

Louisiana

Research Outline

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

RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

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

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, and microfiche numbers. These are preceded by *FHL*, the abbreviation for

Family History Library. These numbers may be used to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers.

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

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

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

UNITED STATES - CENSUSLOUISIANA - COURT RECORDSLOUISIANA, ORLEANS - VITAL RECORDSLOUISIANA, ORLEANS, NEW ORLEANS - CEMETERIES

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

UNITED STATES - *CENSUSLOUISIANA - COURT RECORDSLOUISIANA, ORLEANS - VITAL RECORDSLOUISIANA, ORLEANS, NEW ORLEANS - CEMETERIES*

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

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

- Division of Archives, Records Management, and History

3851 Essen Lane
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
Telephone: 504-922-1207
Fax: 504-922-0002

- National Archives—Southwest Region (Fort Worth)

501 West Felix Street
Building 1, Dock 1
Fort Worth, TX 76115-0216
Telephone: 817-831-5620
Fax: 817-334-5621

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 6216
Fort Worth, TX 76115-0216

- Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society

P.O. Box 82060
Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2068
Telephone: 504-766-3018

- Louisiana State Library

701 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
Telephone: 225-342-4923
Fax: 225-219-4804

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0131

- Louisiana Historical Association

University of Louisiana at Lafayette
929 Camp Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
Telephone: 337-482-6350
Fax: 337-482-6028

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 42808
Lafayette, LA 70504

- Historic New Orleans Collection

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

- Louisiana State Museum

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

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 2448
New Orleans, LA 70176

- Hill Memorial Library

Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3300
Telephone: 225-578-6568
Fax: 225-578-9425

- Howard Tilton Library

Manuscripts & Rare Books Department
Tulane University
7001 Freret Street
New Orleans, LA 70118
Telephone: 504-865-5685
Fax: 504-865-5761

- New Orleans Public Library

219 Loyola Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70140-1016
Telephone: 504-596-2560

An inventory of the records in this important collection is Collin B. Hamer, Jr., *Genealogical Materials in the New Orleans Public Library* (New Orleans: Friends of the New Orleans Public Library, 1984; FHL book 976.3 D23h 1984).

- Orleans Parish Notarial Archives

Civil Courts Building
421 Loyola Avenue Room B-4
New Orleans, LA 70112
Telephone: 504-568-8578
Fax: 504-568-8599

A helpful guide to Louisiana libraries is *Resources in Louisiana Libraries: Public, Academic, Special and in Media Centers* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State Library, 1971; FHL book 976.3 A3re; film 896543; fiche 6019941).

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

BIBLE RECORDS

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

BIOGRAPHY

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

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

CEMETERIES

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

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

CENSUS

Federal

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

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

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

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

Colonial and State

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

Maduell, Charles R., Jr. *The Census Tables for the French Colony of Louisiana from 1699 Through 1732*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1972. (FHL book 976.3 X2pm.)

Robichaux, Alberte J., Jr. *Louisiana Census and Militia Lists 1770-1789*. 2 vols. Harvey, La.: A. J. Robichaux, 1973 and 1974. (FHL book 976.3 X2pr fiche 6088510-511, vols. 1-2.)

CHURCH RECORDS

Before statehood in 1812 the Roman Catholic Church was dominant in Louisiana. Few Protestant churches flourished. From 1812 to 1900, the largest religious groups in Louisiana were the Roman Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Lutheran churches.

The earliest church records were Roman Catholic marriage records that began in 1720 and baptism records that began in 1729. Most records are kept at the local churches. The Family History Library has a small collection of Louisiana church records, including Roman Catholic and Baptist sources. Also see the 45 volumes of civil and church records from southern and southwestern Louisiana published by Donald J. Hebert (see the “Vital Records” section of this outline).

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

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

Guide to Vital Statistics Records of Church Archives in Louisiana. New Orleans: Louisiana State Board of Health, 1942. (FHL book 976.3 V2w; film 1305374 items 2-3; fiche 6051101.)

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

Roman Catholic

- Archdiocese of New Orleans Archives

7887 Walmsley Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70125-3496
Telephone: 504-861-9521
Fax: 504-866-2906

This archdiocese includes the parishes of Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Plaquemines, and Washington.

- Diocese of Shreveport

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

- Diocese of Alexandria

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

- Diocese of Baton Rouge Archives

1800 South Acadian Thruway
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
Telephone: 225-387-0561 ext. 226
Fax: 225-242-0299

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 2028
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2028

This diocese has collected all parish registers in its area and indexed them.

Baptist

Historical Commission
Southern Baptist Convention
901 Commerce Street 400
Nashville, TN 37203-3630
Telephone: 615-244-0344
Fax: 615-782-4821

Methodist

Centenary College of Louisiana
Magale Library, Cline Room
Shreveport, LA 71134-1188
Telephone: 318-869-5170
Fax: 318-869-5004
Mailing Address
P.O. Box 41188
Shreveport, LA 71134-1188

Lutheran

University of New Orleans
Earl K. Long Library—Archives and Manuscripts Division
Lake Front
New Orleans, LA 70148
Telephone: 504-280-6544
Fax: 504-286-7277

COURT RECORDS

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

- 1679-1769 *Conseil Supérieur*, or the French Superior Council, had jurisdiction over land and court matters. The Family History Library has copies of Conseil Supérieur records. The originals are at the Louisiana Historical Center.
- 1769-1803 *Spanish cabildo* was the Spanish government for the province of Louisiana from 1769 to 1803 and presided over court and land matters. The Family History Library has Cabildo records on microfilm. The originals are at the Louisiana Historical Center.
- 1800s-present *District courts* are districtwide courts with jurisdiction over probate, divorce, equity, criminal, and civil cases. The Family History Library has some district court records. For example, from Orleans Parish the library has minutes (1838-80), judicial records (1880-1921), and successions (1846-80).

- 1800s-present ***Parish courts*** have parishwide jurisdiction over criminal and minor civil cases. Most parish courts were abolished in 1846. The Family History Library has some parish court records, including Orleans Parish minutes, 1808-46.
- 1800s-present ***The Supreme court*** is a statewide court located in New Orleans, which has records of appeals from inferior courts. It was originally created in 1804 as the Superior Court. Supreme Court records are at the Division of Archives, Records Management, and History.

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

You may also want to use *English Language Summaries of the Records of the French Superior Council and the Judicial Records of the Spanish Cabildo, 1714-1800* (N.p.: Works Project Administration, N.d.; FHL films 1292537-38 and 1292541-43 for the French Superior Council; films 1292539-40 for the Spanish Cabildo).

DIRECTORIES

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

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

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

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Immigrants

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

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

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

Passenger Lists

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

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

The National Archives also has:

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

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

GAZETTEERS

Two helpful guides to Louisiana place-names are:

Gibson, Dennis A., ed. *Index to Louisiana Place Names Mentioned in the War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. Lafayette: University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1975. (FHL book 976.3 E5i.)

Hansen, Harry, ed. *Louisiana: A Guide to the State*. New York: Hastings House, 1971. (FHL book 976.3 E6h.) This is a revised edition of a 1941 WPA publication.

GENEALOGY

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

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

Some major published genealogical collections for Louisiana include:

Arthur, Stanley, and George de Kernion. *Old Families of Louisiana*. New Orleans: Harmanson, 1931. (FHL film 1425655 item 5.)

West, Robert C. *An Atlas of Louisiana Surnames of French and Spanish Origin*. Baton Rouge: Geoscience Pub., L.S.U. 1986. (FHL book 976.3 D4w; fiche 6088326.)

Whittington, Hattie, and Gladys Sandefur. *Louisiana Ahnentafels, Ancestor Charts and Family Group Sheets*. Natchitoches, La.: Natchitoches Genealogical and Historical Association, 1982. (FHL book 976.3 D2s.)

HISTORY

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

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

- 1803 The Louisiana area was purchased by the United States from France. Although France owned Louisiana between 1800 and 1803, it was still administered by Spain until just before the United States took possession.
- 1804 The territory was divided, using the 33rd parallel as the boundary. The northern portion became the District of Louisiana, and the southern portion became the Territory of Orleans.
- 1805-1807 The Territory of Orleans was divided into counties, but the functions of the counties were soon taken over by smaller civil divisions called parishes, which followed the boundaries of the old Spanish ecclesiastical parishes.
- 1810 Spanish West Florida between the Mississippi and Pearl Rivers, including Baton Rouge, was occupied by the United States and became part of the Territory of Orleans.
- 1812 The Territory of Orleans became the state of Louisiana.
- 1861 Louisiana seceded from the Union. It was readmitted in 1868.

