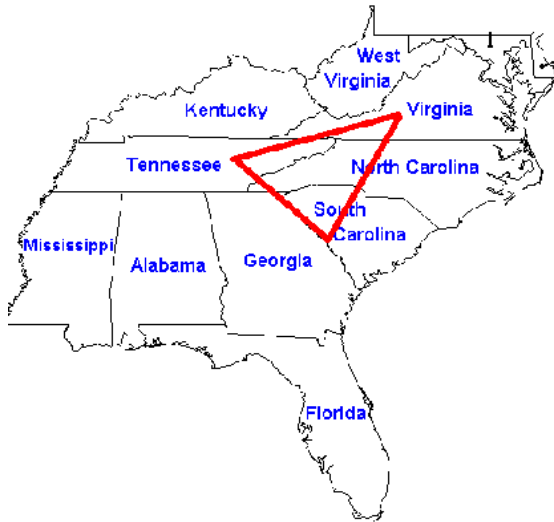


Fundamental Research In the South



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As our ancestors moved down the Appalachian and westward across Pennsylvania, they must have already been thinking about the opportunities that awaited those who might wander over the mountains. Soon, waves of settlers moved through the Cumberland Gap, some slowing down to stay in

Kentucky and Tennessee, others wandering still further down the valleys into the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, across the Mississippi River and settling Arkansas, Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma and the Great Plains. All of this while another group of adventures moved across the Northern Plains, establishing homes all along the way.

The First Movers - Adult Males, usually already established, a leader in the community, moved in small numbers and associated with other early pioneers.

Regular Folk - This group included professionals, farmers, ranchers, merchants, ministers and families.

Tag-a-longs & Stopoffs - This may include the miller's daughter or the farmer's son.

The Slow Movers - This group stayed behind to care for parents or land. They may be older & waiting for children to become established in a new location. Some are non-adventurous.

Women, too. - Women were included in most of the groups, although the records generated may be different.

Create a Profile

Link your ancestor & neighbors

Understand the Neighborhood

Examine each piece of evidence

Support your ideas with a research plan



Probate Records - Wills and Estate documents often refer to property that belonged to a sibling, parent or grandparent who lives in another area. For later ancestors, don't forget to check death certificates for clues.

Land Records - Deeds often reveal a different location of a grantee or grantor in a land sale than the county of the transfer. First purchases of land in an area may refer to a previous residence.

Grants - Although many grants were made for Military Service, it is important not to assume that a grant implies Military Service was performed or that if performed it was from the state making the grant. Other grants were made by states for other reasons – we should also not assume that the grantee was a resident of the grantor state, (i.e., Preemption Grants from North Carolina for Tennessee.)

Court Records - Often Chancery or Equity Cases will refer to relatives in another location or depositions will state where a given party was born and raised. Neighbors or relatives who have knowledge of facts in a case are often called upon for testimony. Careful analysis of these individuals may give you the clues you need.

Marriage Records - These records may supply the place of birth for the individuals, and occasionally the place of residence or birth of the parents.

Tax Records - Tax lists will often help us determine when an ancestor arrived in or departed from a given location. This information coupled with deeds can help us trace an individual across the country.

Census Records - Don't neglect a single available census year. Every census record can contribute to the profile you are developing for your ancestor. Remember to look at the actual census data, not an index only. Today, numerous commercial websites and volunteer sites provide access to virtually all extant Federal census records online, some sites with a new, improved index.

County Histories - Although a particular ancestor might not have contributed a glowing biography to a county history, it will certainly share a great deal of information about his neighbors and his neighborhood. Often entire churches traveled together to establish settlements.

Church Records - If your ancestor was a member of a local church, it is possible that the records for that church are extant. Often, church records contain information about marriages, births, deaths, new members, problems with church members, ministers, and location changes.

Compiled Records - Once we have some specific information, we can utilize the multitude of submitted and compiled records on the internet to help us determine where to begin the focus of our research. Be sure to remember that records and references submitted by individuals are as accurate as the individual submitting the records.

