



Census Records

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What is a census?

- Regularly occurring and official count of a particular population
- Apportioning Congressional representatives
- Apportioning taxes
- Provides statistics for planning
- Based on person's usual residence
- Census lists are called "schedules"

First Federal Census in U.S.

- 1790
- Monday, August 2nd
- Name of head of household
- Tabulations of persons in household by gender and age (no names)
- Population counted 3,929,314 in 13 states and districts of Maine, Vermont, Kentucky, Tennessee

Federal Census

- 1800 – 1840 Population Schedules
- Name of head of household
- Tabulations of persons in household by gender and age (no names)
- 1820 & 1830 “foreigners not naturalized”
- # of states grew to 26
- Population grew to 17,063,353

Federal Census

- 1850 First “every name” census
- Includes ages, occupations, birthplaces (country or state), value of real estate
- New states: Florida, Texas, Iowa, Wisconsin, California
- New territories: Oregon, Minnesota, Utah, New Mexico
- Separate slave schedule

Federal Census

- Questions vary on each census
- Generally include name, gender, race, age, marital status, birthplace, occupation.
- Separate schedules for agriculture, veterans, slaves.

Federal Census

- 1860
- Name, age, sex, color, occupation, value of real estate, value of personal estate, place of birth, married within the year, attended school within the year, cannot read or write,
- Deaf, dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict
- Supplemental schedule for slaves

Federal Census

- 1870
- Whether parents were foreign born
- Does not name country where parents born
- Male citizens 21 & over, number denied the right to vote for other than rebellion
- First federal census after the Civil War

Federal Census

- 1880
- Adds birth places (country or state only) of person and each person's parents
- Identifies relationship to head of house
- Added whether single or married
- Number months employed
- Temporary disability

Federal Census

- 1890
- Destroyed by fire & water damage except 6,160 names
- Can be found on familysearch.org or on Ancestry.com
- Supplemental schedule for Union Civil War veterans or their widows

Federal Census

- 1885
- Taken in Colorado, Florida, Nebraska, Dakota and New Mexico territories

Federal Census

- 1900
- Month and year of birth
- How long married
- Number of children born, number now living
- If foreign born, year of immigration, whether naturalized
- Whether on farm
- Home owned or rented; mortgage

Federal Census

- 1910
- Month and year of birth
- Mother tongue of person and parents
- Year of immigration, whether naturalized
- Number of years of present marriage (women)
- Whether survivor of Union or Confederate army or navy

Federal Census

- 1920
- Year of immigration
- Whether naturalized, **year of naturalization**
- Literacy
- Mother tongue

Federal Census

- 1930
- Age at first marriage
- If foreign born, language spoken in home before coming to U.S.
- Year of immigration, whether naturalized
- Whether at work previous day
- Indians – whether full or mixed blood; tribe

Federal Census

- 1940
- Educational attainment
- Citizenship of foreign born
- Location of residence 5 years ago
- Employment status – private or in public emergency work (WPA, CCC, NYA, etc.)
- Duration of unemployment

Privacy of Census

- Details kept from the public for 72 years
- Can obtain individual record for legal purposes before that time; fee is charged

Other Federal Schedules

- Mortality – persons who died during 12 months prior to census
- Veterans – veterans and widows in 1840 & 1890
- Slaves – slave owners & number of slaves owned 1850 & 1860
- Indians – 1900 & 1910
- Military & Naval Forces – 1900 - 1930

Other Federal Schedules

- Agricultural – data on farms & names of farmers, 1850-1880
- Manufacturing – data on businesses & industries, 1820, 1850-1880
- Defective, Dependent, Delinquent – 1880
- Institutions – jail, hospital, poor house, asylum
- Social Statistics – real estate, taxes, cemeteries, schools, libraries, newspapers, churches

Other Federal Schedules

- Merchant seamen – on vessels in 1930
- Military & Naval Forces – forts, bases, and navy ships

How to Find Your Family

- Use a family group sheet
- Compare names and ages of children from one census to another
- Check adjoining page if family at bottom or top of page
- Look at neighbors. Are they relatives?

State Census

- May have been taken between federal censuses, such as 1905
- Information on which states and which years may be found at
- http://www.census.gov/history/www/genealogy/other_resources/state_censuses.html

States with No State Census

- Connecticut Idaho
- Kentucky Montana
- New Hampshire Ohio
- Pennsylvania Vermont
- West Virginia

How to Find Census Records

- If you have a library card for Billings Public Library:
- <http://www.billingslibrary.org/>
- Services
- Genealogy Room
- Heritage Quest Online

How to Find Census Records

- Barcode -Type library card number
- Click on Search Census
- Type Surname, Given Name
- Can select year and state

How to Find Census Records

- Other websites:
- <https://familysearch.org/>
- <http://www.usgwcensus.org/>

<http://www.census.gov>

- History - Through the Decades
- - Index of Questions

Census Records

- P. J. Smith
- President
- Yellowstone Genealogy Forum
- <http://www.yellowstonegenealogy.org/>