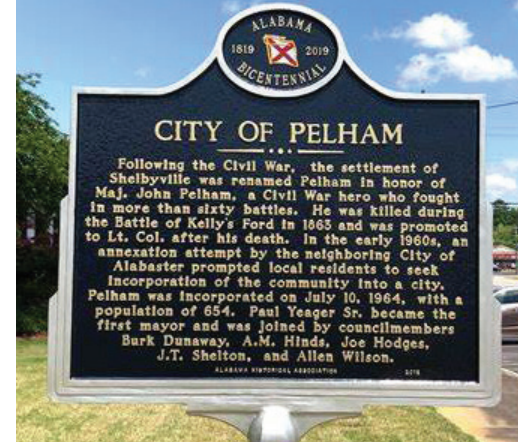




How to Begin Researching Your Family History



The Mitchell County Genealogical Society, Inc.
Working together to preserve the history of Mitchell County, Georgia.
The future will be exciting, BUT the past can be amazing.

The Mitchell County Genealogical Society, Inc. is comprised of individuals who have a great interest in the history of their respective families as well as the history of Mitchell County, Georgia. By working together, this history is better understood and discovered.

The Society is also dedicated to preserving this history. Therefore, the Society maintains and volunteer staffs The Betty Bailey Jones Genealogy Library at the DeSoto Trail Regional Library in Camilla, Georgia. Please visit the library at www.desototrail.org.

Q. How do I start?

A. Ask yourself what you want to accomplish in your genealogy research- know WHY you are doing genealogy. Is it to create a family tree, record family history, have DNA testing, etc.?

Q. Who do I start researching first?

A. Start with yourself, and move back in time. Don't skip generations. Confirm relationships using multiple sources. DO NOT assume everything on the internet or in print is accurate!

Q. How do I keep my research organized?

A. Collect everything you already have. Copy, scan or photograph originals. Use standard forms or a family tree program, and develop a system of record-keeping such as binders for families. Most importantly, record where you found the info (book at library, online records, courthouse, etc.) BACK UP to a flash drive or the cloud often to avoid data loss if your computer crashes.

Q. How do I find personal information that isn't listed in public records?

A. Ask your parents or any living relatives- have a conversation about what they remember. However, family stories may or may not be true- use documents to confirm. Look at family Bibles, scrapbooks or photo albums, etc. One of your relatives may have already started research that you can use.

Q. Are census records important?

A. Yes, the census is the backbone of genealogy. Be sure you know how to read the records/transcripts. Census records from 1790 to 1840 only listed the head of household name. In 1850, each household member's name and place of birth was listed, but it wasn't until 1880 that relationships were listed. Many census records from 1890 were destroyed- use alternate records such as tax rolls, deeds, wills, etc. Records through 1940 are available- the 1950 census will be available in April 2022.

Q. Do I need to pay to research my family history?

A. NO! Utilize your local library (with interlibrary loans to request books and even logins to paid sites), Google, Cyndi's List, or FamilySearch. You can set up a free account on FamilySearch to build your family tree and search records, and a free account on Ancestry will allow you to create a tree, but many records are only accessible through paid subscriptions.

Q. Should I join a genealogical or historical society (local or online)?

A. Yes, joining for a small membership fee will give you access to info in the area you are researching, and assistance from members. There are also genealogical groups and pages on Facebook, and people or organizations on Instagram, Pinterest or Twitter to follow. Sometimes simply posting a question will connect you with someone who's done research on the person you are researching!

Q. Is there a "quick" way to research my family history?

A. Unfortunately, no. Some companies advertise that you can discover many generations with just the click of a mouse on a website, but each ancestor must be carefully researched to avoid errors. Genealogy research can be time-consuming, but very rewarding when you are able to share your family's history with your family and other researchers.

Partial excerpt from "Beginning Genealogy" by Roger Marble, March 2019. Send an email to RMarbleGen@gmail.com with "BegGen101" in the subject line to receive an email with clickable genealogical links!

GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: www.facebook.com

1. Join closed groups or follow pages
2. Access to images, videos and website links, and research assistance

Instagram: www.instagram.com

1. Follow people and organizations
2. Access to images, videos and website links

Pinterest: www.pinterest.com

1. Follow people and organizations
2. Access to images, videos and website links

Twitter: www.twitter.com

1. Follow people and organizations
2. Access to images, videos, website links, # (hashtags = trending topics), upcoming events, research assistance

MCGS is on social media!

