This outline describes major sources of information about families from Louisiana. 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 described in this outline. The library's major holdings of Louisiana records include census, cemetery, land, probate, and vital records. The library has a large collection of notarial records and naturalization papers from the Parish of Orleans and passenger lists of New Orleans. It is continually acquiring additional records.

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, and microfiche numbers. These are preceded by FHL, the abbreviation for
Family History Library. These numbers may be used to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers.

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

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

- The place where your ancestors lived, such as:

  UNITED STATES - CENSUS
  LOUISIANA - COURT RECORDS
  LOUISIANA, ORLEANS - VITAL RECORDS
  LOUISIANA, ORLEANS, NEW ORLEANS - CEMETERIES

- The record type you want, such as:

  UNITED STATES - CENSUS
  LOUISIANA - COURT RECORDS
  LOUISIANA, ORLEANS - VITAL RECORDS
  LOUISIANA, ORLEANS, NEW ORLEANS - CEMETERIES

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

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

- Division of Archives, Records Management, and History
  3851 Essen Lane
  Baton Rouge, LA 70809
  Telephone: 504-922-1207
  Fax: 504-922-0002

- National Archives—Southwest Region (Fort Worth)
  501 West Felix Street
  Building 1, Dock 1
  Fort Worth, TX 76115-0216
  Telephone: 817-831-5620
  Fax: 817-334-5621
Mailing Address
P.O. Box 6216
Fort Worth, TX 76115-0216

- Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society
  P.O. Box 82060
  Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2068
  Telephone: 504-766-3018

- Louisiana State Library
  701 North 4th Street
  Baton Rouge, LA 70802
  Telephone: 225-342-4923
  Fax: 225-219-4804
  Mailing Address
  P.O. Box 131
  Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0131

- Louisiana Historical Association
  University of Louisiana at Lafayette
  929 Camp Street
  New Orleans, LA 70130
  Telephone: 337-482-6350
  Fax: 337-482-6028
  Mailing Address
  P.O. Box 42808
  Lafayette, LA 70504

- Historic New Orleans Collection
  William Research Center
  533 Royal St.
  New Orleans, LA 70130
  Telephone: 504-598-7171
  Fax: 504-598-7166

- Louisiana State Museum
  Louisiana Historical Center Library
  400 Esplanade Avenue
  New Orleans, LA 70176-2448
  Telephone: 504-568-8214
  Fax: 504-568-4995

To learn more about the history and record-keeping systems of Louisiana parishes, use any of the 22 inventories of the parish archives produced by the Historical Records Survey about 1940. The library has most of these inventories.
BIBLE RECORDS

The Louisiana Genealogical Records Committee of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) has collected many Bible records. They can be found at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C. Over 25 volumes of these and similar compilations are available on microfilm at the Family History Library. An example is Be It Known and Remembered: Bible Records, 5 vols. (Baton Rouge, La: Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Society, 1960-67, 1992; FHL book 976.3 V29L; vols. 1-2 on film 844970 and vols. 3-4 on film 844935; vols. 1-4 on fiche 6051103).

BIOGRAPHY

Extensive collections of biographical material are at the Louisiana State Library, The Louisiana State University Library, and the New Orleans Public Library. The New Orleans Public Library has an extensive card index of biographical sketches in books and newspapers published before 1972. The Louisiana Historical Association has published a Dictionary of Louisiana Biography (New Orleans: Louisiana Historical Association, 1988, 2 vols; FHL book 976.3D3dl). Also search local histories, historical atlases, and similar materials for biographical information.

The Family History Library has several biographical and “Who's Who” sources on FHL film 1000054 items 1-2, including Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Louisiana, 2 vols. (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1892).

CEMETERIES

Twenty-two volumes of Louisiana tombstone inscriptions were collected by members of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and deposited with the DAR Library in Washington, D.C. These were microfilmed in 1970 and are available at the Family History Library (FHL films 854861-63 and 855248-50). Another DAR collection containing tombstone inscriptions is described in the “Genealogy” section of this outline.

The Family History Library also has 210 microfilms of New Orleans cemetery records. These are listed in the catalog under LOUISIANA, ORLEANS, NEW ORLEANS - CEMETERIES.
CENSUS

Federal

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

The Family History Library has the United States federal censuses of Louisiana for 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920. The 1890 census was destroyed, but there is a Union veterans schedule and a published index to it that is available at the Family History Library. The population schedule for the Ascension Parish 1890 census is at the Division of Archives, Records Management, and History, and an index has been published and is at the Family History Library.

Statewide indexes are available for the 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses in book and microfiche format. Soundex (phonetic) indexes are available on microfilm for part of the 1880 and all of the 1900, 1910 and 1920 censuses.

Mortality schedules exist for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880, and all are indexed. The schedules and indexes are available at the Family History Library and the National Archives.

Colonial and State

In addition to the federal censuses, various military and local censuses were taken between 1699 and 1805. A special census of New Orleans was taken in 1805. The information in these censuses varies greatly. Several give the names and ages of all residents. Most of these censuses have been published and are available at the Family History Library. Two particularly helpful publications are:


CHURCH RECORDS

Before statehood in 1812 the Roman Catholic Church was dominant in Louisiana. Few Protestant churches flourished. From 1812 to 1900, the largest religious groups in Louisiana were the Roman Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Lutheran churches.
The earliest church records were Roman Catholic marriage records that began in 1720 and baptism records that began in 1729. Most records are kept at the local churches. The Family History Library has a small collection of Louisiana church records, including Roman Catholic and Baptist sources. Also see the 45 volumes of civil and church records from southern and southwestern Louisiana published by Donald J. Hebert (see the “Vital Records” section of this outline).

Guides to help you locate Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish records are:

Hebert, Donald J. *A Guide to Church Records in Louisiana, 1720-1975.* Eunice, La.: D. J. Hebert, 1975. (FHL book 976.3 K23h fiche 6051420 or 6010583.)


You can also write to the following addresses to learn where their records are located:

**Roman Catholic**

- **Archdiocese of New Orleans Archives**
  
  7887 Walmsley Ave.  
  New Orleans, LA 70125-3496  
  Telephone: 504-861-9521  
  Fax: 504-866-2906  
  This archdiocese includes the parishes of Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Plaquemines, and Washington.

