

# Florida

## Research Outline

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This outline describes major sources of information about families from Florida. 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

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The Family History Library has some of the records described in this outline. The major holdings are Spanish, federal, and state censuses. The library also has land, military, probate, and vital records.

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.

## ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

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The following archives, libraries, and societies have collections or services helpful for genealogical research.

- Florida Department of State

Bureau of Archives and Record Management

Mail Station 9A

R.A. Gray Building

Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Telephone: 904-487-2073

Fax: 904-488-4894

As of January 1984 the genealogy collection of the Florida State Library was transferred to the Florida State Archives. However, the Florida State Library, which is also in the R.A. Gray Building, still has references of interest to the genealogist, especially in the “Florida Collection.”

- National Archives—Southeast Region (Atlanta)

1557 St. Joseph Avenue

East Point, GA 30344

Telephone: 404-763-7477

Fax: 404-763-7815

- Florida State Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 10249

Tallahassee, FL 32302

Telephone: 1-813-872-0280

- Florida Historical Library

435 Brevard Ave.

Cocoa, FL 32922

Telephone: 1-407-690-1971

- Florida University

Department of Special Collections

Smathers Library Room 100

P.O. Box 117007

Gainesville, FL 32611

Telephone: 352-392-0319  
Fax: 352-392-4788

- University of West Florida

John Chandler Pace Library  
11000 University Parkway  
Pensacola, FL 32514-5750  
Telephone: 850-474-2492  
Fax: 850-474-3338

- University of Miami

Otto G. Richter Library  
P.O. Box 248214  
Coral Gables, FL 33124  
Telephone: 305-284-3551  
Fax: 305-665-7352

- Orange County Library System

101 East Central  
Orlando, FL 32801  
Telephone: 407-425-4694  
Fax: 407-648-0523

Two helpful guides for several important Florida archives and libraries are:

*Catalog of the Florida State Archives*. Tallahassee, Fla.: Department of State, 1975.  
(FHL book 975.9 A5fs no. 1.)

*Guide to Depositories of Manuscript Collections in the United States: Florida*.  
Jacksonville, Fla.: Florida Historical Records Survey Project, 1940. (FHL book 975.9 A1  
no. 130.)

To learn more about the history and record-keeping systems of Florida counties, use the 12 inventories of the county archives published by the Historical Records Survey around 1940. Copies are 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 Florida 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.ancestry.com/roots-l/>

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.

## FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

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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 RECORDS**

**FLORIDA - LAND RECORDS**

**FLORIDA, DUVAL - VITAL RECORDS**

**FLORIDA, DUVAL, JACKSONVILLE - CEMETERIES**

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

UNITED STATES - **CENSUS RECORDS**

FLORIDA - **LAND RECORDS**

FLORIDA, DUVAL - **VITAL RECORDS**

FLORIDA, DUVAL, JACKSONVILLE - **CEMETERIES**

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

## BIBLE RECORDS

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The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains some Bible records. This collection is described in the “Genealogy” section of this outline. Some additional Bible transcripts are found at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C. and at the Family History Library on **films 850399-404 and 907982**.

The DAR Bible records are partially indexed by E. Kay Kirkham, ***An Index to Some Family Records of the Southern States*** (Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1979; FHL book 973 D22kk v. 1; fiche 6089183).

## BIOGRAPHY

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Statewide, regional, and county histories often have biographical sections that can be very helpful. A representative biographical encyclopedia is Harry Gardner Cutler, ***History of Florida, Past and Present*** . . . , 3 vols (Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Co.,

1923; FHL book 975.9 H2c; vol. 1 on film 1321188, vol. 3 on film 1697443 item 10). Volumes 2 and 3 have biographical information.

Helpful indexes available at the Family History Library and the St. Augustine Historical Society are the *Biographical Card Index* (on 18 FHL films beginning with 967146) and the alphabetical *Biographical and Genealogical File* (on 9 FHL films beginning with 967703).

## CEMETERIES

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The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains tombstone inscriptions from Florida cemeteries. This collection is described in the “Genealogy” section of this outline. Another important collection of cemetery inscriptions is E. H. Hayes, *Cemetery Records of Florida*, 9 vols. (Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society, 1946-66; FHL book 975.9 V3c; films 874012-3).

The collection *Cemetery Records in Florida and Georgia* is on FHL films 228823-28. This index is arranged by county and gives information about births, deaths, parents, and spouses. A directory of cemetery records that lists the names and locations of cemeteries in Florida is on FHL film 1206385.

The Family History Library also has 35 microfilms of records from several Tampa funeral homes. These are listed in the catalog under FLORIDA, HILLSBOROUGH, TAMPA - VITAL RECORDS.

## CENSUS

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### Federal

Many federal 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 about these records.

The Family History Library has microfilms of the federal censuses of Florida from 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920. The 1890 census and veterans schedules were destroyed.

Statewide indexes are available for the 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses. Soundex (phonetic) indexes on microfilm exist for part of the 1880 and all of the 1900, 1910 and 1920 censuses.

The Florida State Archives has the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 mortality schedules. The Family History Library has the published indexes for each of these schedules.

## **Colonial, Territorial, and State**

Colonial, territorial, and state censuses exist for 1783, 1786, 1790, 1793, 1814, 1825, 1837, 1845, 1855, 1865, 1868, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1935, and 1945. (Censuses taken in later years were destroyed.) Beginning with 1855, specific information is given for each individual. Only scattered fragments are available for the 1855 through 1895 censuses.

The censuses listed above are at the Florida State Archives. The Family History Library has returns for a few counties for various years on microfilm. **The 1885 enumerations for 35 counties are on FHL films 888962-74.**

## **CHURCH RECORDS**

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Before 1900 the largest religious groups in Florida were the Baptist, Methodist-Episcopal (now United Methodist) and Roman Catholic. The Family History Library has a few original records of Florida churches and some materials that have been published by the DAR and others.

For more information about churches in Florida, see:

***A Preliminary List of Religious Bodies in Florida.*** Jacksonville: Historical Records Survey, 1939. (FHL book 975.9 K2ha; film 1036590 item 6; **fiche 6019561.**)  
*Guide to the Supplementary Vital Statistics from Church Records in Florida.* 3 vols. Jacksonville: Historical Records Survey, 1942. (FHL book 975.9 V2h; FHL film 1425703 item 6.)

