

Peru

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This outline can help you find information about people who lived in Peru. It gives information about records of genealogical value for Peru and helps you decide which types of records to search.

USING THIS RESEARCH OUTLINE

The following steps will help you use this outline to find records about your ancestor:

1. Choose the information you would like to learn about one of your ancestors, such as a birth date or a maiden name.
2. Look at the Records Selection Table in this outline. It lists the kinds of information you may want and the best types of records for finding that information.
3. Find the section in this outline for each type of record (listed in columns 2 and 3 of the Records Selection Table). The sections are in alphabetical order and give more information about the types of records and how to find them.

References to the Family History Library Catalog

The Family History Library Catalog (30966) is a listing of all the records available at the Family History Library. The catalog is available at the Family History Library and at each family history center. Staff members can help you learn to use the catalog.

This outline gives instructions for finding information in the catalog. In the “Census” section of this outline, for example, you may find the following statement:

For more information about census records, look in the “Locality” section of the Family History Library Catalog under:

PERU - CENSUS
PERU, [DEPARTMENT] - CENSUS
PERU, [DEPARTMENT], [DISTRICT] -
CENSUS

This tells you to look in the catalog under:

- PERU; then the subject CENSUS.
- A department in PERU; then the subject CENSUS.
- A district in a department in PERU; then the subject CENSUS.

This outline includes many references to specific records. The references include call numbers listed in parentheses. The call number is preceded by *FHL*, the abbreviation for *Family History Library* and is used to find a record held by the Family History Library. Each book, film, fiche, or map is assigned a call number.

For additional information on using the catalog, see *Using the Family History Library Catalog* (30966).

References to Other Family History Library Publications

The Family History Library has many other publications that may be helpful in your research. Some of these publications are referred to in this outline. Their titles are in italics and their item numbers are in parentheses. They are available at the Family History Library and the Salt Lake City Distribution Center at:

Salt Lake Distribution Services
1999 West 1700 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84104-4233
Tel. 1-800-537-5971
Fax 1-800-240-3685
Internet: <http://www.familysearch.org/>

THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

The key to finding a record in the Family History Library’s collection is the Family History Library Catalog. The catalog describes each of the

library’s records and lists the call numbers. The catalog is available on microfiche and on compact disc as part of FamilySearch™, a computer program available at the Family History Library and at family history centers worldwide. It may also be found under “Custom Search” on the following Internet site:

<http://www.familysearch.org/>

The Family History Library Catalog on microfiche is divided into four sections:

- Locality
- Subject
- Surname
- Author/Title

The Family History Library Catalog on compact disc has four types of searches:

- Locality Search
- Film Number Search
- Surname Search
- Computer Number Search

To find the call numbers of the records described in this outline, you will most often use the “Locality” section on microfiche or the Locality Search on compact disc. The section headings in this outline, such as “Church Records” are the same as the subjects used in the microfiche edition of the Family History Library Catalog and the topics used in the compact disc edition.

The catalog generally uses the language the records are written in to describe the records. The description includes a brief summary in English of the content.

The “Locality ” section lists records according to the area they cover. Records relating to the entire country, such as emigration and immigration records, are listed under Peru. Most records are listed under a specific province or city or parish, as follows:

PERU, [PROVINCE], [CITY]

For example, in the “Locality” section look for:

- The place where an ancestor lived such as:

PERU, ANCASH, YUNGAY

- The record type you want—census, probates, or church records, for example. In Peru, towns may be listed twice in the catalog. For example, church and civil records may be filed in the catalog as follows:

PERU, ANCASH, YUNGAY - CHURCH RECORDS

PERU, ANCASH, YUNGAY - CIVIL REGISTRATION

The catalog is based on the province structure instituted in 1793. For additional information about localities in Peru, see the “Gazetteers,” “Historical Geography,” “History,” and “Maps” sections of this outline.

If you need more information on using the Family History Library Catalog, a short video program (53191), written instructions, and librarians are available to help you.

INTERNET

The Internet, computer bulletin boards, news groups, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers.
- Post queries.
- Send and receive e-mail.
- Search large databases.
- Search directories.
- Search library catalogs.
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions.

Researching by computer can be very rewarding, but it also has its limitations.

Finding Resources on the Internet

It takes time and practice to learn how to navigate the Internet. Local genealogical societies often have computer interest groups or members who are familiar with computer genealogical research. Following are some general Internet sites that will lead you to other interesting Internet resources for Peru:

- Cyndi’s List of Hispanic Genealogical Sites is a catalog of genealogical sites on the Internet by topic and country. It includes references to other Internet sites, mailing lists, people and families, news groups, publications, record transcriptions, societies, villages, and colonies.

<http://www.cyndislist.com/hispanic.htm>

- The LDS Church Genealogical Homepage gives you access to the Family History Library Catalog, *Ancestral File*, *International Genealogical Index*, *SourceGuide*, a list of family history center locations worldwide, family history related web sites, and lists of researchers interested in similar genealogical topics. You can also learn about and order Family History Library publications.

<http://www.familysearch.org/>

- America Online (AOL) Hispanic Genealogy— Peru contains tools for researching in Peru.

<http://users.aol.com/mrosado007/peru.htm>

- LatinoLinks.net site for Peru includes links to libraries, archives, museums, history, genealogy, culture, and other interesting topics.

<http://www.latinolinks.net/peru.html>

Other useful sites on specific topics such as census records and directories are discussed in this outline under those sections.

RECORDS SELECTION TABLE: PERU

The table below can help you decide which records to search.

1. In column 1, find the category closest to your research goal.
2. In column 2, find the types of records that are most likely to have the information you need.
3. In column 3, find additional record types that may be useful.
4. Turn to the section of this outline that corresponds to the record type you chose. The section explains what the records might tell you, how to search them, and how to find the records in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog. Some records are not at the Family History Library.

Note: The terms used in columns 2 and 3 are the same as the topic headings used in this outline and in the “Locality” section of the Family History Library Catalog. Also, records containing previous research—genealogy, biography, history, periodicals, and societies—could provide information for nearly all research goals, but these have not been listed unless they are especially helpful.

1. If you need:	2. Look first in:	3. Then search:
Age	Civil Registration, Church Records	Census, Emigration and Immigration, Land Records
Birth dates and places	Civil Registration, Church Records	Census, Emigration and Immigration, Land Records
City or parish of foreign birth	Civil Registration, Church Records	Emigration and Immigration, Military, Schools
Customs	History, Minorities	Social Life and Customs
Death	Civil Registration, Church Records	Cemeteries, Newspapers
Divorce (recent)	Court Records	Civil Registration
Ethnicity	Civil Registration, Church Records	Emigration and Immigration, Societies
Historical background	Gazetteers, Periodicals	History
Immigration date	Emigration and Immigration, Naturalization and Citizenship	Census, Biography
Living relatives	Court Records, Directories	Newspapers, Biography
Maiden names	Civil Registration, Church Records	Cemeteries, Military Records
Marriage	Civil Registration, Church Records	Census
Municipal origins and boundaries	Gazetteer, Maps	History
Occupation	Civil Registration, Church Records	Census, Directories
Parents, children, and other family members	Civil Registration, Church Records	Emigration and Immigration, Census, Notarial Records
Physical description	Emigration and Immigration	Military Records
Place-finding aids	Gazetteers, Maps	History
Place of residence	Civil Registration, Church Records	Census, Biography, Genealogy
Previous research	Genealogy, Periodicals	Biography
Religion	Church Records	Census
Social activities	Social Life and Customs	Biography, History

Map of Peru: Departments, 1980s



ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

Archives collect and preserve original documents of churches, governments, and other organizations. Libraries generally collect published sources such as books, maps, and microfilm. This section describes the major repositories of genealogical and historical records and resources for Peru. When one of these institutions is referred to elsewhere in this outline, return to this section to obtain the address.

If you plan to visit one of these repositories, contact the organization and ask for information about their collection, hours, services, and fees. Some of that information may also be found on the Internet. Some archives have catalogs, inventories, and guides or periodicals that describe their records and how to use them. If possible, study these guides before you go to the archives so you can use your time more effectively. In many archives and libraries you will need a letter of recommendation and proper identification (*libreto electoral* or passport).

For addresses of archives and libraries, you can consult the following:

International Directory of Archives/Annuaire international des archives. London: K.G. Saur, 1992. (FHL book 020.5 Ar25 v. 38.)

World Guide to Libraries. 10th ed. München: K. G. Saur, 1991. (FHL book 027.025 W893.)

Archivum: International Directory of Archives. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1975. (FHL book 020.5 Ar25 Vol. 22–23, 38.)

There are many repositories with genealogical information for Peruvian research:

- Archives in Spain
- National government archives and libraries
- Church archives
- Departmental archives
- Municipal archives
- Other archives and libraries

Although the original records you need may be in an archive or library in Peru or Spain, the Family History Library may have a microfilm copy of them.

Archives in Spain

Records of international interest about the European discovery, exploration, and colonization of Peru are in various archives in Spain.

- Archivo General de Indias
Avda. de la Constitución 3
41004 Seville, Spain
Tel: 954-500-530, 954-500-528
Fax: 954-219-485
<http://www.mcu.es/lab/archives/AGI.html>
- Archivo General Militar de Segovia
Plaza Reina Victoria Eugenia
40071 Segovia, Spain
Tel: 921-460-758
Fax: 921-460-757
- Archivo General de Simancas
Miravete 8
47130 Valladolid, Spain
Tel: 983-590-003, 983-590-750
Fax: 983-590-311
<http://www.mcu.es/lab/archives/AGS.html>
- Archivo Central Militar del Servicio Histórico Militar
C/Mártires de Alcalá 9
28071 Madrid, Spain
Tel: 915-470-300
Fax: 915-594-371
- Archivo Histórico Nacional
C/Serrano 115
28006 Madrid, Spain
Tel: 915-618-001, 915-618-005
Fax: 915-631-199
<http://www.mcu.es/lab/archives/AGN.html>

A summary of the records preserved at the Archivo General de Indias is found in:

Peña y Cámara, José María de la. *Archivo General de Indias de Sevilla: Guía de Visitante* (The Seville General Archive of the Indies: Visitor's Guide). Madrid: Dirección General de Archivos y Bibliotecas, 1958. (FHL book 946 A2s; film 0896895.)

Additional descriptions of the records at the Archivo General de Indias and other Spanish and Latin American archives that house documents of the Spanish American colonial period, are found in:

Documentación y Archivos de la Colonización Española (Documentation and Archives of the Spanish Colonization). Madrid: Ministerio de Cultura, 1980. (FHL book 946 A3d.)

Guides to the many archives in Spain can be obtained from each archive.

National Government Archives and Libraries

The Peruvian government collects records relating to Peruvian history, culture, and people. The National Archives of Peru (*Archivo General de la Nación*) is located at:

Archivo General de la Nación
Palacio de Justicia
Jirón Manuel Cuadros s/n
Casilla No. 3124
Cercado de Lima
Lima 1, PERU
Tel: (11)-427-5930
Fax: (11)-428-2829

The National Archives publishes information on its activities and the activities of the Department of Historical Archives in its *Revista*. It has also published the *Catálogo del Archivo General de la Nación* (Catalog of the National Archives of Peru). Before you visit or use the records of an archive, you need to study the publications so can use your time more effectively. A guide to the archives and libraries in Peru is:

Revista del Archivo General de la Nación. (Journal of the General Archive of the Nation). Lima: Imprenta Gil, 1971-. (FHL book 985 B2r.)

The National Archives has experienced fires, earthquakes, and other catastrophes that have destroyed or damaged much of its collection. In 1881, during the War of the Pacific, Chilean troops occupied the archives and caused considerable damage.

The Archives has not been thoroughly cataloged, and there are still many unclassified items that are not yet sorted or stored in their proper sections. Smaller sections of the Historical Section (*Sección Histórica*), such as Upper Administration (*Gobierno Superior*) and Native Property and Claims (*Propiedad y Derecho Indígena*) can be accessed through a card catalog. Rural and urban property titles and the notarial records for Lima and Callao have been

indexed. (See the “Notarial Records” section of this outline for more information.)

The General Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Relations (*Archivo General del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores*) has records relating to the post-independence period. It is located at:

Archivo General del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Palacio de Torre Tagle
363 Ucayali
Lima, PERU
Tel: 51-14-27-6750; -3860

This archive has some filing cabinets with colonial records. For information on the records in the Ministry of Foreign Relations, see:

Lohmann Villena, Guillermo. “La Sección manuscritos de la Biblioteca del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores del Perú.” in *Handbook of Latin American Studies, 1940* (Cambridge, Mass., 1941: 518–520).

The Historical Archive of the Ministry of Property and Commerce (*Archivo Histórico del Ministerio de Hacienda y Comercio*) became the Division of the Ministry of Property (*Sección Ministerio de Hacienda*) within the National Archives in 1970, but is still housed separately in the Palacio de Justicia:

Archivo Histórico del Ministerio de Hacienda y Comercio
Palacio de Justicia
Jirón Manuel Cuadros s/n
Cercado de Lima
Lima 1, PERÚ
Tel: 51-14-40-7120

This archive has two series of records: one dealing with the colonial period and the other dealing with the republican period. The manuscripts of the colonial series are organized into two main groups: the Miscellaneous Collection (*Colección Miscelánea*) and the St. Mary Collection (*Colección Santamaría*), which can be accessed through a card catalog. Additional information on the organization and history of the colonial series can be found in:

Schwab, Federico. “El Archivo Histórico del Ministerio de Hacienda y Comercio del Perú,” in *Revista de historia de América*, 21 (1946: 29–44).

