Guide to Woodford County Genealogy Resources

Original Records:

County Clerk & Recorder Office
Suite 202, 115 N. Main Street
Eureka, IL 61530
309-467-2822
cntyclrk@woodford-county.org
https://www.woodford-county.org/157/County-Clerk-Recorder
Monday—Friday 8 am—5 pm
Birth records: earliest 1863; public access 1944 and older (75+ years)
Marriage: earliest 1841; public access to back of certificates 1969 and older (50+ years)
Death: earliest 1851; public access 1999 and older (20+ years)

Clerk of the Circuit Court
Suite 201, 115 N. Main Street
Eureka, IL 61530
309-467-3312
CircuitClerk@woodford-county.org
https://www.woodford-county.org/154/Clerk-of-the-Circuit-Court
Monday—Friday 8 am—5 pm
Probate case files, records, wills
Naturalization records

Illinois Regional Archives Depository at Illinois State University
2016 Warehouse Road
Campus Box 1520
Normal, IL 61790-1520
309-452-6027
Monday—Friday 9 am—12 pm, 1—4 pm
Birth Record (microfilm): 1877—1915
Birth Record Index (microfilm): 1877—1916
Marriage Record (microfilm): 1841—1932
Marriage Record Index (microfilm): 1841—1904
Death Record (microfilm): 1877—1915
Death Record Index (microfilm): 1877—1938
Death Record Coroner’s (microfilm): 1910—1917
Death Record Stillbirths (microfilm): 1877—1904

Illinois State Archives
Reference Unit
Margaret Cross Norton Building
Springfield, IL 62756
217-782-3556
Statewide & county online searchable databases:

Illinois Servitude and Emancipation Records
Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database
Physicians Database
1929 Illinois Roll of Honor
Illinois Black Hawk War Veterans
Illinois Civil War Muster and Descriptive Rolls
Illinois Civil War Veterans of Missouri Units
Illinois Civil War Veterans Serving in the U.S. Navy
Illinois Mexican War Veterans
Illinois Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Home Residents
Illinois Spanish–American War Veterans
Illinois Veterans’ History Project
Illinois War of 1812 Veterans
Illinois Winnebago War Veterans
Illinois Statewide Death Index (1916–1950)
Illinois Statewide Death Index, Pre–1916 (ongoing)
Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, 1763–1900 (ongoing)
Woodford County Almshouse Registers Index (1868–1957)

Woodford County Genealogical & Historical Society
112 N Main St
Eureka, Illinois 61530
miller061738@yahoo.com
https://www.facebook.com/WoodfordCountyHistory/
Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1-4 p.m.
Township cemetery indexes
Woodford County School Bulletins (1906—1951)
Family histories
Photographs
Published histories

Illinois Mennonite Historical & Genealogical Society
675 State Route 116
Metamora, IL 61548-7732
309-367-2551
mennmuseum@mtco.com
www.imhgs.org
March—October & By Appointment
2nd Friday 4—8 pm (Sept. 27); 4th Friday 10 am—2 pm (Oct. 11)
Focus: Swiss-German Amish-Mennonite pioneers of 1830—1850 to central and northern Illinois
Library features over 5000 books on Mennonite history and genealogy
Published & Online Resources:

Eureka Public Library
202 S. Main
Eureka, IL 61530
309-467-2922
eurekaplinfo@gmail.com
https://www.eurekapl.org
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8:30 am—8 pm
Wednesday, Friday 8:30 am—6 pm
Saturday 9 am—1 pm

El Paso District Library
149 W. First Street
El Paso, IL 61738
309-527-4360
eplstaff@gmail.com
http://www.elpasopubliclibrary.net/
Monday, Tuesday 9 am – 7 pm
Wednesday, Friday 12 – 6 pm
Thursday 9 am – 6 pm
Saturday 10 am – 1 pm

Filger Public Library
261 East Fifth Street
Minonk, Illinois 61760
Phone: 309-432-2929
filgerlibrary@frontier.com
https://minonklibrary.wordpress.com/
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9 am – 5 pm
Thursday: 9 am – 7 pm
Friday, Saturday: 9 am – 12 pm

Melick Library, Eureka College
College Avenue
309-467-3721
https://www.eureka.edu/academics/melick-library-resources/melick-library
Monday – Thursday 7:30 am-10 pm; Friday 7:30 am–5 pm
Saturday 1–5 pm; Sunday 6–10 pm
The Eureka College Archives collects, organizes, preserves and makes available institutional records of lasting historical, administrative, legal and fiscal value. The collection contains print and non-print materials, including the minutes of trustee and faculty proceedings, college catalogs, records of student organizations, as well as records of the intellectual activity of past and present faculty as well as noted alumni. Eureka College is also the alma mater of the alumni of Abingdon College, whose merger with Eureka College was formally recognized in 1885.

The Eureka College Archives are located on the lower level of Melick Library. Hours are by appointment.
County History Books:

- **History Woodford County** by B. J. Radford, 1877 (reprinted 1972)*
- **The Past & Present of Woodford County, Illinois**, 1878 (reprinted 1979)*
  - Includes brief biographies by township; 1979 reprint has an index
- **Portrait & Biographical Album of Woodford County**, 1889 (reprinted 1987)*
  - Includes biographies, farm drawings, index
- **Biographical Record of Livingston and Woodford Counties**, 1900* (index)
- **History of Woodford County** by Roy Moore, 1910 (reprinted 2008)* (reprint has index)
- **Prairie Farmer’s Reliable Directory of Farmers & Breeders of Woodford County**, 1917
  - (undated reprint)
- **Early Marriages of Woodford County, 1841–1870** by Lucy Palmer Frane, 1939*
- **American Aerial County History Series** by John Drury, 1955*
  - Contains aerial photos of farms
- **The Woodford County History**, 1968*
- **Souvenir History of Woodford County**, 1991
- **Woodford County Veterans**, 2012 & 2013

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**Historical County Newspapers:**

- **Eureka Public Library (on-site access only, Newspapers.com)**
  - **Woodford County Journal**, 1896–2019
    - except 1898, 1928*, 1932–1937*
    - print, 1947—1984 (ask staff)
  - **The Pantagraph**, 1857–2019
  - **The Eureka Journal**, 1896
  - **The El Paso Times**, 1895–1896

- **Illinois Prairie District Library (free on website)**
  - **Woodford County Argus**, 1855 (4 pages)
  - **Woodford County Visitor**, 1856 (4 pages)
  - **Metamora Sentinel**, 1858–1860
  - **Woodford Sentinel**, 1862–1890
  - **Metamora Herald**, 1889–1996
  - **Washburn Leader**, 1902–1993
  - **Minonk News**, 1909–1912

- **Filger Public Library, Minonk (free on website)**
  - **Advertiser**, 1940–1955

- **El Paso Public Library (on-site access only)**
  - Digital Newspapers can be viewed in the library from 1888 up until 2003.
  - Paper copies of newspapers from 2003 to present day have been bound together and are available for the public.
  - There is a void in the newspapers from 1961–1965.

- **Woodford County Journal Office, 1926 S. Main, Eureka**
  - 309-467-3314, [www.woodcojo.com](http://www.woodcojo.com), M—F: 11 am—2 pm

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Town History Books:

- **Bayview Gardens
  - Benson Centennial, 1973
  - The Buildings & Houses of Benson, 2016**
- **Congerville
  - Congerville: The First 100 Years, 1988**
- **El Paso
  - The El Paso Story, 1954
  - El Paso Silver Centennial, 1979
  - El Paso Pictorial History, 2004**
- **Eureka
  - History of Eureka, 1985
  - Eureka: 150 Years, 2009**
- **Germantown Hills
  - Goodfield, Illinois, 1988**
- **Metamora
  - In Lincoln’s Path, 1964
  - Metamora: Past & Present, 1969
  - Metamora: A Rich History, 2013**
- **Minonk
  - Tales from the 'Trees', 1980
  - Minonk History series**
- **Panola
  - Roanoke
  - Roanoke Centennial History, 1974
  - Roanoke’s 125th Celebration, 1999**
- **Secor
  - Secor Centennial Book, 1957**
- **Spring Bay
  - Washburn
  - Yesterday and Today, 1976**