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

### **Baptist**

Florida Baptist Historical Society  
Stetson University  
P.O. Box 8353  
Deland, FL 32720  
Telephone: 904-822-7175 Fax: 904-822-7199  
Internet: <http://www.floridabaptisthistory.org>

Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives  
901 Commerce St., Suite 400  
Nashville, TN 37203-3630  
Telephone: 615-244-0344 Fax: 615-782-4821  
Internet: <http://www.sbhla.org/>

The Family History Library has microfilms of some of the minutes and membership lists from the Southern Baptist Historical Commission.

Many of the Baptist associations and their records are described in *Inventory of the Church Archives of Florida: Baptist Bodies* (Jacksonville: Historical Records Survey, 1939-1940; FHL books 975.9 K2h; film 1036585 item 4).

## **Methodist**

Florida United Methodist History Collection  
E. T. Roux Library  
Florida Southern College  
Lakeland, FL 33811  
Telephone: 941-680-4164  
Fax: 941-680-4126

United Methodist Archives Center  
Drew University Library  
P.O. Box 127  
Madison, NJ 07940  
Telephone: 201-408-3189  
Fax: 201-408-3909

A history of churches and congregations is in George G. Smith, *The History of Methodism in Georgia and Florida: From 1785 to 1865* (Macon, Ga.: Jno. W. Burke and Co., 1877; FHL book 975 K2s; fiche 6048432).

## **Roman Catholic**

Archdiocese of Miami  
9401 Biscayne Blvd.  
Miami Shores, FL 33138  
Telephone: 305-757-6241  
Fax: 305-754-1897

The Family History Library has 14 microfilms of records for the years 1594 to 1924 from the main cathedral in St. Augustine. Other early records are described in Thomas T. McAvoy, *Guide to the Microfilm Edition of the Records of the Diocese of Louisiana and*



*the Floridas, 1576-1803* (Notre Dame, Ind.: University of Notre Dame Archives, 1976; FHL book 976.3 A1 No. 15).

## COURT RECORDS

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

- 1821-pres.        ***Circuit courts*** in each county have jurisdiction over minor civil cases, probate, equity, guardianship, and felonies for each county.
- 1822-pres.        ***County judges*** keep probate, marriage, administration, and guardianship records.
- 1887-pres.        ***Criminal courts*** have records of criminal cases not punishable by capital punishment.
- 1915-pres.        ***Civil courts*** exist in counties with populations of more than 100,000. In these counties, the civil court takes the place of the county court.

The Family History Library has a few Florida court records. From Duval County, for example, the library has circuit court indexes to judgments and satisfactions (1901-23). The Florida State Archives has microfilm copies of many of the county records and some of the records from higher appeals courts. You may also obtain copies of the records by contacting the clerk's office in the appropriate county.

For more information about federal court records see *Inventory of Federal Archives in the States: Series II. The Federal Courts No. 9 Florida* (Jacksonville: Historical Records Survey, 1940; FHL book 975.9 A1 no. 133; film 924006 item 7).

## DIRECTORIES

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Directories of heads of households have been published for major cities in Florida. For example, the Family History Library has directories for Miami for the years 1941, 1942, 1953, 1966 and 1970 (FHL book 975.938 E4p; film 1421916 item 3 is for the year 1942).

The Family History Library has a set of microfilms with Miami City directories 1904-1935 (beginning on FHL film 1759897).

The library also has directories for Jacksonville covering the years 1931, 1941, 1946, 1950, 1953 and 1971 (FHL book 975.912/J1 E4p).

## EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

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### Immigrants

Pre-statehood settlers of Florida generally arrived after 1817 from the older southern states, especially Georgia and the Carolinas. The East Florida non-Indian population hovered between 3,000 in 1763 and 5,000 in 1817 as the colony passed from the Spanish to the British and then back to Spanish possession.

By 1768 the British had imported over 1,200 Greeks, Italians, and Minorcans to the New Smyrna settlement. Many of them died, and by 1778 the remaining inhabitants were scattered through St. Augustine, where Minorcans are still an identifiable part of the population.

Thousands of loyalist refugees arrived from the rebellious American colonies beginning in 1775, but most were deported after 1783 to the Bahamas, Jamaica, and other islands of the British West Indies. A few Americans from the southern states and British planters returning from the Bahamas entered Florida between 1790 and 1804. In 1804, the Spanish officially closed East Florida to American immigration, but settlers continued to cross the Georgia-Florida border, especially after 1812.

Most persons migrating from the United States settled in the northern section of the state. After the Seminole Wars of 1817-18 and 1835-42 had dispossessed the Indians of their lands, white settlement gradually moved southward. Today there are over 1,000 Seminole Indians living in Florida near Lake Okeechobee.

The state remained sparsely settled until after the Civil War. Then land speculation, the construction of railroads, and the building of resorts attracted new residents from the northern states. There were white settlers in all parts of Florida by 1900, when the total population reached 500,000. The population doubled to one million by 1920, when a second Florida land boom was underway. As the thinly-settled areas of southern Florida filled in, 13 new counties were created between 1921 and 1925.

Blacks have been in Florida since early colonial times. There were as many blacks as whites in Florida between 1830 and 1900.

Refugees from revolutionary troubles in Cuba came to Florida beginning in 1868. Immigrants from northern Spain, Italy, Greece, and other areas of southeastern Europe arrived in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

### Records

Ports of entry to Florida have included St. Augustine, Key West, and Tampa. The National Archives and the Family History Library have:

- Passenger lists for St. Augustine, 1821 to 1824, 1827, and 1870, and Key West, 1837 to 1852 and 1857 to 1868. These are included in *Copies of Lists of Passengers Arriving at Miscellaneous Ports on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts*, listed in the catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION (beginning on FHL film 830231).

These are indexed by *Supplemental Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Atlantic and Gulf Coast Ports*, listed in the catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION - INDEXES (beginning on FHL film 418161).

- Passenger lists for Key West, 1898 to 1920, listed in the catalog under FLORIDA, MONROE, KEY WEST - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION (beginning on FHL film 1375956).
- *Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Miscellaneous Ports in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Southern Carolina*, 1890 to 1924, listed in the catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION - INDEXES (FHL films 1324938-63).

You should also check passenger lists for other ports, especially New Orleans. The National Archives also has passenger lists for about ten minor ports in Florida, 1900-1945. More detailed information on immigration sources is in the *United States Research Outline*.

Records of the Seminole Indians are listed in the subject catalog under the name of the tribe. Records of colonial Greek and Italian groups are listed in the catalog under FLORIDA - MINORITIES.

## GAZETTEERS

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A number of gazetteers of Florida have been published. Three of the most helpful are:

Morris, Allen Covington. *Florida Place Names*. Coral Gables, Fla.: University of Miami Press, 1974. (FHL book 975.9 E2m.)

