



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

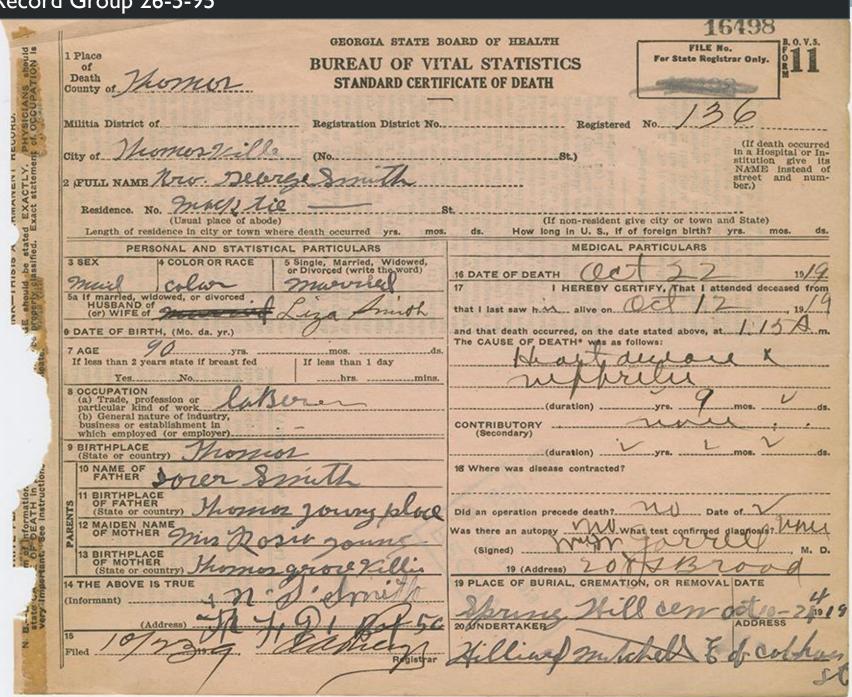
Death Certificates

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.

County Probate Court and County Superior Court

Marriage certificates

1805-Present: County Probate Court

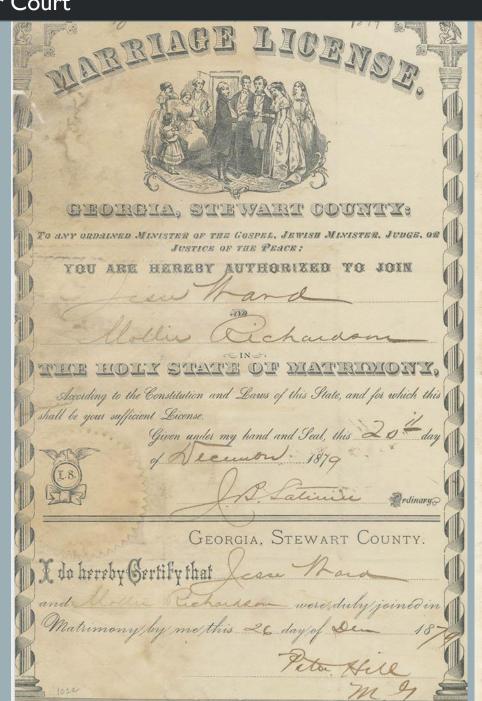
1805-1900: Georgia Archives county microfilm collection/ familysearch.org

