

# CHECK THE INDEXES:

Utilizing The State-wide  
Vital Records Indexes For Research

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# VITAL RECORDS

Vital Records for this presentation are:

Marriage

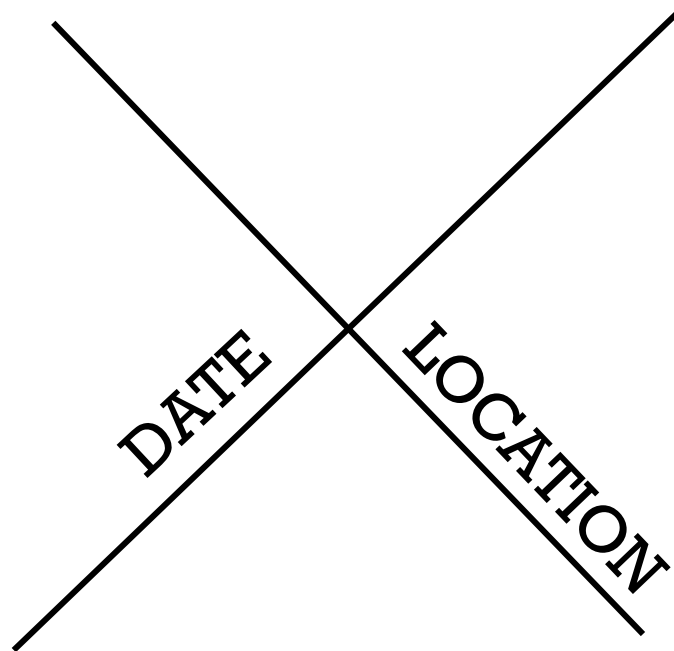
Divorce

Death



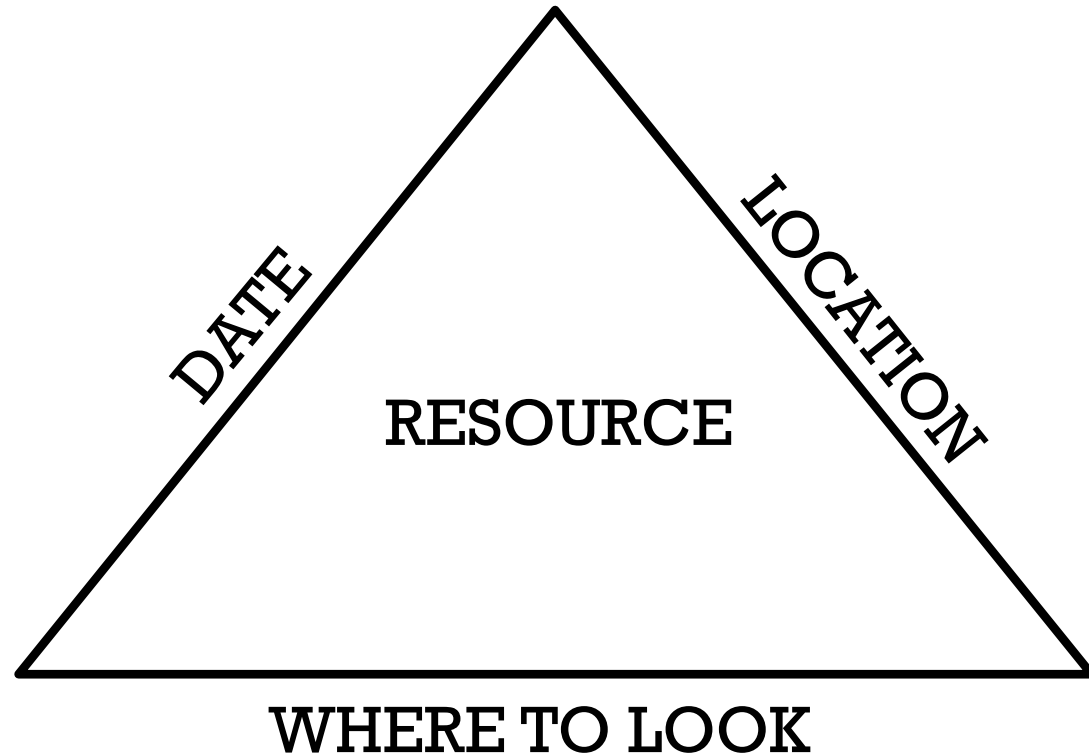
# TWO IMPORTANT FACTORS?

- Date and Location



# THREE IMPORTANT FACTORS!!

- Date
- Location
- Where to Look



# RECOMMENDATION

Create or have in mind a timeline of your research subject's life to know where they should or could be.



