# Back to School: Using School Records in Your Family Tree

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## **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

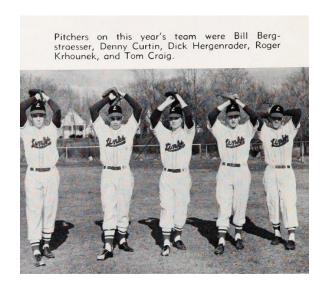
#### Class Photos & Yearbooks

- 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
  - o <u>www.ancestry.com</u> \$
  - o www.archive.org
  - o www.classmates.com\$
  - o <u>www.old-yearbooks.com</u>

## **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).
  - o www.familysearch.org
  - o www.findmypast.com
  - o www.ilsos.gov/departments/archives/IRAD/iradholdings.html
  - o 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 are a great resource for school information

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



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### Online Resources for School Records & Photos

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