

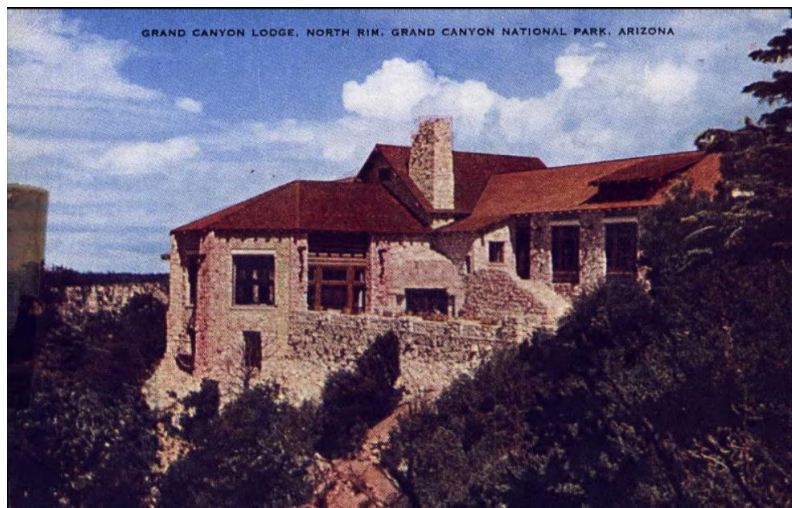


Arizona Resources

Family History Sources in The Grand Canyon State

Arizona History

Arizona has been home to various Native American tribes including the Hopi and the Zuni as well as populations who dwelled in sandstone villages that were built into cliffs. The Apache and Navajo, more nomadic people, also established themselves there. Arizona was first explored by the Spanish in the 1500's, but it was not settled until the 1700's until a fort



Arizona was governed by Mexico until the Mexican War (1846–48), provided the United States the opportunity for the United States to acquire the region north of the Gila River. The Gadsden Purchase in 1853 added the area south of the river. Both were part of the New Mexico Territory until the Arizona Territory was separated from it in 1863.

Treks to the west for California's gold, primarily along Cooke's Wagon Route in the south, brought some settlement to the territory, principally along the Gila and Santa Cruz rivers. The Civil War produced minor skirmishes, while the conflict between the Apache and the newly forming mining, cattle ranching, and trading establishments heated up in the two decades following the war. Railroad lines between Albuquerque, New Mexico, and San Bernardino, California, included a stop at Flagstaff in the northern part of the territory. As part of the network of transportation from east to west, more people entered the territory.

The history of Arizona's frontier days has been often chronicled on television and in the movies, not always accurately. Tombstone, Cochise and Geronimo, the O.K. Corral, and the Earp brothers, among others, have left their indelible marks on many, providing a striking contrast to life today in Arizona's suburban developments.

Arizona became a state in 1912, after a long struggle for that status. The ethnic composition of its population reflects its history. Mexican, Native American (Navajo, Hopi, Havasupai, Yuma, Cocopah, Mohave, Apache, Pima, and Maricopa among them), and those with frontier heritage all comprise a prominent portion of the political and economic life of the state, alongside the more recently arrived health-seekers and retirees from other parts of the United States.



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Significant Dates (through 1948)

1539 – Father Marcos de Niza explored parts of the area looking for cities of gold claiming the area for Spain

1540 – 1542 – Francisco Coronado first entered the area.

1752 – Tubac became the first permanent settlement

1776 – The Spanish built a fort in Tucson.

1821 – All of Arizona governed by Mexico

1848 – Following the Mexican-American War, Mexico gave what is now known as the American Southwest and California to the United States.

1850 – The United States established the New Mexico Territory on September 9, 1850 which included most of Arizona and New Mexico and parts of Colorado.

1853 – With the Gadsen Purchase the United States acquired the boot heel of New Mexico and the southern part of Arizona.

1854 – Copper was discovered in Arizona.

1858 – Gold found in the Gila River.

1861 – The Confederacy claimed the southern tract of the New Mexico Territory as its own Arizona Territory.

1862 – Jefferson Davis, February 14th, recognized Arizona as a Confederate Territory; in the Battle of Glorieta Pass, the Confederate hold was broken on the area; the Apaches, attack soldiers at Apache Pass beginning ten years of conflict with settlers.

1863 – The New Mexico Territory was split into the Arizona and New Mexico Territories when Lincoln signed the final bill on February 24th, 1863.

1869 – The Grand Canyon was explored by John Wesley Powell along the Colorado River.

1881 – The Gunfight at the OK Corral happened in Tombstone involving Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday among others.

1886 – Chief Geronimo, an Apache, surrendered on September 4th, 1886.

1889 – Phoenix became the capital city of Arizona.

1912 – Arizona became the last of the 48 contiguous states to join the union on February 14th, 1912.

1916 – Border skirmishes with Pancho Villa.

1919 – Grand Canyon National Park established as the United States 15th National Park. The Grand Canyon considers one of the Seven National Wonders of the World.

