

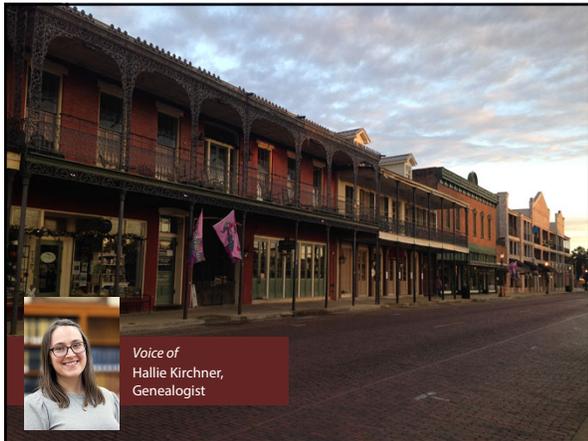
1



2



3



Voice of
Hallie Kirchner,
Genealogist

4



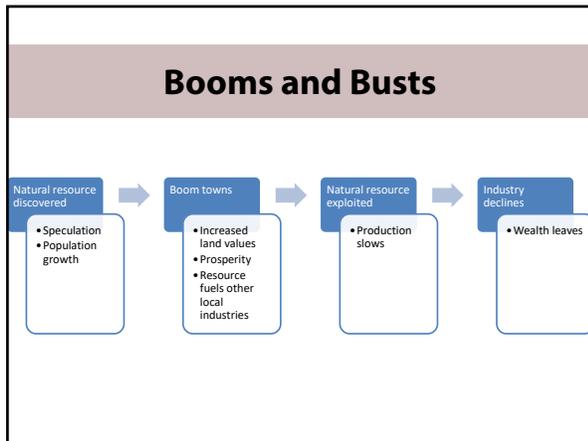
20th Century Industry

5

Entering the 20th Century

- Still largely an agrarian society with many agricultural workers and sharecroppers
 - Antebellum Louisiana was agricultural, run on the plantation system
 - Cotton and sugar grown and exported
 - Still largely a “colonial economy”
- Development of lumber and oil industries
- Industrialization of the South fueled by Northern capital

6



7

Lumber Industry

- Largely untouched forests before the 1880s
 - Other states had depleted their old-growth forests
- Profits went out of state
 - “Cut out and get out”
- Sawmills offered employment to locals
- 1920: Louisiana ranked 2nd in the US for timber production

8

Longleaf Pine



- Native to the SE United States, including central and northern LA
- Source of resin, turpentine, and timber
- Logging and timber industry took off as railroad technology improved

9

Longleaf Pine

- Classified as a softwood
- One of 10 of the “southern yellow pines”
 - Slower growing than other types
 - Hardest, heaviest, and strongest of the softwoods
 - Well-suited for structural uses (framing, roofing, flooring, etc.)



Historical Range of Longleaf Pine
<https://americaslongleaf.org/resources/maps/>

10

Longleaf Pine



- Longleaf pine lumbering peaked in 1907 and fell off by 1930
- Second-growth forests harvested 1940s to 1980s

11

Cypress



- Cypress swamps native to southern LA
- Traditional building material
 - Durable, insect-resistant, moisture-resistant
 - Virgin forests contained old-growth trees upwards of 1000 years old

12

Cypress

- Some timber harvesting was always present but industry grew rapidly after about 1880
- Cypress logging peaked in the 1910s



13

Company Towns

- Developed by employer (rail, lumber, turpentine, coal, oil, etc) ca. 1880s-1930s
- Company owns all buildings and businesses
- Often in remote areas far from other goods and services
- May or may not strive for a worker's utopia

14

Company Towns

- No competition – company controlled all pricing
- Workers sometimes paid in scrip that was only good at the company store



Great Southern Lumber Company storehouse

15

Lumber Towns

- Bogalusa – Great Southern Lumber Co.
- Elizabeth – Industrial Lumber Co.
- Fisher – Louisiana Long Leaf Lumber Co.
- Fullerton – Gulf Lumber Co.
- Garden City – Albert Hanson Lumber Co.
- Glenmora – Louisiana Sawmill Co. Ltd.
- Kinder – Peavy Byrnes Lumber Co.
- Long Leaf – Crowell and Spencer Lumber Co.
- Stables – Gulf Lumber Co.