- **Diocese of Shreveport**
  
  3500 Fairfield Avenue  
  A Shreveport, LA 71104  
  Telephone: 318-868-4441  
  Fax: 318-868-4605  

- **Diocese of Alexandria**
  
  4400 Coliseum Blvd.  
  Alexandria, LA 71303  
  Telephone: 318-445-2401  
  Fax: 318-448-6121

- **Diocese of Baton Rouge Archives**
  
  1800 South Acadian Thruway  
  Baton Rouge, LA 70808  
  Telephone: 225-387-0561 ext. 226  
  Fax: 225-242-0299  
  *Mailing Address*  
  P.O. Box 2028  
  Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2028  
  This diocese has collected all parish registers in its area and indexed them.
Major Louisiana courts that kept records of genealogical value were as follows:

1679-1769  *Conseil Superieur*, or the French Superior Council, had jurisdiction over land and court matters. The Family History Library has copies of Conseil Superieur records. The originals are at the Louisiana Historical Center.

1769-1803  *Spanish cabildo* was the Spanish government for the province of Louisiana from 1769 to 1803 and presided over court and land matters. The Family History Library has Cabildo records on microfilm. The originals are at the Louisiana Historical Center.

1800s-present  *District courts* are districtwide courts with jurisdiction over probate, divorce, equity, criminal, and civil cases. The Family History Library has some district court records. For example, from Orleans Parish the library has minutes (1838-80), judicial records (1880-1921), and successions (1846-80).
1800s-present  *Parish courts* have parishwide jurisdiction over criminal and minor civil cases. Most parish courts were abolished in 1846. The Family History Library has some parish court records, including Orleans Parish minutes, 1808-46.

1800s-present  *The Supreme court* is a statewide court located in New Orleans, which has records of appeals from inferior courts. It was originally created in 1804 as the Superior Court. Supreme Court records are at the Division of Archives, Records Management, and History.

Other Louisiana court records are available from the various parish courthouses. The University of New Orleans Archives also has some court records. Notarial records were kept by the Louisiana courts during some periods. (See the “Notarial Records” section of this outline.)


**DIRECTORIES**

Directories of heads of households were published for major cities. For example, the Family History Library has city directories of New Orleans for:

- 1805-11, 1822-24, 1832-61  •  FHL fiche 6044250-80
- 1861-1935  •  FHL film 1377153-
- 1874-1900  •  FHL film 1000770-76
- 1917  •  FHL book 976.335/N1 E4p
- 1945, 1965  •  FHL book Q 976.335/N1 E4p

The New Orleans Public Library has New Orleans city directories for most years since 1805.
EMISSION AND IMMIGRATION

Immigrants

Pre-statehood settlers of Louisiana generally came from eastern Canada, France, Germany, the West Indies, Spain, and Africa. During the Revolutionary War many other immigrants arrived from the Atlantic states. When the territory was formed, large numbers of Americans from southern Ohio moved to this new acquisition.

The Irish were the largest immigrant group in Louisiana during the nineteenth century. They settled mainly during the 1840s and 1850s. Large numbers of Germans arrived in two waves, one just after 1810 and the second between 1840 and 1860. Small numbers of Scandinavians came in the 1820s. Some Mexicans settled here in the 1830s. Later immigrant groups included Italians, Hungarians, and Slavs.

Records and histories of ethnic groups in Louisiana, including Acadians (“Cajuns”), Blacks, Canary Islanders, Chinese, Creoles, French, Germans, and Yugoslavs, are listed in the catalog under LOUISIANA - MINORITIES.

Passenger Lists

The major port of entry to Louisiana has been New Orleans. Lists of some of the colonial passengers have been published and are at the Family History Library. The Family History Library and the National Archives also have microfilms of:

- Original passenger lists for New Orleans (1820-1921)
- Indexes (1820-50, 1853-1952)
- Quarterly summaries of passenger lists for New Orleans (1820-75)

The National Archives also has:

- Passenger lists for New Orleans (1903-45)
- Five of the six volumes of Passenger Lists . . . Port of New Orleans. These are typescripts of lists from some years between 1813 and 1867. Each volume contains an index.

Further information on immigration sources is in the United States Research Outline.

GAZETTEERS

Two helpful guides to Louisiana place-names are:

GENEALOGY

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

An important manuscript collection of compiled genealogies is the *Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection*. This collection consists of transcripts of Bible, cemetery, church, marriage, death, obituary, and will records. It was microfilmed in 1971 at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., and is available on 23 microfilms at the Family History Library. The volumes are generally arranged by county, and many have individual indexes.

Some major published genealogical collections for Louisiana include:


HISTORY

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

1714  The first settlement was established at Natchitoches.
1717-1722  Forced immigration from France brought a few thousand settlers. A few thousand more, attracted by free land, came from German-speaking areas of Europe. The importation of African slaves began.
1718  New Orleans was founded.
1755-1785  After they had been expelled from Nova Scotia, 5,000 French-speaking Acadians settled in Louisiana.
1763  France ceded Louisiana to Spain.
1769  Spain took control of Louisiana and began new record-keeping procedures.
1803  The Louisiana area was purchased by the United States from France. Although France owned Louisiana between 1800 and 1803, it was still administered by Spain until just before the United States took possession.

1804  The territory was divided, using the 33rd parallel as the boundary. The northern portion became the District of Louisiana, and the southern portion became the Territory of Orleans.

1805-1807  The Territory of Orleans was divided into counties, but the functions of the counties were soon taken over by smaller civil divisions called parishes, which followed the boundaries of the old Spanish ecclesiastical parishes.

1810  Spanish West Florida between the Mississippi and Pearl Rivers, including Baton Rouge, was occupied by the United States and became part of the Territory of Orleans.

1812  The Territory of Orleans became the state of Louisiana.

1861  Louisiana seceded from the Union. It was readmitted in 1868.

Two sources for studying the history of Louisiana are:


**LAND AND PROPERTY**

The French and the Spanish kept the earliest land records of Louisiana, and the documents are in their languages. Since most of these records were filed with notarial records, refer to the section on “Notarial Records” in this outline.

The Family History Library has microfilm copies and indexes of the records kept by the French Conseil Superieur and the Spanish cabildo.

When Louisiana was ceded to the United States, the landowners registered private claims to verify their ownership. Most of these claims have genealogical value and have been published. Useful indexes to pre-1837 claims in the *American State Papers* (on microfilm at the Family History Library), are:

Unclaimed land became public domain and was surveyed and sold to private owners.