The National Library (*Biblioteca Nacional*) contains nine rooms where material for various subjects are stored. The collection of the Hall of Research (*Sala de Investigaciones*) is very diverse and can be accessed through two card catalogs, one arranged by subject and the other chronologically. A fire in 1943 destroyed a large part of the manuscript collection, but following the catastrophe the surviving documents were thoroughly cataloged. Following is the address of the National Library:

Biblioteca Nacional
Avenida Abancay s/n, cdra. 4
Cercado de Lima
Lima 1, PERÚ
Tel: 51-14-28-7690, 51-14-28-7696
Fax: 51-14-427-7311
Email: jefatura@binape.gob.pe
<http://www.binape.gob.pe/>

The National Library has several large collections that are of particular interest to family historians. It is one of the main repositories for primary documents relating to the military. It has one of the most thorough collections of imprints dating from the independence and republican periods, and has extensive collections of pamphlets and *memorias*. Other documents of interest are land grants (*encomiendas*), judicial records (*judiciales*), succession rights (*mayorazgos*), chaplaincy records (*capellanías*), chieftainship records (*cacicazgos*), immovable property of Lima (*propiedad inmóvil de Lima*), dowries (*dotas*), parish registers (*registros parroquiales*), town council minutes (*actas de cabildo*), and books of the orders and decrees (*libros de cédulas y proviciones*). The National Library also has registers of the notaries (*escribanos*) of Lima, Arequipa, and Cuzco.

To enter the Hall of Research a researcher is required to present two photographs and a letter of recommendation, attend a class on using the library's collections, and pay a fee.

Other national level repositories also contain records of genealogical value:

- Archivo Histórico Militar del Perú
Centro de Estudios Históricos Militares del Perú
Paseo Colón 150
Cercado de Lima
Lima 1, PERÚ
Tel: 51-14-23-0415
Fax: 51-14-23-0415

- Archivo Histórico de la Marina
Museo Naval, Ministerio de Marina
Lima, PERÚ
- Archivo General de la Corte Superior de Justicia de Lima
Palacio de Justicia
Jirón Manuel Cuadros s/n
Cercado de Lima
Lima 1, PERÚ
Tel: 51-14-28-4437
- Archivo de la Oficina Nacional de Estadística y Censo - ONEC
Lima, PERÚ
- Archivo de la Corte Suprema de la República
Palacio de Justicia
Jirón Manuel Cuadros s/n
Cercado de Lima
Lima 1, PERÚ
Tel: 51-14-28-3690
- Archivo del Ministerio de Trabajo y Asuntos Indígenas
Avenida Salavery s/n
Lima, PERÚ
Tel: 51-14-32-2510

Some helpful guides to the archives of Peru are:

Gómez Canedo, Lino. *Los archivos de la historia de América: período colonial español* (The Archives of the History of America: Colonial Spanish Period). México, D.F.: Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia, 1961. (FHL book 980 A3.)

Porras Barrenechea, Raúl. *Fuentes históricas Peruanas* (Historical Sources of Peru). Lima, Peru : Instituto Raúl Porrás Barrenechea, 1963. (FHL book 985 H2pb.)

Research Guide to Andean History: Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, and Peru. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1981. (FHL book 980 H27r.) This includes bibliographical references and an index. Peru is listed on pages 206–334.

Church Archives

The Catholic Church has gathered the early church records from the dioceses into a centralized archive. Lima parish records from before 1900 are centralized

in the Archive of the Archbishopric of Lima (*Archivo Arzobispal de Lima*). The address for this archive is:

Archivo Arzobispal de Lima
Av. Sucre 1200
Pueblo Libre
Lima 21, PERÚ
Tel: 51-14-60-6998
Fax: 51-14-27-4397
Email: lagaguti@pol.com.pe

The Archive of the Archbishop of Lima has documentation since 1543 on visitations (*visitas*), holy works (*obras pias*), tithing (*diezmos*), property, and divorce. Few guides, indexes, or inventories have been published, but in the archive there are several that can be used on site. For information about the archive, see:

Vargas Ugarte, Rubén, S.J. "El Archivo Arzobispal de Lima," in *Handbook of Latin American Studies, 1936*. (Cambridge, Mass.: 1937), 443–48.

Only a few of the records of the Archive of the Archbishop of Lima have been indexed, and most of the indexes remain unpublished. Parish records, particularly baptisms, are the most likely to be indexed. Additionally, there are eight volumes of indexes of marriage documents (*expedientes matrimoniales*).

More recent Catholic parish records are kept at the local parish. The diocese keeps the records of parishes that no longer exist. You may write to local parishes and church archives for information. To obtain 20th century documents, you must visit the parish offices and pay a fee.

See the "Church Directories," "Church History," and "Church Records" sections of this outline for more information.

Department Archives

In Peru, a department is a governmental jurisdiction, similar to a county. Each department has its own historical archive separate from those of the national government. They serve as repositories for records pertaining to their particular area. Records of genealogical value at department archives include notarial records; birth, marriage, and death records; census records; some church records; and so forth.

Department archives are located in the department city capitals and are open to the public, with proper identification (*libreto electoral* or passport) and letters of recommendation. Addresses of the department archives are:

- Archivo Histórico Departamental de Arequipa
Calle Quesada No. 102
Yanahuara
Arequipa, PERÚ
Tel: 51-54-22-1908
- Archivo Departamental de Ayacucho
Av. Independencia s/n
Centro Cultural Simón Bolívar
2056 Ayacucho, PERÚ
- Archivo Histórico Departamental de Cajamarca
Jr. Belén s/n, Conjunto Monumental Belén
Apartado 188
3320 Cajamarca, PERÚ
- Archivo Histórico Departamental de Cuzco
Av. Tullumayo 440 or Avenida de Cultura 760
Cuzco, PERÚ
- Archivo Histórico Departamental de Huánuco
Jr. 2 de Mayo No. 680
Apartado 278
Huánuco, PERÚ
- Archivo Histórico Departamental de Junín
Av. Sebastián Lorente 1810
Huancayo, PERÚ
Tel: 51-64-23-3679
- Archivo Histórico Departamental de Lambayeque
Av. Victor Raul Hay de la Torre 272 Ub.
Chiclayo/Villareal, PERÚ
Tel: 51-74-28-2390
- Archivo Histórico Departamental de la Libertad
Miquel Estete No 540
Trujillo, La Libertad, PERÚ
- Archivo Histórico Departamental de Moquegua
Tarapaca No. 320
Mariscal Nieto s/n
Moquegua, PERÚ
- Archivo Histórico Departamental de Piura
Jr. Huancavelica 867
Piura, PERÚ
Tel: 51-74-71-5255

- Archivo Histórico Departamental de Puno
Museo Municipal Dreyer
Conde de Lemos 289
Apartado 640
Puno, PERÚ

- Archivo Histórico Departamental de Tacna
Av. Boloqnesi No. 1737
Tacna, PERÚ
Tel: 51-54-71-5255

Municipal Archives

All records created by local governments in Peru, including birth, death, and marriage records, are kept in municipal offices. These offices are comparable to county courthouses and town halls in the United States. Copies of the municipal records are available to the public. For more information about these offices and their records, see the “Civil Registration” section of this outline.

These archives also house the *Libros de Cabildos* (minute books), which contain information about local administration, founding of towns, commercial life, markets, sanitation, administration of justice, and social relations. The municipal records of the town of Huamanga are housed in the National Library.

You can get information about the records kept at a particular municipality by writing to the municipal office. See the Family History Library’s *Spanish Letter-Writing Guide* (36245) for instructions on how to write for genealogical information.

Other Archives and Libraries

Other types of repositories may also contain important genealogical records. Contact these libraries and ask about their collection, hours, services, and fees. Proper identification (*libreto electoral* or passport) and a letter of recommendation may be required. These repositories include:

- Historical and genealogical societies.
- Public and academic libraries.
- Public archives, private archives, business archives, and museums.
- University archives and libraries.

The oldest continuing university in the Americas is the Major National University of San Marcos (*Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos*):

Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos
S/n Ciudad Universitaria
Lima, PERÚ

Inventories, Registers, Catalogs

Some archives have catalogs, inventories, guides, or periodicals that describe their records and how to use them. If possible, study these guides before you visit or use the records of an archive so that you can use your time more effectively. These types of records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

PERU - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES -
INVENTORIES, REGISTERS, CATALOGS
PERU, [DEPARTMENT] - ARCHIVES AND
LIBRARIES - INVENTORIES, REGISTERS,
CATALOGS

BIOGRAPHY

A biography is a history of a person’s life. In a biography you may find the individual’s birth, marriage, and death information, and the names of his or her parents, children, or other family members. Use the information carefully because there may be inaccuracies.

Some brief biographies have been gathered and published in collective biographies, such as biographical encyclopedias or dictionaries. Often, these feature biographies of specific groups of people, such as musicians or church officials.

Only a few biographical sources are available for Peru, and those include only the most notable citizens.

Two significant biographical sources are:

Diccionario enciclopédico del Perú (Encyclopedic Dictionary of Peru). 3 vols. Lima: ed. Juan Mejía Baca, 1966. (FHL book 985 A5de; film 1162476 items 1–3.) This includes information on a variety of Peruvian subjects, including biographies of prominent Peruvians.

Estremadoyro Robles, Camila. *Diccionario histórico biográfico: Peruanos ilustres* (Historical, Biographical Dictionary of Famous Peruvians). Lima: Librería-Bazar “Eureka,” 1989. (FHL book 985 D36e.)

Additional biographies of people from Peru are found in more general biographical collections such as:

Archivo biográfico de España, Portugal e Iberoamérica/Arquivo biográfico de Espanha, Portugal e Ibero-América (Biographical Archive of Spain, Portugal, and Latin America). 1144 microfiche. New York: K.G. Saur, 19-. (FHL fiche 6002170–172.)

Archivo biográfico de España, Portugal e Iberoamérica: Nueva Serie (Biographical Archive of Spain, Portugal, and Latin America: New Series). 984 microfiche. München: K.G. Saur, 1993. (FHL fiche 6131531–558.)

Collective biographies at the Family History Library are listed in the “Locality” section of the Family History Library Catalog under:

PERU - BIOGRAPHY
PERU, [DEPARTMENT] - BIOGRAPHY
PERU, [DEPARTMENT], [DISTRICT] -
BIOGRAPHY

The National Library also has some biographies in its collection.

CEMETERIES

There are two major types of cemetery records:

- Monumental inscriptions, including information recorded on gravestones, tombstones, and niches.
- Burial records, including grave books and the records of cemetery officials (sexton’s records), public (municipal) cemeteries, parishes, and burial grounds.

Cemetery records might give information that would not be found in the civil or parish records. They might include the name of the deceased, age, date of death or burial, birth year or date of birth, and sometimes marriage information. They might also provide clues about military service, religion, occupation, and place of residence at time of death.

The sources of cemetery records include:

- The present sexton or minister. He may have the burial registers and the records of the burial plots.

- A local library, historical society, or local historian. Any of these may have the records you need or can help you locate obscure family plots and relocated cemeteries.

To find tombstone or sexton records, you need to know where an individual was buried. The person may have been buried in a church, community, or private cemetery, usually near the place where he or she lived or died. You can find clues to burial places in funeral notices, church records, and death certificates.

In general, it is better to start with sexton records than with tombstones or niches. The record kept by the sexton often has more information about the deceased person and his or her family and will also give the location of the tomb. It is usually faster than searching for the grave itself. Because relatives may be buried in adjoining plots, it’s best to examine the original record rather than to rely on alphabetized transcripts.

Most people in the cities of Peru were buried in niches. The Catholic Church had exclusive jurisdiction over burials until 1808, when the earliest civil records began. Most civil cemetery records did not begin until after the establishment of civil registration in 1857. In 1825, the practice of burying in churches and on church grounds was outlawed.

Funeral homes and mortuaries will know the cemeteries of an area. The civil registrar can also provide information on private burial grounds and cemeteries.

There are two very large cemeteries located across the street from one another in the center of Lima and managed by a joint administrative office. To request a free search of the index for both cemeteries, contact:

El Ángel
Lima 1, PERÚ

CENSUS

A census is a count and description of the population, taken by government or ecclesiastical officials. Census records include both government and church censuses (*padrones*). Censuses were taken by the government for population studies, taxation, and military purposes; and by the churches for taxation in behalf of the parish poor.

Census records are not often used in Peruvian research because other sources, such as church records and civil registration, provide better information. Where church parish records have been destroyed, the census can help you establish your lineage.

In Peru, the original census returns were often destroyed or were only statistical. There are many church censuses in the Archive of the Archbishop of Lima, in other bishop's archives, and in department historical archives. The General Archive of the Indies (*Archivo General de Indias*) in Seville, Spain, has duplicate copies of many colonial census records.

Census records can provide important information, such as family relationships and age, where all or portions of other records are missing. Generally, you will find more complete family information in more recent censuses.

Information about census records can be found in:

Fuentes principales de registros genealógicos en Perú (Principal Sources of Genealogical Records in Peru). Salt Lake City, Utah: The Genealogical Society, 1977. (FHL book 929.1 G286gs ser. H no.14; fiche 6030519.)

Platt, Lyman D. *Latin American Census Records*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Instituto Genealógico e Histórico Latinoamericano, 1987. (FHL book 980 X23p.)

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

A church directory lists church officials, dioceses, and parishes. These directories are useful because:

- They list of all the parishes in a diocese, so you can determine if your ancestor's village had a parish church. Many directories list all villages belonging to a parish.
- They sometimes provide the earliest dates of existing parish records.
- They may include historical information about each parish.
- They may group parishes by parishes (*curatos*) or vicarages (*vicarías*) and deaneries (*decanatos*).

- Directories beginning in 1969 provide the complete address of each parish, diocese headquarters, and diocese archives where additional records may be kept. The 1993 directory also includes the phone and fax numbers of the parishes.

Church directories exist for the Archdiocese of Lima for 1911–13, 1916, 1918, 1935, and 1937. For Peru, there are directories for 1947, 1949, 1951, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, and 1993. The Family History Library has copies of directories for 1949, 1969, 1974, and 1993:

Anuario eclesiástico del Perú 1949 (Ecclesiastical Yearbook of Peru). Lima: Impr. Santa María, 1949. (FHL book 985 K24i 1949.)

Anuario eclesiástico del Perú 1969 (Ecclesiastical Yearbook of Peru). Lima: Secretariado del Episcopado Nacional, 1969. (FHL book 985 K24i 1969.)

Anuario eclesiástico del Perú (Ecclesiastical Yearbook of Peru). Lima: Secretariado del Episcopado Peruano, 1974. (FHL book 985 K24i, fiche 6030554.)

