Ohio
Research Outline

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

RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

The Family History Library has many of the records described in this outline. The library's major holdings include vital, probate, land, and census records for each of Ohio's 88 counties. The library has records on microfilm from each county courthouse and other materials from the Ohio Network of American History Research Centers.

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

**FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG™**

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

- The place where your ancestor lived, such as:
  
  UNITED STATES - CENSUS RECORDS OHIO, ALLEN - VITAL RECORDS OHIO, ALLEN, ALLENTOWN - CEMETERIES

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

  UNITED STATES - CENSUS RECORDS OHIO, ALLEN - VITAL RECORDS OHIO, ALLEN, ALLENTOWN - CEMETERIES

**ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES**

The archives, libraries, and societies listed below have collections or services to assist researchers.

- **Ohio Historical Society**

  Ohio Historical Center  
  1982 Velma Avenue  
  Columbus, OH 43211-2497  
  Telephone: 614-297-2300  
  Fax: 614-297-2546

A useful guide to this collection is:

A description of sources at the Society is also included in:
• National Archives—Great Lakes Region

7358 S. Pulaski Road
Chicago, IL 60629
Telephone: 773-948-9001
Fax: 773-948-9050
For information about their holdings, see:

• Ohio Genealogical Society

713 S. Main St.
P.O. Box 2625
Mansfield, OH 44907
Telephone: 419-756-7924
Fax: 419-756-8681
Almost every county in Ohio has a branch of the OGS that actively collects, preserves, and publishes local records.

• Western Reserve Historical Society

10825 East Boulevard
Cleveland, OH 44106-1788
Telephone: 216-721-5722
Fax: 216-721-0645
A guide to the holdings is:
Also see:

- **Bowling Green State University**
  
  Center for Archival Collections  
  Jerome Library  
  Bowling Green, OH 43403-0175  
  Telephone: 419-372-2411  
  Fax: 419-372-0155

- **Ohio University**
  
  Archives and Special Collections  
  Alden Library  
  Athens, OH 45701-2978  
  Telephone: 614-593-2710  
  Fax: 614-593-0138

- **University of Cincinnati**
  
  Archives Department  
  Blegen Library  
  Cincinnati, OH 45221-0113  
  Telephone: 513-556-1959  
  Fax: 513-556-2113

- **Wright State University**
  
  Special Collections and Archives  
  Paul Laurence Dunbar Library  
  Dayton, OH 45435-0001  
  Telephone: 937-775-2092  
  Fax: 937-775-4109

- **Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor**
  
  Archives-Library  
  P.O. Box 533  
  151 West Wood St.  
  Youngstown, OH 44501  
  Telephone: 330-743-5934  
  Fax: 330-743-2999  
  This archive is a center for the Ohio Historical Society.
• The Ohio Network of American History Research Centers collects Ohio records such as newspapers, printed materials, and most local government records. Each regional center collects materials from specific counties and maintains an inventory of each county's records. An inventory of each center's holdings as of 1977 is in:


The network includes the following institutions: Bowling Green State University, Ohio Historical Society, Ohio University, University of Akron, University of Cincinnati, Western Reserve Historical Society, Wright State University, and Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor.

In the early 1940s the Historical Records Survey produced inventories of county courthouses and archives. These describe the existing records and record-keeping systems. The Family History Library has copies of these inventories for about 30 of the 88 counties in Ohio. These are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under: OHIO, [COUNTY] - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES - INVENTORIES, REGISTERS, CATALOGS

You may also learn about research sources in:


**Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards**

Computers with modems are important tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

• Locate other researchers
• Post queries
• Send and receive E-mail
• Search large databases
• Search computer libraries
• Join in computer chat and lecture sessions
You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from Ohio in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

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

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

- **Roots-L**
  http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/
  A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly updated research coordination list.

For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the *United States Research Outline* (30972), 2nd ed., "Archives and Libraries" section.

**BIBLE RECORDS**

The State Library of Ohio has a collection of Bible records transcribed by the Ohio Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Many of these are included in the *Genealogical Collection*, described in the “Genealogy” section of this outline. Some transcripts of DAR Bible records are in:


Many periodicals publish family data from Bible records. These are referenced in the *PERiodical Source Index (PERSI)*, described in the “Periodicals” section of this outline.

The Ohio Genealogical Society maintains an every-name card index to all Bible record transcripts in their possession.

Transcriptions of Bible records are listed in the Locality Search of the *Family History Library Catalog* under:
BIOGRAPHY

Biographies provide useful genealogical information such as an individual's date of birth and marriage; family members; occupation; education; military service information; family migration; social, political, and religious affiliation. Examples include:


*An Every-Name Index to the History of the Western Reserve*. Mentor, Ohio: Lake County Chapter, OGS, 1988. (FHL book 977.13 H2u index 1988; fiche 6093927.)


An every-name card index to about 450,000 persons mentioned in the biographical sections of Ohio county histories is:


The Family History Library has many biographical publications and histories with biographical information. They are generally listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

OHIO - BIOGRAPHYOHIO, [COUNTY] - BIOGRAPHYOHIO, [COUNTY] - HISTORY

CEMETERIES

Transcriptions of cemetery records compiled by local genealogical groups or individuals are available at the Family History Library for most counties in Ohio. For those records
compiled by chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, see the “Genealogy” section of this outline.

The Family History Library also has microfilm copies of sexton and mortician records from some counties.

Some older cemetery lists have been reprinted in:


Many eastern Ohio cemeteries are transcribed in *The Henry R. Baldwin Genealogical Records*, described in the “Genealogy” section of this outline. The first seven volumes are cemetery records.

Some Ohio cemetery records were copied by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. These records are found in:

*Ohio Cemetery Records*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1972. (FHL films 873854 item 7 and 873855 items 2-3.)

Excellent sources for veterans' graves are mentioned in the “Military Records” section of this outline.

**Locating Cemeteries and Transcripts**

The known names and locations of Ohio cemeteries and information about published inscriptions are given in:


A county-by-county list of cemetery record transcripts available at the Family History Library as of 1988 is found in:

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.) Films 1206485-86 include Ohio, among other states.
Periodicals have published inscriptions from many Ohio cemeteries. These are referenced in the *PERiodical Source Index (PERSI)*, described in the “Periodicals” section of this outline.

The Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog lists more of these records under:

OHIO - CEMETERIESOHIO, [COUNTY] - CEMETERIESOHIO, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - CEMETERIES

**CENSUS**

**Federal Censuses.** Federal census records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* (30972), provides more detailed information regarding these records.

The Family History Library has the U.S. Federal censuses of Ohio for 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920. Returns for the 1810 and 1890 censuses were almost entirely destroyed. All that remains of the 1810 census are the returns for Washington County. Lists of territorial residents in 1800 also exist for Washington County. All that remains of the 1890 census are military schedules listing widows and pensioners from the Civil War.

Some early tax records have been compiled and indexed to substitute for the early censuses. One example is:


*Statewide indexes* for the 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, and 1880 censuses are available in book format. Soundex (phonetic) indexes are on microfilm for the 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses. Be aware that the 1880 soundex index is incomplete and includes only those families with children born between 1870 and 1880. Either check the 1880 index in book format or search the actual census for the place where your ancestors lived.

*County indexes* to federal censuses sometimes help locate names overlooked or misspelled in statewide indexes. To locate county census indexes check the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under OHIO, [COUNTY] - CENSUS.
When indexes are not available or a name is omitted from an index you can still look for the name in the census. To find a person who lived in a large city, it helps to first find his or her address in the city directory for the same year as the census (see the “Directories” section of this outline). Then look for that address on the original census schedules.

The following reference tools help determine which census schedule microfilm and enumeration district to search for specific addresses:


*Census Descriptions of Geographic Subdivisions and Enumeration Districts.*

- 1830 FHL film 1402857 item 1; computer number 299384
- 1840 FHL film 1402857 item 2; computer number 299385
- 1850 FHL film 1402858 item 1; computer number 299392
- 1860 FHL film 1402858 item 2; computer number 299393
- 1870 FHL film 1402859; computer number 299425
- 1880 FHL film 1402862; computer number 299426
- 1890 FHL film 1303025; computer number 117685
- 1900 FHL film 1374009; computer number 176643
- 1920 FHL film 1842715; computer number 687949

United States. Bureau of the Census. *Cross Index to Selected City Streets and Enumeration Districts, 1910 Census*. (51 FHL fiche 6331481; computer number 258163.) Often referred to as the *39 Cities Index*, it lists street addresses with corresponding census enumeration districts for Canton, Cleveland, Dayton, and Youngstown.

*Mortality Schedules*. Mortality schedules (lists of deaths in the year preceding the census) exist for the years 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. The 1850 schedule includes only counties beginning alphabetically with Hamilton through Wyandot. The 1860 schedule includes all counties, the 1870 includes only Seneca County, and the 1880 includes the counties Adams through Geauga. These records are available at the State Library of Ohio and at the Family History Library. Some have been indexed.