The Family History Library and the Division of Archives, Records Management, and History have microfilms of the nineteenth-century claims and original land sales recorded by the United States District Land Offices, such as those in Ouachita, Opelousas, St. Helena, and New Orleans. The original records are in:

**State Land Office**
1201 North Third Street, Suite G-150
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
Telephone: 225-342-4586
Fax: 225-342-5458
**Mailing Address:**
P.O. Box 44124
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Each office created several sets of records and indexes. Land tract books arranged by ranges and townships for the years 1807 to 1870 are also at the State Land Office and the Family History Library.

Since statehood, subsequent transfers of land between private owners have been recorded by the local clerk of court in each parish. Some records are filed in notarial books. They are often called “conveyances” and have vendor/vendee indexes.

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of the deeds for most parishes. For example, for New Orleans the Family History Library has 181 microfilms covering the years 1827 to 1887 and an index to 1900.

**MAPS**

Libraries at Louisiana State University have the most complete collection of maps for the state. The Family History Library has a few historical maps, including maps of early land districts. Ward maps for New Orleans (1829, 1834, 1845, 1854, and 1898) are on FHL film 1377700 or fiche 6016695-99.

A helpful set of maps is *County Parish Boundaries in Louisiana* (New Orleans: Historical Records Survey, 1939; FHL book 976.3 E3h; film 1425651, item 5). This includes information on the laws affecting the development of the state.
MILITARY RECORDS

The *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies. Many military records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more information on federal records. For Louisiana the following are among the many sources at the Family History Library:

**Colonial Wars (1787-1794)**

Spanish military records are on FHL film 1156353. Published sources include a list of men serving in the militia, found in Winston DeVille, *Louisiana Troops, 1720-1770* (Fort Worth: American Reference Publishers, 1965; FHL book 976.3 M2dv).

**War of 1812 (1812-1815)**

An alphabetical list of soldiers, their rank, and their company is in Marion J. Pierson, *Louisiana Soldiers in the War of 1812* (N.p.: Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society, 1963; FHL book 976.3 M23p). Troop rosters are in Powell A. Casey, *Louisiana in the War of 1812* (Baton Rouge: Casey, 1963; FHL book 976.3 M2c). An index to compiled service records of Louisiana soldiers who served in the War of 1812 is on FHL films 880010-12. The service records and pension files are at the National Archives.

**Indian Wars**

Indexes to compiled service records of Louisiana soldiers in the Florida War of 1836 and the War of 1837 to 1838 are on FHL film 880843.

**Mexican War (1846-1848)**

An index to compiled service records is on FHL films 1205336-57. The service records have not been filmed and are available at the National Archives.

**Civil War (1861-1865)**

Louisiana soldiers served in both the Union and the Confederate armies. Indexes to the service records and the compiled Confederate service records are at the Family History Library. The service records for both armies are at the National Archives.

Pension records for Confederate veterans are at the Division of Archives, Records Management, and History. Union army pensions are available at the National Archives.
In 1911 a special census was taken of Confederate veterans or their widows. The census is arranged alphabetically by parish and is on FHL film 483489 and 1704157 item 14. The original census and similar records are at the New Orleans Public Library.

The following books also list names of veterans:


**Spanish-American War (1898)**

An index to service records of Louisiana soldiers in the War with Spain is on FHL film 880013. The service records are at the National Archives.

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

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


**Additional Records**

The Adjutant General's Office (Building 53, Jackson Barracks Military Library, New Orleans, LA 70146-0330, Telephone: 504-278-8241) has records of state military units.
from the late 1700s to the present and twentieth century service files, but not federal records.

**NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP**

Naturalization records were filed in various courts in Louisiana. The Family History Library has records of the United States District Court (Eastern District) for the years 1812 to the 1930s. These are listed in the catalog under LOUISIANA - NATURALIZATION. The originals are located at the United States District Court in New Orleans.

The Family History Library also has naturalization records of New Orleans from various parish and United States district courts for the years 1821 to 1906. Some have indexes. These records are generally listed in the catalog under LOUISIANA - ORLEANS - NATURALIZATION. Most of the original records are at the New Orleans Public Library. The Howard Tilton Library also has many of the citizenship applications for New Orleans.

The Family History Library has a few naturalization papers of other parishes. In some areas, however, these papers are filed along with court and probate records, many of which the Family History Library has.

If you need naturalization records after 1906, contact the National Archives—Fort Worth Region.

**NEWSPAPERS**

The Family History Library has very few newspapers from Louisiana. The New Orleans Public Library has the most complete collection of newspapers in the state and an obituary index to several newspapers. The 550,000 cards in the index cover the years 1804 to 1811, 1814 to 1815, 1860 to 1866, and 1876 to 1972.

Two helpful published sources are:


*Newspaper Files in Louisiana State University Library.* Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University, 1961. (FHL book 976.318 B3L; fiche 6051322.)
NOTARIAL RECORDS

The Family History Library has over 2,500 microfilms of Louisiana notarial records, especially for the Parish of Orleans from 1730 to about 1910. These records are also called prothonotarial records.

The records contain marriage contracts, probate records, deeds, mortgages, acts of sale, emancipations, procurations, contracts, and partitions of property records. Most of these records deal with the French residents of New Orleans and their relatives. Pre-1769 records are in French. From 1769 to 1803 the records are in Spanish. From 1803 to 1830 most records are in French and sometimes English.

There are over 100 sets of records. They are arranged by date under the name of the notary. Indexes are available from 1771 to 1946, but there is no general single index. The majority of the original records are located at:

Orleans Parish Notarial Archives
Civil Courts Building
Basement 4
421 Loyola Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70112
Telephone: 504-568-8578
Fax: 504-568-8599

PERIODICALS

The major genealogical periodicals for Louisiana are:

L'Heritage. 1978-. Published by the St. Bernard Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 271, Chalmette, LA 70044-0271. (FHL book 976.3 B2s.)

The Louisiana Genealogical Register. 1954-. Published by the Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society, P.O. Box 82060, Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2060. (FHL book 976.3 B2gr; film 1704156-58.) This has a cumulative subject index to 1974.


Terrebonne Life Lines. 1982-. Published by the Terrebonne Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 295, Sta. 2, Houma, LA 70360. (FHL book 976.341 D25t.)
PROBATE RECORDS

Probate records before 1845 were kept in probate courts. Since 1845, they have been kept by the clerk of the district court in each parish. Many of the probate records are included in the notarial records with the deeds and mortgages. In some parishes they are known as “succession” records.

