Minnesota
Research Outline

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This outline describes major sources of information about families from Minnesota. As you read this outline, study the United States Research Outline (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library’s book, microfilm, microfiche, compact disc, and computer numbers. These are preceded by FHL, the abbreviation for Family History Library. These numbers may be used to locate materials in the Family History Library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers.

You can use the computer number if you have access to the Family History Library Catalog on computer. The Computer Number Search is the fastest way to find a source in the catalog.

The computer Internet is growing in importance to genealogists. Sources found on the Internet are cited in this outline with their Universal Resource Locator (URL) address.

FAMILYSEARCH

FamilySearch at Family History Centers. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing millions of names. FamilySearch is a good place to begin your family history research. Some of the records come from compiled sources, and some have been extracted from original sources. The Family History Library and many Family History Centers have computers with FamilySearch. A few FamilySearch resource files—for example, the U.S. Social Security Death Index, and the U.S. Military Index—are found on the Family History Library and Family History Center version of FamilySearch, but not on the FamilySearch™ Internet Genealogy Service.

Family History Library and Family History Center computers with FamilySearch do not have access to the Internet, computer on-line services, networks, or bulletin boards. Those services are available at many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations. Limited access to the Internet is available on a few computers in the Automated Resource Center in the Family History Library.

FamilySearch™ Internet Genealogy Service. The Internet site at www.familysearch.org allows you to preserve your genealogy, order Family History Library publications, learn research strategies, and look for information about your ancestors in the following resources:

- Ancestral File, a file of over 35 million names organized into families and pedigrees.
- International Genealogical Index, an index of over 600 million names extracted out of vital records primarily from the British Isles, North America, and northern Europe.
- Family History Library Catalog, a description and classification of over 2 million microfilm reels, and hundreds of thousands of genealogical books. You can search the catalog by family name, locality, author, or book or film number.
- SourceGuide, a resource that contains a collection of over 150 “how-to” research outlines for states, nations, or genealogy topics, an extensive glossary of word meanings, and a catalog helper.
- Family History Centers, a list of locations where you can order the microfilms described in the Family History Library Catalog and SourceGuide.
- Web Sites, a categorized list of thousands of links to Internet sites related to family history.
- Collaboration Lists links you to user-created mailing lists of researchers interested in similar genealogical topics.

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

The library’s records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog available at the library and at each Family History Center, and on the Internet at: www.familysearch.org/Search/searchcatalog.asp. To find a record in the Family History Library Catalog, look in the Locality Search for:
• The place where your ancestor lived:
  UNITED STATES – CENSUS
  MINNESOTA – BIOGRAPHY
  MINNESOTA, RAMSEY – VITAL RECORDS
  MINNESOTA, HENNEPIN, MINNEAPOLIS – HISTORY

• The record type you want, such as:
  UNITED STATES – CENSUS
  MINNESOTA – BIOGRAPHY
  MINNESOTA, RAMSEY – VITAL RECORDS
  MINNESOTA, HENNEPIN, MINNEAPOLIS – HISTORY

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types (subject headings) used in the Family History Library Catalog.
RECORD SELECTION TABLE: MINNESOTA

This table can help you decide which records to search. It is most helpful for post–1850 research.

1. In column 1, find the category closest to your research goal.
2. In column 2, find the types of records most likely to have the information you need.
3. In column 3, find additional record types that may be useful.
4. Look in the section of this outline that corresponds to the record type you chose. It explains what the records might tell you, how to search them, and how to find the records in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog. Some records are not at the Library.

Note: Records of previous research—genealogy, biography, history, periodicals, and societies—are useful for most goals, but are not listed unless they are especially helpful.

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<td>1. If you need</td>
<td>2. Look first in</td>
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<td>Record-finding aids</td>
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<td>Genealogy, For Further Reading (in this outline)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
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<td>Biography, Funeral Homes, History, Genealogy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social activities</td>
<td>Biography, Newspapers, Societies</td>
<td>Obituaries, Directories, History</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

Besides the Family History Library, other record repositories that have major collections and services for genealogical research are described below. The Family History Library has copies of some records of these archives, but all will have additional sources. Before you visit an archive or library, contact the organization and ask for information on the collection, hours, services, and fees. The Minnesota Historical Society’s Internet site has their catalog on-line, many genealogical research helps, and locations of other genealogical sites.

Minnesota Historical Society

- Minnesota Historical Society Library
  345 Kellogg Blvd. W.
  St. Paul, MN 55102-1906
  Telephone: 651-259-3000
  Internet: www.mnhs.org/library/

The Minnesota Historical Society Library has the State Archives collection, including local, county, school district, city, and state government records. The library has printed materials relating to the history of Minnesota, copies of the majority of newspapers published in Minnesota, and other historical documents. A guide to genealogical materials in their collection is:


Much of the society’s collection is unpublished. Of interest to genealogists are the personal papers in these collections. To find out if the society has a manuscript on your family see:


Access to information about cataloged collections (printed, manuscripts, and archives holdings) of the Minnesota Historical Society is available on the Internet.

Regional Centers

The Minnesota Historical Society has established regional research centers that find and preserve local records of historical value. Some regional centers have a large collection of genealogy while others have more historical documents. These centers may have family papers, manuscripts, oral history interviews, photographs, maps, drawings of homes, and business and organizational records. Some centers may hold local government records. Some centers have published guides to their holdings. The society has published guides to some centers. The following books list some of the regional research centers’ collections and their location:

Fogerty, James E., comp. *Preliminary Guide to the Holdings of the Minnesota Regional Research Centers*. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, 1975. (FHL book 977.6 A3f no. 1; computer number 218982.) This guide is divided into two sections: “Manuscripts” and “Oral History Interviews.” Listed alphabetically, these include title of collection, person or organization, time frame, collection size, reference number, and an abbreviation that indicates which research center holds the collection.

Fogerty, James E., comp. *Manuscripts Collections of the Minnesota Regional Research Centers: Guide Number 2*. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, 1980. (FHL book 977.6 A3f no. 2; computer number 138433.) This follows the same format as *Preliminary Guide* cited above. It includes new holdings and collections that may have been moved.

The centers are listed below with the counties they cover. Call them for their hours, which vary from center to center, and to see what collections they may have.

- **Central Minnesota Historical Center**
  Miller Center, Room 314-D 720
  St. Cloud State University
  St. Cloud, MN 56301
  Telephone: 320-308-3254
  Internet e-mail: cmhc@stcloudstate.edu

This center serves the counties of Aitkin, Benton, Chisago, Crow Wing, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd, Wadena, and Wright.

- **North Central Minnesota Historical Center**

Although this center has been discontinued, it is important to know that its collection was divided between Beltrami County Historical Society and
the Minnesota Historical Society. While in existence it served the counties of Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Hubbard, Itasca, Koochiching, and Lake of the Woods.

- **Northeast Minnesota Historical Center**
  University of Minnesota-Duluth Library
  416 Library Drive
  Duluth, MN 55812
  Telephone: 218-726-8526
  Internet e-mail: pmaus@d.umn.edu

  This center serves the counties of Carlton, Cook, Lake, and St. Louis. It is a manuscript repository with organizational, business, and family papers and records; maps; architectural drawings; and photo collections. It is also a publication library with at least 10,000 books and pamphlets, many of which are out of print. The center is not rich in genealogical material but works as a network with other repositories in the area that have genealogical material. For a guide to their collection see:

  Northeast Minnesota Historical Center (Duluth, Minnesota). *Guide to the Collections of the Northeast Minnesota Historical Center*. Duluth, Minn.: University of Minnesota and St. Louis County Historical Society, 1988. (FHL book 977.6 A1 no. 57; computer number 523395).

- **Northwest Minnesota Historical Center**
  Livingston Lord Library
  Moorhead State University
  1104 7th Avenue South
  Moorhead, MN 56563
  Telephone: 218-477-2346

  This center serves the counties of Becker, Clay, Kittson, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau, and Wilkin. For a guide to their collection see:

  Northwest Minnesota Historical Center

- **Southeast Minnesota Historical Center**
  (Winona)

  The collection of this discontinued center was divided among the historical societies of the counties it served and the Minnesota Historical Society. The collection included materials about the counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Wabasha, and Winona.

  - **Southern Minnesota Historical Center**
    Minnesota State University, Mankato
    Mankato, MN 56001
    Telephone: 507-389-1029

    This center serves the counties of Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Freeborn, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Rice, Sibley, Steele, Waseca, and Watonwan.

  - **Southwest Minnesota Historical Center**
    Southwest State University
    Social Science 141
    Marshall, MN 56258
    Telephone: 507-537-7373
    Fax: 507-537-7154

    This center is very active in the genealogical community and has a great genealogical collection. It has some county and local government records that would normally go to the Minnesota Historical Society. It serves the counties of Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, and Yellow Medicine.

  - **West Central Minnesota Historical Center**
    University of Minnesota–Morris
    600 East 4th St.
    Morris, MN 56267
    Telephone: 320-589-6172
    Internet e-mail: wcmhc@cda.mrs.umn.edu

    This center serves the counties of Big Stone, Chippewa, Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens, Swift, and Traverse.

**WebPals**

WebPals is an Internet site that provides access to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Statewide Automated Library System (MnSCU/PALS). Scores of academic and special libraries throughout the state are part of this system. Library catalogs identifying artifacts and printed materials may be searched at no charge. Additional resources in the catalog include: Civil War veteran card index, Minnesota alien registration card index, Minnesota biography file, photographs, and a Minneapolis newspaper index. There are also several subscription databases on the system. Not all materials are indexed on-line.
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
Statewide Automated Library System.

Additional Repositories

- Iron Range Research Center
  Highway 169 West
  P. O. Box 392
  Chisholm, MN 55719
  Telephone: 1-800-372-6437
  Fax: 218-254-5235
  Internet: www.ironworld.com/

This center has an extensive collection of records dealing with the string of towns that extends about 200 miles east to west across St. Louis County and other counties. This was a mining area where many immigrants were employed.

- Immigration History Research Center
  826 Berry St.
  University of Minnesota
  St. Paul, MN 55114
  Telephone: 612-625-4800
  Fax: 12-626-0018
  Internet e-mail: ihrc@umn.edu
  Internet: www1.umn.edu/ihrc/

The Immigration History Research Center’s collection is national in scope but includes immigration to Minnesota. The immigrants are from central, eastern, and southern European countries. A majority of their records are in a foreign language. For a guide to their collection see:


Summary of the archival and library holdings. The purpose of this guide is to assist researchers in determining the usefulness of the collection and to explain the procedure for gaining access to records.

- National Archives–Central Plains Region
  (Kansas City)
  2312 East Bannister Road
  Kansas City, MO 64131
  Telephone: 816-268-8000

- National Archives–Great Lakes Region(Chicago)
  7358 South Pulaski Road
  Chicago, IL 60629
  Telephone: 773-948-9032
  Fax: 312-886-7883

  (Call in advance to reserve microfilm reader.)

- Minnesota Genealogical Society
  1185 Concord St. N. Suite 218
  South St. Paul, MN 55075-1187
  Telephone: 651-455-9057

Inventories of County Archives

In the late 1930s and early 1940s, the Historical Records Survey produced 40 inventories of Minnesota county archives. Though the inventories are outdated in many ways, you can use them to learn more about the history, record-keeping systems, and available records of Minnesota counties. The inventories are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY – INVENTORIES, REGISTERS, CATALOGS

Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems can be useful tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers.
- Post queries.
- Send and receive e-mail.
- Search large databases.
- Search computer libraries and on-line catalogs.
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions.
- Order genealogical publications and supplies.

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from Minnesota in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels, and the list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost. Addresses on the Internet change frequently. The following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

FamilySearch™ Internet Genealogy Service
[Internet site]. [Salt Lake City]: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 22 March
1999 [cited 26 October 1999]. Available at www.familysearch.org. At this site you can access the Family History Library Catalog, Ancestral File, International Genealogical Index, SourceGuide, lists of Family History Centers, web sites related to family history, and lists of researchers interested in similar genealogical topics. You can also learn about and order Family History Library publications.

Howells, Cyndi. “U.S. – Minnesota – MN.” In Cyndi’s List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet [Internet site]. Puyallup, Wash.: Cyndi Howells, 6 August 1999 [cited 26 October 1999]. Available at: www.cyndislist.com/mn.htm. This list has more links to other Minnesota genealogical sites and describes more resources than any other site on the Internet.

“Howells USGenWeb.” In the USGenWeb Project [Internet site]. N.p., 1999 [cited 26 October 1999]. Available at www.rootsweb.com/~mngenweb/. This is a cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet, for each county, state, and country.

“United States Resources: Minnesota.” In RootsWeb [Internet site]. N.p., 12 July 1999 [cited 26 October 1999]. Available at: www.rootsweb.com/usa/mn.html. This list of sites and resources includes a large, regularly updated research coordination list.

Gaunt, Christine. “Minnesota Resources.” In Genealogy Resources on the Internet [Internet site]. N.p., 14 Jun 1999– [cited 26 October 1999]. Available at: www-personal.umich.edu/~cgaunt/minn.html. This site provides links to vital record offices, genealogical and historical societies, queries, mailing lists, county-by-county Internet sites, and gopher sites.

“MnGenExchange.” In Genealogical Exchange and Surname Registry [Internet site]. N.p., 1996–1999 [cited 26 October 1999]. Available at: www.genexchange.com/mn/index.cfm. This site brings searchable data to genealogists, including databases (church, cemetery, census, land, immigration, naturalization, and vital records), directories, historical accounts, mailing lists, queries, local surname researchers, and look-up volunteers.

For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research see the United States Research Outline (30972), 2nd ed., “Archives and Libraries” section.

**BIBLE RECORDS**

Many families have traditionally recorded births, marriages, and deaths in a family Bible, family record book, or book of remembrance. Family Bibles that are no longer in the possession of the family may be at a historical or genealogical society. They are sometimes transcribed and published in genealogical periodicals.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains some Minnesota Bible records (see the “Genealogy” section of this outline) and is partially indexed in:

Kirkham, E. Kay. An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States: 45,000 References as Taken from the Microfilm at the Genealogical Society of Utah. Vol. 2. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1984. (FHL book 973 D22kk v. 2; fiche 6089184; computer number 298346.)

**BIOGRAPHY**

A biography is a history of a person’s life. In a biography you may find the individual’s birth, marriage, and death information, and the names of his or her parents, children, or other family members. Biographies often include photographs, family traditions and stories, clues about an ancestor’s place of origin, places where he or she has lived, church affiliation, military service, and activities within the community. The information must be used carefully, however, because there may be inaccuracies. Biographies are often included in county and local histories.

The best collections of published biographies in Minnesota are at the Minnesota Historical Society Library, the University of Minnesota, and the Minneapolis Public Library. The state historical society has published an index to biographical sketches:

The Minnesota Biographies project began in 1976 and added another 50,000 names updating and enhancing the book *Minnesota Biographies* listed above. These are on 5” x 7” cards at the Minnesota Historical Society Library.

The Minnesota Historical Society Library also has:

Nielsen, Steven. *Diaries in the Minnesota Historical Manuscript Collections*. Typescript, 1979. This 61-page typescript is an alphabetical list with a brief description of each diary’s contents including dates covered. Also included is a 12-page addendum *Women’s Diaries and Letters*. (Not available at the Family History Library.)

For a list of some oral interviews of Minnesota individuals see:

Minnesota Historical Society. *The Oral History Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society*. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1984. (FHL book 977.6 H2mh; computer number 487070.) This lists oral histories on tape at the Minnesota Historical Society and the regional research centers. The listings give the length of the interview and a brief description of the individual. Some oral histories are restricted while others may be checked out or copied at your request.

The Family History Library also has a major collection of biographical sources. Search statewide, regional, and county histories and atlases for biographical information. Some representative biographical works are:

*Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Minnesota.* Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1874. (FHL book 977.6 E7i; film 896864; computer number 246440.) This atlas has about 15,000 names of persons, by town, frequently giving their place of birth and occupation. A published index is:

Bakeman, Mary Hawker. *A Comprehensive Index to A. T. Andreas’ Illustrated Historical Atlas of Minnesota–1874*. Brooklyn Park, Minn.: Park Genealogical Books, 1992. (FHL book 977.6 E7iL index; computer number 664382.) This is arranged alphabetically and gives the place of birth for most persons listed.

Burnquist, Joseph Alfred Arner, ed. *Minnesota and Its People*. 4 vols. Chicago: S.J. Clarke, 1924. (On 2 FHL films. Vols. 1–3 on *films 928372*; vol. 4 on *film 928374* item 1; vols. 1–4 on fiche 6051360; computer number 249871.) Volumes 3 and 4 are biographical. Contains 700–800 biographies of men who helped build the state, up to and including World War I. Each volume has its own index.


The Family History Library has *Who’s Who in Minnesota* for 1941, 1958, and 1964. An example is:

Cornwall, C. N. *Who’s Who in Minnesota: 1941*. Minneapolis, Minn.: Minnesota Editorial Association, 1942. (FHL book 977.6 D3w; computer number 567611.) This contains birth dates and places, and names of parents and spouse. Arranged alphabetically by name within each county.

