

Collection-specific Search Strategies

Lise Embley

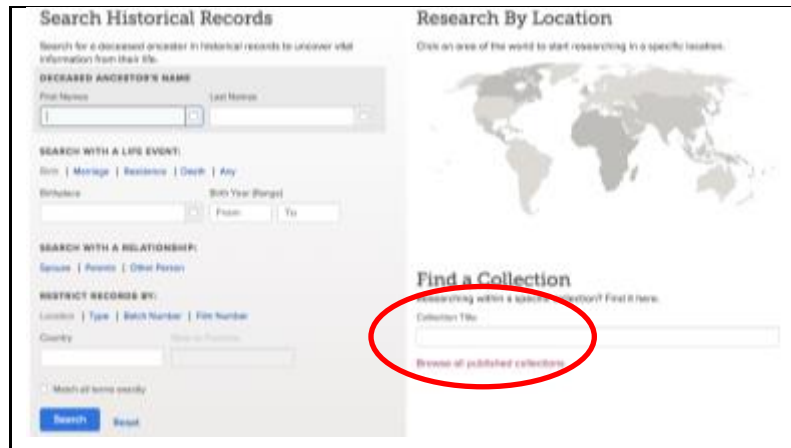
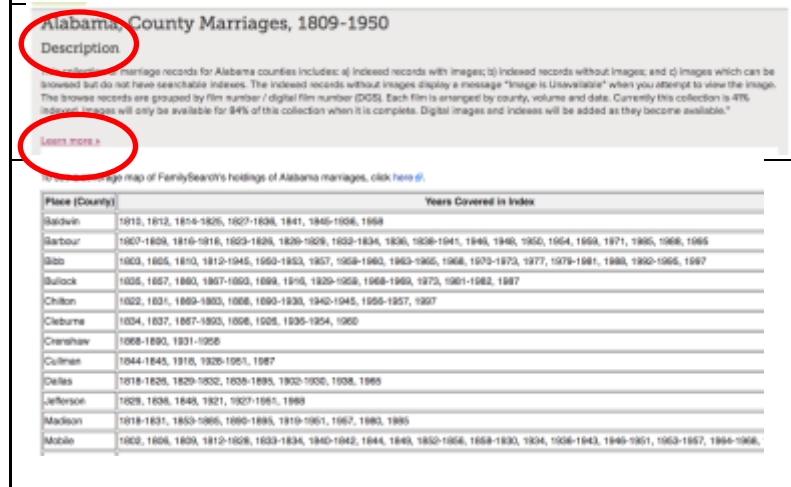
Director, Williamsburg Family History Center

Search Considerations

- What records are included (or excluded).
- Which fields are indexed.
- Collection size and update date. (Displayed in *Browse all published collections* mode.)
- How the search engine interprets your search criteria.
- Other websites where the same/similar collections are found.

Search Strategies

- Search a specific collection (1870 census) to answer a specific question (e.g., “Where was Adam Loewinger living in 1870?”) or if you are having difficulty finding someone in a particular record.
- Search broadly using the main search landing page to begin documenting someone’s life or to expand your search.

	<p>Search all collections from main page.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Search here occasionally (“fishing”).• Enter key words in Collection Title box to see what collections exist.<ul style="list-style-type: none">– E.g., “Virginia Mar” yields one Virginia and two West Virginia marriage collections.– Do not press [Enter] unless you type the exact collection title.• <u>Browse published collections</u> to identify options/limitations for intentional searching (“hunting”).																										
 <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Place (County)</th><th>Years Covered in Index</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Adair</td><td>1815, 1817, 1818-1825, 1827-1838, 1841, 1845-1856, 1868</td></tr><tr><td>Barbour</td><td>1827-1829, 1816-1818, 1823-1825, 1826-1828, 1832-1834, 1836, 1838-1841, 1848, 1849, 1852, 1854, 1859, 1871, 1885, 1898, 1899</td></tr><tr><td>Bibb</td><td>1803, 1805, 1810, 1812-1845, 1850-1853, 1857, 1858-1863, 1863-1865, 1868, 1873-1875, 1877, 1879-1881, 1888, 1892-1895, 1897</td></tr><tr><td>Bullock</td><td>1805, 1857, 1880, 1887-1893, 1899, 1916, 1926-1928, 1968-1969, 1973, 1981-1982, 1987</td></tr><tr><td>Chilton</td><td>1822, 1831, 1869-1893, 1898, 1899-1938, 1942-1945, 1955-1957, 1997</td></tr><tr><td>Cleburne</td><td>1834, 1837, 1867-1893, 1898, 1905, 1935-1954, 1960</td></tr><tr><td>Crenshaw</td><td>1868-1890, 1931-1958</td></tr><tr><td>Cullman</td><td>1844-1845, 1918, 1926-1951, 1987</td></tr><tr><td>Dallas</td><td>1818-1825, 1829-1832, 1835-1895, 1932-1950, 1958, 1989</td></tr><tr><td>Jefferson</td><td>1829, 1838, 1848, 1921, 1927-1951, 1989</td></tr><tr><td>Madison</td><td>1818-1831, 1853-1865, 1880-1895, 1919-1951, 1957, 1983, 1985</td></tr><tr><td>Mobile</td><td>1802, 1806, 1809, 1812-1828, 1833-1834, 1840-1842, 1844, 1848, 1852-1858, 1858-1893, 1934, 1938-1943, 1949-1951, 1953-1957, 1964-1968</td></tr></tbody></table>	Place (County)	Years Covered in Index	Adair	1815, 1817, 1818-1825, 1827-1838, 1841, 1845-1856, 1868	Barbour	1827-1829, 1816-1818, 1823-1825, 1826-1828, 1832-1834, 1836, 1838-1841, 1848, 1849, 1852, 1854, 1859, 1871, 1885, 1898, 1899	Bibb	1803, 1805, 1810, 1812-1845, 1850-1853, 1857, 1858-1863, 1863-1865, 1868, 1873-1875, 1877, 1879-1881, 1888, 1892-1895, 1897	Bullock	1805, 1857, 1880, 1887-1893, 1899, 1916, 1926-1928, 1968-1969, 1973, 1981-1982, 1987	Chilton	1822, 1831, 1869-1893, 1898, 1899-1938, 1942-1945, 1955-1957, 1997	Cleburne	1834, 1837, 1867-1893, 1898, 1905, 1935-1954, 1960	Crenshaw	1868-1890, 1931-1958	Cullman	1844-1845, 1918, 1926-1951, 1987	Dallas	1818-1825, 1829-1832, 1835-1895, 1932-1950, 1958, 1989	Jefferson	1829, 1838, 1848, 1921, 1927-1951, 1989	Madison	1818-1831, 1853-1865, 1880-1895, 1919-1951, 1957, 1983, 1985	Mobile	1802, 1806, 1809, 1812-1828, 1833-1834, 1840-1842, 1844, 1848, 1852-1858, 1858-1893, 1934, 1938-1943, 1949-1951, 1953-1957, 1964-1968	<p>Read collection descriptions, wiki.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic information about what is included, percent completed.• <u>Learn more</u> * link leads to wiki. <p>Review coverage tables/maps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Counties and dates covered in <i>this</i> collection. (Other years may be available in other collections, may never have been filmed/digitized, or may not exist.)• Some collections combine multiple record types. Coverage tables give details.
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Michigan Deaths: FamilySearch, Ancestry, and SeekingMichigan