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

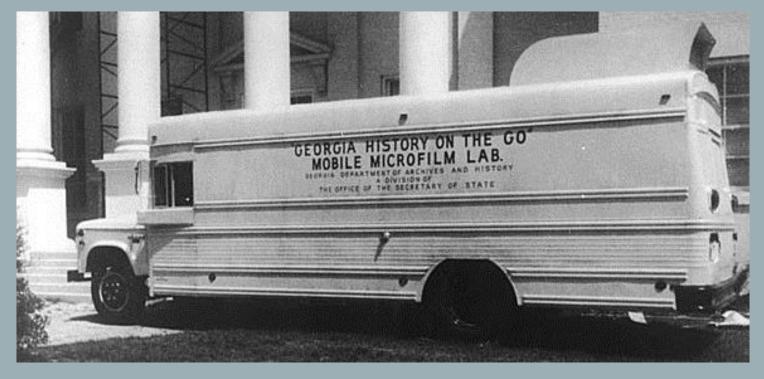


An Act to divorce or separate Walter Billingslea and Jeane his Wife formerly Jeane Walson; and for protecting each of them in their respeclive Estates. In Sencite. Read 1th time January 20. 1997. 2° lime Turnory 21. 1797. 3" time January 25. 1797. In the House of Representatives, Read 1 time Tanuary 30 th 1997.
2 time February 4 1997.
3 time February 6. 1997. Jase Al Simmony



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 DOUGLAS

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:

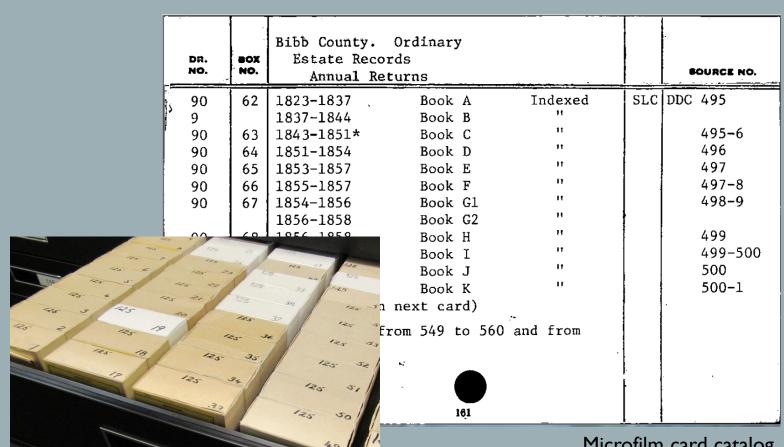
http://vault.georgiaarchives.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/adhoc/id/4377/rec/l



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 Plantation, Mnown as the Unweles 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.

Children the Branes of the four megrows is as follows
Bill a man about Irrent four years of ago his evife Irvalion
about Irrent to of ans of ago and their infant Child
about four months old manus many and awaged wanted
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 Esw. to Carry out this my last Will & Testament

I Will I bequealle to my belove Daughter Mennette A Maris the Gallowing mugo Indicates family relationships

2 md I Will and bequeath to my belowed 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 Bingom & I Trawn, G. Balde in orphansof Janus & Baldwir du? now if the Demary E. Baldwin 2 Trocars do well and truly demean himself as guardian aforesaid, agrecable to letters of guar-1 Sett spring lancets & base dianship, bearing even date herewith, and agreeable to law in such case made and 6 ase containing & There. Excerpt from a Guardianship record from Oglethorpe County, 1828 das : Silver Table spoons silver deviding spoon In the matter of the Application of MNS St. E. Banks widow of 4 M. Banks , late of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, 1 for at Decanters & Tobacco pipes -I det 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, Cra Banks, 13 79 dos: 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 filed their report within the time required by law, setting apart to said widow and minor child I Shade & oundbestick lue 2 horse wagon - walued at Ten Collaw (\$1000) 1 Lot smooking Tobacco and an Equity of redemption in a certain tract of land lying and being in the 237th 1 Shaveng las -

German Book ye

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 unicon having no Estate for this Dufper and mantanance. The Daid Ihm Minen to air Hung Jucy and Emma an herby Bound wite the Daid Richard Polmola will Each Male arrive at the age of twenty one Man, to Orm him the Daid Arrive as file hand, and house Dervans,

"...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 dais gold owers does by these presence grant lang and tell and convey undo the said for 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, bring the place on which to Brown, built a mile also including fifteen acres formuly known as the Hannah Milme place, 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 tered into this 28th day of Decem wen fill Bowers of Frankhin Count of a Job Bowers of Fart leout of the truffell that the said following does we grant bargain till and conney and Job Brown a certain parcel of ted in Franklin + Hart Country, I Double Branch Creek forming a f. Bours James Check & others, ace on which & Brown, but a mill ling fifteen acres formuly Known with Milme place, bought and a mill pace, bounded by the following ing lines Deguming at a Do. ed of Mill branch above Ponce, w. 23 chains & a Maple There & 40. E. 26 33: 6, 3.50. Whit, Oak, S. 5.6. W. 11.30. in themer with Dace growt line to a Pine Deace, of Howard Lurvey, therex with Howard fine to the mill Branch thence up said Brand nee Cashwardly to a What Oak, near Mill to a opple bee, thence, J. 65:613.57. Por line to a 0,6, 0. 65. 6, 10. to a ficky thence ranch to the Deguning 9,0, Containing acres mose or less, To have and

