

Getting Started with Your Family History

Explore the Census

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Learning Objectives

- outline when US censuses were conducted & when made publicly available
- locate online & use freely available US censuses
- document key information about sources



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US Census: Population Schedules

- 1790 -1940, every 10 years
- released 72 years after Census taken
- data collected by Enumeration District (ED)
- information gathered about individuals varies with each census



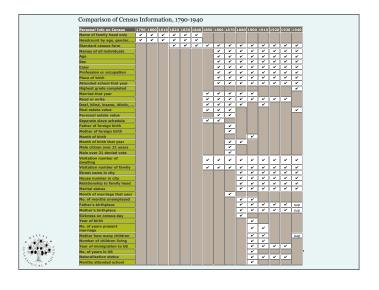
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Why census data is valuable to family history

 "Census records contain the basic documentation for the study of U.S. history, biography, demography, immigration, migration, ethnicity, occupations, economics, social anthropology, medical history, local history, and family history."

> from: "Census Records" by Loretto Dennis Szucs and Matthew Wright in <u>The Source: A</u> <u>Guidebook to American Genealogy</u>.





Accurate? Yes...and No

- most census information is usually reliable
- residence information on the census is especially believable because a census taker visited each household
- sensitive topics ages, family wealth, or deaf, dumb, blind, idiotic, insane, or convict family members - do people fudge?



 some info such as birthplace of parents may not have been easy to recall

Online Access to Census Data

- Ancestry.com
- · FamilySearch.org
- · LDS FamilySearch Centers
- Heritage Quest
- · National Archives Ft. Worth office
 - Ancestry.com
 - Fold3 (military records)
 - HeritageQuest



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"Problematic" Censuses

- 1790-1840
- 1890



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Pre-1850 Censuses

- · only named person is head of household
- · others in household are tally marks



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1890 Census

- · destroyed by fire in 1921
- surviving pieces document only 6,160 of the 62,979,766 people enumerated that year



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Special Federal Census Schedules

- Slave Schedules
- Mortality Schedules
- Agricultural Schedules
- Schedules of Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Classes
- US Census Veterans Schedules
- Manufacturers or Industrial Schedules

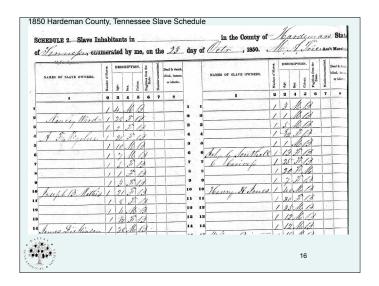


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Slave Schedules

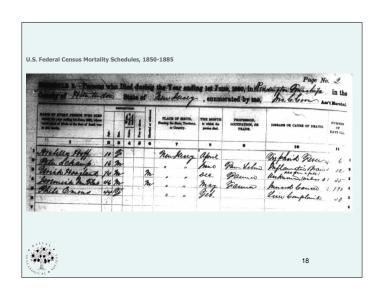
- · City, town, or sub district of slave owner
- · Name of slave owner
- NO NAMES OF SLAVES (occasionally names were listed)
- · Number of slaves owned
- · Age, sex, color
- Fugitive from state?
- Number of slaves manumitted (released from slavery)
- Deaf,dumb (mute), blind, insane, or idiotic?

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Mortality Schedules

- mortality schedules were taken along with population schedules during the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses
- list people who died during the previous 12 months
- typical mortality schedule will list the dead person's name, age, sex, color, married or widowed, birthplace, month of death, occupation, and cause of death



Agricultural Schedules

- 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880 and for those states that took an 1885 census
- for African American research, the 1850 and 1860 Agricultural Schedules help identify white overseers, black sharecroppers,or track free black men and their economic growth



