Expecting to find virtually unlimited resources and lots of assistance, an amateur genealogist visiting a large academic research library to trace a family tree is soon discouraged. Some librarians, especially those who happen to be personally interested in the subject and are familiar with the collection, do try to provide substantial help, but a more negative approach seems common among reference departments. Responses given to questions about genealogical materials frequently suggest that there are few, if any, such holdings, that the library doesn’t buy in this subject, and that such research is better conducted elsewhere. My conversations with acquisitions and/or reference librarians at universities including Harvard, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Northwestern, Ohio State, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin generally support this interpretation.

It is not surprising that many librarians may be unaware of the genealogical riches in their large collections. In addition to the more obvious sources of information—such as county histories, patriotic society lineage books, and ship passenger lists—valuable data may be discovered in old newspapers, collected biographies, church and parish records, organizational yearbooks, land records, and plat books. Many (often, a great many) of these are housed in large academic libraries which, theoretically, do not collect genealogical material. The purpose of this article is to point out emphatically that help usually is available to genealogical patrons of such libraries in all the useful materials
“hidden” in the collection. Many of these resources will be mentioned in the appendix to this article entitled “Bibliography: Some Genealogy Resources in Academic Research Libraries.”

**Acquisition Policies**

Few acquisition policies specifically include or exclude genealogical materials; indeed, the term genealogy appears only infrequently in formal statements. One of the few institutions which does provide for such collections is the University of Michigan. Its “Selection Policy Statement” defines genealogy as “the study of family lineage and the methods of investigation, a subsidiary discipline serving sociology, eugenics, history, and law.” Its graduate library “holds a working collection of materials selected for their value to students of history and other subjects. No effort is made to acquire a collection specifically useful to persons interested in tracing their own ancestry, but a few introductions to genealogical research are held, and the University Library holds other publications which are useful in genealogical research.” This statement also notes that their working collection is “tailored to the needs of a particular constituency.”

A more narrowly delimited approach is used in the *Collection Development Policy* of the University of Texas-Austin, which reads: “With the exception of a few genealogy handbooks, only those genealogical reference titles of use to historians will be purchased.” This linkage of genealogy and history is quite common, and the purchase of materials for historical research is accepted more readily than for genealogical research. Genealogy as such is not specified in the University of Illinois “Acquisition Policy Statement,” in the expectation that the Illinois State Library and various public libraries around the state will acquire such material.

Reference departments which follow the practice of purchasing “a few genealogy handbooks” typically have a selection of standard “how-to” books. Examples of some of the more common guides are: *Searching for Your Ancestors* by Gilbert Doane, *The Handy Book for Genealogists* by George B. Everton and Gunnar Rasmusson, *Genealogy Beginner’s Manual* published by The Newberry Library, and *Tracing Your Ancestors* by Anthony J. Camp. These titles offer suggestions for starting research, broadening the scope of investigation, advising where and how to write for records, and so on. Such books are usually cataloged in the 929.1 Dewey classification or CS in the Library of Congress classification. In a library which acquires genealogical material as supplemen-
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tary sources for historical, demographic or sociological research, one is likely to find Munsell's *American Ancestry* (twelve volumes), *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy* by William Wade Hinshaw (seven volumes), the *Abridged Compendium of American Genealogy* and the *Handbook of American Genealogy*, both edited by Frederick Virkus, *Pennsylvania Genealogies* by William Henry Egle, and P. William Filby's *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index* in three volumes. They are variously shelved in reference departments, bookstacks or in specialized libraries. These, too, are cataloged under 929.1 or CS and may be the original or later editions or recent reprints.