Letters and Other Documents - A letter to a relative may reveal a location for other relatives and perhaps a place to begin. Many manuscript collections have catalogs online and some have online textual documents. Consider general searches using text search engines or these... NUCMC, or the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections, is a free-of-charge cooperative cataloging program operated by the Library of Congress (<http://lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/>). ArchiveGrid is a collection of over two million archival material descriptions, including MARC records from WorldCat and finding aids harvested from the web. <http://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/>

**Work from the
known to the
unknown.**

Influences on Religious Choice

Parental affiliation	Marriage
Social standing	Political situation
Personal faith	Community Pressure
Proximity	

American Religion Data Archive <http://www.thearda.com/>

The Churching of America, 1776-2005, Roger Finke and Rodney Stark

Encyclopedia of Religion in the South, Samuel S. Hill, Charles H. Lippy, Charles Reagan Wilson. Macon GA: Mercer University Press, 2005. Search inside only: <https://books.google.com/books?id=yx2EarrpKGUC>

Start LOCAL

Type of church – independent, congregational, large group, old members – same building?

Individual Member’s Collections

Consider local and county histories – this might also include scrapbooks, manuscript collections, funeral folders, church bulletins.

Local/County Libraries – Museum, Historical Society State Archives/Library

Determine the fate of local church records – Have they been microfilmed/digitized by a distant group?

Search catalogs, NUCMC, Worldcat

What churches existed?

Consider collections at Church-affiliated Universities.

Consider Churches Historian – Conference Level – State/National

Data from the Pension Application of Henry Ayres: On this 14th day of August 1832

Fact	Details	Source
Born abt 1753	aged about 79 years	A
Wife Born 7 Aug 1762	aged eighty-one years the 7 th day of August 1843,	B
Born Dinwiddie Co, VA	She states that from the knowledge she received of her father in relation to her age, she was born the year 1762 August 7 th in Virginia, Dinwiddie county, but she has no record of her age, but has it by tradition. (B)	B
Entered Service Bedford Co VA (1775) for one year	I entered the service (as a volunteer) of the United States in Bedford County in the State of Virginia in the year 1775 in the month of September and remained in the service twelve months, the company to which I belonged was commanded by William Campbell. (A) she is the widow of Henry Ayres who was a private in the Army of the Revolution in the Regular service in the state of Virginia and served one year in the Virginia troops(B)	A, B
Entered 5 th VA (1777)	Subsequently I entered the service as a regular soldier under Captain Harry Terrill of the 5th Virginia Reg't. for the term of three years and remained in service during the three years and was regularly discharged by Major Henry Lee which discharge I have not now in my possession. (A) and when he returned home he then enlisted for three years and served in the Virginia line of troops but I am unable to say what Regiment he served in ... (B)	A, B
Married Jan 1781, Surry Co NC	She was married to Henry Ayres in Surry county, North Carolina in January 1781 Before Susan Ayres was able to	B,C,D

