

Where to Find Mexican Records

Mexican Heritage in the United States:

Territorial Evolution of Mexico: Maps from September 1821-October 1974

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial_evolution_of_Mexico

*Present day U.S. and formerly Mexico, referred to as “Old Mexico” in genealogical records

Mexican Records

Online Databases – Ancestry.com, World Traveler Subscription and Family Search (Free or LDS Membership)

National Archives: Bracero Program Records (1950-1964) (National Archives Identifier: 296723)

University of Texas at Austin Library – Benson Latin American Collection (Mexican and Mexican-American)

University of California, Berkeley – Bancroft Library Latin Americana Collection (Mexican Inquisition, 19th Century, Mexico and Central America).

Catalog Search: Where to Look

Ancestry

Search > Card Catalog > Location (Mexico) > Location (State)

- Mexico, State Name, Civil Registration Births
- Mexico, State Name, Civil Registration Marriages
- Mexico, State Name, Civil Registration Deaths

FamilySearch

1. Search > Catalog > Place (Mexico and State Name)
2. Civil Registration
3. For state > Click on (red) “available online, click here)
4. Click on “Browse through images”
5. Select city or town

Where to Find Mexican Records (United States and Abroad)

Other Free Genealogy Tools:

www.cyndislist.com FREE - cross references links for genealogical research ("Mexico" section also lists Central America as a related category)

www.wikitree.com FREE –DNA and traditional genealogical research and sources

www.newspapers.com FREE at your local library branch - search U.S. newspaper from 1700-2000s

Hoosier State Chronicles FREE – Select Digitized Newspapers <https://newspapers.library.in.gov/>

www.Archive.org FREE – (select) City Directories and other digitized media

Indiana State Archives (Naturalization Database) FREE - <https://www.in.gov/iara/divisions/state-archives/collections/naturalization-records/>

National Archives FREE- <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy>

Repositories for Research in Indiana:

- Family Search Library Affiliates
- Indiana Historical Society – William H. Smith Memorial Library
- Indiana State Library / Indiana State Archives
- Allen County Public Library – Fort Wayne, Indiana
- Calumet Regional Archives at Indiana University Northwest – Gary, Indiana
- Local libraries

How to Track and Interpret Immigration

Point of Entry into the United States

- Border Crossing Cards (Checkpoints: California, Eagle Pass, Laredo, TX)
- Travel Manifest Lists (Names of Passengers Departure/Arrival/Destination) via Air, Ship, Train

Living in the United States

- Annual City Directories (Address, occupation, residential occupants)
- Census Records (Address, Occupants, Occupation, Literacy, Immigration Year and Status)
- Obituaries (Occupation and Relatives)
- Death Record (Address, Occupation, Immigration Status, Parents and Informant)
- Naturalization Records (Dates of Immigration and Naturalization, Address)
- Cemetery Records
- Military Records (Naturalization, Address, Occupation, Acquaintances/Relatives)

Mexico Civil Registrations [Municipal Records]

1859 – Federal Government Required Registration

1867 – Federal Government Started Reinforcing Registration

- Birth: (Parents, Location of Birth, Date, Registration Date, Witnesses, Maternal and Paternal Grandparents)
- Death: (Spouse, Children, Location/Cause of Death, Date, Location of Birth, Witness, Maternal and Paternal Grandparents*)
- Marriage and Date: (Parents of Bride & Groom, Location, Date)

Mexico Census Records

1930 Only (Address, Occupation, Occupants)

Church Records

1527 – First Diocese Established in Mexico

1563: Council of Trent formalized Church Record Keeping

- Record types: Baptisms, Confirmation, Marriage, and Burials
- Death (Spouse, Children, Parents), Marriage (Parents, Maternal/Paternal Grandparents, In-Law) Baptism (Birth date, Parents, Maternal/Paternal Grandparents, Padrinos) – Typically occurred days after birth

Naming Convention

In Mexico and United States

First Name:

Sometimes men and women would have a double first name that include a saint name.

Example: Maria de Jesus/Ma. de Jesus (female) or Jesus de Maria (male)

- In U.S. records they sometimes use one of the first names or both.