*Master Indexes*. Some of the indexes mentioned above are combined into one master index of several census years, states, and census types:

*FamilyFinder™ Index and Viewer: Version 3.0*, [Novato, Calif.]: Brøderbund Software, 1995. (FHL compact disc no. 9 1995 index. Not available at Family History Centers. FamilyFinder is a trademark of Brøderbund Software, Inc.) It is a master index to Ohio tax lists for 1787 to 1819; Washington County for 1800, 1803, and 1810; federal censuses for 1820 to 1860 and 1880; and mortality schedules for 1850.
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.) Early Ohio tax lists are combined together on Search 1. A composite mortality schedule index is on Search 8. Separate Ohio 1820, 1830, 1840, and 1850 indexes are on other searches.

**Territorial and State Censuses**

Microfilm numbers of Ohio territorial or state censuses are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under OHIO - CENSUS - [YEAR]. They are also found in:


In some counties, town or county censuses taken by the state between 1798 and 1911 may supplement the federal census records. Among these are quadrennial enumerations which exist for a few counties and list males 21 years and older. The Family History Library has copies of most of these. These lists are also in local courthouses and in the Ohio Network of American History Research Centers, mentioned in the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline.

**CHURCH RECORDS**

By 1900 the prominent denominations in Ohio were Roman Catholic, Methodist, and Presbyterian. There were also groups of Baptists, Lutherans, and Society of Friends. The following handbooks may help you locate and use church records:


While the majority of church records remain with the local churches, the Family History Library, Ohio Historical Society, and Western Reserve Historical Society have copies of local records from some churches. The Family History Library has film copies of the manuscript collection in the Western Reserve Historical Society. See *A Guide to*...
Manuscripts at the Ohio Historical Society, described in the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline.

Many of the local church records available at the Family History Library have been microfilmed at various archives and libraries. Whenever possible, these are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under OHIO, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - CHURCH RECORDS. While no listing of Family History Library films by repository is available, the Family History Library Catalog identifies when and where each record was microfilmed.

Denominational histories for groups such as the Church of the Brethren, Evangelical, LDS (1830 to 1838), Lutheran, Mennonite, Methodist, Moravian, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under OHIO - CHURCH HISTORY and OHIO, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - CHURCH HISTORY.

Lists of incorporations of churches before 1850 are included in:

Data Abstracted from the Laws of Ohio, 1803-1900. Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1960. (FHL film 223918.)

Locating Church Records

Local church records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under OHIO, [COUNTY] - CHURCH RECORDS or OHIO, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - CHURCH RECORDS.

Statewide or regional records are listed under OHIO - CHURCH RECORDS. An example is:

Shaker Membership Card Index. Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1974. (FHL films 934620-23.)

Periodicals have published records of many Ohio churches. These are referenced in the Periodical Source Index (PERSI) described in the "Periodicals" section of this outline.

You may contact the following to learn where their records are located:

Baptist

North American Baptist General Conference
1 South 210 Summit Avenue
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181
Telephone: 630-495-2000
To learn more about Baptist records, see:

**Lutheran**
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
ELCA Archives
321 Bonnie Lane
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
Telephone: (847) 690-9410

If a church is still active, the church will be able to help locate the records. The records of churches in the United States that have been disbanded are located at the ELCA Archives in Chicago. The archives has records of many congregations, and those on microfilm may be borrowed for a small fee. A partial list of church records in its collection is listed in: ALC Archives. ALC Congregations on Microfilm. Dubuque, Iowa: The Archives, [197?]. (FHL fiche 6330690-93.) Arranged by the state and city in which the congregation resides. Fiche 6330692 includes Ohio. The ALC (American Lutheran Church) Archives are now part of the ELCA Archives.

**Methodist**
Methodist Historical Commission
Ohio Wesleyan University
Delaware, OH 43015
United Methodist Church
601 W. Riverview Avenue
Dayton, OH 45406

For additional help in locating Methodist records, see:

For information on Methodist ministers in Ohio, see:

**Presbyterian**
Presbyterian Historical Society
425 Lombard Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147-1516
Telephone: 215-627-1852

The Family History Library has numerous records of local churches in Ohio. They were microfilmed at the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Also filmed there is:

For inventories of Presbyterian churches and their records, see:

Historical Records Survey (Ohio). Inventory of the Church Archives of Ohio Presbyterian Churches. Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1972. (FHL films 854488, 899320-22.) Inventories are arranged alphabetically by county. Volume one includes indexes by place names, church names, and date of organization. Information was collected about the records, history, buildings, and clergymen.

Historical Records Survey (Ohio). Inventory of the Church Archives of Ohio Presbyterian Churches. Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1967. (FHL films 506375-80.) This may contain information that is not included in the previous inventory. Records are listed alphabetically by counties.

Roman Catholic
Archdiocese of Cincinnati
Chancery
100 E. Eighth Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202
Telephone: 513-421-3131
Fax: 513-421-6225

Diocese of Columbus
Chancery Office
198 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215
Telephne: 614-224-2251
614-224-8718 (Sat., Sun., and after hours)
Fax: 614-224-6306

Diocese of Cleveland
Chancery Building
1027 Superior Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44114
Telephone: 216-696-6525
800-869-6525 (Ohio only)
Fax: 216-621-7332

Diocese of Steubenville
422 Washington Street
P.O. Box 969
Steubenville, OH 43952
Telephone: 740-282-0728

Diocese of Toledo
Chancery
1933 Spielbusch Ave
Toledo, OH 43604
COURT RECORDS

Court records include record books, dockets, bonds, journals, petitions, minutes, final records, case files, and so forth. They contain many primary source materials that are useful for genealogical research. The Family History Library has many Ohio court records. Additional records are available at county courthouses, the Ohio Historical Society, and the National Archives—Great Lakes Region. Major courts that kept records of genealogical value were established as follows:

1787-pres. **Courts of common pleas** have districtwide jurisdiction over felonies, marriages, major civil cases, juvenile matters, probates until 1852, naturalizations until 1860 and after 1906, chancery matters until 1900, and divorces until 1894. The Family History Library has copies of some of the common pleas records, such as Cuyahoga County journals for 1823 to 1852.

1787-pres. **Supreme Court** is a statewide appellate court. It originally
had jurisdiction over common law and chancery matters.

1787-1802, 1852-1883 **Probate court** has handled guardianship, general probate, land sales, a few divorces, and naturalizations.

**County, municipal, mayor, justice of the peace, and police courts** have kept records with some genealogical value.

1800s-pres. **Probate court** has handled guardianship, general probate, land sales, a few divorces, and naturalizations.

1851-1883 **District courts** have countywide jurisdiction over civil and criminal cases, including chancery and divorces. The Family History Library has some district court records, such as Lake County records for 1845 to 1884.

1883-1912 **Circuit courts** have countywide jurisdiction over civil and criminal records, including equity and divorce. They have been replaced by **courts of appeal**. The Family History Library has some circuit court records.

There is often an overlapping of jurisdiction since newer courts have been established. Therefore all court records should be checked for those periods.

For more information about court records and procedures, see:


Court records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog Locality Search under:

**OHIO - COURT RECORDS OHIO, [COUNTY] - COURT RECORDS OHIO, [COUNTY], [CITY] - COURT RECORDS**

**DIRECTORIES**

City and county directories can be used with census records and as a substitute for census records and other genealogical sources. They can be used for locating a person, particularly in large cities, and for studying a person’s migration pattern. They may give clues to when a person died or moved from the area. City and rural directories are alphabetically arranged by surname and are often published annually. The publication of directories began in the early nineteenth century and continues to the present time. Directories list heads of households and employed household members, occupations, and addresses. Wives' names are given in some directories, and sometimes their date of death may be given. Local information such as names and locations of churches, schools, business firms, and street guides may also be included in the directories.
Directories of heads of households have been published for major cities in Ohio. The Family History Library has a large collection of directories for about 30 cities in Ohio. Local libraries and the Ohio Historical Society also have collections of directories.

Directories are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under OHIO, [COUNTY] - DIRECTORIES for county directories and under OHIO, [COUNTY], [CITY] - DIRECTORIES for city directories.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

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

Prestatehood settlers of Ohio generally came from Pennsylvania, Virginia, New York, Connecticut, Maryland, and New Jersey. Most of the early settlements were along the Ohio River and other waterways. By 1850, immigrants from Germany, Ireland, and England traveled on Zanes's Trace, the National Road, various canals, and Indian trails. One “story map” of Ohio during the period of the American Revolution is:


An illustrated explanation of the migrations to Ohio based on the 1850 census is:


The Western Reserve in northeast Ohio was heavily settled by New Englanders. Settlers in the Virginia Military District of southwest Ohio were mostly from Virginia and Kentucky. Scotch-Irish and Germans settled in the east and south part of Ohio, and the Irish most often settled in cities. The Germans tended to choose farms in rural areas. Many immigrants from England, France, Canada, Wales, and Scotland moved to Ohio between 1850 and 1880. In 1880, 15 percent of Ohio's people were foreign born. Until 1914, Italians, Russian Jews, Slovenes, Hungarians, and Poles were attracted to Cleveland and cities in northeastern Ohio. Today, about 10 percent of Ohio's population is African American.
Railroads were in Ohio by the 1830s. Ohio's population tripled between 1820 and 1840 but only increased by about 50 percent from 1840 to 1860.

