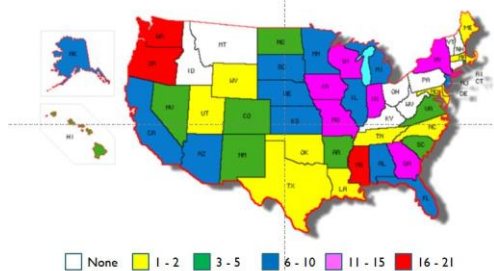


Number of State/Territorial Censuses Taken



State and Territorial Censuses *Underused Genealogical Tools*

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Because they were not taken systematically and centrally archived, these census reports remain a much under-utilized resource.

The Value of State and Territorial Census

- These censuses can be important supplements to the decennial federal records.
- They can also serve as substitutes for some of the missing federal censuses, such as 1890.
 - State and territorial censuses were taken in 1885, 1892 & 1895.
- Similar to the federal census, the questions varied from place to place, and year to year.
- Agriculture, Manufacturer and Mortality schedules were sometimes recorded in addition to the Population schedules.
- These records are not available through the National Archives, or any other central archive.
- Although some have been lost, many are still available, and are appearing online.

Territorial Censuses

- Except for the Thirteen Colonies, California, Kentucky, Maine, Texas, Vermont, and West Virginia, all the states went through a territorial stage before they were admitted to the Union.
- Territorial censuses were taken to petition for statehood, apportion the legislature, and/or for taxation purposes.
- The surviving records may be incomplete and most are not indexed.
- In all cases you must pay attention to which counties existed at the time the census was taken.
- Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org have copies of most available territorial censuses.

State Censuses

- Many states took censuses in ten-year intervals midway between the federal census counts (e.g., 1855, 1865, 1875, ...). Others conducted censuses in various years and at different intervals.
- A few states never conducted a census.
- State censuses may include different and/or more detailed questions than those in the federal census, such as date of the resident's parents' marriage, and the mother's maiden name.
- Many post-Civil War state censuses asked for information about veterans, some even giving the regiment and company in which they had served.
- FamilySearch and Ancestry have many state censuses and substitutes online.
Some FamilySearch restricted images are only viewable on computers at the Family History Library, a Family History Center, or an affiliated library.
- Surviving records may also be available through the state archives or state historical societies.
- Always check for missing counties.

The 1885 State/Federal Census

- A provision in the 1880 census law requested states and territories take a semi-decennial census. Each state or territory would receive 50% of the amount paid to supervisors and enumerators.
- Florida, Nebraska, Colorado, and the New Mexico and Dakota territories conducted Population, Agriculture, Manufacturers and Mortality censuses.
- The Dakota Territory schedules were never transferred to the National Archives but are held at the North and South Dakota State Archives, depending where the individual resided.
- Ancestry and/or FamilySearch have online copies of the 1885 census.

Texas

- The Austin Colony Padrón of 1826.
 - Available online from the Texas General Land Office.
- The Atascosito Census of 1826.
 - Available at: Clayton Library – Houston; University of Texas – Austin; Sterling Municipal Library – Baytown; Family History Library - Salt Lake City
- DeWitt colonists of 1828.
 - Heads of households only. Is incomplete, supplemented by names from Land Grant records.
 - Abstract available online from Texas A&M University.
- 1835 Census, Residents of Texas.
 - Transcribed by the TXGenWeb Project with permission of the University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio.
- Gifford White used land grants and tax rolls to list 20,000 heads of households in 1840.
 - Total 1840 population estimated at 50,000 free citizens and 17,000 slaves.
 - Size of land grant depended on when the settler arrived in Texas.

New Mexico

- Index to Spanish Census of 1750
 - Includes Alamo, Albuquerque, Belen, Santa Fe and Valencia.
 - Available at USGenWeb Archives.
- Spanish and Mexican Census Abstracts: 1790, 1793, 1803, 1823, 1829, 1841. Available at:
 - Clayton Library – Houston.
 - University of New Mexico – Albuquerque.
 - New Mexico State University – Las Cruces.
- Presidio of Santa Fe – Military Census 1826.
 - Available at USGenWeb Archives.

Oklahoma

- Federal censuses in the so-called Indian Country taken from 1820 through 1870 were under the jurisdiction of the Arkansas federal marshals.
 - Only those Native Americans who lived off reservations and were subject to taxes were counted.
- In 1890, the Oklahoma Territory took a special census of its original seven counties:
 - Beaver, Canadian, Cleveland, Kingfisher, Logan, Oklahoma and Payne.
(*OkHistory.org*)

Oklahoma (cont.)

- The 1900 federal Oklahoma Territory census included separate population schedules for Native Americans. (*Ancestry.com*)
- The only surviving schedules of the 1907 census of Indian and Oklahoma territories are for Seminole County. (*Ancestry.com*)
- The Indian Census Rolls, 1885-1940, are indexed and available online at *Ancestry.com* and *Fold3.com*.

