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## RESEARCH OUTLINE

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# Brazil

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This outline can help you find information about ancestors who lived in Brazil. It gives information about records of genealogical value for Brazil and helps you decide which types of records to search.

## HELPS FOR USING THIS RESEARCH OUTLINE

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Before using this outline you need to choose the information you would like to learn about one of your ancestors, such as a birth date or a maiden name.

After you have decided what information you want to find, look at the Record Selection Table in this outline. It lists the kinds of information you may want and the best types of records for finding that information.

There is a section in the outline for each type of record listed in columns 2 and 3 of the Record Selection Table. The sections give more information about these records and how to find them. The sections are in alphabetical order.

### References to the Family History Library Catalog

The Family History Library Catalog is a listing of all the records available through the Family History Library. The catalog is available at the Family History Library and at each Family History Center. Staff there can teach you how to use the catalog.

This outline gives instructions for finding information in the catalog. For example, in the section of this outline called "Biography" you may find the following statement:

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For more information about census records, look in the "Locality Search" section of the Family History Library Catalog under:

**BRAZIL - BIOGRAPHY**  
**BRAZIL, [STATE] - BIOGRAPHY**  
**BRAZIL, [STATE], [TOWN] - BIOGRAPHY**

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This tells you to look in the catalog under:

- “Brazil” and then the subject BIOGRAPHY.
- A state in Brazil and then the subject BIOGRAPHY.
- A town in a state in Brazil and then the subject BIOGRAPHY.

This outline includes many references to specific records. The references include call numbers and computer numbers and are listed in parenthesis.

*Call Numbers.* The call number is used to find a record in the Family History Library (FHL). Book numbers use a Dewey decimal number; film numbers are a million number that begins with 0, 1, or 2; and microfiche numbers are a million number that begins with a 6.

*Computer Numbers.* Each record is assigned a number to identify it in the catalog. If you are using the Family History Library Catalog on computer or compact disc and know the computer number, you can use it to search for the record. This is the quickest way to find the listing of the record in the catalog.

For additional information on using the catalog, see *Using the Family History Library Catalog* (30966).

### **References to other Family History Library Publications**

The Family History Library has many other publications that may help you in your research. Some are referred to in this outline. Their titles are in italics, and their item numbers are in parentheses. They are available at the Family History Library and some Family History Centers, or they can be ordered from the Salt Lake Distribution Center.

## RECORDS SELECTION TABLE: Brazil

The table below can help you decide which records to search.

Column 3 contains additional records that may also be useful.

In column 1 find the goal you selected.

Records containing previous research (genealogies [including family histories], biographies, histories, periodicals, and societies) could provide information for nearly all of the goals. These have been repeatedly listed if they are especially helpful for the goal.

In column 2 find the types of records that are most likely to have the information you need. Then turn to that section of this outline. (The terms used in columns 2 and 3 are the same as the topic headings used in this outline and in the "Locality Search" section of the Family History Library Catalog.)

1. If You Need	2. Look First In	3. Then Search
Ages	Civil Registration, Church Records	Census, Emigration and Immigration
Birth dates	Civil Registration, Church Records	Emigration and Immigration
Cities or parishes of foreign birth	Civil Registration, Church Records	Emigration and Immigration, Schools, Military Records
Customs	Social Life and Customs	History, Minorities
Deaths	Civil Registration, Church Records	Cemeteries, Newspapers
Ethnicity	Civil Registration, Church Records	Emigration and Immigration, Societies
Historical backgrounds	History	Gazetteers, Periodicals
Immigration dates	Emigration and Immigration	Census, Biography, Naturalization and Citizenship
Living relatives	Directories	Newspapers, Biography, Court Records
Maiden names	Civil Registration, Church Records	Cemeteries, Military Records
Marriages	Civil Registration, Church Records	Census
Municipal origins and boundaries	Gazetteer, Maps	History
Occupations	Civil Registration, Church Records	Census, Directories
Parents, children, and other family members	Civil Registration, Church Records	Emigration and Immigration, Census, Probate, Genealogy
Physical descriptions	Emigration and Immigration	Military Records
Place-finding aids	Gazetteers	Maps, History
Places of residence	Civil Registration, Church Records	Census, Biography
Previous research	Genealogy	Periodicals, Biography, Societies, Nobility
Religions	Church Records	History
Social activities	Social Life and Customs	Biography, History, Genealogy

# Map of Brazil States, ca. 1997

(in Portuguese)



## ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

Archives collect and preserve original documents of organizations such as churches or governments. Libraries generally collect published sources like books, maps, and microfilm. This section describes the major repositories of genealogical and historical records and sources for Brazil. When one of these institutions is referred to elsewhere in this outline, return to this section to obtain the address.

If you plan to visit one of these repositories, contact the organization, and ask for information about its collection, hours, services, and fees. Some of that information may also be found on the Internet. You may need to obtain a letter of introduction from your embassy before visiting a repository.

Any civil registration records you need may be in a civil registry, district office (*Cartório Distrital*), or municipal archive (*Cartório Municipal*), and church records may be in a diocese or parish.

There are many repositories with genealogical information for Brazilian research:

- National archives and libraries (arquivos e bibliotecas nacionais)
- State archives (arquivos do Estado)
- District and municipal civil registry offices (*Cartório Distrital e Municipal do Registro Civil*)
- Diocese and parish archives
- Libraries and archives of Portugal
- Private and public libraries
- Historical and genealogical societies

Records of genealogical value at district, state, and national archives include the following:

- Church records
- Civil registrations
- Censuses
- Court records
- Military records

- Emigration records
- Land records
- School records

The *Biblioteca Nacional* (National Library) and state and city public archives also have a large collection of published genealogies, manuscripts, histories, directories, maps, and newspapers.

Some helpful guides to federal, state, municipal, and church records are:

*Catálogo dos Arquivos Brasileiros* (Catalog of Brazilian Archives). Rio de Janeiro: Arquivo Nacional, 1977. (FHL book 981 A3b; film 1218975; computer number 0021693.)

*Guia Brasileiro de Fontes para a História da África, da Escravidão Negra e do Negro na Sociedade Atual: Fontes Arquivistas* (Brazilian Guide of Sources for the History of Africa, Black Slavery and of the Negro in the Present Society). 2 vols. Rio de Janeiro: Arquivo Nacional, 1988. (FHL book 981 A3g; computer number 0608264.) Volume 2 has information of the collections in the National Archives, in Rio de Janeiro.

### **National Government Archives and Libraries**

Addresses for the national archives of Brazil and other national repositories are as follows:

- Arquivo Nacional (National Archives)  
Rua Azeredo Coutinho 77, Centro  
20230 - 170 Rio de Janeiro, RJ  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (5521) 252-2617 or (5521) 231-0796  
Fax: (5521) 232-8430 or (5521) 252-9821  
E-mail: [arquivonacional@rio.com.br](mailto:arquivonacional@rio.com.br)  
Internet: [www.arquivonacional.gov.br/](http://www.arquivonacional.gov.br/)
- Arquivo do Ministério do Exército (Archive of the Ministry of the Army)  
Praça Duque de Caxias  
20000 Rio de Janeiro, RJ  
BRASIL
- Arquivo da Marinha (Archive of the Navy)  
Rua D. Manuel 15  
20000 Rio de Janeiro, RJ  
BRASIL

- Arquivo do Instituto Histórico e Geográfico Brasileiro (Archive of the Historical and Geographical Institute of Brazil)  
Av Augusto Severo 8  
20000 Rio de Janeiro, RJ  
BRASIL

## State Archives

In Brazil each state has its own archives that are separate from those of the national government. They serve as repositories for records about their particular area. Records of genealogical value at state archives may include the following:

- Civil registrations
- Censuses
- Inventories and wills
- Land records, including land grants (*sesmarias*)
- Military records
- Orphan records
- Notarial records
- Registers of foreigners
- Slave records

The state archives of Brazil are open to members of the public who have proper identification and permission (that is, a letter of introduction from your country's embassy, a university official, or another notable organization).

Following are the addresses of the state archives:

- Arquivo Geral do Estado do Acre  
Av. Getúlio Vargas sn. - Centro  
69900-160 Rio Branco - AC  
BRASIL  
Tel./Fax: (068) 224-1844
- Arquivo Público de Alagoas  
Praça D. Pedro II - 57 - Centro  
57020-130 Maceió - AL  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (082) 223-4098
- Fundação Cultural do Estado de Amapá - FUNDECAP  
Rua Tiradentes, s/n - Centro  
68900-130 Macapá - AP  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (096) 212-5120  
Fax: (096) 212-5115
- Arquivo Público Estadual de Amazonas  
Rua Bernardo Ramos, 265  
69005-320 Manaus - AM  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (092) 232-3878
- Arquivo Público do Estado da Bahia  
Ladeira de Quintas, 50 - Baixa de Quintas  
40320-140 Salvador - BA  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (071) 233-4455/233-6231  
Fax: (071) 233-5112/244-2747
- Arquivo Público do Estado do Ceará  
Rua Senador Pompeu, 648  
60150-000 Fortaleza - CE  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (085) 231-8860
- Arquivo Público do Distrito Federal  
SAP, Lote 7 - Bloco 41 - NOVACAP  
71215-000 Brasília - DF  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (061) 361-1454  
Fax: (061) 233-2191  
Internet: <http://www.arpdf.df.gov.br/>
- Arquivo Público Estadual do Espírito Santo  
Rua Pedro Palácios, 76 - Cidade Alta  
29015-160 Vitória - ES  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (027) 223-2952  
Fax: (027) 223-3987
- Arquivo Histórico do Estado de Goiás  
Praça Cívica 02 Anexo 2  
74001-900 Goiânia - GO  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (062) 225-6088
- Arquivo Público do Estado do Maranhão  
Rua Nazaré, 218 - Centro  
65010-410 São Luís - MA  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (098) 232-4544/238-1399  
Fax: (098) 231-1601
- Arquivo Público de Mato Grosso  
Centro Político Administrativo - CPA  
Palácio Paiaguás - Bloco 3  
78050-970 Cuiabá - MT  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (065) 313-3103  
Fax: (065) 313-2253

- Arquivo Público do Estado de Mato Grosso do Sul  
Edifício Nação  
Rua 14 de Julho, 2164 - 4º andar  
79102-336 Campo Grande - MS  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (067) 382-5440
- Arquivo Público Mineiro (Minas Gerais)  
Rua Aimorés, 1450 - Funcionários  
30140-071 Belo Horizonte - MG  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (031) 269-1099  
Fax: (031) 269-1060/1167
- Arquivo Público do Estado do Pará  
Travessa Campos Sales, 273 - Comércio  
66019-050 Belém - PA  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (091) 241-9700/4046  
Fax: (091) 241-9097
- Arquivo Administrativo da Paraíba  
Espaço Cultural - subsolo  
Rua Pres. Kennedy, s/n - Tambauzinho  
58040-022 João Pessoa - PB  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (083) 224-9360 r. 146/224-1360 r. 135
- Arquivo Público do Estado do Paraná  
Rua Cândido de Abreu, 381 - Centro Cívico  
80530-000 Curitiba - PR  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (041) 352-2299  
Fax: (041) 252-1728  
E-mail: deap@lepus.celepar.br
- Arquivo Público Estadual de Pernambuco  
Rua do Imperador D. Pedro II  
371-Santo Antônio  
50010-240 Recife - PE  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (081) 224-0085/9848  
Tel./Fax: (081) 224-0620
- Arquivo Público e Museu Histórico do Piauí  
Rua Coelho Rodrigues, 1016 - Centro  
64020-240 Teresina - PI  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (086) 221-5541
- Arquivo Público Estadual do Rio Grande do Norte  
Rua José Agnaldo de Barros 2872 -  
Parque das Colinas  
59065-000 Natal - RN  
BRASIL  
Tel./Fax: (084) 207-3351  
E-mail: vanilde@secrin.m.gov.br  
Internet: [www.secrin.rn.gov.br/hpgovrn/sad/arqpb/arqpub.htm](http://www.secrin.rn.gov.br/hpgovrn/sad/arqpb/arqpub.htm)
- Arquivo Histórico do Rio Grande do Sul  
Av. Cristóvão Colombo, 1374 - Floresta  
90560-001 Pôrto Alegre - RS  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (051) 346-4909  
Fax: (051) 227-4447 (Secretaria de Cultura)
- Arquivo Público do Estado do Rio Grande do Sul  
Rua Riachuelo, 1031 - 2º. Portão Centro  
90010-270 Porto Alegre - RS  
Tel.: (051) 227-1698/3614  
Fax: (051) 224-3614
- Arquivo Público do Estado do Rio de Janeiro  
Rua do Riachuelo, 287 Centro  
20230-011 Rio de Janeiro - RJ  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (021) 232-6299  
Tel/Fax: (021) 232-7338/221-7960  
Internet: [www.aperj.rj.gov.br/](http://www.aperj.rj.gov.br/)
- Arquivo Geral do Estado de Rondônia  
Esplanada das Secretarias  
Av. Farquar s/n  
78900-350 Pôrto Velho - RO  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (069) 222-2801/222-8397/221-8521
- Arquivo Público do Estado de Roraima  
Rua Miguel Lupe Martins, s/n - São Pedro  
69306-490 Boa Vista - RR  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (095) 224-6238
- Arquivo Público do Estado de Santa Catarina  
Av. Mauro Ramos, 1264 - Centro  
88020-302 Florianópolis - SC  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (048) 2242-6080
- Arquivo Público do Estado de São Paulo  
Rua Voluntários da Pátria, 596 - Santana  
02010-000 São Paulo - SP  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (011) 681-6163/681-6959/681-2850  
Fax: (011) 6959-4785  
E-mail: fausto@mandic.com.br  
Internet: [www.arquivoestado.sp.gov.br](http://www.arquivoestado.sp.gov.br)
- Arquivo Público Estadual de Sergipe  
Praça Fausto Cardoso, 348 - Centro  
49010-080 Aracaju - SE  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (079) 222-2375/222-5658
- Arquivo Público Estadual de Tocantins  
99000 Palmas, TO  
BRASIL

## Civil and District Civil Registry Offices

In Brazil, records created by the local government, including birth, death, and marriage records, are kept in the local registry offices (*Cartório Municipal*) or the district registry offices (*Cartório Distrital*). These records are available to the public. For more information about these offices and their records, see the “Civil Registration” section of this outline.

If records are not available through the Family History Library from the towns your ancestors were from, you may need to write to the registry offices in that area. For help writing a letter in Portuguese, see the *Portuguese Letter-Writing Guide* (36341).

## Diocese and Parish Archives

There are two archdiocese in Brazil, each of which has many records of genealogical and historical value for its regions:

- Arquivo da Cúria Metropolitana  
cx. postal 1362  
20001-970 Rio de Janeiro, RJ  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (021) 292-3132  
Fax: (021) 221-8093  
E-mail: arquid@pontocom.br
- Arquivo da Cúria Metropolitana  
cx. postal 6778  
03102-970 São Paulo, SP  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (011) 826-0133  
Fax: (011) 825-6806

Some dioceses of the Catholic Church have gathered copies of local parish church records into the diocese archive. For records not available through the Family History Library, you can write to these archives and request brief searches of their records. For additional information, see the “Church Records” section of this outline.

Catholic Church records less than 100 years old are usually kept by the local parish, which may also have earlier records. It is possible to write to local parishes and church archives for information. See the “Church Records” section of this outline for more information.

A few records for other church denominations are found in the Family History Library Catalog. For records of other church denominations, write

directly to the church by consulting a local telephone directory, or check the *Genealogia no Brasil* web site at:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~brawgw/>

## Libraries and Archives of Portugal

Some pre-1822 sources for Brazil are also available in libraries in Portugal. Check the Family History Library Catalog under “Portugal,” or contact these libraries and ask about their collection, hours, services, and fees:

- Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo  
Alameda da Universidade  
1700 Lisboa  
PORTUGAL  
Tel.: (01) 793 21 31  
Fax: (01) 793 72 30
- Arquivo Histórico Militar (Historical Military Archive)  
Largo do Caminho de Ferro  
1196 Lisboa  
PORTUGAL  
Tel.: (01) 888 21 31, ext. 2 32 15
- Arquivo Geral da Marinha (General Archive of the Navy)  
Praça da Armada  
1300 Lisboa  
PORTUGAL
- Arquivo Histórico Ultramarino (Historical Oversea Archive)  
Calçada da Boa-Hora, 30 (Palácio de Ega)  
1300 Lisboa  
PORTUGAL  
Tel.: (01) 363 24  
Fax: (01) 36 21 956
- Biblioteca da Ajuda (Library of Assistance)  
Palácio da Ajuda  
1300 Lisboa  
PORTUGAL  
Tel.: (01) 363 85 02
- Biblioteca Nacional (National Library)  
Campo Grande 83  
1751 Codex Lisboa  
PORTUGAL  
Tel.: (01) 798 2000  
Fax: (01) 798-2138  
Internet: <http://www.bnportugal.pt/>

For information on records of Brazil in Portugal, see:

Almeida, Eduardo de Castro, *Inventário dos documentos relativos ao Brasil existentes no Arquivo da Marinha e Ultramar de Lisboa* (Inventory of documents relating to Brazil that exist in the Marinha and Ultramarino archives). 8 vols. Rio de Janeiro, 1913–1938.

## Private and Public Libraries

Brazilian libraries have collected published sources such as local histories, phone directories, maps, newspapers, and genealogies. See the “Genealogy” section of this outline for information about compiled family histories.

The National Library has an extensive collection of manuscripts and published sources. For information, write to:

- Fundação Biblioteca Nacional (National Library Establishment)  
Av. Rio Branco 219-239  
20040-008 Rio de Janeiro, RJ  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (021) 262-8255  
Fax: (11) 220-4173  
E-mail: dinf@bn.br

Other useful libraries include:

- Instituto Genealógico Brasileiro  
Rua Sete de Abril, 230  
01044-000 São Paulo, SP  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (11) 257-4840
- Universidade de São Paulo  
Cidade Universitária  
Armando de Salles Oliveira  
CP 8191  
05508-900 São Paulo  
BRASIL  
Fax: (11) 815-2142  
E-mail: dtsibi@org.usp.br

## Historical and Genealogical Societies

In Brazil there are organized historical and genealogical societies. Some societies maintain libraries and archives that collect valuable records. For more information, see the “Societies” section of this outline.

## Inventories, Registers, and Catalogs

Many archives have catalogs, inventories, guides, or periodicals that describe their records and how to use them. If possible, study these guides before you visit, or use the records during your visit so you can use your time more effectively. See:

*Catálogo dos arquivos brasileiros* (Catalog of the Brazilian archives). Rio de Janeiro: Arquivo Nacional, 1977. (FHL book 981 A3b; film 1218975; computer number 0021693.)

A guide to the archives and libraries for slavery records in Brazil is:

*Guia brasileiro de fontes para a história da África, da escravidão negra e do negro na sociedade atual: fontes arquivistas* (Brazilian Guide of Sources for the History of Africa, Black Slavery and of the Negro in the Present Society). 2 vols. Arquivo Nacional: Departamento de Imprensa Nacional, 1988. (FHL book 981 A3g; computer number 0608264.) This guide describes the records in federal, state, and ecclesiastical archives.

## BIOGRAPHY

A biography is a history of a person’s life. In a biography you may find the individual’s birth, marriage, and death information and the names of his or her parents, children, or other family members. Use the information carefully because there may be inaccuracies.

There are very few biographical sources for Brazil. Many brief biographies have been gathered and published in collective biographies such as biographical encyclopedias or dictionaries. These usually include only biographies of prominent citizens of Brazil.

Significant biographical publications are:

Branches, Victor. *Dicionário Biobibliográfico Luso-Brasileiro* (Luso-Brazilian Biobibliographical Dictionary). Rio de Janeiro: Editora Fundo de Cultura, 1965. (FHL book 981 D3br; computer number 0018440.)

Coutinho, Afrânio. *Brasil e brasileiros de hoje* (Brazil and Brazilians of Today). Rio de Janeiro: Editorial Sul Americana, 1961. (FHL book 981 D3c; computer number 0019069.)

*Personalidades no Brasil* (Personalities of Brazil). São Paulo: The British Chamber of Commerce of São Paulo & Southern Brazil, (1932?). (FHL book 981 D3p; film 1162486 item 16; computer number 0456908.)

A major collection of Brazilian biographies is:

Macedo, Joaquim Manoel de. *Brazilian Biographical Annual*. Rio de Janeiro: Imperial Instituto Artístico, 1876. (FHL book 981 D3m; films 0496911–0496912 item 1; computer number 0019107.)

Collective biographies at the Family History Library are generally listed in the “Locality Search” section of the Family History Library Catalog under:

BRAZIL - BIOGRAPHY  
BRAZIL, [STATE] - BIOGRAPHY  
BRAZIL, [STATE], [CITY] - BIOGRAPHY

You will also find some biographical information in Brazilian encyclopedias.