*Florida Gazetteer and Business Directory*. Jacksonville, Fla.: R.L. Polk & Co., 1908. (FHL book 975.9 E5po; fiche 6046880.)

## GENEALOGY

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

A notable manuscript collection of compiled genealogies is the *Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection*. This collection consists of transcripts of obituaries, wills, and Bible, cemetery, church, marriage, and death records. One set of volumes was microfilmed in 1971 at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., and is on 20 microfilms at the Family History Library. A second set of volumes was filmed at the Florida Division of Archives, History, and Records Management in 1956 (FHL films 006954-55). The volumes are generally arranged by county, and many have individual indexes. The DAR films are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under various counties and subject headings.

## HISTORY

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

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1565      | The Spanish founded St. Augustine, the first permanent white settlement in what is now the United States. Pensacola was founded by the Spanish in 1698, but there was little significant European settlement in Florida until the late eighteenth century. |
| 1763      | At the close of the Seven Years' War (French and Indian War), Britain gained control of Florida. Settlers from Europe and the American colonies to the north began to move into the area. The provinces of East Florida and West Florida were formed.      |
| 1783      | Most of the British settlers left when Spain regained the Floridas.  |
| 1812      | The United States annexed portions of West Florida to Louisiana and to the Mississippi Territory.  |
| 1819      | Spain ceded the remainder of West Florida and all of East Florida to the United States. Official United States occupation took place in 1821, and Florida was organized as a territory in 1822.  |
| 1842      | At the close of the Seminole Wars, most of the Indians were removed west to present-day Oklahoma, but a few hundred escaped into the swamps.   |
| 1845      | Florida became a state.  |
| 1861      | Florida seceded from the Union. It was readmitted in 1868.   |
| 1870-1900 | The post-Civil War boom brought many settlers to Florida,  |

1921-1925 as developers from the North built railroads and resorts.  
The last 13 of the state's 67 counties were organized as the Florida land boom attracted new settlers from the north.

An especially helpful source for studying the history of Florida is Junius E. Dovell, *Florida: Historic- Dramatic-Contemporary*, 4 vols. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1952; FHL book 975.9 H2do).

## LAND AND PROPERTY

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### Colonial Land Grants

Florida was a disputed possession of England, France, and Spain in turn until it finally became a possession of the United States in 1821. A board of land commissioners for West Florida was established in 1822 and for East Florida in 1823 to process claims to lands previously granted by other nations. These documents, as well as land ancestries and homestead records, are at the Florida State Archives. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of some of the archive's files, including:

- *Spanish Land Grant Archives, 1764-1844*. (FHL films 1020288-95.) These are written in Spanish and English. Some are indexed. Many of these are transcribed in *Spanish Land Grants in Florida: Briefed Translations from the Archives of the Board of Commissioners*, 5 vols. (Tallahassee: Historical Records Survey, 1940-1941; FHL book 975.9 R2hs; films 897334-35 or 1020203-4).
- Land Claims, 1824-1828, confirmed and unconfirmed. (FHL films 1020205-17 and 1020284-87.)

A helpful publication is Phillip W. McMullin, *Grassroots of America* (Salt Lake City: Gendex Corp., 1972; FHL book 973 R2ag index; fiche 6051323). This indexes claims to U.S. land which are transcribed in the *American State Papers* (on microfilm at the Family History Library).

### Federal Land Grants

Florida eventually became a public domain state. The first general land office was established at Tallahassee in 1825. Original patents and copies of tract books and township plats are located at the Bureau of Land Management (Eastern States Office, 7450 Boston Blvd., Springfield, VA 22153; Telephone: 703-440-1600, Fax: 703-440-1609). The National Archives has donation and land entry case files and an index to pre-1908 patentees who did not file private claims.

### County Land Records

After land was transferred to private ownership, subsequent transactions were recorded by the clerk of the circuit court, who was the county recorder. In some counties land records were recorded by a county court or a county judge.

The Family History Library has land records from many Florida counties. These include deeds, homesteads, mortgages, plat books, order books, and tract books. For example, the Family History Library has 51 microfilms of Orange County deeds (1843-90), and deed indexes (early-1937).

## MAPS

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The University of Florida in Gainesville has the largest collection of Florida maps. The Florida State University also has a sizable map collection.

The Family History Library has a small collection of maps dating from the colonial era and other maps made by the General Land Office and by the U.S. Geological Survey

## MILITARY RECORDS

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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 about the federal records. For Florida the following sources are also very helpful:

### Indian Wars (1815-1858)

An index to compiled military service records for Indian Wars and disturbances from 1815 to 1858 is at the Family History Library (FHL [films 882753-94](#)). The index includes soldiers who served in the Seminole and Florida Wars, 1817 to 1818 and 1835 to 1842. The compiled military service records for the Florida War, 1835 to 1858, are also available (beginning on FHL film 1303446).

The library also has an index to Indian Wars pension files, 1892 to 1926 (FHL [films 821610-21](#)). The index includes those soldiers who served between 1817 and 1898. The actual pension files have not been filmed and are only at the National Archives.

### Civil War (1861-1865)

Soldiers from Florida served in both the Union and the Confederate armies. The Family History Library and the National Archives have the following:

- *Union*

Compiled service records	FHL films 1299987-97
Index to service records	FHL film 821727
Index to pension records	FHL films 540757-541300

(Pension records are only at the National Archives)

- *Confederate*

Service records	FHL films 880103-106
Service records	FHL films 880001-9
Pension records	FHL films 006718-885
Index to pension records	FHL film 006717

State militia records for the Confederate period are at the state arsenal in St. Augustine. For information, write to:

Adjutant General  
Department of Military Affairs  
Attn.: M.I.L.P.  
P.O. Box 1008  
St. Augustine, FL 32085-1008  
Telephone: 904-823-0315  
Fax: 904-823-0309

### **Spanish-American War (1898)**

The compiled military service records of volunteer soldiers who served in the Florida Infantry are at the National Archives and the Family History Library (FHL films 1314126-38). Published rosters are found in *Soldiers of Florida in the Seminole Indian Civil and Spanish-American Wars* (Live Oak, Fla.: Democrat Book and Job Print, 1909; FHL book 975.9 M2s; film 988193).

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

World War I draft registration cards for men ages 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 Florida see:

United States. Selective Service System. *Florida, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M1509. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987-1988. (On FHL films beginning with film 1556849.)

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. A map showing the boundaries of individual draft boards is available for most large cities. Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you in using the draft board map. There is an alphabetical list of cities that are on the map. For a copy of this map see:

United States. Selective Service System. *List of World War One Draft Board Maps*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives. (FHL film 1498803.)

