

# MAPS AND GENEALOGY: CHICAGOANCESTORS.ORG AND THE ATLAS OF HISTORICAL COUNTY BOUNDARIES

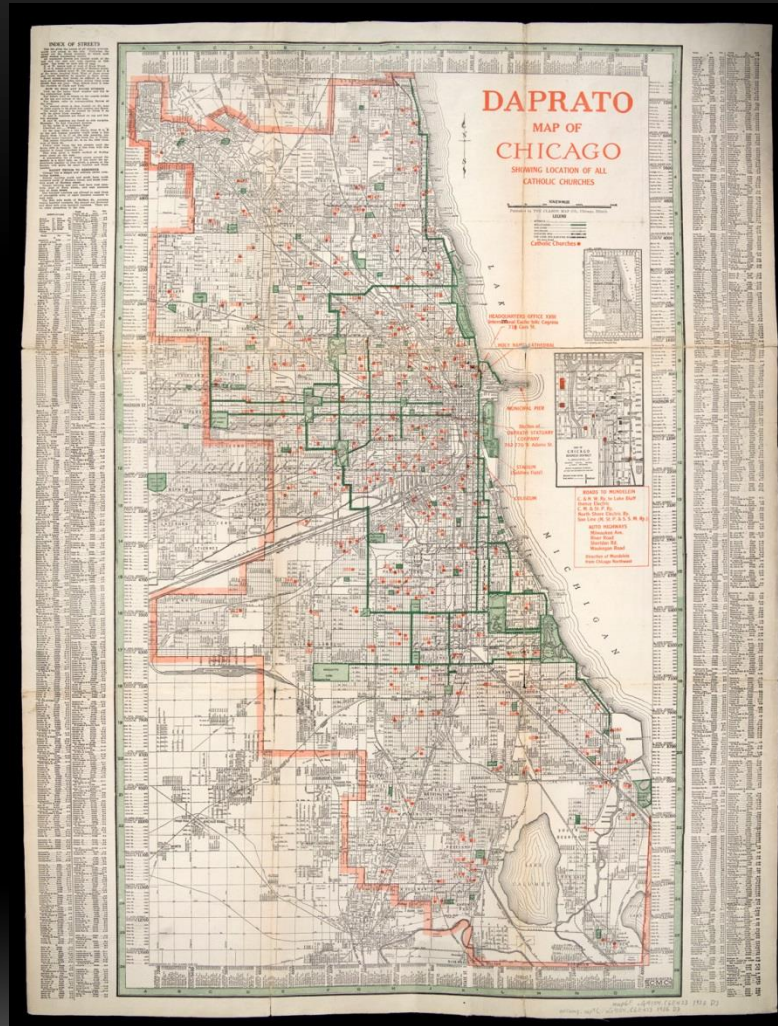
---

Rebecca Lowery  
Genealogy & Family History  
Newberry Library  
Chicago, IL

# BACKGROUND OF CHICAGOANCESTORS.ORG

We are presently in the second generation of the ChicagoAncestors.com program. It was first launched in 2007. The inspiration for it came from how often a particular map was used in the genealogical reference interviews.

This map was a 1926 map showing the Roman Catholic churches in Chicago and was produced as an advertisement for the Daprato Statuary. The map had all of the Chicago churches on it. As a result it was a great source for family historians trying to determine which Catholic church their ancestors might have attended.



# CHICAGOANCESTORS.ORG

This website is free, open to the public, and requires no ID or password. This new and enhanced version has a much larger map and is generally more accessible for the users.

We have brought over the previous information from the original version and have been adding more data as it becomes available.

The site has user comments sections as well as allowing the public to suggest additional data that might be useful on the sight. We have maintained the basic approach of searching by address but have expanded and enhanced those options to make searching smarter while not being burdensome.

So let's take a look at the website.

