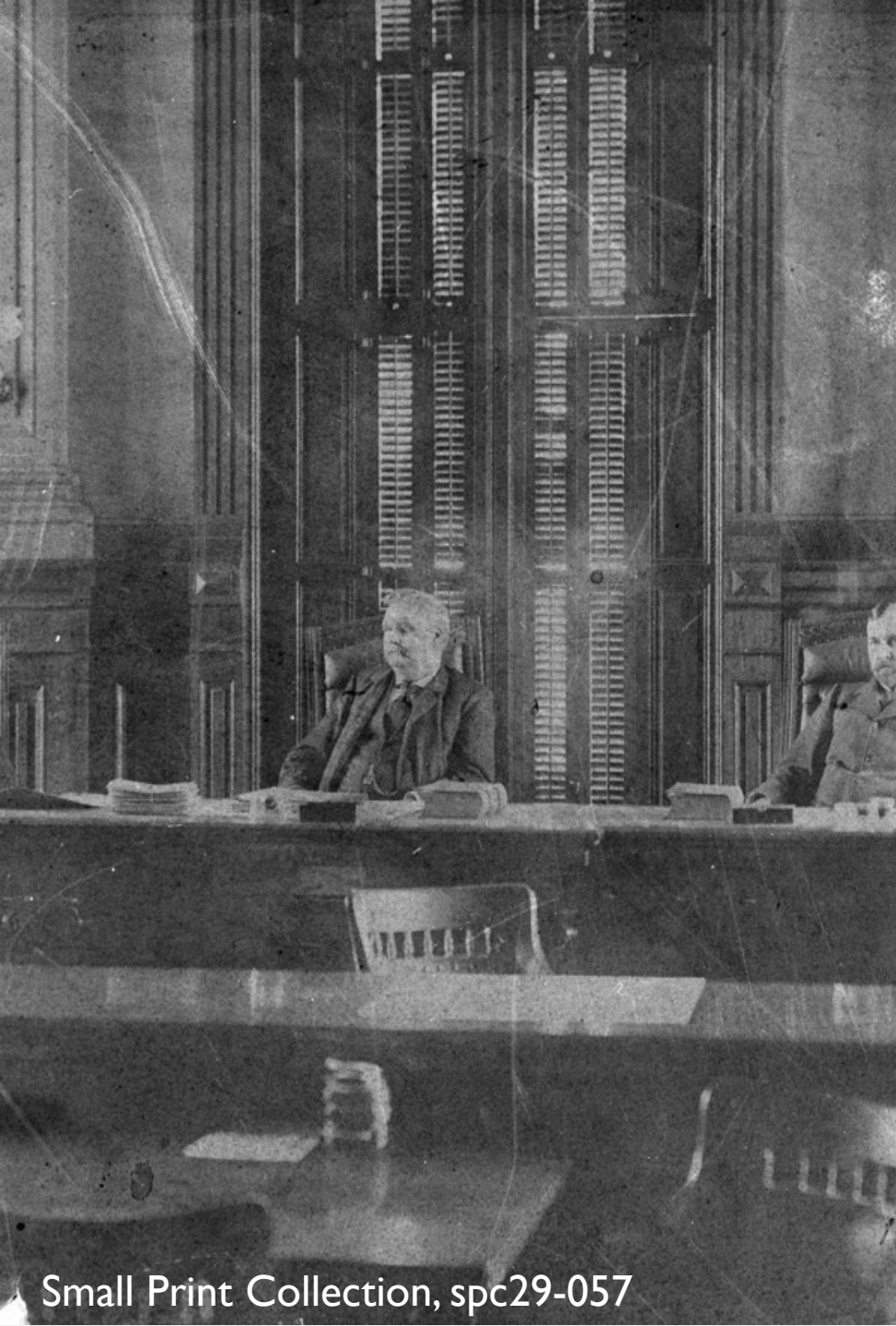




# GEORGIA COUNTY RECORDS



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA  
GEORGIA ARCHIVES



# GEORGIA COURT SYSTEM

Supreme Court

Court of Appeals

Superior Court

Municipal  
Court

Magistrate  
Court

Probate  
Court

Juvenile  
Court

State  
Court





## GEORGIA COURT SYSTEM

Supreme Court

Court of Appeals

Superior Court

Municipal  
Court

Magistrate  
Court

Probate  
Court

Juvenile  
Court

State  
Court

HISTORIC  
COURTS:  
WHAT DID  
EACH  
COURT  
HANDLE?

