

LOCALITY ANALYSIS FOR GUATEMALA

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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.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF LOCALITY REFERENCE WORKS

Gazetteers

Gazetteer of Guatemala. 2nd ed. Washington, D.C.: Defense Mapping Agency, 1984.

La división política y administrativa de la República de Guatemala con sus datos históricos y de legislación. por Mateo Morales Urrutia. 2 vols. Guatemala : Editorial Iberia-Gutenberg, 1961. (FHL film vol 1, 0924656 and vol 2, 0924657)

Comunidades de Guatemala. por Eduardo Prado Ponce. Guatemala, C.A. : AGAYC, 1984, c1985. (FHL)

Geographical Dictionaries

Diccionario geográfico de Guatemala. by Francis Gall, ed. Guatemala, C.A.: Instituto Geográfico Nacional, 1976. 4 vols. (BYU F1462 .D53 1976) (1961-1964 ed., 2 vols. FHL film 0873808)

El libro de las geonimias de Guatemala : diccionario entimológico. Guatemala : Editorial "José de Pineda Ibarra", 1973. (FHL)

Geografía de la Republica de Guatemala. por José Victor Mejía. Salt Lake City : Filmado por la Sociedad Genealógico de Utah, 1973. Microreproducción de publicación original: 2nd ed. Guatemeal, C.A. : Tipografía Nacional, 1927. (FHL film 1090481 item 3)

Suplemento del diccionario geográfico de Guatemala, 1961-1964. Guatemala : Tipografía Nacional, 1968. (FHL film 1149534 item 5-6)

Historical Atlases, Maps and Materials

A statistical and commercial history of the kingdom of Guatemala in Spanish America. by Juarros, Domingo, 1752-1820. New York : AMS Press, 1971. (FHL)

Ecclesiastical Directories

Guia de la Iglesia en Guatemala. Guatemala : Imprenta "Santa Isabel", 1967. (FHL film 0873807 item 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 Porrua de la Republica Mexicana (Editorial Porrua: 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 Untied 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 United States Board on Geographical Names Gazetteer, 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	Honduras, 27
Bolivia, 4	Mexico, 15
Brazil, 71	Nicaragua, 10
Chile, 6	Panama, 110
Costa Rica, 7	Paraguay, 35
Cuba, 30	Puerto Rico, 38
Dominican Republic, 33	Spain and Andorra, 51
Ecuador, 36	Spanish Sahara, 108
El Salvador, 26	Uruguay, 21
Guatemala	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 under 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- , 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.

GUATEMALA LIBRARY COLLECTION

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

The Archivo General de Centroamerica in Guatemala City is a valuable repository of impressive amounts of civil, government, and judicial documentation of colonial Guatemala, as well as some major document groups for the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Genealogical Society of Utah has filmed over 3,600 reels of documents, including most, if not all, of the following types: probate cases, marriage information, legal processes, census and tribute records, notary records, and land records. They are cataloged in:

Weathers, Shirley A. Bibliographic Guide to the Guatemalan Collection. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1981. Indexed by document type, location by modern name, time period, and reel numbers. Explanations of entries included. An indispensable research guide.

GAZETTEERS

United States Board on Geographic Names. Guatemala Official Standard Names Approved by the United States Board on Geographic Names. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Office of Geography, 1965.

Instituto Geografia Nacional. Suplemento del Diccionario Geografica de Guatemala 1961-1964. Guatemala City: Instituto Geografico Nacional de Guatemala, 1968.

GENEALOGY

An excellent source for detailed information on selected Guatemalan individuals and families is:

Academia Guatemalteca de Estudios Genealogicos, Heraldicos, e Historicos. Revista de la Academia Guatemalteca de Estudios Genealogicos, Heraldicos, e Historicos (vols 1-6). Guatemala City: Tipografia Nacional de Guatemala, 1967-72.

