

PATHFINDER

TRACING YOUR ANCESTORS: GENEALOGY

New Mexico State Records Center and Archives
1205 Camino Carlos Rey
Santa Fe, NM 87507

SCOPE

This pathfinder is designed to assist the beginning genealogist conducting family history at the State Records Center and Archives. The sources provided should facilitate research and assist the beginning genealogist in planning a more extensive genealogical project. All the material referred to in this pathfinder is located at the State Records and Archives; however, many of these same resources can be found in other libraries, archives, and family history centers.

INTRODUCTION

The State Records Center and Archives (SRCA) is a major source of information for any individual whose roots form part of New Mexico's rich history. Each month SRCA assists approximately 400 individuals in performing different types of research. Nearly 70 percent of these patrons are beginning genealogists – individuals researching their families' origins and history. The study of an individual's origins is a time-consuming, labor-intensive task. In fact, it is often more time-consuming and laborious than most individuals bargain for. However, once bitten by the genealogy bug, many individuals are compelled to scroll through miles of microfilm and scour through old manuscripts, diaries, wills, and record books in search of clues to their family's origins.

Before using the State Records Center and Archives, it is recommended that preliminary research be conducted first. Rule number one: genealogy begins at home. Begin with yourself and work your way back. Talk to parents, grandparents, relatives, and anyone else who can provide answers relative to your search. Using a pedigree chart (family tree chart) and fill in as many blanks as you can. Always take good notes. Once the preliminary research is compiled, the State Records Center and Archives has many resources to help continue your research. The sources listed in this pathfinder are intended to familiarize the beginning genealogist with the different types of secondary and primary material available at the SRCA. These sources are just a sampling of the materials that will assist the genealogist's journey into the past.

OUTLINE

➤ Primary Sources

- **Archives of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe (AASF)** – Perhaps the most important source of genealogical information is a collection of sacramental records belonging to the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. While these records belong to the Archdiocese a microfilm copy has been provided to the SRCA for patron use. These sacramental records include baptisms, confirmations, marriages, *diligencias matrimoniales* (DMs) or pre-nuptial investigations, and burials. These records are arranged by parish, record type, and date. Many of the DMs have been indexed in Fray Angelico Chavez' New Mexico Roots, Ltd. These records are contained in three microfilm series (AASF, Series A, and LDS Series).
- **Archives of the Diocese of Gallup (ADG)** – Similar to AASF, these microfilmed sacramental records belong to the Diocese of Gallup, but are available for use to patrons at SRCA. The microfilm series contains church records from the western part of New Mexico and the eastern part of Arizona beginning in 1777 and running until 1920. (Earlier records may be found in AASF)
- **Census Records (microfilm only)** – Another excellent source of information are census records. SRCA has the 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1885, 1900, 1910, and 1920 Federal census records. Indices for the 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses are also available. The 1890 census was destroyed by fire; however, a special schedule enumerating Civil War veterans and widows is extant. Also available on microfilm are some census records from the Spanish and Mexican Periods.
- **County Records (Some microfilm)**
 - Clerk's Office: Property deeds, marriages, oaths and bonds, poll and tally books, voter registration, business licenses, brands, mining records, notary records
 - Assessor's Office: Tax records
 - Probate Office: Case files, wills, testaments, guardianships, and adoptions
- **District Court Records (Some microfilm)**
 - Civil and Criminal Docket Books
 - Oversized Record Books
 - Civil and Criminal Case Files
 - Naturalization Records: Declaration and Intention, Petition for Naturalization, Naturalization Records, Certificate of Naturalization
- **Land Grants and Conveyances** – These records chart the distribution of land in New Mexico during the Spanish, Mexican, and Territorial Periods. Also included are those records of the Surveyor General and the Court of Private Land Claims. These records are important in that they list land grantees, heirs, family names, and relationships.
- **Military Records** - These records include military muster rolls during the Spanish, Mexican, and Territorial periods. Other military records include the

Adjutant General's Collection and World War I and World War II discharges and enlistments.

