



# COUNTY HISTORIES | RESEARCH GUIDE

Oklahoma Historical Society Research Center [www.okhistory.org/research](http://www.okhistory.org/research)

## About County Histories

Counties are one of the vital governmental divisions for genealogists. Histories of those counties provide a picture of the place where genealogists' families lived.

At the centennial of the nation, many counties commissioned a county history to commemorate the occasion and as a record of the nation's first 100 years. For us in the later settled states, the histories were published after World War I.

In 1976, the bicentennial generated another round of these histories. The earlier publications tend to be true histories of the county and the later publications tend to be what are sometimes called "mug-books." The latter usually include some information about the communities, towns, churches and business of the area, but the largest portion is comprised of family histories submitted by the families themselves, often with photos.

County histories are a rich resource for information about the place your ancestor lived. Not all family histories are included—these are usually included on a volunteer basis or, in earlier editions, on a fee basis. You may not be able to find your direct line but you will find information on the community in which your ancestor lived, worked and worshiped. In addition, you may find information on the collateral lines or in-laws of your relatives. It is always worth a look to see if a county history for the county of your ancestors exists.

## Oklahoma County Histories

The Research Center has histories for nearly all the counties in Oklahoma as well as for other counties outside of the state. Some counties have not published histories but check for histories of some of the towns or communities of the area of your research interest. In some instances, we have both an earlier history as well as one of later books with photos and family histories. Many of the county histories are shelved in the oversize area, so if you do not find it on the shelf with other materials from that county, be sure to check the area where oversized materials are shelved.

## Accessing County Histories

To determine if the Research Center has a county history for your area of interest, use the **Cuadra Star Libraries** catalog. Using the **Advanced Search** option, type into the keyword search the name of the county + state. For example, Beaver County + Oklahoma should bring up all the histories the library has for Beaver County, Oklahoma.

## More on County Histories

Additional information on finding and using county histories can be found in Kory L. Meyerink's chapter "**County and Local Histories**" in *Printed Sources: A Guide to Published Genealogical Records*, published by Ancestry in 1998. This book is available at the Reference Desk, call number CS9. P75.1998.

Early county and town histories, published prior to 1923, have been popular candidates for digitization. You should search the **Books** portion of the **Heritage-Quest** database as well as searching for the subject of interest in other resources such as Google Books. Using the union catalog of digital resources called **OAISTER** <[www.oiaster.org](http://www.oiaster.org)> can help locate digitized resources.

## OK Counties & County Seats

- Adair County: Stilwell
- Alfalfa County: Cherokee
- Atoka County: Atoka
- Beaver County: Beaver
- Beckham County: Sayre
- Blaine County: Watonga
- Bryan County: Durant
- Caddo County: Anadarko
- Canadian County: El Reno
- Carter County: Ardmore
- Cherokee County: Tahlequah
- Choctaw County: Hugo
- Cimarron County: Boise City
- Cleveland County: Norman
- Coal County: Coalgate
- Comanche County: Lawton
- Cotton County: Walters
- Craig County: Vinita

- Creek County: Sapulpa
- Custer County: Arapaho
- Delaware County: Jay
- Dewey County: Taloga
- Ellis County: Arnett
- Garfield County: Enid
- Garvin County: Pauls Valley
- Grady County: Chickasha
- Grant County: Medford
- Greer County: Mangum
- Harmon County: Hollis
- Harper County: Buffalo
- Haskell County: Stigler
- Hughes County: Holdenville
- Jackson County: Altus
- Jefferson County: Waurika
- Johnston County: Tishomingo
- Kay County: Newkirk
- Kingfisher County: Kingfisher
- Kiowa County: Hobart
- Latimer County: Wilburton
- Le Flore County: Poteau
- Lincoln County: Chandler
- Logan County: Guthrie
- Love County: Marietta
- Major County: Fairview
- Marshall County: Madill
- Mayes County: Pryor
- McClain County: Purcell
- McCurtain County: Idabel
- McIntosh County: Eufaula
- Murray County: Sulphur
- Muskogee County: Muskogee
- Noble County: Perry
- Nowata County: Nowata
- Okfuskee County: Okemah
- Oklahoma County: Oklahoma City
- Okmulgee County: Okmulgee
- Osage County: Pawhuska
- Ottawa County: Miami
- Pawnee County: Pawnee
- Payne County: Stillwater
- Pittsburg County: McAlester
- Pontotoc County: Ada
- Pottawatomie County: Shawnee
- Pushmataha County: Antlers
- Roger Mills County: Cheyenne
- Rogers County: Claremore
- Seminole County: Wewoka
- Sequoyah County: Sallisaw
- Stephens County: Duncan
- Texas County: Guymon
- Tillman County: Frederick
- Tulsa County: Tulsa
- Wagoner County: Wagoner
- Washington County: Bartlesville
- Washita County: Cordell
- Woods County: Alva
- Woodward County: Woodward



### Oklahoma Historical Society

Oklahoma History Center  
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### Research Center

(405) 522-5225  
[www.okhistory.org/research](http://www.okhistory.org/research)

### Research Center Hours

Monday - Saturday  
10:00am to 4:45pm

First Monday of the month  
10:00am to 7:45pm

Closed Sundays & state holidays.