	obtain the pension, there was a question of locating her marriage record. In an affidavit before Justice of the Peace, Jesse S. Ellis, she stated that she was married to the said Henry Ayres in North Carolina in the year 1781. The said marriage was solemnized by the publication of Banns as was the usual custom of those days. If her husband had any certificate of their marriage the same has been lost or destroyed. (B) [R. James] She was then the wife of Henry Ayres (C) [Martha Elder Head] saw the said Henry Ayres, and the said Susan married, they were married in Surry County, State of North Carolina in the year 1781.(D)	
Martha Elder married Robert Head, 1785, Surry Co NC	Robert Head and Martha Elder were married in Surry county, North Carolina sometime in the year 1785, as the oldest child was born in 1786 as appears from the Record of Births of the children, and which is the original genuine record of the births of their children as reported by [Robert Head] in his lifetime (E)	E
Moved from NC to SC in 1785	She states that she and her husband moved from the state of North Carolina to South Carolina and remained there 14 years; (B) [Richard James] became acquainted with Mrs. Susan Ayres above named in the state of South Carolina, Spartanburg District in the year 1785.(C)	B,C
Moved from SC to TN in ~1799	and come from thence [SC] to State of Tennessee, Robertson county where she now resides. She thinks and believes that she has resided in the latter place [Robertson Co TN] 43 years. (B); They moved to the State of Tennessee, Robertson county and I moved also and settled in the same neighborhood and have been well acquainted with them both down to the time of the death of the said Henry Ayres which was on the 22 nd day of September 1833 (C)	B,C
Testimony 14 Aug 1832	Henry Ayres a resident of Robertson County, Tennessee ,	A
Pension received 1832-1833	show his having received a pension 4 March 1832 to 22 September 1833 time of death the rate of \$96 per annum.	
Henry Ayres died 22 Sept 1833	her husband died 22 Sept 1833 ;she has remained a widow ever since that passed and is now a widow as will fully appear from the evidence of Richard James and Martha Head.(B) the death of the said Henry Ayres which was on the 22 nd day of Sept 1833 and remained a widow (C)(D)	B,C
Widow's Testimony given 30 May 1843	30 May 1843, Susan Ayres a resident of Robertson county, Tennessee	

A – Statement of Henry Ayres, 14 August 1832 Robertson County Court in support of Pension Application, W445,
B – Statement of Susan Ayres, 30 May 1843 Robertson Co Court in support of Widow's Pension App., W445.
C – Statement of Richard James 30 May 1843 Robertson Co Court in support of Widow's Pension App., W445.
D – Statement of Martha Head 30 May 1843 Robertson County Court in support of Widow's Pension App, W445.
E – Statement of George Head, Administrator of Estate of Robert Head,

Pension Application of Henry Ayres, W445, Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service; Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, 1800–1960; Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C

Migration Strategies

Agricultural Legacy

Travel Diaries/Manuscripts

Neighbors / Acquaintances

Military Records/Pensions

What type of person?

Birthplace of children

Business/Industrial Records

Court Records/Newspapers

“Fictive” Kin

Land/Tax/Estates-Wills

Why? When? How?

Records along the way...

Maps to help you understand location & surroundings (Google Earth)

Maps created to convince – (New States Proposed in the West 1772-1789)

<https://www.libs.uga.edu/darchive/hargrett/maps/1895t8.jpg>

Thomas Walkers 1750 Exploration -

<http://www.virginiaplaces.org/settleland/thomaswalker.html>

Walker’s Journal <http://www.tngenweb.org/tnland/squabble/walker.html>

Maps created to show geographic boundaries and elements.

USGS Topoview I <https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/>

Maps to show specific elements

“Map of Kentucky & Tennessee exhibiting the post offices, post roads, canals, rail roads, &c.,” H Burr David, *The American Atlas* (London, J. Arrowsmith, 1839); digital images,

“American Memory,” *Library of Congress* <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3950.rr002240/>

Journals & Diaries provide the meat & potatoes for your planning. They don’t have to be your ancestor’s diary – a neighbor, an acquaintance, or a community leader.

National Geologic Map Database https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ngmdb/ngmdb_home.html

US Terrain Map: <https://pubs.usgs.gov/imap/i2720/>

Phelps Travelers Guide Through the US, Published in New York by Ensign & Thayer, 1850

<http://www.usgwarchives.net/special/travellers/travelers.html>

The Emigrants Guide to the Western and Southwestern States and Territories

<https://books.google.com/books?id=rHINAAAYAAJ>

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/001264218>

David Rumsey Historical Map Collection - www.davidrumsey.com

Core Historical Literature of Agriculture - <https://digital.library.cornell.edu/collections/chla>

Atlas of US. County Boundaries - <https://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/>

General Land Office / B Land Management <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/default.aspx>

Library of Congress Map Collection/RR <https://memory.loc.gov/gmd/gmd3/>

“Indian Trail of the Southeast”, William E. Myer. *42nd Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology 1924-1925*. Washington: GPO, 1928

