

# A Rare and Valuable Gem: PERSI

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The PERiodical Source Index, PERSI, is a subject index of more than 8,000 historical and genealogical magazine (a.k.a. periodical) titles, covering the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, and Australia. The periodicals include articles, indexes, abstracts, and transcriptions to materials.

The articles are indexed primarily by location, subject categories and/or record types, which include church records, court records, deeds, military, probate, vital records, and much more. With more than 2.7 million entries, PERSI is the one place to locate historical and genealogical articles on a variety of locations and records.

PERSI is available at FindMyPast <<https://www.FindMyPast.com/PERSI>>, who offers both a free and paid subscription version of the product.

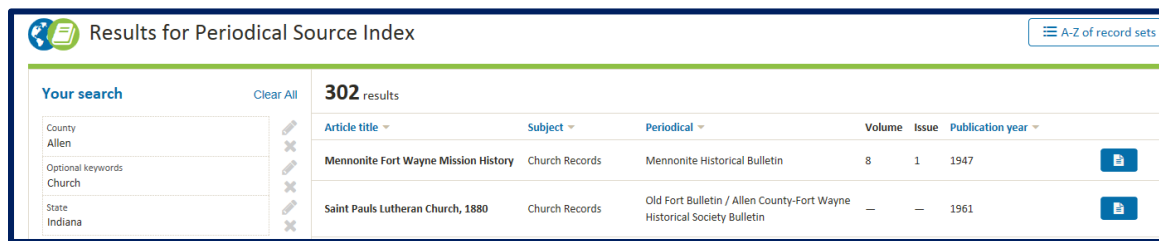
## Accessing PERSI (free site)

The free version provides access to the free index, but the search interface is more complex.

- Recommend searching using only the County, State, and Optional Keywords fields.
- Free search interface:

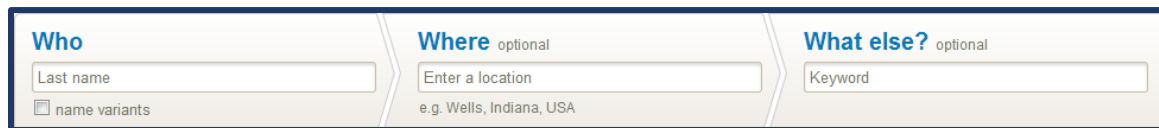
PERIODICAL	<input type="text" value="Start typing a Periodical"/>	<a href="#">Browse Periodical</a>
ARTICLE TITLE	<input type="text" value="Start typing a Article title"/>	<a href="#">Browse Article title</a>
HOW-TO ARTICLE?	<input type="text" value="Start typing a How-to article?"/>	<a href="#">Browse How-to article?</a>
SUBJECT	<input type="text" value="Start typing a Subject"/>	<a href="#">Browse Subject</a>
ARTICLE KEYWORD	<input type="text" value="Start typing a Article Keyword"/>	<a href="#">Browse Article Keyword</a>
HAS IMAGES	<input type="text" value="Start typing a Has images"/>	<a href="#">Browse Has images</a>
PUBLICATION YEAR	<input type="text" value="YYYY"/> <small>Give or take</small> -/+ 2yrs <input type="button" value="i"/>	
PUBLISHER	<input type="text" value="Start typing a Publisher"/>	<a href="#">Browse Publisher</a>
TOWN/CITY	<input type="text" value="Start typing a Town/City"/>	<a href="#">Browse Town/City</a>
STATE	<input type="text" value="Start typing a State"/>	<a href="#">Browse State</a>
COUNTRY	<input type="text" value="Start typing a Country"/>	<a href="#">Browse Country</a>
OPTIONAL KEYWORDS	<input type="text"/>	
COUNTY	<input type="text" value="Start typing a County"/>	<a href="#">Browse County</a>

- Free search results page:
  - Article title
  - Subject (record type)
  - Periodical title
  - Volume and issue number
  - Publication year



### **Accessing PERSI (paid subscription)**

- The paid version is a subscription which provides an expanded index, a streamlined and simpler search interface, and access to available digital images.
- Paid search interface:



