

## Local and Family History Resource Guide

### Mishawaka Penn Harris Public Library

The following list pertains to St. Joseph County, Indiana.  
The library has other counties in its collection, to find them enter  
the county's name in the library's catalog.

#### A. Vital Records.

##### a) Birth and Death Resources

- 1) *St. Joseph County, Indiana Birth Records 1882-1920* -WPA
- 2) *St. Joseph County, Indiana Death Records 1882- 1920* -WPA
- 3) *Vital Statistics Index to St. Joseph County, Indiana Newspapers 1831-1912*- David Eisen
- 4) *The Mishawaka Enterprise Vital Statistics Index 1858-1981* – David Eisen
- 5) *Index to Will, St. Joseph County 1850-1971* – Irvin L. Morse
- 6) *Index to Estates from the Probate Records St. Joseph County, Indiana 1830-1849* - SBAGS
- 7) *Coroners Index 1879-1958* - South Bend Area Genealogical Society
- 8) *Death Related Records in St. Joseph County, Indiana* - South Bend Area Genealogical Society
- 9) *Court of Common Pleas St. Joseph County Guardian Docket 1837-1869*- Daughters of the American Revolution
- 10) *Index to St. Joseph County Inheritance Tax records*- South Bend Area Genealogical Society

Note: 1) South Bend Tribune Obituary Index 1913-present- part of SJCPL database collection  
2) Contact the St. Joseph County Health Department for copies of birth and death records  
3) Ancestry.com has Indiana Death Certificates 1899-2011 and Birth Certificates 1907-1940.

##### b) Marriage & Divorce Resources

- 1) *St. Joseph County, Marriage Records 1850- 1920* - WPA
- 2) *Vital Statistics Index to St. Joseph County, Indiana Newspapers 1831-1912*- David Eisen
- 3) *The Mishawaka Enterprise Vital Statistics Index 1858-1981*-David Eisen
- 4) *Index to St. Joseph County, Indiana Marriage Licenses July 1924- Dec 1957*- South Bend Area Genealogical Society
- 5) *St. Joseph County Marriages 1921-1924 Brides & Grooms*- author unknown
- 6) *St. Joseph County Marriage Returns 1882* - South Bend Area Genealogical Society
- 7) *Index to St. Joseph County Marriage Returns 1882* - South Bend Area Genealogical Society

Note: 1) See [www.sbags.org](http://www.sbags.org) for databases.  
2) Several Indiana counties vital records are on microfilm- see <http://www.mphpl.org/microfilm>  
3) Depending on the year of the event, marriage and divorce records are available at the St. Joseph County Courthouse or at the St. Joseph County Archives and Records Center.  
4) Ancestry.com has Indiana Marriage Records 1960-2005.

#### B. Cemetery

- 1) *St. Joseph County, Indiana Cemetery Inscriptions* - South Bend Area Genealogical Society
- 2) *Index to Graves Registration Project* - South Bend Area Genealogical Society
- 3) *Buskirk Cemetery, located in St. Joseph County, Indiana* – Daughters of the American Revolution
- 4) *Cedar Grove Cemetery Inscriptions: South Bend, St. Joseph, Indiana* - Gene Stachowiak Szymarek
- 5) *Ferrisville Cemetery Inscriptions: South Bend, St. Joseph, Indiana* - Daughters of the American Revolution
- 6) *Southlawn Cemetery, St. Joseph, Indiana* - Sharon Kay Walters White

### C. Funeral Homes

- 1) Several local funeral home records are on microfilm. Please see staff for more information.

### D. Church Records

- 1) Clipping File- See index
- 2) Local Church Records on Microfilm
  - a) St. Mary's of the Lake
  - b) St. Joseph-Mishawaka
  - c) St. Bavo's
  - d) St. Monica's
  - e) St. Stanislaus Kotstka parish
- 3) CRIMP Files- several church records on microfilm- see index

### E. Land Records.

- 1) *Abstract of Deeds St. Joseph County - Daughters of the American Revolution*
- 2) Abstract of Titles on microfilm-see index

Also see <https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/> for federal land patents.

### F. County Histories

- 1) *History of St. Joseph County*- Timothy Edward Howard
- 2) *History of St. Joseph County*- Charles Chapman
- 3) *Biographical Index to St. Joseph County, Indiana Histories*-David Eisen
- 4) County Histories are on microfilm – see <http://www.mphpl.org/microfilm> for microfilm index.

### G. City Directories

- 1) *Polk's South Bend and Mishawaka City Directory* 1901-current (missing some issues)
- 2) *Polk's Mishawaka – South Bend Suburban Directory* 1969-1995
- 3) *Kagel's Cross Index directory including South Bend- Mishawaka- Osceola and St. Joseph Area* 1959-1971
- 4) South Bend and Mishawaka City Directories are on microfilm – See library catalog for details.

Note: Ancestry.com has some city directories digitized. See database U.S. City Directories

### H. Military

- 1) *Index to Revolutionary War Service Records* - Virgil D. White
- 2) *Index to Revolutionary Soldiers of Indiana and Other Patriots* - Barbara Schull Wolfe

### I. Family Histories

The library has a family history collection that was donated by individuals who did their own family research. The library does not guarantee the accuracy of the research. Please search the library's catalog using surnames to know what family histories are in the collection.

### J. Newspapers

The library has a large local newspaper collection on microfilm. The newspaper collection includes all 92 counties of the state of Indiana. It should be noted that some titles contain missing and scattered issues. Please see newspaper index for specific titles and years. <http://www.mphpl.org/newspapers>