Multivolumed indexes and bibliographies serve historians and genealogists equally well. Possibly the largest index of its kind, *The American Genealogical-Biographical Index*, the so-called "Rider Indexes," was begun in 1952 under the editorship of Fremont Rider and currently extends to 121 volumes. The *Genealogical Periodical Annual Index*, first published in 1962, is an author, surname, subject, and location index to over 150 British, Canadian and U.S. periodicals. Thomas Clark's *Travels in the Old South* and *Travels in the New South* (three volumes in the former, and two in the latter) are annotated bibliographies of personal travel accounts, logs and diaries from 1527 to the twentieth century. These and *A Bibliography of Ship Passenger Lists, 1538-1825* by Harold Lancour serve as examples of genealogical materials not cataloged in the usual genealogical classifications, but in the index and bibliography categories 016 and Z.

"Hidden" Genealogy Resources

Most major academic libraries own a variety of less obvious works of genealogical utility. Such "hidden" resources include the *Dictionary of American Biography* and the *National Cyclopedia of American Biography*, both of which provide selected genealogical information. The *Encyclopedia of American History* by Richard Morris can provide the researcher with background information which, for example, may help put family chronicles in better perspective. Many antiquated atlases which show areas no longer bearing the same names may be of key importance in tracing family migration from one place to another. Other examples of excellent sources found in reference collections include *Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, *Who was Who During the American Revolution*, *Who was Who in America: Historical Volume*, 1607-1896, and *Biographical Directory of the United States Executive Branch, 1774-1971*.
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The card catalog is the fundamental research tool, but it poses unexpected difficulties for the inexperienced user. The subject heading "Genealogy" often indicates "how-to" books—usually not what the patron is seeking. The heading "Vital Records" directs the searcher to "See Recording and Registration, Register of Births, etc., and Slave Records." An online catalog eliminates the problem of cross references, but the user still must be aware that particular subject headings may not describe the material fully. The heading "Family Archives" may guide the user to helpful data, though such records are often limited in scope, but the heading "Family Histories" refers the patron to "See subdivision Genealogy under countries, cities, etc., and individual families." Specific family genealogies must be looked up in the catalog through the family name, but, too frequently, only a few names mentioned in such a book have any kind of catalog entry. The catalog does tell whether the library holds a particular title and provides cataloging classifications for desired areas which can be used as a starting point. On occasion it can be productive to browse through open stacks pursuing a limited but somewhat random search among, say, military registers, specialized membership directories, and organizational yearbooks. These often contain extensive biographical (and genealogical) information. The Thoroughbred Record has the expected photographs and breeding information about horses, but it also has photographs and biographical data about the owners and trainers. A publication such as the Ayrshire Digest publishes biographies of cattle breeders. Volumes of the Transactions of the Illinois State Horticultural Society, incorporated in 1857, lists members, officers, committees, awards granted, and obituaries, some with photographs. Walter Webb's The Texas Rangers tells the story of the formation and activities of this legendary group and has first-hand accounts of the experiences of some who served with it. Public service organizations such as Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary publish monthly magazines with photographs and biographical information about members. The Leatherneck, "magazine of the Marines," has photographs, biographical data, and changes of military assignments—helpful to someone researching a former Marine.

Many art and architecture books available in large academic libraries are also under-utilized sources of genealogical information. Colonial Mansions of Maryland and Delaware by John Hammond has family reminiscences of home owners. The Homes of Our Ancestors in Stonington, Conn. by Grace Wheeler is filled with many genealogical facts, including personal letters. Titles such as Remodeled Farmhouses by Mary Northend, The Manor Houses of England by P.H. Ditchfield,
Country Houses of the Midlands by John Gotch, and The Mansions of England by John Neale contain personal information about the owners and residents of the houses described. They provide similar information about the architects or builders. Such books commonly have photographs of the people who once lived in these houses or were living there at the times the books were written. Drawings, building diagrams, and floor plans often can supplement what is known about an ancestor's life. The WPA (Works Progress Administration) project American Portrait Inventory: 1440 Early American Portrait Artists (1663-1860) offers birth and death dates, places of residence, and, if foreign, where the artists emigrated from and the dates of their arrivals in the United States. Portraits of Jews by Gilbert Stuart and Other Early American Artists compiled by Hannah London physically describes the subjects and their families and has personal anecdotes about them.