The Family History Library has many publications and histories with biographical information. They are generally listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

**MINNESOTA – BIOGRAPHY MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – BIOGRAPHY**

**CEMETORIES**

Cemetery records, or sexton records, are usually found in the current sexton’s charge, but may be in the town or county clerk’s office. They may also be in the custody of private individuals.

Sexton records do not have a standard format and may vary in content. They may include the birth date; birthplace; parents’ names; spouse’s name;
death date and place; cemetery name; and if previously buried, the name of the cemetery removed from and the date the current lot was purchased. Remember that the information is only as reliable as the person who gave the information.

Genealogical society members often copy and publish tombstone inscriptions. The USGenWeb Archives have records from more than 70 cemeteries listed on their Internet site at:

“The Minnesota Tombstone Transcription Project.” In USGenWeb Archives Digital Library [Internet site]. N.p.: USGenWeb Archives, 17 February 1999–[cited 26 October 1999]. Available at: www.rootsweb.com/usgenweb/mn/mnfiles.htm. This is a county-by-county list of scores of cemeteries. The highlighted cemeteries include tombstone abstracts. Abstracted cemeteries are indexed in:

“Search the USGenWeb Archives Digital Library” In USGenWeb Archives Digital Library [Internet site]. N.p.: USGenWeb Archives, 22 September 1997–[cited 26 October 1999]. Available at: www.rootsweb.com/usgenweb/ussearch.htm. This indexes cemetery abstracts and other items. Select the state, type the name of your ancestor in the “Query” field, and click the Search button. For best results use the “Search Tips” and examples at the bottom of the web page. The computer will list any matches it finds and give you the option of viewing the full transcript.

The DAR collection contains tombstone inscriptions from Minnesota cemeteries (see the “Genealogy” section of this outline). The Minnesota Historical Society Library has a Works Projects Administration card file that lists the locations of cemeteries in the state. This file is not available at the Family History Library. A bibliography of published cemetery inscriptions is:

Pope, Wiley R. Minnesota Cemeteries in Print: a Bibliography of Published Cemetery Inscriptions, and Burials, etc. (St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Family Trees, 1986; FHL book 977.6 V33p; fiche 6104220; computer number 426039). This includes out-of-state burials. Statewide and county listings are subdivided by city or township.

Wiley Pope and Sarah Fee have published the following book on the location of many Minnesota cemeteries:

Minnesota Cemetery Locations. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Family Tree, 1988. (FHL book 977.6 V34p; fiche 6110646; computer number 426041). Identifies over 4,000 cemeteries arranged by county. This book was revised and reprinted with the same title and authors in 1998. It is available at the Minnesota Historical Society Library but is not yet at the Family History Library.

The Minnesota Genealogical Society has had an ongoing project for the last 20 years of identifying transcribed cemetery records and who holds the transcriptions. These lists are organized by county. They have some of these transcriptions.

A county-by-county list of cemetery transcripts at the Family History Library as of 1988 is:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Family History Library (Salt Lake City, Utah). Index to United States Cemeteries. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (FHL films 1206468–94; computer number 475648.) Film 1206477 includes Minnesota, along with Michigan. Information is on index cards arranged alphabetically by state, county, and cemetery name. Some smaller cemeteries list the individuals buried there and their death date. Cards may list location or sources of information. Each card gives the Family History Library book, film, or fiche call number.

The Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog lists more cemetery records under:

MINNESOTA – CEMETERIES
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – CEMETERIES
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] – CEMETERIES

CENSUS

A census is a count and description of the population of a country, colony, territory, state, county, or city. Census lists are also called schedules. A well-indexed census is one of the easiest ways to locate the specific places where your ancestors lived and to identify the time period they lived there. You can also find excellent family information, particularly in more recent censuses. Use the information with caution, however, since the information may have been given to a census taker by any member of the family or by a neighbor.

Federal Censuses

Population Schedules. Federal census records are found at the Minnesota Historical Society, the Family History Library, the National Archives,
and other federal and state archives. The United States Research Outline (30972) provides more detailed information on the contents of these records.

Minnesota has an 1850 federal territorial census, but the first federal census taken for the state of Minnesota was in 1860. The 1890 census was lost for all counties but Rockford. In the microfilmed schedules of the 1900 census, schedules for the White Earth Indian Reservation follow Yellow Medicine County. The Family History Library has the U.S. federal censuses of Minnesota from 1850 to 1920. The National Archives copy of the 1870 census was destroyed, but another version was reconstructed from duplicates preserved by the state. The Family History Library has copies from both the Minnesota Historical Society (Archives and Manuscripts Collections) and the National Archives.

Although most of the 1890 census was destroyed, small portions do exist for Minnesota:

United States. Census Office. 11th Census, 1890. Population Schedules of the Eleventh Census of the United States, 1890. National Archives Microfilm Publication M0407. Washington, D.C.: The National Archives, 1962. (FHL film 926499 is for Minnesota; computer number 59484.) The schedules for parts of Rockford, Wright County, Minnesota start on page 1017. For an every-name index to the 1890 census see:

Nelson, Ken. 1890 U.S. Census Index to Surviving Population Schedules and Register of Film Numbers to the Special Census of Union Veterans. Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Family History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1991. (FHL book 973 X2na; computer number 609990.) This index covers the few surviving 1890 census schedules. The index gives name of individual and geographical location including state, county and township, and census schedule page number.

The Minnesota Historical Society has produced two microfiche of 1890 census information discovered several years ago. It covers several families in Rockville Township, Wright County, Minnesota:


Statewide indexes for the census schedules of 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 are available in book format. These index the names of the heads of each household. They also include the first person in the household who has a different surname from the head. An 1860 every-name card index on microfilm is:

Index to the 1860 Federal Census Schedules for Minnesota. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, Division of Archives and Manuscripts, 1978. (FHL films 1373881–911; computer number 269148). The page numbers in this card index do not always correspond to the page numbers in the National Archives microfilms of the 1860 census. This index may be used to decide which county and township the family lived in. Then that location can be searched line by line on the census schedules.

The Minnesota Historical Society has an every-name card index to the 1870 federal census that is different from the printed version. The index is on microfilm and is available through interlibrary loan. A few printed county or area indexes exist for some of the state censuses.

There is a partial soundex (phonetic index) for the 1880 census that only covers families with children age 10 and under. Complete soundex indexes exist for the 1900 and 1920 censuses. There is no statewide index to the 1910 census of Minnesota.

Countywide indexes to federal censuses often contain the names of every person in the household, and may also include heads of households who were overlooked or whose names were misspelled in statewide indexes. Countywide indexes are listed in the Family History Library Catalog Locality Search under:

MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – CENSUS – [YEAR]

Multistate Indexes. Some of the indexes mentioned above are combined into one master index of several census years, states, and census types:

FamilyFinder Index and Viewer. Version 4.0. [Novato, Calif.]: Broderbund Software, 1997. (FHL compact disc no. 9 1997 index; computer number 808500). This does not circulate to Family History Centers. It is a master index to the 1840 Iowa Territory census, which included selected counties of Minnesota; 1847 and 1849 territorial censuses; 1850 territorial census with records for 1852; and mortality schedules for 1850, 1860, and 1870; and additional records for 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, and 1877. These entries
may not be complete for all extant records. They do not cite the exact sources. An Internet edition of this index is also available:

“Internet FamilyFinder” In FamilyTreeMaker.com [Internet site]. [Novato, Calif.]: Broderbund Software, 21 July 1999– [cited 26 October 1999]. Available at: www.familytreemaker.com/allsearch.html. You can search the FamilyFinder index for free. It displays the census year and state for each name matching the search. It may also list many vital records and genealogical collection citations. Once you know the census year and state, you must use the original index on compact disc, microfiche, or book to obtain enough data to find the name in the original census schedules. Similar index information is also available at www.Ancestry.com for a subscription fee. The FamilyFinder index includes the following Jackson indexes:


When indexes are not available or a name is omitted from an index you can still look for the name in the census. To find a person who lived in a large city, it helps to first find his or her address in the city directory for the same year as the census. (See the “Directories” section of this outline). Then look for that address on the original census schedules.

The following reference tools help determine which census schedule microfilm and enumeration district to search for specific addresses:


Census Descriptions of Geographic Subdivisions and Enumerations Districts.

- 1880 (FHL film 1402861; computer number 299426)
- 1900 (FHL film 1303023; computer number 117685)
- 1910 (FHL film 1374006; computer number 176643)
- 1920 (FHL film 1842709; computer number 687949)


Malmberg, Emil and Maurine. Street Indexes to Unindexed Cities in the U.S. 1910 Federal Census. Salt Lake City: Family History Library, 1993. (FHL book 973 X2str 1910; fiche 6104151; computer number 709519.) This lists Minneapolis street addresses with their corresponding page numbers, 1910 census enumeration district numbers, and FHL film numbers.

Mortality schedules (1850–1880) list those persons who died in the 12-month period prior to the census. Mortality schedules for Minnesota exist for the years 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. The schedules for the years 1860 and 1880 are indexed for the entire state. The 1850 and 1870 schedules have separate indexes for each county. These schedules and indexes are available on film at the Family History Library. These can be looked up in the Family History Library Catalog Locality Search under:

MINNESOTA – CENSUS

There is also a surviving portion of a 1900 mortality schedule taken for Minnesota. The printed full transcription at the Family History Library is:

Warren, James W. Minnesota 1900 Census Mortality Schedule. St. Paul, Minn.: Warren Research & Marketing Publication, 1992. (FHL book 977.6 X2w 1900; computer number 591625.) The book contains 3225 individuals. It is arranged alphabetically by county, with the large cities following the counties in which they are located. Indian reservations are listed at the end of the counties. It gives name, age, color, sex,
marital status, month died, cause of death, and physician. It also has a glossary of medical terms. This book lists only deaths that were not registered in Minnesota vital records in the 12 months before 1 June 1900. Some of the deaths were later copied into the county death registers. This book is available at the Minnesota Historical Society Library and many other libraries. The surviving 1900 schedules and transcripts are available at the Minnesota Historical Society.

There are published indexes to the mortality schedules for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880:

Mortality Records of Minnesota by Counties from the Territorial Period of 1850 to the End of the Year 1870: with the Records of St. Louis County to End of Year 1883. Typescript, 1947. (FHL book 977.6 V23d; film 823717 item 2; fiche 6051203; computer number 245813). This book gives name, age, sex, state or country of birth, occupation, and month of death. The St. Louis County lists are for 1872–1879 and 1881–1883. This book is arranged by county and is not indexed. The records come from the federal census except St. Louis County, which appears to come from local records.


Veteran Schedules ((1890). A special census was taken in 1890 of Union veterans of the Civil War:

United States. Census Office. 11th Census, 1890. Schedules Enumerating Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans of the Civil War. National Archives Microfilm Publication M123. (On 118 FHL films; computer number 59376.) The Minnesota returns are available at the Family History Library on FHL films 338181–84. This census lists the veteran’s name or widow, rank, company and regiment or vessel, dates of service, and current post office address. An index to the Minnesota returns has been published:


Territorial and State Censuses

There are early censuses that list inhabitants of the area that became Minnesota. A small portion of what is now Minnesota is included in the Michigan 1820 territorial census. For this census index see:


 Portions of present-day Minnesota were included in the 1836 Wisconsin territorial census, as part of Crawford and Dubuque counties. (Dubuque County was later in Iowa Territory.) In 1838, the Wisconsin territorial census covered some of Minnesota in Crawford and Clayton counties. Some Minnesota residents are listed in the 1840 territorial censuses of Wisconsin and Iowa.

In 1849 Minnesota became its own territory. Censuses were taken in 1849, 1850, 1853, 1855 and 1857. A microfilmed index is at Minnesota Historical Library and available through interlibrary loan. Parts or all of some of these censuses have been lost. Others are at the Minnesota Historical Society Library. The Family History Library has:

Minnesota. Census Bureau. Schedules of the Minnesota Census of 1857. National Archives Microfilm Publication, T1175. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1973. (FHL films 944283–90; computer number 324086.) The 1857 census is arranged alphabetically by county and then by the smaller jurisdiction. It was taken by 21 September 1857 and lists each household member and includes name, age, sex, race, birth locality (state, territory, or country), occupation, and if naturalized or native citizen.

According to the article below, some fictional names of people and places of residence were listed in southwestern Minnesota in the 1857 census:

Forrest, Robert J. “Mythical Cities of Southwestern Minnesota.” Minnesota History: A Quarterly Magazine 14, no. 3 (September 1933): 243–62. (FHL book 977.6 H25m; film 965778; computer number 26473.)

After Minnesota became a state, censuses listing the name of every person were taken by the state government in 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, and 1905. Portions of some counties have been indexed, and some are available in published format. Census schedules for some years have been lost for some
counties. Microfilms are available at the Minnesota Historical Society and at the Family History Library.

The Minnesota Historical Society created guides of their collection for the 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, and 1905 censuses that include a county index, an introduction that lists counties that have no schedule, and a roll content list that has the subdivisions (townships, municipalities) in each county and the order they appear on the roll. To find these guides, see the Locality Search of the catalog under:

MINNESOTA – CENSUS – [YEAR] – INVENTORIES, REGISTERS, CATALOGS

The Minnesota Historical Society’s Genealogical Resources of the Minnesota Historical Society, A Guide has information on all the censuses that pertain to Minnesota. (See the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline.)

Some of the early territorial censuses have been published in the Minnesota Genealogist and the Minnesota Genealogical Journal. (See the “Periodicals” section of this outline.)

Microfilm numbers of Minnesota territorial or state censuses are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA – CENSUS – [YEAR]

They are also found in:


CHURCH RECORDS

Many churches keep records of baptisms, christenings, confirmations, marriages, burials, memberships, admissions, and removals. Some keep minutes of church meetings and the histories of their local church. Each church has its own policies in record keeping.

Church records are important for family research because civil authorities in Minnesota did not begin registering births and deaths on a county level until 1870 and even later on a state level. (See the “Vital Records” section of this outline for more information on birth, death, and other records.) Before 1900 the largest religious groups in Minnesota were the Roman Catholics and Lutherans. There were also many Methodists, Episcopalians, Congregationalists, and Presbyterians.

Although records of some congregations have been gathered in major denominational repositories, the majority still remain with local churches.

Refer to the following inventory to learn more about the available records:

Historical Records Survey (Minnesota). Guide to Church Vital Statistics Records in Minnesota: Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals. St. Paul, Minn.: Historical Records Survey, 1942. (FHL book 977.6 K23h; film 962275 item 2; computer number 109180.) This list is by county, then town or city. It mentions the church records of some congregations that existed at the church in 1940 and gives the years that the records were available.

Directory of Churches and Religious Organizations in Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn.: Historical Records Survey, 1941. (FHL book 977.6 K24h; film 1036193 item 13; fiche 6051165; computer number 245669.) This volume contains an incomplete list of churches; many congregations were missed. Information is arranged first by denomination, then district or conference, then the name of the church. Entries include the address of the church, year of incorporation, and often the name of the minister in 1941. For a reprint of this book see:


Individual churches hold most church records for Minnesota. Some denominations are gathering their records or information on their records into a central repository. Availability of these records may differ with each repository. The major repositories include the following denominations.

Congregational

Congregational Library
T4 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone: 617-523-0470
Fax: 617-523-0491
The Congregational Historical Society is also located in the same building. The Congregational Library has a collection of church records and biographies on church leaders. However, they do not have a master surname index to their collection. They have a few items for Minnesota, including records from the Church of the Open Door.

Before beginning research and to have a better understanding of the makeup of the denominations and the location of these records, see:

Hage, Anne A. *Church Records in Minnesota: A Guide to Parish Records of Congregational, Evangelical, Reformed, and United Church of Christ Churches, 1851–1981*. Minneapolis, Minn.: Minnesota Conference, United Church of Christ, 1983. (FHL book 977.6 K2h; computer number 364634.) This source mentions the kinds and dates of records at each church up to 1981.

**Jewish**

American Jewish Historical Society Library
160 Herrick Road
Newton Centre, MA 02459
Telephone: 617-559-8880
Fax: 617-559-8881
Internet: www.ajhs.org

The American Jewish Historical Society Library has an extensive collection consisting of manuscripts on individuals, institutions, and organizations that pertain to the Jewish experience in America. They also have a collection of Jewish American family genealogies that is continually growing. One of the collections is from the Industrial Removal Office. It is arranged alphabetically by city and then by state. It contains information about individuals from the lower east end of New York who were helped to find jobs and relocate in the Midwest.

For a history about the Jewish people in Minnesota, see:


**Lutheran**

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), Region 3
2481 Como Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108
Telephone: 651.649.0454 ext.232

The American Lutheran Church (ALC) Archives are now part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) Archives. They have divided their records into nine regions. Region 3 covers Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. If a church is still active, the regional archive can help locate their records. The records of Minnesota churches that have been disbanded are at this archive. For a partial list of Lutheran church records, see:

*ALC Congregations on Microfilm.* Dubuque, Iowa: The Archives, [197–?]. (FHL fiche 6330690–93 [set of 4]; computer number 170040.) No circulation to Family History Centers. Arranged by state and city of congregation. The microfiche number for Minnesota is 6330691. There are over 200 churches listed in Minnesota with the city, name of the church, type of records, county, and their microfilm or microfiche number.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631-4198
Telephone: 773-380-2818
Fax: 773-380-2977
Internet: www.elca.org

This archive has microfilm copies of part of the records at the Region 3 facility in St. Paul. They can help locate records of a congregation if you know the name of the congregation.