The Family History Library has copies of many Louisiana probate files. For example, the library has 900 microfilms from New Orleans courts. These include successions (1805-1926), will books (1807-1920), inventories (1805-77), and minutes (1819-46). Most of the pre-1880 files have been indexed.

VITAL RECORDS

Parish Records of Births and Deaths

Pre-1914 birth and death records exist for some Louisiana parishes. These are generally more complete after the 1860s.

Orleans Parish began keeping birth records in 1790 and deaths on records in 1804. Copies are available at the Office of Public Health (see address below). Copies of the death records from 1804 to 1914 are also at the New Orleans Public Library where they can only be used in person (the public library cannot provide photocopies).

The Family History Library has an extensive collection of Orleans Parish death records for 1815 to 1915 and an index from 1804 to 1916. The library also has copies of coroner's inquests from 1844 to 1916 and New Orleans Charity Hospital records of deaths from 1835 to 1904 and admission records from 1829 to 1899.

A few other parishes also began keeping vital records in the early 1800s. These records can be obtained by contacting the parish clerk of court. The Family History Library has copies of a few pre-1914 birth and death records of some parishes. For example, from Lafourche Parish, the library has the register of births and deaths for 1818 to 1895 and a register of births from 1810 to 1875.

State Records of Births and Deaths

Statewide registration of births and deaths began in 1914. Delayed registration of births for the years 1939 to the present are also available. To obtain copies of state vital records write to:
Marriage Records

There is no statewide registration of marriages. Marriages were recorded by each parish. The original parish records are at the offices of the clerks of the court in each parish, except for Orleans Parish, where the records are at the Office of Public Health.

The Family History Library has an extensive collection of Louisiana marriage records. For example, for Orleans Parish the library has 86 microfilms of marriage licenses and certificates from 1834 to 1888. Another set of Orleans Parish records includes 185 films of marriage licenses from 1870 to 1915. The library has similar records for most parishes.

Many colonial marriages are recorded in the judicial records of the French Superior Council and the Spanish Cabildo (originals at the Louisiana Historical Center of the Louisiana State Museum), and the royal notaries (originals with the Custodian of Notarial Records). Microfilm copies of these records are at the Family History Library.

Many colonial marriage records have also been published in the sources listed below. These sources also provide descriptions of some of the unique marriage customs practiced during the French and Spanish colonial periods.


Divorce Records

The Louisiana Legislature granted divorces from 1805 to 1846. These records are currently found in printed copies of the *Legislative Calendar and Official Journal*. These volumes are available at most of the university libraries and larger public libraries in Louisiana. A few records after 1846 are also included.

In 1827 the district courts in the Louisiana parishes and the parish court of Orleans Parish were given jurisdiction over divorce cases. To locate parish divorce records, contact the clerk of the court in each parish. The New Orleans Public Library has some clerk of court records for many parishes.

The Family History Library has divorce records for some Louisiana parishes. For example, the library has divorce records from Orleans Parish from 1813 to 1924. Divorce records in the Family History Library Center are listed under LOUISIANA, [COUNTY], - COURT, PUBLIC, or VITAL RECORDS.

Additional Sources

Records of birth, baptism, marriage, death, burial, and probate have been transcribed and published in the following series. Many of the names of the individuals in these publications are listed in the *International Genealogical Index* (at the Family History Library and all Family History Centers).


Hebert, Donald J. *Southwest Louisiana Records: Church and Civil Records*. 40 vols. Eunice, La.: D.J. Hebert, 1974-1985. (FHL book 976.35 V2h; fiche 6010598, vols. 1-34). This includes records from 1756 to 1908.

Church records in Louisiana are often an excellent source of vital information, especially the Roman Catholic Church records (which often include marriage records of Protestants). See the “Church Records” section of this outline for more information.

For further information on the history and availability of records, refer to *Guide to Public Vital Statistics Records in Louisiana* (New Orleans: Historical Records Survey, 1942; FHL book 976.3 V2h; film 1036701, item 7; fiche 6046989).

**VOTING REGISTERS**

Voting registers generally give information on a person's name, age, birthplace, and citizenship. The Family History Library has a large collection of voting registers of
Orleans Parish from 1891 to 1952. The registers are arranged on 293 microfilms by date, ward, and precinct in New Orleans. Indexes are available for the years 1920 to 1948.

The Family History Library does not have registers from most of the other parishes, but they are available at the various parish offices.

FOR FURTHER READING

For more detailed information about research and records of Louisiana, see Yvette G. Boling, *A Guide to Printed Sources for Genealogical and Historical Research in the Louisiana Parishes* (Jefferson, La.: Y. Boling, 1985; FHL book 976.3 D23b).

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

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

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

Publications Coordination
Family History Library
35 N. West Temple Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400
USA
We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.
Louisiana 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 Louisiana affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements.

1714 The first permanent settlement, at Natchitoches, was established about 1714 as a military and trading post.
1717-1722 Emigration from France brought a few thousand settlers. A few thousand more, attracted by free land, came from German-speaking areas of Europe. The importation of African slaves began.
1718 New Orleans was founded.
1755-1785 After they had been expelled from Nova Scotia, 5,000 French-speaking Acadians settled in Louisiana.
1763 France ceded Louisiana, except the Isle of Orleans, to Spain.
1769 Spain took control of Louisiana and began new record-keeping procedures.
1800 Through a treaty the Louisiana area came under French control again.
1803 The Louisiana area was purchased by the United States from France. Although France owned Louisiana between 1800 and 1803, it was still administered by Spain until just before the United States took possession.
1804 The territory was divided, using the 33rd parallel as the boundary. The northern portion became the District of Louisiana, and the southern portion became the Territory of Orleans.
1805-1807 The Territory of Orleans was divided into counties, but the functions of the counties were soon taken over by smaller civil divisions called parishes, which followed the boundaries of the old Spanish ecclesiastical parishes.
1810 Spanish West Florida between the Mississippi and Pearl Rivers, including Baton Rouge, was occupied by the United States and became part of the Territory of Orleans.
1812 The Territory of Orleans became the state of Louisiana.
1861 Louisiana seceded from the Union. It was readmitted in 1868.
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 Louisiana 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 Louisiana 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:


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

**State History**

Two sources for studying the history of Louisiana are:


**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.
Louisiana 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.
- 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
To see these files, click here.