Although Ohio had ports of entry on Lake Erie, no passenger lists for ships are available. The majority of the immigrants arrived through eastern ports (New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore) and New Orleans. The library has records for each of these ports from 1820 to about 1920 or later. Philadelphia records start in 1800. Records of persons coming from Canada to the United States were not recorded until 1895. For records after 1895, see “Canadian Border Crossings, 1895-1954” in the “Emigration and Immigration” section of the United States Research Outline (30972).

Records and books on the Irish, Germans, Blacks, and American Indians are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under OHIO - MINORITIES. Records of small groups of Alsatians, Russians, Norwegians, and Welsh are listed under OHIO - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

GAZETTEERS

Gazetteers list geographical names such as towns, settlements, rivers, mountains, villages, and districts. They identify these locations and sometimes give details concerning them. Several gazetteers of Ohio have been published. One of the most valuable sources for finding the names of early towns and geographical features is:

Kilbourn, John. *The Ohio Gazetteer*. 8th ed. Columbus: J. Kilbourn, 1826. (FHL book 977.1 E5k; films 823667 item 1 and 476928 item 2.)

Another major reference source for identifying Ohio localities is:

Miller, Larry L. *Ohio Place Names*. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, c. 1996. (FHL book 977.1 E2m.)

Geographical sources can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

OHIO - GAZETTEERS OHIO - NAMES, GEOGRAPHICAL
Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. These must usually be searched in person. Some important collections of compiled Ohio genealogies are:

Daughters of the American Revolution (Ohio), *Genealogical Collection*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1970. (On 76 FHL films beginning with 862012.) It is arranged by county, and many volumes have individual indexes. This collection consists of transcripts of Bible, cemetery, church, marriage, death, obituary, and probate records.

Women's Department, Cleveland Centennial Commission, comp. *Genealogical Data Relating to Women in the Western Reserve Before 1840 (1850)*. Columbus, Ohio: Ohio Historical Society, 1973. (FHL films 1009031-32; fiche 6087501.) This is a collection of information about pioneer women who lived in the Western Reserve prior to 1850.

Baldwin, Henry R. *The Henry R. Baldwin Genealogical Records*. 67 vols. Fort Wayne, Ind.: Allen County Public Library, 1983. (FHL book 977.1 D2bh; fiche 6051349.) It includes church, military, cemetery, court, and family data from eastern Ohio during 1867 to 1913. An every-name index to this collection is:

Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County, comp. *Index to the Henry R. Baldwin Genealogical Records*. Fort Wayne, Ind.: Allen County Public Library, 1983. (FHL book 977.1 D2bh index; fiche 6051339.)

Ohio Genealogical Society, *First Families of Ohio*. Bowling Green, Ohio: Center for Archival Collections, 1992, 1994. (On 81 FHL films beginning with 1912772.) Members of the Ohio Genealogical Society are submitting compiled family information in order to join First Families of Ohio. The collection consists of many types of vital information, including birth certificates, marriage records, and tombstone inscriptions.


Other genealogical records of Ohio can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under OHIO - GENEALOGY or OHIO, [COUNTY] - GENEALOGY.
HISTORY

The following are important dates in the history of Ohio that affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements:

1763  The British took possession of the area but discouraged settlers.

1787  The United States government established the Northwest Territory with the intent to open the land to Revolutionary War veterans and other settlers.

1788  The first permanent white settlement was established at Marietta.

1803  Ohio gained statehood.

1810-1840  Many more settlers came by steamboat on the Ohio River and Lake Erie and by new canals, roads, and railroads.

1861-1865  310,000 Ohio men served in the Union armed forces during the Civil War.

Several multivolume histories of Ohio were written between 1890 and 1945. Two examples are:

Howe, Henry. Historical Collections of Ohio. . . . 2 vols. N.p.: The State of Ohio, 1908, c1888. (FHL book 977.1 H2hh 1908; film 1698149 item 5.) The set has been produced by a number of publishers since 1847. Many editions exist. An index to this book is:


Wittke, Carl F., ed. The History of the State of Ohio. 6 vols. Columbus, Ohio: The Society, 1941-1944. (FHL book 977.1 H2wi.)

You may want to study local histories for areas such as the Maumee, Miami, Hocking, Muskingum, Scioto, and Mahoning Valleys.

A bibliography of local histories is:


For an every-name index to the biographical sections of Ohio county histories, see the Ohio Surname Index, described in the “Biography” section of this outline.

Histories are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:
Land in Ohio was transferred to private ownership by state and federal land grants. This was the first public domain land ever made available for private ownership. The rectangular land survey system (section, township, and range), established by the Land Ordinance of 1785, was first applied to federal land grants in Ohio.

Prior to the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, the colonies of Connecticut, Virginia, New York, and Massachusetts all had claim on land that is now part of Ohio. Only Virginia and Connecticut continued to claim specific areas of Ohio land after 1787.

Federal Land Grants

The Ohio Company First Purchase. This land was sold by the Continental Congress to an association of former officers and soldiers of the Revolutionary War from Massachusetts and nearby areas. The Ohio Company Second Purchase, made in 1792, was acquired by redeeming military bounty land warrants obtained by the association. Original records of the Ohio Company of Associates are in the custody of Marietta College, Dawes Memorial Library, Marietta, Ohio.

The Donation Tract. One hundred-acre parcels were offered to legal-age males who would occupy the land immediately, thus becoming a buffer between the Indians and those settling on the Ohio Company Purchases. Deeds were issued by the Ohio Company of Associates until 1818, when the Marietta Land Office obtained jurisdiction of unclaimed lands.

Symmes Purchase or Miami Purchase. Purchased partly with military bounty land warrants, the survey for this land was done privately and does not conform to the United States rectangular survey system. Symmes and many of the first settlers in this area came from New Jersey or had ties to New Jersey.

The United States Military District. Ohio land was granted to soldiers from any state who served in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. The tracts were 4,000 acres each, yet military bounty land warrants allowed between 100 acres for a soldier and 1,100 acres for a major general. Since few people could buy the remaining thousands of acres, some pooled warrants and subdivided their tract among themselves. Others sold their warrants to land speculators.
Moravian Indian Grants. The United Brethren Church was issued the grant as trustee for Indian converts who sustained great losses in 1782.

French Grants. Lands were granted to 101 Frenchmen who bought land by the Scioto Company, which had no land to sell legally.

Refugee Tract. Lands were granted to refugees from Canada who came to the Colonies before 4 July 1776 and who aided the cause of the Colonies during the Revolutionary War.

Congress Lands. Tracts of 320 acres were purchased by individuals. Because buyers paid 25 percent in cash and had four years to pay the balance, the property was exempt from taxes for the first five years after being purchased.

The first land offices to sell Congress lands were established in 1800. When land in one district was almost completely distributed, the few parcels left were sold by a new land office that had opened up further west. Arranged by first year of operation, the federal land offices in Ohio were located in Steubenville, 1800 to 1840; Marietta, 1800 to 1840; Chillicothe, 1801 to 1876; Cincinnati, 1801 to 1840; Zanesville, 1804 to 1840; Canton, 1808 to 1816; Wooster, 1816 to 1840; Delaware, 1820 to 1828; Piqua, 1820 to 1833; Tiffin, 1828 to 1832; Bucyrus, 1832 to 1842; Wapakoneta, 1833 to 1835; Lima, 1835 to 1843; Marion, 1837 to 1845; Upper Sandusky, 1843 to 1848; and Defiance, 1848 to 1855.

The Between the Miamis Survey or Ludlow's Survey. Though surveyed by the federal government, these lands continued the unorthodox survey system used in the adjoining Symmes Purchase, mentioned above.

Federal Grants to the State were given for various purposes. Grants were given for school, swamp, ministerial, canal, wagon road or turnpike, and university lands. Grants were also given for salt reservations and other purposes. Acts of the Ohio State Legislature determined how these lands were used, granted or sold.

State Land Grants

Virginia Military District was surveyed in 1787, and the first patent was issued in 1796. Bounty land warrants issued for military service in Virginia during the Revolutionary War or the French and Indian Wars were redeemed for land in Kentucky or in this district of Ohio. The first owners may not have been from Virginia and may not have been soldiers, since warrants could be inherited, sold, or legally assigned. Lands were described by metes and bounds in this district and are identified in deeds, tax lists, and other records by the original survey number assigned to each parcel. Original records for this district are found at the National Archives—Suitland Branch; the Bureau of Land Management, Springfield, Virginia; the [Ohio] Auditor of State's Land Office (address to follow); and the Ohio Historical Society.
Connecticut Western Reserve was sold to the Connecticut Land Company in 1795. The land was divided into shares in 1798. The Connecticut State Library and the Western Reserve Historical Library, described in the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline, have extensive collections pertaining to the Western Reserve and the Firelands.

