Colombia Research Guide

ANCESTOR'S BIRTH LOCATION UNKNOWN

FamilySearch Indexed records: Try searching in the indexed records for the name of your ancestor if they were born before 1900. Try a variety of searches with your ancestor's name, or with parent's names, or just by parent's surnames AND using the option to limit the locality by the country of Colombia and the name of the department. If there are no results, you will have to find more information from home sources or by asking family members.

Contact family members: If you do not have even a minimal amount of information AND have no idea of where and when to look, you need to contact family members who might have that information. This could be older aunts, uncles, grandparents, etc.

ANCESTOR'S BIRTH LOCATION AND NAMES OF PARENTS, SPOUSE, OR CHILDREN ARE KNOWN

There are currently very few Civil Registration records available for Colombia. Catholic Church records however are available for some areas.

FamilySearch Indexed Records: Try searching first in indexed records as described above.

FamilySearch Browsable Images: If there are no results from your previous search for your ancestor or any sibling, you will have to browse images for the locality. On the **Search** page, click the **South American** portion of the map then select **Colombia** from the list of countries. Select a record collection from **Image-Only Historical Records** and browse the collection page-by-page for your ancestor.

FamilySearch Catalog: Not all records for Colombia are online, be sure to check the catalog before giving up on finding records. Under **Search** on the home page select **Catalog.** Type **Colombia** and click **Search.** A list of available records will appear. Your search can be localized by selecting **Places within Colombia** at the top and then choosing the exact locality where your ancestor lived.

RESEARCH STRATEGIES

Who to search for? If you don't know the names of the parents, but you know the name of the spouse and/or the names of some of his children, begin with a marriage search (if they married in Colombia and you know the place). Or begin with a search for the birth/baptism record for one of their children (if you have an approximate birthdate and place).

FamilySearch Wiki: Translation, handwriting help, and descriptions of specific record collections can be found on the FamilySearch Wiki. Under Search on the home page selection Research Wiki. Type **Colombia** and hit **Enter.** The information on this page will lead you to

helpful topics such as **Languages** (under Colombia Background), which includes a list of genealogical terms in Spanish and a letter-writing guide if you need to request documents from Colombia.

FamilySearch Community: You can get immediate research and handwriting help from a community of researchers through the FamilySearch Communities. Go to http://community.familysearch.org/ and click **Groups**. Search for **Latin American Genealogy Research** or **Investigación Genealógica** to find the group for Hispanic genealogical research. While the second group is in Spanish, the members will respond to posts written in English. On the group pages, you can post research questions and upload documents to get translation help.

FINDING A LOCALITY

For help locating a place in Colombia, try the following sources:
- Google
- Wikipedia (The Spanish version works the best)
- Try a keyword search in the FamilySearch Catalog for Colombia Gazetteers

ONLINE RESOURCES

For other online resources please review the Wiki article **Hispanic Genealogy Resources Online.**