Louisiana Statewide Indexes and Collections


1650–1891  *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Louisiana: Embracing an Authentic and Comprehensive Account of the Chief Events in the History of the State, a Special Sketch of every Parish and a Record of the Lives of Many of the Most Worthy and Illustrious Families and Individuals.* (FHL film 1000054 items 1–2.) The biographies are in alphabetical order A–L, and later in the book M–Z.


1650–1750  Conrad, Glenn R. *First Families of Louisiana.* (FHL book 976.3 D2c vols. 1–2.) For index see item above.

1650–1891  Sandefur, Gladys Lovell. *Louisiana Ahnentafels, Ancestor Charts and Family Group Sheets.* (FHL book 976.3 D2s.)

1650–1891  Arthur, Stanley Clisby. *Old Families of Louisiana.* (FHL film 1425655 item 5.) There is an index to the principal persons at the end.

1650–1859  Hebert, Donald J. *Index and Key Words to Histoire et Genealogie des Acadiens by Bona Arsenuat.* (FHL book 971.5 F2aa 1978 Index; film 1421884 item 6; fiche 6014586.) An index to Arsenuat’s excellent volumes, listed below, about the Acadian families.


1650–1891  Rider, Fremont, ed. *American Genealogical-Biographical Index to American Genealogical, Biographical and Local History Materials.* (FHL book 973 D22am ser. 2 vols. 1–198+; films beginning with 1698167.) The new series now has surnames A–W and is continuing. The old series has surnames A–Z.

1650–1908  *Index to American Genealogies and to Genealogical Material Contained in All Works, Such as Town Histories, County Histories, Local Histories, Historical Society Publications, Biographies, Historical Periodicals and Kindred Works.* (FHL book 973 D22m 1984; film 599811 items 2–3; fiche 6051301.) The 1908 supplement is with the book on film 599811 item 3 known as Munsell's Index.

1650–present  *Louisiana Genealogical Register.* (FHL book 976.3 B2gr.) This is a periodical. For a search of their indexes, write to the publisher, Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society, P. O. Box 82060, Baton Rouge, LA 70884–2060.

1650–present  *New Orleans Genesis (New Orleans, Louisiana).* (FHL book 976.335 B2n; film 1704156 item 15, vol. 3 no. 12, Sept. 1964.) This is an important periodical. For a search of their indexes, write to the Genealogical Research Society of New Orleans, P. O. Box 51791, New Orleans, LA 70151.

1650–present  *Les Voyageurs: a Publication of the German-Acadian Coast Historical & Genealogical Society.* (FHL book 976.33 D25L vols. 1–18; fiche 6088746–53 vols. 1–10.) This is a periodical and it has queries and many types of records, primarily St. Charles, St. James, and St. John the Baptist parishes. Write to the organization at P. O. Box 517, Destrehan, LA 70047.

1650–1900s  *Louisiana Historical Quarterly.* (FHL book 976.3 B2hq; films beginning with 1425684 vols. 2–33.) The Family History Library also has an index to vols. 1–33.

1650–1997  *Le Raconteur.* (FHL book 976.3 H25r, vols. 1–17.) This is a periodical, and it has a query section. You can write to Le Comite des Archives de la Louisiana, P. O. Box 44370, Baton Rouge, LA 70804–4370.
1650–1972  
Louisiana Biography and Obituary Index. (Not at FHL.) At the New Orleans Public Library. Mostly a card index to obituaries 1802–1972 but also includes cards with references to published books. The New Orleans Public Library has excellent newspaper collection.

1650–1997  
Historic New Orleans Collection. (Not at the FHL.) They have information on the Gulf South, plantations, history, maps, and photographs.

1650–1769  
Forsyth, Alice D. Louisiana Marriage Contracts: A Compilation of Abstracts From Records of the Superior Council of Louisiana During the French Regime, 1725–1769. (FHL book 976.3 V2f.)

1650–1970  
Kirkham, E. Kay. An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States: 45,500 References as Taken From Microfilms at the Genealogical Society of Utah. (FHL book 973 D22kk vol. 2; fiche 6089184.) The first part of this book indexes the two Louisiana items below; about 75% of the principal surnames are indexed.

1650–1970  
Daughters of the American Revolution (Louisiana). Miscellaneous Records, 1700–1900. (FHL film 893747 item 2.) Indexed by the source above.

1650–1970  
Daughters of the American Revolution. Tombstone and Genealogical Collections. (FHL films 854861–63; 855248–64; 869304; 870169.) These are indexed by surname in part one of Kirkham's book listed above.

1650–1953  
Be it Known and Remembered: Bible Records. (FHL 976.3 V29L vols. 1–5; films beginning with 844970 item 1; fiche 6051103.)

1650–1770  
DeVille, Winston. Louisiana Troops, 1720–1770. (FHL book 976.3 M2dv.)

1650–1766  

1650–1732  
Maduell, Charles R. The Census Tables for the French Colony of Louisiana from 1699 Through 1732. (FHL book 976.3 X2pm.)

1650–1789  
Robichaux, Albert J. Louisiana Census and Military Lists, 1700–1798. (FHL book 976.3 X2pr vols. 1–2; fiche 6088510 vol. 1; 6088511 vol. 2.)

1650–1885  
Diocese of Baton Rouge, Catholic Church Records: 1707–1885. (FHL book 976.3 K29c vols. 1–16; fiche beginning with 6093541.)

1680–1733  

1680–1803  
Mills, Elizabeth Shown. Natchitoches Colonials: Censuses,Military Rolls, and Tax Lists, 1722–1803. (FHL book 976.3 365 X2m.)

