



Phyllis Hamner Room

321 South 4th Street
Ironton, Ohio 45638

Hours:

Monday—Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Friday & Saturday
9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Native American Genealogy

How do you begin?

You start every genealogy project the same way...write down what you know. Write down all the information you have on you, your spouse, your parents, your grandparents, etc. Collect the following information:

- ♣ Name (first, middle, last, Native American name, nicknames)
- ♣ Birth date (day, month, year)
- ♣ Birth place (city, township, county, state, country)
- ♣ Marriage (day, month, year)
- ♣ Place of Marriage (city, township, county, state, country)
- ♣ Death date (day, month, year)
- ♣ Place of Death and burial location

Do not be surprised if you have blanks to fill in later. That is to be expected.

Talk to Your Family

Most families have rumors of Native American ancestry. Talk to your relatives. Ask where they heard about it? Do they know who was Native American? How did they know? Do they know what tribe ancestor came from?

Native American Search

Each person looking for their Native American roots are facing different problems. Many are looking for recent relatives. There are really three types of searchers.

1. A child of a Native American parent or parents— If one or both of your parents were Native American, but you do not know their names or their tribe because of adoption, boarding school issues or custody battles, you need to try to locate the tribe you parent or parents come from. Once you know the tribe, you can contact the tribe. Most tribes have reunification programs, birth records, and census records.
2. Your parent or grandparent belonged to a tribe, but you were not raised in their culture and now they have passed on.— You are going to face a few problems, if this applies to you. For finding out tribal affiliation look below under Finding the Tribe of a Parent or Grandparent. Once you know the tribe, you should contact the tribe. Do not be surprised if the tribe has trouble accepting you.
3. Looking for your long lost ancestor—Most of this booklet will apply to you. You do not want to contact the tribes if your Native American relative is not your parent or grandparent. Most tribes will not be able to “look you up.” The rest of this booklet will lead you through the process.

Finding the Tribe of a Parent or Grandparent

For those who's parent or grandparent is Native American, you will need to find their tribe. Follow these steps:

1. Find out where they were born.
2. Search reservations in the area surrounding that location
3. Contact the individual tribes on those reservations

Searching for Your Long Lost Ancestor

Go through your family papers, photographs, and Bibles. Look for reference to Native Americans. In photographs, look for darker skin tone and common Native American physical characteristics. Native

American features are often more obvious in the very young and the very old.

Once you find a Native American ancestor, you need to try to find the following information:

- ♣ What was their full name? Make sure to include any tribal names.
- ♣ What are their tribal associations?
- ♣ Are they on any Native American censuses? (These are discussed later)
- ♣ Are they on any Indian rolls?
- ♣ What were the migration patterns on that tribe? This will help you find other relatives.
- ♣ What is your relationship to that person?

Facts About Native Americans and Their Genealogy

- ♣ If a father died, often his brother would care for the widow and their children.
- ♣ Many mothers died in childbirth. No doubt due to a lack of medical treatment and poor living conditions.
- ♣ No written records are available before Christopher Columbus "arrived" in the new world.
- ♣ The Bureau of Indian Affairs does NOT have genealogical information on individual tribes.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

The Bureau of Indian Affairs was established in 1824 under the Department of War. In 1849, the bureau became a part of the Department of Interior.

Until 1880, the bureau had two groups over the tribes. The superintendencies were in charge of all Indian agencies in their region. Indian agencies oversaw the government or control of one to several tribes.

The bureau collected records on Native Americans from 1824 to the 1940's. They can be found in the National Archives under Record Group #75.

1. 1824-1880 = These records are available on microfilm and include all correspondence filed under superintendencies.
2. 1881-1907 = These records include all letters, executive order files, special files and copy books. The letters are all cataloged by number.
3. 1907-1939 = All the material collected in these years are arranged by packets. All items relating to an incident would be filed together.

Types of Records Concerning Native Americans

Annuity Payroll Records

Some tribal members were entitled to receive annual payments of money for a specified period of time. The records exist from 1848 to 1940 and can be found in the National Archives. Information included in these records is:

- ♣ Tribe
- ♣ Name of recipient
- ♣ Age
- ♣ Gender
- ♣ Amount of payment

Indian Census Lists

The Indian Census became required by a law passed on July 4, 1884. The census was taken every year by the Indian agent in charge of the reservation. The census only included Native American individuals and families living on the reservation.

