North Carolina
Research Outline

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RESEARCH OUTLINE

North Carolina

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

RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY™

The Family History Library has copies of most of the records listed in this outline. The major holdings include censuses, land records, county histories, vital records, church records, probate records, and military records. The library has county records from most North Carolina counties and continues to acquire other genealogical records.

Most sources described in this outline list the Family History Library’s book, microfilm, microfiche, compact disc, and computer numbers. These are preceded by FHL, the abbreviation for Family History Library. You can use these numbers to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers™.

You can use the computer number if you have access to the Family History Library Catalog on computer. The Computer Number Search is the fastest way to find a source in the catalog.

The Internet is growing in importance to genealogists. Sources found on the Internet are cited in this outline with their Universal Resource Locator (URL) address.

FAMILYSEARCH®

FamilySearch at Family History Centers™

FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing millions of names. FamilySearch is a good place to begin your family history research. Some of the records come from compiled sources, and some have been extracted from original sources. The Family History Library and many Family History Centers have computers with FamilySearch. A few FamilySearch files, for example, the U.S. Social Security Death Index and the U.S. Military Index, are found on the Family History Library and Family History Center™ version of FamilySearch, but not on the FamilySearch® Internet Genealogy Service.

FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service

The web site www.familysearch.org allows you to research your genealogy, order Family History Library™ publications, learn research strategies, and look for information about your ancestors in the following resources:

Ancestral File™, a file of over 35 million names organized into families and pedigrees.

International Genealogical Index®, an index of over 360 million names extracted out of vital records primarily from the British Isles, North America, and northern Europe.

Family History Library Catalog™, a description and classification of over 2 million microfilm reels, and hundreds of thousands of genealogical books. You can search the catalog by family name, locality, author, book or film number.

SourceGuide™, a resource that contains a collection of over 150 research outlines for states, nations, or genealogy topics, an extensive glossary of word meanings, and a catalog helper.

Family History Centers™, a list of locations where you can order the microfilms described in the Family History Library Catalog and SourceGuide.

Web Sites, a categorized list of thousands of links to Internet sites related to family history.

Collaboration Lists, user-created mailing lists of researchers interested in similar genealogical topics.

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG™

The records of the Family History Library™ are listed in the Family History Library Catalog available at the library, at each Family History Center™, and on the Internet at www.familysearch.org. To find a record in the Family History Library Catalog, look in the Locality Search for:
• The *place* where your ancestor lived, such as:

- **UNITED STATES** - CENSUS RECORDS
- **NORTH CAROLINA** - BIOGRAPHY
- **NORTH CAROLINA, ROWAN** - COURT RECORDS
- **NORTH CAROLINA, ROWAN, SALISBURY** - CEMETERIES

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

- **UNITED STATES** - CENSUS
- **NORTH CAROLINA** - BIOGRAPHY
- **CAROLINA, ROWAN** - COURT RECORDS
- **NORTH CAROLINA, ROWAN, SALISBURY** - CEMETERIES

The following section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the Family History Library Catalog.
# RECORD SELECTION TABLE: NORTH CAROLINA

This table can help you decide which records to search. It is most helpful for post-1850 research.

1. In column 1, select a research goal.
2. In column 2, find the types of records most likely to have the information you need.
3. In column 3, find additional record types that may be useful.
4. Look in the section of this outline that corresponds to the record type you chose. It explains what the records might tell you, how to search them, and how to find the records in the Family History Library Catalog™ using the Locality Search. Some records are not at the library.
5. If you do not find the desired information, see the Records Selection Table in the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for more suggestions.

Note: Records of previous research (Genealogy, Biography, History, Periodicals, and Societies) are useful for most goals, but are not listed unless they are especially helpful.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. If you need</th>
<th>2. Look first in</th>
<th>3. Then search</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adoptions</td>
<td>Court Records, Vital Records</td>
<td>Probate Records, Census, Obituaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Census, Cemeteries, Obituaries</td>
<td>Vital Records, Military Records, Bible Records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth date</td>
<td>Vital Records, Obituaries, Cemeteries</td>
<td>Church Records, Bible Records, Military Records (pension)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birthplace</td>
<td>Vital Records, Church Records, Obituaries</td>
<td>Census, Military Records, Naturalization and Citizenship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boundaries and origins (places)</td>
<td>Maps, Gazetteers</td>
<td>History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>Census, Probate Records, Obituaries</td>
<td>Vital Records, Church Records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City or parish of foreign birth</td>
<td>Vital Records, Obituaries, Biography</td>
<td>History, Naturalization and Citizenship, Church Records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country of foreign birth</td>
<td>Census, Naturalization and Citizenship, Vital records</td>
<td>Biography, Minorities, Obituaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death information</td>
<td>Vital Records, Cemeteries, Obituaries</td>
<td>Probate Records, Church Records, Bible Records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorce</td>
<td>Vital Records, Court Records</td>
<td>Newspapers, Census</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic background</td>
<td>Native Races, Minorities, Emigration and Immigration</td>
<td>Census, Obituaries, Naturalization and Citizenship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical background</td>
<td>History, Periodicals</td>
<td>Gazetteers, Maps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration date</td>
<td>Emigration and Immigration, Naturalization and Citizenship, Census</td>
<td>Obituaries, Biography, History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living relatives</td>
<td>Obituaries, Probate Records</td>
<td>Directories, Court Records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maiden name</td>
<td>Vital Records, Obituaries, Probate Records</td>
<td>Church Records, Military Records (pension)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage information</td>
<td>Vital Records, Obituaries, Bible Records</td>
<td>Church Records, Probate Records, Military Records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration information</td>
<td>Emigration and Immigration, Maps, Census</td>
<td>Biography, History, Land and Property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naturalization</td>
<td>Naturalization and Citizenship, Census, Court Records</td>
<td>Voting Registers, Biography, Periodicals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupations</td>
<td>Census, Directories, Land and Property</td>
<td>Obituaries, Biography, History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other family members</td>
<td>Census, Obituaries, Probate Records</td>
<td>Vital Records, Church Records, Genealogy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents</td>
<td>Vital Records, Obituaries, Census, Church Records</td>
<td>Biography, Genealogy, Minorities, Occupations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RECORD SELECTION TABLE: NORTH CAROLINA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. If you need</th>
<th>2. Look first in</th>
<th>3. Then search</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical description</td>
<td>Military Records, Naturalization and Citizenship (after 1906)</td>
<td>Biography, History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place-finding aids</td>
<td>Maps, Gazetteers, History</td>
<td>Periodicals, Archives and Libraries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places of residence</td>
<td>Census, Military Records, Obituaries, Minorities, Occupations, Public Records</td>
<td>Land and Property, Taxation, Emigration and Immigration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of residence when you know only the state</td>
<td>Census, Vital Records, Military Records</td>
<td>Obituaries, History, Land and Property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous research</td>
<td>Genealogy, Biography, Periodicals</td>
<td>Societies, History, Archives and Libraries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Record-finding aids</td>
<td>Archives and Libraries, Periodicals</td>
<td>Societies, Genealogy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>Church Records, Vital Records, Obituaries</td>
<td>Biography, History, Cemeteries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social activities</td>
<td>Societies, Obituaries, Biography</td>
<td>Newspapers, History, Cemeteries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

Many archives and libraries have resources such as maps, gazetteers, and other place-finding aids to help you locate information about North Carolina. They may have collections of previous research, such as family and local histories and biographies. Many have record-finding aids such as guides to their own collections or inventories of records housed elsewhere in the state.

Archives and Libraries

The following archives and libraries have collections or services for North Carolina genealogical research:

- North Carolina State Archives
  109 East Jones Street
  Raleigh, NC 27601-2807
  Telephone: 919-733-3952
  Fax: 919-733-1354
  Internet: [www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/archives/default.htm](http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/archives/default.htm)

  Mailing Address:
  North Carolina State Archives
  4614 Mail Service Center
  Raleigh, NC 27699-4614

- North Carolina State Library
  109 East Jones Street
  Raleigh, NC 27601-2807
  Telephone: 919-733-7222

  Mailing Address:
  Genealogical Services
  State Library of North Carolina
  4647 Mail Service Center
  Raleigh, NC 27699-4647

The North Carolina State Archives maintains original records of North Carolina governments on the state, district, and county levels. The North Carolina State Library is at the same location and houses books, pamphlets, and family files.

Catalogs of the holdings of the North Carolina State Archives and the North Carolina State Library are available on their Internet sites. Printed guides available at the Family History Library™ to holdings at the North Carolina State Archives include:

Cain, Barbara T. *Guide to Private Manuscript Collections in the North Carolina State Archives*. 3rd rev. ed. Raleigh, N.C.: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, 1986. (FHL book 975.6 A3c 1986; computer number 828948.) This lists about 12,000 collections with family histories, Bible records, biographical information, state and local records, records of organizations, banks, businesses (over 480 account books), schools, and historical subjects. The guide is well indexed.

**National Archives**

- **National Archives—Southeast Region**
  1557 St. Joseph Avenue
  East Point, GA 30344
  Telephone: 404-763-7477
  Fax: 404-763-7033

**University Collections**

- **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**
  Chapel Hill, North Carolina
  Internet: [www.unc.edu](http://www.unc.edu)

  A web page containing suggestions for genealogical research at the University of North Carolina is:


  Two libraries at the University of North Carolina with departments and collections of interest to genealogists are the Wilson Library and the Davis Library.

  The Wilson Library includes the special collections, manuscript, and map departments. Addresses and holdings of the departments are:

  University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
  North Carolina Collection
  Wilson Library CB 3930
  Chapel Hill, NC 27514-8890
  Telephone: 919-962-1172
  Fax: 919-962-4452

  The *North Carolina Collection* contains published works on North Carolina and its people. The collection does not have original records. They have a file of newspaper clippings on North Carolina. The file does not include obituaries. Approximately 40 percent of their inventory is listed on the library’s Internet site.

  University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
  Manuscript Department
  Wilson Library CB 3926
  Chapel Hill, NC 27514-8890
  Telephone: 919-962-1345

  The Manuscript Department collects personal papers, letters, and diaries of early North Carolina residents. The *Family History Library* has the following guides to their manuscript collection:


  Though the Davis Library mainly collects materials for the humanities and social sciences, they are the designated government depository for the state. Their collection includes many federal papers.

  Duke University has two collections of interest to genealogists. The *North Carolina Collection* contains works about and by North Carolinians. The *Southern Historical Collection* contains records of historical interest. A guide to these collections is:

**Inventories of County Records**

To learn more about the history and records of North Carolina counties, use the inventories that have been published for each county. These inventories have been printed in:


**Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards**

Computers with modems are important tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. Computer networks themselves can 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 and on-line catalogs.
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions.

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from North Carolina in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. Much of the information is available at little or no cost. Addresses on the Internet change frequently. The following sites are important gateways to additional sites:

FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service. (Salt Lake City): The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 22 March 1999 [cited 7 October 1999]. Available at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org); INTERNET. At this site you can access the Family History Library Catalog™, Ancestral File™, International Genealogical Index®, SourceGuide™, lists of Family History Centers, web sites related to family history, and lists of researchers interested in similar genealogical topics. You can also learn about and order Family History Library publications.

- **USGenWeb**
  [http://www.ncgenweb.us](http://www.ncgenweb.us)
  This site is 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**
  This site contains a useful list of sites and resources and includes a large, regularly updated research coordination list.

- **GenExchange**
  [http://www.genexchange.org](http://www.genexchange.org)
  This site includes databases (church, cemetery, census, land, immigration, naturalization, and vital records), directories, historical accounts, mailing lists, queries, local surname researchers, and look-up volunteers.

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

Some Family History Centers™ have computers with FamilySearch®. These computers do not have access to on-line services, networks, or bulletin boards. You can use these services at many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations.

Guides and inventories for collections at archives and libraries can be found in the Family History Library Catalog™ by using a Locality Search under:

**NORTH CAROLINA - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES**

**NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES**

**BIBLE RECORDS**

Bibles were often given to a bride as a wedding gift, and families recorded in them information about their immediate family and close relatives. Bible records can include birth, marriage, and death dates; parents’ names; and names of children and their spouses, including maiden names. A person’s age at the time of death may be given.
Many families kept Bible records from the 1700s to more recent times, although few of these records have survived. Some have been donated to local libraries or societies, but you may need to contact descendants to find some family Bible records.

Copies of Bible records are in the McCubbins’ Collection described in the “Genealogy” section of this outline. Other collections with Bible records include:

Daughters of the American Revolution (North Carolina), Genealogical Collection. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1971. (On 54 FHL films beginning with 860336; computer number 453571.) This collection includes family histories and transcripts of Bible, cemetery, church, will, marriage, death, and obituary records. The volumes are generally arranged by county, and many have individual indexes. There is a surname index to this collection:

Kirkham, E. Kay. An Index to Some of the Family Records of the Southern States: 35,000 Microfilm References from the NSDAR Files and Elsewhere. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1979. (FHL book Ref 973 D22kk vol. 1; fiche 6089183; computer number 32871.)

Lester, Memory Aldridge. Bible Records from the Southern States. 7 vols. in 6. Chapel Hill, N.C.: M.A. Lester, 1956–1962. (FHL book 975 D28L; film 978067; computer number 175626.) These volumes often provide birth, marriage, and death dates, as well as marriage places. The entries are arranged alphabetically by Bible owner.


Bible records may also be found in periodicals. These are referenced in the “Families” section of the Periodical Source Index described in the “Periodicals” section of this outline.

Bible records can be found in the Family History Library Catalog™ by using a Locality Search under:

NORTH CAROLINA - BIBLE RECORDS
NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - BIBLE RECORDS

BIOGRAPHY

Biographies provide useful genealogical information such as a person’s birth date and place; names of family members, including maiden names; education; occupation; and social, political, and religious affiliation. They may also contain a physical description of the person, previous residences, and immigration information. Biographies are the product of family knowledge or previous research about early settlers and prominent citizens of a state, county, or town. Local histories may contain biographical sketches of lesser-known people.

The North Carolina State Library has the most complete collection of North Carolina biographical materials. The Family History Library™ also has many volumes containing biographical sketches of residents of North Carolina. For an index, see Donald Hehir’s Carolina Families: A Bibliography of Books about North and South Carolina Families mentioned in the “Genealogy” section of this outline.

Representative biographical encyclopedias are:

Ashe, Samuel A’Court, ed. Biographical History of North Carolina from Colonial Times to the Present. 9 vols. Greensboro, N.C.: Charles L. Van Noppen, 1905–17. (FHL book 975.6 D3a; on 6 films beginning with 1421670 item 9; computer number 244251.) Film 1425698 item 10 (same computer number) is an index to volumes 1–8.

See the “Biography” section of the United States Research Outline (30972) for information on nationwide biographical collections. See also the “History” and “Genealogy” sections of this outline for additional sources.

To find biographies and published family histories on specific surnames in the Family History Library Catalog, use a Surname Search. Typing the words North Carolina in the Keyword Search will help to limit the search to families in North Carolina.

The Family History Library has many collected biographies and local county histories with biographical sketches of residents. These can be found in the Family History Library Catalog by using a Locality Search under:

NORTH CAROLINA - BIOGRAPHY
NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY]
BIOGRAPHY

CEMETERIES

Cemetery records, such as tombstones and sexton’s records, may give birth and death dates, age at death, name of spouse and children, and the maiden names. Sometimes they contain birthplace. Tombstones may have symbols or insignias indicating military service and social or religious affiliations. Family members may also be buried nearby.

Internet Tombstone Transcripts and Index

Genealogical society members often copy and publish tombstones inscriptions (abstracts) on paper or on the Internet. The USGenWeb Archives have headstone abstracts from hundreds of cemeteries listed on their Internet site at:

“The North Carolina Tombstone Transcription Project.” In USGenWeb Archives Digital Library [database on-line]. N.p.: USGenWeb Archives, 22 June 1999 [cited 31 July 1999]. Available at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/rootsl/USA/nc.html; INTERNET. This is a county-by-county list of hundreds of cemeteries. The highlighted cemeteries on the web page include tombstone abstracts. Abstracted cemeteries are indexed in:

“Search the USGenWeb Archives Digital Library.” In USGenWeb Archives Digital Library [database on-line]. N.p.: USGenWeb Archives, 22 September 1997 [cited 31 July 1999]. This web site indexes cemetery abstracts and other items. Select the state of interest, type the name of the ancestor you seek in the “Query” field, and click Search. For best results, use the “Search Tips” and examples at the bottom of the web page. The computer will list any matches it finds and give you the option of viewing the full transcript.

WPA Cemetery Index

As part of the Historical Records Survey, the federal government created a North Carolina Cemetery Inscription Card Index. This is commonly known as the WPA Cemetery Index. It is at the North Carolina State Archives and on microfilm at the Family History Library. The films are arranged alphabetically in two parts by the name of the person: one for burials before 1914 and another for burials after 1914.

Pre-1914 Cemetery Inscription Card Index.
Raleigh, N.C.: North Carolina Dept. of Archives and History, 1972. (FHL films 882944–64; computer number 244033.) A list of the cemeteries included in the indexes is found on microfilms 882942–43.

Post-1914 Cemetery Inscription Card Index.

Cemetery Records

The Daughters of the American Revolution Genealogical Collection also contains tombstone inscriptions arranged by county from many North Carolina cemeteries. See the “Bible Records” section of this outline for more information about the collection.

Many cemetery records and tombstone inscriptions have been published or microfilmed and are available at the Family History Library. Some examples are:

Cemetery Records of North Carolina. 8 vols. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1947–1961. (FHL book 975.6 V3r; film 873690 item 3 to 873691 item 4; fiche 6046892; computer number 245475.)

North Carolina Cemetery Project. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1986. (FHL fiche 6047785 [set of 7]; computer number 88989.) These records are alphabetical by surname within each cemetery. There are some death dates as late as 1961.


The Family History Library has a county-by-county inventory of cemeteries as of 1987:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Family History Library (Salt Lake City, Utah). *Index to United States Cemeteries*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (FHL films 1206468–94; computer number 475648.) Films 1206483–85 list cemeteries in North Carolina counties from Alamance to Yancey. This is an inventory of cemeteries, not an index to the names of individuals.

Several periodicals have published inscriptions and inventories from North Carolina cemeteries. These are referenced in the “Places” section of the *Periodical Source Index* (PERSI), described in the “Periodicals” section of this outline.