## **NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP**

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Naturalization records have been filed in the county, circuit, and U.S. district courts. The Family History Library has copies of the records from very few counties.

The National Archives—Southeast Region (Atlanta) has naturalization records of the U.S. district court for the Southern District of Florida (Key West) for the years 1875 to 1948 and records for the Southern District of Florida (Miami) for 1907 to 1948.

For naturalization records after September 1906, contact the National Archives—Southeast Region (Atlanta) or the local office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

## **NEWSPAPERS**

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The Florida State Library and other major libraries have Florida newspaper collections. The Family History Library has no Florida newspapers but has collected a few published abstracts and indexes of obituaries.

## **PERIODICALS**

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The major genealogical periodicals and magazines helpful for Florida research are:

*Ancestry*. 1966–. Published by The Palm Beach County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1746, West Palm Beach, FL 33402; Telephone: 407-832-3279. (FHL book 975.932 B2a; vols. 1-5 on film 874055 items 1-3.)

*The Florida Armchair Researcher*. 1984–. Published by Armchair Publications, 810 McDonough Rd., Hampton, GA 30228. (FHL book 975.9 D25f.)

*Journal*. 1961–. Published by the Florida Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 18624, Tampa, FL 33679-8624. (FHL book 975.9 D25fgj.)

*The Florida Genealogist*. 1977–. Published by the Florida State Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 10249, Tallahassee, FL 32302-2249; Telephone: 813-872-0280. (FHL book 975.9 D25fg.)

*Jacksonville Genealogical Society Quarterly*. 1973–. Published by the Jacksonville Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 60756, Jacksonville, FL 32236-0756. (FHL book 975.912/J1 D25j.)

*South Florida Pioneers*. 1974–. Published by Richard M. Livingston, P.O. Box 3749, North Fort Myers, FL 33918. (FHL book 975.9 D25s; FHL films 1888609 items 2-20 for issues 1-28; film 1888610 items 1-12 for issues 29-52.)

## PROBATE RECORDS

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Florida probate records have been kept by county judges and county clerks in each courthouse. Since 1968 they have been under the jurisdiction of the clerk of the circuit court in each county. The files may include wills, bonds, letters, petitions, order books, inventories, and settlements. You may obtain copies of the records from the clerk of the circuit court.

The Family History Library has copies of some probate records for Florida, such as the 75 microfilms from Hillsborough County that include:

- Judges' administrations, 1847 to 1928
- Local and foreign wills, 1847 to 1930
- Probate packets, 1834 to 1944
- Guardianships, 1886 to 1929
- Register of estates, 1893 to 1926
- Minutes, 1882 to 1928
- General index to estates, 1834 to 1944

## TAXATION

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Tax lists can be an important supplement to early census and land records. The Family History Library has 66 microfilms of tax rolls for 43 counties from as early as 1839 and as late as 1891 for some counties (FHL films 06888-953). Copies of these microfilms can also be borrowed from the Florida State Archives.

## VITAL RECORDS

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### City and County Records of Births and Deaths

The offices of some county and city health departments have records from 1890 to 1916. The records of Jacksonville, Key West, Ocala, Orlando, Pensacola, St. Augustine, and Tampa have been collected by the state. These are on film and open to the public at the Florida State Archives. Individual counties have records of delayed birth registrations.

The Family History Library has copies of original birth and death records for some counties as well as an extensive collection of delayed birth records dating to the 1960s. For example, there are 22 microfilms of delayed birth records for Leon County, 1874 to 1948, and 2 films of Pensacola birth and death records, 1891 to 1910.

### State Records of Births and Deaths

Statewide registration of births and deaths began in 1899 and was generally completed by 1920. Some earlier city and county records have been deposited with the state office. They include incomplete records of births from 1865 to 1917 and incomplete records of deaths from 1877 to 1917. The Family History Library has 143 microfiche of the Florida Combined Death Index, 1877-1969 (FHL fiche 6081769-817). You can obtain copies of the state's records by writing to:

Office of Vital Statistics  
P.O. Box 210  
Jacksonville, FL 32206  
Telephone: 904-359-6911 or 6912  
Internet: [www.doh.state.fl.us/planning\\_eval/Vital\\_Statistics/index.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/planning_eval/Vital_Statistics/index.html)

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). Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and the Family History Centers (FHL book 973 V24wv).

You can also write to the Office of Vital Statistics for current information. State your relationship to the individual about whom you want information and the reason you want the information.

State records are closed to the general public. Birth records are restricted to the individual or his parent or legal guardian. Death information is available to anyone (except for the cause of death, which is given only to immediate family members).

## **Marriage and Divorce Records**

Marriage records have been kept by each county, usually from the date the county was created. The Family History Library has a large collection of county marriage records. For example, the marriage licenses of the county judge for Hillsborough County are on 93 microfilms for the years 1849 to 1951, 1853 to 1927, and 1940 to 1956, with an index for 1846 to 1980.

Statewide registration of marriages began in June 1927. The Family History Library has 471 microfiche of the Florida Combined Marriage Index, 1927-1969 (FHL fiche 6081726-68). These records are in the Office of Vital Statistics.

Records of divorce proceedings are kept by the clerk of the circuit court in each county. You can write to the clerk for records up to June 1927. For records since then, write to the Office of Vital Statistics. The Family History Library has 305 microfiche of the Florida Combined Divorce and Annulment Index, 1927-1969 (FHL fiche 6081683-725).

## **Guide to Vital Records**

An explanation of the history and availability of vital records is in *Guide to Public Vital Statistics Records in Florida* (Jacksonville, Fla.: Florida Historical Records Survey, 1941; FHL book 975.9 A5h; film 1036590 item 3; fiche 6019962).

## **FOR FURTHER READING**

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These handbooks will give you more detailed information about research and records of Florida.

Florida State Archives. Public Records Unit. *Microfilmed Records of Florida Counties*. Tallahassee, Fla.: Florida State Archives, 1975-1977. (FHL book 975.9 A3f.) This

includes the microfilm numbers and descriptions of records at the Family History Library.

Robie, Diane C. *Searching in Florida: A Reference Guide to Public and Private Records*. Costa Mesa, Calif.: Independent Search Consultants, Inc., 1982. (FHL book 975.9 D24r; FHL film 1698289 item 5.)

Bodziony, Gill T. *Genealogy and Local History: A Bibliography*. Revised. Tallahassee, Fla.: State Library of Florida, 1978. (FHL book 975.9 D23b 1978.) Also use the fifth cumulative supplement by Beverly P. Byrd, issued in 1983. (FHL book 975.9 D23b 1983.)