**Methodist**

United Methodist Annual Conference
122 West Franklin Avenue, Room 400
Minneapolis, MN 55404
Telephone: 612-870-0058
Internet: www.minnesotaumc.org/ME2/Default.asp

This conference includes all United Methodist congregations in the state of Minnesota as well as the earlier churches from which they were formed. Some earlier churches include: Methodist, Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant, Evangelical United Brethren, United Brethren, and United Evangelical.
The first conference, which was formed in 1856, was known as Evangelical Gemeindschaft, or Evangelical Association. There is information about the conference and its congregations before 1856. The conference can help identify and locate existing records. The records may include membership, preparatory membership, baptism, marriage, a few death records, and occasionally a column that lists what happened to the member.

Hobart, Chauncey. *History of Methodism in Minnesota*. 1887. Reprint, Brooklyn Park, Minn.: Park Genealogical Books, 1992. (FHL book 977.6 K2hc; computer number 675336.) This history contains a glossary of terms used in nineteenth-century Methodism and an every-name index to biographies included in the work.

### Presbyterian

Presbyterian Historical Society and Department of History
United Presbyterian Church USA
425 Lombard Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147-1516
Telephone: 215-627-1852
Fax: 215-627-0509
Internet: [www.history.pcusa.org](http://www.history.pcusa.org)

The Presbyterian congregations own their records. The Presbyterian Historical Society and Department of History have a card file catalog that lists the congregations by the local town name only and this does not include the state. They sort the new records by zip code. They can help you find records if you give them the name of the town. If you know where your ancestor lived, check with the congregations still in existence in that area.

Information about Presbyterian churches before 1907 is found in:

Campbell, E. V. *History of the Churches of the Presbytery of St. Cloud*. St. Cloud, Minn.: Journal Press, 1907?.. (FHL film 1845852 item 3; computer number 688385.) Gives information about the organization and early life of the Presbyterian Church especially in St. Cloud area.

### Roman Catholic

The records most useful to family history researchers are the records of baptism, marriage, burial, and confirmation made by parish priest in the local churches. These are sometimes referred to as sacramental records. Some of these records may remain in the local churches while others have been moved to the diocesan offices and archives.

The Archdiocese of St. Paul has records dating back 150 years that include early sacramental records and correspondence between church and government. They also have correspondence from the Catholic Colonization Society based in Chicago. This correspondence deals with finding and placing Catholic immigrants. They have microfilmed many of their sacramental records. These are available at the archdiocese office. Call or write ahead for an appointment. Several lists of their microfilmed parish records have been published in the last few years of the *Minnesota Genealogist*.

**Archdiocese of St. Paul**
226 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55102
Telephone: 651-291-4400
Fax: 651-290-1629
Internet: [www.archspm.org/](http://www.archspm.org/)

**Diocese of New Ulm**
1400 6th St. N.
New Ulm, MN 56073-2099
Telephone: 507-359-2966
Fax: 507-354-3667
Internet: [www.dnu.org/](http://www.dnu.org/)

**Diocese of Crookston**
1200 Memorial Drive
PO Box 610
Crookston, MN 56716
Telephone: 218-281-4533
Fax: 218-281-3328
Internet: [www.crookston.org/](http://www.crookston.org/)

**Diocese of Duluth**
2830 East 4th St.
Duluth, MN 55812
Telephone: 218-724-9111
Fax: 218-724-1056
Internet: [www.dioceseduluth.org](http://www.dioceseduluth.org)

**Diocese of St. Cloud**
214 South 3rd Ave.
St. Cloud, MN 56301
Telephone: 320-251-2340
Fax: 320-251-0470
Internet: [www.stcdio.org/](http://www.stcdio.org/)

*Mailing Address:*
P.O. Box 1248
St. Cloud, MN 56302
A guide to the Catholic churches in Minnesota is:


The Minnesota Historical Society has records of some individual churches and religious groups. Only a few of the church records held by the Minnesota Historical Society have been microfilmed. They have an inventory for each series of church records that lists the contents of each roll of film. These copies are available through interlibrary loan.

The Family History Library does not have an extensive collection of church records for Minnesota. Local church records that are available are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

- MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – CHURCH RECORDS
- MINNESOTA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] – CHURCH RECORDS

COURT RECORDS

Information about many of your ancestors can be found in court records, perhaps as defendants, plaintiffs, witnesses, or jurors. They may have participated in cases involving probate, naturalization, divorce, debt, adoption, guardianship, licenses, appointment to public offices, taxes, civil and criminal lawsuits, property disputes, crimes, or other matters brought before a court. Court records can establish family relationships and places of residence. They often provide occupations, descriptions of individuals, and other excellent family history information.

Between the date counties were created and the date they were organized, which could be several years, some counties were attached to other counties for administrative purposes. This sometimes makes it hard to find the early records.

Major courts that kept records of genealogical value were established as follows:

- **Territorial courts** were created in 1849. They included district, probate, and supreme courts. In 1858 territorial courts were replaced by state courts which kept the same names and handled most of the same kinds of cases.

- **State Supreme Court** is an appellate court that hears cases from the district court.

- **Probate Court** has handled probates of estates, incompetency cases, guardianship, and other probate matters. It also acts as the juvenile court for cases in counties with a population under 40,000.

- **Municipal and justice of the peace courts** in local cities and towns have jurisdiction over misdemeanor cases. Most municipal courts merged into the county probate courts.

- **District courts** are established over several counties but sit in each county. They receive cases from lower courts, such as justices of the peace and municipal courts, which were abolished in the 1970s. They have jurisdiction over certain criminal and civil cases, including divorces and naturalization, and over juvenile cases for counties with a population over 40,000. Many counties have transferred their older records to the Minnesota Historical Society, but the indexes have generally remained with the county. The clerk of the district court (name changed in the 1980s to court administrator) has indexes of plaintiffs and defendants. The lower court records were usually kept by the clerk of the district court. The clerk also handled marriage, birth, and death records on a county level.
Now most vital records are not handled by courts, but by other county offices, usually the recorder.

The records are available at county courthouses and the Minnesota Historical Society Library. The Family History Library has few civil and criminal court records of Minnesota. You can obtain the needed records by visiting or corresponding with the appropriate court.

**DIRECTORIES**

Directories are alphabetical lists of names and addresses. City directories can help you learn where an ancestor lived. The person’s occupation is frequently given. Often the home address and the business address are both mentioned. When a husband has died, the widow is often listed as "widow of . . . ." Directories can sometimes help when you search census records to determine in which ward the family lived for a particular time in a big city. Directories sometimes have maps and addresses of churches, cemeteries, courthouses, and other important locations.

Polk, R.L. and Company. *Northwestern Gazetteer, Minnesota, North and South Dakota and Montana Gazetteer and Business Directory*. St. Paul, Minn.: Polk, 1914. (FHL film 1321220-21; computer number 235360.) The first part of the directory covers Minnesota and lists residences of people, often with their occupation. It also serves as a gazetteer for the time. It lists population, churches and commercial buildings, newspapers, and where land was located and the price for which it was selling.

The Family History Library and the Minnesota Historical Society Library have incomplete collections of directories from throughout Minnesota. Many were published as county directories, listing inhabitants of major towns in the county. Rural directories collected information on farmers, dairymen, and other rural residents.

Directories are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

**MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – DIRECTORIES**
**MINNESOTA, [COUNTY], [CITY] – DIRECTORIES**

**EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION**

Emigration records list the names of people leaving an area, and immigration records list those coming into an area. The United States Research Outline (30972) "Emigration and Immigration" section lists several important sources for finding information about immigrants. These nationwide sources include many references to people who settled in Minnesota. The Tracing Immigrant Origins Research Outline (34111) introduces the principles, search strategies, and additional record types you can use to identify an immigrant ancestor’s original hometown.

Pre-statehood residents of Minnesota were primarily American Indians and French and British immigrants. After 1858 settlers in Minnesota generally came from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Pennsylvania, and New York. After 1860 thousands of immigrants came from Germany, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Canada, and Denmark.

Minnesota has no ports of entry. Most immigrants to Minnesota arrived at a major eastern port such as New York, Boston, Philadelphia, or Quebec. Some Minnesota immigrants prior to 1855 entered through the port of New Orleans. The Family History Library has records for the ports of New York, Boston, and New Orleans beginning about 1820. Philadelphia records start in 1800. See the United States Research Outline (30972) for details. Quebec port records begin in 1865. Settlers generally followed the Great Lakes and the railroads to Illinois and Wisconsin, or they traveled up the Mississippi River. Steamboats and vessels traveling the lakes and rivers were not required to keep passenger lists.

Lists of persons coming from Canada to the United States were not recorded until 1895. Persons who crossed the border after that year might be listed in Soundex Index to Canadian Border Entries Through the St. Albans, Vt. District, 1895–1924, and other sources mentioned in the “Emigration and Immigration” section of the Canada Research Outline (34545). These and other border entry indexes and lists are also described in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:
The Minnesota Historical Society has *Alien Registration Records* made in February 1918, listing most non-U.S. citizens in Minnesota. The indexes and records are on microfilm but are not at the Family History Library. The registration form gives name, place of birth (sometimes the town), port of entry, date of arrival, names of children, and occupation. Contact the Minnesota Historical Society Library at the address listed in the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline for further information.

Information about immigrant groups from eastern and southern Europe is at the Immigration History Research Center described in the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline.

To find books about migration in Minnesota, use a Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA – EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Records of major ethnic groups are also listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA – MINORITIES.

See the “Minorities” and “Naturalization and Citizenship” sections of this outline for additional sources on immigrant groups.

**FUNERAL HOMES**

Funeral home records vary greatly in the information they contain. They may give death and burial date and place, birth date and place, parents, spouse, maiden name, other family members, religion, and names of the person or persons responsible for the funeral expenses. It is not uncommon for a funeral home to include a biography or obituary and the names and residences of surviving relatives.

Some funeral home records start as early as the 1880s, although many of the earliest records have been lost or destroyed. Old records may be in the custody of a funeral home currently in business in the area; often, mortuaries that changed hands or relocated saved the old records. Some records have been given to local libraries or societies. Funeral home personnel are generally helpful and are familiar with the locations of active cemeteries and sextons or caretakers you can contact. Telephone calls or personal visits are generally more effective than letters.

The Minnesota Historical Society Library has a directory covering funeral homes from 1911 to 1936.

Minnesota Board of Health. *Directory, Embalmers and Funeral Director Holding the License of the Minnesota State Board of Health.* (MHS book RA623.83m63).

A few funeral home records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] – FUNERAL HOMES

An example of the funeral home records found at the Family History Library is:


Their records give names of the deceased, birthplace, relationship to nearest kin, date and place of funeral, date and place of death, occupation of the deceased, marital status, religion and age. Records also give the names of parents and their birthplaces. Information is not complete in every record.

**GAZETTEERS**

Gazetteers list geographical names such as towns, settlements, rivers, mountains, villages, and districts. Sometimes they list the population and other details about the location. They usually include only the name of places as they existed at the time the gazetteer was published.

Some gazetteers of Minnesota are:

Bakeman, Mary. *Minnesota Places: Then and Now.* St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Genealogical Society, 1991. (FHL book 977.6 A1 no. 100; computer number 249101.) This book includes 855 towns and 192 other places that have a post office. It also lists more than 1,900 names of towns in Minnesota, past and present.

Rippley, LaVern J. *German Place Names in Minnesota.* Northfield, Minn.: St. Olaf College, 1980. (FHL book 977.6 E2r; computer number 596310.) This book identifies over 200 German names of towns, settlements, townships, and
bodies of water in the state. The text is in English and German.

Upahm, Warren. *Minnesota Geographic Names: Their Origin and Historic Significance*. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, 1969. (FHL book 977.6 E2u; computer number 95048.) This study of Minnesota place names was originally done in 1920. This edition includes an introduction updated by the author and a supplement listing localities created since 1920.

**GENEALOGY**

The term *genealogy* is used in this outline and in the Family History Library Catalog to describe a variety of records containing family information previously gathered by other researchers, societies, or archives. These records may include pedigree charts, compiled data on families, correspondence, ancestor lists, research exchange files, record abstracts, and collections of original or copied documents. These can be excellent sources of information that can save you time. Because they are secondary sources of information, however, they must be carefully evaluated for accuracy, and the original sources should be consulted whenever possible.

**Nationwide Indexes**

You will find information on the following important nationwide genealogical indexes in the *United States Research Outline* (30972), in the sections indicated.

- **Ancestral File** (“Genealogy” section. Also available on the FamilySearch™ Internet Genealogy Service.)

- **FamilyFinder Index** (“Census” section. Also on the Internet at: www.famlytreemaker.com/allsearch.html.)

- Family History Library Catalog Surname Search (“Introduction” and “Genealogy” sections. Also available on the FamilySearch™ Internet Genealogy Service.)

- **Genealogical Index of the Newberry Library** (“Genealogy” section.)

- **Index to American Genealogies** (“Genealogy” section.)

- **Index to National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC)** (“Genealogy” section. Also available on the Internet at: www.lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucms/nuccmc.html.)

- **International Genealogical Index** (“Genealogy” section. Also available on FamilySearch™ Internet Genealogy Service.)

- **Old Surname Index File** (“Genealogy” section.)

- **Periodical Source Index (PERSI)** (“Periodicals” section. Also available on the Internet at www.Ancestry.com for a subscription fee.)

These indexes are available at the Family History Library and many libraries with family history collections.

**Web Sites About Your Family**

Search the Internet for family history web sites about your surname. Use the “Search for Ancestors” feature of the FamilySearch™ Internet Genealogy Service at www.familysearch.com/default.asp to help you find such sites.

**Statewide Collections and Publications**

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. Usually these must be searched in person. Important manuscript collections of compiled Minnesota genealogies are:

Daughters of the American Revolution (Minnesota). *Genealogical Collection*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1971. (FHL films 868493–96; computer number 453643.) This collection consists of transcripts of Bible records, cemetery records, church records, records of marriages and deaths, obituaries, and wills. A partial surname index to these films is found in E. Kay Kirkham’s *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States* (see the “Bible Records” section of this outline). Another DAR collection is:

**Genealogical Collections of the Daughters of the American Revolution for the State of Minnesota: Church Records, Diary, Early Minnesota Wills, Family Genealogies, etc.** [St. Paul, Minn.] 1945. (FHL book 977.6 D2d; fiche 6051204; computer number 249959.) The collection contains a variety of materials such as genealogies; a transcript of all the wills in Faribault, Minnesota, from 1858 to 1886; vital records from a church in Duluth; a diary of 1870; and material on the Indian Wars of 1864. It has an index.

An every-name index of over 26,000 names found in a variety of genealogical, biographical, and historical sources is:
Pope, Wiley R. *Minnesota Genealogical Index*. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Family Trees, 1984. (FHL book 977.6 D22p; computer number 426038.) Some of the sources indexed in this record are: 1849 census; state laws, 1849–1857; naturalization records by the Minnesota Supreme Court, 1858–1910; prison lists, 1853–1900; and physicians’ and dentists’ lists for 1896.

A source for French Canadian ancestors who emigrated to Minnesota is:


Many genealogies have been compiled and published in sources such as:

Southwest State University (Minnesota). Southwest Minnesota Historical Center. *Family History Group Sheets and Surname File*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (FHL films 1728928–30; computer number 614003.) The surname file is an index for the family group record collection. It is on cards in alphabetical order and gives name, date and place of birth, spouse’s name, and location or name of file. Information is often incomplete, and no documentation is listed. Not all names found on the family group sheets are listed in the card file.

Fraszczak, Mary Jo. *Ancestor Charts*. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Genealogical Society, 1979. (FHL book 977.6 D2a; computer number 10691.) These indexed pedigree charts combine names, dates, and places of ancestors as well as compiler’s name and address and the date submitted. They do not cite the sources of the information.


**HISTORY**

The following important dates in the history of Minnesota affected political jurisdictions, record keeping, and family movements.

1686–
1762 The French established a chain of forts and small settlements in the area of Minnesota.

1763–
1819 The area was controlled by British fur traders of the Northwest Company.

1783 Great Britain grants eastern portions of Minnesota to the United States.

1787–
1800 Part of Northwest Territory

1800–
1809 Part of Indiana Territory

1803 The United States obtains the western portion of the area through the Louisiana Purchase.

1809–
1818 Part of Illinois Territory

1820 The U.S. Army establishes Fort Snelling at its permanent location near the future site of St. Paul. It becomes a nucleus of settlement. Mississippi River steamboats reach Fort Snelling in 1823.

1818–
1836 The area that is now Minnesota is in Michigan Territory.

1836 All of Minnesota is in Wisconsin Territory.

1837 Sioux and Chippewa Indians sell their claim to the St. Croix Valley, opening the way to major white settlements in eastern Minnesota.

1840 Some Minnesota residents are listed in the 1840 territorial censuses of Wisconsin and Iowa.

1849 Congress creates Minnesota Territory.

1851–
1855 The Indians give up their rights to millions of acres of land west of the Mississippi River.
1854 Large scale immigration begins when the railroad reaches the Mississippi River.

1858 Minnesota gains statehood.

1861–1865 The Civil War and Indian wars involve 22,000 men.