Each Indian Census List include:

- ♣ Name of the tribe
- ♣ Indian agency
- ♣ State
- ♣ Name of the Indian agent taking the census
- ♣ Date the census was taken

In the census, you can find:

- ♣ Indian name
- ♣ English name
- ♣ Gender
- ♣ Relationship to rest of family
- ♣ Age (Around 1900, this changed to date of birth.)

When you look at the census, the father is listed first, followed by the mother, then the children in descending order. Widows and widowers are noted if the person's spouse had died.

If no name was known for a person, boy, girl or infant was listed in place of a name.

In 1930, more information was added to the census. The additions include:

- ♣ Degree of Indian blood
- ♣ An Allotment number (this will be covered below)
- ♣ Identification number
- ♣ Annuities (this was covered on page 4)
- ♣ Married and maiden name of women
- ♣ Tribal affiliation
- ♣ Address of residence if they did not live on the reservation

Supplemental lists added to the census included information on births and death dates.

Up to 1884, both the English and Indian names was included in

the census. This lasted until 1890. Censuses from 1884 to 1890 were called “transitional censuses.” After 1890, only the English name is listed.

You may not be able to find your relative in the censuses. Why? Well, there are three reasons.

1. If the family or person was away working, they might be completely left out of the census.
2. Non-Indian spouses were not included in the census. This rule is why it appears the children had no father. The father was not listed if he was white. Consequently, in the regular Federal Census, the mother might not be listed if she was Indian.
3. If the family did not live on the reservation, they may not be listed. Check the 1860 Federal Census for them.

Allotment Records

The Allotment records began when the General Allotment Act was passed in 1887. The act authorized reservation lands to be divided among tribal families and single adults with at least 1/2 Indian blood. This law resulted in the government setting up family registers of blood-line relatives or heirs to allotments. These records are known as heirship records.

These records can be found in two locations depending on what happened to the land. If the land was condemned, all heirs were given money and the records are located in the National Archives.

If the land was sold, the records are usually located in the local county auditor’s office. To sell the land, all the potential heirs had to agree. Land patents in the auditor’s office contains a description of the allotted lands, name of the head of household, and dependent children’s names.

Since they receive their land through the government, the government began keeping records of their estates. Starting in 1910, the National Archives began receiving estate files consisting of wills and reports on heirship. The wills will contain:

- ♣ Names of deceased
- ♣ Tribal affiliation
- ♣ Date and location of death
- ♣ Age at the time of death

Reports on heirships can also be found and they include:

- ♣ Name of parents
- ♣ Spouse
- ♣ Siblings
- ♣ Children
- ♣ Dates of marriages

Enrollment Records

Often called the Official Census Rolls, Enrollment Records replaced the annual Indian Census. The records started after the Tribal Reorganization Act of 1933. The records are the legal tribal records of individuals who have met the enrollment requirements for that tribe. Specific requirements are spelled out before the enrollment began. The regional Bureau of Indian Affairs enrollment officer certified the enrollment.

The enrollment records were prefaced by the Indian tribe and the date of validity. The records include:

- ♣ Given name
- ♣ Birth name
- ♣ Married name(s)
- ♣ Gender
- ♣ Date of birth
- ♣ Date of death
- ♣ Probate number if applicable
- ♣ Degree of Indian blood
- ♣ Name of both parents
- ♣ Blood degree of parents

These records might be found in one of two places, the actual tribes or National Archives.

If a person was denied enrollment, they might take the case to court. Cases were held in the federal district court on a local level or in the district court in Washington D.C.

Dawes Commission and Rolls

The Dawes Commission was appointed by President Grover Cleveland in 1893 to negotiate land ownership with the five civilized tribes. The commission was named after the chairman, Henry L. Dawes. Tribal members were entitled to an allotment of land, if they abolished their tribal government and recognize federal laws. To receive the lands, each individual had to apply and be deemed eligible by the commission.

The first application began in 1896. This first application was later declared invalid, so a new application process began in 1898.

In 1898, the second application began. Everyone had to reapply. People accepted were entered on the Dawes Rolls. The formal name for the Dawes Rolls is Final Rolls of the Citizens and Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory.

The Dawes Commission accepted applications from 1898 to 1907. A few more applications were added in 1914. Most of the records are from 1899-1906.

The commission maintained three types of cards.