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and well ever defend the right

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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Oloyal Bryan	122 Harrington	1 1 11	21 Dyly William 60052
Sugar \$40	100 Accadam	, 3	Show & Franklin 43 34
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Jamy Sewill	40 160 Gorhand	White	Braid: 06. Da 8622 Vraits . C. Do
Offen Flhanders 2	250 Harrington	W. Gober	Bear 6. 60 14376
Clarry Davig Barney Lee	107 1. Vanco	Malarda	Bear & Franklin 5622 Thouse & For 445
Gen Per Burough	186		3/24
Shorty P. Burrough	270 Harrington		12 Digit Carly 625
Sciendy Suveles	400 Gorhans	Graday Childy	Bears . C. Franklin 8/22
Joshua Vangham	490 Self	No. 452	5 Dy (Ahling - 14 9 64

County Superior or Probate Court

NAME.	Age.	Parentage.	Nativity.	Residence.	Occupation or Pursuit.	Description.
Patsey King	68	Cheney King	Greene County, Geo.	Richmond Country	Muse,	Paroure
Chevey King	37	Patoey King		, , ,	Cook Washer & Fronce	n
Sovey King	28	Patsey King	Froup " "	h 11	11 11 11 11	• "
Edward See King	17	Clevey King		" "	Fabrier,	"
Robert a. Harper	41	Polly Keating.	angusta.	11 11	Piano Funer.	nulatto.
martha Kelly	42	Juno Kelly	0		Washer & Froner.	Brown.
Jane Johnson	37	Naucy Johnson.	//	//	Seamstress.	nulatto.
Saura Scott	23	ann Scott.	"	"	"	"
200 0.00.	21	m '0 lain'	P.O. I.C. T	,		"

▲ 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.

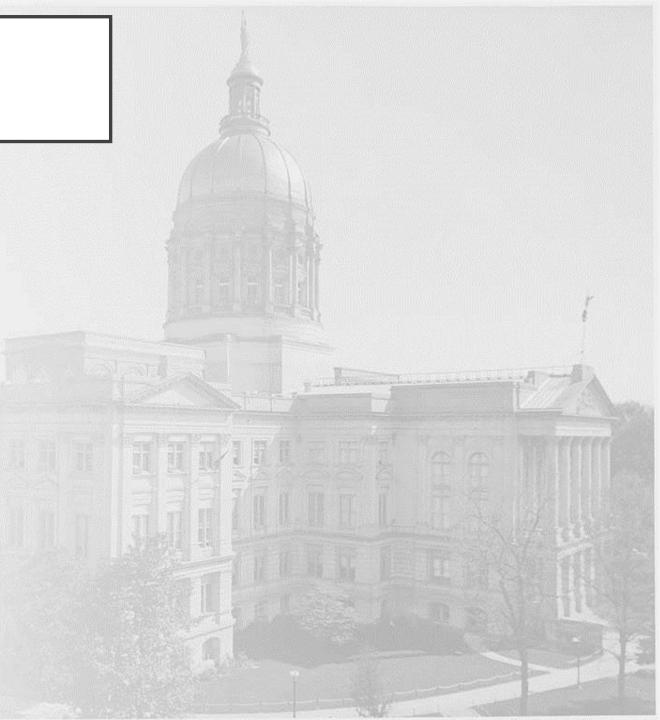
County. County. Name — Mouser Spencer, Amy Spencer, Thos. Spencer, Skip, Samuel Williams, John Beckett, Mary Carley, Curtis Beckett, Mary Beckett, Rachel Francis, Harriet, Rachel Francis, Hhoda Goseer, and child William. The above named free persons of color, have registered their names—agreeably, and 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...

