

FIND YOUR ANCESTORS IN US CENSUS RECORDS



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GETTING MORE *From the Census*

Learn how the US census
can be your starting gate
to discovering genealogy
clues in other records.

BY DENISE MAY
LEVENICK

70	021	1880	05	72	Brown, Frank A	Head	0	M	W	41	M	70	9	?	Calif	91	Naturaliz
71					Arlene A.	wife	1	F	W	49	M	70	8	?	Illborn	66	1—
72					Frances L.	Daughter	2	F	W	9	S	7	3	3	Kansas	70	—
73					Marguerite W	-	2	F	W	9	S	7	1	6	Kansas	70	—

🦋 **WOULDN'T IT BE** terrific if we could read between those handwritten lines in census records in order to answer our nagging family history questions? When the 1940 US census was first released and I eagerly examined the records for my mom's parents, I expected to find them living in the grand old Victorian house Mom often pointed out as her childhood home. But instead, they showed up in a more modest house a few miles away.

Many of our parents and grandparents—and even some of us—are represented in the most recent publicly available census, taken in 1940, giving us access to all kinds of information about everyday life at the time. And nearly 75 years later, many of us also have inherited family keepsakes and household miscellany from those same parents and grandparents who appear in that enumeration. Add the clues from these items to the ones in the 1940 census, and you can read quite a lot between the lines of the census.

Today, the Victorian stands on a busy Santa Ana street, with a wide lawn and stately turret that make it a local landmark. I wondered: Did Mom really live in that house? How could my grandparents, who didn't own a home and moved frequently—Grandpa traded home repairs for rent—afford to live for any length of time in such a large and elegant old



The grand old house my mother often pointed out as her childhood home (above) wasn't at the address given as the family's residence on the 1940 census (below). Using household and neighborhood clues from the census, along with hints discovered in old papers, I pieced together the story behind the family's moves during the 1940s.

house? The answer was hidden in the census. The same four strategies I used to read between the lines of the census and discover surprising facts about my grandparents' resourcefulness can help you unlock clues to solve family mysteries, too.

1 Target the right census.

Census information is the backbone of genealogy research, and the 1940 US census is one of the richest surveys of all for family history data. If you're looking for answers about a particular aspect of your ancestor's life, it's helpful to home in on a specific census during his life that highlights pertinent questions. To discover which specific census records will yield clues to solve your research question, see the list of census subjects by category on page 52. I turned to the 1940 US census, with its wealth of Great Depression-prompted employment data, to get a handle on my grandparents' living situation and whether they indeed could have lived at some point in the big house my mother remembered.

Census surveys have always reflected the signs of the times, whether the government wanted stats on males eligible for military service, massive immigration, literacy or the population shift from rural to urban life. Like many men, my grandfather had a tough time finding work between 1930 and 1940. The Census Bureau was especially interested in discovering how well Americans were doing economically in the wake of the Great Depression, and more than a quarter of the questions on the 1940 census dealt with employment status and wages. Other questions asked about internal migration, including where Americans lived in 1935 and if they were at the same address April 1, 1940 (the official census day). I started my investigation with the 1940 census employment data.

2 Transcribe, extract and analyze.

Squeeze every drop of information from census records by transcribing—copying word for word—the information on the sheets. Because census data are



TIP: Looking for US census records? See the July/August 2014 *Family Tree Magazine* for a complete census guide <shopfamilytree.com/family-tree-magazine-july-august-2014>.

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—	—	—	4387	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	72
—	—	—	4387	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	73

presented in table format, I like to transcribe the information the same way using a chart or spreadsheet with columns labeled the same way as on the census. You can download extract forms and worksheets from familytreemagazine.com/info/censusforms.

When I find an obvious error—for example, a household member's first name is spelled wrong—I copy the word as it appears and indicate the correct word in brackets: *Suzannah [Susan]*. If a word is illegible, I write *[illeg]* so I know information wasn't skipped.

After transcribing the Frank Brown household information, I copied the details into my genealogy database software. Next, I made a list of information that generated comments and questions for future research. I wanted to

discover when the Browns lived on North Broadway, so I marked with an asterisk any clues that might be helpful with that research. You can see my chart below.

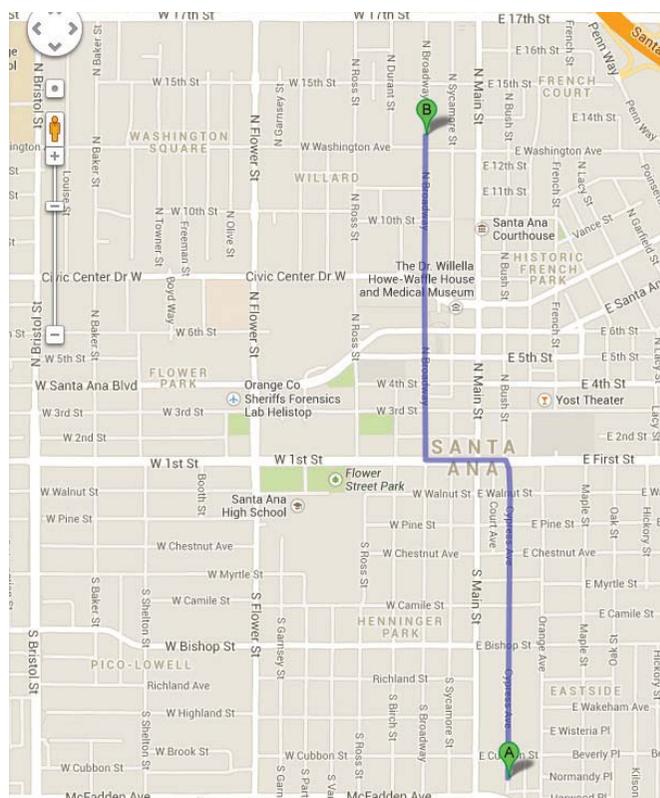
Like many Americans of their era, my grandparents left their home in Kansas to look for employment and opportunity in California. Mom remembered living in the old Victorian house at 1315 N. Broadway sometime in the 1940s, but the census showed they weren't living there on the April 9, 1940 survey date.

I transferred the non-asterisked notes and questions to my genealogy to-do list for later research. (My genealogy software has a to-do list feature; another option for tracking to-dos is the Research Planner and Log at familytree.com/info/researchforms.) Then I got to work on my prioritized questions.

1940 Census Information	Notes and Questions
On April 9 (the day the census taker visited), Frank A. Brown was the head of household, renting the house at 1021 E. Cypress for \$25 per month.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where is 1021 E. Cypress? Locate it on a map. * What is average rent in the neighborhood? *
Frank was a white male, age 47, who attended school through eighth grade.	
He was married to Arline A., age 49. He had two daughters, Frances L., age 9, and Suzanne W. (my mom), age 7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When did Frank and Arline marry? Possibly 1930 or 1931.
Frank was born in California (in 1893, estimating from his stated age).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth information confirmed by birth record.
In 1935, Frank and family lived in Kansas City, Saline County, Kan. They didn't live on a farm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How long did the family live in Kansas City?
For the week of March 24-30, 1940, Frank didn't work in any capacity. He was seeking work and had been unemployed for 78 weeks prior to March 30 (on the census return, 18 mo. is lined out and 78 is penciled above). Frank was a cannery worker by trade. He hadn't worked in 1939. His wages that year were \$0, but he had other sources of income totaling over \$50.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was unemployment common in the neighborhood? What other sources of income did Frank have?

3 Understand the neighborhood.

I used the web to find the exact location of the Brown home on Cypress. Typing the street address and town name into Google brought up a map of the location on Google Maps google.com/maps (other mapping sites, such as Bing www.bing.com/maps, have a similar feature). With Street View, I could get a close-up look at the house. Then I hit Get Directions to find the distance between this house and the other one. The Browns' 1940



A Google map showed me the distance between the home where my mom's family resided during the 1940 census and the home she remembered living in.

Squeeze every drop of information from census records by transcribing—copying word for word—the information.

home at 1021 Cypress was 1.6 miles from the house Mom remembered at 1315 N. Broadway.

Next, I looked closely at the families in their neighborhood. By comparing the Brown family with a dozen or more households listed near them in the census, I was able to see how my family fit within the economic and social sphere of their neighbors.

A quick tally showed that about half the families in this working-class neighborhood were homeowners, and half were renters. But only a few families paid more rent than my grandparents' \$25 monthly; most paid between \$10 and \$20 a month. It also seemed to be a fairly stable neighborhood, with most residents living at the same address five years earlier (a data point noted in the 1940 census).

The Browns were typical for the time and place. Their neighbors were a mix of native Californians and newcomers born in Texas, Iowa, Germany and many other places. Times were tough in 1940s Southern California; my grandfather wasn't alone in his long unemployment. Many of his neighbors didn't have jobs, either.

After extracting information from the census and evaluating my relatives' place in the neighborhood, I still had some questions:

- Why was the Brown's rent higher than their neighbors' rent?
- What was Frank's other source of income?
- When did the family move to the Victorian house at 1315 N. Broadway?
- How could the Browns possibly afford the rent on the larger house?

Answers in the Attic

Information about the places your family lived might be right under your nose, in memorabilia inherited from family members. Look for these items:

- appointment calendars
- auto insurance or registration papers
- bank account passbooks
- driver's licenses, library cards, club memberships and other identification cards
- household bills and receipts
- letters
- magazines (look for an address label)
- paycheck stubs
- ration books
- rent and mortgage receipts
- school or medical paperwork
- tax returns
- utility bills

To conduct your own neighborhood survey, use a tally sheet that includes the key data items you want to examine. Locate the residence on a map and draw a border around the neighborhood. The typical neighborhood was usually an area of several blocks that included a grocery store, school and church. By 1940, many rural and suburban families owned a car, and their community was even wider, but people still often chose their residence near friends, family, church and school.

Start with the next-door and across-the-street neighbors for your target family. Extend your sample to at least two or three city blocks or several miles in a rural area. You'll want a few dozen households in each direction to get a sense of your family's neighborhood.

4 Look beyond the census. The first stop for any type of family history research is your own home and the homes of your relatives. I've inherited a trove of letters, photos and assorted

MORE ONLINE

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- Official census dates
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- Reconstructing the 1890 census
<familytreemagazine.com/article/now-what-reconstructing-the-1890-census>

For Plus Members

- Searching the 1940 census
<familytreemagazine.com/article/road-map-to-1940-census-success>
- State censuses research guide
<familytreemagazine.com/article/state-census-secrets>
- Analyzing census clues
<familytreemagazine.com/article/analyzing-clues-in-the-census>

ShopFamilyTree.com

- Guide to special censuses
<shopfamilytree.com/research-strategies-special-censuses>
- *Family Tree Pocket Reference*, 2nd edition
<shopfamilytree.com/family-tree-pocket-reference-2nd-edition-group>
- Smarter Online Census Searching video class
<shopfamilytree.com/smarter-online-census-searching-video-class-u4141>

Census Clues to Your Ancestors' Lives

Want to know something about your ancestors' lives? Ask the census: Especially compared to today's sparse censuses, enumerators asked our ancestors a surprising number of questions. This listing shows you which census you can consult for specific information about ancestors who lived during that time.

