This outline describes major sources of information about families from Arizona. As you read this outline, study the United States Research Outline (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

**RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY**

The Family History Library has some of the records listed in this outline. The major holdings include Spanish, territorial, federal, and Indian census records. The library also has helpful genealogical collections including cemetery records. The library has few records from the county courthouses.

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, and microfiche numbers. These are preceded by FHL, the abbreviation for Family History Library. These numbers may be used to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers.
The library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog, found at the library and at each Family History Center. To find a record, look in the Locality Search of the catalog for:

- The *place* where your ancestor lived, such as:

  UNITED STATES - CENSUS ARIZONA - MILITARY RECORDS ARIZONA, MARICOPA - VITAL RECORDS ARIZONA, MARICOPA, PHOENIX - DIRECTORIES

- The *record type* you want, such as:

  UNITED STATES - CENSUS RECORDS ARIZONA - MILITARY RECORDS ARIZONA, MARICOPA - VITAL RECORDS ARIZONA, MARICOPA, PHOENIX - DIRECTORIES

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the catalog.

**ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES**

The following archives, libraries, and societies have collections or services to help genealogical researchers:

- **Department of Libraries, Archives and Public Records**
  
  State Capitol Building Room 200  
  1700 West Washington  
  Phoenix, AZ 85007  
  Telephone: 602-542-4035  
  Fax: 602-542-4972

- **National Archives—Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel)**
  
  P.O. Box 6719  
  24000 Avila Road  
  Laguna Niguel, CA 92677-6719  
  Telephone: 714-360-2641  
  Fax: 714-360-2644
To learn more about the history and record-keeping systems of Arizona counties, use the inventories of the Maricopa, Pima, and Santa Cruz county archives published by the Historical Records Survey around 1940. These inventories are available at the Family History Library.

Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems can be useful tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers
- Post queries
- Send and receive E-mail
- Search large databases
- Search computer libraries
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions
You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from Arizona in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

Addresses on the Internet change frequently. As of April 1997, the following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

- **USGenWeb**

  http://www.usgenweb.com/
  A cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county, state, and country.

- **Roots-L**

  http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/
  A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly-updated research coordination list.

For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the *United States Research Outline* (30972), 2nd ed., “Archives and Libraries” section.

**FamilySearch™**

The Family History Library and some Family History Centers have computers with FamilySearch™. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing several million names. FamilySearch is a good place to begin your research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; some have been automated from original sources.

**BIBLE RECORDS**

The Daughters of the American Revolution collection contains some Bible records from Arizona. This collection is described in the “Genealogy” section of this outline.

**BIOGRAPHY**

A vast alphabetical collection of biographical information concerning the early settlers of Arizona is Carl Hayden, *Carl Hayden Biographical Files, ca. 1825-1927* (Tempe, Ariz.: Arizona State University, 19–?; FHL films 1000464-78). This is at the Hayden Library of Arizona State University at Tempe and at the Family History Library.
Two representative biographical encyclopedias for Arizona are:


A biographical index to several statewide and regional histories of Arizona is Marvin E. Wiggins, *Mormons and Their Neighbors: An Index of Over 75,000 Biographical Sketches from 1820 to the Present.* 2 vols. (Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University, 1984; FHL book 978 D32w).

**CEMETERIES**

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains tombstone inscriptions from Arizona cemeteries. This collection is described in the “Genealogy” section of this outline. An important compilation of inscriptions from small cemeteries throughout the state is *Arizona Death Records: An Index Compiled from Mortuary, Cemetery, and Church Records.* 3 vols. (Tucson, Ariz.: Arizona State Genealogical Society, 1976-82; FHL book 979.1 V3a; fiche 6019995-97).

**CENSUS**

Many census records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more detailed information on federal census records.

Territorial censuses are available at the Department of Libraries, Archives and Public Records for 1864, 1866, 1867, 1869, 1871, 1872, and 1882 although they are not all complete. The Family History Library has indexes for 1864, 1866, 1867, and 1869.

The Family History Library has the U.S. federal censuses of Arizona for 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920. Arizona was included in the New Mexico census for 1860. The 1860 residents' names are published along with those listed in the 1864 and 1870 census enumerations (FHL book 979.1 X2pa; film 934829). The 1890 census was destroyed.

Statewide indexes are available in book format for the 1870 and 1880 censuses. The Family History Library and Southern Arizona Genealogical Society have a card index for the 1880 census (FHL films 1323378-81). Soundex (phonetic) indexes on microfilm are available for part
of the 1880 census and all of the 1900 and 1920 censuses. For the 1910 census, the Family History Library has a street index for Phoenix (FHL fiche 6331481).

Mortality schedules exist for 1870 and 1880 schedules (FHL books 979.1 X2a 1870, 979.1 X2a 1880).

**CHURCH RECORDS**

Before 1900 the largest religious groups in Arizona were the Roman Catholic, Latter-day Saint (Mormon), and Presbyterian Churches. An inventory that can help you find church records is *Directory of Churches and Religious Organizations in Arizona* (Phoenix: Division of Professional and Service Projects, WPA, 1940; FHL book 979.1 K22a; film 908038; fiche 6051298).

