

Genealogy Tip – School Days, School Daze

September evokes “back to school” memories. Searching school information for genealogy purposes can yield rewarding information. Scholastic achievements, athletic pursuits, musical and artistic talents and more can all find their way into school records. They can document your ancestor’s education and also reveal a lot about their interests and about the wider community in which they lived.

Ancestry Library Edition, available free in all branches of OC Public Libraries, offers search features for Schools, Directories and Church Histories:

The screenshot shows the search interface for 'Schools, Directories & Church Histories'. At the top, there are navigation links: 'Home', 'Learning Center', 'Charts and Forms', and 'New Collections'. Below this is a search bar with a 'Search' button and a checkbox for 'Match all terms exactly'. The main search area is divided into several sections: 'First & Middle Name(s)' and 'Last Name' input fields; a 'Birth' section with dropdowns for 'Day', 'Month', and 'Year', and a 'Location' dropdown; 'Lived In' and 'Any Event' dropdowns; an 'Add family member' section for 'Spouse' with name and 'X' fields; a 'Keyword' field with a dropdown for examples like 'pilot' or 'flying tigers'; and a 'Gender' dropdown. A 'Search' button and 'Clear search' link are at the bottom of this section. To the right, a 'Narrow by Category' sidebar lists: 'City & Area Directories', 'Professional & Organizational Directories', 'Church Histories & Records', 'School Lists & Yearbooks', and 'Telephone Directories'. Below that, a 'Featured data collections' sidebar lists: 'U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995', 'U.S. Public Records Index, 1950-1993, Volume 1', 'U.S. Public Records Index, 1950-1993, Volume 2', 'British Phone Books, 1880-1984', 'U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900-1990', and 'UK Medical Registers, 1859-1959'. A 'View all in Card Catalog' button is at the bottom of this sidebar. At the bottom left, a 'Collection Information' section provides a brief overview of the data types available.

The screenshot shows the main 'Search' interface. It features a search bar with 'First & Middle Name(s)' and 'Last Name' fields, and a 'Place your ancestor might have lived' section with a dropdown for 'City, County, State, Country' and a 'Birth Year' field. A 'Search' button and 'Show more options' link are present. Below the search bar is an 'Explore by Location' section with a map of North America and a list of countries: USA, Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, Oceania, and South America. Under 'USA', a list of states is provided: Alabama, Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Northern M..., Utah, and Vermont. To the right, a 'Special Collections' sidebar is visible, with a '+ Card Catalog' button. The sidebar lists: 'Historical Records', 'Birth, Marriage & Death' (including Birth, Baptism & Christening, Marriage & Divorce, Death, Burial, Cemetery & Obituaries), 'Census & Voter Lists' (including U.S. Federal Census Collection, UK Census Collection, Canadian Census Collection), 'Immigration & Travel' (including Passenger Lists, Citizenship & Naturalization Records, Border Crossings & Passports), 'Military' (including Draft, Enlistment and Service, Casualties, Soldier, Veteran & Prisoner Rolls & Lists), and 'Schools, Directories & Church Histories' (including City & Area Directories, Professional & Organizational Directories, Church Histories & Records).

Other search tools available on line include **Cyndi's List**

<https://www.cyndislist.com/us/>

Some of her recommended sites are free, some are not:

Cyndi's List

The image shows a screenshot of the Cyndi's List website. On the left side, there is a vertical navigation menu with several purple arrow-shaped buttons pointing to the right. The buttons are labeled: "Categories", "Follow Us", "Mailing List", "Browse New Links", "Submit a New Link", "Report a Broken Link", "Update a Link", and "Shop". Below the "Follow Us" button, there are icons for Facebook, Twitter, Google+, and Pinterest. Below these icons is a button for "Cyndi's List Blog" and a "SHARE" button with social media icons. On the right side, the word "Schools" is written in a purple, cursive font. Below it, the text "Category Index" is displayed. A list of categories follows, each preceded by a purple arrow icon: "Alumni Organizations & Resources", "Finding School & Classmates", "General Resources", "Indian Schools", "Locality Specific: Canada", "Locality Specific: Miscellaneous", "Locality Specific: United Kingdom & Ireland", "Locality Specific: United States", "Medical Schools", "Military Schools", "Newspapers & Magazines", "Social Networking", "Special Needs Schools", "Sports Teams", "Teachers & Administrators", and "Yearbooks and Annuals".

Categories

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Schools

Category Index

- ▶ Alumni Organizations & Resources
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- ▶ General Resources
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- ▶ Locality Specific: Miscellaneous
- ▶ Locality Specific: United Kingdom & Ireland
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