NAMES

- head of household only: **1790-1840**
- all household members (except slaves): **1850 on**
- household members temporarily absent: **1940**
- newborns not yet named: **1940**

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

- relationship to head of household: **1880 on**

BIRTH DATE AND PLACE

- age range of free white males: **1790-1840**
- age range of free white females: **1800-1840**
- age of everyone in household: **1850 on**
- month of birth (for those born within the census year): **1870, 1880, 1940**
- month and year of birth: **1900**
- birthplace: **1850 on**
- US birthplace state, territory or possession: **1940**
- foreign birthplace as of Jan. 1, 1937: **1940**
- specific Canadian and Irish birthplace: **1940**

RACE AND ETHNICITY

- number of free colored: **1820, 1830, 1840**
- each person's color/race: **1850 on**

PARENTS

- foreign-born parents: **1870**
- parents' place of birth: **1880 on**
- mother tongue: **1910**
- self and parents' mother tongue: **1920, 1930**

MARRIAGE

- married within census year: **1850-1890**
- marriage month: **1870**
- marital status: **1880 on**
- number of years married: **1900, 1910**
- age at first marriage: **1930**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

- number of aliens/persons not naturalized: **1820-1840**
- year of immigration to United States: **1900-1930**
- number of years in United States: **1890, 1900**
- naturalization status: **1870** (males over 21), **1890-1930**
- citizenship of foreign born: **1940**

PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH

- persons in household who were blind, deaf or "dumb": **1830-1890, 1910**
- persons in household who were "idiotic" or insane: **1850, 1860**
- mother of how many children and number still living: **1890-1910**
- whether suffering from chronic disease: **1890**

REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY

- value of real estate owned: **1850-1870**
- value of personal estate: **1860, 1870**
- own or rent home: **1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940**
- value of home/monthly rent: **1940**
- had a radio: **1930**
- farm or farm schedule: **1900 on**

EDUCATION AND LITERACY

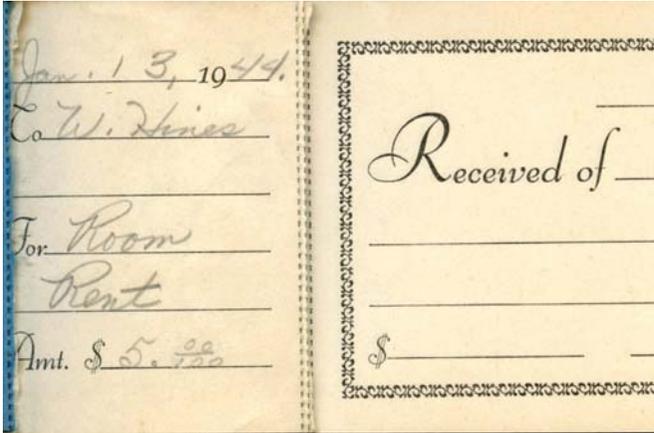
- attended school in the past year: **1840 on**
- highest grade attended: **1940**
- can read or write: **1850-1890, 1910-1930**
- speaks English: **1900-1930**

OCCUPATION AND EMPLOYMENT

- number of persons (including slaves) engaged in agriculture, commerce or manufacturing: **1820**
- occupation: **1840 on**
- if person is a pauper, convict or homeless child: **1850, 1860, 1890**
- employment status (seeking work, housework, school, unable to work): **1940**
- weeks worked/income in previous year: **1940**
- if employed in emergency work (such as the WPA or CCC): **1940**

MILITARY

- veteran status: **1890, 1910, 1930**
- pensioner for Revolutionary War or military service: **1840**



This receipt stub was in a book found among my grandparents' things. It suggests my grandparents sublet rooms in the house they rented.

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memorabilia from my mother, aunt and grandparents. It's easy to recognize the genealogical value in old letters and photos, but harder to know what information you can learn from old bank passbooks, ration books, library cards and the like. I was glad I saved those things when I began to tackle this research problem. I wanted evidence of residence—where the Brown family lived in the decade following the official 1940 census.

I started with letters, looking at the address, return address and postmark to discover where Frank, Arline, Frances and Suzanne lived. I found several different addresses for members of the family. To organize the information, I created a timeline of dates, names and addresses. Next, I looked at other items that might hold clues to a residence: address books, ration cards, membership cards. See the box on page 51 for a list of helpful items you may have inherited.

The answer to my questions was in my family archive. I pulled out a box of old financial records left in my grandparents' estate and started looking for any papers dated in the 1940s.

I was surprised to find a small book with the title *Money Receipts*, the kind used by landlords in collecting rent. The book runs from January 1944 to November 1945, and includes stubs of receipts for weekly room rent, amounting to \$5 and \$7. Were my grandparents bootlegger-landlords who were subletting the garage?



TIP: On each sheet of the 1940 census, two people answered supplementary questions. If you're lucky enough to find ancestors on those lines, you can learn about their parents' birthplaces, military service and participation in the Social Security or Railroad Retirement Board insurance plans.

Next, I found a loose, torn receipt made out to my grandfather and dated Sept. 1, 1942. It was for payment of \$25 rent for a house on Broadway.

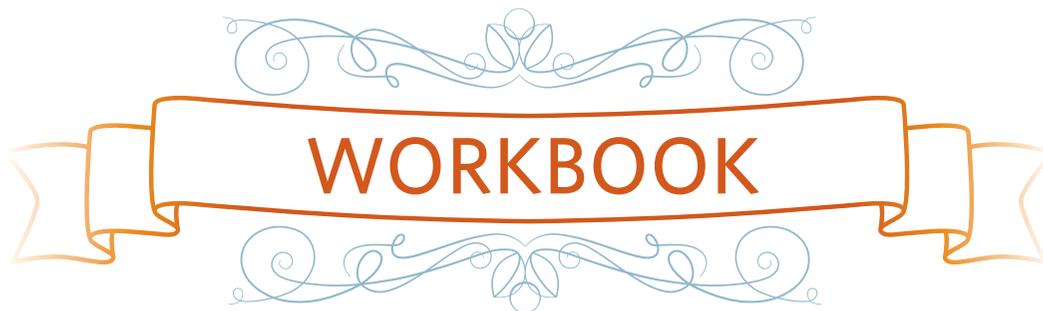
The clues all fell into place with two more items: a carbon copy of a typed letter from the Office of Price Administration, dated May 20, 1943, denying the landlord's petition to evict my grandparents, as well as a handwritten Tenant's Complaint signed by my grandmother one week later.

It looks like Arline had been subletting rooms in the house, and the building's landlord decided either to evict the tenants or raise the rent. At the time, this required permission from the Office of Price Administration, the government agency established in 1941 by executive order to control the prices of sugar, gasoline, coffee, meats, rent and other commodities.

Arline's complaint is a goldmine of information. She states her address, when she moved in, the amount of rent paid and number of occupants. Evidently, the landlord was denied permission to evict the Browns and instead tried to raise the rent to \$35 per month, prompting Arline's appeal to the local housing authority.

In many family history investigations, solving one puzzle leads you to another question. The 1940 census revealed clues prompting me to further research, which helped me unlock my family history mystery. I now know my mother did indeed live with her family in the beautiful old Victorian at 1315 N. Broadway during the 1940s, just as she remembered, and I have a pretty good idea how my savvy grandparents afforded the rent for the entire downstairs of the big house. Grandma and Grandpa, working-class renters, took a lesson from their own lives and become landlords themselves, making getting by a little easier in wartime California. ■

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The US Census

BY SUNNY JANE MORTON

🐞 **IMAGINE SOMEONE SHOWING** up at your American ancestors' door every 10 years and taking a group photo of the household. You'd want all of those pictures, wouldn't you? They'd show a time-lapse biography of your family. You'd study each person's age progression, how hairstyles and fashions changed, who appeared or disappeared (and when) and how the backdrop changed over time.

The US census is that decade-by-decade picture—albeit in words. Every decade, census-takers compiled a list of nearly all American households. As time went on, they gathered slightly different—but increasingly more—information. By the late 1800s, censuses could tell us who lived with whom and how they were related, how well they lived, what work they did, and sometimes when or where they were born, married and died.

Censuses are so data-rich that they're among the first places you should look for your family history—and you should keep coming back to them. It's difficult to absorb everything on the first pass. Revisit your ancestors in censuses to find clues you missed, interpret new finds or confirm you're on the right track. We'll show you what's in census records, how to find your ancestors' records, and how to extract every possible clue.

A national head count

The US Constitution calls for a nationwide population tally every 10 years for congressional representation purposes. The first was in 1790; the most recent was in 2010. Additionally, the federal government picked up part of the tab for an 1885 census of some states and territories, so these count as federal censuses, too.

Census-takers were to visit each household. It might have taken weeks or months to visit everyone, but all information collected was supposed to reflect the household as it was on a specific date. The census date (turn two pages for a list

is important when you're calculating household members' birth years based on the age in a census, or if someone was born or died around the time a census was taken.

Over time, standardized questions, census forms and procedures developed. Enumerators received instructions about the direction to proceed around neighborhoods, the intent behind questions and how to code a variety of answers. For some censuses (see below), enumerators asked a set of supplemental questions of those in certain population segments, such as veterans or those with disabilities, to capture social, economic and public health information.

Questions, questions

Genealogists might cluster US censuses into three groups: the least informative (1790-1840), fairly informative (1850-1870) and genealogical jackpot (1880-1940). Those early censuses name only heads of household and count others. The 1830 census was the first to use a standard preprinted form. Here's a breakdown:

- **1790-1810:** name the head of household with tallies of other household members by age group, gender, race (white, black or Indian), and free or slave status
- **1820:** same as above, plus tallies of aliens and workers in agriculture, commerce and manufacture
- **1830:** drops the industrial categories and added tallies of the deaf, "dumb" and blind, segregated by race and age
- **1840:** reintroduces employment tallies for various industries; adds military veterans receiving pensions; and tallies those in school, illiterate white adults, and "insane" and "idiots" cared for at public expense

Beginning in 1850, every free household member was named, and homes and families were numbered in order of visitation.

- **1850:** name, age, sex and color of each free person; value of real estate owned; place of birth; whether married or

attended school within the year; whether an illiterate adult or “deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper or convict;” and occupation of males over 16

- **1860:** adds value of personal property
- **1870:** adds more-detailed age, race and literacy descriptors. This census adds indicators for parents of foreign birth; month of birth or marriage if occurring within the year; voter eligibility; and whether a victim of voter discrimination. Names the formerly enslaved for the first time.

Beginning in 1880, the level of family history detail in the census rises to a new high. Home addresses, family relationships and more put these among the richest existing sources for American genealogy.

