This outline can help you find information about people who lived in Chile. It gives information about records of genealogical value for Chile and helps you decide which types of records to search.
For more information about census records, look in the “Locality” section of the Family History Library Catalog under:

- CHILE - CENSUS
- CHILE, [PROVINCE] - CENSUS
- CHILE, [PROVINCE], [CITY] - CENSUS

This tells you to look in the catalog under:

- Chile; then the subject CENSUS.
- A province in Chile; then the subject CENSUS.
- A city in a province in Chile; then the subject CENSUS.

This outline includes many references to specific records. The references include call numbers listed in parentheses. The call number, preceded by FHL, the abbreviation for Family History Library, is used to find a record held by the Family History Library. Each book, film, fiche, or map is assigned a call number.

For additional information on using the catalog, see Using the Family History Library Catalog (30966).

References to Other Family History Library Publications

The Family History Library has many other publications that may be helpful in your research. Some of these publications are referred to in this outline. Their titles are in italics and their item numbers are in parentheses. They are available at the Family History Library and the Salt Lake City Distribution Center at:

Salt Lake Distribution Center  
P.O. Box 26368  
Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368  
Tel. 1-800-537-5971  
Fax 1-800-240-3685  
Internet: http://www.familysearch.org/

THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

The key to finding a record in the Family History Library's collection is the Family History Library Catalog. The catalog describes each of the library's records and lists the call numbers. The catalog is available on microfiche and on compact disc as part of FamilySearch™, a computer program available at the Family History Library and each Family History Center. It may also be found under “Custom Search” on the following Internet site:

http://www.familysearch.org/

The Family History Library Catalog on microfiche is divided into four sections:

- Locality
- Subject
- Surname
- Author/Title

The Family History Library Catalog on compact disc has four types of searches:

- Locality Search
- Film Number Search
- Surname Search
- Computer Number Search

To find the call numbers of the records described in this outline, you will most often use the “Locality” section on microfiche or the “Locality Search” on compact disc. The section headings in this outline, such as “Church Records,” are the same as the subjects used in the microfiche edition of the Family History Library Catalog and the topics used in the compact disc edition.

The “Locality” section lists records according to the area they cover. Records relating to the entire country, such as emigration and immigration records, are listed under Chile. Most records are listed under a specific province or city or parish, as follows:

CHILE, [PROVINCE], [CITY]

For example, in the “Locality” section look for:
• The place where an ancestor lived such as: CHILE, ANTOFAGASTA, TALTAL

• The record type you want—census, probates, or church records, for example. In Chile, towns may be listed twice in the catalog. For example, church and civil records may be filed in the catalog as follows:

CHILE, ANTOFAGASTA, TALTAL - CHURCH RECORDS
CHILE, ANTOFAGASTA, TALTAL (Comuna) - CIVIL REGISTRATION

The catalog generally uses the language the records are written in to describe the records. The description includes a brief summary in English of the content.

The catalog is based on the province structure as instituted in 1793. For additional information about localities in Chile, see the “Gazetteers,” “Historical Geography,” “History,” and “Maps” sections of this outline.

If you need more information on using the Family History Library Catalog, a short video program (53191), written instructions, and librarians are available to help you.

INTERNET

The Internet, computer bulletin boards, news groups, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

• Locate other researchers.
• Post queries.
• Send and receive e-mail.
• Search large databases.
• Search directories.
• Search library catalogs.
• Join in computer chat and lecture sessions.

Researching by computer can be very rewarding, but it also has its limitations.

Finding Resources on the Internet

It takes time and practice to learn how to navigate the Internet. Local genealogical societies often have computer interest groups or members who are familiar with computer genealogical research.

Following are some general Internet sites that will lead you to other interesting Internet resources for Chile:

• Cyndi’s List of Hispanic Genealogical Sites is a catalog of genealogical sites on the Internet by topic and country. It includes references to other Internet sites, mailing lists, people and families, news groups, publications, transcriptions of records, societies, villages, and colonies.

http://www.cyndislist.com/hispanic.htm

• The LDS Church Genealogical Home Page gives you access to the Family History Library Catalog, Ancestral File, International Genealogical Index, SourceGuide, a list of Family History Center locations worldwide, links to family history related web sites, and lists of researchers interested in similar genealogical topics. You can also order Family History Library publications.

http://www.familysearch.org/

• A direct site to libraries archives and museums in Chile is:

http://www.dibam.cl/

Other useful sites on specific topics such as census records, directories, and so on, are discussed in this outline under those sections. For more information on using the Internet for genealogical research, see the Family History and the Internet Resource Guide (36381).
RECORDS SELECTION TABLE: CHILE

The table below can help you decide which records to search.

1. In column 1, find the category closest to your research goal.
2. In column 2, find the types of records that are most likely to have the information you need.
3. In column 3, find additional record types that may be useful.
4. Then turn to the section of this outline that corresponds to the record type you chose. The section gives information about the records, how to search them, and how to find them in the Family History Library Catalog. Some records are not at the Family History Library.

Note: The terms used in columns 2 and 3 are the same as the topic headings used in this outline and in the “Locality” section of the Family History Library Catalog. Also, records containing previous research—genealogy, biography, history, periodicals, and societies—could provide information for nearly all research goals, but these have not been listed unless they are especially helpful.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. If you need:</th>
<th>2. Look first in:</th>
<th>3. Then search:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Church Records</td>
<td>Civil Registration; Census</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth date</td>
<td>Church Records</td>
<td>Civil Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birthplace</td>
<td>Church Records</td>
<td>Civil Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country of foreign birth</td>
<td>Civil Registration</td>
<td>Emigration and Immigration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Province origins and boundaries</td>
<td>Gazetteers; History</td>
<td>Maps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customs</td>
<td>Social Life and Customs</td>
<td>History; Minorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death</td>
<td>Civil Registration</td>
<td>Church Records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td>Church Records</td>
<td>Emigration and Immigration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical background</td>
<td>History; Encyclopedias and Dictionaries</td>
<td>Gazetteers; Periodicals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration date</td>
<td>Emigration and Immigration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living relatives</td>
<td>Directories</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maiden name</td>
<td>Civil Registration</td>
<td>Church Records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>Church Records</td>
<td>Civil Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage annulment</td>
<td>Court Records</td>
<td>Civil Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td>Census</td>
<td>Civil Records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents, children, and other family members</td>
<td>Census</td>
<td>Civil Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place-finding aids</td>
<td>Gazetteers</td>
<td>Maps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places of residence</td>
<td>Census</td>
<td>Civil Registration; Church Records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous research</td>
<td>Archives and Libraries</td>
<td>Periodicals; Societies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Record-finding aids</td>
<td>Genealogy</td>
<td>Gazetteers; Maps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>Church Records</td>
<td>Census</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social activities</td>
<td>Social Life and Customs</td>
<td>History</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

Archives collect and preserve original documents of organizations such as churches or governments. Libraries generally collect published sources such as books, maps, and microfilm. This section describes the major repositories of genealogical and historical records for Chile. When one of these institutions is referred to elsewhere in this outline, return to this section to obtain the address.

If you plan to visit one of these repositories, contact the organization and ask for information about their collection, hours, services, and fees. Some archives have catalogs, inventories, and guides or periodicals that describe their records and how to use them. If possible, study these guides before you go to the archives so you can use your time more effectively. In some archives you may need a letter of recommendation in order to access their collection.

Although the original records you need may be in an archive or library in Chile or Spain, the Family History Library may have a microfilm copy of them.

Archives in Spain

Records of international interest about the European discovery, exploration, and colonization of Chile are found in the Archivo General de Indias and the Archivo General Militar in Spain. The mailing addresses of these archives are:

Archivo General de Indias
Avda. de la Constitución
41004 Sevilla, Spain
Tel: 422-5158
Fax: 421-9485

Archivo General Militar de Segovia
Alcázar
40071 Segovia, Spain
Tel: 43-65-11
Fax: 44-31-49

Archivo Central Militar del Servicio Histórico Militar
C/Mártires de Alcalá 9
28015 Madrid, Spain
Tel: 247-0300
Fax: 559-4371

Archivo Histórico Nacional
C/Serrano 115
28006 Madrid, Spain
Tel: 563-5923, 261-8003-5
Fax: 563-1199

A summary of the records preserved at the Archivo General de Indias is found in:


Additional descriptions of documents from the Spanish-American colonial period held at the Archivo General de Indias and other Spanish and Latin American archives, is found in:


Guides to the many archives in Spain can be obtained from each archive.

Archives in Chile

In Chile there are several types of genealogical repositories:

- National archives and libraries
- Provincial archives
- Local civil offices (such as municipality level)
- Church archives
- Libraries

National Archives and Libraries

The Chilean government collects records relating to Chilean history, culture, and population. Records of genealogical value at the National Archive include:

- Census records
- Church records
- Civil registration
- Court records
- Emigration and immigration lists
- Land records
- Military records
The National Archive of Chile has two locations, both in Santiago.

- **Archivo Nacional**
  Miraflores #50
  Clasificador 1400
  Correo Central de Chile
  Santiago, Chile
  Tel: (56-2) 632-5735
  Fax: (56-2) 38-1975
  Internet: [http://www.dibam.cl/archivo_nacional/](http://www.dibam.cl/archivo_nacional/)

The National Archive (Archivo Nacional) holds all the documentation of the colonial and republican periods of the country relative to the governmental collection (colección ministerial) of the 19th century. It holds documentation from local administrative government offices (gobernaciones, intendencias y municipalidades), and judicial districts of the 19th and 20th centuries. It also holds documentation of private collections donated to the archive.

It is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 6:50 P.M. Access is offered to university students, academics, and researchers. Photocopying is available.

The National Archive has 16 separate archive divisions, with more than 500,000 volumes in its collection. The archive has printed indexes and catalogs of records available on site.

- **Archivo Siglo XX**
  Agustinas #3250
  Santiago, Chile
  Tel: (56-2) 681-7979

The 20th Century Archive (Archivo Siglo XX) keeps the documentation of the (national) cabinet and the distributions of public administration of the 20th century. Since November 1995, it also holds the documentation of the notary public and real estate from 1810 forward. The administration of the National Archive is housed in this building. It is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Access is offered to university students, academics, and researchers. Photocopying is available.

Microfilm copies of many of the records at the National Archive and other archives and libraries are available at the Family History Library. For more information about the National Archive of Chile, visit the Internet address:

[http://www.dibam.cl/archivo_nacional/](http://www.dibam.cl/archivo_nacional/)

Helpful guides to the collection are:

Archivo Nacional de Chile. **Catálogo de fondos varios** (Catalog of Various Collections). Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1984. (FHL film 1410452 items 5–6.)


**Branches of the National Archive of Chile**

Branches of the National Archive collect records for the area they serve. These branches, including universities, are located in or near a major city. For addresses of these archives, contact:

- **Biblioteca Nacional**
  Av. Bernardo O’Higgins 651
  Santiago, Chile
  Tel: (56-2) 224-3782
  Fax: (56-2) 632-4803
  Internet: [http://www.dibam.cl/biblioteca_nacional](http://www.dibam.cl/biblioteca_nacional)

The National Library has a helpful collection of published genealogies, manuscripts, histories, directories, maps, and newspapers. The National Library may have published catalogs of its collections. It is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M., and Saturday from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

**Provincial Archives**

Each province in Chile has its own archive separate from those of the national government. Most of the records of genealogical value are kept by these archives. They serve as repositories for records pertaining to their particular area. Write or call each office for information about the services they offer to the public. Records of genealogical value at provincial archives include:
• Birth, marriage, and death records
• Census records
• Land records
• Some church records
• Notarial records
• Court records

**Local Civil Offices**

Records created by the local government less than 80 years ago, including birth, death, and marriage records, are kept in local offices. These records are not available to the public. For more information about these offices and their records, see the “Civil Registration” section of this outline. (These offices are comparable to county courthouses and town halls in the United States.)

You might be able to get information or copies of the records kept at local civil offices by writing. See the Spanish Letter-Writing Guide (36245) for information on corresponding with people in Spanish-speaking countries.

**Church Archives**

The dominant religion in Chile is the Roman Catholic Church, but there are many Protestant churches due to European immigration.

Church records are usually kept by the local parish. They hold recent records and may also have some older records. All dioceses of the Catholic Church have gathered duplicates of their older church records into a diocesan archive. You might be able to get some information by writing to these archives and requesting brief searches of their records.

Addresses and information about archives in Chile can be found on the Internet at:

http://www.lanic.utexas.edu/project/tavera/chile

**Libraries**

Some of the sources you will want to use are also available in other libraries in Chile. Contact these libraries and ask about their collection, hours, services, and fees.

- Subdirección Nacional de Bibliotecas Públicas
  Alonso Ovalle 1637
  Santiago, Chile

Ph: (56-2) 6986406

The public library has collected many published sources, such as books from the 17th through 19th centuries on Chile and America, local histories, city directories, maps, and other resources.

- Biblioteca “Santiago Severín”
  Plaza Simón Bolívar s/n
  Casilla 3153
  Valparaíso, Chile
  Ph: (56-32) 213375

- Universidad de Chile
  Sistema de Servicios de Información y Bibliotecas
  Avda. Bernardo O’Higgins 1058
  Santiago, Chile
  Ph: (56-2) 6781080

- Pontificia Universidad Católica
  Sistema de Bibliotecas
  Avda. Vicuña Mackenna 4860
  Santiago, Chile
  Ph: (56-2) 5522375 - 4764

- Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional
  Huérfanos 1117
  Santiago, Chile
  PH: (56-2) 675331 - 6725696

**Inventories, Registers, and Catalogs**

Some archives have catalogs, inventories, guides, or periodicals that describe their records and how to use them. If possible, study these guides before you visit or use the records of an archive so that you can use your time more effectively. A catalog of the National Archive in Chile is:


Other published inventories, guides, catalogs, and directories acquired by the Family History Library are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

CHILE - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

CHILE, SANTIAGO - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES
A biography is a history of a person’s life written by someone else. In a biography you may find the individual’s birth, marriage, and death information, and the names of his or her parents, children, or other family members. Use the information carefully because there may be inaccuracies.

A few brief biographies have been gathered and published in collective biographies, sometimes called biographical encyclopedias or dictionaries. Usually these only include biographies of prominent or well-known Chilean citizens or groups.

A significant biographical dictionary is:

Diccionario biográfico de Chile (Biographical Dictionary of Chile). Santiago, Chile: Talleres Gráficos, 1946. (FHL book 983 D36db; film 0928613.)

There are a few other biographies of Chilean people. Some of these are:

Diccionario biográfico de Chile (Biographical Dictionary of Chile). Santiago, Chile: Empresa Periodística “Chile,” 1952. (FHL book 946 D65g; film 1162429.)


