Mississippi
Research Outline

Table of Contents

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

RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

The Family History Library has some of the records listed in this outline. The major holdings include census, court, land and property, marriage, military, and probate 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 Family History 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 section of the Family History Library Catalog for:

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

***UNITED STATES* - VITAL RECORDS*MISSISSIPPI* - COURT RECORDS*MISSISSIPPI, ADAMS* - LAND AND PROPERTY*MISSISSIPPI, ADAMS, NATCHEZ* - CHURCH RECORDS**

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

UNITED STATES - ***VITAL RECORDS***MISSISSIPPI - ***COURT RECORDS***MISSISSIPPI, ADAMS - ***LAND AND PROPERTY***MISSISSIPPI, ADAMS, NATCHEZ - ***CHURCH RECORDS***

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

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

- Mississippi Department of Archives and History

200 North Street
P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205-0571
Telephone: 601-576-6876
Fax: 601-576-6964
A useful guide to their collection is Thomas W. Henderson and Ronald E. Tomlin, comps., *Guide to Official Records in the Mississippi Department of Archives and History* (Jackson, Miss.: Mississippi Department of Archives and History, 1975; FHL book 976.2 A3h).

- National Archives—Southeast Region (Atlanta)

5780 Jonesboro Road
Morrow, Georgia 30260
Telephone: 770-968-2100
Fax: 770-968-2547

- Mississippi Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 5301
Jackson, MS 39216

- Evans Memorial Library

105 North Long Street
Aberdeen, MS 39730
Telephone: 622-369-4601
Fax: 622-369-2971

- Mississippi State University-Mitchel Memorial

Special Collections-Genealogical Library
P.O. Box 5408
395 Hardy Rd
Mississippi State, MS 39762
Telephone: 662-325-7668

- University of Southern Mississippi

McCain Library and Archives
P.O. Box 5148
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5148
Telephone: 601-266-4345
Fax: 601-266-4409
To learn more about the history and record-keeping systems of Mississippi counties, use the nine inventories of county archives published by the Historical Records Survey around 1940. The Family History Library has copies of most of these inventories.

Another helpful guide to Mississippi county records is *Survey of Records in Mississippi Court Houses* (Jackson, Miss.: Mississippi Genealogical Society, 1957; FHL book 976.2 P2m; fiche 6100939).

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 Mississippi in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

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

- USGenWeb

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

- Roots-L

http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/
A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly-updated research coordination list.
For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the *United States Research Outline* (30972), 2nd ed., "Archives and Libraries" section.

BIBLE RECORDS

A large collection of Bible records is *Mississippi Cemetery and Bible Records,* 22 vols. (Jackson, Miss.: Mississippi Genealogical Society, 1954-1983; FHL book 976.2 V3m; vols. 1-13 on films 496623-26; vols. 1-19 on fiche 6051105).

Additional Bible records are in the *Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection* described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline. An index to the Bible records in the DAR collection is E. Kay Kirkham, *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the Southern States* (Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1984; FHL book Ref 973 D22kk v.1; fiche 6089183).

BIOGRAPHY

Extensive collections of biographical material are at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, University of Mississippi, and University of Southern Mississippi. There is no major statewide biographical index or major manuscript collection. You may wish to search the biographical sections of statewide, regional, and county histories. Representative biographical encyclopedias are:

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi. 2 vols. in 4. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891. (FHL book 976.2 D3b; film 845437 items 2,-39.) An index to the 25,000 names in this work is also available at the Family History Library and is on the microfilm with the book. For an abstract of this book see Norman E. Gillis, *Genealogical Abstract of Biographical Section. Alphabetical Arrangement A-Z (of) Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi* (N.p. 1962: FHL book 976.2 D38b).

Rowland, Dunbar. *Mississippi.* 4 vols. 1907. Reprint, Spartanburg, S.C.: The Reprint Co., 1976. (FHL book 976.2 H2m; fiche 6051432; film 1421829 items 4-7.) Volumes 3 and 4 are biographical.

CEMETERIES

The *Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection* contains tombstone inscriptions from many Mississippi cemeteries. This collection is described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline. Another major collection of inscriptions is described in the "Bible Records" section of this outline.

CENSUS

Federal

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

The Family History Library has the U.S. federal censuses of Mississippi for 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920, however, the 1830 census for Pike County and the 1860 census for Sunflower and Washington counties are missing.

The 1890 census has been destroyed. The 1890 Union veterans schedule and index are available at the Family History Library and at the National Archives.

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

Mortality schedules for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 are at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Indexes to the 1850, 1860, and 1870 schedules are available at the Family History Library.

Territorial and State

Territorial and state censuses were taken at frequent intervals between 1792 and 1866 for various counties. Few are complete and the information in the censuses varies. For example, maiden names are included in the 1792 census. These censuses are available at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and at the Family History Library (FHL film 899868-870).

For an index covering the years 1792 to 1816, see Norman E. Gillis, *Early Inhabitants of the Natchez District* (Baton Rouge: N.E. Gillis, 1963; FHL book 976.2 X2p). This includes a list of residents in 1810.

Published indexes are available for the surviving censuses for the years 1810, 1820-25, 1830/37, 1840/41, and 1845. For a more detailed discussion of early census records see the article by Lackey cited in the "For Further Reading" section of this outline.

CHURCH RECORDS

Before 1900 the largest religious groups in Mississippi were the Baptist and the Methodist Episcopal (now United Methodist) churches. The Family History Library has a few original church records for Mississippi, including some Baptist and Presbyterian documents. However, the records of these major denominations seldom include birth, marriage, and death dates.

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

Baptist

Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission
Mississippi College Library
P.O. Box 4024
Clinton, MS 39058
Telephone: 601-925-3434
Fax: 601-925-3435

The Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives
901 Commerce Street #400
Nashville TN 37203-3630
Telephone 615-244-0344
Fax 615-782-4821
Histories of the Baptists include

Griffin Benjamin *History of the Primitive Baptists of Mississippi.* 1853. Reprint, Jonesboro, Ark: Sammons Printing, 1958. (FHL book 976.2 K2g.)
Schilling, T.C. *Abstract History of the Mississippi Baptist Association, 1806-1906.* New Orleans: N.p., 1908. (FHL film 1036195.)

Methodist
J.B. Cain Archives of Mississippi Methodism
Millsaps-Wilson Library
Millsaps College
1701 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39210
Telephone: 601-974-1073
Fax: 601-974-1082

Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church
36 Madison Avenue
P.O. Box 127
Madison, NJ 07940
Telephone: 973-408-3189
A helpful history is J. Allen Lindsey, *Methodism in the Mississippi Conference* (Jackson, Miss.: Hawkins Foundation, Mississippi Conference Historical Society, 1964; FHL book 976.2 K2L).

COURT RECORDS

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

Justice of the peace courts are countywide courts that have records of minor civil and criminal cases.

County courts have jurisdiction with the circuit courts over misdemeanors, appeals from other courts, and some law and equity cases.

Chancery courts are countywide courts that keep records of cases involving equity, divorce, land grants, probate, and guardianship.

Circuit courts are countywide courts that have records of minor civil cases, bastardy, felonies, and appeals from justices of the peace, and municipality and county courts. This court has had exclusive jurisdiction over felonies.

The Family History Library has copies of many of the county, chancery, and circuit court records. For example, the library has Hinds County court records from about 1850 to 1910. From the Mississippi Department of Archives and History the library has territorial land and court records for 1798 to 1817 (FHL films 904447-51).

For more information about court procedures and records see:

Survey of Records in Mississippi Court Houses. Jackson, Miss.: Mississippi Genealogical Society, 1967. (FHL book 976.2 P2m; fiche 6100939.)

