This outline describes major sources of information about families from South Carolina. As you read this outline, study the United States Research Outline (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

**RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY**

The Family History Library has many of the records described in this outline. The major holdings include compiled genealogies and census, cemetery, church, land, military, probate, and vital records.

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, and microfiche numbers. These are preceded by FHL, the abbreviation for Family History Library. These numbers may be used to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at family history centers.

**FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG**

The library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog found at the library and at each family history center. To find a record, look in the Locality Search of the catalog for:

- The place where your ancestor lived, such as:
  - UNITED STATES - CENSUS RECORDS
  - SOUTH CAROLINA - MILITARY RECORDS
  - SOUTH CAROLINA, CHARLESTON - VITAL RECORDS
  - SOUTH CAROLINA, CHARLESTON, CHARLESTON - CEMETERIES

- The record type you want to search, such as:
  - UNITED STATES - CENSUS RECORDS
  - SOUTH CAROLINA - MILITARY RECORDS
  - SOUTH CAROLINA, CHARLESTON - VITAL RECORDS
  - SOUTH CAROLINA, CHARLESTON, CHARLESTON - CEMETERIES

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the Family History Library Catalog.

**ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES**

The following archives, libraries, and societies have collections or services to assist genealogical researchers.

- South Carolina Department of Archives and History
  8301 Parklane Rd.
  Columbia, SC 29223
  Telephone: 803-896-6104
  Fax: 803-896-6198
  Internet: [www.state.sc.us/scdah/homepage.htm](http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/homepage.htm)

  The staff will check a few indexes for a specific name and send a photocopy order for records in which that name appears. A useful guide to the collection is Marion C. Chandler and Earl W. Wade, The South Carolina Archives: A Temporary Summary Guide, 2d ed. (Columbia, S.C.: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1976; FHL book 975.7 A5c).

- National Archives—Southeast Region
  (Atlanta) 1557 St. Joseph Avenue
  East Point, GA 30344
  Telephone: 404-763-7477
  Fax: 404-763-7234
  E-mail: center@atlanta.nara.gov

- South Carolina Historical Society
  100 Meeting Street
  Charleston, SC 29401-2299
  Telephone: 843-723-3225
  Fax: 843-723-8584
  Internet: [www.schistory.org](http://www.schistory.org)


- Thomas Cooper Library
  University of South Carolina
  Columbia, SC 29208-0103
  Telephone: 803-777-3132
  Fax: 803-777-4661
  Internet: [www.sc.edu/library](http://www.sc.edu/library)


- South Carolina Room
  Charleston Public Library
  68 Calhoun St.
  Charleston, SC 29401
  Tel.: 843-805-6956
  Fax: 843-727-6777
Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems can be useful tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers
- Post queries
- Send and receive e-mail
- Search large databases
- Search computer libraries
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from South Carolina in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

Addresses on the Internet change frequently. As of April 1997, the following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

- USGenWeb
  http://www.usgenweb.com/
  A cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county, state, and country.

- Roots-L
  http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/
  A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly-updated research coordination list.

For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the United States Research Outline (30972), 2nd ed., “Archives and Libraries” section.

FamilySearch™

The Family History Library and some family history centers have computers with FamilySearch. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing several million names. FamilySearch is a good place to begin your research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; some have been automated from original sources.

An increasing number of family history centers have access to the Internet. These services are also available at many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations.

BIBLE RECORDS

Three volumes of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Bible transcripts and a volume compiled by Leonardo Andrea are on FHL film 954247. Additional DAR compilations are part of the collection described in the “Genealogy” section of this outline. All of these collections are partially indexed by E. Kay Kirkham, An Index to Some of the Family Records of the Southern States (Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1979; FHL book 973 D22kk vol. 1; fiche 6089183).

Another collection of original Bible records for families of South Carolina and other Southern states is Memory Aldridge Lester, Bible Records from the Southern States, 7 vols. in 6 (Chapel Hill, N.C.: M.A. Lester, 1956-62; FHL book 975 D28L; film 0978067).

BIOGRAPHY

An index to all published biographical sketches is:


spouse(s), names of children, and places of residence and service.


Two representative biographical encyclopedias are:


CEMETERIES

The best collection of South Carolina cemetery inscriptions is at the South Carolinian Library in transcripts made by the Work Projects Administration. The cemeteries included in this collection are listed in Local and Family History in South Carolina: A Bibliography (see the “For Further Reading” section of this outline).

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains tombstone inscriptions from South Carolina cemeteries. This collection and an every-name index to it are described in the “Genealogy” section of this outline.

