Explore your family history by looking at some of the images and documents found on Minnesota Reflections. Perhaps you will find an image of a family member or something that helps put history into your family’s story.

Diaries are fun to read and can add insight to a family’s history. What was life like for a teenager in Minneapolis in the 1880s? The Hennepin County Library contributed the diaries of Ezra Fitch Pabody, written from 1882 to 1890, for inclusion at Minnesota Reflections. See an example from 1882 at [http://reflections.mndigital.org/u/?mpls,674](http://reflections.mndigital.org/u/?mpls,674).

Did you have German immigrant ancestors? Did you know that the Federal government required German Alien Enemies (those that were not naturalized U.S. citizens) living in the U.S. to register in 1917? Stillwater Public Library has one of the few remaining collections of those records. An example of a record can be found at [http://reflections.mndigital.org/u/?spl,996](http://reflections.mndigital.org/u/?spl,996). The rules and regulations governing that national registration can be found at [http://reflections.mndigital.org/u/?spl,691](http://reflections.mndigital.org/u/?spl,691) (also from the Stillwater Public Library).

Where did your family members worship? Minnesota Reflections has many images of churches and synagogues. Two examples are Zion Presbyterian Church in Mankato (from the Blue Earth County Historical Society) [http://reflections.mndigital.org/u/?blue,1470](http://reflections.mndigital.org/u/?blue,1470) and Congregation Mikro Kodesh Synagogue, Minneapolis (from the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest) [http://reflections.mndigital.org/u/?jhs,176](http://reflections.mndigital.org/u/?jhs,176).

Bet you didn’t know that your ancestors had FANs? The names of those Friends, Associates, and Neighbors can often be found on plat maps and in directories. See a page from the 1914 farmers’ directory of Bogus Brook Township in Mille Lacs County from the Milaca Area Historical Society at [http://reflections.mndigital.org/u/?mah,72](http://reflections.mndigital.org/u/?mah,72).

Many of our ancestors were Swedish immigrants. They may have read the *Svenska Amerikanska Posten*. The American Swedish Institute has provided pages from that
newspaper including an advertisement for the 1903 Convention of the American Union of Swedish Singers http://reflections.mndigital.org/u/?/swede,4.

During the Great Depression many young men served in the Civilian Conservation Corps to help their families make ends meet. The Iron Range Research Center has a collection of CCC photographs from Company 717, Camp S-53, near Side Lake. Was your ancestor an enrollee or cook included in a group photograph? Find out at http://reflections.mndigital.org/u/?/irrc,2444.

While a specific photograph of your ancestor’s home or business might not be available, you may find a view of the neighborhood to be interesting. Some examples are the Duluth Central Hillside neighborhood from the Northeast Minnesota Historical Center at http://reflections.mndigital.org/u/?/nemhc,3692 and an early street scene in Rochester http://reflections.mndigital.org/u/?/olms,568 from the Olmsted County Historical Society.

Our ancestors belonged to many organizations such as the Sons of Norway in Windom http://reflections.mndigital.org/u/?/cotton,800 (from the Cottonwood County Historical Society) or perhaps benefited from one of the many charitable and benevolent organizations in St. Paul http://reflections.mndigital.org/u/?/p16022coll1,130 (Amherst H. Wilder Foundation).

These are just a few examples of the many family history treasures that can be found in Minnesota Reflections.