Old church and parish records, particularly rich sources of genealogical information, are often found in the bookstacks of large academic research libraries. The University of Illinois, for example, has a wide range of such holdings, including multivolume sets published by the Yorkshire Archeological Society, the Harleian Society of London, the Lancashire Parish Register Society, and the Parish Register Society, London. Additionally, there are the Huguenot Society of London Publications, the Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, and the Canterbury and York Society series. The Millennial Harbinger, the monthly journal published by Alexander Campbell, a major founder of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Churches of Christ, contains correspondence, brief biographical records of ministers and church officers, and obituaries. Similar church records from other countries—France, Germany, Italy, and Spain, to name some—are also shelved in the University of Illinois bookstacks. The availability of many of these volumes is widespread since researchers may obtain them through interlibrary loan.

Provincial, state and federal governmental publications provide much data for genealogists. Volume twelve of the Records of the Colony of New Plymouth, in New England describes land deeds from 1620 to 1651. Pennsylvania’s Colonial Records (sixteen volumes) and the Pennsylvania Archives (in nine series) contain foreign arrivals, names of foreigners who took the oaths of allegiance to the province and state of Pennsylvania, property rights, provincial commissions, warrantees of land, baptism records, early tax rolls, papers of the governors, military records, and muster rolls. There are six series of federal American Archives published under an act of Congress in 1833 containing courts-
martial records, correspondence, Continental Congress proceedings, and reports. These latter titles are indexed, generally by series, but it is sometimes difficult to ascertain the type of record that will be found by means of the index. The *United States Official Postal Guide* has been published for over a century and lists every post office in the country. This is an excellent reference tool in trying to locate an extinct post office.

While federal census records are acquired to provide demographic information for researchers in various fields, they can also be vital to someone trying to place an ancestor in a particular place at a particular time. State universities may not have complete federal census records nationally, but they would have those for their own state and perhaps a few neighboring ones. For example, the University of Illinois has a complete set of available federal census records for Illinois plus a handful of Indiana records. Bound volumes of the 1790 census show the names of the heads of the households and other household residents, but little else. Later censuses do provide more information, and libraries are purchasing microfilms of these records.

Old city directories going back to the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries are a bonanza to genealogists. They provide exact street addresses, thus making it easier to search a subsequent federal census schedule which is arranged by ward or areas within a city. The occupations of the residents are shown. They have business listings and advertisements; some identify the directors of companies and corporations. Churches are identified, thereby enabling a researcher to pursue records through denominational sources. Academic libraries may have large holdings pertaining to cities within their own state and elsewhere in the country. The University of Illinois has old directories for Illinois cities such as Alton, Champaign, Chicago, Decatur, Peoria, Rockford, and Springfield plus out-of-state cities such as Albany, Cleveland, New York, and Philadelphia. J. Carlyle Parker recommends in *Library Service for Genealogists* that libraries should acquire microfilm copies of their city directories for circulation through interlibrary loan. Microfiche directories are also available for some cities. Telephone directories give street addresses of subscribers and business information although these do not go back as far as city directories.

Reference Service Policies

Parker further recommends that "librarians should see that library service to genealogists is as adequate as to any other segment of their
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public. This counsel implicitly acknowledges that genealogists are a less than favorite type of patron. Regardless of the extent of the academic library’s holdings of relevant material, the reference librarian’s willingness to help ranges widely. Some staff members provide as much help as possible, but some others unconsciously or deliberately turn away the genealogist. Reference desks occasionally stock handouts describing genealogical material within the collection, including census records, local histories and biographical volumes. In a few libraries bibliographies of genealogical sources in the collection are available. The University of Illinois Reference Department has in its vertical file a few guides for locating genealogical holdings which have been compiled by the library staff and interested genealogists. Also available for the Illinois patron are specialized bibliographies such as lists of English parish records and registers of soldiers in the American Revolution as well as brief guides to genealogical materials in the bookstacks.