The Leonardo Andrea collection (see “Genealogy”’) also includes inscriptions from numerous graveyards (FHL films 942259 item 20, and film 954250). Another helpful collection is South Carolina Cemetery Records, 3 vols. (Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society, 1941-54; FHL book 975.7 V22a; film 873730 items 1-3).

CENSUS

Federal

Many federal census records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal archives. The United States Research Outline (30972) provides more detailed information about these records.

Federal censuses were taken in South Carolina at ten-year intervals beginning in 1790. They are available on microfilm through 1930. The 1890 schedules were destroyed, except those for Civil War veterans and widows, which are at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, the National Archives, and the Family History Library.

Indexes are available for the 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses in book format. Microfilm soundex (phonetic) indexes are available for part of the 1880 and all of the 1900, 1910, 1920, and 1930 censuses.

Mortality schedules (lists of deaths in the year preceding the census) exist for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 (FHL films 1294287-89). Indexes have been published for 1850 and 1860. The originals are at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Colonial and State

No colonial censuses have been preserved. See the “Taxation” section of this outline for similar lists of names for this time period.

Although not available at the Family History Library, the South Carolina Department of Archives and History has the following state censuses:

- 1829 state census (Fairfield and Laurens Districts)
- 1839 state census (Kershaw District)
- 1869 population returns
- 1875 agricultural and population returns

CHURCH RECORDS

Church records and histories are critical to research in South Carolina because of the lack of civil vital records prior to 1900. Before 1900 the largest religious groups in South Carolina were the Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches. The Anglican Church (later, Protestant Episcopal) was established in 1706 and was serving 25 parishes by 1778. During the colonial period the Lutheran, Huguenot, and Quaker denominations were also represented.

The Family History Library has a large collection of Baptist, Methodist, and Protestant Episcopal church records on microfilm. From the Charleston area, for example, the library has copies of records from the South Carolina Historical Society, Southern Baptist Convention, and local churches. These materials include records of the Methodists (1845 to 1980 on 145 microfiche), Baptists (1868 to 1955), Evangelical Luthers (from 1778), Congregationalists (from 1732), Protestant Episcopal (from 1713), Lutherans (from 1749), and Society of Friends (from 1719).

Many denominations have collected their records into central repositories. Church repositories are listed in Local and Family History in South Carolina (see the “For Further Reading” section of this outline). You can
also write to the following addresses to learn where their records are located.

**Baptist**

South Carolina Baptist Historical Collection  
James B. Duke Library  
Furman University  
3300 Poinsett Highway  
Greenville, SC 29613-0600  
Telephone: 864-294-2194  
Fax: 864-294-2194  
E-mail: debbieLee.Landi@furman.edu  
Internet: www.furman.edu

Their Archives and Special Collections houses the Baptist Historical Collection. See their Internet site for a listing by church name, or by county, of church records in their collection.

See also:

- Bolt, Ernest C. *South Carolina Baptist Churches by Association*. Nashville: Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, 196-. (FHL film 1001802.)

**Episcopal**

St. Philip’s Episcopal parish was established in Charleston in 1682. Records of baptisms, marriages, and burials, 1720-1822 are published in:


**Methodist**

South Carolina Methodist Conference Archives  
Sandor Teszler Library  
Wofford College  
429 N. Church Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29301-3663  
Telephone: 864-597-4300  
Fax: 864-597-4329  
E-mail: stonerp@wofford.edu  
Internet: www.wofford.edu

They have an index of obituaries appearing in the Southern Christian Advocate newspaper, 1837 to the present.

For a history of the Methodist church, see Albert Micajah Shipp, *History of Methodism in South Carolina* (Nashville: Southern Methodist Publishing House, 1884; FHL film 0908353 item 2). The appendix includes biographical sketches.

**Presbyterian and Reformed**

Presbyterian Historical Society  
318 Georgia Terr.  
P.O. Box 849  
Montreat, NC 28757  
Telephone: 828-669-7061  
Fax: 828-669-5369  
E-mail: history.pcusa.org  
Internet: www.history.pcusa.org

The Presbyterian Historical Society has many church records and can search those records. You can correspond with them at:

E-mail: refdesk@history.pcusa.org

To locate Presbyterian records see:


**Roman Catholic**

Charleston Diocesan Archives  
119 Broad Street  
P.O. Box 818  
Charleston, SC 29402  
Telephone: 843-724-8372
COURT RECORDS

Prior to 1769, proprietary and crown courts were convened at Charleston. These were known as the General Court and the Grand Council. From 1769 to 1772 a circuit court system was begun. Judicial districts began to keep records for some courts, although records were still filed in Charleston. After 1780 the records were kept in the various courthouses.

Major South Carolina courts that kept records of genealogical value included the following. (Other courts are mentioned in the “Probate” section of this outline.)