1777-  
present

# Superior Court

1789-1868

## • Inferior Court

1851-1974

## • Ordinary Court

1974-  
Present

## • Probate Court



SUPERIOR COURTS  
WERE ESTABLISHED  
BY THE 1777  
GEORGIA  
CONSTITUTION.

1777-  
present

# Superior Court

- Criminal cases
- Divorces
- Land
- Equity

1789-1868

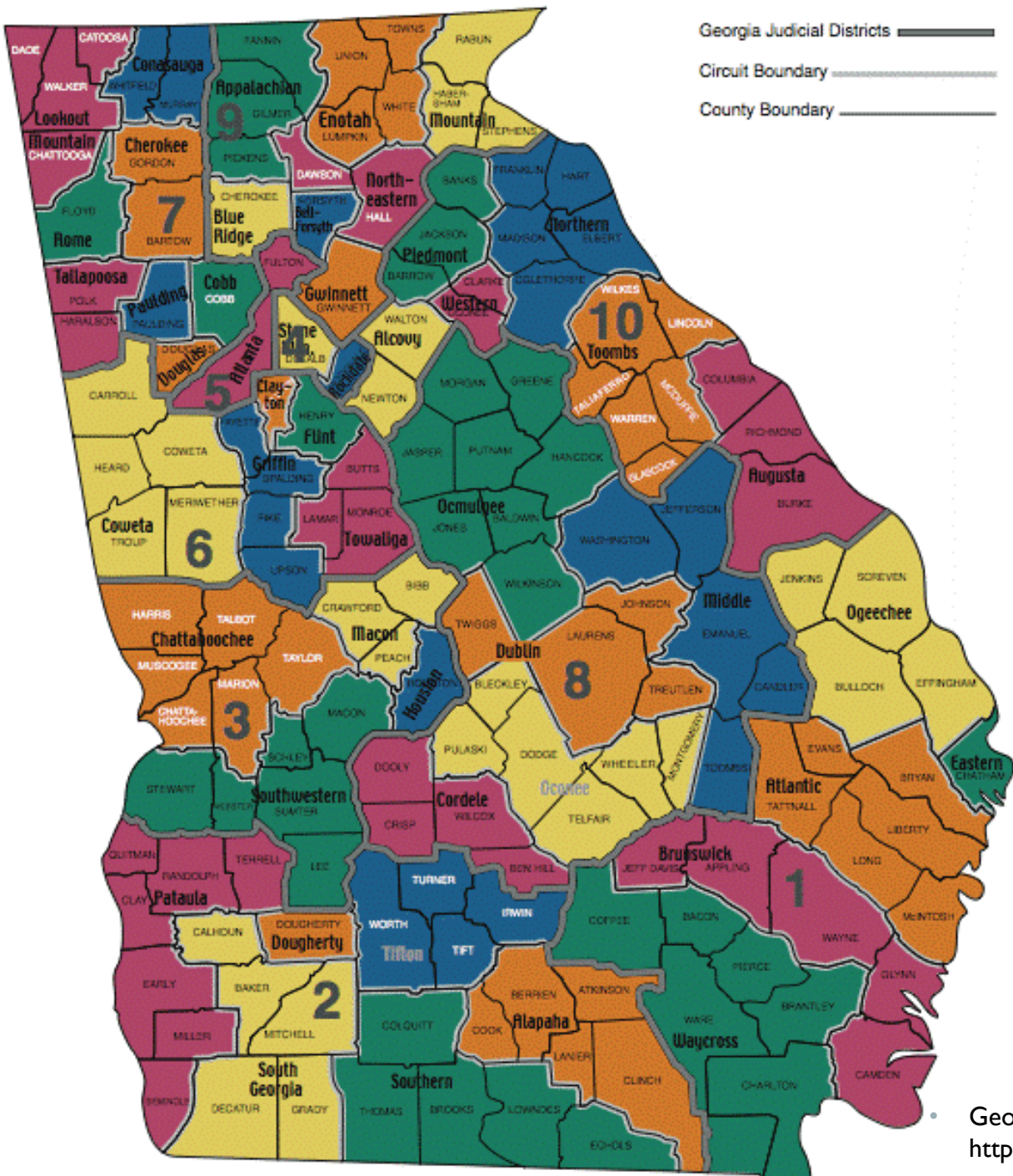
• Inferior Court

1851-1974

• Ordinary Court

1974-  
Present

• Probate Court



# Superior Court

- GA counties are divided into circuits
- Held court at least twice a year in each county

The Home  
Journal.  
March 28,  
1918

Georgia Superior Courts  
<https://georgiasuperiorcourts.org/>

## HOUSTON SUPERIOR COURT.

Superior Court begins the April session on Monday April 1st, Judge H. A. Mathews presiding.