Firelands or Sufferers Lands. In 1781, nine towns in Connecticut were destroyed by the British. These lands in the west end of the Western Reserve were granted by Connecticut to the sufferers, their heirs, or assignees. Land was partitioned in 1808. See The Firelands Pioneer, Norwalk, Ohio: Firelands Historical Society, 1858-1878. (FHL book 977.1 B2f; film 1320962 items 1-13, vols. 1-13; book 977.1 B2f index 1858-1937; film 1320941 item 1; Obituary index, book 977.1 B2f index supp. 1857-1909, fiche 6088685.)

The following publications discuss the development of the various land districts in more detail:


Petro, Jim. Ohio Lands: A Short History. [Columbus], Ohio: Ohio Auditor of State, 1994. (FHL book 977.1 A1 no. 645; a previous edition is on film 908043 item 6 and fiche 6051236.) This booklet is free from the auditor of state.


Land Grant Records

Ohio. Auditor of State. Canal Lands. Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1959. (On 50 FHL films beginning with 182671.) Includes leases (1832-1936), sales (1801-1851), and other papers. Many papers are arranged by section, range, and township.


United States. Land Office (Ohio). *Land Records of the Various Districts of Ohio*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1958. (FHL films 182624-70.) Registers of receipts, certificates, and entries for various land offices in Ohio, 1788 to 1876. Most are in chronological order of the transaction. Records contain the name of the purchaser, date of transaction, description of the land, and sometimes the residence of the purchaser and other information. Most volumes are not indexed by name.

Since Ohio officials had an interest in tracking the owner of Ohio lands for taxing and other purposes, many records of federal land sales and grants, as well as those for Ohio,
Virginia, and Connecticut, are in the custody of the Auditor of State's Land Office. Their collection includes copies of the plats of land distribution and the names of the original owners.

Ohio Land Office
Auditor of State
P.O. Box 1140
88 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43266-0040
Telephone: 614-466-4514
Fax: 614-466-6228

The National Archives—Suitland Branch has case files for federal cash and credit entries, homestead files, and military land warrants.

While most of the original records for the Virginia Military District are at the Library of Virginia in Richmond, the Family History Library has microfilm copies of much of their collection. These are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

VIRGINIA - LAND AND PROPERTY
VIRGINIA - MILITARY RECORDS

Original records of the Connecticut Western Reserve and Firelands in Ohio are located at the office of the Connecticut Secretary of State. Check the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

CONNECTICUT - LAND AND PROPERTY

Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio, has the Ohio Company records.

Indexes


Berry, Ellen Thomas, and David A. Berry, comps. *Early Ohio Settlers: Purchasers of Land in East and East Central Ohio, 1800-1840*. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing, 1989. (FHL book 977.1 R22b 1989.) This includes the Zanesville and Steubenville Land Offices. The years 1800 to 1820 are not included for Steubenville, since those years were covered by Carol Willsey Bell's book.


This work is an index to:


United States, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. *Ohio, 1790-1905: Canadian Refugee, Cash, Homestead, United Brethren Patents, and Virginia Military Warrants*. Springfield, Va.: BLM Eastern States, 1996. (FHL compact disc no. 40). No circulation to Family History Centers. Contains information from approximately 94,000 patents issued for Ohio lands by the federal government. Covers many of the federal land grants and the Virginia Military District. Researchers can search for land title information through any of these six categories: land description, patentee name, patent authority, land office, certificate number, or county. Copies of original records identified through this source can be obtained from the National Archives. This source indexes and consolidates many records. State sources may be more complete, especially for early grants, because of their interest in tracking land sales for taxation and other purposes.
Additional indexes, printed sources, and records of original transfers of land from federal and state governments are found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

**OHIO - LAND AND PROPERTY UNITED STATES - LAND AND PROPERTY**

### County Records

After land was transferred to private ownership, subsequent transactions were usually recorded at the county courthouse. Original documents were retained by the families, while abstracts of deeds, mortgages, leases, and a few land grant records were kept by the recorder of deeds in each county. Abstracts and indexes for these records are generally available at the county courthouse.

It is important to trace each parcel of land ever owned by an ancestor. The *acquisition* (that is, purchase or inheritance from individuals or grant, purchase, or warrant from government) may reveal a previous residence; may identify the names of parents, in-laws, or other relatives; or may provide clues to search other sources, such as military records. The *disposition* of each parcel may identify heirs or reveal an ancestor's next residence. Witnesses and neighbors may be relatives or friends. Searching their records could give facts about the ancestor.

The [Family History Library](https://www.familysearch.org) has microfilm copies of most land records from the earliest transactions from the 1790s to the 1880s or later. Land records for each county are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under **OHIO, [COUNTY] - LAND AND PROPERTY**.

The Family History Library has on compact disc:

*Ohio Cash and Homestead Entries, Cadastral Survey Plats.* Version 7.3. Springfield, Va.: BLM Eastern States, 1994. (FHL compact disc no. 40; computer number 785092. Not available at Family History Centers.) These records are patents issued by the federal government. Researchers can search for information about land titles through any one of six categories; land description, patentee name, patent authority, land office, certificate number, or county.
The Family History Library has maps dating from the Revolutionary War era and the earliest land subdivisions to present-day county highway maps. These include historical atlases, mostly published in the 1870s, from 60 counties.

Several guides to the history of Ohio's counties and boundary changes have also been published. They include:


The best collections of Ohio maps are at the Ohio Historical Society, Kent State University, and other large university and public libraries.

The following books may also aid your research:


The Family History Library has:


Landowner maps are especially valuable. These maps show the lands of a county, with the names of the owners written on them. Most of these maps date between 1860 to 1900. A checklist of 19th-century United States county maps in the Library of Congress is:

Maps are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

OHIO - MAPS OHIO, [COUNTY] - MAPS OHIO, [COUNTY], [CITY] - MAPS

MILITARY RECORDS

The *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) and the *United States Research Outline* (30972) provide more information on federal military records and search strategies.

**Revolutionary War (1775-1783)**

Although Ohio did not exist as a state during the time of the Revolutionary War, a man born between 1730 and 1765 who lived in Ohio later may have been granted Ohio land for his service for another state or for the Continental Army. For patriot records of the Revolutionary War, see:


To view all the papers in a person's pension files, see:


If you prefer to order a copy of the original records from the National Archives, use NATF Form 80. This form is available from the National Archives or at the nearest federal office building.


Rosters have been published for soldiers who lived in Ohio or who are buried there, such as:


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

Microfilmed and published rosters are available at the Family History Library. These include:


**Mexican War (1846-1848)**

For published rosters of Ohio soldiers who served in the Mexican War, see:


- *Official Roster of the State of Ohio in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1866, and in the War with Mexico, 1846-1848.* Vol. 12. Akron, Ohio: Werner, 1886-1895. (FHL book 977.1 M2o vol. 12; film 924022; fiche 6051200; index on film 195488.)

*Index to Mexican War (1846) Records at the Ohio State Archives.* Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1959. (FHL film 223771.) Consists of microfilm of a card file at the Ohio State Archives which gives the name of each soldier's military unit.

Ryan, Daniel J. “Ohio in the Mexican War.” *Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society Publications.* 1912, Vol. 21, pages 277-295. Includes a section that tells when and where a company was raised and lists many of the officers in those companies. The Library does not have volume 21.
Civil War (1861-1865)

The index to the federal service records of Union volunteers from Ohio is:


The index to the Union pension records for all states is:


The actual service and pension records are available only at the National Archives. To order a copy of the original records, use NATF Form 80, which is available from the National Archives or at any federal office building.

Names and residences of persons receiving federal pensions in 1883 can be found in:


Records of Civil War soldiers were also kept by county and state officials. These include:


*Official Roster of the Soldiers of the State of Ohio in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1866.* Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1959. (On 17 FHL films
The files were compiled by the Works Progress Administration in 1938.

A published roster with rolls of honor is also available in:


Biographical sketches of officers are in:


For records of national old soldier homes, including the one in Dayton, Ohio, which served Ohio and nearby states, see:

United States. Veterans Administration. Registers of Veterans at National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1937. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (On 282 FHL films [55 films beginning with 1547608, for the Dayton, Ohio home].) Includes general indexes for each of the 12 homes, but some individual volumes are indexed separately. These may list a soldier's name, date and place of enlistment, rank, military unit, length of service, date and place of discharge, place of birth, age, physical description, religion, occupation, previous residence, marital status, nearest relative, pension, home admission and discharge dates, disability, death date, or cause of death. Though most were Civil War soldiers, veterans of other wars were included.