Dual Surnames (Female and Male):

First Name + Paternal Surname + Maternal Surname

- In U.S. Records they will take either name as an official last name

Dual Surname: Married Female:

First Name + Maternal Surname + “de / “y” / “la” + Husband Surname

or

First Name + Paternal Surname + “de / “y” / “la” + Husband Surname

Putting It in Practice:

- Try searching using either formula or just first name and husband’s surname
- Try searching using the husband’s paternal and maternal surnames
- Try searching with or without “de / “y” / “la”

Alternate Spellings:

Sometimes surnames can change in spelling due to a variety of reasons. Sometimes names with a “Z” is usually an “S” or an added article

Example: *Sanchez* (De Sachez, de Sanchez, Sanches, etc.), *Soto* (De Soto, de Soto, Soto, Zoto, etc.); *Salazar* (Salasar, Zalasar, de Salasar, de Salazar, etc.); *Guerra* (De Guerra, Guera, de la Guerra, Guerro, Gara, Garra, Gerra, etc.)

Genealogy Vocabulary

Spanish Phrases and Keywords

Casta System in the Spanish Colonies

(Pre 1821)

Mestizo: One person with one Spanish Parent and Native American Parent

Zambo: – One person with one Indian and one African Parent

Multatto: One person with a Spanish Parent and African Parent

Peninsulares: Iberian Europeans -Spain or Portugal)

Gauchapines: European born whites

Criollos: European born whites who were born in the New World

Castizos: One person with a Mestizo parent and one Spanish or Iberian parent

Cholos – One person with a Indian parent and One Mestizo Parent

Morisco – One person with a Mulatto parent and one Spanish parent

Albino – One person with Morisco parent and one Spanish parent

Chino – One person with a Mulatto and Indian Parent

Post 1821: (Casta system no long applies)

Indígena Mexicano – Mexican citizen by birth

Indigena or Indio – Indigenous, native, Indian

Birth, Death & Marriage Civil Registration:

Hijo de legitimito: Legitimate son of (“legitimito” indicates parents are married church/civil)

Hija de legitimito: Legitimate daughter of (“legitimito” indicates parents are married church/civil)

Hijo natural de: Natural son of (“natural” indicates parents are no married church/civil)

Hija natural de: Natural daughter of (“natural” indicates parents are no married church/civil)

Abuelos: Grandparents

Abuelo: Grandfather

Abuela: Grandmother

Bisabuelos: Great Grandparents

Bisabuelo: Great Grandfather

Bisabuela: Great Grandmother

Testigo: Witness

Paterna: Paternal

Materna: Maternal

Baptismal Records:*Madrina:* Godmother*Paridnos:* Godparents*Padrino:* Godfather

Genealogy Vocabulary

Spanish Phrases and Keywords

Keywords and Phrases

English**Spanish**

Archive

Archivo

Baptism

Bautismo, Bauticé, Bautizado(a), Bautismo, Crisma

Birth

Nacimiento, Nació, Nacido(a)

Burial

Entierro, Sepultura, Enterrado(a), Sepultado(a)

Catholic church

Iglesia Católica

Census

Censo, Padrón

Child

Niño(a), Hijo(a), Párvulo(a), Expósito

Church records

Registros Parroquiales

Civil Registry

Registro Civil

Confirmation

Confirmación, Crisma

Day

Día

Death

Muerte, Defunción, Fallecimiento, Obito, Muerto(a), Difunto(a), Fallecido(a)

Elderly

Viejo(a)

Father

Padre

Hacienda



Farm/Estate	
Grandmother/Father (Maternal)	Aa.M. or Abuela(o) Materna
Grandmother/Father (Paternal)	Aa.P. or Abuela(o) Paterna
Husband	Esposo, Marido, Cónyuge
Illegitimate	Ilegítimo
Legitimate	Legítimo
Marriage	Matrimonio, Casamiento, Casé, Casado(a)
Mexico	Mejico
Military	Militar, Ejército
Month	Mes
Morning	Mañana
Mother	Madre
Name, Given	Nombre de Pila, Nombre de Bautismo
Name, Surname	Nombre, Apellido
Neighborhood	Vecindad
Neighbor, Citizen	Vencino
Parents	Padres
Parish	Parroquia
Wife	Esposa, Marida, Mujer, Cónyuge
Year	Año



Genealogy Vocabulary

Spanish Phrases and Keywords

Occupation, Titles, etc.

<i>English</i>	<i>Spanish</i>
Apprentice	Aprendiz
Butcher	Carnicero
Carpenter	Carpintero
Citizen	Ciudadano(a)
Farmer	Agricultor, Labrador
Lawyer	Abogado
Master, Owner	Amo
Mayor	Alcalde
Merchant	Comerciante
Nobleman	Hidalgo, Hijodalgo
Owner	Dueño
Worker or Laborer	Campesino(a), Labrador
Scribe, Clerk	Amanuense