For more information on cemetery records, see the *United States Research Outline* (30972). To find more sources in the Family History Library Catalog™, use a Locality Search under:

- NORTH CAROLINA - CEMETERIES
- NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - CEMETERIES
- NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - CEMETERIES

CENSUS

Census records can show the following information for each member of a household: name, age, state or country of birth, marital status, occupation, race, citizenship, and immigration information. They can also give clues to marriage dates, death dates, migration patterns, previous residence, adoptions, and divorces. Parents or other relatives may also have been living with a family when a census was taken. People listed in the census with the same surname may be related. Statewide census indexes can help you locate families when you have only their state of residence.

Federal Censuses

*Population Schedules*. Many federal census records are at the Family History Library™, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* (30972) provides more detailed information about these records.

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of the U.S. federal censuses for North Carolina from 1790 to 1920, except for the following years and counties:

- 1790–Caswell, Granville, and Orange (reconstructed from tax lists: Caswell 1780, 1784; Granville, 1786–1791; Orange, 1784–1793)
- 1810–Craven, Greene, New Hanover, and Wake
- 1820–Currituck, Franklin, Martin, Montgomery, Randolph, and Wake
- 1890–population schedules were destroyed for all areas except for parts of Gaston County (South Point and River Bend townships) and Cleveland County (Brookhaven township number 2).

**Statewide indexes** are available in book form for the 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses. Soundex (phonetic) indexes are available for families with children born between 1869 and 1880 for the 1880 census and all families in the 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses.

For an index of individuals in the 99 North Carolina families recorded in the surviving fragments of the 1890 population schedule, see:

Nelson, Ken. *1890 U.S. Census Index to Surviving Population Schedules and Register of Film Numbers to the Special Census of Union Veterans*. Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Family History Library, 1991. (FHL book 973 X2na 1890; computer number 609990; 1984 ed. on film 1421673 item 11; computer number 279653.) Another index, *Index to the Eleventh Census of the United States, 1890*, is on FHL films 543341–42; computer number 58517. The existing original 1890 census records for North Carolina are on FHL film 926499; computer number 59484.

**Countywide indexes** to federal censuses often contain the names of every person in the household and may also include heads of households who were overlooked or whose names were misspelled in statewide indexes. Countywide
indexes can be found in the Family History Library Catalog™ by using a Locality Search under:

NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - CENSUS - [YEAR]

Multi-state census indexes usually contain the same information gathered in preparing statewide indexes. They often index censuses (federal, state, and territorial), tax lists, and other records that identified where people lived in an area. Multi-state indexes containing North Carolina include:

FamilyFinder™ Index and Viewer Version 4.0. Brøderbund Software, Novato, Calif., 1997. (FHL compact disc no. 9 1997 index; computer number 808500). This index does not circulate to Family History Centers™. It is a single composite index to selected North Carolina 1680–1810 tax lists, marriage records, and the 1790 to 1860 federal censuses. An Internet edition of this index is also available:

“Internet FamilyFinder.” In FamilyTreeMaker.com [database on-line]. Novato, Calif.: Brøderbund Software, 21 July 1999 [cited 31 July 1999]. Available at www.familytreemaker.com/allsearch.html ; INTERNET. You can search the Internet FamilyFinder index for free. It displays the census year and state for each name matching the search. It may also list many vital records, and genealogical collection citations. Once you know the census year and state, you must use the original index on compact disc, microfiche, or book to obtain enough data to easily find the name in the original census schedules. Similar index information is also available at www.Ancestry.com/census/ Internet site for a subscription fee. The FamilyFinder Index includes the following Jackson indexes:

Jackson, Ronald Vern. AIS Microfiche Indexes of U.S. Census and Other Records. Bountiful, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems International, 1984. (No FHL fiche number but available at many Family History Centers). North Carolina tax lists (1680s–1810) and census indexes (1790, 1800, and 1810) are combined on Search 1. The North Carolina 1820, 1830, 1840, and 1850 indexes are on Searches 2–5 and 7a. A composite mortality schedule index is on Search 8.

African Americans in the 1870 Census. This census index is cited fully in the “Minorities” section of this outline.

When indexes are not available, or they incorrectly record or omit a name, you can still look for the name in the census. For large cities, it helps to first learn the person’s address by searching the city directories created near the time of the census. (See the “Directories” section of this outline for more information.) Once you learn a person’s address, search the original census schedules for that address. The following reference tools help determine which census enumeration district to search for specific addresses:

Census Descriptions of Geographic Subdivisions and Enumerations Districts, (1880–1920). National Archives Microfilm Publications, T1224 and T1210. These descriptions were prepared by the United States Bureau of the Census. The Family History Library film numbers are:

- 1880 FHL films 1402862; computer number 299426
- 1900 FHL films 1303025; computer number 117685
- 1910 FHL films 1374007; computer number 176643
- 1920 FHL films 1842714; computer number 687949

A 1910 street index with corresponding census enumeration district numbers for the city of Charlotte is:


Mortality Schedules (1850–1880). The North Carolina mortality schedules list the names of persons who died in the 12 months prior to the 1850–1880 federal censuses. These are at the North Carolina State Archives at Raleigh. For information from these schedules, see:

Slave Schedules (1850–1860). Slave schedules for 1850 and 1860 list the names of slave owners, but do not normally list the names of the slaves. The number of slaves, whether male or female, and the age ranges of the slaves are given. North Carolina slave schedules at the Family History Library are cataloged with the population schedules.

Veterans Schedules (1840). The 1840 federal census included a list of Revolutionary War veterans. The list gives their age, the place where they were living, and the name of the head of the household. The following index is available, listing these veterans for all states:

A General Index to a Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Service, 1840.
Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1965. (FHL book 973 X2pc 1965 index; fiche 6046771; computer number 270948; film 899835 items 1–2; computer number 271067.)

The book with the actual 1840 census information is:

A Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Service: With Their Names, Ages, and Places of Residence, as Returned by the Marshalls of the Several Judicial Districts, Under the Act for Taking the Sixth Census.
Washington D.C.: Printed by Blair and Rives, 1841. (FHL book 973 X2pc 1840; film 1064759 item 3; computer number 270766.)

Veterans Schedules (1890). For the 1890 census of North Carolina Union Army veterans of the Civil War, see:


Indexes to the veterans schedules are:


State Census

In 1784 the U.S. Continental Congress requested a list of the number of inhabitants in each state. North Carolina took three years (1784–1787) to complete the count. The records for 24 of the 50 counties then existing are available in:


Colonial Census Substitutes

For the colonial period, there are many indexes that you can use as census substitutes such as indexes to taxation records and probate records. Many tax lists and lists of residence for the 1680s–1831 are published in:

Jackson, Ronald Vern. Early North Carolina. 7 vols. Bountiful, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1980–. (FHL book 973 D2jeno; computer number 121249.) Each volume is alphabetized. The names of these volumes are also listed in the Accelerated Indexing Systems fiche searches 1, 2, and 3 and in the FamilyFinder™ Index and Viewer described previously.

Census records and indexes can be found in the Family History Catalog by using a Locality Search under:

NORTH CAROLINA - CENSUS - [YEAR]
NORTH CAROLINA - CENSUS - [YEAR] - INDEXES
NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - CENSUS - YEAR

CHURCH RECORDS

Church records and the information they provide vary greatly depending on the denomination and the record keeper. They may contain information about members of the congregation, such as age; date of baptism, christening, or birth; marriage information and maiden names; and death date. Records may include names of other relatives who were witnesses or members of the congregation. The members of some churches were predominantly of one nationality or ethnic group.
Major religious denominations were established in North Carolina in the following years: Society of Friends (Quakers) (1672), Anglican (1700), Baptist (1727), Presbyterian (1730), Lutheran (1740), Moravian (1753), and Methodist (1772). The Baptist church was dominant by 1860 and remains so today.

The Family History Library™ has some church records for the Baptists, Society of Friends, and other groups. The library also has histories of the Baptist, Christian, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Society of Friends, Methodist, Moravian, and Protestant Episcopal denominations.

The Moravians, Lutherans, and Society of Friends kept detailed records, and some of these have been published. Many denominations have collected their records into central repositories. You can write to the following addresses to learn where their records are located:

**Baptist**

Baptist Historical Collection  
Z. Smith Reynolds Library  
Wake Forest University  
P.O. Box 7777  
Winston-Salem, NC 27109-7777  
Telephone: 910-759-5475  
Fax: 910-759-9831  
Internet address: [http://zsr.wfu.edu/collections/special/baptist](http://zsr.wfu.edu/collections/special/baptist)

Free Will Baptist Historical Collection  
Moye Library  
Mount Olive College  
634 Henderson St.  
Mount Olive, NC 28365-1699  
Telephone: 919-658-7168  
Fax: 919-658-8934

The Primitive Baptist Library  
4023 North Highway 87  
Elon College, NC 27244  
Telephone: 910-584-8390  
Internet address: [www.carthage.lib.il.us/community/churches/primbap/PBLNC.html](http://www.carthage.lib.il.us/community/churches/primbap/PBLNC.html)  
(An appointment should be made before visiting.)

For a history of the Baptist churches, see:


There are several inventories that describe the churches and records of Southern Baptists:

Alleghany Association (FHL book 975.6 K2ha; film 1320847 item 11; computer number 244901.)

Brunswick Association (FHL film 1036844 item 28; computer number 244903.)

Central Association (FHL book 975.6 K2hc; film 1320847 item 4; computer number 244907.)

Flat River Association (FHL book 975.6 K2hf; film 1320847 item 1; computer number 244909.)

Raleigh Association (FHL book 975.6 K2hr; film 1320847 item 5; computer number 244913.)

Stanly Association (FHL fiche 6046595; computer number 244915.)

Yancey Association (FHL book 975.6 K2hy; film 1320847 item 3; computer number 244930.)

A two-volume collection of biographies is:


**Disciples of Christ**

Discipliana Collections  
Barton College  
Wilson, NC 27893  
Telephone: 252-399-6352  
(Call for an appointment.)

**Episcopal**

Diocese of North Carolina  
200 West Morgan Street, Suite 300  
P.O. Box 17025  
Raleigh, NC 27619  
Telephone: 919-787-6313 or 1-800-448-8775

Diocese of Western North Carolina  
P.O. Box 369  
Black Mountain, NC 28711  
Telephone: 704-669-2921

Diocese of East Carolina  
P.O. Box 1336  
Kingston, NC 28503  
Telephone: 919-522-0885
Lutheran

Archives, North Carolina Synod
Lutheran Church in America
1988 Lutheran Synod Dr.
Salisbury, NC 28144-5700
Telephone: 704-633-4861
Fax: 704-638-0508

For historical background information, see:

Bernheim, Gotthardt Dellmann, and George H. Cox. The History of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and Ministerium of North Carolina: In Commemoration of the Completion of the First Century of Its Existence. Philadelphia, Pa.: Published for the Synod by the Lutheran Publication Society, 1902. (FHL book 975.6 K2b; computer number 244896.) The history of the various congregations is discussed. The ministers to about 1900 are listed with the dates when they served.

Methodist

United Methodist Church Archives
P.O. Box 127
Drew University
36 Madison Ave.
Madison, NJ 07940-3189
Telephone: 973-408-3590
Fax: 973-408-3909

Records of the Methodist Episcopal Church are at this archive. Searches are limited to obituaries of ordained clergy and can be conducted for a non-refundable fee.

Moravian

Moravian Archives
457 S. Church Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
Telephone: 336-722-1742

An extensive set of books about the Moravians in North Carolina is:


Presbyterian

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Department of History
P.O. Box 849
Montreat, NC 28757
Telephone: 704-669-7061
Fax: 704-669-5369
Location: 3400 Shamrock Drive

Roman Catholic

Archives of the Diocese of Raleigh
The Catholic Center
300 Cardinal Gibbons Drive
Raleigh, NC 27603
Telephone: 919-821-9750
(call in advance for an appointment)

Archives of the Diocese of Charlotte
1524 East Morehead St.
Charlotte, NC 28236
Telephone: 704-377-6871
Fax: 704-358-1208
(An appointment is required.)

Mailing Address:

Archives of the Diocese of Charlotte
P. O. Box 36776
Charlotte, NC 28236
Family History Library™. Court records from the twentieth century minutes are still in the county. Many of the loose papers associated with the court cases were not transcribed into the minute books, but were either copied into other volumes or filed in the courthouse.

Colonial and State Courts

Until 1868 the North Carolina legal procedures were a combination of English common-law principles and more rigid forms of litigation. Some of the early courts include:

1670– **General Court**. This court was known by several names. It decided civil, probate, and headright (land grant) matters. Surviving records of the General Court are in the Colonial Court Records Series at the North Carolina State Archives.

1670 **Court of Chancery** was an equity court and most cases dealt with disputes over land contracts and appeals from other courts of law. The few surviving records are in the North Carolina State Archives.

1755–1759 **Supreme Courts of Justice, Oyer and Terminer, and General Gaol Delivery.** When the population had grown to the point that a central court with circuit courts was no longer feasible, the colony was divided into five districts with equal and independent courts. They continued to hear cases heard by the General Court as well as property disputes, appeals from county courts, breaches of the peace, and other matters. The few records that have survived from the courts of this period are in the North Carolina State Archives.

District Superior Courts. When the King and his Privy Council disapproved of the supreme court justice system, the District Superior Court system was created. The colony used the same forms, similar responsibilities, and the same district arrangement. In 1777 when the state adopted its first constitution, the General Assembly was reinstated and six districts created. Three of the districts fell within the current boundaries of the state of Tennessee. Records from those three districts remain in the Tennessee county court houses. Remaining records are in the North Carolina State Archives.
1800–1939  Court of Conference, later called the Supreme Court was created to reinterpret colonial legal practices and handle unsettled cases. They also handled new cases. Records between 1937 and 1939 are not indexed. Some of the others are indexed and on microfilm.

Colonial court records in the Family History Library include:

Cain, Robert J. Records of the Executive Council 1664–1775. Raleigh, N.C.: Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, 1984–. (FHL book 975.6 N2c vols. 7–9 second series; computer number 447556.) Records for 1664–1775 are transcribed in these three volumes. There is an index in each volume, and the collection includes petitions, land records, complaints, probates, criminal court proceedings, claims, shipping, and other records.


Various colonial court records (1693–1727) such as the General Court of Oyer and Terminer and gaol delivery and precinct courts have been published in volumes 1 and 2 of the set below. Volume 22 has records of Rowan County Court of Oyer for 1777. These various records are in William L. Saunders’s Colonial Records of North Carolina cited fully in the “Public Records” section of this outline.

County Courts

Pre-County courts, sometimes called the County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, handled both civil and criminal cases. Minutes contain such matters as estate, land, illegitimacy, apprenticeships, bonds, certificates granting freedom to slaves, and more. Many of the original volumes have been lost or severely damaged. Most surviving volumes are in the state archives. In addition to having microfilms of many county court records, the library also has published abstracts many of the pre-1868 minute books. These publications are indexed.

1806–Superior Courts of Law were established in each county in 1806. Though the superior courts acted concurrently with the Court of Common Pleas, they handled more serious or complex civil and criminal cases. In 1868 the Superior Courts of Law merged with the Superior Court of Equity.

1806–Superior Courts of Equity were also created in 1806. Their purpose was to deal with fairness issues. Most cases related to probate and land matters, and records generally listed heirs. In 1868 they merged with the Superior Court of Law.

Confederate States Court

1861–Confederate District Court. The court was held in two districts: the Cape Fear District and the Pamlico District. Its records pertain to estates, property, and the effects of alien enemies. The records have been microfilmed by the National Archives, and the films are at the Family History Library:

Confederate States of America. District Court (Cape Fear District, North Carolina). Confederate Papers of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, 1861–1865. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0436. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1963. (FHL film 1025188; computer number 211756.) These records concern the seizing of the estates, property, and personal effects of families that supported the Union. The case files are in chronological order, and the county of residence is usually given. There is no index on the film.
Confederate States of America. District Court (Cape Fear District, North Carolina). *Court Records, 1861–1864*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M1430. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1986. (FHL film 1617562 items 1–3; computer number 511551.) These court records include minute books and admiralty final records from the Cape Fear Division, held at Wilmington until February 1862, when the court then moved to Salisbury. There is no index on this film.

**Federal Courts**

The National Archives Regional Center at East Point, Georgia, has U.S. Circuit and District Court records, 1789–1958. For an in-depth discussion and description of records at that center, see:


Records from North Carolina federal courts for the Eastern District are at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Some of these records have been microfilmed and can be found in the Family History Library Catalog™ by using a Locality Search under:

**NORTH CAROLINA - COURT RECORDS**

For a comprehensive explanation of all North Carolina courts, including a summary chart showing the names of the courts and the time periods they existed, see Leary and Stirewalt’s *North Carolina Research in the “For Further Reading”* section in this outline.

For a discussion of North Carolina court records and procedures, see also:


Court records can be found in the Family History Library Catalog by using a Locality Search under:

**NORTH CAROLINA - COURT RECORDS**

**NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - COURT RECORDS**

**DIRECTORIES**

City and county directories are similar to present-day telephone books and are useful for locating people. They were often published annually, listing heads of households, employed household members, and their occupations, and addresses. They can be used with census records or as substitutes for them.

City directories have been published for some cities in North Carolina. Many of these are located in local libraries in the state. The Family History Library™ has some directories, such as:

- **Charlotte**

- **Greensboro**

- **Raleigh**


- **Durham**
  *Durham, North Carolina, City Directory: Also a Buyers’ Guide and a Complete Classified Business Directory*. Richmond, Va.: Hill Directory, 1924–. (FHL book 975.656/DI E4h; film 1425712 item 3 and 1425682 item 5; computer number 231953.)
EMISSION AND IMMIGRATION

The “Emigration and Immigration” section of the United States Research Outline (30972) lists several important sources for finding information about immigrants to this country. These sources include many references to people who settled in North Carolina. The Tracing Immigrant Origins Research Outline (34111) introduces the principles, research strategies, and additional record types you can use to identify an immigrant’s original hometown.

People

The earliest pre-statehood settlers of North Carolina were generally of English descent and came from Virginia and South Carolina to the Coastal Plain region, between 1650 and 1730. In the early 1700s, small groups of French Huguenot, German Palatine, and Swiss immigrants founded towns on the coast. Between 1729 and 1775, several thousand Scottish settlers came directly from the Scottish Highlands and the Western Isles to settle the upper Cape Fear Valley.

During the same period, many Ulster Scots and Germans came overland down the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road into the central and western portions of the state. African Americans were brought to North Carolina very early and now constitute about one-fifth of the state’s population. Histories of Germans, Scots, and African Americans are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

NORTH CAROLINA - MINORITIES

To learn about settlement patterns in North Carolina, see:


Although most of the Cherokee Indians were removed from North Carolina in the late 1830s, some remained and many of their descendants still live in the western part of the state. See the “Native Races” section of this outline for further information about American Indians in North Carolina.

