Georgia
Research Outline

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This outline describes major sources of information about families from Georgia. 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 many of the records listed in this outline. The major holdings include county records such as deeds, wills, marriage, and court records for 133 of the 159 counties. The Family History Library has some Georgia church 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. You can use these numbers to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers.
FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

The library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog found at the Family History Library and at each Family History Center. To find a record, look in the locality search of the Family History Library Catalog for:

- The place where your ancestor lived, such as:

  UNITED STATES - CENSUS
  GEORGIA - GENEALOGY
  GEORGIA, RICHMOND - PROBATE RECORDS
  GEORGIA, RICHMOND, AUGUSTA - HISTORY

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

  UNITED STATES - CENSUS
  GEORGIA - GENEALOGY
  GEORGIA, RICHMOND - PROBATE RECORDS
  GEORGIA, RICHMOND, AUGUSTA - HISTORY

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the Family History Library Catalog.

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

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

- Georgia Department of Archives and History

  330 Capitol Avenue, S.E.
  Atlanta, GA 30334
  Internet: http://gil.sos.state.ga.us/

  Two helpful guides to the collection are:

  Georgia Department of Archives and History. A Preliminary Guide to Eighteenth-Century Records Held by the Georgia Department of Archives and History. Atlanta: The Department, 1976. (FHL book 975.8 A3pg; fiche 6100334.)


  National Archives—Southeast Region (Atlanta)
1557 St. Joseph Avenue
East Point, GA 30344
Internet: http://www.archives.gov/southeast/

- Georgia Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 38066
Atlanta, GA 30334
Internet: http://www.gagensociety.org/

- Georgia Historical Society Library

501 Whitaker Street
Savannah, GA 31499

- Washington Memorial Library

Middle Georgia Regional Library
1180 Washington Avenue
Macon, GA 31201

- John E. Ladson Jr. Genealogical and Historical Library

119 Church Street
Vidalia, GA 30474
Internet: http://www.ohoopeelibrary.org/ladson.htm

To learn more about the history and record-keeping systems of Georgia counties, use the nine inventories of the county archives published by the Historical Records Survey around 1940. Eight of 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 Georgia 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.

**BIBLE RECORDS**

The Georgia Department of Archives and History has many volumes of Bible records that have been collected by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Those that were transcribed from 1938 to 1948 are at the Family History Library (FHL films 006975-84). Additional DAR Bible records for Georgia were filmed at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., and are at the Family History Library (FHL films 848574-75).

More Bible transcripts are found in the DAR collection mentioned in the “Genealogy” section of this outline. Some of these DAR records are indexed in E. Kay Kirkham, *An...*
**Index to Some of the Family Records of the Southern States.** (Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1979; FHL book Ref 973 D22kk vol. 1; fiche 6089183).

Another collection of original Bible records at the Georgia Department of Archives and History was microfilmed in 1959 and is at the Family History Library (FHL films 204483-88). Many additional Bible records for the counties of Washington, Lee, and Bulloch are also available at the Georgia Department of Archives and History and at the Family History Library.


**BIOGRAPHY**

A large collection of early twentieth-century biographical questionnaires was microfilmed at the Georgia Department of Archives and History. The set is arranged alphabetically and is at the Family History Library (FHL films 288169-83). This collection primarily includes biographies of prominent Georgians. The collection is indexed in the *Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly*, 20 (1984): 141-169, 199-234 (see the “Periodicals” section of this outline).

Statewide, regional, and county histories often have biographical sections. The Family History Library also has biographical collections of politicians, lawyers, colonial clergymen, and other notable citizens. Two representative biographical encyclopedias are:


**CEMETERIES**

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains tombstone inscriptions from Georgia cemeteries. This is described in the “Genealogy” section of this outline. Another important collection is *Cemetery Records of Georgia*, 16 vols. (Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1946-52; FHL book 975.8 V22c; films 873725-28; fiche 6046960).
Many tombstone inscriptions have been published in the *Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly* and in other journals described in the “Periodicals” section. Burial lists for Union and Confederate soldiers have also been published.

To locate additional records, see Ted O. Brooke, *Georgia Cemetery Directory and Bibliography of Georgia Cemetery Reference Sources* (Marietta, Ga.: T.O. Brooke, 1985; FHL book 975.8823 V33br).

**CENSUS**

**Federal**

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

The Family History Library has the U.S. federal censuses for Georgia from 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920. The 1790, 1800, and 1810 censuses have been lost, and there is no 1820 report for the counties of Franklin, Rabun, and Twiggs, and part of Columbia. The 1890 census was destroyed, except for some returns for the city of Columbus.

In addition to published tax lists, some substitutes for the early missing censuses include:


Printed and microfiche statewide census indexes are available at the Family History Library for the 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, and 1860 censuses. Microfilm soundex (phonetic) indexes exist for the 1880 (partial index), 1900, 1910 and 1920 censuses. The 1910 index is in two parts. The first part indexes the cities of Atlanta, Augusta, Macon, and Savannah, and the second indexes the remainder of the state.

Mortality schedules exist for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. Copies of the schedules (FHL films 422413-18) and indexes are at the Family History Library.
State

State censuses taken in various years from 1786 to 1890 have survived for a few Georgia counties. These are at the Georgia Department of Archives and History. Some county censuses for the years 1827 to 1890 are also at the Family History Library.

Most of the available state censuses are indexed in:


CHURCH RECORDS

Before 1900 the largest religious groups in Georgia were the Baptists and Methodists. The largest collection of Georgia church records can be found at the Georgia Department of Archives and History. The archives borrowed pre-1940 church records from many local congregations and preserved them on microfilm. The collection is continually growing but is not complete.

The Family History Library has some Georgia church records, including records for Baptist, Methodist, Episcopal, and Presbyterian congregations. Most are from the Georgia Department of Archives and History. You may also want to use the library's histories of the Lutherans, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and others.

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

Baptist

Georgia Baptist Historical Collection
Eugene W. Stetson Memorial Library
Mercer University
Macon, Ga 31207
The Family History Library has microfilmed some research materials at Mercer University. For example, FHL film 204489 includes ten histories of various Baptist associations. There are also histories and inventories such as the following:

*Inventory of the Church Archives of Georgia: Atlanta Association of Baptist Churches.* Atlanta: Georgia Historical Records Survey, 1941. (FHL book 975.8 K2hb; film 1425645 item 3.)

Campbell, Jesse H. *Georgia Baptists: Historical and Biographical.* Macon, Ga: J.W. Burke & Co., 1874. (FHL book 975.8 K2c; film 1033617 item 3; 1847 edition on film 206288 item 2.)

*History of the Baptist Denomination in Georgia.* Atlanta: J.P. Harrison & Co., 1881. (FHL film 896565.)

**Methodist**

United Methodist Museum
P.O. Box 408
St. Simons Island, GA 31522

For a history of the Methodist Church, see Harold Lawrence, *Methodist Preachers in Georgia 1783-1900* (Tignall, Ga.: Boyd Pub., 1984; FHL book 975.8 K2L).

**Roman Catholic**

Archdiocese of Atlanta
680 W. Peachtree St. N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30308
Archdiocese of Savannah
P.O. Box 8789
Savannah, GA 31412

**COURT RECORDS**

The earliest colonial court records were kept by the Common Council in England and the governor and council in Georgia. Later Georgia court records were kept by the General Court of Pleas and the Court of Quarter Sessions. None of these records exists today.

After the colonial period, Georgia courts that kept records of genealogical value were established as follows:

1777-pres *Superior courts*. These county courts kept records of divorce, civil and criminal cases, naturalization, military discharges, homesteads, slaves, and prisons. The Family
History Library has superior court records, especially minutes, from the 1790s to the early 1900s. From Fulton County, for example, the library has 48 microfilms for 1854 to 1901.

1777-pres. *Courts of ordinary*. These county courts kept records of probates from 1777 to 1798 and again after 1852. Other records kept by the court include homesteads, land warrants, licenses, indentures, paupers registers, voting registers, and marriage records. The Family History Library has many of the existing court of ordinary records, especially minutes and indexes, from 1800 to the 1900s.

1798-pres. *Inferior courts*. These county courts had jurisdiction over probates from 1798 to 1852, civil matters (except for divorce and equity cases), and minor criminal offenses. The Family History Library has most inferior court minutes from the 1790s to the 1860s.