1. "Straight" = citizenship was approved
 2. "R" = application was rejected
 3. "D" = applications were "doubtful" and needed further investigation.
- By the end of the process all of "D" would eventually become "straight" or "R."

The applications are available at the National Archives.

The Dawes Rolls contain over 101,000 names. The roll lists includes:

- ♣ Enroller's name
- ♣ Gender
- ♣ Degree of Indian blood
- ♣ Census card number

The census cards contains additional information. It also references to previous rolls. Accompanying each card is an application jacket which may contain:

- ♣ Birth affidavits
- ♣ Death affidavits
- ♣ Marriage license
- ♣ Correspondence

Before you use the Dawes Rolls, you need to know your ancestor's name and their tribe. If you do not know the tribe, check the 1900 Federal Census.

Guion Miller Commission

Guion Miller Commission refers to Eastern Cherokees only. The enrollment from this commission began in 1906 after a claim was made against the U. S. government. Guion Miller headed the Cherokee Claims Commission. 45,000 applications were accepted. These records contains:

- ♣ Names of claimants
- ♣ His date of birth
- ♣ Place of birth
- ♣ Residence
- ♣ Names of brothers, sisters, parents, grandparents, and children.

These records are located in the National Archives.

Three Eras of Federal Records of Native Americans

Native American records are held at different levels depending on the era where they originated. These are the eras:

1. Pre-Federal Era = 1774-1789 = Most of these records are held at the state level. A few can be found in the National Archives as well.
2. War Department Era = 1789-1824 = Records from 1789 to 1800 were destroyed in a fire which occurred on November 8, 1800. The rest of the records can be found in the National Archives.
3. Bureau of Indian Affairs Era = 1824-1947 = These are located in the National Archives.

Records at the National Archives

The National Archives have numerous records on Native Americans. Records can be found in the National Archived in Washington D.C.

and the National Archives Southwest Region in Fort Worth, Texas. Each place has different records.

The National Archives in Washington D. C. have records grouped by numbers. Bureau of Indian Affairs records are located under group number 75. Indian Claims Commission records can be found in group number 279. Some Native American records can be found under group number 48 as part of the records of the Secretary of Interior. Old land office records can be found under group number 49 might also include Native American Records. Their website is <http://www.nara.gov>.

The National Archives Southwest Region in Fort Worth, Texas have main tribal records. Some of the records have been digitalized and are available at the NARA Archive Information Locator (NAIL) <http://nara.gov/nara/nail.html>. These records include:

- ♣ Final Rolls of Citizens and Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes. (also known as the Dawes Rolls)
- ♣ Index to the Final Rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes
- ♣ Wallace Roll of Cherokee Freedmen in Indian Territory, 1890
- ♣ Kern Clifton Roll of Cherokee Freedmen, January 16, 1867
- ♣ 1896 Citizenship Applications

NAIL is a work in progress, so the information is not complete. Keep checking back to see if more information has been added. Before you start searching the NAIL records, you will need to download and read the search hints available at <http://www.nara.gov/nara/nail/nailgen.html>.

Whenever people are discussing the five civilized tribes, they are referring to the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, Seminole, and Cherokee.

Early Trading Records

There are three books on early trading records between Native Americans and pioneers.

Journal of the Commissioners of the Indian Trade; September 20, 1710 to August 29, 1718 edited by William L. McDowell, Jr.

Published by South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH)

Documents Relating to Indian Affairs, May 21, 1750 to August 7, 1754 by William L. McDowell, Jr.

Published by South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH)

Documents Relating to Indian Affairs, 1754-1765 by William L. McDowell, Jr.

Published by South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH)

Records Held Abroad and Library of Congress

Considering different parts of North America were colonies of

Spain, France, Netherlands (Holland), and England, records for Native Americans can be found in other countries. The Library of Congress is currently attempting to acquire historical records held abroad. Most of these records are from colonial times.

Military Records

Native Americans have been supported America through military service for hundreds of years. You can find information specifically on military scouts, guides and soldiers. Before the American Civil War, Native Americans were enlisted in the U. S. Army as volunteers or as civilian workers. An act passed on July 28, 1866, the president was given the ability to employ up to 1,000 Indian scouts.

Indian Schools

There many types of schools established to “educate” Native Americans. Missionary Schools, reservation schools, boarding schools, and off reservation boarding schools are some examples of those types of schools.