16

Oil Industry

- Some attempts to drill in the late 19th century
- Like the lumber industry, early companies were formed by people from out of state
- First well in Jeff Davis Parish (1901), others soon followed
- Land values soared near oil fields



17

Oil Industry

- First oil well in LA drilled in 1901
- First natural gas pipeline in LA laid in 1908
- First long-distance oil pipeline in LA laid in 1909
- First off-shore drilling operation in LA began in 1934
- Top 10 of oil-producers in the US from 1901 to 1946
- Peak production: 1969

18

Caddo Parish



- Caddo-Pine Island field discovered circa 1905 at Caddo Lake (LA/TX)
- Natural gas and oil
- First over-water oil platform
- Oil boom led to increased land values and increased population

19

Offshore Drilling

- Post-WWII
- Terrebonne and Plaquemines
- Innovations in drilling platforms and machinery
- Successful operations heralded a new era of drilling in LA

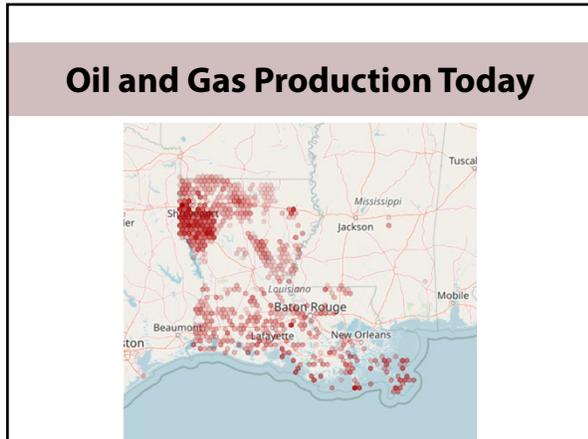


20

Population Shifts

- Population movement from rural, scattered areas to more urbanized areas with better access to jobs
- In-movement of skilled laborers
- Growth of oil and gas support sectors

21



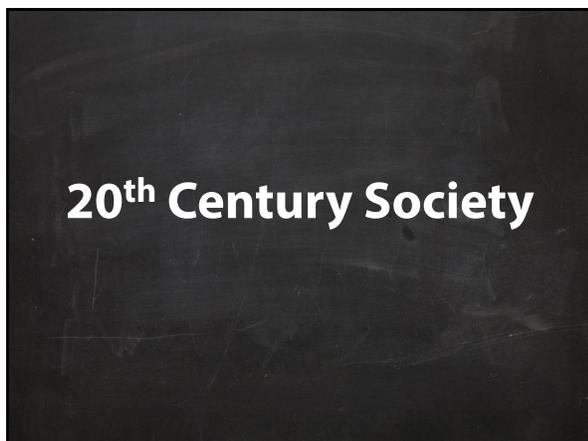
22

Petrochemicals

- An offshoot of the oil and gas industry
- 25% of petrochemical production in the US concentrated in one region of Louisiana
- Toxic waste and air pollution (“Cancer Alley”)

A map of Louisiana with numbered locations (1-14) indicating petrochemical production sites. A legend on the right lists the locations: 1 West Feliciana, 2 East Feliciana, 3 St Helena, 4 Plaquemine, 5 West Baton Rouge, 6 East Baton Rouge, 7 Lafayette, 8 Assumption, 9 St John the Baptist, 10 Assumption, 11 St James, 12 St Charles, 13 Jefferson, 14 Orleans. A pink shaded area along the coast is labeled 'Cancer Alley'.

23



24

Gov. Huey P. Long



- In office 1928-1932
- Known for his reforms
- Introduced free schoolbooks, built bridges, doubled the road system, expanded state university facilities, opened a state hospital with free treatment
- Populist champion or dictator?