1671-1790s

Court of Chancery handled land and inheritance matters for the entire colony. The Family History Library has some chancery court records, later known as equity records.

1703-pres.

Court of Common Pleas was a statewide court until 1790 when each district established a separate court with jurisdiction over guardianship and civil matters. The Family History Library has many of these records.

1769-pres.

Circuit courts have had district or countywide jurisdiction in criminal cases and some civil cases. Many of these records, on microfilm, are at the Family History Library.

1769-1776

Court of General Sessions was a statewide court until 1790, when each district established a separate court. These courts had jurisdiction over criminal cases. The Family History Library has a good collection of these records on microfilm.

1785-1798

County courts had jurisdiction over minor civil and criminal matters. The Family History Library has many of these records. (The records of the county courts temporarily established in 1683 no longer exist).

1791-1900

Courts of equity had countywide jurisdiction over property matters. Many of the records are available at the Family History Library.

Many court records are indexed in the South Carolina Department of Archives and History “Combined Index to Multiple Record Series, 1675-1929,” on their Internet site, www.state.sc.us/scdah/homepage.htm. See that Internet site for a list of the court records.

For more information about court procedures and records see:


Warren, Mary B. South Carolina Jury Lists, 1718 through 1783. Danielsville, GA: Heritage Papers, 1977. (FHL book 975.7 P2w.) The names were compiled from tax lists, as jurors were selected on the basis of taxes they paid.

DIRECTORIES

Directories of heads of households have been published for major cities in South Carolina. For example the Family History Library has directories for:

- Columbia
  1859, 1860 FHL fiche 6043826-27
  1903-32, 1934-35 FHL film 1759654-62
  1931 FHL book 975.77 E4h

- Charleston
  1796 FHL film 0000620 item 2
  1866-1934 FHL film 1376645
  1782, 1785, 1794, 1806-07, 1809, 1824, 1836, 1856, 1860 FHL fiche 6052954

You can also find collections of directories in the archives mentioned in the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline. The Charleston Library Society has a special collection of Charleston directories dating from 1782.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

The People

About 80 percent of the settlers of colonial South Carolina were of English origin. Many of them came by way of Barbados and other colonies rather than directly from England. A group of Dutch settlers from New York came to South Carolina in 1671. Another smaller group was of French origin, mostly descendants of Huguenots, who came to the area beginning in 1680. More numerous were the Scottish dissenters, who were brought in beginning in 1682, and the Germans, who arrived during the eighteenth century. Blacks constituted a majority of the population from early colonial times until 1930. Indian wars drove most of the native Americans from the state, but there are still a few Catawba Indians in York County.
Settlement Patterns

The earliest settlements were on the coastal plain low country of South Carolina. Pushed by a desire to escape the Revolutionary War and pulled by a desire for land, settlers eventually poured into the Piedmont up country. They were of Ulster Scots, German, and Welsh descent. In 1770 the population of South Carolina was less than 50,000; by 1790 it had reached 140,000.

Almost immediately after statehood, South Carolina began to lose population to the westward movement. In the early 1800s, slaveholders moved to new, more fertile plantations in Alabama and Mississippi. In the 1820s, antislavery Quakers moved to the Old Northwest, especially Indiana.

South Carolina did not attract many overseas immigrants during the nineteenth century. State-sponsored recruiting efforts brought in a few hundred Germans between 1866 and 1868 and about 2,500 northern Europeans in the early 1900s.

The Records

The major port of entry to South Carolina was Charleston. The Family History Library and the National Archives have fragmentary passenger lists for Charleston for 1820 to 1828 (FHL film 0830232) and for Port Royal for 1865 (FHL film 0830245). A few arrivals at Charleston are included in an index to passenger lists of vessels arriving at miscellaneous southern ports from 1890 to 1924 (FHL films 1324938-63).

Customs records for the ports of Charleston, Georgetown, and Beaufort are at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Several published records of pre-1900 immigrants are indexed in P. William Filby, *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index* (Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1981, 1985, 1986; FHL book 973 W32p). Supplements are issued annually. There are cumulative indexes on:

Internet: [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

More detailed information on immigration sources is in the *United States Research Outline* (30972). Records of blacks are listed in the Family History Library Catalog Locality Search under the heading SOUTH CAROLINA - SLAVERY AND BONDAGE and under the heading SOUTH CAROLINA - MINORITIES. Records of other major ethnic groups, including French Huguenots, Ulster Scots, Jews, Quakers, and Catawba Indians, are listed under SOUTH CAROLINA - MINORITIES.

GAZETTEERS

Several gazetteers of South Carolina have been published. These include:

- *South Carolina Waterways As They Appear in Mill's Atlas . . .* Salt Lake City: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1977. (FHL book 975.7 E2c 1977.) This book is very useful when a waterway is mentioned in deeds or land grants.

