



The Georgia Archives holds:

- Permanent state government records
- Copies of county records (before 1900)
- Private manuscript collections
- Search room resources

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Step 1: Find ancestors in the Federal Census

- The Census tells you when and where an ancestor lived- you will need this information when searching for vital records, county records, and state records.
- Start from the most recent Census (1940) and work your way back.
- Georgia Archives provides free onsite access to Census records through ancestry.com.

VITAL RECORDS

- Birth certificate: State record
- Marriage certificate: County Probate Court record
- Divorce record: County Superior Court record
- Death certificate: State record

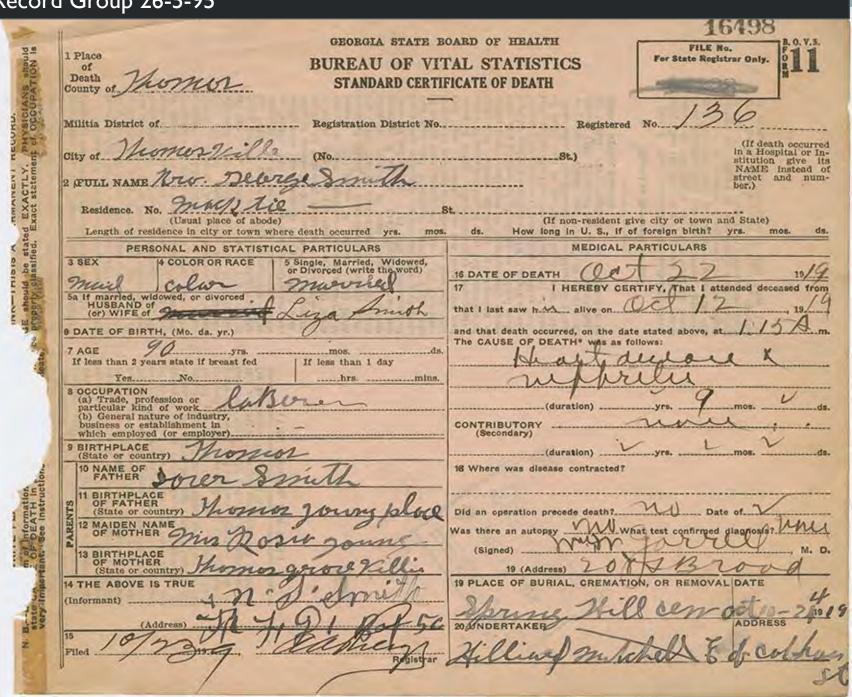
Death Certificates

The State of Georgia began issuing death certificates in 1919.

Closed to the public for **75** years:

- 1919-1941: Georgia Archives and online at familysearch.org (free)
- I942-Present: State Vital Records
 Office or from county where the death occurred

Research tip: Atlanta, Augusta, Macon, and Savannah issued death & birth records before 1919. Held by local vital records office/health department. For more information see *Georgia's Vital Records* handout.



Birth certificates are not available from the Georgia Archives

Order birth records (1919-present) from State Office of Vital Records or from county where the birth occurred.

- State of Georgia began recording birth certificates in 1919.
- Birth records closed to the public for 100 years in Georgia.
- 100 years after the birth, the record becomes a public record and it comes to the Georgia Archives.

County Probate Court and County Superior Court

Marriage certificates

1805-Present: County Probate Court

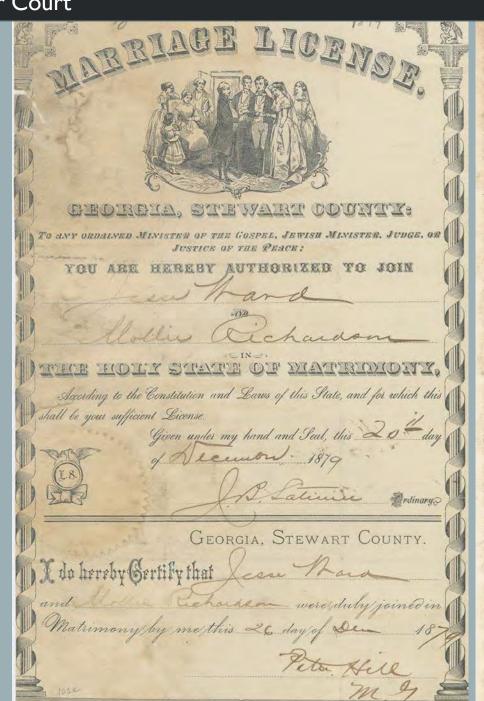
1805-1900: Georgia Archives county microfilm collection/ familysearch.org

Divorce records

1793-1833: Georgia Laws and in county Superior Court records

1833-Present: County Superior Court

1965-1999: Index to divorce records on microfiche at the Georgia Archives



An Act to divorce or separate Walter Billingslew and Jeane his Wife formerly Jeane Walson; and for protecting each of them in their respeclive Estates. In Sencite, Read 1th time January 20. 1997. 2° lime Turneary 21. 1797. 3" time January 25. 1797. In the House of Representatives, Read 1 time Tanuary 30 th 1997.
20 time February 4 1997. Jas MSimmony



Microfilm County Records (1777-1900)

- GA Archives holds a large collection of county records on microfilm. Includes: estate records, marriages, deeds...
- No records for counties created after 1900
- For recent county records (after 1900)
 visit the county court house where
 originals held



Georgia county boundaries changed over time: 1915 1847 1823 of Georgia Southwest corner GRADY area (modern day) Atlanta

How do you know if you are looking for records in the right county?