25

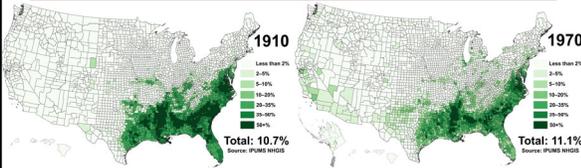
Longism

- “Radical populist doctrine” of Huey P. Long that survived after his assassination in 1935
- Ca. 1928-1960
- “Long” and “anti-Long” factions
- Lots of reforms, but also lots of corruption

26

Great Migration

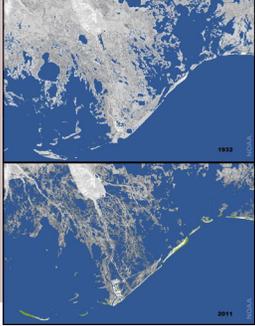
- Circa 1910-1970
- Movement of Southern Blacks to the Northeast, Midwest, and West
- Mostly moved to urban areas for industrial jobs



27

Wetland Loss

- Over 2,000 square miles of land lost in Louisiana since the 1930s
- Impacted by a variety of factors



Southern Lafourche Parish

28

Causes of Wetland Loss

- Mississippi River levees – lessen floods, but restrict sediment deposits
- Shipping canals – bring saltwater to freshwater areas
- Oil and gas infrastructure – change coastal hydrology
- Sea level rise and hurricanes
- Invasive species – nutria and wild boar

29

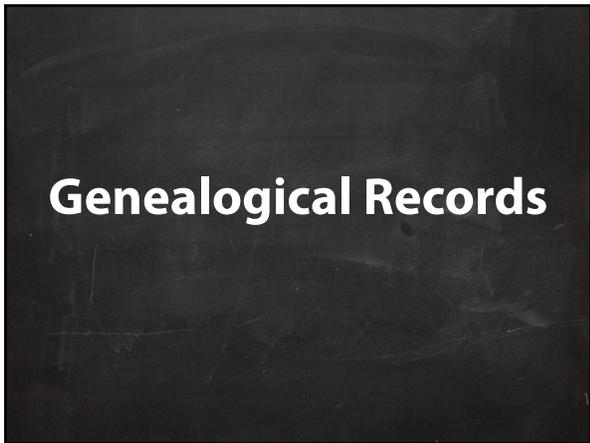
Desegregation

- Civil Rights movement of the 1960s
- Segregated schools continued until 1960 despite the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education ruling
- 14 Nov 1960: Ruby Bridges (Frantz Elementary); Leona Tate, Tessie Prevost, and Gaile Etienne (McDonogh No. 19) in New Orleans

30



31



32

20th Century Louisiana Records



- Record-keeping that began in the 19th century continued with little change
- Biggest change: vital records

33

20th Century Louisiana Records

- Online availability varies widely by parish
- **Parish**
 - Vital records (birth, marriage, death)
 - Succession (will and probate records)
 - Conveyances (land records)
- **Other/Local**
 - Newspapers
 - Cemetery records
 - City directories
 - Church records
- **State**
 - Vital records (birth, death)
 - Prison records
 - WWI service records

34

20th Century Louisiana Records

- Federal records
 - Census records
 - Military records (draft cards)
 - Passenger lists
 - Naturalization records

35

Parish and State Records

36

Vital Records

- Statewide registration of births and deaths began in 1911
- Marriages vary by parish and are held by the parish Clerk of Court
- Some parishes have earlier records
- Restricted by privacy laws; not public records
 - Some records accessible at Family History Centers

37

Vital Records Indexes

- State Archives website
 - Birth index 1819-1922
 - Death index 1911-1973
- Ancestry.com
 - Louisiana, U.S., Statewide Death Index, 1819-1964
 - Louisiana, U.S., Compiled Marriage Index, 1718-1925 (includes 1718-1925 and 1946-1961)
 - Separate indices for New Orleans births, marriages, and deaths
- FamilySearch.org
 - Louisiana Births and Christenings, 1811-1830, 1854-1934
 - Louisiana Deaths, 1850-1875, 1894-1960
 - Marriages by parish

38

Louisiana Secretary of State Death Index

39

Document Information

Collection Information
Louisiana Parish Marriages, 1837-1957

Cite This Record
"Louisiana Parish Marriages, 1837-1957," database with images, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-3?i=104&cc=2141818) 1-104&cc=2141818