Directorio eclesiástico del Perú, 1993 (Ecclesiastical Directory of Peru). Lima: Conferencia Episcopal Peruana, 1993. (FHL book numbers 985 K24d.)

Rodríguez, Jesus Jordán. *Pueblos y parroquias de el Perú*. Lima: Imprenta Pasaje Piura, 1950. (FHL book number 958K24r; film number 1162495, item 4.)

Since the latest directory was published in 1993, some information, such as the priest's name, may be out of date. The addresses and parish histories may be still valid. For more recent information, write to:

Conferencia Episcopal Peruana
Rio de Janeiro 488
Lima 11, PERÚ

Church directories are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

PERU - CHURCH DIRECTORIES

CHURCH HISTORY

Research procedures and genealogical sources are different for each religion. It is helpful to understand the historical events that led to the creation of records in which your family is listed. This outline will only refer to the Roman Catholic Church because other churches have only recently been introduced to Peru.

The Roman Catholic faith was brought to Peru at the time of the Spanish conquest in about 1532. From 1532 to the Constitution of 1920, Catholicism was the only religion accepted in Peru. The Constitution of 1920 provided freedom of religion, but since 1929, only Catholicism has been taught in state or private schools. By 1972, there were 784 Catholic parishes in Peru.

Peru has been included in the Apostolic Vicarage (*Vicariatos Apostolicos*) of Ecuador since 1952. The 1974 directory lists the present boundaries as the country of Peru.

The Catholic Church in Peru was divided in 1974 into 7 provinces, 14 dioceses, 14 *prelaturas*, 9 *vicariatos apostólicos* and 1 *vicaría castrense* (military vicariate). The archdioceses are located in Lima, Arequipa, Ayacucho, Cuzco, Huancayo, Piura, and Trujillo.

A good history of the Catholic Church in Peru is:

Vargas Ugarte, Rubén. *Historia de la iglesia en el Perú* (History of the Church in Peru). 5 vols. Lima : Imprenta Santa María, 1953. (FHL book 985 K2v.)

Jurisdictional History

In order to find the church records you need, you must be able to find which jurisdiction your ancestor would have been in. The Catholic Church has expanded and created new jurisdictional entities as follows:

1536	Diocese of Cuzco
1541	Diocese of Lima
1546	Archdiocese of Lima, with bishops in the Dioceses of Cuzco, Quito (Ecuador), Castilla del Oro (Panamá), León de Nicaragua, and Popayán (Colombia).
1577	Dioceses of Trujillo and Arequipa
1609	Diocese of Huamanga (Ayacucho)
1804	Diocese of Maynas

1838	The diocese of Maynas was moved to Chachapoyas.
1861	Diocese of Puno
1865	Diocese of Huánuco
1901	Diocese of Cajamarca
1909	Apostolic Prefectures of San Francisco del Ucayali (now San Ramón) and San León del Amazonas (now Iquitos)
1921	Prefecture of San Gabriel del Marañón
1936	The prefecture of San Gabriel del Marañón was elevated to vicarage.
1940	Diocese of Piura
1943	The dioceses of Cuzco, Trujillo, and Arequipa were elevated to archbishoprics and made ecclesiastical provinces.
1945	Prefecture of San José de Amazonas
1946	Prefecture of San Francisco Javier del Marañón
1946	Diocese of Ica
1948	Prelate of Moyobamba
1954	Dioceses of Huancayo, Huancavelica, and Tacna
1955	The prefecture of San José de Amazonas was elevated to vicarage.
1956	Diocese of Chiclayo The vicarage of Ucayali was divided into the vicarages of Requena and Pucallpa.
1957	Prelates of Yauyos, Juli, and Caravelí
1958	Dioceses of Huacho and Abancay Prelates of Huari, Tarma, and Ayaviri
1959	Prelate of Sicuani
1961	Prelate of Huamachuco
1962	Prelates of Chuquibamba and Chimbote
1963	Prelate of Chota
1967	Diocese of Callao
1968	Prelate of Chquibambilla
1997	The dioceses of Lurín, Chosica, and Carabayllo were created from the Archdiocese of Lima.

As of 1993, the Catholic Church had seven archdioceses, one military archdiocese, eight dioceses, and eight apostolic vicarages.

CHURCH RECORDS

Church records (*registros eclesiasticos*) are excellent sources for accurate information on names, dates, and places of births, marriages, and deaths. Virtually every person who lived in Peru was recorded in a church record, with the exception of the Indians of the eastern rain forests.

Records of births, marriages, and deaths are commonly called vital records. Church records are vital records made by church officials or priests in parish registers or church books.

Church records are crucial for early research about Peru because civil authorities did not begin registering vital statistics until 1886. Church records are often the only source of family information before that date. Church records continued to be kept after the introduction of civil registration. For birth, death, and marriage records after 1886, see the “Civil Registration” section of this outline.

General Historical Background

The Catholic churches in Peru were among the first to keep vital records. The practice of recording births, marriages, and deaths was already established among the churches in Spain, so the same statistics were kept in Peru from the beginning of Spanish rule. The earliest parish record is from 1538, just after the Conquest. In 1563 the Council of Trent issued a mandate requiring Roman Catholic parishes to keep records of christenings and marriages. The churches in Peru did not fully comply with these regulations until the mid 1600s.

Unfortunately, many of the very early records have not been preserved, causing gaps in parish records. Wars and calamities have destroyed other records. To better understand the events that affected record keeping in Peru, the following are important dates:

- 1545–65 The Council of Trent required parishes to keep birth and marriage registers, a practice already common in Spain.
- 1764 The churches were ordered to keep their church books in an orderly and conscientious manner.
- 1786 A uniform system of record keeping was introduced.
- 1800 Many parishes began keeping parish registers, although they were not required until 1815.
- 1881 Indexes of the church records were officially started. Some parishes, however, have indexes of earlier church books.

Information Recorded in Church Registers

Church registers include records of births and christenings, marriages, and deaths and burials. In addition, church records may include account books, confirmations, and lists of members (*padrones*).

Baptisms (*Bautismos*): Children were generally christened within a few days of birth. Christening registers usually give the infant’s and parents’ names, status of legitimacy, names of witnesses or godparents, and the christening date. You may also find the child’s birth date, ethnic background, father’s occupation, and family’s place of residence. Marriage and death information are sometimes added as notes. Registers in larger cities may also give the street name or family’s address.

Earlier registers typically give only the parents’ and godparents’ names and the date of christening. Later, the age or birth date was given in addition to the christening date.

You should obtain copies of both church records and civil registration, when possible, since they do not necessarily provide the same information. For example, baptismal registers sometimes provide the names of the fathers of illegitimate children when the civil registration does not.

Marriages (*Matrimonios*): Marriage registers give the date of the marriage and the names of the bride and groom. They also give the names of witnesses and indicate if either the bride or the groom was widowed. They often include other information about the bride and groom, such as ages, residences, occupations, names of parents, and birthplaces. In cases of second and later marriages, they may include the names of previous spouses and their death dates. Often a note is made whether a parent or other party gave permission for the marriage.

Marriage registers may also give the three dates on which the marriage intentions were announced. These announcements, called *banns*, gave opportunity for anyone to come forward who knew any reasons why the couple should not be married.

Couples were usually married in the home parish of the bride. Men typically married in their mid-20s and women married younger.

Marriage Information (*Bandos, Información matrimonial, Expedientes matrimoniales, Pliegos matrimoniales*): The marriage information document is separate from the marriage record and can consist of several parts. These parts include:

- An introduction that states the intent of marriage and the date of the banns.
- Personal information on the bride and groom. This may include the names of the couple, age, if they are widowed, place of residence, place of birth, and names of parents and grandparents.
- If this is a second marriage for the bride or groom, the name of the deceased spouse and the date of death.
- If the bride or groom is from another parish, documents showing good standing in that parish. These can include baptismal records and when the banns were published.
- If there was an impediment to marriage, a dispensation (exemption from restriction of marriage). For example, if the bride and groom were related by blood or marriage within the fourth degree, a dispensation was required from the bishop in order for the couple to marry. In such cases, genealogical graphs and interesting biographical information about the families will also be included.
- The testimonies of two to four witnesses about the good standing of the bride and groom. This may include the witness's personal information as well as how long he or she has known the bride or groom. Often, the witnesses may be relatives of the bride or groom. This document is sometimes three or four pages long.
- A note at the end of the documents listing the date of marriage or if the marriage did not take place.

Burials (*Entierros*): Burials were recorded in the church record of the parish where the person was buried. The burial usually took place within a day of the death, in the parish where the person died.

Early death registers recorded the name of the deceased person, his or her parents or spouse, and the date and cause of death. Later records may also include the place of death or burial; the deceased

person's age, place of residence, and date and place of birth; and sometimes the names of survivors.

Confirmations (*Confirmaciones*): This record is made at the time of the confirmation by the bishop or his representative. It gives the date of the record, the name of the confirmed youth, the godparent(s) (*padrinos*), and signature of the bishop. This is a diocesan record, but a copy may be kept in the parish. Confirmations are sometimes included with the baptismal records in the parish books.

Locating Church Records

Church records were kept at the local parish. *Parish* refers to a local congregation that may have included many villages within its boundaries, under the jurisdiction of a priest.

To find church records, you must know:

- Your ancestor's religion.
- The town where your ancestor lived.
- The parish that your ancestor's town belonged to. Your ancestor may have lived in a village that belonged to a parish in a nearby larger town. (For help identifying the parish, see the "Gazetteers" and "Maps" sections of this outline.)

The town where the church building was located is considered the headquarters of the parish. Although the church building was often named for a saint, the Family History Library Catalog refers to a parish by the name of the town where the parish church was located. In large cities, where there may be many parishes for each religion, the Family History Library Catalog uses the parish name (such as Sagrado Corazón de Jesús) to distinguish the records of different parishes.

Small villages that did not have their own church belonged to a parish located in a different town. Over time, some villages or chapelries may have belonged to several parishes as jurisdictions changed. People who lived in villages between two parishes may have had events recorded in both parishes. Search the records of nearby parishes when doing research about ancestors who lived in a small town.

Records at the Family History Library

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of many church records from Peru. This collection continues to grow as new records are microfilmed.

Most of these records are from the coastal area of Peru, but some are also available from the Andes.

You can determine whether the Family History Library has records for your ancestor's locality by checking the "Locality" section of the Family History Library Catalog. However, if the record was never kept, has been destroyed, has not been microfilmed, or is restricted from public access by the laws of the country, the Family History Library does not have a copy.

In the Family History Library Catalog, look under the name of the town where the parish was, not necessarily the town where your ancestor lived. Look in the Family History Library Catalog under:

PERU, [DEPARTMENT], [DISTRICT] -
CHURCH RECORDS

New records are continually added to Family History Library collection from numerous sources. Don't give up if records are not available yet. Check the Family History Library Catalog again from time to time for the records you need.

Records Not at the Family History Library

Original baptism, marriage, and burial records may be found by contacting or visiting local parishes or diocese archives in Peru.

Peru has no single repository of church records. The present location of records depends on diocesan and local history. Write your request in Spanish whenever possible. You can make inquiries to:

- *Local parishes.* Most church registers are still maintained by the parish. Recent registers are at the parish, and older ones may be at the diocese's archives.
- *Church archives.* Many parish registers are still located at the parish, but some are collected in diocese archives. Church archives are often unable to handle genealogical requests but can determine whether specific records are available.

Parishes will generally answer correspondence in Spanish. If the records have been sent to the diocesan archives, your request may be forwarded to the appropriate offices. To obtain the addresses of parishes, you should consult a church directory. (See the "Church Directories" section of this outline. See

also the "Archives and Libraries" section for more information about where various types of records are stored.)

The Family History Library has obtained copies of the records from the Archdiocese of Lima that were filmed by UNESCO (United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization). As permission is given, the library will obtain more records at other Peruvian church archives. This will continue for many years.

Information about how to write for genealogical information to local parishes in Peru is given in *Spanish Letter-Writing Guide* (36245). When writing to an archive for civil records include:

- The full name and gender of the person sought.
- The names of the parents, if known.
- The approximate date and place of the event you are requesting information about.
- Your relationship to the person.
- The reason for the request (family history, medical, and so on).
- A request for a photocopy of the complete original record.
- A request for information about how to best send the search fee, if any.
- An International Reply Coupon, available from your local post office.

If your request is unsuccessful, search for duplicate records that may have been filed in other archives or in civil registration offices.

Search Strategies

Effective use of church records includes the following strategy:

- Search for the relative or ancestor you want to know more about. When you find his or her birth record, search for the birth records of his or her brothers and sisters.
- Search for the marriage record of the parents. The marriage record will often lead to the birth records of the parents.
- If you cannot locate a marriage record for the parents, you can estimate their ages and search for their birth records.

- Repeat the process for both the father and the mother.
- If earlier generations are not in the record, search neighboring parishes.
- Search the death registers for information about all family members.

CIVIL REGISTRATION

Civil registration refers to the vital records made by the government. These include birth, marriage, and death records. Civil registration records (*Actas del Registro Civil*) are an excellent source for accurate information on names, and dates and places of births, marriages, and deaths.

In most of the municipalities of Peru, civil authorities began registering births in 1886, marriages in 1886, and deaths in 1857. The 1892 Peruvian Civil Law made civil registration mandatory. In the Lima municipal archives, there are death registers for 1857–1867, and birth, marriage, and death registers of Peruvians born abroad for 1886–1911. By 1895, the archives included almost all individuals who lived in Peru. Records of naturalization, adoption, and legitimacy and recognition of children are included in the early birth records. From 1936, these records are included as part of the Personal Register.

Because civil registration covers the entire population and generally provides more information than church records, civil registration records are one of the most important sources for genealogical research in Peru. Due to political situations, civil registration for some municipalities may have begun after 1886. Civil registration records may also be the only source of information about non-Catholic people.

For birth, death, and marriage records before 1886, see the “Church Records” section of this outline.

