



SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Resources for Native American history at the South Carolina Historical Society

General Tips

- For genealogical research, begin by establishing tribal affiliation. Oral traditions and stories, histories of geographic regions, and general histories can point one in the right direction.
- Remember that American Indians often had multiple names: personal names, honorary names, and European-derived names.
- Many tribes were matriarchal, meaning that property and lines of descent followed the mother's line.

Suggested Introductory Sources

- Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico / ed. By Frederick Webb Hodge **(E76.2 .H68 1979 v.1 & v.2)**.
- Indians of the South Carolina Lowcountry, 1562-1751 / by Gene Waddell **(E78.S6 W32 1980b)**
- South Carolina Indians, Indian Traders, and other Ethnic Connections Beginning in 1670 / ed. by Theresa M. Hicks **(E78.S6 H43 1997)**.

Manuscript Collections

- Vertical Files. The South Carolina Historical Society's vertical files contain miscellaneous documents such as newspaper clippings, research notes, and correspondence. Files cover a variety of subjects including family surnames, Native American history, localities, churches, cemeteries, and more. Family names can be searched in the library catalog. For other topics, please consult the subject guide to the files that is available in the reading room. **Please ask for assistance.**
- Manuscript collections may contain information on American Indians. Try a subject search in the library catalog under "Indians of North America." For tribe-specific resources search by tribe name.
- Wesley D. White papers (1311.00). Papers consist of maps, charts, articles, reports, books, photographs, correspondence, and writings relating to White's research concerning American Indian nations of the Southeast and Eastern seaboard. Ask to see the collection finding aid.
- Anne King Gregorie papers (1254.00). This collection contains research notes on the Sewee American Indians, the American Indian Trade of Carolina in the 17th Century, and copies of

archival records concerning American Indians in South Carolina. Ask to see the collection finding aid.

- William R. Coe collection (1150.00). Chiefly contains colonial era reports and letters written by prominent South Carolinians to the Board of Trade and other British governmental agencies. Some correspondence contains information about the Indian trade and Indian allies.
- George Chicken journal. Fragment of a colonial era journal. George Chicken records his daily experiences during a march to South Carolina Cherokee settlements and treaty negotiations. Access restricted. View digital version on the [Lowcountry Digital Library](#) or use published version (City of Charleston Yearbook, 1894).

Published Resources

- *South Carolina Historical Magazine* (formerly the *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*.) Articles on South Carolina history and ancestry. Indexed, 1900-present **(052 S)**. **Ask for assistance to locate. Also available online through JSTOR (www.jstor.org) *on-site only.***
- For books and other published resources on American Indian history, visit the **E77-E98 section of library**. Tribe-specific resources are also located in this section. Also try a subject search in the library catalog under “Indians of North America” or tribe name.
- How-to books for conducting genealogical research. A few resources in this section may contain information on researching American Indian ancestors. **(CS21-CS69 section of the library)**.
- Local and community histories (**F277** by county).

Online Resources

- American Indian records in the National Archives and Records Administration. Information about American Indians in the census records, the Dawes rolls, as well as articles and tutorials for researching American Indian ancestors: <http://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/>
- SCIWAY: South Carolina’s Information Highway. Resources for American Indian history and culture. <http://www.sciway.net/hist/indians/>
- SC Native Pathways. A visitor’s guide to American Indian historic sites in South Carolina. <http://www.hehd.clemson.edu/PRTM/TRMcenter/scnative.html>

Other Repositories

- Native American Studies Archive, University of South Carolina, Lancaster. Collections document the history of American Indians in South Carolina and the southeast. <http://usclancaster.sc.edu/NASarchive/index.html>
- South Carolina Historical Repository Directory: information about repositories in South Carolina holding significant primary source material. <http://shrab.palmettohistory.org/repository/repositories.htm>