



# Georgia's Vital Records

## Official Records

Officially, statewide registration of births and deaths began in 1919. Death records for 1919 - 1943 are available for research at the Georgia Archives. Death records for 1919 - 1943 are available online. An index to death records is available online for the years 1919 - 1998, and this may be consulted to confirm the exact year of death and obtain the certificate number.

For birth certificates from 1919 - present and death records 1944 - present, contact the Georgia Department of Human Resources at:

Vital Records  
1680 Phoenix Blvd, Suite 100  
Atlanta, GA 30349  
(404) 679 - 4702  
<http://dph.georgia.gov/VitalRecords>

You may also request birth and death certificates 1919 - present from the Vital Records Office in the county where the birth or death occurred. A list of county offices is available online at [www.vitalrec.com/ga.html](http://www.vitalrec.com/ga.html).

## Early Registration

In general, there are no official birth or death certificates before 1919 in Georgia. However, there are some exceptions. The records listed below are available on microfilm at the Georgia Archives and must be used by researchers on-site at the Archives. Most of them are not indexed.

An 1875 act of the Georgia General Assembly mandated statewide registration of births, deaths, and marriages. Few counties complied with this law, and even fewer citizens within those counties reported the required information. This effort for statewide registration of vital records was funded by the legislature for only two years, but some birth records from 1875 and 1876 are available on microfilm at the Georgia Archives. The participating counties were:

County Name	Birth Records		Marriage Records*		Death Records		Microfilm Location
	Number of Records	Date Range	Number of Records	Date Range	Number of Records	Date Range	Drawer/ Box #
Carroll	107	1875	54	1875	24	1875	260/53
Chattooga	116	1875 - 1876	66	1874 - 1876	35	1874 - 1876	260/53
Clayton	4	1875	1	1875	0		260/53
Colquitt	4	1875	2	1875	1	1875	260/53
Early	3	1876	10	1876	0		260/53
Jackson	9	1875	52	1875 - 1876	3	1875	260/53
Jefferson	0		0		8	1875	260/53
Lincoln	0		5	1875	0		260/53
Lumpkin	1	1875	11	1875 - 1876	3	1875	260/53
McIntosh	0		11	1875	2	1875	260/54
Miller	9	1875 - 1876	20	1875 - 1876	5	1875 - 1876	260/54
Muscogee	0		16	1876	0		260/54
Oglethorpe	41	1875					47/24
Pulaski	22	1875	0		0		260/54
Richmond	0		61	1875 - 1876	0		260/54
Sumter	8	1875 - 1876	82	1875 - 1876	0		260/54
Talbot	0		0		5	1875	260/54
Taliaferro	33	1875 - 1876	38	1875 - 1876	5		227/73

\* Additional pre-1900 marriage records are generally available. See our County Records on Microfilm Index for more information.



In 1914 the legislature vested the State Board of Health with the duty of compiling vital statistics and authorized the establishment of a central bureau of vital statistics. Early registration was scant. The few certificates that were filed with the state were grouped roughly by year, placed in binders, and stamped with a "file number." To some extent the sequence of the certificates reflects the order in which they were received by the state registrar. These certificates, covering approximately 1914 - 1919, were transferred to the Georgia Archives and are available on [www.GeorgiaArchives.org](http://www.GeorgiaArchives.org).

Included in the microfilmed holdings of the Georgia Archives are widely-scattered, pre-1919, birth and death records for the localities listed below. These registrations are not to be considered complete for the indicated dates.

Locality Name	Birth Records		Marriage Records		Death Records		Microfilm Location
	Number of Records	Date Range	Number of Records	Date Range	Number of Records	Date Range	Drawer/Box #
Chatham ** (Savannah, 1 of 5)					630	1803 - 1806	188/34
Chatham (Savannah, 2 of 5)					912	1807 - 1811	188/34
Chatham (Savannah, 3 of 5)					2039	1811 - 1818	188/34
Chatham (Savannah, 4 of 5)					3982	1818 - 1832	188/34
Chatham (Savannah, 5 of 5)					3968	1833 - 1847	188/35
Clarke (1 of 2) *	33	1808 - 1852					102/31
Clarke (2 of 2)	12	1875 - 1876			6	1875 - 1876	19/77
Elbert	20	1875 - 1876	187	1875 - 1876	13	1875 - 1876	19/77
Emanuel	21	1822 - 1863					32/73
Meriwether					2421	1890, 1917-1919, 1920 - 1937	13/23
Richmond	159	1823 - 1896					201/1
City of Gainesville	225	1908 - 1919			627	1908 - 1919	245/65

\*Available on Family Search

\*\*See also: Myrick Index of Marriages and Deaths: A collection of early epitaphs, 1733 - 1837. Drawer/Box: 91/60

Marriage licenses in Georgia have been required since 1805, although some counties voluntarily recorded marriages as early as the 1780s. They are maintained by the Probate Court of each county. The fact that marriage records are not at the Vital Records office for any period of time does not mean that they are missing from a county's records. The Georgia Archives holds microfilmed county marriage records dating from the nineteenth century, with some dating to the 1950s.

### Local Registration of Vital Records Prior to 1919

Vital records were recorded prior to 1919 in the cities of Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus, Macon and Savannah. Information on these records may be obtained by using the contact information below. These records are not at the Georgia Archives.

- **The City of Atlanta** (Fulton County) birth records beginning in 1896 and deaths in 1889. Contact the Fulton County Vital Records Office located at Fulton County Government Center, 141 Pryor Street, SW, Suite 1029A, Atlanta, GA 30303. Tel: (404) 613-1260
- **The City of Augusta** (Richmond County) began recording births in 1919 and deaths in 1904. Inquiries should be made by mail or in person to Richmond County Health Department, Vital Records, 1916 North Leg Road, Bldg. E, Augusta, GA 30909-4402. General questions about copies may be answered by telephone at (706) 667-4335. No records may be released by telephone.
- **The City of Columbus** (Muscogee County) births and deaths beginning in August 1890. Indexes available in the Genealogy Department, Columbus Public Library, 3000 Macon Road, Columbus, GA 31906. Tel: (706) 243-2697
- **The City of Macon** (Bibb County) began recording births in 1891 and deaths in 1882. For information, contact Macon (Bibb County) Health Department, 171 Emery Highway, Macon, GA 31217-3666. Tel: (478) 749-0102
- **The City of Savannah** (Chatham County) birth records beginning in 1890 and death beginning in 1803. Also on Ancestry.com. Death records from 1803 - 1890 at the Georgia Historical Society, 501 Whitaker Street, Savannah, GA 31499. Tel: 912-651-2128. City of Savannah vital records: Chatham County Health Department, P.O. Box 14257, Savannah, GA 31416. Tel: (912) 356-2138

### Substitutes for Vital Records

County records, particularly estate records, are useful substitutes for death records. Pre-1900 county records for most Georgia counties are available at the Georgia Archives. As a substitute for birth records, we recommend checking federal census records, available for Georgia from 1820 through 1950.