

Jacksonville Public Library

201 West College Avenue
Jacksonville, IL 62650
(217) 243-5435
www.jaxpl.org



There are many resources available from the public library to research local people, places and events in Jacksonville and Morgan County. Ranging from books, maps, microfilm, to online indexes and databases we are the logical place to begin learning about local history.

Special Collections Room (materials do not circulate)

- Rare and unique books pertaining to Jacksonville and Morgan County
- Local History Vertical Files: includes newspaper clippings, event programs, photographs, and other assorted materials on people, places, events and topics pertaining to Jacksonville

City Directories (1866-Present)

- Search by last name or business name to link individuals to specific properties
- Search by street address to discover the individuals who have lived in or operated from a specific property

Newspaper Microfilm (1830s-Present)

- Obituaries, birth announcements, news coverage of special events (weddings, graduations, deaths, family disputes, etc.)
- Partial obituary index exists covering 1976-1996

People and Locations in Jacksonville and Morgan County

**Indicated that material is available for checkout with a library card, all other materials are housed in Special Collections*

Downtown Jacksonville: Then & Now (2022)

Jacksonville Main Street 977.34 DOW

A pictorial history of Jacksonville, Illinois' downtown area.

Historic Morgan and Classic Jacksonville (1885)

Charles M. Eames 977.3463 EAM

Biographical sketches of prominent citizens and brief synopses of notable events and organizations.

Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Morgan County (1906)

Munsell Publishing Company 977.3 HIS

Information on the history of Illinois and Morgan County. Includes short biographies of prominent Morgan County citizens from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Text of biographies available online through Rootsweb:

<http://morgan.illinoisgenweb.org/1906/index.htm>

*History of Jacksonville, Illinois, 1834-1843: as Pictured by the Newspapers (1937)**

James W. O'Neil 977.3463 UND

Newspaper pictures of Jacksonville in the mid 1800's.

History of Morgan County: Its Past and Present (1878, reprint 1975)

Donnelly, Loyd, & Company 977.3463 HIS

Short biographies of prominent citizens in Morgan and Scott Counties in the late 19th century. Some include portrait sketches.

Jacksonville, the Beautiful City (1903)

Frank H. Thomas 977.3463 JAC

Photographs and histories of prominent citizens, municipal organizations, schools, institutions, and businesses in Jacksonville in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

*Jacksonville: A Survey of its Past (1966)**

Elliott State Bank – Publisher 977.3463 HIL

An original manuscript written by Dr. Hildner for the Elliott State Bank in 1960 as a basis for its centennial in 1966.

Jacksonville, Illinois: The Traditions Continue (1999)

Betty Carlson Kay

977.3463 KAY

A book on the history of Jacksonville, Illinois, complete with photos.

The Legacy of Historic Jacksonville: Its Homes and Buildings (1977)*

Jo Anne Beard

977.3463 BEA

History and significance of homes and buildings in Jacksonville, including now-and-then photographs and information about property ownership over time.

Morgan County Family History (1976)

Morgan County Bicentennial Committee

977.3463 FAM

Biographical histories of families and individuals from Jacksonville and Morgan County. Not exhaustive, but provides a great amount of detail for the individuals covered.

Morgan County: The Twentieth Century (1968)*

Morgan County Board of Commissioners, ed. Ernest G. Hilder

977.3463 MOR

Information about prominent citizens, municipal organizations, schools, etc. updated to mid-20th century. Includes then-and-now photographs of Jacksonville.

The People of Jacksonville, Illinois: a Pictorial History (1991)*

Vernon R.Q. Fernandes

977.3463 FER

Pictorial collection of the community of Jacksonville.

The People of Morgan County: a History (1912)*

Horace Bancroft

977.3463 BAN

Compilation of photos and stories of Morgan County in the late 1800's to the early 1900's.

Portrait and Biographical Album of Morgan and Scott Counties, Illinois (1889, reprint 1984)

Chapman Brothers

977.3 POR

Short biographies of prominent citizens in Morgan and Scott Counties in the late 19th century. Some include portrait sketches. Text available online:

<http://morgan.illinoisgenweb.org/1889/index.htm>

Plat Book of Morgan County Illinois (1894)

912 PLA-M 1894

Short biographies of prominent citizens in Morgan and Scott Counties in the late 19th century. Text available online:

<http://morgan.illinoisgenweb.org/1894/index.htm>

Rich History Bright Future: Celebrating 150 Years of Jacksonville School District #117 (2018)

Jewell Mann

977.3463 MAN

History of the first hundred years of School District 117, Jacksonville Illinois.