1862 Dakota Conflict (See the “Military Records” section of this outline for details.)

1870–1890 Rapid settlement as homesteaders—many immigrants from Germany, Sweden, and Norway—move into western and southwestern Minnesota.

1917–1918 More than half a million men between age 18 and 45 register with the Selective Service; about 75,000 enter the service in World War I

1930s Many Mexican Americans arrive.

1941–1945 More than 6,000 Minnesota soldiers lose their lives in World War II.

1970s Arrival of refugees from southeast Asia

State Histories

Two sources for studying the history of Minnesota are:

Folwell, William Watts. A History of Minnesota, 4 vols. Saint Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, 1921–1930. (FHL book 977.6 H2f; film 1036196 items 2–5; computer number 249860.) This history focuses on firsts in the state: first white men, first commerce, and so on. Volume 4 has a cumulative index.

Blegen, Theodore C. Minnesota: A History of the State, 2d ed. [Minneapolis, Minn.]: University of Minnesota Press, 1975. (FHL book 977.6 H2bt; computer number 107872.) This is a concise history with an extensive bibliography and index.

Local Histories

Some of the most valuable sources for family history research are local histories. Published histories of towns, counties, and states usually contain accounts of area families. The United States Research Outline (30972) “History” section cites nationwide bibliographies of local histories that include local histories of Minnesota. For statewide bibliographies of local histories, see:


For other information, see the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA – [COUNTY], HISTORY
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] – HISTORY

LAND AND PROPERTY

The availability of land attracted many immigrants to America and encouraged westward expansion. Land ownership was generally recorded in an area as soon as settlers began to arrive. Land records are primarily used to learn where an individual lived and when he lived there. They often reveal other family information, such as the name of a spouse, heir, other relatives, or neighbors. You may learn where a person lived previously, his occupation, if he had served in the military, if he was a naturalized citizen, and other clues. Sale of the land may show when he left and to where he was moving.

Minnesota was a public-domain state where unclaimed land was surveyed, then granted or sold by the government through federal and state land offices. Later when the land was sold or mortgaged by private owners, the transactions were recorded at the office of the county register of deeds. Family history researchers usually use land records from county offices. Records from federal and state offices can also have genealogical value. For detailed descriptions of land record types see United States Research Outline (30972).

Surveys

Minnesota uses the rectangular land survey system (section, township, and range). Two different surveys were done resulting in two number sequences. Land east of the Mississippi River was part of the Northwest Territory. Townships in that
area of Minnesota are numbered between 22 and 70 north of the (Galena, Illinois) base line. Ranges run east or west of the 4th principal meridian.

Land west of the Mississippi River was part the Louisiana Purchase. Townships in that area are numbered between 101 and 164 north of the (Clarendon, Arkansas) base line. Ranges are counted west from the 5th principal meridian. Maps showing these surveys are included in:


**Federal Land Offices**

The first General Land Office covering Minnesota was established in Wisconsin in 1848 and was transferred in 1849 to Stillwater, Minnesota. There were eventually as many as 11 land districts within the state: Alexandria, Cass Lake, Crookston, Duluth, Minneapolis, Ojibway (no records exist for this district), Red Wing, Root River, St. Cloud, Stillwater, and Winona. District names and boundaries changed considerably through the years as offices opened and closed and land was transferred from one district to another: the 11 districts had a total of 34 names. By 1908 only three land offices remained. They were located in Cass Lake, Crookston, and Duluth. Records from all other offices had been transferred to Duluth. The Crookston and Duluth offices were closed in 1925. The public domain in Minnesota was declared closed to settlement in 1930, and the land office at Cass Lake was discontinued in 1933.

**Federal Land Grants**

The earliest land sales in Minnesota were in 1848, when land in the St. Paul area was sold at a land office in St. Croix Falls. However, the first major land boom was 1854–57, when more than 5.25 million acres of public lands were sold. In 1854 Wisconsin settlers were allowed to claim unsurveyed land. Thousands of acres were also transferred to holders of military bounty land warrants. These warrants were originally granted to veterans of the Mexican War of 1848, but most warrants had been sold by the veterans to other individuals, including land speculators.

The first federal homestead act was passed in 1862. Between 1863 and 1865 Minnesota settlers registered 9,500 entries for free land. Individuals could also buy land cheaply from the railroads. By 1908 most of the land rush was over, and only three federal land offices mentioned above were still in operation.

After land had been surveyed, the survey was recorded in township plat books. These usually contained a drawing of the township, noting major geographical features such as waterways. Other federal records include the tract books, patents, and case files described below.

Copies of the federal records were sent to the Minnesota Historical Society. Most Minnesota federal land records are also in the Bureau of Land Management’s Eastern States office in Springfield, Virginia.

Microfilm copies of the tract books and township plats of the Minnesota land offices are at the Family History Library and at:

- **Minnesota Historical Society Research Center**
  345 Kellogg Blvd. W.
  St Paul MN 55102-1906
  Telephone: 651-296-2143
  Fax: 651-297-7436

The actual patents are at:

- **Bureau of Land Management Eastern States Office**
  7450 Boston Blvd
  Springfield VA 22153
  Telephone: 703-440-1523
  Fax: 703-440-1599

**Indexes.** When federal land was finally transferred to private individuals, it was said to be patented. Some land patents, certificates, and other land documents for Minnesota have been indexed on one compact disc:

- United States. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. *Minnesota, 1820–1908: Cash and Homestead Entries.* Springfield, Va.: BLM Eastern States, 1995. (FHL compact disc Series 1313 no. 39; computer number 785091.) This does not circulate to Family History Centers. These records are patents issued by the federal government. Researchers can search for land title information through any one of six categories: land description, patentee name, patent authority, land office, certificate number, or county.

Basically the same index is included in:

Other indexes to Minnesota federal land records are not arranged alphabetically but geographically by section, township, and range. Some federal land records of Minnesota are indexed in:

United States. Bureau of Land Management. Card Files. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Land Management, 19—. (On 160 FHL films, Minnesota cards are on films 1501675 and 1501676; computer number 547365.) Use these to find the land office name and certificate numbers. Cards mainly cover cash purchases during the 1850s and 1860s. Each card includes a certificate number; the name of an assignor; the legal description of the land by section, township, and range; a date of patent; and a warrant book volume and page number. In a few cases, the cards include names of entire families as assignors.

Most of the names listed in the card files do not appear to be duplicated in the compact disc patent index listed above or in the tract books described below. Certificate numbers referenced in the card files do appear in the tract books, although most often the names of persons listed on the cards do not.

Tract books are more complete than the card files and also serve as indexes to the case files. They are arranged geographically by township and range, so you have to have some idea of the legal description of the land where your ancestor lived to be able to use them. Some legal land descriptions are included in county records. The Minnesota Historical Society Library has many county maps, land atlases, and plat books that show townships and ranges. A few of these are at the Family History Library. Tract books for Minnesota are at the Family History Library. They are part of a larger collection called:

United States. Bureau of Land Management. Tract Books. Washington D.C.: Records Improvement, Bureau of Land Management, 1957. (The FHL films for Minnesota are 1445629–76; computer number 473821.) Use the Author/Title Search of the microfiche catalog to find film numbers. The tract books devote a page or so to each land section in a township. They list the name of the first owner of each quarter section or the certificate number or both.

Records about individual pieces of land in each township were collected in land-entry case files. Case files may include personal or family information, such as military discharge papers and naturalization certificates. Case files are not at the Family History Library, but must be ordered from:

Old Military & Civil Records Branch
National Archives and Records Administration

To obtain a case file, you must provide a complete legal land description and the name of the state, land office, type of certificate, certificate number, and name of ancestor. Do not send money; you will be billed.

State Land Office and Records

A State Land Office was established in 1862. It administered and sold trust fund lands that had been set aside to support public schools and the state university. It also received land grants from the federal government to transmit to the railroads. Records from the State Land Office are at the Minnesota Historical Society. They are described in:

Kinney, Gregory, and Lydia Lucas. A Guide to the Records of Minnesota’s Public Land. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, Division of Archives and Manuscripts, 1985. (FHL book 977.6 R2k; microfilm 1698227 item 11; computer number 487052.) In addition to describing land records, this guide contains brief histories of the state and federal agencies that created the records.

Additional indexes, printed sources, and records of original transfers of land from federal and state governments are found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

UNITED STATES - LAND AND PROPERTY
MINNESOTA - LAND AND PROPERTY

County Records

After land was transferred to private ownership, subsequent land sales and mortgages were usually recorded in the register of deeds office in each county. Original documents were retained by the families, while copies of deeds, mortgages, and leases were kept by the registrar of deeds. Abstracts and indexes for these records are generally available at the county courthouse. Registrars of deeds are now known as county recorders. The Family History Library is continuing to acquire microfilm copies of these records and their indexes from the southern and eastern counties.

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MAPS

The Wilson Library of the University of Minnesota has the most complete collection of maps for the state. Their web address is:


The Minnesota Historical Society Library also has an extensive map collection, and the Family History Library has a few maps that can aid your research. Two atlases, An Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Minnesota and Bakeman’s A Comprehensive Index to A. T. Andreas’ Illustrated Historical Atlas of Minnesota—1874, are both cited in the “Biography” section of this outline.

A bibliography of available county atlases is in:

Treu de, Mai. Windows to the Past: A Bibliography of Minnesota County Atlases. Minneapolis, Minn.: University of Minnesota Press, 1980. (FHL book 977.6 E73t; computer number 112353.) It indicates whether copies of individual atlases are at the Library of Congress or at archives or libraries in Minnesota.

A guide to the history of Minnesota’s counties and boundary changes has also been published:


The United States Research Outline (30972) describes additional sources containing maps of Minnesota. Maps are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA – MAPS
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – MAPS
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] – MAPS

MILITARY RECORDS

Military records identify millions of individuals who served in the military or who were eligible for service. Evidence that an ancestor actually served may be found in family traditions (or legends), census records, naturalization records, biographies, cemetery records, and records of veterans’ organizations.

Many military records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, the Minnesota Historical Society, and other federal and state archives. The U.S. Military Records Research Outline (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies.

Mexican War (1846–1848)

Although Minnesota did not exist as a state during the time of the Mexican War, men who served in that war were eligible for military bounty land in Minnesota. (See the “Land and Property” section of this outline.)

Civil War (1861–1865)

Minnesota was a relatively new state with a small population at the time of the Civil War, but it contributed a substantial number of troops to the Union forces during the war. About 22,000 Minnesotans served; 2,500 died in the war. An article with suggestions and sources for researching a Civil War ancestor in Minnesota is:


Names of most of those who served are included in:

Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars, 1861–1865. 2 vols. St. Paul, Minn.: Pioneer Press, 1890–93. (FHL book 977.6 H2bc; vol. 1 on film 1036220 item 6; vol. 2 on film 1033917 item 2 and fiche 6046730 [fiche 11–18]; computer number 170087.)

Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars, 1861–1865. 2d ed. 2 vols. St. Paul, Minn.: Pioneer Press, 1891. (FHL book 977.6 H2bc 1891; film 1033917; fiche 6046730 [set of 10]; computer number 68255.) Volume 1 includes the history of each regiment and regimental rosters listing soldiers’ names, ages, dates of service, and remarks about their service, including whether transferred, wounded, captured, or killed. Volume 2 consists of correspondence and battle reports, arranged chronologically. Indexes at the end of each volume list only some officers and major events. A more complete index to both volumes is at the Minnesota Historical Society.
Minnesota Adjutant General’s Report of 1866. Roseville, Minn.: Park Genealogical Books, 1997. (FHL book 977.6; computer number 0816204.) The report lists 26,088 names of men who served during the Civil War period, including citizen soldiers who served in local militias. It gives name, age, state or country of birth, dates of service, and remarks, and is arranged alphabetically. Family history researchers should look at both.

The index to the federal service records of Union volunteers from Minnesota is:


The index to Union pension records for all states is described in the U.S. Military Records Research Outline (34118).

Names and residences of some persons receiving federal pensions can be found in:

List of Pensioners on the Roll, January 1, 1883: . . . as Called for by Senate Resolution of December 8, 1882. Vol. 4. 1883. Reprint. Arvada, Colo.: Ancestor Publishers, 1990. (FHL fiche 6334560; computer number 686823.) No circulation to Family History Centers. The list includes more than 4,000 names of Civil War or War of 1812 veterans or the name their widow. Arranged by county names in alphabetical order, then by post office addresses in alphabetical order; persons’ names are not in any particular order. Information includes the pensioner’s name, post office address, reason for pension, amount of money received each month, and date the pension was originally awarded. Unindexed.

Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). In 1890, about 40 percent of the Civil War veterans were members of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). The descriptive books of each GAR post usually indicate each member’s name, age, rank, birthplace, residence, occupation, and enlistment and discharge information. The descriptive books and other records of many GAR posts are at the Minnesota Historical Society.

Unit Histories. An important inventory for finding Civil War military histories in Minnesota is:

Civil War Unit Histories: The Union—Midwest and West. (Part 4.) Bethesda, Md.: University Publications of America, 1993. (FHL book 973 M2cwu pt. 4; computer number 715369.) The library has the large microfiche collection described in this guide. Use the library catalog to find individual items. This may include correspondence, diaries, memoirs, and regimental histories published before 1920. The guide shows the unit name, counties where it was raised, author, title, publication information, number of pages, and source repository. This guide also includes an author index and a major engagements index.

Soldiers Home Records. Records of the state operated soldiers home in Minneapolis are found in the Minnesota State Historical Society Library. They include resident admission and discharge records, history of residents’ military service, and clinical records.

Dakota Conflict (Sioux Uprising, 1862)

The Dakota Conflict, sometimes called the Sioux Uprising or Sioux War of 1862, erupted in Minnesota during the Civil War. Driven by hunger and broken promises, some Dakota Indians attacked settlements in the Minnesota River Valley in mid-August 1862. Although not long, the Dakota Conflict claimed the lives of hundreds of Dakota people and white settlers. The unrest that persisted following the conflict caused many Dakota Indians to flee to the Dakota Territory or to Canada.

Records of troops in federal service who took part in the Dakota Conflict are included with Civil War records. Names of those who served with local militia units are included as an appendix to Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars, 1861–1865, volume 1, described above. Names of more than 200 white settlers and many Indians who died in the Dakota Conflict are included in:

Satterlee, Marion P. A Detailed Account of the Massacre by the Dakota Indians in 1862: with Names of all Victims [and a] Complete List of Indians Killed in Battle. . . . Minneapolis, Minn.: M. P. Satterlee, [1923]. (FHL film 1671601 item 7; computer number 596415.)

Spanish-American War (1898) and Philippine Insurrection (1899–1902)

Minnesota raised four volunteer regiments for service in the Spanish-American War. About 5,000 men served with those regiments. Four Minnesota soldiers were killed in action; more than 80 died of disease. Minnesota was one of a few states that also provided volunteers during the Philippine Insurrection. Rosters of those who served in both conflicts are included in:
Holbrook, Franklin F. *Minnesota in the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection*. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota War Records Commission, 1923. (FHL film 1654701; computer number 118397.) Includes brief regimental histories of the Minnesota volunteer units, followed by rosters of Minnesotans who served between 1898 and 1902 in those units and in other branches of service—more than 8,000 names. Information includes name, age, birthplace, residence, regiment, and dates mustered in and out. Includes an index to names in the rosters and a general index.

Names of those who filed for pensions based on service in these two conflicts are included in the *General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934*, described in the *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118).

**World War I (1917–1918)**

*World War I draft registration cards* for men ages 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for Minnesota, see:


To find an individual’s draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board.

Most counties had only one board, large cities had several. Maps showing the boundaries of individual draft boards in Minneapolis and St. Paul are included in:


Finding an ancestor’s street address in a city directory will help you in using the draft board map. See the “Directories” section of this outline.

*Haller’s Army.* During World War I, the Polish Army in France, commonly called Haller’s Army, recruited about 20,000 soldiers from among Poles living in the United States. Two forms that contain genealogical information were filled out by the recruits. Form A contains each volunteer’s name, address, marital status, number of children, how his family would be supported if he was accepted into service, whether volunteer was an American citizen, his age, physical description, signature, recruiting station, and the date. Form C contains additional information such as the volunteer’s birth date and place, the addresses of his closest relative in America and of his closest relative in Poland, his previous military service, and remarks. All volumes of the collection are available through:

PGS of America
ATTN: Haller’s Army Request
984 N. Milwaukee Ave
Chicago, IL 60622

A name index is on the Internet at:

“Haller’s Army Index.” In Polish Genealogical Society of America [Internet site]. [Chicago: PGSA], 1998 [cited 17 July 1999]. Available at: www.pgsa.org/haller.htm. You can search by surname and first name. The index shows the volunteer’s surname and given name, the town and state where he volunteered, his form (Form A or C described above, or L [loose papers]), and page number.

A microfilm copy of the Form A records only is:

*United States (with Some from Ontario, Canada) Recruits for the Polish Army in France, 1917–1919: States Represented most Frequently are New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Connecticut, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Delaware, Nebraska & Kansas (for Complete Breakdown See Film Inventory).* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1995. (On 11 FHL films beginning with 1993525; computer number 771935.) The forms are in Polish, but at the beginning of each film is a blank form printed in English. The records are not organized by locality, and Minnesota recruits are represented on almost every film. There is, however, an alphabetical list of volunteers for each item.