**DIRECTORIES**

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

- Atlanta

1859-1860 FHL fiche 6043557
1867-1935 FHL film 1376512—

- Columbus

1859-60, 1906-1934 FHL fiche 6043828; films 1759663-66

- Savannah

1848-1860 FHL fiche 6044484-88
1866-1934 FHL film 1377450—

**EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION**

People
Colonial settlers of Georgia generally came from the Carolinas, from Virginia, or directly from England and Scotland. The first large group of immigrants came from the British Isles to the Savannah area with James Oglethorpe in 1733.

The total nonnative population of Georgia in 1752 has been estimated at 5,000. Small groups of Protestants from German- and French-speaking areas of Europe were in Georgia by that date, including Moravians and Swiss. The most important of these groups were the 1,500 Salzburgers who had settled at Ebenezer in present-day Effingham County beginning in 1734.

An important group of 350 Puritans from South Carolina, accompanied by 1,500 blacks, arrived in Georgia beginning in 1752. They first settled in the Midway District. Their ancestors had previously settled the towns of Dorchester in both Massachusetts and South Carolina. In 1758 these Puritans established the seacoast town of Sunbury.

Between 1802 and 1820 thousands of Americans moved to Georgia seeking free or inexpensive land. The Creek and Cherokee Indians were removed from the state before 1840.

**Records**

The Family History Library and the National Archives have passenger lists for Savannah for portions of the years 1820 to 1826, 1831, 1847 to 1851, and 1866 to 1867 (FHL film 830246).

Lists of arrivals in Georgia and other southern ports beginning in 1890 are also available at the National Archives. The Family History Library has an index to these lists for 1890 to 1924 (FHL films 1324938-63). These are in the *Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Miscellaneous Ports in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, 1890-1924* listed in the Family History Library Catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION - INDEXES.

The library also has Savannah lists for 1906 to 1945 (FHL films 1375955 and 1414793-95).

More detailed information on federal immigration sources is in the *United States Research Outline*.

Records of ethnic groups including Indians, Quakers, and Salzburgers are listed in the locality search of the Family History Library Catalog under the subject heading GEORGIA - MINORITIES.

GAZETTEERS

Several guides to places in Georgia have been published, including:


GENEALOGY

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. These must usually be searched in person. Two outstanding manuscript collections of compiled genealogies are:

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Genealogical Collection. This collection consists of transcripts of Bible records, cemetery records, church records, marriages, deaths, obituaries, and wills. It was microfilmed in 1970 and 1971 at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., and is available on 22 films at the Family History Library (FHL films 848243 item 5—). A smaller collection was filmed in 1938-1957 at Atlanta (FHL films 006986-88). A third collection of alphabetically arranged compiled genealogies was filmed at Atlanta in 1962 (FHL films 288404-05 and 288184-91).

The Leon S. Hollingsworth Genealogical Card File. This 45,000-card file indexes Georgia censuses, wills, deeds, tax records, marriages, military records, cemetery records, newspapers, and family Bibles. It was microfilmed at the R.J. Taylor, Jr., Foundation in Atlanta and is now at the Georgia Department of Archives and History and the Family History Library. This collection is listed in the Family History Library Catalog under UNITED STATES - GENEALOGY (FHL films 1528052—). A list of the surnames mentioned in the collection and the number of cards for each name is Leon S. Hollingsworth Genealogical Card File: An Introduction and Inventory (Atlanta: R.J. Taylor, Jr., Foundation, 1979; FHL book 975 D2L).

Some major published genealogical collections for Georgia include:


Gnann, Pearl R. *Georgia Salzburger and Allied Families.* Revised. [Savannah: Mrs. C. LeBey and Georgia Genealogical Reprints, 1970.] (FHL book 975.8 D2g 1970.)

Early legislative minutes, petitions, papers of governors, sales of confiscated loyalist estates, assembly and council of safety journals, and executive council minutes are in:

Candler, Allen D. *The Revolutionary Records of the State of Georgia.* 3 vols. Atlanta, Ga.: The Franklin-Turner Co., 1908. (FHL book 975.8 N2c.) Vol. 2 on film 962538. This has records from 1777-84 and is indexed.


**HISTORY**

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

1732    King George II of England granted a charter for the colony of Georgia as a place of refuge.
1733    James Oglethorpe founded the city of Savannah.
1734    German-speaking Salzburgers began to settle at Ebenezer, in present-day Effingham County.
1752    The charter was surrendered and Georgia became a crown colony.
1788    Georgia became a state.
1802    Georgia relinquished its claims to lands west of the Chatahoochee River. These lands became part of Mississippi and Alabama.
1784-1820 Thousands of Americans moved to Georgia seeking inexpensive land. The first land lottery was held in 1805.
1861    Georgia seceded from the Union. It was readmitted in 1870.

A detailed history of Georgia's counties and early settlers is in George Gillman Smith, *The Story of Georgia and the Georgia People, 1732-1860,* 2d ed. 1901, Macon, Ga: G.G. Smith, 1901; FHL book 975.8 H2sg; film 908502.)
References to additional historical materials are found in:


**LAND AND PROPERTY**

**Colonial and State Records**

From 1732 to 1755 the area that is now Georgia was a trusteeship in which land was allotted to males and their heirs. After 1755 lands were granted without restrictions. Land transfers before 1777 were generally recorded in Savannah, and many early land grants have been transcribed and published. One source for these records is Pat Bryant, *Entry of Claims for Georgia Landholders, 1733-1755* (Atlanta: State Printing Office, 1975; FHL book 975.8 R2br).

Georgia was a state-land state in which land was distributed first by the governor and then through land courts established from 1783 to 1909. From 1756 land was distributed in the eastern quarter by headright and bounty grants. The grants usually do not give residences, family names, or military information. Not all bounties were for military service. These records are listed in *Index to the Headright and Bounty Grants of Georgia 1756-1909* (Vidalia, Ga.: Georgia Genealogical Reprints, 1970; FHL book 975.8 R2i).

The Family History Library and the Georgia Surveyor General Department at the Georgia Department of Archives and History have original land grants on microfilm. The records at the Family History Library include books of conveyances (1750-1802), mortgages (1755-1822), fiats for grants (1755-76), and bonds, sales, and gift records (1755-1829).

The parts of Georgia that are now Alabama and Mississippi were ceded in 1802. The remaining northern and western areas of present-day Georgia were surveyed and given away by lotteries in 1805, 1807, 1820, 1821, 1827, and 1832. The lottery lists have been published in several sources, such as:

Virginia S. and Ralph V. Wood, *The 1805 Georgia Land Lottery* (Cambridge: The Greenwood Press, 1964; FHL book 975.8 R21w). This lists the names of all registrants, while the other lotteries list only those who received land.

Also see Robert Scott Davis, Jr., and Rev. Silas E. Lucas, *The Georgia Land Lottery Papers, 1805-1914: Genealogical Data* (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1979; FHL book 975.8 R2d). This includes a map showing which counties were formed in each of the lotteries.
An alphabetical index to Georgia land grant records, 1767-1908, in the Surveyor General Department is on FHL films 465173-84. The Family History Library also has the following records for Georgia:

- Headrights and land grants, 1756 to 1860s (61 films)
- Land lottery records, 1806 to 1870 (37 films)
- Land lottery surveys (24 films)
- Headright surveys (19 films)
- Reverted lottery records, 1815 to 1872 (9 films). These are records of lots which reverted to the state because the lottery receiver did not claim them.


**County Records**

After original title to the land was granted, subsequent transactions, including deeds and mortgages, were recorded by the county, usually by the clerk of the superior court. You can obtain copies by writing to the clerk.

The Family History Library has copies of the county deeds and mortgages, dating from the creation of each county to 1900 or 1920, on microfilm for most counties. The Family History Library also has homestead records from the 1860s to the 1920s. For example, the library has 150 microfilms for Chatham County of deeds, deed indexes, homestead records, mortgages, lottery lists, oyster leases, and pony homestead records.

**MAPS**

The largest collection of maps for Georgia is found at the Georgia Surveyor General office at the Georgia Department of Archives and History. For information about this collection see:


Johnsen, Margaret A. *Nineteenth Century Maps in the Collection of the Georgia Surveyor General Department.* Atlanta: Surveyor General Department, 1981.

