

Church Records

The St. Augustine Historical Society Research Library holds several collections of church records that are useful to researchers. The Roman Catholic Cathedral Parish of St. Augustine records, dating from 1594, are the oldest surviving ecclesiastic records in the United States. Church records in Puerto Rico begin in 1625. Images of the original records have been put online at [Vanderbilt University](#); they are neither translated nor indexed.

The University of Florida has posted on-line translations of the same records by Emily L. Wilson, a long serving Librarian of the St. Augustine Historical Society. These can be accessed at:

[Baptisms, 1594-1763](#)

[Marriages, 1594-1756](#)

Roman Catholic Church Records

Copies, Photostats and abstracts cover the years 1594 to 2003. All races are recorded in the same books until 1735 when non-whites are recorded in a separate book. Entries before 1821 are in Spanish and are difficult to read. There is a translated abstract in each folder with the page numbers noted. An index to the baptisms and marriages and copies of the abstracts are in the Reading Room, and should be consulted first.

The Research Library also holds microfilm of the records of the Cathedral Parish of St. Augustine and the Parish of San Pedro that was established in New Smyrna, Fla. in 1768 and moved to St. Augustine in 1777. These two parishes were the only Roman Catholic churches in

eastern Florida until 1854. The parishes of St. Ambrose, St. Leopold, and Our Lady of Good Council, in St. Johns County, dating to just after the Civil War, are also included. The microfilmed books are in Spanish, Latin, and English. Roman Catholics arrange the data by parish, and by race prior to the 1880s. Each book records one type of religious ceremony such as baptisms. The Research Library has translated abstractions of these records with indexes in the Reading Room.

Copies, Photostats and Abstracts

- Catholic Church records: Baptismal records 1594-1763, 1861-2003, Confirmations 1606-1763, Burials 1623-1763, 1882-1992
- Pardos, morenos, & indios (these terms refer to non-whites): Baptismal & burial records. 1736-1763, Marriages 1594-1763, 1785-1803.
- St. Ambrose: Baptisms: marriages and burials 1878 – 1964, Deaths 1919-1965.
- St. Leopold: Baptisms 1879-1902
- Our Lady of Good Counsel: Baptisms 1902-1950
- San Pedro: Baptisms 1768-1804, Marriages 1777-1784. This church was located in New Smyrna and St. Augustine. The records, in Latin, are also known as the Golden Book of the Minorcans.

Microfilm

Cathedral of St. Augustine, Fla. Parish Records

- White Baptisms 1784-1881
- Index to White Baptisms 1839-1851
- White Marriages 1784-1882
- White Deaths 1784-1882
- Black Baptisms 1784-1885
- Black Marriages 1785-1882
- Black Deaths 1785-1821, after 1821 recorded with white deaths.
- Infant Deaths 1784-1826

Church of San Pedro

- Baptisms 1768-1804
- Marriages 1777-1784

Archive of the Diocese of Menorca, Spain 1566-1816: 95 reels of microfilm

In 1997, the St. Augustine Historical Society in conjunction with the University of Florida, the University of Houston's Recovering the Hispanic Heritage Project, The Menorcan Cultural Society, and Flagler College sent researchers to Menorca, Spain to microfilm the records of the Roman Catholic Diocese created prior to 1800. These documents are arranged by town (parish) then type of ceremony, and then date. The town of origin of the settler can be determined by using the Cathedral of St. Augustine Records for the late 18th century. There are three binders with an index to these records: these should be consulted first. Most data

is in handwritten Latin; only the index is in typescript. The earliest records are from the town of Ciutadela in 1566. Also included are some civilian notary records from the city of Mahon and a census of Ciutadela from 1758.

Memorial Presbyterian Church

MC 24 - This collection comprises the records, the majority of them business records, of the St. Augustine Presbyterian Church founded 1824 which then became Memorial Presbyterian Church in 1889. These are the original records and they are in English. See [MC24 on EMILY](#) for a full list of the collection's contents.

Trinity Parish Episcopal Church Records: Microfilm

The reel contains several books of Episcopal Church canonical records for the oldest Protestant church in Florida. The Episcopal Church arranges their data differently from the Roman Catholics. In each book, one will find a section on Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, Vestry Minutes, etc, covering a range of years. For example, Book 1 covers all topics from 1821-1854

All records are in English and all races are together in the same books. There are some records relating to St. Cyprian's Mission included. The records of St Peter's Church: Church of England during the British Period (1763-1784) have disappeared.

- Baptisms 1821-1958
- Burials 1821-1858
- Communicants 1891-1947
- Confirmations 1875-1953
- Marriages 1835-1952
- Offerings 1853-1876
- Parishioners 1857-1876
- Vestry minutes 1860-1908

The library also maintains “vertical files”, which contain newspaper clippings, brochures, programs, and other ephemera about a particular topic. The library has vertical files for most denominations and individual St. Johns County religious organizations. What is in the file varies. There is a list of the vertical files relating to religious bodies in the library.