Two sources for studying the history of Louisiana are:

Davis, Edwin Adams. *Louisiana: A Narrative History*. 2d ed. Baton Rouge: Claitor's Book Store, 1965. (FHL book 976.3 H2d.)

Fortier, Alcee. *A History of Louisiana*. 4 vols. New York: Manzi, Joyant, and Co., 1903. (FHL film 1036330 items 1-4.)

LAND AND PROPERTY

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

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

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

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

Maduell, Charles R., Jr. *Federal Land Grants in the Territory of Orleans: The Delta Parishes*. New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1975. (FHL book 976.33 R2m.)

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

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

State Land Office
1201 North Third Street, Suite G-150
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
Telephone: 225-342-4586
Fax: 225-342-5458

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 44124
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

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

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

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

MAPS

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

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

MILITARY RECORDS

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

Colonial Wars (1787-1794)

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

War of 1812 (1812-1815)

An alphabetical list of soldiers, their rank, and their company is in Marion J. Pierson, *Louisiana Soldiers in the War of 1812* (N.p.: Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society, 1963; FHL book 976.3 M23p).

Troop rosters are in Powell A. Casey, *Louisiana in the War of 1812* (Baton Rouge: Casey, 1963; FHL book 976.3 M2c).

An index to compiled service records of Louisiana soldiers who served in the War of 1812 is on FHL films 880010-12. The service records and pension files are at the National Archives.

Indian Wars

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

Mexican War (1846-1848)

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

Civil War (1861-1865)

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

Pension records for Confederate veterans are at the Division of Archives, Records Management, and History. Union army pensions are available at the National Archives.

In 1911 a special census was taken of Confederate veterans or their widows. The census is arranged alphabetically by parish and is on FHL film 483489 and 1704157 item 14. The original census and similar records are at the New Orleans Public Library.

The following books also list names of veterans:

Booth, Andrew B. *Records of Louisiana Confederate Soldiers and Louisiana Confederate Commands*. 3 vols. New Orleans: N.p., 1920. (FHL films 1305383 item 10, 1305383-85.)

Bartlett, Napier. *Military Record of Louisiana: Including Biographical and Historical Papers Relating to the Military Organizations of the State*. 1875. Reprint. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1964. (976.3 M2b.)

Spanish-American War (1898)

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

World War I (1917-1918)

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

United States Selective Service System, Louisiana. *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M1509. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987-1988. (On FHL films beginning with 1653576.)

To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board. Most counties had only one board; large cities had several. A map showing the boundaries of individual draft boards is available for most large cities. Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you in using the draft board map. There is an alphabetical list of cities that are on the map. For a copy of this map see:

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

Additional Records

The Adjutant General's Office (Building 53, Jackson Barracks Military Library, New Orleans, LA 70146-0330, Telephone: 504-278-8241) has records of state military units

from the late 1700s to the present and twentieth century service files, but not federal records.

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

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

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

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

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

NEWSPAPERS

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

Two helpful published sources are:

Mayers, Brenda L., and Gloria L. Kerns. *Death Notices from Louisiana Newspapers, 1811-1919 vols. 1-6*. Baker, La.: Folk Finders, 1984. (FHL film 1697312 item 3, vols. 1-5; fiche 6087223, vol. 6.)

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

NOTARIAL RECORDS

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

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

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

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

PERIODICALS

The major genealogical periodicals for Louisiana are:

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

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

The New Orleans Genesis. 1962-. Published by the Genealogical Research Society of New Orleans, P.O. Box 51791, New Orleans, LA 70151. (FHL book 976.335 B2n; film 1704156 item 15, vol.3, no.12, Sept. 1964.)

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

PROBATE RECORDS

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

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

VITAL RECORDS

Parish Records of Births and Deaths

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

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

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

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

State Records of Births and Deaths

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

Vital Records Registry
Office of Public Health
P.O. Box 60630
New Orleans, LA 70160
Telephone: 504-219-4500

These records are not open for public searches. Copies can be obtained only by an individual named in the record or a relative.

The current fees for obtaining copies of the state's records are listed in *Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces* (Hyattsville, Md.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 1993; FHL book 973 V24wv). Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and many Family History Centers.

Marriage Records

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

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

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

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

Bourguard, Shirley Chaisson. *Marriage Dispensations in the Diocese of Louisiana and the Floridas, 1786-1803*. New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1980. (FHL book 973 A1 no. 323.)

Forsyth, Alice Daly. *Louisiana Marriage Contracts: A Compilation of Abstracts From Records of the Superior Council of Louisiana During the French Regime, 1725-1769; 2 vols.* New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1980. (FHL book 976.3 V2f.)

DeVill, Winston. *The New Orleans French, 1720-1733: A Collection of Marriage Records Relating to the First Colonists of the Louisiana Province*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1973. (FHL book 976.3 V25d.)

Divorce Records

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

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

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

Additional Sources

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

Hebert, Donald J. *South Louisiana Records*. 12 vols. Cecilia, La.: D.J. Hebert, 1978-1985. (FHL book 976.3 K2he; fiche 6010588, vols. 1-12.) This includes records of 1794 to 1905.

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

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

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

VOTING REGISTERS

Voting registers generally give information on a person's name, age, birthplace, and citizenship. The Family History Library has a large collection of voting registers of

Orleans Parish from 1891 to 1952. The registers are arranged on 293 microfilms by date, ward, and precinct in New Orleans. Indexes are available for the years 1920 to 1948.

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

FOR FURTHER READING

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

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

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

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

Publications Coordination
Family History Library
35 N. West Temple Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400
USA

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

Louisiana Historical Background

History

Effective family research requires some understanding of the historical events that may have affected your family and the records about them. Learning about wars, governments, laws, migrations, and religious trends may help you understand political boundaries, family movements, and settlement patterns. These events may have led to the creation of records that your family was listed in, such as land and military documents.

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

1714	The first permanent settlement, at Natchitoches, was established about 1714 as a military and trading post.
1717-1722	Emigration from France brought a few thousand settlers. A few thousand more, attracted by free land, came from German-speaking areas of Europe. The importation of African slaves began.
1718	New Orleans was founded.
1755-1785	After they had been expelled from Nova Scotia, 5,000 French-speaking Acadians settled in Louisiana.
1763	France ceded Louisiana, except the Isle of Orleans, to Spain.
1769	Spain took control of Louisiana and began new record-keeping procedures.
1800	Through a treaty the Louisiana area came under French control again.
1803	The Louisiana area was purchased by the United States from France. Although France owned Louisiana between 1800 and 1803, it was still administered by Spain until just before the United States took possession.
1804	The territory was divided, using the 33rd parallel as the boundary. The northern portion became the District of Louisiana, and the southern portion became the Territory of Orleans.
1805-1807	The Territory of Orleans was divided into counties, but the functions of the counties were soon taken over by smaller civil divisions called parishes, which followed the boundaries of the old Spanish ecclesiastical parishes.
1810	Spanish West Florida between the Mississippi and Pearl Rivers, including Baton Rouge, was occupied by the United States and became part of the Territory of Orleans.
1812	The Territory of Orleans became the state of Louisiana.
1861	Louisiana seceded from the Union. It was readmitted in 1868.
1898	Over 300,000 men were involved in the Spanish-American War, which was fought mainly in Cuba and the Philippines.

1917–1918	More than 26 million men from the United States ages 18 through 45 registered with the Selective Service for World War I, and over 4.7 million American men and women served during the war.
1930s	The Great Depression closed many factories and mills. Many small farms were abandoned, and many families moved to cities.
1940–1945	Over 50.6 million men ages 18 to 65 registered with the Selective Service. Over 16.3 million American men and women served in the armed forces during World War II.
1950–1953	Over 5.7 million American men and women served in the Korean War.
1950s–1960s	The building of interstate highways made it easier for people to move long distances.
1964–1972	Over 8.7 million American men and women served in the Vietnam War.