The Family History Library has an extensive collection of LDS church records. The library has histories of local LDS congregations and an overview of Mormon colonization in James H. McClintock, *Mormon Settlement in Arizona: A Record of Peaceful Conquest of the Desert* (Phoenix: Manufacturing Stationers, 1921; FHL book 979.1 K2m; film 1033844 item 10). The library also has histories of some of the Catholic missions of Arizona.

Many denominations have collected their records into central repositories. You can write to the following addresses to learn where their records are located:

**Presbyterian**

Presbyterian Historical Society
United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.
425 Lombard St.
Philadelphia, PA 19147
Telephone: 215-627-1852
Fax: 215-627-0509

**Roman Catholic**

Diocese of Tucson
192 South Stone Ave.
P.O. Box 31
Tucson, AZ 85702
Telephone: 520-792-3410
Fax: 520-792-0291

Diocese of Phoenix
400 East Monroe
Phoenix, AZ 85004
The Arizona Historical Society houses early Spanish Catholic Church records in collections such as “Archivo General de la Nacion” and “Archivo Colegial Franscano of Queretaro, Mexico.”

**COURT RECORDS**

Major Arizona courts that kept records of genealogical value were established as follows:

1852-1863  
*New Mexico county, district, probate, and supreme courts* were the functioning courts for the Arizona area.

1864-1912  
*District courts* had countywide jurisdiction over records of chancery, criminal cases, and divorces. Naturalizations were handled until 1906 when the U.S. district court was given exclusive jurisdiction.

1912-pres.  
*Superior courts* superseded the district and probate courts. Their jurisdiction is countywide and includes major civil cases, cases of law or equity involving property, criminal, probate, divorce, juvenile, naturalizations, and appellate functions for cases appealed from justice of the peace courts.

*Police or magistrate's courts* have citywide concurrent jurisdiction with the justice courts over cases involving the violation of state laws committed within city limits.

*Justice courts* have districtwide jurisdiction over misdemeanors and minor criminal cases.

*Supreme court* serves as the statewide appellate court, with jurisdiction over cases involving more than one county.

Arizona court records are available at the various county courthouses. The Family History Library has not acquired copies of the court records.
DIRECTORIES

Directories of heads of households have been published for major cities of Arizona. For example, the Family History Library has:

- Phoenix
  
  1964, 1969, etc.
  FHL films 1843284-89
  FHL book 979.173/P1 E4p

- Tucson
  
  1881
  1965, 1969, 1976
  1902, 1912-1914, 1917-1924, 1926-1935
  FHL films 1843290-93
  FHL film 1299604

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

The earliest non-Indian settlers of Arizona generally came into the Gila Valley from Sonora and Sinaloa states of Mexico. During the 1840s and 1850s, prospectors from eastern United States and from Texas passed through the valley on their way to the gold fields of California. Some returned to settle. When military personnel left at the beginning of the Civil War in 1861, the territory was almost abandoned to the Indians. The Apaches remained a serious threat until 1886. Fort Defiance, established in 1852, was the only significant white outpost north of the Gila Valley until 1863, when politicians from northern states established Prescott as the first territorial capital. Phoenix, founded by an Englishman in 1867, became the territorial capital in 1889.

Mormon settlers from Utah established communities, such as Snowflake, on the Little Colorado River of northern Arizona in the 1870s and 1880s. Mormons and others also founded new towns and cities in the Gila and Salt River valleys in the southern part of the state. Mesa was one of these southern Arizona Mormon towns.

Most cities and towns of Arizona had been founded by 1900, but some mining communities experienced new growth in the 1920s when an ethnically varied population entered the state, including Italians, Mexicans, Cornishmen, and Slavs. Today, most Arizonans identify
themselves as Anglo, Mexican, Indian, Black, or Chinese. Many prominent families of southern Arizona are Mexican, and intermarriage across the border is common. A few records of ethnic groups such as Slavs and Spanish are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under ARIZONA - MINORITIES.

There was no port of entry common to settlers of Arizona. Some came through Gulf Coast ports, others through Pacific ports, still others through East Coast ports and then overland to Arizona. For detailed information on passenger lists, see the United States Research Outline.

GAZETTEERS

Several helpful gazetteers of Arizona have been published. Two of the most useful are:


GENEALOGY

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. These must usually be searched in person. Some important collections are:

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection. This collection consists of transcripts of a few Bible records, cemetery records, church records, marriages, deaths, obituaries, and wills. It was microfilmed in 1971 at the DAR Library, Washington, D.C., and is on FHL film 844408.

Computer Pedigree Index. The Arizona State Genealogical Society is gathering and indexing pedigree charts on computer. Its original emphasis was families from the Tucson area, but anyone is welcome to participate.

Family Group Records: Collected and Compiled by the Former Spanish-American Mission. This is a collection of family group sheets showing the ancestry of members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from the Southwest. It is on FHL Latin America films 940001-6.
The following important events in the history of Arizona affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements.

1776  The Spanish established a garrison at Tucson.

1821  Arizona became a part of Mexico. Apache troubles eliminated white settlements except in Tucson.

1846  The Mormon Battalion built Cooke's Wagon Road, south of the Gila River. The road became a favorite route into Arizona and California for early prospectors and pioneers.