1680–1803  

1680–1803  

1680–1721  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Author/Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1680–1940</td>
<td>Seebold, Herman de Bachelle, comp. <em>Old Louisiana Plantation Homes and Family Trees.</em> (FHL book 976.3 H2s vols. 1–2; fiche 6101594–5.) Contains interesting histories about the homes, plantations, and their families.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1680–1785</td>
<td>Hebert, Donald J. <em>Acadian Families in Exile and (Part Two) Exiled Acadians - An Index.</em> (FHL book 976.3 W2hd.) Part two includes names of Acadians who fled to France between 1758–1785.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1680–1908</td>
<td>Hebert, Donald Joseph. <em>Southwest Louisiana Records: Church and Civil Records.</em> (FHL book 976.35 V2h; vols. 1–40; film 1035781 items 7–10 has vols. 1–4; fiche beginning with 6010598 has vols. 1–34.) Church and civil records, 1756–1908, basically in chronological order from 1756.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1680–1920</td>
<td>Hebert, Donald Joseph. <em>South Louisiana Records.</em> (FHL book 976.3 K2he vols. 1–12; fiche beginning with 6010588) Church and civil records, 1784–1903, some to 1920, basically in chronological order.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700–1908</td>
<td><em>Land Records AL, AR, FL, LA, MI, MN, OH, WI.</em> (FHL compact disc # 9 part 255.) You can search by the names of persons; this is a very well designed index to the federal land sales in Louisiana to 1908.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700–1908</td>
<td>United States. Department of the Interior. <em>Louisiana General Land Office Records (Pre 1908).</em> (FHL compact disc # 18.) You can search by the names of persons; this is a well designed index to the federal land sales in Louisiana to 1908.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1700–1830s Marchand, Sidney A. *An Attempt to Re-assemble the Old Settlers in Families* (FHL book 976.319 D2m.) Family genealogies of many of the 700 Acadian families who came to Louisiana from Nova Scotia 1755, 1785—.

1700–1830s White, Virgil D. *Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files* (FHL book 973 M28g, vols. 1–4.) Index is in vol. 4.


1700–1987 Woolverton, Dalton L. *Index of Membership Applications to the Louisiana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution: Applications No. 1 Thru No 2219* (FHL book 976.3 C4w.)


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, with their spouses; about 60,000 names.

1700–1868 *D.A.R. Revolutionary War Burial Index* (FHL films 1307675–82.) Alphabetical. Prepared by Brigham Young University from DAR records. Often lists name, birth date, death date, burial place, name of cemetery, company, and/or regiment, sometimes gives the place of birth.


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 town of residence, the name of the head of household where they were living, and age of pensioner or their widow.


1720–1960s *Louisiana Tombstone Inscriptions* (FHL book 976.3 V22d volumes 1–11; films 873717–720 and 873720 items 2–3; volumes 12–22 films 854861–863; 855248–250) Has many Louisiana counties' tombstone records. For surname index to vols. 1–22, see E. Kay Kirkham's index listed above.
1740–1900 *Louisiana Marriage Records.* (FHL compact disc no. 9, part 1.) Records to 1900. You can search for the surname, or a given name, or look through the records of a parish.

1740–1850 *Marriage Records, Early–1850: West of the Mississippi River.* (FHL compact disc no. 9 pt. 227–229.) You can search for the surname, or a given name, or look through the records of a parish.


1740–1900 White, Virgil D. *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files.* (FHL book 973 M22i vols. 1–2.)

1740–1790s Pierson, Marion J.B. *Louisiana Soldiers in the War of 1812.* (FHL book 976.3 M23p.)

1740–1876 Morazan, Ronald R. *Biographical Sketches of the Veterans of the Battalion of Orleans, 1814–1815.* (FHL book 976.335/N1 D3m.)


1760–1890 Census indexes, 1810–1880 and 1900–1920. In the window to the left click on Family History Library Catalog. Then select CENSUS or CENSUS - INDEXES from the topics that are listed.

1770–1850 Jackson, Ronald Vern, ed. *Mortality Schedule Louisiana 1850.* (FHL book 976.3 X2jm 1850.) Lists persons who died in the twelve months before the census, i.e. 1849–1850.

1770–1860 Jackson, Ronald Vern, ed. *Louisiana Sugar Censuses, 1850–1860.* (FHL book 976.3 X2L.) These lists were taken almost every year from 1850–1860. Gives parish, township, or river location.
1780–1860  Tipton, Ennis Mayfield. *Marriage and Obituaries from the New Orleans Christian Advocate, 1851–1860 with Complete Index.* (FHL book 973 V2no.) This was a Methodist church publication.

1780–1870  *Index, Louisiana Mortality Records for the Years Ending June 1, 1850, 1860, 1870.* (FHL book 976.3 V23d; film 1307610 item 24.) Lists persons who died in the twelve months before June 1 when these censuses were taken.


1800–1916  Orleans Parish (Louisiana). Recorder. *Marriage Records 1871–1915.* (185 FHL films beginning with 907680.) Orleans Parish with indexes for 1871–1916. These records are in chronological order and have some delayed marriage certificates to 1969 also.

1800–1836  United States. Adjutant General's Office. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers who Served During the Florida War from the State of Louisiana.* (FHL film 880843.)

1800–1848  United States. Adjutant General's Office. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers who Served During the Mexican War.* (FHL films 1205336–57.)


1800–1911  Jenks, Houston C. *An Index to the Census of 1911 of Confederate Veterans or their Widows: Pursuant to Act 71 of 1908.* (FHL book 976.3 M22; film 1822969 item 12.) The original records are on film 1412742.

1800–1865  United States. Adjutant General's Office. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Louisiana.* (FHL films 881457–487.) This is an index to the set of records below which are listed by unit.


1800–1890  *1890 Louisiana Census Index of Civil War Veterans or Their Widows.* (FHL book 976.3 X2d; fiche 6331358 or 6334327.) If an ancestor is listed see page xxiv for the film number for the original 1890 census which gives Union Army unit in which soldier served.

1800–1865  *The Civil War Tax in Louisiana, 1865: Based on Direct Tax Assessments of Louisianians.* (FHL book 976.3 R4c; fiche 6501324.) Lists are by county and list men and women. There are no indexes.

1800–1940  *Record of Pensioners of the State of Louisiana.* (FHL films 1412742 item 2 and 1412743.) Civil War veterans or their widows. Records are also at the State Archives.

1800–1944  *Application Record for Pensions, 1898–1944.* (FHL films 1412743 items 3–6 and 1412744.) Civil War Confederate veterans or their widows. Records are also at the State Archives.

Louisiana Statewide Indexes and Collections

1800–1944

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

1800–1933
United States. Veterans Administration. Veteran's Administration Pension Payment Cards, 1907–1933. (over 2000 FHL films beginning with 1634036.) Lists veterans and wives who received pension payments for Civil War, and the War with Spain.

1800–1865
Watkins, Raymond W. Deaths of Confederate Soldiers in Confederate Hospitals. (FHL book 973 V2w, vol. 6.)

1800–1880
Mills, Gary B. Civil War Claims in the South: An Index of Civil War Damage Claims filed Before the Southern Claims Commission, 1871–1880. (FHL book 975 H22m.)

1800–1898
United Daughters of the Confederacy. (Louisiana Division). Index, Membership Applications, 1898–1998 and Patriot Index. (FHL book 976.3 C42u, vols. 1–2; film 1320946 items 3–4.)