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

Historical Sources

You may find state or local histories in the Family History Library Catalog under Louisiana or the county or the town. For descriptions of records available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. The descriptions give book or film numbers, which you need to find or to order the records.

Local Histories

Some of the most valuable sources for family history research are local histories. Published histories of towns, counties, and states usually contain accounts of families. They describe the settlement of the area and the founding of churches, schools, and businesses. You can also find lists of pioneers, soldiers, and civil officials. Even if your ancestor is not listed, information on other relatives may be included that will provide important clues for locating your ancestor. A local history may also suggest other records to search.

Most county and town histories include separate sections or volumes containing biographical information. These may include information on 50 percent or more of the families in the locality.

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

About 5,000 county histories have been published for over 80 percent of the counties in the United States. For many counties there is more than one history. In addition, tens of thousands of histories have been written about local towns and communities. Bibliographies that list these histories are available for nearly every state.

For descriptions of bibliographies for Louisiana available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. Look under BIBLIOGRAPHY or HISTORY - BIBLIOGRAPHY.

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

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

Kaminkow, Marion J. *United States Local Histories in the Library of Congress*. 5 vols. Baltimore:

Magna Charta Book, 1975-76. (FHL book 973 A3ka.)

State History

Two sources for studying the history of Louisiana are:

Davis, Edwin Adams. *Louisiana: A Narrative History*. 2d ed. Baton Rouge: Claitor's Book Store, 1965. (FHL book 976.3 H2d.)

Fortier, Alcee. *A History of Louisiana*. 4 vols. New York: Manzi, Joyant, and Co., 1903. (FHL film 1036330 items 1-4.)

United States History

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

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

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

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



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Louisiana Statewide Indexes and Collections

Guide

Introduction

In the United States, information about your ancestors is often found in town and county records. If you know which state but not the town or county your ancestor lived in, check the following statewide indexes to find the town or county. Then search records for that town or county.

The indexes and collections listed below index various sources of information, such as histories, vital records, biographies, tax lists, immigration records, etc. You may find additional information about your ancestor other than the town or county of residence. The listings may contain:

- The author and title of the source.
- Family History Library (FHL) book, film, fiche, or compact disc number. If the words *beginning with* appear before the film number, check the Family History Library Catalog for additional films.
- The name of the repository where the source can be found, if the source is not available at the Family History Library.

What You Are Looking For

- Your ancestor's name in an index or collection.
- Where the ancestor was living.

Steps

These 2 steps will help you find information about your ancestor in statewide indexes or collections.

Step 1. Find your ancestor's name in statewide indexes or collections.

On the list below, if your ancestor lived between the years shown on the left, he or she may be listed in the source on the right.

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 1580–1900s | Ancestral File
International Genealogical Index
Family History Library Catalog - Surname Search
To see these files, click here . |
| 1650–1900 | Filby, P. William, ed. Passenger and Immigration Lists Index: A Guide to Published Arrival Records of About 500,000 Passengers Who Came to the United States . (FHL book 973 W32p, & supplements; films beginning with 1597960 item 4.) Excellent for finding information about immigrants. |

- 1650–1950 *A Dictionary of Louisiana Biography*. (FHL book 976.3 D3dL vols. 1–2.)
- 1650–1891 *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Louisiana: Embracing an Authentic and Comprehensive Account of the Chief Events in the History of the State, a Special Sketch of every Parish and a Record of the Lives of Many of the Most Worthy and Illustrious Families and Individuals*. (FHL film 1000054 items 1–2.) The biographies are in alphabetical order A–L, and later in the book M–Z.
- 1650–1750 Mills, Donna Rachal. *The First Families of Louisiana : an Index to Glenn R. Conrad's 2 Volume Series of 1970*. (FHL book 976.3 D2c index.) Indexes *First Families of Louisiana* listed below.
- 1650–1750 Conrad, Glenn R. *First Families of Louisiana*. (FHL book 976.3 D2c vols. 1–2.) For index see item above.
- 1650–1975 Sandefur, Gladys Lovell. *Louisiana Ahnentafels, Ancestor Charts and Family Group Sheets*. (FHL book 976.3 D2s.)
- 1650–1929 Arthur, Stanley Clisby. *Old Families of Louisiana*. (FHL film 1425655 item 5.) There is an index to the principal persons at the end.
- 1650–1859 Hebert, Donald J. *Index and Key Words to Histoire et Genealogie des Acadiens by Bona Arsenault*. (FHL book 971.5 F2aa 1978 Index; film 1421884 item 6; fiche 6014586.) An index to Arsenault's excellent volumes, listed below, about the Acadian families.
- 1650–1810 Arsenault, Bona. *Histoire et Genealogie des Acadiens*. (FHL book 971.5 F2aa 1988 vols. 1–6; 1965 edition on film 873863 items 1–2.) Vol. 6 has information to the year 1810 for Acadian families who lived in Louisiana.
- 1650–1940 Rider, Fremont, ed. *American Genealogical-Biographical Index to American Genealogical, Biographical and Local History Materials*. (FHL book 973 D22am ser. 2 vols. 1–198+; films beginning with 1698167.) The new series now has surnames A–W and is continuing. The old series has surnames A–Z.
- 1650–1908 *Index to American Genealogies and to Genealogical Material Contained in All Works, Such as Town Histories, County Histories, Local Histories, Historical Society Publications, Biographies, Historical Periodicals and Kindred Works*. (FHL book 973 D22m 1984; film 599811 items 2–3; fiche 6051301.) The 1908 supplement is with the book on film 599811 item 3 known as Munsell's Index.
- 1650–present *Louisiana Genealogical Register*. (FHL book 976.3 B2gr.) This is a periodical. For a search of their indexes, write to the publisher, Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society, P. O. Box 82060, Baton Rouge, LA 70884–2060.
- 1650–present *New Orleans Genesis (New Orleans, Louisiana)*. (FHL book 976.335 B2n; film 1704156 item 15, vol. 3 no. 12, Sept. 1964.) This is an important periodical. For a search of their indexes, write to the Genealogical Research Society of New Orleans, P. O. Box 51791, New Orleans, LA 70151.
- 1650–present *Les Voyageurs: a Publication of the German-Acadian Coast Historical & Genealogical Society*. (FHL book 976.33 D25L vols. 1–18; fiche 6088746–53 vols. 1–10.) This is a periodical and it has queries and many types of records, primarily St. Charles, St. James, and St. John the Baptist parishes. Write to the organization at P. O. Box 517, Destrehan, LA 70047.
- 1650–1900s *Louisiana Historical Quarterly*. (FHL book 976.3 B2hq; films beginning with 1425684 vols. 2–33.) The Family History Library also has an index to vols. 1–33.
- 1650–1997 *Le Raconteur*. (FHL book 976.3 H25r, vols. 1–17.) This is a periodical, and it has a query section. You can write to Le Comite des Archives de la Louisiana, P. O. Box 44370, Baton Rouge, LA 70804–4370.

