



Genealogy & History Resources of the El Paso District Library

The El Paso District Library is a Carnegie Library built in 1906. The library underwent an addition/remodeling in 2013. The original building now contains the *Lester Pfister History & Genealogy Room*.

Please note that many of our items cannot be checked out due to being very rare or fragile, but can be browsed while you are visiting the library. Please contact the library for more information about this. These items are noted with an asterisk in the section below.

The El Paso Newspapers:

- A microfiche reader/computer is available for viewing old newspapers from 1887 up until 2003. Our microfiche reader was purchased in 2014.
- Digital newspapers can be viewed in the library from 1887 up until 2003.
- Paper copies of the newspapers from 2003 to present day are available to the public for viewing upon request.
- There is a void in the newspapers from 1961-1965. If you have any of these issues, please contact the library.

Yearbooks from El Paso High School and El Paso-Gridley High School from 1917 to present, although a few years may be missing

El Paso Illinois phone books from 1914 to 2012, although a few years may be missing

Gridley, Illinois phone books from 2004 to 2012, although a few years may be missing

Local historian, Marilyn Swanson put together many binders of information about local cemeteries. Ask at the front desk for more detailed information.

Our history room contains many different kinds of books that may be helpful in genealogical research. Many families that have done genealogical research or family scrapbooks have left their findings (scrapbooks) here with the library. Books on the history of local communities may also provide information. We also have various books that you can read to learn more about genealogy and books to research family surnames.

El Paso District Library

149 W First Street

El Paso, IL 61738

309-527-4360

Website: www.elpasopubliclibrary.net

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ElPasoLibrary>

Hours:

Monday and Tuesday, 9 am to 7 pm

Wednesday, Noon to 6 pm

Thursday, 9 am to 6 pm

Friday, Noon to 6 pm

Saturday, 10 am to 1 pm

Closed Sunday

Databases that our local historian, David Fever has compiled:

- Woodford County Cemetery Data – information on all Woodford County cemeteries
- El Paso High School Alumni Listing
- George Drake's El Paso, Illinois House Index, 1895 – the glass plates that correspond with these entries are stored in the library also
- Newspaper Obituary Listings – from the El Paso newspapers, roughly covering the years, 1900 to 1910, partial from the 1940s, and 2004 to the present; tells what page and column to look at in physical copy of the newspaper

Items that have been digitally scanned:

- Here and Now Scrapbooks compiled by George Drake
- El Paso and El Paso-Gridley High School Yearbooks
- El Paso Grade School Yearbooks, 1959 to 2004
- Scrapbooks made by local historian, Ethel Eft – She wrote the book, *the El Paso Story* and she also wrote newspaper articles and radio news brief about local history, she cut out her articles and put them in a scrapbook, the actual scrapbooks are stored in the library
- Copies of obituaries saved by Shirley Adams
- Various Lester Pfister scrapbooks

Items Stored in the Library available for viewing upon request:

- Bound copies of newspapers from the years, 1887 to 2003 although handing ones prior to the 1940s is limited due to fragility of the pages *
- More current copies of newspapers that have not yet been digitally scanned
- Ethel Eft's Scrapbooks
- Obituaries saved by Shirley Adams
- Various Lester Pfister scrapbooks
- George Drake's El Paso, Illinois House Plates(pictures) from 1895 *
- El Paso Grade School Yearbooks
- History of Woodford County Illinois 1878 *
- Woodford County History, 1968 *
- Woodford County by John Drury, 1955 *
- History of Woodford County, Roy L. Moore, 1910 *
- History of McLean County, Volume 1 by Jacob L. Hasbrouck, 1924 *
- History of McLean County, Volume 2 by Jacob L. Hasbrouck, 1924 *
- Portrait and Biographical Album of Woodford County, Illinois, 1889 *
- The Biographical Record of Livingston and Woodford Counties IL Illustrated, 1900 *
- Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois, Biographical and Memorial Edition, Vol 1, 1915 *
- History of Chicago, Illinois Vol I, Vol II 1895 *
- History of Tazewell County, Illinois 1879*
- Illinois *
- Illinois River Valley, Vol I, II, and II *
- Old Settlers' History of Woodford County *