The Way We Were: Volumes 1, 2 & 3 (2016, 2017, 2018)

Greg Olson

977.3463 OLS

A collection of historical stories about Jacksonville, Illinois and the surrounding area, originally published in the Journal-Courier newspaper.

A Window on the Past: Residences of Jacksonville, Illinois: Their History and design 1833-1925 (1990)*

Philip H. Decker 977.3463 DEC

Photographic tour of unique Jacksonville homes and their history. Includes an 1854 map of Jacksonville.

Cemeteries, Burials, and Obituaries

A Guide to Cemeteries of Morgan County, IL Vol. 1-4 (1975)

929.37734 DAL

Dorothy and Robert Dalton

Index of Morgan County cemeteries and burials in each.

Updated Index, many with pictures and linked obituaries, is available online through www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilmaga/morgan/cemetery/1_cem_list.html

Find A Grave

www.findagrave.com

A fantastic and ever growing database of gravesites around the world. Morgan County is well represented.

Obituary Index for Jacksonville, Illinois

Jan 1, 1976 thru Dec 31, 1996

Indicates the date and location of the printed obituary. It is available in the library.

The index, along with additional pertinent familial information not included in the library's hardcopy, is also available online through Rootsweb:

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilmaga/morgan/ObitExtracts/1index.html

Need to find when someone died?

All sites and databases are linked from the library website, www.jaxpl.org

Illinois State Archives Death Database Pre-1916

<http://www.ilsos.gov/isavital/deathsrch.jsp>

Available through the Secretary of State's office, it provides basic information on where and when a person's death certificate was filed. This is an ongoing project and is much less complete than the Post-1916 database.

Illinois State Archives Death Database 1916-1950

<http://www.ilsos.gov/isavital/idphdeathsrch.jsp>

Available through the Secretary of State's office, it provides basic information on where and when a person's death certificate was filed.

Results Example for Illinois State Archives Databases:

| Last Name | First Name | Middle Name | Sex/Race | Age | Cert No. | Death Date | County | City | Date Filed |
|-----------|------------|-------------|----------|-----|----------|------------|--------|----------------|------------|
| SMITH | JOHN | | M/W | UNK | 0040403 | 1916-01-20 | WABASH | ROAD DIST NO 1 | 16-01-22 |
| SMITH | JOHN | | M/W | UNK | 6005518 | 1916-01-28 | COOK | CHICAGO | 16-02-01 |
| SMITH | JOHN | | M/W | UNK | 6006040 | 1916-02-23 | COOK | CHICAGO | 16-02-23 |

Social Security Death Index

<http://search.ancestrylibrary.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3693>

Death records post-1950.

Other Organizations & Resources in Jacksonville, Illinois

Jacksonville African American History Museum

859 Grove St.

Jacksonville, IL 62650

(217)299-6017

By appointment only

- Located in the historic Underground Railroad site, the Asa Talcott home. Features local and National African American History from slavery to present times.

Jacksonville Area Genealogical and Historical Society

416 S. Main St.

Jacksonville, IL 62650

(217) 245-9623

<https://jaghs.myfreesites.net>

info@jaghsil.com

Wednesday & Friday - 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Saturdays by appointment only

- Can help track individuals that are not mentioned in the biographical resources in the library collection.

Jacksonville Area Museum

301 E. State St.

Jacksonville, IL 62650

(217)408-1197

www.jacksonvilleareamuseum.org

Wednesday & Saturday 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Sunday 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

- Houses and interprets the archives of MacMurray College.

Morgan County Historical Society

<https://morgancountyillinoishistory.com> or contact through Facebook

- Their page is frequently updated and well maintained. If you post a question it will be answered.

Morgan County Courthouse
County Clerk Jill Waggener
300 W State St
Jacksonville, IL
Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm
(217) 243-8581 or jwaggener@morgancounty-il.com

- Birth, death, divorce and marriage records
- Estate documents
- Records of property ownership and assessment spanning several decades.
- Useful if you need more information than is available in the city directories.

Updated 6/2023