

DIANE L. RICHARD LOOKS AT SOME UNIQUE ONLINE RESOURCES FOR NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Online!



EARLY IN ITS HISTORY, North Carolina was considered the "Rip Van Winkle" State but now, with its many digital resources, it is at the forefront of Internet genealogy research!

This article outlines the many resources available online for North Carolina, focusing on those specific to the state and several broader databases.

STATEWIDE

North Carolina State Archives

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

This is always my first stop. The Guide to Research Materials in the North Carolina State Archives: County Records, www.archives.ncdcr.gov/FindingAids/co_guide.pdf, gives an excellent overview of surviving records located at the state archives, organized by county. The MARS catalog, <http://www.ncarchives.dcr.state.nc.us/?site=raleigh>, is a listing of types and topics of

documents available in the collection and the books located in the research room. It includes links to digital images of select early colonial documents, Edenton District Superior Court Records, wills covering 1660-1790, along with listings of Revolutionary War Army Accounts, Wills, Land Grants, Civil War Pensions and many other records.

An Overview of Record Types, www.archives.ncdcr.gov/county_definitions.htm, explains the particularities of North Carolina's records.

There are many other resources, such as collection finding aids and circulars, on topics including Revolutionary War Pay Vouchers, African-American research, colonial records, Civil War research, etc. You can find out what services are available to out of state researchers at www.archives.ncdcr.gov/mail.htm. Microfilm from certain unrestricted collections (typically documents

created by state entities and newspapers) can be purchased at www.archives.ncdcr.gov/fees.htm.

The State Library of North Carolina

<http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/index.html>
One of the most important stops to make on your tour of the website is the catalog, <http://go.dcr.state.nc.us/>; choose local catalog to find books on local history or genealogy. Genealogical Research in North Carolina, <http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/genealogy/index.html>, gives a quick overview of electronic and print resources, and includes information about their e-mail reference service. You can view digital collections at <http://digitalstatelibnc.cdmhost.com/cdm4/index.php>.

NC Echo

<http://ncecho.com>

This website includes a catalog of online resources that can be searched via subject (and other

North Carolina Online!

ways). Every topic provides links to relevant sources within North Carolina.

Besides these state-wide resources, there are several large universities that have extensive North Carolinian collections.

UNIVERSITY COLLECTIONS

UNC-CH Wilson Library

<http://www.lib.unc.edu/wilson/>
An extensive collection of local and original documents that range from late 1700s family papers to Slave Narratives and Civil War Diaries, to early 20th century African-American gospel groups. Some of what is available online includes: Digital Collections, <http://www.lib.unc.edu/digital/projects.html>; Documenting the American South, <http://docsouth.unc.edu/>; search aids, <http://www.lib.unc.edu/search/mss.html>, and an alphabetical list of resources, <http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/>.

The Colonial and State Records of North Carolina digital collection, <http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/beta.html>, encompasses 26 volumes of historical materials, appearing between 1886-1907, with a four-volume master index. The series includes documents and materials from throughout the country and from several European repositories covering the earliest days of North Carolina's settlement by Europeans through the ratification of the US Constitution.

North Carolina Maps, <http://www.lib.unc.edu/dc/ncmaps/>, is a comprehensive, online collection of historic maps.

William R. Perkins Library, Duke University — Rare Book, Manuscript and Special Collections Library

<http://library.duke.edu/specialcollections>

The digitized collections, <http://library.duke.edu/specialcollections/collections/digitized/index.html>, include Digital Durham, <http://digitaldurham.duke.edu/>, primary sources relating to the history of Durham from the 1870s-1920s.

VOLUNTEER SUPPORTED

Another important resource for North Carolina research is the North Carolina Gen Web, <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ncgenweb/>. Check out the various county sites and the state-wide projects, <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ncgenweb/projects.html>, including an extensive military records collection, <http://www.ncgenweb.us/ncmil/>. Also see the USGenWeb North Carolina

Digital Library, <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/historyfiction/>, contains 399 fiction and non-fiction volumes, more than 150 museum artifacts, maps and educational material pertaining to the history of the 41 counties in eastern North Carolina. The Manuscript Collection, <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/special/ead/>, contains more than 1,250 collections of personal correspondence, diaries, church records, genealogy notes and pho-



Above: The University of North Carolina Wilson Library.

Below: Eastern North Carolina Digital Library.



Archives, <http://usgwarchives.net/nc/ncfiles.htm>.