- 1650–1972 *Louisiana Biography and Obituary Index*. (Not at FHL.) At the New Orleans Public Library. Mostly a card index to obituaries 1802–1972 but also includes cards with references to published books. The New Orleans Public Library has excellent newspaper collection.
- 1650–1997 *Historic New Orleans Collection*. (Not at the FHL.) They have information on the Gulf South, plantations, history, maps, and photographs.
- 1650–1769 Forsyth, Alice D. *Louisiana Marriage Contracts: A Compilation of Abstracts From Records of the Superior Council of Louisiana During the French Regime, 1725–1769*. (FHL book 976.3 V2f.)
- 1650–1970 Kirkham, E. Kay. *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States: 45,500 References as Taken From Microfilms at the Genealogical Society of Utah*. (FHL book 973 D22kk vol. 2; fiche 6089184.) The first part of this book indexes the two Louisiana items below; about 75% of the principal surnames are indexed.
- 1650–1970 Daughters of the American Revolution (Louisiana). *Miscellaneous Records, 1700–1900*. (FHL film 893747 item 2.) Indexed by the source above.
- 1650–1970 Daughters of the American Revolution. *Tombstone and Genealogical Collections*. (FHL films 854861–63; 855248–64; 869304; 870169.) These are indexed by surname in part one of Kirkham's book listed above.
- 1650–1953 *Be it Known and Remembered: Bible Records*. (FHL 976.3 V29L vols. 1–5; films beginning with 844970 item 1; fiche 6051103.)
- 1650–1770 DeVille, Winston. *Louisiana Troops, 1720–1770*. (FHL book 976.3 M2dv.)
- 1650–1766 DeVille, Winston. *Gulf Coast Colonials: A Compendium of French Families in Early Eighteenth Century Louisiana*. (FHL book 976.3 W2d.) Has information about early French colonists from Canada, France, etc.
- 1650–1732 Maduell, Charles R. *The Census Tables for the French Colony of Louisiana from 1699 Through 1732*. (FHL book 976.3 X2pm.)
- 1650–1789 Robichaux, Albert J. *Louisiana Census and Military Lists, 1700–1798*. (FHL book 976.3 X2pr vols. 1–2; fiche 6088510 vol. 1; 6088511 vol. 2.)
- 1650–1885 *Diocese of Baton Rouge, Catholic Church Records: 1707–1885*. (FHL book 976.3 K29c vols. 1–16; fiche beginning with 6093541.)
- 1680–1733 De Ville, Winston. *The New Orleans French, 1720–1733; A Collection of Marriage Records Relating to the First Colonists of the Louisiana Province*. (FHL book 976.335 V2d.)
- 1680–1803 Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *Natchitoches Colonials: Censuses, Military Rolls, and Tax Lists, 1722–1803*. (FHL book 976.365 X2m.)
- 1680–1803 Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *Natchitoches, 1729–1803: Abstracts of the Catholic Church Registers of the French and Spanish Post of St. Jean Baptiste Des Natchitoches in Louisiana*. (FHL book 976.365 V26m; fiche 6049052.)
- 1680–1803 De Ville, Winston. *Marriage Contracts of Natchitoches, 1739–1803*. (FHL book 976.365 V25d.) Has records of the French and Spanish periods also.
- 1680–1721 Forsyth, Alice D. and Earlene L. Zeringue. *German "Pest Ships" 1720–1721*. (FHL book 976.3 W3f.) Lists of German and Swiss immigrants to Louisiana in 1720–1721. Many settled in St. Charles, and St. John the Baptist parishes.

- 1680–1803 De Ville, Winston. *Marriage Contracts of Attakapas Post, 1760–1803: Colonial Louisiana Marriage Contracts, Volume V*. (FHL book 976.3 V25da.) A military post.
- 1680–1803 Vidrine, Jacqueline Olivier. *Marriage Contracts of the Opelousas Post, 1766–1803*. (FHL book 976.346/O1 V25v.) A military post.
- 1680–1804 Maudell, Charles Rene. *Marriage Contracts, Wills and Testaments of the Spanish Colonial Period in New Orleans, 1770–1804*. (FHL book 976.335/N1 V25mc.)
- 1680–1900 De Ville, Winston. *Southwest Louisiana Families in 1777: Census Records of Attakapas and Opelousas Posts*. (FHL book 976.35 X2d 1777.)
- 1680–1910 De Ville, Winston. *Southwest Louisiana Families in 1785: The Spanish Census of the Posts of Attakapas and Opelousas*. (FHL book 976.3 X2w 1785.)
- 1680–1940 Seebold, Herman de Bachel, comp. *Old Louisiana Plantation Homes and Family Trees*. (FHL book 976.3 H2s vols. 1–2; fiche 6101594–5.) Contains interesting histories about the homes, plantations, and their families.
- 1680–1785 Hebert, Donald J. *Acadian Families in Exile and (Part Two) Exiled Acadians - An Index*. (FHL book 976.3 W2hd.) Part two includes names of Acadians who fled to France between 1758–1785.
- 1680–1826 Conrad, Glenn R. *Land Records of the Attakapas District*. (FHL book 976.3 R2c.) Includes re-registrations of early French and Spanish land records; primarily for St. Martin, Lafayette, Vermillion, Iberia, and St. Mary parishes.
- 1680–1806 Forsyth, Alice Daly. *Louisiana Marriages: a Collection of Marriage Records from the St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans During the Spanish Regime and the Early American Period, 1748–1806*. (FHL book 976.3 V25f.)
- 1680–1908 Hebert, Donald Joseph. *Southwest Louisiana Records: Church and Civil Records*. (FHL book 976.35 V2h; vols. 1–40; film 1035781 items 7–10 has vols. 1–4; fiche beginning with 6010598 has vols. 1–34.) Church and civil records, 1756–1908, basically in chronological order from 1756.
- 1680–1920 Hebert, Donald Joseph. *South Louisiana Records*. (FHL book 976.3 K2he vols. 1–12; fiche beginning with 6010588) Church and civil records, 1784–1903, some to 1920, basically in chronological order.
- 1680–1806 Woods, Earl C., ed. *Sacramental Records of the Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans*. (FHL book 976.3 K2sa.)
- 1700–1908 *Land Records AL, AR, FL, LA, MI, MN, OH, WI*. (FHL compact disc # 9 part 255.) You can search by the names of persons; this is a very well designed index to the federal land sales in Louisiana to 1908.
- 1700–1908 United States. Department of the Interior. *Louisiana General Land Office Records (Pre 1908)*. (FHL compact disc # 18.) You can search by the names of persons; this is a well designed index to the federal land sales in Louisiana to 1908.
- 1700–1837 McMullin, Phillip W., ed. *Grassroots of America: A Computerized Index to the American State Papers: Land Grants and Claims 1789–1837, With Other Aids to Research (Government Documents Serial Set Numbers 28 Through 36)*. (FHL book 973 R2ag index: fiche 6051323.)
- 1700–1815 Maduell, Charles. *Federal Land Grants in the Territory of New Orleans: The Delta Parishes*. (FHL book 976.33 R2m.) Has information from vol. 2 of the *American State Papers*.

- 1700–1830s Marchand, Sidney A. *An Attempt to Re-assemble the Old Settlers in Family Groups*. (FHL book 976.319 D2m.) Family genealogies of many of the 700 Acadian families who came to Louisiana from Nova Scotia 1755, 1785—.
- 1700–1830s White, Virgil D. *Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files*. (FHL book 973 M28g, vols. 1–4.) Index is in vol. 4.
- 1700–1770 De Ville, Winston. *Louisiana Soldiers in the American Revolution*. (FHL book 976.3 M2dev.)
- 1700–1987 Woolverton, Dalton L. *Index of Membership Applications to the Louisiana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution: Applications No. 1 Thru No 2219*. (FHL book 976.3 C4w.)
- 1700–1860 Daughters of the American Revolution. *DAR Patriot Index*. (FHL 973 C42da 1990, vol. 1–2.) Lists Revolutionary War patriots and their spouses. About 100,000 names.
- 1700–1860 Daughters of the American Revolution. *DAR Patriot Index*. (FHL 973 C42da vol. 3.) Volume 3 is especially useful in that it lists the wives of the soldiers, with their spouses; about 60,000 names.
- 1700–1868 *D.A.R. Revolutionary War Burial Index*. (FHL films 1307675–82.) Alphabetical. Prepared by Brigham Young University from DAR records. Often lists name, birth date, death date, burial place, name of cemetery, company, and/or regiment, sometimes gives the place of birth.
- 1700–1860 Hatcher, Patricia Law. *Abstracts of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots*. (FHL book 973 V38h, vols. 1–4.) About 55,000 names.
- 1700–1860 Brakebill, Clovis. *Revolutionary War Graves Register*. (FHL book 973 V3br.) About 55,000 names.
- 1700–1840 *A General Index to a Census of Pensioners For Revolutionary or Military Service, 1840*. (FHL book 973 X2pc index; film 899835 items 1–2; fiche 6046771.) Lists Revolutionary War pensioners whose names are on the 1840 census lists.
After using the general index, go to the original book (FHL book Ref 973 X2pc 1967; film 899835 item 3.) This book gives town of residence, the name of the head of household where they were living, and age of pensioner or their widow.
- 1700–1997 *Louisiana African-Americans*. (FHL book 976.3 D25L.) A periodical started in 1996. Has helpful census, slave, and other lists; write Louisiana African-Americans, University Station, P.O. Box 16726, Baton Rouge, LA 70893.
- 1720–1972 Bourquard, Shirley Chaisson. *Early Settlers on the Delta: Families of St. Bernard, Plaquemine and Orleans Parishes, Louisiana*. (FHL book 976.3 D3b.) For the counties of Orleans, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard.
- 1720–1916 Orleans Parish (Louisiana). Recorder. *Death Records, 1819–1915; Index to Death Records, 1804–1916*. (194 FHL films beginning with 911385.)
- 1720–1919 Mayers, Brenda Lagroue. *Death Notices from Louisiana Newspapers*. (FHL book 976.31 V4m; film 1697312 item 3; fiche 6087223.) Obituaries from 1811–1919.
- 1720–1984 *Louisiana Military Obituaries, 1809–1984*. (FHL film 1704157.)
- 1720–1960s *Louisiana Tombstone Inscriptions*. (FHL book 976.3 V22d volumes 1–11; films 873717–720 and 873720 items 2–3; volumes 12–22 films 854861–863; 855248–250.) Has many Louisiana counties' tombstone records. For surname index to vols. 1–22, see E. Kay Kirkham's index listed above.

