

## About this guide

The City of Rock Hill organized this guide to help individuals with personal research. The information provided here is not all inclusive – there are many places to locate information.

Churches – Records held by churches include parish and membership registers, organizational minutes, and directories. If there is a cemetery located on the church property, records of those burials as well as gravestones are good resources.

Libraries – In addition to local histories, many libraries have genealogical information compiled by local residents. Most libraries also have access to online resources not generally available to the public.

Local school system – If you know the schools your family members attended, those schools may have copies of yearbooks and other records.

Historic and genealogical societies – These organizations were founded in order to preserve the history of a particular area. Usually one or the other – or both – will have information you are searching for. If not, they may be able to help you locate additional information.

## Contact Us

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Janice E Miller, Historic Preservation Specialist.

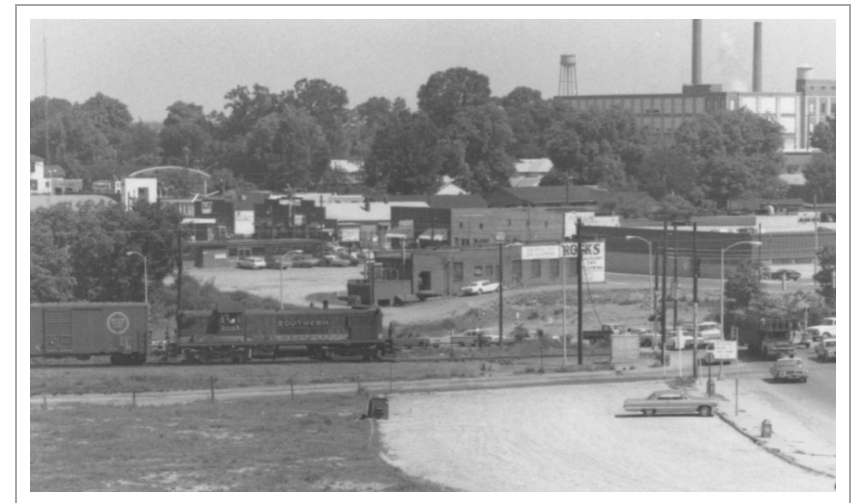
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# Research Rock Hill

**A resource guide for personal historic research**



## CITY OF ROCK HILL

[Above: West Black Street, June 1972, City of Rock Hill images]

# Table of Contents

Program Partners.....	<b>1</b>
Getting Started.....	<b>2</b>
Historic Rock Hill.....	<b>3</b>
Louise Pettus Archives & Special Collections .....	<b>4</b>
York County Library.....	<b>5</b>
Historical Center of York County.....	<b>6</b>
York County Resources.....	<b>7</b>
Regional Resources .....	<b>8</b>
Other Resources.....	<b>9</b>

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## Other Resources

**National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)**  
**700 Pennsylvania Ave Washington DC – 866.272.6272**  
**archives.gov**

In addition to federal government historic records, NARA houses pre-World War I military records for US Army and Confederate veterans, Bureau of Indian Affairs, US Census, and Immigration and Naturalization Service, among others. Extensive genealogical research and workshops are available online. The Washington DC location is open to the public M-F, 8:45am-5:45pm. NARA has a number of facilities located throughout the US, including all the presidential libraries. For locations, go to [archives.gov/locations](https://www.archives.gov/locations).

**Library of Congress (LOC)**  
**101 Independence Ave SE Washington DC – 202.707.5000**  
**loc.gov**

LOC is the nation’s oldest federal cultural institution, with a collection of items numbering in the millions. In addition to research at the facility in Washington DC, the LOC has an extensive digital collection available online, including city directories, newspapers, books, maps, and photographs. Contact library for research room hours as these vary by center.

**Chronicling America Historic Newspapers**  
**chroniclingamerica.loc.gov**

Chronicling America has an extensive digitized collection of newspapers from across the United States. These date from 1789 to 1963 and are researchable by location, date, and keyword.

**Family History Library**  
**35 North West Temple Street Salt Lake City UT – 801.240.6996**  
**familysearch.org**

Collection includes 1.4 million rolls of microfilm and 600,000 print items related to family histories throughout the United States. Open to the public M-F, 8am-9pm; Sat 9-5; Sun 1-5.

## Regional Resources

### **South Carolina Genealogical Society (SCGS) – [scgen.org](http://scgen.org)**

SCGS is a 501(C)3 organization dedicated to assisting in genealogical research through workshops and collection of genealogical records. The group publishes the Carolina Herald and Newsletter, composed of genealogy research articles submitted by members and affiliated chapters.