**World War II (1941–1945)**

Lists of dead and missing soldiers who served during World War II, arranged alphabetically by county, are in:

744332.) It includes 6,462 names and indicates the soldier’s rank and cause of death.

Other Records

The Minnesota Historical Society Library has a collection on 88 rolls of microfilm of military service record cards for Minnesotans entering federal service from the state militia or National Guard. These cover conflicts from the Civil War through World War I, including the Spanish-American War. These cards are arranged by war and branch of service, then alphabetically by soldier’s family name. They give name, age or date of birth, sometimes birthplace, and dates and places of service. The microfilms can be used through the interlibrary loan service of your public library. For film numbers, contact the Minnesota Historical Society Library.

The Minnesota Historical Society has a number of other military records, including a few muster rolls dating from the late 1800s for state militia and National Guard units. The Society also has copies of more than half the original induction records of the 60,000 Minnesota men drafted into service in World War I, records of World War I veterans who applied for bonuses, records of the Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis, established in 1887, and some records from veterans’ organizations. For descriptions of these and other records, see Genealogical Resources of the Minnesota Historical Society: A Guide cited in the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline.

Information may also be obtained from Fort Snelling National Cemetery (7601 34th Ave. South, Fort Snelling MN 55111, telephone 612-726-1127). Veterans from the Civil War through recent conflicts are buried at the Fort Snelling cemetery. Minneapolis also has a national cemetery and an office of the Veterans Administration.

Other useful military records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

- MINNESOTA – MILITARY RECORDS
- MINNESOTA – MILITARY HISTORY
- MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – MILITARY RECORDS

MINORITIES

The largest ethnic groups in Minnesota are Germans, Swedes, and Norwegians. By 1880 the foreign-born population in Minnesota included nearly 108,000 Scandinavians, many of whom were Norwegians; 66,000 Germans; and about 39,000 British, most of whom were Irish. Nearly 30,000 Minnesotans had come from Canada, most of whom were British and French Canadians. There were nearly 8,000 Bohemians (mostly Czechs) and 1,000 or 2,000 each from Switzerland, Poland, Russia, and France. There were also Mennonite Germans from Russia and some Jews from Germany. Jews from eastern Europe came later. More than 2,000 American Indians still resided in Minnesota and nearly 1,500 African Americans.

From 1890 to 1920 job opportunities in Minnesota’s cities attracted immigrants from central and southern Europe, including Russian Jews, Slavs, Italians, and Greeks. Large numbers of Finns began to arrive, and Germans and Scandinavians continued to come. The decade of the greatest Norwegian immigration was 1900–10. Significant numbers of Mexican Americans arrived in the 1930s, and refugees from southeast Asia in the 1970s.

Many books have been published about Minnesota’s people. For example:

Holmiquest, June Drenning. They Chose Minnesota: A Survey of the State’s Ethnic Groups. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, 1981. (FHL book 977.6 F2t; computer number 138439.) This 641-page book includes chapters on more than 60 ethnic groups, with reasons for each group’s immigration, its settlement patterns, religious practices, and social customs. Notes at the end of each chapter give sources for further study.

Ulvestad, Martin. Nordmænderne i Amerika: deres Historie og Rekord. (Norwegians in America: Their History and Record.) Minneapolis, Minn.: History Book Company’s Forlag, 1907. (FHL book 973 F2u; film 896612; computer number 269168.) In Norwegian. This includes a long chapter on Norwegian settlement in Minnesota, with names of some of the first Norwegian settlers in each county. It also includes lists of immigrant Norwegian county officers in Minnesota with their home towns in Norway; some immigrants who served in Civil War regiments; and villages in Norway with names of some emigrants and their places of settlement in North America. It is especially valuable for those who came before 1867, when lists began to be kept of emigrants leaving Norway.

Ulvestad, Martin, ed. Norge i Amerika med Kart. (Norway in America With Map). Minneapolis, Minn.: Norge i Amerika Publishing, 1901. (FHL book 973 F2nu; computer number 269164.) In Norwegian. This is a directory of thousands of Norwegians in North America about 1901.
United States and Canadian cities are arranged in alphabetical order, with names and professions of immigrants. Most of the communities are in the midwestern states, including many in Minnesota. An included map shows the location of major Norwegian settlements in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North and South Dakota.

Norwegian-American Historical Association (NAHA) [Internet site]. Northfield, Minn.: NAHA, 1999 [cited 16 Nov 1999]. Their Internet site is available at www.naha.stolaf.edu/. The goal of the organization is to locate, collect, preserve, and interpret Norwegian-American history.


Jews


Other records and histories of ethnic, racial, and religious groups in Minnesota are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

**MINNESOTA – MINORITIES**

Also see the **“Minorities” section** of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) and the **“Emigration and Immigration” and “Periodicals” section** of this outline.

**NATIVE RACES**

Two major Native American tribes—the Dakota (or Sioux) and the Ojibwa (Anishinabe or Chippewa)—lived in the area that is now Minnesota. Small groups from other tribes now also reside in the state, including the Winnebago, who once had reservation land there. By the late 1860s treaties had pushed the Indians off lands they had occupied onto reservations.

Many American Indians still live on reservations in Minnesota. Seven Ojibwa reservations are located in the northern part of the state, and four Dakota communities occupy lands in the southern part. Other American Indians reside in urban areas. More than 9,000 people of Ojibwa ancestry live in Minneapolis, and about 3,000 Ojibwa, Dakota, and Winnebago are in St. Paul. There are smaller groups of American Indian people in Duluth and Bemidji.

The Family History Library has many American Indian records from the National Archives—Central Plains Region (Kansas City). For the Ojibwa, for instance, microfilms of census, vital, land, and family records are available from 1876 to 1955. Additional sources are at the Minnesota Historical Society Library, including:


A research study of one Ojibwa family from Minnesota’s White Earth reservation is in:

Byers, Paula K., ed. *Native American Genealogical Sourcebook*. Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research, 1995. (FHL book 970.1 B991n; computer number 743430.) It includes chapters on historical background, research methods and sources, and libraries and archives holding genealogical information on American Indians. The case study reported on pages 54–64 uses records mostly dating between 1885 and 1915 to trace ancestors and descendants of one Ojibwa family. Records used include Indian censuses, United States censuses, Chippewa Commission and Chippewa Agency records, and the Ransom Judd Powell papers. A bibliography of sources for further study on Minnesota Indians is provided.

Other books include:

Women Voters of Minnesota, this book deals mainly with social strengths and economic problems of American Indians in modern-day Minnesota. Preliminary chapters give histories of major Indian groups in the state and shifting government policies toward them. Includes maps and tables showing the locations of Indian groups on and off reservations in 1980.

Minnesota Historical Society (St. Paul, Minnesota). Chippewa and Dakota Indians: A Subject Catalog of Books, Pamphlets, Periodical Articles, and Manuscripts in the Minnesota Historical Society. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, 1969. (FHL book 970.1 M666c; computer number 213871.) A list of printed and manuscript sources on Minnesota’s two major tribes. Much new material has been added to the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society since this book was published.

See also the chapter on “The Dakota and Ojibwa” in They Chose Minnesota, described in the “Minorities” section of this outline. For sources on the Sioux War of 1862, see the “Military Records” section of this outline. Steps to effective research are listed in the “Native Races” section of the United States Research Outline (30972).

Records of the various tribes can be found by looking under the name of the tribe in the Subject Search of the Family History Library Catalog and under “Indians of North America – Minnesota.” Many of the records are also listed in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

MINNESOTA – NATIVE RACES

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization is the process of granting citizenship privileges and responsibilities to foreign-born residents. Naturalization papers are an important source of information about an immigrant’s place of origin, foreign and Americanized names, residence, and date of arrival.

Immigrants to the United States have never been required to apply for citizenship. Of those who applied, many did not complete the requirements for citizenship. Evidence that an immigrant completed citizenship requirements can be found in censuses, court minutes, homestead records, passports, voting registers, and military papers.

Various types of records were created during the naturalization process, including declarations of intention, petitions for naturalization, oaths of allegiance, and certificates of citizenship. Each record can give details such as a person’s age, residence, place of origin, date and port of arrival, name of the ship, spouse, children, and current address. Naturalization records in Minnesota made before 1906 have no general index, although individual volumes from some courts may be indexed.

Applications for citizenship are essential records to search in a state with so many immigrants. Even if an immigrant ancestor did not complete the process and become a citizen, he or she may have filed an application. These application records still exist and can be very helpful. See the United States Research Outline (30972) for a more complete discussion of the naturalization process and the records created.

Naturalization records have been filed in the United States Circuit and District Courts, in the Minnesota Supreme Court, and in the county district courts in Minnesota. An index to Minnesota Supreme Court records is in:

Pope, Wiley R. Minnesota Genealogical Index. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Family Trees, 1984. (FHL book 973 D22p; computer number 426038.) About 7,000 names of the 87,000 names in this index appear to be from naturalization by the Minnesota Supreme Court, books A–M, 1858–1910. The index lists volume, page number, and year of application. Some of the records are missing, but the surviving records are at the Minnesota Historical Society Library.

Federal Courts

Subject to privacy restrictions, you can request a search of a nationwide index and records for 1906–56 from:

FOIA Office, Immigration and Naturalization Service
Department of Justice
425 “I” Street NW
Washington, DC 20536

The Family History Library has naturalization records to 1911 or later for most federal circuit courts and district courts in Minnesota. Federal courts existed in cities such as Minneapolis, St. Paul, Fergus Falls, Mankato, and Winona.

Naturalization records from the United States circuit and district courts held at Duluth are found in:

National Archives–Great Lakes Region
(Chicago)

See "Archive and Libraries" section of this outline.
**County Courts**

The Family History Library has records to 1906 or later for county district courts in six or seven counties. Naturalization records from district courts in all of Minnesota’s remaining counties have been transferred to the Minnesota Historical Society Library. As records are microfilmed there, the films become available from the Minnesota Historical Society through interlibrary loan to public libraries.

Published indexes to naturalization records of more than 45 Minnesota counties have been issued by the Range Genealogical Society. Contact the Iron Range Research Center listed in the “Biography” section of this outline for more information.

See the United States Research Outline (30972) for more information about the naturalization process and about naturalization and citizenship records.

Naturalization and citizenship records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

- MINNESOTA – NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP
- MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP
- MINNESOTA, [COUNTY, [TOWN] – NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

**NEWSPAPERS**

Newspapers publish notices of marriage, divorce, death, funerals, obituaries, and wartime casualty lists. Notices include names of the persons involved, the date of the event, and may contain maiden names, names of parents, and other relatives.

Newspapers also publish articles of local interest, including religious and social events, with the names of those involved. Some newspapers devote columns to the everyday happenings in the area. Newspapers also include legal notices, estate sales, and advertising for local businesses.

The first newspapers in Minnesota were published in 1849. The best collection of Minnesota newspapers is at the Minnesota Historical Society Library, which attempts to collect and microfilm all Minnesota newspapers. Many of these records may be loaned to other libraries. Some of the library’s 4,000 different newspapers are especially valuable because they are published by ethnic and religious groups.

**Inventory on the Internet**

Over 4,287 Minnesota newspaper titles containing 4.1 million pages on microfilm are cataloged in the Minnesota Newspaper Project. You can learn what newspapers were published in any Minnesota city on the WebPals Internet site described in the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline. The Internet address to identify newspapers is:


Describes over 3 million issues of over 5,000 newspapers published in Minnesota since 1849. Microfilm copies of newspapers can be requested through interlibrary loan.

Online newspaper searches are available at:


**Published Inventories**

For a listing of newspapers at the Minnesota Historical Society Library see:

**Minnesota Historical Society Holdings of Newspapers on Master Negative Microfilm:**

- February 1987. St. Paul, Minn.: MHS, 1987. (FHL film 1490151; computer number 489910.) The films do not circulate to Family History Centers. Newspapers are listed alphabetically by town or city, name of newspaper, beginning and ending dates, number or microfilm rolls, and whether it is available for purchase. Other states and countries are listed at the end.

The Family History Library acquires obituaries, indexes, and other newspaper abstracts. A guide to early Minnesota newspapers is:

newspapers from 1849 to 1860, when the telegraph reached Minnesota.

To find newspapers check the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA – NEWSPAPERS
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – NEWSPAPERS
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] – NEWSPAPERS

OBITUARIES

Obituaries provide information such as the age of the deceased; birth date and place, including foreign town and country of birth; parents; names and residences of living children; relatives and other family members; maiden name; and occupation. Deceased family members are also frequently mentioned. The obituary may indicate previous places of residence, immigration information, religious affiliation, and any social organizations or activities in which the deceased was involved.

The “Obituaries” and “Newspapers” sections of the United States Research Outline (30972) list sources for finding obituaries and the newspapers that publish them.

Various collections of obituaries for Minnesota have been compiled. For example:

Southwest State University (Minnesota). Southwest Minnesota Historical Center. Obituary File Index, ca. 1873–1953. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (FHL films 1728586–922; computer number 613941.) There is no list of the newspapers that were used to compile this index. Index gives name of deceased, death date and place, and other information.

Southwest State University (Minnesota). Southwest Minnesota Historical Center. Obituary Files, ca. 1985–1990. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (FHL films 1728922–28; computer number 613948.) The cards are in alphabetical order and have the original obituaries pasted on them. Obituaries come from miscellaneous newspapers of southwestern Minnesota.

To find obituaries and obituary indexes, check the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA – OBITUARIES
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – OBITUARIES

MINNESOTA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] – OBITUARIES

PERIODICALS

Most family history periodicals include copies of local sources of genealogical value. These may include genealogies, information about local records and archives, queries, census indexes, and transcripts of family Bibles, biographies, church records, court records, guardianships, naturalizations, deed abstracts, vital records, cemetery records, land records, military records, tax lists, mortality schedules, obituaries, and wills. Some genealogical periodicals and magazines for Minnesota research are:


German Interest Group (series). [Newsletter] German Interest Group, a branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society. 1980–1992. (FHL book 977.6 F25n; computer number 546179.) In 1993 this society was renamed and started a new publication, Germanic Genealogy Society (series). [Newsletter] (FHL book 977.6 F25n; computer number 739868.) This newsletter describes activities of the society, tips for research, sources of records, and case studies focused on German family research.

Minnesota Genealogist. 1970–. Published by the Minnesota Genealogical Society, 5768 Olson Memorial Highway, Golden Valley, MN 55422-5014. Telephone: 612-595-9347 (FHL book 977.6 B2mg; computer number 209015.) Includes cumulative indexes to 1988, and extracts of records, search strategies, case studies, and issues of interest to researchers in Minnesota records.

Minnesota History. 1915–. Published by the Minnesota Historical Society, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul, MN 55102-1906. (FHL book 977.6 H25m; computer number 26473.) There are three published indexes for this journal that are available from the Minnesota Historical Society: volumes 1–10 (1915–1929); volumes 11–40 (1930–1967); volumes 41–50 (1968–1987). This journal contains articles on social, political, economic, intellectual, and cultural history of Minnesota and surrounding areas.
Prairieland Pioneer. 1984–. Published by the Prairieland Genealogical Society, Southwest Minnesota Historical Center, Social Science 141, Marshall, MN 56258-1598. Telephone: 507-537-7373. (FHL book 977.6 D25pp; computer number 475603.) This journal contains extracts of records and helps for doing research in southwestern Minnesota. Under this same call number, there are two indexes: one for volumes 1–5, and one for volumes 6–10.

The Prairieland Register: Genealogical Records from Southwestern Minnesota. 1977–1983. Published by Prairieland Genealogical Society, 703 North Sixth Street, Marshall, MN 56258. (FHL book 977.6 D25pr; computer number 5779.) This journal contains extracts of records and helps for doing research in southwestern Minnesota.

Scandinavian Saga: A Newsletter for Members of the Scandinavian-American Genealogical Society, A Branch of the Minnesota Historical Society. 1979–, P.O. Box 16069, St. Paul, MN 55116-0069. (FHL book 977.6 F25s; computer number 510637.) The Family History Library has volume 10 (1989) to present. The newsletter describes activities of the society and contributions Scandinavians have made to their communities.

Indexes. Some of the periodicals listed above have annual surname indexes in the final issue for the year. For nationwide indexes to some of these and other family history periodicals, see the “Periodicals” section of the United States Research Outline (30972). Also see the following:


Periodical Source Index CD-ROM. Orem, Utah: Ancestry™, and the Allen County Public Library Foundation, 1997. (FHL compact disc no. 61; computer number 808087.) This disc does not circulate to Family History Centers. It merges all 31+ volumes into one index.


For more family history periodicals, check the Family History Library Catalog Locality Search under:

MINNESOTA – PERIODICALS
MINNESOTA – GENEALOGY – PERIODICALS
MINNESOTA – SOCIETIES – PERIODICALS
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – PERIODICALS
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – GENEALOGY – PERIODICALS
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – SOCIETIES – PERIODICALS

PROBATE RECORDS

The court administrator of the district court in each county keeps the probate records, which include general indexes, case files, wills, order books, letters of administration, and probate registers. Case files or probate packets contain various documents, such as wills, inventories, receipts, and letters. Many counties have sent their older records to the State Archives Collection at the Minnesota Historical Society. The Family History Library is acquiring microfilm copies of these records on a county-by-county basis. An example is the files for Faribault County:


For more probate records, check the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – PROBATE RECORDS
SOCIETIES

For Minnesota genealogical and historical societies that have records and services to help you with your research, see the “Archives and Libraries,” “Church Records,” and “Periodicals” sections of this outline.

