

Discover Your Family in School Yearbooks

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Yearbooks and their historical context

- 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

- 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

- 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

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

Digitized school yearbook collections online

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

Finding hard copy yearbooks

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

Copyrights and school yearbooks

- Using yearbooks in our personal research and for republication