



Genealogy Research Guide

Beginning Your Family History Research In the Wake County Public Library

Thinking of tracing your family tree? The public library has print and electronic resources that will help you begin your research. The most popular and useful sources are discussed below. If you have trouble finding information, please see a staff member. We're here to help!

The best place to research genealogy in the Wake County Public Libraries is the **Olivia Raney Local History Library**, which has an extensive network of materials available to assist those conducting research into historical & genealogical topics.

[Olivia Raney Local History Library](#)

4016 Carya Drive
Raleigh, NC 27610
Phone: 919-250-1196

<http://www.wakegov.com/images/library/locations/orl/>

There are a variety of materials available in the rest of the Wake County Public Libraries to help you, including both print sources and electronic databases. Some of these materials are general guides to help you get started, and others are more specialized. In addition, some useful websites and local resources are listed at the end of this guide.

SUBJECTS: (keywords to use when searching the online catalog)

[African Americans Genealogy](#)

[Census](#)

[Genealogy](#)

[Genealogy Handbooks](#)

[Genealogy Methodology](#)

[Genealogy North Carolina](#)

[Genealogy Software](#)

[Land Records](#)

[Marriage Records](#)

[Obituaries](#)

ONLINE DATABASES:

Ancestry.com

Available in the library only.

A genealogy resource with more than 1.5 billion names in more than 4,000 databases, such as military, court, land, probate, vital and church records, directories, passenger lists and more.

[HeritageQuest](#)

Available in the library and at home; library card and PIN number required.

Searchable database which includes census images, family histories, and local histories, and the Persi magazine index.

New England Ancestors

Available only to on-site users at the [Olivia Raney Local History Library](#).

A collection of genealogical and historical databases covering Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont.

[Sanborn Maps North Carolina](#)

Available in the library and at home; library card and PIN number required.

Maps of N.C. towns and cities from the mid-19th to 20th century

[ReferenceUSA](#)

Available in the library and at home; library card and PIN number required.

This is a searchable database of both business and residential information for the United States. It can be used to list all people of a certain surname by state, city or region.

[WorldCat via OCLC FirstSearch](#)

Available in the library and at home; library card and PIN number required.

A database which allows you to search for books, videos, maps, etc. which are held in libraries around the world.

WEBSITES:

Christine's Genealogical Website

<http://ccharity.com/>

A website for African American Genealogy resources, as well as Christine's own family research.

Cyndi's List

<http://www.cyndislist.com>

A comprehensive list of genealogy related websites.

Family Search

<http://www.familysearch.org/>

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints website allows you to search their Ancestral File, International Genealogical Index, Pedigree Resource File and other resources. They also have many online guides on various topics.

Rootsweb

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

A collection of information including surnames mailing lists, message boards, family trees, and other documents contributed by volunteers.

Social Security Death Index

<http://ssdi.genealogy.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/ssdi.cgi>

A searchable index of the deceased who had Social Security numbers and whose death was reported to the Social Security Administration. This index usually gives name and place of birth, and a request can be made to the Social Security Administration for a copy of the original application.

US Genweb

<http://www.usgenweb.org/>

A volunteer based project with links to a site for each state and county where queries and information can be posted.

US National Archives

http://www.archives.gov/research_room/genealogy/index.html

This site includes general guides to getting started in genealogy, information on workshops and courses, and lists of records available on microfilm.

LOCAL RESOURCES & WEBSITES:

Wake County Genealogical Society.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ncwcgs/>

A society which aims to facilitate communications among all Wake County researchers, whether they live locally or out of town.

North Carolina Genealogical Society

<http://www.ncgenealogy.org/>

NCGS is a membership organization dedicated to preserving and promoting genealogical studies in North Carolina. Founded in 1975, NCGS provides members and interested researchers with a variety of genealogical resources.

Wake County Gen Web

<http://www.ncgenweb.us/wake>

Part of the [USGenWeb Project](#) and the [NCGenWeb Project](#), this website includes records and websites posted by volunteers relating to Wake County research.

North Carolina Gen Web

<http://www.ncgenweb.us>

Part of the [USGenWeb Project](#) and the [NCGenWeb Project](#), this website includes records and websites posted by volunteers relating to North Carolina research.

Vital Records of North Carolina

<http://vitalrecords.dhhs.state.nc.us/vr/index.html>

Location of official North Carolina birth, death and marriage records.

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Raleigh, NC 27610
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State Library of North Carolina – Genealogical Services

109 E. Jones Street
Raleigh, NC
Phone: 919-807-7460

<http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/patrons/genealogists.html>

North Carolina State Archives

Phone: (919) 807-7310 Fax: (919) 733-1354

Mailing address:

North Carolina State Archives

614 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-4614

Email: archives@ncmail.net

<http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/archives/>

Family History Center

(a branch facility of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Microfilm & Fiche can be ordered, plus other resources are available).

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Raleigh, NC 27609
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Phone: 919-783-7752