A periodical devoted to the study of South Carolina place names is *Names in South Carolina*, 1954- (Columbia: University of South Carolina, 1954-1983; FHL book 975.7 B5d).

GENEALOGY

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. These must usually be searched in person. Some of the best manuscript collections are at the South Carolina Historical Society, the South Carolinian Library, and the Charleston Library Society.

Two very important indexes to South Carolina records are:

South Carolina Department of Archives and History “Combined Index to Multiple Record Series, 1675-1929,” which is at their Internet site, [www.state.sc.us/scdah/homepage.htm](http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/homepage.htm).

South Carolina Name Index to Genealogical Records Collected by South Carolina Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988, (FHL fiche 6052835, 102 fiche.) This indexes the South Carolina DAR collection which is at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., and on microfilm at the Family History Library. This index gives the film and page number. Many types of South Carolina records are included in the collection.

Some notable genealogical collections are:

- *DAR Collection*. This collection consists of transcripts of Bible records, cemetery records, church records, marriages, deaths, obituaries, and wills. It was microfilmed in 1971 at the DAR Library, Washington, D.C., and is available on 31 films at the Family History Library (FHL films beginning with 0855210). The volumes are generally arranged by county. These are listed in the Author/Title Search of the Family History Library Catalog under DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (SOUTH CAROLINA).
An every-name index of 617,000 names has been produced by the Family History Library (FHL fiche 6052835).

**Genealogical Folders in the Leonardo Andrea Collection.** Andrea's collection of research files is in the possession of his family but a microfilm copy is at the Family History Library. It was filmed in 1974 in two alphabetical parts: Genealogical Folders . . . or correspondence (FHL films 0954524-97 index on 954524 and 954241-46), and Genealogical Correspondence (FHL films 0954255-61 and 0947464-77). An inventory of the collection is Index to Genealogical Folders in the Leonardo Andrea Collection (typescript; FHL book 975.7 D22a; film 0908685 item 6; fiche 6019560).


**Colonial Families of South Carolina.** This collection of surname folders by Motte Alston Read was filmed in 1952 at the South Carolina Historical Society (FHL films 022750 item 2 and 022751-89; subject and family index is on FHL film 022750 item 1). The information is from newspapers, deeds, court records, church records, and so forth. The subject references can only be investigated through correspondence with the South Carolina Historical Society.

Some major published genealogical collections for South Carolina include:


**HISTORY**

The following important events affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements:

- 1670 The first permanent English settlement was made at Albemarle Point (Charles Town).

- 1713 The South Carolina region separated from North Carolina and became a royal colony. Records were kept in Charleston.

- 1730 Settlers began to move into the interior when the colonial government provided incentives for landowners in new townships.

- 1760-1761 The Cherokee War ended in a treaty that opened the up country for settlement. The Bounty Act of 1761 offered public land tax free for ten years, and settlers from other colonies began pouring into the up country.

- 1769 Nine original judicial districts were established, but records continued to be kept in Charleston until 1780.

- 1788 South Carolina became a state. The state government was moved from Charleston to Columbia in 1790, although some functions remained at Charleston until after the Civil War.

- 1830-1840 Overseas immigration to South Carolina, which had begun to decline about 1815, virtually ceased in this decade.

- 1860 South Carolina was the first state to secede from the Union. The Civil War began there in 1861. About 63,000 men from the state served in the Confederate armed forces.

- 1868 South Carolina was readmitted to the Union. Districts were now called counties.


**LAND AND PROPERTY**

**Proprietary Grants**

Land grants were made by the Lords Proprietor from about 1670 to 1719, and recorded by the Register of the Province. Proprietary land titles, abstracts of title, and registrations of land grants are sometimes called “memorials.” Governors issued warrants and ordered plats and surveys, but most of these documents are lost. After 1682 an indenture was often used to deed land in exchange for quitrents.

Lists of many early landowners are found in Alexander S. Salley, *Records of the Secretary of the Province and the Register of the Province of South Carolina, 1671-1675* (Columbia, S.C.: Historical Commission of South Carolina, 1944; FHL book 975.7 N2c; film 1425662 item 5). This includes deeds, wills, and other records.
Land warrants were presented to the surveyor general and recorded by the secretary of state. They are often the most complete guide to early land settlement. Proprietary grants are listed in A.S. Salley, Jr., *Warrants for Lands in South Carolina 1672-1711*, 1910-15, Reprint (Columbia, S.C.: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1973; FHL book 975.7 R2sa or 975.7 R21h; film 0845162 items 3-4 1672-1692, and film 0845163 1692-1711).