---

ChicagoAncestors.org

discover the past by address

About

Advanced Search

Articles

Resources

Search by Address

Search by Keyword

Browse by Community

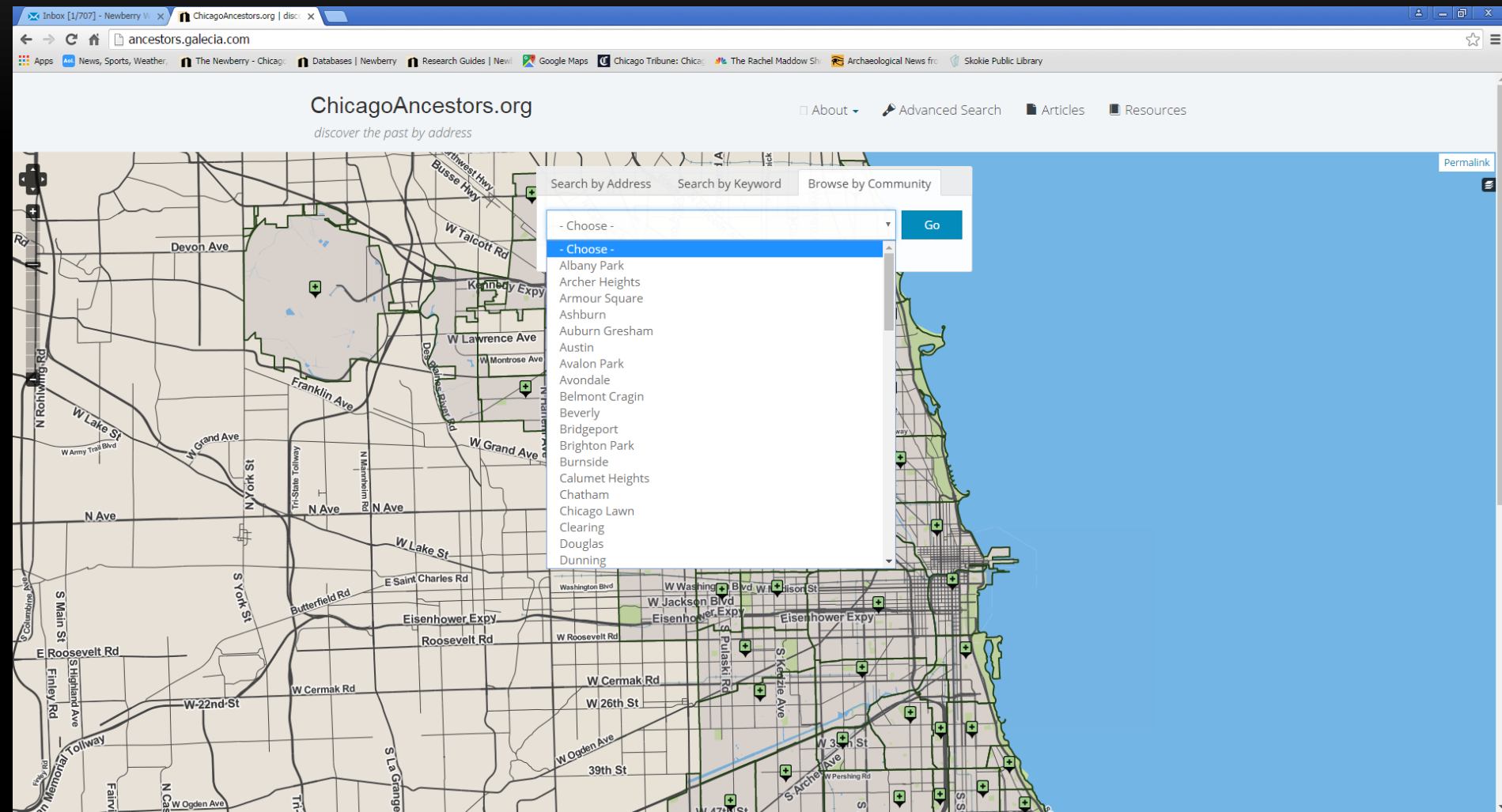
, Chicago IL
radius:
Miles

Search

Enter a street address, e.g., "100 N. State St." Enter distance as a decimal.

The map displays a detailed street grid of Chicago, Illinois. Major highways such as the Kennedy Expressway (I-55), Eisenhower Expressway (I-55), and Lake Shore Drive (I-90) are clearly visible. The map is overlaid with a search interface that includes a search bar, a radius selector, and a search button. The search results are represented by green pins on the map, indicating the locations of the records found. The map also shows various landmarks and neighborhood names, providing a geographical context for the search results.

# THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD: OR COMMUNITY AREAS AS THEY ARE KNOWN LOCALLY





# LEARNING ABOUT AN AREA

Inbox [711] - Newberry We... | Loop | ChicagoAncestors.org

ancestors.galecia.com/neighborhood/loop

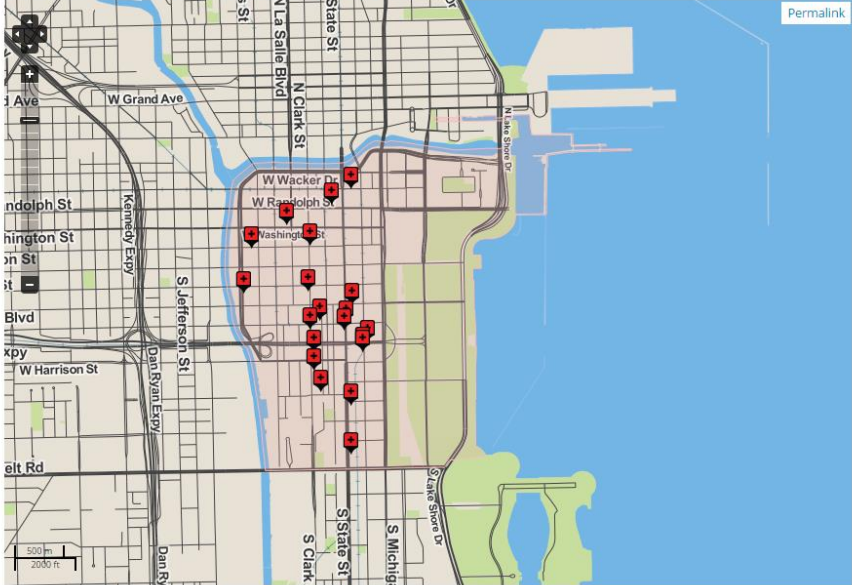
Apps | News, Sports, Weather | The Newberry - Chicago | Databases | Newberry | Research Guides | New | Google Maps | Chicago Tribune: Chicago | The Rachel Maddow Show | Archaeological News from | Skokie Public Library

## Communities

- Albany Park
- Archer Heights
- Armour Square
- Ashburn
- Auburn Gresham
- Austin
- Avalon Park
- Avondale
- Belmont Cragin
- Beverly
- Bridgeport
- Brighton Park
- Burnside
- Calumet Heights
- Chatham
- Chicago Lawn
- Clearing
- Douglas
- Dunning
- East Garfield Park
- East Side
- Edgewater
- Edison Park
- Englewood
- Forest Glen
- Fuller Park
- Gage Park
- Garfield Ridge
- Grand Boulevard
- Greater Grand Crossing
- Hegewisch
- Hermosa
- Humboldt Park
- Hyde Park
- Irving Park
- Jefferson Park
- Kenwood
- Lake View
- Lincoln Park
- Lincoln Square
- Logan Square
- Loop

## Loop

For more places in this community, use the [Advanced Search](#) function.



Permalink

This community area includes all or part of the following neighborhoods: The Loop, South Loop, Printer's Row, New Eastside

Chicago Herald. **Chicago as it Happened in 1858.**  
1894.  
Call No. 5A 5283.

Cudahy, Brian J. "Chicago's Early Elevated Lines and the Construction of the Union Loop."

Start | Google | Internet Explorer | Firefox | Chrome | Safari | Edge | Microsoft Word | PowerPoint | 12:27 PM 8/12/2016

# ADVANCED SEARCHES

ancestors.galecia.com/advanced-search

ChicagoAncestors.org  
discover the past by address

Home About Advanced Search Articles Resources

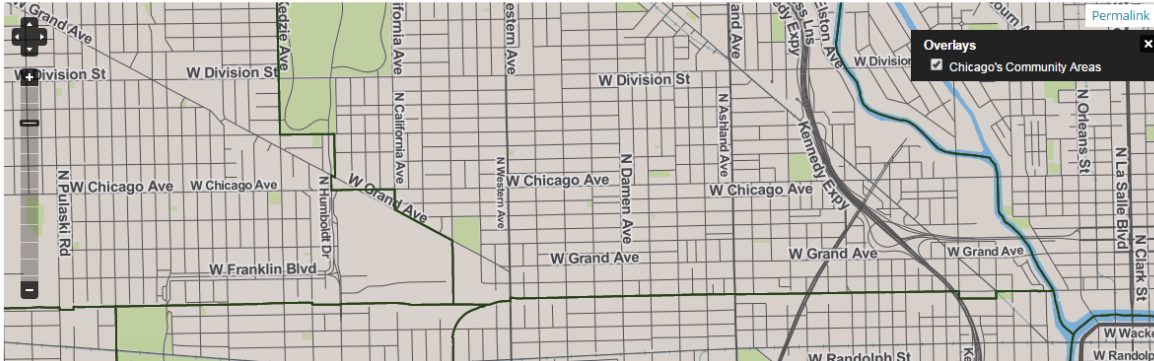
## Advanced Search

Topic: - Any - Collection: - Any - Community Area: - Any -

Denomination: - Any - Ethnicity: - Any - Structure Type: - Any -

Title: Contains Start Year: Is equal to End Year: Is equal to

Apply Reset



Map showing streets including W Division St, W Chicago Ave, W Grand Ave, W Franklin Blvd, W Randolph St, N La Salle Blvd, N Clark St, N Orleans St, N Dearborn Ave, N Damen Ave, N Western Ave, N Humboldt Dr, N California Ave, N Grand Ave, N Paulina Rd, N La Salle Blvd, N Clark St, N Orleans St, N Dearborn Ave, N Damen Ave, N Western Ave, N Humboldt Dr, N California Ave, N Grand Ave, N Paulina Rd. Overlays: Chicago's Community Areas.