North Carolina did not attract heavy settlement after the Revolutionary War and lost much of its population in the westward movement to Tennessee, Illinois, and other new states and territories.

Records

North Carolina’s treacherous coastline prevented significant immigration by sea. Most immigrants arrived at major northern ports such as New York, Baltimore, Boston, and Philadelphia.

There are some incomplete lists of passengers for five minor ports in North Carolina: Beaufort, 1865; Edentown, 1820; New Berne, 1820–1865; Plymouth, 1820–1840; and Washington, 1820–1848. The records of these ports are listed in:


A few published lists of colonial immigrants are indexed in:

Filby, P. William. Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 16 vols. Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research, 1981–. (FHL book Ref 973 W32p; computer number 75625.) There are several cumulative indexes. Supplemental volumes are issued annually.
A comprehensive list of about 140,000 immigrants to America from Britain is:

Coldham, Peter Wilson. *The Complete Book of Emigrants, 1607–1776, and Emigrants in Bondage, 1614–1775*. Brøderbund Software, Novato, Calif., 1996. (FHL compact disc no. 9, pt. 350; computer number 784052). This is not circulated to Family History Centers™. North Carolina immigrants are numerous. The records may show British hometown, emigration date, ship, destination, and text of the document abstract. These are also indexed in the *FamilyFinder™ Index and Viewer* described in the “Census” section of this outline.

Useful sources showing migration patterns are:


North Carolina passenger lists and other lists of immigrants can be found in the Family History Library Catalog by using a Locality Search under:

- **NORTH CAROLINA - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION**
- **NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION**

Works on migration within and through North Carolina are listed under:

- **UNITED STATES - MIGRATION, INTERNAL**
- **NORTH CAROLINA - MIGRATION, INTERNAL**

**GAZETTEERS**

Gazetteers list geographical names such as towns, settlements, villages, districts, rivers, and mountains. They identify these locations and sometimes, give historical and biographical information concerning early residents. The foremost gazetteers for North Carolina research are:


Gioe, Joan Colbert. *North Carolina, Her Counties, Her Townships, and Her Towns*. Indianapolis, Ind.: The Researchers, 1981. (FHL book 975.6 E5g; computer number 213802.) This gazetteer contains town and township maps and a place-name index.

To learn when a particular county was organized and from which county it was created, you may wish to consult:


Gazetteers can be found in the Family History Library Catalog™ by using a Locality Search under:

- **NORTH CAROLINA - GAZETTEERS**
- **NORTH CAROLINA - NAMES, GEOGRAPHICAL**

**GENEALOGY**

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies and some public libraries, have special collections of previous research and indexes of genealogical value. You must usually search these in person.

**Nationwide Indexes**

You can find information on the following important nationwide genealogical indexes in the indicated sections of the *United States Research Outline* (30972).

- **Ancestral File™** (“Genealogy” section. Also available on FamilySearch® Internet Genealogy Service.)
- **FamilyFinder™ Index** (“Census” section. Also available on the Internet at www.familytreemaker.com/allsearch.html.)
- **Family History Library Catalog™ Surname Search** (“Introduction” and “Genealogy” sections. Also available on FamilySearch® Internet Genealogy Service.)
- **Genealogical Index of the Newberry Library** (“Genealogy” section)
Statewide Bibliography

A major index to genealogical works on North Carolina families is:


Manuscript Collections

The Daughters of the American Revolution Genealogical Collection contains transcripts of Bible, cemetery, church, will, marriage, death and obituary records. See the “Bible Records” section of this outline.

McCubbins’ Collection. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1956. (FHL films 19828–903; computer number 385555.) This collection, gathered by Mamie G. McCubbins, contains cemetery, Bible, newspaper, family, and county records of Rowan County and more than 30 other counties formed from Rowan County. The records are arranged alphabetically by surname. The first three films are an alphabetical surname guide. The collection is at the Rowan County Library in Salisbury.

Published Collections


Worth, S. Ray. Ray’s *Index and Digest to Hathaway’s North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register: With Genealogical Notes and Annotations*. Baltimore, Md.: Southern Book, 1956. (FHL book 975.6 D25n index; film 1697387 item 2; computer number 28573. A 1971 reprint of this index is found on film 1320669 item 7.)


*Index of North Carolina Ancestors*, 2 vols. Raleigh, N.C.: North Carolina Genealogical Society, 1981–1984. (FHL book 975.6 D2i; computer number 136288.) This is a list of ancestors names submitted by members of the North Carolina Genealogical Society. The names and addresses of the contributors are given at the end of each volume. Each volume lists different ancestors’ names. There is also a spouse index.


Genealogy sources can be found in the Family History Library Catalog by using a Locality Search under:

- NORTH CAROLINA- GENEALOGY
- NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - GENEALOGY
- NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - GENEALOGY

**HISTORY**

Effective family history research requires some understanding of the historical events that affected your family and the records about them. Learning about wars, governments, laws, migrations, and religious trends can help you understand political boundaries, family movements, and settlement patterns.

State, county, and local histories often contain biographical sketches of local citizens, including important genealogical information. This may be one of the best sources of information for some families.

The following important events in the history of North Carolina affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements:

- 1560s The area that is now North Carolina was visited by the Spaniard Pardo and his soldiers. Records are at the North Carolina State Archives.
- 1560s The first permanent settlements were made in the Albemarle Sound area by colonists from Virginia.
- 1706–French Huguenot, German, and Swiss colonists founded towns near the coast.
- 1725 Scottish Highlanders immigrated directly to North Carolina ports. People of Ulster Scottish and German descent arrived from Pennsylvania and Virginia using the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road.
- 1753 Moravian colonists arrived.
- 1760–Private citizens formed groups to protect law and order. This was known as the Regulation Movement. The participants were known as Regulators.
- 1768–The War of the Regulation took place.
- 1771 North Carolina became a state and ceded what is now Tennessee to the United States government.
- 1850 One-fourth of all native North Carolinians had left the state and were living in other states or territories.
- 1861 North Carolina seceded from the Union. It was readmitted in 1868. About 125,000 North Carolina men served in the Confederate armed forces during the Civil War, more than from any other Confederate state.
- 1862–2007 Twenty-four counties in southern and western North Carolina suffered major losses of records, mostly due to fire and war.
- 1862–1907 North Carolina histories are available in all major research centers. A good example is:


*County and local histories* are another good source of information on the early history of places, religions, and early residents. The Family History Library has histories of nearly all counties in the state. Many histories are indexed.
Some indexes are listed in the “Biography” and “Genealogy” sections of the United States Research Outline (30972). A bibliography of county and local histories for North Carolina is:


The Draper Manuscript Collection is a significant regional source including records of North Carolina.

Draper, Lyman Copeland. *Draper Manuscript Collection*, Chicago: University of Chicago Library, 197–?. (On 147 FHL films beginning with 889098; computer number 254597.) The *Draper Manuscript Collection* consists of nearly 500 volumes of manuscripts, papers, and books collected by Lyman Copeland Draper about the history of the Trans-Allegheny West, a region including the western areas of the Carolinas and Virginia, all of the Ohio River Valley, and part of the upper Mississippi Valley from the 1740s to 1830. The collection is divided into 50 series. Some series are titled by geographic area, some by the names of prominent frontier leaders, and some by topic. The bulk of the collection consists of notes from interviews, questionnaires, and letters gathered during Draper’s extensive travels and research to learn about frontier history. Personal papers are much more rare in the collection than government or military records. The collection includes many items of a genealogical or biographical nature. For an inventory and partial indexes, see:

Harper, Josephine L. *Guide to the Draper Manuscripts*, Madison, Wis.: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1983. (FHL book 977.583/M1 A3h; computer number 37812.) This guide gives series and volume descriptions for some of the Draper manuscripts. There are several indexes at the end of the book, including a name and subject index, an additional personal data index, and a list of references to North Carolina.

Wolfe, Barbara Schull. *Index to Lyman C. Draper Manuscripts*, Logansport, Ind.: B.S. Wolfe, 197–?. (FHL book 977.583/M1 A3w; computer number 525504.) The name index gives series and volume numbers, but is not complete.

North Carolina local histories can be found in the Family History Library Catalog™ by using a Locality Search under:

NORTH CAROLINA - HISTORY
NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - HISTORY
NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - HISTORY

**LAND AND PROPERTY**

The availability of land attracted many immigrants to America and encouraged westward expansion. Land records are primarily used to learn where a person lived and when he or she lived there. They often reveal other family information as well, such as the name of a spouse, an heir, other relatives, or neighbors. You may learn a person’s previous residences, his occupation, if he had served in the military, if he was a naturalized citizen, and other clues for further research.

Before 1663 a few settlers from Virginia had filtered down to the Albemarle Sound of present-day North Carolina. None of the Virginians held land by grant from an English authority, but some had made formal or informal agreements with the American Indians who already occupied the area.

**Government Land Grants**

The Land Grant Process. Various royal, colonial, state, and federal governments established the first claims to land in what is now North Carolina. These governments later gave or sold much of this land to individuals. The person who obtained title to the land from government agents received a land grant, also known as a land patent. Obtaining a grant of land from the government was the final step in a process that often resulted in the creation of several documents:

- Entries or applications
- Warrants
- Plats or surveys
- Grants or patents

Each of these documents may contain the names of family members, neighbors who were sometimes relatives, or clues about the owner’s previous residence. They are described in greater detail below.

After being granted a patent, the new owner could sell or transfer his property to others. For information about records created during these subsequent land transactions, see “Subsequent Exchanges of Land” near the end of this section.

**Entries or applications.** After a person selected a piece of vacant land, he would enter a claim or apply for it by describing its features to a government official or entry-taker. The entry-taker
would record the description on loose sheets or into bound volumes, depending on the time period. These descriptions show the name of the person seeking the land, a description of the land, the number of acres, the name of adjacent land owners, and the date the entry was made.

**Warrants.** If, after three months, the person seeking the land received no opposition to his entry by way of legal caveat, the entry taker would convey a warrant to the assigned surveyor. This warrant was the authorization for the surveyor to complete a plat. Sometimes as many as 10 years could pass between entry and warrant.

**Plats or surveys.** After receiving the warrant, the surveyor would survey the land and draw a plat map. This map may vary from the land description given in the entry or warrant. The surveyor sent copies of the plat to the land office.

**Grants or patents.** After officials received the necessary papers and fees, the new land owner was given the grant document that was his patent to the land.

A more detailed description of the land grant process and the records associated with it is found in the “Land and Property” section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972).

**Land Grant History in North Carolina**

**Provincial or Proprietary Era (1663–1729).** In 1663 King Charles II of England granted land in the Carolinas to eight men who had helped him regain the throne. These men were called the Lords Proprietors of Carolina, and they had the right to grant land to others. The boundaries of their grant extended from the present-day North Carolina-Virginia border on the north to a line drawn across present-day Florida on the south. During the time when they controlled the land, North Carolina was a proprietary colony.

**Colonial, British Crown, or Royal Era (1729–1775).** By 1729 seven of the eight proprietors sold their shares to King George II for political and economic reasons, making North Carolina a royal colony. Most of the land belonging to the Crown was located in the southern half of the state.

One proprietor refused to sell, and his domain was later known as the Granville District after one of his heirs. It covered roughly the northern half of the state. From 1748 to 1763, agents of Lord Granville made grants to vacant lands and collected rents. When the second Earl of Granville died in 1763, the Granville District office was closed.

In 1737, before the boundaries of the Granville District were established, Henry McCulloh received a royal patent for 1.2 million acres in western North Carolina. Five of his 12 tracts were within the Granville District in Orange and Rowan counties. Lands granted by McCulloh and by the Granville office were technically deeds and not grants.

**Revolutionary War and State Era (1777–1959).** In November 1777, while the Revolutionary War was in progress, the new General Assembly of North Carolina created a land office in every county, with each county having its own appointed entry-taker and surveyor. The entry-taker was authorized to issue a warrant for vacant lands that once belonged to either the British Crown or the Granville District.

Beginning in 1777 limitations were imposed on the size of the grants. In addition, the state required the person receiving the grant to have it recorded, usually within 12 months, at the Register of Deeds office in the county where the land lay. Because many patent owners did not live on their new land or in close proximity to it, there was time allowed by the secretary of state for the patentee to have his land recorded in the county where he was presently living. Failure to have the patent recorded could void the grant.

Many North Carolina land documents for the years 1663–1959 still survive and are kept at the North Carolina State Archives in Raleigh. Many have been microfilmed or published in abstract form.

**Land Grant Indexes**

Two alphabetical name indexes of those who received a land grant either in North Carolina or for land that later became a part of Tennessee are:

**MARS (Manuscript and Archives Reference System) Computer Index.** This index is only available at the North Carolina State Archives. It indexes the land grants, all warrants that have been microfilmed in the North Carolina State Archives, and lists all names that appear on the military bounty warrants in the North Carolina Secretary of State’s office.

**Card Index.** This index, also referred to as the *Land Grant Index*, is the predecessor to the newer MARS index. This index is located at the North Carolina State Archives, and a microfilm copy of part of the index is available at the Family History Library™.
North Carolina. Secretary of State. Land Grant Office. *Land Records, 1600s thru 1957, Land Grant Index*. Raleigh, N.C.: North Carolina State Archives, 1980-. (On 519 FHL films beginning with 1942606; computer number 723059.) The warrants and plats are in the process of being microfilmed and are available for Anson through Montgomery counties. The index is in six alphabetical parts:

*Grants covering 1693–1959.* This is the largest and principal index and has the cards arranged first alphabetically by surname and then each surname is broken down by the county where the land was originally located. (FHL films 1942606–643.)

*Grants in extinct counties.* Bath, Bute, Dobbs, Glasgow, and Tryon counties are included. (FHL film 1942644.)

*Granville District grants.* (FHL film 1942645.) The index is at the beginning of the film.

*Lords Proprietors grants prior to 1729.* This portion covers grants mainly within the old Albemarle County area. (FHL film 1942645.) The index follows the Granville District grants index.

*Lords Proprietors grants for which no county is given.* Most of these grants were probably in the old Albemarle County area. (FHL film 1942645.) This is the last index on the film.

*Tennessee grants.* This indexes land grants given in the Western Country of North Carolina (now Tennessee). This index also includes grants based on military bounty warrants that have the words *Military Warrant* stamped at the bottom. (FHL films 1942646–648.)

**Land Grant Records from the Provincial or Proprietary Era (1663–1729)**

Prior to 1728 the border between Virginia and North Carolina was not defined, so many early North Carolina grants were found in Virginia. For example, one of the eight Carolina proprietors, Sir William Berkeley, lived in the American colonies and served as the governor of Virginia. In 1663 he started granting patents for land that was located in the Carolinas. Abstracts of 29 of his patents can be found in volume 1 of:


Most of the Lords Proprietors began granting land in the Carolinas in 1669, but unfortunately all of the entries, warrants, plats, and patents for 1669 through 1678 are lost. For the time period of 1679 through 1729 the entry records are also lost, but a transcription of some of the surviving warrants and surveys can be found in:


Many of the original warrants and surveys have been microfilmed in the *Land Records, 1600s thru 1957, Land Grant Index* listed above. The original land patent books or copies of these books covering 1679–1729, have survived and are located at the North Carolina State Archives. Microfilms of these patent books are not available at the Family History Library. These patent books contain approximately 3,400 patents and are abstracted in:


**Headright Patents.** During the Proprietary Era and ending in 1754, emigrants to North Carolina could obtain entitlement to land patents, usually 50 acres for each family member, friend, or stranger for whom they paid passage. The same rules also applied to those who brought settlers into North Carolina from other American colonies. These requirements changed over time.

The number of acres was determined by the number of people or “heads” brought into the colony. Lands obtained in this fashion are often described as *headrights*, and no fees were paid by those entitled to these patents. Many people sold their entitlement to a buyer known as an *assignee*.

The names of many settlers who received a headright entitlement, or sometimes called *Rights*, plus the names of many of those whose passage or way was paid into North Carolina, can be found in Weynette Parks Haun’s *Old Albemarle County* . . . cited above.
**Purchase Patents.** Beginning in the 1720s, settlers who moved into the Carolinas could also obtain a patent by paying the necessary paperwork fees associated with the steps of entry, warrant, and plat. After 1754 and into the statehood time period, this method was the only way to obtain vacant lands in North Carolina.

**Land Grant Records from the Colonial, British Crown, or Royal Era (1729–1775)**

**Crown Grants.** Numerous Crown land entries, warrants, and some surveys for this southern area, covering 1735–1774, have been abstracted and can be found in the following three sources:

- Murphy, William L. *Dobbs County, North Carolina Entries and Warrants, 1741–1757*. Raleigh, N.C.: W. L. Murphy, 1987. (FHL book 975.6 R2m; fiche 6100009; computer number 484658.) These land entries were originally made in Craven and Johnston counties, which later became part of Dobbs County. Dobbs County was formed in 1759 and abolished in 1791. This area now includes Greene, Wayne, Lenoir, and Jones counties.

- Philbeck, Miles S. *Bladen Precinct/County, North Carolina Surviving Land Warrants and Surveys, 1735–1749, and Surviving Land Entries 1743–1761*. N.p.: M. S. Philbeck, 1985. (FHL book 975.632 R28p; computer number 454060.) Old Bladen County was formed in 1734 and was the parent county of Anson, Brunswick, Columbus, Cumberland, Robeson, and part of Orange counties. For additional abstracts of warrants and surveys by Mr. Philbeck, see the Author/Title Search of the Family History Library Catalog™ under his name.


No land entry records are known to exist for North Carolina during the years 1729–1734.

The original Crown warrants and surviving plats are located at the North Carolina State Archives and have been microfilmed in:

- North Carolina, Secretary of State. Land Grant Office. *Land Records, 1600s thru 1957, Land Grant Index* cited earlier.

The Secretary of State’s office kept lists of the warrants they issued. For the lists from 1769 to 1771, see:

**List of Warrants for Various Counties of North Carolina, 1769–1771.** Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1941. (FHL film 018065; computer number 394277.)

The original Crown patent books are located at the North Carolina State Archives and are not on microfilm at the Family History Library. Abstracts of these patents for the time period of 1735–1775, are found in:


Quit Rent records for 1729–1732, are found in volume 22, pages 240–258 of William L. Saunders’ *Colonial Records of North Carolina* cited fully the “Public Records” section of this outline.

The Crown ordered its land offices in North Carolina closed in 1774.