**Royal Period**

From 1719 to 1775, when South Carolina was a royal colony, grants were recorded by the secretary of the province and deeds were recorded separately by the public register. After land offices suspended much of their business in the 1720s, Sir George Carteret bought out most of the proprietors’ lands in 1729. The portion originally held by Sir George, and later held by the Earl of Granville, remained under the proprietary system until the Revolution. A discussion of the land system, land grants, and quitrents is in William Roy Smith, *South Carolina as a Royal Province, 1719-1776* (New York: Macmillan, 1903; FHL film 1320960 item 4). Also see the “Taxation” section of this outline for further information on quitrents.


**Charleston Office Records.** South Carolina deeds, releases, bonds, and mortgages from all counties were recorded at Charleston during the years 1719 to 1786. The original documents are in the office of the Register of Mesne Conveyance in Charleston. Copies are at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and the Family History Library. They are indexed in:


Royal land grants issued for the years 1731 to 1775 often pertain to the four original districts of Colleton, Craven, Berkeley, and Granville. The originals are housed at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, and copies are available at the Family History Library (FHL films 0022581-97 and 0361873). The index is on film 0022581. Headright grants were awarded in South Carolina, and are in the *South Carolina Council Journals* (1749-1773) found at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.


Land records, including the memorials (1731-1775), land grants (1694-1776), and other records are indexed in the South Carolina Department of Archives and History “Combined Index to Multiple Record Series, 1675-1929,” which is at their Internet site, [www.state.sc.us/scdah/homepage.htm](http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/homepage.htm). At that Internet site is a listing of the records indexed.

Beginning in 1741, all persons who had received land in South Carolina after 1719 had to deliver “memorials” to the auditor general, stating the county, parish, location, quantity, names of adjacent land owners, boundaries, and how the present title was received. Originals of these records are found at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, and copies are available at the Family History Library for the years 1704 to 1775 (FHL film 0023297-305; the index is on film 0023297). A few of these records are published in Katie-Prince Ward Esker, *South Carolina Memorials, 1731-1776: Abstracts of Selected Land Records from a Collection in the Department of Archives and History*. . . , 2 vols. (New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1973-1977; FHL book 975.7 R28e; the library has vol. 2 only).

Original plats and surveys are available at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Copies of these records are at the Family History Library for 1861 (FHL films 0022598-625, films 0022598-600 contain indexes). These records show the location of the land and give the names of adjacent landowners.

**State Land Records**

After South Carolina became a state, unclaimed land was granted by the state. Microfilms of land grants recorded by the Surveyor General, 1784 to 1882, are at the Family History Library (FHL film 022531-580; the index is on film 022531). The original records are at the Secretary of State's Office at Columbia. These are partially indexed in Ronald Vern Jackson, *Index to South Carolina Land Grants, 1784-1800* (Bountiful, Ut.: Accelerated Indexing Systems, Inc., 1977; FHL book 975.7 R22j).
County Land Records

Deeds were recorded in the counties by the clerk of the court after 1785. Most of the pre-1800 files are very incomplete. Between 1785 and 1868, land transfers were kept according to a number of old and new districts, later called counties. For further information on the history and organization of districts, see James M. Black, “The Counties and Districts of South Carolina,” Genealogical Journal, vol. 5, no. 3. (See the “For Further Reading” section of this outline.)

The Family History Library has microfilms of many of the surviving pre-1865 land records of most of the districts. For example, the library has Charleston County bills of sale, powers of attorney, bonds, notes, contracts, pardons, commissions, accounts, and indentures, 1719 to 1873, and Greenville County deeds, 1786 to 1865. Most of the pre-1865 land records are missing for the districts of Abbeville, Beaufort, Chesterfield, Colleton, Georgetown, Lexington, Orangeburg, and Richland.

The South Carolina Department of Archives and History is currently filming deeds and plats in county courthouses up to 1920. Other archives with land records are the South Carolinian Library and the South Carolina Historical Society.

MAPS

The South Carolinian Library has an excellent collection of maps. Part of the collection is a series of over 400 maps for 1884 to 1935, giving the location and construction details of buildings in 83 cities and towns in the state. The University of South Carolina and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History also have extensive map collections.

Atlases with maps of South Carolina for the years 1790, 1810, 1823, 1838, 1857, 1862, 1878, 1884, and 1917 are on FHL film 002083. City ward maps of Charleston for the years 1844, 1855, 1869, and 1883, for use with census records, are on FHL film 1377700 and fiche 6016609-12.

For maps of counties and parishes, see:


Mills, Robert. Mill's Atlas of the State of South Carolina. [N.p.: Legislature of South Carolina, 1825?]. (FHL book Folio 975.7 E7m; 1965 edition in Folio 975.7 E3ma.) These maps show the names of persons who owned land during the period 1810 to 1820.