# SAMPLE OF COLLECTIONS

ancestors.galecia.com/advanced-search

ChicagoAncestors.org  
discover the past by address

HOME

## Advanced Search

**Topic**  
- Any -

**Denomination**  
- Any -

**Title**  
Contains

**Collection**  
- Any -  
American Indian Chicago  
American Terra Cotta Company Photographs  
CB&Q Collection  
Cemeteries  
CGS Pioneers  
Chicago Genealogist  
Chicago History Magazine  
Chicago Tribute Markers  
ChicagoPC Postcards  
City 2000 (UIC) Photographs  
Cushman Photographs  
Digital Past  
Digitized Books  
Eastern Religions  
Episcopal Churches  
Evangelical Churches  
Great Houses of Chicago  
Historic American Buildings Survey  
Homicide In Chicago

**Community Area**  
- Any -

**Structure Type**  
- Any -

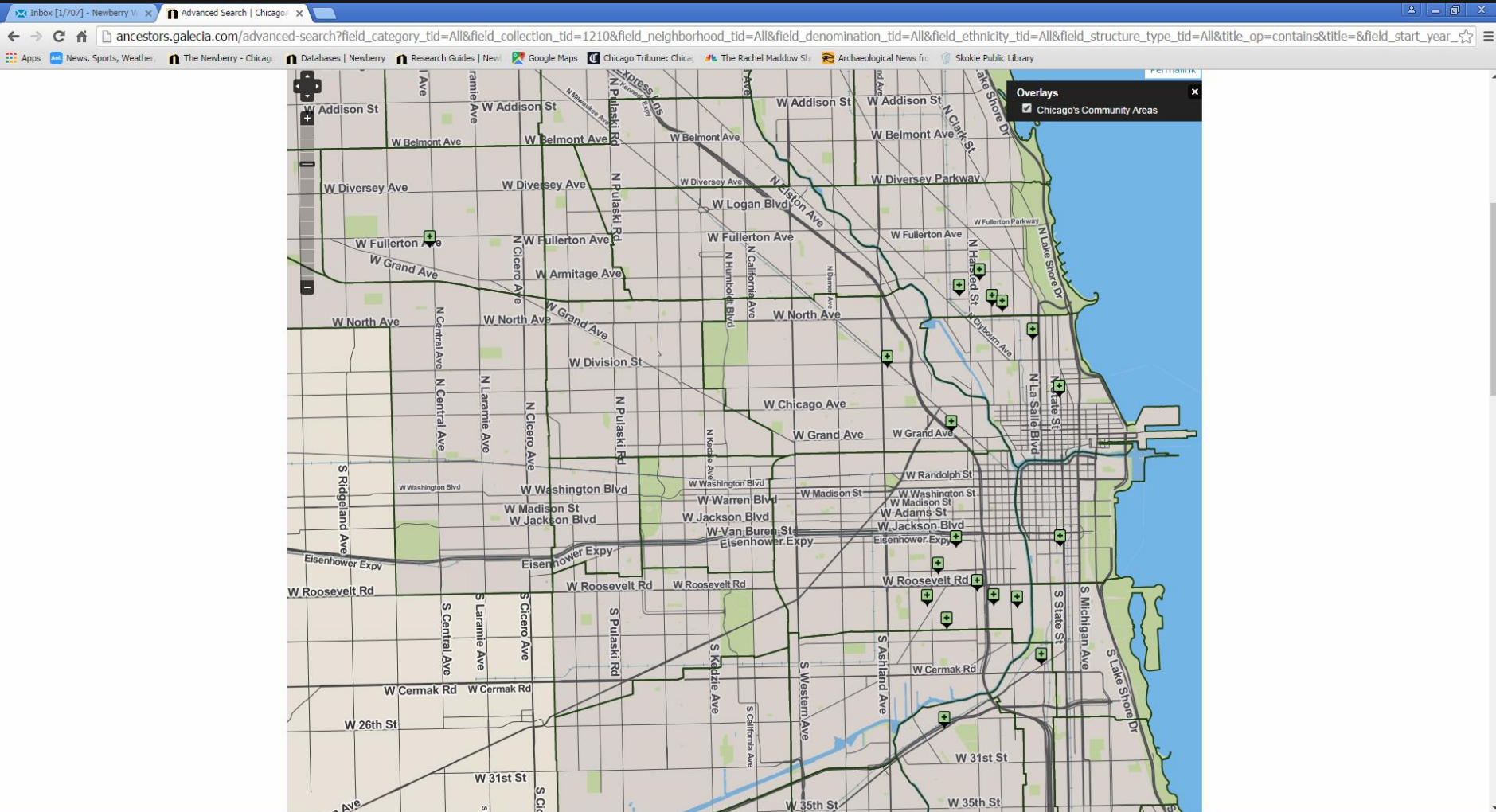
**End Year**  
Is equal to

Apply Reset


Overlays  
☒ Chicago's Community Areas



# FIRST A MAP IS PROVIDED



## THEN A LISTING OF SPECIFIC SITES ARE GIVEN

									
Title	Street Address	Topic	Collection	Community	Denomination	Ethnicity	Structure Type	Start Year	End Year
Jochim Residence	1811 Fremont St.	Individuals & Families	CGS Pioneers	Lincoln Park	Lutheran	German	Residence	1857	
Koeppen Residence	1227 W. 14th St.	Individuals & Families	CGS Pioneers	Near West Side		German	Residence	1855	
Niebling Residence	Archer Ave. and Throop St.	Individuals & Families	CGS Pioneers	Bridgeport		German	Residence	1857	
Feipel Residence	1912 N. Orchard St.	Individuals & Families	CGS Pioneers	Lincoln Park	Roman Catholic	Luxembourgian	Residence	1870	
Pion Residence	945 W. Vernon Park Pl.	Individuals & Families	CGS Pioneers	Near West Side	Roman Catholic	Canadian	Residence	1869	
Miller Residence	5532 Belden Ave.	Individuals & Families	CGS Pioneers	Belmont Cragin		Scottish	Residence	1865	
McGregor Residence	500 N. Morgan	Individuals & Families	CGS Pioneers	West Town		Scottish	Residence	1851	
Bender Residence	1612 N. Cleveland Ave.	Individuals & Families	CGS Pioneers	Lincoln Park	Roman Catholic	German	Residence	1849	
Buschman Residence	1335 N. Wells St.	Individuals & Families	CGS Pioneers	Near North Side		German	Residence	1867	
Frauens Residence	1819 N. Fremont St.	Individuals & Families	CGS Pioneers	Lincoln Park		German	Residence	1867	
Marwede Residence	1536 W. Haddon Ave.	Individuals & Families	CGS Pioneers	West Town			Residence	1870	
Kriebs Residence	711 S. Plymouth Ct.	Individuals & Families	CGS Pioneers	Loop	Roman Catholic	German	Residence	1855	
Furst Residence	14th Street and Union Ave.	Individuals & Families	CGS Pioneers	Near West Side		German	Residence	1850	