General Historical Background

In 1857 the government of Peru passed a law that required civil registration, but it was soon discontinued, except for the requirement to keep death records. In 1892, the government again recognized the need for accurate vital records. Civil registration required the people to report all births, marriages, and deaths to a civil registrar in each municipality.

Civil registration began in 1886 in almost all of Peru. Today, Peru’s borders include areas that were not part of Peru in 1886. For these areas, the beginning of civil registration varies. For example, the department of Tacna, which was part of Chile from 1880 to 1929, began registration in 1884 for births and 1885 for marriages and deaths.

Duplicates of municipal vital records are at the Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic (*Corte Superior de Justicia de la República*) in Lima.

Information Recorded in Civil Registers

The most important civil records for genealogical research are birth, marriage, and death registers. There are also registers of captives for 1905–1926. These are registers of births to Peruvian families in the department of Tacna and the province of Tarapaca (Chile), which were under the jurisdiction of the Chilean government.

From 1936 to the present, personal civil registers include naturalization, adoption, legitimization of children, declaration of mental competence, declarations of deaths not otherwise registered, marriage annulments, and divorces.

Births, marriages, and deaths were written in the civil registration records as they occurred and thus are arranged chronologically. Some records are indexed to help you find your ancestor.

Births (*Nacimientos*): Birth registers give the document number, registration date, name, gender, and date and place of birth. Early birth records also include naturalization papers, adoptions, legitimizations of children, and acknowledgments of paternity. Separate books were kept for naturalization from 1912–1936.

Birth records may include family information, such as the parents’ ages, birthplaces, residences, nationalities, marital status, professions, and the number of other children born to the mother. The records may also give similar information about the informant, who may be a relative, and the grandparents.

Corrections to a birth record were usually added as a marginal note.

Marriages (*Casamientos*): Peruvian law requires marriages to be recorded in civil records prior to a church marriage. Marriage registers give the marriage

date and the couple's names, ages, places of residence, and, sometimes, places of birth. These records also include the names of the parents and witnesses and information about the witnesses.

Marriage information (*Información matrimonial*) in Peru from 1900 to the present includes certificates of birth, baptism, good conduct, marriageability, and a medical certificate and residence.

Early civil marriage records may give more information than church records. Early entries usually included the names and ages of the bride and groom and the marriage date and place. Later entries include the couple's occupations, civil status, residences, and birthplaces. Some records also have the names of the parents and grandparents.

Most couples were also married in a church wedding. If possible, search both the civil registration and church records of marriage. If you believe a marriage took place but cannot find a civil record of the marriage, search the church marriage information records or banns.

Deaths (*Defunciones*): Death records are especially helpful because in addition to death and burial information, they provide important information about a person's birth, spouse, and parents. Civil death records often exist for individuals for whom there are no birth or marriage records. Death records were usually registered within a few days of the death, in the town or city where the person died.

Early death records give the name, date, and place of death. Later death registers usually include the deceased's age or date of birth (and sometimes the birthplace), residence or street address, occupation, cause of death, and burial information. These records also include the name of the informant (who is often a relative), spouse, and parents. The information in death records about the deceased's birth and parents may be inaccurate since the informant may not have had complete information.

Locating Civil Registration Records

Civil registration records are kept at the local civil registration office (*Oficina del Registro Civil*) in each municipality. You must determine the town where your ancestor lived before you can find the records.

A civil registration district may include several towns or be a small section of a large city. You may need to

use gazetteers and other geographic references to identify the place your ancestor lived and the civil registration office that served it (see the "Gazetteers" section of this outline). In addition to the town, you need to know an approximate year in which the birth, marriage, divorce, or death occurred.

The specific holdings of the Family History Library are listed in the Family History Library Catalog. To find civil registration records in the Family History Library, search in the "Locality" section of the library's catalog under:

PERU - CIVIL REGISTRATION
PERU, [DEPARTMENT] - CIVIL
REGISTRATION
PERU, [DEPARTMENT], [DISTRICT] - CIVIL
REGISTRATION

The library's collection continues to grow as new records are microfilmed and added to the collection from numerous sources. Don't give up if records are not yet available. Check the catalog later for the records you need.

Locating Records Not at the Family History Library

Birth, marriage, divorce, and death records may be found by contacting or visiting local civil registration offices in Peru. Peru also has duplicates of civil registration records in the Supreme Court of Justice (*Corte Superior de Justicia*) in Lima. Civil registration records in Peru are available by writing to the municipality or province where the record was created. After deciding who has jurisdiction over the records for the time period you need, write a brief request to the municipal civil registration office. When writing to an archive for civil records include:

- The full name and gender of the person sought.
- The names of the parents, if known.
- The approximate date and place of the event you are requesting information about.
- Your relationship to the person.
- The reason for the request (family history, medical, and so on).
- A request for a photocopy of the complete original record.
- A request for information about how to best send the search fee, if any.
- An International Reply Coupon, available from your local post office.

Civil officials will usually answer correspondence in Spanish. If your request is unsuccessful, write for duplicate records that may have been sent to the Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic (*Corte Superior de Justicia de la República*). The address is included in the “Archives and Libraries” section of this guide.

If you visit the civil registration office to request a document, they will perform a search for a fee. Each municipality charges its own price. Contact the civil registration office to learn the cost of searches and of copies of certificates.

COURT RECORDS

The highest court of Peru is the Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic (*Corte Superior de Justicia de la República*) in Lima. Under it are the 23 Superior Courts (*Cortes Superiores*), located in the seats of departments. Each of the 140 provinces has a Court of First Instance located in the provincial seat. The 1,302 small towns each have a Justice of the Peace Court. All of these are courts of record.

Although records of genealogical value can be found in court records, you should first search church and civil records. Not many court records from Peru have been microfilmed.

Inquisition Records

Inquisition records were created in the 16th and 17th centuries when non-Catholics, including many of the minority and immigrant groups, were being tried as heretics. The records of persons tried by the Inquisition are found in the National Historical Archive (*Archivo Histórico Nacional*) of Madrid and in the National Archives (*Archivo Nacional de la Nación*) of Lima. Following are some inquisition records available on microfilm at the Family History Library:

Procesos de Fé, 1564–1804 (Proceedings of Faith, 1564–1804). Madrid: Centro Nacional de Microfilm, 1977. (FHL films 1224016–29.)

Pleitos civiles relativos a Lima (Civil Litigation Relating to Lima). Madrid: Archivo Histórico Nacional, 1982. (FHL films 1418251–65.)

Lohmann Villena, Guillermo. *Informaciones Genealógicas de Peruanos seguidos ante el Santo Oficio* (Genealogical Information of Peruvians Appearing before the Holy Office). Lima: n.p., 1957. (FHL book 929.1 W893 F16; film 0873987 item 3.)

Medina Zavala, José Toribio. *Historia del Tribunal de la Inquisición de Lima, 1569–1820* (History of the Tribunal of the Inquisition of Lima, 1569–1820). 2 vols. Santiago: Fondo Histórico Bibliográfico, 1956. (FHL book 985 K21t; film 0896618.)

See also the “Minorities” section of this outline.

DIRECTORIES

Directories are alphabetical lists of names and addresses. These often list all the adult residents or tradesmen of a city or area. Telephone books are a type of directory.

The Family History Library has a telephone directory on microfilm for Lima from 1949 (1224503 item 2) and the 1990 and 1991 directories (3 vols., FHL book 985.21/L1 E4p).

The most helpful directories for genealogical research are city directories of local residents and businesses. These are generally published annually and may include an individual’s name, address, occupation, his or her spouse’s name, and other helpful facts. An individual’s address can be very helpful when searching in a large city with several parishes. Directories sometimes have city maps and may include addresses of churches, cemeteries, civil registration offices, and other important locations.

Directories are listed in the “Locality” section of the Family History Library Catalog under:

PERU, [DEPARTMENT]- DIRECTORIES
PERU, [DEPARTMENT], [DISTRICT] -
DIRECTORIES

Directories for Peru can also be found on the Internet at:

http://www.teldir.com/eng/csam/pe_

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Emigration and immigration sources list the names of people leaving (emigration) or coming into (immigration) Peru. These sources are usually passenger lists, permissions to emigrate, records of passports issued, or lists of prisoners deported. The information in these records may include the emigrants' names, ages, occupations, destinations, and places of origin or birthplaces.

In addition to their usefulness in determining where an immigrant lived prior to leaving his or her native country, these records can help in constructing family groups. If you don't find your ancestor, you may find emigration information on neighbors of your ancestor. People who lived near each other often settled together in the country they emigrated to.

People emigrated from Peru to the United States, Canada, Brazil, Ecuador, Chile, Colombia, Bolivia, Mexico, Australia, and other countries. The emigration to the United States began in the mid-1850s and much earlier to South American countries. Most of the early emigrants to the United States of America settled in California. Emigration was minimal, however, until after the 1940s, when many Peruvians left for the west coast of the United States, Canadian British Columbia, and other countries.

Finding the Emigrant's Town of Origin

Once you have traced your family back to your immigrant ancestor, you must determine the city or town the ancestor was from. Peru has no nationwide index to birth, marriage, or death records. Vital records were kept locally with duplicates sent to the Superior Court of Justice of the Republic (*Corte Superior de Justicia de la República*).

There are several sources that may help you find your ancestor's place of origin. You may be able to learn the town your ancestor came from by talking to older family members. Members of your family or a library may have documents that name the city or town, such as:

- Birth, marriage, and death certificates
- Obituaries
- Journals
- Photographs
- Letters
- Family Bibles

- Church certificates or records
- Naturalization applications and petitions
- Passenger lists
- Passports
- Family heirlooms

A good book on Peruvian immigration is:

Arona, Juan de. *La Inmigración en el Perú* (Immigration in Peru). Lima: Biblioteca Pública de la Cámara de Diputados, 1971. (FHL book 985 W2a.)

Additional information about finding the origins of immigrant ancestors is given in *Tracing Your Immigrant Origins* (34111).

Emigration from Spain

Before 1775, most of the emigrants from Spain came from the regions of Castilla, Andalucía, or Extremadura. The people from Cataluña, Aragón, Galicia, and Vascongadas were excluded from the Americas by the Court of the Indies (*Consejo de Indias*). After 1775, Carlos III of Spain gave permission to all Spaniards to colonize any part of Spanish America. Emigrants from Spain left records documenting their migration in the port of departure as well as in the country they moved to.

People desiring to emigrate from Spain or those migrating within the colonies in South America were required to register at the time of departure. Some of these records include:

- Permissions to emigrate
- Probates of relatives who stayed
- Church records (annotations)
- Passports
- Court records

These records are not available for research at the Family History Library but may be found at the national archives of the departure country.

Colonial Period (1492–1821)

Various Spanish archives have records that may show the emigrant's origin. The principle archives are the General Archives of the Indies (*Archivo General de Indias*) in Seville, Spain; the Military Archives of Segovia; and the General Archive of Simancas. For further information on military archives, see the

“Military Records” and “Archives and Libraries” sections of this outline.

You may want to look for your ancestor’s records in the following sections of the General Archives of the Indies:

- *Informaciones de Méritos y Servicios de los Descubridores/Conquistadores* (Information on Merits and Services of the Discoverers and Conquerors): This includes documents of the ships and passengers who sailed to the colonies during the early 1500's.
- *Casa de Contratación de las Indias* (House of Contracts of the Indies): This is an excellent documentation of passenger lists for ships sailing to the American colonies between 1509 and 1701, as well as petitions and licenses for permission to emigrate during the period 1534 to 1790.

For early emigration, you should search the following book, which indexes documents of the ships and passengers who sailed to the colonies during the early 1500s:

Catálogo de Pasajeros a las Indias durante los Siglos XVI, XVII, y XVIII (Catalog of Passengers to the Indies during the 16th, 17th, and 18th Centuries). Seville: s.n., 1940–. (FHL book 946 W2sa; films 0277577–0277578.)

The Mid-1800s

Ship arrivals and passenger lists provide the best documentation of immigrants who came to South America after the middle of the 19th century. These records are housed in the national archives of each of the countries in South America. (For information about archives, see the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline.)

Other important sources of information for your immigrant ancestors are the emigration records that may exist from the departure port city.

During the early period, most Spanish emigrants left through the ports of Seville, Cádiz, San Lucar de Barrameda, and Málaga in southern Spain. These records were housed in the cities of Cádiz and Seville. Later the ports of San Sebastián, Bilbao, Santander, and La Coruña in northern Spain were added as departure cities not only for Spaniards but also for other Europeans. These emigrants most always

traveled first to *Islas Canarias* (the Canary Islands), where they resided for a short time, before continuing travel to the Americas. Currently these records are housed in the General Archive of the Indies in Seville.

The records of departures from these ports are called passenger lists. The information contained in these lists varies over time but usually includes the emigrant’s name, age, occupation, and destination. The lists may also include the names of other family members, and the emigrant’s last town of residence or birthplace.

Emigration to America slowed drastically between 1790–1825 due to wars of independence in the Latin American colonies. Beginning in 1840, an increased number of people immigrated to Latin America seeking religious, economical, or political freedom. The first major group of immigrants were Chinese laborers who came between 1850–1875 to work on the guano deposits of the Chincha Islands and on the railroads.

Emigration from Japan

Many Japanese immigrant laborers arrived in Peru at the end of the 19th century and early 20th century. Japanese trade with Peru expanded after World War II. The following records, located in Japan, contain information about these Japanese immigrants:

Peru-koku e honpojin dekasegi ikken (Japanese ‘Away-from-Home’ Workers in Peru). Tokyo: Kokusai Maikuo Shashin Kogyosha, [n.d.]. (FHL film 1591703 item 3–1591708 item 2.)

Peru imin kankei zakken (Japanese Emigration to Peru). Tokyo: Kokusai Maikuo Shashin Kogyosha, [n.d.]. (FHL films 1264041–1264042, 1264044–45, 1250049, and 1250051.) This contains assorted papers on Japanese emigration to Peru that were handled 1899–1921.

Nihonjin Peru iju no kiroku (The Japanese Immigrants to Peru). Tokyo: Shadan Hojin Raten Amerika Kyokai, 1969. (FHL book 985 W2n.)