Join our Facebook group:

Mitchell County (Georgia) Genealogical Society, Inc.

Visit our Facebook page:

Mitchell County Genealogical Society, Inc.

Follow us on Instagram: @mcogenealogicalsoc

Do you have family history materials that you no longer want or need? We'll take them!

Family Bibles, photo albums, scrapbooks, newspaper articles, etc. are valuable resources for genealogical data.

Drop them off at the front desk of the De Soto Trail Regional Library and request that they be donated to the Mitchell County Genealogical Society, Inc.

Genealogical Resources

www.usgwarchives.net/ga/gafiles.htm (any county)
www.ancestry.com/download/form#uscensus (1850-1880, 1890, 1900-1940)
<https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/charts-forms>

MITCHELL

<http://www.usgwarchives.net/ga/mitchell.htm>
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gamitche/>
<http://www.usgwarchives.net/marriages/georgia/mitchell.htm>
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gamitche/obits/obits.html>
<http://www.usgwarchives.net/ga/maps/mitchell.gif> (Militia Map)
<https://dlg.usg.edu/> (Search for Mitchell County)

GRADY

<http://www.usgwarchives.net/ga/grady.htm>
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gagrady/>
<http://www.usgwarchives.net/marriages/georgia/grady.htm>
<http://www.usgwarchives.net/ga/grady/obits.html>
<http://www.usgwarchives.net/ga/maps/grady.gif> (Militia Map)
<https://dlg.usg.edu/> (Search for Grady County)

THOMAS

<http://www.usgwarchives.net/ga/thomas.htm>
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gathomas/>
<http://www.usgwarchives.net/marriages/georgia/thomas.htm>
<https://www.usgwarchives.net/ga/maps/gmd/thomas.gif> (Militia Map)
<https://dlg.usg.edu/> (Search for Thomas County)

BAKER

<http://www.usgwarchives.net/ga/baker.htm>
<http://www.genrecords.net/gabaker/>
<http://www.usgwarchives.net/marriages/georgia/baker.htm>
<http://www.usgwarchives.net/ga/maps/baker.gif> (Militia Map)
<https://dlg.usg.edu/> (Search for Baker County)

COLQUITT

<http://www.usgwarchives.net/ga/colquitt.htm>
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gacolqui/>
<http://www.usgwarchives.net/marriages/georgia/colquitt.htm>
<http://www.usgwarchives.net/ga/maps/colquitt.gif> (Militia Map)
<https://dlg.usg.edu/> (Search for Colquitt County)

DECATUR

<http://www.usgwarchives.net/ga/decatur.htm>
<http://www.thegagenweb.com/gadecatur/>
<http://www.usgwarchives.net/marriages/georgia/decatur.htm>
<http://www.usgwarchives.net/ga/maps/decatur.gif> (Militia Map)
<https://dlg.usg.edu/> (Search for Decatur County)

DOUGHERTY

<http://www.usgwarchives.net/ga/dougherty.htm>
<http://www.genrecords.net/gadoughe/>
<http://www.usgwarchives.net/marriages/georgia/dougherty.htm>
<http://www.genealogybuff.com/ga/ga-dougherty-deaths.htm>
<http://www.usgwarchives.net/ga/maps/dougherty.gif> (Militia Map)
<https://dlg.usg.edu/> (Search for Dougherty County)

Historic Newspapers

<https://dlg.usg.edu/>

South Georgia Newspapers

[Albany, Americus, Cairo, Camilla, Pelham, Thomasville, Valdosta](#)
<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/regions/south/>

Moultrie Observer Newspaper

<http://moultriecolquitt.advantage-preservation.com/>

Georgia's Virtual Vault

<https://vault.georgiaarchives.org/digital/> Death Certificates 1919 - 1927
<https://vault.georgiaarchives.org/digital/collection/gadeaths>

Death Certificates 1919 - 1942

Ancestry.com - Search by last name and death year

Death Certificates 1919 - 1942 <https://familysearch.org> (signup for account, no cost)

www.findagrave.com

(now a part of Ancestry.com, signup for account, no cost, to add memorials and update memorials)

