



# UTK Library

## Guide to Research

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**GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville Library, as a major research library, has acquired materials which may be useful for genealogical research. The Library does not, however, maintain a separate genealogical department; nor do we have genealogical specialists on staff. The materials are integrated into the general research collection. In order to locate these materials, genealogical researchers must consult the catalog. In the reference collection located on the first floor of the Hodges Library are books such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, and indexes which may also be helpful in genealogical research. A list of some useful guides and some primary sources available at Hodges Library is located at the reference desk. Ask a reference librarian for assistance in using any of these materials. Although reference librarians are unable to provide extensive personal service to genealogical researchers, they can suggest additional types of material to be consulted and assist in using the catalog and in locating specific items in the library.

### **GUIDES TO GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH**

Before beginning a genealogical search, one or more of the guides to genealogical research should be consulted for advice on research techniques and for sources of further information. If you are unable to locate a guide in your local public library, the University Library has a limited selection listed in the catalog under the subject heading GENEALOGY.

### **PUBLISHED FAMILY HISTORIES**

Someone may already have done research on a family you are interested in and may have published the findings. Several lists of published genealogies or family histories are available in the library. These family histories may be collective, dealing with several families, or individual. The University Library has a limited number of such histories, primarily concerning East Tennessee families. For individual histories, look in the catalog under the family name, for example, WHITE FAMILY. For collective histories, look in the catalog under the name of the state, such as TENNESSEE—BIOGRAPHY or TENNESSEE—GENEALOGY.

### **COUNTY AND LOCAL HISTORIES**

County and local histories have been published for many localities in the United States, and they frequently include information on prominent local citizens. *Tennessee History: A Bibliography* by Sam Smith (Knoxville, University of Tennessee Press, 1974), available in the Hodges Library stacks and Reference and Information Services, includes a lengthy list of Tennessee county and local histories. There is also a 1999 edition which covers the period 1973-1999. The University Library has a number of these histories, particularly for East Tennessee. They may be found in the catalog under the author's name or under the county or city name as, for example, BLOUNT COUNTY—HISTORY. Remember that county boundaries changed frequently during the westward settlement of the state. For a list of such changes in Tennessee, see *Counties of the United States* by E. Kay Kirkham (1961) located in Reference and Information Services. There is also an *Atlas of Historical County Boundaries* edited by John H. Long (1993) located at the Map Library in Hoskins Library.

Many county historical societies now have websites and/or discussion boards. These can usually be found by using a search engine such as Google (<http://www.google.com>) and entering a search string such as "Blount County Historical Society."

## **COUNTY AND LOCAL RECORDS**

Prior to 1900 county records frequently provide the only access to several types of information such as land titles, court proceedings, and birth, marriage, and death records. Records were not kept consistently and were sometimes lost through fire or accident. During the 1930's the Works Projects Administration (WPA) compiled an inventory of available vital records for 40 states including Tennessee. Many of these records were transcribed in full in typewritten form. There are also microfilmed copies in the Documents/Microforms Department at Hodges Library. Types of records included by the WPA were marriage bonds and licenses, wills, court minutes, probate records, deeds, church records, and cemetery inscriptions. Copies of most of the WPA-compiled records for Tennessee are available in the University Library. Locate them in the catalog under the name of the county or under the type of record wanted, such as MARRIAGE LICENSES; WILLS; or REGISTERS OF BIRTH. There is also a checklist of records available in Special Collections. Most records after 1900 are available in the appropriate state, county, or local government offices.

## **CENSUS RECORDS**

The University Library has microfilm copies of the U.S. census records for Tennessee for seven decennial censuses from 1830 through 1920, with 1930 due to be published in Summer 2002. The 1890 census records were destroyed by fire in the 1920's and are unavailable. The 1920 records are the latest available. Through 1840 the census lists only the head of each household. Beginning in 1850 the name of each individual along with race, sex, age, and country or state of birth is given. Indexes are available for some census schedules. Locate them in the catalog under the name of the county or under TENNESSEE—CENSUS or TENNESSEE—POPULATION.

## **MILITARY RECORDS**

The University Library has published records of U.S. military service in several wars prior to 1900. These records appear in various forms including rosters, regimental histories, and pension lists. They may be located in the catalog under such subject headings as, for example, PENSIONS, MILITARY—U.S. ; U.S. HISTORY—REVOLUTION, 1775-1783—REGISTERS, LISTS, ETC.; or U.S. HISTORY—CIVIL WAR, 1861-1865—REGIMENTAL HISTORIES.

## **NEWSPAPERS**

A great deal of genealogical information in the form of obituaries, biographical sketches, and local news items can be found in newspapers. The Library has a selection of Tennessee newspapers, primarily on microfilm, dating from the early 1800's to the present. A list of these newspapers is available in Reference and Information Services. As Tennessee newspapers are not indexed, an approximate date or time span will make searching easier. See also the Tennessee Newspaper Project website at [http://www.lib.utk.edu/~spec\\_coll/newspaper/tnphome.htm](http://www.lib.utk.edu/~spec_coll/newspaper/tnphome.htm)

## **MANUSCRIPT MATERIALS**

Often personal papers such as letters, diaries, and memoirs contain information which may be useful to genealogists. The Special Collections Library has, within its manuscript collection, the personal papers of a small number of individuals and families in addition to original documents of many other kinds. Manuscript materials are listed in the manuscript catalog located in Special Collections. Finding aids to manuscript collections are being added to a database accessible through the Libraries' Catalog. Non-manuscript materials located in Special Collections are listed in the online catalog.

## **OTHER AREA RESOURCES**

The McClung Collection, located in the East Tennessee Historical Center in downtown Knoxville, has an outstanding collection of historical and genealogical materials for East Tennessee, the state, and the southern Appalachian region. Their website is <http://www.knoxlib.org/ethc.htm> The Genealogy Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) in Knoxville, located at 400 Kendall Road near Westown Mall, provides local assistance in using the vast genealogical collections of the LDS church located in Utah. They also have access to some of their materials on the Internet at <http://www.familysearch.org>.

The public libraries and local historical societies in many of Tennessee's smaller towns and communities may also have unique materials for their localities. The State Library and Archives in Nashville is, of course, the major repository of historical records for the state. Their website is <http://www.state.tn.us/sos/statelib/tslahome.htm>.