Two major statewide societies are the Minnesota Historical Society and the Minnesota Genealogical Society. The Minnesota Genealogical Society has several branch societies or interest groups relating to minorities. For address and full description, see the “Archives and Libraries” and “Periodicals” sections of this outline.

Many counties also have local historical and genealogical societies. You can find local society addresses by using directories cited in the “Societies” section of the United States Research Outline (30972). Some societies generate unpublished indexes of local records, genealogies, cemetery transcriptions, and other records. Some may publish lists of members, yearbooks, ancestor lists, or surname indexes may be listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA – SOCIETIES
MINNESOTA – GENEALOGY – SOCIETIES
MINNESOTA – HISTORY – SOCIETIES
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – SOCIETIES
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – GENEALOGY – SOCIETIES
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – HISTORY – SOCIETIES

TAXATION

The Minnesota Historical Society holds assessment rolls on taxable property and tax lists for nearly 50 counties. These records are filed under the respective county at the Minnesota Historical Society. Some tax records are arranged by townships or municipalities. No determination has been made concerning tax record holdings in the local county courthouses. The Family History Library has acquired few tax records for Minnesota. For records at the library, check the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – TAXATION

VITAL RECORDS

State Records of Births and Deaths

In Minnesota, the state registration of births began in 1900 and was generally complied with by 1915. Death records have been registered by the state since 1908.

For copies of state records, write to:

Minnesota Department of Health
Birth and Death Records
P.O. Box 64882
717 Delaware Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55164-0882
Telephone: 651-201-5970
Fax: 651-291-0101

For an idea of fees for obtaining copies of the state’s records, check:


County Records of Births and Deaths

Some counties began recording births as early as 1864 (Redwood County), but most counties began in 1870. Benton County death records were kept from 1867, but 1870 was the general starting date for most counties. Compliance was not good in the early years. The Family History Library has been acquiring microfilms of these county records from the earliest dates to about 1925. For examples, see the following:

Minnesota. District Court (Hennepin County). Birth Records, 1870–1915. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1983. (On 5 FHL films beginning with 1309389; computer number 258276.)


For information about early county birth and death records, write to the court administrator of the district court or county recorder in the county.

County Records of Marriages

For an idea of fees for obtaining copies of the state’s records, check:

There is no centralized registration for Minnesota marriage records. The state has kept a statewide index to marriages from 1958 to present. Each county generally began keeping marriage records soon after the creation of the county. Some county marriage records begin in the late 1840s. The Family History Library has been acquiring microfilms of these records. For example, marriage records of Ramsey County (including St. Paul) are in:

Minnesota. District Court (Ramsey County). *Marriage Indexes, 1850–1917; Marriage Records, 1850–1916.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1982. (On 54 FHL films beginning with index film 1314520 item 3; computer number 160272.)

There is an index to many pre-1850 Minnesota marriage records on compact disc:

*Marriage Records Early–1850.* Orem, Utah: Automated Archives, 1992. (FHL compact disc no. 9, pt. 227, computer number 683380.) Although incomplete, this disc has many marriage records for various states west of the Mississippi.

There are also some Bureau of Indian Affairs marriage records on microfilm. An example is:


For copies of marriage records, write to the district court administrator’s office in the county in which the license was recorded. This office also has files for divorces. For information about Hennepin County marriages, write to:

**Vital Records Office**
Public Service Level Government Center
300 South 6th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55487

For other birth, death, and marriage records, check the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

**MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – VITAL RECORDS**

**Divorce Records**

Divorce and annulment records for each county are found with the civil cases of the district courts. The district courts have handled these cases since 1849.

You can write to the court administrator of the district court at the county courthouse for copies or information. For a listing of the courts see the “Court Records” section of this outline.

The Minnesota Department of Health has a divorce index from 1970 to the present.

**FOR FURTHER READING**

Eichholz, Alice, ed. *Ancestry’s Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources.* Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992 (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992; computer number 594021.) Contains bibliographies and background information on history and ethnic groups. Also contains maps and tables showing when each county was created.

Pope, Wiley R. *Tracing Your Ancestors in Minnesota: A Guide to the Sources.* St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Family Trees, 1980–. (FHL book 977.6 D27p vols. 1–9 (2d ed.); vol. 1 (1st ed.) on film 1036406 item 13; vol. 2 also on film 1033840 item 5; computer number 37374.) The first volume contains general sources and suggestions for Minnesota research; additional volumes focus on the various regions of the state.

Lind, Marilyn. *Continuing Your Genealogical Research in Minnesota,* Cloquet, Minn.: The Linden Tree, 1986. (FHL book 977.6 A1 no. 143; computer number 424864). This book contains maps and information on history, migration, minorities, record, research centers, and county details.


COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

Publications Coordination
Family History Library
35 N. West Temple Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400
USA

We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

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Minnesota Historical Background

History

Effective family research requires some understanding of the historical events that may have affected your family and the records about them. Learning about wars, governments, laws, migrations, and religious trends may help you understand political boundaries, family movements, and settlement patterns. These events may have led to the creation of records that your family was listed in, such as land and military documents.

The following important dates in the history of Minnesota affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements.

1686-1762  The French established a chain of forts and small settlements in the area of Minnesota.
1763-1819  The area was controlled by British fur traders of the North West Company.
1783      Great Britain granted eastern portions of Minnesota to the United States.
1787      The Minnesota area became part of the Northwest Territory.
1803      The United States obtained the western portion of the area through the Louisiana Purchase.
1820      The U.S. Army established Fort Snelling at its permanent location near the future site of St. Paul. It became a nucleus of settlement. Mississippi River steamboats reached Fort Snelling in 1823.
1830      The area that is now Minnesota was in the Michigan Territory.
1836      All of Minnesota was in the Wisconsin Territory.
1837      The Sioux and Chippewa Indians sold their claim to the St. Croix Valley, opening the way to major white settlements in eastern Minnesota.
1849      Congress created the Minnesota Territory.
1851-1855  The Indians gave up their rights to millions of acres of land west of the Mississippi River.
1850s     Large scale immigration began when the railroad reached the Mississippi River.
1858      Minnesota gained statehood.
1861-1865  The Civil War and Indian wars involved 22,000 men.
1870-1890  A period of rapid settlement occurred as homesteaders, chiefly from Germany, Sweden, and Norway, moved into the western and southwestern parts of Minnesota.
1898      Over 300,000 men were involved in the Spanish-American War, which was fought mainly in Cuba and the Philippines.
1917–1918  More than 26 million men from the United States ages 18 through 45 registered with the Selective Service for World War I, and over 4.7 million American men and women served during the war.
1930s The Great Depression closed many factories and mills. Many small farms were abandoned, and many families moved to cities.

1940–1945 Over 50.6 million men ages 18 to 65 registered with the Selective Service. Over 16.3 million American men and women served in the armed forces during World War II.

1950–1953 Over 5.7 million American men and women served in the Korean War.

1950s–1960s The building of interstate highways made it easier for people to move long distances.


Your ancestors will become more interesting to you if you also use histories to learn about the events that were of interest to them or that they may have been involved in. For example, by using a history you might learn about the events that occurred in the year your great-grandparents were married.

**Historical Sources**

You may find state or local histories in the Family History Library Catalog under Minnesota or the county or the town. For descriptions of records available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. The descriptions give book or film numbers, which you need to find or to order the records.

**Local Histories**

Some of the most valuable sources for family history research are local histories. Published histories of towns, counties, and states usually contain accounts of families. They describe the settlement of the area and the founding of churches, schools, and businesses. You can also find lists of pioneers, soldiers, and civil officials. Even if your ancestor is not listed, information on other relatives may be included that will provide important clues for locating your ancestor. A local history may also suggest other records to search.

Most county and town histories include separate sections or volumes containing biographical information. These may include information on 50 percent or more of the families in the locality.

In addition, local histories should be studied and enjoyed for the background information they can provide about your family's lifestyle and the community and environment in which your family lived.

About 5,000 county histories have been published for over 80 percent of the counties in the United States. For many counties there is more than one history. In addition, tens of thousands of histories have been written about local towns and communities. Bibliographies that list these histories are available for nearly every state.

For descriptions of bibliographies for Minnesota available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. Look under BIBLIOGRAPHY or HISTORY - BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Local histories are extensively collected by the Family History Library, public and university libraries, and state and local historical societies. Two useful guides are:


**State History**


**United States History**

The following are only a few of the many sources that are available at most large libraries:


*Dictionary of American History*, Revised ed., 8 vols. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976. (FHL book 973 H2ad.) This includes historical sketches on various topics in U.S. history, such as wars, people, laws, and organizations.
Minnesota Statewide Indexes and Collections

Guide

Introduction

In the United States, information about your ancestors is often found in town and county records. If you know which state but not the town or county your ancestor lived in, check the following statewide indexes to find the town or county. Then search records for that town or county.

The indexes and collections listed below index various sources of information, such as histories, vital records, biographies, tax lists, immigration records, etc. You may find additional information about your ancestor other than the town or county of residence. The listings may contain:

- The author and title of the source.
- The Family History Library (FHL) book, film, fiche, or compact disc number. If the words beginning with appear before the film number, check the Family History Library Catalog for additional films.
- The name of the repository where the source can be found if the source is not available at the Family History Library.

What You Are Looking For

- Your ancestor's name in an index or collection.
- Where the ancestor was living.

Steps

These 2 steps will help you find information about your ancestor in statewide indexes or collections.

Step 1. Find your ancestor's name in statewide indexes or collections.

On the list below, if your ancestor lived between the years shown on the left, he or she may be listed in the source on the right.

1580–1900s

- Ancestral File
- International Genealogical Index
- Family History Library Catalog - Surname Search
  To see these files, click here.

1580–1901

- Register of Members and Ancestors, 1901. (FHL book 977.6 C4c; film 1000270 item 3.) Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Minnesota.

1650s–1990s *Minnesota Biography File.* (Not at FHL.) At the Minnesota Historical Society. You may wish to write for a search of the file.


1700–1854 *Minnesota Pioneer Index.* (Not at FHL.) At the Minnesota Historical Society; indexes the *Minnesota Pioneer* newspaper. You may wish to write for a search.


1700–1924 *Bible, Genealogical, Vital Records and Pioneer Stories of Minnesota.* (FHL book 977.6 D2da, vols. 1–2; set of 12 fiche 6051211.)

1700–1952 *Ancestor Charts.* (FHL book 977.6 D2a.) Submitted by members of the Minnesota Genealogical Society.


1700–1970 Kirkham, E. Kay. *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States: 45,500 References as Taken From the Microfilm at the Genealogical Society of Utah.* (FHL book 973 D22kk, vol. 2; fiche 6089184.) Indexes item just below.

1700–1970 Daughters of the American Revolution. *Genealogical Collection.* (FHL films 868493–496.) A surname index is found in the source above.

1740–1900 White, Virgil D. *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files.* (FHL book 973 M22i vols. 1–3.)

1790–1920 *Census indexes, 1850–1880, 1900, and 1920.* In the window to the left click on *Family History Library Catalog.* Then select CENSUS or CENSUS - INDEXES from the topics that are listed.

1770–1850 Jackson, Ronald Vern, ed. *Minnesota 1850 Mortality Schedule.* (FHL book 977.6 X2m 1850.)


1770–1975 Fogerty, James E. *Preliminary Guide to the Holdings of the Minnesota Regional Research Centers.* (FHL book 977.6 A3f no. 1.)

1770–1980 Fogerty, James E. *Manuscripts Collections of the Minnesota Regional research Centers.* (FHL book 977.6 A3f no. 2.)

1780–1860 Finnell, Arthur Louis. *Index to the 1860 Minnesota Mortality Schedule.* (FHL book Q 977.6 X22i.)

1790–1870 Jackson, Ronald Vern, ed. *Minnesota 1870 Mortality Schedule.* (FHL book 977.6 X2m 1870.)


1800–1865 *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars, 1861–65.* (FHL book 977.6 H2bc, vols. 1–2; film 1036220 item 6; film 1033917 item 2; fiche 6046730.) Use the revised edition of vol. 1 on film 1033917 item 1 rather than the vol. one on film 1036220 item 6. The indexes do not list every soldier.


1800–1890 Dilts, Bryan Lee. *1890 Minnesota Census Index of Civil War Veterans or Their Widows.* (FHL book 977.6 X22d 1890.)

1800–1934 United States. Veterans Administration. *General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934.* (On 544 FHL films beginning with 540757.) This is a card index to pension applications of Civil War and Spanish-American War veterans. Copies of the original files may be ordered from the National Archives.

1810–1900 Warren, James W. *Minnesota 1900 Census Mortality Schedule.* (FHL book 977.6 X2w 1900.)

1820–present Minnesota Department of Health. *Index to deaths from 1908–present.* (Not at FHL.) You may wish to write for a search.

1820–1900s Great Northern Railway Company. *Index to Personnel Files.* (FHL films beginning with 1528067.)

1820–1900s Northern Pacific Railway Company. Personnel Department. *Index to Personnel Files.* (FHL films 1528069–071.)


1878–1918 United States. Selective Service System. *Minnesota, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918.* (On 94 FHL films beginning with 1675275.) Men ages 18 to 45 are listed alphabetically by county or draft board.

1900–present Minnesota Department of Health. *Index to births from 1900–present.* (Not at FHL.) You may wish to write for a search.

1900–present Minnesota Department of Health. *Index to marriages from 1958–present.* (Not at FHL.) You may wish to write for a search.


For ideas on ways your ancestor's name might be spelled by indexers or in collections, see Name Variations.
Step 2. Copy and document the information.

The best method of copying information is to:

- Make a photocopy of the page(s) that include your ancestor's name.
- Document where the information came from by writing the title, call number, and page number of the index or collection on the photocopy. Also write the name of the library or archive.

Where to Find It

Family History Centers and the Family History Library

You can use the Family History Library book collection only at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, but many of our books have been microfilmed. Most of the films can be requested and used at our Family History Centers. To locate the address for the nearest Family History Center, click here.

For information about contacting or visiting the library or a center, see Family History Library and Family History Centers.

Libraries and Archives

You may be able to find the books at public or college libraries. If these libraries do not have a copy of the book you need, they may be able to order it from another library on interlibrary loan.

To use interlibrary loan:

- Go to a public or college library.
- Ask the librarian to order a book or microfilm for you through interlibrary loan from another library. You need the title of the item and the name of the author.
- The library staff will direct you in their procedures. Sometimes this is free; sometimes there is a small fee.

You can find addresses and phone numbers for most libraries and archives in the American Library Directory, published by the American Library Association. The American Library Directory is available at most public and college libraries.
Maps
Computer Resources

**MapQuest Maps**
Summary: Must know address, city, state, and zip code; more recent maps

**Animap**
BYU FHL – on computer
Summary: Has each state with maps. Shows county boundary changes and allows marking of cities and finds distances.

**Google Maps**
Summary: Has address finder, allows keyword searching, and allows street, satellite, or terrain views

**Geology.com Maps**
Summary: Has Relief, Elevation, Drainage, Political and Road Maps for each state.
Rel/Fam Hist Ref - **G 1201.F7 A5 1991**

**Summary:** Shows the townships in a particular county for each state except Hawaii and Alaska. Maps start after 1930.  
**Evaluation of Minnesota maps:** pp. 465 - 504. One page history of state, list of counties and counties with minor civil divisions. Maps of census county divisions.

Rel/Fam Hist Ref - **CS 49,A55 1992.** (3 copies in FHC)

**Summary:** The previous map was copied from page 396 of this book. On the next page is a listing of the counties, the date the county was formed and parent county, and the date of first recorded deeds and certificates. The section on Minnesota also includes a brief history and genealogical research information.

Rel/Fam Hist Ref - **G1201.E6225.K5 1976**

**Summary:** Shows changes in boundaries in United States from Colonial days up to 1909. Civil war maps and information.  
**Evaluation of Minnesota maps:** State historical information, p. 21; 1862 map, p. 153; 1883 map, p. 181; 1909 map, p. 222.

Rel/Fam Hist Ref - **Quarto Shelves G 1200.M4 1996.**

**Summary:** Minnesota maps and information on pages 160 - 166. Includes maps comparing Minnesota to other states, cultural features, population density, agriculture, economic facts, etc. Also includes a brief state history.

Rel/Fam Hist Ref - **G 1201.F7 T5 1987**

**Summary:** History of Federal Censuses, records, and completeness. U.S. Maps from 1790 - 1920 showing U.S. boundary changes. Maps of each state for each census year beginning when the state was created up through 1920.  
**Evaluation of Minnesota maps:** pp. 169 - 178.
Map Collection on the 2nd floor of the old section of HBLL library. Two map drawers for the state of Minnesota.

**G4140 - 4144.** State maps from 1800s to 2000. Many of the maps show county boundaries and county seats, railroad lines, private land grants, population, etc. Some maps include information about what was happening that year.

To find more maps, search the byline for Minnesota maps, atlases, and gazetteers.
Minnesota Federal Census Population Schedules, 1840 to 1920

Guide

Introduction

Federal censuses are taken every 10 years. Minnesota residents are included in territorial or federal censuses from 1820 through 1920.