Imin unsosen kankei zakken (Papers on Japanese Emigration). Tokyo: Kokusai Maikuro Shashin Kogyosha, [n.d.]. (FHL films 1250044, 1264047–1264049, and 1250066.)

Emigration from Other Areas

Most people who emigrated from Europe left through the ports of Hamburg, LeHavre, Liverpool, Naples, Rotterdam, or Trieste. The records of Hamburg and some other European ports have been microfilmed and are available in the collection of the Family History Library. See *Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850–1934* (34047).

Other emigration and immigration records for Peru include:

Emigración china para el Perú, 1854-1876
(Chinese Emigration to Peru, 1854–1876).
Arequipa: Onvento del la Merced, 1990. (FHL film 1563431 item 7.) This book includes the records of the Chinese immigrants who came from Macao.

Reseñas de pasaportes de varios consulados, 1921-1939 (Muster of the Passports of Various Consulates, 1921–1939). Bogotá: Archivo General de Colombia, 1987. (FHL film 1511647 item 7.)

Yugoslavos en el Perú (Yugoslavs in Peru). Lima: Editorial “La Equidad,” 1985. (FHL book 985 F2m.)

See also the “Minorities” section of this outline.

Immigration to Peru

The main port of entry for most immigrants to Peru was Callao, near Lima. Unfortunately, no passenger lists of immigrants arriving in Callao have been microfilmed. Such records may exist in the archives of Peru.

Records at the Family History Library

The Family History Library has some microfilm copies of records and related books. The film or call numbers of these records are listed in the locality section of the Family History Library Catalog:

PERU - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION
SPAIN - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

See also records under the heading “Colonization”:

PERU - COLONIZATION

ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND DICTIONARIES

Encyclopedias provide information on all branches of knowledge or treat a specific topic comprehensively, usually in articles arranged alphabetically. They often contain information of great interest for genealogical research, including articles about towns and places, prominent people, minorities, and religions. They can also give information about diverse topics such as record-keeping practices, laws, customs, commerce, costumes, occupations, and archaic terminology. The following encyclopedias and encyclopedic reference books may be particularly helpful in your research:

The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Latin America and the Caribbean. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1992. (FHL book 980 A5c.)

Schaefer, Christina K. *Genealogical Encyclopedia of the Colonial Americas: A Complete Digest of the Records of All the Countries of the Western Hemisphere*. Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., Inc., 1998. (FHL book 929.11812 D26s.)

Diccionario Enciclopédico del Perú (Encyclopedic Dictionary of Peru). 3 vols. Lima: Juan Mejía Baca, 1966. (FHL book 985 A5de.)

Encyclopedias are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

PERU - ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND
DICTIONARIES

For information on language dictionaries, see the “Language and Languages” section of this outline.

GAZETTEERS

A gazetteer is a dictionary of place-names. Gazetteers describe *haciendas* (large ranches), towns and villages, districts, provinces, departments, population, rivers, mountains, and other geographical features. They usually include only the names of places that existed at the time the gazetteer was published. The place-names are generally listed in alphabetical order, similar to a dictionary.

Gazetteers may also provide additional information about towns, such as:

- Religious denominations
- Schools, colleges, and universities
- Major manufacturing works, canals, docks, and railroad stations
- Distances

You can use a gazetteer to locate the places where your family lived and to determine the civil jurisdictions over those places. There are many places in Peru with the same or similar names. For example, there are several jurisdictions with the locality Acobamba:

- Acobamba, province of Sihuas, department of Ancash
- Acobamba, province of Acobamba, department of Huancavelica
- Acobamba, province of Tarma, department of Junin
- Santo Domingo de Acobamba, province of Huancayo, department of Junin

You will need to use a gazetteer to identify the specific town where your ancestor lived, the district, province, and department it was in, and the jurisdictions where records about it were created and kept.

Gazetteers are also helpful for determining the department, province, and district jurisdictions used in the Family History Library Catalog.

Finding Place Names in the Family History Library Catalog

Place names in the Family History Library Catalog are listed under the modern names and the names of departments and provinces as they existed in 1922. To find the department and province that a town is filed under in the Family History Library Catalog, you can use the “see” references on the first Family History Library Locality Catalog microfiche of each department. If you are using the catalog on compact disc, use the Locality Search. The computer will find places with that name.

Because of the many changes in place names, the Family History Library uses one gazetteer as the standard guide for listing places in the Family History Library Catalog. Regardless of the names a place may have had at various times, all Peruvian places are listed in the Family History Library Catalog by the name they are listed under in:

Steglich, German. *Diccionario geográfico del Perú* (Geographical Dictionary of Peru). 3 vols. Lima: Torres Aguirre, 1922. (FHL book 985.E5s; film 0845239.)

Other supporting sources are:

Demarcación Política del Perú (Political Boundaries of Peru). Lima: Instituto Geográfico Nacional, 1983. (FHL book 985 E5d.)

Demarcación Política del Perú por Departamentos, Provincias y Distritos (Political Boundaries of Peru by Departments, Provinces, and Districts). Lima: Instituto Nacional de Planificación, 1984. (FHL book 985 E5dp; film 1224501 item 5.)

Perú: Directorio Nacional de Municipalidades Provinciales y Distritales (Peru: National Directory of Provincial and District Municipalities). Lima: Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Información, 1999.

Historical Place Names

Because names and boundaries of some places have changed or no longer exist, you may need to use sources that describe places as they were known earlier. Some of the historical national gazetteers that identify places in Peru are:

Álisky, Marvin. *Historical Dictionary of Peru*. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1979. (FHL book 985 H26a.)

Peru: Official Standard Names Approved by the U.S. Board of Geographical Names. Washington, DC: Central Intelligence Agency, 1955. (FHL book 985 E5p; film 1102987 item 1.)

Diccionario enciclopédico del Perú ilustrado (Illustrated Encyclopedic Dictionary of Peru). 3 vols. Lima: Editorial Mijia Baca, 1966. (FHL book 985 A5de; film 1162476 items 1–3.)

Gazetteers are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

PERU - GAZETTEERS
 PERU, [DEPARTMENT] - GAZETTEERS
 PERU - DESCRIPTION AND TRAVEL

GENEALOGY

The term *genealogy* is used in this outline and in the Family History Library Catalog to describe a variety of records containing family information gathered by individuals, researchers, societies, or archives. These records may include pedigree charts, compiled information on families, correspondence, ancestor lists, research exchange files, record abstracts, and collections of original or copied documents. These can be excellent sources of information that can save you valuable time. Because they are compiled from other sources of information, they must be carefully evaluated for accuracy.

Additional sources of genealogy for noble families in Peru are described in the “Nobility” section of this outline.

Major Collections and Databases

The Family History Library has several sources that contain previous research or can lead you to other researchers who are interested in sharing family information. These sources include:

- *International Genealogical Index*. The index provides names and vital information for many deceased persons who lived in Peru. This valuable research tool lists birth, christening, and marriage dates. The index for Peru includes names extracted from parish registers by volunteers and names submitted by other researchers.

The International Genealogical Index is available on microfiche and on compact disc as part of FamilySearch.

- *Ancestral File*. This file, part of FamilySearch, contains family history information linked in family groups and pedigrees that has been contributed since 1979. As of 1999, the file contains the names of millions of persons, including hundreds of Peruvian families. Ancestral File can print pedigree charts, family group records, and individual summary sheets for any person in the file.
- *Family Group Records Collection*. More than 8 million family group record forms have been microfilmed in the Family Group Records Collection, but very few are from South America. There are two major sections: the Archive Section and the Patrons Section. The film numbers for both

sections are listed in the “Author/Title” section of the Family History Library Catalog under “Family Group Records Collection.”

- *Social Security Death Index*. The Social Security Death Index lists all the people in the United States who held social security numbers and who died between 1962 and 1996. The index can lead to other social security records that may provide your ancestor’s birthplace in Peru.

Share Your Information with Others. Your family history can become a source of enjoyment for you and your family. You can submit your family history information to the Pedigree Resource File (see the Internet site www.familysearch.org for instructions). You may want to compile your findings into a family history and share it with family members, the Family History Library, and other archives.

Family Histories

A few Peruvian families have produced histories or newsletters that include genealogical information, biographies, photographs, and other excellent information. These usually include several generations of the family.

The Family History Library has few published Peruvian family histories. Copies at the Family History Library are listed in the surname section of the Family History Library Catalog. Not every name found in a family history will be listed in the Family History Library Catalog. Only the major surnames discussed in the family history are included in the catalog.

There are also unpublished family histories found in private collections. These include a variety of unpublished records pertaining to specific families, usually Peruvian nobility or prominent families. Such materials are generally inaccessible for research unless you can establish contact with the person who owns the materials.

Many Peruvian family histories are indexed in:

Boletín del Instituto Peruano de Investigaciones Genealógicas (Bulletin of Peruvian Genealogical Investigations). Lima: El Instituto, 194– . (FHL book 985 D25i.) This publication is a continuation of the periodical *Boletín Interno*.

Revista del Instituto Peruano de Investigaciones Genealógicas (Review of the Peruvian Institute of Genealogical Investigations). Lima: El Instituto, 1946-. (FHL book 985 D25r.)

For an index to more than 2,000 published Latin American family histories, see:

Platt, Lyman D. *Una Bibliografía de Historias Familiares de Latinoamérica y los Estados Unidos* (A Bibliography of Family Histories of Latin America and the United States). Salt Lake City: Instituto Genealógico e Histórico Latinoamericano, 1990. (FHL book 980 D23p.)

HERALDRY

Spanish *hidalgos* (or *hijos de algo*) meaning “sons of status,” were untitled nobles by lineage. The Iberian nobility originated during the time of the Spanish reconquest of the peninsula from the Moors (about A.D. 700–1492). Those who were leaders or who were especially valiant in the early days of the campaign were awarded hidalgo status. Many original hidalgos came from the northern Spanish provinces of Guipúzcoa and Vizcaya.

In later generations, in order to prove nobility (*hidalguía*) individuals needed to show their noble lineage back to their great-grandparents. The status of hidalgo did not necessarily mean wealth. In fact, some were laborers and shopkeepers. However, hidalgo were entitled to the inherent social and legal rights of the nobility.

In Peru and Spain, only members of the noble class were entitled to bear coats of arms. The kings rewarded persons who performed a heroic deed, made a notable achievement, or held a prominent position in government by granting them a noble title and the right to use a coat of arms. These grants were documented and may include:

- **Census records (*censos*).** Censuses were often compiled to determine who was exempt from commoners’ tax and military conscription, two benefits of hidalgo status. These census records are generally available in local city halls.
- **Genealogical reports (*informaciones genealógicas*) and purity of blood reports (*limpiezas de sangre*).** These reports served as proof of nobility so that the hidalgo might join a

noble fraternal order or obtain a government position. These reports are available in local municipal archives in Spain and Portugal, as well as in archives in major Latin American colonial capitals. For information about how to contact these archives, see the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline.

Most national archives in Spain have records relating to hidalgos. The archives of the Chancery of Valladolid (*Chancillería de Valladolid*) and the Chancery of the City Real (*Chancillería de Ciudad Real* [Granada]) have special sections for court records of hidalgos. Hidalgos customarily went before royal chancery courts to establish their nobility. The hidalgos section of the archive in Valladolid, Spain, is indexed in:

Basanta de la Riva, Alfredo. *Sala de los Hidalgos, Catálogo de Todos los Pleitos y Expedientes y Probanzas* (The Hidalgo Room, Catalog of Litigations, Proceedings, and Proofs). Madrid: Ediciones Hidalguía, 1955–1956. (FHL book 946 D53b.)

Various authors have prepared books on heraldry. An armorial is a collection of descriptions of coats of arms and the families that bear them. It also briefly describes their entitlement to that coat of arms. It may note early bearers of that coat of arms, sometimes with relationships, birth dates, and other genealogical information. Each armorial will differ from others and will include different names. Some minor noble families are not included in any books. You can learn about your Peruvian coats of arms from Spanish family histories and heraldry books. The following book can also be helpful:

García Carraffa, Alberto, and Arturo García Carraffa. *Diccionario heráldico y genealógico de apellidos españoles y americanos* (Heraldic and Genealogical Dictionary of Spanish and Spanish American Surnames). 86 vols. Madrid: Nueva Imprenta Radio, 1952–1963. (FHL book 946 D6gc; films 0035112–22 [76 vols A–R].) Each volume has its own index. The microfilm copy only includes volumes through surnames beginning with *R*.

Heraldic materials are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

PERU - HERALDRY
SPAIN - HERALDRY
LATIN AMERICA - HERALDRY

Sources with information about noble ancestors are listed under:

[COUNTRY] - NOBILITY

In addition noble families are often subjects of published genealogical books or articles. (See the “Genealogy” and “Nobility” sections of this outline.)

HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY

Spain instituted a viceroyalty system to govern its possessions in the New World. During the nearly three centuries of the colonial period, legal records and documents were subject to the jurisdiction of the appropriate viceroyalty.

The viceroyalty of Peru from 1543–1821 included Chile, Peru, and parts of Bolivia.

Some important dates concerning the changes in boundaries of Peru include:

1542– 1821 The Viceroyalty of Peru was divided into the Audiencias of Panamá (1535), Lima (1542), Santa Fe de Bogotá (1549), Charcas (1559; now Bolivia), Quito (1563), Buenos Aires (1661), Chile (1565 and 1609), Rio de la Plata (1777), and Cuzco (1787). Other governmental divisions created were commissions (*encomiendas*), provinces (*provincias*), and corrector district (*corregimientos*).

1717, 1739 The Virreinato of Santa Fe was erected. It was suppressed from 1723 to 1739.

1777, 1783– 1784 The Virreinato of Buenos Aires was erected. The area of Peru was divided into seven Intendencias: Lima, Arequipa, Tarma, Huancavelica, Huamanga, Trujillo, Arica, Puno, and Cuzco. These were divided into districts (*partidos*). Later these Intendencias’ boundaries were arranged to coincide with the boundaries of the dioceses.

1836– 1839 Peru and Bolivia were united until Chile won the battle of Yungay.

1862– 1866 Peru was at war with Spain.

