



Mexico 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 just by parent's names, or just by parent's surnames. Limit your results to the country of Mexico and the name of the state if known. If there are no results, you will have to find more information from home sources or by asking family members.

1930 Mexico Federal Census: If your ancestor lived in Mexico (but **not** in the Federal District/Mexico City) in 1930, try a search in the indexed records to see if he was in the 1930 census of Mexico.

Border Crossing Records, Mexico to U.S.: If your ancestor crossed the Border into the United States between 1906 and 1957, try Border Crossing records for more information about where they are from. If you find someone, check to see who else crossed the border with them on the same day. Use Ancestry.com for these types of searches. Click on Search > Immigration > Border Crossings & Passports > Border Crossings: From Mexico to U.S., 1895-1964.

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 1857 in Mexico but most places didn't begin to register information until the 1860s. Catholic Church records are also a good choice as they cover all time periods. If you can find the ancestor in both record types, that is best as you will get more information to advance the pedigree.

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

FamilySearch Browsable Images: If there are no results from your previous search for your ancestor or any siblings, you will have to browse images for the locality. On the **Search** page, click the **Mexico** portion of the map then select the **state** where your ancestor lived 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 Mexico are online, be sure to check the catalog before giving up on finding records. Under **Search** on the home page select **Catalog**. Type **Mexico** and click **Search**. A list of available records will appear. Your search can be localized by selecting **Places within Mexico** 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 Mexico 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 select Research Wiki. Type **Mexico** into the search bar and press **Enter**. The information on this page will lead you to helpful topics such as **Languages** (under Mexico Background) as well as beginning research suggestions.

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 Mexico, try the following sources:

- Google
- Wikipedia (The Spanish version works the best)
- Garcia Cubas gazetteer online link in the FamilySearch Wiki in the article **Mexico Gazetteers**.
- *Localidades por Entidad Federativa y Municipio*. The places are organized by states, then municipalities.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Ancestry: www.ancestry.com

Mexican Genealogy: www.mexicangenealogy.info

Cyndi's List: www.cyndislist.com/mexico/general/

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