The first schools to emerge were the missionary schools. These schools were most prevalent from 1830 to 1870. Catholics, Methodists, and Presbyterians were usually involved in creating theses schools.

In the 1870’s, the U.S. government took over creating Indian Schools. At first they chose to create reservation schools. Each reservation had it’s own individual school. By 1890, there were at least 104 reservation schools.

Shortly after 1890, the government decided to remove the children from their parents, so they could be better “educated.” This decision resulted in the development of boarding schools. By 1894, this country had 77 boarding schools. These schools were established to teach the children industrial and agricultural trades.

A decade later, the government decided the boarding schools located on the reservations were not as effective as they had hoped, so they established off reservation boarding schools. Some of those schools include Haskell Institute in Kansas, Sherman in California, Carlisle in Pennsylvania, and Chemawa in Oregon.

Much the school information can be located in the National Archives in Washington D.C. Some schools, however, kept their own records. You can write the individual schools to discover where their records are kept. Records from the schools include:

- ♣ Information concerning running of the school
- ♣ Superintendent’s names
- ♣ Teachers
- ♣ Other employees
- ♣ Textbooks used
- ♣ Correspondence

Information on the students include:

- ♣ Name
- ♣ Age
- ♣ Gender
- ♣ Tribal affiliation
- ♣ Degree of Indian blood
- ♣ Names of parents
- ♣ Home address
- ♣ Attendance records
- ♣ Health cards
- ♣ Samples of examination papers
- ♣ Grade reports
- ♣ Letters to parents from the school
- ♣ Social workers reports on the child

Each school kept its own records. Some of the have been preserved on site or in the National Archives. Others records were either never recorded, lost or destroyed.

The schools like the reservations had censuses taken. These school censuses included information like:

- ♣ Names
- ♣ Age
- ♣ Place of birth
- ♣ Names of parents

The National Archives have copies of the censuses from 1912-1939.

Our Resources

Items labeled *REF are located in the Phyllis Hamner Room on the second floor of our Main Branch. Many of the resources on Native American genealogy will be located in the Ethnic section of the Hamner Room. These items will include their Ethnic # for easy access.

American Revolution in Indian Country: Crisis and Diversity in Native American Communities by Colin G. Calloway
*REF 973.7 Ca

Black Indian Genealogy Research: African American Ancestors Among the Five Civilized Tribes by Angela Y. Walton-Raji
*REF 929.1 Wa—Ethnic #66

Cherokee by Blood: Records of Eastern Cherokee Ancestry in the U.S. Court of Claims 1906-1910 compiled by Jerry Wright Jordan
*REF 970.004 Jo Volume 1-9—Ethnic # 67-75

Cherokee Connections by Myra Vanderpool Gormley
*REF 929.1 Go—Ethnic #76

Cherokee Land Lottery by James F. Smith

*REF 929.3 Sm—Ethnic #77

Cherokee Proud: 2nd Edition: A Guide to Tracing and Honoring
Your Cherokee Ancestors by Tony Mack McClure, Ph.D.

*REF 929.1 Mc—Ethnic #78

Cherokee Roots: Volume 1: Eastern Cherokee Rolls by Bob Blankenship

*REF 970.004 Bl—Ethnic #79 (in locked closet) and #80 (on the shelf)

Cherokee Roots: Volume 2: Western Cherokee Rolls by Bob Blankenship

*REF 970.004 Bl—Ethnic #81

Daughters of Mother Earth: The Wisdom of Native American Women

edited by Barbara Alice Mann
305.48 Da Main Branch

The Dawes Commission and the Allotment of the Five Civilized Tribes,
1893-1914 by Kent Carter

*REF 333.3 Ca—Ethnic #82

Dawes Rolls “Plus” of Cherokee Nation “1898” by Bob Blankenship

*REF 970.004 Bl—Ethnic #86

Encyclopedia of North American Indians: Native American History,
Culture, and Life from Paleo-Indians to Present edited by

Frederick E. Hoxie

*REF 970.004 En—Ethnic #83

Family Historian #45: Native American Genealogy

CD 929.1 Fa (shelved with the DVDs) Main Branch

Guide to Records in the National Archives of the United States Relating
to American Indians compiled by Edward E. Hill

