

Researcher's Resources McHenry County Historical Society Library

This outline can be used to locate items in the library collection. They are listed from the most general (those at the top of the list are usually used first) to the more specific. For orientation, the south wall is the entrance door wall.

RESOURCES IN THE LIBRARY:

1. Surname Index (south wall next to the flat files) contains names from the Biography Files, scrapbooks, township maps, and Vertical Files.
2. Card Catalog (south wall above the green flat files and Surname Index) gives the author, title, subject headings and Dewey Decimal locations of the books on the shelves. It does not index the contents of the books.
3. Biography Files (lateral files on north wall) contain photos, newspaper articles, death notices, and sometimes probate information. Often the surnames are divided by location. (List of headings available on website).
4. Obituary Files (smaller drawers above the Vertical Files starting at the P drawer and Biography Files). Newspaper obituaries—more for Marengo & Union, fewer Crystal Lake or Woodstock.
5. For people, at this point check the McHenry County Genealogy cemetery books and funeral home records (393 on the shelves).
6. Vertical Files (5-drawer cabinets on the west wall) are good for business, organization and subject information. Accompanied by a printed listing of the file folders and See References (List of headings also available on website).
7. School Files – west wall after Vertical Files.
8. Community Files – west wall after School Files.
9. McHenry County Histories (977.322) for the years 1877, 1885, 1903, 1922, 1968, & 1995. The first volume of the 1903 & 1922 histories are useful for general county info & the second volume for biographies.
10. Index to Marriage Records by MCIGS (929 MAR).
11. Flat Files (southeast corner)
 - Oversize maps, photos, and documents filed by township (brown wood and gray metal horizontal drawers).
 - Atlases, 19th century plat books plus their individual indexes, and bound individual newspapers (open shelving). Plat Book Atlases for 1872, 1892, and 1908 plus the 1862 county map are indexed in the Surname Index and show land ownership.
 - World, state, county and Chicagoland maps, plus blueprints (tan metal horizontal drawers).
 - 1939 aerial photos (superoversize tan drawers). 1980s and 1990s aerial photos with parcel overlays (superoversize and tan drawers).
 - 20th century platbooks, posters, oversize photos, cemetery plats, military posters, single newspapers, & fashion plates (green metal horizontal drawers).
 - Rolled maps on top of gray flat files, and display board maps, along sides of tan flat files, are listed on sheet hanging from atlas shelving.
 - 1961 mounted aerial photos (behind brown wood horizontal drawers).
12. Audio visuals (CDs, VHS, DVDs) (in file cabinet by door).
13. Microfilm, mostly decennial censuses, but also 1855 & 1865 state censuses for McHenry County (file cabinet by door).

14. Slides (before Dewey collection or in file cabinet by door).
15. Peasley negatives (before Dewey collection).
16. Peasley large photos (on top of the first Biography File in northwest corner).
17. Postcards (west wall above Vertical Files) are filed by community, then randomly.
18. Scrapbooks are filed on the shelves at the end of the 999s and are arranged by accession number (year the items were donated then a number). They are indexed in the Surname Index. (These are being digitized so check lists above the scanning computer).
19. Sidwell atlas sheets are filed by township and then year (small green cabinet above Surname Index).