

Back to School: Using School Records in Your Family Tree

Tina Beaird tinab@tamarackgenealogy.com

Types of School Records

- ✓ Alumni Directories
- ✓ Awards
- ✓ Class Photos
- ✓ Coursework/Tests/Papers
- ✓ Diplomas
- ✓ Graduation Announcements
- ✓ Programs and event flyers
- ✓ Report Cards/Transcripts
- ✓ Yearbooks (annuals)



Places to find School Records

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

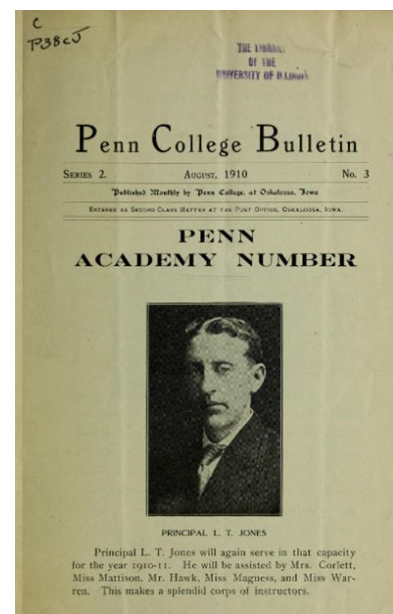


Class Photos & Yearbooks

- ✓ Check with the school or school district to see if they have class photos on-hand.
- ✓ University Archives and Special Collections
 - ✓ www.augustana.edu/library/special-collections/search
- ✓ Contact the local library or historical society to see if they have class photos.
- ✓ Online places to search:
 - ✓ Class reunion sites
 - ✓ www.FamilySearch.org photos
 - ✓ www.archive.org
- ✓ Yearbooks contain more than just school photos!
 - ✓ Business Advertisements
 - ✓ Military service photos & announcements
 - ✓ Memorials
 - ✓ Photos of the town and school

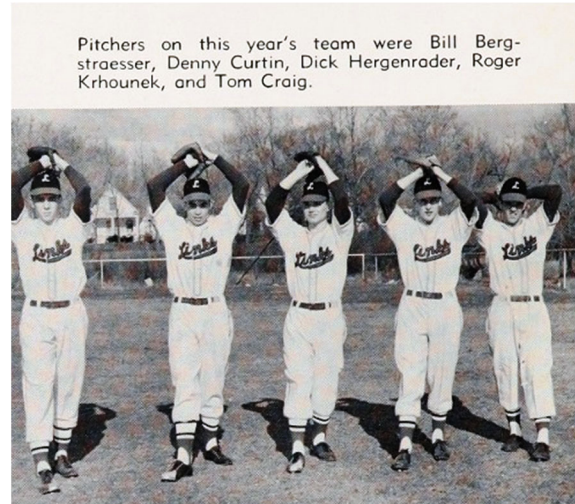
Places to look for Photos and Yearbooks

- ✓ www.ancestry.com \$
- ✓ www.archive.org
- ✓ www.classmates.com \$
- ✓ www.flickr.com
- ✓ www.mocavo.com/yearbooks \$
- ✓ www.old-yearbooks.com
- ✓ www.worldvitalrecords.com \$



County and Township Records

- ✓ School Schedules (census)
- ✓ Teacher's Registers
- ✓ School tax records
- ✓ Annual Tax Assessments
- ✓ Annual Reports
 - ✓ Teacher & staff salaries
 - ✓ Board of Education election results



School Schedules (censuses)

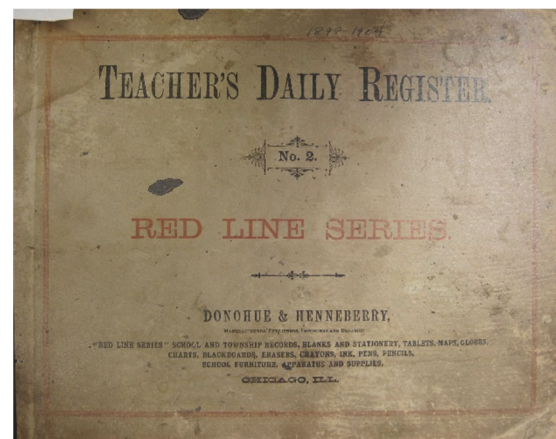
- ✓ Censuses list children of 'school age' up to age 21 within a district, not always by township or county & regardless of school attendance.
- ✓ Information may include: date of birth, age, siblings, name of parent/guardian, class, residence.
- ✓ The Head of Household would verify the number of children of school age. A good way to find remarried mothers and spouses of ladies under the age of 21.
- ✓ These often predate vital records in many states (IL began recording births in 1877).

Teacher Registers

- ✓ Include age of each child
- ✓ Coursework (grade level)
- ✓ Attendance
- ✓ Guests

Places to find Teacher Registers:

- ✓ Regional Board of Education
- ✓ Local Historical/Genealogical Societies

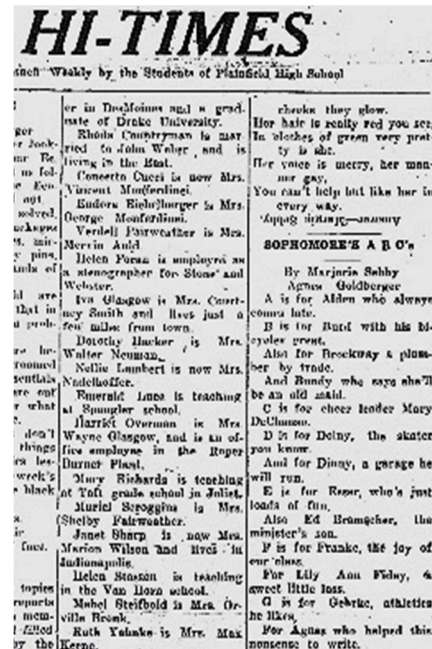


- ✓ State Archives/Library

Newspapers

Newspapers are a great resource for school information

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



Websites for School Records & Photos

- ✓ Archivegrid <https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid>
- ✓ FamilySearch www.familysearch.org
- ✓ Flickr www.flickr.com
- ✓ Internet Archives www.archive.org
- ✓ Library of Congress www.loc.gov
- ✓ The Ancestor Hunt www.theancestorhunt.com/school-records.html
- ✓ U.S. Department of Education FERPA Regulations: www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpc/ferpa/index.html
- ✓ U.S. National Archives www.archives.gov

Follow Tamarack Genealogy on Social Media