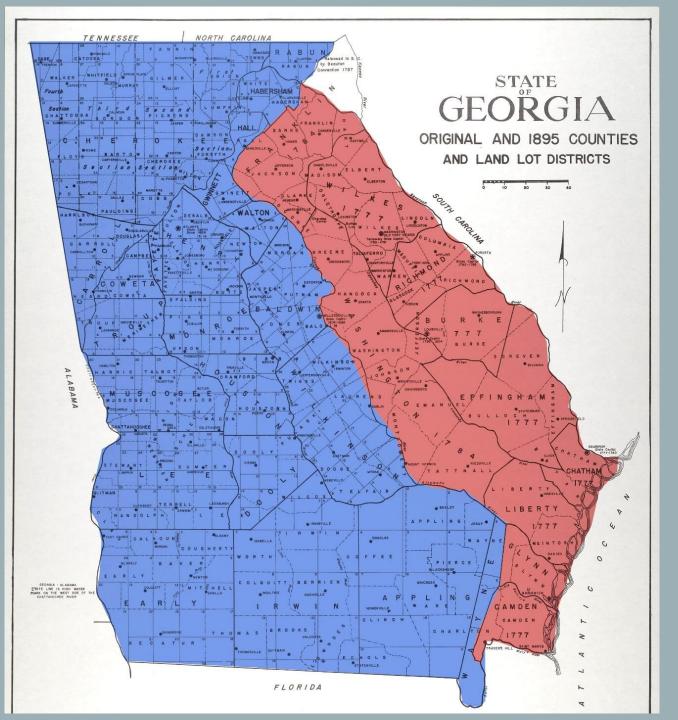
- Governor's records
- Records of the State Legislature
 - Laws
 - House and Senate Journals
- Surveyor General records
 - Original land grants and plats
 - County and historic maps
- Prison System records



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 affigns forever, ALL that tract or parcel of land, containing Jevo Trumstres acres, fituate, lying, and being, in the county of O3 walke State, and butting and bounding frontheast by Vacant Cand - Southeast by Bafes land-Southwest by Dutch Survey and-Prottowest 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.)

outheast by Balo, land A by Dutch Survey and it by bade, land ming at a R. Of running and fifty one Chains to link, to a Span Gale No. 25 East forty Seven 6h to a p. Bx Mo. Seventy One West thinks three Chains to a hime & and Southwest fifty for two Cha! to links to the beginning having freh shape, form, and marks, as appear by a plat of the same hereunto annexed at tegether with all and singular the rights, members, and appurtenances thereoi, whatleever, to he said tract or parcel of land belonging, or in any wife appertaining; and also all the estate, right, title, interest, claim, and elemand of the state aforesaid, st, in, to, or cut of, the same: TO HAVE AND TO HELD the said tract or parcel or land, and all are singular the premies aforesaid, with their and every of their rights, members, and appurtenances, unto the said their and their own proper use and behoof forever, in Fee-simple. GIVEN under my hand, and the great feal of the faid flate, this Lecond day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand feven hundred and ninety One; and in the fifteenth year of American Independence. Signed by his Excellency the Governor } the 2nd Day of march 179 } Edu Jellair Collerwither J. E. D Registered the 5 Day of March 1791_

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

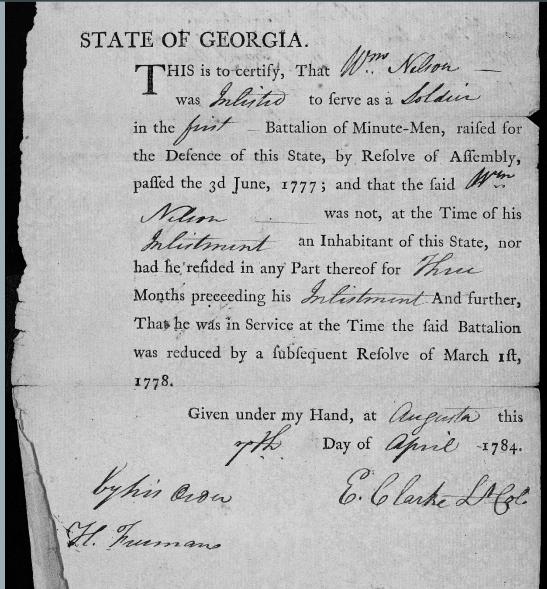
in pursuance of the Act for opening the Land-office, and by vir-in me vested I HAVE given and granted, and, by these Presents, of the faid state, DO give and grant unto