Suárez, José Bernardo. Biografías de hombres notables de Chile (Biography of Remarkable Men of Chile). Valparaíso, Chile: Librería del Mercurio, [sin fecha]. (FHL book 983 D3su; film 0908341.)

Additional biographies of people from Chile are found in more general biographical collections such as:

Archivo biográfico de España, Portugal e Iberoamérica (Biographical Archive of Spain, Portugal, and Latin America). On 1,144 microfiche. New York: K.G. Saur, 19–. (FHL fiche 6002170–72.)


Collective biographies at the Family History Library are generally listed in the “Locality” section of the Family History Library Catalog under:

CHILE - BIOGRAPHY
CHILE, [PROVINCE] - BIOGRAPHY
CHILE, [PROVINCE], [CITY] - BIOGRAPHY

CEMETERIES

Cemetery records include tombstone records and sexton records. Cemetery records may give more information than parish burial registers or civil certificates of deaths. They may include the name of the deceased, age at death, date of death or burial, birth year or date of birth, birthplace, and sometimes marriage information. They may also provide clues about military service, religion, occupation, place of residence at time of death, or membership in an organization.

Tombstone information may be very helpful. Many of the inscriptions on gravestones and monuments have been transcribed and are found in manuscripts and printed books in cemetery offices or libraries.

Chile’s public cemeteries date back to 1885. Each cemetery records office contains books with the name of the deceased person, date of burial, relationship to the person paying for the burial, date of purchase, and location of the burial. Contact the cemetery in the area you are researching and request information.

Because relatives may be buried in adjoining plots, it is best to examine the original record rather than rely on alphabetized transcripts.

To find tombstone or sexton records, you need to know where an individual was buried. The person
may have been buried in a church, community, or private cemetery, usually near the place where he or she lived or died. You can find clues to burial places in funeral notices, church records, and death certificates.

Many Asians, Jews, and Europeans are buried in Chilean cemeteries, and information on their tombstones may be very valuable, in some cases listing their places of origin. Cemeteries in Santiago, Chile, include:

- Cementerio General (General Cemetery) founded in 1821, occupying a large area on Recoleta Street.
- Cementerio Católico Parroquial (Catholic Parochial Cemetery) founded in 1883.
- Cementerio Israelita (Jewish Cemetery) founded in 1938, with some tombs from as early as 1924. The guardian at the office has an alphabetical index of persons buried there.

The Family History Library does not have copies of cemetery books for Chile.

CENSUS

A census is a count and description of the population. Censuses have been taken by the government of Chile and by some ecclesiastical officials.

Census records are not used as often in Chilean research as in research in other countries because other sources, such as church records and civil registration, provide better information.

Civil census records (padrones) date from 1579 and ecclesiastical censuses (matrículas and padrones) date from 1641. National censuses were taken in Chile in 1813, 1831, 1835, 1843, 1854, 1865, 1875, 1885, 1907, 1920, and 1930. Censuses of various cities or ethnic groups were taken between 1641–1812. Information about these census records can be found in:

_Fuentes principales de registros genealógicos en Chile_ (Major Sources of Genealogical Records in Chile). Salt Lake City, Utah: The Genealogical Society, 1974. (FHL book 929.1 G286gs ser. H no.4; fiche 6030506.)

Some census records that were filmed in the National Archive in Santiago and the Archivo General de Indias in Seville, Spain, are available at the Family History Library:

*Padrones, 1777–1816* (Census, 1777–1816).
Santiago, Chile: Archivo Nacional de Chile, 1985. (FHL film 1410431–32, 1398481 item 1.)

*Padrones, 1777–1778* (Census, 1777–1778).
Sevilla, Spain: Archivo General de Indias, 19–. (FHL film 1162403–5.) This census was taken by the Diocese of Santiago in Chile.

Census records, where available, can provide family relationships, age, year of birth, description of property, religion, place of birth, and occupation. Census records are especially valuable because they list a large portion of the population. They can provide information where all or portions of other records are missing. Generally, you will find more complete family information in more recent censuses. Use the information with caution, however, since the information may have been given to a census taker by any member of the family or a neighbor. Additionally, some information may have been incorrect or deliberately falsified.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

A church directory lists church officials, dioceses, and parishes. There are many genealogical uses for church directories.

- They list all the parishes in a diocese, and many directories also list all of the villages belonging to a parish. This can help you determine if your ancestor's village had a parish church.
- They sometimes provide the earliest dates for which the church records of each parish exist.
- They may include historical information about each parish.
- They group parishes by clerical districts, so you can easily determine all neighboring parishes.
- They provide the complete address of parishes and of the diocesan headquarters.

The Family History Library has copies of directories of the Catholic Church for several years. However, the last one acquired was published in 1993, so some information, such as the priest's name, may be out of date. The addresses and parish
histories are still valid. Following are two examples of church directories:


Other church directories are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

- CHILE - CHURCH DIRECTORIES
- CHILE, [PROVINCE] - CHURCH DIRECTORIES

**CHURCH HISTORY**

Research procedures and genealogical sources are different for each religion. It is helpful to understand the historical events that led to the creation of records in which your ancestors may be listed, such as parish registers.

**Roman Catholic Church**

Roman Catholicism was the national religion of Chile before 1925 and continues to be a dominant force. Roman Catholicism was brought to the country by priests sent with the Spanish colonizers. The Catholic missions in Chile were administered by Spain’s Department of Colonial Affairs, a secular body. Education was entirely the responsibility of the church during the colonial period. A complete separation between the church and state was not made until the constitutional reform of 1925. At this time nearly 90 percent of the population claim to be Catholic.

The native Indians in the bishopric of Santiago were fully christianized and acculturated by the 17th century. In the diocese of Concepción, however, the Indians returned to their traditional beliefs and resisted attempts by Jesuits and Franciscans to establish missions among them. These Indians are referred to as Araucanos, or Mapuches.

Many books are available at public and private libraries that discuss the history of the Catholic Church in Chile and Latin America. Many books can also be found on this subject at the Family History Library. Some of these include:

- Silva Cotapos, Carlos. *Historia eclesiástica de Chile* (Ecclesiastical History of Chile). Santiago, Chile: Imprenta de San José, 1925. (FHL book 983 K2s; film 0908643 item 2.)

Other sources for church history can be found in the Family History Library Catalog under:

- CHILE - CHURCH HISTORY

**Other Christian Denominations**

Chile has one of the largest Protestant populations in Latin America. The first Anglican Church was built in Valparaíso in the 1850s to serve the local English community. During this same period of time, the Lutheran Church was established in the German settlements in the southern part of the country. These religions served the immigrant communities and did not spread to the Chilean Catholic communities.

The Methodist Church was brought to Chile at the end of the 19th century and was more successful in attracting Chilean members. Part of this group broke off to establish the Methodist Pentecostal Church. This and other Pentecostal churches are commonly known as *canutos* after the most famous of the pastors who first brought the church to Chile. Of the 500,000 Protestants in Chile in the early 1960s, most belonged to one of the many Pentecostal churches.

A constitutional amendment in 1871 extended freedom of worship in Chile. Since the constitutional reform of 1925, which separated church and state, non-Catholic religions have been on the increase.

Latter-day Saint families first moved to Chile in the early 1950s, and the first missionaries arrived in
1956. By the end of 1997, there were 462,000 LDS Church members in Chile.

Published books and articles can be found on the many different religious groups found in Chile. Some of these can be found at the Family History Library and other public and university libraries. Examples of this type of book include:


**CHURCH RECORDS**

Church records (registros parroquiales) are excellent sources for accurate information on names, dates, and places of births, marriages, and deaths. Virtually every person who lived in Chile before 1885 was recorded in a church record.

Records of births, marriages, and deaths are commonly called “vital records.” Church records are vital records made by church priests. They are often referred to as parish registers or church books. They include records of christenings, sometimes including a birth date; marriages; deaths; and burials. Church records may also include account books, confirmation records, and lists of members (padrones).

Church records are crucial for pre-1900 research in Chile. Civil registration started in January 1885, but was not comprehensive until 1900. Church records are often the only sources of family information before this date. Church records continued to be kept after the introduction of civil registration.

For birth, death, and marriage records after 1885, see the “Civil Registration” section of this outline.

**Information Recorded in Church Registers**

The information recorded in church records varied over time. The later records generally give more complete information than the earlier ones.

The most important church records for genealogical research are baptisms, marriages, marriage information, and death or burial registers. Other helpful church records include confirmations and church censuses (padrones). Most of these records were recorded in Spanish, but a few of the older Catholic records may be written in Latin or a mix of Spanish and Latin.

**Baptisms (bautismos)**

Children were generally baptized within a few days of birth. Baptismal records usually give the place and date of baptism, infant’s name and parents’ names, status of legitimacy, names of godparents, and sometimes grandparents’ names. You may also find the child’s age, ethnic background, and the family’s place of residence. If the child died within a few days of baptism, death information was sometimes added as a note to the baptismal record. At times a note added in the margin will state who the child later married.

**Marriages (matrimonios)**

Marriage registers give the date and place of marriage and the names of the bride and groom. They also indicate whether they were single or widowed and give the names of witnesses. They often include other information about the bride and groom, such as their ages, residences, occupations, names of parents, and sometimes birthplaces. In cases of second and subsequent marriages, they may include the names and death dates of previous spouses. Often a note is made whether a parent or other party gave permission for the marriage.

In addition to the marriage date, marriage registers sometimes also give the dates on which the marriage intentions were announced. These announcements, called banns, were made on three separate occasions and gave opportunity for anyone to come forward who knew any reason why the couple should not be married.

Couples were generally married in the home parish of the bride. Girls married young, usually between 15 and 20, and men married in their 20s.
**Marriage Information** (información matrimonial, pliegos matrimoniales, or expedientes matrimoniales)

The marriage information document is separate from the marriage record and can consist of several parts. It includes an introduction that states the intent of marriage and sometimes the date of the banns.

The marriage information includes personal information about the bride and groom. This may include the following: name of bride and groom, age, whether they are single or widowed, place of residence, sometimes place of birth, name of parents, and sometimes grandparents. If this is a second marriage for one of them, the document will give the name of the deceased spouse and how long he or she has been deceased. If either the bride or groom is from another parish, documents will be included showing good standing in that parish. These may include baptismal records and when the banns were published in another parish.

The records may also show a dispensation (an exemption from restriction of marriage) for the fourth degree of blood relationship, indicating that the bride and groom were related. If this is the case, genealogical graphs and interesting biographical information about the families involved may be included.

Following this information, two to four witnesses are presented who testify of the good standing of the bride and groom. This may include the witness’s personal information as well as how long the witness has known the bride or groom. The witnesses may be related to the bride or groom. This document is sometimes three or four pages long.

Generally, there is a note at the end of the marriage information documents listing the date of marriage or a note if they did not get married.

**Deaths, Burials** (defunciones, entierros)

Burials were recorded in the church record of the parish where the person was buried. The burial usually took place within a few days of the death.

Death registers give the name of the deceased and the date and place of death or burial. Often, the age, place of residence, marital status, cause of death, and names of survivors of the deceased are given. At times the priest will note if the deceased testated, meaning he or she recorded a will. Occasionally, if the deceased is a minor, the date and place of birth and parents’ names are given.

Early death registers failed to record much of this information and are not as complete as later death records. In some death records the women are recorded by their maiden name, giving the name of their surviving spouse or stating that they were widows and mentioning the name of the deceased spouse.

If you can’t find a death or burial church record dated after 1900, check the civil registration death records.

**Locating Church Records**

Church records were kept at the local parish of the church. The term *parish* refers to the jurisdiction of a church priest. Parishes are local congregations that may have included many local villages within their boundaries. In order to know which parish registers to search, you must know your ancestor’s religion and the town where he or she lived. It will also be helpful to know the parish to which your ancestor belonged in case there were several parishes in one large locality.

The town where the church building was located is considered the headquarters of the parish. Although the church building was often named for a saint (such as San Gabriel), the Family History Library Catalog refers to a parish by the name of the town where the parish church was located. In large cities, where there may be many parishes for one locality, the Family History Library Catalog uses the parish saint name to distinguish the records of different parishes.

Small towns that did not have their own church building were designated to a particular parish. Some parishes had affiliated chapels (*capillas foráneas*). Over time, some villages or chapels may have belonged to several parishes as jurisdictions changed.

Parish boundary maps can be extremely helpful when determining which parish church records to search. They can help you identify neighboring parishes if you need to search through the various parishes in a given region. Some church directories include boundary maps.
Church records can be found at the local parish archive, copies of older records may be found at the archdiocese archive, and some old records can be found at the National Archive.

Records at the Family History Library

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of most Chilean church records prior to 1930. The specific holdings of the Family History Library are listed in the Family History Library Catalog. You can determine whether the library has records for your ancestor’s locality by checking the “Locality” section of the Family History Library Catalog. However, if a record has been destroyed, was never kept, has not been microfilmed, or is restricted from public access by the laws of the country, the Family History Library does not have a copy.

In the Family History Library Catalog, look under the name of the town where the church was, not necessarily the town where your ancestor lived. Look in the Family History Library Catalog under:

CHILE, [PROVINCE], [TOWN] - CHURCH RECORDS

New records may be added to the Family History Library collection from numerous sources. Don’t give up if records are not yet available. Check the Family History Library Catalog every two or three years for the records you need.

Locating Records Not at the Family History Library

Baptism, marriage, and death or burial records not available at the Family History Library may be searched by contacting or visiting local parishes. Chile has no single repository of church records. If you will be contacting them by mail, write your request in Spanish whenever possible. You can use the Spanish Letter-Writing Guide to compose a letter in Spanish.

When requesting information, send the following:

• An inquiry as to how to best send the service fee, if any.
• Full name and gender of the person sought.
• Names of the parents, if known.
• Approximate date and place of the event you are requesting information about.
• Your relationship to the person.

• Reason for the request (family history, medical, and so on).
• Request for a photocopy of the complete original record.

If your request is unsuccessful, search for duplicate records that may have been filed in other archives or in civil registration offices.

Search Strategies

Effective use of church records includes the following strategies:

• Search for the relative or ancestor you selected. When you find his or her birth record, search for the birth records of his or her brothers and sisters.
• Search for the marriage record of the parents. The marriage record will often lead to the birth records of the parents.
• If you cannot locate a marriage record for the parents, you can estimate their ages in order to search for their birth records.
• If earlier generations are not in the record, search neighboring parishes.
• Search the death registers for information about all family members.

CIVIL REGISTRATION

Civil registration refers to the vital records made by the government. These registers include birth, marriage, and death records. Civil registration records (registros civiles) are an excellent source for accurate information on names, dates, and places of births, marriages, and deaths.