The Family History Library has a series of modern maps from the Surveyor General office (FHL films 465171-2), a few colonial maps, and city ward maps for Atlanta in 1888 (FHL film 1377700). Also see James C. Bonner, *Atlas for Georgia History* (Milledgeville, Ga.: Georgia College Duplicating Department, 1969; FHL book 975.8 E7b).
Maps that show county formation are found in Pat Bryant, *Georgia Counties: Their Changing Boundaries*, 2d ed., revised by Ingrid Shields (Atlanta: State Printing Office, 1983; FHL book 975.8 E3b).

Modern city, county, and state maps can be purchased from:

Map Room
Georgia Department of Transportation
Two Capitol Square
Atlanta, GA 30334
Telephone: 404-656-5336

**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 archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more information on federal records. Additional military records are at the Georgia Department of Archives and History. The following sources are also very helpful.

**Miscellaneous Wars**

Lists of soldiers who served in Georgia military units include:


Georgia Executive Department, *Military Commissions in the State Militia, 1798-1860*, (FHL films 158997-014.)

**Revolutionary War (1775-1783)**

There are several published volumes of service records, bounty land certificates, and muster rolls. These include:


Helpful but undocumented lists are:


**Indian Wars (1836-1838)**

An Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers who Served during the Cherokee Disturbances and Removal, 1836 to 1838, is on FHL film 1205402. The compiled military service records for this index have not been microfilmed and are available only at the National Archives.

**Civil War (1861-1865)**

Soldiers from Georgia served in both the Union and the Confederate Armies. Indexes and the compiled military service records are available at the Family History Library and the National Archives.

Georgia pension records and an index for Confederate veterans are arranged by counties and are at the Family History Library on 634 films. (FHL films 315678—.) The original documents and an index are at the Georgia Department of Archives and History. Pension records for Union veterans are available at the National Archives.


A national cemetery in Sumter County is the burial place of over 12,000 Union soldiers who died while prisoners at Andersonville, Georgia. A published cemetery list is United
Spanish-American War (1898)


World Wars I and II

The Family History Library has many military discharge papers on microfilm dating from 1917 to 1960. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under GEORGIA, [COUNTY] - MILITARY RECORDS. Photographs and service records of men who served in World War I are in Bert E. Boss, *The Georgia State Memorial Book* (N.p.: 1921; FHL film 175271).

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 Georgia, 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. 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:

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalizations were primarily recorded in local superior, district, or city court minutes. Most of these documents are preserved on microfilm at the Georgia Department of Archives and History. The Family History Library has copies of a few of these records. From Savannah and Chatham County, for example, the library has files of the Savannah City Court (1904-1906), and the superior court (1801-1910), and a combined index (1792-1908). The records include aliens' declarations, registers of citizenship, petitions, minors' papers, affidavits, and court orders.


For naturalization papers filed after 1906, contact the National Archives—Southeast Region (Atlanta) or a federal office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The Archives Branch has records of the U.S. District Court (1906-1948) and the U.S. Circuit Court (1903-6).

NEWSPAPERS

The first Georgia newspaper was the Georgia Gazette published in Savannah beginning in 1763. The Family History Library has very few newspapers for the state. The library has a collection of Savannah papers, 1793 to 1880, and a number of published indexes of newspaper obituaries and marriage announcements. A typical book of newspaper abstracts is Mary McKeown Overby, Obituaries Published by “The Christian Index,” 1822-1899 (Macon, Ga.: Georgia Baptist Historical Society, 1975, 1982; FHL book 975.8 V4o).

The Family History Library, the Georgia Department of Archives and History, and the Georgia Historical Society have an every-name index of Savannah newspapers from 1836 to 1845 (FHL films 228710-822). An index to deaths and marriages from 1763 to 1845 is also available (FHL films 1617971—). The Georgia Department of Archives and History is preparing similar indexes for some Augusta and Milledgeville newspapers.

The library also has a film copy of the vital records card file at the Jacksonville Florida Family History Center (FHL films 1204579-806 and 1292511). This file has names found in newspapers of North Florida and South Georgia for the years 1895 to 1945.

A guide to the extensive collections of newspapers at the libraries of the University of Georgia is Georgia Newspapers on Microfilm at the UGA Libraries (N.p.: 1978; FHL book Q 975.8 A5g; film 1421709 item 3).
PERIODICALS

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

**Georgia Genealogical Magazine.** 1961—. Published by La Bruce Lucas, 375 W. Broad St., P.O. Box 1267, Greenville, SC 29602-1267. (FHL book 975.8 B2gg.) This has a cumulative index to 1972.

**Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly.** 1964—. Published by the Georgia Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 5457, Atlanta, GA 30308-0575. (FHL book 975.8 B2ga; film 1730168, index vols. 1-16, 1964-1980.)

**Georgia Genealogist.** 1969-85. Published by Heritage Papers, Danielsville, GA. (FHL book 975.8 B2ge.) The first volume has an excellent review of research methods for Georgia genealogy.


**Huxford Genealogical Society Quarterly.** 1974—. Published by the Huxford Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 595, Homerville, GA 31634. (FHL book 975.8 D25h; films 1320531 item 4 (vol. 2); 1320528 (vol. 3); 1320511 item 10 (index to vol. 1); 1320535 item 3 (index to vols. 2-4).

**Northwest Georgia Historical and Genealogical Society Quarterly** 1976—. Published by the Northwest Georgia Historical and Genealogical Society Quarterly, P.O. Box 2484, Rome, GA 30161. (FHL book 975.83 H25n.)

PROBATE RECORDS

The colonial courts—described in the section on “Court Records” in this outline—kept some early probate records. From 1777 to 1798 and since 1852, the court of ordinary or register of probates in each county has kept probate and guardianship records. The inferior court handled probate and guardianship matters from 1798 to 1852.

Many probate records to the 1930s and 1940s are at the Georgia Department of Archives and History and the Family History Library on microfilm. The Family History Library, for example, has probate records from Fulton County that include letters of administration, guardianship, executors, inventories and appraisements, bonds, 12-months support, minutes, annual returns and vouchers, bills of sale, and wills. These are generally from the years 1829 to 1930.

Important published indexes of probate records include:
TAXATION

Taxes were levied on free white males over 21 and slaves aged 21 to 60. These persons are referred to as “polls.” Tax listings, or digests, of a county generally list the taxable landowners and other polls and the amount of tax. The records in each county are divided by militia district.

Tax digests for the years 1787 to 1899 for many counties are on microfilm at the Family History Library. Many originals are at the Georgia Department of Archives and History. A list of the tax digests, 1787 to 1899, is on FHL film 007023.

Tax digests for 10 counties are found in Ruth Blair, Tax Digests of Georgia of Various Counties 1790-1818, (1926; reprint, Vidalia, Ga.: Genealogical Reprints, 1971; FHL book 975.8 R4g 1971; original edition on film 006997 and fiche 6046883).

Additional tax lists are in An Index to Georgia Tax Digests, 5 vols. (Spartanburg, S.C.: The Reprint Co., 1986; FHL book 975.8 R42i). This includes the records for 1789 to 1817 and is fully indexed.

VITAL RECORDS

Birth and Death Records

Statewide registration of births and deaths began in 1919 and was generally complied with by 1928 for births and by 1922 for deaths. Birth records are available only to the individual or his legal representative. Birth and death records can be obtained by writing to:

Georgia Department of Human Resources
Vital Records Unit
47 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Room 217-H
Atlanta, GA 30334-1201

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. You can also write to the Vital Records Unit for current information.

Another helpful source is *Guide to Public Vital Statistics Records in Georgia* (Atlanta: Historical Records Survey, 1941; FHL book 975.8 V23h; film 1036517 item 4).

- *Atlanta* birth records since 1887 and death records since 1896 are available from:
  
  Fulton County Health Department  
  99 Butler Street S.E.  
  Atlanta, GA 30303

- *Savannah* birth records from 1890 to the present and death records from 1803 to 1947 are available from:
  
  Chatham County Health Department  
  P.O. Box 14257  
  Savannah, GA 31406  
  Internet: [http://www.chathamcounty.org/health.html](http://www.chathamcounty.org/health.html)

- *Macon* birth records since 1891 and death records since 1882 are available from:
  
  Bibb County Health Department  
  770 Hemlock Street  
  Macon, GA 31201

A few counties started recording vital events in the post-Civil War era. The Family History Library has microfilmed some county birth, death, and delayed birth registrations.