- Use census and tax records to verify which county your family was counted in
- Check Georgia Counties: Their Changing Boundaries, full text online:

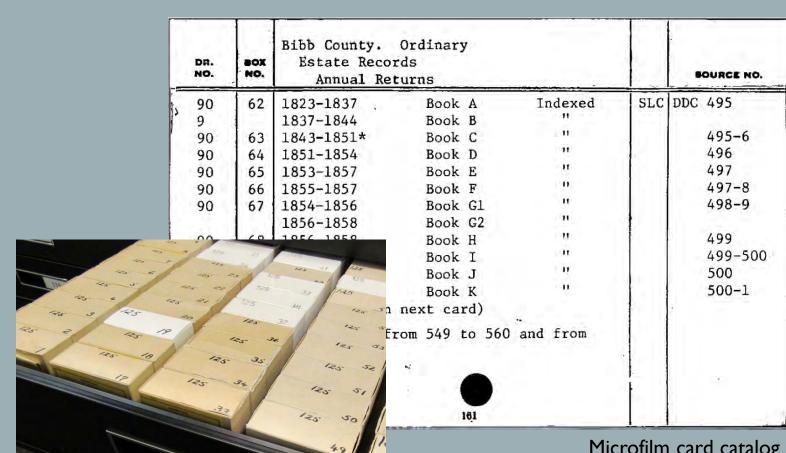
http://vault.georgiaarchives.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/adhoc/id/4377/rec/l



Microfilm Library

- Scan to a personal flashdrive for free
- Prints are 30 cents a page
- To find microfilm locations use microfilm card catalog; available on-site or online:

http://vault.georgiaarchives.org/cdm/la ndingpage/collection/countycards



Microfilm card catalog



Probate Court

Also called Inferior Court or Ordinary Court

Estate records

Available on microfilm- Some probate records available online:

Ancestry: Georgia, Wills and Probate

Records, 1742-1992

Familysearch.org (free): Georgia Probate

Records, 1742-1990

- Marriage Records
- Apprenticeship/Indenture Registers, 1800-1930

Available on microfilm

Some types of estate records:

Wills: Disposes of property and names executor; may name members of the family and specify relationships

Inventory and Appraisement: List of property and its value

Annual Return: Lists transactions during the year to settle the estate

Guardianship records: Lists minor orphans of the deceased and names their guardian(s)

Widow's/Year's Support: Lists property available for the support of the widow- may name children

Administrator
Bonds/Letters/Appointment:
Names the administrator(s) of the estate

Vouchers and Receipts: Names of heirs signing for their share of estate

Some things that wills may tell you...

My Hantation, Mnown as the Unwels place bentaining about 1000. Acres Also the following

land in The 12th District No 214 in Henry county my

Gives description or location of land owned. Look for number of acres and lot and district numbers.

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Bill a man about Irrent four years of ago his evife malina
about Iwenty too frans of ago and their infant Child
about four months old manus many and awaged manter
but about In years old.

"...Bill a man about 25 years of age, his wife Malisa about 22 years of age and their infant child about 4 months old named Mary and one girl named Ruth about 10 years old..."

Before emancipation in 1865, wills may list names of slaves and sometimes relationships between slaves. Inventory and appraisements may also list slaves by name.

& Momente My Son John I Jackson and my brother James W. Jackson as my Evel. to Carry out this my last Will & Testament

I Will I bequealle to my belove Daughter Memethe A Maris the Gallowing nego Indicates family relationships

2 m I Will and bequeath to my beloved Wife Nancy D. Jackson the Hantation wheren I now live boutaining Mean 1000. Acres

County Probate Court – Estate Records Inventory of the Personal property of Dock George The condition of the above obligation is such, That whereas the said Demary 6.19 alderin this day appointed guardian to Bryom & I Thaw, G. Palde in orphansof Janus & Baldwir du? now if the Demary E. Balderin 2 Trocars do well and truly demean himself as guardian aforesaid, agreeable to letters of guar-1 Sett spring lancets & base Morters & Pestols dianship, bearing even date herewith, and agreeable to law in such case made and 6 are containing 1 Hule. Excerpt from a Guardianship record from Oglethorpe County, 1828 day : Silver Table spoons silver deviding spoon In the matter of the Application of Mrs. A. E. & Banks Jea spoons widow of 4 M. Banks , late of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, 1 for at Decanters & Tobacco pipes -I dett Surgical Pocket Instruments deceased, for year's support for herself and minor children of said deceased to-wit: Gold Watch. Chain & seal Colley Danks, 17 years of age, Ora Banks, 137 dog: duck Towels old diaper Naphins It appearing to the Court That a majority of the appraisers appointed by this Court to set apart and assign to the said widow and minor chilled of said deceased a year's support have 1 Looking Glass -

It appearing to the Court That a majority of the appraisers appointed by this Court to set apart and assign to the said widow and minor childer of said deceased a year's support have filed their report within the time required by law, setting apart to said widow and minor child like 2 house wayon— walked at Ten Collans (\$1000) and an Equity of redemption in a Certain tract of land lying and being in the 237th

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1 Lot smooking Tobacco

Excerpt from Oglethorpe County Apprenticeship/Indenture Register, 1867

Do herby build wite Richard Polmold of Maid County Hamylin I pan Ola Lieg light Man Old and Emma four Man old orphase Musicon of Phoda a woman of Color Man drown Sed; Paid Ihm Musicon having no Estate for this Dufper and mantanance. The Daid Ihm Minion to air Hung Jucy and Emma an herby Bound wite the Daid Richard Polmola with ta da Olivera An herby Bound wite the Daid Richard Polmola with ta da Olivera America at the age of twenty one Man, to Orma him the Daid America as file hand, and house Dervaire,

"...do hereby bind unto Richard P. Arnold of said County Henry ten year old Lucy eight year old and Emma four year old orphan minors of Rhoda a woman of color now deceased, said three minors having no estate for their support and maintenance. The said three minors to wit Henry, Lucy and Emma are hereby bound unto the said Richard P Arnold until each shall arrive at the age of twenty one years to serve him the said Arnold as field hands and house servants..."



Superior Court

Deeds

Available on microfilm; originals held at the county Superior Court.

Tax Digests

Some available on microfilm/microfiche; some available as original records; some pre-1890 digests are scanned and on ancestry.com.