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1 Name	John H. Seaba		John H. Seaba
2 Owner?	ves	51 acres of buckwheat	
3 Rents for fixed amount?		52 bushels of buckwheat	
4 Rents for shares of products?		53 acres of Indian com	70
5 Acres of improved land, tilled	280	54 bushels of Indian corn	2000
6 Acres of meadows, pastures, orchards, vinevards	55	55 acres of oats	8
7 Acres of woodland and forest	90	56 bushels of oats	400
8 Other unimproved land		57 acres of rye	
9 value of farm, incl land, fences and bldgs	\$7.500.00	58 bushels of rve	
10 value of farming implements and machinery	\$60.00	59 acres of wheat	10
11 S value of livestock	\$1 215 00	60 bushels of wheat	120
12 \$ cost of building and repairing fences	0.,2.0.0	61 bushels Canada peas (dry)	
13 S cost of fertilizer purchased		62 bushels of beans (dry)	
14 S amt paid for farm labor wages	\$170.00	63 acres of flax	
15 weeks hired labor	45	64 hushels of flax seed	
16 S est, value of all farm productions	\$740.00	65 tons of flax straw	
17 acres grass lands mown	18	66 pounds of flax fiber	
18 acres grass lands not mown	5	67 acres of hemp	
19 tons of hav harvested	30	68 tons of hemp	
20 hushels of clover seed harvested	50	69 acres of sorohum	0.25
21 bushels of crass seed harvested	10	70 pounds of sorohum sugar	0.25
22 horses of all ages on hand	5	71 gallons of sorghum molasses	25
23 mules and of all ages on hand		72 pounds of maple sugar	25
24 working oxen		73 gallons of maple sugar 73 gallons of maple molasses	
24 working oxen 25 milch cows			
25 mich cows 26 other cattle	9	74 acres of broom com	
	10	75 pounds of broom corn	
27 calves dropped 28 cattle purchased	7	76 acres of hops 77 pounds of hops	
28 came purchased 29 cattle sold living	1	77 pounds of nops 78 acres of Irish potatoes	0.5
	1		20
30 cattle slaughtered	1	79 bushels of Irish potatoes	20
31 cattle died, strayed, and lost? and not recovered		80 acres of sweet potatoes	
32 gallons milk sold or sent to butter and cheese factories	200	81 bushels of sweet potatoes	
33 pounds of butter made on the farm		82 acres of tobacco	
34 pounds of cheese made on the farm		83 pounds of tobacco	
35 sheep and lambs	4	84 Acres of apple trees	0.5
36 lambs dropped		85 number of apple trees	10
37 sheep and lambs purchased		86 bushels of apples	
38 sheep and lambs sold living		87 acres of peach trees	
39 sheep and lams slaughtered	1	88 number of peach trees	
40 sheep and lambs killed by dogs	3	89 bushels of peaches	
41 sheep and lambs died of disease		90 \$ value of all orchard products	
42 sheep and lambs died of stress and weather		91 acres of nurseries	
43 number of sheep fleeces shorn	4	92 \$ value of nursery produce sold	
44 pounds of sheep fleeces shorn	12	93 acres of vineyards	
45 swine	100	94 pounds of grapes sold	
46 barnyard poultry	50	95 gallons of wine	
47 other poultry		96 \$ value of market gardens produce sold	
48 dozen eggs produced	150	97 pounds of honey from bees	
49 acres of barley		98 pounds of wax from bees	
		99 cords of forest wood cut	20
		100 S value of all forest products	\$40

1880 Federal Census - Schedules of Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Classes

- Supplemental schedule called "Dependent, Defective, and Delinquent Classes" was included in 1880 U.S. Federal Census. This schedule included different forms to enumerate the following classes of individuals:
- Insane
- · Idiots
- · Deaf-mutes
- Blind
- · Paupers and Indigent persons
- · Homeless children
- Prisoners

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1840 Census Veterans Information

- Revolutionary War pensioners were recorded on the reverse (verso) of each page of the 1840 population schedules
- Stated pensioners' ages and persons with whom they were living