A complete survey of genealogical sources for Guatemala is contained in:

The Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Major Genealogical Record Sources in Guatemala. Salt Lake City: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1970.

HISTORY

The library has various histories of the departments of Guatemala. One rather complete departmental history is:

Villacorta C., and J. Antonio. Monografia del Departamento de Guatemala. Tipografia Nacional, 1926.

For an excellent introduction to the history and culture of Guatemala, see:
Dombrowski, John. Area Handbook for Guatemala. Washington, D.C.: U.S.
Government, 1968.

MAPS

Most detailed of the several maps in the library collection is:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Map of Guatemala, scale 1:250,000. Washington,
D.C.: Direccion General de Cartografia, 1959.

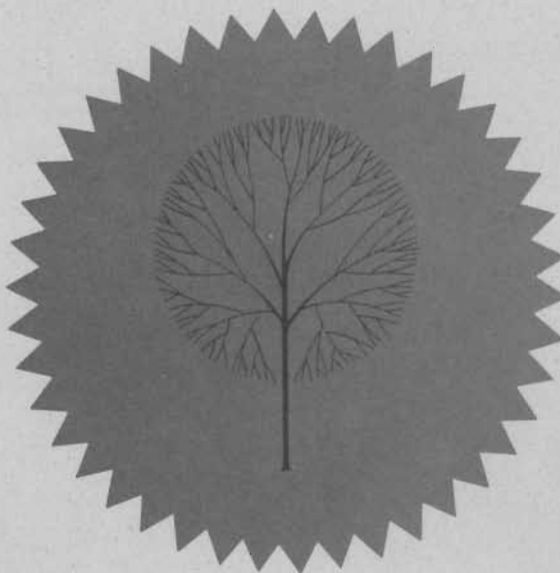
VITAL RECORDS

The library has filmed vital records created by both church and state throughout the country. They generally date from about 1820 for civil records. Records before that date are indexed under holdings of the Archivo General de Centroamerica. Census, tax, and an assortment of other church and state records are included in the collection.

VERT FILE
Central America -
Guatemala

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MAJOR GENEALOGICAL RECORD SOURCES
IN GUATEMALA

BY

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Series H, No. 1

1970

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, INC.

MAJOR GENEALOGICAL RECORD SOURCES IN GUATEMALA

In identifying ancestors, genealogical researchers need the answers to four key questions regarding record sources:

1. What types of records exist that will aid in the identification of ancestors?
2. What periods of time do the existing records cover?
3. What genealogical information appears in the existing records?
4. What is the availability of existing records for searching?

The charts and tables that follow contain answers to the above questions for the major genealogical record sources of Guatemala. The major sources are listed, together with type of record, period covered, type of information given, and source availability.

Table A shows at a glance the record sources available for a research problem in a particular century.

Table B provides more detailed information about the major records available. For example, if a pedigree problem is in the 17th century, a quick indication can be obtained from Table A of the sources available for that period. Reference to Table B will then provide more complete information.

AID TO GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN

MAJOR SOURCE AVAILABILITY BY CENTURY
CENTURY

TYPE OF RECORD	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th
1. CIVIL REGISTRATION					
2. NATURALIZATION RECORDS					
3. CIVIL CENSUS					
4. PASSPORTS					
5. CHURCH CENSUS					
6. PENSION					
7. MILITARY					
8. TAX					
9. MARRIAGE INFORMATION					
10. LAND AND PROPERTY					
11. INQUISITION					
12. MISC. CIVIL					
13. MUNICIPAL					
14. NOTARIAL					
15. COURT					
16. TITLES OF NOBILITY					
17. PARISH REGISTERS					
18. CARD INDEX					

A BRIEF HISTORY OF GUATEMALA

Guatemala was settled by the Spaniards in 1524. The capital moved from Santiago at Tecpan to Ciudad Vieja in 1527, to Antigua in 1543, and to Guatemala City in 1773.