**Granville District Grants.** In 1729 Baron John Carteret, heir of one of the eight original Lords Proprietors, did not sell to the Crown his right to lands in the Carolinas. By 1744 his one-eighth portion of the Carolinas had been surveyed and separated from the Crown lands. His land took in the northern half of present North Carolina, approximately 60 miles wide, and included what later became Rowan county. This area also contained the majority of the population at that time.

His agents began granting land in 1748, and his heirs continued the practice until the death of the second Earl of Granville in 1763. At that time the Granville Office was closed. No further grants were issued in the counties that made up the Granville District until the state of North Carolina obtained these lands in 1777. Abstracts of the entries, warrants, plats, and the approximately 4,000 Granville grants can be found in:

The original entries, warrants, plats, and grants are located at the North Carolina State Archives and have been microfilmed. These microfilms are not available at the Family History Library. The Granville land office did not use the headright system but sold the land directly to the grantee. The land office also used the term grant instead of patent in describing the official record.

**Henry McCulloh Patents.** Henry McCulloh started selling his land in the late 1740s, with the majority of sales covering the 1760–1763 time period. Many individuals who obtained McCulloh patents had problems later establishing their right to the land.

For the names of the approximately 450 people who obtained a McCulloh patent in the Granville District counties such as Orange, Rowan, and Guilford, plus maps showing the location of the 12 patents or tracts, see:


**Resurveyed Lands.** Certain Crown patents and a few patents that were given during the Proprietary Era were resurveyed. The names of the persons requesting the resurveys as well as all other names involved in the resurvey petitions can be found in:


**South Carolina Patents.** Starting as early as 1735, many North Carolina patents were issued by the Crown for land that was later discovered to be part of South Carolina. These patents were assumed to be part of the North Carolina counties of Anson, Mecklenburg, Bladen, and Old Tryon (abolished 1779). The border between the two states was officially drawn in 1772. After the border survey, the lands formerly granted by North Carolina were registered in the South Carolina Land Memorials and are often called North Patents. South Carolina issued new grants for some of these lands. Many early residents of what later became South Carolina are listed in:

Holcomb, Brent H. *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln and Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786: Tryon County Wills and Estates.* Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1977. (FHL book 975.6 R2ho; computer number 245438.) This source examines early deed records of the area that later became part of South Carolina. These records generally show the name of the person who received the patent and the date. Several maps that show the area that was once known as Tryon county are also found in this source.

Holcomb, Brent H. *North Carolina Land Grants in South Carolina.* Clinton, S.C.: Holcomb, 1975–. (FHL book 975 R28n; computer number 175139.) This source abstracts approximately 680 patents, covering 1749–1773. There is also a list of 169 land owners who petitioned the king in an effort to keep their North Carolina patents after the North and South Carolina border were established.

For more information on South Carolina lands granted by North Carolina, see the *South Carolina Research Outline* (30972). Also search in the Family History Library Catalog by using a Locality Search under:

SOUTH CAROLINA - LAND AND PROPERTY

**Land Grant Records from the Revolutionary War and State Era (1777–1959)**

After all the vacant land had been granted by the state of North Carolina, the county officials sent their entry records to the state land office. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of most of the early original entry records as well as many published and indexed abstracts. These can be found in the Family History Library Catalog by using a Locality Search for the desired county under the subject “Land and Property.”

Many of the original warrants and plats have also been microfilmed and can be found in *Land Records, 1600s thru 1957, Land Grant Index* cited above.

The original grant records for the Revolutionary War and statehood time period for the area that is now North Carolina are only available at the North Carolina State Archives.
Many land disputes involving residents of the western counties of North Carolina were taken before a regional superior court. Transcripts of many loose court papers relating to these disputes can be found in volume 2 of:

Haun, Weynette Parks. *Morgan District North Carolina, Superior Court of Law & Equity*. 4 vols. Durham, N.C.: Weynette Parks Haun, 1987–1995. (FHL book 975.6 P29h; computer number 485803.) Volume 2 has land records for 1773–1807. This district was created in 1782 and included Lincoln, Burke, and Wilkes counties and all counties west of these three. In 1784 this district only covered the western counties of what is now the state of North Carolina. This book contains a detailed name index.

**Suspended Grants.** Many North Carolina land owners and potential land owners wrote to the governor of North Carolina asking him to not sign certain land grants until true ownership could be determined by a trial. The trials were to be held in the county where the land was located. Details from approximately 1,600 of these disputes showing the names of those involved and covering the years 1776–1836 can be found in:


**Loyalist Land Losses.** Many residents of North Carolina remained loyal to the British Crown during the Revolutionary War. Because of this, their lands were taken from them and sold. Descriptions of many of these lands giving the name of the Loyalist and the name(s) of the new owner can be found in:


Many names of these Loyalists from 1776 onwards can also be found beginning in volume 10 of the *Colonial Records of North Carolina* described in the “Public Records” section of this outline.

**Grants for Land That Later Became Tennessee.** The area that is now Tennessee was originally attached to North Carolina. The people of the region wanted to enter the Union as the state of Franklin, but their request was rejected. In 1790 the federal government annexed that area of North Carolina and renamed it the Territory South of the Ohio River. This area was first the Washington District of North Carolina, then became Washington County, Tennessee. This same area was first under the control of Virginia, then North Carolina, and finally Tennessee. Records of these three states may have to be searched to find the land records of an ancestor who lived in that area. The earliest records are in Bristol or Washington County, Virginia, and in Washington County, North Carolina.

North Carolina received permission from the federal government to continue to finalize the military warrants located on these lands, as well as finalizing all other types of entries it had initiated prior to 1790. No land within the present boundaries of North Carolina was ever offered as military bounty land.

In 1791 the United States Congress requested the state of North Carolina to provide a list of all grants (military included) that they had issued for land in what later became the state of Tennessee. This list totaled 5,486 grants and included the counties of Davidson, Greene, Hawkins, Sullivan, Summer, Tennessee, and Washington and the Eastern, Middle, and Western districts. The list can be found on the following film:


For additional records of lands within the boundaries of present-day Tennessee that were granted by the state of North Carolina, see the “Land and Property” section of the *Tennessee Research Outline* (31079) and the Family History Library Catalog, using a Locality Search under:

**TENNESSEE - LAND AND PROPERTY**

**Subsequent Exchanges of Land**

**County Records.** After land was transferred to individual ownership, later transactions, including deeds and mortgages, were recorded by the county registers of deeds, clerks of the superior courts, and sheriffs. Recording for most counties was incomplete in the early years. Probate records and wills were also used to transfer property. They were usually recorded by other county officials.

The Family History Library has extensive collections of county land records dating from the earliest settlement to the twentieth century. From the Register of Deeds in Mecklenburg County, for
example, the library has 1,059 microfilms of deeds and indexes for 1755 to 1959.

Land records can be found in the Family History Library Catalog by using a Locality Search under:

NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - LAND AND PROPERTY

MAPS

Several types of maps are useful for genealogists. Some give historical background of the area; others show migration routes such as roads, rivers, and railroads. Topographical maps show physical and manmade features, such as creeks, hills, trails, and roads used as persons came to North Carolina. Sometimes maps also include cemeteries and churches. Plat and land ownership maps, as well as other types of maps, are described in the “Maps” section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972). In the Family History Library Catalog, atlases are listed in the Locality Search under “Maps.”

Many finding aids are available to help you locate maps that identify places or show boundary changes in the state. The best collections of maps are at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and at the North Carolina State Archives. These collections include maps produced by the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Geological Survey, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

The Family History Library has a set of detailed highway maps:


Clay, James W. *North Carolina Atlas*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1975. (FHL book 975.6 E3c; film 1597810 item 2; computer number 244258.) This atlas shows the formation of counties and the patterns of European settlement.

Cummings, William P. *North Carolina in Maps*. Raleigh, N.C.: State Department of Archives and History, 1966. (FHL map case 975.6 E7c; computer number 118853.) This is a set of 15 maps created between 1585 and 1896.

Gioe, Joan Colbert. *North Carolina: Her Counties, Her Townships, and Her Towns*. Indianapolis, Ind.: The Researchers, 1981. (FHL book 975.6 E5g; computer number 213802.)

See the “Gazetteers” section of this outline and the “Gazetteers” and “Maps” sections of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for more resources regarding places in North Carolina. Also check the Family History Library Catalog by using a Locality Search under:

NORTH CAROLINA - MAPS
NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - MAPS
NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - MAPS

MILITARY RECORDS

Many military records for North Carolina are at the National Archives. Microfilm copies of many of these are at the Family History Library and at other federal and state archives. A comprehensive description of military history and records of North Carolina is given in Chapter 33 of Helen F. M. Leary’s *North Carolina Research: Genealogy and Local History* listed in the “For Further Reading” section at the end of this outline. See also:


For each war listed below, additional federal sources are listed in the *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118). It contains search strategies and information to guide you to the best records for your objective.

The North Carolina State Archives has most of the existing military records, such as: the colonial wars, the state militia, the Continental Line, American Loyalists, soldiers’ homes, and gravestone files.

Colonial Wars (1732–1775)

During the French and Indian War, 1755–1763, some North Carolina soldiers fought against the French and Indians. A list of these soldiers is found in:

The Colonial Records of North Carolina: *Published under the Supervision of the Trustees of the Public Libraries, by Order of the General Assembly* is described in the “Public Records” section of this outline. Volume 22 includes records of the Granville County Militia (1771), Oaths of Allegiance (1778), the Spanish Alarm (1747–1748), militia returns (1754–1755, 1758, and 1767), the War of the Regulators (1770–1771), and correspondence of governors and others (1775–1789).

** Revolutionary War (1775–1783)**

A man who was born in North Carolina between about 1710 and 1765 may be listed in some form of military record. If he supported the Revolution, he may be mentioned in the records as a rebel, patriot, or Whig. Those who opposed the Revolution were referred to as Loyalists or Tories.

For an Internet site on this subject, see:


** Patriots.** A published list of North Carolina soldiers is:


Following is a source that indexes North Carolina Revolutionary War records:


Many Revolutionary War patriots were granted bounty lands in Tennessee and South Carolina. See the “Land and Property” section of the research outlines for those states for more information. No land in North Carolina was given to veterans.

For detailed information about national Revolutionary War service and pension records, cemetery records, and lineage society records, see the *U.S. Military Records Outline* (34118.)

** Loyalists.** For information about North Carolina Loyalists, see:


Many persons who were Loyalists are not mentioned in the above volumes because they did not survive to apply for British compensation. Their names may be found in the Hillsboro, Morgan, and Salisbury district court records. Reconnaissance bonds were placed on the Loyalists’ heads. The money for the bonds was pledged by friends, and their names are listed in the court records. The Family History Library has the minutes of district court proceedings regarding these bonds. The loose papers are only at the North Carolina State Archives. See also the topic
Loyalist Land Losses” in the “Land and Property” section of this outline.

**War of 1812 (1812–1815)**

The Family History Library has indexes to the federal service and pension files for the War of 1812. See the U.S. Military Records Research Outline (34118) for details and for sources not mentioned below.

The National Archives has the original service and pension records. They are not filmed, but the following important sources are available:

*Muster Rolls of the Soldiers of the War of 1812, Detached from The Militia of North Carolina, in 1812 and 1814, 1851*. Reprint, Baltimore, Md: Genealogical Publishing, 1976. (FHL book 975.6 M2n; film 1036618 item 6; computer number 245413.) This indexed volume indicates the county in which each soldier enlisted.


**Indian Wars (1711–1858)**

The regular army, often assisted by volunteer units, fought in various campaigns against American Indians. These include the Seminole or Florida Wars (1817–18, 1835–1842, and 1855–58), Black Hawk War (1832), and the Creek War (1836–37).

The following index is available:


For detailed information about national service and pension records from the Indian Wars, see the U.S. Military Records Outline (34118).

**Mexican War (1846–1848)**

About 1,000 North Carolina soldiers were involved in the Mexican War. The following records are available:


**Civil War (1861–1865)**

North Carolina seceded from the Union in May of 1861. However, soldiers from the state served in both the Union and Confederate armies.

For an Internet site with information about North Carolina in the Civil War and links to related web sites, see:

Weaver, Jeffrey C. “North Carolina Civil War Home Page” [database on-line]. N.p., 22 February 1999 [cited 4 August 1999]. A This site has information about election statistics, lists of confederate units, descendant organizations, and unit histories.

Union. The National Archives has the Civil War service records, pension records, and indexes for the Union Army. The Family History Library has copies of the service record and pension indexes:

Confederate. For lists of North Carolina Confederate soldiers, see:

Manarin, Lois H., and Weymouth T. Jordan, comps. North Carolina Troops, 1861–1865: A Roster. 13 vols. Raleigh, N.C.: State Department of Archives and History, 1966–. (FHL book 975.6 M2nc; film 1697997 item 3 has vol. 13; fiche 6088179 has vols. 1–13; computer number 140122.) This series contains extensive biographical information about soldiers in the Confederate army, beginning with the 1st regiment and ending with the 56th. Information may include the soldier’s age, occupation, residence at time of enlistment, county of birth, date of enlistment, service information, transfers, desertions, hospital confinement, and death during the war. Each volume is indexed. A combined index for all volumes is:

Roster (Index) of North Carolina Troops in the War between the States. Raleigh, N.C.: North Carolina Dept. of Archives and History, 1958. (FHL films 194214–28; computer number 398564.)

North Carolina granted pensions to its Confederate veterans or their widows in 1885 and in 1901. The pension records and an index are at the North Carolina State Archives and on film at the Family History Library:

North Carolina, State Auditor. Applications for Confederate Soldier’s and Widow’s Pensions, 1885–ca. 1953. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1958, 1988; Raleigh, N.C.: North Carolina Department of Archives and History. (On 105 FHL films beginning with 175779; computer number 494409. Indexed on FHL film 1547723.) Applications may give age, residence, service information, death information about the soldier, name of the widow, and sometimes children’s and grandchildren’s names. If a widow remarried and her second husband died, she could still apply for a pension because of the service of the first husband.

United States. Adjutant General’s Office. Index to Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of North Carolina. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0230. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1956. (FHL films 827168–810; computer number 326013.) This source can help you determine if an ancestor served in the Civil War. The records are listed by regiment, then company. These films index the following records:


Unit Histories. An important inventory for finding Civil War military histories is:

A Guide to the Microfiche Edition of Civil War Unit Histories: Regimental Histories and Personal Narratives, Part 1, Confederate States of America and Border States. Bethesda, Md.: University Publications of America, 1992. (FHL book 973 M2cwu pt. 1; computer number 619021.) North Carolina units are listed on pages 61–66. The library has the large microfiche collection described in this guide. Use the library catalog to find individual items that may include correspondence, diaries, memoirs, and regimental histories published before 1920. The guide shows the unit name, counties where it was raised, author, title, publication information, number of pages, and source repository. This guide also includes an author index and a major engagements index.

Civil War Claims in the South. During the Civil War individuals and families in the South who were loyal to the Union sometimes suffered great losses for their views. On 3 March 1871 Congress authorized a three-man board to review claims for losses. Applications were accepted until March 1880. Over 22,298 claims were filed, and many were filed by persons from North Carolina. The claims were for ruined property, goods contracted for by the federal government, food and supplies taken for military use, destruction of homes and barns, and theft of personal goods by Union troops. The claims often contain a great amount of genealogical information about family, neighbors, and friends. For two indexes to the persons who applied for these claims, see:
Mills, Gary B. *Civil War Claims in the South: An Index of Civil War Damage Claims Filed Before the Southern Claims Commission 1871–1880*. Laguna Hills, Calif.: Aegean Park Press, 1980. (FHL book 975 H22m; computer number 951119.) This book contains the name of the person, the state and county of residence, and the case or claim number.

United States. House of Representatives. Commissioners of Claims. *Records of the Commissioners of Claims (Southern Claims Commission), 1871–1880*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0087. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1945. (FHL films 1463975–6; computer number 423859.) Film 1463975 lists claimants by state, then county, then in alphabetical order and gives the claim number and amount. Film 1463976 is an alphabetical list of all the claimants. It gives the name, state, claim number, amount allowed or disallowed, and the nature of the claim.

You can order copies of the claims application papers of an individual by writing to the National Archives in Washington, D.C. You should mention Record Group 56, the name of the person, the state and county of residence, and his or her claim number.

**State Soldiers’ Home.** North Carolina had a soldiers’ home in Raleigh. Three alphabetical listings of the veterans in the home from 1890–1936 are among the Auditor General’s records in the state archives.

**Guidebook.** A useful source for learning more about the Civil War records of North Carolina is:


**Spanish-American War (1898–1899)**

North Carolina raised three regiments of volunteers from the state guard and active militia for this conflict. None of the soldiers saw serious action. In 1900 the office of the North Carolina adjutant general published the following unindexed roster:


**World War I (1917–1918)**

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


To find a person’s draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration, since the cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname. Counties may have had more than one draft board.

For a list of soldiers who died in World War I, see:

Hails, W. M. *Soldiers of the Great War*. 3 vols. Washington, D.C.: Soldiers Record Pub. Association, 1920. (FHL book 973 M23s; fiche 6051244; computer number 271442.) Volume 2 has information on North Carolina soldiers and includes the names of those who were killed in action or died of disease or accident. The place of residence is given, and there are photographs of about 500 North Carolina soldiers.

**World War I and Later Wars**

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of military discharge papers from 1918 to the 1970s for many counties. Military discharge papers may show a person’s birthplace, birth date, service information, and disability condition. The original records are kept by the register of deeds in each county.

Military records can be found in the Family History Library Catalog™ by using a Locality Search of under:

- NORTH CAROLINA - MILITARY RECORDS
- NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - MILITARY RECORDS

**MINORITIES**

You can find information on minority groups in most of the same records as other groups. Start your research in the same resources you would search for non-minority groups. The records listed
in this section provide information about specific groups in North Carolina.

**African Americans**

Resources for African American research fall into two periods: pre- and post-Civil War. Post-Civil War research consists of consulting the same record types as non African Americans. Pre-Civil War records consist of slave importation declarations, plantation records, emancipation records, apprenticeship bonds for freedmen, Kentucky hiring practices, census records, white family records, church and cemetery records, military records, vital records, and numerous North Carolina court records. African American vital records were usually recorded in separate books for many years.

**Guidebook.** Excellent sources for African American research in North Carolina can be found in:


**History.** A useful history is:


**Census records** are an important source for studying African American families. The 1850 and 1860 mortality schedules list all persons who died in the 12 months prior to the census and include the name, age, residence, state of birth, occupation, and cause of death. From 1870, censuses give every African American’s name, age, state of birth, and other information. See:

**African Americans in the 1870 Census,** Family Tree Maker’s Family Archives, no. 165. Brøderbund Software, Novato, Calif., 1996. (FHL compact disc no. 9 pt. 165; computer number 793132.)