REGIONAL

Here is a great regional resource that will help you with detailed research.

East Carolina University (ECU), Joyner Library

The Eastern North Carolina

tographs, oral histories and more.

MULTI-COUNTY AND STATE ORGANIZATIONS

There are also a few multi-county and state organizations that can help with cross-county research. New River Historical Notes, <http://www.newriversnotes.com/nrv.htm>, covers Ashe, Alleghany, Watagua and Wilkes counties in

northwest North Carolina, Grayson and Carroll counties in Virginia, plus adjacent counties in North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee. Tar River Connections Genealogical Society, http://www.braswell-library.org/adult_tar_river_connections.htm, covers Person, Vance, Granville, Franklin, Nash, Edgecombe, Pitt and Beaufort Counties. Old New Hanover Genealogical Society, <http://www.onhgs.org/>, covers Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover and Pender Counties. Western NC Genealogy Resource Center, <http://www.goldenbranches.com/nc-state/>, covers Buncombe, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, Swain, Transylvania and Yancey counties.

There are also individuals who have amassed online digital collections of note, like Betty Camin, <http://home.earthlink.net/~bcamin/betty.htm>.

LOCAL

Often, the nitty-gritty of North Carolina research is carried out at the county level. Even if you use any of the broader resources already discussed, at some point you will be focusing on one or more select counties. For example, if your research involves Wake County, you would want to consult these three local repositories.

Olivia Raney Local History Library

<http://www.wakegov.com/locations/libraries/oliviaraneyhistorylibrary.htm>
This library has quite a few resources available via the Internet that you will want to check out including: Farmers & Landowners 1891, Oakwood Confederate Burials Index, Raleigh City Directory 1899-1900, Watson Photograph Collection and Family History Files.

Johnston County Heritage Center

http://www.johnstonnc.com/mainpage.cfm?category_level_id=727
Johnston County's existence predates the formation of Wake County. The records found online include: census records, slave name index, cohabitation and slave marriage index, marriage bonds, newspaper obituaries starting in 1801, 1902 voter registration



Purefoy's Mill near Chapel Hill, c. 1915-18. You can find images of your ancestor's hometown in the UNC's postcard collection.

and a list of Confederate soldiers.

Special Collections Research Center, North Carolina State University (NCSSU)

<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/specialcollections/index.html>

You can search the Collection Guides, <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/specialcollections/find/index.html>, or check out the Digital Collections at <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/specialcollections/digital/title.html>.

VITAL RECORDS

Additionally, there are some specialized collections on the web that you may want to consult:

- North Carolina Marriage Bond Digest, 1741-1778, <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~janarmstrong/dixiedata8.html> — Part 1, Abernathy-Luten and <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~janarmstrong/dixiedata9.html>

North Carolina Online!

— Part 2, Luten-Zevly

- Death Index for North Carolina, <http://www.deathindexes.com/northcarolina/> — also encompasses cemetery records and obituaries.

Don't forget to check Ancestry.com for its extensive collection of North Carolina vital records and more.

Newspapers

Newspapers in North Carolina in a digital form are found either via the large US/global collections or through local groups.

The fastest way to learn what newspapers survive locally for North Carolina is to check out the North Carolina Newspaper Project (NCNP), <http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/reference/newspaper.html>. This is a fairly comprehensive list of what newspapers survive and have been microfilmed by the state archives.

Some older North Carolina newspapers are available via local projects, such as Craven County: New Bern Obituary Index 1752-1872 & 1968-2002, <http://newbern.cpclub.org/research/obituary.html>, and Wayne County Obituary

Abstracts 1869-1903 (obituaries are from the *Carolina Messenger*, *Goldsboro Messenger* and *Goldsboro Headlight*), <http://www.wcpl.org/newspaperindexes.htm>.

LAND

Deed books in North Carolina handled not only land exchanges (sales, gifts, mortgages, etc), they also included the purchase of a pew or a slave, document a power of attorney or a will and many other legal processes.

Many Register of Deeds (ROD) offices have implemented online services that include deed indices, digital images of deeds themselves and sometimes access to birth, marriage and death indices. For a fairly comprehensive list of the ROD who have an online presence, see <http://www.ncgenweb.us/ncmil/ncrod.htm>.

North Carolina Online!