William Glassner Residence	Larrabee St. between North Ave. and Willow St.	Individuals & Families	CGS Pioneers	Lincoln Park		German	Residence	1858	
Hoth Residence	16th St. and Carpenter St.	Individuals & Families	CGS Pioneers	Lower West Side		German	Residence	1867	
Hesse Residence	13th St. and Halsted St.	Individuals & Families	CGS Pioneers	Near West Side		German	Residence	1868	
Buscher Residence	1123 S. May St.	Individuals & Families	CGS Pioneers	Near West Side		German	Residence	1860	

# BEYOND THE MAP AND LIST ...

Inbox [711] - Newberry We... ChicagoAncestors.org | disc... x

ancestors.galecia.com

Apps News, Sports, Weather The Newberry - Chicago Databases | Newberry Research Guides | New Google Maps Chicago Tribune: Chicago The Rachel Maddow Sh Archaeological News fr Skokie Public Library

## ChicagoAncestors.org

discover the past by address

Search by Address Search by Keyword

Enter a street address, e.g., "100 N. State St." Enter

About Advanced Search Articles Resources

Collection Descriptions

Contact

FAQs

Search Help

Legal and Privacy Info

Permalink

# COLLECTION DESCRIPTIONS

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying [ancestors.galecia.com/content/collection-descriptions](http://ancestors.galecia.com/content/collection-descriptions). The website header includes the logo "ChicagoAncestors.org" with the tagline "discover the past by address". Navigation links include Home, About, Advanced Search, Articles, and Resources. The main content area is titled "Collection Descriptions" and contains the following text:

Data in ChicagoAncestors is organized into Collections and Topics. Collections are groups of items with a similar theme or source, i.e. Yearbook Collection. A Topic is the main subject of an item, i.e. education, transportation, or religious institution. Descriptions of the Collections are shown below.

**American Indian Chicago**  
Chicago sites and events significant in the lives of American Indians in the Chicagoland area.

**American Terra Cotta Company Photographs**  
The American Terra Cotta Company was founded in 1881 as a drain tile factory by W. D. Gates. In 1888, the company took the name American Terra Cotta Company and established a plant near Crystal Lake, Illinois, outside of Chicago. The Northwest Architectural Archives at the University of Minnesota holds the American Terra Cotta Company Papers (1905-1964). Over 500 images from this collection are available in an [online image database](#). ChicagoAncestors provides links to photos of installed terra cotta pieces in Chicago.

**Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Photographs**  
Photographs from the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy (CB&Q) archives at the Newberry. The archives document the nineteenth and early twentieth century operations of the Burlington and its component roads. Additional images from this collection can be found in [Daily Life Along the Chicago Burlington and Quincy Railroad](#).

**Cemeteries**  
This Collection will ultimately map the cemeteries in and around Chicago. Links to the each cemetery's website and other sites containing listings, transcriptions and photos will be included. Print materials will also be cited.

**Chicago Genealogical Society Pioneers**  
The [Chicago Genealogical Society](#) will issue ancestor certificates to direct descendants of early residents of Chicago or Cook County. There are two categories of Certificates: (1) Pioneer – an ancestor who settled in Chicago or Cook County from the city's founding in 1833 through October 8, 1871 (Great Chicago Fire), and (2) Rebuilder – an ancestor who settled in Chicago or Cook County from October 9, 1871 through April 30, 1893 (World's Columbian Exposition).

**Chicago Genealogist**  
The [Chicago Genealogist](#) is the quarterly publication of the [Chicago Genealogical Society](#). This Collection cites articles that can be mapped to a particular location, such as a church, school, business or family residence or to an event in Chicago history. Issues from 1969 to 2007 are available [online](#).

**Chicago History Magazine**  
[Chicago History](#) is the magazine of the [Chicago History Museum](#). This Collection cites articles that can be mapped to a particular location, such as a church, school, business or family residence or to an event in Chicago history.

# HELP IN SEARCHING: SIMPLE OR ADVANCED

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [ancestors.galecia.com/about/search-help](http://ancestors.galecia.com/about/search-help). The page header includes the site name "ChicagoAncestors.org" with the tagline "discover the past by address" and navigation links for Home, About, Advanced Search, Articles, and Resources. The main content area is titled "Search Help" and is divided into two sections: "Search Types" and "Home Page Search".

**Search Types**

**Home Page Search**

- **Address:** You search for materials that are at or near an address within the City of Chicago. You enter a modern address in Chicago and can establish a radius around that address using the desired unit of measurement (e.g., miles, feet, kilometers) from the pulldown menu in the box. Then you enter the number of units for example if you want to look at materials within one and a half miles you would put 1.5 and select miles.
- You must use a modern address. Like most cities, Chicago has had street name changes and you can find help with finding what an old street name has become today with the [Street Name Changes](#) guide. Also in 1909 Chicago renumbered the streets in order to provide a standard numbering system for most of the city. It can be found at the [1909 Street Renumbering](#) guide. The Loop area in Chicago however did not get new numbering until 1911, so if you are looking for Loop address prior to 1911 use the [1911 Street Renumbering](#) guide.
- **Keyword:** By selecting the Search by Keyword tab, you may enter a word or phrase to search through all of the materials. Please note that in searching by keyword, the word may appear anywhere in the text. So if you search for school, you would find a French restaurant that has the phrase school of cookery so that item shows up in the list of results. If you are getting too many results that are not on topic, you might want to use the Advanced Search described below.
- **Browse by Community:** Chicago is known as a city of neighborhoods and the Browse by Community tab allows you to learn something about specific neighborhoods. Chicago has 77 Community Areas that are used by such agencies as the Census Bureau and by others for urban planning among other things. Using the pull down menu on the Browse by Community tab, you can select a community and you will be taken to a page with a map of the community. There will be a number of pins already on the map for the area which you can examine. In addition there will be links to other sources. Histories of the neighborhood, an article from the *Encyclopedia of Chicago* online, and neighborhood photographs of people are places can be linked to from this page.

**Advanced Search**

- The Advanced Search page allows you to focus a search using a number of categories. An Advanced Search begins when you click on the blue Apply button below the categories. Based on your selections, a map will appear that show pins for all of the items that meet your criteria. Below the map will be a listing of the items found in your search. You can sort the listing by the Title, the Start Year, the End Year and any of the other column headings that are colored blue. By clicking on a Title you will open that item which appears in a new page with a map showing its location and information concerning that item. To return to your search results, use the back arrow on your browser.
- **Topic:** Use the pull down menu in the Topics box to find a list of categories of items. For example you see Public Spaces and Education so you might use the Education category here to look specifically schools rather than the



# ARTICLES TO ENHANCE UNDERSTANDING

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [ancestors.galecia.com/articles](http://ancestors.galecia.com/articles). The page is the 'Articles' section of the ChicagoAncestors.org website. The header includes the site name, tagline 'discover the past by address', and navigation links for Home, About, Advanced Search, Articles (active), and Resources. The main content area is titled 'Articles' and displays a grid of six article cards. Each card has a title, a brief description, a date, tags, and a resources section. The cards are: 'Slicing Up Chicago: Wards, Communities and Neighborhoods' (Oct 15, 2015), 'Researching Small Businesses in Chicago' (Oct 7, 2015), 'City Council Proceedings' (Apr 2, 2015), 'Chicago Directories in the 1870s' (Mar 25, 2015), 'Researching Pre-Fire Chicago' (Nov 15, 2014), and 'The Missing Directories' (Sep 27, 2014). The footer features a small logo of a house with a chimney.