For the state soldiers' home in Sandusky, see:


A quarterly publication devoted exclusively to Ohio and Ohioans in the Civil War is:


Spanish-American War (1898)

Muster-in and muster-out rolls are on 31 microfilms at the Family History Library. Published statewide rosters are:

The Official Roster of Ohio Soldiers in the War with Spain, 1898-1899. Columbus, Ohio: Edward T. Miller, 1916. (FHL film 195489.)
By 1890, about 40 percent of the Civil War veterans were members of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). The descriptive books of each GAR post usually indicate each member's name, age, rank, birthplace, residence, occupation, and enlistment and discharge information. Records of GAR posts and of other veteran organizations may be found in various libraries and archives throughout Ohio.

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

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


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

Most counties had only one board; large cities had more. Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you determine the board number if he lived in a large city. Special maps of Cleveland and Cincinnati have been prepared, to show the draft board registration district boundaries. The cities are listed in alphabetical order by name of the city. For a copy of this map, see:


Service cards for Navy (8 films), Marine Corps (3 films), out-of-state (4 films), and regular service (76 films) are on films at the Family History Library. The cards containing the names and information on over 200,000 soldiers have also been published in:


Service records for World War I and later wars are at the Adjutant General's Office (State House, Columbus, OH 43215).

**World War II (1941-1945)**

Lists of dead and missing soldiers who served during World War II, arranged alphabetically by county, is:


**Additional Records**

Ohio. Adjutant General's Office. *Grave Registrations of Soldiers Buried in Ohio*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1958. (FHL films 182702-93.) A concerted effort has been made to locate the Ohio gravesites of veterans from all pre-1945 wars. Cards are arranged alphabetically.


Hughes, Edward Wakefield. *The History of the Ohio Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home at Xenia, Ohio*. Ohio: Association of Ex-Pupils, 196?. (FHL book 977.174/X1 J3h.) This does not include the records.

Military service records are also found in the office of each county auditor and county recorder. The Family History Library has microfilms of discharge papers, dating from the Civil War to 1920 (some to 1970), for about half the counties in Ohio.

Information about prominent Ohio veterans and major military actions is in:

*Two Hundred Years: The Military History of Ohio*. New York: H.H. Hardesty, 1886-7. (FHL book Q 977.1 M25ha or Q 977.1 M2m; film 874293.)

Many more useful sources are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

**OHIO - MILITARY RECORDS**
**OHIO - MILITARY RECORDS - [WAR]**
**OHIO - MILITARY HISTORY**
**OHIO - MILITARY HISTORY - [WAR]**
**OHIO, [COUNTY] - MILITARY RECORDS**
MINORITIES

Several records of the Irish, Germans, Blacks, Norwegians, Welsh, Russians and other
groups are available at the Family History Library. For example:

Ohio. Auditor of State. Special Enumeration of Blacks Immigrating to Ohio, 1861-1863.
Columbus, Ohio: Ohio Historical Society, 198-. (FHL film 1688779.) Contains indexes
by immigrants' names, previous residences, counties in which the lived, and questionable
names. It also includes original returns by county.

Smith, Clifford Neal. Early Nineteenth-Century German Settlers in Ohio (Mainly
Cincinnati and Environs), Kentucky, and Other States. McNeal, Ariz.: Westland
Publications, 1984. (FHL book 973 W2smn no. 20.) Indexes and abstracts membership
records, obituaries, and articles published in Der Deutsche Pioniere . . . , a monthly
magazine published by the Deutsche Pioniereverien (Union of German Pioneers).


Other records and histories of ethnic, racial, and religious groups in Ohio are listed in the
Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

OHIO - MINORITIES

Also see the “Minorities” section of the United States Research Outline (30972).

The Ohio Historical Society, the Western Reserve Historical Society, and many
university libraries maintain collections of records for ethnic, racial, and religious groups
in Ohio. See the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline for addresses.

NATIVE RACES

Some helpful books are:

McConnell, Michael Norman. A Country Between: the Upper Ohio Valley and Its
F3m.) A comprehensive history of Native Americans in the states of Ohio, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania.


Several more sources are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

**OHIO - NATIVE RACES**

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**NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP**

Naturalization records have been filed in the U.S. District and Circuit Courts and in the local courts in Ohio counties, especially in the courts of common pleas and the probate courts (after 1851). No centralized files exist before 1906.

Various types of records were created by the courts, including declarations, petitions, alien dockets, and military petitions for naturalization. Each record in the naturalization process may give different details about the person's travels, such as the date and port of arrival or the name of the ship. Not all counties recorded the same information.

For a statewide list of Ohio naturalization records, see:


For each county, this book describes the court; the years the records exist; where the originals are housed; and the FHL film numbers, if they have been microfilmed. Pages 259 to 273 cover Ohio. The introduction discusses the naturalization process, the types of records created, and the usual genealogical content of each record.
An index to the records for the court at Cincinnati is:

United States. District Court (Ohio: Southern District). *Naturalization Index, 1852-1991*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1992. (On 16 FHL films beginning with 1819410.) There are three indexes in this set: 1852 to 1892; 1906 to 1986; and 1917 to 1991. The original records are at the U.S. District Court, Cincinnati.

The Family History Library also has the U.S. District Court records which have been microfilmed for the Ohio Southern District Courts held at Dayton and Columbus. Mostly for the period 1916 to 1931, the records include petitions, declarations of intention, and military petitions for naturalization. They are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under OHIO - NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP.

The National Archives—Great Lakes Region has many naturalization records that have not been microfilmed. These include:

U.S. District Court, Ohio Northern District, Eastern Division, Cleveland. *Naturalizations, 1855-1943*.

U.S. District Court, Ohio Southern District, Eastern Division, Columbus. *Naturalizations, 1916-51*.

U.S. District Court, Ohio Southern District, Western Division, Dayton. *Naturalizations, 1906-30*.

Available on microfilm, but not at the Family History Library, is:

U.S. Circuit Court, Ohio Southern District, Western Division. *Naturalization Records, 1852-1905*.

For naturalization records after September 1906, contact the National Archives—Great Lakes Region. After 1917, records may also be found at the U.S. District Courts in Dayton, Columbus, Cincinnati, and Cleveland or in the nearest office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. See the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for more information about records after 1906.

The Ohio Historical Society in Columbus includes a listing of their holdings of naturalization records on their Internet site, which is mentioned in the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline.

The Family History Library has microfilms of naturalization applications from most counties, generally covering the years 1850 to about 1906 or later. These are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under OHIO, [COUNTY] - NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP. Records of larger cities may also be found under OHIO, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP.
Newspapers provide valuable genealogical information, including obituaries, marriage announcements, biographical sketches, divorce notices, and so forth. Other personal information may be included in various sections of a newspaper. There are many English and foreign-language newspapers from the early days of Ohio. Although these publications were often related to political or religious causes, they contain valuable genealogical information.

The Ohio Historical Society has a centralized collection of newspapers gathered by the Ohio State Library, Ohio State University Library, the Historical Records Survey, and other institutions. Detailed guides that will help you locate these publications are:


Gutgesell, Stephen, ed. *Guide to Ohio Newspapers, 1793-1973*. Columbus: Ohio Historical Society, 1974. (FHL book 977.1 A3g; fiche 6049903.) This is a complete bibliography of all extant newspapers published in Ohio.

Levinson, Marilyn, ed. *Guide to Newspaper Holdings at the Center for Archival Collections*. 3rd ed. Bowling Green, Ohio: Center for Archival Collections, Bowling Green State University, 1991. (FHL book 977.1 B33g 1991.) Contains an inventory of the newspapers at the Bowling Green State University, which come from 19 northwest Ohio counties.

Many periodicals publish obituary records. These are referenced in the PERiodical Source Index (PERSI), which is described in the “Periodicals” section of this outline.

The Family History Library acquires published newspaper abstracts and obituary lists for Ohio. Obituary records are also listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

**OHIO - OBITUARIES**
**OHIO - NEWSPAPERS**
**OHIO, [COUNTY] - OBITUARIES**
**OHIO, [COUNTY] - NEWSPAPERS**
Most family history periodicals reprint copies of local sources of genealogical value. These may include genealogies; information about local records and archives; queries; census indexes; and transcripts of family Bibles, biographies, church records, court records, guardianships, naturalizations, deed abstracts, vital records, cemetery records, land records, military records, tax lists, mortality schedules, obituaries, and wills.

The major genealogical periodicals that are helpful for research in Ohio are:


**Ohio, the Cross Road of Our Nation.** (Also known as Ohio Records and Pioneer Families.) Akron: Esther Weygandt Powell, 1960-. (FHL book 977.1 B2o; vols. 1-5 are also on films 873936 or 974051; vols. 6-9 are on films 873937 or 974052.)