## **CEMETERIES**

There are two major types of cemetery records in Brazil:

- Information recorded on gravestones (tombstones), including transcripts of this information
- Information recorded in cemetery sextons’ records, municipal cemetery records, church yard records, grave books, plot books, and maps

Civil cemetery records generally begin after 1840.

In São Paulo the first cemeteries of Consolação and Santo Amaro date from 1856. Some minority churches had their own cemeteries, including:

- Gamboa, an early English cemetery in Rio de Janeiro that was established in 1810.
- São Francisco Xavier in Rio de Janeiro, a cemetery for other nationalities that was established in 1840.
- São João Batista, a cemetery established in Rio de Janeiro in 1852 for other nationalities.

- *Cemitério dos Protestantes* (Cemeteries of the Protestants) in São Paulo that was established in 1858.
- The Lutheran cemetery in Nova Friburgo that was established in 1824.

Besides cemeteries, consult newspapers and other publications in the cities where the death occurred.

Cemetery records may give more information than parish burial registers or civil certificates of deaths, such as the birth year or date of birth and sometimes marriage information. They may also provide clues about a person’s military service, religion, occupation, place of residence at time of death, or membership in an organization such as a fraternal society.

Some of the inscriptions on gravestones and monuments (referred to as monumental inscriptions) may have been transcribed and are found in manuscripts and printed books in libraries.

Many persons could not afford permanent purchase of the grave and gravestone or monument, so after a period of time the grave was reused. Other cemetery records such as burial books, sexton records, and especially plot books can be especially helpful for identifying ancestors who were not recorded in other records, such as children who died young. Because relatives may be buried in adjoining plots, it is best to examine the original records.

To find tombstone or sexton records you need to know where an individual was buried. The person may have been buried in a church, community, or private cemetery, usually near the place where he or she lived or died. You can find clues to burial places in funeral notices, church records, and death certificates.

Funeral homes and mortuaries in the area will often have lists of cemeteries in the region. If you know the specific area where your ancestors resided, you may want to ask the local *Cartório do Registro Civil* (Registry of Civil Records) if any burial plots exist on private land anywhere nearby, or you may want to consult a local telephone directory.

Cemetery locations may also be found on local maps of the area. The present sexton or minister may have the burial registers and the records of the burial plots. A local library, historical society, or local historian may also help you locate obscure family plots or relocated cemeteries.

A few sextons' records and transcripts of tombstone information have been published, including:

Dullius, Werner Mabilde. *Cemitérios das Colônias Alemãs no Rio Grande do Sul* (Cemeteries of German Colonies in Rio Grande do Sul). Porto Alegre: Editora Gráfica Metrópole, 1985. (FHL book 981.65 V3d; computer number 0606608.)

English, Elisabeth Doby. "Cemitério Dos Campos," *United Daughters of the Confederacy Magazine*. Vol. XXIII, no. 9, Sept. 1960, pp. 25–27. (FHL book 973 B2ud; computer number 0316310.)

Wolff, Egon. *Sepulturas de Israelitas – II: Uma Pesquisa em mais de Trinta Cemitérios não Israelitas* (Jewish Burials: A Search in More Than Thirty Non-Jewish Cemeteries). Rio de Janeiro: Cemitério Comunal Israelita, 1983. (FHL book 981 V3w; computer number 0700789.)

Other than these few sources, the Family History Library does not have tombstone records for Brazil.

The following publication includes the listing of names in the Confederate Cemetery of Americana, São Paulo:

Oliveira, Betty Antunes de. *North American Immigration to Brazil: Tombstone records of the cemetery, Santa Bárbara d'Oeste, São Paulo State, Brazil*. Brasília: Gráfica do Senado Federal, 1978. (FHL 981.61/S2 V3a; film copy 1162423; computer number 0051233.)

## **CENSUS**

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A census is a count and description of a population. Censuses have been taken by various governments of Brazil and by some ecclesiastical officials. Census records are not frequently used in Brazilian family history research because better sources such as church records and civil registrations exist.

After compiling statistical information, the original census returns in Brazil were often destroyed. Census records of some areas still exist at regional archives, and some ecclesiastical censuses are found in diocesan archives. Information is given here concerning census records of the following regions and people:

- Bahia State Census
- São Paulo State Census
- Paraná State Census
- Polish Census

### **Bahia State Census**

The administrative section of the Bahia state archives (*Arquivo do Estado*), in Salvador, has 10 volumes of census records (*população*) for 1890. These records are of children who resided in the parishes of Santo Antônio Além do Carmo, Sant'Ana da Ilha de Maré, São Pedro, Itapoã, and Conceição. You will need to visit the state archives in Bahia to search these records. See the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline for the address.

### **São Paulo State Census**

The São Paulo state archives (*Arquivo do Estado* in São Paulo) has census records (*população*) covering 1765 to 1840. These records cover all of the state of São Paulo, which was much larger then than it is now. These records are contained in 226 metal boxes and document complete families, with relationships, ages, residences, and in some cases birthplaces of the individuals.

The following information about São Paulo census records comes from pages 154 to 156 of Lyman De Platt's book *Genealogical Historical Guide to Latin America* (FHL book 980 D27p; computer number 0008654):

In the archive is a metal box entitled *População--Capital--Anos 1818--1827--Caixa 36*. This box contains seven bundles of census records. Each census record contains basically the same personal information for each person, including given names, ages, nationalities, civil statuses, occupations, and military classifications (for the military census). These bundles comprise:

- Military census of 1818 for São Paulo's nine companies. The census list for each company comprises about 50 folios.
- Parish census of 1818 for the state of São Paulo, in 11 bundles of about 50 folios each.
- Census of 1822 to 1823 for the state of São Paulo. There are about 650 pages, or 1,300 folios in these three bundles, numbered 2, 3 and 7.

- Census of 1825 to 1826 for the state of São Paulo. These records are made up of about 475 pages, or 950 folios in bundles numbered 4 and 5.
- Census of 1827 for the state of São Paulo, located in bundle 6, which consists of about 200 pages.

The São Paulo state archives also has other census records of its former region from 1765 to 1858. The information included in these censuses is similar to that in the records described above. These records have not been filmed by the Family History Library and are currently available only through the state archive in São Paulo. Following is a list of these records, listed by localities and years:

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Year of Census</u>
Apiáí	1776–1846
Arêas	1817–1825, 1828–1830, 1832–1846
Atibaia-Nazaré	1765–1820, 1822–1826, 1828–1850
Bragança	1798–1816, 1818–1822, 1824–1847
Campinas	1797–1836
Cananéia	1765–1856
Capital (São Paulo)	1765–1798, 1801–1805 1807–1811, 1813–1827, 1829–1846
Cotia	1765–1847
Cunha	1789–1836
Faxina	1775–1846
Franca	1824–1848
Guaratinguetá	1765–1798, 1800–1836
Guarulhos	1765–1798, 1802–1842
Iguape-Xiririca	1765–1825, 1828–1872
Itanhaem	1765–1846
Itapetininga	1769–1799, 1801–1850
Itú	1765–1778, 1782–1847
Jacaréí	1765–1829
Jacaréí-Paraibuna-Sta Branca-Jundiáí	1767–1783 1785–1842, 1830–1850
Juquirí	1767–1808, 1810–1846
Lorena	1789–1825, 1828–1850
Moji das Cruzes	1765–1777, 1779–1799 1801–1820, 1822–1850
Moji Guaçú	1765–1846
Moji Mirim	1765–1787, 1789–1799 1801–1818, 1820–1830, 1832–1850
Parnaíba	1765–1780
Parnaíba-S. Roque	1781–1818, 1820–1825 1827–1858
Pindamonhangaba	1766–1846
Piracicaba	1822–1828, 1832–1850
Porto Feliz	1797–1811, 1813–1825, 1827–1843
Santo Amaro	1765–1802, 1804–1847
Santos	1765–1799, 1801–1822, 1824–1846
São Bernardo	1776–1846
São José dos Campos	1803–1818, 1820–1847
São Luiz Paraitinga	1775–1843
São Sebastião	1765–1850
São Vicente	1765–1846
Sorocaba-Faxina-Itapetininga	1765–1776
Sorocaba	1777–1783, 1785–1810 1812–1829, 1835–1846

Taubaté	1765–1786, 1789–1799 1801–1810, 1812–1820, 1822–1836
Ubatuba	1765–1850
Vila Bela	1806–1855

## Paraná State Census

Census records for the state of Paraná are housed in the *Arquivo do Estado* in São Paulo. These records have not been filmed by the Family History Library. They include the following records:

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Year of Census</u>
Antonina	1798–1826, 1828–1835
Castro	1789–1820, 1822–1846
Curitiba	1765–1798, 1800–1806 1809–1822, 1824–1846
Guaratuba	1775–1844
Lages	1776–1818
Paranaguá	1767–1799, 1801–1850
Príncipe	1806–1818, 1822–1850

## Polish Census

References to Polish census records for the southern part of Brazil may be found in:

*Arquivos Para a História do Brasil Meridional* (Archives of the History of Southern Brazil). Curitiba, Brazil: (Papeleria Requião Ltda.), 1971. (FHL book 981.6 B4b no. 14; computer number 0017504.)

Information about Italian and Polish immigrants in southern Brazil can also be found in the *Arquivo dos Padres da Congregação de São Vicente de Paulo* (Archive of the Priests of the São Vicente de Paulo Parish) in Curitiba, Paraná.

## Searching Census Records

When searching census records it is important to remember the following:

- Information may be incorrect.
- Accept the ages with caution.
- Given names may not always be the same as the names recorded in vital records.
- Names may be spelled as they sound.
- Place names may be misspelled or spelled phonetically.
- If the family is not found at a suspected address, search the surrounding area.

- Parts of some censuses are indecipherable.
- When you find your ancestor in one census, search that same location in the earlier and later census records for additional family members.

## Searching in Big Cities

Finding your ancestor's family in the census records of a large city and learning the street where the family resided will also enable you to search other records such as church records and civil registrations.

If possible, determine your ancestor's address for the time period of the census you are searching. Sources that sometimes give street addresses for cities in Brazil include:

- Civil certificates of births, marriages, and deaths.
- Church records of christenings, marriages, and burials.
- City directories from various years (see the "Directories" section of this outline).

## CHURCH DIRECTORIES

A church directory lists church officials, dioceses, and parishes. There are many genealogical uses for church directories. They:

- Provide a list of all the parishes in a diocese, so you can determine if your ancestor's village had a parish church. Many directories list all villages belonging to a parish.
- Sometimes provide the earliest dates for which the church records of each parish exist.
- May include historical information about some parishes.
- Usually group parishes by clerical district, so you can easily determine all neighboring parishes.
- Provide the complete parish address as well as the address of the diocese headquarters and often the archives of the diocese where additional records may be kept.
- Include an index of priests, brethren, and deacons.
- Include an index of municipalities, states, and dioceses.

Catholic Church directories exist for each diocese in Brazil, combined into one *Anuário Católico do Brasil* (Catholic Yearbook of Brazil). Some information such as priests' names and addresses may be out of date. The parish histories are still valid.

Church directories are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

BRAZIL - CHURCH DIRECTORIES  
BRAZIL, [STATE], [CITY OF DIOCESE] -  
CHURCH DIRECTORIES

The Family History Library has copies of the Catholic Church yearbooks for 1960, 1970 to 1971, and 1997:

*Anuário Católico do Brasil, 1960* (Catholic Yearbook of Brazil, 1960). Petrópolis: Editora Vozes, 1959. (FHL book 981 K24a; microfilm number 0962910; computer number 0004237.)

*Anuário Católico do Brasil, 1970–1971* (Catholic Yearbook of Brazil, 1970–1971). 2 vols. Rio de Janeiro: Fundação IBGE, 1972. (FHL 981 K24r; computer number 0004347.)

*Anuário Católico do Brasil, 1997* (Catholic Yearbook of Brazil, 1997). Rio de Janeiro: CERIS, 1997. (FHL book 981 K24a 1997; computer number 0833824.)

## CHURCH HISTORY

Research procedures and genealogical sources are different for each religion. It is helpful to understand the historical events that led to the creation of records your ancestor is listed in, such as parish registers.

### Roman Catholic

The Roman Catholic faith has been the predominant faith of Brazil since its earliest settlement by Europeans in the 1500s. Catholic clergy accompanied the first explorers and colonizers to Brazil. The Jesuits made significant missionary and educational efforts, especially among the Indians. From 1549 until their expulsion in 1759, the Jesuits dominated religious life in the colony. The Franciscan friars also played an important role in Brazil.

A few secular priests were brought to Brazil by the donatarios (land lords of large grants of land called *captaincies*) in the early 1500s to attend to the spiritual needs of the colonists. The colony was made a separate diocese in 1551. The following year the first bishop of Brazil reached Bahia. In

1676 Bahia became the seat of an archbishopric, and by the end of the colonial period there were bishoprics in Rio de Janeiro, Pernambuco, Maranhão, Pará, São Paulo, and Minas Gerais.

The Catholic Church was directed by bishops, Catholic Orders, and the secular clergy. The Catholic Church was the most important cohesive force in Brazilian life.

In 1563 the Council of Trent formalized record-keeping practices that were already being followed in much of the Catholic world. Separate books were kept for baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and deaths or burials.

## Judaism

Jews immigrated quite early to Brazil. The *marranos*, Jews who were forced to become Christians but who continued to practice their religion secretly, lived in Brazil from the earliest settlements.

During the Dutch occupation of northern Brazil from 1648 to 1653, two Jewish congregations were formed: Zur Israel in Recife and Magan Abraham in Mauricia. After these communities were disbanded in Brazil, the people helped establish communities in Aruba, Curaçao, Barbados, Amsterdam, London, and New York. A list of the names of these people can be found in:

Wiznitzer, Arnold. *The Record of the Earliest Jewish Community in the New World*. New York: American Jewish Historical Society, 1954. (FHL book 981.34/R1 F2w; computer number 0022828.)

Although the colony was subject to the Inquisition in Lisbon, the Inquisition in Brazil was mild compared with how it was administered in Mexico and Peru. Those in Brazil who were accused of being Jewish were taken to Lisbon and tried there. Documents from their trials in Portugal are on microfilm at the Family History Library:

*Inquisição de Lisboa* (Inquisition of Lisbon). Lisboa: Laboratórios Fototécnicos, N.p., (1975). (On 77 FHL films, beginning with 078450; computer number 0177804.)

Today the largest Jewish congregation in South America, *Congregação Israelita Paulista*, is in São Paulo, with 2,000 families. The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies is developing a database of all Jewish cemeteries and inscriptions in the world. It lists information about Jewish cemeteries in Brazil on its Internet site:

There is also a Jewish Genealogical Society in Brazil:

Sociedade Genealógica Judaica do Brasil  
Dr. Guilherme Faiguenboim  
Caixa Postal 1025  
13001-970 Campinas - SP  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (5511) 881-9365 (Ms. Anna Rosa)  
E-mail: faiguen@ibm.net

## Other Religions

Although the majority of the population is Roman Catholic, there is also a great deal of tolerance for other religions in Brazil. Among the minority religions in Brazil are Buddhism, Eastern Orthodox Catholicism, Islam, Judaism, Maronism, and Spiritualism. Many Brazilians have returned to religions of Africa, including Macumba near Rio, Umbanda in São Paulo, and Candomblé in the Bahia area.

Some of the earliest non-Roman Catholic Christian religions that were established in Brazil are listed below.

- Presbyterians, 1859
- Methodists, 1870
- Baptists, 1871
- Seventh-Day Adventists, 1892
- Lutherans, about 1900
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1927

A history of the German Mennonites in Brazil can be found in:

*Mennoniten in Brasilien: gedenkschrift zum 50 Jahr - Jubiläum ihrer Einwanderung, 1930–1980/ Documento histórico para o jubileu dos 50 anos de imigração menonita no Brasil* (Mennonites in Brazil: Memorial at the 50 Year Anniversary of their Emigration, 1930–1980). Witmarsum, Brasil: Festkomitees für die Jubilaeumsfeier, 1980. (FHL book 981.6 F2m; computer number 0407526.)

Other books about the history of religious minorities in Brazil can be found in the “Locality Search” section of the Family History Library under the country, state, or city/town and the subjects “church history” or “minorities.”

## **CHURCH RECORDS**

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Roman Catholic Church records are among the most important records for genealogical research in Brazil. This is because the vast majority of Brazilians were Catholic and were registered in the records of the local parish, which records are called *registros paroquiais* (parish registers). These records include entries for baptisms, marriages, deaths, and burials. Often two and sometimes three generations are indicated in the registers, with personal information on the family. In addition, church records may include church censuses, account books, confirmations, and other church-related records.

Church records are very helpful because civil authorities did not begin registering vital statistics until after 1850. After this date one should search in both church and civil records, since there may be information in one that does not appear in the other. For instance, the church records may only list the godparents, while the civil records may list the grandparents.

For civil vital records of births, marriages, and deaths, see the “Civil Registration” section of this outline.

### **General Historical Background**

The arrival of six Jesuits in 1549 marked the beginning of organized religious activity in the colony. Catholic clergy have documented the history of Brazil in their church records from the very start of the exploration of Brazil. The earliest church records of baptisms, marriages, and deaths in Brazil that have been microfilmed are the Catholic Church records in Rio de Janeiro from 1616.

Separate church record books were maintained for baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and deaths or burials, and the format was standardized as the Council of Trent had outlined. The Catholic Church was the primary record keeper for Brazil until civil registration started. A large percentage of the population is listed in these registration records.

Only in the late 19th century did other religious groups begin to establish themselves in Brazil. For more information about the various churches in Brazil, see the “Church History,” “Minorities,” and “History” sections of this outline.

Some church records have been lost or have deteriorated because of natural effects like humidity and insects and more dramatic events like

fires, floods, and earthquakes. Civil and political strife have also caused the destruction of parish books. Some records were destroyed or damaged because of poor storage. However, many records have simply been misplaced or misidentified.

### **Information Recorded in Church Registers**

The type and amount of information and detail recorded in church books varied over time. The later records generally give more complete information than the earlier ones. The most important church records for genealogical research are baptism, marriage, and burial registers. Occasionally other helpful church records were kept, including confirmations and church censuses. Most records were recorded in Portuguese. A few Catholic records were kept in Latin.

### **Baptisms [*batismos*]**

Children were generally baptized within a few days of birth. Baptismal records usually list the infant’s place and date of baptism, parents, status of legitimacy, godparents, and sometimes grandparents. You may also find the child’s age and the family’s place of residence. If the child died within a few days of baptism, death information has sometimes been added as a note. At times a note added to the margin will state who the child later married.

### **Marriages [*casamentos*]**

Marriage registers give the date and place of a marriage and names of the bride and groom. They may also indicate whether the couple were single or widowed before this marriage. If they were widowed sometimes it will give the names of the deceased spouses and how long they had been deceased. If the bride or groom was a minor, a note often appears to indicate whether a parent or other party gave permission for the marriage. The record will list the witnesses, usually two to four men who could verify that there were no reasons why the couple should not be married. Often the registers include other information about the bride and groom, such as their ages, residences, parents, and sometimes birthplaces.

Marriage registers may also give the dates on which the marriage was announced or the banns were published, which had to take place on three separate occasions so anyone knowing reasons why the couple should not be married could come forward. Couples were generally married in the home parish of the bride. Typically, girls married between 14 and 20, and men married in their 20s.

## Deaths [óbitos]

Burials were recorded in the church record of the parish where the person died. Death or burial registers give the name of the deceased and the date and place of burial and/or death. Often the deceased's age, residence, marital status, cause of death, and survivors are given.

At times the priest will note if the deceased person recorded a will. Often the date and place of birth and parents' names are given if the deceased was a minor. However, early death registers failed to record much of this information and are not as complete as later death records. Some death records recorded a woman by her maiden name, giving the name of her surviving spouse or stating that she was a widow and thus naming the deceased spouse.

## Confirmation Registers [confirmações]

Confirmation records were not consistently recorded. In larger parishes a separate book was usually maintained, and in smaller parishes the confirmation entries may be intermingled with baptisms. Confirmations were normally performed by the bishop or his authorized representative when they visited the parish. In some parishes confirmations were performed every year, but in the smaller parishes, where it was difficult for the bishop or his representative to visit, the confirmations took place once every few years. You may find that several members of the family were confirmed at the same time.

Confirmation entries normally list the parish, the individual being confirmed, his or her godparents, and sometimes his or her parents. The value of the confirmation record is primarily to verify the information found in other vital records.