In the event that sought-after material is not part of the academic library’s collection, the librarian usually directs the in-person patron to another repository such as the local public library, the local genealogical society, the state archives, or a historical society library. Ohio State University librarians make genealogical referrals to the Ohio State Library and the State Historical Society, both in Columbus. The University of Pennsylvania reference staff direct phone and in-person patrons to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Free Library of Philadelphia, both located a short distance from the Penn campus. The Widener Library staff at Harvard refer patrons to the New England Historic Genealogical Society located in nearby Boston. Referrals are also made by academic librarians to the local branch genealogical library of the LDS Church, the largest such repository in the world. University of Michigan patrons interested in extensive genealogical materials are referred to the Michigan State Library in Lansing and the Burton Historical Collection in the Detroit Public Library for family histories and for Michigan local history and records. University of Michigan librarians also refer their patrons to Chicago’s Newberry Library.

Mail queries to academic research libraries are sometimes answered by a brief form letter offering helpful suggestions for alternate research sources. Some furnish lists of competent researchers who will work for a fee. The University of Pennsylvania library sends a letter recommending the writer contact county and local historical societies described in the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission’s Directory of Pennsylvania Historical Organizations and Museums. This letter also
suggests other titles helpful to genealogists and makes referrals to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Genealogy Section of the Pennsylvania State Library in Harrisburg. Harvard's form letter suggests that the inquirer examine the National Union Catalog and other national bibliographies of the published catalogs and shelf-lists of the Harvard system available at many research libraries throughout the United States. The desired material can then be requested through interlibrary loan or photoduplication from the appropriate Harvard library since the actual library facilities are primarily restricted to members of the Harvard community. The form letter may have a personal postscript which suggests other sources as well. The Southern Historical Collection and Manuscripts Department of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill sends out information about the material found in its own collection and that of the University of North Carolina Archives. In addition, the library staff encloses information about accommodations for visitors to Chapel Hill, transportation suggestions, and a map of the campus with public parking areas clearly marked.

The librarians of the Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) Collection of the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities) Libraries have prepared a series of form letters to help them respond to patrons' questions. The collection is limited to immigration from eastern, central and southern Europe, and the Near East, and the letters recommend basic and specialized sources for Polish, Italian, Finnish, or Czechoslovak family research. The staff have prepared handouts of sources such as passenger and immigration lists, Norwegian-American historical collections, and genealogical institutions and societies in Minnesota. Genealogical researchers are encouraged to visit the IHRC where they can obtain special assistance. It also contains manuscript or microfilm records of several ethnic fraternal organizations, interviews, and family histories prepared by the Minnesota Finnish-American Family History Project. The center expects to acquire a microfilm edition of Italian emigration records. The librarians call this material to the attention of researchers tracing people from the appropriate ethnic groups and make it equally available to genealogists and academic historians. For extended inquiries the center charges for assistance provided by student hourly workers.

The library staff of the University of Wisconsin—Madison is able to offer assistance to its genealogical patrons with minimal involvement. This is due in large part to the close working (and spatial) relationship it shares with the Wisconsin State Historical Society Library directly
across the street. In practice, a reference librarian at the university will describe the genealogical resources available in Memorial Library, but generally will not pursue the search further. However, the reference department distributes handouts explaining the basics of genealogical research and others listing periodicals, bibliographies, atlases, special collections, and guides to bookstacks materials on Denmark, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Norway, and Sweden, along with directions for writing to foreign sources for information. Most of this material is furnished by the state historical society whose library of more than 1 million items—one of the largest genealogical collections in the country—complements the university's own general collection of more than 4 million volumes. The historical society's library attempts to acquire all available historical and genealogical materials relating to the United States and Canada. In effect, it also functions as the North American history resource library for the University of Wisconsin. Without a need to purchase in this subject area, the latter institution can concentrate on foreign works.