Hendrix, Mary L. *Mississippi Court Records: From the Files of the High Court of Errors and Appeals, 1799-1859.* Jackson, Miss.: N.p. 1950. (FHL book 976.2 P2h.)

McBee, May Wilson. *The Natchez Court Records . . . 1767-1805.* Greenwood, Miss.: M. W. McBee, 1953. (FHL book 976.2 P2mm.)

DIRECTORIES

Directories of heads of households have been published for major cities in Mississippi. For example, the Family History Library has 1860 city directories for Vicksburg (FHL book 976.226/N1 E4p; 1860, 1906-1935; FHL films 1841749-; fiche 6044616 for 1860). Local historical societies and public and university libraries usually have collections of city directories.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Most pre-statehood settlers of Mississippi came from the older Southern states along the Atlantic seaboard. Some came from New England and a few colonial French families settled in the Biloxi area. Most of the settlers, however, were of Ulster Scottish, English, and northern European ancestry. Blacks outnumbered whites in Mississippi from the middle of the nineteenth century until the middle of the twentieth. Most of the Indians were gone by the late 1830s, but there are still a few thousand Choctaws living in east central Mississippi.

The earliest European settlers came by ship to the Gulf Coast. A few early American settlers also came this way, but most of them came overland via the Natchez Trace, which ran from Memphis, Tennessee to Natchez, Mississippi. Others came from Athens, Georgia and traveled westward through the Tombigbee River settlements of Alabama.

Major ports of entry to Mississippi have been Biloxi, Gulfport, and Pascagoula. No passenger lists are available for Biloxi. The Family History Library and the National Archives have the passenger lists of Gulfport for 1904 to 1954 and of Pascagoula for 1903 to 1935. Passenger lists for other ports, especially New Orleans, should be consulted. More detailed information on immigration sources is in the *United States Research Outline*.

Helpful studies of Mississippi history, genealogy, and immigration are found in Cyril Edward Cain, *Four Centuries on the Pascagoula,* 2 vols. (State College, Mississippi: C.E. Cain, 1953-1962; FHL book 976.21 H2c).

GAZETTEERS

Although there are no statewide gazetteers available, many local histories give information on place names. The names of small villages and towns are listed in Bruce C. Oakley, *A Postal History of Mississippi - Stampless Period, 1799-1860* (Baldwyn, Miss.: Magnolia Publishers, 1969; FHL book 976.2 E8o).

GENEALOGY

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

Manuscript Collections

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 on 20 microfilms at the Family History Library (FHL films 868497—). The volumes are generally arranged by county and many have individual indexes.

Mississippi Provincial Archives. Many colonial records for the lower Mississippi Valley were placed in archives in France, Spain, and England. These include correspondence about military and governmental affairs, some censuses, birth and burial registers, land grants, and surveys. Many of these records were transcribed by Dunbar Rowland and collected in a set of manuscript volumes known as the *Mississippi Provincial Archives.* This collection is at the Mississippi Department of History and Archives and on microfilm at the Family History Library. It includes:

- Records of the French Dominion, 1612 to 1763 (FHL films 899957-71), and the English Dominion, 1763 to 1783 (FHL films 899981-85) (listed in the FHLC under MISSISSIPPI - HISTORY - SOURCES).
- Records of the Spanish Dominion, 1757 to 1820 (FHL films 899972-80) (listed in the FHLC under MISSISSIPPI - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES - INVENTORIES, REGISTERS, CATALOGS).

Published Collection

Johnson, Charles Owen, ed. *The Order of the First Families of Mississippi 1699-1817: 1981 Register.* Ann Arbor, Mich.: Edwards Brothers, Inc., 1981. (FHL book 976.2 D2o.)

HISTORY

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

1699	The French established a settlement called Fort Maurepas on Biloxi Bay.
1716	Fort Rosalie, now Natchez, was established by the French on the Mississippi River.
1763	France ceded its claims to the Mississippi region to Great Britain.
1783	Britain ceded the Gulf Coast area to Spain. The rest of the Mississippi region was claimed by Georgia. The boundary was in dispute until 1795, when it was set at the 31st parallel, about sixty miles north of the coast.
1789-1794	The Georgia legislature authorized the Yazoo land sales. Hundreds of people moved from the Atlantic Coast states to the Mississippi area.
1798	Congress organized the Mississippi Territory. Georgia abandoned claims to the northern portion in 1802, and the Gulf Coast portion was acquired from Spain during the War of 1812.
1817	The eastern part of the Mississippi Territory was organized as the Territory of Alabama. Mississippi became a state.
1861	Mississippi seceded from the Union. It was readmitted in 1870.

Helpful sources for studying the history of Mississippi are:

Rowland, Dunbar. *History of Mississippi, the Heart of the South.* 2 vols. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1925. (FHL book 976.2 H2r; films 1000271, 844829-30; fiche 6051499-50.)

Rowland, Dunbar. *Mississippi, Comprising Sketches of Counties, Towns, Events, Institutions, and Persons.* 4 vols. 1907. Reprint. Spartanburg, S.C.: Reprint Co., 1976. (FHL book 976.2 H2m; film 1421829 items 4-7; fiche 6051432-5.)

LAND AND PROPERTY

Pre-territorial settlers acquired their land from France, Great Britain, and Spain. When Mississippi became a United States territory, there were many disputes over the earlier land claims. The records created in resolving these land disputes are found in the *American State Papers,* Class 8 and 9, which are on microfilm at the Family History Library. Lists of the names in these papers are in:

McMullin, Phillip, ed. *Grassroots of America* . . . Salt Lake City: Gendex Corp., 1972. (FHL book 973 R2ag index; fiche 6051323.)

First Settlers of the Mississippi Territory. Nacogdoches, Tex.: Ericson Books, n.d. (FHL book 976 R2f; film 1421793 item 22; fiche 6051448.)

Names of early settlers are also in the *Natchez Court Records* described in the "Court Records" section of this outline.

Mississippi then became a public-domain state in which land was distributed through U.S. general land offices (the earliest of which opened in 1807), and several state land offices (which opened in 1892).

Federal land case files are kept in the National Archives. Patents and copies of tract books and township plats are at:

Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States Office
7450 Boston Boulevard
Springfield, VA 22153
Telephone: 703-440-1600
Fax: 703-440-1599
These federal files are indexed on FHL compact disc no. 9 pt. 255. Territorial and state land records are at the Mississippi Land Commissioner's office in Jackson.

The Family History Library has copies of Mississippi territorial land and court records for the years 1798 to 1817 (FHL films 904447-51). These are arranged alphabetically by surname.

After original title to the land was granted, deeds, mortgages, and subsequent transactions have been recorded in county offices. In Mississippi, county land records have been kept by the chancery court since the creation of each county. The Family History Library has many county land records. For example, from Adams County the library has deeds (1780-1886), deed indexes (1798-1899), and original Spanish records (1781-96). Additional county land records can be obtained from the various county courthouses.

MAPS

Some useful maps are found in *Mississippi Maps, 1816-1873* (Jackson, Miss.: Mississippi Department of Archives and History, 1970; FHL book Q 976.2 A1 No. 1).

Mississippi maps for 1823, 1838, 1857, 1862, 1878, 1884, and 1917 are on FHL film 002083 items 5-12.

The University of Mississippi has a large collection of maps dating from 1900. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History has a smaller collection of maps but has useful atlases and national gazetteers.

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 about these records. For Mississippi, the following sources are also very helpful.

Colonial Wars

Several sets of records of soldiers who served under French, Spanish, and English governments are available on microfilm at the Family History Library. They are in various languages and cover the years 1612 to 1794.

War of 1812 (1812-1815)

The service records of soldiers who served in Mississippi units are on film, by regiment, at the Family History Library (FHL film 882819-40). The pension records are available at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. An index to the pensions is at the Family History Library and the National Archives. The original service records are at the National Archives.