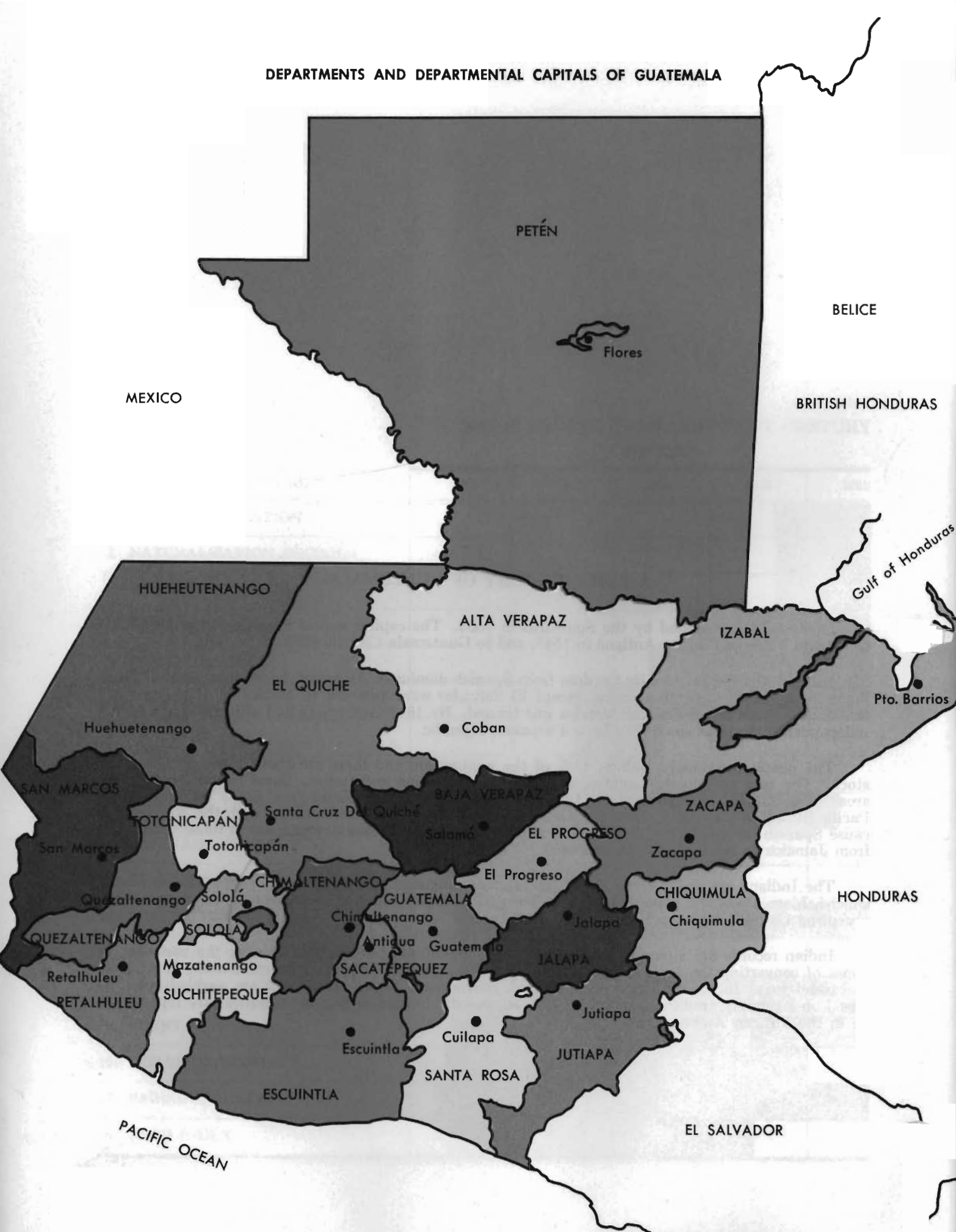
In 1821 Guatemala won its freedom from Spanish dominion. However, because of internal instability it and all of Central America, except El Salvador were annexed to Mexico in 1822. In 1824 the United Provinces of Central America was formed. By 1847 Guatemala had affirmed her national independence, and has since then been a separate republic.

The people are mostly Indian, 43% of the population; and there are about 1% pure European stock. The rest are mostly Ladinos, a mixture of Caucasian and Indian. Some Negroes live in the areas around the ports of Barrios and Livingston with some Indian-Negro "mulattoes" inhabiting the Pacific littoral and lowland. However, there has been very little intermarriage with the Negroes because Spanish law made this illegal. Most Negroes in Guatemala are descendants of those brought in from Jamaica to work on the plantations.

The Indians are divided into about 20 different language groups, the six foremost being Maya, Quiché, Mam, Pocoman, Chol and Caribe. They have largely retained their pagan religion even when accepting Catholicism.

Indian records are virtually non-existent. The Spaniards burned them during the conquest in hopes of converting the Indians to Christianity more rapidly. Some that do exist make it possible to extend royal Indian pedigrees back several generations, but most of them are garbled accounts based on legendary traditions. Some records supposedly burned during the conquest are reported to be in the Vatican Archive.

DEPARTMENTS AND DEPARTMENTAL CAPITALS OF GUATEMALA



MAJOR SOURCES CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED

TYPE OF RECORD	PERIOD COVERED	TYPE OF INFORMATION GIVEN	AVAILABILITY
1. CIVIL REGISTRATION (<i>Registro Civil</i>)	1877 to present	<p><i>Births:</i> name, birth date and place of birth, names of parents, residence of parents</p> <p><i>Recognition of children:</i> this is a document by which the father shows his acceptance of his children receiving his surname. The father may or may not be married</p> <p><i>Marriages:</i> (<i>Diligencias Matrimoniales</i>) certified copies of church baptismal entries of the persons being married; marriage documents and the publication of banns; birth-dates and places of the couple being married, dates and places of baptism, ages, residences, names of parents, grandparents, and witnesses</p> <p><i>Divorces:</i> names, dates, relationships, court or church proceedings, which at times include birth and marriage information</p> <p><i>Death records:</i> name, date and place of death, name of spouse and/or parents, age, birth date and place of birth</p>	<p><i>Archivo de la Gobernación Departamental</i> in each department for the capitals and other major cities. In other municipalities they are in the care of the municipal secretaries. Civil registration for the capital from 1877-1954 is at the <i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i>, 6th floor</p> <p>Offices of the <i>Registro Civil</i>. This document is made in triplicate: one copy to couple, one to departmental capital and one retained at municipal level. Law requires that one of the government copies be stored in the <i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> and many municipalities have complied. Some on film (GS)</p> <p>Same as births above; <i>Archivo Arzobispal</i></p> <p>NOTE: In the <i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> there are some divorces from 1603-1895, drawer 4-8. Some of these for the time period covered by civil registration will be duplicates.</p> <p>Same as births above</p>
2. NATURALIZATION RECORDS	about 1877 to present	<p>Names, ages, residences, and foreign towns or cities of origin of naturalized persons; occupations, family relationships</p> <p>NOTE: Early naturalization was granted after 10 years in <i>Indias</i> (western hemisphere) and if married.</p>	Office of the <i>Registro Civil</i> in each municipality where the final inscription is made after the naturalization is granted
3. CIVIL CENSUS RECORDS (<i>Censos civiles</i>)	1877	<i>Tax List and Census of Guatemala City:</i> canton no., street, house no., block, parish, family name, names and ages of all persons, head of household indicated, marital status, profession, birthplaces, sex (man, woman, male child, female child), race (white, Indian, pardo), religion, mental status, literacy	<i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> , 3rd floor, <i>Estante</i> 1619, 6 vols.