Name: Francis Joseph Kleinpeter
Sex: Male
Age: 34
Father's Name: Francis Joseph Kleinpeter
Mother's Name: Mary Magdalena Cresap
Event Type: Marriage
Event Date: 07 Dec 1952
Event Place: Orleans Parish, Louisiana, United States
Titles and Terms: JJ
Birth Year (Estimated): 1918
Spouse's Name: Dorothy Ann Petry
Spouse's Sex: Female
Spouse's Age: 22
Spouse's Birth Year (Estimated): 1930
Spouse's Father's Name: John Henry Petry
Spouse's Mother's Name: Ernestina Darley
Record Number: 365

Attached in Tree to: Francis Joseph Kleinpeter, 1919-Deceased + GARG-838

Similar Records

Mr. Francis Joseph Kleinpeter, Junior
Francis Joseph Kleinpeter, Junior
Francis Joseph Kleinpeter
Francis J. Kleinpeter

Transcribed Marriage Record (1952)

43

License _____ CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE CITY FILE NO. _____
No. _____ LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS DEPT. OF HEALTH

GROOM

1a. Last Name of Groom 1b. First Name 1c. Second Name 2. Present Occupation
3. Date of Birth (Month-Day-Year) 4. Place of Birth (City and State) 5. Color or Race
6. Usual Residence-City or Town (If outside city or town write RURAL)
7. Number of Times ___ Marriage: Widowed/Divorced/Annulled
8. Date Preceding Marriage Terminated (This is also the place to indicate "Single")
9. Place of Divorce (or Annulment) 10. Name of Father
11. Father's Birthplace (State or Foreign Country) 12. Maiden Name of Mother
13. Mother's Birthplace (State or Foreign Country)

Orleans Parish marriage certificate (partial)

44

Succession (Probate) Records

- Succession records aka probate records
- Can be used as a death record substitute
- Can link together generations, often with explicit relationships ("my son," "my beloved wife," "my granddaughter, daughter of my deceased daughter...")
- May contain descriptions of real and personal property
- May contain death certificates, marriage certificates, testimonies, and other supplemental documents

45

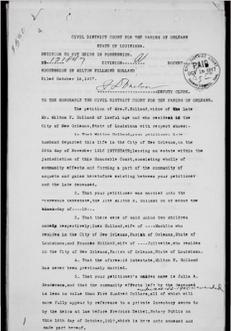
Succession (Probate) Records

- Filed at the clerk of the parish court
- Not just wills: also inventories, petitions, settlements, etc.
 - May have one or many of these documents for an individual
 - Can be loose (as a file or packet, usually these are originals) or bound (into volumes, usually copies)
- A deceased individual does not necessarily have probate records

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Succession (Probate) Records

- Most online collections end ca 1900
- Searchable database on Ancestry.com: *Louisiana, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1756-1984*



47

Conveyances

- Land records/deed records
- Held by the clerk of parish court
- Typically indexed by buyer and seller names
- Online availability varies parish to parish
 - Check the catalog at <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog>

48

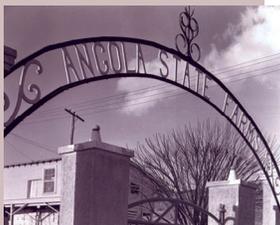
Conveyances

- Determine earliest date of settlement in an area
- Determine movements
- Place ancestor on a specific parcel of land
- Build a network - learn names of friends, associates, and neighbors
- Chain of title for property

49

Louisiana State Penitentiary

- “Angola”
- First state penitentiary located in Baton Rouge, closed in 1916
- Angola Plantation in West Feliciana Parish purchased by the state in 1900
- Working farm
- Maximum security prison



50

State Penitentiary Records

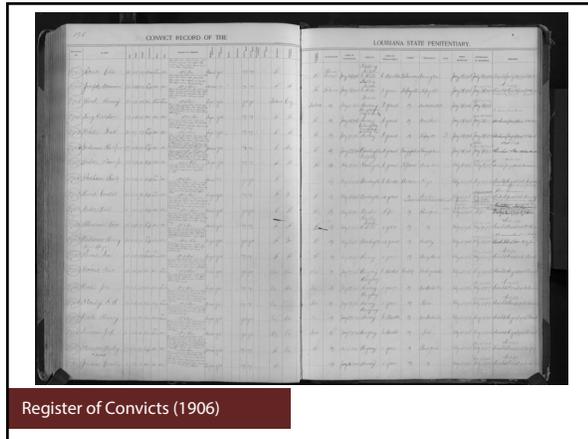
- Available on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org
- Several types of records for varying years between 1866 and 1963:
 - Registers of convicts
 - Conduct reports
 - Fugitive warrant register