ETHNIC

North Carolina experienced “waves” of migration starting in 1696, after the initial English migration starting about 1650, including the French Huguenots, Swiss and Germans, Welsh, Ulster Scots (or Scots-Irish), Highland Scots and others. Here are a few resources for select ethnic groups:

- Scots-Irish — <http://albanach.org/ulster.html>
- Swiss and German — New Bern, <http://www.newbern.com/history/>.

Additionally, ethnic groups were displaced from Africa to North Carolina, typically via slavery, and Native Americans were forced from their lands in the state.

African-American resources include:

- 1898 Wilmington Race Riot, http://1898wilmington.com/UnionLeague_Klan.shtml
- Free African-Americans of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland and Delaware, <http://www.freeafricanamericans.com/>
- Freedmen’s Bank, <http://www.northcarolinahistory.org/encyclopedia/71/entry> (records via Ancestry.com)
- Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers’ Project, 1936-1938, <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html>
- African-American Resources, <http://www.accessgenealogy.com/african/northcarolina/index.htm>
- Race, Slavery and Free Blacks — Petitions to Southern Courts, 1775-1867 (North and South Carolina), http://academic.lexisnexis.com/pdf/marketing_guides/16456.pdf

Some Native American resources are:

- Access Genealogy — Indian Tribal Listings, North Carolina, <http://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/northcarolina/index.htm>, and the Native American Rolls <http://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/rolls.htm>
- Overview of the Native American Tribes in North Carolina and select research resources, <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ncqualla/native.htm>
- First Immigrants: Native American Settlement of North

Carolina, <http://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org/collateral/articles/S95.FirstImmigrants.pdf>

IMMIGRATION, PASSENGER AND NATURALIZATION RECORDS

Because North Carolina’s ports were not as large as those north and south, most immigrants did not come directly to the state. Ancestry.com includes some North Carolina ports, such as New Bern, in its database Atlantic Ports Passenger Lists, 1820-1873 and 1893-1959. Olive Tree Genealogy, http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/ships/tousa_nsc.shtml, also has a collection of passenger lists. However, the majority of these records are still only available via books and microfilm sources.

For naturalization records, check out Betty Camin’s site. Otherwise, most early North Carolina naturalization records are contained within court minutes. Ancestry.com does have a collection of US Passport Applications, 1795-1925, which includes many North Carolinians.

MILITARY

In addition to the GenWeb Military project, there are other online resources regarding North Carolinians who served in various wars and conflicts.

Ancestry.com has records covering the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, Spanish-American War, WWI and WWII Registrations and more. Footnote.com also has an extensive collection of Civil War and Revolutionary War records.

Civil War rosters can be found at <http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Lair/3680/cw/cw-nc.html>. For information on Union regiments, go to <http://www.civilwararchive.com/unionmc.htm> and for US Colored Troops formed in North Carolina, see <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ncusct/usct.htm>.

You can find Spanish-American War rosters — 1st NC Volunteer Infantry — at <http://spanamwar.com/1stnorthcarolinaroster.html>, and similar lists for the 2nd and 3rd NC Volunteer Infantry.

CEMETERY RECORDS

County resources are often the best place to look for these. There are also some bigger collections:

- Cemetery Census — North Carolina, <http://cemeterycensus.com/nc/index.htm>

- Access Genealogy Cemetery list, <http://www.accessgenealogy.com/cemetery/northcarolina.htm>
- Interment.net, <http://interment.net/us/nc/index.htm>, and Find-A-grave, <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=csb&CSst=29>

MAPS

There are very detailed maps online that you can use to pinpoint your ancestor’s farmstead or get a feel for the local geography. Here are a few to get you started.

- Civil war maps from the UNC, <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/gilmer/index.php>, and the Library of Congress, http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/civil_war_maps/cwmabout.html
- Topographic aerial maps can be found on Terraserver, <http://terraserver-usa.com/default.aspx> or Google Maps, <http://maps.google.com/>
- GIS maps — you can find GIS maps of many places, like Hertford County, <http://maps.rok-tech.net/hertford/>; you can select anywhere in the county and find the current landowners, the layout of the parcels and more

By now you might agree with me when I say that North Carolina is no longer a “Rip Van Winkle” state, especially as it applies to the Internet genealogist! Increasing amounts of new digital material are being uploaded to the web. Whether you can travel to North Carolina or not, do make use of the wonderful digital resources available to you as you research your ancestors.



Diane L. Richard is a frequent contributor to Internet Genealogy, Family Chronicle and Discovering Family History.