1800–1930
Louisiana United States National Cemeteries Burials, 1860–1930. (13 FHL films beginning with 1704335 item 2.)

1810–1871
Jenks, Houston C., comp. The Extant Censuses of School-Aged Children in Louisiana, Ages 16–18 For One or More of These Years: 1863, 1865, 1866, 1867, or 1871. (FHL book 976.3 J2j; film 1822970.) Has alphabetical lists for 36 parishes. Gives the name of the parent or guardian but does not list the children.

1810–1900

1840–1920
Wright, Nancy Lowrie. Louisiana Volunteers in the War of 1898. (FHL book 976.3 M2w.)

1878–1918
United States Selective Service System. Louisiana, World War I Selective Service Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918. (On 70 FHL films beginning with 1653576.) Men ages 18 to 45 are listed alphabetically by county or draft board.

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

Step 2. Copy and document the information.

The best method is to:

- Make a photocopy of the page(s) that include 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 the films can be requested and used at our Family History Centers. To locate the address for your 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.
**Louisiana Maps Bibliography**

Rel/Fam Hist 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 Louisiana maps:** pp. 367 - 390. One page history of state, list of counties and counties with minor civil divisions. Maps of census county divisions.

Rel/Fam Hist Ref- **CS 49.A55 1992.** (3 copies in FHC)

**Summary:** The previous map was copied from page 273 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 Louisiana also includes a brief history and genealogical research information.

Rel/Fam Hist Ref- **G1201.E6225.K5 1976**

**Summary:** Shows changes in boundaries in United States from Colonial days up to 1909. Civil war maps and information.  
**Evaluation of Louisiana maps:** State historical information, p. 15; 1810 map, p. 85; 1823 map, p. 96; 1838, p. 126; 1860 map, p. 144; 1878 map, p. 160,161; map 1909, p. 217.

Rel/Fam Hist Ref- **Quarto Shelves G 1200.M4 1996.**

**Summary:** Louisiana maps and information on pages 125 - 131. Includes maps comparing Louisiana to other states, cultural features, population density, agriculture, economic facts, etc. Also includes a brief state history.

Rel/Fam Hist Ref- **G 1201.F7 T51987**

**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 Louisiana maps:** pp. 133 - 143.
Map Collection on the 2nd floor of the old section of HBLL library. Two map drawers of Louisiana maps,

G4010 - G4014. 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 byline for Louisiana maps, atlases, and gazetteers,
Louisiana Federal Census Population Schedules, 1810 to 1920

Guide

Introduction

Federal censuses are taken every 10 years. Louisiana residents are included in territorial and federal censuses from 1810 through 1920.

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

For more information about the U.S. Federal Censuses, see Background.

What You Are Looking For

The information you find varies from record to record. These records may include:

• Names of family members.
• Ages of family members, which you can use to calculate birth or marriage years.
• The county and state where your ancestors lived.
• People living with (or gone from) the family.
• Relatives who 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 Louisiana 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 1810 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:

1810 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 Louisiana to a different county or town.
• Movement of the family out of Louisiana if the family no longer appears in the census for Louisiana.

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

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

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. In 1885 the federal government also helped 5 states or territories (Colorado, Florida, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Dakota Territory) conduct special censuses.
The 1890 census of Louisiana was destroyed by fire. Portions of a special schedule taken in 1890, of Union Civil War veterans and their widows, have survived. The surviving 1890 veterans' schedules cover Washington D.C., half of Kentucky, and all of Louisiana through Wyoming (states are in alphabetical order from K through W). These schedules contain approximately 700,000 names.

**Types of Census Schedules**

The following census schedules are available for Louisiana 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.
- **1890 veterans' schedules** list Union veterans from the Civil War or their widows who were living in 1890.
- **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 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:

- 1810 to 1820: First Monday in August
- 1830 to 1900: 1 June (2 June in 1890)
- 1910: 15 April
- 1920: 1 January
- 1930: 1 April

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

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

The census may have actually taken several months to complete and may reflect births and deaths after the census date.
Censuses from 1930 to the Present

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

• Yourself.
• Another living person, if you are that person's "authorized representative."
• Deceased individuals, if you are "their heirs or administrators."

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

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

Colonial, Territorial, State, and Local Censuses

Colonial, territorial, state, and local governments also took censuses. Nonfederal censuses generally contain information similar to and sometimes more than federal censuses of the same time period. Colonial censuses of Louisiana were taken by the French from 1699 through 1732, and by the Spanish from 1770 through 1799. For a detailed list of these colonial censuses, see the Louisiana chapter in Ancestry's Redbook: American State, County & Town Sources.

Territorial censuses were taken of New Orleans in 1804 and for much of the Louisiana Territory in 1810.

Louisiana became a state in 1812. Louisiana has some state censuses. See Buckway, G. Eileen, and Fred Adams, U. S. State and Special Census Register: A Listing of Family History Library Microfilm Numbers. Volume 1 has states A–Missouri, and volume 2 has states Nebraska–Wyoming.

Colonial, territorial, 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:

• Louisiana 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.
• The Archives and Libraries section of the Louisiana Research Outline lists Internet addresses for several Louisiana archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Louisiana 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 population 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 Louisiana Research Outline lists Internet and mailing addresses for several Louisiana archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Louisiana 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

LOUISIANA

1803 - 1812
Territory of Orleans Statistical Census

1853
Statistical Census

1858
Statistical Census

State Census
Microfiche
Card 1. of 1.
LOUISIANA


Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Louisiana. Chicago: Goodspeed, 1892. F369 .B62 volumes 1 and 2


Last updated 9/04
Acadia Parish
Acadia Parish was created in 1886 from St. Landry Parish.


Allen Parish
Allen Parish was created in 1912 from Calcasieu Parish.

Ascension Parish
Ascension Parish was created in 1807 from St. James Parish.

Assumption Parish
Assumption Parish was created in 1807.

Attakaps Parish
One of the state's original parishes, created in 1807, it was discontinued sometime after 1810.

Avoyelles Parish
Avoyelles Parish was created in 1807 as an original parish.

Baton Rouge Parish
Created in 1807; divided into East Baton Rouge and West Baton Rouge in 1810.


Beauregard Parish
Beauregard Parish was created in 1913 from Calcasieu Parish.
Bienville Parish
Bienville Parish was created in 1848 from Claiborne Parish.

