

## PEOPLE FINDERS THROUGH THE OLD SOUTH

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*Listed below by state are the most commonly used sources for locating a person within a time and place in the Old South. Unless noted otherwise all sources below are at Wallace State. For other states, see our handout on our general collection.*

### Native American Sources

The Native Americans ("Indians") of the Old South were ethnically diverse. Many persons have ancestors remembered as "Cherokee" who prove to have belonged to some long forgotten and extinct tribe of the southern coast such as the Chowanacs or the Pohattons. Other "Indian" ancestors prove to be white or African-American. Controversy exists on the ethnic origins of the Lumbees of North Carolina and the Melungeons of East Tennessee. (We have books and vertical files on both of these groups.) Many Indians were omitted from Federal census records prior to 1870 or identified as other races. See our handout on Native American research. Records of white traders among the Indians are found in the three Indian volumes of The Colonial Records of South Carolina series and Theresa M. Hicks, South Carolina Indians and Indian Traders.

For the Cherokees and whites among the Cherokees, we have on microfilm "The Cherokee Indian Letters" and the Guion Miller Cherokee Indian Claims, in microfilm drawer one (we also have the incomplete abstracts of those claims published by Jerry Wright Jordon, Cherokee By Blood). We have the complete 1835 roll of the Cherokees on microfilm in the same drawer and also abstracted in Bob Blankenship, Cherokee Roots (later Cherokee rolls or censuses in this book only includes Oklahoma and North Carolina Cherokees). Cherokees moving west before the removal are covered in David Keith Hampton, Cherokee Reservees. A list of whites among the Cherokees in 1797 is in Dorothy Potter, Passports of Southeastern Pioneers, p. 329, and a list of Indians declared white by the Georgia legislature is in Robert S. Davis, Jr., A Guide Native American (Indian) Research, pp. 27-8. For Creek Indians we have the "Creek Indian Letters," the 1832 census roll, and trading post records on microfilm. Our records of the Dawes Commission's Final Roll of the Five Civilized Tribes includes the Creeks, Seminoles, Choctaws, Chickasaws, and the Cherokees in Oklahoma. See our Dawes handout.

### Emigration Records

Books by Peter Wilson Coldham list people transported from England to America and the books by David Dobson do the same for Scotland. These books, however, represent only a tiny percentage of the British emigrants. Other sources that should be consulted include Nell Nugent, Cavaliers and Pioneers; our books on Barbados; and P. William Filby and Mary K. Meyer, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index. For non-British arrivals see M. S. Giuseppi, Naturalizations of Foreign Protestants in the American and West Indian Colonies; Albert

Bernhardt Faust, Lists of Swiss Emigrants in the Eighteenth Century to the American Colonies; Janie Revill, Original Lists of Protestant Immigrants to South Carolina 1763-1773; Don Yoder, Pennsylvania German Immigrants; and George F. Jones, Germans of Colonial Georgia. Also see our handout on migration and naturalization records.

### **Military Records of the South**

We have several books on the colonial Virginia militia but for the whole South, including all of the Carolinas and Georgia, we have Murtie June Clark, Colonial Soldiers of the South, 1732-1774. Also see our handout for the American Revolution and Murtie June Clark, Loyalists in the Southern Campaign (3 vols.) Aside for what survives for the individual states, Virgil White has published lists of Federal pensions for the various wars from 1775 to 1848. Also see his Index to Volunteer Soldiers 1784-1811. We also have his book for the Indian Wars, 1815 to 1858. Federal pension files themselves must be ordered from Military Records, National Archives, Washington, DC 20408 but such pension files frequently contain very worthwhile information. We have on microfilm the nation-wide index to Federal Civil War pensions and to correspondence received by the Federal Pension Office, 1889-1920. The enlistment records of the regular U. S. Army, 1798-1914, often give such data as county and state of birth for each soldier, including thousands of southerners. We have these on microfilm for 1798-1815, 1846-1848, and 1859-1866. Virginia born soldiers are published in Stuart Lee Butler, Virginians in the United States Army 1800-1815. We have handouts on our Civil War sources.