The periodical was continued by:


It is then continued by:

**The Firelands Pioneer, Third Series.** Norwalk, Ohio: Firelands Historical Society, 1980-. (FHL book 977.1 B2f 3rd ser.; film 1035999 item 3 vol. 1.) This series includes cumulative (1858-1937, FHL film 1320941 item 1) and obituary indexes (1857-1909, FHL fiche 6088685). This periodical is invaluable for north central counties in Ohio.

A list and index of Ohio genealogical periodicals is:

Indexes. Most of the periodicals listed above have annual indexes in the final issue for the year. For nationwide indexes to some of these and other family history periodicals, see the “Periodicals” section of the


A compact disc version that includes all PERSI volumes published through 1996 is:


For more family history periodicals, study the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

OHIO - PERIODICALS
OHIO - GENEALOGY - PERIODICALS
OHIO - SOCIETIES - PERIODICALS
OHIO, [COUNTY] - PERIODICALS
OHIO, [COUNTY] - GENEALOGY - PERIODICALS
OHIO, [COUNTY] - SOCIETIES - PERIODICALS

PROBATE RECORDS

Probate records were kept in all counties from the time of each county's creation. Until the establishment of separate probate courts in 1852, these records were kept in the courts of common pleas. All of these records are valuable for determining names of family members, relationships, residences, dates of deaths, and other genealogical information. Genealogists will find more information by locating the estate file, sometimes known as the case file, probate packet, or loose papers, instead of looking only for a will. These files include wills, settlement papers, inventories, receipts, and other records pertaining to the estates.

Some probate records were recorded in books which may have carried many titles such as accounts, administrations, appraisals, minutes, estates, guardianships, inventories, settlements, and so forth. The books carry references to the estate files so that they can be found in the boxes or cabinets where they are filed at the courthouse. You can obtain copies of these records by writing to the clerk of the appropriate county.
Most Ohio probate records are well indexed and are on microfilm or in published format at the Family History Library. The files date from the creation of each county to at least 1900 and sometimes to the 1970s.

An excellent statewide index to the names found in the earliest files is:

Bell, Carol Willsey. *Ohio Wills and Estates to 1850: An Index*. Columbus, Ohio: C.W. Bell, 1981. (FHL book 977.1 P22b; film 1035679 item 5; fiche 6051289.)

Probate records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under OHIO, [COUNTY] - PROBATE RECORDS.

**SOCIETIES**

Some societies generate unpublished indexes of local records, genealogies, cemetery transcriptions and other records. Some may publish lists of members, yearbooks, ancestor lists, or surname indexes which may be listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

OHIO, [COUNTY] - SOCIETIES
OHIO, [COUNTY] - GENEALOGY

For Ohio genealogical and historical societies which have records and services to help you with your research, see the “Archives and Libraries,” “Church Records,” and “Periodicals” sections of this outline. Many counties also have local historical and genealogical societies. You can find local society addresses by using directories cited in the “Societies” section of the United States Research Outline (30972).

**TAXATION**

Ohio tax records can help you trace families moving through Ohio during the early years when Ohio was a crossroads of the Old Northwest. These records complement land records and can be used in place of censuses before 1820 or to supplement the years between censuses.

Real property tax lists contain the owner's name, the location (section/range/township) of the property, the number of acres owned, and the types of buildings on the land. Land purchased from the federal government was not taxable for five years. As a result, many
persons living in the Congress Lands (see the “Land and Property” section of this outline) will not appear on tax lists until the year their land became taxable.

Because only persons who owned taxable property were listed, many residents were not included in tax lists. There may also be gaps of several years in the tax records of some counties.

Tax records continue to the present-day and are at county courthouses. Tax duplicates are at the Ohio Historical Society.

The Family History Library has microfilms for existing tax records for Ohio before 1838. Tax records from 1801 to 1814 are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under OHIO - TAXATION. Existing county tax records from 1816 to 1838 are listed under OHIO, [County] - TAXATION.

There are also several published statewide indexes, such as those for 1800 to 1810, 1804, 1810, 1812, 1825, and 1835. These are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under OHIO - TAXATION and OHIO - TAXATION INDEXES.

While these indexes are helpful tools to find ancestors, be aware that some counties may be missing entirely from the indexes.

For an inventory of tax records up to 1969, see:


**VITAL RECORDS**

**Birth and Death Records**

County-level registrations of births and deaths began in 1867 and were kept by the probate court; however, they are incomplete. A few counties have records dating from the 1840s. These records include the names of the parents and their place of residence. The obligatory recording on a state level of births and deaths in Ohio began 20 December 1908. These records are in the county or city health departments. The state-level birth records usually contain a child's name, place and date of birth, sex, race, name and birthplace of father, and maiden name and birthplace of mother. The state-level death records usually include a child's name, place and date of death, sex, age at death, marital state, place of birth, parents, occupation, cause of death, and last residence.
The Family History Library has microfilms of the vital records of many counties to at least 1908 and some counties to the 1970s. These are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under OHIO, [COUNTY] - VITAL RECORDS. Vital records at the state level are listed under OHIO - VITAL RECORDS.

Among other records, the Family History Library has:


Delayed and corrected registrations of births are also available for many counties at the Family History Library. Another source for vital statistics is the large collection of family Bible and cemetery records compiled by the Daughters of the American Revolution (see the “Genealogy” section of this outline).

The Ohio Department of Health in Columbus has birth records since 20 December 1908 and death records for Ohio residents who died between January 1945 to the present. To obtain copies of these records, write to:

**Division of Vital Statistics**  
Ohio Department of Health  
246 N. High St.  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Telephone: 614-644-8507

Birth and death records prior to 20 December 1908 are available from the probate court of the county where the event occurred.

Deaths that occurred between 20 December 1908 and December 1944 are available at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus.

The current fees for obtaining copies of the state's records are listed in:

*Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and divorces.* Hyattsville, Md.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 1993. Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and many Family History Centers. You may also write to the Division of Vital Statistics (address above) for current information.
Marriage and Divorce Records

The statewide registration of marriages began 7 September 1949. Records after that date can be obtained from the Division of Vital Statistics. The original marriage records, however, are filed with the probate judge in each county. A statewide index to marriages since 1949 is at the Division of Vital Statistics (address above).

Before statewide registration, individual counties recorded marriages, generally from the date the county was created. These include marriage records, marriage returns, marriage consents of minors by parents, and ministers' license records. Marriage records are considered one of Ohio's most valuable genealogical sources because of their early beginnings and completeness. Marriage records show the names of the bride and groom, the date of the marriage, the county in which the marriage occurred, and the officiating individual. Sometimes there is information about the ages and residences of the bride and groom. Parents are not usually named in records dated before 1900. Each county maintains a marriage index.

For each county in Ohio, the Family History Library has microfilmed the marriage records up to 1910 and some to 1970. Many existing county records of marriages before 1876 have been indexed in the International Genealogical Index, available at the Family History Library and at Family History Centers. However, since 25 counties have large information gaps or are not included in this index.

Many early marriage records are published in:

Smith, Marjorie, ed. *Ohio Marriages Extracted from the Old Northwest Genealogical Quarterly*. Thomson, Ill.: Heritage House, 1977-80. (FHL book 977.1 V25s; film 928183 item 3; fiche 6051390.)

For the southwestern region of the state, the Hamilton County, Ohio, marriage records often include the names of couples who lived in the Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky Counties along the Ohio River. A published marriage index for 1817 to 1840 is available at the Family History Library in:


The marriages of those living in the northeastern area of Ohio may be found in:


The Family History Library has a number of compact discs with vital records information from many states in the Automated Resource Center (ARC). For Ohio, the following may be helpful:
**Marriage Records.** CD/Automated Archives, nos. 2-5. Orem, Utah: Automated Archives, 1994. (FHL compact disc no. 9, pt. 2-5; disc does not circulate to Family History Centers.) This file was acquired from the “Hunting for Bears” collection. Marriage information for Ohio is listed in part two. At the beginning of the list, unknown county records are given. (The introduction to this file gives information regarding the dates listed and the extraction methods used. It is not a complete index of all Ohio marriage records.)

**Marriage Index.** Family Tree Maker's Family Archives, no. 400. Orem, Utah: Brøderbund, 1996. (FHL compact disc no. 9, pt. 400; disc does not circulate to Family History Centers.) The Ohio marriage data was acquired from Liahona, Inc. This CD uses the Soundex code for quick access to surnames and gives references to the FHL film number for each entry. The CD lists marriages by county and gives the dates covered.