The Civil Calendar this term is short, comprising only 32 cases all set for trial on Monday and Tuesday of the first week.

Twenty-three warrants have been prepared for presentation to the Grand Jury.

The following are grand jurors, traverse and tales jurors who will serve during the session.

### GRAND JURORS.

E M Beckham,	W O Gaines,
F W Withoft,	Tom S Murphey,
E L Avera,	J E Carney,
B H Wright,	F W Bragg,
R H Hartley	C S Gurr,
S T Hurst, Jr.,	J L Riley,
C A Thurmond,	W C Lankford,
E E King,	J D Means,

THE INFERIOR  
COURT WAS  
CREATED BY THE  
JUDICIARY ACT  
1789, AND  
ABOLISHED BY THE  
1868 GEORGIA  
CONSTITUTION.

1777-  
present

## Superior Court

1789-1868

### • Inferior Court

- County funds
- Support of the poor
- Roads, bridges, and ferries
- Regulation of slaves
- Estates
- Marriage and other licenses
- Civil cases

1851-1974

- Ordinary Court

- Probate Court

1974-  
Present



AN AMENDMENT  
TO THE GEORGIA  
CONSTITUTION IN  
1851 TRANSFERRED  
JURISDICTION OF  
ESTATES FROM THE  
INFERIOR COURT  
TO THE ORDINARY.

1777-  
present

## Superior Court

1789-1868

- Inferior Court

1851-1974

### • Ordinary Court

- Marriage licenses
- Apprenticeships
- Lunacy cases
- Estates
- County funds (after 1868)

1974-  
Present

- Probate Court

A  
CONSTITUTIONAL  
AMENDMENT,  
APPROVED IN 1974,  
CHANGED THE  
TITLE OF  
ORDINARY TO  
PROBATE JUDGE.

1777-  
present

## Superior Court

1789-1868

- Inferior Court

1851-1974

- Ordinary Court

1974-  
Present

## • Probate Court

- Estates
- Marriage and other licenses
- appointment of guardians
- Involuntary hospitalizations

For more information about the history of the Georgia Court System:

*The Creation of a Judicial System: the  
History of Georgia Courts, 1733 to present  
by Erwin C. Surrency. 2001*



# EXAMPLES OF HISTORIC COUNTY RECORDS



# Superior Court

- **Deeds**
- **Divorces**
- **Criminal and civil case files**
- **Superior Court minutes**

Deeds

J. H. Mundy, Clerk

The State of Georgia } This Indenture made this 7th day of December in the year  
 Clayton County } of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-two

between A. A. Morris of the County of Clayton of the one  
 part and Samuel Wilburn (P.O.C.) of the County of Clayton of the other part:

Witnesseth that the said A. A. Morris for and in consideration of the sum of one  
 hundred and seventy-five dollars in hand paid, at and before the sealing and  
 delivery of these presents the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged both  
 granted, bargained, sold and conveyed and by these presents doth grant, bar-  
 gain, sell and convey unto the said Samuel Wilburn his heirs and assigns  
 all those tracts or parcels of land situated, lying and being in the town of  
 Jonesboro Clayton County three town lots Nos 24, 25 & 26 Containing in all three  
 fourths of an acre more or less & part of land lot No two hundred & forty one in the  
 13th District of originally Henry now Clayton County & better known as the Morrow  
 property with the exception of the land that the Lealabors stands on & that  
 is Reserved till it is moved then it belongs to the said Wilburn.