### **South Caroliniana Library – [sc.edu](http://sc.edu)**

**910 Sumter Street Columbia SC – 803.777.3131**

Holdings are comprised of 300 years of South Carolina and Southern culture, including manuscripts, genealogies, letters, diaries, unpublished family papers, and other printed records. A number of items have been digitized and are available for online research. Open M-F, 8:30-5; call prior to visit.

### **South Carolina State Library – [statelibrary.sc.gov](http://statelibrary.sc.gov)**

**1500 Senate Street Columbia SC – 803.734.8666**

Maintains extensive collections of historic material related specifically to South Carolina. Print materials are available onsite and through interlibrary loan with local libraries. Digital collections include books, state documents, photographs, and newspapers. A South Carolina State Library card is required to access digital newspaper content. The facility is open to the public M-F, 8:30-5.

### **South Carolina Department of Archives & History (SCDAH) – [scdah.sc.gov](http://scdah.sc.gov)**

**8301 Parklane Road Columbia SC – 803.896.6196**

SCDAH houses one of the most comprehensive state archival collections with over 325 years of South Carolina history, including legislative, land, court, military, county, and municipal records. Parts of the collection have been digitized and are available for online research along with detailed finding aids. Facility is open M-F, 8:30-5.

### **South Carolina – Archives, Repositories, & Special Collections [sciway.net/lib/archives/html](http://sciway.net/lib/archives/html)**

Online list of additional South Carolina research resources.

### **South Carolina Historical Society – [schistory.org](http://schistory.org)**

**205 Calhoun Street, Charleston SC – 843.723.3225 x 114**

Housed at the College of Charleston's Addlestone Library, this collection contains manuscripts, letters, and journals. Online research is encouraged. Facility open by appointment only.

## Program Partners

### **Historic Rock Hill**



Historic Rock Hill is a membership-based 501(c)(3) organization founded to help preserve and protect Rock Hill's history and historic properties.

### **Louise Pettus Archives & Special Collections**



Winthrop University is home to the Louise Pettus Archives & Special Collections, a repository of historically valuable records related to Winthrop University and South Carolina history, especially the heritage of the Catawba region.

### **York County Library**



The York County Library system serves the community through five individual locations throughout York County, including Rock Hill, Clover, York, Fort Mill, and Lake Wylie. The system has a number of in-person and online resources available.

# Getting Started

The best way to start your personal history search is to establish a base by asking yourself two questions:

1. What do I want to know?
2. What do I already know?

If you want to know family members living in 1886, you'll have to start listing the family members you already know: mother, father, grandparents, great-grandparents, and so on. If that's all you want to know, then you've been successful.

But let's say you want to know more – Where did they live? Where are they buried? Where did they work? Where did they go to church? What did they look like?

At this point, the third question arises:

3. Where can I find more information?

While not all-inclusive, this guide was designed to help you find the resources to explore your own personal history. Because everyone has a history – they just need help finding it.

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***“The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see.” —Winston Churchill***

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This guide cannot possibly include all the resources available for personal history research, and while every effort has been made to provide the most current information possible, errors can occur. Please contact facilities prior to making in-person visits.

# York County Resources

## **Catawba Indian Nation**

**1536 Tom Stevens Road Rock Hill –  
803.328.2427**

**[catawbaindiancrafts.com](http://catawbaindiancrafts.com)**

The Catawba Nation has an extensive archive and history of the Catawba Indian Nation available for research at the tribe's Cultural Center; please contact the facility for more information regarding access. The Cultural Center is designed to provide an overview of the Catawba culture and history. The facility is open to the public M-Sat, 9am to 5pm.

## **York County Genealogical & Historical Society**

**PO Box 3061 CRS Rock Hill 29732**

**[yorkcountyghs.org](http://yorkcountyghs.org)**

The York County Genealogical & Historical Society publishes *The Quarterly*, a magazine featuring articles on local genealogy and history. Please consult their website for information on obtaining copies of the magazine.

## **Museum of Western York County**

**3716 Woodlawn Street Sharon – 803.658.5025**  
**[museumofwesternyorkcounty.net](http://museumofwesternyorkcounty.net)**

Founded in 2003, the Museum of Western York County holds archives devoted to several Western York County families and library collection composed of family and church histories as well as local, county and state histories. The museum itself has an extensive collection of artifacts on display. Open by appointment.