**The Freedman’s Savings and Trust Company** was originally created to assist African American soldiers of the Civil War and freed slaves. Freedman’s Savings and Trust Company signature cards or registers from 3 March 1865 to 25 July 1874 may list birth date; birthplace; occupation; residences; death information; and names of parents, children, spouses, siblings, and former masters. North Carolina had three branches of this bank at New Bern, Raleigh, and Wilmington. The signature registers for these branches are found in:

Freedman’s Savings and Trust Company (Washington, D.C.), 1865–1874. *Registers of Signatures of Depositors in Branches of the Freedman’s Savings and Trust Company, 1865–1874.* National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0816. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1969. (FHL film 928586 contains records for North Carolina; computer number 136687.) In the records for each city, depositors are listed in order by account number. The registers of each North Carolina branch are as follows:

- New Bern 1866–1874
  (FHL film 928586 item 1; computer number 738153 and 136687.)
- Raleigh 1868–1874
  (FHL film 928586 item 2; computer number 738154 and 136687.)
- Wilmington 1869, 1872–1874
  (FHL film 928586 items 3–4; computer number 738155 and 136687.)

The records of the North Carolina branches are published in:

Reeves, Bill. *North Carolina Freedman’s Savings & Trust Company Records.* Raleigh, N.C.: North Carolina Genealogical Society, 1992. (FHL book 975.6 F2r; computer number 693549.) This book has abstracts of the genealogical data from the above records and is indexed.

**Other Freedman’s Bureau records** include:

D.C.: National Archives, 1972. (FHL films 1616841–78; computer number 500506.) These records give names of freed slaves and sometimes give genealogical information. The records include letters, ration reports, oaths of office, reports of persons hired, court cases (in some cases families are listed), orphans placed as apprentices (sometimes several brothers and sisters are listed), registrars recommended, land and property records, records and reports of claims, reports on freedmen available for work (only a few names of persons are given), and persons who received food.


Slaves are sometimes mentioned in deeds (see the “Land and Property” section of this outline), in wills (see the “Probate Records” section of this outline), in tax records, and in court order books (see the “Court Records” section of this outline). You must know the name of the slave owner, and you can then search these records by the owner’s name to find the name of the slave. A few parish registers (see the “Church Records” section of this outline) list slaves who attended church with their masters. Their births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, or burials may be listed.

Names of hundreds of runaway slaves, their descriptions, owners, and ages can be found in:


Many slave families freed prior to the Civil War are listed in:


For 1814 to 1866 information about husbands and wives who were former slaves in North Carolina has been published in:

White, Barnetta McGhee. Somebody Knows My Name: Marriages of Freed People in North Carolina, County by County. 3 vols. Athens, Ga.: Iberian Publishing, 1995. (FHL book 975.6 V2wb; computer number 760754.) This book gives the husband’s and wife’s names when they are given in the records. The records are arranged alphabetically by county.


Plantation Records. Slaves are occasionally mentioned in records of plantations described in the following series of booklets:

Stampp, Kenneth M. A Guide to Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War: Series F, Selections from the Manuscript Department, Duke University Library. Frederick, Md.: University Publications of America, 1991–. (FHL book 975 H2sm ser. F, and 975 H2sm ser. J.; computer numbers 572743 for series F and 605984 for series J.) The guide for series F lists records at the Duke University library. The series J guide describes holdings at the library of the University of North Carolina. The guide booklets are not indexed, but, they describe in detail the contents of each microfilm. The Family History Library™ has microfims of the North Carolina plantation records described in these guides:


Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War: Series J, Selections from the Southern Historical Collection, Manuscripts Department, Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Frederick, Md.: University Publications of America,
1989–1992. (On 455 FHL films beginning with 1672791; computer number 603306.)

Other Minorities

Records and histories of minorities and ethnic groups may provide clues to immigrant origins, migration information, and previous residences. Some information about Germans, Scots, Melungeons, Moravians, Quakers, and others are available at the Family History Library. Records of some of these minority groups are also discussed in the “Church Records” section of this outline. Other examples include:

Bible, Jean Patterson. Melungeons Yesterday and Today. Tennessee: J.P. Bible, 1975. (FHL book 973 F2bjp; fiche 6089123; computer number 486392.)


For books about minority and ethnic groups, see the Family History Library Catalog™, using a Locality Search under:

- NORTH CAROLINA - MINORITIES
- NORTH CAROLINA - SLAVERY AND BONDAGE

NATIVE RACES

The most powerful Indian nations in North Carolina were the Cherokee and the Tuscarora. After 1713 the Tuscarora migrated to New York. Between 1828 and 1839 many of the Cherokees in the state were forced to go to land that later became Oklahoma.

For an important gateway site with connections to key American Indian Internet sites, see:

Howells, Cyndi. “Native American.” In Cyndi’s List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet [database on-line], Puyallup, Wash.: Cyndi Howells, 2 August 1999 [cited 2 August 1999]. Available at http://www.cyndislist.com/native.htm; INTERNET. This site has over 140 links to American Indian web sites in 11 categories such as history, libraries, e-mailing lists, people, researchers, publications, records, and societies. The “Cherokee Research” section under the “Specific Tribal or Nation Resources” category has links to 15 other web sites.

If you have Cherokee ancestry from North Carolina, search the Cherokee rolls, censuses, and applications that contain such information as percentage of blood (1/2, 1/4, 1/8), birth date, marriage date, parents’ names, names of spouse and parents, children’s names, birth dates of children, residence, and birth place information. The person’s occupation may also be stated, and there may be affidavits of relatives and friends.

Cherokee Families That Stayed in North Carolina

The names of many Cherokees who did not leave North Carolina are found in:

Blankenship, Bob. Cherokee Roots. 2 vols. Cherokee, N.C.: B. Blankenship, 1992. (FHL book 970.3 C424bL; computer number 683643.) Volume one has rolls of Cherokees east of the Mississippi for the years 1817, 1818–1835, 1848, 1851, 1869, 1883, 1908, 1909, and 1924. Volume 2 lists Cherokees west of the Mississippi from rolls prepared in the years 1851–1852 and 1898–1914. The name of the person and the roll number are given. A transcription of the 1851 list is also contained in:

Siler, David W. The Eastern Cherokees: A Census of the Cherokee Nation in North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia in 1851. Cottonport, La.: Polyanthos, 1972. (FHL book 970.3 C424sd; computer number 214971.) Included in this book are the names of the husband, wife, and children (giving their relationships); ages; county and town of residence; and notes. The North Carolina counties of Cherokee, Macon, and Haywood are represented. The book is fully indexed.

The Cherokee rolls for 1851–1910 are found in:

Miller, Guion. Records Relating to Enrollment of Eastern Cherokee, 1908–1910. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0685. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1967. (FHL films 830434–45; computer number 80338.) The records on these films include applications and an index (1908–1910), exceptions with supplemental roll (1909–1910), miscellaneous testimony (1908–1909), Sizemore testimonies (1908), Pointdexter and Creek testimonies (1908), combined index of Eastern Cherokee rolls (1851), Chapman roll (1851), Drennen roll (1851), Eastern Cherokee names added to Siler roll (1854), index to old settler roll (1851), index to Hester roll (1851), miscellaneous notes (1851), and Hester roll (1884). Each census is indexed except the 1884 Hester roll.
United States, Bureau of Indian Affairs. *Indian Census Rolls, Cherokee, 1898–1939.* National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0595. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1965. (FHL films 573868–72; computer number 750730.) These are records of the eastern band of Cherokees located in North Carolina. The films include census rolls for 1898–1899, 1904, 1906, 1909–1912, 1914, 1915–1939; birth records for 1924–1939; marriage records for 1936; and death records for 1926–1939. These census records are in alphabetical order except for the year 1898. The rolls list the person’s number, Indian and English name, age, percentage of blood, relationship to head of household, and, generally, their residence. Often the maiden name of the wife is stated. Persons who had one parent who was not a Cherokee by blood were not listed on these rolls, but they are generally listed in the Dawes Commission records for Oklahoma described below.

**Cherokee Families That Moved to Oklahoma**

Two important enrollment records were taken in the Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. These list North Carolina Cherokees who moved to the Indian Territory:

**Dawes Commission Rolls, 1898–1914.** In 1893 the United States government established a commission to exchange the Cherokees’ (and four other tribes’) former lands in North Carolina and other Southern states for land allotments in the Indian Territory. The following book is an excellent index to settlers in the Indian Territory:

Blankenship, Bob. *Dawes Roll “Plus” of Cherokee Nation “1898,”* 2nd ed. N.C.: Cherokee Roots Publishing, 1994. (FHL Q book 970.1 B611d; computer number 739669.) This book contains the names found in the 1898 Dawes Roll plus the Guion Miller Roll. Researchers can compare the two rolls and see such things as a 1906 surname change brought about by marriage, divorce, or adoption.

The book gives the Dawes roll number, family enrollment (census) number, Guion Miller roll number, Guion Miller application number, age, sex, percentage of Indian blood, surname used in 1906 for the Guion Miller roll, and city and state of residence. All 36,714 Cherokee Nation citizens of Cherokee blood are included. Those persons in the family who are not Cherokee by blood are not listed in this book; they are listed on the enrollment (census) applications. The enrollment cards and the applications are on films at the Family History Library™ in:

United States, Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes. *Enrollment Cards For the Five Civilized Tribes, 1898–1914,* National Archives Microfilm Publications, M1186. Washington D.C.: National Archives. 1981. (On 93 FHL films beginning with 1490261; computer number 437594.) The commission asked applicants to fill out enrollment cards (sometimes referred to as a census card) that may include name; age; sex; degree of Indian blood; references to earlier tribal rolls; parents’ names and places of residence; relationship to head of family; and related enrollees such as husband, wife, children, and sometimes grandchildren and wards. An index is on FHL film 1490261.


If you do not have access to Blankenship’s book, first check volume 2 of:

United States, Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes. *The Final Rolls of Citizens and Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory.* Washington, D.C.: Govt. Print. Off., 1907?. (FHL book 970.1 Un3c vol. 2; film 962366 item 1; or fiche 6051501; computer number 13279.) Look in the section, “Index to Cherokees by Blood,” beginning on page 238. If the person was born during the special enrollment period beginning 26 April 1906 until 1914, see the “Index to Minor Cherokees by Blood” beginning on page 428. Find the person’s name and roll number.

*The Final Rolls of Citizens . . . .* (FHL book 970.1 Un3c vol.1; film 908371 item 2; or fiche 6051501; computer number 13279.) Find the roll number of the person. You will also find the person’s name, age, sex, percentage of Cherokee blood, and census card number.

Third, find the census card number in *Cherokee Indian Rolls Dealing With the Dawes Commission* described above. The census card gives such information as father’s name, mother’s name, wife’s maiden name, year of marriage, names of children and their ages, sometimes the affidavits
by relatives or friends, and names of persons in the family who are not of Cherokee blood.

Fourth, using the roll number given in volume 1 of The Final Rolls of Citizens . . . , look at the application in the following films:


Guion Miller Rolls, 1906–1910. Between 1906 and 1910, the federal government created another set of records, commonly called the Guion Miller Report. This report lists the genealogy of people who were alive in 1906 and who claimed to be descendants of the eastern Cherokees. These persons were seeking compensation from the government for lands taken from the eastern Cherokees in the 1830s. Applicants had to state their lineage back to an eastern Cherokee living in the 1830s. Applicants who went west before 1835 were not entitled to a share in the settlement, and their names do not appear in the report.

The Guion Miller applications required each claimant to state fully his or her English and Indian names, residence, age, place of birth, name of husband or wife, name of tribe, names of children, and information about parents and grandparents including their English and Indian names, place of birth, residence in 1851, date of death, and a statement as to whether any of them had ever been enrolled before for annuities or other benefits and, if so, with what tribe. Each claimant was to furnish the names of all brothers, sisters, uncles, and aunts, including their age and residence. The National Archives and the Family History Library have the complete files of the claimants on microfilm:


Blankenship, Bob. Guion Miller Roll “Plus” of Eastern Cherokee, East and West of Mississippi “1909.” Cherokee, N.C.: Cherokee Roots, 1994. (FHL Q book 970.1 B611g; computer number 739674.) This index contains 62,769 names and has two sections: those Cherokees who were accepted for payment of claims, and those not accepted. The book is arranged alphabetically. The first section gives name, Miller number, Miller application number, Dawes number, Dawes enrollment (census card) number, age in 1906, relationship to head of family, percentage of Indian blood, and city and state of residence. The second section contains last name, first name(s) and initial, Miller application number, and state of residence.

Guidebooks. More information about censuses and other records is contained in:

Hoskins, Shirley. Cherokee Blood Newsletter. Post Office Box 22261, Chattanooga, TN 37422. (FHL book 970.3 C424cbn; film 1597913 item 5 [issues 8–18]; computer number 232124.)


Records of American Indians of North Carolina are listed in the Family History Library Catalog™ by using a Locality Search under:

NORTH CAROLINA - NATIVE RACES

or a Subject Search under:

INDIANS OF NORTH AMERICA - NORTH CAROLINA

You can also find records in the Subject Search under the name of the tribe or group, such as:

CATAWBA INDIANS
CHEROKEE INDIANS
MELUNGEONS
TUSCARORA INDIANS

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization records have been filed in the U.S. district and circuit courts and in local courts in
North Carolina counties. Each court had its own style of record keeping before 1906.

Various types of records were created during the naturalization process, including declarations of intention, petitions for naturalization, oaths of allegiance, and certificates of naturalization and citizenship. Each record can give details about a person, such as age, residence, country or city of origin, ethnic background, the date and port of arrival, the name of the ship, names of spouse and children with their birth dates and places, or current address.

Records for earlier years usually contain less information than those after 1906, when the federal court system for naturalization was revised and details such as birth date and place, physical description, and marital status may be given. See the United States Research Outline (30972) for a more complete discussion of the naturalization process and the records created.

For a comprehensive list of North Carolina naturalization records, see:

Schaefer, Christina K. Guide to Naturalization Records of the United States. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1997. (FHL book 973 P4s; computer number 798891.) Pages 249–252 in this book cover North Carolina. For each county, the book lists the courts where naturalizations took place, the years the records cover, where the original records are housed, and the first film numbers of the Family History Library™, where applicable. The introduction discusses the naturalization process, the types of records created, and the usual genealogical content of each record.

Pre-1906 Naturalization Records

Federal Records. The U.S. district and circuit court records for North Carolina naturalizations are at the National Archives center at East Point, Georgia. The earliest U.S. district court records begin in 1801 for Elizabeth City, Pasquotank County. Most of these records have not been microfilmed. Only the following U.S. district court records are available on microfilm through the Family History Library:

Wilson, Wilson County, 1926, 1929–1945
Raleigh, Wake County, 1909–1933

These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog™ under:


County Records. Until 1868 naturalization records could be kept in each county by the county, superior, or district court. From 1868 to 1906 the superior court had jurisdiction over naturalizations.

Some naturalization records from North Carolina state and county court minutes and county miscellaneous records are indexed in:


Records from a few counties whose records were sent to the state archives are available on microfilm at the Family History Library. Original records for most counties are in the county’s courthouse. These have not been microfilmed.

Naturalization Records after 1906

For naturalization records after September 1906, contact the nearest office of the Federal Immigration and Naturalization Service.

To find naturalization records in the Family History Library Catalog, use a Locality Search under:

NORTH CAROLINA - NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP
NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers publish marriage, divorce, death, and funeral notices, and obituaries. Beginning about 1900, newspapers also published birth notices. Notices include names, dates, and places. Marriage and death notices may contain maiden names and names of parents and other living relatives.

Newspapers also publish articles of local interest that often cover religious and social events in the community and include the names of people involved. Some newspapers serve several communities and devote columns to the everyday happenings in the area. Newspapers also include
legal notices, estate sales, and advertising for local businesses.

Since 1959 the North Carolina Division of Archives and History has been microfilming newspapers in the state. Their collection of newspapers is the state’s largest. Many public and university libraries in North Carolina have copies of these microfilms. Copies can often be obtained by other libraries in the United States through interlibrary loan.

**Inventory on the Internet**

Over 7,100 North Carolina newspaper titles (3 million pages) are cataloged in:

“North Carolina Newspapers.” In State Library of North Carolina [database on-line]. Raleigh, N.C.: State Library, 1 July 1999 [cited 2 August 1999]. Available at: [http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/tss/newspape.htm](http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/tss/newspape.htm) ; INTERNET. This site briefly lists the newspaper title, town, and life span so researchers can obtain microfilm copies through interlibrary loan.

**Published Inventories**

Several inventories of North Carolina newspapers are:

Jones, Roger C., comp. *Guide to North Carolina Newspapers on Microfilm: Titles Available from the Division of Archives and History*, 6th ed. Raleigh, N.C.: Division of Archives and History, 1984. (FHL book 975.6 A3g; fiche 6049541; computer number 425158.) This guide is arranged alphabetically by city and covers newspapers from 1751 to the 1950s. The list of newspapers on the Internet site above updates this inventory and includes all titles filmed since 1991.


**Birth, Marriage, and Death Notices in Newspapers**

Many birth, death, and marriage notices have been copied from North Carolina newspapers and published. For example:


**Availability**

The Family History Library™ has copies of very few North Carolina newspapers. There are a few nineteenth century newspapers for Guilford, Orange, and Wake counties.

See the “Newspapers” and “Obituaries” sections of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for help in locating other newspapers published in North Carolina.

Many periodicals publish information from newspapers. They are referenced in the “Places” search of the *Periodical Source Index* (PERSI) described in the “Periodicals” section of this outline. See also the “Obituaries” section of this outline for help in finding obituaries.
You can find more resources for local North Carolina newspapers in the Family History Library Catalog™ by using a Locality Search under:

NORTH CAROLINA - NEWSPAPERS
NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - NEWSPAPERS
NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - NEWSPAPERS

OBITUARIES

Obituaries have been published in North Carolina since 1759. Obituaries may provide information such as the age of the deceased, birth date and place, names of living relatives and their residences, maiden name, occupation, death date, cause of death, and place of burial. Deceased family members are frequently mentioned. Obituaries may also mention previous places of residence, immigration information, religion, and any social activities or organizations in which the deceased was involved.