Mexican War (1846-1848)

The service records, listed alphabetically by unit, are on film at the Family History Library (FHL film 1205446-54). The original service and pension records are available at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Civil War (1861-1865)

Mississippi provided soldiers to both the Union and Confederate armies. Indexes to the service records for both armies are available at the Family History Library.

Union service records are at the National Archives and on film at the Family History Library (FHL film 1292659-62). Union pension records are only at the National Archives. The Family History Library has the index to the pension records.

A special census was taken in 1890 of Union veterans of the Civil War. The returns are on film at the Family History Library (FHL film 338185). An index to the Mississippi returns has been published and is available at the Family History Library.

Confederate pension and service records are at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Mississippi pension records for Confederate veterans are arranged alphabetically on film at the Family History Library.

Regimental sketches and rosters of Confederate troops are in John C. Rietti, *Military Annals of Mississippi.* 1895. Reprint, Spartanburg, S.C.: Reprint Company Publishers, 1976. (FHL book 976.2 M2r; film 1036087 item 8.)

World War I (1917-1918)

An index to World War I army veterans, 1917 to 1918, is available at the Family History Library (FHL film 904445-46). The original index is at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

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 Mississippi, see:

United States. Selective Service System. Mississippi, *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918.* National Archives Microfilm Publications, M1509. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987-1988. (On FHL films beginning with 1682699—.)

To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board.

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

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

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization records have usually been filed in the county, circuit (county, not U.S.), or U.S. district courts. Few Mississippi counties kept separate naturalization files or books. Usually such records are found in the general records of the local courts. The Family History Library has a good collection of Mississippi court records. Other clues to application for citizenship are found in the minutes of the same courts.

If you need naturalization records after September 1906, contact a federal office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The National Archives—Southeast Region (Atlanta) has records of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi (1906-1943). The Mississippi Department of Archives and History has a copy of the WPA *Index to Naturalization Records Mississippi Courts, 1798-1906,* which lists over 5,000 naturalizations (FHL film 1704224).

NEWSPAPERS

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History has an extensive collection of newspapers. The Family History Library does not have copies of Mississippi newspapers, but abstracts have been published in genealogical periodicals.

A directory to help you locate Mississippi newspapers is *Mississippi Newspapers, 1805-1940: A Preliminary Union List.* (Jackson, Miss.: Mississippi Historical Records Survey, 1942; FHL book 976.2 B3h; film 1036521 item 16).

PERIODICALS

The major periodicals and magazines helpful for Mississippi research are:

Itawamba Settlers. 1981—. Published by the Itawamba Historic Society, P.O. Box 7, Mantachie, MS 38855. (FHL book 976.2982 D25i.)

Mississippi Coast Historical and Genealogical Society Quarterly. 1981—. Published by the Mississippi Coast Historical and Genealogical Society Quarterly, P.O. Box 513, Biloxi, MS 39533. (FHL book 976.21 B2m.)

Mississippi Genealogical Exchange. 1955—. Published by the Mississippi Genealogical Exchange, P.O. Box 16609, Jackson, MS 39236-0690. (FHL book 976.2 B2g.)

Mississippi Genealogy and Local History. 1969-1979. Published by Irene S. Gillis, P.O. Box 9114, Shreveport, LA 71109. (FHL book 976.2 B2m.)

Mississippi State Courier. 1984-1985. Published by Courier Productions, P.O. Box 1320, Winnfield, LA 71483-1320. (FHL book 976.2 D25m.)

The Northeast Mississippi Historical and Genealogical Society Quarterly. 1980—. Published by the Northeast Mississippi Historical and Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 434, Tupelo, MS 38802. (FHL book 976.29 D25n; fiche 6050857-65 vols. 1-9.)

PROBATE RECORDS

Probate records of Mississippi have been kept by the chancery courts or probate courts. You can obtain copies of the records by contacting the clerk's office in each county courthouse. Some probate papers are housed at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Mississippi probate records include dockets, wills, settlements, petitions, letters, guardianships, claims, and minutes. The Family History Library has copies of many Mississippi probate records, such as Hinds County inventories (1822 to 1882), bonds (1823 to 1869), wills (1870 to 1919), and executors' letters (1872 to 1919).

Transcripts of wills for 1799 to 1835 for Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Hinds, and Warren counties have been published in J. Estelle King, *Mississippi Court Records,* 1799-1835, 1936, Reprint (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1969; FHL book 976.2 S2k 1969; 1936 edition on misc. film 547551). Some probate references can also be found in Mary L. Hendrix, *Mississippi Court Records From the Files of the High Court of Errors and Appeals, 1799-1859* (Jackson, Miss.: M.L.F. Hendrix, 1950; FHL book 976.2 P2h).

VITAL RECORDS

State Records of Births and Deaths

State registration of births and deaths began in November 1912, and was generally complied with by 1921. The Family History Library does not have copies of the state records. You can obtain information by writing to:

Vital Records
State Department of Health
2423 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39216
Telephone: 601-576-7981
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 V24vw). Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and at many Family History Centers.

Individuals who were born prior to 1912, or who for some reason do not have a birth certificate, can apply for a delayed certificate of birth. The State Board of Health began keeping delayed certificates of birth in 1912. Some of the records are kept at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

County Records of Births and Deaths

A few counties kept birth and death records as early as 1879. These early records were kept intermittently and are very incomplete. The Family History Library has copies of these records for Hancock, Harrison, Lauderdale, Panola, and Tallahatchie counties. The State Board of Health has early records for Harrison, Hinds, and Pike counties.

For information about county birth and death records prior to 1912, contact the local county health department. The county health departments do not usually have records of births and deaths occurring after November 1, 1912. The clerks in these offices cannot do research for genealogists. However, they can send a copy of a specific record of an individual.

State Records of Marriages

State registration of marriages began in 1926. The State Board of Health (address above) has records from 1 January 1926 to 31 July 1938 and from 1 January 1942 to the present. Records for the 1938 to 1942 interim period are available from the county circuit court office in each county.

The Department of Archives and History has an index of pre-1926 Mississippi marriages. The State Board of Health has an index to marriages (male names only) from 1926 to the present. The Family History Library does not have copies of the state records or indexes.

County Records of Marriages

Many counties began recording marriages as early as 1800. Unfortunately, only about one-half of the pre-1850 marriage records have survived. The circuit courts have the county marriage records from the earliest years to the present.

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of most existing marriage records to about 1926. For example, the library has 26 microfilms from the Adams County Circuit Clerk that include marriage records, (1802-1927), an index to white marriages, (1802-1927), and an index to African-American (designated as "colored") marriages (1866-1942).

Divorce Records

Divorce proceedings are usually kept by the chancery court in each county and are usually interfiled with other court matters. The Family History Library has microfilmed the chancery court records for most Mississippi counties.

A statewide index of divorces (male names only) from the 1920s to the present is available at the State Board of Health. This office will search the divorce index for a fee.

Inventory of Vital Records

You can learn more about the history and availability of Mississippi vital records in *Guide to Vital Statistics in Mississippi: Volume 1, Public Archives* (Jackson: Historical Records Survey, 1942; FHL book 976.2 V23h; film 1036275).

FOR FURTHER READING

Some additional information about research and records in Mississippi is in Richard Stephen Lackey, "Mississippi," *Genealogical Research: Methods and Sources,* vol. 2: 188-218 (Washington, D.C.: American Society of Genealogists, 1980; FHL book 973 D27gr).