TYPE OF RECORD	PERIOD COVERED	TYPE OF INFORMATION GIVEN	AVAILABILITY
3. CIVIL CENSUS RECORDS (<i>Censos civiles</i>) (continued)	1880	<i>Second General Census of Guatemala</i> : address, names and surnames; age categories: 1-7, 7-15, 15-25, 25-40, 40-60, 60-80, 80-90, 90-above; marital status, profession, nationality, sex, race, religion, mental status, literacy	<i>Censo General de la República de Guatemala, 1880</i> , Guatemala: <i>Establecimiento Tipográfico de "El Progreso"</i> NOTE: This census has been destroyed.
	1893	<i>Third General Census of Guatemala</i> : house no., street, names and surnames, age (given in months and years); under 1, 1-6, 6-14, 14-18, 18-21, 21-30, 30-40, 40-60, 60-80, 80-90, 90-100, 100-above; marital status, profession, nationality, sex, race, religion, mental status, literacy, type of dwelling, number of inhabitants NOTE: This census met with resistance. It was not taken in the departments of Totonicapán, Quiché, and Huehuetenango. A total of 1,364,678 persons were counted to which 10% were added = 1,501,145.	<i>Censo General de la República de Guatemala, 1893</i> , published by the <i>Dirección General de Estadística</i> , Guatemala: <i>Tipográfico y Encuadernador "Nacional," 1894</i> NOTE: This census has been destroyed.
	1921-1964	There were other general censuses taken in 1921, 1940, 1950 and 1964. Only the last three are available. They contain information similar to that of the earlier censuses.	The 1940 Census is at the <i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> , 5th floor; the 1950 Census is on IBM cards at the <i>Dirección General de Estadística</i> , Guatemala; the 1964 census is in good condition. Duplicates are at LSU, Stanford, etc. on tape. The original is at the <i>Dirección General de Estadística</i>
4. PASSPORTS (<i>Pasaportes concedidos</i>)	about 1787 to present	Names of persons to whom passports were granted, dates, residences, foreign destinations, and sometimes birthplaces and family relationships	<i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> , drawer 9-29 NOTE: <i>Catálogo de Pasajeros a Indias</i> 3 vols. Seville: 1940, 1942, 1946 (on film GS) covers years 1509-1559.
	1932-1954	Names of persons to whom passports were granted, marital status, profession, birth date and place of birth, nationality, residence, names of minors to accompany parents, pictures	<i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i>

TYPE OF RECORD	PERIOD COVERED	TYPE OF INFORMATION GIVEN	AVAILABILITY
5. CHURCH CENSUS RECORDS (<i>Padrones eclesiásticos</i>)	about 1740 to present	Residences, names, and ages of parents and children; marital status and occupations of adults; women listed by their maiden names; separate <i>padrones</i> for Indian families NOTE: The early <i>padrones</i> could have been taken any year. The modern ones seem to be more regular. They are excellent and invaluable due to the loss of national census records.	<i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> , drawers 12-33 to 12-36, 3-20, 4-36, 11-13; Archbishop's Archives; ecclesiastical archives
6. PENSION RECORDS (<i>Pensiones</i>)	1660 to present	Names, relationships, residences, and dates of pension requests of persons residing in Spain, Guatemala, Mexico, etc.	<i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> , drawer 8-9
7. MILITARY RECORDS (<i>Asuntos Militares-Milicias</i>)	17th-18th C.	Names of soldiers and sometimes their birthplaces, ages, residences, and names of their parents NOTE: For all of Central America.	<i>Archivo General de Centroamérica: Infantería ligera and Voluntarios</i>
8. TAX RECORDS (<i>Alcabalas y tributos</i>)	17th-18th C.	<i>Tax records (Alcabalas)</i> : names and residences of taxpayers	<i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> , drawers 2-5 to 2-23, municipal archives
	17th-18th C.	<i>Petitions for decrease in taxation-grants in favor of petitioning Indians (Exoneraciones)</i> : names, residences and often birthplaces of Indians who were released from paying tributes because of being descendants of noble Indians (<i>caciques</i>)	<i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> , drawers 12-37, 12-38
9. MARRIAGE INFORMATION (<i>Matrimonios</i>)	1635-1920	Names, dates, birthplaces, residences of brides and grooms, names of their parents; sometimes names of relatives, birth and marriage certificates NOTE: This collection is not a complete set of marriage records for the time period covered and after the beginning of civil registration is partially duplication of the civil records' information.	<i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> , drawers 8-31, 8-32