## **York County Records – [yorkcountygov.com](http://yorkcountygov.com)**

The York County Register of Deeds (803.684.8510) and Probate Court (803.684.8513) departments hold records having to deal with land ownership, estates, and marriage licenses. Some online research is available; contact either office for additional information. Staff is not available to do research; however, facilities are open by appointment.

## Historical Center of York County

**210 East Jefferson St York – 803.684.3948**

**[chmuseums.org/history-hc/](http://chmuseums.org/history-hc/)**

**M-F, 10am – 4pm**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sat, 10am – 4pm**

The Historical Center of York County is one of several entities that make up the Culture & Heritage Museums system in York County. Opened in 1989, this facility serves as a repository for local and county records with the goal to collect, preserve, interpret, and maintain information of historic importance. Researchers conduct their own research at the facility; collection includes print and microfilm resources.

Holdings include:

- York County Probate and other Court records, 1786-1962
- Family papers and genealogies
- Photographs
- Maps
- Chester, Lancaster, & York County Korean War Veterans
- York County Teacher Certification cards
- Brownie Studio photograph collection
- American Revolution records specific to SC
- Junior Welfare League records
- Church & cemetery records
- Local newspapers
- Federal Census records
- Historical Center Genealogy database

Staff research available for a fee.

## Historic Rock Hill

**258 East White Street – 803.329.1020**

**[historicrockhill.com](http://historicrockhill.com)**

**Research area available by appointment**

Originally organized as the Midtown Preservation Society, Historic Rock Hill (HRH) was established in 1989 as a private non-profit organization geared at preserving a number of Rock Hill historic properties in danger of demolition. In addition to several homes located along East White Street and Marion Street, HRH also provided the groundwork to restore the Williams Gulf Station on Oakland Avenue and preserve Hermon Presbyterian Church on Dave Lyle Boulevard.

One of HRH's greatest achievements was the restoration and preservation of the historic White Home, which has been converted into a house museum as well as being HRH's main office. The White Home hosts a number of special events as well as being available for events such as weddings and corporate gatherings.

Holdings include:

- City of Rock Hill directories
- Photographs
- Preservation surveys
- Books on local history
- Magazines on local history

# Louise Pettus Archives & Special Collections

**700 Cherry Road – 803.323.2334**

**[libguides.library.winthrop.edu/archives/home](http://libguides.library.winthrop.edu/archives/home)**

**Research area available by appointment**

The Louise Pettus Archives & Special Collections is part of Winthrop University and holds a wide array of historic information available for outside researchers. Authorized by the Board of Trustees in 1977, the Archives was renamed after Winthrop graduate and noted York County historian, Louise Pettus, in 2006.

The Archives houses a vast array of valuable resources related to South Carolina history, especially with respect to those families and individuals who contributed to the history of the Catawba region. On a regular basis, the Archives displays a number of physical artifacts given to Winthrop over the years.

Holdings include:

- Manuscript collection
- Oral histories
- Photographs
- Family papers
- University archives
- Rare book collection
- Newspaper clippings related to Winthrop

Please note that due to limited staffing, Archives staff can provide assistance in locating information but cannot do research.

# York County Library (Main)

**138 East Black Street – 803.981-5858**

**[yclibrary.org](http://yclibrary.org) & [ychistory.org](http://ychistory.org)**

**M-Th, 9am – 8pm/F-Sat, 9am – 6pm**

**Sundays (Sept-May) 2 pm – 6 pm**

The York County Library (YCL) main branch houses York County's Local History area. The collection includes a wide variety of local, regional, and national historic resources, in print and on microfilm. Holdings include:

- Census indexes & microfilms
- Family and local histories
- York County estate, will, church, land, and other records
- Burial indexes of area church and family cemeteries and funeral home records
- Marriage and death notices
- Local newspapers on microfilm
- Local maps
- Genealogical source material available for states east of the Mississippi River, including New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee
- Access to online resources such as Ancestry Library, Fold3 Library Edition, and HeritageQuest Online

Please note that due to limited staffing, staff can provide assistance to locating information but cannot do research.

YCL is also host to YCHistory.org which provides digital access to a number of valuable resources for research, including newspaper articles, typed manuscripts, and church histories. The site also provides access to The News and Obituary Index, a subject-driven index of articles available on microfilm in the Local History area. Searching the index database with names and other information prior to your visit to YCL can provide you with the dates needed to find newspaper articles.