# QUESTIONS TO ASK: DATE & LOCATION

City or Township?

County

State?

Determine what municipality level (local – County/Township, state or federal agency) would have the record you are seeking.





# QUESTIONS TO ASK: DATE & LOCATION

When was the research  
location was  
created/established:  
State, County, Township  
– municipality level where  
records are held.



# QUESTIONS TO ASK: DATE & LOCATION

When were vital  
records collected in  
your research  
location?



National Center for Health Statistics

CDC > NCHS

Where to Write for Vital Records





# QUESTIONS TO ASK: DATE & LOCATION

Was there a record  
loss event at the  
courthouse (fire,  
natural disaster, etc.?)



LaGrange, Nov. 5, 1936. Fire which destroyed the Troup County Courthouse. Vanishing Georgia Collection (identifier: trp202).  
Georgia Archives Virtual Vault



# QUESTIONS TO ASK: DATE & LOCATION

Was there a boundary change in the research location?

**ATLAS OF HISTORICAL COUNTY BOUNDARIES**  
The Newberry Library Dr. William M. Scholl Center for American History and Culture

Select a state... Go

[Home](#) [Using the Atlas](#) [Download Files](#) [About the Project](#) [Publications](#)

## State Data

Select a state from the map to view all of the Atlas' content related to that state, including shapefiles, chronologies, and metadata.

If you are having trouble viewing the map or clicking on it, try the [list of states](#) page.

A map of the United States with state boundaries and abbreviations. A legend on the right lists states: RI, CT, NJ, MD, DE, DC. A label 'Dakota Territory' is shown above the map.



# WHERE TO LOOK? PHYSICAL VS DIGITAL

If Physical, try the Big 5:

- State Archives / State Library
- Local / Regional Archives
- Historical & Genealogical Society
- Courthouse
- Libraries – Public, Academic or Special



# WHERE TO LOOK?

If Digital:

- Ancestry
- FamilySearch
- State Archives
- State Digital Heritage Site



# QUESTIONS TO ASK: WHERE TO LOOK

If Digital:

- Internet Archive
- Hathitrust
- Digital Public Library of America
- Digital Library of Georgia
- GALILEO



# BIG THANKS!!

- Institutions – Public, Academic and Government
- GALILEO
- Digital Library of Georgia (DLG)
- Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS)
- Georgia Archives
- Board of Regents (BOR)





# STATE-WIDE VITAL RECORDS INDEXES

Georgia. Department of Human Resources. Division of Public Health.  
Vital Records Service.

Death: 1919 – 1999\*

Marriage: 1964 – 1999\*

Divorce: 1965 – 1999\*

\*Note: The Georgia Archives has the 1999 index on microfiche. The online providers only have up to 1998.



# INDEXES: WHY USE THEM?

Learn event dates and locations

- i.e. helping an elderly patron gather information locate a marriage record when they are not sure of the location or date.

Find marriage and divorce records for family members or members of the community.

- Look for records where the local index may not be available.
- Look for records from the comfort of your home and create a research plan for your onsite visit.



# INDEXES: WHY USE THEM?

“Quickly” check variant name spellings to help find an elusive research subject.

- Maddox / Maddux / Mattox
- Calloway / Callaway / Caloway / Calaway / Caliway
- Paggett / Pagget / Padgett / Padget / Patrick



# PREP WORK

Decide on the type of project – Fact Finding or Methodical

## Fact Finding

- Gather the facts.
- If you do not find the information using the facts you have received, check a few years before and a few years after.



# PREP WORK

## Methodical Review

- Create a list of surnames and the variant spellings that you want to check.
- Create a research log of what you found and did not find. A spreadsheet is a great way to manage this information.



# STATE-WIDE VITAL RECORDS INDEXES

How to Access:

- Georgia Archives (Microfiche)
- Georgia Government Publications - <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/ggp/>
- Digital Library of Georgia - <https://dlg.usg.edu/>





# STATE-WIDE VITAL RECORDS INDEXES

Lists (in order if the 154 search results are sorted by Title):

1. List of Georgia age, city, and county codes (Notes: 14 pgs in1 PDF file)
  - a. Includes Age code example, list of 1994 forward county codes and the Georgia Death Certificate Index document.
2. List of Georgia age, city, and county codes (Notes: 3 pgs in1 PDF file)
  - a. Includes Age code example, list of pre-1994 county codes and the Georgia Death Certificate Index document.
3. List of Georgia County Codes (Notes: 1 pg in1 PDF file)
  - a. List of the pre-1994 county codes.