### **Virginia** (began 1609, effective settlement begun 1620s)

For basic information on how to do Virginia research see Carol McGinnis, Virginia Genealogy Sources & Resources and Robert Clay, Virginia Genealogical Resources. For the first Virginians, 1607-1660, see Ransom True, comp., Biographical Dictionary of Early Virginians, a copy of which is at the Birmingham Public Library. Migrating Virginia families followed rivers, valleys, and mountain passes. From the 1750s to the 1790s, Virginia had several major land rushes south and west as land opened up in other colonies and states. People from all parts of Virginia participated without any particular patterns of migration. For the earliest Virginians, we have several books but the most commonly used are Nell Nugent, Virginia Cavaliers and Pioneers Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, so far as six volumes covering 1623 to 1762. If you find someone in these books you need to read Richard Slatten, "Interpreting Headrights in Colonial Virginia Patents: Uses and Abuses," National Genealogical Society Quarterly 75 (1987): 169-79. (A copy of this article is in our Virginia vertical file.) Not in Nugent are the Northern Neck land grants found in Gertrude E. Gray, Virginia Northern Neck Land Grants. Among the many valuable card catalogs reproduced at the Internet website of the Library of Virginia is the card catalogs to Virginia land grants.

Most Virginia research will not be successful without some idea of the county of residence. Such information might be found in E. G. Swem, Virginia Historical Index; Stuart Lee Butler, Virginia in the United States Army 1800-1815; or the back issues of such periodicals as Virginia Genealogist, Magazine of Virginia Genealogy, and Southside Virginia (all of these periodicals are at the Birmingham and Huntsville Public Libraries). Other people finders for Virginia include Genealogies of Virginia Families; Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, Virginia's Colonial Soldiers; and Clayton Torrence, Virginia Wills and Administrations 1632-1800. A

special hand corrected copy of the latter and a card catalog of omitted estates is at the Virginia State Library and Archives in Richmond. The Virginia Genealogical Society has begun publishing supplemental indexes to the Torrence volume for 1800-1865. Other popular people finders for Virginia include the tax digests of 1782-1785 that are used in the so-called Bicentennial Edition 1790 Census for Virginia and the supplement by Augusta B. Fothergill, Virginia Tax Payers 1782-87. Netti Schreiner-Yantis, 1787 Census of Virginia is composed of tax records of Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky. However, most migrating families left Virginia before 1785 and reached Kentucky after 1787.

Virginia's many published books of identities of Revolutionary War soldiers serve as good people finders. We have most of these books and indexed National Archives microfilm of Virginia Revolutionary War service records. E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra, A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution, E 263 .V8 S26 provides locations of Revolutionary War units.

### **North Carolina** (1663, settlement was earlier)

For general research in North Carolina see Maurice R. Stirewalt, North Carolina Genealogical Research. We also have Wallace R. Draughon and William P. Johnson, North Carolina Genealogical Reference.

North and South Carolina began as the colony of Carolina, under the Lords Proprietors in 1663. Settlement in North Carolina from Virginia had begun earlier and all counties in North Carolina descend from the original county of Albemarle, each western most North Carolina county having western boundaries that essentially stretched into infinity. The two Carolinas became separate colonies in 1719 and royal colonies in 1729. All of the Lords Proprietors sold their interests back to the King except Lord Granville, who was given the northern two thirds of North Carolina. Lands there were granted by Lord Granville until his death in 1762, after which no lands there were granted until the state grants begin in 1778. Families that settle in North Carolina tend to remain in the same topography wherever they live from then on.

The most often used people finders for early North Carolina are William Saunders and Walter Clark, The Colonial and State Records of North Carolina; the two volume Clarence E. Ratcliff, North Carolina Taxpayers; indexes in the back issues of North Carolina Genealogical Society Quarterly; and the North Carolina Genealogical Society's two volume Index of North Carolina Ancestors.

We have on microfilm the North Carolina Revolutionary War accounts and vouchers, with their indexes; and the very incomplete WPA index to North Carolina tombstones. The former is a very good source for locating adult males in North Carolina during the years of American Revolution, 1775-1783. We also have on microfilm the colony and state-wide index to North Carolina land grants, arranged alphabetically by the first letter of the last name, then by county, and then alphabetically by the whole name. We have most of Margaret Hoffman's series of North Carolina land patents for Lords Proprietors, Royal, and Granville grants.

Another people finder is Thornton Mitchell's North Carolina Wills: A Testator Index. Our copies of the indexes to North Carolina marriage bonds are on microfiche and cd-rom computer

disk. However, bonds represent only a fraction of the marriages that took place in North Carolina. For what survives of the Quaker records of the Deep South see William Wade Hinshaw, Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy, volume one.

The best people finder for North Carolina, however, remains the Federal census records. However, the 1790 census for North Carolina is missing Caswell, Granville, and Orange counties; the 1810 census lacks Craven, Greene, New Hanover, and Wake counties; and the 1820 census lacks Currituck, Franklin, Martin, Montgomery, and Wake counties. On our census index shelf we have volume twenty-six of The State Records of North Carolina, the 1790 census with tax records as substitutes for the missing counties.