ad being, in the country of Burke in the faid bounding Northeast by Vacant

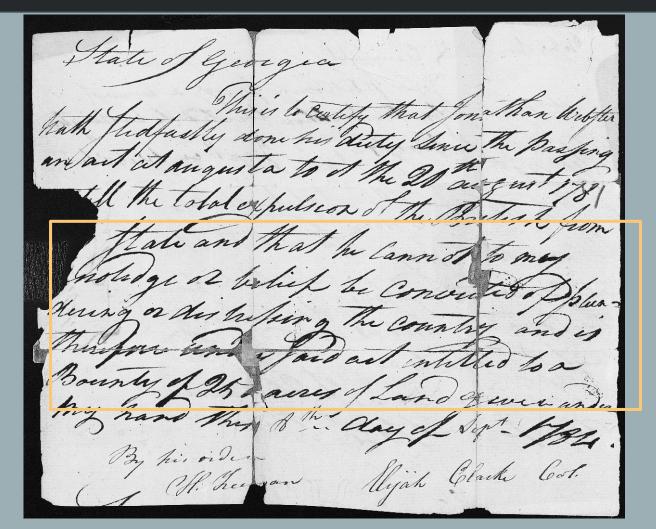
her heirs and afligns forever, ALL that trach or parcel of

bom these Presents shall come, GREETING:

Surveyor General's Records, Record Group 3



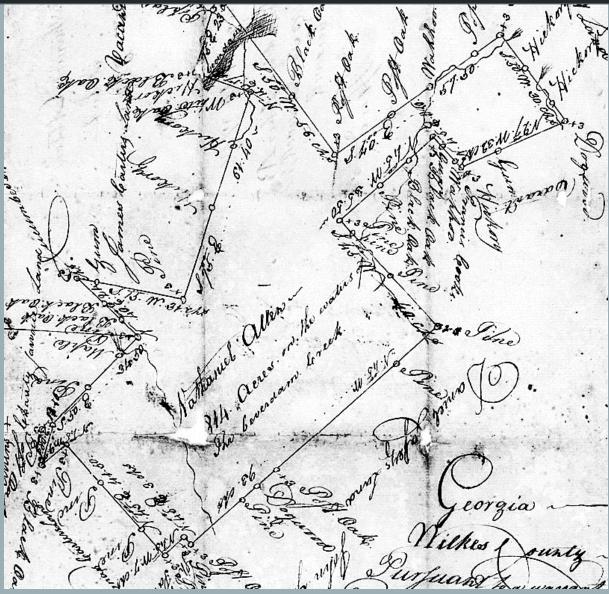
Available online at familysearch.org: Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783-1909 Listed alphabetically by name.



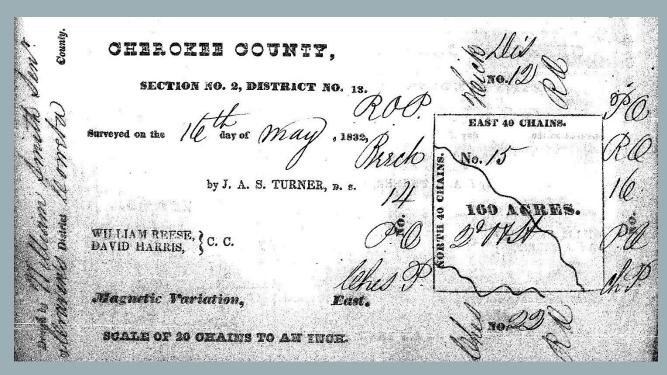
Surveyor General, Headright and Bounty documents, RG 3-4-5

"...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."