## Other Ecclesiastical Records

The Catholic Church kept many other records that are valuable for genealogical research. These might include census and population lists, wills, account books, property grants to the church, lawsuits, priesthood ordination records, and fraternal groups that assisted in parish activities. These types of records may be available on a local level or in Brazilian archives, but they have not usually been filmed by the Family History Library.

## Locating Church Records

Church records are kept at different levels in the Catholic Church. The highest level of government

is the archdiocese (*arquiocese*). By 1900 there were two archdioceses, 15 dioceses, and several thousand parishes or vicarages in Brazil. The parishes (*paróquias*) are under the jurisdiction of the dioceses. Parishes are local congregations that may include many smaller villages within their boundaries. A large city would have several parishes. All parish jurisdictions have their own records.

In searching for your ancestor you must know the town he or she lived in. You must also determine the parish he or she belonged to. If your ancestor came from a large city that has several parishes, you will need to know what section of the town he or she lived in to determine the parish. However, in a large city such as Rio de Janeiro or São Paulo you may find that even if you know the home parish, there were times when the ancestor's family would go to the cathedral for the baptism of a child or to the parish of a relative in the same city. If you do not find the complete family in the home parish, search the surrounding parishes of the city. If your family lived in a very small village or ranch that did not have an established parish, check a map to determine which nearby town had a parish.

Parish boundary maps, if they exist, can be extremely helpful when determining what specific parish records to search. They can help you identify neighboring parishes if you need to search through the various parishes in a given region.

As the parish books were filled, many times they were sent to the diocese or archdiocese that had jurisdiction over the parish. Therefore, if records are no longer available at the local parish you may find the records in the diocesan or archdiocesan archives.

The Archdiocese Archives in Rio de Janeiro contains parish registers, marriage processes (*processos de casamento*), marriage bonds, banns, dispensations, and some inquisition records showing pedigrees of those brought to trial.

The Archdiocese Archives of São Paulo has marriage records since 1632, baptism records since 1640, and death records since 1731. Most of the parish records are for older parishes in the state of São Paulo when it was all under one diocese. The archive also has several indexes to church records:

- Index to baptisms, 1880–1900
- Index to dispensations of banns (*dispensas de matrimônio e casamentos*), 1730–1917

- Index to corrections of baptism and marriage records
- Index to non-Catholics who accepted the Catholic faith and rejected their former religion

Most indexes are in alphabetical order by the first or given name rather than by the surname.

The archive also has a book called *Autos de Genere* (Pedigree Records), which lists in alphabetical order each child's name, parents, grandparents, and sometimes relatives of earlier generations. It also contains some illegitimate births, with the birth date and the date the father recognized the child as his own.

Other records at this archive include confirmation records, a few local censuses, chaplaincy records, ordinations to various orders of the priesthood, wills, ecclesiastical court matters, and other records usually found in a diocese archives.

For addresses to the archdiocese archives, see the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline.

### Church Record Inventories

An inventory is a listing of available church records, what years they cover, and their location. Sometimes they indicate which parishes served particular towns at different times. Church record inventories in Brazil have not been obtained by the Family History Library. For more information, see the "Church Directories" section of this outline.

### Church Records at the Family History Library

The Family History Library has many Brazilian church records on microfilm. Many church records have been filmed for the states of Alagoas, Bahia, Minas Gerais, São Paulo, and Santa Catarina. Church records have also been filmed in the states of Maranhão, Espírito Santo, Paraíba, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Ceará, Pará, Paraná, and Pernambuco.

Some of the records from the state of Pará are listed in the catalog under a centralized parish rather than each individual parish. For example, the central church of Curuçá in Pará includes church records from 1837 to 1935, including the church records from several other parishes and chapels.

The specific holdings are listed in the Family History Library Catalog. You can determine whether the library has records for the locality your ancestor came from by checking the "Locality Search" section of the Family History Library Catalog. If the Family History Library does not have a copy of the records you seek, you will have to write to the parish for information.

Church records are cataloged first by the name of the denomination (usually *Igreja Católica*, Catholic Church), followed by the saint name of the parish (for example, *Nossa Senhora da Ajuda*, Our Lady of Help), and then by the town and state where it is located (for example, Ilha do Governador, Rio de Janeiro). In the Family History Library Catalog, look under the name of the town where the parish was located, not necessarily the town where your ancestor lived. If the city has more than one parish it will list all parishes by name. Look in the Family History Library Catalog under the town as follows:

BRAZIL, [STATE], [TOWN] - CHURCH RECORDS

### Records Not at the Family History Library

Baptism, marriage, and death records may be searched by contacting or visiting local parish or diocese archives in Brazil. Brazil has no single repository of church records. Write your request in Portuguese whenever possible.

Information about how to write for genealogical information to local parishes in Brazil is given in *Letter-Writing Guide: Portuguese* (36341).

When requesting information, send the following:

- Money for the search fee, usually \$10.00, and an international reply coupon (IRC)
- Full name and the sex of the ancestor sought
- Names of the ancestor's parents, if known
- Approximate date and place of the event
- Your relationship to the ancestor
- Reason for the request (family history, medical, and so on)
- Request for a photocopy of the complete original record

If your request is unsuccessful, search for duplicate records that may have been filed in other archives or civil registration offices.

## Search Strategies

Effective use of church records includes the following strategies, used in this order:

- Search only for the ancestor you select. When you find his or her baptismal record, search for the baptisms of his or her brothers and sisters.
- Search for the marriage of the person's parents prior to the birth of their first legitimate child. The marriage record will often lead to the parents' baptismal records.
- You can estimate the parents' ages or try to find their ages from a death record and then search for their baptismal records.
- Repeat the process for both the father and the mother.
- If earlier generations are not in the record, search neighboring parishes.
- Search the death registers for all family members.

## CIVIL REGISTRATION

Civil registrations comprise the vital records made by the government. Records of births, marriages, divorces, and deaths are commonly referred to as "vital records" because they document critical events in a person's life. Civil registration records (*Registros Cíveis*) are an excellent source of accurate information on names, dates, and vital events.

Civil records are important for genealogical research in Brazil. They can be used along with church records. Since 1827 the government has accepted marriages performed in the Catholic Church as official marriages. In 1850 a law was passed requiring registration of births and deaths throughout the country. Until 1870 the Catholic Church was required to keep this record. After 1870 these records were to be kept by the justices of the peace.

Civil records kept track of all the population, including the Catholics and the non-Catholics. Because of the influx of non-Catholics after the 1880s, these records are important in recording this section of the population as well. Because the Catholic Church continued keeping records after the creation of the civil registration in the late 1800s, two types of records may be available for births, marriages, and deaths. Be sure to search both records.

Some civil registration records in Brazil date back to the 1860s and 1870s. Some civil records in Brazil date back to 1889. However, some areas did not begin keeping records until as recently as the 1920s. Because they cover such a large percentage of the population, civil registrations are an extremely important source for genealogical research in Brazil.

At times the Catholic Church stopped keeping death records because the civil authority was keeping them. Occasionally there were disputes between the Catholic Church and government authorities concerning the legitimacy of marriages performed by each authority. Therefore, it is important to check both the civil records and church records to understand the issues completely and to get all the genealogical information about each event. For birth, death, and marriage records that were created before civil records began in a particular area, see the "Church Records" section of this outline.

### Information Recorded in Civil Registers

The information recorded in civil registration records varied over time. Later records generally give more complete information than the earlier ones.

The most important civil records for genealogical research are the birth, marriage, and death registers. These records may be either handwritten or typed and are most often indexed by given name rather than surname.

Other civil records include *emancipações* (emancipations) made by fathers when their sons reached 18 years of age (not required after 21 years old), land sales (*imóveis*), and corrections of children's names (*comunicações*). For the most part, only birth, marriage, and death records have been filmed by the Family History Library, and these will be of most help in doing genealogical research.

### Births [*nascimentos*]

Births were usually registered by the infant's father or by a neighbor of the family within a few days of the event. A birth record includes the day and time of the birth; the newborn's name; the parents' names; the town where the birth occurred, which may be different than where it was registered; and the address of the house or hospital the birth took place in. Family information may be included, such as the parents' ages, birthplaces or residences, marital statuses, and professions and the number of other children born to the mother.

You may also find information about the grandparents.

Corrections or additions to a birth record may have been added as a note in the margin.

### **Marriages [casamentos]**

Early civil marriage entries simply contain the name of the bride and groom and the marriage date. In later years more information was entered, such as the bride's and groom's ages, occupations, civil statuses, and residences. Sometimes their parents, grandparents, and birthplaces were listed. In current civil marriage records even street addresses are given.

### **Divorces**

Because divorce was not common until the 1980s, Brazil has very few divorce records. People would get a *desquite*, which is a legal separation, but the Catholic Church forbade divorce.

### **Deaths [óbitos]**

Early civil death records are especially helpful because they may list people whom there are no birth or marriage records for, and they may provide information about the person's birth, spouse, and parents. Deaths were recorded within a few days of the event in the town or city where the person died.

Death records generally give the deceased's name, date, and place of death. Depending on the clerk who registered the death, the record may also include the deceased's age or date of birth (if a child), residence, occupation, and cause of death; burial information; and the informant's name (often a relative). They often provide the name of a spouse or parents.

Be aware that information in a death record about the deceased's parents, birth date, birthplace, and so on may be inaccurate since the person who gave the information may not have had complete information.

### **Locating Civil Registration Records**

Civil registration records are kept by all the states on a municipal level. There are over 3,700 municipalities (*municípios*) in Brazil, with offices of civil registration. The populace register in their local civil registration offices. The records are then sent to the municipal office, district office, or delegation office.

Several small villages will sometimes report births, marriages, and deaths in one central municipality office. Sometimes municipalities existed for a few years and were then dissolved. In villages where this has occurred, births, marriages, and deaths are reported in a neighboring municipality.

Duplicate copies of all civil records are made in separate books. Copies of surviving records and duplicates from the municipality archive are sent to the *Arquivo Geral dos Tribunaís* in the federal district and to the judicial or state archives in the various states.

### **Records at the Family History Library**

The Family History Library has microfilmed the civil registration records of many municipalities in Brazil. Civil records from the late 1800s to the 1920s and 1930s, and often up to the 1990s, have been filmed for the states of Pará, Ceará, Pernambuco, Alagoas, Bahia, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Paraná, Santa Catarina, and Rio Grande do Sul. Some civil registration records have also been filmed for the states of Rio Grande do Norte, Sergipe, and Paraíba.

You will need to know the town your ancestor lived in. Although more than one town may comprise a municipality, the civil records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog for each town and not just by the municipality. Some municipalities are small and only have one civil registration office, but in the larger cities there might be several civil registration offices.

The specific holdings of the Family History Library are listed in the Family History Library Catalog. To find civil registration records in the Family History Library, search in the "Locality Search" section of the catalog under:

BRAZIL, [STATE], [TOWN] - CIVIL  
REGISTRATION

The library's collection continues to grow as new records are microfilmed and added to the collection.

### **Locating Records Not at the Family History Library**

Birth, marriage, and death records may be found by contacting or visiting local civil registration offices or district and state civil archives in Brazil. The present location of records depends on whether the local office has sent its records to the

higher jurisdiction. Most recent records will be found in the local civil registry offices. Older records may be found in the municipality, district archive, or state archive.

Civil registration records in Brazil can be obtained by writing to the local civil registry in the municipality. Civil officials will generally answer correspondence in Portuguese. Your request may be forwarded if the records have been sent to state archives.

After deciding who has jurisdiction over the records for the time period you need, write a brief request to the proper office. Send the following:

- Money for the search fee, usually \$10.00, and an international reply coupon (IRC)
- Full name and the sex of the ancestor sought
- Names of the ancestor's parents, if known
- Approximate date and place of the event
- Your relationship to the ancestor
- Reason for the request (family history, medical, and so on)
- Request for a photocopy of the complete original record

If your request is unsuccessful, search for duplicate records that may have been filed in other state or ecclesiastical archives.

Directories of the civil registration offices of Brazil for 1981 and 1993 are available through the Family History Library. The following publications list the addresses of the municipality civil registration offices and will help you identify the municipality a particular town belongs to:

*Cadastro de cartórios do Registro Civil 1981* (Survey of Offices of the Civil Registrar 1981). Rio de Janeiro: IBGE, 1982. (FHL book 981 J54; film 1667140 item 1; computer number 0571689.)

*Cadastro de municípios 1993* (Directory of Municipalities 1993). 2 vols. Rio de Janeiro: IBGE: 1993–1994. (FHL book 981 E5c; computer number 0791700.)

A 1994 edition also lists addresses for each of the municipalities:

*Cadastro de municípios 1994* (Directory of Municipalities 1993). 5 vols. Rio de Janeiro: IBGE, 1995. (Computer number 0769831.)

## Search Strategies

Effective use of civil records includes the following strategies, used in this order:

- Search only for the ancestor you select. If you can find the person's death record, it will help identify his or her age or birth date. When you find the birth record, search for the births of his or her brothers and sisters.
- Search for the marriage of your ancestor's parents prior to the birth of their first legitimate child. The marriage record will often lead to the parents' birth records of the parents.
- You can estimate the parents' ages and search for their birth records.
- Repeat the process for both the father and the mother.
- If earlier generations are not in the record, search neighboring municipalities.
- Search the death records for all family members.

## COURT RECORDS

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Records of civil and criminal cases exist from the earliest days of the colony and are usually found in the national or state archives. They contain disputes, accusations, judgments, contracts, property titles, wills, inventories, baptismal records, and personal correspondence about these cases.

Court records contain family information that has great genealogical value. They contain names, residences, occupations of defendants and plaintiffs, ages, relationships, birthplaces, sometimes verdicts, and dates.

Early court records are found in the judicial and legislative sections of the national and state archives. The National Archives of Brazil has a partial index to records in its legislative and judicial section that include inventories and wills, divorces, orphan records, separations without divorce, donation records, adjudications, executions of sentences, and probate divisions of property.

These records have not been microfilmed by the Family History Library and may take considerable time and effort to research in the archives in Brazil, since there are generally no easy indexes and reference tools to them.

Other local court-type records were kept by a notary public and are called notarial records (*notariais*). These are discussed further under the “Notarial Records” section of this outline.

## **DIRECTORIES**

Directories are alphabetical lists of names and addresses. These often list all the adult residents or tradesmen of a city or area. Telephone books are a type of directory.

The most helpful directories for genealogical research are city directories of local residents and businesses. These are generally published annually and may include an individual’s name, address, occupation, and spouse’s name, as well as other helpful facts. An individual’s address can be very useful when searching in a large city with several parishes. Directories sometimes have city maps and may include addresses of churches, cemeteries, civil registration offices, and other locations of value to genealogists.

The Family History Library has directories for some of the major cities of Brazil. These are listed in the “Locality Search” section of the Family History Library Catalog under:

BRAZIL, [STATE], [CITY] - DIRECTORIES

Some directories list only certain types of tradesmen or businesses. These are listed in the “Locality Search” section of the Family History Library Catalog under the topics “directories” or “occupations.” There are also special directories that can help you, such as church diocese and parish directories. See the “Church Directories” section of this outline for more information.

Several fairly recent directories for various cities and states of Brazil can be found on the Internet at:

[www.teldir.com/br/](http://www.teldir.com/br/)

A directory of complete Brazilian postal codes can be found on the Internet and searched by locality and street address in larger cities:

## **EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION**

Emigration and immigration sources list the names of people leaving (emigration) or coming into (immigration) a country. These lists are usually found as passenger lists, permissions to emigrate, and records of passports issued. The information in

these records may include the emigrants’ names, ages, occupations, destinations, ports of emigration, and occasionally places of origin or birthplaces.

These sources can help you determine where in Brazil your ancestor came from and where he or she came from prior to settling in Brazil. These records can also help you construct family groups. If you do not find your ancestor, you may find emigration information on your ancestor’s neighbors. People often emigrated with neighbors and friends from the same communities.

Europeans left Europe (Portugal) for Brazil from the 1530s onward. General immigration began in the 1800s with the transfer of the court from Lisbon to Rio de Janeiro when a royal decree in 1808 opened the ports of Brazil to direct trade with foreign countries. For the first time citizens of other countries were welcome to enter in substantial numbers and become permanent citizens and land owners in Brazil.

Although many foreigners came at that time, most newcomers continued to come from Portugal. The Portuguese were not regarded as foreigners and usually did not consider themselves immigrants. Many originally did not intend to become permanent residents in Brazil.

Brazil remained relatively unattractive to many potential immigrants of the 19th century while slavery existed. Before 1850 the number of immigrants to Brazil seldom exceeded 2,000 per year. But with the demise of slave trade in Brazil, immigration to Brazil steadily increased. A peak of immigration was reached in 1888, the year slavery was abolished, with 133,253 emigrants. An estimated 750,000 Europeans had immigrated to Brazil by that date. From this point on, immigration increased dramatically. Nearly five million immigrants came to Brazil from 1884 to 1963, half of whom arrived between 1889 and 1913.

Records were created when individuals emigrated from or immigrated to Brazil. Other records document a person’s arrival in his or her destination country. This section discusses:

- Finding your ancestor’s town of origin.
- Immigration to Brazil.
- Records of Brazilian emigrants to the United States of America.
- Other records of departure.

There are some helpful records about Portuguese immigrants into Brazil. There are not many immigration records for Brazil prior to 1808.

### Finding Your Ancestor's Town of Origin

Once you have traced your family back to your immigrant ancestor, you must determine the city or town where the ancestor lived. Brazil has no nationwide index to birth, marriage, or death records. These records were kept locally.

There are several sources that may give your ancestor's place of origin. You may be able to learn the town your ancestor came from by talking to older family members. Members of your family may have documents that name the city or town, such as:

- Birth, marriage, and death certificates.
- Obituaries.
- Journals.
- Photographs.
- Letters.
- Family Bibles.
- Church records.
- Naturalization applications and petitions.
- Passenger lists.
- Passports.
- Family heirlooms.

Emigrants leaving Brazil may have left records documenting their migration both in Brazil and in the country they moved to.

Information on Brazilian migration is found in:

Ferenczi, Imre. *International Migrations, volume I: Statistics*. Series: The American immigration collection. Series 2, vol. 1. New York: Arno Press and the New York Times, 1970. (FHL book 304.8 F379i; computer number 264074.)

### Passenger Lists

Most Brazilian emigrants left through the ports of Rio de Janeiro, Santos, and São Paulo. Records of departures are called passenger lists. The

information in these lists varies over time but usually includes the emigrants' names, ages, occupations, and destinations. In addition, relationships and last residences or birthplaces may be given.

There are few emigration sources for the ports of Brazil. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of some records of emigrants leaving from the port of Rio de Janeiro. These records, from 1835 to 1842, were filmed from the Hostelry of Immigrants (*Hospedaria de Imigrantes*) and are called *Saídas* (Departures) (FHL film 1285642 items 2–5, 1285643–1285644; computer number 0183484).

Many of those who emigrated from Europe and other western hemisphere countries to Brazil left from the ports of Bremen, Hamburg, La Havre, Bordeaux, Marseille, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Lisbon, Funchal, Cádiz, New Orleans, Naples, Tokyo, and New York. The passenger records from Hamburg have been microfilmed and are available in the collection of the Family History Library. See *Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850–1934* (34047). Departure lists from La Havre, New Orleans, and New York were not preserved.

### Immigration to Brazil

Prior to 1755 the Portuguese sent prisoners, *degradados* (exiles) or *indesejáveis* (undesirables) to its colonies, and prior to 1808 the Portuguese limited immigration to Brazil to Portuguese nationals. After 1808, Brazil opened its ports to international commerce and began to encourage immigration.

It was not until the law of 1871, when the *Lei do Ventre Livre* (Law of Free Birth) freed all newborns of slaves, and the law of 1888, *Lei Áurea* (Golden Law), which freed all slaves, that many Europeans saw the opportunity to immigrate and better themselves in a non-slavery environment. These laws forced the plantation owners (*fazendeiros*) to look to other sources for laborers. Therefore, in 1890s they organized the *Sociedade Promotora de Imigração* (Society for the Promotion of Emigration) to promote immigration.

From 1808 to 1940 immigrants came to Brazil from over 50 nations all over the world; most were from Portugal, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Japan, Russia, France, Spain, Turkey, the British Isles, and other South American countries. This wave of immigration was caused by political and financial conditions and by work opportunities on the plantations. Many settled in the states of São Paulo, Minas Gerais, Paraná, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, and Rio de Janeiro.

After the United States Civil War, many Southerners emigrated to Brazil. By 1872, 4,000 Southerners had emigrated to Amazonas, Espírito Santo, and São Paulo, establishing rural colonies. A few of these survived, such as Americana in São Paulo, but most failed, and the settlers returned to the United States. One source for these emigrants is listed under the “Cemeteries” section of this outline. Other sources at the Family History Library include:

***The Confederados: Old South Immigrants in Brazil.*** Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, c1995. (FHL book 981.61 H2c; computer number 0736070.)