ChicagoAncestors.org  
*discover the past by address*

HOME

## Articles

### Slicing Up Chicago: Wards, Communities and Neighborhoods

From the first days of settlement, Chicago was divided into three sections: the north, south and west sides.  
Oct 15, 2015  
Tags: [communities](#), [neighborhoods](#), [wards](#)  
Resources:

### Researching Small Businesses in Chicago

Do you want to know more about your ancestor's meat market? Barber shop? Candy store? Tavern? Here are a dozen places to look:  
Oct 7, 2015  
Tags: [business](#)  
Resources:

### City Council Proceedings

The Chicago City Council Proceedings are the primary documents that record the business of the city. The Proceedings include: petitions; ordinances; committee reports; reports on the city's infrastructure, such as the construction, maintenance and re-naming of city streets....  
Apr 2, 2015  
Tags: [city council](#), [government](#)  
Resources:

### Chicago Directories in the 1870s

Chicago city directories were issued in 1870, 1871, 1872 and 1873, making it appear as if the publishers never skipped a beat following the Great Chicago Fire on October 8, 1871.  
Mar 25, 2015  
Tags: [chicago fire](#), [directories](#)  
Resources:

- [Streets and Directories](#)

### Researching Pre-Fire Chicago

For family historians searching in Chicago, the Great Fire of 1871 still causes problems. The fire destroyed the county courthouse and almost all of its records, including many of the typical ones genealogists rely on: civil registrations, vital records, deeds, and so on.  
Nov 15, 2014  
Tags: [chicago fire](#), [churches](#), [directories](#), [manuscripts](#), [newspapers](#)  
Resources:

### The Missing Directories

Although the Newberry has a complete collection of Chicago city directories, there are no directories in the microfilm drawer (or online) for 1918-1922 or from 1924-1928.  
Sep 27, 2014  
Tags: [directories](#), [telephone books](#)  
Resources:

- [Streets and Directories](#)

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES INCLUDING MAPS

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [ancestors.galecia.com/tools/maps](http://ancestors.galecia.com/tools/maps). The page header for ChicagoAncestors.org includes navigation links: Home, About, Advanced Search, Articles, and Resources. The Resources dropdown menu is open, showing options: Maps, Newspapers, Property Research, Research Sites, and Streets and Directories. The main content area is titled 'Maps' and lists various historical maps of Chicago from 1834 to 1921. Below the list, there are sections for 'Collections of maps' including 'Current maps from the City of Chicago', 'Maps at the Newberry', 'Chicago in Maps', and 'David Rumsey Historical Map Collections'.

ChicagoAncestors.org  
*discover the past by address*

HOME / RESOURCES

## Maps

Maps of Chicago from different time periods:

- 1834 - [Chicago with the School Section and Wabansia and Kinzie's Addition](#)
- 1849 - [Rees and Rucker Map of Chicago and Vicinity](#)
- 1857 - [Map of Chicago \(Blanchard\)](#)
- 1862 - [Business Portion of Chicago](#)
- 1868 - [Blanchard Guidebook \(before the fire\)](#)
- 1871 - [Guide Map of Chicago](#)
- 1871 - [Map of Chicago Showing the Burnt District](#)
- 1886 - [Robinson's Map of Chicago \(entire\)](#)
- 1890 - [Chicago's Street Railways](#)
- 1902 - [Rand, McNally & Co.'s street number guide map of the principal part of Chicago](#)
- 1910 - [Rand McNally & Co.'s New Street Number Guide Map of Chicago](#)
- 1921 - [Map of Chicago and Suburbs](#)

Collections of maps:

- [Current maps](#) from the City of Chicago.
- [Maps](#) at the Newberry
- [Chicago in Maps](#) - A website with links to various historical maps of Chicago.
- [David Rumsey Historical Map Collections](#) - This digital map collection includes over 57,000 maps and images, many of

# PROPERTY RESEARCH

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying [chicagoancestors.org/tools/property-research](http://chicagoancestors.org/tools/property-research). The website header includes the logo "ChicagoAncestors.org" with the tagline "discover the past by address". Navigation links include Home, About, Advanced Search, Articles, and Resources. The main content area is titled "Property Research" and contains the following text:

Researching property in Cook County can be challenging and time consuming. These sites will help you get started.

