



BELIZE RESEARCH GUIDE

(See also Caribbean Islands)

There are very few indexed records for Belize, but many not yet indexed. Its official language is English, although Belizean Creole (Kriol) and Spanish are also common. It was originally part of the British Empire, known as British Honduras from 1862 to 1973. It became an independent realm in the British Commonwealth of Nations in 1983.

ANCESTOR'S BIRTH LOCATION UNKNOWN

FamilySearch Indexed Records – Try searching first in indexed records. Try a variety of searches with ancestor's name, or with parents' names, or just by parents' surnames AND using the option to limit locality by the country of Belize.

Contact Family Members: If you do not have even a minimal of information and have no idea where and when to look, try to contact family members who might have that information, e.g. older aunts, uncles, grandparents, etc.

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

FamilySearch Catalog – Most record for Belize have not been indexed. Be sure to check the **Catalog** under **Search** options before giving up. Your search can be localized by selecting **Places within Belize** at the top and then choosing the exact locality where your ancestor lived. There may be microfilms and/or books indicated that could help you in your search.

FamilySearch Browsable Images: To access Central America, Colonial Records, 1607-1902, on the FamilySearch home page, go to **Records** again, but this time click on the Caribbean area of the world map and select **Belize**. Scroll to the bottom of the page to the section labeled **Belize Image-Only Historical Records**.

RESEARCH STRATEGIES

Whom 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 their children, begin with a marriage search (if they married in Belize and you know the place). Click on Search, then Records. Or begin with a search for the birth/baptism record for one of their children (if you have an approximate birth date and place).

FamilySearch Wiki: On the FamilySearch home page, go to **Wiki** and type in **Belize**. At this stage, there is little help available, but you can add to it if you wish (on the left-hand sidebar under Volunteer and Helper click Edit the Wiki).

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.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Belize on Genealogy.com: www.genealogy.com/forum/regional/countries/topics/belize/

Belize Genealogy Research: www.en.geneanet.org/pays/research-genealogy-ancestry-Belize-BLZ

Belize Genealogy Resources & Parish Registers, Forebears: www.forebears.io/belize

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