Griggs, William Clark. ***The Elusive Eden: Frank McMullan’s Confederate Colony in Brazil.*** Austin: University of Texas Press, c1987. (FHL book 981 F2gw; computer number 0475914.)

Most immigrants to Brazil arrived at one of three ports in Brazil: Rio de Janeiro, Santos (port city for São Paulo), or Salvador. As immigrants arrived to the port of Rio de Janeiro, they were registered by the *Agência Central de Imigração* (Central Agency for Immigration). Those disembarking in the port of Rio de Janeiro were taken to the *Ilha das Flores* (Isle of Flores) and processed at the *Casa dos Imigrantes* (House of Emigrants). Those destined for São Paulo continued on to Santos. After 1854, many ships went directly to Santos. The port authorities who registered and handled immigrants in Brazil were known as the *Hospedaria de Imigrantes* (Hostelry of Immigrants).

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of immigration records from each of these ports. These records can be found in the Family History Library Catalog under:

## BRAZIL - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

### Rio de Janeiro

In the *Arquivo Nacional* (National Archive), in Rio de Janeiro, there is a large collection of immigration records on cards in nearly 30 drawers. These cards have information on Portuguese immigrants to Brazil. The National Archive in Brazil compiled a supplement volumes to this collection:

*Registro de Estrangeiros e Entradas de Portugueses do Registro de Estrangeiros nas Capitânicas, 1777–1819* (Register of the

Foreigners and Emigrants from the Portuguese Register of Foreigners in the Captaincies, 1777–1819). Rio de Janeiro: Arquivo Nacional.

*Registro de estrangeiros, 1808–1842* (Register of foreigners, 1808–1842). 4 vols. (From series: Publicações do Arquivo Nacional, vols. 46, 49–50, 54.) Rio de Janeiro: Arquivo Nacional, Ministério da Justiça e Negócios Interiores, 1961–1964. (FHL book 981 W2b; film 1090236 items 1–3 and 1162487 item 4; computer number 0022266.)

Another book from the National Archives in Brazil lists emigration records of French residents in Rio de Janeiro:

***Os franceses residentes no Rio de Janeiro, 1808–1820*** (The French Residents in Rio de Janeiro, 1808–1820). Rio de Janeiro: Arquivo Nacional, 1960. (FHL book 981.53/R1 F2b; film 1102990 item 7 or 0897926 item 2; computer number 0023618.)

The original records of the *Hospedaria de Imigrantes* (Hostelry of Immigrants) in Rio de Janeiro are at the National Archives, in Rio de Janeiro. Records from this office have been microfilmed by the Family History Library and include arrival lists, passports, lists of ships, and so on:

*Registros de imigrantes* (Register of Immigrants). Arquivo Nacional no Rio de Janeiro, N.p., (1981). (FHL numbers 1285633–1285704; computer number 0183484.)

A published list of Brazilian immigrants from North America through Rio de Janeiro is:

Oliveira, Betty Antunes de. *Movimento de passageiros norte-americanos no porto do Rio de Janeiro, 1865–1890* (Movement of North American Passengers in the Port of Rio de Janeiro, 1865–1890). Rio de Janeiro: B. A. de Oliveira, 1982. (FHL book 981.53/R1 W3o; film 1162490; computer number 0460038.)

Many records prior to 1940 of naturalization and citizenship are in the National Archives. Records created after 1940 are in the office of the Minister of Justice:

Ministério da Justiça  
Serviço de Comunicações  
Rua México 128 - Centro  
20031-142 Rio de Janeiro, RJ  
BRASIL

For an address of the National Archives, in Rio de Janeiro, see the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline.

### **Santos (São Paulo)**

Santos was the main port for the city of São Paulo. The original records of the *Hospedaria de Imigrantes* (Hostelry of Immigrants) from 1854 to 1885 in São Paulo are at the *Arquivo da Secretaria da Promoção Social* (Archive of the Secretary of Social Progress).

Copies of indexes for 1882 to 1925 and the original records for 1882 to 1920 of the *Hospedaria de Imigrantes* have been microfilmed by the Family History library and can be researched on film:

*Matrícula dos imigrantes* (Registrations of immigrants). São Paulo: Arquivo da Secretaria da Promoção Social, N.p., (1981). (FHL film numbers 1285566–1285623; computer number 0130816.)

The address for the São Paulo *Hospedaria* (Hostelry) is:

Central Histórico de Imigrante  
Rua Visconde de Parnaíba, 1316 - Brás  
03044-001 São Paulo, SP  
BRASIL  
Tel.: 01-55-292-1022 (Ramal 112)

### **Salvador (State of Bahia)**

The Family History Library has copies of the record of immigrants to the port of Salvador from 1839 to 1854. These records were filmed from original records in the Public Archive of the State of Bahia (*Arquivo Público do Estado da Bahia*). These can be found at the Family History Library under:

*Títulos de residência a estrangeiros* (Titles of residence of foreigners). Bahia: Público do Estado da Bahia, n.d. (1983). (FHL numbers 1366174–1366178; computer number 0223420.)

In the “Historical Section” of the Bahia state archive there are also six volumes of passport records (*passaportes e guias*) from 1718 to 1822.

### **Records of Brazilian Emigrants to the United States**

Sometimes the best sources for information about your immigrant ancestor are found in the country he or she emigrated to. Many Brazilians migrated

to Florida, New York, Illinois, California, Texas, Washington, and Utah. Emigration from Brazil has occurred mostly in the 20th century.

Immigration records provide the town of origin and other information. To learn about these records, use handbooks and manuals on research in the United States.

Although there are some emigration records for Brazil, you should first research the records of the United States.

- *Passenger lists*. Most Brazilian immigrants to the United States arrived at the ports of New York and New Orleans. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of the records and indexes of these ports for 1898 to 1940. See the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for more information about emigration and immigration records of the United States.
- *Immigration and Naturalization*. The Immigration and Naturalization Service has a national index of immigrants who arrived in the United States between 1906 to 1956. For its records, write to:

Immigration and Naturalization Service  
425 “I” Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20536  
Tel.: 1-202-514-2000

### **Other Records of Departure**

People desiring to leave Brazil were required to obtain passports from the Federal Police (*Polícia Federal*) in each state capital.

The applicant had to provide an original copy of his or her birth certificate, two recent pictures, a voter’s registration, an identification card, CIC (income tax information), and a military release (required for males over 18 and under 45 years). After completing the necessary forms the police performed a background check. You can research these records if you can show your relationship to the person and a need to see the records. Useful records are:

- Permissions to emigrate (Rio de Janeiro).
- Probates of relatives who stayed.
- Police records.
- Passports.
- Court records.

The addresses for the Federal Police are:

Polícia Federal (Escritório Central)  
Avenida Prestes Maia, 700 Centro  
05512-000 São Paulo, SP  
BRASIL

Polícia Marítima  
Avenida Venezuela 2 - Saúde  
20081-310 Rio de Janeiro, RJ  
BRASIL

Departamento de Polícia Federal  
Rua da Assembleia 70 - Centro  
20011-000 Rio de Janeiro, RJ  
BRASIL

## **ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND DICTIONARIES**

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Encyclopedias provide information on all branches of knowledge or discuss in depth a specific topic, usually in articles arranged alphabetically. They often contain information of great interest for genealogical research. They can include articles about towns and places, prominent people, minorities, and religions. They can give information about diverse topics such as record-keeping practices, laws, customs, commerce, costumes, occupations, and archaic terminology.

The Family History Library has no general encyclopedias in the Portuguese language. The following encyclopedias may be found in other public or university libraries:

*Grande Enciclopédia Delta-Larousse* (Delta-Larousses's Great Encyclopedia). Rio de Janeiro: Editora Delta, 1969.

*Grande Enciclopédia Portuguesa e Brasileira* (Great Portuguese and Brazilian Encyclopedia). Lisboa, Rio de Janeiro: Editorial Enciclopédia, s.d.

For information on language dictionaries, see the "Language and Languages" section of this outline.

## **GAZETTEERS**

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A gazetteer is a dictionary of place names. Gazetteers describe towns, villages, churches and states, rivers and mountains, populations, and other geographical features. They usually include only the names of places that existed at the time the gazetteer was published and often their former names. The place names are generally listed in alphabetical order, similar to a dictionary.

Gazetteers may also provide additional information about a town, such as its:

- Boundaries of civil jurisdiction.
- Longitude and latitude.
- Distances and direction from other from cities.
- Schools, colleges, and universities.
- Denominations and number of churches.
- Major manufacturing works, canals, docks, and railroad stations.

You can use a gazetteer to locate the places where your family lived and to determine the civil jurisdictions over those places. For example, the town of Santa Rosa de Viterbo in the state of São Paulo was created in 1910. By searching a gazetteer one can learn that after 1944 this town was named Icaturama.

There may be many places in Brazil with the same or similar names. You will need to use a gazetteer to identify the specific town where your ancestor lived and the jurisdictions of the municipality, district, and state where records about him or her were kept.

## **Finding Place Names in the Family History Library Catalog**

Place names in the Family History Library Catalog are listed under their modern names and current municipalities and states as they existed in 1993. To find the municipality that a town is filed under in the Family History Library Catalog, you can use the "see" references on the first Family History Library Locality Catalog microfiche of each state. If you are using the catalog on a compact disc, use the "Locality Browse" search. The computer will find places with that name.

Because of the many changes in place names, the Family History Library uses one gazetteer as the standard guide for listing places in the Family History Library Catalog. Regardless of the names a place may have had at various times, all Brazilian places are listed in the Family History Library Catalog as they are listed in:

*Cadastro de Municípios* (Survey of Municipalities). Rio de Janeiro: Fundação Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística, 1993. (FHL book 981 E5c; computer number 0791700.)

Although this book is the standard used for cataloging, many items were cataloged prior to 1993, using older gazetteers; therefore, some discrepancies arise. If you cannot find a place in the catalog using the 1993 gazetteer, search an older gazetteer.

Another useful gazetteer that identifies many towns, cities, and geographical areas in Brazil and other parts of the world is found below. This gazetteer is written in English, easy to use, and available through many public libraries:

*The Columbia Lippincott gazetteer of the world: with 1961 supplement.* Morningside, N.Y.: Columbia University Press, c1962. (FHL book 910.3 C723g; computer number 0260764.)

### Modern Place Names

For some research purposes such as correspondence it is useful to learn modern jurisdictions for the area where your ancestor lived. This may also be helpful when finding the ancestral town on modern maps. In addition to the above gazetteer, the following modern gazetteers may be found at large libraries and archives and in the Family History Library:

*Cadastro de Cartórios do Registro Civil 1981.* (Survey of the Civil Registry Offices). Rio de Janeiro: Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística, 1982. (FHL book 981 J54; film 1667140 item 1; computer number 0571689.)

*Guia postal (geográfico) da República dos Estados Unidos do Brasil* (Geographical Postal guide of the Republic of Brazil). Rio de Janeiro: Diretoria Geral dos Correios, 1930–1931. 2 vols (FHL book 981 E8d; film 1102988 items 2–3; computer number 0019252.)

**Dicionário geográfico brasileiro** (Brazilian Geographical Dictionary). Porto Alegre, Brazil: Editora Globo, 1966, 1970. (FHL book 981 E5; computer number 0026306.)

### Historical Place Names

Because names and boundaries of some places have changed or no longer exist, you may need to use gazetteers, maps, or local history sources that describe places as they were known earlier. For example, there are four places in Brazil with the name João Pessoa. One of these towns was known as Porto, in the state of Piauí, prior to 1930. Between 1930 and 1944 it was known as Marruás, but it is now known as João Pessoa. A gazetteer will help you sort this information.

## GENEALOGY

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The term *genealogy* is used in this outline and in the Family History Library Catalog to describe a variety of records containing family information gathered by individuals, other researchers, societies, or archives. These records may include pedigree charts, compiled information on families, correspondence, ancestor lists, research files, record abstracts, and collections of original or copied documents. These can be excellent sources of information that can save you valuable time. Because they are compiled from other sources of information, they must be carefully evaluated and verified for accuracy.

Additional sources of genealogy for noble families in Brazil are described in the “Nobility” section of this outline.

### Major Collections and Databases

The Family History Library has several sources that contain previous research or can lead you to others who are interested in sharing family information. These sources include:

- *International Genealogical Index.* This index provides names and vital information for many deceased persons who lived in Brazil. This valuable research tool lists birth, christening, or marriage dates. The index for Brazil includes names extracted from parish registers by volunteers and names submitted by other researchers.
- *Ancestral File.* This file is part of FamilySearch™. It contains family history information linked in family groups and pedigrees that has been contributed since 1979. As of 1996 the file contains the names of millions of persons, including many from Brazilian families. Ancestral File can print pedigree charts, family group records, and individual summary sheets for any person in the file.
- *Family Group Records Collection.* More than eight million family group record forms have been microfilmed in the Family Group Records Collection. This includes many Brazilian families. There are two major sections: the “Archive Section” and the “Patrons Section.” The film numbers for both sections are listed in the “Author/Title” section of the Family History Library Catalog under:

FAMILY GROUP RECORDS COLLECTION

The International Genealogical Index and Ancestral File can be searched at the Family History Library or a Family History Center on compact disc (computer) or on microfiche. Both of these databases and the Family History Library Catalog can also be searched on the Internet at:

[www.familysearch.org/](http://www.familysearch.org/)  
(Look under “Custom Search.”)

## Family Histories

Many prominent Brazilian families have produced histories that may include genealogical information, biographies, photographs, and other useful information. These usually include several generations of the family. Three examples of such compiled sources, two from the state of São Paulo and one from Rio de Janeiro, are:

Sant’Ana, João Gabriel. *Genealogia Sebastianense* (Genealogy of [People from] São Sebastião). São Paulo: s.n., 1976. (FHL book 981.61 D2s; computer number 0609142.) This book includes genealogical data for families of several cities in the state of São Paulo from 1532 to 1975.

Silva Leme, Luíz Gonzaga da. *Genealogia Paulistana* (Genealogy of [People from] São Paulo). 9 vols. São Paulo: Duprat, 1903–1905. (FHL book 981.61 D2g; films 0823694–0823697; computer number 0024201.)

Rheingantz, Carlos G. *Primeiras Famílias do Rio de Janeiro* (First Families of Rio de Janeiro). Rio de Janeiro: Livraria Brasileira Editora, 1965. (FHL book 981.53/R1 D2r; computer number 0023442.)

Another book that has short descriptions of surname origins and genealogy of prominent families in the state of Minas Gerais is:

Rezende, Oswaldo. *Genealogia de Tradicionais Famílias de Minas* (Genealogy of Traditional Families of Minas). São Paulo: Empresa Gráfica da Revista dos Tribunais, 1969. (FHL book 981.51 D2r; computer number 0023118.)

The Family History Library has some published Brazilian family histories. Copies at the Family History Library are listed in the “Surname Search” section of the Family History Library Catalog. Not every name found in a family history will be listed in the Family History Library Catalog; only the major surnames discussed in the family history are included in the catalog.

Unpublished family histories are sometimes held by private individuals in Brazil. These pertain mostly to descendants of prominent families and Brazilian nobility. These individuals may have collected a variety of unpublished records pertaining to their own families. Such materials are generally inaccessible for research unless you can establish contact with the appropriate individuals.

Many Brazilian family histories are indexed in:

Moya, Salvador de. *Índices Genealógicos Brasileiros* (Indexes of Brazilian Genealogies). 10 vols. São Paulo: Instituto Genealógico Brasileiro. (FHL book 981 D22m; films 0823691, 0823693, 1224508; computer number 0018401.) This book indexes various genealogical Brazilian works.

**Anuário Genealógico Latino** (Latin Genealogical Yearbook). 10 vols. São Paulo: Instituto Genealógico Brasileiro. (FHL book 981 D2g, films 0547087 item 5, 0823753–0823755, 1224501, 1410967 item 5; computer number 0017876.) This publication is a continuation of the publication cited above.

*Anuário Genealógico Brasileiro* (Genealogical Brazilian Yearbook). 10 vols. São Paulo: Instituto Genealógico Brasileiro. (FHL book 981 D2a; films 0823687–0823690; computer number 0017639.) This publication is continued by *Anuário Genealógico Latino*.

Many Brazilian family histories are listed in:

Moya, Salvador de. *Catálogo de Autores Genealógicos* (Catalog of Genealogical Authors). São Paulo: Departamento de Cultura, 1937. (FHL book 981 A1 no. 15; computer number 0049997.)

If you find your surname in any of the sources described in this section, determine whether the entry actually pertains to your family. All persons with the same surname are not necessarily related. Often you will have to do some original research before you can connect your ancestry to families listed in these sources. See also the “Societies” section of this outline.

## Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems can be useful tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. Most of the information on the Internet is compiled from secondary sources and will need to be verified, but it may identify useful

clues and new sources to search. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial online 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 Brazil in many sources at local, provincial, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most information is available at no cost.

Some information and guides are available on the Internet for research in Brazil. Sites that include information about archives and libraries, directories, and other subjects are found in various sections of this outline.

General sites that act as an index to many interesting Brazilian genealogical sites on the Internet include:

- Brazil Genealogy Web Project:  
[www.rootsweb.com/~brawgw/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~brawgw/)
- Family History Library:  
[www.familysearch.org/](http://www.familysearch.org/)
- Cyndi's List of Genealogical Sites:  
[www.cyndislist.com/hispanic.htm](http://www.cyndislist.com/hispanic.htm)
- Brazilian Genealogical Mailing Lists:
- Genealogy Helplist for Brazil:
- Genealogical Queries for Brazil:  
[www.rootsweb.com/~brawgw/Queries.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~brawgw/Queries.html)

## **HERALDRY**

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In Brazil, members of the noble class were entitled to bear coats of arms. The Portuguese kings rewarded persons who performed a heroic deed, attained notable achievement, or held a prominent position in government by granting them a noble title and the right to use a coat of arms. These grants were documented.

Various authors in Brazil have prepared heraldry books. Heraldry books give descriptions of coats of arms and some information on the first person to bear it. It may briefly describe the person's entitlement to that coat of arms. It may also note early bearers of that coat of arms, sometimes with relationships, birth dates, and other genealogical information. Each *armorial* (a book on heraldry) will differ from others and will include different names. The following sources are of particular interest in Brazil:

*Boletim* (Bulletin). Rio de Janeiro: Colégio de Armas e Consulta Heráldica, 1955. (FHL book 981 B2c; computer number 0004128.)

Moya, Salvador de. *Simbologia Heráldica* (Heraldic Symbolism). São Paulo: Instituto Genealógico Latino, 1961. (FHL book 981 D6m; computer number 0019190.) This publication gives many coats of arms.

The Family History Library has some armorials. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

### **BRAZIL - HERALDRY**

Sources with information about noble ancestors may also be listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

### **BRAZIL - NOBILITY**

In addition, such families are often subjects of published genealogical books or articles. See the "Genealogy" and "Nobility" sections of this outline.

## **HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY**

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This section describes the changes that have taken place in the state structure of Brazil. Depending on where your ancestor lived, it may help to know about changes in the borders of Brazil. This information can help you to understand how records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog.

The boundaries of Brazil have changed at various times. Brazil has been enlarged by various treaties from areas of French Guiana, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, Bolivia, and Argentina. Important changes in the territory of Brazil include the following:

- 1777 The Treaty of San Ildefonso redrew the Portuguese-Spanish frontiers. The Portuguese were to withdraw from Uruguay (known as Cisplatina or Banda Oriental) in exchange for possession of Rio Grande do Sul.
- 1828 Uruguay gained independence from Brazil.
- 1895 The mission territory dispute was settled when land was given to Brazil. This land now forms part of the states of Paraná and Santa Catarina.
- 1900 The Amapá boundary dispute with French Guiana was settled.
- 1903 Brazil obtained the state of Acre from Bolivia.
- 1904–1905 The boundaries between Venezuela, Columbia, Ecuador, and Brazil were settled.
- 1909, 1927 The boundaries with Bolivia were settled.

In addition, many states have been reorganized, their names and boundaries have changed, and many local place names have changed. You may need to determine previous boundaries and jurisdictions to locate your ancestor's records. Gazetteers and histories are helpful sources of information about these changes.

From 1532 to 1536 Brazil was divided into 15 hereditary *captaincies*. These grants were given to favored persons who took the title of *donatários*. They became the local governors over their areas, with privileges of levying taxes, issuing land grants, founding cities, and appointing municipal officers and judges. After 1549 the captaincies came under the jurisdiction of a governor general.

In 1808, 10 captaincies generals governed over the following captaincies: Pará, Maranhão, Pernambuco, Bahia, Rio Grande do Sul, Minas Gerais, Goiás, and Mato Grosso. The subcaptaincies at this time were Rio-Negro (under Pará), Piauí (under Maranhão), Ceará, Rio Grande do Norte, and Paraíba (under Pernambuco).