Criminal and civil case files

Some early case files available as original records at the Georgia Archives; others held by the County Superior Court.

other part, witnessell that the sais following does by these presence grant lang and tell and convey undo the Said Job Brown a certain parcel of land Detrated in Franklin + Hart Country, water of Double Branch Creek forming landy of Daia & P. Bourn James Cheek & others, being the place on which 6. Brown built a mile also encluding fifteen acres formuly Known as the Hannah Milme pace, bought and added to Daice mill place, bounded by the following bythe following lines Deguming at a Sio. on west side of Mill branch above Ponce, There ce &. 65, w. 23 chains a a Maple There es 4.40, C.

Franklin County Deed, 1839

"...a certain parcel of land situated in Franklin and Hart County, on waters of Double Branch Creek bounding lands of said J.P. Bowers, James Cheek and others, being the place on which E. Bowers built a mill also including fifteen acres formerly known as the Hannah Milner place..."

This Indenture made and en-I tend into this 28th day of Decem wen fill Bowers of Franklin Count of a Job Bowers of Fast Counts of the truffelle that the sais following does see grant bargan tell and convey and for Brown a certain parcel of ted in Franklin + Hart Country, I Double Branch Creek forming a f. Brung James Check & others, ace on which & Browny built a mill ing fifteen acres formuly Known with Milme pace, bought and a mill place, bounded by the following ing lines Deguming at a 80. ide of Mill branch above Pond, w. 23 chains & a Maple There es & 40. E. 26 33: 6, 3.50. What, Oak, S. 5. 6. W. 11.3'0. in there with done front line to a Pine Deare, of Howard Lury, therex with Howards fine to the mule Branch thence up said Brand nee Vashwardly to a What Cake, more Mill to a opple bee, theree, J. 65:613.57. Por line to a 0,6, 0. 65: 6, 10. to a fector thence ranch to the Legensing 9,0, Containing acres more or less, To have and

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And I the Said of P. Bowey do warrout

and well ever defend the right and title of said land to the said the

County Superior Court

Tax Digests

List:

- Males ages 21-60
- Women who owned property
- Acreage (if any)
- Taxes paid

Early tax digests list

- Neighbors
- Number of slaves
- Original land owner
- Creeks or rivers on the land

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County Superior or Probate Court

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Sovey King	28	Patsey King	From " "	"	11	11 11 11 11	
Edward See King	. 17	Clevey King	11 11 . 11	"	1	Saborer.	"
Robert a. Harper	41	Polly Keating.	angusta.	11	"	Piano Fruer.	mulatto.
martha Kelly	42	Juno Kelly	1/	. //	11	Washer & Ironer.	Brown.
Jane Johnson	37	Naucy Johnson.	"	//	11	Seamstress.	Mulatto.
Laura Scott	23	ann Scott.	"	"	"	//	"
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▲ Richmond County Free Persons of Color Register, 1863, RG 221-2-3.

Free Persons of Color registers, 1796-1864

Registers list name, age, occupation, and may list property and white sponsor.

Available for 21 counties, and I city: Appling, Baldwin, Camden, Chatham, City of Savannah, Clarke, Columbia, Elbert, Emanuel, Hancock, Jefferson, Jones, Liberty, Lincoln, Lumpkin, Morgan, Pulaski, Richmond, Taliaferro, Thomas, Warren, Wilkes.

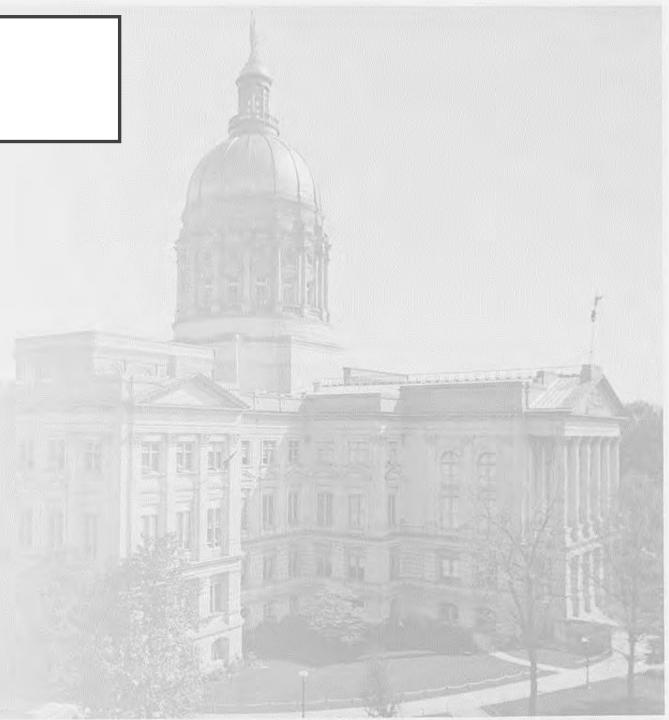
County. County. Name Mouser Spencer, Amy Spencer, Thos. Spencer, Skip, Samuel Williams, John Beckett, Mary Carley, Curtis Beckett, Mary Beckett, Rachel Francis, Harriet, Rachel Francis, Hhoda Goseer, and child William. The above named free persons of color, have registered their names—agreeably, and if no one gamsays the same, I will, on the first Monday in July, grant certificates of registry to them as free persons of color." JOHN CHARLTON, Clerk.

▲ Savannah Daily Republican, Jul. 11, 1820 -- page 1

STATE RECORDS

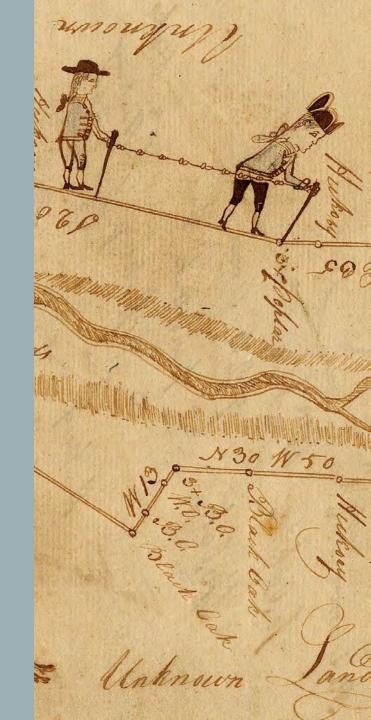
A few examples...