**Marriage Records**

Marriage records are kept by the individual counties. Records often date back to the time of county organization. By 1805 licenses were often granted by a court of ordinary in the county where the bride resided, or marriage banns were published at a nearby church. You can write to the clerk of the court of ordinary for copies.
Many county marriage records dated prior to 1900 are at the Georgia Department of Archives and History. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of marriage records for some counties up to the early 1900s. From the court of ordinary of Chatham County, for example, the library has:

- Marriage records, 1830 to 1902, and an index, 1806 to 1950 (22 microfilms)
- License stubs, 1888 to 1901 (11 films)
- Marriage records and index, 1805 to 1866 (5 films)
- Licenses, 1805 to 1866 (5 films)

Over 100,000 early Georgia marriages have also been published in:

Maddox, Joseph T., and Mary Carter. *37,000 Early Georgia Marriages*. N.p., 1975. (FHL book 975.8 V2m; film 928351 item 3; fiche 6046751.) Covers 29 counties; names are from *Georgia Pioneers* magazine.


Maddox, Joseph T. *Early Georgia Marriages*. Irwinton, Ga.: J. Maddox, 1981. (FHL book 975.8 V2eg vol. 4; film 1033953 item 2.)

**Divorce Records**

The county superior courts have had jurisdiction over divorce proceedings and records. Divorces in Georgia were allowed as early as 1793 but had to be approved by the state legislature until 1832. Information about these approvals can be found in the Name File Index at the Georgia Department of Archives and History.

**VOTING REGISTERS**

In 1867 a voter registration list was made. It included naturalization information about foreign-born men. This and other registers are preserved at the Georgia Department of Archives and History. Registers of some counties from the 1870s to the 1920s are on microfilm at the Family History Library.

**FOR FURTHER READING**
These handbooks give more detailed information about research and records of Georgia:


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  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3400  
USA

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

Georgia 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 Georgia affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements.

1732  King George II of England granted a charter for the colony of Georgia as a place of refuge.
1733  James Oglethorpe founded the city of Savannah.
1734  German-speaking Salzburgers began to settle at Ebenezer, in present-day Effingham County.
1752  The charter was surrendered, and Georgia became a crown colony.
1788  Georgia became a state.
1802  Georgia relinquished its claims to lands west of the Chatahoochee River. These lands became part of Mississippi and Alabama.
1784-1820 Thousands of Americans moved to Georgia seeking inexpensive land. The first land lottery was held in 1805.
1861  Georgia seceded from the Union. It was readmitted in 1870.
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.
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 Georgia 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 Georgia 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:


**State History**


References to additional historical materials are found in:


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.
Georgia 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.

1580–1900s

- Ancestral File
- International Genealogical Index
- Family History Library Catalog - Surname Search

1580–present

- Periodical Source Index (PERSI) 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.)


1700–1939  Austin, Jeanette H. *Abstracts of Georgia Wills.* (FHL book 975.8 P28aa, vols. 1–2.) Has some wills as late as 1939.

1700–1778  *Index to Probate Records of Colonial Georgia, 1733–1778.* (FHL book 975.8 P2i.)

1700–1857  Austin, Jeannette H. *Georgia Intestate Records.* (FHL book 975.8 P28a.) Has some wills as late as 1857.

1700–1955  Austin, Jeannette H. *Index to Georgia Wills.* (FHL book 975.8 P2au.) Has some wills as late at 1955.

1700–1860  Brooke, Ted O. *In the Name of God, Amen: Georgia Wills, an Index of Testators of Wills, of Georgia Recorded in Colonial Will Books and in Loose Will Collections, 1733–1777 and Wills Recorded or on File in County and State Offices, 1777–1860.* (FHL book 975.8 P2b; film 1036842.)


1700–1860  White Virgil D. *Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files.* (FHL book 973 M28g, 4 vols.) Vol. 4 is the index to volumes 1–3, which often list the names of spouses, and children.


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  *D.A.R. 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.


1700–1840  *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*. (FHL book 973 M24ua 1992, vols. 1–4.) Indexed Edition. Vol. 4 has the index; vols. 1–4 list Revolutionary War soldiers, give county of residence, state of service, and age; often give data on soldiers who received pensions and died from 1820s–1835.


1700–1810  Ingmire, Frances T. *Colonial Georgia Marriage Records from 1760–1810*. (FHL book 975.8 V2i.)

1700–1800  Warren, Mary B. ed. *Georgia Marriages, 1811 through 1820. Prepared From Extant Legal Records, and Published Sources*. (FHL book 975.8 V2g.)

1700–1875  Maddox, Joseph T. *40,000 Early Georgia Marriages*. (FHL book 975.8 V2me; fiche 6051217.)


1700–1976  Bennett, Barbara S. *Georgia Historical Quarterly Index*. (FHL book 975.8 B2g index.) Indexes volumes up to 1976.


1700–1977  *Georgia Pioneers Genealogical Magazine*. (FHL book 975.8 B2gp; film 1206459, items 1–17 have some vols.)

1700–1987  Austin, Jeannette H. *Georgia Bible Records*. (FHL book 975.8 D2a.)

1700–1930  *Historical Collections of the Georgia Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution: Dedicated to the Memory of Mrs. William Lawson Peel*. (FHL book 975.8 A3d 1969.)

1700–1900  *Historical Collections of the Joseph Habersham Chapter, Daughters, American Revolution*. (FHL book 975.8 D2d; film 1425605 items 1–3.)


1700–1995  *Huxford Genealogical Society Quarterly*. (FHL book 975.8 D25h; films beginning with 1320531 item 4.)

1720–1845  Maddox, Joseph T. *37,000 Early Georgia Marriages*. (FHL book 975.8 V2m; film 928351 item 3; fiche 6046751.) Has marriages for 1795–1864.

1720–1879  Maddox Joseph T. *Early Georgia Marriages*. (FHL book 975.8 V2eg, vol. 4; film 1033953 item 2.)

1730–1879  Maddox, Joseph T. *Early Georgia Marriage Roundup*. (FHL book 975.8 V2mj 1980; fiche 6049619.)

1760–1920  *Census indexes, 1820–1880 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.


1740–1899  Overby, Mary M. *Obituaries Published by the Christian Index, 1822–1899*. (FHL book 975.8 V4o.)

1740–1900  White Virgil D. *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files*. (FHL book 973 M22i.)

1760–1850  Jackson, Ronald Vern. *Mortality Schedule Georgia 1850*. (FHL book 975.8 X22m 1850.)

1760–1870  *Index, Georgia Mortality Records for the Years Ending June 1, 1850, 1860, 1870*. (FHL book 975.8 V23d; film 873729 item 2.)
Georgia Statewide Indexes and Collections

1770–1860 Jackson, Ronald Vern. *Georgia 1860 Mortality Schedule.* (FHL book 975.8 X2j 1860.)

1800–1900 Henderson, Lillian. *Roster of the Confederate Soldiers of Georgia 1861–1865.* (FHL book 975.8 M22h; films 1033660 item 3–4.) Infantry only. For index see below.

1800–1900 Brightwell, Juanita S. *Roster of the Confederate Soldiers of Georgia 1861–1865 Index.* (FHL book 975.8 M22h 1982 index.)


1800–1900s Georgia. Department of Archives and History. Confederate Pension Rolls. (FHL films 1493047–085 have the index.)

1800–1865 United States. Adjudant General's Office. Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Georgia. (FHL film 881394.)

1800–1865 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.


1878–1918 United States Selective Service System. *Georgia, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1817–1918.* (On 100 FHL films beginning with 1556940.) Men ages 18 to 45 are listed alphabetically by county or draft boards.

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.
Georgia Maps Bibliography

MicrGen 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 Georgia Maps:** pp. 167 - 199. One page history of state, list of counties and counties with minor civil divisions. Maps of census county divisions.

Bryant, Pat. *Georgia Counties: Their Changing Boundaries.* Atlanta: State Printing Office, 1977
Micr/Gen Ref- F 292.B788x

**Summary:** Up to page 123, various information on county creations, county line changes and county line disputes. Starting on page 123, 19 maps show counties of Georgia in each decade, 1790 up through 1970. Maps show the change in county boundaries.


**Summary:** The previous map was copied from page 147 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 Georgia also includes a brief history and genealogical research information.

Micr/Gen Ref- G 1201.E6225 J33x 1970z Vol. 1

**Summary:** List of Counties for each state.
**Evaluation of Georgia maps:** Maps are of the revolutionary period, 1800, 1823, 1838, 1860 and 1960, pp. 27-36.