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

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

1699	The French established a settlement called Fort Maurepas on Biloxi Bay.
1716	Fort Rosalie, now Natchez, was established by the French on the Mississippi River.
1763	France ceded its claims to the Mississippi region to Great Britain.
1783	Britain ceded the Gulf Coast area to Spain. The rest of the Mississippi region was claimed by Georgia. The boundary was in dispute until 1795, when it was set at the 31st parallel, about sixty miles north of the coast.
1789-1795	The Georgia legislature authorized the Yazoo land sales. Hundreds of people moved from the Atlantic Coast states to the Mississippi area.
1798	Congress organized the Mississippi Territory. Georgia abandoned claims to the northern portion in 1802, and the Gulf Coast portion was acquired from Spain during the War of 1812.
1817	The eastern part of the Mississippi Territory was organized as the Territory of Alabama. Mississippi became a state.
1861	Mississippi 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.

1964–1972   Over 8.7 million American men and women served in the Vietnam War.

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

Historical Sources

You may find state or local histories in the Family History Library Catalog under Mississippi 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 Mississippi available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. Look under BIBLIOGRAPHY or HISTORY - BIBLIOGRAPHY.

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

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

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

State History

Helpful sources for studying the history of Mississippi are:

Rowland, Dunbar. *History of Mississippi, the Heart of the South.* 2 vols. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1925. (FHL book 976.2 H2r; films 1000271, 844829-30; fiche 6051499-50.)

Rowland, Dunbar. *Mississippi, Comprising Sketches of Counties, Towns, Events, Institutions, and Persons.* 4 vols. 1907. Reprint. Spartanburg, S.C.: Reprint Co., 1976. (FHL book 976.2 H2m; film 1421829 items 4-7; fiche 6051432-5.)

United States History

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

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

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

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

Mississippi 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 To see these files, click here.
1700–1900	*Biographical Index. (*Not at the FHL.) This index is at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and on the Internet

1650–1907	*Mississippi, Comprising Sketches of Counties, Towns, Events, Institutions and Persons.* (FHL book 976.2 H2m.)
1650–1970	Kirkham, E. Kay. *An Index to Some of the Family Records of the United States : 45,500 References as Taken From the Microfilm at the Genealogical society of Utah.* (FHL book 973 D22kk, vol. 1; fiche 6089183.) Indexes the DAR source below.
1650–1971	Daughters of the American Revolution. *Genealogical Collection.* (FHL films beginning with 893747 item 4). Indexed in the source above.
1650–present	Clegg, Michael B. *Periodical Source Index 1847–1985.* (FHL book 973 D25per; fiche 6016863–4 1986–1990; compact disc 61.)
1650–present	*Journal of Mississippi History.* (FHL book 976.2 32mj.) See annual indexes. By the Mississippi Historical Society.
1650–present	*Family Trails.* (FHL book 976.2 H25f.) Periodical of the Historical & Genealogical Association of Mississippi.
1650–present	*Mississippi Coast Historical and Genealogical Society Quarterly.* (FHL book 976.21 B2m.) See annual indexes.
1650–1987	*Mississippi Genealogical Exchange.* (FHL book 976.2 B2g.) Periodical published from 1955–1987.
1650–1979	*Mississippi Genealogy and Local History.* (FHL book 976.2 B2m, vols. 1–8.)
1650–1817	*The Order of the First Families of Mississippi 1699–1817: 1981 Register.* (FHL book 976.2 D2o.)
1650–1763	Rowland, Dunbar, and A. G. Sanders. *Mississippi Provincial Archives, 1612– 1763: The French Dominion.* (FHL films 899957–971.) Table of contents on film 899957.
1650–1763	Rowland, Dunbar. *Mississippi Provincial Archives (1701–1743) French Dominion.* (FHL book 976.2 A5m, vols.1–3; films 904441–42.)
1700–1980	Daughters of the American Revolution. (Mississippi). *Mississippi Daughters and Their Ancestors.* (FHL book 976.2 C44d; fiche 6093771.)
1700–1818	*First Settlers of the Mississippi Territory.* (FHL book 976 R2f; film 1421793 item 22; fiche 6051448.)
1700–1890	Gillis, Norman E. *Index to Biographical Section.* (FHL book 976.2 D3b, index; film 845437 item 1.) This indexes the book: *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi.* (FHL film 845437 item 2.)
1700–1998	*Mississippi Memories.* (FHL book 976.2 D25mm.)
1700–1863	Wiltshire, Betty Couch. *Marriages and Deaths from Mississippi Newspapers.* (FHL book 976.2 V2w, vols. 1–4.)
1700–1933	*Family Records: Mississippi Revolutionary Soldiers.* (FHL book 976.2 D2d; film 844941 item 2.)
1700–1860	White Virgil D. Genealogical Abstract of Revolutionary War Pension Files. (FHL book 973 M28g, vols. 1–4.) Vol. 4 contains an index to volumes 1–3.
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, etc. About 67,000 names.

1700–1868	Hatcher, Patricia Law. *Abstract of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots.* (FHL book 973 V38h vols. 1–4.) Abstracts reported by the DAR. About 67,200 names.
1700–1860	Brakebill, Clovis. *Revolutionary War Graves Register.* (FHL book 973 V3br.) Includes lady patriots, black soldiers, Jewish patriots and soldiers, Germans and French. About 53,760 names.
1700–1835	*The Pension Roll of 1835.* Indexed Edition. (FHL book 973 M24ua 1992, vols. 1–4.) Vol. 4 has the index; vols. 1–4 list Revolutionary War soldiers. Gives county of residence, state of service, often gives age, and data on soldiers who received pensions and died from 1820s–1835.
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.
1700–1890	Gillis, Irene S. And Norman E. Gillis. *Genealogical Abstract of Biographical Section, Alphabetical Arrangement, A through Z: Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi.* (FHL book 976.2 D38g.)
1700–1950s	Gillis, Irene S. *Grave Registrations of Union Soldiers Buried in The Mississippi National Cemeteries of Corinth, Natchez, and Vicksburg.* (FHL book 976.2 V3g.)
1700–1957	*Records of Southern Families: From Bibles, Tombstones, Sketches, Newspapers, 1740–1957.* (FHL film 227514 item 2.) Also has information on Tennessee and Texas.
1700–1766	*Mississippi Provincial Archives 1763–1766, English Dominion.* (FHL book 976.2 N2m.)
1740–1900	White, Virgil D. *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files.* (FHL book 973 M22i.)
1761–1934	Grant, Orena V. *Orena V. Grant Genealogical Collection, Marriage and Cemetery Records, From Southeastern, North, and South Central States.* (FHL book 973 V2g; film 962278 item 1 or 823747 item 1.)
1770–1920	Census indexes, 1820–1880 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	Gillis, Irene S. *Mississippi 1850 Mortality Schedules.* (FHL book 976.2 A1 no. 5.)
1770–1860	*Newspaper Notices of Mississippians 1820–1860.* (FHL book 976.2 D2m; film 924519 item 4.)
1773–1816	Gillis, Norman. *Early Inhabitants of the Natchez District.* (FHL book 976.2 X2p.)
1781–1820	Feldman, Lawrence H. *Anglo-Americans in Spanish Archives: Lists of Anglo-American Settlers in the Spanish Colonies of America; a Finding Aid.* (FHL book 973 X2fe.) Also has information on Alabama, Louisiana, and Maryland.
1790–1944	Mississippi. Auditor's Office. *Confederate Soldiers and Sailors, Widows Pension Applications.* (On 94 FHL films beginning with 902556.) Alphabetical.
1799–1805	McBee, May Wilson. *The Natchez Court Records: Abstracts of Early Records, 1767–1805.* (FHL book 976.2 P2mm.)
1799–1859	Hendrix, Mary Louise F. *Mississippi Court Records From the Files of the High Court of Errors and Appeals, 1799–1859.* (FHL book 976.2 P2h.)