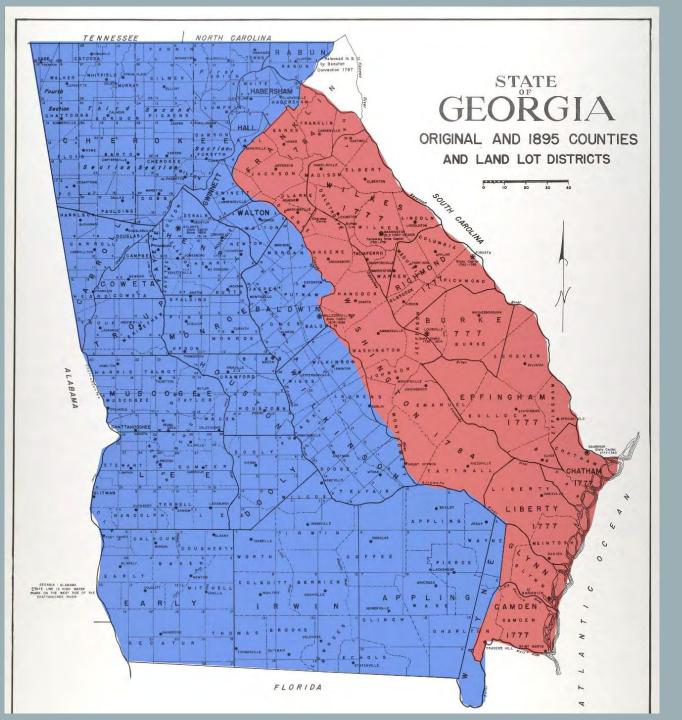
- Governor's records
- Records of the State Legislature
 - Laws
 - House and Senate Journals
- Surveyor General records
 - Original land grants and plats
 - County and historic maps
- Prison System records



Use Surveyor General's records for:

- Land research
- Documenting ancestors in early Georgia
- County or city research
- Documenting early military service





Land Distribution Systems used in Georgia



Headright and Bounty Land Grants (1756-1909)



Land Lottery Land Grants (1805-1832)

Land grant to Mary Sharp in Burke County, 1791, RG 3-4-12. STATE OF GEORGIA. tue of the powers in me vested I HAVE given and granted, and, by these Presents, in the name and behalf of the faid state, DO give and grant unto heirs and effigns forever, ALL that tract or parcel of acres, fituate, lying, and being, in the country of Burke State, and butting and bounding frontheast by Vacant Cand - Southeast by Bafis land -Southwest by Dutch Survey and-Prottowert by Gade, land

Georgia By the Court of Justines of the County of Burks -You are heroby authorized and no quired to admousure and lay out or cause to be admonstered and land out unto Mary Sharp, a brack of Land which shall contain Two Hundred Auros, in the vaid County of Burks, adjoining Land of Drung Bass and John Handborry and the Dutch Survey (on hor hoad rights.)

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mander in Chief in and over the faid State, and of the Militia thereof,

in pursuance of the Act for opening the Land-office, and by vir-in me vested I HAVE given and granted, and, by these Presents, of the faid state, DO give and grant unto heirs and singus forever, ALL that tract or parcel of

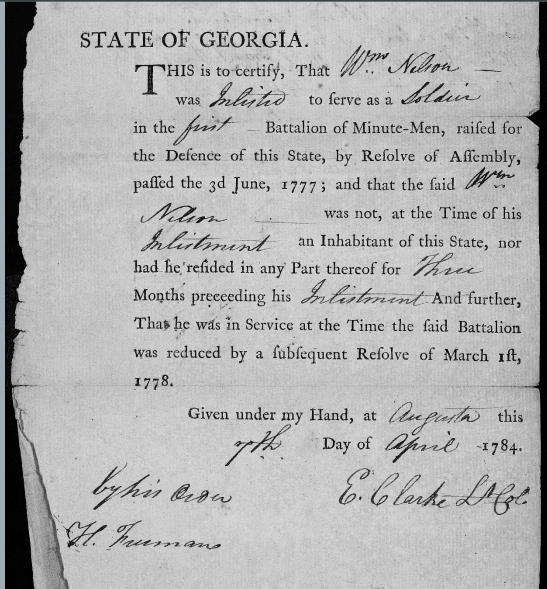
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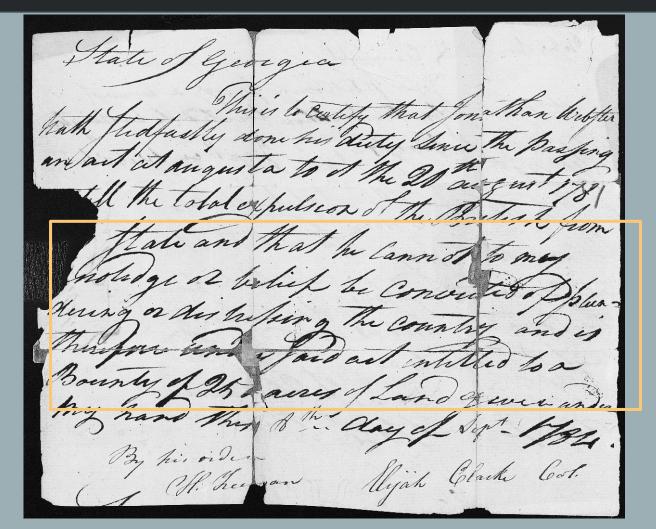
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bom these Presents shall come, GREETING:

Surveyor General's Records, Record Group 3



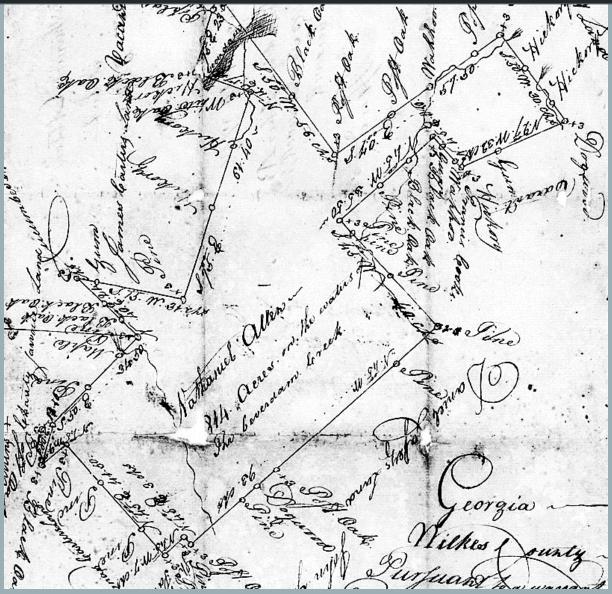
Available online at familysearch.org: Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783-1909 Listed alphabetically by name.