- The 1790 through 1840 censuses give the name of the head of each household. Other household members are mentioned only by age groupings of males and females.
- The 1850 census was the first federal census to give the names of all members of each household.

For more information about the U.S. Federal Censuses, see Background.

What You Are Looking For

The information you find varies from record to record. These records may include:

- Names of family members.
- Ages of family members, which you can use to calculate birth or marriage years.
- The county and state where your ancestors lived.
- People living with (or gone from) the family.
- Relatives who may have lived nearby.

Steps

These 5 steps will help you use census records.

Step 1. Determine which censuses might include your ancestors.

Match the probable time your ancestor was in Minnesota with the census years. This will determine which censuses you will search.
Step 2. Determine a census to start with.

Start with the last census taken during the life of your ancestor.

The censuses from **1850 to 1920** give more information and include the name, age, and birthplace of every person in each household.

The censuses from **1790 to 1840** give the name of the head of each household and the number of males and females in age groups without their names.

The censuses for 1930 and later are available from the U.S. Census Bureau only.

For ways the census can help you find your ancestor's parents, see Tip 1.

Step 3. Search the census.

For instructions on how to search a specific census, click on one of the following years:

1820 1830 1840 1850 1860 1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920

For information about archives and libraries that have census records, see Where to Find It.

Step 4. Search another census.

Repeat steps 2 and 3 until you search all the censuses taken during the life span of your ancestor. Each census may contain additional information.

If you skip a census taken when your ancestor lived, you risk missing additional information, such as names of in-laws or other relatives who may have lived with or near the family. Those names and relationships may help you identify earlier generations.

For other information about how to search the census, see Tips.

Step 5. Analyze the information you obtain from the censuses.

To effectively use the information from the census, ask yourself these questions:

- Who was in the family?
- About when were they born?
- Where were they born? (Birthplaces are shown in censuses for 1850 to 1920.)
- Where were they living—town or township, county, and state?
- Where were their parents born? (Birthplaces are shown in censuses for 1880 to 1920.)
- Do they have neighbors with the same last name? Could they be relatives?

For more about comparing information in several censuses, see Tip 3.
Tips

Tip 1. How can the census help me find my ancestor’s parents?
Searching the census taken closest to the time the ancestor married has the best possibility of finding your ancestor and spouse living close to their parents and other family members.

Tip 2. How can I understand the information better?
Sometimes knowing why the census taker asked a question can help you understand the answer. Detailed instructions given to census takers are in the book Twenty Censuses: Population and Housing Questions 1790–1980, updated as 200 Years of U.S. Census Taking, both by the United States Census Bureau.

Tip 3. How can comparing information in more than one census help me?
Comparing censuses indicates:
• Changes in who was in the household, such as children leaving home or the death of grandparents or a child.
• Changes in neighbors. Remember, neighbors might be relatives or in-laws.
• Changes about each individual, such as age.
• Movement of the family within Minnesota to a different county or town.
• Movement of the family out of Minnesota if the family no longer appears in the census for Minnesota.

You will eventually want to know every country, state, county, township, and town where your ancestor was located. You can then check information in other records for those places. A careful check of all available federal census records can help you identify those places.

The age and estimated birth date of an individual may vary greatly from census to census. Often ages are listed more accurately for young children than for older adults.

Background

Description
A census is a count and a description of the population of a country, colony, territory, state, county, or city. Census records are also called census schedules or population schedules.

Early censuses are basically head counts. Later censuses give information about marriage, immigration, and literacy. United States censuses are useful because they begin early and cover a large portion of the population.

What U.S. Federal Censuses Are Available
Censuses have been taken by the United States government every 10 years since 1790. The 1920 census is the most recent federal census available to the public; the 1930 census will be released in 2002. In 1885 the federal government also helped 5 states or territories (Colorado, Florida, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Dakota Territory) conduct special censuses.
Most of the 1890 census was destroyed by fire. However, the 1890 census records for Rockford, which is in Wright County, are available. Portions of a special schedule taken in 1890 of Union Civil War veterans and their widows have survived. The surviving 1890 veterans' schedules cover Washington D.C., half of Kentucky, and all of Louisiana through Wyoming (the states are in alphabetical order from K through W). These schedules contain approximately 700,000 names.

Types of Census Schedules

The following census schedules are available for Minnesota and were created in various years by the federal government:

- **Population schedules** list a large portion of the population; most are well-indexed and are available at many repositories.
- **Mortality schedules** list those who died in the 12 months prior to the day the census was taken for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.
- **1840 pensioners' schedules** list people who were receiving pensions in 1840. Included were men who fought in the Revolutionary War or in the War of 1812 or their widows.
- **1890 veterans' schedules** list Union veterans from the Civil War or their widows who were living in 1890.
- **Agricultural schedules** list data about farms and the names of the farmers for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.
- **Manufacturing or industrial schedules** list data about businesses and industries for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.

How Censuses Were Taken

People called enumerators were hired by the United States government to take the census. The enumerators were given forms to fill out and were assigned to gather information about everyone living in a certain area or district. Enumerators could visit houses in any order, so families who are listed together in the census may or may not have been neighbors. The accuracy of the enumerators and the readability of their handwriting varies.

After the census was taken, usually one copy was sent to the state and another to the federal government. Sometimes copies were also kept by the counties. Few of the state and county copies survived.

When Censuses Were Taken

Census takers were supposed to gather information about the people who were part of each household on the following dates:

- 1790 to 1820: First Monday in August
- 1830 to 1900: 1 June (2 June in 1890)
- 1910: 15 April
- 1920: 1 January
- 1930: 1 April

If your ancestor was born in the census year, your ancestor should be listed only if he or she was born before the census date.

If your ancestor died in the census year, your ancestor should be listed only if he or she died after the census date.

The census may have actually taken several months to complete and may reflect births and deaths after the census date.
Censuses from 1930 to the Present

U.S. Federal Censuses from 1930 to the present are confidential. The 1930 census will be available in 2002. You may ask the U.S. Census Bureau to send information about:

- Yourself.
- Another living person, if you are that person's "authorized representative."
- Deceased individuals, if you are "their heir or administrator."

You may request information for only one person at a time. There is a fee for each search. To request information, you must provide the person's name, address at the time of the census, and other details on Form BC-600, available from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For the address of the U.S. Census Bureau, see Where to Find It.

Territorial, State, and Local Censuses

Territorial, state, and local governments also took censuses. Nonfederal censuses generally contain information similar to and sometimes more than federal censuses of the same period.

The Minnesota area was included in the following territorial censuses:

- 1820: Michigan Territory
- 1836: Wisconsin Territory
- 1840: Wisconsin Territory and Iowa Territory
- 1850: Minnesota Territory

Minnesota became a state in 1858. State censuses were taken in 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, and 1905. The information in these censuses is similar to what is contained in the federal censuses.

Territorial, state, and local censuses may be available on the Internet, at Family History Centers, at the Family History Library, and in state and local archives and libraries.

Where to Find It

Internet

Many Internet sites include census records, census indexes, or information about censuses. You may find the following sites helpful:

- Minnesota GenWeb and USGenWeb have links to indexes and records and may have links to archives, libraries, and genealogical and historical societies.
- CensusLinks on the 'Net includes links to Internet sites that have United States and Canada censuses and indexes. It includes information about censuses and how to use them, a Soundex calculator, census forms you can print, an age calculator, and more.
- The Archives and Libraries section of the Minnesota Research Outline lists Internet addresses for several Minnesota archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Minnesota census records, and the Internet sites may list what records they have.
Family History Centers

Many Family History Centers keep copies of some census microfilms. Family History Centers can borrow microfilms of a U.S. Federal Census from the Family History Library. A small fee is charged to have a microfilm sent to a center.

You may request photocopies of U.S. Federal Censuses from the Family History Library. Staff at the Family History Center can show you how to request this service.

Family History Centers are located throughout the United States and other areas of the world. See Family History Centers for the address and phone number of the center nearest you.

Family History Library

The Family History Library has complete sets of the existing U.S. Federal Censuses from 1790 to 1920. No fee is charged for using census microfilms in person.

For a list of indexes and other census records, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. Select from the list of titles to see descriptions of the records with the film or book call numbers. Use that information to obtain the records at a family history center or at the Family History Library.

For information about contacting or visiting the library, see Family History Library and Family History Centers.

National Archives

Copies of the existing federal censuses from 1790 to 1920 are available in the Microfilm Research Room in the National Archives Building and at the 13 Regional National Archives. The National Archives has a microfilm rental program for census records. Call 301-604-3699 for rental information. For information on how to order photocopies of census records from the National Archives, click here.

College and Public Libraries

Many college libraries have copies of census microfilms, particularly for their own states. Many larger public libraries have copies of the census soundex and population schedules. Smaller public libraries may be able to obtain the records through interlibrary loan.

State Archives, Libraries, and Historical Societies

The Archives and Libraries section of the Minnesota Research Outline lists Internet and mailing addresses for several Minnesota archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Minnesota census records, and the Internet sites may list what records they have.

U.S. Census Bureau

To request information from the 1930 census and later censuses, you must provide your relative's name, address, and other details on Form BC-600, available from:

The U.S. Census Bureau
P.O. Box 1545
Jeffersonville, IN 47131
Telephone: 812-218-3300
Genealogical Search Services

Many genealogical search services will search the census for a fee. These sources can help you find a genealogical search service:

- CyndisList lists many companies and individuals who do research and mentions publications about how to hire a professional genealogist.
- Advertisements in major genealogical journals may help you find a researcher.

For more information, see Hiring a Professional Genealogist.
U.S. State Censuses

MINNESOTA

1836 & 1897
The first census of the original counties of Dubuque and Demoine (Iowa) taken in July, 1836.
pt. 1. Dubuque County, 1897. -- pt. 2. Demoine County, 1898. Includes present state
of Minnesota.

1836
Territorial Census

Special Information: Iowa 1836 territorial census. Accelerated
Indexing System, 1973. Comprises the present states of Iowa,
Minnesota and part of North and South Dakota.

1849
Minnesota 1849 census index.

1849
Territorial Census
(St. Croix & La Pont Co.'s only)

1857
Schedules of the Minnesota census

Counts of Anoka - Dodge 0944283
Counts of Fairbault - Freeborn 0944284
Counts of Goodhue - Hennepin 0944285
Counts of Houston - Murray 0944286
Counts of Nicollet - Pipestone 0944287
Counts of Ramsey - Sibley 0944288
Counts of Stearns - Waseca 0944289
Counts of Washington - Wright 0944290

1865
Minnesota State census

Counts of Blue Earth, Brown, Carlton, Lake, 0565714
St. Louis, Carver, Cass, Chisago, Clay, Crow
Wing, Dakota, Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore,
Freeborn, Goodhue
Counts of Hennepin, Houston, Insanti,
Kanabec, Le Sueur, McLeod, Mahnomen, Martin,
Meeker, Morrison, Mower, Nicollet, Olmsted,
Pine, Ramsey, Rice
Counts of Scott, Sherburne, Sibley,
Stearns, Steele, Todd, Wabasha, Waseca,
Washington, Watonwan, Winona, Wright
U.S. State Censuses

MINNESOTA Cent.

1875

Minnesota State census

Counties of Aitkin, Anoka, Becker, Benton, Blue, Earth, Brown 0565717

Counties of Carlton, Carver, Cass, Chippewa, Chisago', Clay, Cook, Cottonwood, Crow Wing, Dodge, Douglas 0565718

Counties of Dakota, Fairbault, Fillmore (town of Amherst - Holt) 0565719

Counties of Fillmore (towns of Jordan - York), Freeborn, Grant, Goodhue (thru town of Minneola) 0565720

Counties of Goodhue (beginning with town of Pine Island) Hennepin (exclusive of Minneapolis), Minneapolis (wards 1-6) 0565721

Minneapolis (wards 7-10) 0565722

Counties of Houston, Isanti, Jackson, Kanabec, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lake, Le Suer (thru town of Lexington) 0565723

Counties of Le Sueur (beginning with town of Montgomery), McLeod, Martin, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Mower (thru town of Nevada) 0565724

Counties of Mower (beginning with town of Pleasant Valley), Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Olmsted 0565725

Counties of Otter Tail, Pine, Polk, Pope, Ramsey (to schedula 9, 4th ward) 0565726

Counties of Ramsey (beginnings with schedule 10, 4th ward), Redwood, Renville, Rice, Rock 0565727

Counties of Steele, St. Louis, Stevens, Swift, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley 0565728

Counties of Stearns, Todd, Traverse, Wabasha, Wadena, Washington (thru town of Grant) 0565729

Counties of Waseca, Washington (towns of Lakeland - Woodbury), Washington (duplicate) 0565730

Counties of Watonwan, Wilkin, Winona 0565731

Counties of Wright, Yellow Medicine 0565732

1885

Minnesota State census

Counties of Aitkin, Carlton, Kanabec, Hubbard, Cass, Anoka, Becker, Beltrami, Cook, Lake, Pipestone, Benton (thru town of Langola) 0565733

Counties of Benton (beginning with town of Maywood), Big Stone, Grant, Blue Earth 0565734

Counties of Brown, Carver, Chippewa 0565735

Counties of Chisago, Clay, Cottonwood, Crow Wing 0565736

Counties of Dakota, Dodge, Douglas 0565737

Counties of Faribault, Fillmore 0565738

Counties of Freeborn, Goodhue 0565739

Counties of Hennepin (Excluding Minneapolis) Minneapolis, wards 1-2 0565740

Minneapolis, wards 1-5 0565741
Minnesota State census

Counties of Aitkin, Anoka, Becker (thru township of Green Valley) 0565761
Counties of Becker (beginning with town of Richwood), Beltrami, Benton, Big Stone, Blue Earth (city of Mankato, wards 1-2, township of Mankato) 0565762
County of Blue Earth (beginning with city of Mankato, ward 3) 0565763
Counties of Brown, Carlton 0565764
Counties of Carver, Cass, Chippewa 0565765
Counties of Chippewa, Chisago 0565766
Counties of Clay, Cook, Cottonwood 0565767
U.S. State Censuses

**MINNESOTA** Cont.

Counties of Crow Wing, Dakota (thru township of Eagan) 0565768
Counties of Dakota (beginning with township of New Trier), Dodge, Douglas 0565769
Counties of Douglas, Fairibault 0565770
County of Fillmore 0565771
Counties of Fillmore, Freeborn 0565772
Counties of Goodhue (thru town of Featherstone) 0565773
Counties of Goodhue (beginning with town of Warsaw), Grant, Hennepin (thru township of Hassan) 0565774
County of Hennepin (beginning with township of Maple Grove), Minneapolis, ward 1
Minneapolis, wards 2-3 0565775
Minneapolis, wards 3-4 0565776
Minneapolis, wards 4-5 0565777
Minneapolis, wards 5-6 0565778
Minneapolis, wards 6-8 0565779
Minneapolis, wards 8-10 0565780
Minneapolis, wards 10-12 0565781
Minneapolis, wards 12-13 0565782
Counties of Houston, Hubbard 0565783
Counties of Isanti, Itasca, Jackson, Kanabec 0565784
Counties of Kandiyohi, Kittson, Lac qui Parle 0565785
Counties of Counties of Lac qui Parle, 0565786
Lake Le Sueur, Lincoln (thru township of Verdi) 0565787
Counties of Lincoln (beginning with township of Limestone), Lyon, McLeod (thru township of Bergen) 0565788
Counties of McLeod (beginning with township of Rich Valley), Marshall, Martin 0565789
Counties of Martin, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Morrison
Counties of Morrison, Mower (thru township of Nevada) 0565790
Counties of Mower (beginning with township of Racine), Murray, Nicollet, Nobles (thru township of Little Rock) 0565791
Counties of Nobles (beginning with township of Hersey), Norman, Olmsted (thru village of Byron) 0565792
Counties of Olmsted (beginning with township of Haverhill), Otter Tail 0565793
Counties of Otter Tail, Pine 0565794
Counties of Pipestone, Polk (thru township of Norden) 0565795
Counties of Polk (beginning with township of Sanders), Pope 0565796
Counties of Ramsey (excluding city of St. Paul) St Paul, ward 1
St. Paul, wards 2-3 0565797
St. Paul, wards 4, 5 (precincts 1-10) 0565798
St. Paul, wards 5 (beginning with precinct 11), 6, 7 (precincts 1-2) 0565799
St. Paul, wards 7 (beginning with precinct 2), 8 0565800
St. Paul, wards 8-10 0565801
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<td>Counties of Washington, Watonwan</td>
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<td>Counties of Wilkin, Winona, city of Winona (ward I, precinct 1-2)</td>
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### MINNESOTA

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name Changes</th>
<th>Discontinued Counties</th>
<th>1890 Partial</th>
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<tr>
<td>Andy Johnson to Wilkin 1868</td>
<td>Buchanan 1862</td>
<td>Wright county</td>
<td>1836 Includes Dakotas - Iowa Wisconsin</td>
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<td>Breckenridge to Clay 1862</td>
<td>Mankahta 1850</td>
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<td>1849 - 1857 - 1865</td>
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<td>Doty to Lake 1857</td>
<td>Monongalia 1872</td>
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<td>1875 - 1885 - 1895</td>
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<td>Johnson to Wilkin 1858</td>
<td>Pierce 1862</td>
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<td>1905</td>
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<td>Pembina to Kittson 1878</td>
<td>Wahnata 1852</td>
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<td>Superior to saint Louis 1856</td>
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<td>Toombs to Andy Johnson 1858</td>
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**Indices Availability**

- 1840-1870 by AIS
- 1849 State V.1 by AIS
- 1850 by Minnesota Historical Society
- 1890 Veterans by Index Publishing


MINNESOTA

Fridley, Russell W.  
F 606 .F8

Fuller, Sherri Gebert.  
Chinese in Minnesota.  
F 615 .C5 F85 2004

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F 606.3 .G55 1991

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Last updated 5/05  
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**Aitkin County**

Created in 1857 from Pine and Ramsey counties but not formally organized until 1872. Parts of Cass and Itasca with additional parts from Pine and Ramsey counties were added later.