- **1880:** adds street address, relationship of each person to head of household, marital status, everyone’s profession, months unemployed, illness or disability on date of visit, parents’ birthplaces

- **1890:** adds more detailed capture of race, household structure, naturalization status and disability/illness; number of children borne/living and years in the United States; months attending school; parents’ birthplaces; whether a homeless child, convict, prisoner or Civil War veteran/widow; native tongue (if not English). Sadly, all but a handful of schedules for this census were ruined after a Census Bureau fire.

- **1900:** removes native tongue, adds month and year of birth, whether an English speaker, years in present marriage, year of immigration/number of years in the United States, homeownership/renter status.

- **1910:** removes birth month and year, adds occupational and unemployment details, Civil War veteran status, and language of non-English speakers. Less detail requested on schooling and disability.

FAST FACTS

- **FIRST U.S. FEDERAL CENSUS:** 1790
- **FREQUENCY:** every 10 years, plus 1885 for some areas
- **LATEST CENSUS AVAILABLE:** 1940
- **NEXT CENSUS AVAILABLE:** 1950, scheduled for release April 1, 2022
- **SIGNIFICANT MISSING DATA IN:** 1790-1810, 1890
- **LOCATION OF ORIGINAL RECORDS:** National Archives and records Administration <www.archives.gov>
- **RESEARCH ONLINE AT:** Ancestry.com, Archives.com, FamilySearch.org, FindMyPast.com, MyHeritage.com.
- **SEARCH TERMS:** *US census [insert year], federal census records [year]*
- **ALTERNATE OR SUBSTITUTE RECORDS:** State and local censuses, tax records, voter registrations, city directories, Sanford maps (for neighborhood layout). Ancestry.com has census substitute databases for 1890 and 1950.

As you move across time through censuses, a household picture emerges.

- **1920:** removes childbearing data, adds year of naturalization, mother tongue for self and both parents, whether living on a farm

- **1930:** adds value of home/rental, radio ownership, age at first marriage, mother tongue of foreign born, English language ability, unemployment, military veterans mobilized (and for which war)

- **1940:** adds informant to the census taker; highest school grade completed; place of residence on April 1, 1935; and details on employment status, occupation, involvement in public emergency work, income amount and source. A sample was also asked for parents’ birthplaces; mother tongue; whether a veteran or veteran’s spouse, widow or child; whether in possession of a Social Security number; whether paid into federal retirement programs; usual occupation; and marital and childbearing history.

Search all censuses

Original and microfilmed population schedules are at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), but most originals are closed to researchers. It’s easier to find relatives by searching digitized, indexed versions of decennial censuses at major genealogy websites (see Fast Facts). Online versions of the 1885 population censuses for most or all of Colorado, Florida and Nebraska, and the territories of Dakota and New Mexico, are at Ancestry.com.

Try to locate each relative in every census taken during that person’s life. Begin with the most recent census in which someone should appear and work back through time (then forward, to help verify your death date for the person). You’ll be able to track migrations and note slightly (or widely) different answers to similar questions over the years—even for categories you’d expect to be consistent, such as age. You might discover surprises and detours in relatives’ lives.

Search first by the person’s name. If needed, use the site’s filters to narrow your search to a specific census and location (state, county or town). Restrict your results to see just census records (there’s usually a filter called something like “restrict by record type”). Then broaden the location if you can’t find the person.

Census takers didn’t ask people how to spell their names, so misspellings are common. In addition, indexers may have made errors when transcribing the names to create search-

able indexes. To overcome these problems, try spelling variations, nicknames, different combinations of first and middle names and initials, and both maiden and married names for women. If the site allows it, you can leave out the name and search on other variables. Keep track of your searches in the Online Database Search Tracker, free at <familytreemagazine.com/info/researchforms>.

Still can't find someone? Browse the census in a probable location. You can do this on several genealogy data websites. For example, at Ancestry.com, select the right census from the card catalog and choose Browse This Collection. On FamilySearch.org, go to Search, then scroll to and select Browse All Published Collections, then scroll to United States Census and select the right year. Scroll to the Browse option. In Archives.com, you must find someone in the census first (such as a neighbor from an earlier or later census), then page forward or backward from there.

Beginning in 1880, you may need to know the enumeration district (ED) as well as the town or county to browse by location (the city of Chicago alone has nearly 200 EDs in 1880). One-Step Webpages by Stephen P Morse <www.stevemorse.org> offers several tools for finding EDs; on the home page, scroll to the US census section.

At times the census missed people. Almost all of 1890 census was destroyed in a fire, and significant portions of the 1790 and 1810 censuses are lost. In such cases, look to census substitutes—records created around the same time with similar information. These include state censuses, tax records, school censuses, voter lists and other local enumerations. Consult state and local genealogical guides for availability.

Compile the data

As you move across time through censuses, a household picture emerges. A single person marries, children are born and leave home, relatives move in or out, spouses die, a widower remarries. Keep track of all this data properly and you'll make a lot better sense of it.

Every time you find a family member in a census, attach the source information to the individual's profile in your online family tree and/or cite it in your family tree software. Save the record image, too (you could use a photo editor to add source information right on the document). If you're paper-based, print the census image, jot the source information on it, and keep it in that family's file.

Next, extract every piece of data you find, even if you think you'll remember it or it doesn't seem valuable. Census worksheets at <familytreemagazine.com/info/censusforms> give you handy blank census forms to copy in your ancestors' stats under preprinted column headers.

Use the Family Group Summary on the last page of this workbook to construct a time-lapse picture of a household. Pay special attention to the "relationship to head of household" column that first appears in 1880. The head of household

Websites

- **Agricultural Censuses, Statistics by Decade** <www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/Historical_Publications/index.php>
- **American Family Through Time** <www.archives.com/genealogy/1940-census-facts.html>
- **Ancestry.com** <ancestry.com>
- **Archives.com** <www.archives.com>
- **Census Questions by Decade** <www.archives.com/genealogy/1940-census-questions.html>
- **Cyndi's List: US Census** <cyndislist.com/us/census>
- **FamilySearch.org** <www.familysearch.org>
- **Findmypast.com** <www.findmypast.com>
- **Guide to Census Non-Population Schedules at Duke University** <library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/censusschedules>
- **HeritageQuest Online** <heritagequestonline.com>
- **Historical Census Browser** <mapserver.lib.virginia.edu>
- **MyHeritage.com** <myheritage.com>
- **NARA: Census Records** <archives.gov/research/census>
- **One-Step Web Pages by Stephen P. Morse: US Census** <www.stevemorse.org/#us>

Publications and Resources

- *The Genealogist's Census Pocket Reference* by Allison Dolan (Family Tree Books)
- *Indexes to Manufacturers' Census of 1820: An Edited Printing of the Original Indexes and Information* compiled by the National Archives (Bookmark)
- *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920* by William Thorndale and William Dollarhide (Genealogical Publishing Co.)
- National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20408, (866) 272-6272, <archives.gov>
- *State Census Records* by Ann S. Lainhart (Genealogical Publishing Co.)
- *Your Guide to the Federal Census* by Kathleen Hinckley (Betterway Books)



TIP: Look up every ancestor in every census and note each piece of information you find on a census extraction form.

Put It Into Practice

1. For what years are US censuses available to genealogical researchers?

2. What was the first census to name more than just the head of household?

3. What special schedule would you consult to learn more about a farm-owning ancestor in 1870? Which website might have this schedule online?

EXERCISE A: Go to FamilySearch.org's main Search page <www.familysearch.org/search>. Sign in (an account is free). Look for Thomas Selby's household in the 1870 census. He was born about 1815 in Pennsylvania. Restrict results to censuses only.

1. What is Thomas' wife's name and what is his occupation?

2. How old is Chester? What would you guess is his relationship to Thomas?

3. Who on that census page would you guess works with Thomas?

4. Write a citation for this record.

EXERCISE B: Choose an ancestor you want to learn more about who should appear in at least two to three US censuses. Search for him or her in every census during his lifetime. Document your findings in at least one way recommended in the article (attach to individual profile in online family tree, add as source in family tree or citation manager software, or fill out Census Record Extraction Form).

(usually a man) is designated on the census. Keep in mind that person's child may not also be the spouse's child.

You also can use the Census Record Extraction form to create an at-a-glance summary of several types of census data (most useful beginning in 1850). Remember: The same information may be requested in different ways in each census, and even presumably "unchanging" information like birth year may be reported differently over time. The two reports of the same data are valuable, so log each year's statement for each category.

It's not uncommon to find someone who's 22 in one census, then 30 ten years later, then 39 ten years after that. Before birth certificates and qualifying for Social Security, many people didn't know or care exactly when they were born. Others misrepresented ages to enroll in the military or marry, and may have kept up the lie. Officials didn't have a way to double-check for accuracy.

Discrepancies may show up for other reasons. The census taker's source of information may have been a child or neighbor. Language barriers and cultural prejudices could result in miscommunication and inaccurate writeups. Mistrust of the government may have led to lies, particularly about income or naturalization status. Someone wishing to hide a former marriage or childbirth might not report these events. Consider which of these reasons might best apply in your ancestor's case and look for other records to confirm your suspicions.

Censuses often contain clues to extended family. The easiest way to jump back a generation is to find an aging parent living with an adult child. Use the head-of-household column to confirm the relationship. Remember that a "mother-in-law" is the head-of-household's mother-in-law, not the spouse's. Other strategies include:

- For 1850 or later, look for your relative as a young person in a parent's household. You'll be more confident you've got a match if your ancestor had an unusual name, if the family lived in the same neighborhood, the birth years match, and/or there's only one reasonable search result. But treat these findings as circumstantial evidence and seek other sources for the parents' identities.

- Use noncensus records to identify parents: birth, marriage and death records; Social Security applications (SS-5); draft registrations, military service or pension paperwork and more. In city directories, an adult child might have the same residential address as the suspected parents. Once you identify the parents, return to the census and look for them.

- Browse census pages before and after your family's listing for relatives who live nearby. Do additional research to reveal how these folks might be related.

Check out special censuses

Several decennial population censuses included schedules for segments of the population, such as military veterans, slaves, the disabled, owners of farms or manufacturing

MORE ONLINE



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- Getting around the 1890 census brick wall <familytreemagazine.com/article/federal-records-in-flames>
- Free census forms <familytreemagazine.com/info/censusforms>
- Where to Find 1880 DDD Supplemental Schedules download <familytreemagazine.com/upload/images/PDF/DDDschedules.pdf>



For Plus Members

- Using pre-1850 censuses <familytreemagazine.com/article/finding-ancestors-in-censuses-1790-1840>
- Census record resources <familytreemagazine.com/article/by-the-numbers-census-records>
- Finding census records online <familytreemagazine.com/article/surfing-the-census>



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- Making Sense of Pre-1850 Censuses download <shopfamilytree.com/making-sense-of-pre-1850-census-w8721>
- Smarter Online Census Searching video class <shopfamilytree.com/smarter-online-census-searching-video-class-u4141>
- US State Genealogy Guides <shopfamilytree.com/us-state-genealogy-guides>

businesses of a certain size, and the recently dead. These special “nonpopulation” censuses are available on microfilm and often, on the same genealogy websites as population censuses, but in different databases:

■ **AGRICULTURAL SCHEDULES (1840-1940):** These list farm owners or managers, acreage, cash value, crops and other products, livestock number and value, and value of home-made goods. Availability is spotty, though: The 1840 data remain only as statistics, schedules for 1890 to 1910 were destroyed, and individual schedules after 1910 are almost entirely unavailable (ask at state archives). But at least one farm schedule for 1850 through 1880 survives for at least 21 states. State repositories and Duke University <library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/censusschedules> have many originals. NARA has most on microfilm and Ancestry.com has a good collection in a database called Selected US Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880.