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

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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.

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## Florida 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 Florida affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movement.

1565	The Spanish founded St. Augustine, the first permanent white settlement in what is now the United States. Pensacola was founded by the Spanish in 1698, but there was little significant European settlement in Florida until the late eighteenth century.
1763	At the close of the Seven Years' War (French and Indian War), Britain gained control of Florida. Settlers from Europe and the American colonies to the north began to move into the area. The provinces of East Florida and West Florida were formed.
1783	Most of the British settlers left when Spain regained the Floridas.
1812	The United States annexed portions of West Florida to Louisiana and to the Mississippi Territory.
1819	Spain ceded the remainder of West Florida and all of East Florida to the United States. Official United States occupation took place in 1821, and Florida was organized as a territory in 1822.
1842	At the close of the Seminole Wars, most of the Indians were removed west to present-day Oklahoma, but a few hundred escaped into the swamps.
1845	Florida became a state.
1861	Florida seceded from the Union. It was readmitted in 1868.
1870-1900	The post-Civil War boom brought many settlers to Florida, as developers from the North built railroads and resorts.
1898	Over 300,000 men were involved in the Spanish-American War, which was fought mainly in Cuba and the Philippines.
1917-1918	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.
1930s	The Great Depression closed many factories and mills. Many small farms were abandoned, and many families moved to cities.
1940-1945	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.
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.
1964–1972	Over 8.7 million American men and women served in the Vietnam War.

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 Florida 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** in the window to the left. 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 Florida available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on **Family History Library Catalog** in the window to the left. 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:

Filby, P. William. *A Bibliography of American County Histories*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1985. (FHL book 973 H23bi.)

Kaminkow, Marion J. *United States Local Histories in the Library of Congress*. 5 vols. Baltimore: Magna Charta Book, 1975-76. (FHL book 973 A3ka.)

## State History

An especially helpful source for studying the history of Florida is Junius E. Dovell, *Florida: Historic-Dramatic-Contemporary*, 4 vols. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1952; FHL book 975.9 H2do).

## United States History

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

Schlesinger, Jr., Arthur M. *The Almanac of American History*. Greenwich, Conn.: Bison Books, 1983. (FHL book 973 H2alm.) This provides brief historical essays and chronological descriptions of thousands of key events in United States history.

*Webster's Guide to American History: A Chronological, Geographical, and Biographical Survey and Compendium*. Springfield, Mass.: G&C Merriam, 1971. (FHL book 973 H2v.) This includes a history, some maps, tables, and other historical information.

*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.

## Florida Statewide Indexes and Collections

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### Guide

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#### 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

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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.

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 1580–1900s   | <i>Ancestral File</i><br><i>International Genealogical Index</i><br><i>Family History Library Catalog -Surname Search</i>   |
| 1600–present | <i>Periodical Source Index (PERSI)</i> lists records (by place or surname) that were published in genealogical magazines or periodicals. This resource should not be overlooked. It is available on the Internet through Ancestry.com. (FHL book 973 D25 per, various combined indexes and, annual supplements; fiche 6016863, 6016864; compact disc no. 61.) |



- 1600–1900 St. Augustine Historical Society (Florida). *Biographical Card Index, Biographical and Genealogical File, Chronological Document File*. (FHL films 967146–162 and 967258; alphabetical.)
- 1600–1940 Rider, Fremont, ed. *American Genealogical-Biographical Index to American Genealogical, Biographical and Local History Materials*. (FHL book 973 D22am ser. 2 vols. 1–189+; FHL films beginning with 1698167.) The new series now has surnames A to W and is continuing; the old series has surnames A to Z.
- 1600–1908 *Index to American Genealogies and to Genealogical Material Contained in All Works, Such as Town Histories, County Histories, Local Historical Society Publications, Biographies, Historical Periodicals and Kindred Works*. (FHL book 973 D22m 1984; film 599811 item 2; fiche 6051301.) Known as Munsell's index.
- 1600–1908 *Supplement 1900–1908 to the Index to Genealogies Published in 1900*. (FHL book 973 D22m 1900 supp; film 599811 item 3.)
- 1700–1980s *Pioneers of Florida's First Coast* (FHL book 975.91 H2p.) Compiled by the Southern Genealogies Exchange Society.
- 1700–1980s Taylor, Anne Wood. *Florida Pioneers and Their Descendants*. (FHL book 975.9 D2t.)
- 1700–1960s McKay, D. B. *Pioneer Florida 1946–1960*. (FHL films 978068–069; index on film 978068.) This is from a newspaper column in the *Tampa Tribune* from 1946 to 1960.
- 1700–1821 Mills, Donna Rachal. *Florida's First Families: Translated Abstracts of Pre–1821 Spanish Censuses*. (FHL book 975.9 X2f.)
- 1700–1860 White, Virgil D. *Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files*. (FHL book 973 M28g, vols. 1–4.)
- 1700–1860 Daughters of the American Revolution. *DAR Patriot Index*. (FHL 973 C42da 1990, 3 vols.) Centennial Edition. Lists Rev. War patriots and their spouses; about 100,000 names.
- 1700–1860 Daughters of the American Revolution. *DAR Patriot Index*. (FHL 973 C42da vol. 3.) Volume 3 is especially useful in that it lists the *wives* of the soldiers; about 60,000 names.
- 1700–1868 *DAR Revolutionary War Burial Index*. (FHL films 1307675–82.) Alphabetical; prepared by Brigham Young Univ. from DAR records; often lists name, birth date, death date, burial place, name of cemetery, company or regt., sometimes gives the place of birth, etc. About 67,000 names.
- 1700–1860 Hatcher, Patricia Law. *Abstracts of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots*. (FHL book 973 V38h, vols. 1–4.) About 55,000 names.
- 1700–1860 Brakebill, Clovis. *Revolutionary War Graves Register*. (FHL book 973 V3br.) About 55,000 names.
- 1700–1840 *A General Index to a Census of Pensioners For Revolutionary or Military Service, 1840*. (FHL book 973 X2pc index; film 899835 items 1–2; fiche 6046771.) Lists Revolutionary War pensioners whose names are on the 1840 census lists. After using the general index, go to the original book (FHL book Ref 973 X2pc 1967; film 899835 item 3.) This book gives the pensioner's town of residence, the name of the head of household where he was living, and age of pensioner or his widow.
- 1700–1835 *The Pension Roll of 1835*. Indexed Edition. (FHL book 973 M24ua 1992, vols. 1–4.) Vol. 4 has the index; vols. 1–4 list Revolutionary War soldiers; gives county of residence; state of service; often gives age; often has data on soldiers who received pensions and died from 1820s to 1835.
- 1700–1900 *Florida Pioneer Descendant Files*. Over 2,000 lineages are at the Florida State Archives. Not at FHL. Many of the pedigrees and biographies are in The "Florida Genealogist Magazine".
- 1700–1995 *The Florida Genealogist*. (FHL book 975.9 D25fg.) A periodical; see indexes.
- 1700–1995 *Jacksonville Genealogical Society Quarterly*. (FHL book 975.912/J1 D25j.) A periodical; see annual indexes.

