



# Mississippi State Research

## Vital Records (Birth, Marriage, and Death Records)

**Death Records:** The state of Mississippi began requiring records of deaths in November 1912. There are several partial, no comprehensive digital index of Mississippi deaths. Microfilm index of deaths from 1912 – 1942 is available at the Benjamin L. Hooks Library (4<sup>th</sup> floor – History Department) and the Mississippi State Archives.

**Birth Records:** The state of Mississippi began requiring records of deaths in November 1912. Some older residents whose births were not recorded immediately had delayed birth certificates issued (sometimes when they were adults).

**Marriage Records:** Dates of available marriage records vary from county to county. Digital indexes are available at:

- Ancestry.com (1776 – 1935) <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7842/>
- Mississippi Marriage Index for Selected Counties (*Forrest, Franklin, Greene, Harrison, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Marion, Perry, Rankin, Stone*)  
<http://mallen4896.tripod.com/Marriages/Marriages.html>

### Physical records can be obtained from:

- Mississippi Department of Archives and History <https://www.mdah.ms.gov/>

*Due to safety precautions for COVID-19, appointments are recommended for research in the Archival and Media Reading Rooms. Available appointment times are Monday–Friday at 9–11 a.m., 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., and 2–4 p.m. Call 601-576-6837 to schedule your time. Patrons without an appointment will be accommodated as space allows.*

- The index and microfiche copies of death certificates from November 1912 to 1942.
- Marriage records are available in individual county records.

Letter-sized copies can be made at the cost of \$0.20 for self-service and \$0.25 by research staff. Consult the [fee schedule](#) for a complete list of costs.

### On-Site Research

William F. Winter Archives and History  
Building  
200 North St.  
Jackson, MS 39201

Reading Room Hours  
Monday – Friday 9 AM – 4 PM  
Saturday 8:15 AM – 12:45 PM

### Research Requests

Reference Request  
Archives and Records Services  
MDAH  
P.O. Box 571  
Jackson, MS 39205-0571  
Phone: 601-576-6876  
[refdesk@mdah.state.ms.us](mailto:refdesk@mdah.state.ms.us)

\$10 for Mississippi Residents; \$35/hour for all



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others

- Mississippi State Department of Health  
[https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/\\_static/31,0,109,809.html](https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/31,0,109,809.html)
- (Application forms are available for download at the website.)

## By Mail:

Mississippi Vital Records  
Post Office Box 1700  
Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1700

## In Person:

Underwood Building  
571 Stadium Drive  
Jackson, MS  
Phone: (601) 576-7981/Fax: (601) 576-7505

- Birth, death, and marriage records are \$17 each. **(Include copy of your photo ID of with request)**
  - For births and marriages **less than 100 years ago** and deaths **less than 50 years ago**, you must be the registrant, parent, guardian, spouse, sibling, or grandparent, or child of registrant (*proof of relationship required*)
  - For births and marriages **100 years ago or more** and deaths **50 years ago or more**, you can request a birth certificate. Specify "Genealogy" as purpose and include relationship to registrant. Plain-paper instead of certified certificates are provided.
  - Marriage records are available from January 1, 1926 to June 30, 1938 and for January 1, 1942 to the present.

## Digital Collections

Various digital records (photograph collections, maps, documents, etc.) are available:

Digital Collections – University of Mississippi <https://libraries.olemiss.edu/using-digital-collections/>

Includes (partial list):

John Elon Phay Collection – photographs of public school students in several Mississippi schools in the 1940s and 1950s before desegregation  
Civil War Archive

University of Southern Mississippi Digital Collections <https://digitalcollections.usm.edu/>

Includes (partial list):

Oral History Digital Collection (includes transcripts of interviews of Civil Rights activists)  
Historical Manuscripts and Documents Collection

Mississippi Department of Archives and History <http://da.mdah.ms.gov/> (Only some images are indexes. Others can be browsed only.)

Includes (partial list):



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Mississippi Confederate Pension Applications  
World War I Statement of Services Cards and  
Indices (Mississippi)

Mississippi Educable Children Records (1850-1965)  
Numerous Photograph and Map Collections