

# **But Isn't Everything On-Line? Family History Research in a State Archives**

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Although FamilySearch, ancestry.com and others have digitized many government records, their scope for record digitization is quite narrow. This becomes evident the farther back you go on your family line.

Most State Archives in the United States are responsible for both state and local government records. The State Archives in the state in which your ancestors lived is a place where you can connect to many of the records that may break down that proverbial brick research wall. The majority of these records are not digitized and fall outside the scope of the records digitized by FamilySearch, ancestry.com and so on.

The Greek root of the word history is "inquiry," a systematic investigation into a subject by asking questions, finding clues and providing thoughtful and well-reasoned analysis and interpretation. When we do family history, we should have a continual dialogue with our sources.

The following list of records reflect the Arizona public records discussed in the PowerPoint accompanying this presentation. You will need to know which government agencies created these records in the states where you are doing research.

## **Territorial and State Agency Records**

- Livestock Sanitary Board
- Attorneys Registers
- Prisoner Files
- Secretary of the Territory
- Arizona Rangers
- Territorial and State Historian
- Works Progress Administration (WPA)
- Legislative bills and files
- Pioneer Home records
- Pioneer Historical Society
- Governor's papers
- Supreme and Appellate Court
- Teacher's certificates
- Incorporation records
- And many, many more.....

## **County Records**

- Assessor
- Recorder
  - Plats and maps

- Separate Property of Married Women
- Sole Trader Books
- Promiscuous Books
- Military Releases
- Miscellaneous Books
- Medical Rolls
- Deeds
- Real Property Mortgages/Chattel Mortgages
- County Hospital / County Poor Home or Farm
- Board of Supervisors
- School Records and school census
- Sheriff
- Justice Court or Coroner's Inquests
- Superior Court
  - Probate
  - Criminal and Civil cases
  - Exhibits from some cases
  - Naturalizations

### **City Records**

- Lot Assessment Rolls
- City Business Licenses
- City Council Minutes
- City Cemetery records

### **Territorial/State and County Records (images in PowerPoint)**

- Secretary of the Territory--Trademark
- Secretary of the Territory--Territorial Census
- Arizona Rangers-oath
- Territorial Prison--Prison Register
- Territorial Prison--Prison photograph
- Territorial Legislature--Legal Name Change
- Territorial Legislature--Divorce
- County Board of Supervisors--Old Age Pension
- County Board of Supervisor--business letterhead
- County Board of Supervisors--Widows affidavit
- Coroner's Office--Inquest
- Superior Court, Probate--family letter
- Superior Court, Probate--photographs
- Superior Court, Probate-- insanity hearing
- Superior Court, Probate—items from a probate case
- Superior Court, Probate--Guardianship of Incompetent
- Superior Court, Probate--Naturalization
- Superior Court, Civil--Consent to Marry
- Superior Court, Civil-- Marriage License and Certificate

- Superior Court, Civil--Affidavit for Marriage
- Superior Court, Civil--Divorce
- County Assessor--Tax Roll (Assessment Roll)
- Recorders Office--Plat Map
- Recorders Office--Separate Property of Married Women
- Recorders Office--Sole Trader
- Recorders Office--Miscellaneous Book
- Recorders Office--Medical Register
- County Superintendent of Schools--School census
- City-- Assessment Rolls
- Private Collections--Phoecian Way Diary, 1858
- WPA photographs
- Private Photo Collections--family photograph
- Arizona newspaper collections--front page
- Arizona Special Collection--Roster of Troops

**Other Territorial/State and County Records**

- Attorney Registers (County Recorder, then State Supreme Court)
- Board of Pardons and Paroles

**History and Archives telephone number:** 602-926-3720

**e-mail:** [archives@azlibrary.gov](mailto:archives@azlibrary.gov)

**Archives website:** <http://www.lib.az.us/archives/>

**on-line catalog:** <http://www.azlibrary.gov/arm/research-archives>

**photo database:** [www.photos.lib.az.us/photos.htm](http://www.photos.lib.az.us/photos.htm)