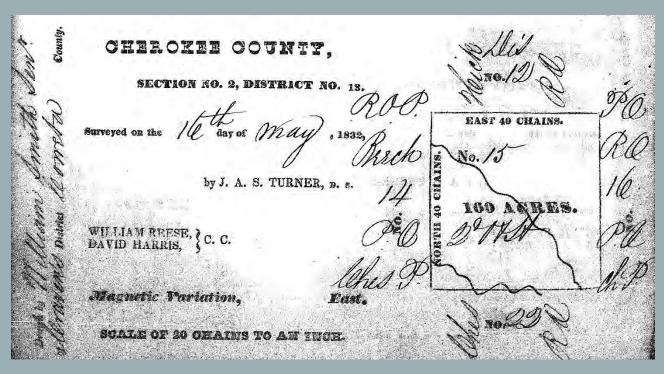
Surveyor General, Headright and Bounty documents, RG 3-4-5

"...he cannot to my knowledge or belief be convicted of plundering or disturbing the country and is therefore under said act entitled to a Bounty of 25 acres of Land."

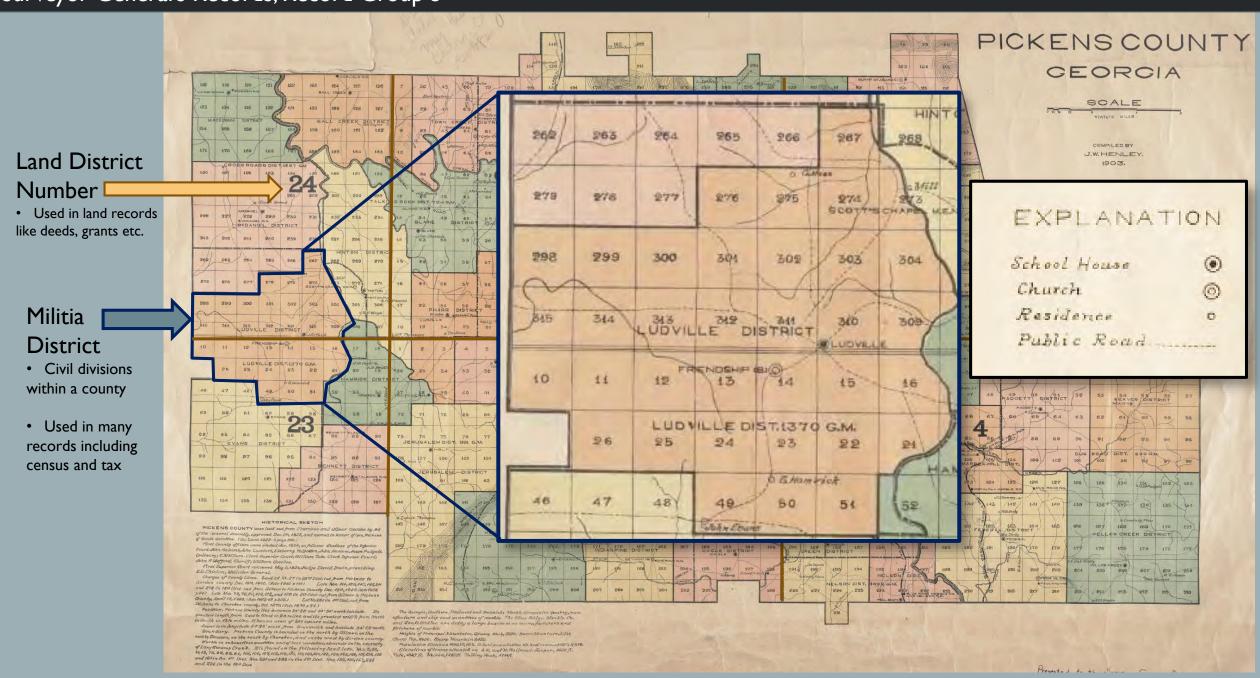
Surveyor General's Records, Record Group 3



Headright plat, Wilkes County, Georgia Granted to Nathaniel Allen, 1790



1832 Land lottery plat, original Cherokee County, Georgia Section 2, District 13, Land lot 15 Lot won by William Smith Senr. of Craven's Georgia Militia District, Coweta County



Surveyor General's Records, Record Group 3 Johnsons Orchard EXPLANATION Willinghams School House 304 268 309 Church Orchard Residence Simmont Place WNO./2 Public Road EAST 40 CHAINS. S.M.Merr Norton Place Krch & No. 15 200 305 233 308 10 ober's Or chard 160 ARRES. PHILADELPHIA Willingham's Gilles 199 307 Orchard Original 1832 plat 🦠 A.D. Jones R.B. Striplin JASPER W. Evanse Athertons Land Lot Number ason Used in land records Charle Burgess Place like deeds, grants etc.