1799–1930	United States Adjutant General's Office. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who served in Organizations from the State of Mississippi.* (FHL film 881535.) The compiled records are also on film.
1800–1934	United States. Veterans Administration. *General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934.* (On 544 FHL films beginning with 540757.) This is a card index to pension applications of Civil War and Spanish-American War veterans. Copies of the original files may be ordered from the National Archives.
1800–1865	United States. Adjutant General's Office. Index to Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Mississippi, 1861–1865. (FHL films 880001–09.) The compiled service records are also on film.
1800–1890	Dilts, Bryan Lee. *1890 Mississippi Census Index of Civil War Veterans or Their Widows.* (FHL book 976.2 X22d 1890.) This lists Union Army veterans or their widows.
1800–1890	Jackson, Ronald Vern. *1890 Mississippi Census Index: Special Schedule of the Eleventh Census (1890) Enumerating Union Veterans of the Civil War.* (FHL book 976.2 X22jg 1890.)
1800–1877	Lu, Helen M. *South-Western Presbyterian Newspaper Abstracts: 25 February 1869–8 February 1877.* (FHL fiche 6334495.)
1800–1973	Jacobs, Curtis. *The Jacobs Collection.* (FHL films beginning with 1653494.)
1812–1924	Strickland, Jean. *Mississippi Biographical Abstracts.* (FHL book 976.2 D38s.)
1819–1915	*The Book of Three States: Notable Men of Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee.* (FHL book 976 D3c.) Also has information on Arkansas and Tennessee.
1825–1935	Ragland, Mary Lois. *Spreading the Word: Mississippi Newspapers Abstracts of Genealogical Interest, 1825–1935.* (FHL book 976.2 D2r.)
1860–1918	*Master Alphabetical Index, World War Veterans, Army, 1917–1918.* (FHL films 904445–446.) An index to World War I soldiers.
1860–1918	Haulsee, W.M. *Soldiers of the Great War.* (FHL book 973 M23s; fiche 6051244.) Soldiers who died in World War I, 1914–1918. Volume 2 has Mississippi.
1873–1918	United States. Selective Service System. *Mississippi, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918.* (On 59 FHL films beginning with 1682699.) Men ages 18 to 45 are listed 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 of copying information 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 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 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.

Mississippi Maps Bibliography

Andriot, Jay. *Township Atlas of the U.S.* Virginia: Documents Index, 1991.
    Rel/Fam Hist Ref- **G 120l.F7 A5 1991**

    Summary: Shows the townships in a particular county for each state except
    Hawaii and Alaska. Maps start after 1930.
    Evaluation of Mississippi maps: pp. 505 – 524. One page history of state, list of
    counties and counties with minor civil divisions. Maps of census county
    divisions.

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

    Summary: The previous map was copied from page 415 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
    Mississippi also includes a brief history and genealogical research information.

Jackson, Richard H. *Historical and Genealogical Atlas of The United States. Volume J:
        East of the Mississippi.*
        Rel/Fam Hist Ref- **G 120l.E6225 J33x 1970z Vol. 1**

    Summary: List of Counties for each state.
    Evaluation of Mississippi maps: Maps are 1804, 1823, 1838, 1860 and 1960, pp.
    87-93.

Kirkam, E. Kay. *A Genealogical and Historical Atlas of the United States.* Utah:
        Everton Publishers, Inc., 1976.
        Rel/Fam Hist Ref- **G120I.E6225.K5 1976**

    Summary: Shows changes in boundaries in United States from Colonial days up
    to 1909. Civil war maps and information.
    Evaluation of Mississippi maps: State historical information, p. 21; 1823 map, p.
    101; 1838 map, p. 128; 1860 map, p. 144; 1878 map, p. 160, 161; 1909 map, p.
    223.

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

    Summary: Mississippi maps and information on pages 167 - 173. Includes maps
    comparing Mississippi to other states, cultural features, population density,
    agriculture, economic facts, etc. Also includes a brief state history.

Thorndale, William and William Dollarhide. *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1940.* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co, 1987.
Rel/Fam Hist 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 Mississippi maps: pp. 179 - 190.

Map Collection on the 2nd floor of the old section of HBLL library. One map drawer for the state of Mississippi.

G3980 - 3984 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 Mississippi maps, atlases, and gazetteers.

FAMILYSEARCH™
G U I D E

Mississippi Federal Census Population Schedules, 1820 to 1920

Guide

Introduction

Federal censuses are taken every 10 years. Mississippi residents are included in territorial or 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

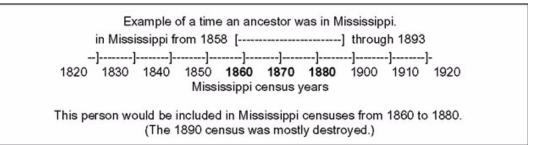The information you find varies from record to record. These records may include:

- 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 Mississippi with the census years. This will determine which censuses you will search.

```
Example of a time an ancestor was in Mississippi.
     in Mississippi from 1858 [-----------------------] through 1893
  --]-------]-------]-------]-------]-------]-------]-------]-------]-------]-
  1820    1830    1840    1850    1860    1870    1880    1900    1910    1920
                         Mississippi census years

  This person would be included in Mississippi censuses from 1860 to 1880.
                (The 1890 census was mostly destroyed.)
```

Step 2. Determine a census to start with.

Start with the last census taken during the life of your ancestor.

The censuses from **1850 to 1920** give more information and include the name, age, and birthplace of every person in 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:

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

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 older adults.

Background

Description

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

Early censuses are basically head counts. Later censuses give information about marriage, immigration, and literacy. 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 was destroyed by fire. However, 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 to W). These schedules contain approximately 700,000 names.

Types of census schedules

The following census schedules are available for Mississippi 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 household on the following dates:

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

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

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

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

Censuses from 1930 to the present

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

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

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

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

Colonial, territorial, state, and local censuses

Colonial, territorial, state, and local governments also took censuses. Nonfederal censuses generally contain information similar to and sometimes more than federal censuses of the same period. Colonial censuses were taken in Mississippi from 1784 to 1792. Territorial censuses are available for 1798 to 1817. For more information, see the census section of the *Mississippi Research Outline*, and the Mississippi chapter of *Ancestry's Redbook: American, State, County & Town Sources.*

Mississippi became a state in 1817. State censuses were taken in some counties in 1818, 1820, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1830, 1833, 1837, 1840, 1841, 1845, 1850, 1853, 1860, and 1866.

Colonial, 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:

- Mississippi 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 *Mississippi Research Outline* lists Internet addresses for several Mississippi archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Mississippi census records, and the Internet sites may list what records they have.

Family History Centers

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

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

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

Family History Library

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

For a list of indexes and other census records, click on Family History Library Catalog 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 *Mississippi Research Outline* lists Internet and mailing addresses for several Mississippi archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Mississippi 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.