### **Tennessee** (settled 1770s, territory 1790, state in 1796)

Tennessee began as the western counties of North Carolina and many of Tennessee's first families were North Carolinians. The Revolutionary War service bounty lands given by North Carolina to its troops were in Tennessee. Although given to the United States in 1790, Tennessee is **NOT** a Federal land state. (We have on microfilm an index to Tennessee state land grants that serves as a people finder.) The Tennessee River bisects Tennessee twice, roughly dividing the state into East (Knoxville and Chattanooga), Middle (Nashville), and West (Memphis) Tennessee.

Tennessee does not have a surviving state-wide census until 1830. The 1820 census of Tennessee is only the counties of Middle Tennessee. The Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville; the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Public Library; the McClung Collection of the Knoxville-Knox County Public Library; and the Memphis Public Library all have famous card catalogs for use as people finders and sources of personal information that help to make up for Tennessee's lost census records. These card catalogs are so extensive that they even merit searching for families in other states. See our hand outs on Tennessee research.

Byron Sistler has published the Federal census records for Tennessee in an alphabetical format through 1860. We also have his index to the 1870 census of Tennessee; the 1880 census index for East Tennessee; and such other people finders as his indexes to Tennessee estate records, 1779-1861; early tax records; marriages; and War of 1812 rosters. We have the Southern Historical Press books of abstracts of Tennessee newspapers, marriages, tax records; and Civil War biographical questionnaires. We have on microfilm indexes to Tennessee birth records, 1908-1912, and death records, 1908-1940.

### **South Carolina** (begun 1670, separate colony in 1710)

The best guide for South Carolina research is Brent Howard Holcomb, A Guide to South Carolina Genealogical Research. For statewide sources for information on South Carolinians see The South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research; Richard Cote, Local and Family History in South Carolina and The Dictionary of South Carolina Biography and the indexes to the back issues of South Carolina Historical Magazine (the latter is not at Wallace). South Carolina's archives and libraries all have detailed, published, catalogs of their manuscript collections. The most important of these catalogs is A Guide to the Manuscript Collections of the South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina; South Carolina Historical Society

Manuscript Guide; and The South Carolina Archives: A Temporary Summary Guide. Also see our South Carolina handout. A collection of very detailed and indexed early maps of South Carolina is Robert Mills, Mills Atlas of the State of South Carolina. Also see Claude Henry Neuffer, Names in South Carolina and the COM index mentioned below.

The first settlers of South Carolina (i. e. the first families of Charleston and coastal South Carolina) are found in A. S. Salley and R. Nicholas Olsberg, Warrants for Lands in South Carolina 1672-1711 and Caroline T. Moore, Records of the Secretary of the Province of South Carolina 1692-1721. South Carolina had large settlements of French Huguenots, Germans, Swiss, Quakers, and Scots-Irish (see for example, Janie Revill, A Compilation of the Original Lists of Protestant Immigrants to South Carolina 1763-1773). Most new comers to South Carolina came from more northern American colonies, such as Virginia, in the 1750s and the 1770s. See Brent Holcomb's series Petitions for Land From the South Carolina Council Journals. South Carolina's border with North Carolina remained unlocated for many years and many families did not know which Carolina that they resided. See for example, Brent Holcomb, North Carolina Land Grants in South Carolina.

We have several miscellaneous books of South Carolina colonial records, published by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and a complete collection of the printed volumes of the South Carolina Revolutionary War stub indent books. Until 1785, all local government in South Carolina was conducted in Charleston. For colonial South Carolina see Clara A. Langley and Brent Holcomb, South Carolina Deed Abstracts; Mary Bondurant Warren, South Carolina Jury Lists, 1718 Through 1783; and Caroline T. Moore and Agatha Aimar Simmons, Abstracts of the Wills of the State of South Carolina. Also see An Index to Deeds of the Province and State of South Carolina 1719-1785 and Mary Bondurant Warren, Citizens and Immigrants --South Carolina, 1768. For the Revolutionary War years, 1775-1781, see Bobby Gilmer Moss, Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution. We have the ESCN Database Reports, a monster index to South Carolina newspapers for 1732-1780s.

However, the best people finder for early South Carolina is the COM Index on microfilm, an index to early South Carolina persons and places. It is also available on the Internet through the web site of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. The records indexed are at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. We have the South Carolina Revolutionary War accounts audited that are indexed in the COM index and a handout on the COM index. We also have on microfilm the index to the petitions received by the South Carolina legislature, 1785-1865, a good source for odd miscellaneous information on people and places. Federal census records for South Carolina are missing only the 1800 census for Richland District [South Carolina counties were called districts from 1800 to 1868.]