- “Who” is a Surname search.
  - Surnames were only indexed when an article was entirely based on a particular surname.
  - PERSI is not an every surname index.
- “Where” is a Location search.
  - Best to search for county, state, and/or country using a comma to separate the locales.
  - Towns were not always indexed.
- “What else” is a Keyword search.
  - Searches every field (author, title, periodical, publication, subject, etc.) for the search term entered.
- On the left side of the search results page, “Narrow Your Search Results” by the following categories:
  - Last Names
  - County
  - Periodical
  - Country
  - Subject
  - Publisher
  - State
  - Article Keyword
  - How to
  - Town/ City
  - Publication Year (can select a range of years)

➤ Paid subscription index “transcription” page:

Article title	St. Marys & St. Pauls Churches Histories
Subject	Church Records
Place	Allen, Indiana, USA
How-to article?	No

Article Details

Periodical	Indiana German Heritage Society Newsletter
PERSI code	INGM

Periodical Details

Volume	4
Issue	2
Month/Season	Spr
Publication year	1988

Article Citation

Frequency	4x
Topics	ETHNIC - GERMAN,US - INDIANA

Periodical Details

Repositories	Allen County Public Library - P.O. Box 2270 Ft. Wayne IN 46801-2270 Genealogy Department
ACPL call number	977.2 In44n
ACPL holdings	v.1- 1985-

Allen County Public Library Details

Publisher	Indiana German Heritage Society
Publisher Address	401 E. Michigan St Indianapolis IN 46204 USA

Publisher Details

## Searching PERSI

Tips and considerations when searching PERSI.

- Search using a variety of terms and abbreviations.
- Consider abbreviations such as:
  - England – Eng.
  - Baptist – Bapt.
  - Selected – sel.
  - Ireland – Ire.
  - Protestant – Prot.
  - Cemeteries – cem.
  - Germany – Ger.
  - Methodist – Meth.
  - Family – fam.
  - Company – co.
  - Biography – bio.
  - History – hist.
- Consider word use such as:
  - Woman / Women
  - Railroad / Railway / R.R.
  - Photos / Pictures
- \*\*\*After every search is complete, click the “Clear Search” button.\*\*\*

## Digital Images

- Only available on the paid subscription.
- Every publication in PERSI is not digitized and viewable online.
- Linked images in PERSI are of the entire periodical issue rather than an individual article. This is based on agreements between the publication and FindMyPast.

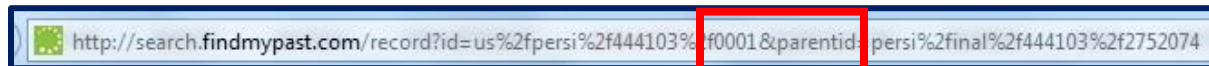
- On the search results page, the image icon on the right indicates a digital image is available.



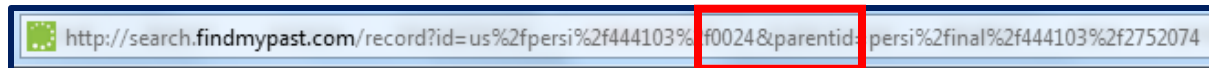
- On the index “transcription” page, the “View Image” buttons on the upper left and right of the page indicate a digital image is available.

Article title	Suburban Bethlehem Luth. Church, Hist. & Registers
Subject	Church Records
Place	Allen, Indiana, USA

- To move through the digital images, follow these steps:
  - The periodical issue may have a table of contents which could give a page number.
  - An image number appears in the URL, prior to “&parentid”.
  - For example, the table of contents is on page 1 and the image number is 0001.



- Calculate the possible image number.
- For example, the article is on page 24 so the image number needs to be 24 images from the current image.
- Change the image number within the URL, prior to “&parentid”.



### **Strength of PERSI**

- Access to millions of articles that have a wealth of information from a variety of organizations across the globe concerning genealogical and historical records.
- With the citation from PERSI:
  - Search your local library and/or archives to see if the periodical title, volume and issue is available.
  - Request a copy of the article by using the PERSI Order Form <http://www.genealogycenter.org/docs/PERSI/>.