**Summary:** Shows changes in boundaries in United States from Colonial days up to 1909. Civil War maps and information.
**Evaluation of Georgia maps:** State historical information, p. 10; 1790-1900 map, p. 76; 1810 map, p. 83; 1823 map, p. 92; 1838 map, p. 123; 1860 map, p. 148; 1909 map, p. 209.
**Summary:** Georgia maps and information on pages 69 - 75. Includes maps comparing Georgia to other states, cultural features, population density, agriculture, economic facts, etc. Also includes a brief state history.

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 Georgia maps:** pp.79-90.

**Map Collection on the 2nd floor of the old section of HBLL library.** Two map drawers for the state of Georgia.  
**G3920 - G3924.** 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 HBLL Online Catalog for Georgia maps, atlases, and gazetteers.
Georgia Federal Census Population Schedules,
1790 to 1920

Guide

Introduction

Federal censuses are taken every 10 years. Georgia residents are included in censuses from 1820 through 1920. There are also census substitutes for 1790 through 1810.

• 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.

Steps

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 Georgia 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:

1820   1830   1840    1850   1860   1870
1880   1890   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 Georgia to a different county or town.
- Movement of the family out of Georgia if the family no longer appears in the census for Georgia.

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 for an individual may vary greatly from census to census. Often ages are listed more accurately for young children than for 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. 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.
Most of the 1890 census of Georgia was destroyed by fire, however there are 1890 returns for Columbus, in Muscogee County, and Washington County.

Types of Census Schedules
The following census schedules are available for Georgia 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, and 1880 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, and 1880 censuses.
- **Manufacturing or industrial schedules** list data about businesses and industries for the 1820, 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.

How 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:

- 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:
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, State, and Local Censuses

Colonial, state, and local governments also took censuses. Nonfederal censuses generally contain information similar to and sometimes more than federal censuses of the same period. There do not appear to be any colonial censuses for Georgia; however, the book A List of the Early Settlers of Georgia lists settlers who were in Georgia from 1733 through 1747.

Georgia became a state in 1788. State censuses of Georgia were taken in various years. The original records are at the Georgia Department of Archives and History. There are state censuses at the Family History Library for some counties for 1827, 1834, 1837, 1838, 1845, 1852, 1859, and 1879.

State, and local censuses may be available on the Internet, at Family History Centers, at 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:

- Georgia 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 Georgia Research Outline lists Internet addresses for several Georgia archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Georgia 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 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 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 Georgia Research Outline lists Internet and mailing addresses for several Georgia archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Georgia 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.
### U.S. State Censuses

#### GEORGIA

**1733-1747**

Coulter E. Merton, and Albert B. Saye. *A List of Early Settlers of Georgia*. This list is for the period 1733 to 1747 and is updated by the *Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly* 19 (1983); 111-131.

**F285 .G461x**

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**1733-1819**

*Early Georgia, 1733-1819.*

**FRC Table 7**

**F285 .J26 1980**

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**1805**


**929.3758 W85E**

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**1824-1866**

*Statistical Census*

**State Census Microfiche Card 1 of 1**

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**1827, 1838, 1845**

*Censuses for Georgia counties: Taliaferro, 1827, Lumpkin, 1838, Chatham, 1845.*

**F292.T23 C46**

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**1838-45**

*Indexes to seven State census reports for counties in Georgia, 1838-1845.*

**FRC Table 7**

**CS49.Z99 G41838**

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**1838**

Laurens County, 1838

**FILM 0007010 item 4**

Newton County, 1838

**FILM 0007010 item 5**

Tattnall County, 1838

**FILM 0007010 item 6**

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**1845**

Chatham County, 1845

**FILM 0007010 item 1-2**

Forysth County, 1845

**FILM 0007010 item 3**

Warren County, 1845

**FILM 0007010 item 7-8**

Dooly County, 1845

**FILM 0007010 item 9**

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**1852**

Jasper County, 1852

**FILM 0007010 item 10.**

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**1859, 1879**

Columbia County, 1859, 1879

**FILM 0234619**


Avery, Isaac Wheeler.  The History of the State of Georgia from 1850 to 1881: Embracing the Three Important Epochs: the Decade Before the War of 1861-5; the War; the Period of Reconstruction, with Portraits of the Leading Public Men of this Area.  New York: Brown and Derby, c1881.  F 286 .A952 also Fiche Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 10234 also Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 10506


Chappell, Absalom Harris.  *Miscellaneies of Georgia, Historical, Biographical, Descriptive, Etc.: in Three Parts*.  Atlanta: J.F. Meegan, c1874.  Fiche Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 10247 also Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 9650


Gentry, James C., Mrs. *Index to Volume I, Historical Collections of the Georgia Chapters, Daughters of the American Revolution: Published in 1926*. Atlanta: Stein Print. Co., 1931. Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 10590

The Georgia Annual: a Compendium of Useful Information about Georgia: Needed by Every Business and Professional Man in the State, and Which is Here Combined in One Handy Volume. Atlanta: A.B. Caldwell, 1912. Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 9651

Georgia Dept. of Agriculture. *Georgia: from the Immigrant Settler's Stand-Point: Giving the Results of the Experience of Actual Settlers from Other States and Countries, Prefaced with an Account of the Natural Resources of Georgia, and the Inducements to Immigrants and Capitalists*. Atlanta: no publisher, 1879. Fiche Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 40055

GEORGIA


Leigh, Frances Butler. *Ten Years on a Georgia Plantation Since the War.* London: R. Bentley and Sons, 1883. Fiche Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 12352 also Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 9647


Martyn, Benjamin. *An Account, Shewing the Progress of the Colony of Georgia in America from It’s [sic] First Establishment. Published Per Order of the Honourable the Trustees.* London: printed in the year M,DCC,XLI; Annapolis, MD: re-printed and sold by Jonas Green, at his printing-office, 1742. Fiche 080 Sh64 EVANS 4961


McCall, Hugh. *The History of Georgia: Containing Brief Sketches of the Most Remarkable Events, Up to the Present Day.* Savannah, GA: Seymour & Williams, 1811-16. Fiche 080 Sh64a no. 23262 also Fiche Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 20747

Last updated 6/03


Morgan, Julia, "Mrs. Irby Morgan."  How It Was; Four Years Among the Rebels.  Nashville, TN: Printed for the author, 1892.  E 579 .M84


Last updated 6/03


Smith, George Gilman. *The Story of Georgia and the Georgia People, 1732 to 1860*. Macon, GA: G.G. Smith, 1900. **F 286 .S66 1900** also **Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 9660**


Stephens, Thomas.  *A Brief Account of the Causes that have Retarded the Progress of the Colony of Georgia, in America: Attested Upon Oath, Being a Proper Contrast to a State of the Province of Georgia*.  London: s.n., 1743.  Fiche F 289 .S776


Tailfer, Patrick.  *A True and Historical Narrative of the Colony of Georgia also called A True and Historical Narrative of the Colony of Georgia, in America: from the First Settlement Thereof until This Present Period; Containing the Most Authentick Facts, Matters, and Transactions Therein; Together with His Majesty's Charter, Representations of the People,
Letters, Etc., and a Dedication to His Excellency General Oglethorpe. New York: Peter Smith (Bound in: Tracts and other papers r/Force, Peter, 1790-1868), 1947; Charles-Town, SC: Printed by P. Timothy, for the authors, 1741. F 289 .T135 also E 187 .F69 (vol. 1) also Fiche Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 12417 also Fiche Z 1201 .S32 unit 227 33968-33969 also Fiche 080 Sh64 Evans 4816 also Fiche 080 Sh64 Evans 4817


White, George. *Statistics of the State of Georgia; Including an Account of Its Natural, Civil, and Ecclesiastical History; Together with a Particular Description of Each County, Notices of the Manners and Customs of Its Aboriginal Tribes, and a Correct Map of the State*. Savannah, GA: W.T. Williams, 1849. F 286 .W58 also F 286 .W58 (Map Collection) also Fiche Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 12398 also Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 9648


Wills, Charles. *A Historical Album of Georgia*. Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press, c1996. 975.8 W685h (Juvenile Literature Collection)


Appling County  Appling County was created in 1818 from Creek Indian Lands that were ceded to the U.S. The county seat is Baxley.


Atkinson County  Atkinson County was created in 1917 from Coffee and Clinch Counties. The county seat is Pearson.