1848-1853  Mexico ceded the portion of Arizona north of the Gila River to the United States. This became part of New Mexico Territory in 1850. In 1853, the Gadsden Purchase added the area south of the Gila.

1863-1866  Arizona was organized as a separate territory. The first four counties were organized in 1864. In 1866, the northwestern part of Arizona Territory was transferred to the new state of Nevada.

1870-1910  The non-Indian population of Arizona increased from fewer than 10,000 to over 200,000 as settlers moved in from many states and countries.

1912  Arizona became a state.

Sources for studying the history of Arizona include:


The first land grants in Arizona were given by Spain and Mexico. Some of the early records were kept by the Secretary's Office of New Mexico. A helpful published source of information about these grants is John R. and Christine Van Ness, *Spanish and Mexican Land Grants in New Mexico and Colorado* (Manhattan, Kans.: AG Press, 1980; FHL book 978 R2s).

When the United States acquired the area in 1848, it agreed to recognize prior claims. The claims were processed by the U.S. Surveyor General from 1855 to 1890, and by the U.S. Court of Private Land Claims from 1891 to 1903. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of the following records which are located at the Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office, Federal Building, 1474 Rodeo Rd, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115, Telephone: 505-438-7450, Fax: 505-438-7452. Most of the documents are indexed and written in either English or Spanish.

- Miscellaneous records for 1695-1842. (FHL films 1016947-48; use *Vigil's Index, 1681-1846*, on film 1106949.)

- Land titles kept by the Secretary of the Territory for the years 1847-1852. (FHL film 1016950; use *Vigil's Index, 1681-1846*, on film 1016949.)

- U.S. Surveyor General's records for 1855-1890. (FHL films 1016950-74 items 2-4; the index is on film 1016950 items 2-4.)

- U.S. Court of Private Land Claims 1891-1903. (FHL films 1016975-96; the docket listing the cases is on film 1016975.)

Unclaimed land became public domain and was surveyed and sold to private owners through land offices. The first General Land Office was established in 1870 at Prescott. Other offices were at Florence, Tucson, and Phoenix. Most of these records, along with mining, timber, and homestead entries, are at the National Archives—Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel). A few are at the National Archives—Rocky Mountain Region (Denver) (Building 48, Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225). Land entry cases and indexes to pre-1908 patents are located at the National Archives. Patents and tract books are at the Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office, Public Records/AZ 952, 222 North Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85004-2203, Telephone: 602-417-9528, Fax: 602-417-9556.

Subsequent transfers of land between private owners were recorded in each county. The Family History Library has not microfilmed the county deeds and other property records. You may obtain copies by writing to the county recorder at the county courthouse.
MAPS

The Family History Library has some single maps of Arizona, and an atlas (FHL film 002083) covering the years 1790-1871. Another helpful atlas is Henry P. Walker and Don Bufkin, *Historical Atlas of Arizona* (Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1979; FHL book Q 979.1 E7w).

The University of Arizona in Tucson, has an extensive collection of maps, atlases, and aerial photographs covering Arizona, southwestern United States, and Mexico. Arizona State University in Tempe also has a sizable collection of maps.

MILITARY RECORDS

The *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies.

Many military records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more information on federal records. For Arizona the following sources are also very helpful:

**Civil War (1861-1865)**

Arizona soldiers served in both the Union and Confederate armies. The compiled military service records (FHL film 536241) and indexes (FHL film 821837) for the Confederacy are available at the Family History Library and the National Archives. You may also find the union soldiers listed in the *New Mexico Territory Civil War Records* (FHL films 471538-83) and index (FHL films 821883-6).

The compiled service records and pensions of Union soldiers have not been microfilmed. They are only available at the National Archives. An index to the pensioners is on film at the Family History Library. (beginning with FHL film 540757)

**Indian Wars (1798-1914)**

Soldiers who served at military posts can be located by searching *Registers of Enlistments in the United States Army, 1798-1914*. These enlistment registers are available at the Family History Library (beginning with FHL film 350307). These include data on the soldier's name, physical description, age, occupation, and birthplace.
Two indexes are available for pension records: Old War Pension Index (1815-1926) and Index to Indian Wars (1892-1926). Both of these indexes are available at the Family History Library and at the National Archives. These indexes are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under UNITED STATES - MILITARY RECORDS.


**World War I (1917-1918)**

World War I draft registration cards for men age 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for Arizona, see:


To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board. Most counties had only one board; large cities had several.

**Additional Military Records**

Additional military records are at the Department of Libraries, Archives and Public Records.

**NATIVE RACES**

There are at least 15 Indian tribes on 17 reservations in the state. In addition to the Navajo—the largest tribe—important groups are the Mohave, Apache, Hopi, Paiute, Papago, Pima, Yuma, Yavapai, Hualapai, and Havasupai. Histories of Arizona Indians are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under ARIZONA - MINORITIES, as well as under ARIZONA - NATIVE RACES. Other records of American Indians are listed in the Subject Search of the Family History Library Catalog under the names of the tribes.