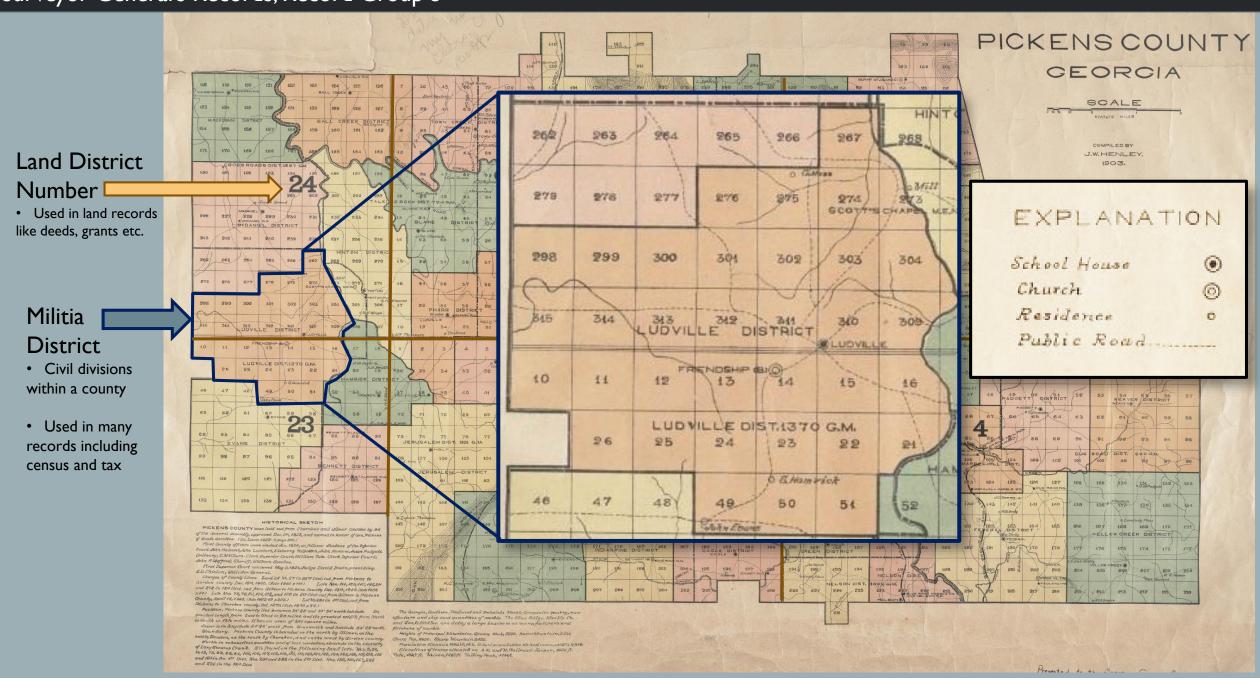
Surveyor General's Records, Record Group 3



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 Simmons Place 1.01/2 C Public Road EAST 40 CHAINS. S. M. Merr Norton Place hrch i No. 13 200 233 305 308 10 ober's Or chard 160 ARRES. PHILADELPHIA Willingham's Gilles 199 CROOLE, 307 Orchard Orch Original 1832 plat 🦠 A. V. Jones R.B. Striplin JASPER W. Evanse Athertons Land Lot Number ason Used in land records Chair A Burgess Place like deeds, grants etc.

Prisons, Record Group 21

NAMES.	Crime.	e VENESO.	When Received.	Sentence Expires.	County where Occupation.	Birth Place.	OF ENCES.	Age. Height.	Color of Hair.	(Color of Eyes.
NAMES.	Orime.	TERM O	When Received.	Denience Dispired.	Convicted.		EXX	CO INC	1 Clark	/	Dask V
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John Mitchell	Vagrancy.	2	March 161"	Much 6 1844	Chathand Seamen	Vergene'w	,	62 6 15 \ Such	V Grey	/,	Dark V
Whender W Vorgage	Sich Forgery	5	1 / 11/11	11 1/1847	J. b. J Chark	Lengia	1	21/5/7/ "		1	Blue 1
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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.				
til seget attenue have below	Pardwell Dept 15 1846.				
Discharged	Sardwed Dept 15 1846.				
	Pardoned Now 8 1845				
Swid not his Sentuce	m c				