MISSISSIPPI

Ambrose, Stephen E. and Douglas Brinkley. The Mississippi and the Making of a Nation: from the Lousiana Purchase to Today. Washington, D. C.: National Geographic, 2002. **Oversize Quarto F 351 .A533**

Bettersworth, John Knox. Mississippi in the Confederacy. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1961. **E 568 .M5**

Bond, Bradley G. Mississippi: A Documentary History. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2003. **F 341.5 .B66**

Busbee, Westly. Mississippi: A History. Wheeling, Illinois: Harlan Davidson, 2005. **F 341 .B93**

Carpenter, Barbara. Ethnic Heritage in Mississippi. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1992. **F 350 .A1 E84**

Claiborne, John Francis Hamtramck. Mississippi as a Province, Territory and State: With Biographical Notes of Eminent Citzens. Baton Rouge: Lousiana State University Press, 1964. Imprint of the 1880 edition. **F 341 .C58**

Fulkerson, Horace Smith. Random Recollections of Early Days in Mississippi. Baton Rouge: Otto Claitor, 1937. **F 341 .F92 F34**

Garner, James Wilford. Reconstruction in Mississipppi. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1901. **F 341 .G23**

Gillis, Norman E. and Irene S. Gillis. Mississippi Genealogy and Local History. Shreveport, Louisana: N.E. Gillis, 1969-79. Periodicals **F 340 .M53**

Hall, James. A Brief History of the Mississippi Territory. Salisbury, NC: Francis Coupee, 1801. **Microfiche 080 Sh64a no. 598**

Johnson, Paul B. Mississippi: One Hundred and Fifty Years of Statehood. New York: Newcomen Society in North America, 1967. **AC 5 .N48x vol. 30 no. 1-20**

Long, John Hamilton. Atlas of historical county boundaries. Mississippi. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1993. Map Collection **G 1201 .F7 A8**

Loewen, James W. Mississippi: Conflict and Change. New York: Pantheon Books, 1974. **F 341 .L84**

Loewen, James W. The Mississippi Chinese: Between Black and White. Prospect Heights,

MISSISSIPPI

Illinois: Waveland Press, Incorporated, 1988. **F 350 .C5 L6**

McCain, William David. The Journal of Mississippi History. Jackson, MS: Mississippi
Department of Archives and History in Cooperation with the Mississippi Historical
Society, 1939. **Periodical F 336 .J68**

McLemore, Richard Aubrey. History of Mississippi. Hattiesburg: University and College Press
of Mississippi, 1973. **F 341 .M19**

Miller, Mary Carol. Great Houses of Mississippi. Jackson: University of Mississippi, 2004.
Oversize Quarto F 342 .M55

Missisippi Department of Archives and History. The Mississippi Territorial Archives, 1798-1803.
Nashville, Tenn., Brandon Printing Company, 1905. **F 341 .M62**

Rowland, Dunbar. Encyclopedia of Mississippi History: Comprising Sketches of Counties,
Towns, Events, Institutions and People. Madison, WS: S. A. Brant, 1907.
Microfiche Z 1236 .L5 1971 No. 23430-32

Rowland, Dunbar. History of Mississippi: The Heart of the South. Chicago: The S. J. Clarke
Publishing Company, 1925. **F 341 .R86**

Skates, John Ray. Mississippi: A Bicentennial History. New York: Norton, 1979. **F 341 .S65**

Smith, Frank Ellis. The Yazoo River. New York: Rinehart, 1954. **F 347 .Y2 S6**

Sydnor, Charles S. Mississippi History. Richmond; Atlanta: Johnson Publishing Company, 1939.
F 341 .S98

Turitz, Leo and Evelyn Turitz. Jews in Early Mississipi. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi,
1983. **F 350 .J5 T87**

Walton, Anthony. Mississippi: an american journey. New York: Knopf: Distributed by Random
House, 1996. **F 35 .N4 W35**

Weems, Robert C. The Early economic development of Mississippi, 1699-1840. State College,
MS: Mississippi State University, Social Science Research Center, 1953.
HC 107 .M7 W44x

Wells, Mary Ann. Native land: Mississippi, 1540-1798. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi,
1994. **E 78 .M73 W45**

MISSISSIPPI

Zetty, Marjorie Bond. <u>Genealogies, 1952-1964.</u> Manuscript Collection **MSS 1578**

Adams County
Adams County was created in 1799 from the Natchez District

Clayton, James D. <u>Antebellum Natchez</u>. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968.
   F 349 .N2 J3

Kane, Harriett T. <u>Natchez on the Mississippi</u>. New York: William Morrow & Company,
   F 349 .N2 K3

Mississippi Historical Records Survey. <u>Transcription of county archives of Mississippi. No. 2,
   Adams County (Natchez)</u>. Jackson, MS: Board of Supervisors, Adams County, 1942.
   Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8556

Alcorn County
Alcorn County was created in 1870 from Tippah and Tishomingo Counties.

Amite County
Amite County was created in 1809 from Wilkinson County.

   Casey, Albert Eugene. Amite County, Mississippi, 1699-1890. Greenville, SC: Southern
   Historical Press, Incorporated, 2001. **F 347 .A5 C37x 2001 vol. 3**

Attala County
Attala County was created in 1833 as part of the Choctaw Cesson.

Bainbridge County*
Bainbridge County was created in 1823 from Lawrence and Wayne Counties. It became Covington County
in 1824.

Benton County
Benton County was created in 1870 from Marshall and Tippah Counties. The county seat is located in Ashland.

Bolivar County
Bolivar County was created in 1836 from the Choctaw Cession. Records are housed in Rosedale and
Cleveland

Sillers, Florence W. <u>History of Bolivar County, Mississippi</u>. Spartanburg, SC: Reprint Company,
   1976. (Reprint of the 1948 edition) **F 347 .B6 S5**

MISSISSIPPI

Calhoun County
Calhoun County was created in 1852 from Lafayette and Yalobusha Counties. The courthouse burned in 1922. County records are housed in Pittsboro.

Carroll County
Carroll County was created in 1852 from the Choctaw Cesson. County records are housed in Carrollton and Vaiden.

Dimond, E. Gray. Letters from Forest Place: A Plantation Family's Correspondence, 1841-1881. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1993. **F 347 .C3 L48**

Chickasaw County
Chickasaw County was created in 1836 from the Choctaw Cession. Some records were lost in 1863. County records are located in Houston and Okalona.

Chickasaw County Historical and Genealogical Society. A History of Chickasaw County, Mississippi. Dallas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1985.
Oversize Quarto F 347 .C4 H57 1985

Choctaw County
Choctaw County was created in 1833 from the Chickasaw Cession of 1832. There have been several fires and early records are missing. Records after 1881 are found in Ackerman.

Coleman, J.P. Choctaw County Chronicles. Spartanburg, S.C.: Reprint Company, 1981.
F 347 .C45 C64

Lincecum, Gideon. Pushmataha : a Choctaw leaser and his people. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, c2004. **E 99 .C8 P89**

Wells, Samuel. After removal: The Choctaw in Mississippi. Jackson, MS: University Press, c1986.
E 99 .C8 A37

Claiborne County
Claiborne County was created in 1802 from Jefferson County. County records are housed in Fort Gibson.

Clarke County
Clarke County was created in 1812 from Washington County. County records are housed in Quitman.

Clay County
Clay County was created in 1871 from Chickasaw, Lowndes, Monroe and Oktibbeha Counties. It was

named Colfax County until 1876. County records are housed in West Point.

Coahoma County
Coahoma County was created in 1836 from the Chickawa Cession. County records are housed in Clarksdale and Friars Point.

Weeks, Linton. <u>Clarksdale and Coahoma County: A History</u>. Clarksdale, MS: Carnegie Public
  Library, 1982. **F 349 .C6 W43**

Colfax County
Coahoma County was created in 1836 from the Chickawa Cession. County records are housed in Clarksdale and Friars Point.

Copiah County
Copiah County was created in 1823 from Hinds County. County records are housed in Hazlehurst.

Covington County
Covington County was created in 1819 from Lawrence and Wayne Counties as Bainbridge County. It was named Covington in 1824. Some records were lost in 1904. County records are housed in Collins.

Hoffsommer, Harold Charles. <u>Neighborhoods and Communities in Covington County, Miss.</u>
  Washington, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, 1941.
  Government Documents A 36.2: NE 31

De Soto County
DeSoto County was created in 1836 from Indian Lands. Some county records were lost in 1940. County records are housed in Hernando.

Forrest County
Forrest County was created in 1906 from Perry County. County records are kept in Hattiesburg.