After Brazil declared independence from Portugal in 1822, the existing captaincies became provinces, and in 1889, with the end of the Empire, the provinces were designated as states.

Brazil is now divided into 26 states and more than 3,700 municipalities (the jurisdiction of Civil Registration).

## The Captaincies

The first captaincies existed as almost independent governors under the king until 1549, when the king appointed the first governor general. In 1604 the king established the Counsel of the Indies (*Conselho de Índias*), later in 1642 known as *Conselho Ultramarino* (Overseas Council). In 1736 the council became the *Departamento da Marinha e Ultramarino* (Department of Marine and Overseas), which administered affairs in the Brazilian Portuguese colonies until 1808. In 1754 the last captaincies reverted to the crown.

Following is a list of the captaincies and their history:

*São Vicente* (Captaincy of Martin Afonso de Sousa, from 1532). In 1681 it, along with São Tomé, became part of São Paulo.

*Pernambuco* (Captaincy of Duarte Coelho, from 1693). In 1799 it was divided into the provinces of Pernambuco, Ceará, Rio Grande do Norte, and Paraíba. In 1817 it was divided again into Alagoas and Pernambuco.

*Santo Amaro* (Captaincy of Pero Lopes de Sousa, from 1523). It became part of São Paulo in 1681.

*Paraíba do Sul*. It became part of Rio de Janeiro.

*Espírito Santo* (Captaincy of Vasco Fernandes Coutinho, from 1532). In 1799 it separated from Minas Gerais, becoming an independent captaincy. It was a province from 1822 to 1889.

*Porto Seguro* (Captaincy of Pero do Campo Tourinho, from 1536). It was made part of Bahia.

*Ilhéus* (Captaincy of Jorge Figueiredo Correia, from 1536). It is now part of Bahia.

*Bahia* (Captaincy of Francisco Pereira Coutinho, from 1536). It was a province from 1823 to 1889.

*Sant'Ana* (Captaincy of Pero Lopes de Sousa)

*Quinhão* (from 1536). It became part of São Paulo.

*Rio de Janeiro* (Captaincy of Martin Afonso de Sousa, from 1523). It was a province from 1822 to 1889.

*São Tomé* (Captaincy of Pero de Góis, from 1535). It became part of Rio de Janeiro.

*Itamaracá* (Captaincy of Pero Lopes de Sousa, from 1535). It was made part of Paraíba and Pernambuco in 1700.

*Piauí* (Captaincy of Antônio Cardoso de Barros, from 1535). It was a subordinate captaincy of Maranhão and became independent in 1817.

*Maranhão* (Captaincy of Fernão Álvares de Andrade, from 1523). It belonged to the French from 1594 to 1615 and then to the Dutch from 1630 to 1654. It was administered separately from 1655 to 1774 and from 1774 to 1822, and then it became a province from 1822 to 1889.

*Maranhão* (colonial province). It was created in 1621, embracing a large portion of Northern Brazil, including much of the Amazon basin. In 1700 it was split into the captaincies of Maranhão, Pará, Piauí, and Ceará.

*Pará* or *Maranhão* (Captaincy of João de Barros and Aires da Cunha, from 1523). It was a captaincy until 1823.

*Rio Grande* (Captaincy of João de Barros and Aires da Cunha, from 1535). It is now in the states of Rio Grande do Norte and Paraíba.

*Paraíba*. It is a captaincy.

*Rio Grande do Norte*. It is a captaincy.

*Bahia*. It grew through the absorption of the old captaincies of Ilhéus and Porto Seguro.

*São Paulo*. It was created in 1709 as an outgrowth of the captaincy of São Vicente and a portion of Santo Amaro.

*São Paulo and Minas Gerais*. They were created in 1710 and existed as one captaincy until 1721, when they were made separate captaincies.

*Goiás*. It became a captaincy in 1744.

*Mato Grosso*. It became a captaincy in 1748.

*Santa Catarina*. It was established in 1739.

*Rio Grande do Sul*. It was created in 1807 in an area still claimed by Spain.

## States

Following is information about the jurisdictions and origins of each state of Brazil. The state capitals are indicated in parentheses:

*Acre* (Rio Branco). It was turned over to Brazil in 1903 by Bolivia. Its boundaries were fixed by the treaty of 1909.

*Alagoas* (Maceió). It was part of the captaincy of Pernambuco until 1817. It was a province from 1823 to 1889.

*Amapá* (Macapá). It was part of Pará until 1943. It was long in dispute with French Guiana until 1900.

*Amazonas* (Manaus). It was created as a province in 1850. Its western boundary was in dispute with Colombia until 1905 and with Ecuador until 1904. The territory of Guaporé, including Rio Branco (now Rondônia), was acquired in 1905. Rondônia was created from it in 1943.

*Bahia* (Salvador). It was once a captaincy that was founded in 1536. It became a province in 1823 and a state in 1889.

*Ceará* (Fortaleza). It was part of Maranhão until 1680, when it became a dependency of Pernambuco. It became an independent captaincy in 1799.

*Distrito Federal* (Brasília). It was created from Goiás and inaugurated in 1960.

*Espírito Santo* (Vitória). It became an independent captaincy in 1799 from Minas Gerais.

*Fernando de Noronha Território*. It became a captaincy in 1504 and then later became dependent of Pernambuco.

*Goiás* (Goiânia). It was a captaincy from 1748 to 1755.

*Guanabara* (See *Rio de Janeiro*.)

*Guaporé* (See *Rondônia*.)

*Maranhão* (São Luís). In 1621 it embraced all lands north and west of Ceará; The captaincy of Maranhão and Great Pará existed from 1690 to 1751. The states of Ceará and Pará were created from it.

*Mato Grosso* (Cuiabá). It was part of São Paulo until 1748, when it became a captaincy. It became a province in 1822. It was enlarged by treaty in 1927 from Bolivian territory.

*Mato Grosso do Sul* (Campo Grande). It was created in 1977 from southern Mato Grosso.

*Minas Gerais* (Belo Horizonte). It became a dependent captaincy in 1720 from São Paulo.

*Pará* (Belém). It was created from a former captaincy.

*Paraíba* (João Pessoa). It was settled in 1584. It was a part of the Itamaraca captaincy and then became a dependency of Pernambuco.

*Paraná* (Curitiba). For a long time it was part of São Paulo. In 1853 it became a separate province.

*Pernambuco* (Recife). It was an early captaincy, created in 1693. The captaincies of Ceará, Rio Grande do Norte, and Paraíba were created from it in 1799, and in 1817 Alagoas was created from it.

*Piauí* (Teresina). It became a subordinate captaincy of Maranhão in 1718 and became independent in 1817.

*Rio de Janeiro* (Rio de Janeiro formerly in Niterói). It was called Guanabara before 1960. Originally it was part of the São Tomé and São Vicente captaincies. With the formation of Brasília, Pernambuco was absorbed in the state of Rio de Janeiro.

*Rio Grande do Norte* (Natal). It was formed from Pernambuco in 1799.

*Rio Grande do Sul* (Porto Alegre). From 1737 to 1807 it was a dependent captaincy of Rio de Janeiro. In 1851 the southwestern part was obtained from Uruguay. It then became an independent captaincy. In 1760 it was separated from Santa Catarina. It became a province in 1822.

*Rondônia* (Porto Velho). Formerly called Guaporé, it was obtained from Bolívia in 1909. It was created from parts of Amazonas and Mato Grosso in 1943.

*Roraima* (Boa Vista). Formerly called Rio Branco, Roraima was created from lands formerly part of British Guiana (Guyana) by treaty with Venezuela in 1905.

*Santa Catarina* (Florianópolis). It was first settled in the 1660s. It became a captaincy in 1738 from São Paulo.

*São Paulo* (São Paulo). It was a captaincy that was created for all areas south of Rio de Janeiro (São Vicente). In 1681 the capitol was transferred to São Paulo. In 1763 it was recreated as a captaincy.

*Sergipe* (Aracaju). It was a dependency of Bahia until 1821, when it became a captaincy. In 1824 it became a province.

*Tocantins* (Miracema do Norte). It was created from northern Goiás in 1988.

The Family History Library has the following atlases that give historical information:

Mello, Francisco Ignácio Marcondes Homem de. *Atlas do Brasil*. Rio de Janeiro: F. Briquet, 1909. (FHL book 981 E7m; film 0924466 item 3; computer number 0030778.)

Pauwels, Geraldo José. *Atlas geográfico melhoramentos* (Geographical Atlas of the World and Brazil). 20a. ed. São Paulo: Edições Melhoramentos, 1962. (FHL book 981 E7p; computer number 0020058.)

Other sources about boundary changes are found in the Family History Library Catalog under:

BRAZIL - HISTORY  
BRAZIL, [STATE] - HISTORY

## **HISTORY**

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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 such as land and military documents that mention your family.

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

You may find the name of the place your ancestor came from has changed or that the municipality or state boundaries have changed.

Modern Brazilian history begins with Portuguese settlement in the 16th century. After the end of the Avis Dynasty in Portugal in 1580, a union was established between Spain and Portugal, called the Iberian Union. This lasted until 1640, when the Bragança Dynasty took over Portugal. The Bragança Dynasty lasted until 1910.

The government of Brazil has had various rulers and governments at different times, they can be summarized as follows:

1534– 1549	Captaincies, under Portuguese monarchy	1549	The Jesuit Order was introduced to Brazil. It established the first schools and maintained them until 1759. These schools provided lower education for the aristocracy. Lay students were sent to the University of Coimbra.
1549– 1720	Governors general, under Portuguese monarchy		
1720– 1808	Vice-Reis, under Portuguese monarchy		
1808– 1822	Period of Portuguese monarchy direct rule	1551	Brazilian colony made a separate diocese with the first Catholic bishopric in Bahia.
1823– 1889	Brazilian monarchy	1580– 1640	Portugal and Spain were unified.
1889– 1930	First Republic	1604	The <i>Conselho de Indies</i> (Council of the Indies) was formed in Portugal. It later became known as the <i>Conselho de Ultramarino</i> (Overseas Counsel).
1930	Second Republic		

Major cities of Brazil were founded at the following times:

1535	Recife
1554	São Paulo
1565	Rio de Janeiro
1612	São Luís (Maranhão)
1616	Belém (Pará)
1669	Manaus
1740	Porto Alegre

Important historical dates are also listed in the “Historical Geography,” “Military Records,” and “Slavery and Bondage” sections of this outline. Besides the above, following are some key dates and events in Brazil’s history:

1494	The Treaty of Tordesillas allowed the Portuguese to claim all the territory east of a north-south line 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde Islands.	1624– 1654	The Dutch presence in Brazil was removed by the Treaty of Tabora.
1500	Pedro Alvares Cabral claimed Brazil for Portugal.	1695	Gold was discovered in Minas Gerais and later in Mato Grosso and Goias.
1548	Portuguese Jews were banished to Brazil.	1727	Coffee was introduced to Brazil.
1549	Tomé de Sousa, the first governor general, was appointed. He established Salvador de Bahia as the capital. He was the supervisor of the captaincies in Portugal.	1730	Diamonds were found in Brazil.
		1746	Portugal encouraged emigration from the Azores and Madeira. Many settled at what is now Porto Alegre.
		1759	The Jesuits were expelled from Brazil. They were not allowed to return until 1842.
		1759	New laws guaranteed the Indians’ personal freedom. Each Indian was to receive a Portuguese name.
		1763	The capital was moved from Bahia to Rio de Janeiro.
		1808– 1822	The <i>Braganzas</i> , the royal family rulers of Portugal, resided in Rio de Janeiro during the French occupation of the Iberian Peninsula. After 1815, Brazil was on equal status with Portugal.
		1818	Land grants were made to Swiss and German settlers. In 1820, Novo Friburgo, Rio de Janeiro, was founded by the first non-Portuguese settlers, who arrived in 1819.

- 1822 Brazil declared independence and established a monarchy, which lasted until 1889.
- 1824 Brazil adopted a constitution that provided a federal republic, the United States of Brazil. This constitution provided for provinces and municipal governments, which called for construction of elementary schools in every town and secondary schools in large urban centers. (Private German schools closed in 1917. After 1928 all elementary instruction was to be given in Portuguese.)
- 1850 German colonists came to Rio Grande do Sul.
- 1880s There was significant immigration of Germans, Japanese, and Eastern Europeans.
- 1888 Slavery was abolished (see the “Slavery and Bondage” section of this outline).
- 1889 Brazil became the Republic of the United States of Brazil. A decree declared that all foreigners after that date would be considered citizens unless within a six-month period they went before the municipality to make a plea.
- 1890 Church and state were separated.
- 1942 Brazil declared war on the Axis powers.

The following books explain more about the history of Brazil:

- Herring, Hubert. *A History of Latin America from the Beginnings to the Present*. 2nd ed. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1962. (FHL book 980 H2h; computer number 0306733.)
- Poppino, Rollie E. *Brazil: The Land and People*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1968. (FHL book 981 H2pr; computer number 0002585.)
- Maior, A. Souto, *História do Brasil* (History of Brazil). São Paulo: Companhia Editora Nacional, 1968. (FHL book 981 H2mh; computer number 0020894.) The volume covers the period of prediscovery to 1967.

Pombo, Rocha. *História do Brasil* (History of Brazil). 5 vols., Nova edição ilustrada. São Paulo: W. M. Jackson, Inc., 1953 (FHL book 981 H2p; computer number 0020863.) The five volumes cover the period of discovery to 1900.

You can find histories in the Family History Library Catalog under one of the following:

BRAZIL - HISTORY  
 BRAZIL, [STATE] - HISTORY  
 BRAZIL, [STATE], [CITY] - HISTORY

### Local Histories

Some of the most valuable sources for family history research are local histories. They describe the settlement of the area and the founding of churches, schools, and businesses. You may also find lists of early settlers, 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 the ancestor. A local history may also be helpful in identifying other records to search.

Published histories of towns, counties, and states may contain valuable genealogical information. Some state and town histories include separate sections or volumes containing biographical information.

In addition, local histories should be studied and enjoyed for the background information they can provide about your family members’ lifestyle and the community and environment they lived in.

For some localities there may be more than one history. Many histories have been written about local towns and communities in Brazil. A careful search for available histories for your ancestor’s locality is worthwhile.

The Family History Library has a few local histories for towns in Brazil. To find these, look up the town in the catalog and the subject “history.” Similar histories are also often available at major public and university libraries and archives.

An excellent bibliography of local histories is:

*Boletim Bibliográfico da Biblioteca Nacional (BBN)* (Bibliographical Bulletin of the National Library). Rio de Janeiro: nl.

Library of Congress. Library of Congress Office, Brazil. *Accessions List, Brazil: Annual List of Serials*. Rio de Janeiro: The Office, 1975—. (FHL book 981 A3u.)

Bibliographies that list local histories are available at the Family History Library. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

BRAZIL - BIBLIOGRAPHY  
BRAZIL - HISTORY - BIBLIOGRAPHY

In 1583 Brazil accepted use of the Gregorian calendar—the most widely used calendar today. Few genealogical records are available before 1583.

## **JEWISH RECORDS**

The Jews in Portugal were given many privileges and rights from 1392 to 1422. Many of the Spanish Jews had immigrated to Portugal and contributed to its economy. In 1548 some Jews were banished to Brazil, and from 1530 to 1680 Jews settled in Brazil.

The Institutions of Inquisitorial Tribunals were instituted early to investigate Catholics for heresy. Accusations brought against Jews in Brazil as part of the inquisition were sent to Lisbon for trial. The inquisition officially lasted until 1821, when the rights Jews had held in 1422 were restored to them. The original records of the Portuguese Jews are in the “Inquisitorial Section” of the National Archives of Torre do Tombo.

Meyer Kayserling wrote a history of the Jews in Portugal. This history, written in German, includes information about their migration. Since the book’s original publication in 1867, intensive studies on this subject have been conducted by several additional scholars. Some good background information on Brazilian Jews can be found in:

Kayserling, Meyer. *História dos Judeus em Portugal* (History of the Jews in Portugal). Translated by Gabriele Borchardt Correa da Silva and Anita Novinsky. São Paulo: Livraria Pioneira Editora, 1971. (FHL book 946.9 F2k; computer number 0029077.)

*Os Judeus Portugueses Entre os Descobrimentos e a Diáspora* (The Portuguese Jews between the Discovery and the Diaspora). Lisboa: Associação Portuguesa de Estudos Judaicos, 1994. (FHL book 946.9 F2j; computer number 0827765.)

Saraiva, Antonio José. *Inquisição e Cristãos-Novos* (Inquisition and New Christians) 3.a edição. Porto: Editorial Inova, 1969. (FHL book 946.9 H6s; computer number 0029919.)

Elkin, Judith Laikin. *Jews of the Latin American Republics*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1980. (FHL book 980 F2e; computer number 0103108.)

See also “Judaism” in the “Church History” section of this outline.

## **LAND AND PROPERTY**

Land records are primarily used to learn where an individual lived and when he or she lived there. They often reveal other family information such as the name of a spouse, heir, other relatives, or neighbors. You may learn where a person lived previously, his or her occupation, and other clues for further research. In Brazil only a very small percentage of the population was included in land records because few people owned land.

The Family History Library currently has no land records from Brazil. Because of their excellent genealogical value, church records and civil registration records are generally searched before land records during Brazilian research.

The existing land records are found at the National Archives, in Rio de Janeiro, and at the various state and municipal archives. You might be able to use land records for your research if you can visit the Brazilian archives in person or hire a local professional researcher.

The early *sesmarias* (land grants) were issued by the donatarios, captain generals, and viceroys. Originally large grants of land were made. In 1695 single grants were limited to four leagues (1 league = 3 miles, about 4.83 kilometers) by one league. In 1697 the grants were reduced to three leagues by one league. In 1699 all land not under cultivation was to be expropriated.

The land grants (*sesmarias*) collection in the National Archives contains 5,000 volumes for 1590 to 1830 for the state of Rio de Janeiro. They are described as one of the three most important genealogical records in Brazil. They contain information similar to that in inheritance records, including the names of spouses and children, residences, dates, relationships, petitions, and so forth.

The land records in the state archive of Bahia in Salvador for 1552 to 1821 are in the “Historical Section” of the archive and for 1862 to 1940 are in the “Administrative Section.” Land records in the state archive of São Paulo cover 1601 to 1821.

## **LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES**

Most materials used in Brazilian research are written in Portuguese, but you do not need to speak or read Portuguese to do research in Brazilian records. However, you will need to know some key words and phrases to understand the records.

Because of the importance of the Roman Catholic Church to Brazil's history, you may find several other languages in Brazilian records. These include Latin, German, Italian, Polish, and other languages of European ethnic immigrants. Also, some records may be in Japanese.

Portuguese grammar may affect the way names appear in genealogical records. For help in understanding name variations, see the "Names, Personal" section of this outline.

### **Language Aids**

The Family History Library has genealogical word lists for Portuguese (34099), German (34067), Latin (34077), Polish (34098), and Spanish (34104).

The following books and English-Portuguese dictionaries can also aid you in your research. You can find these and similar material at many research libraries.

Ferreira, Júlio Albino. *Dicionário Inglês-português, Português-inglês*. Porto, Portugal: Edit. Domingos Barreira, 1979. (FHL book 469.321 F413d; film 1181702 item 1; computer number 0038420.)

Vieyra, Anthony. *Dictionary of Portuguese and English languages*. London: 1827. (FHL book 469.321 V679d; film 1181694 item 5; computer number 0293724.) The Family History Library has only part two, English-Portuguese.

Additional language aids, including dictionaries of various dialects and time periods, are listed in the Family History Library Catalog in the "Locality Search" or "Subject Search" sections under:

BRAZIL - LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES  
PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE -  
DICTIONARIES

### **MAPS**

Maps are an important source to locate the places where your ancestor lived. They help you see the neighboring towns and geographic features of the area he or she came from.

You can use maps to locate places, geographical features, transportation routes, and proximities to other towns. Historical maps are especially useful for understanding boundary changes.

Maps are published individually or as an atlas, which is a bound collection of maps. Maps may also be included in gazetteers, guidebooks, local histories, and history texts.

There are different types of maps that will help you in different ways. Historical atlases describe the growth and development of countries. They show boundaries, migration routes, settlement patterns, military campaigns, and other historical information. Road atlases are useful because of the detail they provide.

### **Using Maps**

Maps must be used carefully for several reasons:

- There are often several places with the same name. For example, there are at least five towns called São José in present-day Brazil.
- The spelling and names of some towns may have changed since your ancestor lived there. For example, the city presently known as Ribeirão Preto was previously called Entre Rios e São Sebastião do Ribeirão Preto. Some localities also have different names in different languages.
- Place names are often misspelled in documents or foreign sources. Difficult names may have been shortened and important diacritic marks omitted. For example, Tietê may be found as Tiete on some maps.
- Political boundaries are not always clearly indicated on maps.