Divorce proceedings were usually recorded by the state supreme court before 1852, but petitions were filed in the county court. Since then all records have been kept in the court of common pleas in each county. Records of divorce granted before 7 September 1949 may be recorded in the County Clerk of Courts Office of the county where the divorce was granted. Divorce records since 7 September 1949 are recorded at the Ohio Department of Health in Columbus. Certified copies of divorce records after 1949 are not available from the Ohio Department of Health. Certified copies of earlier divorce records may be available from the Court of Common Pleas where the divorce was granted. The Family History Library has few of these files. One significant publication is:


Birth, marriage, and death records are listed in the Family History Library Locality Search under:

**OHIO - VITAL RECORDS**

**OHIO, [COUNTY] - VITAL RECORDS**

**OHIO, [COUNTY], [CITY] - VITAL RECORDS**

Divorce records are listed in the Family History Library Locality Search under:

**OHIO - DIVORCE RECORDS**

**OHIO, [COUNTY] - DIVORCE RECORDS**

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**FOR FURTHER READING**

More detailed information about research and records in Ohio can be found in:


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


Ohio Almanac: Lorain, Ohio: Lorain Journal Co., 1968. (FHL book 977.1 B5o.)

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**COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

The [Family History Library](https://www.familysearch.org) welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

Publications Coordination  
Family History Library  
35 N. West Temple  
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400  
USA  
Fax: 801-240-2597  
We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

Ohio 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 are important dates in the history of Ohio that affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements:

1763 The British won the French and Indian War (1754-1763), then King George III proclaimed that there should be no settlements West of the Appalachian Mountains.

1787 The United States government established the Northwest Territory with the intent to open the land to Revolutionary War veterans and other settlers.

1788 The first permanent white settlement was established at Marietta.

1803 Ohio gained statehood.

1810-1840 Many more settlers came by steamboat on the Ohio River and Lake Erie and by new canals, roads, and railroads.

1861-1865 310,000 Ohio men served in the Union armed forces during the Civil 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 Ohio 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. These are listed in the Place Search of the Family History Library Catalog under [STATE] - BIBLIOGRAPHY or [STATE] - HISTORY - BIBLIOGRAPHY.

For descriptions of bibliographies for Ohio 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.

You may want to study local histories for areas such as the Maumee, Miami, Hocking, Muskingum, Scioto, and Mahoning Valleys.

A bibliography of local histories is:


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

Several multivolume histories of Ohio were written between 1890 and 1945. Two examples are:

Howe, Henry. *Historical Collections of Ohio* in Two Volumes. 2 vols. N.p.: The State of Ohio, 1908, c1888. (FHL book 977.1 H2hh 1908; film 1698149 item 5.) The set has been produced by a number of publishers since 1847. Many editions exist. An index to this book is:


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.
Ohio Statewide Indexes and Collections

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 on the source on the right.

1580–1900s

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

To see these files, click Search tab.

1580–1980

- Ohio Historical Society. The Ohio Surname Index. (FHL films 398201–264.) An index to published county histories and magazines. Contains about 450,000 names.

1580–present

- Periodical Source Index (PERSI) lists records (by place or surname) that were published in genealogical magazines or periodicals. This resource should not be
overlooked. It is available on the Internet through Ancestry.com. (FHL book 973 D25 per, various combined indexes and, annual supplements; fiche 6016863, 6016864; compact disc no. 61.)


1580–1956 Bell, Carol Willsey, ed. Master Index, Ohio Society Daughters of the American Revolution Genealogical and Historical Records. (FHL book 977.1 D23m.) Indexes items at State Library of Ohio.


1700–1868 D.A.R. Revolutionary War Burial Index. (FHL films 1307675–81.) Alphabetical Prepared by Brigham Young University from DAR records. Often lists name, birth date, death date, burial place, name of cemetery, company and/or regiment, sometimes gives the place of birth, etc. About 67,000 names.


1700–1840 A General Index to a Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Service, 1840. (FHL book 973 X2pc index; film 899835 items 1–2; fiche 6046771.) Lists Revolutionary War pensioners whose names are on the 1840 census lists.

After using the general index, go to the original book (FHL book Ref 973 X2pc 1967; film 899835 item 3). This book gives town of residence, the name of the head of household where he was living and age of pensioner or his widow.


1700–1850s Sons of the American Revolution. Membership Information, 1776–1996. (FHL films beginning with 541473.) Contains an alphabetical index of ancestors, and members’ application forms. Index is on films beginning with 1877447.

1700–1900  
**Index to the Henry R. Baldwin Genealogical Records.** (FHL book 977.1 D2bh index, vols.1–8; fiche 6051339.) These eight volumes are alphabetical. See below for original Baldwin books.

1700–1900  
Baldwin, Henry R. *The Henry R. Baldwin Genealogical Records.* (FHL book 977.1 D2bh, 67 vols.; on 110 fiche beginning with 6051349.) Vols. 1–7 have an index. For index, see book above also.

1700–1850  
**Genealogical Data Relating to Women in the Western Reserve Before 1840 (1850).** (FHL films 1009031–32; fiche beginning with 6087501.) Primarily concerning families who settled in eastern Ohio.

1700–1972  

1700–1972  

1700–1977  
Vicory, Jacqueline. *Milo Union List of Genealogies in the Libraries of Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, and Preble Counties, Ohio.* (FHL book 977.1 A3v; film 1036141 item 24.) About 1,000 surnames.

1700–1970  
Kirkham, E. Kay. *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States: 45,500 References as Taken from the Microfilm at the Genealogical Society of Utah.* (FHL book 973 D22kk, vol. 2; fiche 6089184.) Indexes by surname the DAR collection mentioned below.

1700–1920  
Daughters of the American Revolution. *Genealogical Collection.* (On 76 FHL films beginning with 862012.) A surname index is found in the source above.

1700–1987  

1700–1978  
**Gateway to the West.** (FHL book 977.1 B2gw.) A periodical. See below for every-name index.

1700–1978  
Bowers, Ruth. *Gateway to the West.* (FHL book 977.1 D25g 1989, vols.1–2.) This is an every-name index to the above periodical.

1700–present  
**The Firelands Pioneer.** (FHL book 977.1 B2f.) A periodical. Issues for 1858–1937 are indexed on film 1320941 item 1; vols.1–13 are on film 1320962 items 1–13.

1700–1983  

1700–1944  
**Ohio Source Records: From the Ohio Genealogical Quarterly.** (FHL book 977.1 D28o.) Has an every-name index.

1700–1983  
**The Report.** (FHL book 977.1 B2r; vols.1–8 are indexed on film 590280.) A periodical by the Ohio Genealogical Society. See the annual indexes.

1700–present  

1720–1850  
Bell, Carol Willsey. *Ohio Wills and Estates to 1850: An Index.* (FHL book 977.1 P22b; film 1035679 item 5; fiche 6051289.)

1720–1810  
Jackson, Ronald Vern. *Index to Ohio Tax Lists, 1800–1810.* (FHL book 977.1 R4j.)

1720–1824  
Bell, Carol Willsey. *The Index to Early Ohio Tax Records.* (FHL book 977.1 R4op index; film 1033949 item 6; fiche 6051389.)
Ohio Statewide Indexes and Collections

1740–1900 White, Virgil D. *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files*. (FHL book 973 M22i.) Lists soldiers and their spouses.

1740–1880 Linscott, Jeff A. *An Organized Listing of Soldiers of Ohio Who Served in the War of 1812*. (FHL book 977.1 M23r index; fiche 6104621.)


1750–1920 Short, Anita. *Ohio Bible Records*. (FHL book 977.1 D2sd, vols.1–2; fiche 6051387.)

1750–1908 *Ohio Cemetery Records: Extracted from the "Old Northwest" Genealogical Quarterly; With an Index by Elizabeth P. Bentley*. (FHL book 977.1 V3oh; film 1320550 item 15.)


1750–1992 Ohio Genealogical Society. *First Families of Ohio*. (FHL films beginning with 1912772.) The index and folders 1–2556 are on the films. Information about ancestors who were in Ohio by 1820.


1760–1920 *Census indexes, 1820–1860, 1880, and 1900–1920*. See What to Do Next, and click on Family History Library Catalog. Then select CENSUS or CENSUS - INDEXES from the topics that are listed.


1800–1880 Ohio Genealogical Society. *Ohio 1880 Census Index*. (FHL book 977.1 X22o 1880.) Also on compact disc 9 # 20 at FHL.


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.


1820–1860   Ohio Marriages Extracted from the Old Northwest Genealogical Quarterly. (FHL book 977.1 V25s; film 928183 item 3; fiche 6051390.)


1860–1899   The Official Roster of Ohio Soldiers in the War with Spain, 1898–1899. (FHL films 195489 and 928567 item 1.)


1873–1918   Haulsee, W.M. Soldiers of the Great War. (FHL book 973 M23s, vols.1–3; Ohio on vol. 2; also on fiche 6051244.) Soldiers who died in World War I, 1914–1918.


1873–1918   United States Selective Service System. Ohio, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918. (On 239 FHL films beginning with 1819504.) Men ages 18 to 45 are listed alphabetically by county or draft board.

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

Step 2. Copy and document the information.

The best method of copying information is to:

- Make a photocopy of the page(s) with your ancestor's name.
- Document where the information came from by writing the title, call number, and page number of the index or collection on the photocopy. Also write the name of the library or archive.