Parties buying/  
selling land

Description  
of the land-  
including  
land  
lot/town lot,  
boundaries  
and  
sometimes  
previous  
land owner's  
names



## Divorce records

### 1793-1833:

- Georgia Laws
- County Superior Court records

### 1833-Present:

- County Superior Court

*An Act to divorce or separate  
Walter Billingslea and Jane his  
Wife formerly Jane Watson; and for  
protecting each of them in their respec-  
tive Estates.*

*In Senate,  
Read 1<sup>st</sup> time January 20<sup>th</sup> 1797.  
2<sup>d</sup> time January 21<sup>st</sup> 1797.  
3<sup>d</sup> time January 25<sup>th</sup> 1797.  
Passed.*

*Will. Robertson. Secy.*

*In the House of Representatives,  
Read 1<sup>st</sup> time January 30<sup>th</sup> 1797.  
2<sup>d</sup> time February 4<sup>th</sup> 1797.  
3<sup>d</sup> time February 6<sup>th</sup> 1797.  
Passed.*

*Jas. M. Simmons  
Clerk.*

*My empannelled & sworn  
Bedford J. Head }  
vs } Libel for Divorce  
Amanda M. J. Head }*

1 William C. Redding	7 Stephen Allen
2 Josiah D. Balloway	8 Leonidas B. Alexander
3 Wiley H. Pope	9 Elias Frauberry
4 John Dillard	10 Gabriel Parks
5 Edwin H. Woodward	11 Benjamin Haygood
6 George Harrison	12 Samuel Behaney

*We find that sufficient proofs have  
been referred to our consideration to authorize  
a total divorce, that is to say a divorce a  
vinculo matrimonii upon legal principles*


Verdict in divorce case Monroe County Superior Court, Head v Head, 1846



Georgia Laws, 1797

## Civil and Criminal Case Files

- Dated mostly from the 1800s
- Not available for all counties
- Not available online (though name inventories may be available in our online Finding Aids)

### Jasper County - Superior Court - Case Files

 **Series** Identifier: 179-01-001

 Georgia Archives |  Jasper County - Superior Court - Case Files

[Collection Overview](#) [Collection Organization](#) [Container Inventory](#)

#### Scope and Contents

These civil and criminal case files of the Superior Court are very often incomplete. In many instances only portions of the papers that should be found on a given case are actually in the file. The type of documents that are included are not consistent from one case to another. All names in the finding aid are spelled as they appeared on the documents. The inclusive dates are approximate. A cross referenced listing is located in Box....See more [▶](#)

#### Dates

Created: 1809-1922

#### Creator

- Jasper County (Ga.) (Organization)

#### Conditions Governing Access

Unrestricted

#### Extent

44.50 Cubic Feet

### Collection organization

Jasper County - Superior Court - Case Files	
JASPER COUNTY - SUPERIOR COURT - CAS	
▼ JASPER COUNTY - SUPERIOR COURT - CAS	
	Smith, Henry W. vs. William Crawford
	Smith, Henry W. vs. Anthony Dyer
	Smith, Henry W. vs. John Hill
	Smith, Homer vs. The State
	Smith, J.H.S. vs. The State



*The State vs. Poleman Dorsett* 1871  
(No. 2.)

BENCH WARRANT. Published by J. W. BURKE & CO., Stationers, Printers and Binders, Second Street, Macon, Ga.

Georgia, *Jasper* County.

To all and singular the Sheriffs, Constables and Coroners of said State—GREETING:

Whereas, at *April* Term, 1871 of the Superior Court of said County, the Grand Jurors did find a *special presentment* against *Poleman Dorsett*

.....

for the offence of *keeping open a tippling house on the Sabbath day*

You, and each of you, are therefore commanded, in the name of the State, to apprehend the said *Poleman Dorsett*

and bring *him* before me, or some Justice of the Peace, to be dealt with as the law directs; and to make diligent search for all and singular the estate, both real and personal, of said defendant, or so much thereof as will be sufficient for the payment of all legal costs and expenses that may be incurred.

Given under my hand and seal this *27<sup>th</sup>* day of *April* 1871.

*Philip M. Robinson* L. S.

Bench Warrant for the State vs. Poleman Dorsett, Jasper County, Superior court case file, #2622, April term 1871



Georgia }  
Crawford County } To the Honourable Carlton  
and holding jurisdiction in Equity, humbly  
complaining sheweth unto your Honor your  
Petrix Octavia Zeigler minor, who sues by her  
next friend Mary Zeigler and brings her bill  
against Greene P. Culverhouse of the County  
of Crawford in said State, ~~that heretofore, to wit,~~

Your Father further states unto your Hon-  
or that by the fourth item of said will, your Father with  
her sister and brother, all being children of Mary Zeigler  
then a slave of said William Zeigler, by the said  
William, their father as your Father is informed, be-

... [Octavia] with her sister and brother, all being children of Mary Zeigler then a slave of said William Zeigler, by the said William, their father as [Octavia] is informed, believes and charges, was directed to be removed for her freedom, maintenance and education to some State where, she, with her brother William Henry and sister Melinda Ann, could be lawfully manumitted and educated; and by the fifth item of said will ... **the sum of thirty thousand dollars was bequeathed ... in trust for [Octavia]**, the interest thereof to be annually applied to the maintenance and education of [Octavia] in such free state, and the principal to be paid to her on her attaining the age of twenty one years.

