

GENEALOGICAL LIBRARIES NEAR WALLACE STATE COLLEGE

by Robert S. Davis

We have a growing genealogical collection that has become almost an information science laboratory. In addition to many holdings in different mediums, we are also able to borrow from the 2,500,000 reels of microfilm of records at the Genealogical Society of Utah. Our hours are 7:30 AM to 8:15 PM Monday through Thursday; 8 AM to 2 PM on Friday and Saturday.

No library has everything but fortunately for researchers in North Alabama they live in one of the most genealogically information friendly environments in the United States. The very select list below does not include many other public libraries, such as the Cullman Public Library, with good local genealogical collections. We have several nation-wide books and guides to libraries, archives, and research.

Almost all of these libraries and archives listed below also have web sites.

ONE TO TWO HOURS FROM WALLACE STATE COLLEGE

Tutwilder Collection of Southern History and Literature

Birmingham Public Library

2100 Park Place

Birmingham, Al 35203

Mon-Tues: 9-8; Wed-Sat: 9-6; Sun: 2-6.

(Take I-65 to I-20. Turn East on I-20, towards Atlanta and be prepared to almost immediately take the 22nd Street Exit. Turn right onto 22nd Street, then travel three blocks to turn right onto Park Place. The library's parking lot will be on your right.) The Birmingham Public Library has the best collection in the world for southern research, with the exception of the Library of Congress and the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. In addition to an extensive collection of federal census microfilm, its massive holdings includes a complete set of the Revolutionary War pension claims, the DAR Lineage Books, the *Compendium of American Genealogy*, the Lyman C. Draper Collection, and a famous map collection. The Birmingham Public Library has microfilm of indexes to passenger lists of ships arriving in New York (1820-1846), New Orleans (to 1900; also the passenger lists, 1820-1902), and the other Gulf/Atlantic ports (1820-1874). It is also a federal government documents repository; house the Birmingham Archives (open only Monday through Friday); and are next door to the Jefferson County court house. Its microfilm collection includes county records for Blount, Cullman, Jefferson, and Shelby counties. The Social Sciences Department has the indexes to the *New York Times* (and the newspaper itself), 1851-1989.

Special Collections

Samford University Library

800 Lakeshore Drive

Birmingham, AL 35229

It houses a good genealogical library, including some materials not at the BPL (above). Special Collections is the archives for the Alabama Baptist Convention and they microfilm Alabama historical church records of all denominations. Its holdings include indexes to *The Alabama Baptist*; the McCubbins Collection of records of Rowan County, North Carolina; the Patton, Leslie & Company Papers of old East Florida; massive files of material on Alabama Baptists; the Draper Collection; Irish collections; and research files of Alabama genealogist Maud McLure Kelly. It is a Federal documents repository and its extensive newspaper microfilm collection includes several Alabama newspaper and the Georgia Baptist Convention's *Christian Index*. See our vertical file on Samford University.

The Heritage Room

Huntsville Public Library

915 Monroe Street

P. O. Box 443

Huntsville, AL 35804

The HPL is located near the Von Braun Civic Center. A good genealogical collection, it has books on midwestern and other states not found elsewhere in the South. Its unusually large census collection includes all of the surviving federal censuses through and 1850 and most of the census for 1860 and 1870. The HPL has the Lyman C. Draper (southern frontier) Collection; DAR Roll of Honor (lineage books; so does the Wallace State library); the 17th and 18th century South Carolina land memorials; the *Virginia Gazette*, 1736-1780; Dahlonga newspapers, 1875-1878; a number of National Archives microfilms of Indian records; and the McCubbins Collections (Old Rowan and Iredell counties in North Carolina). It is also home to the Madison County Archives.

Alabama Room
Anniston Public Library
108 East Tenth Street
P. O. Box 308
Anniston, AL 36202

The Anniston Public Library has a special emphasis on Calhoun County (AL); Creek and Cherokee Indians; the Revolutionary War pension claims; and miscellaneous county records microfilm for Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. It has Alabama's only set of the Leonardo Andrea Collection of South Carolina genealogical research.

Houston Cole Library
Jacksonville State University
N. Pelham Road
Jacksonville, AL 36265

It is a Federal government records depository, although their Federal records are integrated into their general collection. The HCL has on microfilm several collections of colonial records, including for South Carolina. They also have some of the Lyman C. Draper Collection, records of the Freedman's Bureau in Alabama, an index to African-American Federal soldiers, compiled service records for U. S. soldiers 1784-1811, a collection of English county histories, and federal census records for Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, south Carolina, and Virginia through 1910 and Kentucky through 1900 (no soundex).

Howard Gardner Nichols Memorial Library
Northeast Alabama Genealogical Society
PO Box 8268
#1 Cabot Avenue
Gadsden, AL 35902-8268

The library has files on over 4,500 families. Open every Thursday 10 AM to 3 PM.

Gadsden Public Library
254 College Street
Gadsden, AL 35999

The Gadsden Library's genealogical collections include a complete set of the Revolutionary War pension claims and such federal census records as North and South Carolina through 1910; the Ohio and Oklahoma soundexes for 1900; Mississippi censuses and soundexes through 1910 and the 1920 census; the Kentucky soundexes for 1900 and 1910; the Louisiana 1900 census and 1910 soundex; Florida and Virginia census records through 1910 (no soundexes); and Texas censuses through 1920 and soundexes 1880-1910. See our vertical file.

TWO TO FOUR HOURS FROM WALLACE STATE COLLEGE

Alabama Department of Archives and History
624 Washington Ave.
Montgomery, AL 36130

The archives of the state records of Alabama also has county records on microfilm, an extensive library, and private manuscript collections. See our Alabama handout. It has an excellent web site on the Internet.