Atlases/Plat Books:

- Combined atlases of 1873, 1893, 1912, & 1920 (reprinted in one volume, 1992)
- 1920 atlas online at HathiTrust
- Plat books: 1940s+

Yearbooks:

At Eureka Public Library:
- Eureka High School, 1923—2018 (except 1924, 1928)

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*Digitized, free online:
- Google Books [https://books.google.com/](https://books.google.com/)
- HathiTrust [https://www.hathitrust.org/](https://www.hathitrust.org/)
- Internet Archive [https://archive.org/](https://archive.org/)
- OpenLibrary [https://openlibrary.org/](https://openlibrary.org/)
**Additional Online Newspaper Sources:**

- Morton Public Library
- Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum
  [https://www2.illinois.gov/alplm/library/collections/newspaper/Holdings/Pages/default.aspx](https://www2.illinois.gov/alplm/library/collections/newspaper/Holdings/Pages/default.aspx)
- University of Illinois
  - Illinois Digital Newspaper Collection
    [https://idnc.library.illinois.edu/?a=p&p=regionbrowser&e=-------en-20-1--txt-txtN-------](https://idnc.library.illinois.edu/?a=p&p=regionbrowser&e=-------en-20-1--txt-txtN-------)
  - Illinois Newspaper Project
    [https://www.library.illinois.edu/illinoisnewspaperproject/browse/](https://www.library.illinois.edu/illinoisnewspaperproject/browse/)
- Online Illinois Historical Newspapers Summary
  [https://www.theancestorhunt.com/blog/illinois-online-historical-newspapers-summary#XYLOJShKiM8](https://www.theancestorhunt.com/blog/illinois-online-historical-newspapers-summary#XYLOJShKiM8)

**Additional Online Sources:**

- Woodford County ~ General
  [https://www.ancestry.com/](https://www.ancestry.com/) (most libraries have Ancestry Library Edition for free)
  [https://woodford.illinoisgenweb.org/index.html](https://woodford.illinoisgenweb.org/index.html)
  [https://www.findagrave.com/](https://www.findagrave.com/)
  [https://illinoisgravestones.org/](https://illinoisgravestones.org/)
  [https://graveyards.com/](https://graveyards.com/) (Graveyards of Illinois)
- El Paso
  [http://www.illinoisancestors.org/woodford/pictures-El-Paso.htm](http://www.illinoisancestors.org/woodford/pictures-El-Paso.htm)
- Germantown Hills
  [https://germantownhillsillinois.org/history/](https://germantownhillsillinois.org/history/)
- Metamora
- Minonk
- Washburn

**Area Libraries with Significant Regional Collections:**

- Peoria Public Library (Main Street Branch, lower level genealogy center)
  - 107 N.E. Monroe, Peoria
  - 309-497-2000
  - Monday through Saturday, 9 am—6 pm
  - [https://www.peoriapubliclibrary.org/genealogists](https://www.peoriapubliclibrary.org/genealogists)
- McLean County Museum of History
  - 200 N Main Street, Bloomington
  - 309-827-0428
  - Monday, Wednesday—Saturday, 9 am—5 pm ($5)
  - Tuesdays, 9 am—9 pm (Free)
  - [https://mchistory.org/research/library](https://mchistory.org/research/library)
- Tazewell County Genealogical and Historical Society
  - 719 N. Eleventh Street, Pekin
  - (309) 477-3044
  - Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays: 9 am—1 pm
  - Tuesdays: 9 am—1 pm & 7—9 pm
  - Wednesdays: 9 am—4:30 pm
  - Sundays: 2—4:30 pm
  - [https://tcghs.org/](https://tcghs.org/)