See the “Newspapers” section above for several books listing obituaries. An example of obituary notices is:

*Obituary Notices: Copied from the Biblical Recorder—A Baptist Newspaper of Raleigh, North Carolina, Np., 1938–1941.* (FHL book 975.6 V4w [vol.1]; films 824054–55 (vol. 3). computer number 245481.) These volumes provide name, church or county, and date recorded in church minutes.

Books or microfilms with obituary notices can be found in the Family History Library Catalog™ by using a Locality Search under:

NORTH CAROLINA - OBITUARIES
NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - OBITUARIES
NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - OBITUARIES

OCCUPATIONS

There are publications concerning persons in North Carolina in such occupations as lawyers, furniture makers, silversmiths, gunsmiths, postmasters, clock and watch makers, and physicians. For example, there are books of collected biographies of gunsmiths, postmasters, and silversmiths in North Carolina. An example of a book concerning persons who worked at a particular occupation is:


Apprenticeship Bonds, ca. 1840–1925

When children were orphaned, needed employment, or wanted to learn a trade, they often were apprenticed under a contract or indenture called an apprentice bond. These bonds list the name of the young man or woman, the county of residence, their age, the occupation the person was to learn, sometimes the name of a parent, and the name of the master. Apprenticeship bond records of some counties are at the North Carolina State Archives, and microfilms are at the Family History Library™. Some apprenticeships are listed in the Freedmen’s Bureau records. For information on these, see the “Minorities” section in this outline.

Some occupational records are found in public records; see that section of this outline for details. Occupational records can be found in the Family History Library Catalog™ by using a Locality Search under:

NORTH CAROLINA - [COUNTY] - OCCUPATIONS

PERIODICALS

Most family history periodicals publish transcriptions of local sources used in genealogical research. Information published in periodicals may include family histories, genealogies, historical background, maps, information about local records and archives, queries, census records, transcripts of family Bibles, church records, court records, cemetery records, land records, military records, obituaries, and wills. Often published by genealogical or historical societies, they typically focus on the records of a particular county, while a few may specialize in records of a particular ethnic group or religion. Among the periodicals at the Family History Library™ are:

*Bulletin of the Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County, 1973–.* Published by the Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County, P.O. Box 938, Forest City, NC 28043. Telephone: 704-245-4000. (FHL book 975.6 D25b; on 66 FHL fiche beginning with 6050630; computer number 136273.) Old Tryon County took in the western counties of North Carolina.

*Bulletin of the Wilkes Genealogical Society, 1972–.* Published by the Wilkes Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1629, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659. (FHL book 975.682 B2b; computer number 224499.) From 1967 to 1972, the title
was Bulletin of the Original Wilkes County. Wilkes County took in the area of northwestern North Carolina near Virginia and Tennessee.

**The Carolina Genealogist.** 1969–. Published by Heritage Papers, Danielsville, GA 30633. (FHL book 975 B2c; computer number 138175.) The Family History Library has volumes 1–36 and 45–52. This periodical has information about North and South Carolina.


**North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal.** 1975–. Published by the North Carolina Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1492, Raleigh, NC 27511. (FHL book 975.6 B2s; computer number 210286.) Each issue is indexed.

**The North Carolina Historical Review.** 1924–. Published by the North Carolina Historical Commission, 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 17611. Telephone: 919-703-2570. (FHL book 975.6 B2h; computer number 210563.) A 50-year index for 1924 to 1973 is available:


**The Quarterly Review.** 1974–. Published by the Eastern North Carolina Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 395, New Bern, NC 28560. Telephone: 919-633-4591. (FHL book 975.6 B2e; computer number 210172.) There is an index to volumes 1–4 for 1974 to 1977:


**Indexes.** Most of the periodicals listed above have annual indexes in the final issue for the year. Cumulative indexes of several years are also available for many of them. For nationwide indexes to some of these and other family history periodicals, see:

**Periodical Source Index (PERSI).** Ft. Wayne, Ind.: Allen County Public Library Foundation, 1987–. (FHL book 973 D25per; fiche 6016863 [set of 40] (1847–1985); fiche 6016864 [set of 15] (1986–1990); computer number 658308.) PERSI indexes over 1.1 million articles in over 5,000 English-language and French-Canadian family history periodicals. Annual indexes have been published yearly since 1986. For further details, see the Periodical Source Index Resource Guide (34119). For computer editions, see:

**Periodical Source Index CD-ROM.** Orem, Utah: Ancestry, and the Allen County Public Library Foundation, 1997. (FHL compact disc no. 61; computer number 808087.) This disc does not circulate to Family History Centers™.


You can find more family history periodicals in the Family History Library Catalog™ by using a Locality Search under:

NORTH CAROLINA - PERIODICALS
NORTH CAROLINA - GENEALOGY - PERIODICALS
NORTH CAROLINA - SOCIETIES - PERIODICALS
NORTH CAROLINA - HISTORY - PERIODICALS
NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - PERIODICALS
NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - GENEALOGY - PERIODICALS
NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - SOCIETIES - PERIODICALS

**PROBATE RECORDS**

Most probate records in North Carolina were created on a county level though many were later sent to the North Carolina State Archives. The contents of probate records vary greatly depending on the prevailing law and the personality of the record keeper.

Probate records in the state fall into two general categories: wills and estate papers. Most records mention the names of heirs and frequently specify how those heirs are related. Names of children may be given, as well as married names of daughters. Probate records may not give an exact death date, but a death most often occurred within a few months of the date of probate. See the United States Research Outline (30972) for more information about probate records.
Index to Wills

The first source you should check to determine if your ancestor left a will in North Carolina between the years 1665 and 1900 is:

Mitchell, Thornton W. North Carolina Wills: A Testator Index, 1665–1900. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1992. (FHL book 975.6 P22t 1992; computer number 591461.) This book lists the name of the testator (the person who had the will prepared), the county where the will was probated, the year it was probated, the volume and page number of the recorded will, and the location of the original will. Wills that were not recorded in the county records are also listed. The book has a county-by-county summary of available wills.

Wills

Prior to 1760 most wills were probated by the County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions in the county. The original wills and accompanying estate papers were supposed to be sent to the secretary of state for filing, regardless of where the will was probated. Some counties did not send their records in.

Most of the original wills and papers from this time period, however, are at the North Carolina State Archives. They have been microfilmed in alphabetical order by the name of the testator. Copies of these microfilms are available at the Family History Library in:


Published abstracts and transcripts of some of these early wills can be found in the following two books:

Grimes, John Bryan. Abstract of North Carolina Wills [1690–1760] Compiled from Original and Recorded Wills in the Office of the Secretary of State. 1910. Reprint, Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1967. (FHL book 975.6 P2gr 1967; fiche 6046876; computer number 245443.) This book contains approximately 2,600 wills taken from both original and recorded wills. The index includes all the names that appear in the wills. There are some abstracting errors, so you should examine the original will. The index also lists names of plantations.

For the years 1760–1868, most wills are in the offices of the clerk of the superior court in the county where the testator legally resided. Abstracts of more than 8,000 original wills covering 1760 to 1800 can be found in:

Olds, Fred A. An Abstract of North Carolina Wills from about 1760 to about 1800: Supplemeting Grimes’ Abstract of North Carolina Wills, 1663 to 1760. 1925. Reprint, Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1978. (FHL book 975.6 P28o; computer number 194664). [The 1925 edition is on FHL film 496782 item 3; computer number 61702. The 1965 Genealogical Publishing edition is on FHL fiche 6019970; computer number 61889.] The wills are listed by county, and there is no index. There is an index to the 1936 typescript on film:

Index to Abstract of North Carolina Wills from about 1760 to About 1800 prepared . . . by Fred A. Olds. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1981. (FHL film 1033627; computer number 61704.)

Between 1868 and 1966 wills were proved in the superior court of the county. The original will was sent to the clerk in each county court house and a copy may have been sent to the state archives.

Since 1966 all documents relating to probate cases are kept in case files. After the estate is settled, the files are microfilmed and indexed by the name of the deceased and the names of the heirs.
Estate Papers

When an individual died leaving a will, the legal process carrying out the provisions of the will created many loose estate papers. Most early residents of North Carolina who possessed real property did not leave a will and died intestate. The process of settling a person’s intestate estate also created loose papers. These loose papers have a variety of titles and were generally created in the following sequence:

- Petition to Probate the Estate
- Administrator’s Bond
- Petition for a Year’s Allotment for the Widow
- Petition for Widow’s Dower
- Inventory
- Petition of Division of Lands and Slaves
- Account of Sale
- Guardian’s Bond and Accounts
- Yearly Accounts
- Final Settlement or Final Distribution

Copies of most early estate papers are in the state archives and on microfilm. See:


Many later loose estate papers or copies of them have been sent to the North Carolina State Archives. Counties often send their papers to the archives after 60 years. Estate papers in the state archives are presently being microfilmed in alphabetical order, county by county.

Probate records can be found in the Family History Library Catalog™ by using a Locality Search under:

NORTH CAROLINA - PROBATE RECORDS
NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - PROBATE RECORDS

PUBLIC RECORDS

Many records created by city, county, and state governments do not fit into the categories described in this outline. Records of mayors, commissioners, overseers of the poor, schools, and state licensing and certification bureaus are examples of government sources that may give information not contained in other records. Some collections that contain a variety of records, such as land, history, tax, court, or other records, may be classified as public records.

Colonial Records

Many official records of the proprietors and governors’ councils (1662–1790) have been published in:

Saunders, William L., ed. Colonial Records of North Carolina: Published under the Supervision of the Trustees of the Public Libraries, by Order of the General Assembly. 30 vols. Raleigh, N.C.: Broadfoot Publishing, 1993. (FHL book 975.6 N2n; on 32 films beginning with 874153; fiche 6078231 [set of 270]; computer number 97677.) Many land records, military records, oaths of allegiance (1778), court records, official correspondence, and petitions are included. Volumes 1–10 contain records from the 1600s–1776, and volumes 11–26 cover 1777 to 1790, except volume 22, which has records from the 1720s to 1789. These include oaths of allegiance arranged by county (1778), the Spanish Alarm (1747–1748), quit rents (1729–1732), militia returns (1754–55, 1758, 1767), the War of the Regulators (1770–1771), Rowan County Court of Oyer (1777), and correspondence of governors and others (1775–1789). Probate records may not give an exact death date, but a death most often occurred within a few months of the date of probate. Volume 25 has additional information for 1669–1771. The index to volumes 1–25 is found in volumes 27 (A–E), 28 (F–L), 29 (M–R), and 30 (S–Z).

To learn of records kept in England concerning North Carolina and other colonies, see:


Boards of County Commissioners

Many of the records of the boards of county commissioners—from about 1868 to the 1930s—have been microfilmed at the North Carolina State Archives, and are available on film at the Family History Library™. These records mention money paid to individuals for work, names of jury members, licenses given, names of paupers, names of paupers for whom coffins were made, road overseers’ names, tax exemptions, and persons admitted to the county poor house.
Some city board of aldermen records dating from the mid-1800s to the 1960s have also been microfilmed.

Public records can be found in the Family History Library Catalog™ by using a Locality Search under:

- NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - PUBLIC RECORDS
- NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - PUBLIC RECORDS

SCHOOLS

Since 1838, North Carolina has had a public school system. Each county had a board of superintendents or a board of education. School records may be in the county office of the board of education; the office of the register of deeds; the clerk of the superior court; or at the North Carolina State Archives. School records such as school censuses, and pupil records, may list parents and their children, with the ages of the children. Colleges and universities often have records with biographical information about their alumni. The Family History Library has many North Carolina school records, some dating from the 1860s. The records may continue as late as the 1970s.

School records are listed in the “Locality Search” of the Family History Library Catalog under:

- NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - SCHOOLS
- NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - SCHOOLS

SOCIETIES

Genealogical, historical, lineage, veteran, and ethnic societies often collect, transcribe, and publish information that can be helpful to genealogists.

Genealogical and historical societies can provide historical information about families in the area or ancestors of society members. North Carolina genealogical societies include:

- The North Carolina Genealogical Society
  PO Box 1492
  Raleigh, NC 27602
  Internet: http://ncgenealogy.org

The society publishes the North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal described in the “Periodicals” section of this outline and sponsors programs to promote genealogy.

A listing of major genealogical and historical societies in North Carolina can be found in:


Lineage societies, such as the DAR, Colonial Dames, and Sons of the American Revolution, require members to prove they are descended from certain people such as colonists or soldiers. The applications for membership in these societies are usually preserved and occasionally published. National lineage societies such as the DAR are described in the “Societies” section of the United States Research Outline (30972).

Family associations and surname societies have been organized to gather information about ancestors or descendants of specific individuals or families. See the “Societies” section of the United States Research Outline (30972) for a directory and more information about these societies.

Clubs or occupational or fraternal organizations may have existed in the area where your ancestor lived. Those societies may have kept records of members or applications that may be of genealogical or biographical value. Though many of the old records have been lost, some have been donated to local, regional, or state archives and libraries. The United Confederate Veterans is an example of an organization an ancestor may have joined. See the “Military Records” section of this outline discussion of their records.

Public librarians and county clerks may be aware of other local organizations or individuals you can contact for information and services. In many small communities, the elderly are a wonderful resource for history and memories. Some maintain scrapbooks of obituaries and events in the community.

Societies’ records can be found in the Family History Library Catalog™ by using a Locality Search under:
Tax records have been kept consistently in North Carolina from colonial times. Generally two types of taxes were used: taxes on people, known as poll or capitation tax, and taxes on property. Tax lists from the mid-eighteenth century to the 1900s exist for many counties and have been microfilmed. Copies are at the North Carolina State Archives and at the Family History Library. They include poll tax records, railroad tax books, taxable land lists, personal property tax lists, and records of delinquent taxes.

Until 1777 the poll tax was used almost exclusively, and it was used consistently until 1970. Over the years laws have changed the definition of who would be counted in the taxing. For example, the age at which men no longer had to pay taxes varied in different time periods, and during some periods new residents of the state were exempt from being taxed. In 1715 North Carolina began collecting taxes from the head of the household for all free males aged 16 or over and all slaves aged 12 or over. In 1835 the ages were changed to 21 to 45 for free males and 12 to 50 for slaves. Some early lists name each taxable person, so you may find a listing for both a father and his sons. Later lists generally give only the name of the head of a household and the number of additional taxable persons in the home.

The earliest property tax records date from 1715, though property tax did not become common until 1777.

Some tax lists have been published in:


Many early tax lists, from the 1680s to 1831, have been indexed in the following volumes:

Jackson, Ronald Vern. *Early North Carolina*. 7 vols. Bountiful, Utah: Accelerated Indexing, 1980–. (FHL book 973 D2jeno; computer number 121249.) Each volume is alphabetical. The date and the county of residence are given. The names in these volumes are listed in the Accelerated Indexing Systems fiche and in the "FamilyFinder™ Index and Viewer on compact disc (see the “Census” section of this outline).

There are some quit rent records, which are a form of tax list, for the time period 1729–1732 on pages 240–258 of volume 22 of *The Colonial Records of North Carolina: Published under the Supervision of the Trustees of the Public Libraries, by Order of the General Assembly* described in the “Public Records” section of this outline.

There are also tax records by the federal government for 1864–1866:


County inheritance tax records date from about 1914 to the 1960s. These are at the North Carolina State Archives, and the Family History Library has microfilm copies of them. The records frequently give the names of the person’s heirs, their relationship to the person who died, and the value of the property. In cases when the person was very poor, there was no tax.

Taxation records can be found in the Family History Library Catalog by using a Locality Search under:

| NORTH CAROLINA - TAXATION |
| NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - TAXATION |

**VITAL RECORDS**

**Birth and Death Records**

Birth records usually give the name and sex of the child; the names, birthplaces, and ages of the parents (with the mother’s maiden name); the occupation of the father; and the number of children born to the mother. Birth records of adopted children may give the birth parents but have frequently been amended to show only the adoptive parents. A year-by-year search of birth records may reveal other children born to a couple.

Death records usually give information about the deceased, such as name, age, birth date, state or country of birth (sometimes the city or town), names of the parents (frequently including the maiden name of the mother), and the informant (who may be a close relative). The date and place of death are given. Sometimes burial information, the cause of death, and the names of the physician...
and mortician are provided. The length of residence in the state or county may also be given.

Statewide registration of births and deaths began in 1913 and was generally complied with by 1920. In some cities record keeping began earlier. For example, Raleigh began recording births in 1890 and deaths in 1885. Counties where the births and deaths occurred kept a duplicate copy of the information they sent to the state office. Most of the county indexes to births and deaths through the 1960s have been microfilmed and are available at the Family History Library™.

For up-to-date information about vital records, see:

Orsay, Elizabeth T. “North Carolina Vital Records Information.” In United States Vital Records Information [database on-line]. N.p., 1999? [cited 4 August 1999]. Available at www.vitalrec.com/nc.html ; INTERNET. This page has links to the state vital records office’s Internet site. It also shows their current address, telephone, fax, fees, and years for which records are available. It includes addresses of county vital records offices, and many county genealogical societies and links to related information such as local record searching volunteers.

To obtain a copy of the original records of births and deaths from 1913 to the present, you can write to the Register of Deeds in the county.

Copies of birth records from 1913 to the present and death records from 1930 to the present are also available at the state office:

Dept. of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources
Vital Records Section
225 North McDowell Street
Raleigh, NC 27603-1382
Telephone: 919-733-3526
Internet address: http://vitalrecords.dhhs.state.nc.us/vr/index.html

Birth indexes provide the person’s name, name of father (or in some cases, the mother’s name), and the place and date of birth.

Pre-1913 Birth Records Kept by Cities. The city of Raleigh kept birth records beginning with 1890 and the city of Wilmington from 1904. Raleigh death records begin in 1885 and Wilmington’s begin in 1903.

Delayed Birth Certificates. Due to Social Security requirements and other federal acts, many people needed proof of birth. If no birth record was available, they could go to the county where they were born and file a delayed registration of birth.

These may be found in county offices of the Register of Deeds. These records may list births from the 1870s to the 1960s. They usually give the exact date of birth, town or city of birth, and often the full names of both parents, as well as the volume and page. The library has microfilm copies of some of these important documents.

