



Getting Started with Your Family History

Explore the Census

Carolyn Davis



Learning Objectives

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



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



1790 US Census Form

ancestry.com 1790 United States Federal Census For more family history charts and forms, visit www.ancestry.com/ancestry/ancestry.htm

State: _____ Call Number/URI: _____ Enumeration Date: _____

county	city	page	names of heads of families	free white males of 16 years & over, including heads of families	free white males under 16 years	free white females including heads of families	all other free persons	slaves



1940 US Census Form

State _____ Incorporated place _____ Ward of city _____ Unincorporated place _____ SIXTE

County _____ Township or other division of county _____ Block No. _____ Institution _____

RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1940

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE-BUREAU OF THE CENSUS SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940 POPULATION SCHEDULE

S. D. No. _____ E. D. No. _____ Sheet No. **A**

Enumerated by me on _____, 1940

Enumeration for _____

RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1940	PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER-EMPLOYMENT STATUS							
COUNTY	SEX	AGE	MARRIAGE	EDUCATION	INDUSTRIES AND OCCUPATIONS	UNEMPLOYED	RETIRED	OTHER



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 The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy.

Comparison of Census Information, 1790-1940

Personal Info on Census	1790	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940
Home of family head only	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Headcount by age, gender, ...	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Standard census form															
Names of all individuals							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Age							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sex							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Color							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Profession or occupation							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Place of birth							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Attended school that year							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Highest grade completed								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Married that year							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Read or write							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Deaf, blind, insane, idiotic, ...							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Real estate value							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Personal estate value								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Separate slave schedule							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Father of foreign birth							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mother of foreign birth							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Month of birth								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Month of birth that year								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Male citizen over 21 years								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Male over 21 denied vote								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Visitation number of dwelling							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Visitation number of family							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Street name in city								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House number in city								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Relationship to family head								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marital status								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Month of marriage that year								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
No. of months unemployed								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Father's birthplace								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	sup
Mother's birthplace								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	sup
Sickness on census day								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Year of birth								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
No. of years present								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mother how many children								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	sup
Number of children living								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Year of immigration to US								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
No. of years in US								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Naturalization status								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Months attended school								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



**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



“Problematic” Censuses

- 1790-1840
- 1890



Pre-1850 Censuses

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



1800/1810 Census—United States

Page	State	County	Free white males				Free white females				All others	Total	Remarks
Head of family	10-14	15-24	25-44	45+	10-14	15-24	25-44	45+	Slaves	Total	Remarks		

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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1850 Hardeman County, Tennessee Slave Schedule

SCHEDULE 2. Slave Inhabitants in _____ in the County of Hardeman State of Tennessee, enumerated by me, on the 23 day of Octo, 1850. M. J. Wier Ass't Marshal.

NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	Number of Slaves	DESCRIPTION.			Deaf & dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	Number of Slaves	DESCRIPTION.			Deaf & dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.
		Male	Female	Color				Male	Female	Color	
	1	4	M	13			1	3	M	13	
<u>Samuel Bird</u>	1	20	F	13			1	1	M	13	
	1	2	F	13			1	1	M	13	
<u>J. T. Rippey</u>	1	20	F	13			1	2	M	13	
	1	10	M	13			1	2	M	13	
	1	7	M	13		<u>John G. Southall</u>	1	13	F	13	
	1	1	F	13		<u>G. Harvill</u>	1	25	M	13	
	1	1	F	13			1	2	M	13	
	1	2	F	13			1	2	F	13	
<u>Joseph B. Miller</u>	1	21	M	13		<u>Henry Gibson</u>	1	1	M	13	
	1	5	F	13			1	20	F	13	
	1	1	M	13			1	1	M	13	
	1	1	M	13			1	1	M	13	
<u>James G. Burton</u>	1	20	M	13			1	12	M	13	



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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



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U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850-1885

U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850-1885

Page No. 2

Persons who died during the Year ending 30th June, 1860, in Hardeman County, State of Tennessee, enumerated by me, Wm. C. Brown Ass't Marshal.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON WHO DIED DURING THE YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE, 1860, IN PRESENT COUNTY, STATE OR TERRITORY.	AGE AT DEATH.	SEX.	COLOR.	MARRIED OR WIDOWED.	PLACE OF BIRTH.	THE MONTH IN WHICH HE DIED.	PROFESSION, OCCUPATION, OR TRADE.	DISEASE OR CAUSE OF DEATH.	NUMBER OF DAYS ILL.
<u>Abraham Poff</u>	11	M			<u>Tennessee</u>	<u>April</u>		<u>Diphtheria</u>	6
<u>John Schamp</u>	16	M			"	<u>June</u>	<u>Wm. Brown</u>	<u>Diphtheria</u>	12
<u>William H. Brown</u>	24	M			"	<u>June</u>	<u>Wm. Brown</u>	<u>Diphtheria</u>	12
<u>William H. Brown</u>	24	M			"	<u>June</u>	<u>Wm. Brown</u>	<u>Diphtheria</u>	12
<u>John Brown</u>	44	M			"	<u>July</u>	<u>Wm. Brown</u>	<u>Low Complaint</u>	10