■ **DDD SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE (1880):** If the 1880 population census designated any relatives as sick, disabled, blind, deaf and dumb, idiotic, insane, impoverished, homeless or a prisoner, look for them in the Schedules of Defective, Dependent and Delinquent Classes. You can search these “DDD” schedules for 21 states at Ancestry.com. For other states and original or microfilm versions, see *Family Tree Magazine’s* state-by-state listing of DDD schedules’ whereabouts <familytreemagazine.com/upload/images/PDF/DDDschedules.pdf>.

■ **MANUFACTURER/INDUSTRY SCHEDULES (1810-1820, 1850-1880):** Records from 1810 are largely lost. Reports for 1820 and 1850 through 1880 exist on manufacturers producing at least \$500 annually in goods. These contain the name, business/product type, investment amount, values of raw materials and machinery, annual production, number of employees and labor costs. Originals or microfilmed copies are at the National Archives and its regional libraries. An index to 1820s data is listed in the toolkit. Many 1850-1880 schedules are on Ancestry.com.

■ **MORTALITY SCHEDULES (1850-1885):** During each census, deaths from the previous June 1-May 31 were logged with the deceased’s gender, age, color, widow(er) status, birthplace, death month, occupation, cause of death and length of illness. The 1870 and 1880 enumerations add more detail. Original schedules are scattered across state repositories and

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE ANSWERS

1 1790-1940 and 1885 2 1850 3. Agricultural, Ancestry.com.

EXERCISE A 1 His wife is Huldy and he is a “circuit and county clerk.” 2 Chester is 20. He may be Thomas’ son judging from their ages; finding the family in an earlier census and in other records would help confirm this.

3 David Simons (on the next line), a “judge of court” 4 1870 US Census, Osage Township, Camden County, Missouri, population schedule, p. 1 (penned), p. 512 (stamped), dwelling 2, family 2, Thomas Selby; digital images, FamilySearch.org (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 07 Apr 2014); from National Archives microfilm publication M593.

the DAR Library <www.dar.org/library>, with most on microfilm from FamilySearch. Some transcriptions are searchable free at <www.mortalityschedules.com>. Ancestry.com has an incomplete collection; FamilySearch.org and Archives.com have 1850 schedules.

■ **SOCIAL STATISTICS (1850-1880):** These list no names, but they do list churches, cemeteries, fraternal organizations, clubs, schools, libraries, newspapers and other organizations in your ancestors’ communities. Originals are at NARA; major genealogical libraries have published lists in 1880. You can browse several schedules at Ancestry.com in the aforementioned collection of nonpopulation censuses. Under Browse this Collection, choose the state and, if available, “social statistics” as schedule type.

■ **SLAVE SCHEDULES (1850-1860):** These censuses name slaveowners, but generally identify their slaves only by age, sex, color (black or mulatto) and whether a fugitive or manumitted. Use other sources to confirm a possible match for an enslaved ancestor. Ancestry.com has 1850 and 1860 slave schedules; FamilySearch.org has 1850.

■ **VETERANS SCHEDULES (1840, 1890):** Revolutionary War pensioners identified in the 1840 census appear in *A Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Services*, an e-book that’s free at Internet Archive <www.archive.org> and searchable on Ancestry.com. The 1890 census listed Civil War Union veterans and their widows, and some Confederate veterans. Schedules survive for half of Kentucky and the states alphabetically following it, plus Indian Territories and US ships and navy yards. You can search these schedules at Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org. ■



Master the **CENSUS**

**Are your ancestors eluding you in US enumerations?
Don't rely on hunches and guesses—try these six tactics
to conquer the challenges of census research.**

By David A. Fryxell

Genealogists have a love-hate relationship with the US census. Yes, we love the reams of data those every-10-years population tabulations created, but we loathe the inscrutably handwritten enumeration sheets. Between census appearances, ancestors often seem to switch not just residences but birth dates, too. Names can be indecipherable or all too common (is that your James Smith or somebody else's?). Offspring mysteriously appear and disappear. Worst, in some head counts, your ancestors simply refuse to be found at all.

Such vagaries aren't uncommon, given immigrants' speaking accents, census takers' recording errors and less-than-fully informed neighbors' reports when our ancestors weren't home. Not to mention modern indexers' challenging task of interpreting loopy handwriting on fuzzy microfilm. But with a few insider tips and tricks, you can not only find your ancestors in Uncle Sam's enumerations, but also tease out hidden information about their lives. Try these six strategies for reading between the lines of the census.

1. Follow the family.

The pitfalls of census research became obvious to me recently when I tried to trace little Jimmy McKinn. At age 11, or maybe 12 or 13, none other than Geronimo abducted Jimmy from his family's New Mexico ranch. Remarkably, months later he was rescued—against his will, as he'd become “thoroughly Indianized.” Perhaps his traumatic experience somehow explains why in his later life (as I discovered in the census) Jimmy kept changing the facts of his birth. Nonetheless, I knew I had my man because the family members matched in the censuses I consulted.

Normally you search the most-recent census during your relative's life and work back. But the only residence I knew for Jimmy was his childhood home in Grant County, NM, so I started there and traced him forward. He was rescued in 1886; because fire destroyed most of the 1890 census, I found him in 1900: James McKinn, born July 17, 1873 (making him 12 when abducted), his father born in Ireland—matching details I knew. He had a wife, Victoria, born in 1878, and two daughters, Josefa (1895) and Victoria (1899).

They were key to figuring out the James McKinn I found 20 years later in Phoenix, where family lore said he'd moved, had to be the same man. The 1920 “Jim McKinn” now gave his father's birthplace in New Mexico and his own age as 45.

For censuses listing only ages, not birth dates, use the official census date (see box, page 27) to calculate his birth year—it was Jan. 1 for this head count, making Jim born in 1874. But he still was married to Victoria, five years his junior, and they still had a daughter, now spelled Josepha, born in New Mexico in 1895. Little Victoria might now be married or may have died in infancy. He'd added four children: Prospero, Pete, Josephina and John.

Those kids helped me match a Jim McKinn in the 1930 census, even though this guy was age 54 (so, born in 1875 or 1876) and gave his own and his kids' birthplace as Arizona. Yet he was still married to Victoria and three of the 1920 offspring still lived with them, all with the right ages and names. Couldn't be a coincidence. If I'd simply searched for a James McKinn born in 1873 in New Mexico, rejecting any listing that didn't match exactly, I

would've skipped right over him. But linking the family from one head count to the next made me sure I had the former captive of Geronimo.

2. Notice the neighbors.

Keep in mind the folks enumerated above and below your ancestors might not be merely their neighbors—they could be relatives. If I needed further proof my 1920 and 1930 Jims were the same, I just had to look one entry earlier: In 1930, there was his son Prospero living next door with a family of his own.

Or the neighbors may not be related yet. Before today's mobile society, the most available candidates for marriage were people who lived nearby. For example, I found my great-great-grandfather John Stowe and his family in Lee County, Ala., using the free 1880 census search on FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org>. That sent me to the library for the microfilm page, where I discovered my great-great-grandmother Jerusha Oglesby—at the time, the widow of Henry Lowe listed as “J. Lowe ... Keeping house.” Her family included my great-grandfather Henry “Harry” Lowe, age 14—who eight years later would marry Nisba Stowe, daughter of John, listed 19 lines below him.

That's a good reminder to search for widows by their married and maiden names: I wouldn't normally have thought to search online for J. Lowe, and my search for the unusual first name Jerusha—usually a good bet—drew a blank.

3. Tally the tick marks.

Censuses from 1790 through 1840 list only heads of household. Everybody else in the family got reduced to a little tick mark in a column for age, gender and race. Note these columns change from one census to the next; you can download blank census recording forms showing the column headings at <www.familytreemagazine.com/forms/download.html>.

Lacking a spouse's or children's names, how can you tell if a family really represents your ancestors? While you can't be absolutely certain, you can test for a match—or eliminate a red herring—by comparing the tick marks to what you know about the family. For instance, I'd found a Martha Pitts in an index to the

1810 North Carolina census. But was this my fourth-great-grandmother, widow of Noel Pitts? I compared that census entry to what I knew about Martha and her offspring, using their approximate ages in 1810. Here was my guess at matching names to the tick marks:

- Two males under age 10 = sons Jack, 6, and Nestor, 10
- Two males “of 10 & under 16” = sons Nicholas, 13, and Solomon, about 13
- One female under age 10 = daughter Elizabeth, about 5
- One female age 10 to 15 = daughter Nancy, 12
- One female “of 16 & under 26” = daughter Frances, 17
- One female “of 26 & under 45” = Martha herself, 32

That's about as exact a match as you'll find, given the vagaries of early census-taking. (Again, knowing the census day is important, because a one-year birth year difference could throw someone into a different age bracket.) Don't forget to match the head of the household and, if it's a man, his wife, to their own marks. And don't be jarred by a mark or two you can't put a name to: It could be a child you didn't know about, a boarder or live-in relative, or the enumerator simply might've goofed.

4. Intuit other information.

Finding Martha Pitts as the head of her household in 1810 was a clue her husband, Noel Pitts, had either died or fled his family since his last census appearance in 1800. I could've penciled in “died 1800-1810” for Noel and started narrowing that 10-year range—but merely failing to find someone in a census doesn't mean he died. At times, whole households were skipped or listed so erroneously you may not find them. Try to locate the rest of the family recorded without your target person. And check mortality schedules, which, from 1850 through 1880, listed people who died in the previous year.

Reading between the lines of the census can help you reconstruct whole households and their migrations. In pre-1850 head counts, this requires educated guesses about the identities behind the tick marks. For example, I'd found an 1825 North Carolina marriage record for an Abraham Stow Jr., showing bondsman Joel Stow—quite possibly my ancestor Joel Stow, born

OH, THE POSSIBILITIES ...

Online indexes to census records open a wealth of new ways to find elusive ancestors and get around transcription errors. When name searches came up empty, here's how I used Ancestry.com's search options to track my great-grandfather Oscar Lundeen in the 1900 census:

ancestry.com

Home My Ancestry Search Family Trees Ancestry Community Le

You are here: Search > Census > U.S. Census > 1900 United States Federal Census

1900 United States Federal Census

Exact matches only Search tips

First Name Last Name Spelling Exact

Residence

State County Township

Birth

Birthplace Estimated Birth Year +/-

1 I entered two facts about Oscar in Ancestry.com's 1900 census search form: He lived in Rock Island County, Ill., and was born in Sweden in 1852.