51

State Penitentiary Records

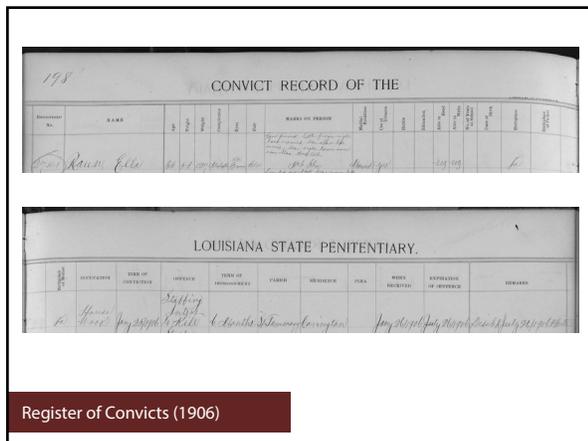
- Name of prisoner
- Age, height and weight
- Physical description including color of eyes, hair and identifying marks
- Marital status
- Reason for entry in (offense)ledger
- Term of imprisonment
- Level of education
- Literacy
- Birth date and place
- Death date
- Burial date and place
- Cause of death
- Last residence prior to confinement
- Discharge or transfer date
- Where transferred to

52



Register of Convicts (1906)

53



Register of Convicts (1906)

54

Convict Record (1931)

55

Convict Record (1931)

56

WWI Service Records

- Records of Louisiana men who served in WWI
- Organized alphabetically by parish, with officers listed first
- Available on FamilySearch.org as *Louisiana, World War I Service Records, 1917-1920*
- Soldier's name
- Birth date and place
- Enlistment or Induction date and place
- Age
- Estimated birth year
- Residence parish, city, and state

57

Newspapers

- Use as a substitute for vital records
- Learn about your ancestor's social network
- Research institutions in your ancestor's town (churches, schools, etc.)
- Real estate transfers
- Local events

61

General Newspaper Sites

- Newspapers.com (\$)
- GenealogyBank.com (\$)
- NewspaperArchive.com (\$)
- ChroniclingAmerica.loc.gov

62

Louisiana Biography & Obituary Index

- New Orleans Public Library index of 650,000 names
- Obituaries and death notices published in New Orleans newspapers from 1804-1972
- Biographical information published in older Louisiana collective biographies
- <https://nopl.minisisinc.com/NOPL/index.htm>

63

Louisiana Division/City Archives
Louisiana Biography & Obituary Index
 NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Obit Index Home | Ordering Obituaries | Louisiana Division/City Archives | NDPL Home

Mancuso, Mrs. Lillian
 Death date: 1936-07-27
 Sex: F
 Next of kin: Pascal Mancuso (husband)
 Obituary citation(s):
 • Times-Picayune, 1936-07-28, Pg. 2 col. 8
 • Times-Picayune, 1936-07-30, Pg. 2 col. 8

Previous Back to list New search Next

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Louisiana Biography & Obituary Index

64

The Advocate Obituary Index

- <https://www.ebrpl.com/obits.html>
- *The Advocate* newspaper (Baton Rouge)
- Online obit index, 1944-1991

65

Digitizing Louisiana Newspaper Project (DLNP)

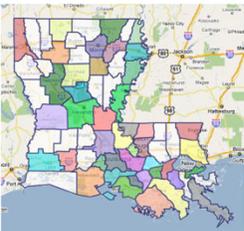
- LSU Libraries project
- 128 titles and over 328,000 pages
- Papers published between 1836 and 1922
- <https://liblegacy.lsu.edu/collections/digital/dlnp>

66

Digitizing Louisiana Newspapers Project (DLNP)

LSU Libraries is proud to present the Digitizing Louisiana Newspaper Project (DLNP) which offers 122 titles from the state of Louisiana published between 1818 through 1912 – a total of 163,000 pages. Access to the complete list of newspapers via the Title, Parish, Decade, Historically Black, or Multi-Language Title links on the left. Browse newspapers from Louisiana and other states of Choosing Areas.