Special Collections
University of Alabama Libraries
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486

Its private manuscript collections include some family papers and the extensive Alabama genealogical research files of Pauline Gandrud and Kathleen Paul Jones. See our Alabama handout.

Tennessee State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

The TSLA is one of the best state archives, especially for their newspapers and county records. Its card catalogs to biographical and genealogical information are good for more than just Tennessee families. See our Tennessee handout and vertical files.

Sara Hightower Regional Library
205 Riverside Parkway
Rome, GA 30161
It has an outstanding collection for Northwest Georgia.

Chattanooga-Hamilton County Public Library
1001 Broad Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402
A good library for the areas of four states near Chattanooga, the Chattanooga library is renowned for their family folders and family histories collection. See our vertical file.

FOUR TO FIVE HOURS FROM WALLACE STATE COLLEGE

National Archives at Atlanta (formerly the National Archives Southeast Branch)
5800 Jonesboro Road
Atlanta, GA 30260
It is the Federal records repository for Alabama, all surrounding states, South Carolina and Kentucky. It will move next door to the Georgia Division of Archives and History (see below) in June 2004. The NASR has the Federal court records and the Confederate records for those states, as well as a huge collection of National Archives microfilm that includes all of the surviving Federal census records and soundexes through 1920 and a complete set of the Revolutionary War pension claims. Microfilm readers must be reserved by appointment, call (404) 763-7477. See *Microfilm Publications in the National Archives--Southeast Region* (1994).

Georgia Archives
5800 Jonesboro Road
Morrow, GA 30260
This building holds the most extensive collection of Georgia research material anywhere including county records, books, private manuscript collections, and much more. See our Georgia handouts and Robert S. Davis, *Georgia Research* (second edition, 2012).

University of Georgia Libraries
Athens, GA 30602
The Hargrett Rare Books and Manuscripts Library has the most extensive book and private manuscript collections relating to Georgia, as well as genealogical folders and Georgia biographical materials. The Georgia Newspaper Project has more than 8,000 reels of Georgia newspaper microfilms.

McClung Collection
Knox County-Knoxville Public Library
314 West Clinch Avenue
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902-2505
The great genealogical archives for East Tennessee, this library has county records for surrounding counties on microfilm, an extensive library, the Lyman C. Draper Collection on microfilm, and several very significant genealogical collections. The Knox County Archives is in the same building. See our vertical file.

Atlanta History Center
3101 Andrews Drive

Atlanta, GA 30305

The AHS has special indexes to some Atlanta area periodicals and deaths. Its manuscript collections center on Atlanta.

Ralph P. Draughon Library
Auburn University Library
Auburn University, AL 36849

The Draughn Library has a genealogy book collection open by appointment and private manuscript collections that includes some family papers.

SOME OF THE LIBRARIES ONE DAY'S DRIVE FROM WALLACE STATE COLLEGE

Public Library of Fort Wayne and Allen County
900 Webster Street
P.O. Box 2270
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

The country's third largest genealogical library, its holdings includes the surviving Federal census records through 1920.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History
P.O. Box 571
100 South State Street
Jackson, MS 39205

South Carolina Department of Archives and History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29233

Also in Columbia is the South Caroliniana Library of the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208. They have the Leonardo Andrea Collection of South Carolina genealogical files. Columbia is also within two hours of virtually all of South Carolina's other archives and libraries including the South Carolina Historical Society in Charleston, the Orangeburg Archives, and the Camden Archives.

Kentucky Historical Society
P.O. Box H, Old Capitol Annex
Frankfort, KY 40602-4701

The KHS over a century of vertical files on 12,000 Kentucky related families, a good library, county records on microfilm, and much more. Nearby is the Kentucky State Library and Archives. See our vertical file on Kentucky and Roseann Reinemuth Hogan, *Kentucky Ancestry* (1992).

North Carolina Archives
109 East Jones Street
P. O. Box 1881
Raleigh, NC 27611

The NCDAAH is closed on Mondays and Sundays. We have guides to its county records and private collections. Located in the same building is the Genealogy Room of the North Carolina State Library. Thirty minutes from Raleigh is the Southern Historical Collection (the world's largest collection of southern private manuscript collections and family papers), Wilson Library, University of North Carolina; and the Manuscripts Department, Perkins Library, Duke University. The extensive holdings of both are well cataloged including their private genealogical materials.

Mobile

Several manuscript repositories relating to the Mobile area have extensive genealogical holdings. See our Mobile vertical file. In nearby Pensacola, the University of West Florida Archives has genealogical and private manuscript collections of families of the Florida panhandle.

Washington Memorial Library

1180 Washington Avenue
Macon, GA 31201

This largest genealogical library in Georgia specializes in the thirteen original states, adjoining states, and England.

Augusta Genealogical Society
1109 Broad Street
P.O. Box 3743
Augusta, GA 30914-3743

It has an extensive regional genealogical library with some genealogical private manuscript collections.

Odom Library
P.O. Box 1110
Moultrie, GA 31776-1110

It is the archives for more than eighty family associations, chiefly Scottish clan groups. The library will send you for free regular copies of its international genealogical newspaper.

John E. Ladson Library
119 Church Street
P.O. Box 584
Vidalia, GA 30474

A library of 25,000 (+) genealogically valuable books and Georgia, the Carolinas, and Virginia microfilm open to the public.

Memphis & Shelby County Room
Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library
3030 Poplar Avenue
Memphis, TN 38111

It has a Memphis oriented card catalog index to biographies of Tennesseans. Excellent collection of Memphis but also for the surrounding areas of Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee.