

# Guide to Genealogical Resources at Littleton's Edwin A. Bemis Public Library

Provided by DigiDeena Consulting

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Start at [www.littletongov.org/bemis](http://www.littletongov.org/bemis)

## RESEARCH OVERVIEW

**Online Catalog:** A good place to start your research for library materials. Located under Online Catalog in the left sidebar, the online catalog can be accessed from home at [http://bemis.ent.sirsi.net/client/en\\_US/default](http://bemis.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/default). You can search for title, author, subject, periodical, and keyword or phrase by typing the term(s) in the search box at the top of the page.

**Databases:** Purchased by Bemis Library, they include digital versions of newspapers, magazines, books, encyclopedias and other reference works. They are published by reliable companies with timely facts verified by experts, including the information you need to cite these resources in a bibliography.

**Genealogy Collection:** Resources pertinent to genealogical research from a broad range of subject matter, time periods, and geographic locations, including a bibliography provided by Columbine Genealogical & Historical Society.

**Reference Librarians:** Personal help to get started on your research projects, including assistance with the interlibrary loan process. Onsite, telephone and email help is subject to time availability of the reference librarians and may take several appointments if staff is busy. Calling in advance is recommended: **(303) 795-3961**.

## DATABASES

Databases can be located by navigating to Online Catalog > Library Databases and Recommended Websites. The databases are grouped into broad categories.

Accessing most genealogy subscription databases requires in-library use and a Bemis library card, although some can be accessed remotely from home. The Genealogy category contains 4 subscription databases, as well as a link to other genealogical resources.

Don't forget other resources for genealogical research, such as newspapers, encyclopedias, biographies, and A-Z personal or business directories. For example, the Biography Resource Center database contains over 400,000 biographies from books and periodicals, and can be searched by person or multiple personal facts such as nationality or occupation.

### Genealogy

- **[MyHeritage Genealogy Website](#)**  
Provides more than 5 billion historical records from all over the world, including census records, family trees, tombstone photos, historical photographs, government and court records, wills and probate records, obituaries, and more. It is particularly strong in its international archive of records and documents.
- **[Ancestry Library \(in library use only\)](#)**  
Includes over 1.2 billion records in over 3000 databases. Among the sources on this site are the U.S. Federal Census from 1790 forward, the Passenger and Immigration Lists Index and much more.
- **[HeritageQuestOnline](#)**  
A large collection of census data, family records and local histories.
- **[NewEnglandAncestors.org \(in library use only\)](#)**  
Features many genealogical databases focusing on the New England area and including family histories, vital records, passenger lists and more.
- **[Columbine Genealogical and Historical Society](#)**  
Local genealogy group that provides programs on genealogical research and other activities.
- **[Family History Library Favorites](#)**  
Provides links to thousands of genealogy Internet sites recommended by the Family History Library staff in Salt Lake City. The links are updated every few months and include worldwide, national, state and local links.
- **[Family History Library \(FamilySearch\) Microfilm Catalog and Orders](#)**  
Bemis Public Library is a designated Family History Library Affiliate Library and library patrons can order microfilm from Salt Lake City that can be viewed at the Bemis Library.
- **[America's Obituaries and Death Notices](#)**  
The nation's most comprehensive obituary collection covering hundreds of newspapers throughout the United States. Includes many Colorado newspapers including The Denver Post, Littleton Independent, Columbine Courier and others.

## AncestryPlus

For in-library use only. Can bring your own laptop and access in-building via the library's Wi-Fi network, or send information to a personal Discovery Page to be downloaded at home.

AncestryPlus Library Edition provides access to billions of names and thousands of worldwide databases containing primary source documents and images and a variety of genealogical research features, with new databases added daily. Collections include the following record types: census; vital and church; military; biography and history; court, land and probate; immigration; directories; periodicals and newspapers; compiled genealogies; and reference.

### Search Options:

Basic (Home) Search: Search all 10,000+ databases for a name

Card Catalog Search: Search a single database, with ability to browse image by image if you don't know the name

Advanced Search Options:

- Limit the search to **historical record collections** (broad or specific types), specify **date ranges** (by century or decade) or explore by geographic **location** (country, state or county), including international databases
- Include or exclude searches for historical records, family trees, stories & publications, or photos & maps
- Search by family member **relationships** (father, mother, sibling, spouse, child), known **life events** (birth, marriage, death, lived in, arrival, departure, or military), or **keyword** (including wildcards)
- Perform **Soundex** (sounds alike) and **wildcard** searches for variant spellings, and place **proximity** (nearby)

*How does the Library Edition differ from a personal subscription to Ancestry.com (U.S. or World Explorer)?*

The institutional version does not contain individual functionality such as personal family trees, collaboration tools such as the member directory, and the Ancestry.com store. The Library Edition does contain databases from both the U.S. and World Deluxe subscriptions; however, the following 7 select databases are not included in the Library Edition: Historical Newspaper Collection, Family and Local History Collection, Obituary Collection, Periodical Source Index (PERSI), Filby's Passenger and Immigration Lists Index (PLI), Biography & Genealogy Master Index (BGMI), Freedman's Bank Records.