The earliest vital records in Chile were made by the churches. In the late 1800s the government of Chile recognized the need for accurate vital records for military conscription and taxation purposes.

Civil authorities began registering births, marriages, and deaths in 1885. After this date, almost all individuals who lived in Chile are recorded. For many families, civil registration records are the only sources of information after this date. For birth, marriage, and death records before 1885, see the “Church Records” section of this outline.
Information Recorded in Civil Registers

The information recorded in civil registration records varied over time. The later records generally give more complete information than earlier ones.

The most important civil records for genealogical research are birth, marriage, and death registers. These registers are written in Spanish. Some registers may have an index. In some cases, a separate index may be available that covers a specific time period.

Births (nacimientos)

Birth records generally give the child’s name; gender; and the date, time, and place of birth (which may be different than where the birth was registered). The birth record includes parents’ names; and may include the address of the house or the name of the hospital in which the birth took place. Births were generally registered within a few days of the child’s birth by the father or by a family relative or friend.

Family information may also be included in the birth record, such as the parents’ ages, birthplaces or residences, marital status, professions, and number of other children born to the mother. You may also find information about the grandparents. Corrections to a birth record may have been added as a marginal note.

Marriages (matrimonios)

Whether a marriage ceremony was performed by a civil or church authority, local laws required the marriage to be recorded in civil records first. It was usually recorded by the civil authority in the town where the bride resided.

The early civil marriage records may give more information than the comparable church records. Early civil marriage entries usually had the names and ages of the bride and groom, and the marriage date and place. Over the years more information was entered, which may include their occupations, civil status, and residence. The names of their parents and even grandparents were sometimes given, as were the birth places for the bride and groom.

In addition to a civil ceremony, most couples were also married in a church wedding. When possible, search both the civil registration and church records of the marriage.

If you believe a marriage took place but cannot find a record of the marriage, search the church marriage information records or banns.

Deaths (defunciones)

Death records are especially helpful because they may provide important information on a person’s birth, spouse, and parents. Civil death records often exist for individuals for whom there are no birth or marriage records. Deaths were usually registered in the town or city where the person died within a few days of the death.

Early death records generally give the name, date, and place of death. Later death registers usually include the age or date of birth of the deceased (and sometimes the birthplace), residence or street address, occupation, cause of death, burial information, and the informant’s name (often a relative). The records often provide the name of a spouse or parents. The information about parents, birth date, and birthplace of the deceased in a death record may be inaccurate since the informant may not have had complete information.

The civil registration laws of Chile require that when a child dies, even within a few minutes of birth, the child is recorded in the death registers. However, before burial the child needs to be entered in the birth registers. When a child is born dead, it is not recorded in either the birth or death registers. A temporary file is kept with the names of the parents.

Locating Civil Registration Records

Civil registration records are kept at the local civil registration office (oficina de registro civil) in each municipality (municipalidad). You must determine the town where your ancestor lived before you can find the records.

Civil records are issued in duplicate. The original remains at the local civil registration archive and a copy is sent to:
If you cannot find a record at one of the local archives, you can try another archive.

Your ancestor may have lived in a small town (pueblo) that belonged to the civil jurisdiction (municipalidad) of a larger town in the area. In large cities, there may be more than one civil registration office. You may need to use gazetteers and other geographic references to identify where your ancestor lived and the civil registration office that served it. (See the “Gazetteers” section of this outline.)

In addition to the town, you need to know at least an approximate year in which the birth, marriage, or death occurred. Some offices have created either a general index of their records or an index within each book that you may want to search first.

The specific holdings of the Family History Library are listed in the Family History Library Catalog. To find civil registration records in the Family History Library, search in the “Locality” section of the library’s catalog under:

CHILE - CIVIL REGISTRATION
CHILE, [PROVINCE] - CIVIL REGISTRATION
CHILE, [PROVINCE], [MUNICIPALITY] - CIVIL REGISTRATION
CHILE, [PROVINCE], [MUNICIPALITY (COMUNA)] - CIVIL REGISTRATION

The library’s collection continues to grow as new records from numerous sources are microfilmed and added to the collection. Don’t give up if records are not yet available. The Family History Library Catalog is updated annually. Check it again every year for the records you need.

Locating Records Not at the Family History Library

Birth, marriage, and death records not available at the Family History Library may be found by contacting or visiting local civil registration offices or archives in Chile. If you will be contacting them by mail, write your request in Spanish whenever possible. You can use the Spanish Letter-Writing Guide to compose a letter in Spanish. You may wish to write to:

- Municipal archives (archivos municipales). Most civil registers are still located at the municipal offices. Some municipal archives are unable to handle genealogical requests but can determine whether specific records are available.
- Centralized archive (archivos centralizados). Copies of records since 1885 are held at the general archive in Santiago. Some records were destroyed in a 1946 fire, but most of the surviving records have been microfilmed and are available at the Family History Library. For more recent records and those not yet microfilmed, you may write in Spanish to the general archive and request searches of the records you need. If the records are not available, your request may be forwarded to the municipality.

You may also find archive inventories (see the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline) that describe the record-keeping systems and available civil registration records in Chile. These and other guides are found in the Family History Library Catalog under:

CHILE - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES
CHILE, [PROVINCE] - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

When writing to an archive for civil records, include:

- An inquiry as to how to best send the service fee, if any.
- Full name and gender of the person sought.
- Names of the parents, if known.
- Approximate date and place of the event you are requesting information about.
- Your relationship to the person.
- Reason for the request (family history, medical, and so on).
- Request for a photocopy of the complete original record.

If your request is unsuccessful, search for duplicate records that may have been kept in other archives, or church registers. Also, please note that to protect the rights of privacy of living persons, most
modern records have restrictions on their use and access.

**DIRECTORIES**

Directories (guías) are alphabetical lists of names and addresses. These often list all the adult residents or tradesmen of a city or area. Telephone books (guía de teléfonos) are a type of directory.

The most helpful directories for genealogical research are city directories of local residents and businesses. These are generally published annually and may include an individual’s name, address, occupation, his or her spouse’s name, and other helpful facts. An individual’s address can be very helpful when searching in a large city with several parishes or if there is an unindexed census. Directories sometimes have city maps and may include addresses of churches, cemeteries, civil registration offices, and other locations of value to the genealogist.

The Family History Library has very few telephone directories and only some Catholic Church directories for Chile (see the “Church Directories” section of this outline). Examples of directories for Santiago and Valparaíso include:

*Guía de teléfonos, Santiago y demás pueblos de la provincia de Santiago* (Telephone Book, Santiago and Other Towns in the Province of Santiago). Santiago, Chile: Cía. de Teléfonos de Chile, 1948–. (FHL film 1162494 item 8 [Sep 1948], 1608860 item 1 [July 1978].)


Directories are listed in the “Locality” section of the Family History Library Catalog under:

- CHILE, [PROVINCE] - DIRECTORIES
- CHILE, [PROVINCE], [CITY] - DIRECTORIES

Directories for Chile can be found on the Internet at:

[http://www.teldir.com/eng/csam/cl](http://www.teldir.com/eng/csam/cl)

**EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION**

Emigration and immigration sources list the names of people leaving a country (emigration) or coming into a country from another country (immigration). Many Chileans trace their ancestral lines to immigrants from Europe, especially from Spain.

Lists of emigrants are usually found in passenger lists, permissions to emigrate, and records of passports issued. The information in these records may include the name of the emigrant, age, occupation, destination, and often the emigrant’s place of origin or birthplace. These sources can be very valuable in helping you determine where your ancestor came from before arriving in Chile.

In addition to their usefulness in determining where your ancestor lived before leaving for another country, these records can help in constructing family groups. If you don’t find your ancestor, search for information on neighbors of your ancestor. People who lived near each other were often from the same areas in the country of origin.

Cristóbal Colón (Christopher Columbus) discovered the northeastern area of South America—what is now Venezuela—on his third voyage, in 1498. After his discovery of America, significant numbers of immigrants moved to Latin America during the following periods:

- **1540–1789.** Great numbers of immigrants, mostly from Spain, moved into Chile and other Latin American countries. This wave of immigration was caused by immigrants’ desire to make their fortune and colonize the new area.

- **1790–1839.** Immigration to America decreased because of independence wars in the colonies.

- **1840–1930.** Immigration to the Americas increased again. In this period not only Spaniards but also Germans, Italians, Scandinavians, and Japanese immigrated to Chile and other countries in the Americas.
Toward the end of the 19th century, many thousands of Europeans immigrated to southern South America. German and eastern European colonists settled parts of Argentina, Chile, and Paraguay. During the early 20th century, many immigrants from western and eastern Europe, the Middle East, and the Orient arrived in Chile and other countries in South America. Migration within Chile was very common during the mid-20th century.

Before the 19th century, emigrants were not always recorded formally. Passengers emigrating by sea to another country registered on ships at the time of departure, but once the emigrants arrived in South America, open frontiers and vast uninhabited territories allowed for relatively free and unregistered migration within the regions. Beginning in the 19th century, some documentation may have been required of persons leaving one country to reside in another. During the 20th century the issuing of passports became common practice.

Finding the Immigrant’s Town of Origin

Once you have traced your family back to an immigrant ancestor, you must determine the city or town the ancestor was from. There are several sources that may help you locate your ancestor’s place of origin. You may be able to learn the town your ancestor came from by talking to other family members. Relatives, a local Chilean society, or a library may have also documents that name your ancestor’s city or town of origin. These documents include:

- Birth, marriage, and death certificates
- Journals
- Photographs
- Letters
- Family Bibles or other family records
- Church records
- Naturalization applications and petitions
- Obituaries
- Passenger lists
- Passports
- Family heirlooms
- Local histories of the area where your ancestor settled

Census records can also be a source of immigration information. However, they typically list only the country of a person’s origin rather than the specific town or parish. (See the “Census” section of this outline for more information.) History records can also be a source of immigration information. (See the “History” section of this outline).

Additional information about finding the origins of immigrant ancestors is given in the Tracing Immigrant Origins (34111) research outline.

Emigration from Spain

Before 1775, most of the emigrants from Spain came from the regions of Castilla, Andalucía, or Extremadura. The people from Cataluña, Aragón, Galicia, and Vascongadas were excluded from the Americas by the Consejo de Indias. After 1775, Carlos III of Spain gave permission to all Spaniards to colonize any part of the Spanish lands in the Americas. Emigrants from Spain left records documenting their migration in the port of departure as well as in the country they moved to.

Emigration Records of the Colonial Period (1492–1810)

The Archivo General de Indias in Seville, Spain, is the repository for Spanish documents dealing with the Spanish colonial period in the Americas (see the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline). You may want to look for your ancestor’s records in the following sections of the archive:

- Informaciones de Méritos y Servicios de los Descubridores/Conquistadores (Information on Merits and Services of the Discoverers and Conquerors). This contains documents of the ships and passengers who sailed to the colonies during the early 1500s.

- Casa de Contratación de las Indias (House of Contracts of the Indies). This is an excellent documentation of passenger lists for ships sailing to the American colonies between 1509 and 1701, as well as petitions and licenses for permission to emigrate during the period 1534 to 1790.

The following book may also be helpful:

Catálogo de Pasajeros a las Indias durante los Siglos XVI, XVII, y XVIII (Catalog of Passengers to the Indies during the 16th, 17th, and 18th Centuries. Sevilla, Spain: s.n., 1940–. (FHL book 946 W2sa; FHL films 0277577–8.)
**Emigration Records beginning in the Mid-1800s**

Ship arrivals and passenger lists provide the best documentation of immigrants who came to South America after the middle of the 19th century. These records are housed in the national archives of each of the countries in South America. For information about archives, see the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline.

Another important source of information for immigrant ancestors are the emigration records that may exist from the port city of departure.

During the early period, most Spanish emigrants left through the ports of Sevilla, Cádiz, Sanlúcar de Barrameda, and Málaga in southern Spain. These records were housed in the cities of Cádiz and Sevilla. Later the ports of San Sebastián, Bilbao, Santander, and La Coruña in northern Spain were added as departure cities not only for Spaniards but also for other Europeans. These emigrants almost always traveled first to Islas Canarias (the Canary Islands) where they resided for a short time before continuing on to the Americas. Registers of these emigrants were kept in Cádiz and Sevilla. These records are currently housed in the Archivo General de Indias in Sevilla.

The records of departures from these ports are called passenger lists. The information contained in these lists varies over time but usually includes the name of the emigrant, age, occupation, and destination. In addition, names of other family members, last town of residence, and birthplace may be given.

Emigration to South America slowed drastically between 1790–1825 due to wars of independence in the Latin American colonies. Toward 1840 and beyond, emigration from Europe to Latin America increased as people left Europe seeking religious, economic, or political freedom.

**Other Records of Departure**

People desiring to emigrate from Spain or those migrating within the colonies in South America were required to register at the time of departure. Some of these records can be found under:

- Permissions to emigrate
- Probates of relatives who stayed
- Court records
- Church records (annotations)
- Passports

These records are not available at the Family History Library but may be found at the national archives of the departure country.

**Records of Immigrants to Chile**

Sometimes the best sources for information about your immigrant ancestor are found in the country he or she immigrated to. These sources sometimes provide the town of origin and other information.

Most emigrants to Chile arrived at the port of Valparaíso. Although the Family History Library has not obtained many records of immigrant arrivals in Chile, some passenger lists from 1825–1900 may be found in the National Library (Biblioteca Nacional) in Santiago. Passports from 1873–1974 are found in the national archives under the Miscellaneous Records (fondos varios) section.

**Records at the Family History Library**

The Family History Library has some microfilm copies and books relating to emigration records. The film or call number of these records is listed in the “Locality” section of the Family History Library Catalog.

For records of emigration from Spain, Chile, and other countries in South America, look under:

- SPAIN - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION
- CHILE - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION
- [COUNTRY] - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

For records of emigration and immigration within Latin American countries, look under:

- COUNTRY, [PROVINCE], [CITY] - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

See also records under the heading “Colonization,” for example:

- CHILE - COLONIZATION
Most of those who emigrated from European countries other than Spain travelled through the ports of Hamburg, LeHavre, Liverpool, Naples, Rotterdam, and Trieste. The records of Hamburg and some other European ports have been microfilmed and are available in the collection of the Family History Library. (See the Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850–1934 [34047].)

Other sources of emigration information are described under “Records of Immigrants to Chile” and “Finding the Emigrant’s Town of Origin” in this section. The “Minorities” section of this outline may also be helpful.

**ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND DICTIONARIES**

Encyclopedias provide information on all branches of knowledge or treat a specific topic comprehensively, usually in articles arranged alphabetically. They often contain information of great interest for genealogical research. They can include articles about towns and places, prominent people, minorities, and religions. They can also give information about diverse topics such as record-keeping practices, laws, customs, commerce, costumes, occupations, and archaic terminology. The following encyclopedias and encyclopedic reference books may be particularly helpful in your research:


Encyclopedias are listed in the “Locality” section of the Family History Library Catalog under: CHILE - ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND DICTIONARIES

For information on language dictionaries, see the “Language and Languages” section of this outline.

**GAZETTEERS**

A gazetteer is a dictionary of place-names. Gazetteers describe towns and villages; parishes and provinces; sizes of population; and rivers, mountains, and other geographical features. They usually include only the names of places as they existed at the time the gazetteer was published. The place-names are generally listed in alphabetical order, similar to a dictionary.

Gazetteers may also provide additional information about towns, such as:

- Religious denominations
- Schools, colleges, and universities
- Major manufacturing works, canals, docks, and railroad stations

You can use a gazetteer to locate the places where your family lived and to determine the civil and church jurisdictions over those places. The following is an entry from a gazetteer:

*Vallenar. c. en la III Región (Atacama), cap. de la prov. de Huasco.* (Vallenar - town in the 3rd region [Atacama], capital of the province of Huasco)

There may be many places in a particular country with the same or similar name. You will need to use a gazetteer to identify the specific town where your ancestor lived, the governmental district it was in, and the jurisdictions where records were kept. Gazetteers are also helpful for determining province jurisdictions as used in the Family History Library Catalog.

If you need to find the name of a Catholic parish, consult a church directory (see the “Church Directories” section of this outline).

**Finding Place-Names in the Family History Library Catalog**

Place-names in the Family History Library Catalog are listed under the modern names, provinces, or departments. To find the province or other division that a town is filed under in the Family History Library Catalog, you can use the “see” references.
on the first Family History Library Catalog Locality microfiche of each state. If you are using the catalog on compact disc, use the “Locality Browse” search. The computer will find places with that name.

Because of the many changes in place-names, the Family History Library uses one gazetteer from each country as the standard guide for listing places in the Family History Library Catalog. Regardless of the names a place may have had at various times, all places are listed in the Family History Library Catalog by the name they are listed under in the gazetteer chosen as the locality authority for that country. The locality authority used for Chile is:

Fox, Steven J. Comunas y circunscripciones de Chile (Municipalities and Circumscriptions of Chile). Salt Lake City: S. J. Fox, 1979. (FHL book 983 E2c.) This lists the names of places as they were in the year 1970.

Other supporting sources are:

Asta-Buruaga y Cienfuegos, Francisco Solano. Diccionario geográfico de la República de Chile (Geographical Dictionary of the Republic of Chile). Santiago, Chile: s.n., 1899. (FHL book 983 E5ab 1899; film 0496805.)


Gazetteers and geographical name information can be found under:

CHILE - GAZETTEERS
CHILE - NAMES, GEOGRAPHICAL
CHILE - DESCRIPTION AND TRAVEL

Modern Place-Names

For some research purposes, such as correspondence, it is useful to learn modern jurisdictions for the area where your ancestors lived. This may also be helpful when finding the ancestral town on modern maps. Modern gazetteers can be found at most large libraries and archives.

Historical Place-Names

Because names and boundaries of some places have changed or no longer exist, you may need to use sources that describe places as they were known earlier. These sources are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

CHILE - HISTORY
CHILE - HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY
CHILE - GAZETTEERS

A history book that identifies places of Chile is:

Thayer Ojeda, Tomás. Las antiguas ciudades de Chile: apuntes históricos sobre su desarrollo i [i.e. y] listas de los funcionarios que actuaron en ellas hasta el año 1565 (The Ancient Cities of Chile, Historical Notes on Their Development and Lists of the Officials Who Governed Them until 1565.) Santiago, Chile: Imprenta Cervantes, 1911. (FHL book 983 H2to; film 1162489.)

A historical atlas that identifies early places of Chile is:


A historical gazetteer that identifies places of Chile and the world is:


GENEALOGY

The term genealogy is used in this outline and in the Family History Library Catalog to describe a variety of records containing family information gathered by individuals, other researchers, societies, or archives. These records may include pedigree charts, compiled information on families, correspondence, ancestor lists, research exchange files, record abstracts, and collections of original or copied documents. These can be excellent sources of information that can save you valuable time. Because they are compiled from other sources of information, they must be carefully evaluated for accuracy.

Additional sources of genealogy for noble families in Chile are described in the “Nobility” section of this outline.
Major Collections and Databases

The Family History Library has several sources that contain previous research or can lead you to others who are interested in sharing family information. These sources include:

- **International Genealogical Index.** The index provides names and vital information for thousands of deceased persons who lived in South America. This valuable research tool lists birth, christening, or marriage dates, as well as Latter-day Saint temple ordinance information. This index includes names extracted from parish registers by volunteers and names submitted by other researchers.

  The International Genealogical Index is available on microfiche, on compact disc as part of FamilySearch, and on the Internet.

- **Ancestral File.** This file, part of FamilySearch, contains family history information linked in family groups and pedigrees that have been contributed since 1979. You can print pedigree charts, family group records, and individual summary sheets for any person in the file. Very few South American families are currently listed in this file.

- **Family Group Records Collection.** More than 8 million family group records have been microfilmed in the Family Group Records Collection, but very few are from South America. There are two major sections: the Archive Section and the Patrons Section. The film numbers for both sections are listed in the “Author/Title” section of the Family History Library Catalog under family group records collection.

Family Histories

Some Chilean families have produced family histories that may include genealogical information, biographies, photographs, and other excellent information. These usually include several generations of the family.

The Family History Library has a few published family histories from Chile. Copies at the Family History Library are listed in the surname section of the Family History Library Catalog. Not every name found in a family history will be listed in the Family History Library Catalog. Only the major surnames discussed in the family history are included in the catalog. One example would be:


There are also unpublished family histories found in private collections. These include a variety of unpublished records pertaining to specific families. Such materials are generally inaccessible for research unless you can establish contact with the person who owns the materials.

For an index to more than 2,000 published Latin American family histories, see:


Genealogical Collections

The Family History Library has very few collections of genealogical material for Chile. The collection does include published and unpublished collections of family histories and lineages, as well as the research files of prominent genealogists. Examples of compiled genealogies of families from specific regions or all of Chile are:


Genealogical collections are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

- CHILE - GENEALOGY
- CHILE, [PROVINCE] - GENEALOGY
- CHILE, [PROVINCE], [CITY] - GENEALOGY

If you find your surname in any of the sources described in this section, determine whether the entry actually pertains to your family. All persons with the same surname are not necessarily related. Often, you will have to do some additional research before you can connect your ancestry to families listed in these sources.

**HERALDRY**

Spanish *hidalgos* (or *hijosdalgos*), meaning “sons of status,” were untitled nobles by lineage. The Iberian nobility originated during the time of the Spanish reconquest of the peninsula from the Moors (about A.D. 700–1492). Those who were leaders or who were especially valiant in the early days of the campaign were awarded hidalgo status. Many original hidalgos came from the northern Spanish provinces of Guipúzcoa and Vizcaya.

In later generations, in order to prove nobility (*hidalguía*), individuals needed to show their noble lineage back to their great-grandparents. The status of hidalgo did not necessarily mean wealth. In fact, some hidalgos were laborers and shopkeepers. However, hidalgos were entitled to the inherent social and legal rights of the nobility.

In Spain, only the noble class was entitled to bear coats of arms. The kings rewarded persons who performed a heroic deed, made a notable achievement, or held a prominent position in government by granting them a noble title and the right to use a coat of arms. These grants were documented and may include:

- **Census records** (*censos*). Censuses were often compiled to determine who was exempt from commoners’ tax and military conscription, two benefits of hidalgo status. These census records are generally available in local city halls.

- **Genealogical reports** (*informaciones genealógicas*) and purity of blood reports (*limpiezas de sangre*). These reports served as proof of nobility so that the hidalgo might join a noble fraternal order or obtain a government position. These reports are available in local municipal archives in Spain and Portugal, as well as in archives in major Latin American colonial capitals. For information about how to contact these archives, see the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline.

Most national archives in Spain have records relating to hidalgos. The archives of the Chancillería de Valladolid in Valladolid, and the Chancillería de Ciudad Real in Granada, have special sections for court records of hidalgos. Hidalgos customarily went before royal chancery courts to establish their nobility. The hidalgo section of the archive in Valladolid is indexed in:


Various authors in Spain have prepared books on heraldry. An armorial is a collection of descriptions of coats of arms and the families that bear them. It also briefly describes their entitlement to that coat of arms. It may also note early bearers of a coat of arms, sometimes with relationships, birth dates, and other genealogical information. Each armorial will differ from others and will include different names. Some minor noble families are not included in any books.

An article on heraldry in Chile is:


Heraldic materials are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:
CHILE - HERALDRY
[COUNTRY] - HERALDRY

Sources with information about noble ancestors are listed under:

[COUNTRY] - NOBILITY

In addition, noble families are often subjects of published genealogical books or articles. (See the “Genealogy” and “Nobility” sections of this outline for more information.)

HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY

Spain instituted a viceroyalty system to govern its possessions in the New World. During the nearly three centuries of the colonial period, legal records and documents were subject to the jurisdiction of the appropriate vicerealties.

The following vicerealties functioned in Latin America during the following time periods:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Viceroyalties of Latin America</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1509–1526</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1534–1821</td>
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<tr>
<td>1543–1821</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1717–1724, 1740–1819</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1776–1810</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The vicerealties were subdivided into legislative divisions called *audiencias*. These audiencias supervised local courts, applied Spanish law, and established a legal tradition that has persisted in Hispanic America. The jurisdictions of the audiencias formed the basic territories of the Latin American republics once they gained independence from Spain.

The following list indicates the years in which audiencias were established under the viceroyalty for Perú, which included Chile:

- Cuzco—1787
- Lima—1542
- Santiago—1609

During the 19th century, international conflicts and border disputes altered many political jurisdictions in South America. These changes affected the subsequent registration of the local population.

Chile acquired the mineral-rich Atacama Desert when it prevailed in the 1879–1883 War of the Pacific against Peru and Bolivia. The acquisition extended Chile’s northern border and completely cut off Bolivia’s access to the sea. The border with Argentina on the southern part (Patagonia) was not established until 1902.

The country of Chile included 25 provinces and 88 departments. In 1919 the departments were divided into 901 subdelegations and 3,228 municipal districts. In 1970 there were 520 municipalities under the jurisdiction of the departments.

You may need to determine previous boundaries and jurisdictions to locate your ancestors’ records. Gazetteers and histories are helpful sources of information about these changes.

The following book explains more about the historical geography of South America. You can find this and similar materials at the Family History Library and many other research libraries.


Other sources about boundary changes are found in the Family History Library Catalog under:

- CHILE - HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY
- CHILE - HISTORY
- CHILE, [PROVINCE] - HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY
- CHILE, [PROVINCE] - HISTORY

HISTORY
Effective family research requires some understanding of the historical events that may have affected your family and the records about them. Learning about wars, governments, laws, migrations, and religious trends may help you understand political boundaries, family movements, and settlement patterns. These events may have led to the creation of records such as land and military documents that mention your family.

Your ancestors’ history will become more interesting to you if you also use local histories to learn about the events in which they may have participated. For example, by using a local history you might learn about the community and environment in which they lived or the events that occurred in the year your great-grandparents were married. Even if your direct ancestor is not listed in a local history, information about other relatives may be included that can provide important clues for locating your ancestor.

A local history may also give clues for other records to search. Most state and town histories also include biographical information.

**Historical Chronology of Chile**

The chart below lists some key dates and events in the history of Chile and South America that have affected settlement patterns and family history.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1520</td>
<td>Ferdinand Magellan was the first European to sight Chilean shores.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1536</td>
<td>Chile was claimed as part of the Spanish Empire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1540</td>
<td>Pedro de Valdivia led a group of men into Chile. He founded Santiago in 1541.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1561–1810</td>
<td>Chile was part of the Viceroyalty of Peru.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1593</td>
<td>The first Jesuits arrived in Chile. They were an important element in Chilean education and culture until they were expelled from Chile in 1767.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1810–1814, 1817–1818</td>
<td>Chile obtained independence from Spain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1823–1839</td>
<td>The Federation of Central America was formed, headquartered in Guatemala. Each of the new republics left the federation by 1839.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870–1920</td>
<td>Millions of immigrants from Europe and Asia settled in Latin America, including Chile, and influenced local culture and ethnic composition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1879–1883</td>
<td>Chile waged the War of the Pacific against Bolivia and Peru. Chile gained the mineral-rich Atacama Desert region and occupied Lima for a few years. Bolivia lost access to the Pacific Ocean.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1883</td>
<td>The Mapuche Indians were subdued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>A new constitution reestablished presidential rule, separation of church and state, and embodied social justice codes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Family History Library has some published histories for Chile. You can find histories in the Family History Library Catalog under one of the following:

- CHILE - HISTORY
- CHILE, [PROVINCE] - HISTORY
- CHILE, [PROVINCE], [CITY] - HISTORY

The following are only a few of the many historical sources that are available for Chile. Some may be found in major research libraries.


Local Histories

Some of the most valuable sources for family history research are local histories. They describe the settlement of the area and the founding of churches, schools, and businesses. You can also find lists of early settlers, soldiers, and civil officials. Even if your ancestor is not listed, information on other relatives may be included that will provide important clues for locating the ancestor. A local history may also give clues for finding other records to search.

Published histories of towns and provinces often contain histories of families. Some province and town histories include separate sections or volumes containing biographical information.

In addition, you should study local histories for the background information they can provide about your family’s lifestyle, community, and environment.

For some localities there may be more than one history; carefully search for available histories of your ancestor’s locality.

The Family History Library does not have many local histories for Chile. Local histories are often available at major public and university libraries and archives.

Calendar Changes

The Gregorian calendar, the calendar in common use today, is a correction of the Julian calendar, which had been used since A.D. 46. Leap years had been miscalculated in the Julian calendar. By 1582, the calendar was 10 days behind the solar year.

In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII issued a papal bull, modifying the calendar to correct the problem. He declared that the day following the fourth of October in 1582 would become the fifteenth of October. Other adjustments were made in the calendar to prevent future leap year miscalculations.

Spain adopted the new system in 1582, and the Spanish territories in the New World rapidly followed Spain’s example.

LAND AND PROPERTY

Land records (tierras y propiedades) are primarily used to learn where an individual lived and when he or she lived there. They often reveal other family information, such as the name of a spouse, heir, other relatives, or neighbors. You may learn where a person lived previously, his or her occupation, and other clues for further research.

