The genealogy tip of the month is to search Google Books for town histories, genealogies of families, city directories, for mention of ancestors in books and other publications, or even an ancestor’s own writings.

Use the Google search function to enter in your ancestor’s name or to search out a city where the person lived. You can find a wealth of information in Google Books. Some books are fully digitized and some are not but often even the snippet that you find may be helpful. There are annual reports, journals, directories and more from U.S. states and other countries. If you ever did genealogy in the old days, you know that these items used to have to be requested through interlibrary loan but now many are available on Google Books. You may find out where your ancestors lived or where they worked because they’re mentioned in a report. I found mention of ancestors in education journals, state and county histories, city directories, annual reports, and even found their own writings—a great-great uncle’s geology textbook. I found out that some ancestors of mine were abolitionists/suffragists because they were mentioned in the memoirs of another person—found just by searching their names in Google Books. Below are a random sampling of books that can relate to genealogy searching. Have fun searching Google Books!