Bacon County  Bacon County was created in 1914 from Appling, Pierce, and Ware Counties. The county seat is Alma.


Baker County  Baker County was created in 1825 from Early County. The county seat is Newton.


Baldwin County  Baldwin County was created in 1803 from the Creek Indian Lands that were ceded to the U.S. The county seat is Milledgeville.


Cook, Anna Maria Green.  History of Baldwin County, Georgia.  Spartanburg, SC:
Banks County  Banks County was formed in 1858 from Franklin and Habersham Counties. The county seat is Homer.

Barrow County  Barrow County was formed in 1914 from Jackson, Walton and Guinett counties. The county seat is Winder.


Bartow County  Bartow County was created as Cass County in 1832; it was renamed Bartow in 1861. The county seat is Cartersville.


Ben Hill County  Ben Hill County was created in 1906 from Irwin and Wilcox counties. The county seat is Fitzgerald.

Berrien County  Berrien County was created in 1856 from Lowndes, Coffee, and Irwin counties. The county seat is Nashville.

Bibb County  Bibb County was created in 1822 from Jones, Monroe, Twiggs, and Houston counties. The county seat is Macon.

Bleckley County  Bleckley County was created in 1912 from Pulaski County. The county seat is Cochran.


Brantley County  Brantley County was created in 1920 from Charlton, Pierce, and Wayne counties. The county seat is Nahunta.

Brooks County  Brooks County was created in 1858 from Lowndes and Thomas counties. The county seat is Quitman.
Bryan County  Bryan County was created in 1793 from Effingham and Liberty counties. The county seat is Pembroke.


Bullock County  Bullock County was created in 1796 from Franklin County. The county seat is Statesboro.


Burke County  Burke County was formed in 1777 from St. George Parish. The county seat is Waynesboro.


Butts County  Butts County was created in 1825 from Henry and Monroe Counties. The county seat is Jackson.


Calhoun County  Calhoun County was created in 1854 from Baker and Early counties. The county seat is Morgan.


Camden County  Camden County was created in 1777 from the St. Mary and St. Thomas parishes. The county seat is Woodbine.

Huxford, Folks.  *Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia: a Biographical Account of Some of the Early Settlers of that Portion of Wiregrass Georgia Embraced in the Original...*


**Campbell County** Originally created in 1828 from Carroll and Coweta Counties. Milton and Campbell Counties were merged with Fulton County, January 1, 1932.

**Candler County** Candler County was formed in 1914 from Bulloch, Emanuel, and Tattnall counties. The county seat is Metter.

**Carroll County** Carroll County was created in 1826 from Indian lands ceded to the U.S. The county seat is Carrollton.


**Cass County** Created in 1832; renamed Bartow in 1861.

**Catoosa County** Catoosa County was formed in 1853 from Walker and Whitfield counties. The county seat is Ringgold.


**Charlton County** Charlton County was created in 1854 from Camden and Ware counties. The county seat is Folkston.

Charlton County Historical Commission. Charlton County, Georgia. n.p., 1972. F 292 .C3 C45


**Chatham County** Chatham County was created in 1777 from the St. Phillip and Christ Church parishes. The county seat is Savannah.


Camp, Charles. *The Masonic Underground Railway, 1924*. Typewritten Biography of the Author's Father.  *MSS 456* (Special Collections: Archival Manuscript) also *Z 11/10/F 5* (Special Collections: Archival Manuscript)


Lee, F.D. *Historical Record of the City of Savannah*. Savannah, GA: Morning News Steam-Powered Press, 1869, c1868.  *Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8459*


Sholes, Albert Elliot.  *Chronological History of Savannah: from Its Settlement by Oglethorpe Down to December 31, 1899: Together with a Complete Record of the City and County, and Savannah’s Roll of Honor, a Roster of the Soldiers Who Have in Three Wars Gone Forth at Their Country’s Call, from this City*. Savannah, GA: Morning News Printing, 1900.  *Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8463*


**Chattahoochee County**  Chattahoochee County was created in 1854 from Muscogee and Marion counties. The county seat is Cusseta.

Rogers, Norma Kate.  *History of Chattahoochee County, Georgia*. Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1997; Columbus, GA: Columbus Office Supply Co., c1933.  *F 292 .C39 R65x 1997 also Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8511*


**Chattooga County**  Chattooga County was created in 1838 from Floyd and Walker counties. The county seat is Summerville.

**Cherokee County**  Cherokee County was created in 1831 from Cherokee lands, Habersham and Hall Counties.


**Clarke County**  Clarke County was formed in 1801 from Jackson County. The county seat was Watkinsville (1801-1871) and is now Athens.
Clay County  Clay County was created in 1854 from Early and Randolph counties. The county seat is Fort Gaines.

Clayton County  Clayton County was created in 1858 from Fayette and Henry Counties. The county seat is Jonesboro.

Clinch County  Clinch County was formed in 1850 from Ware and Lowndes counties. The county seat is Homerville.

   Huxford, Folks.  History of Clinch County, Georgia: Revised to Date, Giving the Early History of the County Down to the Present Time (1916): Also Complete Lists of County Officers, Together with Minor Officers and Also Sketches of County Officers' Lives: with Chapters on the Histories of Old Families of Clinch County also Other Information as is Histrical in Its Nature.  LaCrosse, WI: Brookhaven Press, c2002; Macon, GA: J.W. Burke Co., 1916.  F 292 .C55 H9 2002 also Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8480

Cobb County  Cobb County was created in 1832 from Cherokee County. The county seat is Marietta.

Coffee County  Coffee County was created in 1854 from Clinch, Irwin, Telfair and Ware counties. The county seat is Douglas.

Ward, Warren P. *Ward's History of Coffee County* also called *Ward's History of Coffee County: a Story Dealing with the Past and Present of Coffee County, Beginning with the Early Settlers about the Year 1800, Discussing the Creek Indians and the Pioneers, Leading Up to the Creation of Coffee County in 1854, Old Families, Old Schools and Churches, Showing the Conditions During the Civil War and Ending Up with the Spirit of Progress, Which is Evident in Better Schools, and a More Intelligent Civilization: Showing that Coffee County in South Georgia is God's Country and a Good Place to Live in the Year 1930.* Spartanburg, SC: Reprint Co., 1979, c1930; Atlanta: Press of Foote and Davies Co., c1930.  F 292 .C63 W3 1978 also Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8512

Colquitt County  Colquitt County was created in 1856 from Lowndes and Thomas counties. The county seat is Moultrie.


Columbia County  Columbia County was created in 1790 from Richmond County. The county seat is Appling.


Cook County  Cook County was created in 1918 from Berrien County. The county seat is Adel.


Coweta County  Coweta County was created from Indian lands ceded to the U.S.in 1825. Coweta was abolished in 1826 due to treaty problems, but recreated in Dec. of 1826 from lands ceded that year. The county seat is Newnan.

Jones, Mary Gibson. *Coweta County Chronicles: For One Hundred Years with an Account of the Indians from Who the Land was Acquired and Some Historical Paper Relating to Its Acquisition by Georgia with Lineage Papers.* Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1975; Atlanta: Stein Printing Co., 1928.  F 292 .C8 J7 1975 also Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8503

Crawford County  Crawford County was created from Houston County in 1822. The county seat is Knoxville. The county courthouse was rebuilt in 1851 after a fire.
**Crisp County**  Crisp County was created in 1905 from Dooly County. The county seat is Cordele.


**Dade County**  Dade County was created from Walker County in 1837. The county seat is Trenton, originally named Salem.

**Dawson County**  Dawson County was created in 1857 from Gilmer and Lumpkin counties. The county seat is Dawsonville.

**Decatur County**  Decatur County was created from Early County in 1823. The county seat is Bainbridge.


**DeKalb County**  DeKalb County was created from Fayette, Gwinnett and Henry counties in 1822. The county seat is Decatur.


*Atlanta Centennial Year Book: 1837-1937*.  Atlanta: G. Murphy, 1937.  Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8477


Hornady, John R.  *Atlanta, Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.*  s.l.: American Cities Book Co., 1922.  Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8499


Workers of the Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Georgia. Atlanta, a City of the Modern South. New York: Smith and Durrell, c1942. Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8508


**Dodge County** Dodge County was created in 1870 from Pulaski and Telfair counties. The county seat is Eastman.


**Dooly County** Dooly County was created from Indian lands ceded to the U.S. in 1821. The county seat is Vienna.

**Dougherty County** Dougherty County was created in 1853 from Baker County. The county seat is Albany.


**Douglas County** Douglas County was created in 1870 from Campbell and Carroll counties. The county seat is Douglasville.