Click on highlighted parishes below to access digital newspapers:



LSU DNLP

67

LOUISIANA STATE PENITENTIARY

George Fordner

Negro Charged With Stabbing Woman in Sabine Parish Held

George Fordner, alias Henry Moore, negro, 33 years old, is confined in jail here awaiting the arrival of the sheriff of Sabine parish, to convey him to Many, where he is wanted on the charge of stabbing and seriously wounding a negro woman.

The accused was taken in custody on August 2, by Patrolman E. A. McKinley, on a charge of vagrancy. His fingerprints were taken by Patrolman J. M. Bush, and sent to the state bureau of criminal identification. The police department received a reply from E. L. Whitman, chief of the bureau, stating that the negro was identical with those of George Fordner, arrested at Faber, La., September 19, 1926, for carrying concealed weapons.

After receipt of the letter, police headquarters conferred with the sheriff of Sabine parish over long distance telephone and that official stated that Fordner was wanted in that parish for stabbing a woman. It is the Sabine sheriff's wish to come here to get the prisoner.

When arrested the negro gave the name of Henry Moore. He denies that he is George Fordner.

FUNERAL OF BETTIE MOODIE

The Town Talk (Alexandria, La.), 6 Aug 1931, 2.

68

The Littlest Plainslanders--



Mr. and Mrs. "Daddy" Holden of the Plank road area announce the birth of a son, Ronald Wayne, on August 22.

Mrs. Holden is the former Elizabeth Knight.

Mr. and Mrs. John Youd of Zachary announce the birth of their second child, another daughter, on Saturday, August 25, at the Baton Rouge General hospital. The baby has been named Roberta Louise. They plan to call her "Bobbie Lou". She weighed seven pounds, six ounces.

The Youds' other daughter is named Elizabeth Ann and they call her "Betse".

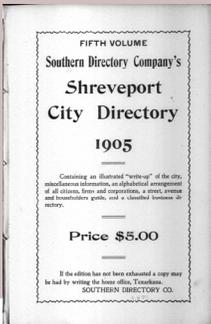
Birth announcements (1956)

The Plainsman (Zachary, La.), 30 Aug 1956, 2.

69

City Directories

- Anchor your ancestors in a time and place
- Provide occupational information
- Show movement
- Clues to death and marriage dates
- Some available from Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, and MyHeritage.com



70

City Directory Tips

- Webinar, "City and Rural Directories: More than Just Names," <https://www.americanancestors.org/video-library/city-and-rural-directories-more-just-names>

71

Cemetery Records

- Headstone photos
- Headstone transcriptions
- Burial records
- Interment lists

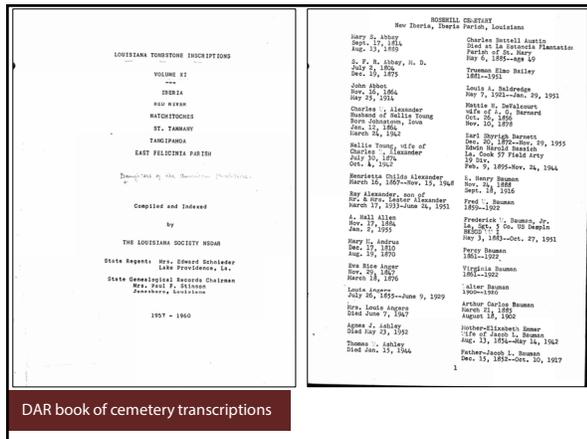


72



Gravestone photo (with dates)

76



DAR book of cemetery transcriptions

77

Church Records

- Availability varies by denomination
- Some baptisms included in Louisiana Births and Christenings, 1811-1830, 1854-1934
- Historically Catholic, based on French and Spanish roots
- About 25% of the population is Catholic today

78

Archdiocese of New Orleans

- <https://nolacatholic.org/genealogy>
- Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany and Washington
- 19th century cemetery records
- 19th and 20th century orphanage records
- Sacramental records (years vary)

