

GETTING STARTED WITH GENEALOGY

This is not a comprehensive listing; it is intended to give examples of the types of records and resources you should use and what kinds of repositories or places you can find them in.

I. Home Sources

- A. Oral tradition - family stories, lore
- B. Interviews - relatives and people who lived near them
 - 1. Personal
 - 2. Telephone
 - 3. Written - E-mail, fax or U.S. Postal Service
- C. Diaries, letters, family bibles - ask about any kind of family papers

II. Local Sources – check your local public library to see what they have. Below is a sampling of some of the materials in the Heritage Room.

- A. Athens-Clarke Co. Library <http://www.clarke.public.lib.ga.us/> and the Heritage Room <http://www.clarke.public.lib.ga.us/hqdepts/heritage/index.html>
 - 1. How to do books
 - 2. Indexes, and other compilations – print, CD, and microform
 - 3. County histories
 - 4. Family histories
 - 5. Cemetery books
 - 6. U.S. Federal Census population schedules for Georgia – (print indexes 1820-1870; Soundex 1900 & 1930)
 - 7. U.S. Federal Census non-population schedules for Georgia
 - 8. Athens newspapers beginning in 1808 (microfilm)
 - 9. Athens City directories
 - 10. Bibliographies
 - 11. Guides to research: for states, ethnic genealogy, and in other countries
 - 12. Periodicals, magazines, newspapers
 - 13. Family Search and other databases from LDS Church
 - 14. Freedmen's Bureau and Freedman's Bank Records for Georgia
 - 15. Probate and Ordinary court records, Superior Court records including deeds and mortgages on microfilm, and finding aids for Clarke County records.

Check online catalogs for libraries in Franklin, Madison, Oconee, and Oglethorpe counties. These are public libraries in the Athens Regional Library System. Check PINES <http://gapines.org> for materials you may find useful in other public libraries in Georgia. For a list of libraries in the PINES system go to

<http://gapines.org/opac/en-US/skin/default/xml/index.xml>

For directions on how to search in and use the Evergreen system go to

http://www.clarke.public.lib.ga.us/hqdepts/heritage/evergreen_training_notes.pdf

B. Academic libraries (University of Georgia Library <http://www.libs.uga.edu/>)
Publicly funded university and academic libraries are open to the general public.
They often have these kinds of materials.

1. Census records on microfilm for 15 Southeastern states (1790-1920, as available)
2. Early Georgia newspapers (Georgia Newspaper Project)
3. City Directories
4. Soundex indexes (1880, 1900, 1910, 1920 censuses)
5. Manuscripts, family papers and records, documents
6. History books, particularly Southeastern U.S.
7. Various research materials on microform
8. Published histories and compilations
9. Dissertations and theses

C. Courthouses, city halls, local government archives

1. Deeds
2. Wills, estate records
3. Marriage and Divorce Records
4. Court cases
5. Tax Rolls
6. A variety of local records

D. LDS Family History Center

1. You can rent microfilm of records from all over the world and have them sent here to the local Family History Center.
2. Access to online databases that are available in Family History Centers for free.

III. **Morrow, Georgia Resources** (Morrow is south of Atlanta in Clayton County)

- A. Georgia Archives (our State Archives) <http://www.GeorgiaArchives.org>
1. Central location of many county records, often these are on microfilm
 2. City Directories
 3. Church Records
 - a. Christening
 - b. Marriage
 - c. Burial
 - d. Minutes
 - e. Church histories
 4. Confederate soldiers from Georgia
 5. Poll Tax Lists
 6. County histories and other compilations
 7. Genealogical periodicals
 8. Other local and state government records and documents

B. National Archives and Records Administration. Southeast Regional Archives aka NARA Southeast (National Archives) <http://www.archives.gov/southeast/>

Serves Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

“The Southeast Region of the National Archives is a center for the study of the history of the South, a diverse region rich with family tradition. Native Americans were living on the land when the first settlers arrived. African slaves were then brought over, and later came Irish, English, Italian, Russian, and Cuban immigrants. Their stories, told in the seemingly incongruous records of the federal government, provide evidence of the universal human drama that is American family life. Records in the National Archives tell the story of southern families and communities, technological advances that changed lives, and social and economic forces that shaped the makeup of our society.” NARA Southeast <http://www.archives.gov/southeast/> accessed December 12 2009.

For a brief overview of the kinds of materials NARA Southeast has go to <http://www.archives.gov/southeast/public/family-history-sources.pdf>. This is the pdf version of their brochure *Family History Sources*

1. Federal population censuses for all States, 1790-1930; indexes for the 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930 censuses (indexes are not available for all census years and all states)
2. Federal census, non-population schedules for southeastern states
3. Selected compiled military service records and indexes
4. Selected pension and bounty-land warrant applications
5. Indexes to selected passenger arrival records for Eastern and Gulf Coast ports
6. Indexes to selected naturalization records processed through Federal courts throughout the Southeast
7. Selected records relating to Native Americans and African Americans
8. World War I Draft Registrations
9. Tennessee Valley Authority Records

IV. Internet Research

- A. Check online catalogs for libraries, archives, historical and genealogical societies, and other repositories to see what you can find **near where you live**.
- B. Check the online catalogs for libraries, archives, historical and genealogical societies, and other repositories in the area **where your ancestor was when last documented**.
- C. Use online databases, both pay and free.
- D. Learn about and use digital collections like: *American Memory* from the Library of Congress <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem>, *Virtual Vault* from the Georgia Archives <http://content.sos.state.ga.us>, *Digital Library of Georgia* (DLG) <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu>, and many others. Most states now have digital collections online as do many large libraries.