1879– 1883 The War of the Pacific resulted in the loss of Tarata until 1925 and Tacna until 1929. Tarapaca and Arica were permanently lost to Chile.

The viceroalties were subdivided into legislative divisions called *audiencias*. These audiencias supervised local courts, applied Spanish law, and established a legal tradition that has persisted in Hispanic America. The jurisdictions of the audiencias formed the basic territories of the Latin American republics once they gained independence from Spain.

The following list indicates the years in which audiencias were established under the viceroyalty for Peru, which included Chile:

- Cuzco -1787
- Lima - 1542
- Santiago - 1609

During the 19th century, international conflicts and border disputes altered many political jurisdictions of South America. These changes affected the subsequent registration of the local population.

Chile acquired the mineral-rich Atacama Desert when it prevailed in the 1879–1883 War of the Pacific against Peru and Bolivia. The acquisition extended Chile’s northern border and completely cut off Bolivia’s access to the sea.

You may need to determine previous boundaries and jurisdictions to locate your ancestors’ records. Gazetteers and histories are helpful sources of information about these changes.

The following book explains more about the historical geography of South America. You can find this and similar materials at the Family History Library and many other research libraries.

Bartholomew, John (John George). *A Literary & Historical Atlas of America*. New York: E. P. Dutton, 1910. (FHL book 912.19812 B283.)

Creation of Peruvian Departments

The departments of Peru were created as follows
(* indicates former Intendency):

Lima*	1821	
Amazonas	1832	
Ancash	1821	earlier known as Huaylás
Apurímac	1873	from Cuzco and Huamanga*
Arequipa*	1822	
Ayacucho*	1822	earlier known as Huamanga
Cajamarca	1855	
Callao	1836	from Lima
Cuzco*	1822	
Huancavelica*	1822	anciently part of Huamanga, today Ayacucho
Huánuco	1823	from Junin
Ica	1866	
Junín	1825	anciently an Intendencia of Tarma
La Libertad	1821	
Lambayeque	1874	from La Libertad
Loreto	1861	from Amazonas
Madre de Dios	1912	from Cusco and Puno
Moquegua	1957	from Arequipa
Pasco	1944	from Junin
Piura	1861	
Puno*	1822	
San Martín	1906	from Loreto
Tacna	1875	part of Chile from 1883–1929
Tumbes	1901	
Ucayali	1980-1983	from Loreto

Other sources about boundary changes are found in the Family History Library Catalog under:

PERU - HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY
PERU - HISTORY
PERU, [DEPARTMENT] - HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY
PERU, [DEPARTMENT] - HISTORY

HISTORY

Effective family research requires some understanding of the historical events that may have affected your family and the records about them. Learning about wars, governments, laws, migrations, and religious trends may help you understand political boundaries, family movements, and settlement patterns. These events may have led to the creation of records, such as

land and military documents, that mention your family.

Your ancestors' history will become more interesting to you if you also learn about the events in which they may have participated. For example, by using a history you might learn about the events that occurred in the year your great-grandparents were married.

Historical Chronology of Peru

- 1524 The Supreme Council of the West Indies was created.
- 1532 The Spanish conquered Peru.
- 1535 Lima was founded by Pizarro. The colonial governor was established.
- 1538 The earliest existing parish registers began.
- 1551 Dominican friars founded the University of San Marcos at Lima. The Council of Lima set rules for record keeping.
- 1564 A papal bull required the keeping of parish registers.
- 1568 The Jesuits arrived in Peru.
- 1570 The Court of Holy Office of the Inquisition was founded in Lima.
- 1718 The smallpox epidemic struck Peru.
- 1798 Chile attained complete autonomy.
- 1821 Peru declared independence from Spain, but it was not until 1826 that the Spanish Royal forces were finally defeated. The Department of Lima was created.
- 1822 The old districts (*partidos*) became provinces (*provincias*), and almost all the parishes (*parroquias*) became districts (*distritos*). Today, Peru is divided into departments, provinces, and districts.

The Family History Library has a few published histories for Peru. You can find histories in the Family History Library Catalog under one of the following:

PERU - HISTORY
PERU, [DEPARTMENT] - HISTORY
PERU, [DEPARTMENT], [DISTRICT] - HISTORY

Books with film numbers can be ordered through local Family History Centers. Some may be found in major research libraries. The following are only a few of the many historical sources that are available:

Alisky, Marvin. *Historical Dictionary of Peru*. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1979. (FHL book 985 H26a.)

Prescott, William H. *History of the Conquest of Peru*. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1947. (FHL book 985 H2p; film number 0908188 items 1–2.)

Local Histories

Some of the most valuable sources for family history research are local histories. They describe the settlement of an area and the founding of churches, schools, and businesses. You can also find lists of early settlers, soldiers, and civil officials. Even if your ancestor is not listed, information on other relatives may be included that will provide important clues for locating your ancestor. A local history may also provide clues for finding other records to search.

In addition, you should study local histories for the background information they can provide about your family's lifestyle, community, and environment.

The Family History Library has some local histories for towns in Peru. Similar histories are often available at major public and university libraries and archives.

A helpful bibliography of local histories is:

Valle Goicochea, Luis. *Bibliografía de obras y artículos por M.R.P. Fr. Victor M. Barriga* (Bibliography of the Works and Articles of Victor M. Barriga). Arequipa, Perú: [s.n.], 1947. (FHL book 985 A1 no.4.)

Bibliographies can be found in the Family History Library Catalog under:

PERU - BIBLIOGRAPHY
PERU, [DEPARTMENT] - BIBLIOGRAPHY
PERU - HISTORY - BIBLIOGRAPHY
PERU, [DEPARTMENT] - HISTORY -
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Calendar Changes

The Gregorian calendar, the calendar in common use today, is a correction of the Julian calendar, which had been in use since A.D. 46. Leap years had been miscalculated in the Julian calendar. By 1582, the calendar was 10 days behind the solar year.

In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII issued a papal bull, modifying the calendar to correct the problem. He declared that the day following 4 October 1582

would become 15 October. Other adjustments were made in the calendar to prevent future leap year miscalculations.

Spain adopted the new system in 1582, and the Spanish territories in the New World rapidly followed Spain's example. Peru accepted the new calendar in 1584.

LAND AND PROPERTY

Land records are primarily used to learn where an individual lived and when he or she lived there. They often reveal other family information, such as the name of a spouse, heir, other relatives, or neighbors. You may learn where a person lived previously, his or her occupation, and other clues for further research. In Peru, only a very small percentage of the population were included in land records because few people owned land.

Land records in Peru begin in 1528 and are found in notarial, municipal, and ecclesiastical records in the National Archive (*Archivo General de la Nación*) in Madrid. Other records are in the National Archive (*Archivo General del La Nación*) and in the National Library (*Biblioteca Nacional*) in Lima. You might be able to use land records for your research if you can visit the Peruvian archives in person or hire a local research agent.

The Family History Library does not have copies of land records from Peru. Because of the availability of better genealogical sources, such as church records and civil registration, land records are seldom used in Peruvian research.

LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES

Most materials used in Peruvian research are written in Spanish. However, you do not need to speak or read Spanish to do research in Peruvian records. You will need to know some key words and phrases to understand the records, however.

Because of Peru's history, Roman Catholic records are the most common. You may find other languages in Peruvian records for areas with large populations of German, Italian, Japanese, and other immigrants.

Spanish grammar affects the way names appear in genealogical records. For help in understanding name variations, see the “Names, Personal” section of this outline.

Language Aids

The Family History Library has genealogical word lists for Spanish (34104), German (34067), Latin (34077), Polish (34098), Portuguese (34099), and French (34060). The following books and English-Spanish dictionaries can also aid you in your research. You can find these and similar material at many research libraries:

Blanco Garcia, Vicente. *Diccionario ilustrado latino-espanol y espanol-latino* (Illustrated Dictionary Latin-Spanish and Spanish-Latin). Madrid: Aguilar, 1968. (FHL book 473.61 B598d.)

Cassell's Spanish-English, English-Spanish Dictionary. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1978. (FHL book 463.21 C272c.)

Ramos Wold, Lillian, and Ophelia Marquez. *Compilation of Colonial Spanish Terms and Document Related Phrases*. Fullerton, Calif.: Society of Hispanic Historical and Ancestral Research, 1996. (FHL book 467.97203 W83c.)

Additional language aids, including dictionaries of various dialects and time periods, are listed in the Family History Library Catalog in the “Locality” section under:

PERU - LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES

Some dictionaries can also be found in the “Subject” section under:

SPANISH LANGUAGE - DICTIONARIES
SPANISH LANGUAGE - DICTIONARIES -
ENGLISH

MAPS

Maps are an important source for locating the places where your ancestors lived. They help you see the neighboring towns and geographic features of the area your ancestor came from.

Maps can show places, parishes, geographical features, transportation routes, and proximity to other towns. Historical maps are especially useful for understanding boundary changes.

Maps are published individually or as an atlas, a bound collection of maps. Maps may also be included in gazetteers, guidebooks, local histories, and history texts.

Different types of maps will help you in different ways. Historical atlases describe the growth and development of countries. They show boundaries, migration routes, settlement patterns, military campaigns, and other historical information. Road atlases are also useful. They contain detailed maps and an alphabetical index of place names. Other types of maps may include department or provincial atlases and topographical maps.

Using Maps

Maps must be used carefully for several reasons:

- There are often several places with the same name. For example, there are seven towns called La Union in present-day Peru.
- The spelling and even names of some towns may have changed since your ancestors lived there.
- Some localities have different names in different languages.
- Place-names are often misspelled in foreign sources. Difficult names may have been shortened and important diacritic marks omitted.
- Political boundaries may not be clearly indicated on all maps.

Finding the Specific Town on the Map

To do successful research in Peru, you must correctly identify the town where your ancestor lived. Because many towns have the same name, you may need some additional information before you can locate the correct town on a map. You will be more successful if you have some information about the town. Search gazetteers, histories, family records, and other sources to learn all you can about the following:

- The department and district the ancestor came from.
- The name of the parish where your ancestor was baptized or married.
- Towns where related ancestors lived.
- The size of the town.

- Industries of the area.
- The occupation of your ancestor or his relatives (this may indicate the size of the town and the industries that operated there).
- Nearby localities, such as large cities.
- Nearby features, such as rivers and mountains.
- Dates when the town was renamed.
- Dates the town existed.
- Other names the town was known by.

See the “Gazetteers” section of this outline for further information on locating your ancestor’s town.

Finding Maps and Atlases

Collections of maps and atlases are available at numerous historical societies and at public and university libraries. Major collections for Peru are at the National Library of Peru.

The Family History Library has a small collection of Peruvian maps and atlases. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

PERU - MAPS

Some helpful maps at the Family History Library are:

Mapa político y físico del Perú (Political and Physical Map of Peru). Scale 1:2,500,000. Lima: El Instituto Geográfico Nacional, 1970. (FHL map 985 E7m.)

Curletti, Lauro A. *Mapa ferroviario del Perú* (Railway Map of Peru). Scale: 1:300,000. Lima: Lit. T. Scleuch, 1922. (FHL map 985 E7v.)

A helpful atlas for Peru is:

Penaherra del Aguila, Carlos. *Atlas del Perú: proyecto especial Atlas del Perú* (Atlas of Peru: Special Plan Atlas of Peru). Lima: El Instituto Geográfico Nacional, 1989. (FHL book 985 E7a.) Scale varies. 196 maps.

An excellent national historical atlas is:

Atlas del Perú (Atlas of Peru). Lima: “Guía Lascano,” 1968–69. (FHL book 985 E7p.)

A bibliography of Peruvian maps and atlases is:

Torres Lanzas, Pedro. *Catálogo de mapas y planos: Virreinato del Perú: Perú y Chile* (Catalog of Maps and Plans: Viceroyalty of Peru: Peru and Chile). Madrid: Ministerio de Cultura, 1985. (FHL book 985 E73t.)

You can purchase maps of Peru from:

El Instituto Geográfico Nacional
Av. Aramburu 1198
Lima, Lima, PERU
Tel: 011-51-14-225-5944

MILITARY RECORDS

Military records (*militares*) identify individuals who served in the military or who were eligible for service. Most young men were required to serve in or register for military service in Peru. Evidence that an ancestor actually served may be found in family records, biographies, census, notarial records, civil registration, and church records.

Military records begin about 1550 and give information about an ancestor’s military career, such as promotions, places served, pensions, and personal conduct. In addition, these records usually include information about an ancestor’s age, birthplace, residence, occupation, physical description, and family members. Many military records in Peru provide very few details about individuals other than officers.

Military records include:

- Muster rolls (*listas de revistas*)
- Personnel files (*hojas de servicio*)
- Lists of officers and commissions of officers (*estado mayor y expedientes personales*)
- Pay records (*certificado*)
- Pension records (*pensiones*)
- Naval records (*marina*)
- Military parish records (*capellanías*)
- Military orders (*cofradías y confraternidades*)
- Soldier enlistments (*filiaciones*)
- Awards and service (*méritos y servicios*)

For the colonial period, you can find military records in the National Military Archive in Segovia (*Archivo General Militar de Segovia*) and the National Archive of Simancas (*Archivo General de Simancas*), both in Spain. (See the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline.)

Records of military service in Peru were kept by the Ministry of War (*Ministerio de Guerra*) and Ministry of the Navy (*Ministerio de Marina*). Old records have been collected at the National Archives, Historical Military Archives (*Archivo Histórico Militar*), and the National Library in Lima. Current records are scattered through several archives, kept by the agency that created the records. The Family History Library has few military records from Peru and no naval records.

Military records can be of great value to your research. For most family research, however, they are difficult to access. Other sources, such as church records and civil registration, are more easily available and contain much of the same information. The few Peruvian military records that have been microfilmed are unindexed.

Muster rolls and foundation books give the soldier's name, birthplace, year of birth, religion, personal description, and his date of induction. These records also include remarks.

The library has the following military records for Peru:

Hojas de Servicios Militares de America: Virreinato de Perú, 1788–1800 (Records of Military Service in America: Viceroyalty of Peru, 1788–1800). Madrid: Servicio Nacional de Microfilm, 1971. (FHL films 1156346–51).