**Andy Johnson County**

Established in 1858 as Toombs County from Pembina (now Kittson) County. The name changed to Andy Johnson County in 1863 and was changed again in 1868 to Wilkin County.

**Anoka County**

Established in 1857 from Ramsey County.


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Becker County
Created in 1858 from Cass and Pembina (now Kittson) counties but was not formally organized until 1871. It may have been attached for a period of time before 1871 to Stearns, Crow Wing, and Douglas counties.


Beltrami County
Created in 1866 from Itasca, Pembina (now Kittson), and Polk counties but was not formally organized until 1897. During the period before organization, it may have been attached to Becker County.

Benton County
Established in 1849 as an original county by the Minnesota Territorial legislature.


Big Sioux County
Established in 1857 from Brown County and was a county in the Minnesota Territory although its area was within what is now South Dakota. It was abolished in 1858 when Minnesota became a state and the area was placed in the Dakota Territory.

Big Stone County
Established in 1862 from Pierce County but was not formally organized until 1874 (or 1881).


Blue Earth County
Established in 1853 from Wabasha and Dakota counties.
Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. *Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota.* St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19??. F 606 .H5 no. 7


**Breckenridge County**
Established in 1858 from Pembina (now Kittson) County but in 1862 was renamed Clay County.

**Brown County**
Established in 1855 from Blue Earth and Nicollet counties but was not formally organized until 1856.


Kellet, Leota M. *History of Brown County.* New Ulm, Minnesota: Brown County Historical Society, 196?. F 612 .B8 K36x 1960


**Buchanan County**
Established in 1856 and abolished when it consolidated in 1861 with Pine County. It may have been attached to Chisago and St. Louis counties for judicial purposes.

**Carlton County**
Established in 1857 from Pine and St. Louis counties but not formally organized until 1870.


**Carver County**
Established in 1855 from Hennepin and Sibley counties.

Cass County
Established in 1851 from Dakota, Pembina, Mahkato and Wauhahta counties. In 1855 it was attached to Stearns County. It was formally organized in 1872, then in 1876 deorganized and attached to Crow Wing County. In 1897 it was reorganized.

Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19??.

Chippewa County
Established in 1862 from Pierce and Davis counties but was not organized until 1868 (or 1869). It may have been attached to Renville County.

Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19??.


Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12888


Chisago County
Established in 1851 from Ramsey and Washington counties.

Clay County
Established under the name of Breckenridge County in 1858 from Pembina (now Kittson) County. The name was changed in 1862 to Clay County. It was may have been attached to Stearns, Crow Wing, Douglas, and Becker counties. It was formally organized in 1872.


Clearwater County
Established in 1902 from Beltrami County.
Cook County
Established in 1874 from Lake County. It was formally organized in 1897. Before its organization, it may have been attached to St. Louis County for jurisdictional purposes.

Cottonwood County
Established in 1857 from Brown County but was not formally organized until 1873. It was attached to Watonwan County in 1871 for judicial purposes and before this may have been attached to Brown and Redwood counties.


Crow Wing County
Established in 1857 from Ramsey County but was not formally organized until 1870.


Dakota County
Established in 1849 under name of Dakotah County and was an original county in the Minnesota Territory. In 1853 it was organized as Dakota County.

Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19???. F 606 .H5 no. 19

Davis County
Established in 1855 from Cass, Nicolet, Pierce, and Sibley counties. It was attached to Stearns County in 1855 for judicial purposes. In 1862 it was abolished and area became part of Chippewa and Lac Qui Parle counties.

**Dodge County**
Established in 1855 from Rice County.

Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. *Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota*. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19???. *F 606 .H5 no.20*

**Doty County**
Established in 1855 from Itasca County, its name was changed to Newton County in the same year. This county was ignored by the territorial legislature and treated as if still Itasca County. It was abolished in 1856 and area later became part of St. Louis County.

**Douglas County**
Established in 1858 from Cass, Pembina, and Todd counties.


Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. *Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota*. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19???. *F 606 .H5 no.21*

**Faribault County**
Established in 1855 from Blue Earth County.

_Last updated 4/05_

Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19??.. F 606 .H5 no.22


Fillmore County
Established in 1853 from Wabasha County.

Bishop, J.W. History of Fillmore County, Minnesota. Chatfield, Minnesota: Holley and Brown, 1858. Microfiche F 612 .F4 B6 1858


Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19??.. F 606 .H5 no.23


Freeborn County
Established in 1855 from Wabasha County but was not formally organized until 1857.

Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19??.. F 606 .H5 no.24

Neill, Edward D. History of Freeborn County. Minneapolis: Minnesota Historical Company, 1882. F 612 .F7 N4 also Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12885

Goodhue County
Established in 1853 from Wabasha County but not formally organized until 1854. Part of Dakota County was added later.


Last updated 4/05

Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project.  Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota.  St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19???.  F 606 .H5 no.25


Grant County
Established in 1858 from the old Lac Qui Parle County but was not formally organized until 1873. It was attached to Douglas County from 1868 to 1873 for judicial purposes.


Hennepin County
Created in 1852 from Dakota County. In 1872 a portion of Ramsey County was added.


Hansen, Marcus L. Old Fort Snelling, 1819-1858, Iowa City, Iowa: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1918.  F 614 .F7 H22 also Americana F 614 .F7 H22 1918
Holcombe, Return I. *Compendium of History and Biography of Minneapolis and Hennepin County, Minnesota.* Chicago: H. Taylor and Company, 1914. F 614 .M5 C77 also Microfilm 900 no. 23


**Houston County**

Established in 1854 (some sources say 1853) from Fillmore County.


Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. *Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota.* St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19???. F 606 .H5 no.28

Neill, Edward D. *History of Houston County.* Minneapolis: Minnesota Historical Company, 1882. 977 .611 N317h also Microfiche 43 .G46x LH 9000

**Hubbard County**

Established in 1853 from Cass County.

Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. *Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota.* St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19???. F 606 .H5 no.29

**Isanti County**

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Established and organized in 1857 from Ramsey and Benton counties.

Itasca County
Established in 1849 from unorganized lands as an original county in the Minnesota Territory. It was organized in 1857, then deorganized in 1858, and reorganized in 1891. It was attached to Washington, Crow Wing, Benton, Chisago, Morrison, St. Louis, and Aitkin counties.


Jackson County
Established in 1857 from Brown County but not formally organized until 1858. County government was dissolved due to Sioux uprising in 1862. It was reorganized in 1866. Before its reorganization it may have been attached to Martin County.

Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19??. F 606 .H5 no.32

Johnson County
Established in 1858 from Pembin County under the name of Toombs County. Then name was changed in 1862 to Andy Johnson County which was sometimes shortened to Johnson. In 1868 the name was changed again to Wilkin County.

Kanabec County
Established in 1858 from Pine County but was not formally organized until 1881 (some sources say 1882). It was attached for a period of time to Chisago and Pine counties.

Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19??. F 606 .H5 no.33

Kandiyohi County
Established in 1858 from Davis, Meeker, Pierce and Renville counties. It was deorganized in 1866 and attached to Meeker County. In 1870 (or 1871) it was reorganized with expanded boundaries when it was united with Monongalia County.

**Kittson County**
Created in 1849 as an original county under the name of Pembina County. Its boundaries were redefined in 1851 and in 1878 the name was changed to Kittson County.

**Koochiching County**
Established in 1906 from Itasca County.


**Lac Qui Parle County**
Established in 1871 from Redwood County. It is not to be confused with the old Lac Qui Parle County which was in a different area.


**Lake County**
Created from Itasca County in 1855 as the two counties of Doty and Superior. The names were changed in 1855 to Newton and St. Louis. Names were changed again in 1856 with St. Louis becoming Lake and Newton becoming St. Louis.

**Lake of the Woods County**
Established in 1922 from Beltrami County.

**Le Sueur County**
Established in 1853 from Dakotah County.

**Lincoln County**
Established in 1873 from Lyon County. It should not be confused with old Lincoln County.

Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. *Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota*. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19???. F 606 .H5 no.41

**Lyon County**
Established in two legislative acts of 1868 and 1869 from Redwood County.

Case, Christopher F. *History of Lyon County, Minnesota*. Marshall, Minnesota: Messenger Printing House, 1884. Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8978


**Mahnomen County**
Established in 1906 from Norman County.

**Mankato County**

**Manomin County**
Established in 1857 from Ramsey County, it was abolished in 1869 and area became part of Anoka County. During this period, it may have been attached for judicial purposes to St. Louis, Anoka, and Hennepin counties.

**Marshall County**
Established in 1879 from Kittson County.
Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. *Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota*. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19???. F 606 .H5 no.45

**Martin County**
Established in 1857 from Brown and Faribault counties.

Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. *Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota*. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19???. F 606 .H5 no.46

**McLeod County**
Established in 1856 from Carver and Sibley counties.

**Meeker County**
Established in 1856 from Davis County. It may have been attached for a short period to Carver County.


Smith, Abner C. *A Random Historical Sketch of Meeker County, Minnesota*. Litchfield, Minnesota: Belfoy and Joubert, 1877. Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 13452

**Mille Lacs County**
Established in 1857 from Ramsey County. It was organized in 1860 and may have been attached to Morrison County for jurisdictional purposes before it was organized.

**Monongalia County**
Established in 1858 from Davis and Pierce counties. It was organized in 1861 but abolished in 1870 when it became a part of Kandiyohi County.

**Morrison County**
Established in 1856 from Benton and Stearns counties.


**Mower County**

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Created in 1855 from Rice County but not formally organized until 1856.


Murray County
Established in 1857 from Brown County but not formally organized until 1872.

Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project.  Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota, St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19??.  F 606 .H5 no.51

Newton County
Established in 1855 as Doty County from Itasca County, name was changed to Newton in same year. It was abolished in 1856 and area later became part of St. Louis County.

Nicollet County
Established in 1853 from unorganized lands (some sources say Dakota County) in the Minnesota Territory.


Nobles County
Established in 1857 from Brown County but not formally organized until 1870.


Norman County
Established in 1881 from Polk County.

Olmsted County
Established in 1855 from Fillmore, Wabasha and Winona counties. It was organized in 1855 although some sources say 1858.


Otter Tail County
Created in 1858 from Cass and Pembina (now Kittson) counties but was not formally organized until 1868. During this period it may have been attached to Stearns, Crow Wing, and Douglas counties for judicial purposes.

Kimber, Alta. The Coming of The Latter Day Saints to Otter Tail County. Americana BX 8608 .A1 no.1553

Masson, John W. History of Otter Tail County, Minnesota: Its People, Industries, and Institutions. Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12424

Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19???. F 606 .H5 no.56

Pennington County
Established in 1910 from Red Lake County.

Pine County
Established in 1856 from Chisago and Ramsey counties. In 1871 (or 1872) it was formally organized. Before its organization, it may have been attached to Chisago County for judicial purposes. In 1861 the county absorbed Buchanan County.

Pipestone County
Established under the name of Rock County in 1857 from Brown County. Name changed to Pipestone County in 1862. It was formally organized in 1879. It was attached to Cottonwood County in 1873 for judicial purposes and may have been attached to other counties.
Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19??.


Polk County
Established in 1858 from Pembina (now Kittson) County. It was not organized until 1872 (some sources give 1873 or 1879). Before its organization, it may have been attached for judicial purposes to Crow Wing, Douglas, Becker and Clay counties.


Pope County
Established in 1862 from Pierce and Cass counties and unorganized lands. It was formally organized in 1866.

Ramsey County
Originally a portion of old St. Croix County in the Wisconsin Territory, it was established as an original county in 1849 in the Minnesota Territory.


MINNESOTA


Red Lake County
Established in 1896 from Polk County.

Redwood County
Established in 1862 from Brown County. It was organized in 1865.

Holcombe, R.I. Sketches, Historical and Descriptive, of the Monuments and Tablets Erected by the Minnesota Valley Historical Society in Renville and Redwood Counties. Morton, Minnesota: The Society, 1902. Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 11416

Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19??.. F 606 .H5 no.64


Renville County
Established in 1855 from Nicollet and Pierce counties. It was organized in 1866 (some sources say 1867). Before its organization it was attached to Nicollet County for judicial purposes.

Holcombe, R.I.  *Sketches, Historical and Descriptive, of the Monuments and Tablets Erected by the Minnesota Valley Historical Society in Renville and Redwood Counties.* Morton, Minnesota: The Society, 1902.  *Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 11416*

Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project.  *Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota.* St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19??.


**Rice County**

Organized in 1853 from Dakota County (land had been in Wabasha County before 1851). It was attached to Dakota County until it was organized in 1855.


Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project.  *Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota.* St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19??.


**Rock County**

Established in under the name of Pipestone County in 1857 from Brown County. Name changed to Rock County in 1862. It was formally organized in 1870. It may have been attached for judicial purposes to Brown, Martin and Nobles counties.
Roseau County
Established in 1894 from Kittson County and organized in 1895. Part of Beltrami County was added later.

Saint Croix County


Saint Louis County
Established in 1856 from Itasca County (part was originally in Newton County). It should not be confused with old St. Louis County which covered an area nearby.


Scott County
Organized in 1853 from Dakota County. It was decreased in size in 1855 but increased in 1857 when it attached part of Carver County.

Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project.  Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19???.  F 606 .H5 no.70


Sherburne County
Established in 1856 from Benton County.
Sibley County
Established in 1853 from Dakotah County. It may have been attached to Hennepin County for a period of time.


Stearns County
Established in 1855 from Cass County.

Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19???. F 606 .H5 no.73

Steele County
Created in 1855 from Rice County but not formally organized until 1856.


Stevens County
Established in 1862 from Pierce County and unorganized lands. It was formally organized in 1869 (some sources say 1871). It may have been attached to Stearns, Douglas, and Pope counties for judicial purposes.

Superior County
Established in 1855 from Itasca County, its name was changed to St. Louis (old) County in the same year. Its creation was ignored by the territorial legislature and was abolished in 1856. The area became part of Lake County with part later becoming Cook County.

Swift County
Established in 1870 from Chippewa County. It may have been attached for periods of time to Pope, Chippewa, and Kandiyohi counties.

Todd County
Established in 1855 from Cass (some sources say Stearns) County. It was organized in 1867. It may have been attached to Stearns and Morrison counties for judicial purposes.

Toombs County
Established in 1858 from Pembina (now Kittson) County and name was changed to Andy Johnson County in 1863. The name was changed again in 1868 to Wilkin County.

Traverse County
Established in 1862 from Pierce County and unorganized lands. It was attached to the counties of Stearns in 1866, Douglas in 1867, Pope in 1868, and then Stevens County in 1872 for judicial purposes. In 1881 it was formally organized.


Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19???. F 606 .H5 no.78


Wabasha County
Established in 1849 from unorganized lands as an original county in the Minnesota Territory. It was formally organized in 1851.

Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19???. F 606 .H5 no.79

Wadena County
Established in 1858 from Cass and Todd counties. In 1873 it was formally organized. It may have been attached before organization to Crow Wing and Morrison counties.

Wahnata County

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Waseca County
Established in 1857 from Steele County.


Victory; Waseca County, Minnesota, In the World War. Waseca, Minnesota: Journal Radical, 1919. D 570.85 .M61 W3

Washington County
Organized as an original county in 1849 by the Minnesota Territorial legislature from the old St. Croix County in the Wisconsin Territory.


Watonwan County
Established in 1860 from Brown County and organized in 1861. In 1871 the county was reorganized. It may have been attached to Blue Earth County for judicial purposes.


Last updated 4/05
Wilkin County
Established in 1858 as Toombs County from Pembina (now Kittson) County. The name was changed to Andy Johnson County in 1863 and again in 1868 to Wilkin County. It may have been attached to Stearns, Crow Wing, Douglas, and Otter Tail counties. In 1872 it was formally organized.

Winona County
Established in 1854 from Fillmore County.


Wright County
Established in 1855 from Cass and Sibley counties.


Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19???. F 606 .H5 no. 86

Yellow Medicine County
Established in 1871 from Redwood County.

Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project. Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, 19???. F 606 .H5 no. 87

Other Resources Minnesota

Minnesota Historical Society Genealogy Archives
http://www.mnhs.org/genealogy/

Minnesota Cyndi’s List Links
http://www.cyndislist.com/mn.htm

Minnesota Rootsweb Links
http://www.rootsweb.com/~websites/usa/minnesota.html

Minnesota Genealogical Society
http://mngs.org/

FamilySearch Wiki
www.familysearchwiki.org