

HISTORY & ORIGINS OF SOUTHERN NAMES



Many of the earliest settlers in the Southern region were from Europe and had Scottish, Irish, English, or Italian roots.

First names often referred to parents, grandparents, and other elder members, especially among African Americans.



Being called the Bible belt, many names in the Southern region are Biblical names.

Since the Civil War greatly influenced Southerners, children are often named after Civil War heroes.



Before the 1960s, no studies identified naming patterns among African Americans.

References

- 1 Southern Identity: The Meaning, Practice, And Importance Of A Regional Identity; CORE
- 2 Distinctively Black Names In The American Past; NBER
- 3 The Bible Belt in a Changing South; JSTOR