Death indexes give the name of the person, the name of the father (or mother), and the place and date of death. Death records for 1913–1955 and indexes for 1913–1967 are available from:

North Carolina State Archives
109 East Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2807
Telephone: 919-807-7310
Fax: 919-733-1354
Internet address: www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/Archives

Death indexes for 1906–1967 and death certificates for 1906–1994, are on microfilm at the Family History Library:


For the time period 1968–1994 there is an alphabetical death index on 56 microfiche:


Bastardy Bonds

A book with birth information about children born out of wedlock is:

Camin, Betty J. North Carolina Bastardy Bonds. Mt. Airy, N.C.: B.J. and E.A. Camin, 1990. Seneca, S.C.: The Kopy Shop Printers. (FHL book 975.6 P2c; computer number 184962.) Records for 30 counties are included in this book. These bonds are from the time the county was created until about 1880. The original records are at the North Carolina State Archives. The bondsman listed may be the father of the child, the mother or her father, or another party. About 22,000 names are listed.
Marriage Records, Early to 1868

From 1669 to 1742 marriages were performed by clergy or civil authorities and were recorded in county records. Few of these records have survived, except for those of Pasquotank and Perquimans counties.

From 1741 to 1868 either a publication of banns or the posting of a bond was required before a marriage could take place. These practices are described below:

**Banns.** The publication of banns was a religious procedure. For three consecutive Sundays, the couple posted in church their written intention to marry. If no objection was voiced, permission to marry was granted by the church. Before 1851 marriages performed by banns were not recorded in public records, so they must be located in church or Bible records. Beginning in 1851 ministers were required to file marriage returns with a clerk in the county.

**Bonds.** Couples could also obtain a license to marry if the groom posted a bond of 50 pounds in the county where the bride resided. Marriages performed by bonds were recorded in county records. Some of these pre-1868 bonds have survived for about half the counties. Marriage by bonds was discontinued in 1868.

About 170,000 marriage bonds for 1741–1868 have been abstracted and indexed in:

North Carolina. Division of Archives and History. An Index to Marriage Bonds Filed in the North Carolina State Archives. Raleigh, N.C.: Department of Cultural Resources, 1977? (On 88 FHL fiche 6330241–328, computer number 4654.) The index refers you to the county of marriage. It contains a brides index and a grooms index. It includes the entire state, except Granville County. Most of these pre-1868 marriage bonds are also listed in the International Genealogical Index available at the Family History Library. Many county marriage records are on microfilm or have been published.

For a small fee, the North Carolina State Archives will search the index for you and send you a copy. Instructions are found in:

North Carolina. Department of Cultural Resources. Archives and Records Section. Archives Information Circular 15 September 1977. (FHL book 975.6 B4a; film 1421815 item 19; fiche 6330329; computer number 260626.) Only the microfiche is circulated to Family History Centers.

Marriage Records after 1868

Marriage records from 1868 to 1962 are kept by the register of deeds in each county. Statewide registration of marriages began in 1962. You can write to the Division of Health Services (see address above) to obtain copies of records since January 1962. For records from 1868 to the 1950s and sometimes later, write to the North Carolina State Archives listed in the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline.

County Marriage Records at the Family History Library

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of county marriage records for most counties through the 1950s. From Guilford County, for example, the library has 6 films of marriage abstracts (1770–1868) and 65 films of marriage licenses (1873–1961). Numerous published sources are also available, such as:


Marriage Records, Early–1850. Vol. 1, Southern States. Orem, Utah: Automated Archives, 1992. (FHL compact disc no. 9 pt. 229; computer number 683380). This does not circulate to Family History Centers. This resource indexes Family History Library microfilms of selected marriage records from Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Almost all North Carolina counties are represented. This index shows each spouse’s name, Soundex code, and marriage date. The state and county and marriage years covered are in the upper left of the screen. The names in this index also appear in the FamilyFinder Index and Viewer cited fully in the “Census” section of this outline.

Marriage Records, Part 4, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. Orem, Utah: Automated Archives, 1994. (FHL compact disc no. 9 pt. 4; computer number 683379). This does not circulate to Family History Centers. This resource, once titled Hunting for Bears, indexes original marriage records to about 1868 from 102 North Carolina counties. Family History Library microfilm copies were not used to compile this index. This index lists each spouse’s name and marriage date. The state and county of the marriage are displayed on the upper left of the screen. The names in this index also appear in the FamilyFinder Index and...
North Carolina birth, marriage, and death records can be found in the Family History Library Catalog™ by using a Locality Search under:

- NORTH CAROLINA - VITAL RECORDS
- NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - VITAL RECORDS
- NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - VITAL RECORDS

Divorce Records

Divorce records may provide information about the date and place of marriage, names and ages of children, the cause of the divorce, and terms of settlement. After the American Revolution and through 1827, divorces could be granted by the general assembly, and these records are among the legislative papers at the state archives. The superior court for each county also had jurisdiction over divorce cases beginning in 1814. The Family History Library has very few of these documents. You can write to the superior court clerk at the county courthouse for copies or information. The North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources has divorce records from 1 January 1958 to the present.

Divorce records can be found in the Family History Library Catalog™ by using a Locality Search under:

- NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - DIVORCE RECORDS
- NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - COURT RECORDS

VOTING REGISTERS

Poll books, which list voters on a yearly basis, have been preserved for some North Carolina counties. Usually, they are not indexed. The Family History Library™ has a few of these county records. See also taxation records, which usually list the persons who were assessed a poll tax.

Election records from 1878 to the 1930s for some counties are at the North Carolina State Archives and the Family History Library. These often mention the candidates for county offices such as constable and give the number of votes cast for each candidate. The names of persons who cast their votes are not given. For names in voting records for 1867, see:

Wynne, Frances Holloway. North Carolina Extant Voter Registrations of 1867. Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1992. (FHL book 975.6 N4w; computer number 672418.) Records of 17 counties are given: Carteret, Chowan, Clay, Cleveland, Craven, Cumberland, Currituck, Davidson, Duplin, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gaston, Granville, Guilford, Hyde, Onslow (one precinct only), and Wake (one precinct only). The original records are at the North Carolina State Archives. The names of the voters are listed alphabetically with the number of the county and the precinct. Race is also indicated. These were males age 21 or older who had lived in the precinct one year or more. The lists also give the full names of African American residents who were recorded as voters. About 30,000 names are included.

In 1902, 1904, 1906, and 1908 voting registration began in many counties under an amendment to the North Carolina constitution that came to be known as the “Grandfather Clause.” Anyone registering to vote was required to prove he was literate, or that he, his father, or grandfather had voted in an election on or before 1 January 1867. Many of these county records are on microfilm at the North Carolina State Archives or the Family History Library. Some of these records have been published. The records indicate the name of the person, their age, and their county and township of residence. In cases where the father or grandfather was listed, the state where he voted is mentioned.

Voting registers can be found in the Family History Library Catalog™ by using a Locality Search under:

- NORTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - VOTING RECORDS

FOR FURTHER READING

Information about research and records in North Carolina is available in:

Draughon, Wallace R. North Carolina Genealogical Reference: A Research Guide for All Genealogists, both Amateur and Professional. 2nd ed. Durham, N.C.: Smith Publishing, 1966. (FHL book 975.6 D2dr 1966; computer number 61958.) The book includes chapters about genealogical collections, maps, county research (with published sources for each county), records at the state archives, Quakers (with a map showing the location of monthly meetings), and missing records (giving dates).


Schweitzer, George K. *North Carolina Genealogical Research*. Knoxville, Tenn.: G. K. Schweitzer, 1984. (FHL book 975.6 D27s; computer number 419326.) This important reference book lists specific books and microfilms and the types and dates of records available on state, county, and some city levels. It also lists libraries and county histories. Chapter 3 contains descriptions of records at the state archives, state library, and the libraries at Duke University and the University of North Carolina.

Two free brochures about genealogical research are available from the North Carolina State Archives. Their address is found in the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline. Send a legal-sized, self-addressed, stamped envelope with your requests for these two pamphlets:

**Genealogical Research in the North Carolina State Archives**

**Tar Heel Tracks: Genealogical Research in North Carolina**

**COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

The Family History Library™ welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to: Publications Coordination Family History Library 35 N. West Temple Street Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400 USA

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

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North Carolina 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 North Carolina affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements.

1650s  The first permanent settlements were made in the Albemarle Sound area by colonists from Virginia.
1705-1729  French Huguenot, German, and Swiss colonists founded towns near the coast.
1730-1770  Scottish Highlanders immigrated directly to North Carolina ports. People of Ulster Scottish and German descent arrived from Pennsylvania and Virginia using the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road.
1789  North Carolina became a state and ceded what is now Tennessee to the United States government.
1850  One-fourth of all native North Carolinians had left the state and were living in other states or territories.
1861  North Carolina seceded from the Union. It was readmitted in 1868. About 125,000 men served in the Confederate armed forces, more than from any other Confederate state.
1862-1907  Twenty-four counties in southern and western North Carolina suffered major losses of records, mostly due to fire and war.
1898  Over 300,000 men were involved in the Spanish-American War, which was fought mainly in Cuba and the Philippines.
1917–1918  More than 26 million men from the United States ages 18 through 45 registered with the Selective Service for World War I, and over 4.7 million American men and women served during the war.
1930s  The Great Depression closed many factories and mills. Many small farms were abandoned, and many families moved to cities.
1940–1945  Over 50.6 million men ages 18 to 65 registered with the Selective Service. Over 16.3 million American men and women served in the armed forces during World War II.
1950–1953  Over 5.7 million American men and women served in the Korean War.
1950s–1960s  The building of interstate highways made it easier for people to move long distances.
Your ancestors will become more interesting to you if you also use histories to learn about the events that were of interest to them or that they may have been involved in. For example, by using a history you might learn about the events that occurred in the year your great-grandparents were married.

Historical Sources

You may find state or local histories in the Family History Library Catalog under North Carolina 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 North Carolina 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.

County histories are another good source of information on the early history of places, religions, early residents, and other helpful topics. The Family History Library has histories of nearly all counties in the state.

A bibliography of local histories for North Carolina is George Stevenson, North Carolina Local History: A Select Bibliography (Raleigh: Department of Cultural Resources, 1984; FHL book 975.6 H23sg).

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


State History

Histories of North Carolina are available in all major research centers. A good example is Hugh T. Lefler, and Albert R. Newsome, North Carolina: The History of a Southern State, Rev. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1963; FHL book 975.6 H2Lh).
United States History

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


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

1600–1990

1600–1950s
- McCubbins, Mamie. McCubbins Collection (FHL films 19828–903.) Alphabetical; mostly Western North Carolina.
1600–1916 Ashe, Samuel A’Court. *Biographical History of North Carolina From Colonial Times to the Present; General Index.* (FHL book 975.6 D3a, 8 vols.; films beginning with 1421670 item 9.) Vol. 10 has index.

1600–1981 *Index of North Carolina Ancestors.* (FHL book 975.6 D2i, 2. vols.) Gives names and addresses of persons researching particular ancestors.


1600–1993 *North Carolina Queries.* (FHL book 975.6 D25nc, 12 vols.; fiche 6126285–89.) There are indexes at the back of most volumes.

1600–1986 Bradshaw, R. D. *North Carolina Directory of Family Searchers and Genealogists.* (FHL book 975.6 D44b.) Lists researchers and the ancestors they are searching for.


1600–1960s Smallwood, Marilu Burch. *Some Colonial and Revolutionary Families of North Carolina.* (FHL book 975.6 D2s, 3 vols.)


1600–1830s Hamrick, David O. *Index to the North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register: Hathway’s Register.* (FHL book 975.6 D2n index 1983, 3 vols.) This is an every name index with about 121,000 names.


1600–present Warren, Mary B. *The Carolina Genealogist.* (FHL book 975 B2cg.) A periodical; see annual indexes.


1600–present *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal.* (FHL book 975.6 B2s.) See the annual indexes.


1600–present *Bulletin of the Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County.* (FHL book 975.6 D25b; on fiche beginning with 605030.) A periodical for the Western part of North Carolina.

1600–1790 *The Colonial Records of North Carolina published. . . by the Order of the General Assembly.* (FHL book 975.6 N2n, 30 vols.; films beginning with 874153; fiche 6078231.) Includes volumes on the state for the period 1776–1790. Vols. 27, 28, 29 are an index, A to Z, to the series.


1600–1970 Daughters of the American Revolution. *Genealogical Collection.* (On 54 FHL films beginning with 860336.) Each volume is usually indexed; for surname index see above.

1600–1799 Jackson, Ronald V. *Early North Carolina.* (FHL book 973 D2jeno; several volumes.) Has names gathered from tax lists and other sources.

1600–1790 Ratcliff, Clarence E. *North Carolina Taxpayers 1679–1790.* (FHL book 975.6 R4r.)

1600–1729 Hofmann, Margaret M. *Province of North Carolina 1663–1729: Abstracts of Land Patents.* (FHL book 975.6 R2hp.) An every name index; gives locations and neighbors.


1660–1868 North Carolina Division of Archives and History. *An Index to Marriage Bonds filed in the North Carolina State Archives.* (On 88 FHL fiche beginning with 6330241.)

1660–1800 Dodd, Jordan R., editor. *North Carolina Marriages Early to 1800.* (FHL book 975.6 V2nc.) Provides names of husband, wife, date, and county.

1660–1840 Clemens, William M. *North and South Carolina Marriage Records from the Earliest Colonial Days to the Civil War.* (FHL book 975 V28c.)


1670–1774 Clark, Murtle June. *Colonial Soldiers of the South, 1732–1774.* (FHL book 975 M29c.)

1670–1939 *Pre–1914 Cemetery Inscription Card Index.* (FHL films 882944–964.) Has a section for 1914 to 1939 also.


1670–1800 Eaker, Lorena Shell. *German Speaking People West of the Catawba River in North Carolina 1750–1800; and Some Emigres Participation in Early Settlement of Southeastern Missouri.* (FHL book 975.6 W2e.)

1680–1773 Grimes, John Bryan. *North Carolina Wills and Inventories Copied from Original and Recorded Wills and Inventories in the Office of the Secretary of State.* (FHL book 975.6 P2g; film 459632; fiche 6051125.) Wills 1733–1773.
1680–1800 Olds, Fred A.  *An Abstract of North Carolina Wills from about 1760 to 1800.* (FHL film 496782 item 3.)


1700–1860 Daughters of the American Revolution.  *DAR Patriot Index.* (FHL 973 C42da vol. 3.) Volume 3 is especially useful in that it lists the wives of the soldiers; about 60,000 names.

1700–1860 White, Virgil D.  *Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files.* (FHL book 973 M28g, 4 vols.) Lists soldiers, and often their spouse, children, and gives service information and residences.

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 or regiment, sometimes gives the place of birth, etc. about 67,000 names.


1700–1835  *The Pension Roll of 1835.* Indexed Edition. (FHL book 973 M24ua 1992, 4 vols.) Vol. 4 has the index; vols. 1–4 list Revolutionary War soldiers; gives county of residence, state of service, and often age; often has 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 the pensioner's town of residence, the name of the head of household where he was living, and age of pensioner or his widow.


1700–1951  *Lineage Book of Past and Present Members of the North Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.* (FHL book 975.6 D2L; film 897212 item 4.)

1700–1781 Clark, Murtle June.  *Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War.* (FHL book 973 F2clm.)

1700–1860 Heinegg, Paul.  *Free African Americans of North Carolina: Including the Family Histories of More Than 80% of Those Counted as “All Other Free Persons” in the 1790 and 1800 census.* (FHL book 975.6 F2hp; fiche 6103884.)

1700–1787 Register, Alvaretta K.  *State Census of North Carolina, 1784–1787: From Records in the North Carolina Department of Archives and History.* (FHL book 975.6 X2r 1784–1787; film 897274 item 2.)


1740–1900 White, Virgil D. *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files*. (FHL book 973 M22i, 3 vols.) Lists the soldier and often his spouse. You can send to the National Archives for copies of the pension papers.

1740–1815 *Muster Rolls of the Soldiers of the War of 1812 Detached from the Militia of North Carolina in 1812 and 1814*. (FHL book 975.6 M2n; film 1036618 item 6.)

1740–1890 Fuller, Marian C. *Obituaries and Marriage Notices from the Carolina Watchman 1832–1890: An Index*. (FHL book 975.6 V22fm.)

1770–1920 Census indexes, 1790–1880 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.

1770–1851 Siler, David W. *The Eastern Cherokees, a census of the Cherokee Nation in North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia in 1851*. (FHL book 970.3 C424sd.) This census was taken 1851.


1800–1940 *Cemetery Records of North Carolina*. (FHL book 975.6 V3r, vols. 1–8; films 873690 items 3–5, film 873691 items 1–4; fiche 6046892.)


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.
1800–1890  Almasy, Sandra L.  *North Carolina, 1890, Civil War Veterans Census.* (FHL book 975.6 M2a.)


1800–1874  Reaves, Bill.  *North Carolina Freedman’s Savings & Trust Company Records.* (FHL book 975.6 U3r.) Has records after the Civil War.


1840–1898  Roster of North Carolina Volunteers in the Spanish American War 1898–1899. (FHL film 018079 item 2.) Compiled under the direction of Adjutant General’s Office.


1873–1918  United States Selective Service System.  *North Carolina, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918.* (On 81 FHL films beginning with 1765557.) Men ages 18 to 45 are listed alphabetically by county or draft board.

1913–present  *Index to Births, 1913–Present.* (Not at the FHL.) At North Carolina Vital Records Office.

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 your nearest Family History Center, click here.

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

Libraries and Archives

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

To use interlibrary loan:

• Go to a public or college library.
• Ask the librarian to order a book or microfilm for you through interlibrary loan from another library. You 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.
North Carolina Maps Bibliography

Rel/Fam Hist Ref - G 1201.F7 A5 1991

**Summary:** Shows "minor county subdivisions" maps start after 1930 and are provided by the Bureau of the Census. Census county subdivisions or minor civil divisions. Does not include Hawaii or Alaska.

**Evaluation of North Carolina Maps:** pp. 697-724. General history of counties with precincts, census county divisions, public land surveys and townships.

Rel/Fam Hist Ref - G 1201.E6225 J33x 1970z

**Summary:** Gives a chronological list of the counties.

**Evaluation of North Carolina Maps:** Chronological list of Counties p. 118. 1960 p121; 1860 pp. 122-123; 1823 p125; 1804 p 126; Revolutionary Period p 127.


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

**Evaluation of North Carolina Maps:** State historical information, pp. 30-33. Maps: 1790-1900, 69; 1823, 106; 1860, 147; 1909, 234.

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

**Summary:** General state information.

**Evaluation of North Carolina Maps:** pp. 230-236. General state information includes; Maps with highways, climate & environment, history & important events, population & government, ethnicity & education, economy & resources.

Rel/Fam Hist Ref - G1201.F7 T5 1987

**Summary:** Outlines counties and changes in 10 year intervals. Gives brief history on census, its growth and accuracy. Sources for maps come from state/territorial laws.