# STATE-WIDE VITAL RECORDS INDEXES

Lists (in order if the 154 search results are sorted by Title):

4. List of Georgia County Codes (Notes: 1 pg in1 PDF file)
  - a. List of the post-1994 county codes. Codes start with 700 – 859.
5. List of Georgia County Codes (Notes: 1 pg in1 PDF file)
  - a. List of the pre-1994 county codes.
6. List of Georgia County Codes (Notes: 1 pg in1 PDF file)
  - a. List of the post-1994 county codes.



GEORGIA DEATH CERTIFICATE INDEX 1919-1993

(Microfiche Index compiled statewide by year)

- Subject Contents -

Name: 1919-1993

County of Residence:

By Name: 1919-1952

By Code: 1953-1993 (see County Code list)

Date of Death: 1919-1993

Certificate #: 1919-1993

Race: 1939-1993

Sex: 1939-1993

Age: 1939-1993

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County of Death:

By Code: 1946-1963 (see County Code list)

By Name: 1964-1993

Date Filed: 1980-1993



# DEATH REGISTER – AGE CODE EXAMPLE ORIGINAL

**Age Codes Used On Georgia Death Index/Register**

Code	Code Examples					
	Code	No. Of	=	Code	No. Of	=
0 = minutes	0	01	1 minute	0	59	59 minutes
1 = hours	1	01	1 hour	1	23	23 hours
2 = days	2	01	1 day	2	29	29 days
3 = months	3	01	1 month	3	11	11 months
4 = years	4	01	1 year	4	99	99 years
5 = 100 years or more	5	00	100 years	5	10	110 years

compiled by Clyde Hooks, Belvedere, S.C.



# DEATH REGISTER – AGE CODE EXAMPLE REVISED

Codes	Death Register - Age Code Examples*						
0 = minutes	001	0 - 01	1 minute		059	0 - 59	59 minutes
1 = hours	101	1 - 01	1 hour		123	1 - 23	23 hours
2 = days	201	2 - 01	1 day		229	2 - 29	29 days
3 = months	301	3 - 01	1 month		311	3 - 11	11 months
4 = years	401	4 - 01	1 year		499	4 - 99	99 years
5 = 100 years or more	501	5 - 01	100 years		510	5 - 10	110 years
	*Note: Age codes started being used possibly in 1948.						



# ADDITIONAL CODE NOTES

**Race Codes:** B – Black; C – Colored; O – Other (?); W – White

**Gender Codes:** F – Female; M – Male

In early Death Indexes, you may see CF (Colored Female) or WM (White Male).

**County Codes:**

Pre-1994 – Start with 0 or 1: Clayton - 031

Post-1994 – Start with 7 or 8: Clayton - 731





# SEARCH INSTRUCTIONS

*Georgia Government Publications* – <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/ggp/>

- Accessing State Wide Marriage, Death and Divorce Indexes Online.
  - Go to the Georgia Government Publications website above.
  - Select Author from the dropdown below the search box.
  - In the search box, type *Georgia. Dept. of Human Resources. Division of Public Health. Vital Records Service.* (Exactly as you see it.)
  - Hit Enter.
- You should retrieve 154 search results. These results include the Marriage, Death and Divorce index registers.
- Sort by: Title is the best way to organize the search results. It groups the indexes by type and then lists them in chronological order.
- *Note: Specific Index (i.e. marriage only):*
  - If you only want to pull a specific type of index, i.e. Marriage only, go to advance search. Repeat above steps 2 – 3. Type 'Marriage' in the next search box. Hit Enter.



# STATE-WIDE VITAL RECORDS INDEXES

How to Access:

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- Georgia Government Publications - <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/ggp/>
- Digital Library of Georgia - <https://dlg.usg.edu/>



## Contact information

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# PHOTOGRAPH SOURCES

- Slide 7: Georgia County Creation/Disaster Map - [https://www.georgiaarchives.org/assets/documents/research/Burn\\_+\\_Creation\\_printable.pdf](https://www.georgiaarchives.org/assets/documents/research/Burn_+_Creation_printable.pdf)
- Slide 8: CDC: Where to Write - <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w/index.htm>
- Slide 9: LaGrange, Nov. 5, 1936. Fire which destroyed the Troup County Courthouse (identifier: trp202), Georgia Archives Virtual Vault - <https://vault.georgiaarchives.org/digital/collection/vg2/id/15505/>
- Slide 10: Atlas of Historical County Boundaries - <https://digital.newberry.org/ahcb/>
- Slide 11: Georgia Archives - [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Georgia\\_Archives](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Georgia_Archives)
- Slide 12:
  - Ancestry - <https://www.ancestry.com/>
  - FamilySearch - <https://www.familysearch.org/en/>