The University of Wisconsin Memorial Library catalog contains cards for the Wisconsin State Historical Society Library as well as its own, and the distribution between the two libraries' collections of foreign and domestic material is readily apparent. Of approximately 140 cards under the subject heading "Genealogy—Periodicals," only twenty titles were held by the university and, of these, fourteen were in foreign languages. Nearly all the titles held by the Historical Society Library are in English. University holdings under the subject heading "Genealogy" show titles in Croatian, Danish, Flemish, French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Portuguese, and Swedish. The society's genealogy books are almost all in English.

As sources of genealogical information, newspapers are often important and sometimes indispensable. One of the best-known collections of newspaper files belongs to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Writing in Genealogical Research, James Hansen says it has "the second largest collection of newspapers in the United States, surpassed only by that of the Library of Congress." This collection covers newspapers published north of the Rio Grande, and has titles from all fifty states, U.S. possessions, and Canada. It contains 4000 titles, including about 1600 from Wisconsin.

The originals of the Draper manuscripts are also part of the historical society's collection. They were part of the personal research collection of Lyman Copeland Draper, the society's first corresponding secretary. The five hundred volumes of this collection have been micro-
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filmed and may now be found in many large academic research libraries. A new guide and index to these papers has been published.\textsuperscript{20} The society library also maintains an extensive collection of other records such as birth, baptismal, marriage, death, burial, cemetery, probate, and tax records.\textsuperscript{21}

The University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill has among its extensive holdings two specialized collections of particular interest to genealogists. The North Carolina Collection, housed in its own specially designed quarters in the main Wilson Library, contains publications and reports of governmental agencies, businesses, religious bodies, fraternal groups, and professional organizations relating to North Carolina and/or written by North Carolinians. This material includes diaries, scrapbooks, associational volumes (i.e., books belonging to North Carolinians before about 1870), textbooks, broadsides, maps, pictures, recordings, and more than 100,000 mounted newspaper clippings arranged alphabetically by subject. It serves as the repository for printed materials issued by the university and maintains files of departmental publications and reports of various organizations on campus. The North Carolina Collection has been called the “Conscience of North Carolina” because “it seeks to preserve for present and future generations all that is published about the state and its localities and people or by North Carolinians, regardless of subject.” The collection is primarily a research facility, and most materials may be used only in its reading room. Author and title cards are filed in the university library’s catalog.\textsuperscript{22}

The second specialized collection, designated the Southern Historical Collection, is the manuscript department of the library. Its holdings consist of manuscripts of North Carolinians and other Southerners—basically the private papers of individuals, families and institutions. Accumulated primarily to serve historical research, this material includes some compiled family histories. The staff of the manuscript department will not undertake genealogical research for correspondents; however, patrons are given the names of personnel who will undertake such research for a fee.\textsuperscript{23}

As noted earlier, the University of Michigan—Ann Arbor library makes no effort to acquire materials specifically useful to research in family history. That its holdings of over 5 million volumes\textsuperscript{24} include much of genealogical value may be attributed in large measure to a broad spectrum of historical research acquisitions. Among the materials of particular relevance are \textit{The Greenlaw Index of the New England Historic Genealogical Society}, \textit{The American
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Genealogical-Biographical Index described previously, and all thirteen volumes of The Mereness Calendar of federal documents in the Upper Mississippi Valley. Shelved in the graduate library's open bookstacks are such useful source materials as The Genealogical Index of the Newberry Library and the New York Public Library's Dictionary Catalog of the Local History and Genealogy Division which includes approximately 26,000 family histories. Genealogists will be particularly interested in two books primarily about Michiganders: Tracing Your Ancestors in Michigan by Ethel Williams and Polly Bender and Genealogy in Michigan: What, When, Where by Alloa Anderson and Polly Bender.

One unit of the university's library system is the Clements Library which specializes in Americana up to 1850 and includes much material dealing with the history of exploration. There are maps, manuscripts and colonial newspapers which may be of particular interest to the family historian. The material in this collection does not circulate, but researchers are welcome to use it in the reading room of the library.