**Evaluation of North Carolina Maps:** pp. 245-258. Shows modern boundaries and changes.

*Map Collection - G 1300 .X1 C53*

**Summary:** North Carolina and its resources, exploration, settlements and developments. Government and politics, economy, waterways and military history. Is an excellent way to find more maps of the same.

**Evaluation:** To see what areas were explored and settled, and by whom. Shows traveled ancestral trails and waterways. Military conquests are shown to see which area of lands opened up for settlement.


*Map Collection - G 1300.C8 1966*

**Summary:** This book contains excellent maps from 1585 to 1896.

**Evaluation:** This book gives some history as to what part of North Carolina was a part of and some clues as to where record holdings may be. Gives roads and waterways that ancestors may have traveled on.


**Summary:** Indexes place names - historic sites, grid index.

**Evaluation:** Excellent to find longitude and latitude of towns, to be able to place old towns where existing towns are now.


*Map Collection Quarto - G 1300.L6 1967*

**Summary:** Shows land surface boundaries

**Evaluation:** Boundaries such as, county divisions, aboriginal North Carolina lands. And also shows the population growth of selected towns/cities.


*Map Collection Quarto - G 1300.N7 2000*

**Summary:** History (Civil War, Slave population) and population, economy, government and mining maps. Also shows reconstruction and growth patterns of towns after the Civil War.
Evaluation: Is excellent to be able to map out where ancestors might have traveled and what towns were given up after the Civil War. Mining towns would be nearby the mines, which may help in placing an ancestor.


**Summary:** Gives County Seat, as well as roads, gives history of when towns were established and what is nearby those towns.
**Evaluation:** Will be able to find background information on selected towns that are of interest to the researcher, and where to find records in the county.

Map Collection - *Map Cases G3900-G3904*. Individual maps that *illustrate* things from military movement to censuses.

**Web Sites/Computer Programs** [www.topozone.com](http://www.topozone.com) **Summary:** Gives options, of place name searches, coordinate searches, UTM searches. **Evaluation:** Excellent for finding what new town your old town (etc) may be in.

[www.MapQuest.com](http://www.MapQuest.com) **Summary:** Must know address, city, state and zip code, more recent maps. **Evaluation:** Good, to find an existing relative if you have their address.

**Animap** Mic/Gen Family Search room - on computer and C.D. version available

**Summary:** Each state is different, with maps. Shows boundary changes with now boundaries. **Evaluation:** Excellent to find older maps quick.
North Carolina Federal Census Population Schedules, 1790 to 1920

Guide

Introduction
Federal censuses are taken every 10 years. North Carolina residents are included in censuses from 1790 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 the household.

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

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

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

Steps
These 5 steps will help you use census records.

Step 1. Determine which censuses might include your ancestors.

Match the probable time your ancestor was in North Carolina with the census years. This will determine which censuses you will search.
Step 2. Determine a census to start with.

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

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

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

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:

1790 1800 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 North Carolina to a different county or town.
- Movement of the family out of North Carolina if the family no longer appears in the census for North Carolina.

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

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

**Background**

**Description**

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

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

**What U.S. Federal Censuses Are Available**

Censuses have been taken by the United States government every 10 years since 1790. The 1920 census is the most recent federal census available to the public; the 1930 census will be released in 2002. In 1885 the federal government also helped 5 states or territories (Colorado, Florida, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Dakota Territory) conduct special censuses.
Most of the 1890 census was destroyed by fire; however, for North Carolina, portions are available for Gaston County (South Point and River Bend townships) and Cleveland County (Township No. 2). Portions of a special schedule taken in 1890, of Union Civil War veterans and their widows, have survived. The surviving 1890 veterans’ schedules cover Washington D.C., half of Kentucky, and all of Louisiana through Wyoming (states are in alphabetical order from K through W). These schedules contain approximately 700,000 names.

**Types of Census Schedules**

The following census schedules are available for North Carolina 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 1810 (for a list, see the *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Bureau of the Census* [FHL film 599553]), 1820, 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.

**How Censuses Were Taken**

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

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

**When Censuses Were Taken**

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

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

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

If your ancestor died in the census year, your ancestor should be listed only if he or she died after the census date.
The census may have actually taken several months to complete and may reflect births and deaths after the census date.

**Censuses from 1930 to the Present**

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

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

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

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

**Colonial, State, and Local Censuses**

Colonial, state, and local governments also took censuses. Nonfederal censuses generally contain information similar to and sometimes more than federal censuses of the same period. There is a published colonial census for 1784 to 1786, *State Census of North Carolina, 1784-1787*. See the state census part, in the census section, of the North Carolina Research Outline for more information.

North Carolina became a state in 1789. In North Carolina no state censuses were taken.

Colonial, state, and local censuses may be available on the Internet, at Family History Centers, in 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:

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

**Family History Centers**

Many Family History Centers keep copies of some census microfilms. Family History Centers can borrow microfilms of a U.S. Federal Census from the Family History Library. A small fee is charged to have a microfilm sent to a center.
You may request photocopies of U.S. Federal Censuses from the Family History Library. Staff at the Family History Center can show you how to request this service.

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

**Family History Library**

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

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

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

**National Archives**

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

**College and Public Libraries**

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

**State Archives, Libraries, and Historical Societies**

The Archives and Libraries section of the North Carolina Research Outline lists Internet and mailing addresses for several North Carolina archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of North Carolina 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  
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.
NORTH CAROLINA


NORTH CAROLINA

http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/Sabin?af=RN&ae =CY103457842&s rchtp=a&ste=14&l ocl D=byu provo


Western North Carolina: Historical and Biographical. Charlotte: A.D. Smith, 1890. Microfiche CS 43.G46x LH 47


 Alamance County 
Alamance County was established in 1849 from Orange County.


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Albemarle County
1.) Albemarle County was established in 1664 in the Northeast portion of the Lords Proprietors' new province of Carolina; by 1668 it was divided into Chowan, Currituck, Pasquotank and Perquimans precincts. The county ceased to exist in 1689. 2.) Albemarle County included all land and settlers within ten leagues of Albemarle Sound.


Alexander County
Alexander County was established in 1847 from Caldwell, Iredell, and Wilkes counties.


Alleghany County
Alleghany County was established in 1859 from Ashe County.

Anson County
Anson County was established in 1750 from Bladen County.


Archdale County
1.) Archdale County was established before 1695 "on Pampticoe River without the Bounds of the County of Albemarle". The Precinct of Pampticoe was a part of Archdale County in 1696 at which time it became the County of Bath. The name of Archdale County was changed to Craven County about 1712. 2.) Archdale Precinct was formed from Bath County on December 3, 1705, and the name was changed about 1712 to Craven County.

Ashe County
Ashe County was established in 1799 from Wilkes County.

Avery County
Avery County was established in 1911 from Caldwell, Mitchell, and Watauga counties.
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Bath County
Bath County was established in 1696 from the territory south of Albemarle Sound. On December 3, 1705, the territory was divided into Archdale, Pamptecough, and Wickham precincts. Bath County was not abolished with the creation of these precincts but continued to be referred to in records as late as 1724; sometime later Bath County lost its identity.

Beaufort County
Beaufort County was first called Pamptecough Precinct when it was formed in 1705 from Bath County; the name was changed to Beaufort about 1712.

Bertie County
Bertie County was established in 1722 from Chowan County.

Thomas, Gerald W. Divided Allegiances: Bertie County During the Civil War. Raleigh, NC: Division of Archives and History, NC Dept. of Cultural Resources, 1996. F 262 .B38 T46x


Bladen County
Bladen County was established in 1734 from New Hanover County.

Brunswick County
Brunswick County was established in 1764 from New Hanover and Bladen counties.

Buncombe County
Buncombe County was established in 1791 from Burke and Rutherford counties.


Burke County
Burke County was established in 1777 from Rowan County.

The Heritage of Burke County. Morganton, NC: Burke County Historical Society, 1981. Quarto F 262 .B96 H47

Hunter, Cyrus Lee. Sketches of Western North Carolina. Raleigh, NC: Raleigh News Steam Job Print, 1877. CS 43 .G46x LH 52


Bute County
Bute County was established in 1764 from Granville County and Northampton County in 1766. It was abolished in 1779 when Franklin and Warren counties were formed.

Cabarrus County
Cabarrus County was established in 1792 from Mecklenburg


Gehrke, William Herman. The Beginnings of the Pennsylvania-German Element in Rowan and Cabarrus Counties. 1934. Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 33

Hunter, Cyrus Lee. Sketches of Western North Carolina. Raleigh, NC: Raleigh News Steam Job Print, 1877. CS 43 .G46x LH 52


Caldwell County
Caldwell County was established in 1841 from Burke and Wilkes counties.


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NORTH CAROLINA

Camden County
Camden County was established in 1777 from Pasquotank County.


Carteret County
Carteret County was established in 1722 from Craven County.

Caswell County
Caswell was established in 1777 from Orange County.

Catawba County
Catawba County was established in 1842 from Lincoln County.


Chatham County
Chatham County was established in 1771 from Orange County.


Cherokee County
Cherokee County was established in 1839 from Macon County.

Chowan County
Chowan County was established by 1668 as Shaftesbury Precinct of Albemarle County. Renamed Chowan Precinct about 1685, later became a county.


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Clay County
Clay County was established in 1861 from Cherokee County.

Cleveland County
Cleveland County was established in 1841 from Lincoln and Rutherford counties. Cleaveland was originally used but the present spelling was adopted in 1887.


Columbus County
Columbus County was established in 1808 from Bladen and Brunswick counties.

Craven County
1.) Craven County was one of three counties (Albemarle and Clarendon being the others) set up in 1664 by the Lords Proprietors of Carolina. Its territory embraced what later became South Carolina. 2.) Craven County was established in 1705 as Archdale Precinct of Bath County, although there is evidence that an Archdale County existed as early as 1696. The name was changed to Craven County about 1712. 3.) Craven County included the Ashley River settlement known as Charles Town (Charleston, South Carolina).

Cumberland County
Cumberland County was established in 1754 from Bladen County.


Currituck County
1.) Currituck County was established in 1670 from Albemarle County. 2.) Currituck County was formed by 1668 as a precinct of Albemarle County.

Dare County
Dare County was established in 1870 from Currituck, Tyrrell, and Hyde counties.


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**North Carolina**

**Davidson County**
1) Davidson County was established in 1822 from Rowan County. 2) Now in Tennessee was created in 1783. This was a part of the territory ceded by North Carolina in 1789 to the federal government.


Sink, Margaret Jewell. *Davidson County, Economic and Social*. Durham, NC: Seeman Printery, 1925. Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 132

**Davie County**
Davie County was established in 1836 from Rowan County.


**Dobbs County**
1.) From 1779-1791 this county dissolved and split into Wayne, Glasgow, and Lenoir counties. Glasgow was dissolved in 1799 and became Greene County. So, the area that was Dobbs County is currently all or parts of Wayne, Greene and Lenoir counties. 2.) Dobbs County was formed from Johnston County in 1758. Wayne County was formed from Dobbs in 1779, portions of it were added to other counties, and the remainder was divided into Glasgow and Lenoir counties in 1791.

**Duplin County**
Duplin County was established in 1750 from New Hanover County.

**Durham County**
Durham County was established in 1881 from Orange and Wake counties.


**Edgecombe County**
Edgecombe County was established in 1741 from Bertie County.


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**Forsyth County**

Forsyth County was established in 1849 from Stokes County.


**Franklin County**

1.) Franklin County was established in 1779 from Bute County when that county was divided to form Franklin and Warren counties.


**Gaston County**

Gaston County was established in 1846 from Lincoln.


**Gates County**

Gates County was established in 1779 from Chowan, Hertford, and Perquimans counties.

**Glasgow County**

Glasgow County was formed in 1791 from Dobbs County. The name was changed to Greene in 1799.

**Graham County**

Graham County was established in 1872 from Cherokee County.
**NORTH CAROLINA**

**Granville County**
Granville County was established in 1746 from Edgecombe County.


**Greene County**
1) Greene County was established in 1799 from Glasgow County when Glasgow changed its name to Greene.
2) Greene County now in Tennessee, created in 1783. This was a part of the Territory ceded by North Carolina in 1789 to the Federal government.

**Guilford County**
Guilford County was established in 1771 from Orange and Rowan counties.


**Halifax County**
Halifax County was established in 1758 from Edgecombe County.


**Harnett County**
Harnett County was established in 1855 from Cumberland County.
Haywood County
Haywood County was established in 1808 from Buncombe County.


Henderson County
Henderson County was established in 1838 from Buncombe County.


Hertford County
Hertford County was established in 1759 from Chowan, Bertie, and Northampton counties.


Hoke County
Hoke County was established in 1911 from Cumberland and Robeson counties.

Hyde County
Hyde County was formed in 1705 as Wickham Precinct of Bath County. The name was changed to Hyde about 1712.

Iredell County
Iredell County was established in 1788 from Rowan County.


Jackson County

Jackson County was established in 1851 from Haywood and Macon counties.

Johnston County

Johnston County was created on 28 June 1746 from Craven County.

Jones County

Jones County was established in 1778 from Craven County.


Lee County

Lee County was established in 1907 from Moore and Chatham counties.

Lenoir County

Lenoir County was established in 1791 from Dobbs County when it was divided to form Glasgow and Lenoir counties.


Lincoln County

Lincoln County was established in 1779 from Tryon County when it was divided to form Lincoln and Rutherford counties.

Hunter, C.L. Sketches of Western North Carolina. Raleigh, NC: Raleigh News Steam Job Print, 1877. Microfiche CS 43.G46x LH 52


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Macon County
Macon County was established in 1828 from Haywood County.

Madison County
Madison County was established in 1851 from Buncombe and Yancey counties.


Martin County
Martin County was established in 1774 from Halifax and Tyrrell counties.


McDowell County
McDowell County was established in 1842 from Rutherford and Burke counties.

Mecklenburg County
Mecklenburg County was established in 1762 from Anson County.


Tompkins, Daniel A. History of Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte from 1740 to 1903. Charlotte, NC: Observer Printing House, 1903. F 262 M4 T8 also Microfiche CS 43 .G46s LH 151 also Microfiche Z 1236 L5 1971 no. 20448
Mitchell County
Mitchell County was established in 1861 from Yancey, Watauga, Caldwell, Burke, and McDowell counties.

Montgomery County
Montgomery County was established in 1779 from Anson County.


Moore County
Moore County was established in 1784 from Cumberland County.


Nash County
Nash County was established in 1777 from Edgecombe County.

New Hanover County
New Hanover was established in 1729 from Craven County.


Northampton County
Northampton County was established in 1741 from Bertie County.

Onslow County
Onslow County was established in 1734 from New Hanover County.

Watson, Alan D. Onslow County : A Brief History. Raleigh, NC: Division of Archives and History, NC Dept. of Cultural Resources, 1995. F 262 .05 W38
**Orange County**
Orange County was established in 1752 from Bladen, Granville and Johnston counties.


**Pamlico County**
Pamlico County was established in 1872 from Beaufort and Craven counties.


**Pasquotank County**
Pasquotank County was established in 1668 as a precinct in Albemarle County.

**Pender County**
Pender County was established in 1875 from New Hanover County.


**Perquimans County**
Perquimans County was established in 1668 as a precinct in Albemarle County.


**Person County**
Person County was established in 1791 from Caswell County.


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Pitt County
Pitt County was established in 1760 from Beaufort County.


Polk County
Polk County was established in 1855 from Henderson and Rutherford counties.


Randolph County
Randolph County was established in 1779 from Guilford County.


Richmond County
Richmond County was established in 1779 from Anson County.

Robeson County
Robeson County was established in 1787 from Bladen County.

Rockingham County
Rockingham was established in 1785 from Guilford County.


Rowan County
Rowan County was established in 1753 from Anson County.

Brawley, James S. Rowan County: A Brief History. Raleigh: North Carolina Dept. of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, 1977. F 262 R8 B695


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NORTH CAROLINA


Rutherford County
Rutherford County was established in 1779 from Tryon County when it was divided to form Rutherford and Lincoln counties.


Sampson County
Sampson County was established in 1784 from Duplin County.

Scotland County
Scotland County was established in 1899 from Richmond County.

Stanly County
Stanly County was established in 1841 from Montgomery County.

Stokes County
Stokes County was established in 1789 from Surry County.

Surry County
Surry County was established in 1771 from Rowan County.


Swain County
Swain County was established in 1871 from Jackson and Macon counties.


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Transylvania County
Transylvania County was established in 1861 from Henderson and Jackson counties.


Tryon County
Tryon County was established in 1769 from Mecklenburg County and was abolished in 1779 and its area was assumed by Lincoln and Rutherford counties.


Tyrrell County
Tyrrell County was established in 1729 from Bertie, Chowan, Currituck, and Pasquotank counties.

Union County
Union County was established in 1842 from Anson and Mecklenburg counties.

Vance County
Vance County was established in 1881 from Granville, Warren, and Franklin counties.

Wake County
Wake County was established in 1771 from Cumberland, Johnston, and Orange counties.


**NORTH CAROLINA**

**Warren County**
Warren County was established in 1779 from Bute County when it was divided to form Warren and Franklin counties.


**Washington County**
Washington County was established in 1799 from Tyrrell County.

**Watauga County**
Watauga County was established in 1849 from Ashe, Caldwell, Wilkes, and Yancey counties.


**Wayne County**
Wayne County was established in 1779 from Dobbs County.

**Wilkes County**
Wilkes County was established in 1777 from Surry County and the District of Washington.


Nickerson, Thomas F. *Happy Valley, History and Genealogy.* Chapel Hill, NC: The Author, 1940. Microfiche CS 43.G46x LH 137

Hunter, Cyrus L. *Sketches of Western North Carolina.* Raleigh, NC: Raleigh New Steam Job Print, 1877. Microfiche CS 43.G46x LH 52

**Wilson County**
Wilson County was established in 1855 from Edgecombe, Nash, Johnston, and Wayne counties.

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Yadkin County
Yadkin County was established in 1850 from Surry


Yancey County
Yancey County was established in 1833 from Burke and Buncombe counties.
Other Resources North Carolina

North Carolina Progressive County Maps
http://www.mynorthcarolinagenealogy.com/nc_maps/nc_cf.htm

North Carolina State Archives
http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/

North Carolina Resources on Family History Catalog
(including Land and Property Indexes )
http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/fhlcatalog/supermainframespace.asp?display=localitydetails&subject=352&subject_disp=North+Carolina&first=1&last=100&columns=*,0,0

North Carolina land grants in Tennessee, 1778-1791  Presley, Leister E., Mrs.
HBLL Call Number F 435 .P74x

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www.familysearchwiki.org