Where to Find It

Family History Centers and the Family History Library

You can use the Family History Library book collection only at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, but many of our books have been microfilmed. Most of our films can be requested and used at our Family History Centers. To locate the address for 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, you may be able to order it from another library on interlibrary loan.

To use interlibrary loan:

• Go to a public or college library.
• Ask a librarian to order a book or microfilm for you through interlibrary loan from another library. You will need the title of the item and the name of the author.
• The library staff will direct you in their procedures. Sometimes this is free; sometimes there is a small fee.

You can find addresses and phone numbers for most libraries and archives in the American Library Directory, published by the American Library Association. The American Library Directory is available at most public and college libraries.
Maps

Computer Resources

MapQuest Maps
Summary: Must know address, city, state, and zip code; more recent maps

Animap
BYU FHLC – 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.
Ohio Maps Bibliography

Rel/Fam Hist Ref- G 1201.F7 AS 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 Ohio Maps:** pp. 759-787. General history of counties with precincts, census county divisions, public land surveys and townships.

Rel/Fam Hist Ref- G 1201.E622S J33 x 1970z

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

**Evaluation of Ohio Maps:** Chronological list of Counties p. 128. 1960 p130; 1860 p. 131; 1838 p132; 1823, P 133; 1804, p 134.

Rel/Fam Hist Ref- G1201.E622S.KS 1976

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

**Evaluation of Ohio Maps:** State historical information, p. 33. Maps: 1804, p 80; 1810, p 84; 1823, p 107; 1838, p 131; 1863, p 150; 1909, p 236.

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

**Summary:** General state information.

**Evaluation of Ohio Maps:** pp.244-250. General state information includes; Maps with highways, climate & environment, history & important events, population & government, ethnicity & education, economy & resources.

Rel/Fam Hist Ref- G1201.F7 TS 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 Ohio Maps:** pp.267-274. Shows modern boundaries and changes.
Map Collection on 2nd floor of the old section of HBLL


Map Collection – G 1395 .C6 1975


**Evaluation:** Good to see what types of things ancestors may have been doing. If they had a lot of neighbors where they might have lived.


Map Collection - G 1201 .F7 H58x 1984 vol. 2

**Summary:** Shows county boundaries.

**Evaluation:** Gives brief county histories/chronologies (i.e. when created etc).


Map Collection - G 1201 .F7 A8 1998 Ohio

**Summary:** Consolidates chronology begins 2 June 1609. Ohio County creations - with source of law that created county - county name, authorization and when creation was effective.

**Evaluation:** Shows boundaries and new boundaries, shows where one may find records.

Map Collection – Map Cases G4080-G4084. Individual maps that illustrate things from military movement to censuses.
Ohio Federal Census Population Schedules, 1800 to 1920

Introduction

Federal censuses are taken every 10 years. Ohio residents are included in territorial and federal censuses from 1800 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 Ohio with the census years. This will determine which censuses you will search.

Example of a time an ancestor was in Ohio.
in Ohio from 1844 [-------------------] through 1873

1800 1810 1820 1830 1840 1850 1860 1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920

Ohio census years

This person would be included in Ohio censuses from 1850 to 1870.
(The 1890 census was mostly destroyed.)
Step 2. Determine a census to start with.

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

The censuses from **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:

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

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

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.
All that remains of the Ohio 1810 census are the returns for Washington County. Most of the 1890 census was destroyed by fire. However, for Ohio, the portion for Hamilton County (Cincinnati) and Clinton County (Wayne Township) are available. 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 (the 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 Ohio and were created in various years by the federal government:

- **Population schedules** list a large portion of the population; most are well-indexed and
- **Mortality schedules** list those who died in the 12 months prior to the day the census was taken, for censuses taken in 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880.
- **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.
- **Agricultural schedules** list data about farms and the names of the farmers for censuses taken in 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880.
- **Manufacturing or industrial schedules** list data about businesses and industries for censuses taken in 1810 (Washington County), 1820, 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880.

How the Censuses Were Taken

People, called enumerators, were hired by the United States government to take the census. The enumerators were given forms to fill out and were assigned to gather information about everyone living in a certain area or district. Enumerators could visit the 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 the Censuses Were Taken

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

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

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

If your ancestor died in the census year, your ancestor should only be listed 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 only request information for 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 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.

Territorial, State, and Local Censuses

Territorial, state, and local governments also took censuses. Nonfederal censuses generally contain information similar to and sometimes more than federal censuses of the same time period. There are no colonial censuses for Ohio. A territorial census was taken of Washington County (then part of the Northwest Territory), in 1800. Some territorial censuses exist for 1801-1803.

Ohio became a state in 1803. All that remains of the 1810 census are the returns for Washington County. Some town or county enumerations were taken from 1803-1911. See the census section of the Ohio Research Outline for more information.

Colonial, state, and local censuses may be available on the Internet, at Family History Centers, the Family History Library, and in state and local archives and libraries.

Where to Find It

Internet

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

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

Family History Centers

Many Family History Centers keep copies of some census microfilms. Family History Centers can borrow microfilms of a U.S. Federal Census from the Family History Library. A small fee is charged to have a microfilm sent to a center.
You may request photocopies of U.S. Federal Censuses from the Family History Library. Staff at the Family History Center can show you how to request this service. Family History Centers are located throughout the United States and other areas of the world. See Family History Centers for the address and phone number of the center nearest you.

**Family History Library**

The Family History Library has complete sets of the existing U.S. Federal Censuses from 1790 to 1920. No fee is charged for using the census microfilms in person. For a list of indexes and other census records, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. Select from the list of titles to see descriptions of the records with the film or book call numbers. Use that information to obtain the records at a family history center or at the Family History Library.

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

**National Archives**

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

**College Libraries and Public Libraries**

Many college libraries have copies of the 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 Ohio Research Outline lists Internet and mailing addresses for several Ohio archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Ohio census records, and the Internet sites may list what records they have.

**U.S. Census Bureau**

To request information form 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
- PO Box 1545
- Jeffersonville, IN 47131
Genealogical Search Services

Many genealogical search services will search the census for a fee. These sources can help you find a genealogical search service:

- CyndisList lists many companies and individuals who do research and mentions publications about how to hire a professional genealogist.
- Advertisements in major genealogical journals may help you find a researcher.

For more information, see Hiring a Professional Genealogist.
U.S. State Censuses

OHIO

1798-1812
Clermont County, Ohio, pioneers, 1798-1812 : a substitute census for 1800-1810.

1798-99, 1817
Early Ohio census records : Cincinnati 1798, 1799, 1817.

1798-99 Census for Cincinnati, Ohio, 1817 and Hamilton County, Ohio, voters' lists 1798 and 1799.

1800
Early Ohio census record

1801, 1803, 1819
Clermont County

1803
Washington County

1807
Butler County

1811, 1815, 1819, 1823, 1827, 1835, 1843
Ashtabula County

1831, 1835, 1839
Portage County

1832-38
Enumeration of youth and partial census for school districts in Portage County, Ohio, 1832-1838 : includes a census of youth and parents for Akron in 1838.

1899
Columbiana County

1899-1903
Columbiana County

1903
Columbiana County

1883-1891
Coshocton County

1899
Gallia County
1887-1907
Hardin County (town of Ada-wards 1-3, townships if Blanchard-Jackson)  0945855
Hardin County (town of Kenton, townships of Liberty-Washington)  0945856

1889
Hardin County (town of Ada)  0945858  item 1

1891
Hardin County  0945858
Hardin County (townships of Blanchard-Jackson, town of Kenton, Townships of Liberty-Washington)  0945859

1899
Hardin County (town of Ada, townships of Blanchard-McDonald, town of Kenton)  0945860
Hardin County (townships of Pleasant-Washington)  0945861

1895
Hardin County (townships of Jackson-Taylor Creek)  0956857

1903
Hardin County (town of Ada, townships of Blanchard-Jackson, town of Kenton)  0945862
Hardin County (townships of Liberty-Washington)  0945863

1907
Hardin County (town of Ada, townships of Blanchard-Pleasant)  0945864
Hardin County (town of Kenton, townships of Liberty-Taylor Creek)  0945865
Other Ohio Resources

Ohio County Formation Maps
http://www.myohiogenealogy.com/oh_maps/oh_cf.htm

Ohio Historical Society Censuses Available, Including Some State Censuses
http://www.ohiohistory.org/resource/archlib/census.html

Ohio Historical Society Newspaper Database Keyword Search
http://web2.ohiohistory.org/ipac20/ipac.jsp?session=Q084DL2930353.47&profile=newspap&menu=search&ts=1084562930625#focus

Ohio Genealogical Society
http://www.ogs.org/

County by county in Ohio genealogy Khouw, Petta.
HBLL Call Number F 490 .X1 C68 1992

Columbus Metropolitan Library Genealogy Resource Center
http://www.columbuslibrary.org/ebranch/resourcecenters/genealogy/index.cfm?rcat_id=481&folder_name=genealogy

FamilySearch Wiki
www.familysearchwiki.org