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of Bureau of Indian Affairs records, such as pre-1940 census, school, and vital records, for a few agencies, including the Fort Apache, Pima, and Yuma. The original documents are at the National Archives—Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel).
NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Persons living in the territory in 1848 and those residing in the area of the Gadsden Purchase were automatically granted U.S. citizenship. Naturalization records for later immigrants were filed in the district courts. They were recorded in the U.S. district court from September 1906 until 1912 when Arizona became a state. Since then, naturalization records have been filed in the superior courts, except for Maricopa County in which the U.S. district court has had jurisdiction since 1919.

Declarations, petitions, certificates, and other early records from about 1864 to 1912 are located at the National Archives—Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel) and the Department of Libraries, Archives and Public Records. The Family History Library has copies of many of these Arizona naturalization records on microfilm for 1864-1955.

For records after September 1906, contact the National Archives—Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel), the local office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, or the U.S. district court.

NEWSPAPERS

The Department of Libraries, Archives and Public Records has copies of newspapers dating from 1860. The Arizona State University Library, University of Arizona Library, and large public libraries also have good collections of Arizona newspapers. The Family History Library has not acquired copies of the papers. A guide to locating early newspapers from the territorial era is Estelle Lutrell, *Newspapers and Periodicals of Arizona, 1859-1911* (Tucson: University of Arizona, 1950; FHL book 979.1 B2L).

PERIODICALS

A genealogical periodical helpful for Arizona research is *Copper State Bulletin* (formerly: *Southern Arizona Genealogical Society Journal*), 1965– (Published by the Arizona State Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 42075, Tucson, AZ 85733-2075; FHL book 979.1 D25s).
**PROBATE RECORDS**

Probate records of Arizona were kept by the probate courts of New Mexico during the territorial period, 1850 to 1864. Files for the disposition of estates were then maintained by Arizona county probate courts until 1912, and since then have been handled by the superior courts. Probate clerks have kept records of guardianship from 1871, adoptions from 1873, school records from 1871 to 1899, marriage records from 1889 to 1912, and records of the care of Indian children.

Probate records, such as wills, claims, administrations, case files, and calendars are in the custody of the clerk of the superior court in each county courthouse. The Family History Library has acquired copies of some of these documents.

**VITAL RECORDS**

**Birth and Death Records**

Statewide registration of vital statistics began in 1909 and was generally complied with by 1926. To obtain copies of the records write to the state office at:

Vital Records Section  
Arizona Department of Health Services  
P.O. Box 3887  
Phoenix, AZ 85030  
Telephone: 602-255-3260

The current fees for obtaining copies of the state's records are listed in *Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces* (Hyattsville, Md.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 1993; FHL book 973 V24wv). Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and many Family History Centers. Or you can write to the Arizona Department of Health Services (above) for current information.

Some earlier records for 1887 to 1909 consist of births and deaths recorded by the individual counties where the events occurred. The counties that participated sent copies to the Arizona Department of Health Services, and the records are available at both places. The Family History Library has copies of some of these birth and death records.

**Marriage Records**

There is no statewide registration of marriages. An 1864 territorial law required county recorders to keep marriage and divorce records. From 1891 to 1912, clerks of probate courts issued marriage licenses. Marriage records are presently kept by the superior court of the county in
which the event occurred. The Family History Library has marriage records on microfilm for some counties.

**Divorce Records**

The earliest divorce records were granted by the territorial legislature and are found in the published *Territorial Statutes*. Later divorce proceedings were kept by the district court of each county until 1912, when the superior court was given this jurisdiction. The Family History Library does not have copies of these records.

**Guide to Vital Records**

To learn more about vital records in Arizona see *Guide to Public Vital Statistics Records in Arizona* (Phoenix: Arizona Historical Records Survey, 1941; FHL book 979.1 A1 no. 5; film 908046 item 3).

*Return to top of page*

**VOTING RECORDS**

The county recorders' offices have voting registers kept since the 1870s. These are sometimes called “Great Registers” and include residence, naturalization, and place of origin. The Family History Library has copies from some counties, such as 41 microfilms from Maricopa County from 1876 to 1932.
FOR FURTHER READING

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


Eichholz, Alice, ed. *Ancestry’s Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*. Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992; computer number 594021.) Contains bibliographies and background information on history and ethnic groups. Also contains maps and tables showing when each county was created.

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, UT 84150-3400
USA

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

## Arizona Historical Background

### 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 that your family was listed in, such as land and military documents.

The following important events in the history of Arizona affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1776</td>
<td>The Spanish established a garrison at Tucson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1821</td>
<td>Arizona became a part of Mexico. Apache troubles eliminated white settlements except in Tucson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1846</td>
<td>The Mormon Battalion built Cooke's Wagon Road, south of the Gila River. The road became a favorite route into Arizona and California for early prospectors and pioneers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1848-1853</td>
<td>Mexico ceded the portion of Arizona north of the Gila River to the United States. This became part of New Mexico Territory in 1850. In 1853, the Gadsden Purchase added the area south of the Gila.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1863-1866</td>
<td>Arizona was organized as a separate territory. The first four counties were organized in 1864. In 1866, the northwestern part of Arizona Territory was transferred to the new state of Nevada.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870-1910</td>
<td>The non-Indian population of Arizona increased from fewer than 10,000 to over 200,000 as settlers moved in from many states and countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1898</td>
<td>Over 300,000 men were involved in the Spanish-American War, which was fought mainly in Cuba and the Philippines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>Arizona became a state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917–1918</td>
<td>More than 26 million men from the United States ages 18 through 45 registered with the Selective Service for World War I, and over 4.7 million American men and women served during the war.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930s</td>
<td>The Great Depression closed many factories and mills. Many small farms were abandoned, and many families moved to cities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940–1945</td>
<td>Over 50.6 million men ages 18 to 65 registered with the Selective Service. Over 16.3 million American men and women served in the armed forces during World War II.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Arizona Historical Background

1950–1953  Over 5.7 million American men and women served in the Korean War.
1950s–1960s  The building of interstate highways made it easier for people to move long distances.