Marriage Records from Microfilm

<https://vault.georgiaarchives.org/digital/collection/countyfilm>

Military Records

<http://www.fold3.com/> (formerly Footnote.com - Subscription)

Family Search familysearch.org	Family tree	FREE
	Record searching	FREE
	Family Tree mobile app	FREE
Ancestry www.ancestry.com	Family tree	FREE
	Record searching (check local lib. for free access!)	\$
	Family Tree mobile app	FREE
Find A Grave http://www.findagrave.com	Search, setup account to create & manage memorials	FREE
www.newspapers.com	Obituaries & tributes (check local lib. for free access!)	\$
www.obituaries.com/legacy.com	Obituaries & tributes	FREE
Library of Congress www.loc.gov	Historical records and full size maps	FREE
Access Genealogy accessgenealogy.com	US genealogy material, incl. Native American Rolls	FREE
RootsWeb www.rootsweb.com	Genealogical community with surname search, forums, etc.	FREE
Google Books books.google.com	Search, read online books	FREE
	Download digital or purchase print versions	\$ varies
Google Drive & Gmail https://myaccount.google.com	Email account + cloud storage = 15 GB (shared between email & Drive)	FREE
(Local) public library websites	Request & check out interlibrary loan books with valid library card	FREE
County & State Historical Societies/Associations	Websites with resources	FREE
	Membership benefits	\$ varies
Roots Magic www.rootsmagic.com	Family Tree Software	FREE
	Full Version	\$
(other family tree software)	Legacy Family Tree, Family Historian, Family Tree Maker, Heredis 2017, My Heritage Family Tree Builder	\$ varies
DNA Testing	Ancestry.com, 23andMe.com, and MyHeritageDNA.com	\$ varies

Links from "Finding your Branches, Leaves, & Roots" by Donna C. Powell, July 2019, Updated March 2023

It's time to start YOUR ancestral chart!