MILITARY RECORDS

Many military records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal archives. The United States Research Outline (30972) provides more information about the federal records. For South Carolina the following sources are also very helpful:

Colonial Wars

Lists of soldiers who served from 1715 to about 1772 are in Leonardo Andrea, South Carolina Colonial Soldiers and Patriots (Columbia, S.C.: N.p., 1952; FHL film 1320504 item 3). Militia records for 1759 to 1760, including the Cherokee War, are in Murtie June Clark, comp., Colonial Soldiers of the South, 1732-1774 (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1983; FHL book 975 M29c). The South Carolina Department of Archives and History also has copies of records from the British Public Record Office pertaining to the Cherokee War of 1760 to 1761.

Revolutionary War (1775-1783)

Lists of about 26,000 soldiers, and their service and pension records, are in Bobby Gilmer Moss, Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1983; FHL book 975.7 M2m).

South Carolina Revolutionary War claims, 1783 to 1786, are housed in the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. They are indexed and on microfilm. A published index to the records is Janie Revill, Copy of the Original Index Book Showing the Revolutionary Claims Filed in South Carolina between August 20, 1783 and August 31, 1786, 1941, Reprint (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1969; FHL book 975.7 M2r).

The stub entries to the records issued for claims are also at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. With few exceptions they have been published in a series of twelve volumes, each of which is well indexed (FHL book 975.7 M2h; vols. 1-12 on films 0824066-68; vols. 1-12 on fiche 6046914).

individual lived about 1791, and gives the volume and number of the indent in the twelve-volume set mentioned above.

For an alphabetical list of pensioners see Janye C. G. Pruitt, *Revolutionary War Pension Applicants Who Served from South Carolina*. N.p.: 1946; (FHL book 975.7 M24p; film 1425646 item 8).

The South Carolina Department of Archives and History has many Revolutionary War records and copies of documents pertaining to British armies. The Department of Archives and History and the Family History Library have auditor's office files containing the claims of South Carolina Loyalists presented to commissioners in London and in Nova Scotia.

**War of 1812 (1812-1815)**

An index to service records of volunteer soldiers who served in South Carolina units is available at the Family History Library (FHL films 0882812-18). The library also has an index to pensioners, but the actual service and pension records are at the National Archives.

**Civil War (1861-1865)**


The South Carolina Department of Archives and History has the compiled service and pension records of Confederate soldiers, musters and payrolls of Confederate units, and the 1907 to 1957 records of the Confederate Home.

A record of the Confederate soldiers who died in the war is:


A book listing 6,503 Confederate pensioners in 1901 is:

Holcomb, Brent H. *South Carolina’s Confederate Pensioners in 1901*. Columbia, S.C.: SCMAR, 2001. (FHL book 975.7 M2hb.) This gives the county of residence, post office, unit in which the soldier served, and age. Widows are listed with their county of residence, post office, and the unit in which their husband served.

**Other Wars and Records**

The South Carolina Department of Archives and History has a card file of South Carolina volunteer troops for the Spanish American War.

**World War I (1917-1918)**

The *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies.


World War I draft registration cards for men age 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for South Carolina, see:


To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board.

Most counties had only one board; large cities had several. A map showing the boundaries of individual draft boards is available for most large cities. Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you in using the draft board map. There is an alphabetical list of cities that are on the map. For a copy of this map see:


**Other Records**

Additional records at the Family History Library include copies of veterans' enrollment records, pension applications of veterans and widows, and pension rolls. These are described in the catalog under the name of the county. The original records are at the local county courthouses.
NATIVE RACES

The Family History Library has some published documents and histories of Indians who lived in South Carolina in the colonial era. The Catawba, Old Cheraws, Cherokee, and other Indian nations are chronicled in Chapman J. Milling, *Red Carolinians* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1940; FHL book 975.7 F2m; film 1425645 item 5).

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Some colonial applications for naturalization are found in the records of the secretary of the province at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Since the Revolutionary War, naturalization papers have been filed in the records of federal, state, and local courts. The Family History Library has petitions to the courts of common pleas and general sessions for some counties. A few of these records are found in the court minutes that are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under SOUTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY] - COURT RECORDS.

Starting in the 1780s, the South Carolina legislature also granted citizenship. Many of these petitions are in the records of the General Assembly at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Only one small volume of records, 1788 to 1839, is at both the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and the Family History Library (FHL film 0022673, the index is on film 0022662). Another source of information is Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina Naturalizations, 1783-1850* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1985; FHL book 975.7 P4h).

