What is the Alabama Department of Archives and History?

The Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) was established in 1901 as the first state-supported archives in the United States. ADAH is the official repository of Alabama governmental records of permanent historical and legal significance. The Archives also houses records created by Alabama state, county, and local government agencies. The Archives also has large collections of non-governmental records about Alabama including newspapers, private manuscripts, books, maps, and photographs, as well as numerous other resources. All of these records are available for use in the Archives Research Room.

Directions:

From I-85 South, take exit 1/Union St. and bear to the right onto Union St. At the 3rd traffic light take a left onto Washington Ave. The Archives building is on the left. Metered parking is available on the street. Free parking is available in the Adams Street parking lot. To proceed to the parking lot from the front of the Archives building, take a left on Bainbridge Ave., and left on Adams St. The parking lot is directly across the street from the Archives/War Memorial building.

From I-65 North or South, exit onto I-85 North. Get in the far right lane and exit at the Court St. exit. Stay in the left lane on the service road and follow it to Union St. Take a left onto Union St. At the 4th traffic light take a left onto Washington Ave. The Archives building is on the left. Follow directions above to parking lot on Adams St.

Alabama Department of Archives and History
P. O. Box 300100
Montgomery, AL 36130
Phone: 334-242-4435
Website: www.archives.alabama.gov

Mission Statement:
“We tell the story of the people of Alabama by preserving records and artifacts of historical value and promoting a better understanding of Alabama history.”
RESEARCH COLLECTIONS

The Department has many types of records that can be useful to your genealogical, historical, or legal research. Our on-line catalogue, ADAHCAT, on-line digital records, and databases are searchable at www.archives.alabama.gov

State government records - The official historical records of Alabama state government including the records of all Alabama governors from 1819 to present, are at the ADAH. These include legislative records, state agency records and publications, and some pre-statehood records, such as transcribed colonial records from French, British, and Spanish archives and Mississippi and Alabama Territorial records.

Local government records - Records for every Alabama county are available on microfilm. These records include, but are not limited to, marriage records, deeds, wills, and estate records.

Newspapers - ADAH has the largest collection of Alabama newspapers in the state, with papers from every Alabama county. Many titles are available on microfilm.

Private manuscript collections - These include not only correspondence, diaries and business records, but also Alabama church records, family Bibles, city directories, school yearbooks, and publications and records of organizations and associations.

Military records - ADAH has a large collection of military records for various wars, including Civil War muster rolls, regimental histories, and pension applications, and the Gold Star files documenting Alabama soldiers who died in World War I.

Books and serials - The focus of the Archives book and serials collection is Alabama county and community histories, Alabama genealogy, and U.S. and Southern history.

U. S. and Alabama State Censuses - Decennial U. S. censuses from 1820-1930 for Alabama, and censuses for all other states are available at all public access computers in the Research Room through Ancestry.com. Alabama State census records for 1855 and 1866 are available on microfilm in the Research Room.

Maps and Photographs - Digital images of many of the photographs and maps are available on the ADAH website, and others are available for use in the Research Room.

RESEARCH REQUESTS

For your convenience, ADAH reference staff provide limited research for those who cannot visit the Archives. Reference requests can be submitted via our request form on our web site or through the mail. Research fees are $15.00 for in-state patrons and $25.00 for out-of-state patrons.

PHOTOCOPYING

Photocopying of original records is provided by the reference staff. Books and microfilm may be copied by patrons at the self-serve copy machine and microfilm copiers in the Research Room. Photographs in the ADAH collection can be reproduced for a fee.

VISITING THE RESEARCH ROOM

The Research Room is located on the first floor of the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Researchers must present a photo id at the reference desk and adhere to rules and regulations governing use. To protect the collections researchers must use pencils; briefcases and other closed bags are not allowed in the Research Room. Complete details are available at archives.alabama.gov.

Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m, Tuesday - Saturday. Closed state holidays.

Information regarding holidays and other closings can be found on the ADAH web site at www.archives.alabama.gov.