The Bentley Library on the university's north campus houses the Michigan Historical Collections. Its goal is "collect, preserve and make available for research primary source materials documenting the history of the people and the institutions of the state of Michigan." It collects important archives and manuscripts relating to all aspects of Michigan's history. The collection was established in 1935 and now has over 30,000 published items and more than 15,000 feet of manuscript material as part of its noncirculating, closed-stack research facilities. The printed Guide to Manuscripts in the Bentley Historical Library describes the manuscript collections. These consist of records of Michigan churches (particularly Episcopal, Congregational, Presbyterian, and Baptist) and manuscripts from educational and relief organizations, athletic groups, national historical societies, and musical organizations as well as publishing companies and personal records of Michigan residents. There are territorial or state census records for 1827, 1845, 1884, and 1894 plus a few federal census records. In addition to the manuscripts, there is an extensive collection of published materials about Michigan in the Bentley Library. Among these items are city, county and state histories, gazetteers, land ownership maps, and atlases. Another of its excellent resources is the Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War which is a compilation in forty-six volumes of the service records of Michigan Civil War veterans. Bentley also has city and county directories and nineteenth-century newspapers. There are items relating to the Dutch settlement in Western
Michigan and records of early labor societies and temperance materials. The information is primarily in the form of photographs, broadsides, newspapers, sound tapes, and manuscripts. It is available to in-person researchers, and the staff is extremely helpful and knowledgeable.

**Case Study: Collections at UIUC**

The library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) includes a broad spectrum of genealogically important holdings in an overall collection exceeding 6 million volumes. The total assemblage is housed in the main bookstacks and over thirty-five departmental libraries and specialized collections. The repositories containing the materials of most interest to genealogists—i.e., the main bookstacks, the Illinois Historical Survey, the University Archives, the Lincoln Room of the History and Philosophy Library, the Map and Geography Library, and the Newspaper Library—are all located in the main library building. In general, the materials in three of the specialized collections—the Illinois Historical Survey, the University Archives, and the Lincoln Room—do not circulate, nor are they available through interlibrary loan, although researchers are welcome to work with them in the library. Volumes in the bookstacks and the other departmental libraries do circulate for various periods or are available for interlibrary loan unless they are part of the individual reference collections or on reserve for course readings.

Among the various departmental libraries and special collections, the Illinois Historical Survey Library is a treasure-trove for Illinois genealogical research. Its collection numbers over 7500 books covering the last three centuries and contains published and manuscript materials on the history of Illinois and the Old Northwest. A fairly complete collection of county histories is supplemented by town and organizational histories as well as maps, town and city directories, plat books, eighteenth-century atlases, and geographies. There is a vertical file of over 2000 miscellaneous items ranging from pamphlets, brochures, and newspapers to photographs and letters. The manuscript collection has both printed and handwritten documents, some with guides. There are family papers as well as business records of companies throughout Illinois and the Midwest. This collection is in the form of journals, diaries, letters, notebooks, ledgers, account books, newspaper clippings, dispatches, photographs, and transcripts in a variety of formats such as photocopies, microfilms, original documents, and machine reproductions. Departing somewhat from the university library's general pol-
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Policy of not specifically collecting genealogical materials, the survey's acquisition program has been broadened to include works which will be of direct interest to genealogists. Recently it has begun receiving genealogical society newsletters and quarterlies published in Illinois. In addition, the University of Illinois Library Friends organization has donated a subscription to the National Genealogical Society Quarterly to supplement the library's collection of Special Publications of that society. A very recent gift has been George Hendricks, Illinois Pioneer and His Descendants by Josephine Moeller.