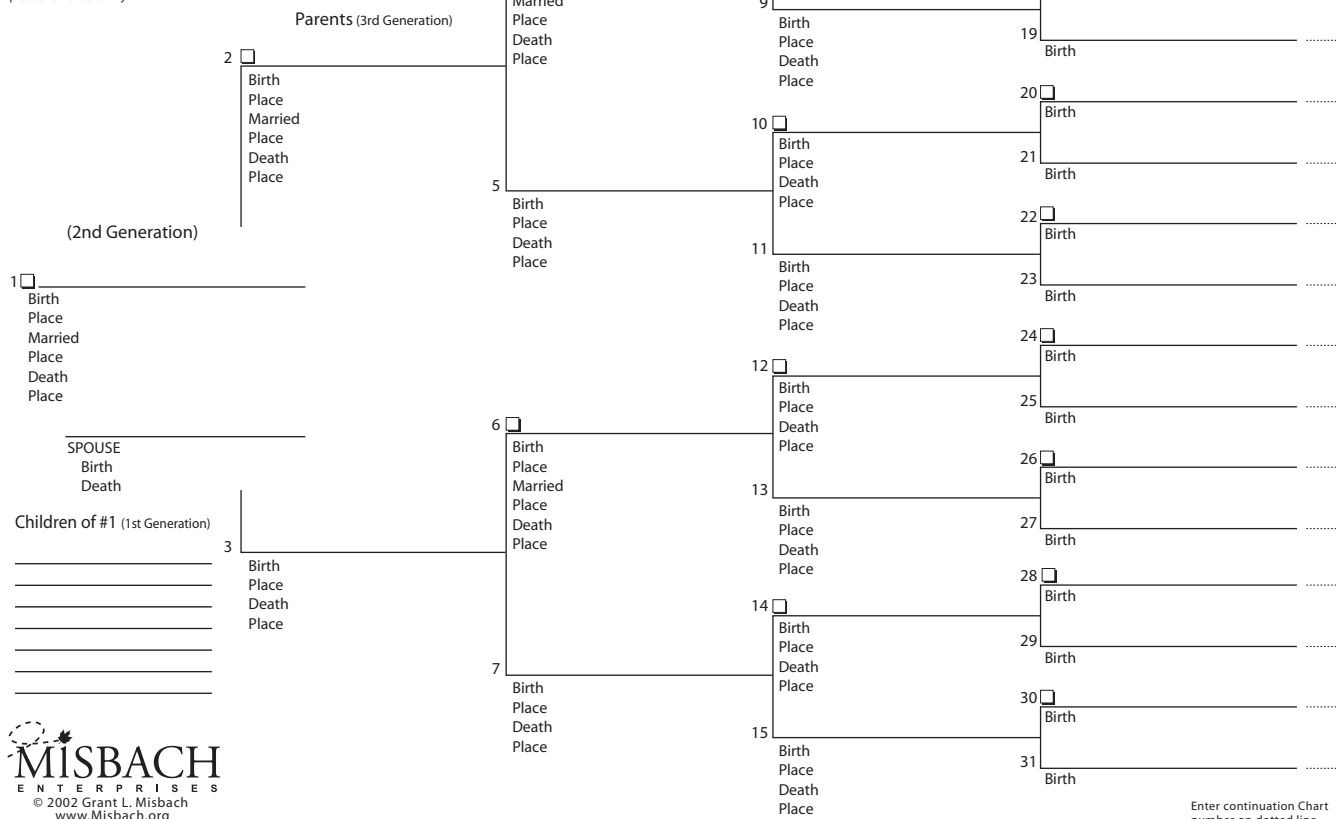


6 Generation Pedigree Chart

Chart #

No. 1 on this chart is same as # ___ on Chart # ___.

The boxes by the male names may be filled in with a color or mark to indicate when all the work has been completed for that family.



Enter continuation Chart number on dotted line

Local Genealogical Societies, Libraries, Museums & Historical Societies

MITCHELL COUNTY

Mitchell County Genealogical Society, Inc.
De Soto Trail Regional Library
145 E. Broad St., Camilla GA
229.336.8372 • www.desototrail.org

BAKER COUNTY

Baker County Historical Society
100 Main Street, Newton GA

COLQUITT COUNTY

Ellen Payne Odom Genealogy Library
Moultrie-Colquitt County Library System
204 5th Street SE, Moultrie GA
229.985.6540 • www.mccls.org

DECATUR COUNTY

Southwest GA Regional Library System
301 S. Monroe St., Bainbridge, GA
229.248.2665 • www.swgrl.org

Decatur County Historical & Genealogical Society Museum

127 E. Water St., Bainbridge GA
229.242.2124 • Open Sat. 10-2
gluseum.com- search for Bainbridge GA

DOUGHERTY COUNTY

Southwest Georgia Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 4672, Albany GA 31706
www.swggs.org

The Genealogy Room at the Dougherty County Public Library

300 Pine Ave., Albany GA
229.420.3218 • www.docolib.org

GRADY COUNTY

Grady County Historical Society
Grady County Museum & History Center
101 N. Broad St., Cairo GA • 229.377.5142
www.gradyhistorical.org

Roddenberry Memorial Library

320 N. Broad St., Cairo GA
229.377.3632 • rmlibrary.org

THOMAS COUNTY

Thomas County Public Library
The Heritage Room
201 N. Madison, Thomasville, GA
229.225.5252 • tcpls.org

Thomasville Genealogical Library

1501 Millpond Rd (on Thomas Univ. campus)
Thomasville, GA • 229.226.9640
www.thomasu.edu/alumni-friends/genealogical-library

Thomasville History Center

725 N. Dawson St, Thomasville, GA
229.226.7664 • www.thomasvillehistory.org

Georgia Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 550247 • Atlanta, GA 30355-2747
www.gagensociety.org

Georgia Historical Society

Savannah: 104 W. Gaston Street, Savannah, GA
912.651.2125
Atlanta: One Baltimore Place NW, Suite G300,
Atlanta, GA • 404.382.5410
georgiahistory.com

MCGS Monthly Meetings

are held the third Saturday of each month
(except Nov. & Dec.) at the De Soto Trail Regional Library,
145 E. Broad St., Camilla GA from 10 am- 12 pm.
229.329.2203 (Voicemail) • 229.336.8372 (Library)

Join us! \$10 annual membership fee
MCGSIncGA.org • mcgenealogicalsocietyinc@gmail.com