<p>Michigan Death Certificates, 1921-1952</p> <p>Description</p> <p>Index of death records from the Michigan Department of Community Health, Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics in Lansing.</p> <p>Learn more</p> <p>Search Collection</p> <p>DECEASED ANCESTOR'S NAME</p> <p>First Names <input type="text"/> Last Names <input type="text"/></p> <p>Gender <input type="text"/> Marital Status <input type="text"/></p> <p>Any <input type="text"/></p>	<p>FamilySearch</p> <p>Covers 1921-1952, which combines Michigan Historical Center's 1921-1947 and 1948-1952 collections.</p> <p>Index only on FamilySearch. Index and images on SeekingMichigan.</p>
<p>Michigan, Death Records, 1867-1950</p> <p>SEARCH <input type="checkbox"/> Match all terms exactly</p> <p>First & Middle Name(s) <input type="text"/> Last Name <input type="text"/></p> <p>Birth <input type="text"/> Day <input type="text"/> Month <input type="text"/> Year <input type="text"/> Location <input type="text"/></p> <p>Death <input type="text"/> City, County, State, Count <input type="text"/></p> <p>Any Event <input type="text"/></p> <p>Add family member: Father Mother</p> <p>First & Middle Name(s) <input type="text"/> Last Name <input type="text"/></p> <p>Father <input type="text"/></p> <p>Browse this collection</p> <p>To browse this image set, select from the options below.</p> <p>Record Group</p> <p>✓ Choose...</p> <p>Certificates, 1897-1920</p> <p>Certificates, 1921-1941</p> <p>Registers, 1867-1897</p> <p>Related data collections</p> <p>Michigan, Marriage Records, 1867-1952</p> <p>Married in Michigan? Along with brides and grooms, you may find aunts, uncles, parents, and neighbors listed.</p>	<p>Ancestry</p> <p>Years 1942-1952 are not included but are available on FamilySearch.</p> <p>Includes index to 1867-1897, which is also found on the Michigan Dept of Health and Human Services site but NOT SeekingMichigan.</p>
<p>Search Digital Archive: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Find results with:</p> <p>All of the words <input type="text"/> OR All fields <input type="text"/></p> <p>All of the words <input type="text"/> OR All fields <input type="text"/></p> <p>SEARCH</p> <p>Searching collections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Death Records, 1897-1920 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Death Records, 1921-1947 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Death Records, 1948-1952 <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Archives of Michigan Finding Aids <input type="checkbox"/> Civil War Battle Flags <input type="checkbox"/> Civil War Manuscripts <input type="checkbox"/> Civil War Photographs <input type="checkbox"/> Civil War Service Records <input type="checkbox"/> Civil War Volunteer Registers <input type="checkbox"/> Early Documents <input type="checkbox"/> Early Photographs 	<p>Michigan Historical Center</p> <p>Found at SeekingMichigan.org.</p> <p>Site Includes state census records, Civil War records and photos, lighthouse records, as well as death records.</p>

Pennsylvania Marriages: FamilySearch and Lackawanna County website

Pennsylvania, County Marriages, 1885-1950

Description

This collection includes civil marriage records created in Pennsylvania counties. The records include registers, affidavits and marriage licenses. In some instances, divorce records are recorded with marriages.

[Learn more](#)

Search Collection

DECEASED ANCESTOR'S NAME

First Names

Last Names

7/20/2016

Marriage License 1885-Present - Inquiry - Applicant Search

Name:

- or - File Number:

Sel

Marriage Applicants

	Book	Page	File Number	Married Date
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MAXWELL JAMES A : DOUGHER NAME	90	197	0090-00197	05/08/1909
<input type="checkbox"/> MAXWELL JAMES J : MARX MARIE A	295	355	0295-00355	11/22/1944

FamilySearch

Covers 1885 (when law was enacted) until 1950.

Lackawanna County Register of Wills / Clerk of Orphan Court

Quirky website has records images. Includes wills, probates, other records.

Williamsburg Family History Center

2017 Newman Road, Williamsburg, Virginia
 757.220.0266 during center hours
 757.903.5706 when the center is closed