Your ancestors will become more interesting to you if you also use histories to learn about the events that were of interest to them or that they may have been involved in. For example, by using a history you might learn about the events that occurred in the year your great-grandparents were married.

Historical Sources

You may find state or local histories in the Family History Library Catalog under Arizona or the county or the town. For descriptions of records available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on Family History Library Catalog. The descriptions give book or film numbers, which you need to find or to order the records.

Local Histories

Some of the most valuable sources for family history research are local histories. Published histories of towns, counties, and states usually contain accounts of families. They describe the settlement of the area and the founding of churches, schools, and businesses. You can also find lists of pioneers, 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 your ancestor. A local history may also suggest other records to search.

Most county and town histories include separate sections or volumes containing biographical information. These may include information on 50 percent or more of the families in the locality.

In addition, local histories should be studied and enjoyed for the background information they can provide about your family’s lifestyle and the community and environment in which your family lived.

About 5,000 county histories have been published for over 80 percent of the counties in the United States. For many counties there is more than one history. In addition, tens of thousands of histories have been written about local towns and communities. Bibliographies that list these histories are available for nearly every state.

For descriptions of bibliographies for Arizona available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on Family History Library Catalog. Look under BIBLIOGRAPHY or HISTORY - BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Local histories are extensively collected by the Family History Library, public and university libraries, and state and local historical societies. Two useful guides are:

State History

Sources for studying the history of Arizona include:


United States History

The following are only a few of the many sources that are available at most large libraries:


*Dictionary of American History*, Revised ed., 8 vols. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976. (FHL book 973 H2ad.) This includes historical sketches on various topics in U.S. history, such as wars, people, laws, and organizations.
Arizona Statewide Indexes and Collections

Guide

Introduction

In the United States, information about your ancestors is often found in town and county records. If you know which state but not the town or county your ancestor lived in, check the following statewide indexes to find the town or county. Then search records for that town or county.

The indexes and collections listed below index various sources of information, such as histories, vital records, biographies, tax lists, immigration records, etc. You may find additional information about your ancestor other than the town or county of residence. The listings may contain:

- The author and title of the source.
- The Family History Library (FHL) book, film, fiche, or compact disc number. If the words beginning with appear before the film number, check the Family History Library Catalog for additional films.
- The name of the repository where the source can be found if the source is not available at the Family History Library.

What You Are Looking For

- Your ancestor's name in an index or collection.
- Where the ancestor was living.

Steps

These 2 steps will help you find information about your ancestor in statewide indexes or collections.

Step 1. Find your ancestor's name in statewide indexes or collections.

On the list below, if your ancestor lived between the years shown on the left, he or she may be listed in the source on the right.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1580–1900s</td>
<td>Ancestral File, International Genealogical Index, Family History Library Catalog - Surname Search</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1700s–1932 Mesa Genealogical Library. Mesa Arizona Genealogical Library Records: Family Pedigree Charts. (FHL films 2243–44, with the index on film 002243.)

1700s–1982 Family Group Records Sent to the Mesa Family History Center. (on 74 FHL films 1832019, alphabetical.)

1700s–1977 Powell, Donald M. The Arizona Index: A Subject Index To Periodical Articles About The State. (FHL films 1673859–860.)


1790–1975 Wiggins, Marvin E. Mormons and Their Neighbors: an Index of Over 75,000 Biographical Sketches from 1820 to the Present. (FHL book 979 D32w.)


1790–1900 Portrait and Biographical Records of Arizona: Commemorating the Achievements of Citizens Who Have Contributed to the Progress of Arizona and the Development of its Resources. (FHL film 934828 item 1; index 1321068 item 11.)

1800-1920 Census indexes, 1860–1880, 1900, and 1920. Or, click on Family History Library Catalog. Then select CENSUS or CENSUS - INDEXES from the topics that are listed.


1800–1934 United States. Veterans Administration. General Index of Pension Files, 1861–1934. (On 544 FHL films beginning with 540757.) This is a card index to pension applications of Civil War and Spanish-American War veterans; copies of the original files may be ordered from the National Archives.

1825–1975 Arizona Death Records: an Index Compiled from Mortuary, Cemetery and Church Records. (FHL book 979.1 V3a, vols. 1–3; fiche 6019995–97.)


1878–1918 United States Selective Service System. Arizona, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918. (On 20 FHL films beginning with 1473300.) Men ages 18 to 45 are listed alphabetically by county or draft board.

For ideas on ways your ancestor’s name might be spelled by indexers or in collections, see Name Variations.