Documentos militares de Arequipa, Perú, 1777–1919 (Military Documents of Arequipa, Peru, 1777–1919). Arequipa: Convento de la Merced, 1990. (FHL film 1563431 items 5–6.)

To use Peruvian military records, you will have to determine the specific unit your ancestor served in. If the records of your ancestor do not provide this information, it may be possible to learn which units were in the area where he lived. To do this, you must know at least the town where the individual was living when he was of age to serve in the military.

Military History

Peru was involved in the following military actions:

1530s	Conquest of the Inca Empire
1539-	Conflicts with Pizarro and his lieutenants,
1569	civil disorders and Indian rebellions

1819-	Battles and defeat of the Royalist forces of
1826	the Viceroy. (The last battle was fought in
	Ayacucho in 1824.)
1829	Battle of Portete de Tarqui
1834	Battle of Cangallo was fought to oppose the
	rule of Luis José de Orbegozo
1820-	War with Chile
1839	
1821-	War with Bolivia (and Ecuador)
1841	
1859	War with Ecuador
1822-	War of the Pacific with Chile
1883	
1895	Piérola led revolt
1823-	Peruvian-Colombian conflict over the area
1933	of Trapecio Amazonico
1824-	Peruvian-Ecuadorian border conflict. The
1942	Peruvian forces invaded the Province of El
	Oro.

For more historical information about the Peruvian military wars and campaigns, see:

Villanueva, Victor. *100 años del Ejército Peruano: frustraciones y cambios* (100 Years of Peruvian Army: Frustrations and Changes). Lima: Editorial Juan Mejía Baca, 1972. (FHL book 985 M2v.)

Barra, Felipe de la. *Asuntos militares* (Military Affairs). Lima: Comisión Nacional del Sesquicentenario del Perú, 197-. (FHL book 985 M29b.) The library has volumes 2–6.

Additional military histories are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

PERU - MILITARY HISTORY

MINORITIES

Peru is primarily made up of three distinct ethnic groups:

- The white population—10 to 15 percent of the population—is mostly concentrated on the coast around Lima and in a few of the larger cities of the highlands such as Cuzco and Arequipa. Most are descendants of Spanish emigrants.
- Mestizos—about 50 percent of the population—are mostly descendants of mixed white and Indian

heritage. They are found throughout the country but live mostly in rural areas and in the highlands.

- Indians—about 30 percent of the population—are made up of the eastern or Selva Indians and the highland or Sierra Indians. The Sierra Indians are the largest group (about 2 million) in Peru. They speak Quechua and Aymara. About half of the Indians speak only their native Indian languages. The term *Cholo* refers to Indians who have adopted the Spanish language and culture. (See the “Native Races” section of this outline for further information.)

The number of Black slaves was never a significant element of the population. Smaller ethnic minorities include Jews, Japanese, Chinese, Spaniards, Germans, and Italians. It is important to learn the history of the ethnic, racial, and religious groups your ancestors belonged to. For example, you might study a history of the Jews in Peru, Germans in Peru, or Japanese in Peru. This historical background can help you identify where your ancestors lived and when they lived there, where they migrated, the types of records they might be listed in, and other information to help you understand your family’s history.

For some minorities in Peru, there are unique records and resources available. These include histories, gazetteers, biographical sources, minority settlements, and handbooks.

Descendants of Peruvian immigrants in the United States and other countries have organized local and national societies to gather, preserve, and share the cultural contributions and histories of Peruvian minority groups. Contact the Peruvian Consulate for information on groups you might contact.

The Family History Library has some published histories about Peruvian minority groups. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog “Locality” section under:

PERU - MINORITIES
PERU, [DEPARTMENT] - MINORITIES
PERU - JEWISH HISTORY

Other sources are also in the “Subject” section of the Family History Library Catalog under the name of the minority, such as:

GERMANS - PERU
ITALIANS - PERU
JEWS - PERU

An example of a book on minorities in Peru is:

Meseldzic de Pereyra, Zivana. *Yugoslavos en el Perú* (Yugoslavians in Peru). Lima: Editorial “La Equidad,” 1985. (FHL book 985 F2m.)

See the “Emigration and Immigration” section of this outline for more references about specific minority groups in Peru. See the “Court Records” section of this outline for information about records of the Inquisition.

NAMES, PERSONAL

Understanding surnames and given names can help you find and identify your ancestors in records.

Surnames

Before record keeping began most people had only one name, such as Juan. As the population increased, it became necessary to distinguish between individuals with the same name. Until the 10th century, common people did not use a surname. The problem of distinguishing people with the same names was usually solved by adding descriptive information. The Council of Trent (1545–1563) made it mandatory to keep parish records that would list names of children, parents, and godparents.

In 1568 Phillip II decreed that the Moors should abandon their names and adopt Spanish names. Thus, Moorish names such as Ben-egas became Venegas. The French practice of placing *de* before a name as a mark of nobility was also used in Spain, but it was only a preposition of origin (*of* or *from*) used before a geographic name. From long usage, names such as Del Monte became Delmonte and La Villa became Lavilla.

In Spain, the name system was well established by the 1100s, and the naming customs of Spain became the basis for other Spanish-speaking countries. The four influences that played a part in the development of Spanish surnames were patronymical terms, occupational terms, descriptive or nickname terms, and geographical terms (estates, manors, or dominions). Examples of these influences are:

- Patronymic names (based on a parent's name, usually the father's) such as Juan Fernandez (Juan, son of Fernando) or Juan Martinez (Juan, son of Martin).
- Occupational names (based on the person's trade) such as Francisco Ferrera (Francisco the Blacksmith) or José El Molinero (José the Miller).
- Descriptive names or nicknames (based on a unique quality of the person) such as Felipe el Bueno (Felipe the Good) or Domingo Calvo (Domingo the Bald-Headed).
- Toponymic names (based on a person's residence) such as Francisco de Córdoba (Francisco from the city of Córdoba) or Domingo del Río (Domingo from near a river).

At first, surnames applied only to one person and not to the whole family. After a few generations, these names became hereditary and were used from father to son.

Surnames were first used by the nobility and wealthy land owners. Later the custom was followed by merchants and townspeople and eventually by the rural population. This process took two or three centuries. This practice was already well established in Spain prior to the Conquest.

The most common type of family name in Peru is the patronymic surname. Alvarez, Fernandez, Garcia, Chávez, Díaz, and Gonzales(z) are examples of common surnames. Because of immigration to Peru, there are also many surnames of other nationalities. For example Arizmendi is Basque, Benalcázar is Arabic, Chu is Chinese, and Fujimori is Japanese.

In the records a surname may be preceded by the words *alias*, *tambien conocido como*, *conocido como*, or *llamado*, all referring to an alias, which may have later become a surname, used in addition to a surname. This practice is not common in official Spanish records.

Books that discuss Spanish surnames are:

Godoy Alcantara, José. *Ensayo Histórico Etimológico Filológico sobre los Apellidos Castellanos* (A Historical, Etymological, Philological Study on Spanish Surnames). Barcelona: Ediciones El Albir, 1975. (FHL book 946 D4g; film 1183629 item 10.)

Wold, Lillian Ramos. *Hispanic Surnames: History and Genealogy*. Fullerton, Calif.: Society of Hispanic Historical and Ancestral Research, 1994. (FHL book 946 D4h.)

Platt, Lyman D. *Hispanic Surnames and Family History*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1996. (FHL book 980 D43p.)

Given Names

Present-day Spanish has influences from Hebrew, Latin, German, French, Italian, Greek, Arabic, and Catalan. Peruvian given names are usually derived from Spanish Biblical names, such as José; the names of a saint, such as Juana; or from old German given names, such as Sigfrido.

When baptized, children were usually given two names, such as José María or María del Socorro. Some of these may be the names of parents or other relatives. Today, children may be named without regard to the original meaning of the name, named after the saint day, or named after a favorite relative. In Peru the child was usually called by the first name given at baptism.

Given names are translated into 23 different European languages (including English) in:

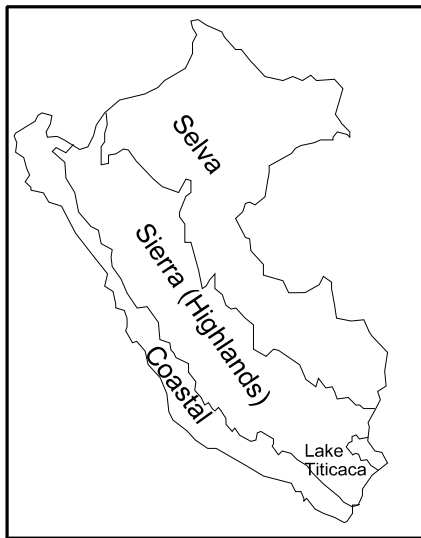
Janowowa, Wanda, and others. *Słownik Imion* (Dictionary of Names). Wrocław: Ossoliński, 1975. (FHL book 940 D4si; film 1181578 item 2; fiche 6000839.)

Many books discuss names and their meanings. Books that provide understanding of Spanish names include:

Gordon, Raymond L. *Spanish Personal Names*. Yellow Springs, Ohio: Antioch College, 1968. (FHL book 980 D4g; film 0924066.)

Gosnell, Charles F. *Spanish Personal Names, Principles Governing Their Formation and Use*. New York: H.W. Wilson Co., 1938 (reprinted by Blaine Ethridge Books, Detroit, 1971). (FHL book 980 D4go.)

Gran Diccionario de los nombres de persona, origen, significado y onomástica de más de 5.500 nombres (Great Dictionary of Personal Names, Origin, Significance and Onomastics of the Major 5,500 Names). Barcelona: Editorial de Vecchi, S.A., 1998. (FHL book 946 D46g.)



Regions of Peru

Each region had distinct Indian cultures and occupations.

NATIVE RACES

The area that became Peru was home to millions of native Americans before the arrival of European explorers.

Coastal Indians cultivated maize, beans, squash, gourds, peanuts, and cotton using irrigation. Highland (*Sierra*) Indians raised llamas and alpacas and also farmed. The coastal and highland Indians lived in small farming villages (*ayllu*) ruled by hereditary chiefs. Amazonian Indians (*Selva*) to the east were involved in hunting, fishing, and gathering. They also farmed but would move from place to place to rotate their farmlands.

During the 15th century the Incas conquered or subjected other Indian tribes along the coast and highlands from present-day Ecuador to Tucumán, Chile. The power in the Inca government was held by only a few people, including the emperor. In order to conquer the empire, Francisco Pizarro simply had to destroy the emperor and impose himself as the ruler.

During colonial times the Spanish rulers exploited the Indians. Adult males were required to provide labor service in mercury and silver mines. Children were forced to labor in workshops (*obrajes*). Devastating epidemics from the Old World diseases, especially smallpox, decimated the Indian population.

After the Spaniards took over, a gradual change took place in the country's ethnic composition. In the first years of the Conquest, single women were prohibited from emigrating to the colony. Most colonists were single males who sought mates among the Indian population. The children of early colonists grew up with many of the native traditions. Eventually a distinct ethnic group called *mestizos* arose, which bridged the gap between whites and Indians.

Although there were over 100 Indian languages still spoken in the early 1970s, many are gradually disappearing. Quechua was the official language of the Inca Empire. Today, about 4 million Peruvians speak Quechua. The next largest number of people speak Aymara, especially in the area around Lake Titicaca. These two languages appear to be fairly stable in modern Peru.

Early Spanish missionaries had little difficulty converting Indians to the new faith. The missionaries represented the conquering power and offered a religion similar to the one it displaced. Many Indians, however, mixed pagan practices and concepts with Christian ideas. Indians in more remote areas of the *Selva* (east of the Andies) remained largely untouched by missionary activities.

Church records and civil registration are the best sources of information about the Indians of Peru. Most Indians were members of the Roman Catholic Church and all of the population of Peru were required to register civilly. For the tribes in the east, who were not included in the early church records or in civil registration, oral traditions may be the most important source of information for your research.

Many books and studies have been published about the Incas and other Indian tribes that have lived in Peru. Many of these studies can be found in public and private libraries and university collections. These studies can provide valuable information about specific tribes, customs, movement patterns, and other historical facts to help you compile your family history. Some examples at the Family History Library include:

Means, Philip Ainsworth. *Ancient Civilizations of the Andes*. New York: Gordon Press, 1964. (FHL book 980 H2m.)

Santa, Elizabeth della. *Historia de los Inca: indagaciones sobre algunos problemas discutidos* (History of the Incas: Investigations

into Some Problem Areas). 7 vols. Arequipa: Edición de la autora, 1969-. (FHL book 985 H2sh; film 0873987 item 4 [vol.1].)

Stein, William W. *Hualcan: Life in the Highlands of Peru*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1975. (FHL book 985.21/H2 H6s.) This is a detailed study of the Indian community of Hualcan, Carhuaz Province, Ancash Department. Other books and records on Indians can be found in the catalog under the "Locality" search and the topic "Native Races":

PERU - NATIVE RACES

PERU, [DEPARTMENT] - NATIVE RACES

During World War II a group of anthropologists and archaeologists from the United States and Latin America collaborated in compiling a classification of South American Indians. The Indians of Peru are included in volume two (*The Andean Civilizations*) and volume three, part three (*Tribes of the Montaña and Bolivian East Andes*), with additional general information in volumes five (*The Comparative Anthropology of South American Indians*) and six (*Physical Anthropology, Linguistics and Cultural Geography of South American Indians*). These books are found at the Family History Library and other libraries:

Steward, Julian H., ed. *Handbook of South American Indians*. 7 vols. New York: Cooper Square Publishers, Inc., 1963. (FHL book 980 F3h.)

Indian names that were processed as special projects for Latter-day Saint temple work can be found in the Family History Library on films 1263089-90, 1267073, and 2055306 item 7.

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization is the process of granting citizenship privileges and responsibilities to residents. In Peru, citizenship was a valuable privilege that included:

- Rights to engage in business in a city.
- Protection under the law.
- Rights to purchase real property.
- The right and obligation to vote.