Office of the Governor, Record Group 1 RETURN , State of GEORGIA, by the Board of Registration, for the Fush Election District, in pursua REGISTERED in Precinct No. TIME OF RESIDENCE. **Returns of** In County COLOR. In Precine In State. NAMES OF VOTERS. DATE OF REGISTRY. Qualified Voters, N. C 1867 Huff Cornellus 4811 Cold West Allen Includes African West William American and white men Harris Drince 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 West Allen bold West William 242 Harris France Adams Munday Sandiford James & 2431 500 1 Butler Moses Mathews W H 251

4 mm

/ Bryant Moses

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.

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Researcher tip:

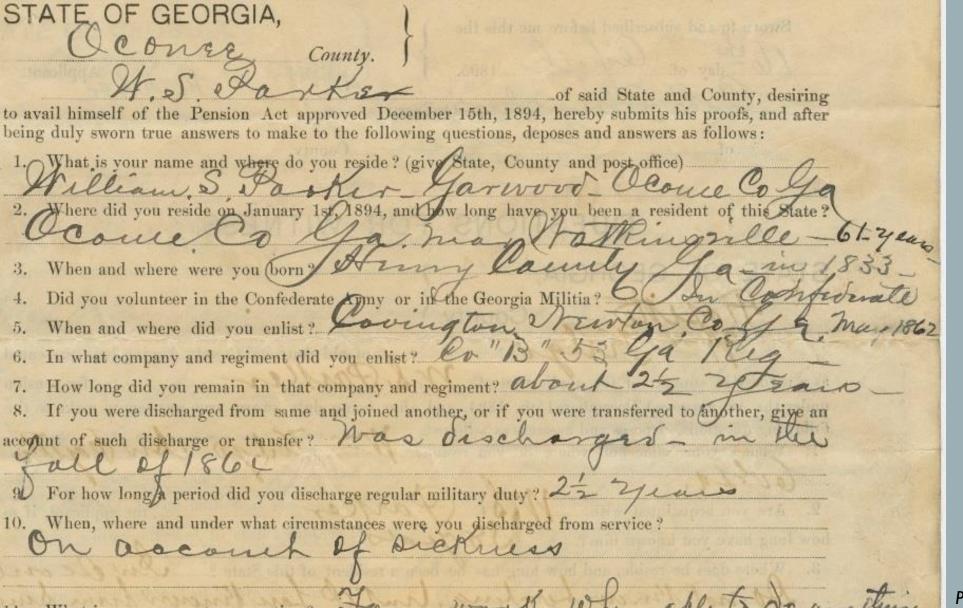
Before 1850, the Census only lists the name of the head of household-children are not named. School lists are one of the records that name children before 1850.

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

names of states of the states

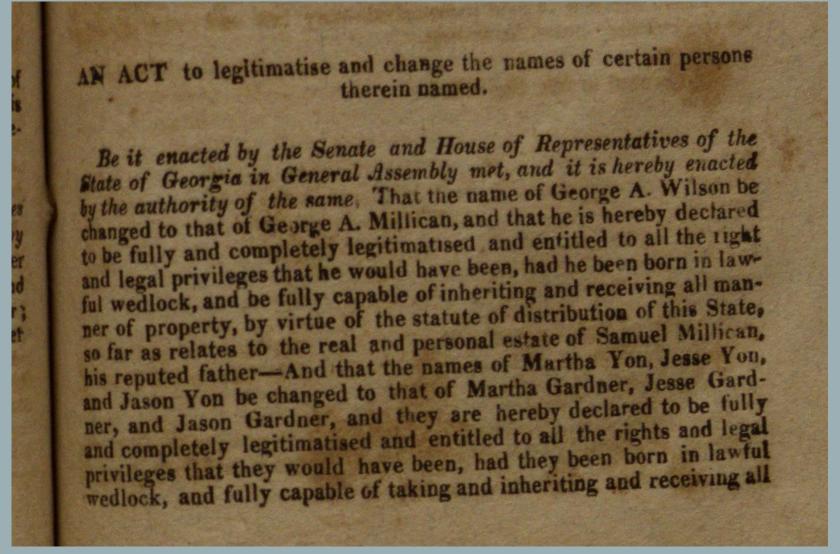
Jones County Clinton Academy report, 1834, RG 1-1-117

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.