► (PDF): https://www.dropbox.com/s/24lx9m4supsuu6m/MyerTrails_IndianTrailSoutheast.pdf?dl=0

Southeast Trails – William E. Myer

► (JPG) https://www.dropbox.com/s/9vxw7mv48bs1fud/SE_TrailsMap_Myer.jpg?dl=0

Jurisdiction: Jurisdiction determines which court or government agency has the legal authority to hear and resolve a legal dispute. Broadly, jurisdiction is usually either state (e.g. divorce, child custody, eviction) or federal (e.g. copyright or patent, bankruptcy). Some subjects can be heard by either state or federal courts (e.g. civil rights, FMLA and employment law).

Cases: Cases are disputes which are brought to a court to be resolved. They can be either civil (Smith v. Jones) or criminal (State v. Smith, or People v. Jones) in nature. “Case” is also an informal term for a court’s “opinion” or explanation of the law that applies to the case, usually from an appellate court (trials don’t have opinions, they have jury verdicts).

Statutes: Statutes are laws which are enacted by a legislative body. They are a primary source of law, the legislature creates them and the courts are responsible for interpreting them via cases. Statutes are published chronologically and have titles like Public Acts, Laws, or Statutes at Large. Most researchers will use the subject arrangement of the statutes, called codes.

Codes: Legal codes contain mandatory statutes, regulations or ordinances – everyone must follow them. Indexes enable you to access particular sections of a code by referring you to numbered sections. Pocket parts or other supplements are used to keep them up to date. There are many types of codes, ranging from city and county codes, to building codes and codes created by administrative agencies.

Bouvier’s Law Dictionary, 1856: <https://www.1215.org/lawnotes/bouvier/bouvier.htm>

FamilySearch Wiki <https://wiki.familysearch.org>

FamilySearch <http://familysearch.org>

Bouvier’s Law Dictionary, 1856: <https://constitution.org/1-Constitution/bou/bouvier.htm>

Bouvier’s Law Dictionary, 3rd Revision, 1915.

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.35112103943439>

FindLaw: Supreme Court Decisions

<https://caselaw.findlaw.com/court/us-supreme-court>

CaseLaw Access Project: <https://case.law/>

FindLaw – State and Federal Cases: <https://caselaw.findlaw.com/>

Atlantic Reporter - <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/007855027>

Southwestern Reporter - <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/010116986>

Southeastern Reporter - <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/006665168>

Southern Reporter - <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/100174816>

Pacific Reporter - <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/100334005>

Title	Years	Volumes	States covered
Atlantic Reporter	1885–1938	1–200	LCCN 75-641819 CT, DE, DC, ME, MD, NH, NJ, PA, RI, VT
Atlantic Reporter, 2nd	1938–2010	1–999	LCCN 39-6316 CT, DE, DC, ME, MD, NH, NJ, PA, RI, VT
Atlantic Reporter, 3rd	2010–	1–	LCCN 90-655067 CT, DE, DC, ME, MD, NH, NJ, PA, RI, VT
South Eastern Reporter	1887–1938	1–200	LCCN 75-641818 GA, NC, SC, VA, WV
South Eastern Rep, 2nd	1938–	1–	LCCN 89-642322 GA, NC, SC, VA, WV
Southern Reporter	1887–1940	1–200	LCCN 75-641740 AL, FL, LA, MS
Southern Reporter, 2 nd	1940–2009	1–999	LCCN 45-30734 AL, FL, LA, MS
Southern Reporter, 3 rd	2009–	1–	LCCN 88-647630 AL, FL, LA, MS
South Western Rep	1886–1928	1–300	LCCN 75-643936 AR, KY, MO, TN, TX
South Western Rep, 2 nd	1928–1999	1–999	LCCN 88-647631 AR, KY, MO, TN, TX
South Western Rep, 3 rd	1999–	1–	LCCN 88-647631 AR, KY, MO, TN, TX