The Family History Library does not currently have land records from Chile. Because of the availability of better genealogical sources, such as church records and civil registration, land records are seldom used in Chilean research. Land records from 1550 are found in notarial, church, and municipal records at the Archivo National in Santiago, Chile, and the Archivo General de la Nación in Lima, Peru. (See the “Notarial Records” section of this outline.)

LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES

Most materials used in Chilean research are written in Spanish. However, many other languages are spoken in Chile because some European immigrant groups preserved their native languages and cultures after settling in Chile. You may also find some early Roman Catholic Church records written in Latin.

Because of the many languages used in creating records, the way your ancestor’s name is recorded may vary from record to record. For help in understanding Spanish name variations specifically, see the “Names, Personal” section of this outline.

Language Aids

Although you do not need to speak Spanish to do research in Chilean records, you do need some knowledge of the language to read the records.

The Family History Library has genealogical word lists for Spanish (34104), German (34067), Latin
(34077), Polish (34098), Portuguese (34099), and French (34060).

The following English-Spanish dictionary can also aid you in your research. You can find these and similar materials at many research libraries.


Additional language aids, including dictionaries of various dialects and time periods, are listed in the Family History Library Catalog in the “Locality” section under:

**CHILE - LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES**

Some can also be found in the “Subject” section under:

**SPANISH LANGUAGE - DICTIONARIES**  
**SPANISH LANGUAGE - DICTIONARIES - ENGLISH**

**MAPS**

Maps are an important source for locating the places where your ancestors lived. They help you see the neighboring towns and geographic features of the area your ancestor came from.

Maps show places, proximity to other towns, transportation routes, parishes or churches, and geographical features. Historical maps are especially useful for understanding boundary changes.

Maps are published individually or as part of an atlas, a bound collection of maps. Maps may also be included in gazetteers, guidebooks, local histories, and history texts.

Different types of maps will help you in different ways. Historical atlases describe the growth and development of countries. They show boundaries, migration routes, settlement patterns, military campaigns, and other historical information. Road atlases are useful because of the detail they provide about the country you are searching. They also usually include an alphabetical index to town names.

**Using Maps**

Maps must be used carefully for several reasons:

- There could be more than one place with the same name.
- The names and spelling of some towns may have changed since your ancestors lived there.
- Place-names are often misspelled in foreign sources. Difficult names may have been shortened and important diacritic marks omitted.
- Political boundaries are not clearly indicated on all maps.

**Finding the Specific Town on the Map**

To do successful research in Chile, you must identify the town where your ancestor lived. Because more than one town may have the same name, you may need additional information before you can locate the correct town on a map. You will be more successful if you have some information about the town. Search gazetteers, histories, family records, and other sources to learn all you can about the following:

- The governmental jurisdiction your ancestor’s town was in.
- The province your ancestor came from.
- Name of the parish where your ancestor was baptized or married.
- Towns where related ancestors lived.
- The size of the town.
- The occupation of your ancestor or his or her relatives (this may indicate the size or industries of the town).
- Nearby localities, such as large cities.
- Nearby features, such as rivers and mountains.
- Industries of the area.
- Dates when the town was renamed.
- Dates the town existed.
- Other names the town was known by.

Use gazetteers to identify the governmental jurisdiction your ancestor’s town was in. This will distinguish it from other towns of the same name, and help you locate it on a map. (See the “Gazetteers” section of this outline.)

**Finding Maps and Atlases**

Collections of maps and atlases are available at numerous historical societies and at public and university libraries.
The Family History Library has a small collection of Chilean maps and atlases. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

CHILE - MAPS

A helpful map at the Family History Library is:

Chile. Scale 1:50,000. 1a. ed. Santiago, Chile: Instituto Geográfico Militar, 1970. (FHL map case 983 E7c.)

A helpful atlas for Chile is:


An excellent national historical atlas is:


You can purchase maps or atlases of Chile from:

Instituto Geográfico Militar de Chile
Dieciocho N° 369
Santiago
Chile
Tel: +56 4606800
Fax: +56 4608294
E-mail: planificacion@igm.cl
Internet: http://www.igm.cl/

Other maps from around the world can be found on the Internet at:

http://www.maps.com

MILITARY RECORDS

Military records give information about an ancestor’s military career, such as promotions, places served, pensions, and conduct. In addition, these records usually include information about age, birthplace, residence, occupation, physical description, and family members. However, many military records in Chile provide very few details about individuals other than officers.

The records you may find include:

- Muster rolls
- Personnel files
- Regimental account books
- Letters of deportment
- Lists of officers
- Pay vouchers or records
- Pension records
- Records of leave
- Naval records
- Descriptive rolls

Records of military service in Chile were kept by the government. These records are found in the Chilean national archives.

Military records include genealogical information, but other sources, such as church records and civil registration records, are more easily available and contain much of the same information. The Family History Library has not microfilmed many military records for Chile. You can find military records in the Family History Library Catalog under:

CHILE - MILITARY RECORDS
SPAIN - MILITARY RECORDS

Original military records of Chile are found in the National Archives in Santiago and in the Military, Historical, and Provincial Archives of Chile, Argentina, and Peru.

Military History

In order to keep the Spanish governors in power, maintain order, and protect settlers from Indians, Spain maintained a military presence in Chile during occupation. Dates of important military actions in which Chileans were involved include:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1540</td>
<td>Spain’s occupation of the country began with the second expedition from Peru into Chile. Santiago was founded in 1541. Armed forces were needed continually to protect the settlements from marauding Indians.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1817–1822</td>
<td>The military expedition of Argentine general José de San Martin, which liberated Chile and Peru from Spanish domination, included a large number of Chileans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1836–1839</td>
<td>Chile fought a three-year war with Peru. Chile prevailed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1859–1861</td>
<td>During the Araucanian Rebellion, Mapuches Indians resisted Chilean settlement encroachments, and the first reservations were created.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1864–1866</td>
<td>Chile fought a war with Spain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1879–1883</td>
<td>After defeating Peru and Bolivia in the War of the Pacific, Chile annexed the provinces of Arica and Tarapacá from Peru, and Antofagasta from Bolivia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880–1883</td>
<td>The Mapuches Indians’ stronghold near Villarica fell after the last Indian revolt in 1880. A definitive treaty was signed in 1883.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1886–1912</td>
<td>The army was professionalized with strong German influence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924–1932</td>
<td>The military became involved in politics, and at times ruled by a military junta.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chile was involved in many military actions against Peru and Bolivia. For more historical information about the Chilean wars, use:


Additional military histories are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPAIN - MILITARY HISTORY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILE - MILITARY HISTORY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILE - HISTORY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINORITIES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chile has many ethnic minorities, including Jews, Germans, Swiss, French, Italians, English, Irish, Yugoslavs, and Lebanese. It’s important to learn the history of the ethnic, racial, and religious groups your ancestors belonged to. This background information can help you identify where your ancestors lived, when they lived there, where they migrated, the types of records they might be listed in, and other information to help you understand your family’s history.

For some minorities in Chile, there are unique records and resources available. These include histories, biographical sources, records of settlement patterns, and cemetery records. In some cities there are cemeteries exclusively for non-Catholic minorities. These are called Cementerio de Disidentes (Cemeteries of Dissidents), such as in the Cerro Cárcel in Valparaíso, or the specific sectors for non-Catholics at the Cementerio General de Santiago (General Cemetery of Santiago).

Soon after independence, the new government began encouraging European colonization. In 1824 the government offered special incentives of free land and tax exemptions to foreigners who would establish factories in Chile. In 1845 an official colonization agency was established in Europe for attracting colonists to southern Chile. At first, Chilean officials insisted that immigrants be Catholic, but soon relented on that restriction.

Following is a short description of some of the main minority groups that have settled in Chile.

**Basques**

The first influential minority group in Chile was Basques from the Pyrenees region of Spain. They came to Chile after the initial Spanish settlement. By 1830 Basques were active in all areas of the economy. Together with many English, Irish, and Scotch businessmen and traders, Basques became
prosperous and married Chilean women, forming the center of a social elite.

**Germans**

Germans came with the first Spaniards to Chile. Barolomäus Blümlein, who founded the city of Viña del Mar, was one of these. A number of Germans also came as Jesuits in the 18th century. Large numbers of Germans came to Chile after the mid-19th century. They settled in the southern lake district of Osorno, Valdivia, and Puerto Montt and engaged in farming and in education. They created German schools, which remain prevalent today. After the Prussian victory over France in 1870–1871, Germany had a strong influence over Chile, especially in the army and education.

By 1907 the German population lived in all parts of Chile, with greatest concentration in the southern provinces of Cautín, Valdivia, and Llanquihue. Many Germans received free passage, land grants, and maintenance for one year, which was repaid over the following five years. The German population in Chile in 1907 was estimated at 30,000.

**Jews**

Two groups of Jews came to Latin America: the Sephardic Jews, descendants of Spanish and Portuguese Jews who left the Iberian Peninsula to escape the Inquisition, and the Ashkenazic Jews from central Europe. The latter group arrived in South America in the late 1930s and early 1940s, settling in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, and Chile. Most Jews arrived in Chile between 1934–1946, half being from Eastern Europe, 40 percent from Germany, and 10 percent were Sephardic Jews. Many Chilean Jews fled Chile in 1970 after the election of socialist Salvador Allende Gossens as president. There were about 25,000 Jews in Chile in the 1960s, concentrated in the large cities, particularly Santiago.

**Italians**

Most Italian immigrants settled in the central region of Chile and worked as masons, carpenters, and skilled laborers. Some were successful in commercial activities while others worked in law, medicine, and government.

**Locating Records of Minorities**

The Family History Library collects records of minority groups, especially published histories. These are listed in the “Locality” section of the Family History Library Catalog under:

- **CHILE - MINORITIES**
- **GERMANS - CHILE**
- **JEWS - CHILE**
- **ITALIANS - CHILE**

Examples of these types of sources include:

Held Winkler, Emilio. *Documentos sobre la colonización del sur de Chile . . . 1840-1875* (Documentation about the Colonization of Southern Chile . . . 1840-1875). Chile: s.n., 1980. (FHL film 1609199 item 9.)


Sources for German minorities also include emigration and passenger list information:

Held Winkler, Emilio. *Documentos sobre la colonización del sur de Chile . . . 1840-1875*. (Documents about the Colonization of Southern Chile . . . 1840-1875). (FHL film 1609199 item 9.) Transcripts of passenger lists of German immigrants to Chile between 1840–1875.

*Kartei der Auswanderer nach Chile und Mexiko, 1830–1945* (Index to Emigrants to Chile and
The Family History Library also has several books about Chileans in other countries. For example, there are three books about Chileans in California during the Gold Rush. These and similar books are listed in the “Locality” section of the Family History Library Catalog under:[COUNTRY] - MINORITIES

and in the “Subject” section of the catalog under:

CHILEANS - [COUNTRY]

Local and national societies have been organized in the United States and other countries to gather, preserve, and share the cultural contributions and histories of minority groups. Some may be found for Chileans in other countries. (See the "Societies" section of this outline for more information.)

**NAMES, PERSONAL**

Understanding surnames and given names can help you find and identify your ancestors in the records.

**Surnames**

Before record keeping began, most people had only one name, such as Juan. Until the tenth century, common people did not use a surname. As the population increased, however, it became necessary to distinguish between individuals with the same name. Additionally, the Council of Trent (1545–1563) made it mandatory to keep parish records that would list names of the child, parents, and godparents, which required distinguishing relationships between family members. The problem was usually solved by adding descriptive information.

In 1568, Phillip II decreed that the Moors should abandon their names and adopt Spanish names. Thus, some Moorish names such as Ben-egas became Venegas. The French practice of placing de before a name as a mark of nobility was also used in Spain, but it was only a preposition of origin (of or from) used before a geographic name. From long usage, names such as Del Monte became Delmonte, La Villa became Lavilla.

Surnames were first used by the nobility and wealthy landowners. Later the custom was followed by merchants and townspeople and eventually by the rural population. This process took two or three centuries.

In Spain, the name system was well established by the 1100s, and the naming customs of Spain became the basis for other Spanish-speaking countries. The four influences that played a part in the development of Spanish surnames were patronymical terms, occupational terms, descriptive or nickname terms, and geographical terms (estates, manors, or dominions). Examples of these influences are:

- Patronymic names (based on a parent’s name, usually the father’s name) such as Juan Martinez (Juan, son of Martín) or Juan Domínguez (Juan, son of Domingo)
- Occupational names (based on the person’s trade) such as José Herrera (José the Blacksmith) or Juan El Molinero (Juan the Miller)
- Descriptive names or nicknames (based on a unique quality of the person) such as Domingo Calvo (Domingo the Bald-Headed) or Juan El Moreno (Juan the Dark)
- Toponymic names (based on a person’s residence) such as Domingo del Río (Domingo from near a river) or Juan de Córdova (Juan from the city of Córdoba)

At first, surnames applied only to one person and not to the whole family. After a few generations, these names became hereditary and were used from father to son.

It is not possible to determine the exact year or even the century when a particular family name was taken. By the end of the thirteenth century, many families determined to retain the patronymic name without continuing to change the name from generation to generation. Thus, the hereditary apellidos (surnames) were in use in Spain by the time of the discovery of the New World.

In Chile, many surnames of Spanish origin were given to the native Indian children when the priests baptized them. Others were simply baptized Juan,
José, María, and so on, and later descendants obtained a surname.

Typical surnames from various regions in Spain include Fernández and Morales (Castilian), Ibáñez and Vásquez (Basque), Brétema and Seoane (Galician), Coelho and Ferreira (Portuguese), and Ventura and Gralla (Catalan).

The following suffixes show that the surname had a patronymic origin: -az, -ez, -iz, -oz, and -uz. There is a problem in that the scribes and priest often spelled the patronymic surnames with s instead of the z, and the plural surname ending in s they changed to a z. Therefore, the plural forms of surnames may be confused with the patronymic surname. Examples of plural names include Torres and Flores.

Spanish priests would often assign Indian family names as surnames.

Another distinctive practice of the Spanish naming system was the double and compound surnames. The person would be known by his paternal and maternal surnames. Compound surnames (apellidos compuestos) can be found with or without a y, a hyphen, or a preposition (de, del, or de la). Examples are: María García Fernández de León and José Juan Ríos-Prado y Rodríguez. While most present day names are taken from the surnames of the parents, historically the surnames might be those of the more prominent family and even those from grandparents.

Before the last 150 years, women did not take their husband’s surname. Now, in biographies, histories, and in social life, a woman who married a Martínez would attach her married surname (apellido de casada) de Martínez to her maiden name or paternal surname (apellido de soltera) and would drop her mother’s surname. If she was widowed, she would become Viuda (widow) de Martínez. Thus, a woman named María Josefa Torres Sepúlveda would become María Josefa Torres de Martínez on marrying, and would become María Josefa Torres vda. de Martínez as a widow. However, in the Catholic records, public records, legal records and especially the civil records, the maiden name of a woman is always used.