- 1700–1900s [South Florida Pioneers](#). (FHL book 975.9 D25s; films 1888609, items 2–20; 1888610 items 1–12.) A periodical; see indexes.
- 1700–1900 Knapp, Eva Goddard. [Genealogical Gleanings of Early Florida](#). (FHL book 975.9 D2k; film 928178 it. 9.)
- 1700–1950s Kirkham, E. Kay. [An Index to Some Family Records of the Southern States 35,000 Microfilm References From NSDAR Files and Elsewhere](#). (FHL book 973 D22kk; fiche 6089183.) Indexes DAR collection below.
- 1700–1970 There is a genealogical collection of the Daughters of the American Revolution. (FHL films 869287–89 and 850394–404.) For a detailed listing of the records, see under: Daughters of the American Revolution, Florida. For a surname index, see Kirkham's book above.
- 1700–1973 Daughters of the American Revolution (Delaware). [Old Bible Records](#). (FHL book 975.1 V29d; films 845762–756.)
- 1700–1970s [Catalog of the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History](#). (FHL films 1651710–717, alphabetical.)
- 1700–1995 [Florida Historical Quarterly](#). (FHL book 975.9 B2fh; films 1689406 items 12–25.) See master index to vols. 1–35, and annual indexes.
- 1700–1920 Cutler, Harry Gardener. *History of Florida, Past and Present, Historical and Biographical*. (FHL book 975.9 H2c.)
- 1700–1950 Taylor, Anne Wood. *Florida Connections Through Bible Records*. (FHL book 975.9 D28t.)
- 1700–1820 Siebert, Wilbur Henry. [Loyalists of East Florida 1774 to 1785: The Most Important Documents Pertaining Thereto](#). (FHL book 975.9 B4f no. 9 vol. 2.) Has brief biographical sketches at end of book.
- 1700–1966 Hayes, E.H. *Cemetery Records in Florida*. (FHL book 975.9 V3c, 9 vols.; films 874012–13.)
- 1700–1990s Cemetery Collection at the Florida State Genealogical Society. Not at Family History Library.
- 1700–1941 *Register of Deceased Veterans, Florida*. (FHL films 006716.) Works Public Administration Cemetery records by county; includes an index of veterans.
- 1700–1844 [Spanish Land Grants in Florida: Brief Translations From the Archives of the Board of Commissioners For Ascertaining Claims and Titles to Land in the Territory of Florida](#). (FHL book 975.9 R21hs; films 897334–35 or 1020203–4.)
- 1700–1800s McMullin, Phillip W., ed. [Grassroots of America: A Computerized Index to the American State Papers: Land Grants and Claims 1789–1837, With Other Aids to Research \(Government Documents Serial Set Numbers 28 Through 36\)](#). (FHL book 973 R2ag index; fiche 6051323.) This indexes the *American State Papers* which are published in book and microfilm formats.
- 1740–1900 White, Virgil D. [Index to War of 1812 Pension Files](#). (FHL book 973 M22i.)
- 1750–1845 Wolfe, William A. *Names and Abstracts from the Acts of the Legislative Council of the Territory of Florida, 1822–1845*. (FHL book 975.9 P3n.) Alphabetical. The acts were made 1822 to 1845.
- 1780–1920 [Census indexes, 1820–1885 and 1900–1920](#). See What to Do Next, and click on **Family History Library Catalog**. Then select CENSUS or CENSUS - INDEXES from the topics that are listed.
- 1780–1860 Jackson, Ronald Vern et. al. [Florida 1860 Mortality Schedule](#). (FHL book 975.9 X22f 1860.) Lists persons who died June 1859 to June 1860.
- 1790–1868 Tallahassee Genealogical Society, Inc. *Florida Voter Registration Lists, 1867–68*. (FHL book 975.9 N4t.) Lists white and black residents; has lists that have been saved for Hernando, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Manatee, Marion, Nassau, Orange, Polk, Putnam, St. Johns, Santa Rosa, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Volusia, Walkulla, Walton, and Washington Counties; gives name, race, length of residence in state, nativity, naturalization information.
- 1790–1870 Jackson, Ronald Vern et. al. [Florida 1870 Mortality Schedule](#). (FHL book 975.9 X22f 1870.) Lists persons who died June 1869 to June 1870.

