

# Online Resources for Georgia Archives Genealogical Records

*(with focus on African American resources)*

## **Ancestry.com:**

(subscription site also accessible in Georgia Archives Research Room and Georgia's public libraries)

## **U.S. Census, 1820-1940.**

- All persons in household listed beginning in 1850 (Freedmen listed)
- All African-Americans listed beginning in 1870
- Relationship to head of household listed beginning in 1880
- Each census tracks different information.

For African-American research:

Separate slave censuses (under Census click All) in 1850 and 1860 list name of slave owner with a separate record for each slave listing gender, age and color (black or mulatto).

## **U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989:** Search>Schools, Directories & Church Histories

Browse this collection for state, city and date coverage

- Gives head of household, may include name of spouse, address, occupation or employer
- Separate entries for wage-earners in same household
- Includes street directory by address

## **World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918:** Search>Military

- Men born between 1872 and 1900 required to register
- Three separate registrations which give different information
- Gives name, address, date and place of birth, occupation and employer, physical description, address of nearest relative, and marital status

## **Georgia Property Tax Digests:** Original Digests up to 1875, plus 1880, 1885 and 1890.

- 1890 was posted first as substitute for **missing 1890 Census**.

For African-American research:

- Pre-Civil War digests list number of slaves owned by taxpayer.
- Immediate post-Civil War digests list names of freedmen and their employers. Some counties continue to list employers in 1890 tax digests.

## **Central Register of Convicts, 1817-1976:** Register of convicts in the Georgia state prison system, including prison farms and work camps

- Gives name, prisoner number (when applicable), received date, sentence, crime, county of conviction, gender, release date.
- May also give date of escape, recapture, type of release.
- Depending on date, different ledgers for felonies and misdemeanors.

## **Georgia, Returns of Qualified Voters and Reconstruction Oath Books, 1867**

For African-American research:

- First official state record giving surnames for African-Americans.

**U.S. Colored Troops Military Service Records, 1863-1864:** Compiled military service records for United States African-American troops that volunteered to serve with the Union.

- Most records give name of soldier, age, birthplace, enlistment date, enlistment location

**Georgia Civil War Correspondence, 1847-1865**

- Governor's Incoming Correspondence ("Joe Brown" incoming correspondence),
- Governor's Letterbooks (outgoing correspondence),

**Georgia Civil War Correspondence, 1861-1865:** Civil War-era correspondence from several series

- Adjutant General's Incoming Correspondence, Adjutant General's Letterbooks.
- Online collection is **Incomplete**.

**Georgia Deaths, 1919-1998:** Index compiled by Georgia Vital Records Office.

- Gives date of death, county of death, certificate number, race.

---

**FamilySearch.org:** United States>Georgia. Free. Must register and create a free account to view search results and images.

**Georgia Deaths, 1914-1927.** Same collection as in Virtual Vault.

- Can search by First Name / Last Name without Advanced Search, but searching is more limited than in Virtual Vault.

**Georgia Deaths, 1928-1940.** (Certificates in Virtual Vault only to 1930)

- Records indexed, can search by First Name / Last Name, Death Place, Year (Range)
- Indexing not corrected, error rate about 5-7%.

**Georgia, County Marriages, 1785-1950.** Indexed images of marriage records on microfilm held by Georgia Archives, roughly up to 1900.

- Search by bride, groom, county of marriage, date span (year) of marriage.
- Some gaps in coverage.
- If you are not sure a marriage book has been indexed, search a date span and last name "Smith" or "Johnson."
- Lists bride and groom, county of marriage and date of marriage.
- Marriage book volume number and page not given.
- Marriage records are also in Georgia's Virtual Vault and in Ancestry.com

**Georgia Probate Records, 1742-1975.** Probate microfilm held by Georgia Archives.

- Not indexed (must browse through images).
- Browse files arranged alphabetically by county and type of record.

For African-American research:

Estate Inventories and Appraisements, Wills, Distributions that list slave names. (Normally does not include surnames for slaves)

**Freedmen's Bureau Records.** Search>Wiki>Search "Freedmen's Bureau Records" select African American Freedmen's Bureau Records. Scroll down to Searchable Collections on FamilySearch OR Search>United States>scroll to United States Freedmen's Bureau records.

- Indexed collections of a wide range of records including registers, returns and lists; claims records; labor contracts and apprenticeship records; complaints; court records; hospital and medical records; and bank records.
  - Includes browse collections of field office records for each state in which the Freedmen's Bureau operated.
  - Field Office records are listed in the Search section in the records for each state.
- 

**GeorgiaArchives.org:** Georgia Archives' website

**Virtual Vault** <http://vault.georgiaarchives.org/cdm/>  
Georgia Archives digital collections

**Marriage Records on Microfilm:** Search by County drop-down.

- Some gaps in coverage, over 90% complete.
- Not all volumes are indexed. Index within volume is usually groom index only.
- Lists bride and groom, county of marriage and date of marriage.
- Some counties had separate marriage books for whites and blacks. Look for the Colored or African American Marriage books.

**County Records Microfilm Index:** Search by County drop-down. Card index of Archives holdings of county records on microfilm. Estate records, marriage records, deeds.

- First card for each county lists any courthouse disaster which destroyed records.
- Arranged by court, then alphabetically by record type.
- Estate records are grouped together.
- Some counties had African American specific records, i.e. colored tax digests, slave trials, registers of Free Persons of Color, etc.

**File II Names.** Search by name.

- Use Advanced Search to search by name. Includes only primary sources (original documents and transcripts).

**File II Counties and Subjects.** Search by name or by subject.

- Includes important primary source material under subjects Reconstruction and under individual counties.

**General Name File:** Card index of personal names in state, local and personal records compiled by Georgia Archives staff.

- Choose first letter of surname in alphabet drop-down to search.

**Vanishing Georgia.** Photographs. Search by County drop-down.

- Use Advanced Search to search by keyword, begin date, subject, etc.

**FindingAids** <https://find.georgiaarchives.org/>

- Georgia Agency Records
- Search by keyword or by agency name
- Note DOC or RCB number to request records
- Use terms related to African Americans, including slave, negro, colored, Afro-American, black, etc.

**GIL: Book & Manuscript Catalog** <https://gil.georgiaarchives.org/>

- Includes manuscript collections (non-government records)
  - Published local and county histories, cemetery surveys, newspaper abstracts
- 

**Fold3.com:** (subscription site also accessible in the Georgia Archives Research Room)

- Main focus on military records. African Americans served in all the wars fought by United States.
  - Non-Military Records include:
    - African American Collection (Court records for Amistad, and South Carolina Estate Inventories and Bills of Sale, 1732-1872 among other things)
    - Native American Collection (Dawes Packets, Indian Census Rolls, 1885-1940, and Eastern Cherokee Applications among other things)
    - Newspapers
    - Town Records
    - Passport Applications
- 

**Digital Library of Georgia** [www.dlg.galileo.usg.edu](http://www.dlg.galileo.usg.edu)

You can *Browse by Media Type* to find the various types of records available on the Digital Library of Georgia.

- Books
- Maps including Sanborn Fire Maps
- Newspapers (Georgia Historical Newspapers) [gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu](http://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu).
- Oral Histories including *Living Atlanta* oral history collection (from the Atlanta History Center)
- Photographs

*Last updated January 2018*