In telephone directories a person named Alonso Manuel de la Vega Martínez may be listed as VEGA MARTÍNEZ, Alonso Manuel de la, and the same person on announcements or business cards could be listed as Alonso Manuel de la Vega M. A widow named Ofelia Castillo vda. de León could be listed as LEÓN, Ofelia Castillo vda. de.

The following books are helpful for understanding naming practices:


### Given Names

In Chile, many given names are usually derived from biblical names, such as José (Joseph, husband of Mary) or from the names of a saint, such as Bartolomé (Bartholomew). Some Spanish people used compound given names (nombres compuestos) such as María del Socorro.

When baptized, children were usually given one or more given names. One of these might be the name of the Saint Day from the day of baptism. The first name, or baptismal name (nombre de pila), may not have been used in the child’s life. In Chile, the child was usually called by the second or third name given at baptism; this is especially true if the first name was María or José.

Many books are available that discuss names in Chile. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog “Locality” section under: CHILE - NAMES, PERSONAL. [COUNTRY] - NAMES, PERSONAL

And in the “Subject” section of the catalog under: NAMES, PERSONAL - SPANISH

Some of the books that provide meanings for given names are:

Moesbach, Ernesto Wilhelm de. *Los huilliches a través de sus apellidos: estudio etimológico de los patronímicos aborígenes sureños* (The Huilliches through Their Surnames: An Etymological Study of the Patronymic [Names]
NOBILITY

If your research in the original records of Chile indicates that your ancestor was of the noble class, there are additional records that will be helpful in your research.

The kings rewarded persons who performed a heroic deed, made a notable achievement, or held a prominent position in government by granting them a noble title. These grants were documented. Because of frequent false claims to nobility, families had to legitimize their nobility by providing documented proof. Grants of nobility and nobility legitimizations may be found at the national archives or libraries.

Although some original records, such as the grant of nobility, are still in existence, you can accomplish most nobility research in secondary sources. These include published or manuscript genealogies of noble families. The noble class has been anxious to preserve their identity. This has led to the publication of histories of some noble lines of Chile. Numerous publications are available to help you trace a noble family. Some of the most important are:

Mujica de la Fuente, Juan. Linajes españoles: nobleza colonial de Chile (Spanish Lineage: Colonial Nobility of Chile). Santiago, Chile: Editorial Zamorano y Caperan, 1927. (FHL book 983 D5m; film 0908525.)


The “Heraldry” and “Genealogy” sections of this outline can help you locate other materials about ancestors who may have been part of the noble class. The Family History Library has collected some records of noble families. These records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

SPAIN - NOBILITY
CHILE, NOBILITY
CHILE, [PROVINCE] - NOBILITY
CHILE, [PROVINCE], [CITY] - NOBILITY

NOTARIAL RECORDS

Notary records are any records that were recorded and verified by a civil notary (escribano) or an ecclesiastical notary (notario). Both of these notaries recorded a great variety of legal documents. They functioned in the civil courts, criminal courts, government, ecclesiastic, and private areas. There were royal scribes (escribanos reales) and recorders in all levels of government.

A notary creates documents needed for everyday business, provides the public with the legalization of documents such as wills, and maintains the records he or she creates. By legislation, notaries are designated by names such as Escrivano de Cámara, Secretario de Cámara, and Notario Público.

Notarial books are generally organized chronologically under the notary’s name. Spanish law governed the maintenance of these notarial registers (protocolos or notarios) by establishing forms on which the information was to be entered. With the death of the notary, the documents may remain with the family; be passed on to the notary’s successor; be sent to a local notarial archive in the municipality; or be sent to the provincial, department, or national archives.

Documents prepared by an ecclesiastical notary would be found in church diocesan archives. In doing research, first check the local archives.

Notarial records dating from the early colonial days can contain the following documents:

- Wills (testamentos)
- Contracts (contratos)
- Powers of attorney (poderes)
- Dowry (dotes)
- Inheritance arrangements (sucesiones)
- Inventories of estates (inventarios)
- Sells and purchases (ventas y compras)
- Taxes (impuestos)
- Debts (deudas)
- Guardianship (tutelas)
Notarial records are more difficult to use than other records because of their varied nature, length, and complexity. But they do offer detail and information not available in other sources and may provide important clues about an ancestor’s family, residence, and economic status.

The following publication discusses notarial records in detail:


Notarial records (*notariales*) from Chile are not presently available at the Family History Library. Copies of notarial records from 1550 are at the Nacional Archives in Santiago. Notarial records after 1875 are kept at the *Oficinas del Notario y Conservador de Bienes Raíces* (Offices of the Notary and Preserver of Real Estate) throughout Chile. For a list of notarial records for various towns in Chile, the years covered, and number of volumes located in the National Archives in Santiago, see:


**PERIODICALS**

Societies and organizations in Chile publish genealogical periodicals, usually in Spanish. Much of their content is devoted to compiled genealogies and histories of native families. They also are an excellent place to publish queries or advertisements about your family history research. Some examples are:


**Obtaining Periodicals**

Copies of periodicals are available from the local societies that publish them. Major archives with genealogical collections will have copies of many periodicals, especially those representing the area they serve.

The Family History Library subscribes to numerous periodicals. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog in several ways. If you know the title of a periodical, search the “Author/Title” section of the Family History Library Catalog. To find periodicals in the “Locality” section of the Family History Library Catalog, use the following approaches:

- CHILE - PERIODICALS
- CHILE - GENEALOGY - PERIODICALS
- CHILE - HISTORY - PERIODICALS

In the United States you can also search under:

- [STATE] - [headings as above]

Also see the “Societies” section of this outline for information about how to contact societies.

**PROBATE RECORDS**

The wills (*testamentos*) in notarial records describe the distribution of a person’s estate after his or her death. Information in the records may include the death date, names of heirs and guardians, relationships, residences, an inventory of the estate, and names of witnesses.

Probate records are usually not of practical genealogical value in Chilean research. Other sources such as church records and civil registration cover a larger percentage of the population, and probate records are difficult to access.

The Family History Library does not have copies of the probate records for Chile. These records may still be found in local notarial offices, province and city archives, notarial archives, or municipality courts. (See the “Notarial Records” section of this outline for more information.)

**SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS**
Effective family research requires some understanding of the society in which your ancestor lived. Learning about everyday life, religious practices, customs, and traditions will help you appreciate your ancestor and the time in which he or she lived. This information is particularly helpful if you choose to write a history of your family. Research procedures and genealogical sources are different for each area and time period and are affected by the local customs and traditions.

The Family History Library has collected a few sources that discuss a variety of subjects related to social life and customs in Chile. Many other books of this type can be found in university and public libraries.

A guide to social life and customs in Chile is:


**SOCIETIES**

There are many societies and organizations that may have information of value to your genealogical research. There are a few such societies in Chile and in the country your ancestor immigrated to or emigrated from, especially the United States. You may find it helpful to join one of these societies and support their efforts.

**Genealogical Societies**

There are few genealogical societies that emphasize Latin American research. Most societies publish periodicals, transcripts, and compiled genealogies; and may have special indexes, collections, and projects that can help you locate your ancestors. Some may publish inquiries about Hispanic ancestors, if requested, or maintain a list of members’ research interests. Some specialize in the immigrants to a specific area.

The following societies may be of interest:

- **Hispanic Genealogical Society**
  P. O. Box 231271
  Houston, TX 77223-1271

- Society of Hispanic Historical and Ancestral Research

- **Spanish American Genealogical Association**
  P. O. Box 794
  Corpus Christi, TX 78403-0794
  Tel: 714-894-8161
  Fax: 714-898-7063
  http://shhar.net/

- **The Hispanic Genealogical Society of New York**
  Murray Hill Station
  P.O. Box 818
  New York, NY 10156-0602
  http://www.hispanicgenealogy.com

- **Instituto Chileno de Investigaciones Genealógicas**
  Calle Londres 65, 3er piso
  Santiago, Chile

- **Sociedad Chilena de Historia y Geografía**
  Santiago, Chile

- **Academia Chilena de la Historia**
  Santiago, Chile

The Family History Library has the following book published by a genealogical society in Chile:


**Historical Societies**

Historical societies can provide valuable information. They often collect information about immigrants, and some may have information about specific nationalities. Many societies have special collections of books and manuscript materials that may be difficult to find in libraries and archives. You may be interested in the services, activities, and collections of the following:

- **Instituto Chileno de Investigaciones Genealógicas**
  Calle Londres 65, 3er piso
  Santiago, Chile

- **Sociedad Chilena de Historia y Geografía**
  Santiago, Chile

- **Academia Chilena de la Historia**
  Santiago, Chile
The addresses of over 100 ethnic heritage historical societies in North America are given in:

Smith, Betty P. *Directory, Historical Societies and Agencies in the United States and Canada.*

**Locating Records at the Family History Library**

Records of these societies are usually described in the “Author/Title” section of the Family History Library Catalog under the name of the society. They are also listed in the “Locality” section of the Family History Library Catalog under one of the following:

- CHILE - SOCIETIES
- CHILE, [PROVINCE] - SOCIETIES
- CHILE - GENEALOGY
- CHILE, [PROVINCE] - GENEALOGY

Some records gathered by societies are listed in the “Locality” section of the Family History Library Catalog under the type of record. For example, cemetery transcripts gathered by a local genealogical society are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

- CHILE, [PROVINCE] - CEMETERIES

Lists and guides that describe the collections of societies are listed in the “Locality” section of the Family History Library Catalog under:

- CHILE - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES - INVENTORIES, REGISTERS, CATALOGS
- CHILE, [PROVINCE] - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES - INVENTORIES, REGISTERS, CATALOGS
- CHILE, [PROVINCE], [TOWN] - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES - INVENTORIES, REGISTERS, CATALOGS

**OTHER RECORDS OF CHILE**

Topics listed below can be found in the “Locality” section of the Family History Library Catalog. For example:

- [COUNTRY] - [TOPIC]
- [COUNTRY] - [PROVINCE] - [TOPIC]
- [COUNTRY] - [PROVINCE] - [TOWN] - [TOPIC]

Though not discussed in this outline, the following catalog topics may be useful to your research:

- Bibliography
- Colonization
- Court Records
- Description and Travel
- Folklore
- Handwriting
- Jewish History
- Jewish Records
- Migration, Internal
- Military History
- Native Races
- Naturalization and Citizenship
- Occupations
- Officials and Employees
- Schools

**FOR FURTHER READING**

More detailed information about research and records of Chile can be found in:

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

Publications Coordination
Family History Library
35 N. West Temple Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150
USA

We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

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50 E. North Temple Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3400
USA
Fax: 801-240-2494

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LOCALITY ANALYSIS FOR CHILE

By George R. Ryskamp, JD, AG
BYU Department of History

Locality analysis plays an essential part in determining the objectives for family history research. It should be done as soon as a specific new place of origin or residence is identified, and, of course, must be completed before step two of the records analysis can be completed.

Locality Analysis involves two processes. The first is to locate the exact place or places from which one’s ancestors came and determine the various jurisdictions to which that place belonged. (This is, in effect, an answer to one of the initial questions asked in the People Analysis: Where did the ancestor live?) The second goal of Locality Analysis is to learn as much about that particular place as one can. This includes not only the physical location and the geographical features of the place, but, to better understand the life of the ancestor, also requires a knowledge of its history and physical appearance.

Modern Atlases and Maps


Gazetteers


Geographical Dictionaries

*Diccionario geográfico de la Republica de Chile.* por Francisco Solano Asta-Buruaga y Cienfuegos. Santiago : s.n., 1899. *(FHL film 0496605 item 2) (1867 ed. FHL film 0897024 item 1)*

*Diccionario geográfico de Chile.* Salt Lake City : Filmado por la Sociedad Genealógico de Utah, 1973. *(FHL film 0897925 item 1)*

Historical Atlases, Maps and Materials


Ecclesiastical Directories


Guía eclesiástica de Chile. Santiago: Arzobispado de Santiago de Chile, 1956. (CIDOC Collection no. 21071) (1964 ed. FHL film 1162496 item 10)

Guía eclesiástica y parroquial de Chile. Santiago: Arzobispado de Santiago, 1972. (FHL film 0908643 item 3)


Parroquias de la arquidiócesis de Santiago de Chile en 1929. Santiago, Chile: Imprenta Arturo Prat, 1929. (FHL film 1162481 item 6)

Guía eclesiástica de Chile. Santiago: Estadística de la Acción Católica Chilena, 1944. (CIDOC Collection no. 1649/1)


These are examples available from six major categories of books that can be valuable in completing a locality analysis for this country.

1. Atlases and Maps. Individual atlases that exist for most Hispanic countries can help locate ancestral towns and establish the proximity of ancestral towns to other towns found during the research. Typical of these is one for Mexico, Nuevo Atlas Porrúa de la República Mexicana (Editorial Porrúa: Mexico, D.F., 1980), available in many local libraries. This small volume contains maps of each state, historical maps, ad a general country-wide index, as well as various geographical entity lists. Maps in these should be in a scale of at least 1:250,000.

Another useful geographical tool for the Latin American genealogist will be the Index to the Map of Hispanic America, published by the American Geographical Society. (Washington: 1945). As this is an index to a collection of maps, scale 1:1,000,000, it will generally only be found in a large public or university library. It covers all Latin American countries in good detail.

Also of value for locating especially small hamlets and for recreating geographical details of local life are the United States Army Map Service Select Series and Topographical Maps
produced for all of these countries. Any place, no matter how small, will appear on these
detailed maps (scale 1:50,000). Unfortunately, these maps have no direct index, and locating
places can only be accomplished by using latitude and longitude references in the gazetteers such
as those published by the U.S. Office of Geography. (See the following section on gazetteers).

Maps and atlases are being digitalized for computer storage at an incredible rate. As that process
continues these will become increasingly available on CDROM and on the Internet and World
Wide Web. Currently, for example, the University of Texas at Austin Perry Castaneda Library
Map Collection has placed many atlases and maps from the CIA on the Computer Internet.
Check with the library for the current address and the countries available.

2. Gazetteers. Gazetteers are long lists of place names with a minimal amount of
information to identify and locate each particular place. Since many of these gazetteers list
geographical subdivisions smaller than the parish or municipality, and other features such as
rivers and mountains, they can be of great help when the particular place to be located does not
appear in the atlases or geographical dictionaries available to the researcher. Many countries also
publish postal guides and political divisions guides.

