



Guatemala Research Guide

GUATEMALA, ANCESTOR'S BIRTH LOCATION UNKNOWN

FamilySearch Indexed Records: Try searching in the indexed records for the name of your ancestor, if they were born before 1900. Try a variety of searches with your ancestor's name, or with parent's names, or just by parent's surnames AND using the option to limit locality by the country "Guatemala" and the name of the department, if known. If there are no results, you will have to find more information from home sources or by asking family members.

Contact Family Members: If you do not have even a minimal amount of information AND have no idea of where and when to look, you need to contact family members who might have that information. This could be older aunts, uncles, grandparents, etc.

GUATEMALA, ANCESTOR'S BIRTH LOCATION AND NAMES OF PARENTS, SPOUSE, OR CHILDREN ARE KNOWN

FamilySearch Indexed Records: Try searching first in indexed records as described above.

FamilySearch Browsable Images: If there are no results from the previous search for your ancestor or any siblings, you will have to browse images for the locality. The Civil Registration began in 1877 in most of the municipalities of Guatemala. Some collections have indexes, search the indexes first. Catholic Church records are excellent sources for accurate information on names, dates, and places of births, marriages, and deaths. If you can find your ancestor in both record types, that is best as you will get more information to advance your pedigree.

FamilySearch Catalog: Not all records for Guatemala are online, be sure to check the catalog before giving up on finding records. Under **Search** on the home page select **Catalog**. Type **Guatemala** and click **Search**. A list of available records will appear. Your search can be localized by selecting **Places within Guatemala** at the top and then choosing the exact locality where your ancestor lived

RESEARCH STRATEGIES

Who to Search For? If you don't know the names of the parents, but you know the name of the spouse and/or the names of some of his children, begin with a marriage search (if they married in Guatemala and you know the place). Or begin with a search for the birth/baptism record for one of their children (if you have an approximate birthdate and place).

FamilySearch Wiki: The Wiki is a research guide and contains many links to help you research better. On the FamilySearch home page, go to **Search** and select **Wiki**. Type **Guatemala** and press enter. This page has research tools, website links and general information.

FamilySearch Community: You can get immediate research and handwriting help from a community of researchers through the FamilySearch Communities. Go to <http://community.familysearch.org/> and click **Groups**. Search for **Latin American Genealogy Research** or **Investigación Genealógica** to find the group for Hispanic genealogical research. While the second group is in Spanish, the members will respond to posts written in English. On the group pages, you can post research questions and upload documents to get translation help.

FINDING A LOCALITY

For help locating a place in Guatemala, try the following sources:

- Google
- Wikipedia (The Spanish version works the best)
- Try a keyword search in the FamilySearch Catalog for Guatemala Gazetteers

ONLINE RESOURCES

For other online resources please review the Wiki article **Hispanic Genealogy Resources Online**.