- [Annexations and Additions](#) - As Chicago grew, it annexed the neighboring areas, growing from 10 square miles to over 185 square miles.
- [Architecture and Building History](#) - The Chicago History Museum's Research Center provides access to many resources for those researching architecture and building history.
- [Chicago Architectural Foundation](#) - The Chicago Architecture Foundation is the leading organization devoted to celebrating and promoting Chicago as a center of architectural innovation.
- [Chicago Landmarks](#) - Information on specific buildings, architects and styles.
- [CityNews Chicago's Property Search](#) - An interactive website that allows users to obtain data about neighborhoods and specific properties. Search by address or PIN number.
- [Cook County Assessor's Office](#) - Search specific properties by address or PIN number.
- [Cook County Recorder of Deeds](#) - Search by grantor/grantee or PIN number. Records online from 1985.
- [Fire Insurance Maps](#) - Fire insurance maps show the footprints of buildings and other structures, as well as the construction material, use, and other information. This site contains a guide to fire insurance maps of Chicago.
- [Street Renumbering and Name Changes](#) - As the city grew, street addressing schemes changed. Street name changes were also common as annexations resulted in numerous streets with the same names.
  - [1909 Street Numbering Guide](#) - The 1909 changes primarily impacted the northern and western sections of the city.
  - [1911 Street Numbering Guide](#) - The 1911 changes primarily impacted the downtown area.
  - [Street name changes](#) - This guide documents many of the street name changes, but does not provide information as to what year the changes occurred.
  - [Honorary Street Names](#) - Designations made by the Chicago City Council to honor individuals for their contributions to the city.

The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows four open windows, all titled "Reference Desk Sc...docx".

# STREET GUIDES AND CITY DIRECTORIES

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [chicagoancestors.org/tools/streets-and-directories](http://chicagoancestors.org/tools/streets-and-directories). The page header includes the site name 'ChicagoAncestors.org' with the tagline 'discover the past by address', and navigation links for Home, About, Advanced Search, Articles, and Resources. Below the header, the breadcrumb 'HOME / RESOURCES' is visible. The main section is titled 'Streets and Directories'. Under the subheading 'Chicago City Directories', a paragraph states: 'The 1923 Chicago Directory contains a publication history of the directories. "The Missing Directories" contains additional information. A representative number of directories have been digitized and are available here.' This is followed by two lists of links: 'Street Guides' with years 1866, 1870, 1875, 1880, 1885, 1892, 1900, 1910, and 1923; and 'City Directories' with years 1866, 1870, 1871, 1875, 1880, 1885, 1892, 1900, 1910, and 1923. A paragraph below explains that The Newberry holds a large print collection of Chicago city directories and other local directories, with a link to an 'online guide'. It also mentions that 'Archive.org' and 'Google Books' contain more online Chicago directories. The footer features The Newberry logo and the text 'THE NEWBERRY Chicago's Independent Research Library Since 1887', followed by the copyright notice 'All content © 2008-2017, The Newberry.' The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows multiple instances of 'Reference Desk Sc...docx'.

ChicagoAncestors.org  
discover the past by address

HOME / RESOURCES

## Streets and Directories


**Chicago City Directories**  
The 1923 Chicago Directory contains a publication [history](#) of the directories. "[The Missing Directories](#)" contains additional information. A representative number of directories have been digitized and are available here.

**Street Guides**  
[1866](#) [1870](#) [1875](#) [1880](#) [1885](#)  
[1892](#) [1900](#) [1910](#) [1923](#)

**City Directories**  
[1866](#) [1870](#) [1871](#) [1875](#) [1880](#)  
[1885](#) [1892](#) [1900](#) [1910](#) [1923](#)

The Newberry holds a large print collection of Chicago city directories as well as directories from other locals. They are listed in an [online guide](#).

[Archive.org](#) and [Google Books](#) contain more online Chicago directories (including social and business directories).

 **THE NEWBERRY**  
Chicago's Independent Research Library Since 1887

All content © 2008-2017, The Newberry.

# ATLAS OF HISTORICAL COUNTY BOUNDARIES

Newly (literally this month) revised, the Atlas is now available again in interactive form as well as the static maps.

- <http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/>

Please feel free to contact us. We really do want you to give it a good test drive and let us know what shakes, breaks or doesn't work.



# CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

The ChicagoAncestors.org project was originally funded with a grant through LSTA and is maintained and enhanced by continued funding of the Newberry Library.

Original creators of the website were Jack Simpson, Ginger Frere, and Matt Rutherford. They were assisted by a number of interns and students who provided essential work to the project.

The Atlas of Historical County Boundaries was originally funded by an NEH grant and further funding has come from the Newberry Library. The Atlas staff is enumerated at <http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/project.html> .