Basic Search

Server S A GALILEO Digital Initiative Database
While in this database, use the Help button below.



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

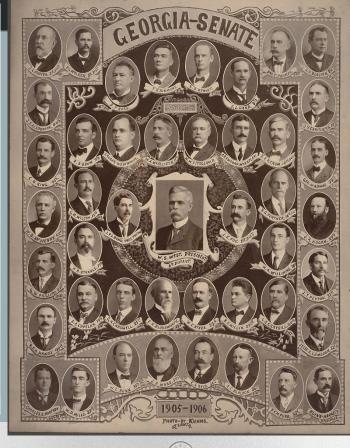
Visual Materials

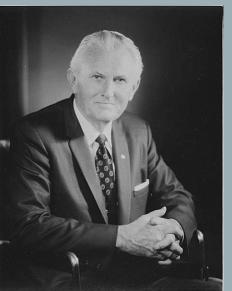
Other visual materials collections include photographs of:

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











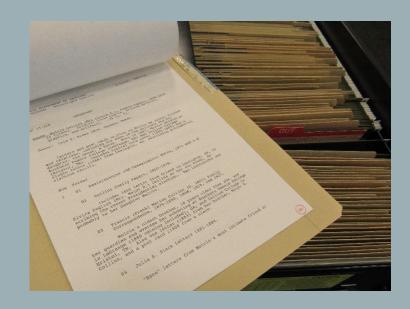
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

- 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





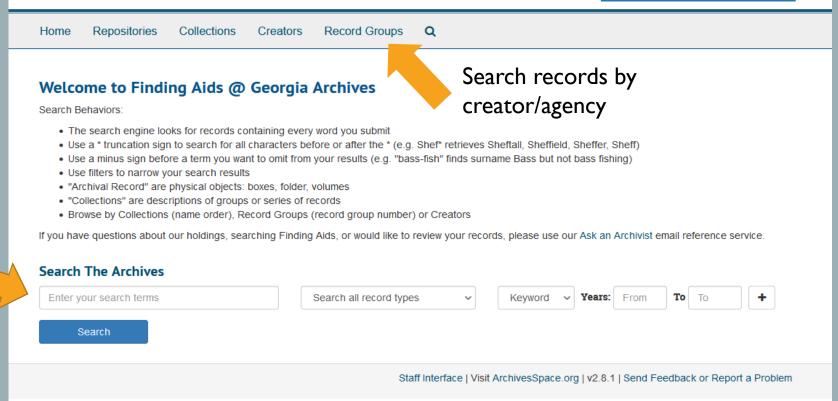


HOW TO VIEW ORIGINAL RECORDS AT THE GEORGIA ARCHIVES



Finding Aids @ Georgia Archives





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

Search records

by keyword

Ordering records

- Ask staff at the Search Room desk to have original records pulled.
- 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.





Unrestricted

Extent

Unpublished Official State Records

Item Description: Petition

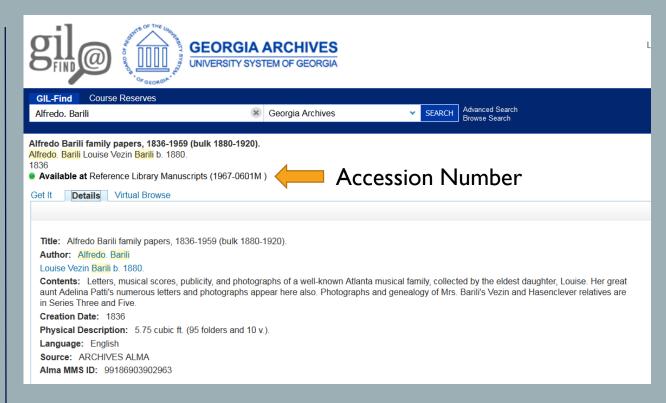
Folder or file name (if available): Aaron, John vs. Samuel B. Ewing

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
- 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.