Prisons, Record Group 21

Na Si ES Crime. When Received. Sentence Expires. Convieted. Occupation. Dempt Joyd Jarceny Jam house 15 VOch V Hoven Oct 16 1846 Modern V James Jergies 1 22 15 VIII Dock V Black J Black J Helder J James J John J J			A.			1.2			ź	Height.	Color of Hair.	(Color of Eyes
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Central Register of Convicts, 1817-1976

A State of Georgia prison system register listing prisoners convicted of felonies and misdemeanors. Lists information about the prisoner and sentence. Name searchable on ancestry.com

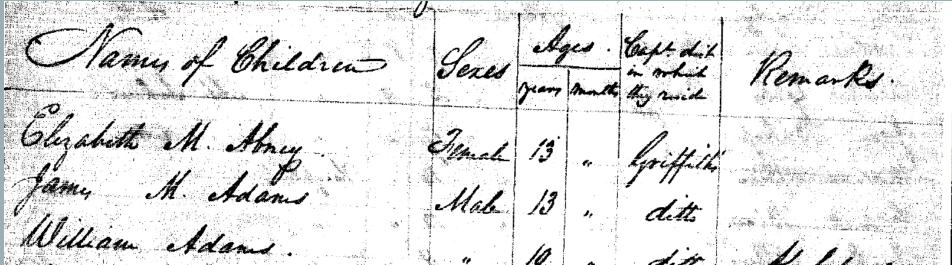
Personal Description, Marks, &c.	Date of Discharge.				
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Office of the Governor, Record Group 1 RETURN , State of GEORGIA, by the Board of Registration, for the Fresh Election District, in pursua REGISTERED in Precinct No. TIME OF RESIDENCE. **Returns of** In County. COLOR. In State. In Precine NAMES OF VOTERS. DATE OF REGISTRY. Qualified Voters, N. C 1867 Huff Cornellus 481 Cold West Allen Includes African West William American and white men Harris Prince over the age of 21 who Adams Munday took an oath of Sandiford James & White 1 34 allegiance to the United Cold David Sam 244 States government after Grant Isaac 48 the Civil War. Charlton March 45 Porter Joshua 2 24 West Allen West William 24% Harris Frence Adams Munday 2431 Sandiford James & 500 1 Butler Moses Mathews W H 251 Bryant Moses 4 mm Walker Daniel 252 Chatham County, RG 1-1-108

Office of the Governor, Record Group 1

Academy and Poor School lists sent to the Governor, 1826-1866, RG 1-1-117

May include student or parent's name, age, grade level, attendance and curriculum. Available on microfilm.



Researcher tip:

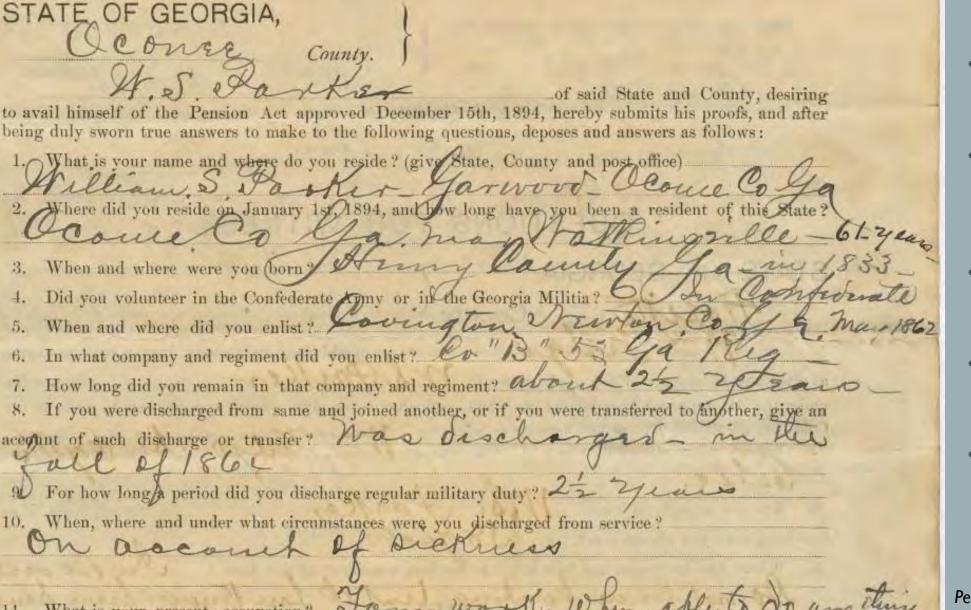
Before 1850, the Census only lists the name of the head of household-children are not named. School lists are one of the records that name children before 1850.

Jones County Poor School list, 1829, RG 1-1-117

names of the state of the state

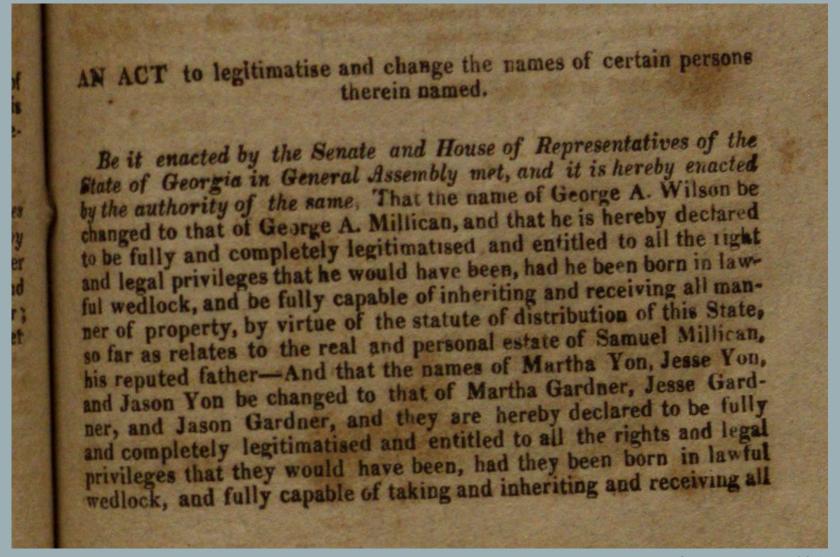
Jones County Clinton Academy report, 1834, RG 1-1-117

QUESTIONS FOR APPLICANT.



- Granted by State where the veteran or widow lived
- Granted to men who served in Confederate army or State Militia or to soldier's widow
- Granted between 1879-1960, most granted between 1895-1920.
- To receive pension applicant was poor and/or disabled.
- Available in the Georgia Archives Virtual Vault.