Gazetteers, such as the Untied States Board on Geographical Names Gazetteeer, prepared
by the Office of Geography of the Department of the Interior, are frequently more readily
obtained in the United States than local geographical dictionaries and detailed atlases of Hispanic
countries. The Hispanic countries covered by the U.S. Board on Geographical Names series and
their numbers in that series are:

- Argentina, 103
- Bolivia, 4
- Brazil, 71
- Chile, 6
- Costa Rica, 7
- Cuba, 30
- Dominican Republic, 33
- Ecuador, 36
- El Salvador, 26
- Guatemala
- Honduras, 27
- Mexico, 15
- Nicaragua, 10
- Panama, 110
- Paraguay, 35
- Puerto Rico, 38
- Spain and Andorra, 51
- Spanish Sahara, 108
- Uruguay, 21
- Venezuela, 56

For a number of Hispanic countries there are updated versions of these gazetteers published by
the Defense Mapping Agency (DMA). These are included under each country in the last section
of this chapter. These gazetteers have now been placed by the DMA (in collaboration with the
U.S. Board of Geographic Names on the computer Internet ubder the title GEOnet Names
Server.

3. Geographical dictionaries. These vary in size, from one and two volume dictionaries
to large series containing sixteen to twenty volumes. In the United States, those covering
Hispanic countries are generally found in the Family History Library Catalog or in large public
or university libraries which have map collections. Nearly every country has at least one such
dictionary, although these can vary dramatically in the amount of detail they contain. Some of
the large countries such as Mexico even have state or regional geographic dictionaries. Whether national or regional these are most helpful in locating a particular town, and usually provide a written description of the town, or other geographical unit. These descriptions, as well as individual place name entries, can be used to identify the larger geographical unit (where records would usually be found) to which a smaller unit, whose name is the only one the family remembers, belongs. Figure 7-1, a page from Volume I of the Diccionario geografico de Guatemala, illustrates this principle, showing the caserios of Guatemala. These dictionaries also often provide information in developing the history of the ancestral locality as a background to the family history.

4. Ecclesiastical guides and directories. Many Catholic dioceses, publish directories listing the various parishes, seminaries, and convents which make up the diocese. These directories always include the names of local parishes and the priests who serve there. They also may contain maps and other aids, and interesting and pertinent information about local history, including even local jurisdictional changes. Many of these are available through the LDS Family History Centers and in libraries having the CIDOC Collection of Latin American Church documents on microfilm. For at least four countries, Spain, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Argentina, such guides exist which also indicate at least the beginning date for parish registers in nearly every parish in the country.

5. Historical Atlases, Maps and Materials. In the chart in the last section of this chapter a special category has been created for geographic reference tools that were printed before 1900 but are still widely available or were written to deal with geography during an historical period, most often the colonial period. The use and format of these materials parallels that of their contemporary counterparts described in other sections above.

6. Local histories. As the name implies, these are histories that deal entirely with a particular town or region, found both as books and as articles in periodicals. Scholarly historical journals such as The Americas and Hispanic American Historical Review are particularly valuable. These do not help in locating exact places, but can be extremely valuable in helping to understand the history of that locality, and especially to trace its jurisdictional changes.
FUENTES PRINCIPALES DE REGISTROS GENEALOGICOS EN CHILE

por

LA SOCIEDAD GENEALOGICA

Serie H, No. 4
Edición Español
FUENTES PRINCIPALES DE REGISTROS GENEALÓGICOS EN CHILE

Al identificar a los antepasados, los investigadores genealógicos necesitan las respuestas a cuatro preguntas básicas respecto a las fuentes de registros:

1. ¿Qué tipos de registros existen para ayudar en la identificación de los antepasados?
2. ¿Qué períodos de tiempo abarcan los registros existentes?
3. ¿Qué información genealógica aparece en los registros existentes?
4. ¿Cuál es la disponibilidad de los registros existentes para la investigación?

La gráfica y tabla que se presentan a continuación contienen las respuestas a las preguntas anteriores, en lo que respecta a las fuentes principales de registros genealógicos en Chile. Aparecen las fuentes principales, así como el tipo de registro, período que abarca, tipo de información que se da y disponibilidad de la fuente.

En la Tabla A se pueden localizar a primera vista las fuentes disponibles de registros para algún problema de investigación en determinado siglo.