The University Archives is a specialized collection consisting primarily of official records, publications and personal papers of present and former faculty, students, alumni, and staff of the University of Illinois. Its Alumni Morgue has folders on deceased faculty, alumni and former students, including many photographs. University publications such as the student yearbook (Illio) from 1895, the Board of Trustees' Reports, staff directories from 1867, and commencement programs, together with clippings about the university from nonuniversity sources can be located through various finding aids. The archives contain a particularly useful aid in the extensive file of directories to collections in other archives. Copies of books, including some genealogical studies, by and about faculty and staff members are also located in this collection.

The Lincoln Room, housed in a special suite, is part of the History and Philosophy Library and is devoted to material related to Abraham Lincoln. There are various books and photographs as well as a large number of unpublished documents and manuscripts. Special titles relating to the Lincoln genealogy include: The Hanks Family Legacy, 1643-1889; Nancy Hanks, of "Undistinguished Families"; and Nancy Hanks, the Destined Mother of a President, all by Adin Baber; The Lineage of Lincoln and The Paternity of Abraham Lincoln by William E. Barton; The Descendants of the Presidents by R. Whitney Tucker; and Abe Lincoln's Other Mother, the Story of Sarah Bush Lincoln by Bernadine Bailey. In addition to Lincoln memorabilia, the Lincoln Room has scattered issues of newspapers published during the Civil War, some Confederate records—e.g., The Military Annals of Tennessee by John Lindsley, histories of Virginia counties, such as The Years of Anguish, Fauquier County, Va., 1861-1865 compiled by Emily G. Ramey, A History of Rockingham County, Virginia by John Wayland and a few Civil War regimental histories of Illinois and Indiana.

To the family chronicler the historical map collection in the Map and Geography Library is another rich resource. This repository includes many old maps of the entire country plus maps of western
Europe, England and Ireland dating back to the 1500s. Some of its maps of New England were drawn in the 1600s and show the general locations of the first settlements. There are maps of all the American colonies at the time of the Revolution, together with a map of Pennsylvania from the 1770s and a 1796 Vermont map that shows communities which have long since gone out of existence. This library is also a depository for all United States and Canadian topographic maps beginning in the 1880s and for other foreign countries from the nineteenth century to the present. Depending on the scale, a given topographic map may show precise locations of all houses and major outbuildings in the region. If a needed topographic map is not already in the collection, the staff can usually determine where it can be located and how a copy or relevant information can be obtained.

Beginning with 1890 the U.S. Department of Agriculture produced soil maps of individual counties. These show old towns; roads; locations of school houses, churches and cemeteries; and defunct railroad lines. To supplement what is known about a family, a researcher might refer to the Sanborn fire maps of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These maps describe each structure in many towns throughout the country, thus enabling one to determine the type of ancestral housing—i.e., whether the dwelling was brick, stone or wood; had a porch or not; or was of one, two or three stories. These maps also show the location of each business, commercial building, church, school, movie house, and other buildings.

Not only are the maps in this library helpful to genealogists, but the book collection has much useful material. There is an extensive collection of county atlases for the whole country which show land ownership. A bibliography of these atlases is presently being prepared. There is an early nineteenth-century gazetteer which lists place names, and a sizable collection of other books providing information about locations and histories of various towns and villages and place name derivations. Another useful reference tool is Bullinger's Postal and Shippers Guide, begun in 1871 though no longer published, which shows the various railroad shipping points closest to then-existing post offices. Several sets such as Mapping the Transmississippi West, 1540-1861 by Carl Wheat (five volumes), the British Museum Catalogue of Printed Maps, Charts and Plans, and the Catalog of Maps, Ships' Papers and Logbooks, a bibliography published by the Mariners' Museum, New Port News, Virginia, can also provide helpful information.

