

# Ante-Bellum Southern Plantation Records

## What are Ante-Bellum Southern Plantation Records?

*Ante-Bellum: before the war*

The Ante-Bellum Southern Plantation Records are an invaluable collection of records of plantation owners and often his descendants that may connect an individual to his or her family. Manuscript collections were donated by descendants of the plantation owners. The microfilm set is comprised of manuscript records taken from several major Southern repositories.

### Participating Libraries

South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina  
South Carolina Historical Society  
Library of Congress  
Maryland Historical Society  
University of Virginia Library  
Duke University Library  
Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin  
Howard-Tilton Library at Tulane University, and the Louisiana State Museum  
Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Shirley Plantation Collection, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation  
Earl Gregg Swem Library, College of William and Mary  
Virginia Historical Society  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

### 3 Major Collections:

- *Slavery in Ante-Bellum Southern Industries* (ca. 1775 – 1865)
  - Contains 171 reels of microfilm
  - Series A & B
  
- *Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution Through the Civil War* (ca. 1775 -1865)
  - Contains 1,595 reels of microfilm
  - Series A through N
  
- *Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations from the Emancipation to the Great Migration* (1865 – 1950)
  - Contains 49 reels of microfilm
  - Series A

February 2016

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# Ante-Bellum Southern Plantation Records

## What kind of genealogical information can be found in these records?

### Business & Legal Papers

Bank ledgers  
Bills and receipts  
Bonds  
Correspondence  
Court records (transcripts, pleas & decisions)  
Crop & livestock records  
Daybooks  
Estate Papers (property inventories, list of debts)  
Guardianship materials  
Land & property records (incl. deeds)  
Letter books (containing correspondence)  
Liens on property  
Medical account books  
Overseer journals  
Plantation record books  
Slave auction books  
Slave manumission papers  
Slave for hire & rental agreements  
Taxes  
Wills

### Personal Papers

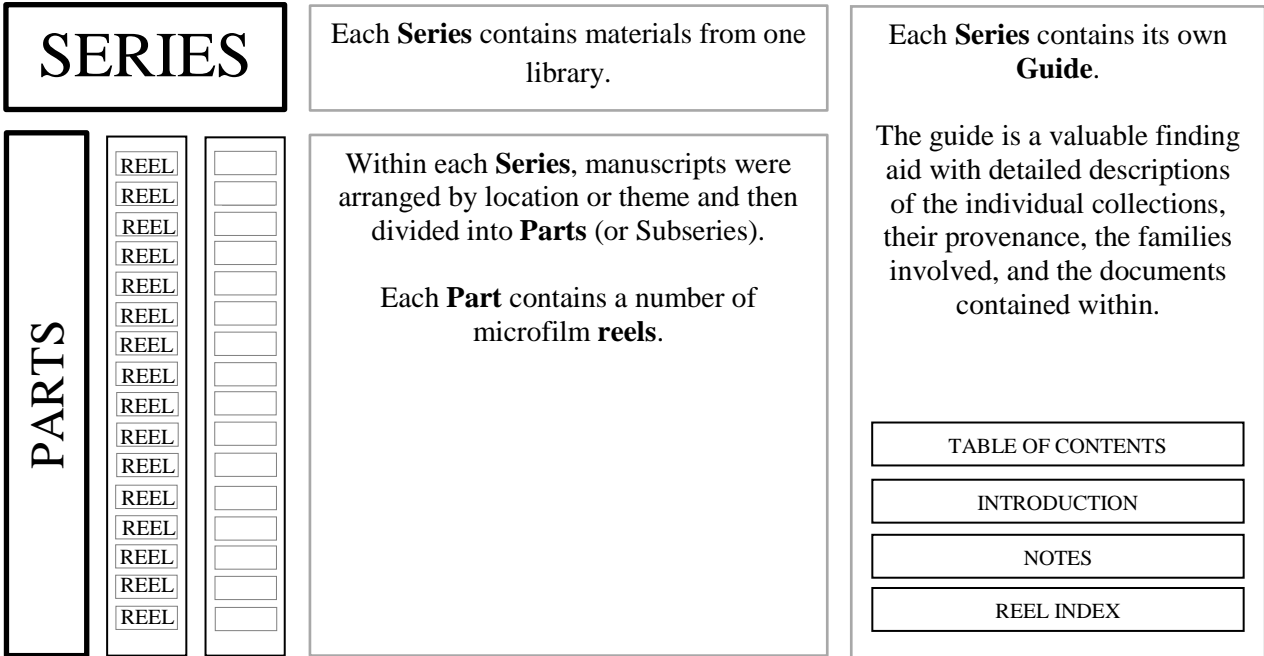
Cemetery or funeral records  
Church records  
Correspondence  
Family Bibles  
Family genealogies & records  
Family Correspondence  
Family Photographs  
Journals/Diaries  
Newspaper clippings  
Paintings/drawings  
Poetry  
Recipes  
Records from fraternal & social organizations  
School Notebooks  
Scrapbooks

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# Ante-Bellum Southern Plantation Records

How are they organized?



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# Ante-Bellum Southern Plantation Records

## How can I access these plantation records?

- I. Go to a library
  - A. Local libraries
  - B. University libraries
  - C. Historical libraries & archives
- II. Request material through a loan service
  - A. Interlibrary Loan
  - B. FamilySearch Library Loan Service
- III. Internet
  - A. ProQuest's History Vault Plantations
  - B. Some library websites have select images online from collections.

**WorldCat.org** will show which nearby libraries have the Ante-Bellum Southern Plantation Records. It will also show what is available to order through Interlibrary Loan.

The guides are available on **FamilySearch Wiki** under 'African American Slavery and Bondage' /Plantation Records/Indexes. It will also show microfilm records that are available through FamilySearch Library Loan.

## RESOURCES

### Books

*A Guide to the Microfilm Edition of Records of Ante-bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War*, Kenneth M. Stampp, Randolph Bowehm; Martin Paul Schipper, University Publications (1985-)

*Index to Record of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations*, Jean L. Cooper , McFarland & Company, Inc. (2009)

\* Contains indexes organized by location, plantation, surname and collection title.

### Microfilm

*Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations from Emancipation to the Great Migration*, Ira Berlin, University Publications of America (2000)

*Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War*, Kenneth M. Stampp, University Publications of America (1985-)

*Slavery in Ante-Bellum Southern Industries*, Charles B. Dew, ed., University Publications of America (1991-)

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