... That the said Green P. Culverhouse having been thus appointed Trustee and ... **received the said sum of thirty thousand dollars so bequeathed to [Octavia Zeigler]** ... that the said Green P. hath wholly failed to discharge his duties as such Trustee ... that **he hath not paid ... to her ... or any part thereof for many years** but hath wholly neglected and refused to do so ... but hath managed the same for his own benefit ... and will give [Octavia and her mother and their solicitor] no account of what he has done with the principal sum ....



Mary Zeigler  
vs  
Ewell Webb as  
Trustee &c

Bill &c in Crawford Superior Court at March Term 1875.

And now at this Term we the jury empanelled and  
sworn to hear and try said cause find and decree in  
favor of said Mary Zeigler & her three children viz Melinda Ann William  
Henry & Octavia against said Ewell Webb as Trustee under the will  
of William Zeigler late of said County deceased as follows viz: that  
said Ewell Webb as Trustee has in his hands as Trustee under the  
seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) item of the will of said William Zeigler the sum of ten  
thousand (\$10 000) dollars principal with twenty six thousand eight  
hundred & ninety three & forty nine cents \$26 893.<sup>49</sup>/<sub>100</sub> for interest thereon  
up to July 1<sup>st</sup> 1874 together with interest on said ten thousand dollars



File 8974  
No. 18 Criminal Docket,  
October Term, 1910  
SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA.

*Hunter*

versus

THE STATE.

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD

NOV -7 1910

Filed in office

*W. E. Talley, D.*

C. S. C. Ga.

IN CHATHAM SUPERIOR COURT.

MARCH TERM, - 1910.

State, )

vs. )

J. C. Hunter. )

MURDER.

VERDICT FOR THE STATE.

BRIEF OF TESTIMONY:

Oscar Smith, sworn for the State testified:

My name is Oscar Smith; I recall where I was shortly after noon on the 10th of December last, about 2 o'clock of that day; we were working a couple of the streets back from Drayton Street. I knocked off at half past twelve, stood around there a few minutes and come to Perry Street; I don't remember which way I went home and came by that house on the corner of Perry and Montgomery Streets, where the trouble occur-

Copy of Superior Court Brief found in the Supreme Court Case File, 1910, A-32055 Hunter v State





# **Probate Court/ Ordinary Court/ Inferior Court**

- Estate records
- Marriage Records

**Wills:** Disposes of property and names executor; may also.....

My Plantation, known as the Knuckles place  
containing about 1000. Acres Also the following

land in the 12<sup>th</sup> District No 214 in Henry County my

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

Children the names of the four Negroes is as follows  
Bill a man about twenty ~~four~~ years of age his wife named  
about twenty two years of age and their infant child  
about four months old named Mary and one girl named  
Ruth about two 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.

4<sup>th</sup> I Nominate My Son John S. Jackson and  
my brother James W. Jackson as my Exr.  
to Carry out this my last Will & Testament

Indicate family relationships

2<sup>nd</sup> I Will and bequeath to my beloved Wife  
Nancy S. Jackson the Plantation whereon  
I now live containing Near 1000. Acres

5<sup>th</sup> I Will & bequeath to my beloved Daughter  
Martha A. Harris the following negro



The condition of the above obligation is such,  
That whereas the said Demary L. Baldwin is  
this day appointed guardian to Benjamin L. Baldwin, G. Baldwin orphans of  
Jenny L. Baldwin dec'd now if the  
said Demary L. Baldwin  
do well and truly demean ~~himself~~ <sup>her</sup> as guardian aforesaid, agreeable to letters of guar-  
dianship, bearing even date herewith, and agreeable to law in such case made and

