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MARYLAND · HISTORICAL · SOCIETY

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*See what you missed.*

## Searching for Local History and Genealogy Articles

The easiest access to finding citations to articles in state history, local history, and genealogy periodicals is through **PERSI, the Periodical Source Index**. The staff of the Allen County Public Library in Indiana, one of the nation's greatest genealogical libraries, compiles PERSI.

PERSI is available through **Heritage Quest Online**, a subscription database that can be accessed from any computer in the library at <http://www.heritagequestonline.com> or by clicking on the Heritage Quest shortcut on the desktops of the public computers.

### A. Why is PERSI useful?

- It includes citations to many periodicals that are not indexed anywhere else.
- If MdHS does not have the periodical cited, you always can order a copy from the Allen County Public Library by using the request form that appears on the "Article Details" page. Blank request forms are available at the MdHS Library in the rack to the right of the library reception desk. Mail requests, with payment, to:

Historical Genealogy Department  
Research Center  
Allen County Public Library  
PO Box 2270  
Fort Wayne, IN 46801

### B. Coverage

PERSI indexes more than 1.7 million articles from more than 6,000 local history and genealogy journals, magazines, and newsletters. It does not provide full text, just citations, for the terms indexed. Please note that it does not index every person or place mentioned in an article, but rather the major people and terms. You can check the MdHS online catalog to see if we have a particular journal or magazine.

## **C. Searching**

There are several options for searching PERSI.

### **1. People**

This index lists articles about individuals and families. You can search for people by surname, keywords, or periodical.

### **2. Places**

This index lists articles about specific countries, US states or Canadian provinces, or counties. It does not list every article that mentions a particular place but rather the entries for which geographical coverage is important, such as cemeteries, census records, etc. You can search by country, state, or county or their equivalents; you also can use keywords and search for particular types of records.

### **3. Research Methodologies/How To's**

This indexes articles about using specific types of records. Searching may be by keyword or record type. The articles cited can be particularly useful about pointing out pitfalls in using the records.

### **4. Periodicals**

You can search for a keyword in a title or browse to titles beginning with specific letters of the alphabet. Once you find the periodical title, you will see a list of all the volumes/issues which are available, and by clicking on the volume/issue number, you will see its table of contents.