- 1740–1900 *Louisiana Marriage Records*. (FHL compact disc no. 9, part 1.) Records to 1900. You can search for the surname, or a given name, or look through the records of a parish.
- 1740–1850 *Marriage Records, Early–1850: West of the Mississippi River*. (FHL compact disc no. 9 pt. 227–229.) You can search for the surname, or a given name, or look through the records of a parish.
- 1740–1820 Maduell, Charles Rene. *New Orleans Marriage Contracts, 1804–1820*. (FHL book 976.335/N1 V25md.)
- 1740–1840 Maduell, Charles Rene. *Marriages and Family Relationships of New Orleans, 1830–1840*. (FHL book 976.335/N1 V2mm 1980.)
- 1740–1900 White, Virgil D. *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files*. (FHL book 973 M22i vols. 1–2.)
- 1740–1790s Pierson, Marion J.B. *Louisiana Soldiers in the War of 1812*. (FHL book 976.3 M23p.)
- 1740–1876 Morazan, Ronald R. *Biographical Sketches of the Veterans of the Battalion of Orleans, 1814–1815*. (FHL book 976.335/N1 D3m.)
- 1740–1917 Mayers, Brenda Lagroue. *Death Notices from Louisiana Newspapers*. (FHL book 976.31 V4m; film 1697312 item 3; fiche 6087223.) Has obituaries from 1811–1917.
- 1740–1850 Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *Natchitoches Church Marriages, 1818–1850: Translated Abstracts From the Registers of St Francois des Natchitoches, Louisiana*. (FHL book 976.365 K2mn.)
- 1740–1865 Maduell, Charles Rene. *Index of Spanish Citizens Entering New Orleans*. (FHL book 976.335 W3m.)
- 1740–1865 Maduell, Charles Rene. *Index of Spanish Citizens Entering the Port of New Orleans Between January 1840 and December 1865*. (FHL book 976.335 W3m.)
- 1740–1852 Brasseaux, Carl A. *The Foreign French: Nineteenth-Century French Immigration into Louisiana*. (FHL book 976.3 W3b vols. 1–3.)
- 1750–1812 Carter, Clarence Edwin. *The Territory of Orleans, 1803–1812 : Genealogical References Lists From Clarence Edwin Carter's Territorial Papers of the United States Relating to the Present State of Louisiana*. (FHL book 976.3 H2c.)
- 1750–1900 Murray, Nicholas Russell. *Orleans Parish Louisiana, 1830–1900, Computer Indexed Marriage Records*. (FHL book 976.335 V22o vols. 1–10.) The volumes are alphabetical.
- 1760–1888 Orleans Parish (Louisiana). Justice of the Peace. *Marriage Licenses and Certificates, 1834–1888*. (FHL films beginning with 911851.) There are indexes for some volumes.
- 1760–1920 *Census indexes, 1810–1880 and 1900–1920*. In the window to the left click on **Family History Library Catalog**. Then select CENSUS or CENSUS - INDEXES from the topics that are listed.
- 1770–1850 Jackson, Ronald Vern, ed. *Mortality Schedule Louisiana 1850*. (FHL book 976.3 X2jm 1850.) Lists persons who died in the twelve months before the census, i.e. 1849–1850.]
- 1770–1860 Jackson, Ronald Vern, ed. *Louisiana Sugar Censuses, 1850–1860*. (FHL book 976.3 X2L.) These lists were taken almost every year from 1850– 1860. Gives parish, township, or river location.

- 1780–1860 Tipton, Ennis Mayfield. *Marriage and Obituaries from the New Orleans Christian Advocate, 1851–1860 with Complete Index*. (FHL book 973 V2no.) This was a Methodist church publication.
- 1780–1870 *Index, Louisiana Mortality Records for the Years Ending June 1, 1850, 1860, 1870*. (FHL book 976.3 V23d; film 1307610 item 24.) Lists persons who died in the twelve months before June 1 when these censuses were taken.
- 1780–1803 Bourquard, Shirley Chaisson. *Marriage Dispensations in the Diocese of Louisiana and the Floridas, 1786–1803*. (FHL book 973 A1 no. 323.)
- 1800–1916 Orleans Parish (Louisiana). Recorder. *Marriage Records 1871–1915*. (185 FHL films beginning with 907680.) Orleans Parish with indexes for 1871–1916. These records are in chronological order and has some delayed marriage certificates to 1969 also.
- 1800–1836 United States. Adjutant General's Office. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers who Served During the Florida War from the State of Louisiana*. (FHL film 880843.)
- 1800–1848 United States. Adjutant General's Office. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers who Served During the Mexican War*. (FHL films 1205336–57.)
- 1800–1865 United States. Adjutant General's Office. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Louisiana*. (FHL films 821926–929.)
- 1800–1911 Jenks, Houston C. *An Index to the Census of 1911 of Confederate Veterans or their Widows: Pursuant to Act 71 of 1908*. (FHL book 976.3 M22j; film 1822969 item 12.) The original records are on film 1412742.
- 1800–1865 United States. Adjutant General's Office. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Louisiana*. (FHL films 881457–487.) This is an index to the set of records below which are listed by unit.
- 1800–1865 United States. Record and Pension Office. *Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Louisiana*. (417 FHL films beginning with 1447604.)
- 1800–1890 *1890 Louisiana Census Index of Civil War Veterans or Their Widows*. (FHL book 976.3 X2d; fiche 6331358 or 6334327.) If an ancestor is listed see page xxiv for the film number for the original 1890 census which gives Union Army unit in which soldier served.
- 1800–1865 *The Civil War Tax in Louisiana, 1865: Based on Direct Tax Assessments of Louisianians*. (FHL book 976.3 R4c; fiche 6501324.) Lists are by county and list men and women. There are no indexes.
- 1800–1940 *Record of Pensioners of the State of Louisiana*. (FHL films 1412742 item 2 and 1412743.) Civil War veterans or their widows. Records are also at the State Archives.
- 1800–1944 *Application Record for Pensions, 1898–1944*. (FHL films 1412743 items 3–6 and 1412744.) Civil War Confederate veterans or their widows. Records are also at the State Archives.
- 1800–1936 *Louisiana Confederate Veterans Pensions, 1912–1936*. (FHL film 1704156 item 17.) Civil War records at the Louisiana National Guard.