South Carolina state-wide indexes to county records include Mary Bondurant Warren, South Carolina Wills 1670-1853 (we have typescripts on microfilm for every county except Charleston). South Carolina did not have regular county registrations of marriage records until 1911. However, Brent Holcomb and Barbara R. Langdon have published books of South Carolina marriages, some state-wide and others by county, implied in estate and related records. These books also serve as cross reference indexes to estate records. Brent Holcomb has also published books of abstracts of South Carolina marriage and death notices from; abstracts of county records; and South Carolina Naturalizations 1783-1850.

## Georgia (founded 1733, significant settlement 1773-1838)

The best general guides to Georgia research are Robert S. Davis, Jr., Georgia Genealogical Workbook and Research in Georgia. James E. Dorsey published Georgia Genealogy and Local History: a Bibliography, which since 1983 was updated annually first in the Georgia Historical Quarterly and then in Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly. The latter and Georgia Genealogical Magazine are the state's two state-wide sources of information and both are, generally, indexed. Other state-wide sources for Georgia include Robert S. Davis, Jr., The Georgia Black Book: Morbid, Macabre, and Sometimes Disgusting Records of Genealogical Value (2 vols) and A Researchers Library of Georgia (2 vols.)

Georgia was never a "botany bay," penal colony, or debtors colony. It was created by a non-profit board of trustees to give worthy middle class, non-Roman Catholic, families a chance at a better life. The settlers sent to America by the trustees are included in E. Merton Coulter, A List of the Early Settlers of Georgia (we do not have this book at Wallace). The settlers remaining when Georgia became a royal colony in 1752 are in Pat Bryan, Entry of Claims of Georgia Land Holders. Colonial Georgians are included in Allen D. Candler, The Colonial Records of the State of Georgia (we have this on microfilm with special unpublished indexes); Mary B. Warren, Georgia Land Owners Memorials; and her Georgia Governor and Council Journals (3 vols.). Also see our colonial Georgia handout.

Until counties were formed in 1777, all local government in Georgia centered in Savannah, the colonial capitol. The R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation published every name indexes to some of these records: an Index to Georgia Colonial Conveyances and Index to Probate Records of Colonial Georgia. Also see William H. Dumont, Colonial Georgia Genealogical Data 1748-1783 and Abstracts of Colonial Wills of the State of Georgia 1733-1777. We have on microfilm, with its comprehensive index, The Revolutionary Records of the State of Georgia. Also see Robert S. Davis, Jr., Georgia Citizens and Soldiers of the American Revolution; Marion R. Hemperley, Military Certificates of Georgia; Mary B. Warren, Georgia's Revolutionary Bounty Land Records 1783-1785; and Lucian Lamar Knight, Georgia's Roster of the Revolution.

The Federal census records are lost for Georgia for 1790-1810 and for the counties of Franklin, Rabun, and Twiggs for 1820. The best census substitutes are the land grant records. The lands for the eastern quarter of Georgia, including along the Savannah River and the coast, are listed in Index to the Headright and Bounty Grants of Georgia (we also have on microfilm an index to land plats for those grants). On CD-ROM disk, we have Mary Abbe's consolidated index to Georgia's early headright and bounty land grants and plats. For the rest of Georgia, the lands were granted by lottery. See our hand out on Georgia census substitutes and our handout on Georgia land grant and land lottery records. All of the Georgia heads of families in the 1805 land lottery are in Virginia S. Wood, 1805 Georgia Land Lottery. For the later lotteries--1807, 1820, 1821, 1827, 1832 Cherokee, 1832 Gold, and 1833--only the winners are known and are published.

Georgia military records on microfilm include "Georgia Military Affairs, 1775-1838," each volume with an every name index. We also have Judy Swaim Kratovil, Index to War of 1812

Service Records for Volunteer Soldiers From Georgia; and Dorothy Payne, Georgia Pensioners (2 vols.) We also have WW I draft registrations on microfilm for Georgia.