Bossier Parish
Bossier Parish was created in 1843 from Claiborne Parish.

Caddo Parish
Caddo Parish was created in 1838 from Natchitoches Parish.

Calcasieu Parish
Calcasieu Parish was created in 1840 from St. Landry Parish.

Caldwell Parish
Caldwell Parish was created in 1838 from Catahoula and Ouachita Parishes.


Cameron Parish
Cameron Parish was created in 1870 from Calcasieu and Vermilion Parishes.

Carroll Parish
Carroll Parish was created sometime before 1840, and divided into East and West Carroll Parishes in 1877.

Catahoula Parish
Catahoula Parish was created in 1808.

Claiborne Parish
Claiborne Parish was created in 1828 from Natchitoches Parish.

Concordia Parish
Concordia Parish was created in 1805 from Avoyelles Parish.

DeSoto Parish
DeSoto Parish was created in 1843 from Natchitoches and Caddo Parishes.

East Baton Rouge Parish
East Baton Rouge Parish was created in 1810.


East Carroll Parish
East Carroll Parish was created in 1877 from Carroll Parish.


East Feliciana Parish
East Feliciana Parish was created in 1824 from Feliciana Parish.

Evangeline Parish
Evangeline Parish was created in 1911 from St. Landry Parish.


Feliciana Parish
Feliciana Parish was created before 1820 and was divided in 1877 into East and West Feliciana.

Franklin Parish
Franklin Parish was created in 1843 from Catahoula, Ouachita and Madison Parishes.

Grant Parish
Grant Parish was created in 1869 from Rapides and Winn Parishes.

Iberia Parish
Iberia Parish was created in 1868 from St. Martin and St. Mary Parishes.

Iberville Parish
Iberville Parish was created in 1807 from Assumption and Ascension Parishes.

Jackson Parish
Jackson Parish was created in 1845 from Claiborne, Ouichita, and Union Parishes.

Jefferson Parish
Jefferson Parish was created in 1825 from Orleans Parish.


Jefferson Davis Parish
Jefferson Davis Parish was created in 1913 from Calcasieu Parish.


Lafayette Parish
Lafayette Parish was created in 1823 from St. Martin Parish.


Lafourche Parish
Lafourche Parish was created in 1807.


LaSalle Parish
LaSalle Parish was created in 1910 from Catahoula Parish.

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Lincoln Parish
Lincoln Parish was created in 1873 from Bienville, Jackson, Union, and Clairborne Parishes.

Livingston Parish
Livingston parish was created in 1832 from Baton Rouge and Ascension Parishes.

Madison Parish
Madison Parish was created in 1838 from Concordia Parish.

Morehouse Parish
Morehouse Parish was created in 1844 from Ouachita Parish.

Natchitoches Parish
Natchitoches Parish was created in 1807.


Opelousas Parish
Opelousas Parish was created sometime before 1810 and later dissolved.

Orleans Parish
Orleans Parish was created in 1807.

Microfiche Z1236 .L5 1971 #11273
LOUISIANA


Ouachita Parish

Ouachita Parish was created in 1807.

Plaquemines Parish

Plaquemines Parish was created in 1807 from Orleans Parish.

Pointe Coupee Parish

Pointe Coupee Parish was created in 1807 from Feliciana and Avoyelles Parishes.

Rapides Parish

Rapides Parish was created in 1807.


Red River Parish

Red River Parish was created in 1871 from Caddo, Bossier, Bienville, Natchitoches and DeSoto Parishes.
Richland Parish
Richland Parish was created in 1868 from Quachita, Carroll, Franklin and Morehouse Parishes.

Sabine Parish
Sabine Parish was created in 1843 from Natchitoches Parish.

St. Bernard Parish
Saint Bernard Parish was created in 1807.

St. Charles Parish
Saint Charles Parish was created in 1807.

St. Helena Parish
Saint Helena Parish was created in 1810 from Livingston Parish.

St. James Parish
Saint James Parish was created in 1807.

St. John the Baptist Parish
Saint John the Baptist Parish was created in 1807.

St. Landry Parish
Saint Landry Parish was created in 1807 from Avoyelles and Rapides Parishes.

St. Martin Parish
Saint Martin Parish was created in 1807.
St. Mary Parish
Saint Mary Parish was created in 1811 from Assumption Parish.

St. Tammany Parish
Saint Tammany Parish was created in 1810 from St. Helena and Orleans Parishes.

Tangipahoa Parish
Tangipahoa Parish was created in 1869 from Livingston, St. Tammany, St. Helena and Washington parishes.

Tensas Parish
Tensas Parish was created in 1843 from Concordia Parish.

Terrebonne Parish
Terrebonne Parish was created in 1822 from LaFourche Parish.

Union Parish
Union Parish was created in 1839 from Ouachita Parish.

Vermilion Parish
Vermillion Parish was created in 1844 from Lafayette Parish.

Vernon Parish
Vernon Parish was created in 1871 from Natchitoches, Rapides and Sabine parishes.
Washington Parish

Washington Parish was created in 1819 from St. Tammany Parish.

Webster Parish

Webster Parish was created in 1871 from Claiborne, Bienville and Bossier parishes.

West Baton Rouge Parish

West Baton Rouge was created in 1807 from Baton Rouge Parish.


West Carroll Parish

West Carroll Parish was created in 1877 from Carroll Parish.


West Feliciana Parish

West Feliciana Parish was created in 1824 from Feliciana Parish.


Winn Parish

Winn Parish was created in 1851 from Natchitoches, Catahoula and Rapides parishes.
Other Resources

Louisiana Cemeteries
http://www.idreamof.com/cemetery/la.html

Louisiana Historical Maps
http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/maps/louisiana/

Cyndi’s List Louisiana Links
http://www.cyndislist.com/la.htm

Local Links recommended for researching ancestors from New Orleans or Louisiana
http://nutrias.org/links/genlinks/genlinks.htm

Louisiana Resources at Rootsweb
http://resources.rootsweb.com/usa/LA/

Louisiana County Formation Maps
http://www.mylouisianagenealogy.com/la_maps/la_cf.htm

Louisiana Family History Centers
http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHC/FHC_Results.asp?FHCCountry=United+States&FHCStateProv=LA&FHCCounty=&FHCCity=&submit=Search

Louisiana State Archives

Cajuns in Louisiana, including information on place name changes
http://www.thecajuns.com/

FamilySearch Wiki
www.familysearchwiki.org