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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 Owned?	yes	
3 Rents for fixed amount?		51 acres of buckwheat
4 Rents for shares of products?		62 bushels of buckwheat
5 Acres of improved land, tilled	280	63 acres of Indian corn
6 Acres of meadows, pastures, orchards, vineyards	55	84 bushels of Indian corn
7 Acres of wooded and forest	50	55 acres of oats
8 Other unimproved land		89 bushels of oats
9 Value of farm, incl. land, fences and bldgs	\$7,500.00	57 acres of rye
10 Value of farming implements and machinery	500.00	58 bushels of rye
11 \$ value of livestock	\$1,215.00	59 acres of wheat
12 \$ cost of building and repairing fences		60 bushels of wheat
13 \$ cost of fertilizer purchased		61 bushels Canada peas (dry)
14 \$ amt paid for farm labor wages	\$170.00	62 bushels of beans (dry)
15 weeks hired labor	46	63 acres of fax
16 \$ ret. value of all farm productions	\$740.00	64 bushels of fax seed
17 acres grass lands mown	18	65 tons of fax straw
18 acres grass lands not mown	5	66 pounds of fax fiber
19 tons of hay harvested	30	67 acres of hemp
20 bushels of clover seed harvested		68 tons of hemp
21 bushels of grass seed harvested	10	69 acres of sorghum
22 horses of all ages on hand	5	70 pounds of sorghum sugar
23 mules and _____ of all ages on hand		71 gallons of sorghum molasses
24 working oxen		72 pounds of maple sugar
25 milk cows	9	73 gallons of maple molasses
26 other cattle	10	74 acres of broom corn
27 calves dropped	7	75 acres of hops
28 cattle purchased	1	76 pounds of hops
29 cattle sold living	1	78 acres of Irish potatoes
30 cattle slaughtered		79 bushels of Irish potatoes
31 cattle died, strayed, and lost? and not recovered	1	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
36 lambs dropped		85 number of apple trees
37 sheep and lambs purchased		86 bushels of apples
38 sheep and lambs sold living		87 acres of peach trees
39 sheep and lambs 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 ewes	100	94 pounds of grapes sold
46 barnyard poultry	50	95 gallons of wine
47 other poultry		96 \$ value of market gardeners 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
		100 \$ value of all forest products

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



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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



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1860 Census Manufacturing/Industry Schedule

SCHEDULE 5—Products of Industry in *Palmetto* in the County of *Adams* State of *South Carolina* during the Year ending June 1, 1860, as enumerated by me, *Edmund Asst Marshal* Post Office *Adams*

Name of Corporation, Company, or Individual, producing articles in the annual value of \$100.	Name of Business, Manufacture, or Product.	Capital invested, in real and personal estate, in the Business.	RAW MATERIALS USED, INCLUDING FUEL.			Kind of Machinery, Steam, or otherwise.	STAFFED WITH OR BY SLAVE LABORERS.			WAGES PAID TO FREE LABORERS.	ANNUAL PRODUCT.		
			Quantity.	Kind.	Value.		Male.	Female.	Color.		Quantity.	Kind.	Value.
<i>W. H. Smith & Co.</i>	<i>Millinery</i>	<i>14000</i>	<i>5000</i>	<i>Wool</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>
<i>W. H. Smith & Co.</i>	<i>Millinery</i>	<i>14000</i>	<i>5000</i>	<i>Wool</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>
<i>W. H. Smith & Co.</i>	<i>Millinery</i>	<i>14000</i>	<i>5000</i>	<i>Wool</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>1000</i>

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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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Page No. 53
NEW JERSEY STATE CENSUS, A. D. 1895.
County of *Hammonton* Township of *Readington*
Enumeration made by *Elyah Gove*

NAMES OF PERSONS.	NATIVE BORN			FOREIGN BORN			AGE OF MALES BY CLASSES		AGE OF FEMALES BY CLASSES		REMARKS
	White Male	White Female	Color'd Male	Male	Female	Color'd	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	
<i>Henry Webb Jr</i>	/						/				
<i>Jennie Webb</i>		/						/			
<i>Charles Webb</i>	/						/				
<i>Harriet Tomkins</i>		/						/			
<i>Harriet Caplan</i>		/						/			
<i>George S. Davis</i>	/						/				
<i>Hannah H. Davis</i>		/						/			
<i>Henry H. Davis</i>	/						/				
<i>Abraham S. Davis</i>	/						/				
<i>Wm S. Davis</i>	/						/				
<i>Rafice Davis</i>	/						/				

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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

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Other Types of Censuses

- church
- colonial
- Indian rolls
- school
- territorial

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Census Alternatives

- City Directories
- Telephone Books
- Other Directories

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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



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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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Akron Official City Directory, 1918. Source: Akron-Summit County Public Library web site, Special Collections Division.

Tyson John I student res 260 Emwiling ave
Tyson John R (Minie) wks Goodyear Co res 83 Straw
Tyson Vera D (Bertrude M) wks Goodyear Co res 311 Beaver
Tyson Wm J (Marie A) wks Goodrich Co res 300 Mills ave
Tyulman Joseph (Mary) (Mary) (Mary) driver res 189 E Veris
Tuchanoff Mike laborer 804 114 N Howard
Tzanbe John (Lorenza) wks Quaker O Co res 197 Thorpe
Tzaran Lazar (Mary) wks Goodrich Co res 878 Haynes
Tzavitch Nick laborer 104 11 Cascade

HAYNES -
From 416 Bridges south
(Southwest)
877 East Side
878 East L
879 East A
877 Abraham G
881 Nestor G
883 Jordan G
885 John J
887 Monar A
889 Stump A
889 Danzig S
883 Matlovich G
883 Millstein J
885 Olin J
... Campbell intersects



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Other Directories

- organizations, churches, etc.
 - search catalogs of FamilySearch, Ancestry, etc.
 - 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



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Documenting What You Find In Census Documents

- Ancestry.com source citation:
Year: 1930; Census
Place: Readington, Hunterdon, New Jersey; Roll: 1361; Page: 7B; Enumeration District: 31; Image: 653.0; FHL microfilm: 2341096



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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



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