### **Finding the Specific Town on the Map**

To do successful research in Brazil you must identify the town where your ancestor lived. Because many towns have the same name, you may need some additional information before you can locate the correct town on a map. You will be more successful if you have some information about the town. You can search gazetteers, histories, family records, and other sources to learn all you can about the following:

- The município (municipality) your ancestor's town belonged to
- The state the ancestor came from

- The name of the parish where your ancestor was baptized or married
- Towns where related ancestors lived
- The size of the town
- The occupation of your ancestor or his or her relatives (sometimes an indication of the size of the town or industries of the town)
- Nearby features such as rivers and mountains
- Industries of the area
- Date when the town was founded
- Other names the town was known by

Use gazetteers to identify the municipality and state your ancestor's town was in. This will distinguish it from other towns of the same name and help you correctly locate it on a map. See the "Gazetteers" section of this outline for more information.

### Finding Maps and Atlases

Collections of maps and atlases are available at numerous historical societies and at public and university libraries. Major collections for Brazil are at the National Library, in Rio de Janeiro.

The Family History Library has a good collection of Brazilian maps and atlases. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

#### BRAZIL - MAPS

Below is an excellent set of maps that comes with an index of towns. It lists the longitude and latitude of each town and two coordinates where it can be found on the map. It can be used as a gazetteer:

**Carta do Brasil ao milionésimo** (Map of Brazil on the millionth scale). Rio de Janeiro: Serviço Gráfico da Fundação IBGE, 1972. (FHL book/map 981 E3in; computer number 0019299.)

Some other helpful maps at the Family History Library are found in:

*Carta do Brasil* (Map of Brazil). Scale 1:500,000. 68 maps. Rio de Janeiro: Conselho Nacional de Geografia, 1945–1967. (FHL map 981E7b; computer number 0027230.) The library lacks numbers 10, 11, 19, 47, and 50.

Helpful atlases for Brazil are:

Ira, Rudolf. *Atlas do Brasil Globo: com os mapas políticos e físicos do Brasil e os mapas dos seus Estados e Território* (The Global Atlas of Brazil: with political and fiscal maps of Brazil and maps of their states and territories). 30 maps. Porto Alegre: Editora Globo, 1960. (FHL book 981 E7i; computer number 0026456.)

Mello, Francisco Ignácio Marcondes Homem de. *Atlas do Brasil* (Atlas of Brazil). 29 maps. Rio de Janeiro: F. Briguier, 1909. (FHL book 981 E7m; film 0924466 item 3; computer number 0030778.)

For other helps on finding place names, see the "Gazetteers" section of this outline.

## MILITARY RECORDS

The first regular troop, composed of 600 voluntary soldiers, disembarked for Brazil in 1549 with Governor General Tomé de Souza. In the 17th century there were organized troops (*Terço*) of white, *pretos* (Negro/Black), *pardos* (Mulatto), and Indians, and later there were organized regiments of the militia. After the Dutch war a reserve of soldiers and calvary commanded by the *Fazendeiros* militaries was organized.

In 1763 the capital was transferred from Bahia to Rio de Janeiro. The Viceroy Guard Calvary Company became the 1st Cavalry Regiment. Other military units were gradually added in Rio de Janeiro and other captaincies. Marine units were formed in the chief ports. After the departure of D. João VI, Prince D. Pedro ordered the organization of the Civil Guard, whose members would serve for three years for the defense of the Court. The National Guard was created by the law of 1831.

Prior to the decree of 1839 the military was not well organized even though a naval academy was created in 1808 and a military academy was established in 1810. Prior to these dates military officers were of the nobility and attended military academies in Portugal. Except for a few Portuguese units in the chief cities of Brazil, most units were militia commanded by *Capitan-Mor*. Even in the war with Argentina (1825–1828) concerning the territory of Uruguay (Guerra Cisplatina), Brazil had to rely on many mercenaries.

Military records identify individuals who served in the military or who were eligible for service. Most young men were required to serve in or register for military service in Brazil. Evidence that an ancestor actually served may be found in family records, biographies, censuses, probate records, civil registrations, and church records.

Military records are potentially of great genealogical value. Military records begin about 1750 and give information about an ancestor's military career, such as promotions, places served, pensions, and conduct. In addition, these records usually include information about his age, birthplace, residence, occupation, physical description, and family members. However, many military records in Brazil provide very few details about individuals other than officers.

The Brazilian Military Archive has about 80,000 records of a biographical nature. The Naval Archives in Rio de Janeiro has records from 1800. Earlier militia records are found in the state archives. Records of pre-1822 Portuguese military units are found in the following Portuguese archives: *Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo*, Historical Military Archives, and the National Library of Portugal and also in the Spanish archives of Segovia, Madrid, and Seville for the periods when Spain ruled Portugal.

To enter into military cadets school in Portugal a person had to submit proof of the nobility of his parents and of all four grandparents. This system existed until 1832. After that date, by decree of D. Pedro, persons of means could also apply for entrance into the military as officers.

The records you will find include the following:

- Militia rolls
- Personnel files
- Regimental account books
- Letters of deportment
- Lists of officers
- Pension records
- Records of leave
- Naval records
- Descriptive rolls

Records of military service in Brazil are kept by *Arquivo Histórico do Exército* (Military Archives of Rio de Janeiro), the State Archives of São

Paulo, and other state archives. The state of Bahia has three volumes of military records from 1691 to 1822 in its historical section. Twenty volumes of personal records of the army for São Paulo are found in the state archive in São Paulo for 1800 to 1830, covering the war with Argentina (over territory of Uruguay). There was also a military census for São Paulo in 1818. See the "Census" section of this outline for more information.

The Family History Library does not have Brazilian military records. Matriculation records from 1889 are found at:

Colégio Militar do Rio de Janeiro  
Rua São Francisco Xavier 267 - Tijuca  
20550-010 Rio de Janeiro, RJ  
BRASIL

Records of military units, biographies, and histories of wars and internal campaigns can be found at:

Ministério do Exército  
Arquivo do Exército  
Praça Duque de Caxias - Centro  
20221-260 Rio de Janeiro, RJ  
BRASIL

To use Brazilian military records you will have to determine the specific unit your ancestor served in. If your family records do not provide this information it may be possible to learn which units were created in the area where he lived. To do this you must know at least the town where the individual was living when he was of age to serve in the military. For military history, consult:

Barroso, Gustavo. *História Militar do Brasil* (Military History of Brazil). São Paulo: Campanhia Editora Nacional, 1935. (FHL book 981 M2b; film 0962400 item 2; computer number 0021960.)

The Ministry of the Navy was founded in 1834 and has records dating from 1790. Many of the old records are located in the National Archives of Brazil. The address for the archives for the Ministry of Navy is:

Ministério da Marinha  
Arquivo da Marinha  
Praça Barão de Ladário - Centro  
Edif. do 1º Distrito Naval-Térreo  
20091-000 Rio de Janeiro, RJ  
BRASIL

## Military History

Brazil was involved in the following military actions:

- 1555–1560 The French invaded Guanabara.
- 1567 Men de Sá expelled the French and occupied Guanabara Bay.
- 1500s *Bandeiras* (members of expeditions to the hinterland in conquest of new land, gold, and precious stones) formed their local militia units without royal permission.
- 1624–1654 The Dutch invaded and occupied parts of Brazil. After a battle in 1641 the Dutch were expelled in 1654. Most battles were fought by local militia.
- 1710–1711 The War of Mascates, a clash between planters of Olinda and the merchants of Recife, occurred.
- 1825–1828 The Cisplatina War, between Argentina and Brazil, occurred. Brazil lost Uruguay.
- 1851–1852 Brazil warred with Argentina.
- 1864–1870 Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay warred with Paraguay in the War of the Triple Alliance.

Military histories are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

#### BRAZIL - MILITARY HISTORY

### MINORITIES

Many ethnic or religious minorities such as Jews, Germans, Italians, Spanish, Poles, and Japanese have settled in Brazil. It is important to learn the history of the ethnic, racial, and religious groups your ancestors belonged to. For example, you might study a history of the Americans in Brazil, Germans in Brazil, or Japanese in São Paulo. This historical background can help you identify where your ancestors lived, when they lived there, where they migrated to, the types of records they might be listed in, and other information to help you understand your family's history.

There are some unique records and resources for most minorities in Brazil. These include histories, gazetteers, biographical sources, settlement patterns, church records, and handbooks.

The Family History Library collects some published histories. These are listed in the

“Locality Search” section of the Family History Library Catalog under:

BRAZIL - MINORITIES  
 BRAZIL, [STATE] - MINORITIES  
 BRAZIL - JEWISH HISTORY

Other sources are also in the “Subject Search” section of the Family History Library Catalog under the name of the minorities such as Jews, Germans, or Italians.

Examples of some of these books and records include:

Azevedo, Thales de. *Italianos e gaúchos: os anos primeiros da colonização italiana no Rio Grande do Sul* (Italians and Gauchos: the first years of the Italian colonization of Rio Grande do Sul). Porto Alegre: A Nação/Instituto Estadual do Livro, 1975. (FHL book 981.65 F2a.; computer number 0019591.)

Cenni, Franco. *Italianos no Brasil: Andiamo in America* (Italians in Brazil: Let's Walk in America). São Paulo: Martins, Ed. da Universidade de São Paulo, 1975. (FHL book 981 F2c; computer number 0103128.)

*Auswandererkartei de Rußlanddeutschen na Brasilien: 1870–1940* (Emigration Card Index of Russian Germans to Brazil: 1870–1940). Stuttgart: Deutsches Ausland-Institut, N.p., (1988). (FHL film 1552796 item 1; computer number 0516664.)

*Famílias brasileiras de origem germânica* (Brazilian Families of German Origin). 5 vols. São Paulo: Instituto Genealógico Brasileiro e Instituto Hans Staden, 1962–1967. (FHL book 981 D2i; films 0564388 and 1149534 items 1–2; computer number 0017675.)

Much research and published information is available on the German immigrants to southern Brazil. Background information about these groups and a useful bibliography of studies can be found on the Internet at:

[www2.genealogy.net/gene/reg/WELT/brasil.html](http://www2.genealogy.net/gene/reg/WELT/brasil.html)

The Family History Library also has books on North Americans in Brazil. For some references, see the “Emigration and Immigration” section of this outline.

In the United States and other countries that Brazilians emigrated to, various local and national societies may have been organized to gather, preserve, and share the cultural contributions and histories of Brazilian minority groups. See the “Societies” section of this outline for more information.

## **NAMES, PERSONAL**

Understanding surnames and given names can help you find and identify your ancestors in the records.

### **Surnames**

Before record keeping began, most people had only one name, such as João (John). As the population increased it became necessary to distinguish between individuals with the same name. The problem was usually solved by adding descriptive information.

Until the 10th century, common people did not use a surname. The Councils of Trent (1545–1563) made it mandatory to keep parish records that listed names of the child, parents, and godparents.

The four influences that played a part in the development of Portuguese surnames were patronymical terms, occupational terms, descriptive or nickname terms, and geographical terms (estates, manors, dominions). Examples of these influences are:

- Patronymic, based on a parent’s name, such as João o filho de Mateus (John son of Mateus) and João Domingues (John son of Domingos).
- Occupational, based on the person’s trade, such as João o Ferreiro (John the blacksmith)
- Descriptive or nickname, based on a unique quality of the person, such as João o Baixo (John the short).
- Geographical, based on a person’s residence, such as João de Aveiro (John of Aveiro).

At first, surnames applied only to one person and not to the whole family. After a few generations, these names became hereditary and were used from father to son.

Surnames were first used by the nobility and wealthy land owners. Later the custom was followed by merchants and townspeople and eventually by the rural population. This process

took two or three centuries. In Portugal the name system was well established by the 1100s. The naming customs of Brazil were the same as those in Portugal.

It is not possible to determine the exact year or even the century when a particular family name was taken. By the end of the 13th century many families determined to retain the patronymic without continuing to change the name from generation to generation. Thus, the hereditary *sobrenomes* (surnames) were in use by the time of the discovery of the New World.

In Brazil many surnames of Portuguese origin were given to the native Indians and Negro children when the priests baptized them. Others were simply baptized João, José, Maria, and so forth, and later descendants obtained a surname.

Another distinctive practice of the Portuguese naming system was the double and compound surnames. The person would be known by his maternal and paternal surnames. Compound surnames (*sobrenomes compostos*) can be found with or without a preposition (de, do, da, d’). Examples are Maria Ferreira de Castilhos, José João Costa Silva, and Francisco Rosa e Silva. Generally the last surname came from the father.

While most present-day names are taken from parents’ surnames, historically the surnames might be those of the more prominent family and even those from grandparents. During the first half of the 1800s a male child often took the surname of his father, while a female child took the surname of her mother.

In many cases a surname was arbitrarily adopted. Family grudges, popular surnames, names related to a location, the desire to avoid undesirable family connections, or the desire to express appreciation or sympathy to someone resulted in changes of a surname. These changes create serious difficulties for genealogists.

Historically, before the last 150 years, women did not attach their husband’s surname. Now a woman who married a Martins would attach the married surname (*sobrenome de casado*) de Martins to her first single (paternal) surname (*sobrenome de solteira*). And when she was widowed she would become Viúva (widow) de Martins. In Brazil “de” was used with surnames as a preposition (*of* or *from*) and not as an indicator of nobility.

In Brazil, until recently the surname was seldom passed on to the children in a way that it is helpful to link families. Last names also varied from one

record to another. Often a person's full name had a half dozen different variations. This is especially true for women. A man could be Joaquim da Silva Paranhos in one record and Joaquim José Paranhos, Joaquim José da Silva, and Joaquim José da Silva Paranhos in other documents. A woman could be listed variously as Maria Isabel da Silva, Maria da Silva Conceição, Maria Isabel, or Maria da Conceição da Silva. In addition, the name Conceição could be replaced by Encarnação, and an additional name Livramento or das Dores might be added, depending on the saint popular with the family or individual or on the desire of the recorder.

It is therefore sometimes necessary to give up the idea that the father's last name is always a certain name. Instead, you might need to note all persons with the same first name to learn the variations within the records.

Another difficulty may be met in the transition of the name of a person from when he or she was enslaved to when he or she became a free person. For example a slave named Isabel Parda could become Maria Isabel da Costa after becoming free. This can be one of the first challenges in researching the genealogy of slave families in Brazil.

Additional information on names in Brazil can be found in:

Mattos, Armando de. *Manual de Genealogia Portuguesa* (Manual of Portuguese Genealogy). Pôrto: Fernando Machado, 1943. (FHL book 946.9 D27ma; film 0896862 item 4; computer number 0331560.)

Távora, Luiz Gonzaga de Lancastre e. *Dicionário das famílias portuguesas* (Dictionary of Portuguese Families). Lisboa: Quetzal Editores, 1989. (FHL book 946.9 D4t; computer number 0641101.) This is a register of more than 1,000 Portuguese surnames, with a discussion of their derivations.

Wold, Lillian Ramos. *Hispanic Surnames: History and Genealogy*. Fullerton, Calif.: Society of Hispanic Historical and Ancestral Research, c1994. (FHL book 946 D4h; computer number 0751580.)

## Given Names

In Brazil many given names are derived from Biblical names such as José (Joseph), saint names such as Roque (Roch), or Old Portuguese given names such as Soromenho. Some Portuguese

people used compound given names (*nomes compostos*) such as Maria das Dores and Isabel da Conceição. When baptized, children were usually given one or more given names. One of these might have been the name of the saint of the day of baptism. The first name or baptismal name may not have been used in the child's life. In Brazil the child was usually called by the second or third name given at baptism; this is especially true if the first name was Maria or José.

## NATIVE RACES

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The original Brazilians were the native Indians who had inhabited the American continent long before Europeans arrived. At the time Europeans came there were 250 tribes of the Tupi-Guarani Indians in Brazil.

The Indian tribes of Brazil were hunting and gathering tribes that lived in a few pockets of Brazil (in Eastern and Southern Brazil) and tropical forest village farmers (in the Amazon basin, the lowlands of coastal Brazil, and the eastern slopes of Peru and Bolívia). The latter group was more prevalent in Brazil.

The first records of the Indians were made by the Jesuit Priests, whose primary concern was to protect the Indians. They worked from São Paulo to Pernambuco, learning Indian languages and teaching the native peoples. As defenders of the Indians, they were often at odds with the planters, who were clamoring for slaves. The Jesuits baptized the Indians by the thousands and gathered them into fortified mission villages (*redução*). The Jesuits' fight to protect the Indians from slavery lasted 200 years. During that time they made enemies who finally caused their expulsion from Brazil in 1759.

Because of the Jesuits and other missionary efforts, the best source for family information on Indian ancestors is found in the Catholic Church records. In some instances separate records were kept for Indian groups along with the regular church records, as in the Catholic Church records of Gravataí, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, which records include a volume of baptisms of Guarani Indians from 1765 to 1816 and other volumes of free persons and slaves.

Modern statistics are often quite varied regarding the number of Indians in Brazil. In the 1950s there were 143 tribes and probably less than 100,000 Indians still living in Brazil. In that year 50 percent of the population was white, 15 percent was black, and 20 percent was mulatto. Only in the remote, isolated interior do Indian tribes still exist.

During World War II a group of anthropologists and archaeologists from the United States and Latin America collaborated in compiling a classification of South American Indians. The Indians of Brazil are included in volumes one (*The Marginal Tribes*) and three (*The Tropical Forest Tribes*), with additional general information in volumes five (*The Comparative Anthropology of South American Indians*) and six (*Physical Anthropology, Linguistics and Cultural Geography of South American Indians*). These books are available at the Family History Library under:

Steward, Julian H. ed. *Handbook of South American Indians*. 7 vols. New York: Cooper Square Publishers, Inc., 1963. (FHL book 980 F3h; computer number 0315066.)

Many anthropological and sociological studies have been done among the various Indian groups in Brazil during the last century. A few of these are available through the Family History Library, and many more may be obtained through university and research libraries. Studies of the Guiana Indians and Indian tribes of northern Mato Grosso, Brazil, are examples of such studies:

Rouse, Irving. *Guianas: indigenous period*. México: Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e História, 1953. (FHL book 988 F3r; computer number 0036007.)

Oberg, Kalervo. *Indian tribes of northern Mato Grosso, Brazil: with appendix: Anthropometry of the Umotina, Nambicuará, and Iranxe, with comparative data from other northern Mato Grosso Tribes*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1953. (FHL book 981.7 F3o; computer number 0392637.)

A bibliography listing many of the studies that have been done on Indians in Brazil can be found in:

Tyler, Samuel Lyman. *Indians of Brazil, with reference to Paraguay and Uruguay*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah, 1976. (FHL book 980 F3ti; computer number 0150188.)

For other sources with background information on Indians in Latin America, look in the Family History Library Catalog under:

LATIN AMERICA - NATIVE RACES  
BRAZIL - NATIVE RACES

## NOBILITY

People who came from Portugal brought nobility titles with them. After independence from Portugal, Brazilian monarchy also awarded titles to persons in Brazil. The kings rewarded persons who performed a heroic deed, attained a notable achievement, or held a prominent position in government by granting them a noble title. The nobility was a significant feature of Brazilian society throughout the 19th century.

If your research in the original records of Brazil indicates that your ancestor was of the noble class, there are additional records that will be helpful in your research. Grants of nobility and nobility legitimizations are kept in public archives of Brazil.

Although some original records such as the grant of nobility still exist, you can usually adequately accomplish most nobility research in secondary sources. These include published or manuscript genealogies of noble families. The noble class has been anxious to preserve its identity. This has led to the publication of many noble lines of Brazil. Numerous publications are available to help you trace a noble family. Some of those available through the Family History Library include:

Cunha, Rui Vieira da. *Estudo da nobreza brasileira* (Study of Brazilian Nobility). 2 vols. Rio de Janeiro: s.n., 1966-. (FHL book 981 D55e; film 0962230 item 5 and 0928502 item 3; computer number 0017563.)

*Le Royaume de Portugal - l'empire du Brésil* (The Royals of Portugal - the Imperials of Brazil). 2 vols. Paris: CEDRE, 1986-1987. (FHL book 940 D5pb; computer number 0185116.)

Sanches de Baena e Farinha, Augusto Romano. *Diccionario aristocrático, que contém todos os alvarás de foros da casa real, médicos, reposteiros e porteiros da real câmara, títulos e cartas do conselho fiel extracto dos livros do registro das mercês existentes no Archivo Público do Rio de Janeiro, desde 1808 até setembro de 1822* (Dictionary of the Royal House, Doctors, Chamberlains, and Doormen of the Royal Chamber, Titles and Letters of the Council: Faithful Extract of Record Books of the Titles Found in the Public Archive of Rio de Janeiro, from 1808 to September 1822). Lisboa: Panorama, 1867. (FHL book 946.9 D5s; films 0496779 item 3 or 0599686 item 2; computer number 0028637.)