Refine your search of the 1900 United States Federal Census

Exact matches only Search tips

First Name Last Name Spelling Exact

Residence

State County Township

Birth

Birthplace Estimated Birth Year +/-

Personal

Immigration Year Relation to Head of House Race

Family Members

Father's Given Name(s)

2 My search resulted in 119 hits. To narrow the field, I added another criterion, looking for those who immigrated in 1875.

ancestry.com

Home My Ancestry Search Family Trees Ancestry Community Le

Exact Search Results - 1900 United States Federal Census

You searched for Person born in 1852 [Refine your search](#)

[All Census Results](#)

View Record	Name	Parent or spouse names	Home in 1900 (City, County, State)	Birth Year	Birthplace
View Record	Oscar Lundell	Mary	Moline Ward 1, Rock Island, Illinois	abt 1852	Sweden
View Record	Frank Lund	Hulda	Rock Island Ward 7, Rock Island, Illinois	abt 1852	Sweden

Results per page

You are here: Historical Records > Census > 1900 United States Federal Census

[View printer-friendly](#)

3 That move shrank the list to two possibilities—one of them was indeed my great-grandfather, misspelled Oscar Lundell.

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES

State Illinois

County Rock Island

Township or other division of county Moline City

Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division Moline City

Enumerated by me on the 5th day of June, 1900, 01

10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
																					32	33		
346	57	66	Lundeen	Mary	Wife	U. S.	Apr. 1854	47	23	6	5	Sweden	Ill.											
				Mabel	Daughter	U. S.	Oct. 1877	21	8			Illinois	Ill.											
				Nancy	Daughter	U. S.	Oct. 1877	19	8			Illinois	Ill.											
				Edith	Daughter	U. S.	Mar. 1873	17	8			Illinois	Ill.											
				Albert	Son	U. S.	Mar. 1873	17	8			Illinois	Ill.											
				Flora	Daughter	U. S.	May 1872	18	8			Illinois	Ill.											
				Elsa	Daughter	U. S.	May 1872	18	8			Illinois	Ill.											
				Edna	Daughter	U. S.	Mar. 1872	18	8			Illinois	Ill.											

4 Clicking View Image brought up Oscar Lundeen's digitized census entry—at the blurred bottom of a page. A click on the Next button, however, yielded a clear view of his family at the top of the following page.

in North Carolina in 1787. Although the "junior" designation didn't always imply a familial relationship (sometimes it distinguished two same-named men in a town), I hypothesized that if Abraham and Joel were brothers, their father could've been Abraham Sr. A census hunt for Abraham Stow tests this theory: I had to re-create the Stows' households, decade by decade.

In 1840, I found an Abraham Stow, age 80 to 90, plus a John Stow, age 50 to 60, in Surry County, NC. By that year, according to the census, my ancestor Joel had moved to Tallapoosa County, Ala. So far, so good—the elderly Abraham could be his father, and John, a brother.

Next, in 1830, I found Joel Stow in Surry County (the household's tick marks neatly

matched what I knew about his children) on the same page with an Abraham Stow, age 20 to 30—the recently married brother. John showed up 10 pages later. But where was Abraham Sr.? I looked again at the junior Abraham's listing: Besides a young wife, marks indicated a male, 70 to 80, and a female, 60 to 70—likely Abraham's parents (of course, it's possible they represent

his wife's parents). In 1820, I found separate entries for the elder "Abram," Joel and John under the spelling Stoe; Junior would be among the four young males in Abraham's household. I've only been able to find John in the 1810 census, but the elder Abraham shows up again in 1800.

There, with a little more educated guesswork, the pieces fit: Joel, age 13, is the young male between 10 and 15; the possible older brother John could be the male aged 16 to 25; younger brother Abraham Jr. isn't yet born; and Abraham Sr. is the 26-to-45-year-old male, presumably on the older end of the scale. In his early 40s, he'd be a perfect match for the 80-to-90-year-old Abraham of 1840. (There's an Abraham in the 1790 census, too, but its age categories are so broad as to be unhelpful.)

Not all the Stow family questions are so neatly answered, of course. Where's Abraham Jr. in 1840? Not in Alabama with brother Joel. Where's Abraham Sr.'s wife in 1800, when the only older female listed is too old at 45-plus? Is the younger wife of later years a second marriage? Where's everybody else in 1810? New questions, new answers to look for.

5. Go for the geography.

Lacking a birth certificate, how did I know Joel Stow was born in North Carolina? Fortunately, beginning with the 1850 census, enumerators asked each person's birthplace; the 1880 census was the first to add birthplaces of everyone's parents. So even if Joel hadn't lived long enough to have his birthplace recorded with his own entry, I could've done some "time traveling" to figure out where he was born. Indeed, I confirmed Joel's North Carolina origins in the 1880 and 1900 census listings of his son John. So don't despair if you've been unable to find an ancestor's native state.

Jimmy McKinn's loose grasp of geography notwithstanding, you often can use the birthplace columns to confirm (or eliminate) ancestral "suspects." Already knowing Joel Stow was born in North Carolina, I could be pretty sure the 1860 Joel Stowe living in Tallapoosa, Ala., with his daughter Rachel was the same man—the age and the birthplace matched. And, thinking in reverse, I knew my 1900 John Stowe was Joel's son because the census listed his father as born in North Carolina. The addition

of an *e* to the name (family legend says John's wife added it to make the name look "more finished") didn't throw me off.

6. Combine with other sources.

Adding up information from censuses and other sources can yield results. If Noel Pitts was dead before the 1810 census, when did he die? I found the answer—Nov. 7, 1807—in the supporting material someone submitted with a Daughters of the American Revolution <dar.org> application.

You also can use census finds to leapfrog to fresh facts. Once my Jimmy McKinn chain led me to his son Prospero, I was able to find a 1985 death record for Prospero McKinn—which listed his mother's maiden name, Villanueva.

Sometimes you'll make breakthroughs by bouncing between the census and other resources, particularly land and tax records. I finally solved the quandary of my Ekstrom family, for instance, by combining census records and city directories. After arriving in America from Sweden, the widowed Anna Maja Pehrson Ekstrom showed up in the 1880 census as—believe it or not—Mary Van Kirkhoon, married to a Belgian gentleman. Unlikely as this seemed, that Mary was the only person in my census search who fit: Born in Sweden, about 43 years old, living in Moline, Ill., first name Anna or Mary (Maja in Swedish)—and her children had the surname Ekstrom. Could I prove Mary was Anna Maja?

I turned to Moline city directories for the period and soon found her widowed again and back to her first husband's Ekstrom surname. I compared her children in the 1880 census with other city directory listings and with her offspring back in Sweden. After finding her in the 1900 census as "Anna M. Ekstrom," I matched the Ekstrom children from that census to those in the 1880 Van Kirkhoon house. I then found their obituaries, confirming their relationship to Anna and their sister Mary, my great-grandmother. This puzzle, which began with that mysterious 1880 census entry, needed other resources for the pieces to mesh.

Will these approaches always help you find a missing ancestor or use the census to fill blanks in your family tree? Some census mysteries may remain forever unsolved, but that doesn't mean you should stop plugging away. Sometimes all it takes is a

THAT'LL BE THE DAY

The date a census taker wrote on his form isn't as important as the *official* census date: Enumerators were supposed to list individuals' ages as of a date specified by the Census Bureau. Jan. 1 was "Census Day" for the 1920 enumeration, so someone born Feb. 12, 1909, should be recorded as 10 on the census form—even if the census taker visited in April. This magic date varied, so use this chart to sort out ancestors' reported ages:

Census	Census Day
1790	Aug. 2
1800	Aug. 4
1810	Aug. 6
1820	Aug. 7
1830	June 1
1840	June 1
1850	June 1
1860	June 1
1870	June 1
1880	June 1
1890	June 1
1900	June 1
1910	April 15
1920	Jan. 1
1930	April 1 (Oct. 1, 1929 in Alaska)

fresh look: I hadn't been able to find my ancestor Joel Stow in the 1820 census until I was researching this article—there he was, waiting for me, as Joel Stoe.

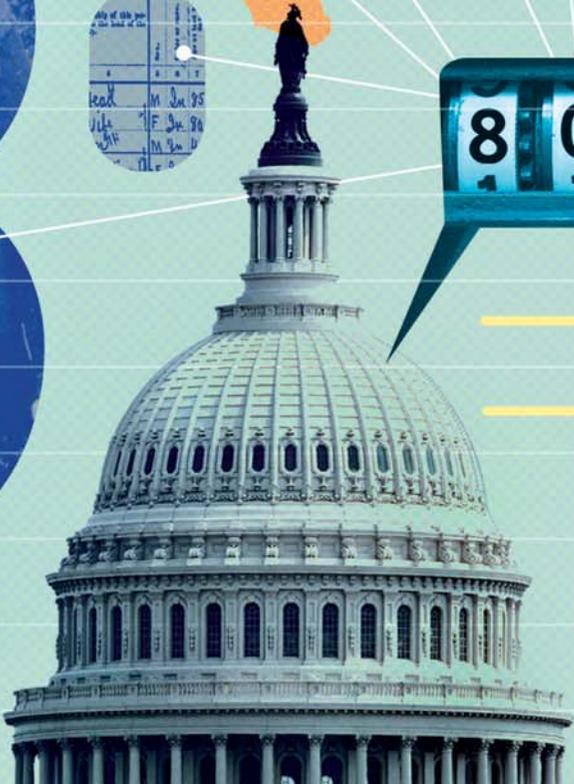
On the other hand, I still haven't been able to find ex-Geronimo captive Jimmy McKinn in the 1910 census. Maybe he got fed up with city life and ran off to the wilderness for a while. In census research, you learn to expect the unexpected. 🐾

Contributing editor DAVID A. FRYXELL lives in New Mexico, which may or may not be where Jimmy McKinn was born.



TEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES
NAME OF INCORPORATED ENTITY
OF INDIAN RESERVATION *Navajo*

8 0 2 9 4



Special Help

There's more to the census than those every-10-years counts. These "extra" censuses of select populations may have just the ancestor answers you need.

BY SHARON DEBARTOLO CARMACK

Sometimes you need a little extra help—a pep talk, a confidence booster, a loan, an aspirin—to deal with life's challenges. That's true, too, of genealogy research. When leads dry up and ancestors refuse to be found, a new resource can restore the glimmer of hope that keeps you scrolling microfilm and searching the Internet. Nine lesser-known, under-used special censuses may be just the extra help you need to fill in blanks on your family tree.

You're probably accustomed to using federal population censuses, either online

or on microfilm. These enumerations, taken every 10 years starting in 1790, were intended to cover the entire country. On the other hand, the government took special censuses (also called nonpopulation censuses) to count unique segments of the population or create snapshots of communities. Taken variously during and between regular census years, these enumerations counted farms, veterans, factories, American Indians and other groups.