TYPE OF RECORD	PERIOD COVERED	TYPE OF INFORMATION GIVEN	AVAILABILITY
10. LAND AND PROPERTY (<i>Tierras y propiedades</i>)	1568 to about 1800	<i>Sales of Houses (Casas)</i> : names of sellers and buyers of houses, dates, relationships and residences throughout Guatemala and other parts of Central America	<i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> , drawer 3-25
	16th-19th C.	Estates which contributed to ecclesiastical or charitable purposes (<i>Capellanías</i>): names of owners of <i>Capellanías</i> , residences, family relationships, dates	<i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> , drawers 5-25, 9-30
	16th-19th C.	<i>Land Records (Tierras)</i> : dates, names, residences and relationships of persons who bought, sold, petitioned for or engaged in litigation for land	<i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> , drawers 12-7 to 12-27
	16th-19th C.	<i>Records of hereditary estates (Mayorazgos y Vínculos)</i> : names, residences, and relationships of owners of these estates; contracts and property transfers	<i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> , drawer 8-33
11. INQUISITION RECORDS (<i>Inquisiciones</i>)	1556 to about 1820	Names, dates, residences, and sometimes places of origin and relationship of persons arrested by the Inquisition authorities; pedigree data of persons who attempted to show their purity or cleanliness of blood (<i>limpieza de sangre</i>) or in other words that they had pure Spanish and Christian ancestry free from apostates or "undesirables"	<i>Archivo General de la Nación</i> , Mexico City; microfilm copies at GS (see #12-Purity of Blood) NOTE: These records (on film GS) are for all of Mexico and Central America.
12. MISCELLANEOUS CIVIL (<i>Informaciones civiles</i>)	1551 to about 1820	<i>Purity of blood (Limpieza de Sangre) records</i> : names, residences, birthplaces, parentage, pedigrees	<i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> , drawers 6-45 to 6-48 NOTE: <i>Limpieza de Sangre</i> records are usually found under Inquisition records but in the above archive they are indexed under <i>Informaciones Personales</i> .
	16th-17th C.	<i>Pedigree data on the Spanish conquerors of Guatemala</i> : names, dates, places of origin, occupations, genealogies, coats of arms, destinations and places of settlement in <i>Indias</i>	<i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> , drawer 6-45; Peter Boyd-Bowman, <i>Indice Geobiográfico de Cuarenta Mil Pobladores Españoles de América en el Siglo XVI</i> : Vol 1, 1493-1591, Vol 2, 1520-1539; Edgar Juan Aparicio y Aparicio, <i>Conquistadores de Guatemala y Fundadores de Familias Guatemaltecas</i>