Naturalizations granted by federal courts in South Carolina before the Civil War are indexed in volume 66 of the *South Carolina Historical Magazine*. The original records are at the National Archives—Southeast Region (Atlanta), and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History has microfilm copies. Copies of the U.S. District Court records for the years 1790 to 1906 from the National Archives—Southeast Region (Atlanta) are also at the Family History Library (film 929094).

For naturalization records after 1906, contact the National Archives—Southeast Region (Atlanta) or the local office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

NEWSPAPERS

The Family History Library has acquired very few copies of South Carolina newspapers. The best collections are at the University of South Carolina, and the Charleston Library Society.

The South Carolina Library at the University of South Carolina has an extensive collection of newspapers, with original copies and microfilmed copies. You can search their Library Catalog by title, subject, author, or keyword, at www.sc.edu/library. They are the repository for the United States Newspaper Program for South Carolina newspapers.

For a list of South Carolina newspapers published from 1732 to about 1988, and where copies of the newspapers are available, see:


The Charleston Library Society also has a large collection of newspapers.

Another newspaper collection is at the Georgetown County Memorial Library at Georgetown. The Furman University Library at Greenville has many newspapers of the Southern Baptist denomination (see the Church Records section in this outline for their address.)

There are many useful indexes to newspaper marriage and death notices. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under: SOUTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY], [CITY] - Newspapers or, SOUTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY], [CITY] - Obituaries. Following are examples:


PERIODICALS

The major genealogical periodicals and magazines helpful for South Carolina research are:


Carolina Herald and Newsletter. 1974-. Published by the South Carolina Genealogical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 492, Columbia, S.C. 29202. (FHL book 975.7 B2c.)

Names in South Carolina. 1954-. Published by the Department of English, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208. (FHL book 975.7 B5d.) Has information on persons and places whose history is intertwined with specific localities.

South Carolina Genealogical Register. 1963-1968. Published by Elizabeth Wood Thomas, ed., Pass Christian, MS 39571. (FHL book 975.7 B2g; film vols. 0908182 item 2 vols. 2 and 0496854 item 6 vols. 3-4.)

South Carolina Historical Magazine (formerly: South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine). 1900-. Published by the South Carolina Historical Society, Fireproof Building, 100 Meeting St., Charleston, SC 29401-2291, Telephone: 803-723-3225, Fax 803-723-8584. (FHL book 975.7 B2s; film 1697883 item 13 vol. 6.) This has cumulative indexes to 1992-1999.

South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research, 1973-. Published by Brent Holcomb, P.O. Box 21766, Columbia, SC 29221 (FHL book 975.7 B2sc.) There are indexes for volumes 1-30 (1973-2002)

Transactions of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina. 1888-. Published by the Huguenot Society of South Carolina, 138 Logan St., Charleston, SC 29401. (FHL book 975.7 C4h; vols. 1, 5, 18-20, and 22 on films beginning with film 1321493.)

PROBATE RECORDS

Probate records of South Carolina were kept by the secretary of the province prior to 1732, and were later kept by the courts of ordinary and probate courts of each county. Most of the original wills for the colonial period have not survived. Pre-Civil War probate files for Beaufort, Chesterfield, Colleton, Georgetown, Lancaster, and Orangeburg districts were destroyed.

The Family History Library has microfilms of probate records for many counties. The South Carolina Department of Archives and History has similar holdings of microfilms or typescripts of the existing records. These include wills, inventories, bills of sale, power of attorneys, bonds, notes, administrations, judgments, and sales records.

The following are examples of publications that can help you locate colonial records:

Holcomb, Brent H. Probate Records of South Carolina. 3 vols. Easley, S. C.: Southern Historical Press, 1977-. (FHL book 975.7 P2p.) This contains records from 1746 to 1821 and is fully indexed.

Houston, Martha Lou, comp. Indexes to the County Wills of South Carolina. Originally published in 1939. Reprinted in Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1964. (FHL book 975.7 P22h 1964; film 0908509 item 3; fiche 6046877.) This is an index to most pre-1860 county wills, but does not include Charleston County wills.


PUBLIC RECORDS

Some records kept by town, county, and other officials can include helpful genealogical information. Most are at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and are thoroughly indexed.

Some of these records have been published, such as the Journal of the Commons House of Assembly, 1736-1754 (Columbia: Historical Commission of South Carolina, 1951-; FHL book 975.7 N2a; fiche 6051246).

The South Carolina Department of Archives and History also has microfilms of all the surviving manuscripts in the British Public Record Office in London for colonial South Carolina, including correspondence, copies of laws and legislative journals, ship clearings in and out of Charleston, and records of the British occupation of Charleston during the American Revolution. Many of these records are on microfilm at the Family History Library (see FHL films 1294103-14). A guide to these records is Helen C. Carson, Records in the British Public Records Office.

