

## MISSOURI COUNTY RECORDS

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Each of Missouri's 114 counties and the independent City of St. Louis have local county government records. This guide is meant as a brief introduction to the major offices at the county level and where to find the genealogical records they produce, both online and otherwise.

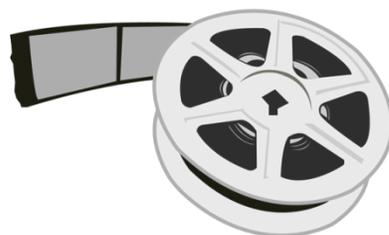
### **I know only a small fraction of extant records are online. What about all the stuff that's not?**

The Archives' county microfilm listing shows what is available on microfilm at the Archives.

<https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/county/croll>

We also have a catalog of published books: <https://msa.library.net/>.

Best advice: just ask! Talk to us and we'll help. Or, call the local county office you're interested in and ask them a question. They are responsible for knowing where their records are. Local genealogical and historical societies are usually a big help as well.



### **1. Recorder of Deeds**

#### **a. Marriage Records**

- i. The Missouri State Archives partnered with FamilySearch.org to index Missouri's marriage records. The collection is available online. Go to: <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2060668>.
- ii. Counties are working to place their marriage records online. The following counties have indexes online for free: Callaway, Cass, Cedar, Christian, Clark, Clay, Dallas, DeKalb, Douglas, Greene, Howell, Jackson (includes images and applications), Jasper, Laclede, Newton, Nodaway, Platte, Scott, Shelby, Stoddard, Stone (includes some images), and Texas.

- b. Land Sales (Deeds): Many counties have free online searchable deed indexes through their Recorders' websites. These include: Bates, Boone, Callaway, Cass, Cedar, Christian, Clark, Clay, Dallas, DeKalb, Douglas, Franklin, Greene, Howell, Jackson (includes images), Jasper, Laclede, Newton, Nodaway, Platte, Pulaski, Scott, Shelby, Stoddard, Stone (includes some images), and Texas.

### **2. Circuit Court**

#### **a. Civil Lawsuits and Criminal Cases**

- i. The Archives' Judicial Database is an index to some early Circuit Court records. Go to: <https://s1.sos.mo.gov/Records/Archives/ArchivesDb/JudicialRecords/>. Some results will include images of the actual case files. For the rest, you can email the

Archives for a page count/copy cost. For some early St. Louis cases go to:  
<http://www.stlcourtrecords.wustl.edu/>

- ii. Missouri CaseNet offers an index to modern Circuit Court case files and also includes an index to the Appeals Courts and the Supreme Court (1990s to the present): <https://www.courts.mo.gov/cnet/welcome.do>
- iii. FamilySearch has digitized early Cole County Circuit Court case files, which are searchable by name:  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2076858?collectionNameFilter=false>
- b. Naturalizations: The Archives has a database including 22 counties and St. Louis city's early (pre-1906) naturalizations: <https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/naturalization/>.

However, not all of the naturalizations are online. If not in the above, check the circuit court record books for the county.

- c. Divorces
  - i. Some early divorces are also part of the Judicial Database (see link above). Otherwise, search the circuit court case files and/or record books.
  - ii. It's rare, but some early divorces were performed by the Missouri General Assembly. These are printed in The Laws of Missouri (available online: <https://cdm16795.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/molaws>). The Archives has a name index going up to 1865.

### 3. Probate Court

- a. Some probate cases are in the Archives' Judicial Database. It is also important to note that when there was a legal dispute about how an individual's case was probated, the dispute would be taken to the *Circuit* Court.
- b. FamilySearch has copies of many of the Archives' reels of film digitized online. Two counties (Cole and Andrew) are searchable by name:  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2060218?collectionNameFilter=false>.

The others are not keyword searchable, but they can be browsed:

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2399107?collectionNameFilter=false>

- 4. **Coroner or Medical Examiner:** The Archives' Coroner's Inquest database includes citations for 18 counties and the City of St. Louis: <https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/coroners/>

### 5. County Court, County Clerk, or County Administrator

- a. Pre-1910 Birth and Death Records: The Archives' database is here, however it is incomplete:  
<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/BirthDeath/>.
- b. County Court Record Books
- c. Other

*Remember: not everything is online! Call or e-mail your local record holder or the State Archives and we will help you track down your records!*

## OTHER RESOURCES



### How do I find the contact information for local county offices?

These are published in The Missouri Roster by the Secretary of State's office.



[https://www.sos.mo.gov/CMSImages/Publications/2021-2022\\_MO\\_Roster.pdf](https://www.sos.mo.gov/CMSImages/Publications/2021-2022_MO_Roster.pdf)



### Where can I find information on local historical and genealogical societies?

A partial list is available on the Archives' website: <https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/local-state-national>.

### How do I submit a request to the Archives for research?

Mail or e-mail. A copy of our Genealogical Request form is enclosed if you prefer mail but does give a good idea of our holdings. Otherwise, send an e-mail to [archref@sos.mo.gov](mailto:archref@sos.mo.gov) with your specific question. Feel free to call, but do note that official requests must be made in writing. We accept 3 requests per patron at a time. To make a request, we need:

1. Name of individual (two if a marriage/divorce)
2. Type of record (i.e. marriage, deed, divorce, probate/will, etc.)
3. County
4. Date/Date range (5 years for deeds, 10 years for everything else)

You can submit a research request through our online request portal:

<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/Records/Archives/ResearchRequest/>



### Is there some place I can go to see what records a county might have *other than the county's website*?

Why, yes! The Local Records Division of the Secretary of State's Office compiles lists of resources available at the county level. Most of these lists are online.

<https://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/countyinventory/>

### I know the name of a town, but I do not know what county it is in. How can I look for records when I don't know the county?

The State Historical Society of Missouri has a wonderful guide searchable by town and feature name called the Ramsay Place Name Guide, which also includes name changes and towns that no longer exist.

Go to <http://shsmo.org/manuscripts/ramsay/ramsay.html>.