- 1800–1950 Dovell, Junius Elmore. *Florida: Historic, Dramatic, Contemporary*. (FHL book 975.9 H2do.) Index to biographies is at end of vol. 4.
- 1800–1940s Hartman, David W., comp. *Biographical Roster of Florida's Confederate and Union Soldiers, 1861– 1865*. (FHL book 975.9 M28h.) May give birth date and place; sometimes mentions death date and pension information.
- 1800–1865 United States. Adjutant General's Office. *Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Florida, 1861–1865*. (FHL films 880001–09.) The index, and the compiled service records, are both listed in this same Library Catalog entry.
- 1800–1955 Florida. Comptroller's Office. *Pension Claims of Confederate Veterans and Their Widows Beginning 1885–1955*. (FHL films 6717–6885.) The index is on film 6717.
- 1800–1865 United States Adjutant General's Office. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who served in Organizations from the State of Florida*. (FHL film 821767.)
- 1800–1858 *Compiled Service Records, Volunteer Soldiers, Florida Indian Wars, 1835–1858*. (FHL films beginning with 1303446.)
- 1800–1926 United States. Veterans Administration. *Pension Index Files, Indian Wars, 1892–1926*. (FHL films beginning with 821610) The Indian wars were as follows: Seminole Wars 1817 to 1818, 1835 to 1842, 1855 to 1858; Black Hawk War 1832; and Creek War 1836 to 1837.
- 1800–1934 United States. Veterans Administration. *General Index to 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.
- 1800–1933 United States. Veterans Administration. *Veteran's Administration Pension Payment Cards, 1907–1933*. (On 2,539 FHL films beginning with 1634036) Lists veterans and wives who received pension payments for Civil War, and the War with Spain.
- 1800–1992 United Daughters of the Confederacy, Florida Division. *Membership Applications, 1908–1992*. (On FHL films beginning with 1906858.)
- 1800–1933 Children of the Confederacy, Florida Division. *Membership Applications, 1906–1933*. (On FHL films beginning with 1940088.)
- 1800–1968 *Florida Combined Death Index, 1877–1969*. (On 305 FHL fiche beginning with 6081769.)
- 1800–1880 Jackson, Ronald Vern. *Florida 1880 Mortality Schedule*. (FHL book 975.9 X22f 1880.) Lists those who died 1879–1880.
- 1800–1840s Florida Comptroller's Office. *Pension Claims of Confederate Veterans and Their Widows Beginning 1885–1955*. (FHL films 006717–6885) Records concerning veterans who died 1885–1955; the index is on film 6717.
- 1800–1945 Jacksonville Branch Genealogical Library (Florida). *Vital Records Card File for North Florida and South Georgia, 1895–1945*. (On FHL films beginning with 1204579, alphabetical.) Information from newspapers and cemeteries.
- 1860–1940s *Florida Combined Marriage Index, 1927–1969*. (On 471 FHL fiche beginning with 6081726.)
- 1860–1940s *Florida Combined Divorce and Annulment Index, 1927–1969*. (FHL fiche beginning with 6081683.)
- 1870–1865 Haulsee, W. M., et. al. *Soldiers of the Great War*. (FHL book 973 M23s vols. 1–3; fiche 6051244.) Lists soldiers who died in World War I; vol. 1 has Florida.
- 1878–1918 United States Selective Service System. Florida *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*. (On 40 FHL films beginning with 1556849.) 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.

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## Where to Find It

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### 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.

## Florida Maps Bibliography

Andriot, Jay. *Township Atlas of the U.S.* Virginia: Documents Index, 1991.  
Mic/Gen Ref- G 1201.F7 A5 1991

Summary: Shows the townships in a particular county for each state except Hawaii and Alaska. Maps start after 1930.

Evaluation of Florida Maps: pp. 139 – 167. One page history of state, list of counties and counties with minor civil divisions. Maps of census county divisions.

Eichholz, Alice. *Ancestry's RedBook: American State, County & Town Sources.* Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992.  
Mic/Gen Ref- CS 49.A55 1992. (3 copies in FHC)

Summary: The previous map was copied from page 134 of this book. On the next page is a listing of the counties, the date the county was formed and parent county, and the date of first recorded deeds and certificates. The section on Florida also includes a brief history and genealogical research information.

Jackson, Richard H. *Historical and Genealogical Atlas of the United States. Volume 1: East of the Mississippi.*  
Mic/Gen Ref- G 1201.E6225 J33x 1970z Vol. 1

Summary: List of Counties for each state.

Evaluation of Florida maps: Maps are of 1823, 1838, 1860 and 1960, pp. 21-26.

Kirkam, E. Kay. *A Genealogical and Historical Atlas of the United States.* Utah: Everton Publishers, Inc., 1976.  
Mic/Gen Ref- G1201.E6225.K5 1976

Summary: Shows changes in boundaries in United States from Colonial days up to 1909. Civil War maps and information.

Evaluation of Florida maps: State historical information, p. 9; 1823 map, p. 91; 1838 map, p. 122; 1855 map, p. 137; 1860 map, p. 147; 1883 map, p. 180; 1909 map, p. 208.

Mattson, Mark T. *Macmillan Color Atlas of the States.* Toronto: Simon & Schuster Macmillan, 1996.  
Mic/Gen Ref- Quarto Shelves G 1200.M4 1996.

Summary: Florida maps and information on pages 62 - 68. Includes maps comparing Florida to other states, cultural features, population density, agriculture, economic facts, etc. Also includes a brief state history.

Thorndale, William and William Dollarhide. *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1925*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co, 1987.  
Mic/Gen Ref - G 1201.F7 T5 1987

Summary: History of Federal Censuses, records, and completeness. U.S. Maps from 1790 - 1920 showing U.S. boundary changes. Maps of each state for each census year beginning when the state was created up through 1920.

Evaluation of Florida Maps: pp. 69 - 79.

**Map Collection on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the old section of HBL library.** Two map drawers for the state of Florida.

**G3930 – G3934.** State maps from 1800s to 2000. Many of the maps show county boundaries and county seats, railroad lines, private land grants, population, etc. Some maps include information about what was happening that year.

To find more maps, search the HBL Online Catalog for Florida maps, atlases, and gazetteers.

## Florida Federal Census Population Schedules, 1830 to 1920

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### Guide

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#### Introduction

Federal censuses are taken every ten years. Florida residents are included in censuses from 1830 through 1880, 1885, and 1900 through 1920.

- The 1790 through 1840 censuses give the name of the head of each household. Other household members are mentioned only by age groupings of males and females.
- The 1850 census was the first federal census to give the names of all members of each household.

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.

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### Steps

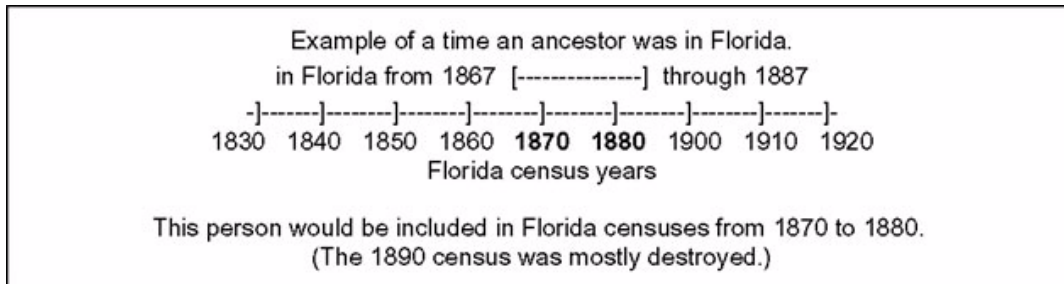
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These 5 steps will help you use census records.

#### Step 1. Determine which censuses might include your ancestors.

Match the probable time your ancestor was in Florida with the census years. This will determine which censuses you will search.





## 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 each household.

The censuses from **1790 to 1840** give the name of the head of each 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:

1830 1840 1850 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

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### 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 Florida to a different county or town.
- Movement of the family out of Florida if the family no longer appears in the census for Florida.

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.

The age and estimated birth date of an individual may vary greatly from census to census. Often ages are listed more accurately for young children than for adults.