- 1800–1944 Soldiers' Home of Louisiana (New Orleans, Louisiana). *Register Books, 1884–1934; Index, 1905–1944.* (5 FHL films 1685399 items 5–6.) Civil War and other soldiers; the index is on film 1685399 items 5–6.
- 1800–1934 United States. Veterans Administration. **General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934.** (544 FHL **films beginning with 540757.**) This is a card index to pension applications of Civil War and Spanish-American War veterans. Copies of the original files may be ordered from the National Archives.
- 1800–1933 United States. Veterans Administration. *Veteran's Administration Pension Payment Cards, 1907–1933.* (over 2000 FHL films beginning with 1634036.) Lists veterans and wives who received pension payments for Civil War, and the War with Spain.
- 1800–1865 Watkins, Raymond W. *Deaths of Confederate Soldiers in Confederate Hospitals.* (FHL book 973 V2w, vol. 6.)
- 1800–1880 Mills, Gary B. *Civil War Claims in the South: An Index of Civil War Damage Claims filed Before the Southern Claims Commission, 1871–1880.* (FHL book 975 H22m.)
- 1800–1988 United Daughters of the Confederacy. (Louisiana Division). **Index, Membership Applications, 1898–1988 and Patriot Index.** (FHL book 976.3 C42u, vols. 1–2; **film 1320946** items 3–4.)
- 1800–1930 *Louisiana United States National Cemeteries Burials, 1860–1930.* (13 FHL films beginning with 1704335 item 2.)
- 1810–1871 Jenks, Houston C., comp. *The Extant Censuses of School-Aged Children in Louisiana, Ages 16–18 For One or More of These Years: 1863, 1865, 1866, 1867, or 1871.* (FHL book 976.3 J2j; film 1822970.) Has alphabetical lists for 36 parishes. Gives the name of the parent or guardian but does not list the children.
- 1810–1900 Laurence, William Francis. *Biographical Sketches of the European Immigrants of Northeast Louisiana, 1880–1900.* (FHL book 976.3 D3Lb.)
- 1840–1920 Wright, Nancy Lowrie. *Louisiana Volunteers in the War of 1898.* (FHL book 976.3 M2w.)
- 1878–1918 United States Selective Service System. *Louisiana, World War I Selective Service Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918.* (On 70 FHL films beginning with 1653576.) Men ages 18 to 45 are listed alphabetically by county or draft board.

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

Step 2. Copy and document the information.

The best method is to:

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

Where to Find It

Family History Centers and the Family History Library

You can use the Family History Library book collection only at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, but many of our books have been microfilmed. Most of the films can be requested and used at our Family History Centers. To locate the address for your nearest Family History Center, [click here](#).

For information about contacting or visiting the library or a center, see [Family History Library and Family History Centers](#).

Libraries and Archives

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

To use interlibrary loan:

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

You can find addresses and phone numbers for most libraries and archives in the [American Library Directory](#), published by the American Library Association. The *American Library Directory* is available at most public and college libraries.

Maps

Computer Resources

MapQuest Maps

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

Animap

BYU FHL – on computer

Summary: Has each state with maps. Shows county boundary changes and allows marking of cities and finds distances.

Google Maps

Summary: Has address finder, allows keyword searching, and allows street, satellite, or terrain views

Geology.com Maps

Summary: Has Relief, Elevation, Drainage, Political and Road Maps for each state.

Louisiana Maps Bibliography

Andriot, Jay. *Township Atlas of the U.S. Virginia: Documents Index*, 1991.
Rel/Fam Hist Ref- **G 1201.F7 A5 1991**

Summary: Shows the townships in a particular county for each state except Hawaii and Alaska. Maps start after 1930.

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

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

Summary: The previous map was copied from page 273 of this book. On the next page is a listing of the counties, the date the county was formed and parent county, and the date of first recorded deeds and certificates. The section on Louisiana also includes a brief history and genealogical research information.

Kirkam, E. Kay. *A Genealogical and Historical Atlas of the United States*. Utah: Everton Publishers, Inc., 1976.
Rel/Fam Hist Ref- **G1201.E6225.K5 1976**

Summary: Shows changes in boundaries in United States from Colonial days up to 1909. Civil war maps and information.

Evaluation of Louisiana maps: State historical information, p. 15; 1810 map, p. 85; 1823 map, p. 96; 1838, p. 126; 1860 map, p. 144; 1878 map, p. 160,161; map 1909, p. 217.

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

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

Thorndale, William and William Dollarhide. *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses. 1790-1934*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co, 1987.
Rel/Fam Hist Ref- **G 1201.F7 T51987**

Summary: History of Federal Censuses, records, and completeness. U.S. Maps from 1790 - 1920 showing U.S. boundary changes. Maps of each state for each census year beginning when the state was created up through 1920.

Evaluation of Louisiana maps: pp. 133 - 143.

Map Collection on the 2nd floor of the old section of HBL library, Two map drawers of Louisiana maps,

G4010 - G4014. State maps from 1800s to 2000, Many of the maps show county boundaries and county seats, railroad lines, private land grants, population, etc, Some maps include information about what was happening that year,

To find more maps, search the byline for Louisiana maps, atlases, and gazetteers,



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Louisiana Federal Census Population Schedules, 1810 to 1920

Guide

Introduction

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

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

For more information about the U.S. Federal Censuses, see [Background](#).

What You Are Looking For

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

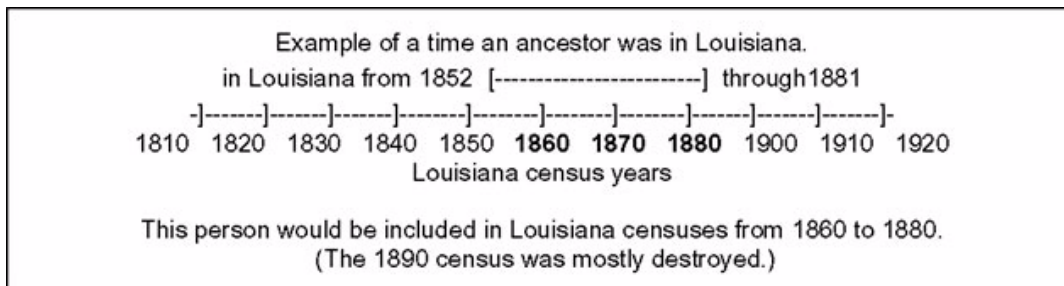
- Names of family members.
- Ages of family members, which you can use to calculate birth or marriage years.
- The county and state where your ancestors lived.
- People living with (or gone from) the family.
- Relatives who may have lived nearby.

Steps

These 5 steps will help you use census records.

Step 1. Determine which censuses might include your ancestors.

Match the probable time your ancestor was in Louisiana with the census years. This will determine which censuses you will search.



Step 2. Determine a census to start with.

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

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

The censuses from **1810 to 1840** give the name of the head of each household and the number of males and females in age groups **without** their names.

The censuses for 1930 and later are available from the U.S. Census Bureau only. For ways the census can help you find your ancestor's parents, see Tip 1.

Step 3. Search the census.

For instructions on how to search a specific census, click on one of the following years:

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

For information about archives and libraries that have census records, see [Where to Find It](#).

Step 4. Search another census.

Repeat steps 2 and 3 until you search all the censuses taken during the life span of your ancestor. Each census may contain additional information.

If you skip a census taken when your ancestor lived, you risk missing additional information, such as names of in-laws or other relatives who may have lived with or near the family. Those names and relationships may help you identify earlier generations.

For other information about how to search the census, see [Tips](#).

Step 5. Analyze the information you obtain from the censuses.

To effectively use the information from the census, ask yourself these questions:

- Who was in the family?
- About when were they born?
- Where were they born? (Birthplaces are shown in censuses for 1850 to 1920.)
- Where were they living—town or township, county, and state?
- Where were their parents born? (Birthplaces are shown in censuses for 1880 to 1920.)
- Do they have neighbors with the same last name? Could they be relatives?

For more about comparing information in several censuses, see [Tip 3](#).

Tips

Tip 1. How can the census help me find my ancestor's parents?

Searching the census taken closest to the time the ancestor married has the best possibility of finding your ancestor and spouse living close to their parents and other family members.

Tip 2. How can I understand the information better?

Sometimes knowing why the census taker asked a question can help you understand the answer. Detailed instructions given to census takers are in the book *Twenty Censuses: Population and Housing Questions 1790–1980*, updated as *200 Years of U.S. Census Taking*, both by the United States Census Bureau.

Tip 3. How can comparing information in more than one census help me?

Comparing censuses indicates:

- Changes in who was in the household, such as children leaving home or the death of grandparents or a child.
- Changes in neighbors. Remember, neighbors might be relatives or in-laws.
- Changes about each individual, such as age.
- Movement of the family within Louisiana to a different county or town.
- Movement of the family out of Louisiana if the family no longer appears in the census for Louisiana.

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

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

Background

Description

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

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

What U.S. Federal Censuses Are Available

Censuses have been taken by the United States government every 10 years since 1790. The 1920 census is the most recent federal census available to the public; the 1930 census will be released in 2002. In 1885 the federal government also helped 5 states or territories (Colorado, Florida, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Dakota Territory) conduct special censuses.