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

Excerpt from a Guardianship record  
from Oglethorpe County, 1828

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

Excerpt from a Widow's support record  
from Oglethorpe County, 1908

In the matter of the Application of Mrs. H. E. J. Banks  
widow of G. M. Banks, late of Oglethorpe County, Georgia,  
deceased, for year's support for herself and minor children of said deceased to-wit:  
Colley Banks, 17 years of age, Ora Banks, 15 years of age  
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 children 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  
One 2 horse wagon - valued at Ten Dollars (\$10.00)  
And an Equity of redemption in a certain  
tract of land lying and being in the 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Inventory and Appraisement:**  
List of property and its value

1 Negro Man	Charlotte	\$	300	00
1 do	Boy David		250	00
1 do	do		275	00
2	Tobacco	do 1.00	2	00
1	Self spring lancet & Case		5	00
1	Mortars & Pestols		4	00
1	Case containing 1 Flute		20	00
1/2 doz	Silver Table spoons		18	00
1	silver dividing spoon		5	00
2	do Tea spoons		1	00
1	Self Castors		5	00
1	Gr 2 <sup>d</sup> Decanters & Tobacco pipes		3	00
1	Self Surgical Pocket Instruments		3	00
1	Gold Watch Chain & seal		60	00



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

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

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

MARRIAGE LICENSE.      **STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF GORDON.**

TO ANY JUDGE, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, OR MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL:

You are hereby authorized to join Lyman Pulliam and Leola Steele in the Holy State of Matrimony, according to the Constitution and laws of this State, and for so doing this shall be your license; and you are hereby required to return this license to me, with your certificate hereon of the fact and date of the marriage.

Given under my hand and seal, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December 1920, ~~1920~~

W. R. Paulin, (L. S.)  
ORDINARY.

---

**STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF GORDON.**      CERTIFICATE.

I certify that Lyman Pulliam and Leola Steele were joined in matrimony by me, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of December, ~~Eighteen~~ nineteen Hundred and Ninety Two

G. O. Hightower, J. P.  
W. R. Paulin, Ordinary.

Recorded February 24<sup>th</sup> 1922, 189

MARRIAGE LICENSE

**Marriage certificates**

- **1805-1900:** Georgia Archives county microfilm collection and [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)

**Very** broadly speaking...

## WHERE TO ACCESS COUNTY RECORDS

**Before  
1900?**

- Familysearch.org
- GA Archives microfilm

**After  
1900?**

- County Courthouse

## BURKE COUNTY

Created: February 5, 1777

From: Creek cession of May 20, 1733 -- an  
original County previously organized  
as the Parish of St. George

County Seat: Waynesboro

Courthouse destroyed by fire in 1825, 1856, and 1870.

"Some time around midnight on Thursday, January 24, 1856, a fire broke out in the Burke County courthouse in Waynesboro. The building burned to the ground, taking with it the vast majority of county records. . . . Burke County's record losses are considered among the worst in Georgia."

- [Georgia Courthouse Disasters](#), by Paul K. Graham



Fire destroyed Troup Co.  
Courthouse, Nov. 5, 1936.  
Vanishing Georgia, trp202.

## EXCEPTION: COURT HOUSE DISASTERS

- Check the Georgia Archives County Records on Microfilm Index (Virtual Vault).
- *Georgia Courthouse Disasters*, by Paul K. Graham (available at Georgia Archives Search Room library)



## EXCEPTION: SOME POST 1900 RECORDS ON FILM

DR. NO.	BOX NO.	Clarke County. Ordinary Marriages			SOURCE NO.	
80	59	1805 - 1821	Book A	Indexed	AH	316
96	3	1805 - 1867	Books A-C	"	SLC MFL	230-1
96	4	1848 - 1872	Books D-E	"		231
96	5	1871 - 1890	Books F-H	"		231-2
96	6	1890 - 1901	Books I-J	"		232-3
100	5	1901 - 1917	Books K-M	"	AH	541
100	7	1909 - 1916	Volume 1 (colored)	"		543
100	8	1916 - 1943	Volumes 2-4	"		544
100	6	1917 - 1945	Books N-P	"		542
100	9	1943 - 1956	Volume 5	"		545
100	7	1945 - 1956	Books Q-R	"		543

- Check the County Records on Microfilm Index to see what records are available before making a trip to the county courthouse.



GA Archives Microfilm Collection

DR. NO.	BOX NO.	Gilmer County. Superior Court Deeds and Mortgages				SOURCE NO.
17	78	1833 - 1837	Book A-B	Indexed	AH	409
19	79	1837 - 1840	Book C-D	"		577
17	79	1840 - 1842	Book E	"		425
17	78	1842 - 1844	Book F	"		409
10	84	1844 - 1846	Book G	"		406
102	37	1846 - 1851	Book H-J	"	SEC	MFL 371
102	38	1851 - 1856	Book K-L	"		372-3
102	39	1856 - 1872	Book M-N	Not Indexed		373
102	40	1872 - 1878	Book O	"		374
102	41	1878 - 1883	Book P	"		374-5
102	42	1883 - 1888	Book Q	"		375
102	43	1888 - 1890	Book R	"		375-6

(Continued on next card)

Deeds, 1846-1914

Authors:	Georgia. Superior Court (Gilmer County)
Format:	Manuscript/Manuscript on Film
Language:	English
Publication:	[S.l.] : Mann Film Laboratories, 1960
Physical:	14 microfilm reels ; 35 mm.

Notes

Microfilm of original records filmed at the Gilmer County courthouse in Ellijay, Georgia.

Includes index.

[View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations](#)

Subjects

Locality Subjects

[United States, Georgia, Gilmer - Land and property](#)

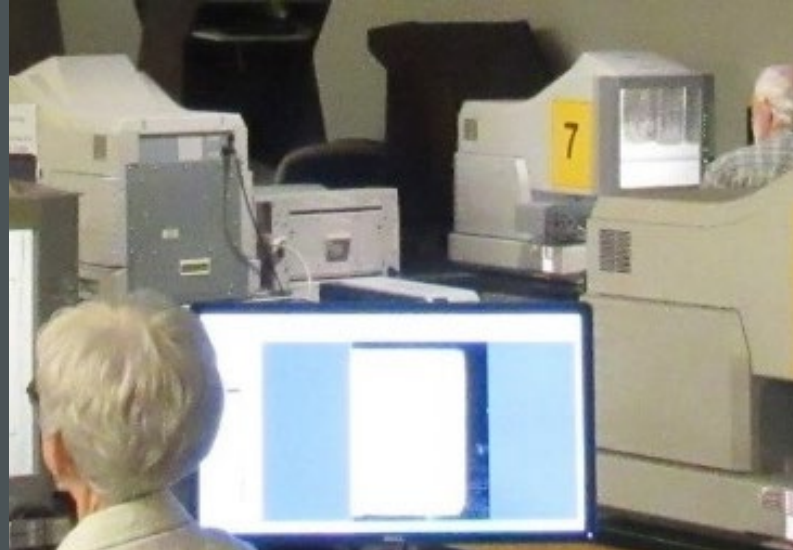
Film/Digital Notes

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf
Deeds, v. H-J 1846-1851	<a href="#">Family History Library</a>	United States & Canada 2nd F
Deeds, v. K-L 1851-1856	<a href="#">Family History Library</a>	United States & Canada 2nd F
Deeds, v. M-N 1856-1872	<a href="#">Family History Library</a>	United States & Canada 2nd F
Deeds, v. O 1872-1878	<a href="#">Family History Library</a>	United States & Canada 2nd F
Deeds, v. P 1878-1883	<a href="#">Family History Library</a>	United States & Canada 2nd F

# MICROFILM LIBRARY AT GA ARCHIVES

## Using microfilm on-site

- Scan to a personal flashdrive for free
- Prints are 30 cents a page
- To find microfilm locations use microfilm card catalog



DR. NO.	BOX NO.	Gilmer County. Superior Court Deeds and Mortgages				SOURCE NO.
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17	79	1840 - 1842	Book E	"		425
17	78	1842 - 1844	Book F	"		409
10	84	1844 - 1846	Book G	"		406
102	37	1846 - 1851	Book H-J	"	SEC	MFL 371
102	38	1851 - 1856	Book K-L	INDEXED		372-3
102	39	1856 - 1872	Book M-N	NOT INDEXED		373
102	40	1872 - 1878	Book O	"		374
102	41	1878 - 1883	Book P	"		374-5
102	42	1883 - 1888	Book Q	"		375
102	43	1888 - 1890	Book R	"		375-6

(Continued on next card)









# QUESTIONS?



**UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA**  
**GEORGIA ARCHIVES**

**GEORGIA ARCHIVES**  
5800 Jonesboro Road  
Morrow, Georgia 30260  
678-364-3710  
[www.GeorgiaArchives.org](http://www.GeorgiaArchives.org)