Not all special census records survived, and many aren't yet available online. But if your ancestors are listed, you can learn

things you might not find in any other record. Here's the special help you need to use these special resources.

Schedule of defective, dependent and delinquent classes

In 1880, a special census gathered information about the physically disabled, the mentally ill, homeless children and prison inmates. To see if your ancestor might be listed, first find him in the regular 1880 population census. There's a free index on FamilySearch <pilot.familysearch.org> and Ancestry.com <ancestry.com>, but you'll need to see the record. You can access census images with a \$155.40-per-year subscription to Ancestry.com, or free on HeritageQuest Online <heritagequestonline.com>, available through many public libraries. Censuses also are available on microfilm at large public libraries, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) facilities <archives.gov>, and the Family History Library (FHL) <www.familysearch.org> in Salt Lake City and its branch Family History Centers (FHCs). You can rent FHL film by visiting an FHC near you (see <www.familytreemagazine.com/fhcs> for locations).

On your ancestor's census listing, look carefully for marks in columns 15 through 20, showing whether the person is sick or temporarily disabled;

PAUPER AND INDIGENT INHABITANTS IN INSTITUTIONS, POOR-HOUSES OR ASYLUMS, OR BOARDED AT PUBLIC EXPENSE, IN PRIVATE HOUSE

44720

Bourbon County Poor House

NAME	City or town	Occupation (if in some branch, state it in some other place)	Specialty (See Note A.)				Is he or she blind?	Is he or she deaf and dumb?	Is he or she insane or idiotic?	Is he or she a pauper?	Is he or she a convict?	Is he or she a pauper?	If disabled, state form of disability (paralysis, consumption, etc., give age, etc.)	When taken (month, day, year)	Where taken (city, town, county, state)	When taken (month, day, year)	Where taken (city, town, county, state)	When taken (month, day, year)	Where taken (city, town, county, state)
			Is he or she blind?	Is he or she deaf and dumb?	Is he or she insane or idiotic?	Is he or she a pauper?													
Jameson, John	St. Louis	Bourbon County	1									Crutches	1876						
Brown, James	St. Louis	Bourbon County	1										1876						
Wheeler, John	St. Louis	Bourbon County	1										1876						
Johnson, John	St. Louis	Bourbon County	1										1876						
Young, John	St. Louis	Bourbon County	1										1876						
Wagon, John	St. Louis	Bourbon County	1										1876						
McCallister, James	St. Louis	Bourbon County	1										1876						
Beard, John	St. Louis	Bourbon County	1										1876						
Johnson, Catherine	St. Louis	Bourbon County	1										1876						
Wheeler, John	St. Louis	Bourbon County	1										1876						
Hall, James	St. Louis	Bourbon County	1										1876						
Wagon, John	St. Louis	Bourbon County	1										1876						

Residents of Kansas' Bourbon County Poor House and their conditions are listed on this schedule of people in public institutions.

ILLUSTRATION: STUART BRADFORD

Heavily Scheduled

Consult this at-a-glance list to see which special censuses might cover your ancestors.

- Defective, dependent and delinquent schedules: 1880
- Agricultural censuses: 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880
- Manufacturing and industry schedules: 1820, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880
- Slave schedules: 1850, 1860
- Mortality schedules: 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1885 (some areas), 1900 (Minnesota only)
- US state/territorial census: 1885 (some areas)
- Social statistics schedules: 1850, 1860, 1870, 1885

AMERICAN INDIANS

- Indian schedules: 1880, 1900, 1910
- Indian reservation censuses: 1885 to 1940
- Indian school censuses: 1910 to 1939

MILITARY

- Revolutionary War pensioners: 1840
- Civil War veterans schedule: 1890 (half of Kentucky and states following alphabetically)
- Schedules of military personnel on bases and vessels (including overseas): 1900, 1910, 1920
- Schedules of merchant seamen on vessels: 1930

Page No. 7

SCHEDULE 3.—Productions of Agriculture in Smithley & Paul Valley, in the C
Post Office: Adena

Name of Agent, Owner, or Manager.	ACRES OF LAND.			PRESENT CASH VALUE.			LIVE STOCK, JUNE 1, 1890.										
	UNIMPROVED.			Of Gen.	Of farming implements and machinery.	Total amount of stock raising, including value of land.	Horses.		Milch and Asses.		Milch Cows.	Working Oxen.	Other Cattle.	Sheep.	Swine.	Value of ALL live stock.	Bus.
	Improved.	Wood-land.	Other unimproved.				No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
1 <u>Charles D. G.</u>	35	125	3000	100	100	100	✓									100	130
2 <u>Sam'l H. James</u>	10	150	500	60	100	100		✓	✓							200	
3 <u>Wigant Martin</u>	50	110	2000	100	600	600											100
4 <u>Leaving Post</u>	45	115	2000	1000	150	150		1	5	3		✓				1500	250
5 <u>McCombs Henry</u>	100	-	2000	1000	2000	2000	✓		6							2000	800
6 <u>Paul Gilbert</u>	20	100	1000	200	-	-		3	2	10		16				2000	
7 <u>Leaving Post</u>	100		1000	200				✓								200	
8 <u>Andrew Hill</u>	100		2000	300	600	600	✓		4	1						600	100

blind; deaf and dumb; idiotic; insane; or maimed, crippled, bedridden or otherwise disabled. A mark in these columns means you should look for more information about your ancestor in the schedules of “defective, dependent and delinquent classes” (abbreviated as the 1880 DDDs). Separate schedules list the indigent, blind, deaf and dumb, and other designations.

You might be surprised to find a relative. What we know today as postpartum depression and menopause could get women of the past temporarily or permanently committed. I first found Mary Ann Vance in the 1880 population schedule of Ohio, with a tick mark under the “insane” column. She was on the 1880 DDD schedule, which revealed that her first “mania” attack struck at age 43, and she was in the Athens, Ohio, Insane Asylum.

These records aren’t in online census databases and may be challenging to find on microfilm. A few are available through the FHL; run a place search of the online catalog for the state, then look under censuses. NARA has some DDD microfilm, too. But most DDD records are housed in repositories in each state. You can download a state-by-state locations cheat sheet from FamilyTreeMagazine.com using the link below.

 **WEB EXTRA** Download a state-by-state list of available DDD schedules from www.familytreemagazine.com/cheatsheets.

Agricultural censuses

Many of our ancestors raised crops and livestock for a living. These schedules offer a glimpse of farms, even the numbers and kinds of produce and livestock. When you’re writing your family history, this information can round out your ancestor’s life story. If your ancestor was one of two men with the same name living in the same community, these schedules can be especially helpful—after all, no two people would own exactly the same acreage of land with identical numbers of livestock.

Just look at the rich details about John Hillman’s farm in Wise County, Va.: In 1860, he owned 60 acres of improved land and 1,200 acres of unimproved land, for a cash value of \$2,000. His farming implements and machinery totaled \$10. He owned \$247 worth of livestock, including one horse, three milch cows, 10 sheep and 29 swine. The previous year, he grew 20 bushels of rye, 150 of Indian corn, 2 of peas and beans, and 4 of flaxseed. He produced 15 pounds of wool, 75 of butter, 75 of flax and 40 of maple syrup. His homemade manufacture was valued at \$25; animals slaughtered, \$75.

Though agricultural censuses were taken during every census year from 1850 to 1910, only the 1850 through 1880 schedules are available. The 1890 count was destroyed in the same fire that ruined the 1890 population census. The 1900 and 1910 agricultural schedules

County of *Lewis and Clark*

Winter	Spring	Indian Corn	Oats	Barley	Rye	Wheat	Other	
Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Lbs.	Lbs.	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
			75	100				
			<i>"Jay Ranch" 1/2 section</i>					
			100	100				
			170	377				
			100	200				
			100	120				

The 1870 agricultural enumerator in Prickly Pear Valley, Lewis and Clark County, Mont., noted that James Smith's Jay Ranch was in its first year (left). The schedules were two pages to record all the detail about each farm's livestock, crop and other products—right down to the type of potatoes grown (below).

POTATOES		Orchard products	Wine	Produce of Market Gardens	DAIRY PRODUCTS		
Irish	Sweet				Butter	Cheese	Milk sold
Bush.	Bush.	Dolla.	Gallons	Dolla.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Gallons
28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
300							
400				75	100		20

were destroyed, unmicrofilmed, by Congressional order.

The 1850 and 1860 agricultural census enumerated farms with an annual produce worth \$100 or more. In 1870 and 1880, farms of three or more acres, or with an annual produce worth \$500 or more, were counted. Schedules list the name of the owner, agent or tenant along with the kind and value of acreage, machinery, livestock and produce.

Agricultural censuses for 1850 through 1880 are grouped on microfilm with manufacturing and industry schedules (see the next section) as “nonpopulation census schedules.” The film is organized by state at NARA facilities (see www.archives.gov/genealogy/census/nonpopulation/#mpubs for a list) and the FHL. State archives and libraries may have copies.

Ancestry.com is adding the 1850 through 1880 schedules (South Carolina records were available at press time). The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill has both types of censuses on microfilm for 15 Southern states; you can view a digitized book of schedules at www.archive.org/details/unc_chapel_hill_agricultural_manufacturing_census_records_1880. (Click the Flip Book link beneath the image of the book on the left.)

Manufacturing and industry censuses

These schedules enumerated manufacturing, mining, fisheries, mercantile, commercial and trading business. Information

Clearly Stated

Just as the federal government counted the US population every 10 years, a number of states took regular or semi-regular enumerations. New York, for example, took state censuses in 1825, 1835, 1845, 1855, 1865, 1875, 1892, 1905, 1915 and 1925; all are open to the public. Other states held “one-off” censuses, such as the Kansas State Board of Agriculture’s 1885 count.

Information recorded varies with the state and time period. In some state censuses, you’ll find details about immigration, citizenship and ethnicity—important for descendants of immigrant “birds of passage,” who may be missing from federal censuses due to repeated travel between the United States and their homelands.

A few states took military censuses, such as the Dakotas’ 1885 Civil War veterans census (on NARA microfilm GR27, roll 5). To see if your ancestral state did so, run a place search of the FHL catalog and look under both the census and military topic headings.

Check with the state archives or run a Google search on the state name and *census records* for information about ancestral state censuses. For a state-by-state listing of these schedules and their availability, see Ann S. Lainhart’s *State Census Records* (Genealogical Publishing Co., \$18.95). Ancestry.com and FamilySearch have some state censuses; also look for them on microfilm at the FHL and local libraries.

collected varies by year, but generally includes the name of the company or owner, the kind of business, capital invested, and the quantity and value of materials, labor, machinery and products.

The first manufacturing census was taken in 1810, but unfortunately, it's lost except for a few microfilmed schedules among the population census schedules. The second was taken in 1820. None was compiled in 1830, and only statistical information was recorded in 1840. Manufacturing censuses taken in 1850, 1860 and 1870 are called industry schedules, and include data on businesses with an annual gross product of \$500 or more.