State-wide indexes to local sources include Mary B. Warren, Georgia Marriages 1811 Through 1820 (for earlier marriages we have Colonial [sic] Georgia Marriages). Selections from early Georgia tax lists are included in R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation, An Index to Georgia Tax Records (5 volumes) and Ruth Blair, Some Early Tax Digests of Georgia. Ted O. Brooke lists early Georgia wills in his book In the Name of God Amen: Georgia Wills 1733-1860. Mary B. Warren has included marriage, death, and divorce notices, 1763-1829 in her two volume Marriages and Deaths (also see Folks Huxford, Genealogical Material From Legal Notices in Early Georgia Newspapers and his Marriages and Obituaries From Early Georgia Newspapers.) We have on microfilm an index to Savannah newspapers, 1763-1845, that covers most of Georgia to the 1820s and a printed index to the Augusta Chronicle, 1786-1830 (for later years see the web site [Augustaarchive.com](http://Augustaarchive.com)). Later years of Georgia newspapers are included in the more than 100 volumes of Georgia newspaper abstracts by Fred Hartz, Tad Evans, and Elizabeth Kilbourne.

Persons on the Georgia frontier can be picked up in the "Cherokee Indian Letters" and "The Creek Indian Letters," indexed typescripts on microfilm; Dorothy Potter, Passports of Southeastern Pioneers; and Mary B. Warren, Whites Among the Cherokees.

#### **Alabama** (begun at Mobile 1699, territory 1817, state 1818)

Mobile has been under many flags of many nations. It has many manuscript repositories (see our Mobile vertical file) of that city are valuable for studying its early families. We have indexes in book form and microfilm of many early Mobile records.

For locating someone in the early settlement of Alabama consult The Territorial Papers of the United States (we have this in book form), The American State Papers (we have this on microfilm although the index is in book form as Philip McMullin, Grassroots of America); and the abstracts of first land entries in the land office books of Alabama, published by Marilyn Barefield/Hahn. Also see our hand out on Federal land records. All lands in Alabama were granted through the United States government.

Alabama Federal census records are lost prior to 1830. Fragments of state census records and tax records, some from before statehood, have been published as census substitutes. Also of value in locating early families of Alabama are the family folders from the Alabama Department of Archives and History (we have these on microfilm) as well as James Edmonds Saunders, Early Settlers of Alabama; Flora D. England, Alabama Notes (4 vols.); and Pauline Gandrud and Kathleen Jones, Marriage, Death and Legal Notices From Early Alabama Newspapers, 1819-1893. For North Alabama there is the five volume series Annals of Northeast Alabama. Pauline Gandrud's and Kathleen Paul Jones's correspondence concerning their research in early Alabama families is indexed and available in Special Collections, University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa Library. Results of their research has been published by county.

The Alabama Department of Archives and History has several good people finders on microfilm that are also available at Wallace. These sources include indexes to military service records, by war and then alphabetical, from the American Revolution to WW I (we also have on microfilm the WW I draft board registrations); the Alabama Confederate pensions to resident veterans and widows of veterans; and the obituaries and anniversaries from Alabama newspapers, late 1940s to 1979. In book form, we have the 1907 census of Alabama Confederate veterans, with a state wide index.

For modern research we also have the index to Alabama death certificates, 1908-1959; marriages, 1936-1969; and divorces, 1950-1959. We have on cd-rom an incomplete index to marriages on cd-rom for much earlier years. Also see our handout on special Alabama sources and Marilyn Barefield, [Researching in Alabama](#).

**The Family and Regional History Program**, Wallace State College, P. O. Box 2000, Hanceville, AL 35077-2000 (Phone: 256-352-8265) is on the fifth floor of the college library. The college is located near Cullman, Alabama, and is on Highway 31, a few miles east of Interstate-65 (take the Hanceville Highway 91 Exit), only one hour from Birmingham, Gadsden, and Huntsville. Our extensive and growing collection of research materials includes books, periodicals, microfilm, microfiche, cd-rom disks, computer programs, family folders, and much more. We have all of the catalogs to the holdings to the Genealogical Society of Utah and we are the first non-LDS institution to be able to borrow from their three millions records and books from around the world. Our collection, however, specializes in the southern states, the American Revolution, the Civil War, and southern Indian research. The holdings on the Cullman-Blount-Winston County area are particularly extensive. We have equipment to allow you to copy photographs and we microfilm old records of interest to our researchers. The hours are 8 to 8, Monday through Thursday; 8 to 4PM Friday; and 9 AM to 3 PM Saturday. The collection is completely open to the general public. A list of our holdings is available on the Cullman GenWebPage of the Internet.

The Program also offers college credit courses in genealogy from basic courses to computers to such specialties as court house, Georgia, and Civil War era research. Some courses are purely research field trips to archives and libraries across the South. Courses are tuition free to persons over age sixty and with special arrangements for persons not taking the courses for credit. Our introduction to genealogy course is available on video.