79

Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux

- <https://www.htdiocese.org/records-administration>
- Terrebonne and Lafourche, parts of St. Mary and Jefferson Parishes
- Limited records online for St. Francis de Sales Cathedral, St. Eloi Church, Sacred Heart

80

Diocese of Lafayette

- <https://www.diolaf.org/archives>
- Evangeline, St. Landry, Acadia, Lafayette, St. Martin, Vermilion, Iberia, part of St. Mary
- Research requests for sacramental records over 70 years performed for a fee

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Diocese of Lake Charles

- <http://www.lcdiocese.org/>
- Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, and Jefferson Davis

82

Diocese of Baton Rouge

- <https://diobr.org/genealogy-research>
- Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston, Point Coupee, St. James, Tangipahoa, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana
- Sacramental records vary by parish
- *Catholic Commentator* newspaper archives online 1963-2024

83

Diocese of Alexandria

- <https://www.diocesealex.org/our-diocese/chancery-office/archives/>
- Natchitoches, Winn, Caldwell, Franklin, Madison, Vernon, Rapides, Grant, LaSalle, Catahoula, Tensas, Concordia, and Avoyelles
- Sacramental records vary by parish
- Not taking genealogy research requests currently

84

NOPD Arrest Records

- New Orleans police department arrest records 1881-1931 available on Ancestry.com
- Additional police department records held at the New Orleans Public Library

85

Arrest records (1935)

86

Arrest records (1935)

87



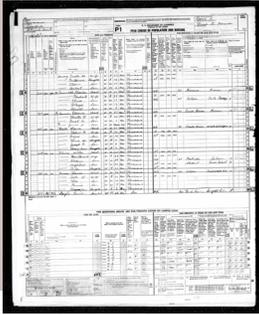
88



89

Census Records

- Decennial census: 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950
- Widely available and searchable online
- Most databases allow for name search, can also browse by address



90

Census Search Tips

- Webinar “Using the U.S. Federal Census,” <https://www.americanancestors.org/video-library/using-us-federal-census>
- Webinar, “Discover the 1950 U.S. Federal Census,” <https://www.americanancestors.org/video-library/discover-1950-us-federal-census>
- SteveMorse.org Enumeration District finder: <https://stevemorse.org/census/unified.html>

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Unified 1950 Census ED Finder

(Obtaining the Census Enumeration District for an 1970 to 1990 Location in One Step)

Stephen P. Morse, PhD & Joel D. Weinraub, PhD

[Universal 1950 ED Viewer](#) | [Census Codes](#) | [Frequently Asked Questions](#) | [My Other Websites](#)

Enter as much of the 1950 location as you know

If you select your city from the list of cities displayed, you will be able to enter street-level information
If you select "other" from the city list, you will be able to type in your city or town name

State: County: City or Town:

Home Number: Street:

1950 ED numbers corresponding to your location

Get 1950 ED Numbers:

SteveMorse Enumeration District Finder

92

Obtaining Street Name Changes in One Step

Stephen P. Morse, PhD | Joel D. Weinraub, PhD | David B. Kelle, PhD

[Overview](#) | [1900-1950 EDs](#) | [My Other Websites](#)

Cities grow and change over time. Part of that process may involve changing the street names. The further back in time one goes, the greater the chance that the street has been renamed or the layout renumbered.

For some cities there are websites that show street name changes. For others we have generated our own tables that show the changes. Of course all such tables and websites should be considered incomplete or representing only a narrow period in time. If you have access to additional source material that shows street-name changes, and want to help us improve our existing tables or generate new ones, please contact us.

Below are the cities for which we have either generated our own name-change tables or found websites that show the name changes.