The 1890 census of Louisiana was destroyed by fire. Portions of a special schedule taken in 1890, of Union Civil War veterans and their widows, have survived. The surviving 1890 veterans' schedules cover Washington D.C., half of Kentucky, and all of Louisiana through Wyoming (states are in alphabetical order from K through W). These schedules contain approximately 700,000 names.

Types of Census Schedules

The following census schedules are available for Louisiana and were created in various years by the federal government:

- **Population schedules** list a large portion of the population; most are well-indexed and are available at many repositories.
- **Mortality schedules** list those who died in the 12 months prior to the day the census was taken for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.
- **1840 pensioners' schedules** list people who were receiving pensions in 1840. Included were men who fought in the Revolutionary War or in the War of 1812 or their widows.
- **1890 veterans' schedules** list Union veterans from the Civil War or their widows who were living in 1890.
- **Slave schedules** for Southern states list slave owners and the number of slaves they owned in 1850 and 1860.
- **Agricultural schedules** list data about farms and the names of the farmers for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.
- **Manufacturing or industrial schedules** list data about businesses and industries for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.

How Censuses Were Taken

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

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

When Censuses Were Taken

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

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

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

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

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

Censuses from 1930 to the Present

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

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

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

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

Colonial, Territorial, State, and Local Censuses

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

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

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

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

Where to Find It

Internet

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

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

Family History Centers

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

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

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

Family History Library

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

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

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

National Archives

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

College and Public Libraries

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

State Archives, Libraries, and Historical Societies

The Archives and Libraries section of the *Louisiana Research Outline* lists Internet and mailing addresses for several Louisiana archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Louisiana census records, and the Internet sites may list what records they have.

U.S. Census Bureau

To request information from the 1930 census and later censuses, you must provide your relative's name, address, and other details on Form BC-600, available from:

The U.S. Census Bureau
P.O. Box 1545
Jeffersonville, IN 47131
Telephone: 812-218-3300

Genealogical Search Services

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

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

For more information, see [Hiring a Professional Genealogist](#).

U.S. State Censuses

LOUISIANA

1803 - 1812	Territory of Orleans Statistical Census	State Census Microfiche Card 1. of 1.
1853	Statistical Census	State Census Microfiche Card 1. of 1
1858	Statistical Census	State Census Microfiche Card 1 of 1.

LOUISIANA

Berthoud, Edward I. The Boundaries of Louisiana in 1803. Golden, Colorado: The Colorado Transcript, 1879. **Microfiche F 369 .B54 1897**

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

Brasseaux, Carl A. Creoles of Color in the Bayou Country. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1994. **F 380 .C87 B73 1994**

Bunner, E. History of Louisiana. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1861. **Microfiche F 369 .B94 1861**

Davis, Edwin Adams. Louisiana: A Narrative History. Baton Rouge: Claitor's Book Store, 1965. **F 369 .D24 1965**

Fortier, Alcee. A History of Louisiana. Baton Rouge: Claitor's Book Store, 1966. **F 369 .F742**

Giraud, Marcel. A History of French Louisiana. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1974. **F 372 .G513**

Goins, Charles Robert and John Michael Caldwell. A Historical Atlas of Louisiana. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1995. **Map G1361 .S1 G6 1995**

Martin, Francois-Xavier. The History of Louisiana. New Orleans: James A. Gresham, Publisher, 1882. **F 369 .M39 1882 also microfiche Z1236 .L5 1971**

Noggle, Burl. Working With History: The Historical Records Survey in Louisiana and the Nation, 1936-1942. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1981. **F 369 .N63**

Purcell, Martha G. The Settlements and Cessions of Louisiana. Paducah, Kentucky: C.M. Leake, 1904. **Microfiche F 369 .P98 1904**

Robertson, James A. Louisiana Under Spain, France and the United States, 1785-1807. Freeport, NY: Books for Libraries Press, 1969.(Reprint of the 1910 edition) **F 373 .R64 1969**

Rushton, William Faulkner. The Cajuns: From Acadia to Louisiana. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 1979. **F 380 .A2 R87 1979**

Soniat du Fossat, Guy. Synopsis of the History of Louisiana: From the Founding of the Colony to the End of the Year 1791. New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1976. **F 369 .S69 1976**

Taylor, Joe Gray. Louisiana Reconstruction, 1863-1877. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1974. **F 375 .T23**

LOUISIANA

Taylor, Joe Gray. Louisiana: A Bicentennial History. New York: Norton, 1976. **F 369 .T29 1976**

Acadia Parish

Acadia Parish was created in 1886 from St. Landry Parish.

Fontenot, Mary Alice. Acadia Parish, Louisiana: A History to 1920. Baton Rouge: Claitor's Pub. Division, 1976-1979. (2 vols.) **F 377 .A2 F66**

Gahn, Robert, Sr. A History of Evangeline: Its Land, Its Men and Its Women Who Made it a Beautiful Place to Live. Baton Rouge: Claitor's Publishing Division, 1972.
F 377 .E8 G34x 1972

Allen Parish

Allen Parish was created in 1912 from Calcasieu Parish.

Ascension Parish

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

Assumption Parish

Assumption Parish was created in 1807.

Attakaps Parish

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

Avoyelles Parish

Avoyelles Parish was created in 1807 as an original parish.

Baton Rouge Parish

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

Carleton, Mark T. River Capital: An Illustrated History of Baton Rouge. Woodland Hills, CA: Windsor Publications, 1981. **F 378 .B33 C35**

Meyers, Rose. A History of Baton Rouge, 1699-1812. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1976. **F 379 .B33 M49**

Beauregard Parish

Beauregard Parish was created in 1913 from Calcasieu Parish.

LOUISIANA

Beauregard Parish Historical Society History of Beauregard Parish, Louisiana. Dallas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1986. **Quarto F 377 .B4 H55 1986**

Bienville Parish

Bienville Parish was created in 1848 from Claiborne Parish.

Bossier Parish

Bossier Parish was created in 1843 from Claiborne Parish.

Caddo Parish

Caddo Parish was created in 1838 from Natchitoches Parish.

Calcasieu Parish

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

Caldwell Parish

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

Wood, Ted H. Caldwell Parish in Slices: A Brief History of Caldwell Parish, Louisiana, 1838-1971. Baton Rouge: Claitor's Publishing Division, 1972. **F 377 .C23 W66x**

Goins, Charles Robert and John Michael Caldwell. A Historical Atlas of Louisiana. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1995. **Map G1361 .S1 G6 1995**

Cameron Parish

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

Carroll Parish

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

Catahoula Parish

Catahoula Parish was created in 1808.

Claiborne Parish

Claiborne Parish was created in 1828 from Natchitoches Parish.

Concordia Parish

LOUISIANA

Concordia Parish was created in 1805 from Avoyelles Parish.

DeSoto Parish

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

East Baton Rouge Parish

East Baton Rouge Parish was created in 1810.

Carleton, Mark T. River Capital: An Illustrated History of Baton Rouge. Woodland Hills, CA: Windsor Publications, 1981. **F 378 .B33 C35**

Meyers, Rose. A History of Baton Rouge, 1699-1812. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1976. **F 379 .B33 M49**

East Carroll Parish

East Carroll Parish was created in 1877 from Carroll Parish.

Pinkson, Georgia Payne Durham. A Place to Remember: East Carroll Parish, Louisiana, 1832-1976. Baton Rouge: Claitor's Pub. Division, 1977. **F 377 .E2 P56**

East Feliciana Parish

East Feliciana Parish was created in 1824 from Feliciana Parish.

Evangeline Parish

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

Gahn, Robert, Sr. A History of Evangeline: Its Land, Its Men and Its Women Who Made it a Beautiful Place to Live. Baton Rouge: Claitor's Publishing Division, 1972.
F 377 .E8 G34x 1972

Feliciana Parish

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

Franklin Parish

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

Grant Parish

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

Harrison, Mabel Fletcher. Grant Parish, Louisiana: A History. Baton Rouge: Claitor's Pub. Division, 1969. **F 377 .G7 H37**

LOUISIANA

Iberia Parish

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

Iberville Parish

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

Jackson Parish

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

Jefferson Parish

Jefferson Parish was created in 1825 from Orleans Parish.