Arkansas

- 1820 – Sheriffs were directed to conduct biennial censuses, beginning in 1823.
 - Censuses were conducted in 1823, 1825, 1827 and 1829.
 - Only surviving 1823 records are for Arkansas County.
 - All 1825 and 1827 records were lost.
 - 1823 & 1829 records are said to be included in *Ancestry's Arkansas, Compiled Census and Census Substitutes Index, 1819-1870*.
- Original records of the 1829 census are at the Arkansas History Commission in Little Rock.
 - No records for Pope or Sevier counties. Sheriffs reported only summary data for Hempstead, Izard, Lafayette, Phillips and Pulaski counties.
 - Published indexes available for Arkansas, Chicot, Clark, Conway, Crawford, Crittenden, Independence, and Lawrence counties.
 - Index for Johnson County (37 Heads of Household) available at:
<http://www.johnsoncountygenealogy.com/1829sheriffcensus.html>

Louisiana

- *The Census Tables for the French Colony of Louisiana from 1699 Through 1732* (Digital book compiled and translated by Charles R. Maduell, Jr.)
- *1791 Census of New Orleans*. English translation available from the New Orleans City Archives.
- 1810 Federal Louisiana Territorial Census. Available on *Ancestry*, *FamilySearch* and *MyHeritage*.

Before Your Start Your Research

Prior to searching for an individual in a state or territorial census one should:

- Become familiar with the content and limitations of the records by reading relevant research guides, books, wikis and catalog descriptions.
- Answer the following questions:
 - Was a census taken?
 - Which counties were surveyed? Which counties existed at that time?
 - Did the records survive?
 - Where are the records? On Ancestry/FamilySearch/MyHeritage? At the state archives? At the state historical society?
 - In what form are the records? Originals, microfilm, transcription, summary?
 - Have the records been indexed?

Resources

Web Sites (All links verified on 21 Dec 2018.)

- Ancestry.com Wiki. *Catalog: State Census Records*.
<https://search.ancestry.com/search/cardcatalog.aspx#ccat=hc=25&dbSort=1&sbo=1&title=state%20census>
- FamilySearch Wiki. *United States Census State Censuses*.
https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Census_State_Censuses
- MyHeritage.com. *Collection Catalog: Census and Voter Lists*.
www.myheritage.com/research/catalog/category-1000/census-voter-lists?location=USA
- Findmypast.com. *United States Census, Land & Substitutes Records*.
www.findmypast.com/articles/world-records/full-list-of-united-states-records/census-land-and-substitutes. Scroll down the menu on the left of the page to see the various available states.
- Red Book: American State, County & Town Sources, Third Edition
[https://wiki.rootsweb.com/wiki/index.php?title=Category:Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources](https://wiki.rootsweb.com/wiki/index.php?title=Category:Red_Book:_American_State,_County,_and_Town_Sources)
- Genealogy Research Guides. *State Census Records*.
<http://www.researchguides.net/census/state.htm>
- Newberry Library. *Atlas of Historical County Boundaries*.
<http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/>
- Oklahoma Historical Society. *The 1890 Oklahoma Territorial Census*.
<http://www.okhistory.org/research/1890>
- Texas General Land Office. *Exploring San Felipe: The 1826 Census of Austin's Colony*.
<https://medium.com/save-texas-history/exploring-san-felipe-the-1826-census-of-austin-s-colony-47c51aa7ff85>
- Sons of DeWitt Colony Texas. *Inhabitants DeWitt Colony 1828*.
<http://www.sonsofdewittcolony.org//1828census.htm>
- TXGenWeb Project. *1835 Census, Residents of Texas*.
<http://files.usgwarchives.net/tx/census/1835/>
Read the preface.txt, r1notes.txt, r2notes.txt and r3notes.txt files first!
- North Dakota State Archive. *Dakota Territory 1885 Census Database*.
<https://library.ndsu.edu/ndsuarhives/dakota-territory-1885-census-database>
- South Dakota State Historical Society. *Civil War Veteran's 1885 Census*.
<http://history.sd.gov/archives/Data/civilwar/default.aspx>

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- Dollarhide, William, 2016. *Census Substitutes & State Census Records; Three Volumes; Second Edition*. Family Roots Publishing, Orting, WA, 822pp.
- Dollarhide, William, 2017. *Texas Census & Substitute Name Lists 1716-2012*. Family Roots Publishing, Orting, WA, 85pp. (Electronic and hardcopy versions also available for most other states.)
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- Maduell, Charles R. Jr., 1972. *The Census Tables for the French Colony of Louisiana from 1699 through 1732*. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, MD, 1993, 171pp.
- Olmstead, Virginia Langham, 2015. *New Mexico Spanish & Mexican Colonial Censuses: 1790, 1823, 1845: Revised Edition*. New Mexico Genealogical Society, Albuquerque, NM, 348pp.
- White, Gifford, 1966. *The 1840 Census of the Republic of Texas*. Pemberton Press, Austin, TX, 236pp.