Albany, OH	Columbia, SC	Indianapolis, IN	New York City	Sioux Falls, SD
Alameda, CA	Columbus, GA	Jackson, MI	Yonkers, NY	Worcester, MA
Albany, NY	Columbus, NE	Jackson, MS	Newport, RI	South Bend, IN
Albany, VA	Columbus, OH	Jacksonville, FL	Norfolk, VA	Stockton, CA
Albany, WA	Conroe, TX	Jamaica, NY	North Haven, CT	Sturtevant, MO
Allen, IA	Council Bluffs, IA	Jessup, MD	Norwood, OH	St. Joseph, MO
Alhambra, PA	Cranston, RI	Jonestown, Guyana	Dakota, CA	St. Louis, MO
Alhambra, NY	Crofton, MD	Jordan, MO	Oklaoma City, OK	St. Paul, MN
Aliso Viejo, CA	Dallas, TX	Kalamazoo, MI	Omaha, NE	St. Petersburg, FL
Alton, IL	Dayton, OH	Kansas City, MO	Omaha, NE	St. Simons, GA
Alton, IL	Dayton, OH	Kansas City, MO	Omaha, NE	St. Simons, GA
Alton, IL	Dayton, OH	Kansas City, MO	Omaha, NE	St. Simons, GA

*Includes Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Shreveport

<https://stevemorse.org/census/changes.html>

93

Street Names and Street Numbers

Changes In Street Names

An index of changes in street names, 1852-1938.

Changes In Street Numbering

An index of changes in street numbers, by hundred block, 1852-1938.

Street Rate Slips, 1897

From the Underwriters Inspection Bureau of New Orleans—includes old and new street name, description of buildings, and additional information used for the insurance purposes. This collection has been digitized.

<https://nolacityarchives.org/street-names-and-street-numbers/>

94

Military Records

- WWI and WWII Draft Cards
- Provide name, birth information, address, occupation, and brief physical description
- WWI cards give citizenship status
- WWII cards have the name of NOK
- Do not show that someone was drafted, just that they registered

95

WWI Draft Card

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Parish Clerk of Court

- 64 parishes in Louisiana, each with a clerk of court
- Land records
- Court records
- Birth and death records (local copies)
- Marriage licenses
- Probate records

112

Clerks of Court

Home > Clerks of Court

Select Parish or Court

<p>ACADIA PARISH Lafayette 70503</p> <p>Working Address: 111 Elm Street Covington, LA 70037-0102</p> <p>Physical Address: 300 W. Court Street Covington, LA 70038</p> <p>Phone: 504-736-0900 Fax: 504-739-0348</p> <p>Email: acadia@laclerks.org Website: http://www.acadiaclerkofcourt.com</p>	<p>ALLEN PARISH Shreveport 70578</p> <p>Working Address: 210 Elm Street Covington, LA 70033</p> <p>Physical Address: 210 West 10th Avenue Shreveport, LA 70578</p> <p>Phone: 504-426-4711 Fax: 504-439-2000</p> <p>Email: allen@laclerks.org Website: http://www.allenclerkofcourt.com</p>
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<https://www.laclerksofcourt.org/clerks-of-court>

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New Orleans Public Library

- City Archives & Special Collections
- Includes 20th-century burial records, funeral home records, court records, church records, police department records, fire department records, coroner's office records, and more
- Mostly New Orleans records, but a few for other locations

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Louisiana State University

- Library special collections include business records such as lumber companies, land companies, mercantile stores, plantations, and more
- Some collection Finding Aids available online
- <https://mail.lib.lsu.edu/special/manuscripts/guides/business>

LSU Libraries Special Collections

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ArchiveGrid

- <https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/>
- Aggregator site for manuscript and archival collections
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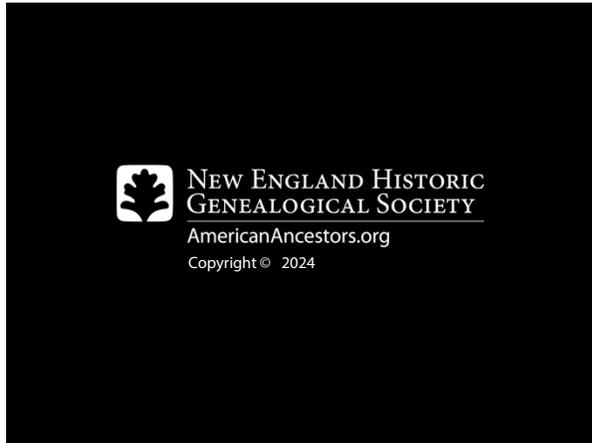
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