Theode, Henry J. History of Jefferson Parish and Its People. Gretna, Louisiana: Distinctive Printing, 1976. **F 377 .J4 T46 1976**

Jefferson Davis Parish

Jefferson Davis Parish was created in 1913 from Calcasieu Parish.

Hildebrand, Franklin. As I Remember: Stories of Jefferson Davis Parish, Louisiana. Jennings, Louisiana: 1977. **F 377 .J43 H54**

Lafayette Parish

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

Griffin, Harry Lewis. The Attakapas Country: A History of Lafayette Parish. New Orleans: Pelican Publishing Co., 1959. **F 377 .L2 G7**

Lafourche Parish

Lafourche Parish was created in 1807.

Brasseaux, Carl A. The Founding of New Acadia: The Beginnings of Acadian Life in Louisiana, 1765-1803. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1987. **F 380 .A2 B72 1987**

Herbert, Donald J. South Louisiana Records: Church and Civil Records of Lafourche Terrebonne Parishes. Cecilia, Louisiana: Donald J. Herbert, 1987. **F 377 .L25 H4 1978 vol.1**

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Uzee, Philip Davis. The Lafourche County: The People and the Land. Lafayette: Center for Louisiana Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1985. **F 377 .L24 L34 1985**

LaSalle Parish

LaSalle Parish was created in 1910 from Catahoula Parish.

History of La Salle Parish, Louisiana. Dallas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1989.
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Lincoln Parish

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

Livingston Parish

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

Madison Parish

Madison Parish was created in 1838 from Concordia Parish.

Morehouse Parish

Morehouse Parish was created in 1844 from Ouachita Parish.

Natchitoches Parish

Natchitoches Parish was created in 1807.

Gregory, H.F. Natchitoches Parish: Cultural and Historical Resources. Natchitoches: Natchitoches Parish Planning Commission, 1979. **F 377 .N4 G74x 1979**

Opelousas Parish

Opelousas Parish was created sometime before 1810 and later dissolved.

Orleans Parish

Orleans Parish was created in 1807.

Clapp, Theodore. Autobiographical Sketches and Recollections During a 35 Years Residence in New Orleans. Boston: Phillips, Sampson & Co., 1857.
Microfiche Z1236 .L5 1971 #11273

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Hallowell, Christopher. People of the Bayou: Cajun Life in Lost America. New York: Dutton, 1979. **F 376 .H34 1979**

Kane, Harnett T. Queen New Orleans: City by the River. New York: William Morrow & Co., 1949. **F 379 .N5 K24 1949**

King, Grace. New Orleans: The Place and the People. New York: MacMillan & Co., Ltd, 1899. **F 379 .N5 K5 1899**

LeBreton, Marietta Marie. A History of the Territory of Orleans, 1803-1812. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1969. **F 374 .L43x 1969**

New Orleans of 1894. New Orleans: L. Graham & Son, 1894. **Microfiche F379 .N5 N6 1894**

Niehaus, Earl F. The Irish in New Orleans, 1800-1860. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1965. **F 379 .N5 N69**

Saxon, Lyle. Fabulous New Orleans. New York: The Century Co., 1928. **F 379 .N5 S27**

Tinker, Edward L. Creole City: Its Past and Its People. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1953. **F 379 .N5 T53**

Ouachita Parish

Ouachita Parish was created in 1807.

Plaquemines Parish

Plaquemines Parish was created in 1807 from Orleans Parish.

Pointe Coupe Parish

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

Rapides Parish

Rapides Parish was created in 1807.

Achee, Benjamin E. Reprint of the Rapides Parish Section of Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Louisiana. Bossier City: Tipton Print & Publishing Co., 1975. **F 377 .R25 R46 1975**

Red River Parish

Red River Parish was created in 1871 from Caddo, Bossier, Bienville, Natchitoches and DeSoto Parishes.

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Freeman, Thomas and Peter Custis. An Account of Red River in Louisiana. Washington: 1806. **Microfiche 080 Sh64a no. 10436**

Drago, Harry Sinclair. Red River Valley. New York: C.N. Potter, 1962. **F 377 .R3 D7**

Richland Parish

Richland Parish was created in 1868 from Quachita, Carroll, Franklin and Morehouse Parishes

Sabine Parish

Sabine Parish was created in 1843 from Natchitoches Parish.

Belisle, John G. History of Sabine Parish, Louisiana: From the First Explorers and Settlers to the Present: Many, Louisiana: Sabine Chapter DAR, 1976. **F 377 .S115 B4 1976**

St. Bernard Parish

Saint Bernard Parish was created in 1807.

St. Charles Parish

Saint Charles Parish was created in 1807.

St. Helena Parish

Saint Helena Parish was created in 1810 from Livingston Parish.

St. James Parish

Saint James Parish was created in 1807.

Bourgeois, Lilliam C. Cabonocey: The History, Customs, and Folklore of St. James Parish. New Orleans: Pelican Publishing Co., 1957. **F 377 .S134 B6**

St. John the Baptist Parish

Saint John the Baptist Parish was created in 1807.

St. Landry Parish

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

St. Martin Parish

Saint Martin Parish was created in 1807.

Sanders, Mary Elizabeth. Records of Attakapas District, Louisiana. Fort Worth: American Reference Publishers, 1970. **F 337 .A8 S3**

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St. Mary Parish

Saint Mary Parish was created in 1811 from Assumption Parish.

Broussard, Bernard. History of St. Mary Parish. 1977. **F 377 .S2 B76x**

St. Tammany Parish

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

Tangipahoa Parish

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

Baiamonte, John V. Immigrants in Rural America: A Study of the Italians of Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana. New York: Garland, 1990. **F 377 .T3 B34 1990**

Baiamonte, John V. Spirit of Vengeance: Nativism and Louisiana Justice 1921-1924. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1986. **Law Library KF 224 .R56 .B35 1986**

Tensas Parish

Tensas Parish was created in 1843 from Concordia Parish.

Terrebonne Parish

Terrebonne Parish was created in 1822 from LaFourche Parish.

Herbert, Donald J. South Louisiana Records: Church and Civil Records of Lafourche Terrebonne Parishes. Cecilia, Louisiana: Donald J. Herbert, 1987. **F 377 .L25 H4 1978 vol.1**

Union Parish

Union Parish was created in 1839 from Ouachita Parish.

Vermillion Parish

Vermillion Parish was created in 1844 from Lafayette Parish.

Vernon Parish

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

Cupit, John Thomas. A Brief History of Vernon Parish, Louisiana. Rosepine, Louisiana: J.T. Cupit, 1963. **F 377 .V6 C8**

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Washington Parish

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

Webster Parish

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

West Baton Rouge Parish

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

Carleton, Mark T. River Capital: An Illustrated History of Baton Rouge. Woodland Hills, CA: Windsor Publications, 1981. **F 378 .B33 C35**

Meyers, Rose. A History of Baton Rouge, 1699-1812. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1976. **F 379 .B33 M49**

West Carroll Parish

West Carroll Parish was created in 1877 from Carroll Parish.

McKoin, Florence Stewart. Between the Rivers: A West Carroll Chronicle. Baton Rouge: Claitor's Publishing Division, 1971. **F 377 .W47 M35x**

West Feliciana Parish

West Feliciana Parish was created in 1824 from Feliciana Parish.

Barrow, Bennet Hillard. Plantation Life in the Florida Parishes of Louisiana. New York: Columbia University Press, 1943. **F 377 .W5 B3**

Winn Parish

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

Other Resources

Louisiana Cemeteries

<http://www.idreamof.com/cemetery/la.html>

Louisiana Historical Maps

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/maps/louisiana/>

Cyndi's List Louisiana Links

<http://www.cyndislist.com/la.htm>

Local Links recommended for researching ancestors from New Orleans or Louisiana

<http://nutrias.org/links/genlinks/genlinks.htm>

Louisiana Resources at Rootsweb

<http://resources.rootsweb.com/usa/LA/>

Louisiana County Formation Maps

http://www.mylouisianagenealogy.com/la_maps/la_cf.htm

Louisiana Family History Centers

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

Louisiana State Archives

<http://www.sos.louisiana.gov/tabid/53/Default.aspx>

Cajuns in Louisiana, including information on place name changes

<http://www.thecajuns.com/>

FamilySearch Wiki

www.familysearchwiki.org