Franklin County
Franklin County was created in 1809 from Adams County. Some records were lost in 1877. County records were kept in Meadville.

George County
George County was created in 1910 from Greene and Jackson Counties. County records are housed in Lucedale.

Greene County
Greene County was created in 1811 from Amite, Franklin and Wayne. Some records were lost in 1875. County records are housed in Leakesville.

Grenada County
Grenada County was created in 1870 from Carroll, Yalobusha, Choctaw, Tallahatchie, Webster and Montgomery Counties. County records are housed in Grenada.

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Department of Archives and History. <u>Inventory of the County Archives of Mississippi.</u>
<u>No. 22 Grenada County.</u> Jackson, MS: The Project, 1940.
Microfiche Cs 43 .G46x LH 8559

Hancock **County**

Hancock County was created in 1812 from the Mobile District. Some records were lost in 1853. County records are housed in Bay St. Louis.

Thigpen, Samuel G. <u>Pearl River: Highway to Glory</u>. Kingsport, TN: Kingsport Press, 1965. **F 347 .P3 T5**

Harrison County

Harrison County was created in 1841 from Hancock and Jackson County. Some records were lost in 1916. County records are housed in Gulfport.

Lang, John H. <u>History of Harrison County, Mississippi.</u> Gulfport, MS: The Dixie Press, 1936.
Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8526

Hinds County

Hinds County was created in 1821 from the Choctaw Cession. County records are housed in Raymond and Jackson County.

Holmes County

Holmes County was established on February 19, 1833 from Yazoo County. A courthouse fire in 1884 destroyed many of the records.

Wiltshire, Betty Couch. <u>Holmes County, Mississippi Pioneers</u>. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1993.
F 347 .H6 W55 1993

Rural Organizing and Cultural Center. <u>Minds Stayed on Freedom: The Civil Rights Struggle in</u>
<u>the Rural South.</u> Boulder: Westview Press, 1991. **F 347 .H6 M56**

Humphreys County

Humphreys County was created in 1918 from Holmes, Washington, Yazoo and Sunflower Counties. County records are housed in Belzoni.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History. <u>Inventory of the County Archives of Mississippi.</u>
<u>No. 27, Humphreys County.</u> Jackson, MS: The Survey, 1941.
Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8546

Issaquena **County**

Issaquena County was created in 1844 from Washington County. County records are housed in Mayersville.

MISSISSIPPI

Itawamba County
Itawamba County was created in 1836 from the Chickasaw Cession. County records are kept in Fulton.

Jackson County
Jackson County was created in 1812 from the Mobile District. Some records were lost in 1875. County records are housed in Pascagoula.

Salter, John R. Jackson, Mississippi: An American Chronicle of Struggle and Schism. Hicksville, New York: Exposition Press, 1979. **F 349 .J13 S25**

Jasper County
Jasper County was created in 1833 from the Choctaw Cession. Some records were lost in 1932. County records are kept in Paulding and Bay Springs.

Jefferson County
Jefferson County was created in 1799 from the Natchez District. It was named Pickering until 1802. Some records were lost in 1904. County records are housed in Fayette.

Jefferson Davis County
Jefferson Davis County was created in 1906 from Covington and Lawrence Counties. County records are housed in Prentiss.

Jones County
Jones County was created in 1826 from Covington and Wayne Counties. County records are housed in Ellisville and Laurel. Some records have been lost.

Bynum, Victoria E. The free state of Jones: Mississippi's longest civil war. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001. **F 347 .J6 B95**

Loverrett, Rudy H. Legend of the free state of Jones. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1984. **F 347 .J6 L48**

Kemper County
Kemper County was created in 1833 from the Choctaw Cesson. Some records were lost in 1882. County records are housed in DeKalb.

Lynch, James D. Kemper County vindicated, and a peep at radical rule in Mississippi. New York: Negro Universities Press, 1969. (Reprint of 1879 edition)
F 347 .K3 L9 also **Fiche CS 43 .G46x 8554**

Wells, James Monroe. The Chisolm massacre: a picture of "home rule" in Mississippi. Washington, DC: Chisolm Mounument Association, 1878. **F 347 .K3 W5** also

MISSISSIPPI

Fiche Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 12395

Lafayette

Lafayette County was created in 1836 from the Chickasaw Cession. County records are housed in Oxford.

Cullen, John B. Old times in the Faulkner country. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina
Press, 1961. **PS 3511 .A86 Z78**

Doyle, Don Harrison. Faulkner's county: the historical roots of Yoknapatawpha. Chapel Hill:
University of North Carolina Press, 2001. **F 347 .L2 D69**

Skipwith Historical and Genealogical Society. The Heritage of Lafayette County. Oxford, MS:
The Skipwith Historical and Genealogical Society, 1986. **Quarto F 347 .L2 H47x**

Lamar County
Lamar County was created in 1904 from Marion and Pearl River Counties. Some records were lost in 1934.
County records are housed in Purvis.

Lauderdale County
Lauderdale County was created in 1833 from the Choctaw Cession. County records are housed in Meridian.

Lawrence County
Lawrence County was created in 1814 from Marion County. Some records have been lost. County records
are housed in Monticello.

Leake County
Leake County was created in 1833 from the Choctaw Cession. County records are housed in Carthage.

Lee County
Lee County was created in 1866 from Itawamba and Pontotoc Counties. Cou nty records are housed in
Tupelo.

Leflore County
Leflore County was created in 1871 from Carroll, Sunflower and Tallahatchie Counties. County records are
housed in Greenwood

Lincoln County
Lincoln County was created in 1870 from Franklin, Lawrence, Copiah, Pike and Amite Counties. County
records are housed at Brookhaven.

Lowndes County
Lowndes County was created in 1830 from Monroe County. County records are housed in Columbus.

Madison County

Madison County was created in 1828 from Yazoo County. County records are housed in Canton.

Mead, Carol Lynn. The Land Between Two Rivers, Madison County. Canton, MS: Friends of the
   Madison County-Canton Public Library, 1987. **F 347 .M15 M32x**

Marion County

Marion County was created in 1811 from Amite, Wayne and Franklin Counties. County records are housed in Columbia.

Marshall County

Marshall County was created in 1836 from the Chickasaw Cession. Some early records are lost. County records are housed in Holly Spring.

Monroe County

Monroe County was created in 1821 from the Chickasaw Cession. County records are housed in Aberdeen.

Montgomery County

Montgomery County was created in 1871 from Carroll and Choctaw Counties. Some records were lost in 1903. County records are housed in Winona.

Crouch, Evelyn Bell. History of Montgomery County, Mississippi. Dallas: Curtis Media
   Corporation, 1996. **Quarto F 347 .M75 H57**

Neshoba County

Neshoba County was created in 1833 from the Choctaw Cession. County records are housed in Philadelphia.

Newton County

Newton County was created in 1836 from Neshoba County. Some records were lost in 1877 and 1910. County records are housed in Decatur.

Brown, Alfred J. History of Newton County, 1834-1894. Decatur, MS: M. Tingle, 1964. **F
  347 .N48 B76** also **Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8545**

Noxubee County

Noxubee County was created in 1833 from the Choctaw Cession. County records are housed in Macon.

Oktibbeha County

Oktibbeha County was created in 1833 from the Choctaw Cession. Some records were lost in 1880. County records are housed in Starkville.

MISSISSIPPI

Carroll, Thomas Battle. <u>Historical Sketches of Oktibbeha County</u>. Gulfport, MS: The Dixie Press,
1931. **F 347 .O4 C2** also **Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8525**

P<small>anola</small> County

Panola County was created in 1836 from the the Chickasaw Cesson. Some records were lost in 1886.
County records are housed in Sardis.

Pearl River County

Pearl River was created in 1890 from Hancock and Marion Counties. County records are housed in
Poplarville.