The Newspaper Library has an extensive collection of both recent and old holdings. It currently subscribes to nearly 550 United States and foreign papers, including at least one daily from most major metropoli-
tan areas. For Illinois, titles are presently being received from seventy-four of its 102 counties. There is also a large number of pre-1900 newspapers from such Illinois cities as Alton, Champaign, Chicago, Danville, Peoria, Rock Island, and Springfield. The microfilm collection includes copies of old papers such as the Indianapolis Freeman (1866-1920), the Denver Rocky Mountain News (1860-1900 and 1959-73), the Washington (D.C.) National Intelligencer (1800-69), the New York Tribune (1841-1924), and the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin from 1847 until its demise on January 29, 1982. Continuing large city papers in the collection are the New Orleans Times-Picayune from 1837, the New York Times from 1851, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch from 1878, and the San Francisco Chronicle from 1865. Old foreign-language papers from the United States include the Gemeinnitzige Philadelphische Correspondenz (1781-90), the Neue Philadelphische Correspondenz (1790-1800), and Sokol Sojedinenija (American Russian Falcon) (1922-26), published in Homestead, Pennsylvania. Current or defunct ethnic or racial newspapers include New York's Irish World (1879-81), Chicago's Wassaja (1916-19 and isolated issues in 1920, 1921 and 1922), Bilalian News (formerly, Muhammad Speaks) from 1961 on, New York's Novoe Russkoe Slovo from 1961 on, and Washington's Colored American from 1898 to 1904.

In addition, there are issues of Confederate papers such as the Charleston Daily Courier from 1852 to 1872 and the Milledgeville (Georgia) Southern Recorder from 1820 through isolated issues until 1872. Other pre-Civil War titles include the Woodville (Mississippi) Republican (1823-48) and the Huntsville (Alabama) Southern Advocate (1825-61). There are isolated issues and short runs of old newspapers such as the Springfield (Illinois) Record in 1910, the Nauoo (Illinois) Neighbor from 1843 to 1845, the New Orleans Times-Democrat (1890-92), and the Richmond (Virginia) Planet from January 5, 1895 to September 29, 1900.35

The microfilm holdings of the Newspaper Library are listed in Newspapers in Microform—available in many research libraries—and may be obtained through interlibrary loan. In addition, the staff can determine what newspapers are held at other repositories such as the Library of Congress, the Center for Research Libraries, and the Illinois State Historical Library at Springfield.36

Finally, there are the bookstacks, whose ten decks house the bulk of the University of Illinois' collection, including most of the genealogically significant holdings. Some of these—e.g., the classifications for bibliography, art, religion, biography, and history—have already received brief mention in this article. Many of the foreign family histo-
ries in the bookstacks are in French, German, Italian, or Spanish; for example, *Primeiras Famílias do Rio de Janeiro* and *Les Familles Nobles du Forez au Xille Siècle*. Long runs of serials such as *Enciclopedia Heráldica y Genealógica Hispano-Americana*, published in Madrid (eighty-eight volumes), the Italian *Giornale Araldico-Genealogica Diplomatico* (twenty-nine volumes), and *Beiträge zur Namenforschung* (more than thirty volumes in two series and supplements) are shelved on the same bookstacks deck as the *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society* going back to 1791, and *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, currently in 136 volumes. Items of regional interest, such as *Maryland Revolutionary Records*, the two-volume *Swem’s Virginia Historical Index*, and the *Revolutionary War Memoir and Selected Correspondence of Philip Van Cortlandt* are also part of the University of Illinois collection of early non-Midwest materials.

**Conclusion**

From the foregoing, it is evident that the large academic research library contains much of genealogical value, whether or not such material was intentionally acquired for the purpose. Indeed, it seems axiomatic that a rich genealogical component is inherent in every large academic library as a function of the magnitude and characteristic diversity of such collections. The university library as a major resource for investigations in family history has heretofore been largely unappreciated by all but experienced researchers. The research of such patrons can be advanced with little effort on the part of the reference department. In some cases referral may be the most appropriate help a librarian can give, but in others the information sought may be at hand in the collection. The approaches followed by several, rather arbitrarily selected academic libraries in dealing with genealogical patrons, together with numerous references to resource material, are offered as background for the reference staff in the hope that it will help them serve the needs of their sometimes "problem patron"—the genealogist.

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Appendix

Bibliography: Some Genealogy Resources in Academic Research Libraries


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