**Early County** Early County was created in 1818 from Indian lands ceded to the U.S. in 1814. The county seat is Blakely.


**Echols County** Echols County was created in 1858 from Clinch and Lowndes counties. The county seat is Stetenville.

**Effingham County** Effingham County was created in 1777 from St. Matthew and St. Philip Parishes. The county seat was Tuskeasee King (1784-1787), Elberton (1787-ca. 1832) and is now Springfield (1832-present).

**Elbert County** Elbert County was created in 1790 from Wilkes County.

McIntosh, John Hawes. The Official History of Elbert County, 1790-1935. Supplement,
Emanuel County  Emanuel County was created in 1812 from Bulloch and Montgomery counties. The county seat is Swainsboro.


Evans County  Evans County was created in 1914 from Bulloch and Tattnall counties. The county seat is Claxton.

Fannin County  Fannin County was created in 1854 from Gilmer and Union counties. The county seat was Morganton until 1895, when it became Blue Ridge.

Fayette County  Fayette County was created from Indian lands ceded to the U.S. in 1821. The county seat is Fayetteville.


Floyd County  Floyd County was created from Cherokee County in 1832. The county seat was Livingston until 1835 when Rome was named county seat.


Forsyth County  Forsyth County was created from Cherokee County in 1832. The county seat is Cumming.


Franklin County  Franklin County was created in 1784 from Indian lands ceded to Georgia in 1783. The county seat is Carnesville.

Fulton County  Fulton County was created in 1853 from DeKalb County. The county seat is Atlanta.


*Atlanta Centennial Year Book: 1837-1937*.  Atlanta: G. Murphy, 1937.  Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8477


Kuhn, Cliff.  *Contesting the New South Order: the 1914-1915 Strike at Atlanta's Fulton*
GEORGIA


Workers of the Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Georgia. Atlanta, a City of the Modern South. New York: Smith and Durrell, c1942. Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8508


Gilmer County Gilmer County was created from Cherokee County in 1832. The county seat is Ellijay.

Glascock County Glascock County was created in 1857 from Warren County. The county seat is Gibson.

Glynn County Glynn County was created in 1777 from St. David and St. Patrick parishes. The county seat is Brunswick.


Last updated 6/03 28
Cate, Margaret Davis.  Our Todays and Yesterdays: A Story of Brunswick and the Coastal Islands.  Spartanburg, SC: Reprint Co., 1979; Brunswick, GA: Glover Bros., 1930.  F 292 .G5 C3 1972 also Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8515


**Gordon County**  Gordon County was created in 1850 from Bartown and Floyd counties. The county seat is Calhoun.


**Grady County**  Grady County was created in 1905 from Decatur and Thomas counties. The county seat is Cairo.

**Greene County**  Greene County was created in 1786 from Washington County. The county seat is Greensboro.


Gwinnett County  Gwinnett County was created in 1818 from Indian lands ceded to the U.S. in 1817 and 1818. The county seat has been Lawrenceville since 1821.

Flanigan, James C.  Gwinnett Churches: a Complete History of Every Church in Gwinnett County, Georgia, With Short Biographical Sketches of Its Ministers.  s.l.: s.n., 1911.  Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8442


Habersham County  Habersham County was created in 1818 from Indian lands ceded to the U.S. in 1817 and 1819. The county seat has been Clarkesville since 1823.

Hall County  Hall County was created in 1818 from Indian lands ceded to the U.S. The county seat is Gainesville.


Hancock County  Hancock County was created in 1793 from Greene and Washington counties. The county seat is Sparta.


Haralson County  Haralson County was created in 1856 from Carroll and Polk counties. The county seat is Buchanan.

Harris County  Harris County was created in 1827 from Muscogee and Troup counties. The county seat is Hamilton.


Hart County  Hart County was created in 1853 from Elbert and Franklin counties. The county seat is Hartwell.

Heard County  Heard County was created in 1830 from Carroll, Coweta, and Troup counties. The county seat is Franklin.

Heard County Historical Society. History of Heard County, Georgia, 1830-1990. Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corp., c1991. (See BYU Library Catalog for Call Number)

Henry County  Henry County was created from Indian lands ceded to the U.S. in 1821. The county seat is McDonough.


Houston County  Houston County was created from Indian lands ceded to the U.S. in 1821. The county seat is Perry.

Irwin County  Irwin county was created from Indian lands ceded to the U.S. in 1818. The county seat was Irwinville until 1906 and now is Ocilla.


Jackson County  Jackson County was created in 1796 from Franklin County. The county seat is Jefferson.


Jasper County  Originally named Randolph County but renamed in 1812, Jasper County was created in 1807 from Baldwin County. The county seat is Monticello.


Jeff Davis County  Jeff Davis County was created in 1905 from Appling and Coffee counties. The county seat is Hazlehurst.

Jefferson County  Jefferson County was created in 1796 from Burke and Warren counties. The county seat is Louisville.
Jenkins County  Jenkins County was created in 1905 from Bulloch, Burke, Emanuel and Screven counties. The county seat is Millen. Jenkins County was originally named Seventy-Nine.

Johnson County  Johnson County was created in 1858 from Emanuel, Laurens and Washington counties. The county seat is Wrightville.

Jones County  Jones County was created in 1807 from Baldwin County. The county seat was Clinton until 1905, when it became Gray.

Kinchafoonee County  Created in 1853 from Stewart County; renamed Webster in 1856.

Lamar County  Lamar County was created in 1920 from Monroe and Pike counties. The county seat is Barnesville.


Lanier County  Lanier County was created in 1930 from Berrien, Clinch and Lowndes counties. The county seat is Lakeland.

Laurens County  Laurens County was created in 1807 from Wilkinson County. The county seat was Sumterville until 1812, when it became Dublin.

Lee County  Lee County was created from Indian lands ceded to the U.S.in 1825. It was abolished in 1826 due to treaty problems and recreated in Dec. 1826 from lands ceded in 1826. The county seat switched between Starkville and Webster until 1872 when it became Wooten Station. The courthouse in Starkville burned in 1858 with all of the county records. Another fire in 1872 destroyed the temporary courthouse in Leesburg.


Liberty County  Liberty County was created in 1777 from St. Andrew, St. James and St. John parishes. The county seat was Riceborough and is now Hinesville.


Lincoln County  Lincoln County was created in 1796 from Wilkes County. The county seat is Lincolnton.


Long County  Long County was created in 1920 from Liberty County. The county seat is Ludowici.

Lowndes County  Lowndes County was created from Irwin County in 1825. Franklinville was county seat until 1837, when Valdosta became the county seat. Valdosta was originally named Troupville.


Lumpkin County  Lumpkin County was created from Cherokee County in 1832 as part of the Gold Land Lottery. The county seat is Dahlonega.


Macon County  Macon County was created in 1837 from Houston and Marion counties. The county seat was Lanier until 1854 when Oglethorpe became county seat.


**Madison County** Madison County was created in 1811 from Clarke, Elbert, Franklin, Jackson and Oglethorpe counties. The county seat is Danielsville.


**Marion County** Marion County was formed in 1827 from Lee, Muscogee, and Stewart counties. The county seat is Buena Vista.


**McDuffie County** McDuffie County was created in 1870 from Columbia and Warren counties. The county seat is Thomson.


**McIntosh County** McIntosh County was created in 1793 from Liberty County. The county seat is Darien.

**Meriwether County**  Meriwether County was created in 1827 from Troup County. The county seat is Greenville.


**Miller County**  Miller County was created in 1856 from Baker and Early counties. The county seat is Colquitt.

**Mitchell County**  Mitchell County was created in 1857 from Baker counties. The county seat is Camilla.

**Monroe County**  Monroe County was created from Indian lands ceded to the U.S. in 1821. The county seat is Forsyth.


**Montgomery County**  Montgomery County was created in 1793 from Washington County. The county seat is Mount Vernon.


**Morgan County**  Morgan County was created in 1807 from Baldwin County. The county seat is Madison.

**Murray County**  Murray County was created from Cherokee County in 1832. The county seat was Spring Creek until 1913, and Chatsworth after that date.