Thigpen, Samuel Grady. <u>Pearl River: Highway to Glory Lands</u>. Kingsport, IN: Kingsport Press,
1965. **F 347 .P3 T5**

Perry County

Perry County was created in 1820 from Greene County. Some records were lost in 1877. County records

are housed in New Augusta.

Pickering County

Pickering County was created in 1799 from the Natchez District. The name was changed to Jefferson in
1802.

Pike County

Pike was created in 1815 from Marion. Some records were lost in 1882. County records are housed in
Magnolia.

Hardeman, Martin J. <u>The structure of time: Pike County, Mississippi, 1815-1912.</u> New York: P.
Lang, 1999. **E 347 .P6 H37**

Conerly, Luke Ward. <u>Resource of Pike/Walthall Counties, Mississippi 1798-1910.</u> Easley, SC:
Southern Historical Press, 1978. **F 347 .P6 R47**

Pontotoc County

Pontotoc County was created in 1836 from the Chickasaw Cession. County records are housed in Pontotoc.

Young, Callie B. <u>From these hills: a history of Pontotoc County</u>. Fulton, MS: Itawamba County
Times, 1976. **F 347 .P7 F76**

Prentiss County

Prentice County was created in 1870 from Tishomingo County. Some records were lost in 1912. County
records are housed in Booneville.

MISSISSIPPI

Quitman County

Quitman County was created in 1877 from Panola, Coahoma, Tunic and Tallahatchie Counties. County records are housed in Marks.

Rankin County

Rankin County was created in 1818 from Hinds County. County records are kept in Brandon

Scott County

Scott County was created in 1833 from the Choctaw Cession. County records were kept in Forest.

Sharkey County

Sharkey County was created in 1876 from Warren, Washington and Issaquena Counties. County records are housed in Rolling Fork.

Simpson County

Simpson County was created in 1824 from the Choctaw Cession. Some records were lost in 1840 and 1872. County records are housed in Mendenhall.

King, Bee. An early history of Simpson County, Mississippi. Mendenhall, MS, 1948.
F 347 .S5 K56x

Smith County

Smith County was created in 1833 from the Choctaw Cession. Some records were lost in 1892 and 1915. County records are housed in Raleigh.

Stone County

Stone County was created in 1916 from Harrison County. County records are housed in Wiggins.

Sumner County

Sumner County was created in 1874. It was renamed Webster in 1882.

Sunflower County

Sunflower County was created in 1844 from Bolivar and Washington counties. Some records were lost in 1870. County records are housed in Indianola.

Tallahatchie County

Tallahatchie County was created in 1830 from the Choctaw Cession. Some records were lost in 1908. County records are housed in Charleston and Sumner.

MISSISSIPPI

Tate County
Tate County was created in 1873 from Marshall, Tunica and DeSoto counties. County records are housed in Senatobia.

Tate County MS Genealogical and Historical Society. The Heritage of Tate County, Mississippi.
      Senatobia, MS: The Society, 1991. **Quarto F 347 .T35 H47x**

Tippah County
Tippah County was created in 1836 from the Chickasaw Cession. Some reco rds were lost in 1863. County records are housed in Ripley.

Mississippi Historical Records Survey. Inventory of the county archives of Mississippi. No. 70,
      Tippah County. Jackson, MS: The Survey, 1942. **Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8548.**

Tishomingo County
Tishomingo County was created in 1836 from the Chickasaw Cession. County records are housed in Luka.

Cochran, Fan Alexander. History of old Tishomingo County, Mississippi Territory. Oklahoma
      City, OK: Barnhart Letter Shop, 1971. **Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8579**

Tunica County
Tunica County was created in 1836 from the Chickasaw Cession. County records are housed in Tunica.

Mississippi Historical Records Survey. Inventory of the county archives of Mississippi. No. 72,
      Tunica County. Jackson, MS: The Survey, 1942. **Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8549**

Union County
Union County was created in 1836 from Pontotoc and Tippah Counties. Some records were lost in 1882. County records are housed in New Albany.

Walthall County
Walthall County was created in 1910 from Marion and Pike Counties. County records are housed in Tylertown.

Conerly, Luke Ward. Resource of Pike/Walthall Counties, Mississippi 1798-1910. Easley, SC:
      Southern Historical Press, 1978. **F 347 .P6 R47**

Mississippi History Records Survey. Inventory of the county archives Mississippi. No. 74,
      Walthall County. Jackson, MS: The Survey, 1942. **Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8550**

Warren County
Warren County was created in 1809 form the Natchez District. County records are housed in Vicksburg.

Ballard, Michael B. Vicksburg: the campaign that opened the Mississippi. Chapel Hill:

MISSISSIPPI

University of North Carolina Press, 2004. **E 475.27 .B358**

Currie, James T. Enclave: Vicksburg and Her Plantations, 1863-1870. Jackson: University Press
   of Mississippi, 1980. **F 349 .V6 C87**

Everhart, William C. Vicksburg and the opening of the Mississippi River, 1862-1863.
   Washington D.C.: Division of Publications, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the
   Interior, 1985. **Government Documents Collection I 29.9/5: 137**

Hankinson, Alan. Vicksburg 1863: Grant clears the Mississippi. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2004.
   E 475.27 .H23

Harrell, Virginia Calohan. Vicksburg and the River. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi,
   1982. **F 349 .V6 H35**

Morris, Christopher. Becoming Southern. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.
   F 347 .W29 M67 1995

Mulvihill, Michael J. Vicksburg and Warren County, Mississippi: Tunica Indians, Quebec
   missionaries, Civil War veterans. Vicksburg, MS : Published by authority of the mayor
   and aldermen of the City of Vicksburg and the Board of Supervisors of Warren County,
   MS, 1931. **Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12228**

Richard, Allan C. The defense of Vicksburg: a Louisiana chronicle. College Station: Texas A&M
   University Press, 2004. **E 475.27 .R53**

Shea, William L. Vicksburg is the key: the struggle for the Mississippi river. Licoln: University
   of Nebraska Press, 2003. **E 475.27 .S54**

Walker, Peter F. Vicksburg: A People at War, 1860-1865. Chapel Hill: University of North
   Carolina Press, 1960. **F 349 .V6 W3**

Washington County

Wayne County
Wayne County was created in 1809 from Washington County. Some records were lost in 1892. County
records are housed in Waynesboro.

Webster County
Webster County was created in 1874 from Montgomery, Chickasaw, Chocotaw and Oktibbeha Counties.
County records are housed in Walthall.

MISSISSIPPI

Webster County History Association. <u>The History of Webster County, Mississippi</u>. Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corporation, 1985. **Order In Process.**

Wilkinson County
Wilkinson County was created in 1802 from Adams County. County records are housed in Woodville.

Winston County
Winston County was created in 1833 from the Choctaw Cession. County records are housed in Louisville.

Yalobusha County
Yalobusha County was created in 1833 from the Choctaw Cession. County records are housed in Water Valley and Coffeeville.

Yazoo County
Yazoo County was created in 1823 from Hinds County. County records are housed in Yazoo City.

Morgan, Albert Talmon. <u>Yazoo: On the Picket Line of Freedom in the South</u>. New York: Russell and Russell, 1968. **F 341 .M84**

Mississippi-Other Resources

Mississippi Department of Archives and History
http://mdah.state.ms.us/

Rootsweb Mississippi Website
http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/ms.html

Cyndi's List Mississippi Links
http://www.cyndislist.com/ms.htm

Mississippi County Formation Maps
http://www.mymississippigenealogy.com/ms_maps/ms_cf.htm

Geneasearch Mississippi Helps
http://geneasearch.com/states/mississippi.htm

FamilySearch Wiki
www.familysearchwiki.org