## MyHeritage Library Edition

Available for remote use at home with a Bemis library card.

MyHeritage Library Edition contains a collection of over 5 billion records and 1.5 billion individual family tree profiles. The company is headquartered in Israel, is available in 40 different languages, and has over 75 million users worldwide. MyHeritage uses innovative technology to make family history accessible, including SuperSearch technology, which finds relevant records even if the spelling or dates don't match exactly, and Record Detective, which finds more records for the person or related individuals. Major collections include:

- Complete U.S. Census collection (1790-1940)
- U.K. & Nordic census collections
- Births, marriages & deaths
- U.S. & world newspapers
- Military collection
- Passenger & immigration lists
- Tombstone indexes and photographs
- Family trees profiles (1.5 billion)
- Digitized biography & history books
- Court, land and probate records
- Public records
- Directories
- Historical maps
- Timelines



## HeritageQuest Online

Available for remote use at home with a Bemis library card.

HeritageQuest Online is a comprehensive treasury of American genealogical sources—rich in unique primary sources, local and family histories, and finding aids. The website recently underwent an upgrade, and the search technology is now powered by Ancestry.com. Collections include:

**Census:** The complete set of US Federal Census images from 1790-1930, including name indexes for many years.

**Books:** Information on people and places described in over 28,000 family and local histories.

**PERSI:** Information on people and places from this index of over 2.3 million genealogy and local history articles.

**Revolutionary War:** Selected records of Revolutionary War Era Pension & Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files.

**Freedman's Bank:** Information on people in Freedman's Bank (1865-1874), founded to serve African Americans.

**U.S. Serial Set:** Memorials, Petitions, and Private Relief Actions of the U.S. Congress in the LexisNexis U.S. Serial Set.



## American Ancestors

For in-library use only. Can bring your own laptop and access in-building via the library's Wi-Fi network.

AmericanAncestors.org is sponsored by the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), America's first and largest genealogical organization, founded in 1845. The website provides family historians access to more than 400 million records spanning the U.S. and beyond, including one of the most extensive online collections of early American records, and the largest searchable collection of published genealogical research journals and magazines. Special strengths in the content include English, New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont), New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia materials.

The NEHGS library catalog can be searched for millions of resources in the library and special collections. External subscription databases can also be searched, including the materials from the American Jewish Historical Society.

## Newspaper Databases

### America's News

Full-text content of hundreds of national newspapers and Colorado newspapers including The Denver Post and Littleton Independent.

### EBSCO's Newspaper Source

Cover-to-cover full-text for 35 national and international newspapers and selective full-text for 375 regional newspapers. In addition, includes TV and radio transcripts.

## GENEALOGY COLLECTION

The Columbine Genealogical & Historical Society has donated an extensive collection of historical books to the ever-growing collection at Bemis. The collection contains many items from Colorado—including cemetery indexes and vertical files of biographical sketches and obituaries—as well as items from other states and foreign countries.

## INTERLIBRARY LOAN

Interlibrary loan (ILL) is a great way to conduct genealogy research without having to travel to a distant library. Bemis patrons can request materials not owned by Bemis Library through interlibrary loan. Books, photocopies of magazine articles, newspaper microfilm, and some genealogy records are available.

An ILL Request Form must be filled out in-library or via phone with a reference librarian to start the process. Patrons may specify whether the loan must be free of charge (may limit one's chances of obtaining the item), or may specify up to a certain amount willing to be paid if the lending library assesses a fee (increases the likelihood of obtaining the item).

It may take 2-6 weeks for the requested item to arrive, depending on its rarity/popularity. Upon arrival, the item may be checked out for a period of time as specified by the lending library, usually about 3 weeks.

## FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY AFFILIATE

Bemis Library is an affiliate of the Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City. The FHL is a private genealogical library sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. It has a collection of over 2.6 million rolls of microfilm of worldwide historical records that can be rented for a period of 90 days or more.

Go to <https://familysearch.org/films> and click the Sign-in link at the top right of the page. If you don't already have a FamilySearch account, click the button to create a free account by providing an email address and password, and then sign in to continue.

To access the library's catalog, click the Search button from the home page at FamilySearch.org, and then choose the Catalog link from the top menu bar. Searching the catalog by place will yield the best results for microfilm since most records are cataloged according to the place where they were originally created.

Locate a microfilm or microfiche record via the catalog search, and then click on the film/fiche number to begin the ordering process. When ordering for the first time, set "Edwin A. Bemis Public Library" as the Family History Center where the microform materials will be delivered. In most cases a short-term loan of 90 days for a \$7.50 fee will suffice. Complete the checkout process online to pay for the film(s) being rented.

After the order has been processed an email confirmation will be received. An additional email will be sent when the order has been shipped, as well as when it has arrived and been checked in by library staff. You can also check the status of your order at any time by logging into your FamilySearch account.

You may view your film during regular library hours Monday through Sunday during the rental period. The library's microform machine allows images to be viewed, printed or saved to a USB flash drive. The rental period can be extended if necessary by paying an additional fee.