**Step 2. Copy and document the information.**

The best method is to:

- Make a photocopy of the page(s) with your ancestor’s name.
- Document where the information came from by writing the title, call number, and page number of the index or collection on the photocopy. Also write the name of the library or archive.
Where to Find It

Family History Centers and the Family History Library

You can use the Family History Library book collection only at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, but many of our books have been microfilmed. Most of our films can be requested and used at our Family History Centers. To locate the address for the nearest Family History Center, click here.

For information about contacting or visiting the library or a center, see Family History Library and Family History Centers.

Libraries and Archives

You may be able to find the books at public or college libraries. If these libraries do not have a copy of the book you need, they may be able to order it from another library on interlibrary loan.

To use interlibrary loan:

• Go to a public or college library.
• Ask the librarian to order a book or microfilm for you through interlibrary loan from another library. You will need the title of the item and the name of the author.
• The library staff will direct you in their procedures. Sometimes this is free; sometimes there is a small fee.

You can find addresses and phone numbers for most libraries and archives in the American Library Directory, published by the American Library Association. The American Library Directory is available at most public and college libraries.
Maps
Computer Resources

MapQuest Maps
Summary: Must know address, city, state, and zip code; more recent maps

Animap
BYU FHL – on computer
Summary: Has each state with maps. Shows county boundary changes and allows marking of cities and finds distances.

Google Maps
Summary: Has address finder, allows keyword searching, and allows street, satellite, or terrain views

Geology.com Maps
Summary: Has Relief, Elevation, Drainage, Political and Road Maps for each state.
Maps Collection Quarto - G 1510.D45x 1996

**Summary of Book:** 76 pages. Maps cover place coordinates, range and townships. Mileage, public lands, Native American lands and national lands.
Evaluation: List of place names with map grids/coordinates.


**Summary of Book:** 161 pages. Shows population growth, diversity of people, economy, climate and regional maps.
**Evaluation:** Maps show diversity of people, growth in economy, climate, internal organizations. Private lands.

Map Collection - G 1201 .E6225 k5 1976

**Summary of Book:** Lists of boundary changes. Has 1884 index to cities and towns. Lists historical events (basic historical and political) and early settlements. Has a good bibliography.


**Summary of Book:** Covers colonial area til the early 1900's. 148 pages, plus map plates.
**Evaluation of Arizona Maps:** Map 66B is a map of Arizona in 1920. Shows Arizona territory 1863 - 1866, page 64 C. Map in 1866 - 1912 pages 64 B, D and 65 A, B, and 66 A.
Mic/Gen Ref and Census Area - G 1201 .F 7 T5 1987


Summary of Book: 65 pages. Uses half a page to describe map that is on the left page. Shows development of Native American reservations and county boundaries. Evaluation: Economic, social, geographical maps covered in this map collection
Arizona Federal Census Population Schedules, 1860 to 1920

Guide

Introduction
Starting in 1790, the United States government took a census every 10 years. Arizona residents are included in territorial and federal censuses for 1860 to 1880, and 1900 to 1920. For more information about the U.S. Federal Censuses, see Background.

What You Are Looking For
The information you find varies from record to record. These records may include:

- Names of family members.
- Ages of family members, which you can use to calculate birth or marriage years.
- The county and state where your ancestors lived.
- People living with (or gone from) the family.
- Relatives that may have lived nearby.

Steps
These 5 steps will help you use census records.

Step 1. Determine which censuses might include your ancestors.
Match the probable time period your ancestor was in Arizona with the census years. This will determine which censuses you will search.

Example of a time an ancestor was in Arizona.

in Arizona from 1871 [-------------------] through 1912

[-]--------[---]--------[---]--------

1860 1870 1880 1900 1910 1920
Arizona census years

This person would be included in Arizona censuses from 1880 to 1910.
(The 1890 census was mostly destroyed.)
Step 2. Determine a census to start with.

Start with the last census taken during the life of your ancestor. The censuses from 1850 to 1920 give more information and include the name, age, and birthplace of every person in the household.

The censuses from 1790 to 1840 give the name of the head of household and the number of males and females in age groups without their names.

The censuses for 1930 and later are available from the U.S. Census Bureau only. For ways the census can help you find your ancestor's parents, see Tip 1.

Step 3. Search the census.

For instructions on how to search a specific census, click on one of the following years:

1860 1870 1880 1900 1910 1920

For information about archives and libraries that have census records, see Where to Find It.

Step 4. Search another census.

Repeat Steps 2 and 3 until you search all the censuses taken during the life span of your ancestor. Each census may contain additional information.

If you skip a census taken when your ancestor lived, you risk missing additional information, such as names of in-laws or other relatives who may have lived with or near the family. Those names and relationships may help you identify earlier generations.

For other information about how to search the census, see Tips.

Step 5. Analyze the information you obtain from the censuses.

To effectively use the information from the census, ask yourself these questions:

• Who was in the family?
• About when were they born?
• Where were they born? (Birthplaces are shown in censuses for 1850 to 1920.)
• Where were they living—town or township, county, and state?
• Where were their parents born? (Birthplaces are shown in censuses for 1880 to 1920.)
• Do they have neighbors with the same last name? Could they be relatives?