- **Wills and Diaries** – Miscellaneous records of wills and diaries of individuals living in New Mexico.
- **Private Collections** - Several New Mexico families have donated their family papers to the SRCA. These papers contain valuable information about New Mexico families and their role in the state's development and history.
- **Department of Corrections (Penitentiary of New Mexico Records)** – Prison records can provide some family information on inmates of the Penitentiary of New Mexico.

➤ **Secondary Sources**

- **Abstracted and Published Sacramental Records** – Some sacramental records have been extracted and published by genealogical group/societies and private individuals. Copies are available on the shelves in the Genealogy Room. They include but are not limited to the following:

Abiquiu Baptism 1754-1866, 1869-1900
Albuquerque Baptisms 1709-1850
Albuquerque Marriages 1726-1850
Santa Fe Baptisms 1747-1848
Santa Fe Marriages 1728-1857
San Juan Marriages 1726-1776, 1831-1855
San Juan Baptisms 1726-1870
Santa Clara Marriages 1726-1832
Isleta Marriages 1726-1846
Belen Baptisms 1866-1895

- **Published Family Histories** – In some instances, genealogists have already researched and prepared large volumes of family histories. Beginning genealogists should make it a point to consult these resources. In some cases, the work has already been done. These resources are available in the Genealogy Room. They include but are not limited to the following:

- Family of Lucero de Godoi: Early Records. Compiled by Margaret L. Burton.
- Aldarete: Three Hundred Early in New Mexico, 1693-1993. Compiled by Edward Aaron Schoolcraft Jr.
- Chavez: A Distinctive American Clan of New Mexico. Compiled by Fray Angelico Chavez.
- DeHerrera Family. Compiled by Rose De Herrera
- The Quintanas. Compiled by Ida R. Foraci.

- **History Files (Folder 101, Surnames)** – Folder 101 in the SRCA’s history files is a collection of secondary material on Spanish surnames in New Mexico and may provide general information on specific Hispanic families.
- **Newspapers** – SRCA, in conjunction with the New Mexico State Library, has a large collection of New Mexico newspapers. Newspapers are an excellent source of information. Obituaries, birth, and marriage announcements, for example, provide pertinent genealogical information.

➤ **Websites**

- www.ancestry.com
- <http://pages.prodigy.net/bluemountain1/beyondorigins.htm>
- www.genealogy.com
- www.hgrc-nm.org
- www.familysearch.org
- www.censusrecords.com
- www.rootsweb.com
- www.ellisland.org
- www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/nm/nmdi.htm
- www.genforum.com

➤ **Bibliography**

- New Mexico Roots, Ltd. Fray Angelico Chavez. 1982
- Roots, The Index. Sharon Louis Heinz. 1994
- Origins of New Mexico Families: A Genealogy of the Spanish Colonial Period. Fray Angelico Chavez. William Gannon Publisher: Santa Fe, New Mexico 1975.
- The Handy Book for Genealogists. George B. Everton. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1981
- The Library of Congress: A Guide to Genealogical and Historical Research. James C. Neagles and Mark C. Neagles. Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 1990
- The Genealogy Sourcebook. Sharon DeBartolo Carmack. Los Angeles: Lowell House; Chicago: Contemporary Books, 1997
- A Beginners Guide to Hispanic Genealogy, Norma Flores and Patsy Ludwig. Western Book/Journal Press, San Mateo, California, 1993
- How to Find Your Family Roots. Timothy Beard and Denise Demong. New York:McGraw-Hill, 1977
- Finding Your Roots: How Every American Can Trace His Ancestors, at Home and Abroad. Jean Eddy Westin. Los Angeles: J.P. Tacher; New York, copyright 1977
- Herencia, The Quarterly Journal of the Hispanic Genealogical Research Center of New Mexico.
- New Mexico Genealogist, New Mexico Genealogical Society

- Nuestra Raices, Genealogical Society of Hispanic America
- Hispanic America: Genealogical Sourcebook, ed. by Paula K. Byers. Gale Research Inc., 1995
- Tracing your Hispanic Heritage by George R. Ryskamp, 1984
- Genealogical Research in the National Archives. National Archives Trust Fund Board. U.S. General Services Administration.