Directions

The facility is located in Morrow, Georgia, approximately 10 miles south of Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.

From downtown Atlanta, take I-75 South to Exit 233, Morrow. Turn left onto Georgia Highway 54/Jonesboro Road. Travel approximately 1½ miles. NARA–Southeast Region is the second building on the right after Clayton State Boulevard.

Mail and Telephone Inquiries

We will provide answers to specific inquiries made over the telephone or through electronic and regular mail if the information desired is brief and easily obtainable. Otherwise, the records are made available for examination in our research rooms by individuals who must conduct their own research. Extensive research by our staff is not possible.

Please send e-mail inquiries to: atlanta.archives@nara.gov.

Reproductions

For a fee, our staff will make or arrange for copies of records and provide certified copies for legal use. You may use self-service copiers for a fee to make paper copies from microfilm. Researchers can request reproductions of certain types of records and pay for the order with most major credit cards through Order Online (www.archives.gov/order/).

Hours

Monday–Friday, 9:00 A.M.–4 P.M., by appointment only Closed Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays.

National Archives and Records Administration General Information Leaflet Number 80

National Archives Southeast Region (Atlanta)



Family History Sources

5780 Jonesboro Road Morrow, GA 30260-3806 770-968-2100

E-mail: atlanta.archives@nara.gov

Web site: www.archives.gov/atlanta



Introduction

Your family's story is unique. It helps define who you are. The resources in the National Archives—Southeast Region are a gateway to discovering that story—who your ancestors were, what tragedies they suffered, and the triumphs they experienced, all told through the seemingly impersonal records of the Federal Government.

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) serves American democracy by safeguarding and preserving the records of our Government, ensuring that people can discover, use, and learn from this documentary heritage. We ensure continuing access to the essential documentation of the rights of American citizens and the actions of their government. We support democracy, promote civic education, and facilitate historical understanding of our national experience.

In support of this mission, the National Archives maintains a nationwide network of regional facilities. The Southeast Region has custody of the permanently valuable records of field offices and divisions of Federal agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The states are diverse—in economics, social mores, and culture. Stories about individuals and families emerge from many of these records, revealing their character, day-to-day existence, and even some of their secrets.

We invite you to open the pages of your family album and discover your heritage.



Resources We Have...

Original Records

Naturalization Records (Records of the U.S. District Courts)
Our holdings, dating from 1790, include records of immigrants who applied for American citizenship in U.S. District Courts in Alabama, Florida,

for American citizenship in U.S. District Courts in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Complete or partial indexes are available for some of the courts.

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Slave Manifests

Masters of ships carrying slave cargo between domestic ports were required to submit a manifest of their human cargo. These manifests generally include the slave's name (usually the given name, not the last name), sex, age, and height. They also contain the name of the shipper and the person or firm to whom the slaves were shipped. The records of the customs houses include slave manifests for Mobile, Alabama, 1820–60, and Savannah, Georgia, 1801–60.

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Tennessee Valley Authority

The Tennessee Valley Authority, created in 1933, was unique among Federal agencies with broad, wide-ranging powers for managing resources, including flood control. The threat of rising reservoir waters flooding certain areas forced TVA officials to relocate families and cemeteries. These relocation files are especially valuable sources of information on families in the region served by the TVA. In addition, the Southeast Region has custody of hundreds of thousands of photographs taken by the TVA, including photographs of the project, families, schools, farms, etc.

Draft Registration Cards

The original World War I draft registration cards completed by all 24 million American men who registered for the draft in all states are among the records at the NARA-Southeast Region.

Draft registration cards from World War II through the Vietnam era are available for the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Privacy Act restrictions may apply in some cases.

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Military Service and Pension and Bounty Land Application Records

The Southeast Region has microfilm copies of records pertaining to soldiers from throughout the United States taking part in several wars. These military records can provide valuable information for the family historian. In addition, pension applications and records of pension payments for veterans, their widows, and other heirs can provide information on marriages, births, deaths, and other genealogical information.

Selected applications and records of pension payments are available on microfilm for veterans, their widows, and other heirs. They are based on service in the Armed Forces of the United States between 1775 and 1916, excluding Civil War pension records.

Microfilm Resources

Census Records

Microfilm holdings include the existing Federal population census schedules, taken every 10 years for all states, 1790–1930 (nearly all 1890 schedules were destroyed by fire in 1921), and the 1850 and 1860 Slave Censuses. In addition, commercially published indexes are available in our research room, including print sources and online databases.

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Mrs. Margaret Marsh (above), writing under the name Margaret Mitchell, published *Gone With the Wind* in 1936. Her 1930 Census entry (top) indicates "none" for her occupation. Courtesy of Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center, Kenneth G. Rogers Photographs. Image KGR 277-5.

Passenger Arrival

The immigration of millions of people from other countries to the United States is documented in passenger arrival manifests created first by the Customs Service and later by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The Southeast Region holds microfilm copies of these lists primarily for the ports along the Eastern seaboard as well as the Canadian border points of entry. See the region's online finding aid "Microfilm Available in the Reference Room in Atlanta, GA" available at www.archives.gov/southeast/finding-aids/microfilm/immigration.html for a list of ports under "immigration."

Freedmen's Bureau

The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, also known as the Freedmen's Bureau, was responsible for the supervision and management of all matters relating to the refugees and freedmen and lands abandoned or seized during the Civil War. These records are an extremely rich source of documentation for the African American family historian seeking to "bridge the gap" for the transitional period from slavery to freedom.

Native American Records

An act of Congress approved in 1893 established a commission to negotiate agreements with the Choctaw, Creek, Chickasaw, Seminole, and Cherokee Indian tribes. As part of a process to divide tribal land into plots to be dispersed among the members of the tribe, the Dawes Commission either accepted or rejected applicants for tribal membership based on whether the tribal government had previously recognized the applicants as members of the tribe and other legal requirements. Applicants were categorized as citizens by blood; citizens by marriage; minor citizens by blood; newborn citizens by blood; freedmen (African Americans formerly enslaved by tribal members); newborn freedmen; and minor freedmen. The final cards include both approved and rejected names. Most rolls give the name, age, sex, degree of Indian blood, and census card number of each person.

See the region's online finding aid "Microfilm Available in the Reference Room in Atlanta, GA" available at www.archives.gov/southeast/finding-aids/microfilm/ for details on microfilm publications available in Atlanta.

Online Resources

Archives.gov for Genealogists/Family Historians

NARA's web site provides information on:

- · How to start your genealogy research
- · What you can find online
- · Research topics for genealogists

See www.archives.gov/genealogy for more information.

Internet Sources

Ancestry.com, Heritagequestonline.com, and Footnote.com are subscription-based web sites that have databases with significant genealogical records from the holdings of the National Archives. All National Archives facilities have public access computers that can link to institutional versions of these sites.

What We Do Not Have...

Despite the above resources, we are not primarily a genealogical institution. We do not have "vital records" (birth, death, marriage, or divorce). These records are either state or local records. Questions involving state or local records, records of the colonial period (1607–1789), church records, etc., should be directed to the proper state or local government agency or genealogical/historical society in the area in which you are interested.