For more about comparing information in several censuses, see Tip 3.

Tips

Tip 1. How can the census help me find my ancestor's parents?

Searching the census taken closest to the time the ancestor married has the best possibility of finding your ancestor and spouse living close to their parents and other family members.
Tip 2. How can I understand the information better?

Sometimes knowing why the census taker asked a question can help you understand the answer. Detailed instructions given to census takers are in the book *Twenty Censuses: Population and Housing Questions 1790-1980*, updated as *200 Years of U.S. Census Taking*, both by the United States Census Bureau.

Tip 3. How can comparing information in more than one census help me?

Comparing censuses indicates:

- Changes in who was in the household, such as children leaving home or the death of grandparents or a child.
- Changes in neighbors. Remember, neighbors might be relatives or in-laws.
- Changes about each individual, such as age.
- Movement of the family within Arizona to a different county or town.
- Movement of the family out of Arizona if the family no longer appears in the census for Arizona.

You will eventually want to know every country, state, county, township, and town where your ancestor was located. You can then check information in other records for those places. A careful check of all available federal census records can help you identify those places.

Ages and estimated birth dates for an individual may vary greatly from census to census. Often ages are listed more accurately for young children than for older adults.

Background

Description

A census is a count and a description of the population of a country, colony, territory, state, county, or city. Census records are also called census schedules or population schedules.

Early censuses are basically head counts. Later censuses give information about marriage, immigration, and literacy. In the United States, censuses are useful because they begin early and cover a large portion of the population.

What U.S. Federal Censuses Are Available

Censuses have been taken by the United States government every 10 years since 1790. The 1920 census is the most recent federal census available to the public; the 1930 census will be released in 2002. The 1890 census of Arizona was destroyed by fire.

Types of Census Schedules

The following census schedules are available for Arizona and were created in various years by the federal government:

- Population schedules list a large portion of the population; most are well-indexed and are available at many repositories.
- Mortality schedules list those who died in the 12 months prior to the day the census was taken for the 1870 and 1880 censuses.
How the Censuses Were Taken

People called enumerators were hired by the United States government to take the census. The enumerators were given forms to fill out and were assigned to gather information about everyone living in a certain area or district. Enumerators could visit the houses in any order, so families who are listed together in the census may or may not have been neighbors. The accuracy of the enumerators and the readability of their handwriting varies.

After the census was taken, usually one copy was sent to the state and another to the federal government. Sometimes copies were also kept by the counties. Few of the state and county copies survived.

When the Censuses Were Taken

Census takers were supposed to gather information about the people who were part of each household on the following dates:

- 1790 to 1820: First Monday in August
- 1830 to 1900: 1 June (2 June in 1890)
- 1910: 15 April
- 1920: 1 January
- 1930: 1 April

If your ancestor was born in the census year, your ancestor should be listed only if he or she was born before the census date.

If your ancestor died in the census year, your ancestor should be listed only if he or she died after the census date.

The census may have actually taken several months to complete and may reflect births and deaths after the census date.

Censuses from 1930 to the Present

U.S. Federal Censuses from 1930 to the present are confidential. The 1930 census will be available in 2002. You may ask the U.S. Census Bureau to send information about:

- Yourself.
- Another living person, if you are that person's "authorized representative."
- Deceased individuals, if you are "their heir or administrator."

You may only request information for one person at a time. There is a fee for each search. To request information, you must provide the person's name, address at the time of census, and other details on Form BC-600, available from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For the address of the U.S. Census Bureau, see Where to Find It.

Territorial, State, and Local Censuses

Territorial, state, and local governments also took censuses. Nonfederal censuses generally contain information similar to and sometimes more than federal censuses of the same period.

The Arizona area is included in the following censuses:

- 1860: New Mexico territorial census
- 1864-1882: Arizona territorial censuses

Territorial censuses were taken in 1864, 1866, 1867, 1869, 1871, 1872, and 1882.
Arizona became a state in 1912. Arizona has no state censuses.

Territorial, state, and local censuses may be available on the Internet, at Family History Centers, the Family History Library, and in state and local archives and libraries.

Where to Find It

Internet

Many Internet sites include census records, census indexes, or information about censuses. You may find the following sites helpful:

- Arizona GenWeb and USGenWeb have links to indexes and records and may have links to archives, libraries, and genealogical and historical societies.
- CensusLinks on the ‘Net includes links to Internet sites with United States and Canada censuses and indexes. It includes information about censuses and how to use them, a Soundex calculator, census forms you can print, an age calculator, and more.
- Browse Categories on this screen has links to records and indexes that are available on the Internet.
- The Archives and Libraries section of the Arizona Research Outline lists Internet addresses for several Arizona archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Arizona census records, and the Internet sites may list what records they have.

Family History Centers

Many Family History Centers keep copies of some census microfilms. Family History Centers can borrow microfilms of a U.S. Federal Census from the Family History Library. A small fee is charged to have a microfilm sent to a center.

You may request photocopies of U.S. Federal Censuses from the Family History Library. Staff at the Family History Center can show you how to request this service.

Family History Centers are located throughout the United States and other areas of the world. See Family History Centers for the address and phone number of the center nearest you.