Nobility studies have been done for the states of Pernambuco and São Paulo:

Fonseca, Antônio José Victoriano Borges da.  
*Nobiliarquia pernambucana* (Peerage book for [the state of] Pernambuco). 2 vols. Rio de Janeiro: Bibliotheca Nacional, 1935. (FHL book 981.34 D2f; film 1162429 items 3–4; computer number 0422920.)

Leme, Pedro Taques de Almeida Paes.  
*Nobiliarquia paulista: histórica e genealógica* (Peerage book for [the state of] São Paulo: historical and genealogical). Rio de Janeiro: Imprensa Nacional, 1926. (FHL film 1102979 item 2; computer number 0024486.)

See also the “Heraldry” and “Genealogy” sections of this outline. The Family History Library has published books of certain Brazilian noble families. These records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

BRAZIL - NOBILITY  
BRAZIL, [COUNTY] - NOBILITY

## NOTARIAL RECORDS

Notarial records are records that were recorded and verified by a notary. For information prior to church records and civil records, the notarial records are the primary source for information on individuals’ private lives.

Notary records in Brazil date back to 1549. The books kept by the notaries include various types of legal documents such as wills, codicils, land transactions, powers of attorney, contracts, dowry arrangements, bonds, mortgages, complaints, and so on. Books are generally organized chronologically under the name of the notary.

These records have not been heavily used because of the hours it takes to go page by page through numerous, unindexed volumes. However, to those willing to search these records there may be valuable information that will help you trace your family back to earlier generations.

Notarial records are housed in the public archives (*arquivos públicos*) throughout Brazil (see the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline). No inventories or catalogs have been published for these records, but some archives may have created card indexes or surveys of the books in their holdings. The Family History Library has not acquired notarial records for Brazil.

## OCCUPATIONS

Occupations were a measure of social status. Some trades were viewed as more prestigious than others. Often additional clues and records are available for people with certain occupations. For example, the following book includes information on doctors in Brazil:

Giffoni, O. Carneiro. *Dicionário bio-bibliográfico brasileiro de escritores médicos, 1500–1899* (Bio-bibliographical Dictionary of Brazilian Literate Doctors, 1500–1899). São Paulo: Livraria Nobel, 1972. (FHL 981 D3g; computer number 0103162.)

Some trades such as butchers, tanners, shoemakers, and tailors were organized into guilds (*grêmios*). The purpose of a guild was to train apprentices and otherwise regulate the practice of the trade in the area. Guilds were usually established in each city. The records of guilds may be found in the public archives of Brazil.

These records have not been filmed, and the small amount of information that has been published on this subject is currently available at the Family History Library.

Occupational books are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

BRAZIL - OCCUPATIONS  
BRAZIL, [STATE]- OCCUPATIONS  
BRAZIL, [STATE], [TOWN] -  
OCCUPATIONS

## PERIODICALS

Most genealogical and historical societies in Brazil publish magazines or newsletters. The articles often include:

- Family genealogies and pedigrees.
- Transcripts of church records, migration lists, and cemetery records.
- Helpful articles on research methodology.
- Information about local records, archives, and services.
- Book advertisements and book reviews.
- Research advertisements.
- Queries or requests for information about specific ancestors that can help you contact other interested researchers.

These are usually in Portuguese. Much of their content is devoted to compiled genealogies of local families. They also are an excellent place to publish queries or advertisements for a lost ancestor from Brazil.

Genealogical publications have been published by the Brazilian Genealogical Institute, Institute of Genealogical Studies, and Association of Arms and Heraldry:

*Anuário genealógico brasileiro* (Yearbook of Brazilian Genealogy). 10 vols. São Paulo: Instituto Genealógico Brasileiro. (FHL book 981 D2a; films 0823687–0823690; computer number 0017639.)

*Revista genealógica brasileira* (Brazilian Genealogical Review). 18 pts. São Paulo: Instituto Genealógico Brasileiro, 1940–1948. (FHL book 981 B2b; film 0962536, 0973038–0973040; computer number 0003636.)

*Revista do Instituto de Estudos Genealógicos* (Institute of Genealogical Studies Review). 7 vols. São Paulo: Instituto de Estudos Genealógicos, 1937–1943. (FHL book 981 B2r; computer number 0014086.)

*Boletim* (Bulletin). 4 vols. S.l.: O Colégio, 1955–. (FHL book 981 B2c; computer number 0004128.) The text is in Portuguese, English, French, German, and Spanish.

In addition, state and regional publications may also be available. Two examples of these can be found at the Family History Library:

*Origens: boletim informativo do Instituto Genealógico do Rio Grande do Sul* (Origins: Bulletin of the Rio Grande do Sul Genealogical Institute). Porto Alegre, Brasil: O Instituto, 1988–. (FHL book 981.65 D25o; computer number 0511894.)

*Revista do Instituto Histórico e Geográfico de São Paulo* (Institute of History and Geography for São Paulo Review). Vol. 23 (1925), Vol. 44 (1944). São Paulo: O Instituto, 1894–. (FHL film 1389859 item 5 and 1389859 item 6; computer number 0393570.)

A helpful list of periodicals published in Brazil is:

*Periódicos brasileiros em microformas: catálogo coletivo, 1984* (Brazilian Periodicals in Microform: Catalog Collection, 1984). Rio de Janeiro: Biblioteca Nacional, 1985. (FHL book 981 B23p; computer number 0457922.)

## Obtaining Periodicals

Copies of periodicals are available from the local societies that publish them. Major archives with genealogical collections will have copies of many periodicals, particularly those representing the area they serve. See also the “Societies” section of this outline.

## PROBATE RECORDS

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Probate records are court records that describe the distribution of a person’s estate after he or she dies. Information in the records may include the deceased’s death date, heirs and guardians, relationships, residences, estate inventory, and witnesses. These records are of great value for genealogical research because they identify family relationships and clues.

The most common wills and probate records kept by the notaries in Brazil are listed under the “Notarial Records” section of this outline. Wills made by the ecclesiastical authorities are found in diocese archives, archdiocese archives, or occasionally the parish archives. Often these wills have been deposited in municipal archives. There were also some wills written by the individual without the aid of a notary or clergy. These are found in public registries, private homes, and museums.

About 65 percent of the records in the legislative and judicial section of the National Archives, in Rio de Janeiro, are inventories and wills. There is a partial name index to these records that includes about 40,000 individuals’ names.

In the state archives of São Paulo there is a collection of inventories and wills (*inventários e testamentos*) covering 1578 to about 1800. This collection contains about 2,000 volumes. These records were originally compiled by notaries and orphan-court judges. They often give the deceased persons’ names, places of birth in Portugal, and children’s names and ages. A few of these (from 1633 to 1651) have been published by the archive in:

***Inventários e testamentos*** (Inventories and Wills). Vol. 41. São Paulo: Departamento do Arquivo do Estado de São Paulo, 1966. (FHL book 981.61 V4s; **film 0962230 item 1**; computer number 0024593.)

The Family History Library does not have copies of the probate records for Brazil, so these records would have to be obtained from the archives in Brazil.

## SLAVERY AND BONDAGE

Until the latter part of the 19th century, Brazil had an extensive slavery system. Slavery was used in both nations to fill labor demands for emerging plantation economies. Sugar was the chief crop in colonial Brazil. In 1532 sugar plantations (*fazendas*) were established by the first permanent settlers. Six years later, Africans were imported from Angola to replace Indians as slave laborers.

There were about 100,000 slaves in Brazil in 1600 and about 600,000 in 1700. From the official census of 1798, 33.7 percent of the population was white, 14 percent was free black, and 52.8 percent was slaves. Black slaves remained the majority of the Brazilian population throughout the colonial period (prior to 1822).

From 1550 to 1690 most Brazilian slaves resided on sugar plantations in the northeast provinces of Maranhão, Pernambuco, and Bahia and in the southern province of Rio de Janeiro. They worked sugar cane, cotton, and provisions. The typical estates comprised the plantation owner (*fazendeiro*), his family, 15 to 20 Portuguese overseers and technicians, and about 100 slaves.

In the 1820s coffee replaced sugar as Brazil's dominant export. This led to a shift from the northeast of Brazil to the south, primarily to São Paulo, Minas Gerais, and Rio de Janeiro. After trans-Atlantic slave trade to Brazil was outlawed in 1850, peddlers brought large numbers of slaves from the northeast to the south and sold them there for exaggerated prices. By 1874 one-third of Brazil's slaves were still in the northeast, while over one-half were in the three coffee-growing provinces.

Important dates concerning slavery in Brazil include the following:

- 1538 The importation of black slaves to Brazil began.
- 1761 Slaves were liberated in Portugal but not in Brazil.
- 1850 The Queiroz law prohibited the importation of African slaves to Brazil.
- 1867 Freedom was promised to slaves who would fight in the war.
- 1871 The Law of Free Birth gave freedom to all children born of slave parents.
- 1885 All slaves 65 years old or older were freed.

1888 Slavery was prohibited in Brazil by the Golden Law.

1890 The government ordered the destruction of many slave records.

Brazil was the last nation in the Western Hemisphere to officially abolish slavery.

Church records of births, marriages, and deaths included records of slaves, usually in separate books. These records have been filmed by the Family History Library (see "Church Records" section of this outline). Sometimes records of sales of slaves can be found with the civil records, as in the civil records of the towns of Pasira, Flôres, and Altinho in the state of Pernambuco, Brazil.

Sources that discuss the historical background of and social conditions for slaves in Brazil can be obtained through local university and public libraries. The Family History Library has sources with information about the social history, including:

Taylor, Quintard. "African Families: Black and White." *World Conference on Records: Preserving our Heritage*. Vol. 11, pt. 16. Salt Lake City: Corporation of the President, c1980. (FHL book 929.1 W893 1980; fiche 6085857; computer number 0109311.) This book gives information about slave marriages and families.

Pang, Eul-Soo. "Modernization and Slavocracy in Nineteenth-century Brazil." *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History*. Vol. IX, no. 4, pp. 667-688. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1979. (FHL book 981 A1 no. 16; computer number 0122918.)

*Escravidão* (Slavery). São Paulo: Ed. ANPUH/Marco Zero, 1988. (FHL book 981 H6e; computer number 0610105.)

Dalla Vecchia, Agostinho Mário. *Os filhos da escravidão: memórias de descendentes de escravos da região meridional do Rio Grande do Sul* (The sons of slaves: concerning the descendants of slaves in the surrounding region of Rio Grande do Sul). Pelotas: Editora Univesitária da UFPEL, c1994. (FHL book 981.65 H6; computer number 0823132.)

A very important bibliography for sources on slavery was produced by the National Archives of Brazil:

**Guia brasileiro de fontes para a história da África, da escravidão negra e do negro na sociedade atual: fontes arquivistas** (Brazilian guide to sources for the history of Africa, enslaved Negroes, and the Negroes in contemporary society: archival sources). 2 vols. Rio de Janeiro: O Arquivo, 1988. (FHL book 981 A3g; computer number 0608264.)

A helpful genealogical guide that discusses techniques and strategies for tracing black ancestry is:

Nielsen, Lawrence James. "The special problem of research and documentation of slave families in Brazil." *World Conference on Records: Preserving our Heritage*. Vol. 9, pt. 14. Salt Lake City: Corporation of the President, c1980. (FHL book 929.1 W893 1980; fiche 6085821; computer number 0091222.)

## **SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS**

Effective family research requires some understanding of the society your ancestor lived in. Learning about everyday life, religious practices, customs, and traditions will help you appreciate your ancestor and the time he or she lived in. This information is particularly helpful if you choose to write a history of your family. Research procedures and genealogical sources are different for each area and time period and are affected by the local customs and traditions.

The Family History Library has collected a few sources that discuss a variety of subjects related to the social life and customs in Brazil. Following are some that might be helpful:

Besselaar, J. J. von den. *Brasilien: Anspruch und Wirklichkeit* (Brazil: Claim and Actuality). Wiesbaden: F. A. Brockhaus. (FHL book 981 H2bj; computer number 0301830.) This book, published in German, is a description and analysis of social, cultural, and economic life in Brazil.

Torres Londoño, Fernando. ***El concubinato y la iglesia en el Brasil colonial*** (The Concubinage and the Church in Colonial Brazil). São Paulo: Universidade de São Paulo, 1988. (FHL book 981 H6t; computer number 0491876.) This book, written in Spanish, presents indigenous marriage customs and the Catholic Church in colonial Brazil.

Additional sources for social customs in three cities in Brazil include:

Metcalf, Alida Christine. *Families of Planters, Peasants, and Slaves: Strategies for Survival in Santana de Parnaíba, Brazil, 1720–1820*. Ann Arbor, Michigan: University Microfilms International, c1983. (FHL book 981.61/S4 H6m; computer number 0276806.)

Marques, Gabriel. *Ruas e tradições de São Paulo: Uma história em cada rua* (Streets and Traditions of São Paulo: A story in every street). São Paulo: Conselho Estadual de Cultura, 1966. (FHL book 981.61/S1 H6m; computer number 0025015.)

Silva, Maria Beatriz Nizza da. ***Cultura e Sociedade no Rio de Janeiro (1808–1821)*** (Culture and Society in Rio de Janeiro, 1808–1821). São Paulo: Nacional, 1977. (FHL book 981.53/R1 H6s; computer number 0103419.)

Other books of this nature may help you in your research and help you understand your ancestor's environment. Additional sources may be found in larger universities and libraries.

## **SOCIETIES**

There are a few societies and organizations that may have information that will be valuable to you. You may find it helpful to join one of these societies and support its efforts.

There are a few genealogical societies that emphasize Brazilian research. Most of these societies publish helpful periodicals, transcripts, and compiled genealogies and may have special indexes, collections, and projects. They may publish queries about Brazilian ancestors or maintain a list of members' research interests. Some specialize in the immigrants to a specific area.

The *Instituto Genealógico Brasileiro* is actively involved in genealogy and may help you pursue your progenitors. For more information, write to:

Instituto Genealógico Brasileiro  
Rua Sete de Abril, 230  
01044-000 São Paulo, SP  
BRASIL  
Tel.: (11) 257-4840

Historical societies can be valuable sources of information on Brazil. Some may have information about specific Brazilian individuals. Many societies have special collections of books and manuscript material for Brazil that may be difficult to find in libraries and archives. You may be

interested in the services, activities, and collections of:

Instituto Histórico e Geográfico Brasileiro  
Avenida Augusto Severo 8 - Glória  
20021-040 Rio de Janeiro, RJ  
BRASIL

The addresses of over 100 ethnic heritage historical societies in North America are given in:

Smith, Betty P. *Directory, Historical Societies and Agencies in the United States and Canada*. 13th ed. Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1986. (FHL book Ref 970 H24d; computer number 0491569.)

## **TAXATION**

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There are various types of tax records in the archives of Brazil. They give names, residences, dates of payments of tributes or taxes, and sometimes names of spouses or children. Some may indicate races and marital statuses.

At the present, tax lists have not been filmed for Brazil. If you need this type of record you will have to refer to local public archives in Brazil.

## **OTHER RECORDS OF BRAZIL**

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The topics listed below can be found in the "Locality Search" section of the Family History Library Catalog after the locality. For example:

BRAZIL - [TOPIC]  
BRAZIL, [STATE] - [TOPIC]  
BRAZIL, [STATE], [TOWN] - [TOPIC]

Though not discussed in this outline, the following catalog topics may be useful to your research:

BIBLIOGRAPHY  
BUSINESS RECORDS AND COMMERCE  
COLONIZATION  
DESCRIPTION AND TRAVEL  
ETHNOLOGY  
GUARDIAN AND WARD  
HANDWRITING  
JEWISH HISTORY  
LAW AND LEGISLATION  
MIGRATION, INTERNAL  
MILITARY HISTORY  
NAMES, GEOGRAPHICAL  
NEWSPAPERS  
POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT  
POPULATION  
PUBLIC RECORDS  
SCHOOLS

## **FOR FURTHER READING**

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Information about research and records of Brazil can be found in:

*Latin American Research Outline*. Salt Lake City, UT: Family History Library, 1992. (34075)

Platt, Lyman de. *Genealogical Historical Guide to Latin America*. Detroit, Michigan: Gale Research Company, 1978. (FHL book 980 D27p; computer number 0008654.)

Nielsen, Lawrence James. *Methods for Family Reconstitution in the Luso-Brazilian World*. Salt Lake City: Corporation of the President, c1980. (FHL book 929.1 W893 1980 v.9 pt. 8; fiche 6085815; computer number 0091221.)

## **COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

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

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Family History Library  
35 North West Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3400  
USA

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

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**Brazilian Genealogical Sources:  
Brigham Young University Library**

**Compiled by Mark L. Grover  
September, 1998**

**General Bibliography**

- Brasil dia-a-dia: o retrato dos ultimos 50 anos.* São Paulo: Editora Abril, 1988. 258 pp.  
AY 624 .B73x
- Charno, Steven M. *Latin American Newspapers in United States Libraries: A Union List  
Compiled in the Serial Division, Library of Congress.* Austin: University of Texas  
Press, 1969. 619 pp. 980 C76 #2
- Fitzgibbon, Russel H., compiler. *Brazil: A Chronology and Fact Book, 1488-1973.* Dobbs  
Ferry, NY: Oceana Publications, Inc., 1974. 150 pp. His/Rel Ref F 2521.F55
- Grover, Mark L., compiler. *Latin America: A Reference Guide to the Brigham Young  
University Library.* Provo, UT: Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University,  
1992. 139 pp. F 1408 .X1G761
- Handbook of Latin American Studies.* Austin: University of Texas Press, 1935-. Annual.  
His/Rel Ref F 108 .X1H23
- Morães, Rubens Borba de. *Bibliografia brasileira do periodo colonial: Catalogo  
comentado das obras dos autores nascidos no Brasil e publicadas antes de 1808.*  
São Paulo: Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros, 1969. 437 pp. 981.0016 .M791b
- Morães, Rubens Borba de. *Bibliografia brasiliana: Rare Books About Brazil Published  
from 1504 to 1900 and Works by Brazilian Authors of the Colonial Period.* Los  
Angeles: UCLA Latin American Center Publications, University of California, 1983. 2  
vols. His/Rel Ref F 2508 .X1M67
- Nyrop, Richard F., editor. *Brazil, A Country Study.* 4th ed. Washington, D.C.: Foreign  
Area Studies, the American University, 1983. 410 pp. His/Rel Ref F 2508.B855

## Census Sources

Platt, Lyman De. *Latin American Census Records*. Salt Lake City, UT: Instituto Genealogico e Historico Latinoamericano, 1987. 151 pp. His/Rel Ref CS 95 .P54x

Travis, Carole, general editor. *A Guide to Latin American and Caribbean Census Material: A Bibliography and Union List*. Boston, Ma: G. K. Hall, 1990. His/Rel Ref HA 755 .X1G85

## Encyclopedias

*Enciclopedia Delta Larousse*. Rio de Janeiro: Editora Delta, 1968. 15 vols. <sup>Gen</sup>Ref AE 37 .E48

*Grande enciclopedia portuguesa e brasileira*. Lisboa: Editorial Enciclopedia Limitada, 1935. 40 vols. <sup>Gen</sup>Ref AE 37 .G7

## Dictionaries

Academia Brasileira de Letras. *Pequeno vocabulário ortográfico da lingua portuguesa*. Rio de Janeiro: Imprensa Nacional, 1943. 1,342 pp. PC 5085 .A185

Brunswick, Henrique. *Diccionario da antiga linguagem portugueaza: intercalado com grande numbro de vocabulos hodiernos de obscura significação*. Lisboa: Lusitana Editora, 1910. 336 pp. PC 5360 .B78x

Pimenta, E. Orsi. *Diccionario brasileiro de politica*. Belo Horizonte: 1982. 192 pp. JA 64 .P69P55

## General History of Brazil

Azevedo, Antonio Carlos do Amaral. *Diccionario de nomes, termos e conceitos historicos*. Rio de Janeiro: Editora Nova Fronteira, 1990. 406 pp. D 9 .A94

Bassanezi, Maria Silvia C. Beozzo *Familia e imigracao internacional no Brasil* Sao Paulo: Centro de Estudos de Demografia Historica de America Latina, Universidade de Sao Paulo, 1996 HQ 593 .B37x 1996