Pension for W.S. Parker, 1895, RG 58-1-1.



Georgia Laws, 1826

Early Georgia laws approved divorces, the freeing of slaves, name changes, and payments for death or injury.

Server S A GALILEO Digital Initiative Database



Vanishing Georgia Collection

- 18,000 images
- Images came from people who brought their photographs to be copied by archives staff
- Online in the Virtual Vault; Search by keyword, county, town, subject
- Use the keyword search to search for named people in the photographs









Search Vanishing Georgia online:

http://vault.georgiaarchives.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/vg2

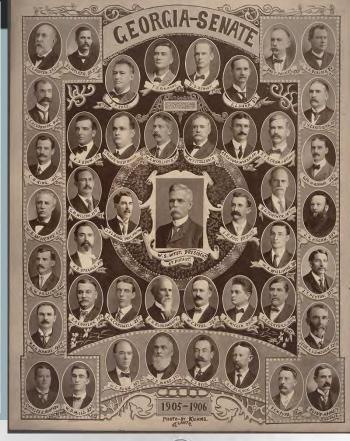
Visual Materials

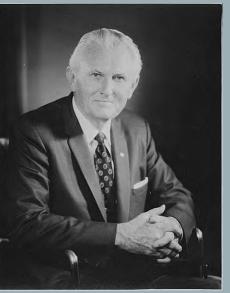
Other visual materials collections include photographs of:

- State Legislators, 1880s-2000s
- State government officials
- Individuals or groups who had pictures taken with the Governor, 1970s-early 2000s





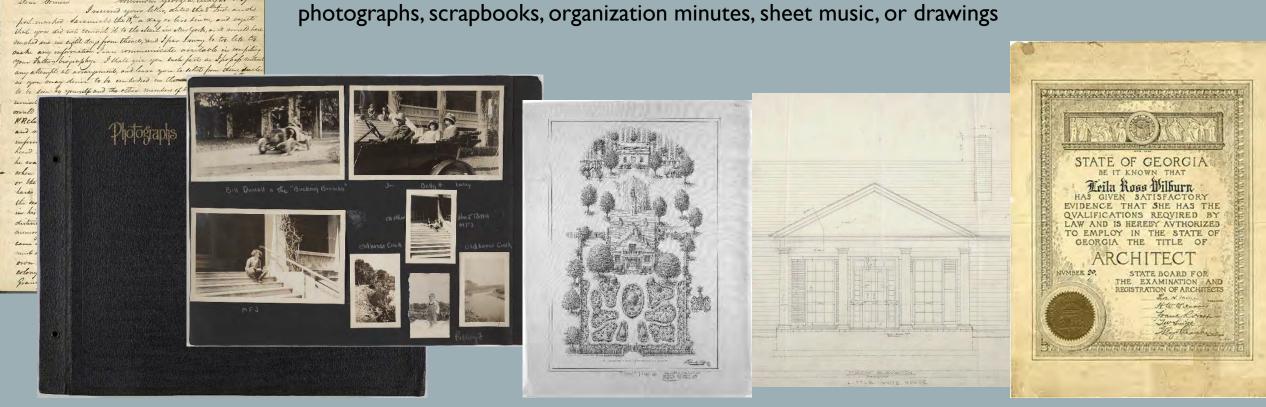






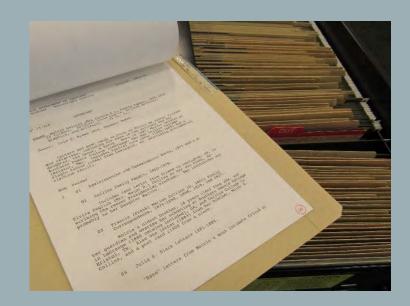
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

- Manuscript collections are private papers (not created by state government/agencies) donated to the Georgia Archives
- Some are available on microfilm; others are only available as original records
- Manuscript collections may include business records, correspondence, photographs, scrapbooks, organization minutes, sheet music, or drawings



A few ways to search manuscripts....

- Manuscript collection records are searchable in GIL, the online catalog: http://gil.georgiaarchives.org/
- Use the on-site card catalog to search by the collection name, subject, type (diary, letters...), or geographic location
- Inventories of larger manuscript collections are kept in the black vertical file cabinet in the microfilm library







HOW TO VIEW ORIGINAL RECORDS AT THE GEORGIA ARCHIVES



Online Finding Aids are at https://find.georgiaarchives.org/archon/

Finding Aids @ Georgia Archives
Online Descriptive Inventories for Government Records Series

SEARCH

Includ ox and Folder Lists (not available for all series)

Home

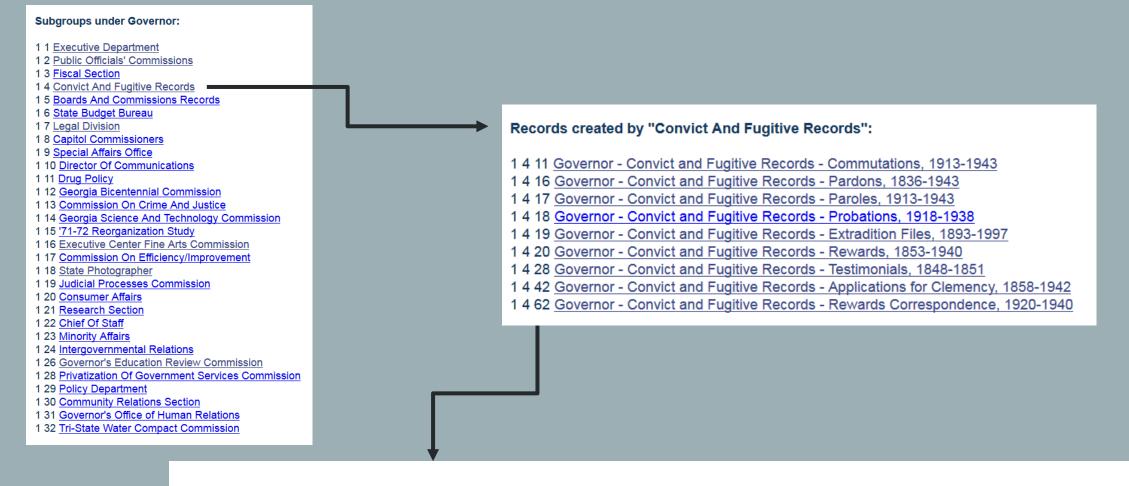
Search records by keyword

The Finding Aids are online descriptive inventories of original government record series held by the Georgia Archives