1935 – Boulder Dam now known as the Hoover Dam completed and dedicated on September 30th, 1935.

1948 – Arizona's Native American citizens won the right to vote.



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Arizona Censuses

Federal censuses for the state of Arizona began in 1870 and have continued every 10 years.

Portions of Arizona were included in the 1860 Federal census as Arizona County in New Mexico territory. Arizona territorial censuses were taken in 1864 and 1866.

In 1882, a state census was taken for the counties of Cochise, Gila, Graham, Maricopa, Mohave, Pima, Yavapai, and Yuma. Voter registers help substitute for various other time periods for many counties.

Census Records on Ancestry.com

- [Arizona, Compiled Census Index, 1831-1880](#)
- [Arizona and New Mexico Territories Census, Late 1800](#)
- [Arizona, Territory Census, 1864](#)

Arizona Vital Records

Arizona began statewide recording of births and deaths in July 1909. These records are held at the Office of Vital Records. Marriage and divorce records are available from the Superior Court clerk of the county where the event occurred.

Vital records in Arizona are restricted by law. Birth and death records are kept confidential for a range of years following the event. Records access requirements are noted on the web sites of the agencies which hold the record.

Vital Records on Ancestry.com

- [Arizona Marriage Collection, 1864-1982](#)
- [Arizona, Select Marriages, 1888-1908](#)
- [Arizona, Select Births and Christenings, 1909-1917](#)
- [Web: Western States Marriage Index, 1809-2011](#)
- [Web: Arizona, Find A Grave Index, 1861-2012](#)

Other Vital Records Resources

- [State of Arizona Department of Health Services – Office of Vital Records](#): Holds birth and death records from July 1907, and also maintains a collection of births from 1855 and deaths from 1877 based on other source records.

| <i>Population</i> | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1860 | 6,482 |
| 1870 | 9,658 |
| 1880 | 40,440 |
| 1890 | 88,243 |
| 1900 | 122,931 |
| 1910 | 204,354 |
| 1920 | 334,162 |
| 1930 | 435,573 |
| 1940 | 499,261 |
| 1950 | 749,587 |
| 1960 | 1,302,161 |
| 1970 | 1,745,944 |
| 1980 | 2,718,215 |
| 1990 | 3,665,228 |
| 2000 | 5,130,632 |
| 2010 | 6,392,017 |



Arizona Resources

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- [Arizona State Archives](#): Copies of public birth and death records may be available on microfilm at the Archives, and staff can assist with research requests for record copies.
- [Western States Marriage Index - BYU Idaho special collections](#): The searchable Western States marriage records index includes several counties in Arizona. See the web site for a list of specific counties covered.

Special Collections

City Directories

Use the browse box in the upper right corner to determine what directories are available for your ancestor's area. If they lived in a rural area, check to see if that area was included with a larger city in the vicinity.

Other Resources

The organizations listed below provide information about Arizona history and genealogy. In addition to these state-level resources, many counties and towns maintain important genealogical collections in local libraries, genealogical societies, or historical societies, so check for a local resource when researching.

- [Arizona State Archives](#)
- [Arizona State Library Law and Research Division Genealogy collection](#)
- [Arizona Genealogical Society](#): The Resources section contains a useful list of links for Arizona researchers.
- [Arizona Genealogical Advisory Board](#): Maintains a list of Arizona genealogy projects and contact information for local genealogy and historical societies.
- [Arizona Memory Project](#): This digital archive contains documents and images focused on Arizona's history. The collections cover many topics of interest to genealogists, including family records and photographs, oral histories, and documents such as deportation records from Cochise County.
- [Arizona Historical Society](#): Regional repositories in Flagstaff, Phoenix, Tempe, and Yuma house collections of maps, photographs, films, oral histories, books, and manuscripts relating to Arizona history.
- [Arizona GenWeb](#): Links to county-level genealogy pages and research resources.
- [RootsWeb Arizona Resources](#): Contains links to Arizona genealogy resources, including state and county-level websites; societies and organizations; and personal and miscellaneous web sites related to Arizona research.
- [National Archives and Records Administration \(NARA\) Pacific Region](#): This NARA facility maintains records from Federal agencies and courts in Arizona, including census, military, court, naturalization, and immigration records.
- [Bureau of Land Management \(BLM\) General Land Office Records](#): The BLM administers Federal Land for public land states including Arizona, and maintains records of land patents which



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granted land from the Federal Government to individuals. Use the Land Patent Search to locate land grants by name. Many record images are available on the web site. See the FAQ for more information on how to locate and use land patents.

- [Chronicling America](#): Online newspapers: Provides searchable online versions of selected Arizona newspapers.

Help and Advice

- [Arizona Family History Research](#)
- [Counties of Arizona](#)
- [Research in the Southwest](#)
- [Hispanic Research at Documentary Relations of the Southwest](#)

[View all Arizona collections on Ancestry.com](#)