- Bibliografia sobre el impacto del proceso inmigratorio masivo en el Cono Sur de América: Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Uruguay.* Mexico, D.F.: Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia, 1984. 207 pp. F 2239 .X1B52
- Boni, Luis Alberto de. *A presença italiana no Brasil.* Porto Alegre:: Escola Superior de Teologia, 1987. 535 pp. F 2659 .I8P74
- Dicionário histórico-biográfico brasileiro 1930-1983.* Rio de Janeiro: Forense-Universitária, 1984-. F 2504 .D53x
- Donato, Hernani. *Dicionario das batalhas brasileiras.* São Paulo: Instituição Brasileira de Difusão Cultural, 1987. 542 pp. F 2522 .D66
- Dutra, Francis A. *A Guide to the History of Brazil: 1500-1822.* Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 1980. 625 pp. F 2508 .D87x
- Fischer, Joachim. *Bibliografia luterana brasileira, 1960-1982.* São Leopoldo: Comissão de Publicações, Faculdade de Teologia, Igreja Evangelica de Confissão Luterana no Brasil, 1983. 36 pp. BX 8063 .B77X58
- Franco, Francisco de Assis Carvalho. *Diccionario de bandeirantes e sertanistas do Brasil: seculos XVI, XVII, XVIII.* Belo Horizonte: Editora Itatiaia, 1989. 443 pp. Quarto F 2528 .F68
- Guia brasileiro de fontes para a história de Africa, da escravidão negra e do negro na sociedade atual: fontes arquivisticas.* Rio de Janeiro: Departamento de Impr. Nacional, 1988. 2 vols. F 2659 .N4G8x
- Leite, Miriam Moreira. *Retratos de familia: leitura da fotografia historica* Sao Paulo : EDUSP, 1993. HQ 594 .L45
- Margulies, Marcos. *Judaica brasiliensis: repertorio bibliografico comentado dos livros relacionados com o judaismo e questões afins, publicados no Brasil desde os primordios das atividades editoriais no pais até o presente momento.* Rio de Janeiro: Editora Documentario, 1974. 159 pp. DS 102 .X1M34
- Moss, Joyce and George Wilson. *Peoples of the World. Latin Americans: The Culture, Geographical Setting, and Historical Background of 42 Latin American Peoples.* Detroit, MI: Gale Research, 1989. 323 pp. F 1408.3 .M84
- Portugal no Brasil e no mundo* Sao Paulo: Livraria Nobel, 1984. DP538 .F47x

## Brazilian Local History

- Amaral, Antonio Barreto do. *Dicionario de historia de São Paulo*. São Paulo: Governo do Estado de São Paulo, 1980. 480 pp. F 2631 .A545
- Barreto, Angela Maria Maranhao, *O Recife atraves dos tempos : (formacao da sua paisagem)* Recife : FUNDAPARTE, 1994. F 2651 .R4 B37x
- Bernardes, Denis, *Recife, o caranguejo e o viaduto*. Recife : Editora Universitaria UFPE, 1996. HT 169 .B72 R43x 1996
- Borges, Dain Edward. *The Family in Bahia, Brazil, 1870-1945*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1992. HQ 594.15 .B34 B67
- Bueno, Francisco de Assis Vieira, *A cidade de Sao Paulo* Sao Paulo: Academia Paulista de Letras, 1976. F2651.S257 B83
- Homens de Sao Paulo*. Belo Horizonte: Editora Itatiaia, 1993. F 2631 .H7
- Laytano, Dante de. *Manual de fontes bibliograficas para o estudo da história general de Rio Grande do Sul: Levantamento critico*. Porto Alegre: Universitaria Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, 1979. F 2621 .X1L397
- Levi, Darrell E. *The Prados of Sao Paulo, Brazil : an elite family and social change, 1840-1930* Athens, Ga.: University of Georgia Press, 1987. CT687.5 .P7 L48
- Moreira Pinto, Alfredo *A cidade de Sao Paulo em 1900* Sao Paulo: Governo do Estado de Sao Paulo, 1979. F 2651.S24 M67
- Porto, Antonio Rodrigues. *Historia urbanistica da cidade de Sao Paulo (1554 a 1988)* Sao Paulo: Carthago & Forte, 1992. F 2651 .S257 P67
- Registo geral da Camara da cidade de Sao Paulo*. JS 15 .S6

## Maps, Atlases and Geography

- Acompanhando o ritmo de Sao Paulo*. Sao Paulo: Mapograf Editora, 1978. HBLL Map Collection - F 2651 .S2 A36x

- Araujo e Silva, Domingos de, *Diccionario historico e geographico da provincia de S. Pedro <microform> : ou Rio Grande do Sul contendo a historia e a descripcao da provincia em relacao aos tres reinos da natureza ...* Rio de Janeiro: E. & H. Laemert, 1865. HBL Microfiche - F2621 .A66 1865
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- Barbosa, Waldemar de Almeida. *Diccionario historico-geografico de Minas Gerais.* Belo Horizonte: Editora Saterb, 1971. 541 pp. F 2581 .B35
- Diccionario de geografia do Brasil, com terminologia geografica.* São Paulo: Edições Melhoramentos, 1976. Map Coll F 2504 .D48
- Diccionario geografico brasileiro: com numerosas ilustrações, inclusive mapas dos estados e territorios.* Porto Alegre: Editora Globo, 1972. 619 pp. F 2504 .D524x
- Fisher, Morris, compiler. *Provinces and Provincial Capitals of the World.* Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow, 1985. 248 pp. G 103.5 .F57
- Fortes, Amyr Barges, et al., editors. *Diccionario geografico brasileiro.* Rio de Janeiro: Editora Globo, 1966. 559 pp. Map Coll F 2504 .D5
- Fundação Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística, diretoria de geociências. *Geografia do Brasil.* Rio de Janeiro: IBGE, 1989. F 2516 .F86x
- Kleiner, Alberto. *Atlas de los territorios de la Jewish Colonization Association en Argentina y Brasil : 1913-19 41* Buenos Aires : Poligono, 1983. Map Collection Quarto G 1756 .E27 K54x
- Marques, Cesar Augusto. *Diccionario historico-geografico da Provincia do Maranhao.* Rio de Janeiro: Cia. Editora Fon-Fon e Seleta, 1970. F2571 .M35
- Resende, Maria Efigenia Lage de and Ana Maria de Moraes. *Atlas historico do Brasil.* Belo Horizonte: Vigilia, 1987. 94 pp. Map Coll G 1776 .S1R47x
- Guia rodoviário do Brasil.* São Paulo: Editora Abril, 1983. 82 pp. Map Coll G 1776 .P2Q3

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*Anuario Catolico do Brasil* Microfiche BL 2540.C52 CIDOC IDC No 21017

Cerny, Johni and Wendy Elliott, editors. *The Library: A Guide to the LDS Family History Library*. Salt Lake City: Ancestry Pub., 1988. 763 pp. His/Rel Ref CS 9 .C55L53x

The Genealogical Society of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Inc. *Major Genealogical Sources in Latin America*. Salt Lake City, UT: The Genealogical Society of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1970-78. Genealog Sec 929.01 G286rj Index Table

Platt, Lyman de. *Genealogical Historical Guide to Latin America*. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1978. 273 pp. His/Rel Ref CS 95 .P58

Ryskamp, George R. *Tracing Your Hispanic Heritage*. Riverside, CA: Hispanic Family History Research, 1984. 954 pp. His/Rel Ref E 184.S75R97

Smith, Jessie Carney, editor. *Ethnic Genealogy: A Research Guide*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1983. 440 pp. His/Rel Ref CS 49 .E83

## Genealogy Guides

*De voce para seus ancestrais : um curso basico sobre exaltacao familiar*. Sao Paulo: Igreja de Jesus Cristo dos Santos dos Ultimos Dias, 1979. Americana - Room BX8634.6 .C47fzp 1979

*A exaltacao familiar e voce*. Sao Paulo, Brazil: Centro Editorial Brasileiro, 1972. HBLL Americana - Room BX 8634.6 .C47fp

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Alves, Odair Rodrigues. *Os homens que governaram São Paulo*. São Paulo: EDUSP, 1986. 189 pp. F 2631 .A543

Coutinho, Afranio. *Brasil e Brasileiros de hoje: enciclopedia de biografias* Rio de Janeiro: Editorial Sul Americana, 1961. Biography Ref. - F 2505 .C6

*Dicionário histórico-biográfico brasileiro 1930-1983*. Rio de Janeiro: Forense-

- Universitária, 1984. 3 vols. Biog Ref F 2504 .D53x
- Ferraz, Joao Machado, *Primeiros gauchos da America portuguesa* Porto Alegre: Instituto Estadual do Livro, 1980. CS308.R46 F47 1980
- Figueiredo, Jose de Lima, *Grandes soldados do Brasil*. Rio de Janerio: Almanak Laemmert, 1939. F2505 .L5
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- Moya, Salvador de. *Indices genealogicos brasileiros*. Sao Paulo, 1942 In Process
- Novinsky, Anita. *Inquisicao: rol dos culpados: fontes para a historia do Brasil (seculo XVIII)* Rio de Janeiro, Brasil : Expressao e Cultura, 1992. BX 1733.B6 N683
- Os Presidenciaveis : quem e quem na maratona do Planalto* Rio de Janeiro: Retour, 1983. F2538.22 .A2 P7x
- Quem é quem nas artes e nas letras do Brasil: Artistas e escritores contemporaneos ou falecidos depois de 1945*. Rio de Janeiro: Ministerio das Relações Exteriores, Departamento Cultural e de Informações, 1966. 352 pp. Biog Ref CT 686 .Q4
- Rela, Walter. *Diccionario de escritores brasilenos contemporaneos*. Montevideo: Editorial Relieve, 1994. Humanities Ref. PQ 9527 .R44x 1994
- Sabino, Fernando Tavares. *Gente* Rio de Janeiro: Editora Record, 1996. In Process
- Sabino, Ignez, *Mulheres illustres do Brasil* Florianopolis, SC: Editora das Mulheres, 1996. CT 3303 .S23
- Sant'Ana, João Gabriel. *Repertorio biografico e genealogico paulista*. São Paulo: Press Grafic, 1987. 726 pp. C 687 .S3S36

- Sousa, Bernardino Jose de, *Dicionario da terra e da gente do Brasil*. Sao Paulo : Companhia editora nacional, 1939. F 2504 .S73
- Sousa, José Galante de. *Indice de bibliografia brasilleira*. Rio de Janeiro: Instituto Nacional do Livro, Ministerio de Educação e Cultura, 1963. 440 pp. Ref Z 1680 .S63
- Sousa, Octavio Tarquinio de, *Historia dos fundadores do Imperio do Brasil* Rio de Janeiro: Livraria J. Olympio, 1972. F2536 .S757
- Studart, Guilherme, barão de. *Diccionario bio-bibliographico cearense*. Fortaleza: Edições UFC, 1980. 3 vols. Biog Ref F 2556 .X1S78
- Taques, Pedro,. *Nobiliarquia paulistana historica e genealogica* 5. ed. Sao Paulo: Editora Itatiaia, 1980. CS308.S264 T36
- Teixeira de Oliveira, Jose. *Vidas brasileiras*. Rio de Janeiro: Irmaos Pongetti, 1945. 920.081 T235v
- Villas-Boas, Pedro. *Notas de bibliografia sul-rio-grandense: autores*. Porto Alegre: A Nação, 1974. Z 1694 .R52V53

### Family Histories

- Assumpcao, Vera. *A historia exemplar de uma familia cafeicultora de origem portuguesa* Porto: Secretaria de Estado da Emigracao, Centro de Estudos, 1985. CS 309.A54x
- Cabral, Sergio. *Pixinguinha : vida e obra* Rio de Janeiro: Lumiar Editora, 1997. ML 410 .P594 C2
- Caggiani, Ivo. *Flores da Cunha: biografia* Porto Alegre : Martins Livreiro-Editor, 1996. F 2621 .C864 C34
- Fontana, Yara M. *Como fritar as Josefinas* Sao Paulo: Cultura Editores Associados, 1996. HD 6054.2 .B6 F663x
- Macedo, Nertan. *O cla de Santa Quiteria (Memoria historica s obre vaqueiros e eruditos)*. Rio de Janeiro: Editora Renes, 1980. CS309 .M47
- Macedo, Nertan. *O cla dos inhamuns : uma familia de guerreiros e pastores das*

*cabeceiras do Jaguaribe* Rio de Janeiro: Editora Renes, 1980. F2556 .M335x

Pacheco Borba, Frederico de Assis. *Itu e a familia Paula Leite de Barros*. Sao Paulo: Edicion, 1985. F 2651.I78 P32x

Santos, Armando Alexandre dos. *Ser ou nao ser monarquista, eis a questao!* Sao Paulo : Artpress, 1990. CS 304 .S27x

Wolff, Egon. *O indio, o negro e seus descendentes na obra de Carlos G. Rheingantz : primeiras familias do Rio de Janeiro (seculos XVI e XVII)* Rio de Janeiro: Cia. Brasileira de Artes Graficas, 1990. CS 308 .R4 W65

## LOCALITY ANALYSIS FOR BRAZIL

By George R. Ryskamp, JD, AG  
BYU Department of History

Locality analysis plays an essential part in determining the objectives for family history research. It should be done as soon as a specific new place of origin or residence is identified, and, of course, must be completed before step two of the records analysis can be completed.

Locality Analysis involves two processes. The first is to locate the exact place or places from which one's ancestors came and determine the various jurisdictions to which that place belonged. (This is, in effect, an answer to one of the initial questions asked in the People Analysis: Where did the ancestor live?) The second goal of Locality Analysis is to learn as much about that particular place as one can. This includes not only the physical location and the geographical features of the place, but, to better understand the life of the ancestor, also requires a knowledge of its history and physical appearance.

### Modern Atlases and Maps

Atlas do Brasil Globo. Pôrto Alegre : Editôra Globo , 1960. (FHL)

Quadro dos municípios brasileiros vigente no. Rio de Janeiro : Impresa Nacional, 1939. (FHL)

### Gazetteers

Supplement to Brazil Gazetteer. Washington, D.C. : Defense Mapping Agency, 1992.  
(BYU F 2504 .S87 1992)

VIII recenseamento geral do Brasil, 1970 : código de municípios. Rio de Janeiro : Institutpo Brasileiro de Estatística, 1970. (FHL)

Guía postal (geográfico) da República dos Estados Unidos do Brasil. Rio de Janeiro : Directoria Geral dos Correios, 1930-31. (FHL film 1102988)

### Geographical Dictionaries

Dicionario geográfico Brasileiro Porto Alegre, Brazil : Editora Globo, 1966, 1972. (1st ed. BYU F 2504 .D5) (2nd ed. **BYU F2504 .D524x 1972**) (FHL)

Dicionário da terra e da gente do Brasil. Sao Paulo : Companhia Editora Nacional, 1961. (**FHL film 0908537 item 1**)

### Ecclesiastical Directories

Anuario catolico do Brasil. 3rd ed. Petropolis, Rio de Janeiro: Editora Vozes Limitadas, 1966. (CIDOC Collection no. 21017) (2nd ed. FHL film 0962910)

Diretorio protestante no Brasil. by Agnolo Rossi. Campinas: Tip. Paulista, 1939. (CIDOC Collection no. 970/1)

## Encyclopedias

Grande Enciclopédia Portuguesa e Brasileira. Lisboa, Rio de Janeiro, Editorial Enciclopedia, limitada, <1936-60>. (BYU AE 37 .G7)

These are examples available from six major categories of books that can be valuable in completing a locality analysis for this country.

1. Atlases and Maps. Individual atlases that exist for most Hispanic countries can help locate ancestral towns and establish the proximity of ancestral towns to other towns found during the research. Typical of these is one for Mexico, Nuevo Atlas Porrua de la Republica Mexicana (Editorial Porrua: Mexico, D.F., 1980), available in many local libraries. This small volume contains maps of each state, historical maps, ad a general country-wide index, as well as various geographical entity lists. Maps in these should be in a scale of at least 1:250,000.

Another useful geographical tool for the Latin American genealogist will be the Index to the Map of Hispanic America, published by the American Geographical Society. (Washington: 1945). As this is an index to a collection of maps, scale 1:1,000,000, it will generally only be found in a large public or university library. It covers all Latin American countries in good detail.

Also of value for locating especially small hamlets and for recreating geographical details of local life are the Untied States Army Map Service Select Series and Topographical Maps produced for all of these countries. Any place, no matter how small, will appear on these detailed maps (scale 1:50,000). Unfortunately, these maps have no direct index, and locating places can only be accomplished by using latitude and longitude references in the gazetteers such as those published by the U.S. Office of Geography. (See the following section on gazetteers).

Maps and atlases are being digitalized for computer storage at an incredible rate. As that process continues these will become increasingly available on CDROM and on the Internet and World Wide Web. Currently, for example, the University of Texas at Austin Perry Castaneda Library Map Collection has placed many atlases and maps from the CIA on the Computer Internet. Check with the library for the current address and the countries available.

2. Gazetteers. Gazetteers are long lists of place names with a minimal amount of information to identify and locate each particular place. Since many of these gazetteers list geographical subdivisions smaller than the parish or municipality, and other features such as rivers and mountains, they can be of great help when the particular place to be located does not appear in the atlases or geographical dictionaries available to the researcher. Many countries also

publish postal guides and political divisions guides.

Gazetteers, such as the United States Board on Geographical Names Gazetteer, prepared by the Office of Geography of the Department of the Interior, are frequently more readily obtained in the United States than local geographical dictionaries and detailed atlases of Hispanic countries. The Hispanic countries covered by the U.S. Board on Geographical Names series and their numbers in that series are:

Argentina, 103	Honduras, 27
Bolivia, 4	Mexico, 15
Brazil, 71	Nicaragua, 10
Chile, 6	Panama, 110
Costa Rica, 7	Paraguay, 35
Cuba, 30	Puerto Rico, 38
Dominican Republic, 33	Spain and Andorra, 51
Ecuador, 36	Spanish Sahara, 108
El Salvador, 26	Uruguay, 21
Guatemala	Venezuela, 56

For a number of Hispanic countries there are updated versions of these gazeteers published by the Defense Mapping Agency (DMA). These are included under each country in the last section of this chapter. These gazeteers have now been placed by the DMA (in collaboration with the U.S. Board of Geographic Names on the computer Internet under the title GEOnet Names Server.

3. Geographical dictionaries. These vary in size, from one and two volume dictionaries to large series containing sixteen to twenty volumes. In the United States, those covering Hispanic countries are generally found in the Family History Library Catalog or in large public or university libraries which have map collections. Nearly every country has at least one such dictionary, although these can vary dramatically in the amount of detail they contain. Some of the large countries such as Mexico even have state or regional geographic dictionaries. Whether national or regional these are most helpful in locating a particular town, and usually provide a written description of the town, or other geographical unit. These descriptions, as well as individual place name entries, can be used to identify the larger geographical unit (where records would usually be found) to which a smaller unit, whose name is the only one the family remembers, belongs. Figure 7- , a page from Volume I of the Diccionario geografico de Guatemala, illustrates this principle, showing the caserios of Guatemala. These dictionaries also often provide information in developing the history of the ancestral locality as a background to the family history.

4. Ecclesiastical guides and directories. Many Catholic dioceses, publish directories listing the various parishes, seminaries, and convents which make up the diocese. These directories always include the names of local parishes and the priests who serve there. They also may contain maps and other aids, and interesting and pertinent information about local history, including even local jurisdictional changes. Many of these are available through the LDS Family History Centers and in libraries having the CIDOC Collection of Latin American

Church documents on microfilm. For at least four countries, Spain, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Argentina, such guides exist which also indicate at least the beginning date for parish registers in nearly every parish in the country.

5. Historical Atlases, Maps and Materials. In the chart in the last section of this chapter a special category has been created for geographic reference tools that were printed before 1900 but are still widely available or were written to deal with geography during an historical period, most often the colonial period. The use and format of these materials parallels that of their contemporary counterparts described in other sections above.

6. Local histories. As the name implies, these are histories that deal entirely with a particular town or region, found both as books and as articles in periodicals. Scholarly historical journals such as The Americas and Hispanic American Historical Review are particularly valuable. These do not help in locating exact places, but can be extremely valuable in helping to understand the history of that locality, and especially to trace its jurisdictional changes.

## **Other Resources: Brazil**

Brazil Map

<http://geology.com/world/brazil-satellite-image.shtml>

Brazil Genealogy Forum

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/brazil/>

German Migration to Brazil

<http://www.genealogienetz.de/reg/WELT/brasil.html>

Italian Migration to Brazil

<http://www.imigrantesitalianos.com.br/>

Local Catholic Church History and Genealogy Research of Brazil

[http://home.att.net/~Local\\_Catholic/Catholic-SAmerBrazil.htm](http://home.att.net/~Local_Catholic/Catholic-SAmerBrazil.htm)

Library of Congress Selected Internet Resources – Genealogy : Brazil

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/hispanic/brazil/resources/brazil-genealogy.html>