- 1 Governor
- 2 Secretary of State
- 3 Surveyor General
- 4 Georgia Archives
- 5 Lieutenant Governor
- 6 Examining Boards
- 8 Insurance Commissioner
- 9 Law
- 10 Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission
- 11 Treasury Department
- 12 Education
- 13 Agriculture
- 15 Milk Control Board
- 16 Labor
- 17 Public Service Commission



Search records by



Governor - Convict and Fugitive Records - Applications for Clemency, 1858-1942 | Georgia Archives

[Printer-friendly view]

Title: Governor - Convict and Fugitive Records - Applications for Clemency, 1858-1942 Record group **ID:** 1/4/42 number Arrangement: Records are arranged alphabetically by name of appellant. Extent: 140.0 Cubic Feet More information View Inventory (HTML or PDF) about holdings Finding Aid/Inventory BOX 846: Frank, Leo (original Clemency Application) plus other unrelated records DOC 2207: 1858 - 1942 - Addendum to Applications for Clemency, 1938: Alred, Marvin - Wisham, Clyde Record number RCB 9382: 1858 - 1942 - Shattles, R. M. thru Shirley, Tom Use this number when RCB 9383: 1858 - 1942 - Simpson, J. D. thru Smith, Abe requesting records

Scope and Contents: This series consists of applications for pardon, parole, and restoration of civil rights together with supporting documentation. Prior to 1897, applications for clemency were handled directly by the governor. Beginning in 1897, a new three-member prison commission investigated applications and made recommendations to the governor for clemency. In 1943, a constitutional amendment transferred the authority to grant clemency to the Board of Pardons and Paroles which had been created by the General Assembly earlier that year. This series, which contains records up to 1942, includes applications from the prisoner for executive clemency; trial transcripts; legal briefs; affidavits; summaries and graphs of evidence; petitions from the public for and against clemency; correspondence and memoranda; monthly reports of prison officials to the Prison Commission; parole reports to the Prison Commission; medical evaluations of prisoners; telegrams; newspaper clippings; rap sheets; arrest warrants; and photographs.

Ordering records

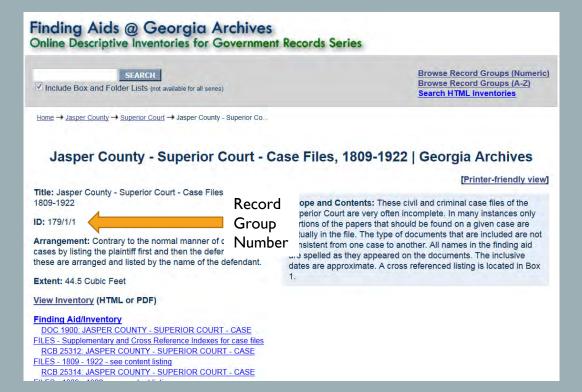
- Ask staff at the Search Room desk to have original records pulled.
- Place orders to view original records before 4:00 pm- we do not pull original records after 4.
- When records are ready you will be called or paged to go into the Original Document Reading Area (ODRA), located behind the Search Room desk.



Original Document Reading Area

- Materials used under close staff supervision; materials inspected upon entry and exit of the room.
- Personal items, except computers and cameras, are not permitted.
- Power outlets available at some tables.





Unpublished Official State Records

Item Description: Petition

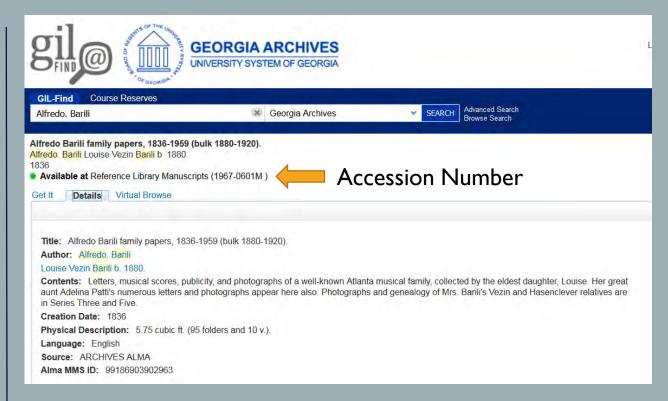
Folder or file name (if available): Aaron, John vs. Samuel B. Ewing

Series Title: Superior Court case file

Agency Name: Jasper County

Record Group Number: 179-1-1

Name of Institution: Georgia Archives



Private Manuscripts

Item Description: Alfredo Barili Conservatorium der Musik, Coeln Diploma, 1875

Collection Title: Alfredo Barili Family Papers

Accession Number: 1967-0601M

Name of Institution: Georgia Archives

SEARCH ROOM RESOURCES

- Free access to Ancestry.com, familysearch.org, Fold3, Genealogy Bank
- Staff to help guide you to appropriate resources for your research, demonstrate how to use the equipment, and generally help you meet your research needs.
- Book copiers and scanner
- Free handouts- ancestry charts, guides to documenting family in Georgia, vital records etc.





Search Room Book Library

Searchable in GIL online catalog

County books

- Indexes to county records
- County histories
- Cemetery books
- Newspaper indexes

City directories

Indexes to war records (service, pension etc.)

Law books

Lineage society books



Family Folder Vertical Files

Collected material donated to the Georgia Archives relating to a specific family and arranged by last name.



Family Bible Records on microfilm

Family information pages from Bibles owned by Georgia families, including birth, marriage, and death dates.



