

HistoryGeo and Sanborn Maps: Rural and Urban Map Research

HistoryGeo: at <https://www.historygeo.com>

HistoryGeo is divided into three mapping features. The search function is free. You can test the search function to see if you get any hits. This is a pay site but available from the St. Louis County website, if you have a St. Louis County Library card. For people outside the immediate St. Louis region, check with your local library to see if you have access and the type of access; either onsite or remote login.

To use the St. Louis County Library HistoryGeo you go to the libraries homepage at <https://www.slcl.org> and click on the research button in the middle of the page. Then select History and Genealogy from the drop down menu. Next select online genealogical resources. Type in the search box HistoryGeo. This website is available remotely from your home.

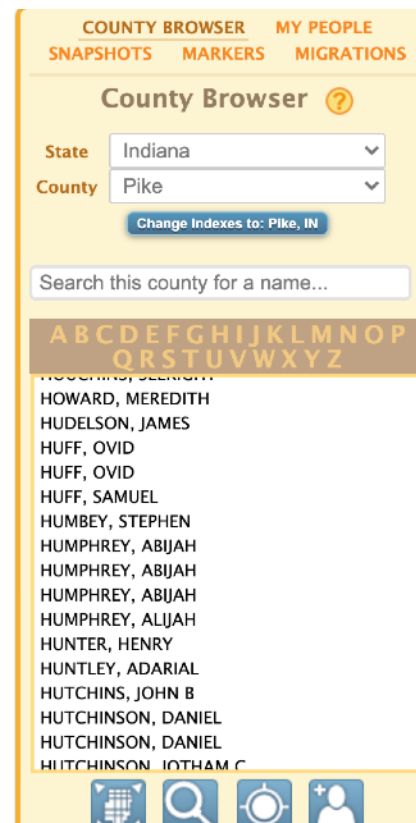
The three map features of HistoryGeo are

- 1) First Landowners Project
- 2) Antique Maps Collection
- 3) Place Finder + Topos



First Landowners Project: original landowners in thirty states and has over 12 million records. It is possible to search by surname and state. You can even narrow it down to the county level if you already know the county. Saving to a “my people” part of the county browser is another feature.

From the tool bar on the left you can pin the spot on the land owned by your ancestor. Keep your cursor over the icon in the tool bar and it will tell you the function.



Antique Maps Collection: not original landowners but a collection of old maps and atlases.

▼ **Search Maps:**  **Search Surname:** 

You can either search, using the pull down menu, for map names or use the surname box. I have better luck using the surname box.

Place Finder + Topos: a place finder by location and geographic features. This is a new feature and is still a work in progress.

An alternative is to use Google maps for places such as cemeteries, creeks and streams. However, HistoryGeo states that they are updating this new feature.

Sanborn Maps:

Used to provide detailed imaging for towns and cities in the 19th and 20th centuries for fire insurance purposes. Started in 1866. The maps declined in usage as the 20th century progressed.

12,000 cities across the United States.

Shows where a family lived, and may show where they worshiped and/or worked. Shows type of property and street names.

You can use Google street view to compare then to today.

Three sites for Sanburn maps: there are others but this three have some of the largest collections of maps.

Library of Congress:

The link below takes you to a web page with the key for viewing the maps.
<https://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/sanborn/images/sankekey22c.jpg>

The link below takes you to the Library of Congress website for the listing of their maps.

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps>

The link below takes you to Wikimedia Commons and a listing of Sanborn maps by state.

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/
Category:Sanborn maps of the United States by state](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Sanborn_maps_of_the_United_States_by_state)

The link below takes you to the University of Missouri website for Missouri Sanborn maps.

<https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/mu/islandora/object/mu%3A138690>

The University of Missouri site has 6,798 maps from 1880 to 1922 but not all years.

For all these sites you must be have patience in locating the correct address. Persistence pays off. It is easier to find locations in smaller towns rather than a larger metropolitan city.

Early St. Louis county municipalities, such as Kirkwood, Wesbter Groves, and Florissant, are not available.