

## Genealogy Methods

Genealogy is the study of families, family history, and the tracing of their lineages. Genealogists use oral interviews, historical records, genetic analysis, and other records to obtain information about a family and to demonstrate kinship and pedigrees of its members.

### **Resources at the Library:**

- Biographical Cards
- Biographical Files
- Biographical Photos
- The Tatler of Florida Society (a.k.a. "The St. Augustine News" 1888 and 1890)
- Black Roman Catholic Records
- Oral History Project
- On-Line Catalog

### Biographical Cards –

Alphabetically organized, these cards contain information abstracted from newspapers, obituaries, WWI draft cards, church records, city directories and other sources.

### Biographical Files –

Arranged by family name these files contain obituaries, genealogical charts, booklets, letters and other biographical material related to well-known families.

### Biographical Photo Files -

Arranged by family name these files contain images of individuals with the same family name. These can be found on our online catalog [EMILY](#).

### Obituaries –

- Indexed for longtime residents in bio cards until 1920s.
- Clippings for longtime residents from 1970s to early 2000s in bio cards.
- If died in St. Augustine, check St. Augustine Record (either on microfilm or online depending on the date of death).
- If in other areas closer to Jacksonville, such as Ponte Vedra Beach, may be in Florida Times Union. The Jacksonville Public Library has access to those back issues.

The Tatler of Florida Society – scanned and indexed 1888-1908.

## Black Roman Catholic Records

Some of the Black Catholic records we hold include, but are not limited to:

- Baptisms 1785-1884
- Marriages 1785-1884
- Burials 1785-1821

Oral History Project – Recorded Interviews and Transcriptions, being made available online.

## Online Catalog

- Emily, the on-line catalog for the Research Library is found at:  
<https://sahs.pastperfectonline.com/>
- When searching by key-word use AND between each search term or put quotes around the phrase.
- The Catalog is constantly expanding
- It contains books, Circuit Court cases, maps, manuscript collections, and photographs.
- Index to the St. Augustine Record since 2010

## **Genealogical Resources:**

- Roman Catholic Church records from 1595 to 2004: copies of original records, translations, and indexes
- Self-published family histories (140 volumes) – search terms include surname and family name.
- Biographical Vertical Files: clippings and correspondence
- Biographical Cards: short obituaries, ship passenger lists, etc.
- City Directories: 1885, 1899, 1904-2006

## **Colonial Resources:**

- The Research Library collects material on persons who lived in St. Johns County after 1845.
- Prior to 1845 the collection covers all of eastern Florida.
- Records of the Spanish colony are especially rich. There are 65 reels of microfilm for 1513-1763. These are arranged by date and not searchable by keyword.
- There are 175 reels of Spanish records from 1784 to 1821. They may be searched by name or subject at the University of Florida's P. K. Yonge Library.
- An every-name index to the Spanish Land Grants

## **19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Records:**

- Trinity Parish Episcopal Church 1821-1958 – baptisms, marriages, and burials.
- Florida East Coast Railway employment
- Various "Who's Who" volumes containing statewide biographies from the 1890s to the 1950s. They are indexed on the SAGS web site by going to "Other Florida Resources."
- St. Augustine newspapers, 1821 to present.
- The local newspapers during the second half of the 19th do not survive to a great extent. We are indexing the Florida Times-Union articles about St. Augustine for that period.

- The St. Augustine record has been indexed since 2021, including obituaries.

### **St. Augustine Genealogy Society:**

The St. Augustine Genealogical Society posts transcriptions of various church and cemetery records of St. Augustine and St. Johns County. SAGS has many open resources, but also has more resources for paid members.

<https://sagssupport.org/>

### **Cyndi's list:**

Cyndi's List has been a trusted genealogy research site for more than 20 years. Cyndi's List is free for everyone to use and it is meant to be your starting point when researching online.

What exactly is Cyndi's List?

- A categorized & cross-referenced index to genealogical resources on the Internet.
- A list of links that point you to genealogical research sites online.
- A free jumping-off point for you to use in your online research.
- A "card catalog" to the genealogical collection in the immense library that is the Internet.
- Your genealogical research portal onto the Internet.

<https://www.cyndislist.com/us/>

### **Florida State Genealogical Society:**

History (from their website) The Florida State Genealogical Society was incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization 16 May 1977. The society was founded to promote the study and research of genealogy and local history. The society publishes source materials and family history, while encouraging seminars, workshops and similar educational meetings in the State of Florida. Since 1978, the society has held a statewide conference in a different Florida city each year with nationally well-known speakers.

[www.flsgs.org](http://www.flsgs.org)