



# Tennessee State Research

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

### Shelby County:

Shelby County Register of Deeds: <https://register.shelby.tn.us/>

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Birth</b>            | Birth Records (1874-1912)  |
| <b>Death</b>            | Death Records (1848-1961)  |
| <b>Marriage/Divorce</b> | Marriage Indexes/Images (1920-1989)<br>Marriage Records (1820-1970)  |
| <b>Court</b>            | Chancery Court Divorce Index (1945-1997)<br>Circuit Court Indexes (1893-2000)                                    |
| <b>Probate</b>          | Probate Court Loose Paper Index (1820-1900)<br>Probate Court Will Book Indexes (1830 - 1980)                     |
| <b>Miscellaneous</b>    | Memphis City Directories (1849-1943)<br>Memphis Police Blotter (1858-1860)<br>Naturalization Records (1856-1906) |

NewsBank – Memphis Commercial Appeal (1990 to present)

<https://www.memphislibrary.org/resources/newsbank-commercial-appeal-1990-to-present/>

### State-wide:

Shelby County Register of Deeds: <https://register.shelby.tn.us/>

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Death Records Index</b>    | 1949-2009 |
| <b>Divorce Records Index</b>  | 1980-2009 |
| <b>Marriage Records Index</b> | 1980-2009 |

### Physical records can be obtained from:

- Tennessee State Department of Health (Application forms are available for download at the website.) ***(Include copy of your photo ID of with request)***

Tennessee Vital Records  
421 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
1<sup>st</sup> floor, Central Services Building  
Nashville, TN 37243

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from  
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00 a.m.  
to 6:00 p.m.  
Central Time (excluding holidays)



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- Always request the **long** form of any certificate.

**Death/Marriage/Divorce**     \$15  
**Birth**                                 \$7

- For marriages, divorces, and annulments, only records for the past **50 years** are filed here. For all others contact the clerk of court in the county.
- Tennessee State Library and Archives <https://sos.tn.gov/tsla>

**TSLA is now open to the public by appointment only**

**Patrons are encouraged to continue to use TSLA's services remotely**

**To make an appointment or to request remote assistance, call 615-741-2764,**

**email [ask@tsla.libanswers.com](mailto:ask@tsla.libanswers.com) or chat with a librarian**

- Birth and Death Records -- The state library has made both the index and certificates images available at:
  - Tennessee State Library Death Index (1908-1912)  
<https://sos.tn.gov/products/tsla/death-records>
  - Tennessee Electronic Library (Tennessee Residents only) <https://tntel.info/>
  - Ancestry.com <https://www.ancestry.com/collections/search/tn/tsla>

403 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North,  
Nashville, TN

Phone: 615.741.2764  
Fax: 615.532.2472  
Email [reference.tsla@tn.gov](mailto:reference.tsla@tn.gov)

Library Reading Room, the Microfilm Reading Room and Manuscripts are open Tuesday through Saturday 8:00am - 4:30pm (Central Time).  
Legislative History is open Tuesday through Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm (Central Time).

## Digital Collections

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

University of Memphis – Special Collections <https://www.memphis.edu/libraries/special-collections/>

Includes (partial list):

Photographs of the Robert R. Church Family of Memphis  
National African American Photographic Archive (NAAPA)

Tennessee State University Library Digital Collections –

[http://www.tnstate.edu/library/special\\_collection/index.aspx](http://www.tnstate.edu/library/special_collection/index.aspx)

Includes (partial list): HBCU Library Alliance Digital Collection

Tennessee State Library and Archives Digital Collections <https://sos.tn.gov/tsla/online-resources>

Includes (partial list):

Tennessee Documents & Images  
Civil War Resources



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Historical Newspapers