The Family History Library has microfilms of some municipal records, such as commissioners' and town council records. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under SOUTH CAROLINA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - TOWN RECORDS.

SOCIETIES

South Carolina Genealogical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 492
Columbia, SC 29202

Their archives are located at:

Hartsville Genealogical Research Library
114 South Fourth St.
Hartsville, SC 29550
Tel.: 843-857-0300

TAXATION

Quitrent payments (colonial land taxes) were due each year to the lords proprietor or the king. The South Carolina Department of Archives and History has quitrents, receipts, and disbursements for 1733 to 1774. The quitrent lists for 1768 have been published and indexed in Mary Bondurant Warren, Citizens and Immigrants: South Carolina, 1768 (Athens, Ga.: Heritage Papers, 1980; FHL book 975.7 N28w 1994).

The South Carolina Department of Archives and History has some tax lists for 1783 to 1799 for the low-country parishes. Lists for 1783 to 1786 were published in the South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research, beginning in volume 2. (See periodicals Section of this outline.)

The South Carolina Department of Archives and History has county tax lists 1924. They are indexed on their Internet site (see the Land and Property section above.) They also have lists for most counties for 1865 and/or 1866. These were special lists taken in those years. These records also list former slaves designated by PC (person of color). The records are in volumes, which are alphabetical by the first letter of the surname. (See Brent H. Holcomb’s A Guide to South Carolina Genealogical Research and Records, 1998, p. 14, for more information.)

The Family History Library has some county tax lists on film, some beginning in the late 1700s.

See also George K. Schweitzer’s South Carolina Genealogical Research, 1984, pp. 121-122, listed in the For Further Reading Section, for descriptions of additional tax records.

VITAL RECORDS

Birth and Death Records

Statewide registration of vital statistics began in January 1915. For information write to:

Office of Vital Records and Public Health Statistics
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201
Telephone: 803-734-4830
Fax: 803-799-0301

The current fees for obtaining copies of the state's records are listed in Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces (Hyattsville, Md.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1984; updated, June 1986 FHL book 973 V24wv). Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and many family history centers. You can also write to the Office of Vital Records and Public Health Statistics (address above) for current information.

Copies of the state records are also available at the courthouse of each county starting in 1915. You can write to the county clerk for information. The Family History Library has not acquired these state records. The county clerks also have post-1915 delayed registrations of birth.

Earlier records were kept by some of the larger cities and are available from the appropriate county health department, except for a few major cities where the records are at the city health department. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of birth records, 1877 to 1901, and death records, 1821 to 1886, from the Board of Health for the City of Charleston.


Marriage Records

Statewide registration of marriages began in July 1950. These records are located at the Office of Vital Records and Public Health Statistics (address above).

Before the statewide registration of marriages, the ordinary of the province could issue a marriage license, or banns could be published in the parish church. There are some marriage settlement records at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History from the 1760s to the 1880s. Marriage information was
sometimes recorded in the records of the probate court in the early 1800s.

Marriage settlements were legal agreements, primarily made by women who had been married previously. The Family History Library has some of these records, 1785 to 1889, from the Department of Archives and History (FHL films 0022512-20). Numerous South Carolina marriages have been abstracted from newspapers (see the “Newspapers” section of this outline). Another helpful publication is Brent H. Holcomb, South Carolina Marriages, 2 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980.; FHL book 975.7 V2hsc). This covers 1688 to 1820.

County marriage license records begin about 1900 to 1910 and are in the custody of the probate judge. The Family History Library has some county marriage records on film and in published form. Charleston marriage records are available only from 1877 to 1887.


Divorce Records

Divorce proceedings are kept by the county court. Divorce was illegal in South Carolina until 1949, and there are restrictions on the availability of the records. Write to the individual counties for information.

VOTING REGISTERS

Voting registers for many counties are at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. They have records for 1867-1868, and 1898. Some counties have preserved voting registers for some years after 1867. For the years, see George K. Schweitzer’s book, South Carolina Genealogical Research, 1985, under each county.

FOR FURTHER READING

These handbooks will give you more detailed information about research and records of South Carolina:


Eichholz, Alice, ed. Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources. Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992.) Contains bibliographies and background information on history and ethnic groups. Also contains maps and tables showing when each county was created.


Schweitzer, George K. South Carolina Genealogical Research. Knoxville, Tenn.: G. Schweitzer, 1985. (FHL book 975.7 D27s.) This book has good background information, and, detailed information about many types of available state and county records. Maps are also included.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

Publications Coordination
Family History Library
35 N. West Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3400
USA

We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

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