**Muscogee County**  Muscogee County was created from Indian lands ceded to the U.S. in 1825. It was abolished in 1826 due to treaty problems. Muscogee County was recreated in Dec. of 1826 from lands ceded that year. The county seat is Columbus.


Worsley, Etta Blanchard.  *Columbus on the Chattahoochee.*  Columbus, GA: Columbus Office Supply Co., 1951.  *Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8473*

**Newton County**  Newton County was created in 1821 from Henry, Jasper, and Walton counties. The county seat is Covington.

**Oconee County**  Oconee County was created in 1875 from Clarke county. The county seat is Watkinsville.

**Oglethorpe County**  Oglethorpe County was created in 1793 from Wilkes County. The county seat is Lexington.


**Paulding County**  Paulding County was created in 1832 from Cherokee County. The county seat was Van Wert until 1851, and Dallas thereafter.

**Peach County**  Peach County was created in 1924 from Houston and Macon counties. The county seat is Fort Valley.

**Pickens County**  Pickens County was created in 1853 from Cherokee and Gilmer counties. The county seat is Jasper.


**Pierce County**  Pierce County was created in 1857 from Appling and Ware counties. The county seat is Blackshear.
Broome, Dean Carl. History of Pierce County, Georgia...: With the First Census of Pierce County and Many Cemetery Records Never Before Published. Blackshear, GA: Dean C. Broome, 1989. F 292 .P61 B76x 1989 (vol. 1)

**Pike County** Pike County was created from Monroe County in 1822. The county seat was Newnan until 1825, at which time it became Zebulon.


**Polk County** Polk County was created in 1851 from Floyd and Paulding counties. The county seat was Van Wert and now is Cedartown.

**Pulaski County** Pulaski County was created from Laurens County. The county seat was Hartford followed by Hawkinsville after 1837.


**Putnam County** Putnam County was created in 1807 from Baldwin County. The county seat is Eatonton.

**Quitman County** Quitman County was created in 1858 from Randolph and Stewart counties. The county seat is Georgetown.

**Rabun County** Rabun County was created from Indian lands ceded to the U.S. in 1819. The county seat is Clayton.


**Randolph County** Randolph County was formed in 1828 from Baker and Lee counties. The county seat is Cuthbert.
Randolph County  Created in 1807 from Baldwin County; renamed Jasper in 1812.

Richmond County  Richmond County was created in 1777 from St. Paul parish. The county seat is Augusta.


Harris, J. William. Plain Folk and Gentry in a Slave Society: White Liberty and Black Slavery in Augusta's Hinterlands. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan Univ. Press;


Rockdale County Rockdale County was created in 1870 from Henry and Newton counties. The county seat is Conyers.

Schley County Schley County was created in 1857 from Marion and Sumter counties. The county seat is Ellaville.

Williams, H.J., Mrs. History of Schley County, Georgia. s.l.: s.n., 1971. Film 300 #241 also FHL Film 824292 item 7

Screven County Screven County was created in 1793 from Burke and Effingham counties. The county seat originally was Rocky Ford (1793-1797), Jacksonboro (1797-1847), and currently is Sylvania.


Seminole County Seminole County was created in 1920 from Decatur and Early counties. The county seat is Donalsonville.

Spalding County Spalding County was created from Fayette, Henry and Pike counties. The county seat is Griffin.

Stephens County Stephens County was created in 1905 from Franklin and Habersham counties. The county seat is Toccoa.


Stewart County Stewart County was created in 1830 from Randolph County.

Terrill, Helen Eliza. History of Stewart County, Georgia. Columbus, GA: Columbus Office Supply Co., 1958-75. F 292 .S8 T4
Sumter County  Sumter County was created Lee County in 1831. The county seat is Americus.


Talbot County  Talbot County was created in 1827 from Crawford, Harris, Marion, Macon, and Muscogee counties.  The county seat is Talbotton.

Taliaferro County  Taliaferro County was created from Greene, Hancock, Oglethorpe, Warren and Willes counties in 1825. The county seat is Crawfordville.


Tattnall County  Tattnall County was created in 1801 from Montgomery County. The county seat was Drake's Ferry (1801-1807), Sheppard's Bridge (1807-1832), and is now Reidsville.

Taylor County  Taylor County was created in 1852 from Macon, Marion, and Talbot counties. The county seat is Butler.

Telfair County  Telfair County was created in 1807 from Wilkinson County. The county seat was Jacksonville, until McRae became the county seat in 1871.


Terrell County  Terrell County was created in 1856 from Lee and Randolph counties. The county seat is Dawson.
Thomas County

Thomas County was created from Decatur and Irwin counties in 1825. The county seat is Thomasville.

MacIntyre, William Irwin. History of Thomas County, Georgia: From the Time of DeSoto to the Civil War. Thomasville, GA: s.n., 1923. Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8455


Tift County

Tift County was created in 1905 from Berrien, Irwin and Ward counties. The county seat is Tifton.


Toombs County

Toombs County was created in 1905 from Emanuel County. The county seat is Lyons.

Towns County

Towns County was created in 1856 from Rabun and Union counties. The county seat is Hiawassee.

Treutlen County

Treutlen County was created in 1918 from Emanuel and Montgomery counties. The county seat is Soperton.

Troup County

Troup County was created from Indian lands ceded to the U.S.in 1825. It was abolished in 1826 and then recreated in December from lands ceded in 1826. The county seat is LaGrange.


Smith, Clifford Lewis. History of Troup County. Atlanta: Foote and Davies Co.,
**Georgia**

c1935.  *Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8485*

**Turner County**  Turner County was created in 1905 from Dooly, Irwin, Wilcox, and Worth counties. The county seat is Ashburn.

Pate, John Ben.  *History of Turner County*.  Spartanburg, SC: Reprint Co., 1979; Atlanta: Stein Printing Co., 1933  *F 292 .T8 P2 1979* also  *Fiche CS 43. G46x LH 8496*

**Twiggs County**  Twiggs County was created in 1809 from Wilkinson County. The county seat was Marion until 1868, at which time Jeffersonville was named county seat.


**Union County**  Union County was created in 1832 from Cherokee County. The county seat is Blairsville.

**Upson County**  Upson County was created from Crawford and Pike counties in 1824. The county seat is Thomaston.


**Walker County**  Walker County was created in 1833 from Murray County. The county seat is LaFayette.


**Walton County**  Walton County was created from Indian lands ceded to the U.S. in 1818. The county seat is Monroe.

Ware County  Ware County was created in 1824 from Appling County. The county seat is Waycross.


Walker, Laura Singleton.  History of Ware County, Georgia.  Macon, GA: J.W. Burke Co., 1934.  Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8486


Warren County  Warren County was created in 1793 from Burke County. The county seat has been Warrenton since 1797.

Washington County  Washington County was created in 1784 from Indian lands ceded to Georgia in 1783. The county seat was Warthen's Store, now Warthen, (1784-1796), and is now Sandersville.


Wayne County  Wayne County was created in 1802 from Indian lands ceded to Georgia in 1802. The county seat was Tuckerville and became Jesup in 1873.


Webster County  Webster County was created in 1853 from Stewart County as Kinchafoonee County. The county was named Webster in 1856. The county seat is Preston.
Wheeler County  Wheeler County was created in 1912 from Montgomery County. The county seat is Alamo.

White County  White County was created in 1857 from Habersham county. The county seat is Cleveland, originally named Mount Yonah.

Whitfield County  Whitfield was created in 1851 from Murray County. The county seat is Dalton.

Wilcox County  Wilcox County was created in 1857 from Dooly, Irwin, and Pulaski counties. The county seat is Abbeville.

Wilkes County  Wilkes County was created in 1777 from Indian lands ceded to Georgia on June 1, 1773. The county seat is Washington.
Wilkinson County  Wilkinson County was created in 1803 from Indian land ceded to Georgia. The county seat is Irwinton.


Worth County  Worth County was created in 1853 from Dooly and Irwin counties. The county seat was Isabella, which was previously named San Barnard, until 1894 when Sylvester was named county seat.


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 Georgia Resources

Cyndi’s List Georgia Links
http://www.cyndislist.com/ga.htm

Georgia Gen-Web project
http://www.rootsweb.com/~gagenweb/

Georgia State Archives
http://www.sos.state.ga.us/archives/

Rootsweb Georgia Research Site
http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/ga.html

Georgia Historical Formation Maps
http://www.mygeorgiagenealogy.com/ga_maps/ga_cf.htm