If your ancestor owned a business, you'll learn a lot about his work. John Welch of Coxsockie, Green County, NY, appears in the 1870 industry schedule. He was a tailor who had \$1,000 invested in his business. In his store were two Singer sewing machines, as well as 200 yards of cloth worth \$300. The kind of power he used? His hands.

Though the schedules don't list other employees' names, they offer a picture of where the workers spent their days. Also look at schedules for the area where your ancestor lived—no doubt he patronized some of those industries. Armed with business names, you might be able to find old account books listing your ancestor's purchases.

The 1820 schedules are on 27 rolls of microfilm in NARA's record group 29, arranged alphabetically by county within each state. Each roll contains an index. An online index at <www.lineages.com/InfoCenter/Databases/1820Manufactures.cfm> gives the name or business, county, state and page number.

Manufacturing/industry schedules for 1850 through 1880 are microfilmed with agricultural censuses for those years—see page 22 for help finding them.

Slave schedules

In 1850 and 1860, slaves were enumerated on separate schedules. These list the name of the slave owner, not the slaves themselves. For each owner, the schedule recorded the number of slaves owned and the number released from slavery. The enumerator also inventoried slaves, listing sex, age, color, fugitive status,

This 1910 Indian schedule shows typical census information at the top, and details such as tribe and degree of Indian blood at the bottom. The enumerator noted those who'd gone hunting.

and whether each was deaf-mute, blind, insane or idiotic.

Mary Fitzhugh of Orange County, Va., owned 10 slaves in 1850; they appear to be grouped on the slave schedule by mother and children:

female	age 49	mulatto
female	age 40	mulatto
male	age 8	mulatto
male	age 6	mulatto
male	age 4	mulatto
female	age 24	mulatto
female	age 7	mulatto
female	age 4	mulatto
male	age 1	mulatto
male	age 35	black

Although slave schedules don't give slaves' names, you still can use them to learn about enslaved ancestors. You'll need a good idea of where your ancestors lived or their slaveholder's name, then examine schedules for slave families that fit your ancestors' sexes and ages. For more help with this process, see page 48 and *A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African-American Ancestors* by Emily Anne Croom and Franklin Smith (Genealogical Publishing Co., \$34.95).

Slave schedules are online at Ancestry.com, or you can view them on microfilm at the FHL, FHCs and NARA. All available 1850 slave schedules are indexed on the FamilySearch Record Search Pilot Site.

Indian censuses

Researchers with American Indian ancestors will appreciate special Indian censuses including separate census-year schedules, annual reservation censuses and Indian school enumerations.

■ **Special Indian schedules:** American Indians were enumerated on the 1880 federal census just like the general population, unless they weren't taxed. Those who didn't pay taxes appeared on schedules of a Special Census of Indians

STATE: Modoc
COUNTY: Modoc
TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY: Bidwell Townsh
NAME OF INSTITUTION: Ft. Bidwell Indian School

LOW LISTED	NAME	RELATION	PER
of each person whose place of abode on April 15, 1910, was in this family.			
State names first, then the given name and middle initial, if any.		Relationship of this person to the head of the family.	
Include every person living on April 15, 1910. Omit children born since April 15, 1910.			
1	2	3	4
18 17	Uchimo (Otscho) Chief	Head	M. S.
	Bahoko	Wife	F. S.
	Charli	son	M. S.
	Nannie	daughter-in-law	F. S.
	infant	brother-in-law	M. S.
	Bluk	son	M. S.
	Lottie	daughter-in-law	F. S.
19 15	Madawa Bennis	Head	M. S.
	Maggi	wife	F. S.
	Stadys	daughter	F. S.
	Staves	son	M. S.
	Lamb	daughter	F. S.
	Alice	daughter	F. S.
25 23	Dick, George	Head	M. S.
		wife	F. S.
		child	I. S.
		child	I. S.
27 21	Northrup (Jesse Benjamin)	Head	M. S.
	Wenderson Paddy	wife	F. S.
	Maggie	daughter	F. S.

PROPERTY OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

Title of this Indian.	Title of Father of this Indian.	Title of Mother of this Indian.	Indian	White	Married	Number of children
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Painie	Painie	Painie	full			1
Painie	Painie	Painie	full			1

(National Archives micropublication M1791). For the 1900 and 1910 censuses, American Indians might be listed on special schedules called Inquiries Relating to Indians, found along with the regular population schedules. In 1920 and 1930, Indians were enumerated on general population schedules.

Special inquiry schedules may give the name of the tribe, the federal reservation and the governing Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) agency. For each household, you may learn the type of dwelling and number of residents, and each person's Indian name, relationship to the head of the household, marital status, tribal status, occupation, education and land ownership status.

As mentioned, sometimes these special schedules contain enumerators' notes. For example, on the 1910 census for the Indian population in Modoc County, Calif., the census taker wrote near a group of names, "Left to go into Nevada on a hunting trip the day before I visited camp. Will not be counted elsewhere." And he recorded not only the state where each person and his parents were born, but the city as well.

■ **Annual reservation censuses:** From 1885 to 1940, Indian agents were supposed to take annual censuses of federal

time your ancestor died. If your ancestor was considerate enough to die during one of the 12-month periods mentioned above, a mortality schedule should list his name, sex, age, color, free or slave status, marital status, birthplace (state, territory or country), occupation, month and cause of death, and number of days ill. Keep in mind that the cause of death might not be completely accurate—diagnoses weren't supported by X-rays, blood tests or microscopic tissue examinations, as they are today. They were based on signs and symptoms, which are similar for many diseases.

You can find mortality schedules online at Ancestry.com, or on microfilm at the FHL, FHCs and NARA facilities. Some states' 1850 mortality schedules are searchable free on FamilySearch. And look for published abstracts at genealogical libraries.

Social statistics schedules

Though you won't find your ancestors listed on social statistics schedules—taken from 1850 to 1870 and in 1885—they'll give you a detailed picture of the community where your relatives lived. For each county, you get data on estate values, annual taxes, wages, schools, seasons and crops, libraries, newspapers and periodicals, churches, pauperism and crime. Enumerators also recorded cemeteries with general descriptions and addresses (some even included a map with cemeteries marked), procedures for interment, whether the cemetery was active and, if not, the reason for closing. You might find lists of trade societies, lodges, clubs and other groups, with addresses, major branches and the executive officers' names. Churches may be accompanied by historical details, statements of doctrine and policy, and membership numbers.

If you know your ancestor's occupation, for example, you can find out what he probably earned. The 1870 social statistics for El Paso County, Colo., show the average wage for a farmhand was \$25

Three-year-old Mary Scotte's cause of death was "In the brain," according to this 1850 mortality schedule for Cabarrus County, NC.

SCHEDULE 3.—Persons who Died during the Year ending 1st June, 1850,

County of *Cabarrus* State of *North Carolina*, enumerated

NAME OF EVERY PERSON WHO DIED during the Year ending 1st June, 1850, whose usual Place of Abode at the Time of his Death was in his Family.	DESCRIPTION.					MARRIED or WIDOWED.	PLACE OF BIRTH. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	The Month in which Person died.
	Age.	Sex.	White, Black, or Mulatto.	Free or Slave.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
<i>Ruth Hoagwood</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Cabarrus Co</i>	<i>Mar</i>
<i>Samu</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>S</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>July</i>
<i>Mary J Scotte</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>Oct</i>
<i>Agnes Cook</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>Oct</i>
<i>Lisa</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Mecklenburg Co</i>	<i>Dec</i>
<i>David H Sheaph</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>May</i>
<i>John H Lockman</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Cabarrus Co</i>	<i>Dec</i>
<i>No Name</i>	<i>2m</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>Sept</i>
<i>Caleb</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>S</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>Apr</i>
<i>Jacob Sumner</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Do</i>	<i>Dec</i>
<i>Elann</i>	<i>6m</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>S</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>Apr</i>
<i>Carmelia</i>	<i>2m</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>S</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>Apr</i>
<i>Martha J Cannon</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Gilford Co</i>	<i>Mar</i>
<i>Isaac Burns</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Cabarrus Co</i>	<i>July</i>
<i>John M Mettler</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>Mar</i>
<i>Mary A Rumble</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Newan Co</i>	<i>June</i>
<i>Colman Kingste</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Lincoln Co</i>	<i>Mar</i>
<i>Mary A Mump</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Cabarrus Co</i>	<i>Nov</i>
<i>Sus M Minshum</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>June</i>
<i>Elisa</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>S</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>Nov</i>
<i>Martha A McGraw</i>	<i>8 days</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>Sept</i>
<i>Mary Gearty</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>Oct</i>
<i>Sam Cook</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>Oct</i>
<i>Mary Sumner</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>Feb</i>
<i>Matthew Sharrh</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>Oct</i>
<i>James C Colman</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>Sept</i>
<i>Margaret Bassie</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>Apr</i>
<i>Catharine Benseach</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>Dec</i>
<i>Lucy</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>S</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>Nov</i>
<i>Mariah</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>S</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>July</i>
<i>No Name</i>	<i>1 day</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>S</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>Oct</i>
<i>Sarah Surriance</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Newan Co</i>	<i>Nov</i>
<i>Joseph and Phelps</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Cabarrus</i>	<i>Oct</i>
<i>Rufus G Shime</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>June</i>
<i>Allen Saurman</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Do</i>	<i>July</i>
<i>Remarks:</i>								

in 31 July in the
 and by me, *R. C. Cook* Ass't Marshal.

PROFESSION, OCCUPATION, OR TRADE.	DISEASE, OR CAUSE OF DEATH.	Number of DAYS ILL.
9	10	11
	<i>Salary</i>	<i>6</i>
	<i>Lozupc.</i>	<i>1</i>
	<i>Am of the Police</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Spurring</i>	<i>Shancumma</i>	<i>6</i>
	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>90</i>
<i>Farmer</i>	<i>Insurrection</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>Blacksmith</i>	<i>Shancumma</i>	<i>11</i>
	<i>Lozupc</i>	<i>2</i>
	<i>Dropsy</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Farmer</i>	<i>Shancumma</i>	<i>8</i>
	<i>Pop Little</i>	<i>15</i>
	<i>Lozupc</i>	<i>1</i>
	<i>Slaw-Ham</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Sho</i>	<i>Salary</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Blacksmith</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>9 and</i>
	<i>Slaw-Ham</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Carpenter</i>	<i>Shancumma</i>	<i>7</i>
	<i>Slaw-Ham</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Farming</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>18</i>
	<i>Lozupc</i>	<i>10</i>
	<i>Huss</i>	<i>sh</i>
	<i>Shancumma</i>	<i>11</i>
	<i>Do</i>	<i>11</i>
	<i>Slaw-Ham</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Shingle-Maker</i>	<i>Scardig</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Farming</i>	<i>Slaw-Ham</i>	<i>28</i>
	<i>Funeral Disin</i>	<i>57</i>
	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>6</i>
	<i>Dropsy</i>	<i>6</i>
	<i>Lozupc</i>	<i>1</i>
	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>1</i>
	<i>Shancumma</i>	<i>19</i>
	<i>Lozupc</i>	<i>1</i>
	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Farmer</i>	<i>Slaw-Ham</i>	<i>30</i>

per month. The typical laborer earned \$2.50 per day (\$1.50 with board); a carpenter, \$4.50. A female domestic worker brought in about \$6.40 per week.

