How to Read the AGBI

The American Genealogical-Biographical Index, or AGBI, is an unparalleled source of information from many older, obscure, and out of print texts. The index contains millions of names from thousands of sources.

Names are listed alphabetically. Each entry contains the first and middle name or initials, birth year as it appears in the source text, state of residence, some bibliographical information when available, and the abbreviation of the title the information is taken from.

Example: George Albert Adams born in 1850

The key to deciphering the source title abbreviations is located in the Godfrey Scholar+ Finding Aids (for Scholar+ members), at the Godfrey library, and various places online. The Godfrey owns nearly all of the material indexed and for a small fee we will send you page scans from the original document.