Family History Library

The Family History Library has complete sets of the existing U.S. Federal Censuses from 1790 to 1920. No fee is charged for using the census microfilms in person.

For a list of indexes and other census records, click on Family History Library Catalog. Select from the list of titles to see descriptions of the records with the film or book call numbers. Use that information to obtain the records at a family history center or at the Family History Library.

For information about contacting or visiting the library, see Family History Library and Family History Centers.

National Archives

Copies of the existing federal censuses from 1790 to 1920 are available in the Microfilm Research Room in the National Archives Building and at the 13 Regional National Archives. The National Archives has a microfilm rental program for census records. Call 301-604-3699 for rental information. For information on how to order photocopies of census records from the National Archives, click here.
College Libraries and Public Libraries

Many college libraries have copies of the census microfilms, particularly for their own states. Many larger public libraries have copies of the census soundex and populations schedules. Smaller public libraries may be able to obtain the records through interlibrary loan.

State Archives, Libraries, and Historical Societies

The Archives and Libraries section of the Arizona Research Outline lists Internet and mailing addresses for several Arizona archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Arizona census records, and the Internet sites may list what records they have.

U.S. Census Bureau

To request information from the 1930 census and later censuses, you must provide your relative's name, address, and other details on Form BC-600, available from:

The U.S. Census Bureau
P.O. Box 1545
Jeffersonville, IN 47131
Telephone: 812-218-3300

Genealogical Search Services

Many genealogical search services will search the census for a fee. These sources can help you find a genealogical search service:

- CyndisList lists many companies and individuals who do research and mentions publications about how to hire a professional genealogist.
- Advertisements in major genealogical journals may help you find a researcher.
1864
The 1864 census of the territory of Arizona.

1864 (Full enumeration of families)
Note: There is a map included on Card 1 of 3.

First District
Tucson, Pima Villages, Apache Pass, San Pedro, San Zavier, Reventon & Calabasas (cont. on Card 2 of 3)

Cerro Colorado Mine, Mowry Mine, Women & Children (Mowry Mine), San Antonia Mine, Fresnal

Second District
La Paz, Mineral City, Olive City, Castle

Third District
(Statistical Only)

1866
Arizona 1866 territorial census index.

1866

1866 (Statistical)

1866-67, 1869
Indexes to the census of the Arizona Territory, 1866, 1867, Yavapai county, 1869.

1882-1907
1882 - 1907 school census Gila County, Arizona.

1920
1920 school census Gila County, Arizona.


Hodge, Hiram C. Arizona as it is; or the Coming Country. Cambridge: Riverside Press, 1877. F 811 .H69 (Special Collections: Americana Rare)


LeSueuer, James W. Arizona, the Land of Enchantment. [S.l., 1935]. F 811.6 .L47x


Apache County Formed in 1879 from Yavapai County.


LeSueuer, James W. Histories, 1939 (includes an account of the settlement of St. Johns, Apache County). MSS SC 801 (Special Collections)

**Cochise County**  Created in 1881 from Pima County.


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Coconino County  Created in 1891 from Yavapai County.


Gila County  Created in 1881 from Maricopa and Pinal Counties.


Graham County  Created in 1881 from Pima and Apache Counties.


Greenlee County  Created in 1909 from Graham County.


Updated 4/03
La Paz County

Maricopa County  Created in 1871 from Yavapai, Yuma and Pima Counties.


Mohave County  Created in 1864 as an original county.


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ARIZONA


Navajo County  Created in 1895 from Apache County.

Brinkerhoff, Sarah E.  My Town and People, a Personalized History of Woodruff, Arizona.  [n.p., n.d.].  **F 819 .W66 B75x**


LeSuer, James W.  Histories, 1939 (includes a History of Mormon Settlements in Navajo County).  **MSS SC 801** (Special Collections)


Updated 4/03
ARIZONA


Pima County  Created 1864 as an original county.

Barter, George Washington. Directory of the City of Tucson for the Year 1881: Containing a Comprehensive List of Inhabitants with their Occupations and Places of Residence: the Public Officers and their Offices; with a Review of the Past, a Glance at the the Present and a Forecast of the Future of this City: Together with Other Useful Information Concerning the Same. San Francisco: GW Barter, 1881. 917.9177 T 7996 1881 (Special Collections)


**ARIZONA**


**Pinal County** Created in 1875 from Pima and Yavapai.

**Santa Cruz County** Created in 1864 as an original county.


**Yavapai County** Created in 1864 as an original county.


**Yuma County** Created in 1864 as an original county.


**ARIZONA**

**Other Sources to Check for General County/Local Histories**


Halverson, Frank Douglas and Eva H.T. Halverson.  *County Histories of the United States Giving Present Name, Date Formed, Parent County, and County Seat*.  [Salt Lake City, 1937].  *E 180 .H35*


Other Resources Arizona

Arizona State Library Archives and Records Genealogy Collection  
http://www.lib.az.us/is/genealogy/

Arizona Genweb Project  
http://www.rootsweb.com/~azgenweb/

Cyndi’s list Arizona Links  
http://www.cyndislist.com/az.htm

Rootsweb Arizona Page  
http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/az.html

Geneasearch’s Arizona Page  
http://geneasearch.com/states/arizona.htm