentiality-provisions-2014-102114.pdf
- U.S. National Archives www.archives.gov