*REF 016.323 Hi—Ethnic #84

Guion Miller “Plus” of Eastern Cherokee: East and West of the
Mississippi 1909 by Bob Blankenship

*REF 970.004 Bl—Ethnic #85

History of the Cherokee Indians by Emmet Starr

*REF 970.004 St—Ethnic #87

How to Research American Indian Blood Lines by Cecelia Svinth
Carpenter

*REF 929.1 Ca—Ethnic #88

How to Trace Your Native American Heritage

VC 929.1 Ho Eastern Branch

VC 929.1 Ho Main Branch

Index to the Cherokee Freedmen Enrollment Cards of the Dawes Commission 1901-1906 by Jo Ann Curls Page
*REF 929.1 Pa—Ethnic #89

Indian Wills, 1911-1921: Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Volumes 1 and 2 by Jeff Bowen
*REF 929 Bo—Ethnic #91 and 92

Indians of the Ohio Country by Richard C. Knopf
*REF 977.101 Kn—Ethnic #90

Morning Star Whispered: Traditional Stories and Flute Music by Keith Bear
CD 781.62 Be Main Branch

Mounds for the Dead: An Analysis of the Adena Culture by Don W. Dragoo
*REF 977.101 Dr—Ethnic #96

Native American Genealogical Sourcebook edited by Paula K. Byers
*REF 970.004 Na—Ethnic #97

Native Americans
DVD 970.004 Na Main Branch

Our Native Americans: Their Records of Genealogical Values Volumes 1 and 2 by E. Kay Kirkham
*REF 016.929 Ki—Ethnic #93 and 94

Tracing Ancestors Among the Five Civilized Tribes: Southeastern Indians Prior to Removal by Rachal Mills Lennon
*REF 929.1 Le—Ethnic#98

The Way West: How the West Was Won And Lost
DVD 978 Wa Eastern Branch

These are not the only item Briggs Lawrence County Public Library has on Native Americans. You can also find books on Native American history, biographies, crafts, arts, culture, folklore, and stories in our Adult and Children Departments.

Websites

<http://www.archives.gov/research/microfilm/m595.pdf>

This website is a PDF document from the National Archives on the Native American Censuses from 1885-1940.

<http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/census/native-americans/1900-data-collection-sheet-1.pdf>

This link will take you to the Twelfth Census of the United States: 1900 Special Inquiries Relating to Indians form.

<http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/census/native-americans/1900-data-collection-sheet-2.pdf>

This link will take you to an instruction sheet to fill out the Twelfth Census of the United States: 1900 Special Inquiries Relating to Indians form.

<http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/census/native-americans/1910-data-collection-sheet-1.pdf>

This link will take you to the Twelfth Census of the United States: 1910 Special Inquiries Relating to Indians form.

<http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/census/native-americans/1910-data-collection-sheet-2.pdf>

This link will take you to an instruction sheet to fill out the Twelfth Census of the United States: 1910 Special Inquiries Relating to Indians form.

<http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/heritage/native-american/>

This link takes you to the National Archives Website on Native American resources.

http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/photo_analysis_worksheet.pdf

This PDF file is photo analysis worksheet to use when looking at family photographs.

<http://www.native-languages.org/genealogy.htm>

Native American Genealogy is a site that helps you locate information on Native American roots and can give you some helpful hints.

<http://www.cyndislist.com/native.htm>

Cyndi's List is a great one stop shop for all things genealogical. The link above is for the special page on Native American Genealogy.

<http://www.amerindgen.com/>

American Indian Help Center is a website designed to help you re-connect to your Native American Roots. The site lists helpful guides, a list of resources, message board, and some family records.

<http://www.cyndislist.com/native.htm#Tribal>

This link is on Cyndi's List, but it is on this list separately because it contains links to websites on individual tribes and their genealogy.

http://www.kshs.org/genealogists/culture_ethnic/Native%20American/indian_census.htm

This site is a part of the Kansas State Historical Society's website. It lists microfilm available in their library.

<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3075>

This link you can only use in one of our library buildings because we have a subscription to Ancestry.com. However, this link will take you to a search screen for the Dawes Commission of 1896.

<http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/native-americans-guion-miller.html>

This link will take you to an index of the Guion Miller Rolls in the National Archives. The index is alphabetical and will tell you the person's number and the state where they lived.

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

The Cherokee Heritage Center has helpful information about Cherokee genealogy as well as how to become a member of the tribe.