La Tabla A provee información más detallada acerca de los principales registros disponibles. Por ejemplo, si un problema genealógico se sitúa en el siglo 17, se puede averiguar rápidamente en la Tabla A cuáles son las fuentes disponibles para ese período. Posteriormente, se podrá consultar la Tabla B para obtener una información más completa.
UN AUXILIAR EN LA INVESTIGACION GENEALOGICA EN CHILE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIPO DE REGISTROS</th>
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<td>1. Civil</td>
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<td>2. De Cementerios</td>
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<td>3. Inscripciones de Lápidas</td>
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<td>5. Notariales</td>
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<td>6. Parroquiales</td>
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<td>7. Testamentos</td>
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<td>9. De Tierras y Propiedades</td>
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<td>10. De Diversos Civiles y Criminales</td>
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<td>11. Eclesiásticos Diversos</td>
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<td>14. De Inmigración</td>
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<td>15. Colecciones Genealógicas</td>
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<td>REGISTRO</td>
<td>PERIODO QUE ABARCA</td>
<td>CLASE DE INFORMACION</td>
<td>DISPONIBILIDAD</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. CIVIL</td>
<td>1885 a la fecha</td>
<td>Actas de Nacimiento. Número de la inscripción, fecha; nombres, sexo, fecha y lugar de nacimiento; nombres de los padres, nacionalidad, profesión, lugares de residencia al tiempo de su declaración; nombres del informador, edad, profesión, lugar de residencia, prueba de identidad. NOTA. Hay seis clases de nacimientos registrados en Chile: legítimo, natural, natural reconocido, ilegítimo, ilegítimo reconocido, y no conocido. El padre que quiere reconocer a sus hijos naturales o ilegítimos lo hace y pone una nota marginal al lado de la partida.</td>
<td>Oficinas del Registro Civil en cada uno de los 520 municipios del país (1970); copias de los registros civiles se encuentran en Huerfanos 1570, Santiago, Chile.</td>
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<td>1884 a la fecha</td>
<td>Actas de Matrimonio. Nombres de la pareja que contrae matrimonio, edad, lugares de residencia, a veces lugares de nacimiento; nombres de los padres y testigos; información tocante a los testigos; fecha de matrimonio. NOTA. Noticias legales, de las oficinas del Registro Civil aparecen en los periódicos locales, dando los nombres, edad, estado civil, profesión, lugar de nacimiento y dirección de cada pareja que contrae matrimonio. NOTA. Al tiempo del casamiento una &quot;Libreta de Familia&quot; se da a la pareja que contrae matrimonio. En esta libreta se registra el casamiento y defunción de la pareja y los nacimientos y defunciones de los hijos de la pareja.</td>
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<td>2. CEMENTERIOS</td>
<td>1821 a la fecha</td>
<td>Nombres de los difuntos, edad, estado civil; a veces los nombres de los padres o esposo(a); clase del lugar de entierro: tumba perpetua familiar o unipersonal, temporales, mausoleo, nicho perpetuo, temporal o grabado, fosa común; causa de muerte, observaciones.</td>
<td>Registros de Cementerios Generales en los cementerios municipales de Chile.</td>
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<td>3. INSCRIPCIONES DE LÁPIDAS</td>
<td>1785 a la fecha</td>
<td>Nombres de los difuntos, fecha y lugar de defunción; fecha y lugar de nacimiento; parentesco a otros enterrados en la misma sepultura o mausoleo, información biográfica, y a veces fotografías o estatuas de los difuntos NOTA. La información varía según la clase del entierro y el nivel de vida de la persona difunta.</td>
<td>Lápidas, monumentos, estatuas, o mausoleos en los cementerios de Chile</td>
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<td>4. CENSOS Y PADRONES</td>
<td>1641-1677</td>
<td>Padrones de Indios, Negros y mulatos de algunas de las vicarias del obispado de Santiago</td>
<td>Archivo Nacional, Santiago, sección de la Real Audiencia, Vol. 1909</td>
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<td>REGISTRO</td>
<td>PERIODO QUE ABAJCA</td>
<td>CLASE DE INFORMACIÓN</td>
<td>DISPONIBILIDAD</td>
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<tr>
<td>CENSOS Y PADRONES (continuación)</td>
<td>1687</td>
<td>Nómina de los soldados que formaron parte de la leva de la ciudad de Concepción</td>
<td>Igual que el anterior, Vol. 2649</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1700</td>
<td>Nómina de la gente de armas de Valparaíso. Nombres; salarios recibidos por cada uno</td>
<td>Igual que el anterior, Vol. 1335</td>
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<td>1738</td>
<td>Padrón de Copiapó, Coquimbo, y lugares vecinos. Raza: Español, mestizo, Indio, zambo, mulato; nombres; información tocante a las propiedades urbanas y rústicas.</td>
<td>Igual que el anterior, Vol. 666</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1751</td>
<td>Nómina del clero de los conventos diversos de Chile</td>
<td>Igual que el anterior, Vol. 2207</td>
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<td>Aprox. 1765</td>
<td>Estado General de la Villa de San Agustín de Talca. Nombres</td>
<td>Igual que el anterior, sección de Claudio Gay, Vol. 57</td>
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<td>1777-1815</td>
<td>Padrones de (1) Villa de San Francisco de la Selva, 1779; (2) Pétorca, 1815; (3) Villa de San Felipe el Real, 1787; (4) Curicó, 1787; (5) Aconcagua, 1785; (6) Valparaíso, 1777; (7) Valparaíso, 1788; (8) Panguaque, 1841; (9) Putaendo, 1787. Nombres del esposo y de la esposa, estado civil, raza: Español, mestizo, Indio, mulato, Negro; número y sexo de los hijos, a veces los nombres; a veces título del jefe de la familia y distinción de clase (caballero o Español)</td>
<td>Igual que el anterior, sección de Fondo Varios, Vol. 450</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1778</td>
<td>Un recuento de la población del Obispado de Santiago, que incluye el territorio entre la Atacama en el norte y el río Maule en el sur, incluyendo Cuyo que hoy pertenece a la Argentina. Nombres, sexo, edad, y parentesco.</td>
<td>Igual que el anterior, sección de Contaduría Mayor. Resumen publicado en el Boletín de la Academia Chilena de la Historia, No. 12, 1940, pags. 85-132.</td>
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<td>1784</td>
<td>Padrón de Chiloé. Nombres, sexo, edad, parentesco.</td>
<td>Archivo Nacional</td>
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<td>1786</td>
<td>Padrón de la Provincia de Colchagua. Nombres del esposo y de la esposa, estado civil, raza; nombres y sexo de los hijos; a veces la dirección, edad</td>
<td>Igual que el anterior, sección de Fondo Varios, Vol. 452</td>
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<td>1787</td>
<td>Padrón de Curicó. Igual que el anterior</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1788</td>
<td>Padrón de Talca. Igual que el anterior</td>
<td>Igual que el anterior, Vol. 696</td>
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<td>1786</td>
<td>Matrícula General de Todos los Viviéntes que se hallan en esta jurisdicción del Valle de Nancagua (San Fernando de Colchagua.) Nombres de caballeros; número de esclavos (hombres y mujeres); número de hijos e hijas; número de vecinos; Españoles (igual que caballeros); mestizos (igual que caballeros); criados (nombres de los hombres y mujeres), títulos o profesiones</td>
<td>Igual que el anterior</td>
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<td>1786</td>
<td>Matrícula General de los Indios que hallan en esta jurisdicción del Valle de Nancagua. Nombres de Indios, sus esposas; edad, estado civil</td>
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<td>CENSOS Y PADRONES (continuación)</td>
<td>1786</td>
<td>Matrículas Generales de Chimbarongo, Almendral, Palmas, Boldomaguida, Teno y Lontué. Iguales que el anterior</td>
<td>Iguales que el anterior</td>
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<td>1787-1790</td>
<td>Padrones de Maipo, Quilicura, Lampa, Melipilla, Rancagua, Villa de San José de Loroño, y Valdivia. Nombres de los esposos y de las esposas, edad, raza; algunos parentescos, algunas veces nombres de los hijos, edad, estado civil, número de esclavos</td>
<td>Iguales que el anterior, Vol. 451</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1788-1791</td>
<td>Lista de los primeros habitantes de la Villa San Rafael de Rosas.</td>
<td>Iguales que el anterior, Sección de la Real Audiencia, Vol. 1490</td>
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<td>1789-1792</td>
<td>Lista de los Jesuitas al tiempo de su expulsión con indicación si salieron del país o quedaron por causa de enfermedad.</td>
<td>Iguales que el anterior, Sección de Fondo Varios, Vol. 717</td>
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<td>1797-1798</td>
<td>Lista de 84 pobladores de San Rafael de Rosas</td>
<td>Iguales que el anterior, Vol. 1314</td>
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<td>1812</td>
<td>NOTA: El Censo de Concepción de 1812 da nombres, sexo, raza, parentescos, y a veces edad, de las personas en la provincia y obispado de Concepción desde el río Maule hasta el archipiélago de Chiloé.</td>
<td>El presente localidad del censo es desconocido; la referencia es igual que el anterior, Vol. 238</td>
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<td>1813</td>
<td>Censo General. Edad (un día a 7 años, 7 a 15, 15 a 30, 30 a 50, 50 a 100); estado civil (casado, soltero, viudo); raza (Españoles, América, Españoles Europeos, Españoles Asiáticos, Canarios y africanos, Europeos, Estranjeros, Indios); profesión; nombres</td>
<td>Archivo Nacional</td>
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<td>1831</td>
<td>Censo Nacional. Edad; estado civil (casado, soltero, viudo); nacionalidad; profesión; nombres de individuos con parentesco al jefe de la familia indicado</td>
<td>Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Santiago</td>
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<td>1833</td>
<td>Catastrós de las provincias de Santiago, Valdivia, Maule, Aconcagua, Concepción y Coquimbo. Clase de tierra tasada, cantidad de arrendamiento anuario, porcentaje debido anualmente de los impuestos; nombres de los propietarios</td>
<td>Archivo Nacional, sección de Contaduría Mayor</td>
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<td>1835</td>
<td>Censo Nacional. Edad; estado civil (casado, soltero, viudo); nacionalidad; profesión; nombres de los individuos con parentesco al jefe de la familia indicado</td>
<td>Instituto Nacional de Estadística</td>
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- 8 -
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<tr>
<td>CENSOS Y PADRONES</td>
<td>1843</td>
<td><em>Censo Nacional.</em> Localidad (Provincia, Departamento, Comuna y Distrito): nombres, sexo, edad, estado civil, nacionalidad, profesión</td>
<td>Igual que el anterior</td>
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<td>1854</td>
<td><em>Censo Nacional.</em> Localidad (Provincia, Departamento, comuna y Distrito): nombres, sexo, edad, estado civil, nacionalidad, religión, si sabe leer y escribir o no, defectos físicos, profesión</td>
<td>Igual que el anterior</td>
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<td>1865</td>
<td><em>Censo Nacional.</em> Localidad (Provincia, Departamento, Comuna y Distrito): nombres, sexo, edad, estado civil, nacionalidad, religión, profesión, si sabe leer y escribir o no, defectos físicos</td>
<td>Igual que el anterior</td>
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<td>1875</td>
<td><em>Censo Nacional.</em> Igual que el anterior</td>
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<td>1885</td>
<td><em>Censo Nacional.</em> Igual que el anterior</td>
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<td>1907</td>
<td><em>Censo Nacional.</em> Localidad (Provincia, Departamento, Comuna y Distrito): nombres, sexo, edad, estado civil, nacionalidad, religión, profesión, si sabe leer y escribir o no, defectos físicos; si es propietario o no; si es empleado o empleador; clase de establecimiento de empleo</td>
<td>Igual que el anterior</td>
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<td>1920</td>
<td><em>Censo Nacional.</em> Localidad (dirección, pueblo, ciudad, chacra, etc.; Sub-delegación, Comuna, Departamento, Provincia): nombres, sexo, edad, estado civil, nacionalidad, religión; si sabe leer o no; profesión, o modo de vivir; clase de establecimiento de empleo; si es empleado, empleador o dueño de su propio negocio; si es propietario o no; defectos físicos o morales</td>
<td>Igual que el anterior</td>
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<td>1930</td>
<td><em>Censo Nacional.</em> Localidad (dirección, pueblo, ciudad, chacra, etc.; Sub-delegación, Comuna, Departamento, Provincia) nombres, sexo, edad, estado civil, nacionalidad, religión, si sabe leer y escribir o no (si sabe leer, si es mayor de 8 años, si asiste a la escuela o no); profesión; para las mujeres, cuántos años hace que se casaron por la primera vez, número de hijos vivos, número de hijos difuntos</td>
<td>Igual que el anterior</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5. NOTARIALES REGISTRO</strong></td>
<td>1550</td>
<td><strong>Testamentos, codicilos, ventas de bienes raíces y otras propiedades, poderes, cambios de bienes, donaciones, cesiones, pagos, deudas, finiquitos, reconocimientos de dotes, incluyendo cartas de dote, contratos, obligaciones, promesas, acuerdos, garantías, lazos, cartas de autorización para conducir censos, hipotecas, transporte de bienes, ratificaciones, revaluaciones, quejas, exhortaciones, etc.</strong> Nombres, parentescos, fechas, profesiones, decisiones de la corte, información biográfica.</td>
<td><strong>Archivo Nacional; sección de Notariales; los archivos notariales o oficinas del Notario y Conservador de Bienes Raíces en diversos lugares en Chile.</strong> NOTA. Todos los registros notariales antiguos se encuentran en el Archivo Nacional</td>
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<td>a la fecha</td>
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<td>6. PARROQUIALES</td>
<td>1550</td>
<td><strong>Registros bautismales:</strong> Nombre de la parroquia y de la ciudad, fecha, nombres de la persona que se bautiza con indicación de su edad y legitimidad; nombres del padre, padres, madres, padrinos, padrinos de la fe</td>
<td><strong>Los archivos de las parroquias, diócesis y arquidiócesis; varios registros en el Archivo Nacional; sección de Fondo Varios; en micro-</strong></td>
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<td>a la fecha</td>
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<td>PARROQUIALES</td>
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<td>madre y padrinos; a veces los nombres de los testigos; a veces la origen de los padres; raza</td>
<td>película de la Sociedad Genealógica; copias de bautismos, casamientos y defunciones en la mayoría de las secciones del Archivo Nacional</td>
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<td><strong>NOTA.</strong> En el lado izquierdo del certificado del bautismo, es costumbre marcar el casamiento subsiguiente de la persona que se bautizó, aunque el porcentaje de estas notas viene a ser sólo unos 10 por ciento de las partidas.</td>
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<td><strong>Confirmaciones.</strong> Nombres, edad de la persona que se confirma; nombres de los padres, o solamente el padre; lugar y fecha de la confirmación</td>
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<td><strong>Casamientos.</strong> Nombres de la pareja que contrae matrimonio, edad y raza de cada uno; fecha de la registración y casamiento; lugar de casamiento (nombre de la parroquia del pueblo); nombres de los padres, padrinos y testigos.</td>
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<td><strong>Defunciones.</strong> Nombres del difunto con la fecha del fallecimiento; lugar de defunción; nombres de los padres, y esposo o esposa; raza, edad, sexo; observaciones</td>
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<td><strong>Información Matrimonial.</strong> Nombres de la pareja que contrae matrimonio, edad, ocupación, dirección, y estado civil de cada uno; nombres de los padres; nombres de los testigos.</td>
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<td><strong>NOTA.</strong> En algunas de las parroquias Católicas de Chile, además de los registros regulares, el cura también registró los nacimientos, casamientos y defunciones de otras sectas religiosas en Libros de Bautismos.</td>
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<td>7. TESTAMENTOS</td>
<td>1550 a la fecha</td>
<td>Nombres de los individuos que han testado, sus padres y/o su esposa o esposo, hijos o parientes; fecha del testamento; información biográfica</td>
<td>Archivo Nacional, la mayoría de las secciones, especialmente las de la Real Audiencia, Fondo Varios, Capitanía General y Escritorios; archivos notariales en todo Chile; archivos familiares; algunos archivos y colecciones históricos.</td>
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<td>8. DE INQUISICION</td>
<td>1550-1820</td>
<td>Registros de Limpieza de Sangre. Nombres de las personas que deseaban liberarse de la persecución de la Inquisición, lugares de residencia, fechas y lugares de nacimiento; ascendencia; nombres y con frecuencia lugares de residencia de los progenitores; nombres, fechas, lugares de residencia y a veces lugares de origen y parentescos de personas detenidas por las autoridades de la Inquisición.</td>
<td>Archivo Histórico Nacional, Madrid, España, sección de Inquisición; muchos de los casos se encuentran en la obra Historia del Tribunal de la Inquisición de Lima, 1569-1820, Santiago de Chile, 1956, 2 tomos, por José Toribio Medina (SG)</td>
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<td>9. DE TIERRAS Y PROPIEDADES</td>
<td>1550 a la fecha</td>
<td>Tierras. Fechas; nombres, lugares de residencia, parentescos de las personas que compran, que solicitan la posesión, disputan o</td>
<td>Archivo Nacional, Santiago secciones de la Real Audiencia, Fondo Varios, Capitanía General, y Es-</td>
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<td>DE TIERRAS Y PROPIEDADES (Cont.)</td>
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<td>venden las tierras; información biográfica.</td>
<td>Archivos diocesanos en todo Chile; Archivo General de la Nación, Lima, Perú, secciones de Encomiendas, Residencias, Real Audiencia, Notarios, y Aguas</td>
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<td>Capellanías. Nombres de los fundadores de las capellanías, nombres de otros parientes; fechas, lugares de residencia, información biográfica</td>
<td>Archivo Nacional, Santiago, sección de Fondo Varios</td>
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<td>Cacicazgos. Demandas, disputas, títulos, entregas, etc., hecho por la caña gobernante de los Indios de los pueblos indígenas en todo Chile: nombres, fechas, parentescos, información biográfica</td>
<td>Archivo Nacional, secciones de la Real Audiencia y Fondo Varios</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. DE DIVERSOS CIVILES Y CRIMINALES</td>
<td>Aprox. 1550 a la fecha</td>
<td>Testamentos, repartimientos de tierras, administración y distribución de propiedades, litigios por tierras, disputas hereditarias, adopciones, reconocimientos de dotes, disputas, etc.; caso de asesinato, bigamia, adulterio, pago de dudosas, disputas de casamiento, etc. Nombres, parentescos, fechas y a veces lugares de nacimiento, y fallecimiento de niños, padres, nietos y abuelos; profesiones; otra información biográfica; decisiones y acciones de los tribunales</td>
<td>Archivo Nacional, secciones de la Real Audiencia, Fondo Varios Capitanía General y Escritorios; archivos judiciales, históricos y provinciales en todo Chile</td>
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<td>11. ECLESIAS TICOS DIVERSOS</td>
<td>Aprox. 1550 a la fecha</td>
<td>Expedientes Matrimoniales. Nombres de los contrayentes, sus padres y los de los testigos; edad, lugares de nacimiento, estado civil anterior, lugares de residencia de los contrayentes; amonestaciones matrimoniales, información biográfica</td>
<td>Archivos diocesanos en todo Chile</td>
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<td>Juicios de esposales. Juicios instigados generalmente por las mujeres en donde el marido futuro es acusado de no cumplir con uno o más de los requerimientos del compromiso</td>
<td>Igual que el anterior</td>
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<td>Divorcios y nulidades. Nombres de la pareja que contrae matrimonio, fechas, parentescos, procedimientos de la Iglesia que a veces incluye información de nacimiento e información matrimonial</td>
<td>Igual que el anterior</td>
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<td>12. MILITARES</td>
<td>Aprox. 1550 a la fecha</td>
<td>Listas de revistas. Nombres, lugares de residencia; a veces edad, estado civil, número de personas en la familia, lugar de nacimiento, raza, años de servicio.</td>
<td>Archivo Nacional: archivos militares, históricos y provinciales en todo Chile y en lugares diversos de Argentina y el Perú</td>
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<td>Filiaciones. Nombres de los soldados y sus padres; lugar de nacimiento, lugar de residencia, religión, estado civil, y descripción física del soldado</td>
<td>Igual que el anterior</td>
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<td>MILITARES</td>
<td>Hojas de Servicio. Nombres, estadísticas vitales, lugares de residencia, y parentescos del personal militar; nombres de los padres Comisiones. Nombres de los oficiales, lugares de residencia, fechas en que recibieron sus rangos, a veces los nombres de los padres Tomas de Razón. Nombres, designación de rango o título de los oficiales del ejército</td>
<td>Igual que el anterior</td>
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<td>13. MUNICIPALES</td>
<td>Aprox. 1550 a la fecha</td>
<td>Actas de Cabildo. Elecciones de oficiales, profesores, etc., cartas de inspección, licencias para abrir tiendas, almacenes, etc., ordenanzas públicas, reuniones de hermandades o cofradías, el uso de tierras comunes, agua, reservas naturales, etc., contribuciones para el gobierno municipal, leyes judiciales, políticas y administrativas, actas, procedimientos, reuniones, resultados de actas ya impuestas; censos locales, nóminas de votantes, nóminas de impuestos; información escolar; a veces testamentos, registros de tierras y propiedades, demandas civiles, juicios, etc. Nombres, parentescos, fechas, profesiones, información biográfica.</td>
<td>Archivos municipales en todo Chile; algunos archivos históricos o provinciales (varias colecciones en SG)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14. DE INMIGRACION</td>
<td>1493-1539</td>
<td>Indice de los Primeros Colonizadores. Nombres, origen, destino, y a veces la profesión de cada colonizador</td>
<td>Peter Boyd-Bowman <em>Indice Genealógico de Cuarenta Mil Pobladores Españoles en América en el Siglo XVI</em>. 2 Tomos. (Tomo I, 1493-1519; Tomo II, 1520-1539 (SG))</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1509-1559</td>
<td>Libro de Asiento de Pasajeros. Nombres de los pasajeros y sus padres; lugares de residencia u origen, fecha de desembarco, destino; parentesco entre pasajeros</td>
<td>Archivo General de Indias, sección de Pasajeros a Indias, números de los legajos 5217-5540; Cristóbal Bermúdez Plata, <em>Catálogo de Pasajeros a Indias</em> (Sevilla, 1940-46); Tomo I, 1509-1534 (5.320 partidas); Tomo II, 1535-1538 (5.620 partidas); Tomo III, 1539-1559 (4.540 partidas); (SG)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1825-1900</td>
<td>Nóminas de Pasajeros. Nombres de los pasajeros que desembarcan, a veces otra información vital; nombre del navío y lugar de desembarco</td>
<td>El Mercurio de Valparaíso, un diario guardado en la Biblioteca Nacional de Santiago</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NOTA. Por emigración antes de 1914, la persona interesada enviaría un antecedente escrito al Secretario del Interior que luego expediría una carta de autorización que se dió a la persona interesada y sirvió como pasaporte</td>
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<td>1873-1974</td>
<td>Pasaportes. Fotografías; nombres; lugares de nacimiento, fechas de nacimiento, descripción física; a veces los nombres de parientes</td>
<td>Archivo Nacional, sección de Fondo Varios; archivos particulares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGISTRO</td>
<td>PERIODO QUE ABARCA</td>
<td>CLASE DE INFORMACION</td>
<td>DISPONIBILIDAD</td>
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<td>15. COLEC. GENEALOGICAS</td>
<td>Siglo XV a la fecha</td>
<td>Archivos Familiares. Nombres, fechas lugares, de nacimiento, parentescos, información biográfica y genealógica, pruebas de nobleza con nombres y lugares de nacimiento de los antepasados.</td>
<td>Archivos familiares particulares; bibliotecas y archivos universitarios, y públicos; a veces archivos provinciales y municipales; Archivo Nacional, sección de Fondo Varios</td>
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<td>Genealogías. Registros preparados por familias que querían ser reconocidas para (1) puestos especiales en asuntos eclesiásticos o civiles; (2) títulos de nobleza incluyendo derechos de escudos; (3) recibo de consideraciones monetarias especiales del Rey; (4) entradas en las universidades, hermandades eclesiásticas, seminarios, etc.; copias de los registros de bautismo, casamiento y defunción, testamentos, papeles familiares, etc.</td>
<td>Igual que el anterior</td>
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<td>NOTA. Los registros anteriores y los siguientes son iguales y se compilan por las mismas razones y se distinguen apenas en los títulos que llevan.</td>
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<td>Filiación y Nobleza. Nombres; copias de los registros de bautismo, casamiento y defunción; parentescos de ocho generaciones; a veces los escudos</td>
<td>Igual que el anterior</td>
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<td>Méritos y Servicios. Nombres, información biográfica preparado para el uso del Rey al conceder regalos para el servicio rendido en asuntos eclesiásticos, civiles o militares</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other Sources: Chile

Chile Map
http://geology.com/world/chile-satellite-image.shtml

Chili Genealogy Forum
http://genforum.genealogy.com/chile/

Genealogy of Chilean people
http://tpino.netfirms.com/pino3.htm