

## 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.
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 (index is also available on the 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. Flat Files (southeast corner)
  - Oversize maps, photos, and documents filed by township (brown wood and gray metal horizontal drawers).
  - Blueprints from 1 architect's office, still in 3 boxes, to be filed in accession # order (3 blond deep drawers).
  - Atlases, 19<sup>th</sup> 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 4 tan drawers).
  - 20<sup>th</sup> century plat books, posters, oversize photos, cemetery plats, road petitions, single newspapers, & fashion plates (green metal horizontal drawers).
  - Rolled maps, including the 1862 McHenry County plat map, on top of gray flat files, and display board maps, along sides of tan flat files, are listed on sheet hanging from atlas shelving.
11. Audio visuals (CDs, VHS, DVDs) (west wall above the Vertical Files).
12. Postcards (west wall above Vertical Files) are filed by community, then randomly.
13. 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.
14. Marriage records indexed by MCIGS (929 MAR).
15. Don Peasley large photos are on top of the first Biography File in northwest corner.
16. Sidwell atlas sheets are filed by township and then year (small green cabinet above Surname Index).

RESOURCES OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY:

17. Oral Histories – Administrator’s office.
18. Slides – Catacombs.
19. McHenry County Tax Records – Catacombs.
20. Don Peasley scrapbooks – Catacombs.
21. Kent Files of Real Estate, properties, notes – Cold Storage.
22. Remainder of Cataloged Collection, (which is marked Storage) such as High School Yearbooks, Abstracts of Title, Bibles, Autograph Books, Cookbooks, etc., Newspaper Runs, Recorder’s Office plat books, Assessors/Collectors Books (later than in Catacombs), & a couple shelving units of other miscellaneous book files – Cold Storage.
23. Don Peasley film negatives – below the counter in the “hardware store”.