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1890 Veterans Schedules

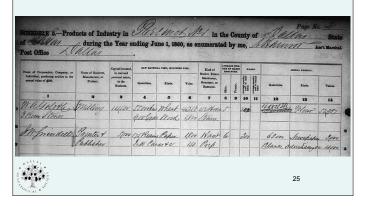
- 1890 Census separate schedules were made of Union Civil War veterans or their widows
- lists Union veteran of the Civil War; name of his widow, if appropriate; his rank, company, regiment, or vessel; dates of his enlistment and discharge, and the length of his service in years, months, and days; his post office address; the nature of any disability; and remarks
- nearly all of the schedules for the states of Alabama through Kansas and those for western half of Kentucky were destroyed in 1921 fire
- schedules for the remaining half of Kentucky and the states of Louisiana through Wyoming are available



Manufacturers or Industrial Schedules

- · The quantity and quality of data varies by census year
- 1820, 1850, and 1860 reported: name of the manufacturer, type of business or product, amount of capital invested, quantities, kinds, and value of raw materials used, quantities, kinds, and value of product produced annually, kind of power or machinery used, number of men and women employed
- · average monthly cost of male and female labor
- 1860, 1870 referred to as "Industrial Schedules"
- · 1870 amount of detail increased
- 1880 supplemental schedules were also used for specific industries, such as for boot and shoemaking, lumber and saw mills, flour and grist mills
- Exclusions--those manufacturing operations that produced less than \$500 worth of good

1860 Census Manufacturing/Industry Schedule

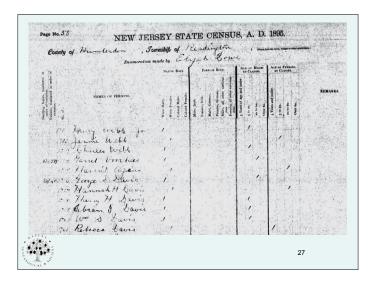


State Censuses

- state censuses often taken in the years between the federal censuses, such as 1875 or 1892
- some states cover about 1825 to 1925
- substitute for missing 1890 federal census
- most not online order microfilm through FamilySearch



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Search Tips & Tricks

- · look back 10 years at a time
- search w/o last name, add other family relationships
- · phonetically/wildcards/first initial
- · other family members
- · neighbors
- scroll through all data on line from left to right



geographical boundaries change ___

Other Types of Censuses

- church
- · colonial
- · Indian rolls
- school
- territorial



Census Alternatives

- · City Directories
- · Telephone Books
- · Other Directories



City/Telephone Directories

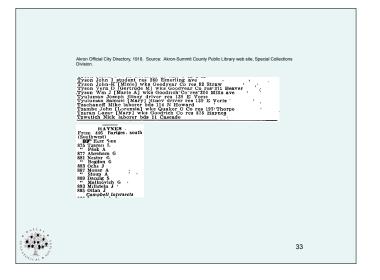
- local residents and businesses, particularly helpful for research in large cities, where a high percentage of the people were renters, new arrivals, or temporary residents
- · generally published annually
- city directories may include an individual's address, occupation, spouse's name, and other helpful facts

City Directories 2

- learn the exact years your ancestor inhabited a place
- locate ancestor in a census that hasn't been indexed
- · estimate year of immigration
- learn occupation and employer as identifiers
- find other family members



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Other Directories

- · organizations, churches, etc.
 - search catalogs of FamilySearch, Ancestry,
 - general web searches



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Be Alert to

- · illegible handwriting
- · spelling and/or data errors
- misinformation provided accidental and/ or deliberate
- · transcription errors



Documenting What You Find In Census Documents

Ancestry.com source citation:

Year: 1930; Census

Place: Readington, Hunterdon, New Jersey; Roll: 1361; Page: 7B; Enumera tion District: 31; Image: 653.0; FHL

microfilm: 2341096



Documenting What You Find in Census Documents 2

 FamilySearch source citation: "United States Census, 1930," index and images, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/ X4X8-95S: accessed 20 April 2012), William I Davis in household of William S Davis (Readington, Hunterdon, New Jersey).



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Search Demo

- Ancestry.com
- · FamilySearch.org
- HeritageQuest



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Happy Searching

