



Dominican Republic Research Guide

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 "Dominican Republic" and the name of the province.

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.

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

Civil Registration began in 1828 in the Dominican Republic. Catholic Church records are also a good choice as they cover all time periods. Try to find your ancestors in both record types to get as much information as possible.

FamilySearch Indexed Records: Try searching first in indexed records as explained 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. On the **Search** page, click the **Central American and Caribbean** portion of the map then select **Dominican Republic** from the list of countries. Select a record collection from **Image-Only Historical Records** and browse the collection page-by-page for your ancestor.

FamilySearch Catalog: Not all records for the Dominican Republic are online, be sure to check the catalog before giving up on finding records. Under **Search** on the home page select **Catalog**. Type **Dominican Republic** and click **Search**. A list of available records will appear. Your search can be localized by selecting **Places within Dominican Republic** 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 the Dominican Republic 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: Translation, handwriting help, and descriptions of specific record collections can be found on the FamilySearch Wiki. Under Search on the home page selection Research Wiki. Type **Dominican Republic** and hit **Enter**. The information on this page will lead you to helpful topics such as **Languages** (under Dominican Republic Background), which includes a list of genealogical terms in Spanish and a letter-writing guide if you need to request documents from the Dominican Republic.

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.

There are a few compiled genealogy books for the Dominican Republic. Some of the following books may be helpful in locating your ancestors:

- Carlos Larrazabal Blanco, *Familias Dominicanas* (Santo Domingo: Academia Dominicana de la Historia, 1967-1980), FHL INTL 972.93 D2L, 9 Volumes. Also available on microfilm 1162484m Items 1-9.
- Emilio Rodriguez Demorizi, *Familias hispanoamericanas* (Ciudad Trujillo, Mexico: Editora Montalvo, 1959), FHL INTL 972.93 D3r.

FINDING A LOCALITY

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

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

ONLINE RESOURCES

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