

# Discover Your Family in School Yearbooks

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## Yearbooks and their historical context

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- Secondary education in the United States
  - Compulsory and public education
  - High school movement (1910-1940)
- Technological advances in photographic processes
  - Daguerreotypes and early photographic techniques
  - Collodion processes which allowed for the easy creation of photographic copies
  - Roll film

## Yearbooks as genealogical sources

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- Primary evidence
  - School attendance
  - Portraits
  - Name preference and usage
  - Occupation – for teachers and staff
- Secondary evidence
  - Residence
  - Age

## Examples of yearbooks and the information you can expect to find

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- Individual portraits
  - Senior class – often get special treatment
  - Faculty and staff
- Group portraits
- Activities
- Clubs
- Sports
- Biographical statements
- Anecdotes
- Awards
- Academic interests

## Search Strategies with online collections

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- Finding school names and yearbook titles
- Searching for students
- Maiden names for females
- Searching for faculty and staff

## Digitized school yearbook collections online

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- Paid services
  - MyHeritage.com
  - Ancestry.com
  - Classmates.com
  - E-Yearbook.com
- Free
  - InternetArchive
  - Digital library initiatives
    - National & local

## Finding hard copy yearbooks

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- Libraries
  - Public libraries
  - College and university libraries
  - WorldCat
- Purchase
  - ebay
  - AbeBooks

## Copyrights and school yearbooks

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- Using yearbooks in our personal research and for republication