Those who received the rights to citizenship are recorded in citizenship books. These books include information about the citizen, such as names, ages, social and economic status, occupation and training, and sometimes birthplaces and relationships. Until the 20th century, only males of the middle or upper classes were granted citizenship.

Only natural-born citizens of Peru can hold political office, such as deputy, senator, minister, or president.

Non-citizens are also prohibited from obtaining property within 50 kilometers of the border and living near military establishments. Since 1936, naturalizations have been recorded in the Personal Registry (*Registro Personal*) in the Office of the Civil Registrar (*Oficinas de Registro Civil*).

For Peruvians who moved to the United States, naturalization records in the United States may be an excellent source for determining the specific town or city where your ancestor was born, especially after 1906. (See the "Naturalization and Citizenship" section of the *United States Research Outline* [30972]).

NOBILITY

Most family traditions of noble ancestry turn out, on investigation, to have little foundation in fact. Most members of the noble class did not emigrate to the Peru. In addition, it was not customary to disown members of noble families for unacceptable behavior. Thus, traditions of an ancestor being erased or eliminated from all records are unfounded.

Illegitimate children, though not entitled to noble status, were often recorded. In such cases the father might not be named.

The noble class formed only a small percent of Peru's population. There was a large division between the Spaniards born in Spain and the Spaniards born in Peru. Peru did not recognize Spanish titles after independence.

If in your research in the original records of Peru you find that your ancestor was of the noble class, there are additional records that may be helpful in your research.

The kings rewarded persons who performed a heroic deed, made a notable achievement, or held a

prominent position in government by granting them a noble title. These grants were documented. Because of frequent false claims to nobility, families had to legitimize their nobility by providing documentary proof. Grants of nobility and legitimizations are kept in the national archives of Spain and Peru.

Although some original nobility records, such as the grant of nobility, are still in existence, you can accomplish most nobility research in secondary sources. These include published or manuscript genealogies of noble families. The noble class has been anxious to preserve their identity. This has led to the publication of some noble lines of Peru. Numerous publications are available to help you trace a noble family. Some of the most important include:

Alonso y Lopez, Ampelio de. *Títulos nobiliarios con grandeza de España concedidos en Indias: su heráldica y genealogía* (Spanish Titles of Nobility Given in the Indies: Heraldry and Genealogy. Madrid: Hidalguía, 1984. (FHL book 946 D5a.)

Izcue, Luis de. *La Nobleza Titulada en el Perú Colonial* (Titled Nobility in Colonial Peru). Lima: Emp. Edit. "Cervantes," 1919. (FHL book 985 D5i; film 1162491 item 3.)

Vargas Ugarte, Rubén. *Títulos Nobiliarios en el Perú* (Noble Titles in Peru). Lima: Compañía de Impresiones y Publicidad, 1948. (FHL book 985 A1 no. 3.)

Miranda Costa, Juan. *Apuntes sobre cien familias establecidas en el Perú: archivo Luis Lasarte Ferreyros* (Studies on 100 Families Established in Peru: [researched by] Archivist Luis Lasarte Ferreyros). Lima: Rider Ediciones Nacionales, 1993. (FHL book 985 D2m.)

The "Heraldry" and "Genealogy" sections of this outline contain additional information that may help you trace your noble ancestry. The Family History Library has collected a few books of noble families. These records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

PERU - NOBILITY

For more information on the nobility of Peru and how to research noble families, see:

Rosas-Siles, Alberto. *Nobility of Peru*. Salt Lake City: Corporation of the President, 1980. (FHL book 929.1 W893 v.9 pt. 6; fiche 6085813.)

NOTARIAL RECORDS

A notary is a person who records official documents. Notaries are also called scribes (*escribano*) and secretaries (*secretario*). In the Middle Ages, magistrates, clerks, and monks were notaries. Later, each judicial magistrate had a recorder (*anotador*) or secretary (*notario*). Soon a class of recorders was created. They functioned in the civil and criminal courts, and governmental, ecclesiastical, and private concerns.

There were royal scribes (*Escribanos Reales*) and recorders in all levels of government. There were notaries who created documents needed for everyday business. From the republican times in Peru, legislation has created notaries with names such as Scribe of the Court (*Escribano de Cámara*), Secretary of the Court (*Secretario de Cámara*), and Notary Public (*Notario Publico*).

The keeping of notarial records, including wills and estate papers, began as early as the 1534. The notary provides documents, authorizes wills, and cares for the records he creates. At the death of the notary his documents may remain with his family; be passed on to his successor; or be sent to a local notarial archive or provincial, department, or national archive. The documents prepared by ecclesiastical notaries are found in diocesan archives. Some notarial records involve most of Peruvian society, but wills deal mostly with the upper class and landowners.

Notarial records contain documents of all events that needed to be notarized for official business. These include wills (*testamentos*), contracts (*contratos*), powers of attorney (*poderes*), dowry (*dotes*), inheritance arrangements, inventories of estates (*inventorios*), sales and purchases (*ventas y compras*), executor (*albaceas*), debts (*deudas*), and guardianships (*tutelas*).

The following publications discuss notarial records in detail:

Platt, Lyman D. *Genealogical Historical Guide to Latin America*. Detroit: Gale Research, 1978. (FHL book 980 D27p) Spanish edition: *Una*

Guía Genealógica-Histórica de Latinoamérica (FHL book 980 D27pl; film 1162420 item 2; fiche 6062501).

Ryskamp, George R. *Tracing Your Hispanic Heritage*. Riverside, Calif.: Hispanic Family History Research, 1984. (FHL book 946 D27r.)

Wills and Probates

The most important notarial records are wills and probates. Wills and probate records are records that describe the distribution of a person's estate after he or she dies. Information in the records may include the death date, names of heirs and guardians, relationships, residences, an inventory of the estate, and names of witnesses.

These records are very helpful for research because civil authorities began recording notarial actions before they recorded birth and death records. While wills in notarial records are one of the most accurate sources of genealogical evidence, they must be used with some caution. For example, they might omit the names of deceased family members or those who have previously received an inheritance, the spouse mentioned in a will may not be the parent of the children mentioned, or relationships noted in the records may not have the same meaning today.

An individual who left a will died *testate*. Someone who did not leave a will (or a valid will) died *intestate*.

The notarial process began with the drafting of a will by the public notary or a notary of the church or municipality and the preparation of other necessary documents. In case of intestate cases, the notary would draw up the documents for the family.

Records of guardianship (*tutelas*) may be kept separately from other notarial papers, or a different court may have jurisdiction over guardianship.

Locating Notarial Records

The law requires notarial records to be deposited in the Archivo General de la Nación after 30 years, but there are records from Lima, Arequipa, and Cuzco found in the Historical Archive of the University of Cuzco (*Archivo Histórico de la Universidad de Cuzco*), the Historical Archive of the Department of Arequipa (*Archivo Histórico del Departamento de Arequipa*), and the National Library. There are also records from Tarapaca, Arica, and Tacna in the National Archive of

Chile (*Archivo General de Chile*). To ascertain where the notarial records are for your ancestor's town, start with the local notarial archive. (See the "Archives and Libraries" section for more information about notarial records in specific archives and libraries of Peru.)

The notarial records in the Judicial Notary Section (*Sección Notaría Judicial*) of the National Archives are classified both chronologically and alphabetically. Nearly all of the notarial records for Lima and Callao up to 1900 are stored there, as well as some records from other areas of the country. A catalog of notarial records from Lima and Callao was published in 1928:

Indice de Notarios de Lima y Callao cuyos protocolos se hallan en el Archivo Nacional de Perú (siglos XVI, XVII, XVIII, XIX y XX) (Index of Notaries of Lima and Callao Whose Records Are in the National Archive of Peru [16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th Centuries]). Lima: Librería e Imprenta Gil, 1928. (FHL book 985 A1 #2; fiche 6039585 #95.)

Availability of Notarial Records

All of the notarial records are in the records of the notary public (*notarios publicos*) or the scribe of number (*escribanos de número*). These records often are easier to use than records of administration and courts.

The Family History Library has a few notarial records from Peru. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

PERU - NOTARIAL RECORDS
PERU, [DEPARTMENT] - NOTARIAL
RECORDS
PERU - PROBATE RECORDS
PERU, [DEPARTMENT] - PROBATE
RECORDS

PERIODICALS

Most genealogical and historical societies in North America and Peru publish magazines and newsletters. The articles often include:

- Family genealogies and pedigrees.
- Transcripts of church records, migration lists, and cemetery records.
- Helpful articles on research methodology.

- Information about local records, archives, and services.
- Book advertisements and book reviews.
- Research advertisements.

There are a few societies and organizations in Peru that publish genealogical periodicals. These are in Spanish. Much of their content is devoted to genealogies of prominent Peruvian families. In addition, excellent department and regional publications will contain local history, biographies, and genealogy that are not in the Family History Library. (See the “Genealogy” section for genealogical periodicals.)

The largest and most comprehensive collection of newspapers and periodicals in Peru is located in the National Library. Many date from as early as the 18th century. In total, the library houses 350 newspaper and periodical titles, and 300 leaflets.

SCHOOLS

If your ancestor was educated in the universities of Peru, he or she was recorded in the matriculation records of that school. The Family History Library has no matriculation records of schools and universities in Peru.

The older universities in Peru are: Pontificia Universidad Católica del Peru, Lima (1917); Universidad Nacional de la Libertad, Trujillo (1824); Universidad de San Ignacio de Loyola, Lima (1622); Universidad Nacional de San Agustín, Arequipa (1827); Universidad Nacional de San Antonio Abad, Cuzco (1692); Universidad Nacional de San Simón, Cuzco (1826); Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima (1551); Universidad de San Cristobal de Huamanga, Ayacucho (1677); and Universidad Técnica del Altiplano, Puno, which was created from the ancient University of San Carlos (1856).

Original records and any published versions of them may have been kept by the university. Following is the address of the oldest university in Lima:

Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos
S/n Ciudad Universitaria
Lima, PERU

SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS

Effective family research requires some understanding of the society in which your ancestor lived. Learning about everyday life, religious practices, customs, and traditions will help you appreciate your ancestor and the time he or she lived in. This information is particularly helpful if you choose to write a history of your family. Research procedures and genealogical sources are different for each area and time period and are affected by the local customs and traditions.

The Family History Library has collected few sources that discuss the social life and customs in Peru. Others may be available through public and university libraries. The following publications will help your understanding of colonial Peru:

Descola, Jean. *Daily Life in Colonial Peru, 1710–1820*. New York: Macmillian Co., 1968. (FHL book 985 H2djd). This is the English edition of *La Vida Cotidiana en el Perú en tiempos de los Españoles*. (FHL book 985 H2dj.)

Martin, Luis. *Daughters of the Conquistadores: Women of the Viceroyalty of Peru*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1983. (FHL book 985 H2mL.)

Mayer, Enrique, and Ralph Bolton. *Parentesco y matrimonio en los Andes* (Relationships and Marriage in the Andies). Lima: Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, 1980. (FHL book 980 H6p.)

Sociedad, Cultura y Economía en 10 áreas Andino-Peruanas: Asillo, Chumbao, Chuyas-Huaychao, Huata y Quito, Julcamarca, Layo, Pirapi, Soras, Taraco, Yancao (Society, Culture, and Economy in 10 areas of Andean Peru: Asillo, Chumbao, Chuyas-Huaychao, Huata y Quito, Julcamarca, Layo, Pirapi, Soras, Taraco, Yancao). Lima: [s.n.], 1966. (FHL book 985 H6s.)

Books and records about social life and customs are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

PERU - SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS
PERU, [DEPARTMENT] - SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS

See also the “Minorities” and “Native Races” sections of this outline.

SOCIETIES

There are only a few societies and organizations that may have information of value to your genealogical research in Peru.

Records of these societies are usually described in the “Author/Title” section of the Family History Library Catalog under the name of the society. They are also listed in the “Locality” section of the Family History Library Catalog under one of the following:

PERU - SOCIETIES
PERU - GENEALOGY

Lists and guides that describe the collections of societies are listed in the “Locality” section of the Family History Library Catalog under:

PERU - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES -
INVENTORIES, REGISTERS, CATALOGS

The Family History Library’s *Spanish Letter-Writing Guide* (36245) gives details about how to write to societies in Peru for genealogical information.

TAXATION

Taxation began with the *Encomienda* system. Under this system, rulers (*Encomendero*) of great estates used Indian serfs as laborers. In addition to providing labor, the serfs were taxed. There are many terms and levels of taxation, such as excise (*alcabales*), tributes (*tributos*), and payments to avoid military service to the king (*media anata*). These records are found in the National Archives, Archives of Hacienda (large ranch), department, tax courts, and local archives. Records of church tithes (*diezmos*) are in diocesan archives.

OTHER RECORDS OF PERU

Though not discussed in this outline, the following catalog topics may be useful to your research:

bibliography
colonization
description and travel
folklore

guardian and ward (see “Notarial Records”)
land and property (see “Notarial Records”)
law and legislation
merchant marine
migration, internal
naturalization and citizenship
obituaries
occupations
officials and employees
orphans and orphanages (see “Notarial Records”)
population
public records
religion and religious life

These topics can be found in the “Locality” section of the Family History Library Catalog. For example:

PERU - [TOPIC]
PERU, [DEPARTMENT] - [TOPIC]
PERU, [DEPARTMENT], [DISTRICT] - [TOPIC]

FOR FURTHER READING

More detailed information about research and records of Peru can be found in:

Hanke, Lewis. *Guía de las Fuentes en el Archivo General de Indias para el Estudio de la Administración Virreinal Española en México y en el Perú: 1535–1700* (Guide to the Sources in the General Archives of the Indies for the Study of Administration of Spanish Viceroyalties of Mexico and Peru: 1535–1700). 3 vols. Madrid: Atlas, 1976. (FHL book 980 H23h.)

Bakewell, Judith R. *Research Guide to Andean History*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press., 1981. (FHL book 980 H27r .)

Schaefer, Christina K. *Genealogical Encyclopedia of the Colonial Americas*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1998. (FHL book 929.1812 D26s.)

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

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We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

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