The Government Printing Office compiled the social statistics into a series of reports; some are downloadable as PDF files from <census.gov/prod/www/abs/decennial/1880.htm>. You'll find them in the government document sections of most public and university libraries. Otherwise, try NARA or the FHL.

1885 state and territorial censuses

Five states or territories took an 1885 census, which, if you're so lucky as to have ancestors there, can help you replace the missing 1890 federal census. Colorado, Dakota Territory, Florida, Nebraska and New Mexico Territory took advantage of the federal government's offer to subsidize a census that year. Four schedules make up this census: population, mortality, agricultural and manufacturing. Ancestry.com has 1885 census records for some areas. Also try running a Google <google.com> search on the state or county and "1885 census" to turn up free online resources such as the Larimer County, Colo., 1885 index at <www.lcgsc.org/1885.PDF>.

Veterans and military censuses

The US and state governments counted veterans a number of times, both during and between regular censuses.

- **Revolutionary War pensioners:** Names and ages of these pensioners were recorded on the backs of 1840 population census sheets. Their names are in *A Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Services*, available free through Google Books <books.google.com>.

- **1890 veterans schedule:** Although the bulk of the 1890 census was destroyed, the schedules of Union veterans and surviving widows survived for half of Kentucky and the states alphabetically following it. Check this census even if your ancestor fought for the Confederacy. Although enumerators were supposed to count Union veterans, some also recorded those who fought for the South. Officials who reviewed the schedules in Washington, DC, simply drew lines

 **WEB EXTRA** Learn how the online Historical Census Browser can deliver social stats data <www.familytreemagazine.com/article/historical-census-statistics>.

through the Confederates' names, leaving them still readable. The schedules are online at Ancestry.com and on microfilm at the FHL and NARA facilities, as well as large genealogical libraries.

What can you learn from this enumeration? The name of the veteran or his widow, rank, company, regiment or vessel, dates of enlistment and discharge, length of service, disabilities and remarks such as whether the veteran received a pension.

James H. Goforth, for example, appears on the 1890 veterans schedule as a resident Morgan Township, Dade County, Mo. After enlisting Nov. 1, 1864, he served as a private in Company 2, 15th Regiment Missouri Cavalry, and was discharged June 30, 1865. He was afflicted with lung disease and was receiving a pension. As with population schedules, we don't know whether James or someone else supplied the information, so look for a military service record to corroborate the data.

- **Special military schedules:** During the 1900, 1910 and 1920 federal population censuses, enumerators created separate schedules for military personnel, including those stationed on naval vessels and at US bases overseas. For 1900, these are on NARA microfilm T623, rolls 1,838 to 1,842 (find a Soundex index on film T1081, rolls 1 to 32). For 1910, military and naval enumerations are on film T624, roll 1,784; there's no Soundex. The 1920 schedules for overseas military and naval forces are on film T625, rolls 2,040 to 2,041; the Soundex is on film M1600, rolls 1 to 18.

The 1930 population census included servicemen, but you'll find special schedules for merchant seamen serving on vessels. Search them on Ancestry.com, or browse them on microfilm at the FHL and NARA. These special enumerations certainly can deliver unique details about your ancestors. 🐾

Contributing editor SHARON DEBARTOLO CARMACK gets special help at the Family History Library in her hometown, Salt Lake City.

State-By-State Census Chart

	FIRST EXTANT FEDERAL CENSUS	EXTANT COLONIAL, TERRITORIAL & STATE CENSUSES		FIRST EXTANT FEDERAL CENSUS	EXTANT COLONIAL, TERRITORIAL & STATE CENSUSES
Alabama	1830	1706-1819 (various years), 1820 (eight counties), 1850, 1855, 1866, 1907 (Confederate veterans), 1921 (Confederate pensioners)	Iowa	1850	1836 (in Wisconsin Territory), 1838-1897 (various years and communities), 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915
Alaska	1900	1878 (Aleutian Islands); 1879, 1881 (Sitka); 1885 (Cape Smith, Point Barrow); 1890-1895 (Pribiloff Islands); 1904-1907, 1914, 1917 (St. Paul and St. George islands)	Kansas	1860	1857 (Shawnee tribe), 1865-1925 (every 10 years), 1873-on (various years and areas)
Arizona	1870	1801, 1852 (Pimeria Alta); 1831 (Santa Cruz County); 1864; 1866; 1882 (several counties)	Kentucky	1810	none known
Arkansas	1830	1686-1804, 1823, 1829 (fragments)	Louisiana	1810	1699, 1700, 1706, 1711, 1721, 1722, 1724, 1725, 1726, 1727, 1731, 1732, 1766, 1771, 1772, 1774, 1782, 1784-1786, 1788-1790, 1795, 1798, 1799, 1803, 1805 (various communities); 1792-1806, 1809 (Nacogdoches)
California	1850	1796, 1797, 1798 (various areas); 1852	Maine	1790	1837 (Bangor, Portland, unincorporated towns)
Colorado	1860 (as four territories), 1870 (as Colorado Territory), 1880 (as a state)	1861, 1866 (fragments), 1885	Maryland	1790	1776, 1778
Connecticut	1790	1917 (males of military service age, some women)	Massachusetts	1790	1855, 1865
Delaware	1800	1671, 1782	Michigan	1820	1710, various through 1792 (Detroit area), 1780 (Fort St. Joseph), 1796 (Wayne County), 1845, 1854-1894 (every 10 years)
District of Columbia	1800	none known (see listings for Maryland and Virginia)	Minnesota	1820 (in Michigan Territory)	1836 (in Wisconsin Territory), 1849, 1853 (various areas), 1855 (fragments), 1857
Florida	1830	1783, 1784-1786, 1790, 1793, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1824 (fragments), 1825, 1837, 1845, 1855 (Marion County), 1867 (several counties), 1875 (Alachua County), 1885, 1895 (Nassau County), 1945	Mississippi	1820	1792 (Natchez), 1784, 1787, 1788, 1794, 1798-1817 (various years), 1831 (Choctaw tribe), 1822-1825, 1837, 1841, 1845, 1853, 1866 (various areas)
Georgia	1820	1787-1866 (various years; fragments survive)	Missouri	1830	1770-1804 (various areas); 1797, 1803 (New Madrid); 1817, 1819 (St. Charles); 1840, 1844, 1852, 1856, 1868, 1876 (fragments)
Hawaii	1900	1847 (foreigners), 1866, 1878 (Hawaii, Maui, Oahu), 1890, 1896 (Honolulu)	Montana	1870	none known
Idaho	1850 (as Oregon Territory)	none known	Nebraska	1860	1854, 1855, 1856, 1860, 1865, 1869
Illinois	1820	1810 (Randolph County, as Indiana Territory), 1818, 1820-1845 (every five years, various counties), 1855, 1865	Nevada	1850	1862, 1863, 1875
Indiana	1820	1807, 1820-on (various years, males older than 21)	New Hampshire	1790	1732, 1744, 1767, 1776
			New Jersey	1830 (Cumberland County only in 1800)	1824-1832 (Paterson), 1855, 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915
			New Mexico	1850	1750-1845 (various years and areas), 1885
			New York	1790	1825-1875 (every 10 years), 1892, 1905, 1915, 1925

	FIRST EXTANT FEDERAL CENSUS	EXTANT COLONIAL, TERRITORIAL & STATE CENSUSES
North Carolina	1790	1784-1787
North Dakota	1900	1857 (Pembina County), 1885-1939 (various Indian reservations), 1855, 1915, 1925
Ohio	1820 (Washington County only in 1800 and 1810)	1863 (African-American residents arriving between 1861 to 1863)
Oklahoma	1860	1880, 1890, 1896 (Cherokee tribe); 1890; 1907 (Seminole County)
Oregon	1850	1843, 1845, 1849, 1853-1859 (every year), 1865-1905 (every 10 years)
Pennsylvania	1790	none known
Rhode Island	1790	1730 (fragments), 1774, 1777 (men age 16 and older), 1782 (partial), 1865, 1875, 1885, 1905, 1915, 1925, 1935
South Carolina	1790	1829 (Fairfield and Laurens districts); 1839 (Kershaw and Chesterfield districts); 1868, 1875 (several counties)
South Dakota	1900	1836 (in Wisconsin Territory); 1840 (in Iowa Territory); 1850 (Minnesota Territory); 1860, 1870, 1880 (Dakota Territory); 1885-1945 (every 10 years)
Tennessee	1830 (fragments for 1810; 26 counties only for 1820)	none known
Texas	1850	1783-1836 (various years and areas), 1828
Utah	1850 (actually taken in 1851)	1856
Vermont	1790	none known
Virginia	1810 (partial)	1624, 1625
Washington	1860	1857-1892 (various years and areas)
West Virginia	1870 (earlier censuses as part of Virginia)	none known
Wisconsin	1820	1836-1847 (various years and counties), 1855, 1865 (fragments), 1875-1905 (every 10 years)
Wyoming	1870	1869; 1875, 1878 (Cheyenne); 1905

ABOUT CENSUS RECORDS

You can find federal census records on microfilm at National Archives and Records Administration <archives.gov> facilities, in libraries with large genealogy collections, and at the Family History Library <www.familysearch.org> in Salt Lake City (as well as many of its branch Family History Centers).

For online census records, look to subscription site Ancestry.com <ancestry.com>, or see if your library offers HeritageQuest Online or Ancestry Library Edition. Subscription site Footnote <footnote.com> has the 1860 and 1930 censuses and is adding more years; and the free FamilySearch Record Search Pilot site <pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#start> has indexes or records for several censuses.

Most state archives have microfilm copies of state and other local censuses administered in that state (find state archives' contact information at <www.statearchivists.org/states.htm>). You also may find state censuses on the websites mentioned above. County genealogical societies may have copies or published transcriptions of local censuses.

Also look for published books with “census substitutes”—lists of an area’s residents during a given time period, compiled from surviving censuses along with other sources (such as tax lists or voter registrations).

Keep in mind that a census may be partial—particularly colonial, territorial and state enumerations—covering only certain communities or segments of the population (such as men of age to serve in the military). The information census takers recorded may vary depending on the reason a census was taken. Early censuses often recorded names of only the heads of household, not everyone in the family.

Many censuses suffered record losses. On this chart, we’ve noted as “fragments” censuses for which few records survived; we’ve also noted where records exist for only a few counties. For more details on missing records and which censuses cover which areas, as well as tips on finding records and published indexes, consult these resources:

- *The Family Tree Resource Book for Genealogists* by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack and Erin Nevius (Family Tree Books)
- *Red Book: American State, County and Town Sources* edited by Alice Eichholz (Ancestry)
- FamilySearch research wiki <wiki.familysearch.org/en/United_States_Census#Census_Records_of_Each_State>