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## Background

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### 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. 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. In 1885 the federal government also helped 5 states or territories (Colorado, Florida, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Dakota Territory) conduct special censuses.

The 1890 census of Florida was destroyed by fire.

## Types of Census Schedules

The following census schedules are available for Florida 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 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, and 1885 censuses.
- **1840 pensioners' schedules** list people who were receiving pensions in 1840. Included were men who fought in the Revolutionary War or in the War of 1812 or their widows.
- **Slave schedules** for Southern states list slave owners and the number of slaves they owned in 1850 and 1860.
- **Agricultural schedules** list data about farms and the names of the farmers for the 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, and 1885 censuses.
- **Manufacturing or industrial schedules** list data about businesses and industries for the 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, and 1885 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 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 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<sup>1</sup> (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 heirs or administrators."

You may request information for only 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 the 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](#).

## Colonial, Territorial, State, and Local Censuses

Colonial, 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. Colonial censuses of Florida were taken in 1783, 1786, and 1790.

Territorial censuses were taken in 1814, 1825, and 1837.

Florida became a state in 1845. State censuses of Florida exist for 1845, 1855, 1865, 1868, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1935, and 1945. See the "Census" section of the *Florida Research Outline* and *Ancestry's Redbook: American State, County, & Town Sources* for more information.

Colonial, 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.

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## Where to Find It

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### Internet

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

- Florida 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 that have 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 *Florida Research Outline* lists Internet addresses for several Florida archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Florida 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 census microfilms in person.

For a list of indexes and other census records, click on **Family History Library Catalog** in the window to the left. 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 1830 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 and Public Libraries

Many college libraries have copies of 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 *Florida Research Outline* lists Internet and mailing addresses for several Florida archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Florida 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.

For more information, see *Hiring a Professional Genealogist*.

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## **FLORIDA**

**Alachua County** County created in 1824 from Duval, created from St. John.

**Baker County** County created in 1861 from New River.

**Bay County** County created in 1913 from Calhoun.

**Benton County** Country created in 1845 from Alachua as Benton; renamed Hernando, 1850.

**Bradford County** County created as New River in 1858 from Columbia, renamed Bradford in 1861.

**Brevard County** County created from Mosquito in 1844 as St. Lucie, renamed to Brevard 1855.

Hine, C. Vickerstaff. On the Indian River. Chicago: C.H. Sergel & Co., 1891.  
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**Broward County** County created in 1915 from Dade, created from Palm Beach.

McIver, Stuart B. Fort Lauderdale and Broward County: an Illustrated History.  
Woodland Hills, CA: Windsor Publications, [1983]. **F 319 .F7 M35 1983**

**Calhoun County** County created in 1838 from Franklin County.

**Charlotte County** County created in 1921 from DeSota County.

**Citrus County** County created in 1887 from Hernando.

**Clay County** County created in 1858 from Duval County.

**Collier County** County created in 1923 from Lee.

Tebeau, Charlton W. Florida's Last Frontier: The History of Collier County. Coral  
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**Columbia County** County created in 1832 from Alachua.

**Dade County** County created in 1836 from Monroe.

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Cohen, Isidor. Historical Sketches and Sidelights of Miami, Florida. Miami, FL: Priv. Print., 1925. **Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 11231**

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**Dixie County** County was created in 1921 from Lafayette.

**Duval County** County created in 1822 from St. Johns.

Brown, S. Paul. The Book of Jacksonville: a History. Poughkeepsie, NY: A.V. Haight, printer and bookbinder, 1895. **Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 9533**

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**Franklin County** County created in 1832 from Jackson.

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**Gilchrist County** County created in 1925 from Alachua.

**Glades County** County created in 1921 from DeSoto.

**Gulf County** County created in 1925 from Calhoun.

**H****amilton County** County created in 1827 from Jefferson.

Kantor, MacKinlay. Hamilton County. New York: MacMillan, 1970. **E 169.12 K27**

## **FLORIDA**

**Hardee County** County created in 1921 from De Soto.

**Hendry County** County created in 1923 from Lee.

**Hernando County** Country created in 1845 from Alachua as Benton; renamed Hernando, 1850.

**Highlands County** County created in 1921 from DeSoto.

**Hillsborough County** County created in 1834 from Alachua.

**Holmes County** County created in 1848 from Jackson.

**Indian River County** County created in 1925 from St. Lucie.

**Jackson County** County created in 1822 from Escambia.

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**Jefferson County** County created in 1827 from Leon.

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**Lafayette County** County created in 1826 from Madison.

**Lake County** County created in 1887 from Orange.

**Lee County** County created in 1887 from Monroe.

**Leon County** County created 1824 fom Gadsden.

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**Levy County** County created in 1845 from Alachua.

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**Liberty County** County created in 1855 from Gadsden.

**Madison County** County created in 1827 from Jefferson.

**Manatee County** County created in 1855 from Hillsborough.

**Marion County** County created in 1844 from Alachua.

**Martin County** County created in 1925 from Palm Beach.

**Monroe County** County created in 1823 from St. Johns.

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**Mosquito County** County created in 1824 as Mosquito from St. Johns; renamed Orange in 1846.

**Nassau County** County created in 1824 from Duval.

**New River County** County created in 1858 from Columbia and changed to Bradford in 1861.

**Oakaloosa County** County created in 1915 from Santa Rosa.

**Okeechobee County** County created in 1887 from Brevard.

**Orange County** County created in 1824 as Mosquito from St. Johns; renamed Orange in 1846.

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**Osceola County** County created in 1887 from Brevard.

**Palm Beach County** County created in 1909 from Dade.

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**Pinellas County** County created in 1911 from Hillsborough.

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Manucy, Albert C. Sixteenth-Century St. Augustine: the People and Their Homes. Gainesville, FL: Univ. Press of Florida, 1997. **F 319 .S2 M34 1997**

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**St. Lucie County** County created in 1905 from Brevard.

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**Union County** County created in 1921 from Bradford.

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**Wakulla County** County created in 1843 from Leon.

**Walton County** County was created in 1824, from Escambia.

**Washington County** County created in 1825 from Jackson.

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## Other Florida Resources

Cyndi's list of Florida Links

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

Florida Genweb Project

<http://www.flgenweb.net/>

Mainly Articles dealing with Florida History and Research

<http://www.floridagenealogy.com/>

State Library and Archives of Florida

[http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/index\\_researchers.cfm](http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/index_researchers.cfm)

Florida Historical Formation Maps

[http://www.myfloridagenealogy.com/fl\\_maps/fl\\_cf.htm](http://www.myfloridagenealogy.com/fl_maps/fl_cf.htm)