TYPE OF RECORD	PERIOD COVERED	TYPE OF INFORMATION GIVEN	AVAILABILITY
12. MISC. CIVIL (continued)	16th-19th C.	<i>Presentation of Evidences of Ancestry in order to be approved for positions of noble rank (Presentaciones de juicios de filiación para ser aprobados):</i> names, dates, and places of birth of individuals and their ancestors	Archivo General de Centroamérica, drawer 6-45
	16th C. to present	<i>Of age (Mayoria de edad) records:</i> names and death dates of deceased persons, names of their children who inherited their property	Archivo General de Centroamérica throughout court, orphan and probate records
	1881 to present	<p><i>Cemetery Records (Cementerios):</i></p> <p><i>Entry register (Libro de entrada):</i> name of person entering the information, name of deceased, whether deceased as a child or an adult, what type of grave was used, and the daily entry number</p> <p><i>Death Paper (Papel de defunción):</i> name, sex, date of death, age, names of parents, occupation, birthplace, nationality, last residence</p> <p><i>Burial Books (Libros de Actas de Inhumaciones):</i> name, death date, birthplace, age, civil status, names of parents, place of burial, and civil registration death-entry number</p>	Archivo del Cementerio Nuevo, Guatemala City; cemetery archives throughout Guatemala
13. MUNICIPAL RECORDS (Registros del Ayuntamiento)	16th-17th C.	<p><i>Voter lists:</i> name of voter; district</p> <p><i>Tax Lists (Censos):</i> name of taxpayer, residence, amount taxed</p> <p><i>Notarial records (protocolos):</i> wills, donations of property prior to doner's death, records of sales, authorizations, mortgages, dowry acknowledgements and contracts of various kinds</p> <p><i>Census records (padrones):</i> residences, names, ages of parents and children, marital status and occupations of adults; women listed by their maiden names</p>	Archivo General de Centroamérica, drawers 2-30 to 3-16; municipal archives throughout Guatemala

TYPE OF RECORD	PERIOD COVERED	TYPE OF INFORMATION GIVEN	AVAILABILITY
13. MUNICIPAL RECORDS (continued)		<i>Naturalization Papers</i> : names, ages, residences, foreign towns, cities and/or countries of origin, occupations, family relationships	
14. NOTARIAL RECORDS (<i>Registros de protocolos de escribanos</i>) (See also #13)	about 1543 to present	<i>Wills (Testamentos)</i> : early ones frequently contain the name and residence of the testator, the town and country of birth, the names of the testator's parents, names and relationships of heirs, date when will was made	<i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> : the 4th floor (<i>Estantes</i> 415-424) contains 123 volumes of index to the notarial records on the 3rd floor; <i>Archivo General de Protocolos</i> , Guatemala City
	about 1543 to present	<i>Donations of property prior to donor's death (donaciones)</i> : names of donors and heirs, dates, residences, relationships	<i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> : <i>Actuaciones civiles: Mortuales</i> , prior to 1877; from 1877 to present: <i>Registro General de Propiedad for Eastern Guatemala</i> and <i>Registro General de la Propiedad del Occidente</i> in Quezaltenango for Western Guatemala
	about 1543 to present	<i>Records of sales, authorizations, mortgages, and contracts of various kinds</i> : dates, names and residences of parties involved, relationships	Same as above
	16th-17th C.	<i>Dowry acknowledgements (Cartas de dote)</i> : names of married couples, the bride's parents and sometimes the parents of the groom, residences, approximate marriage dates	Same as wills, above NOTE: The <i>Archivo General de Protocolos</i> contains the notarial books of almost all deceased Notaries in Guatemala since about 1820. Prior to that they are in the <i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> .
15. COURT RECORDS (<i>Registros de Cortes</i>)	about 1543 to present	<i>Civil and criminal court proceedings (Actuaciones civiles y criminales)</i> : names, dates, residences, relationships, offenses, actions taken	<i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> , drawers 1-2 to 1-38; <i>Archivo General de Tribunales</i> , Guatemala City; local court archives throughout Guatemala
	16th C. to present	<i>Administrations of estates and property of deceased persons (Juzgados sobre bienes de difuntos)</i> : names of deceased persons and their heirs; relationships, dates, residences; sometimes copies of wills with birthplaces and names of parents, spouses and children of testators	<i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> : <i>Actuaciones Mortuales</i> , drawers 1-36 to 1-44; <i>Bienes de difuntos</i> , drawers 6-20, 6-21, 11-5, 11-15, 11-23, 11-32, 12-29

TYPE OF RECORD	PERIOD COVERED	TYPE OF INFORMATION GIVEN	AVAILABILITY
16. TITLES OF NOBILITY (<i>Titulos Nobiliarios</i>)	1529-1900	Names of nobles, their dates and places of birth, ancestry, coats of arms, noble titles, places of birth of ancestors in Spain	<i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> ; <i>Archivo de Indias</i> , Seville, Spain; Guillermo Lohmann Villena, <i>Los Americanos en los Ordenes Nobiliarios</i> , 1529-1900, Madrid, 1947; <i>Indice de Documentos de Nueva España en el Archivo de Sevilla</i> , 4 vols., Mexico City: <i>Monografías Bibliográficas Mexicanas</i> 1928-1931
17. PARISH REGISTERS (<i>Actas sacramentales o Registros parroquiales</i>)	1527 to present	<p><i>Baptisms</i>: names, birth date and place, baptismal date, names of parents, grandparents, and godparents; sometimes race</p> <p><i>Marriages</i>: names of couple with the birth dates and places, residences at time of marriage, publications of banns, names of parents and witnesses; sometimes race and information on former marriages</p> <p><i>Deaths</i>: name of deceased, date of death and burial place; sometimes birth date and place, names of parents, spouse or near relatives</p> <p><i>Confirmations</i>: name, age, names of parents, place and date of confirmation</p>	Local church and ecclesiastical archives: (Some on film at GS); some at <i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> , some at <i>Archivo del Arzobispado</i> both in Guatemala City
18. CARD INDEX	1536 to about 1830	<p><i>Abstracts of many registers in the archives</i>: dates of records, name of principal persons mentioned in the records, their residences, places of origin (often in Europe), birth dates and relationships</p> <p>NOTE: About 360 of these drawers are arranged alphabetically by surnames of persons mentioned. They contain good genealogical information. Some of the original documents have disintegrated.</p>	<i>Archivo General de Centroamérica</i> , drawers 13-1 to 18-26

Marriage Records of Guatemala

by J. Marvin Cluff



Screen Traveler, Gentlean
Guatemala's Indian Women cover their heads with brightly
colored shawls which they weave on crude hand looms.

Genealogists in many cases evaluate a record for the genealogical information given in the record. However, to really understand the records, one must study the institution that created the document to understand the reason for its creation and to know where the document could be found.

A case in point is the marriage (DiLigencias Matrimoniales) records of Guatemala.

In 1877, a marriage was applied for to the Jefe Politico of the department. In the early application, the couple had to supply a birth record, a copy of the baptismal entry certified by the parroco (priest) of the parish, and testimonies of friends concerning their eligibility to marry. Then the banns were published before marriage was allowed. Thus,

the early marriage documents will provide: church baptismal record, birth place and date, name of parents and grandparents, ages of applicants, residences of applicants and witnesses, and, in cases of relationship between the applicants, the degree of relationship.

The marriage records that have been transferred to the Archivo General de Centro-America have been microfilmed by the Genealogical Society from about 1877 to 1920. As these films have been recently filmed, patrons of the branch genealogical libraries may use the Branch Genealogical Library Questionnaire form to obtain the film number. The patron should give the date and town (municipio) where the marriage took place.

Other Resources: Guatemala

Guatemala Map

<http://geology.com/world/guatemala-satellite-image.shtml>

Guatemala GenWeb

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gtmwgw/indexen.html>

Guatemala Genealogy Forum

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/guatemala/>

Cyndi's List – Central & South America

<http://www.cyndislist.com/centralsouthamerica.htm>

Biblioteca Nacional de Guatemala

http://www.mcd.gob.gt/MICUDE/centros_referencia/biblioteca_nacional/

Archivo General de Centroamerica (Guatemala)

<http://lanic.utexas.edu/project/tavera/guatemala/centroamerica.html>