



**Genealogy Online:  
Discover Your Family History**

# Federal Census Records

- ◆ Every ten years since 1790, the U.S. government has conducted a census of each state and territory.
- ◆ Census records have become a major tool for identifying where ancestors lived, estimating birth and death dates, and confirming parent-child relationships.
- ◆ Census schedules remain confidential for seventy-two years.
- ◆ Schedules from 1790 to 1840 name only the head of each household. Everyone else in the household is grouped by age and sex.

# Federal Census Records

- ◆ Beginning in 1850, schedules included name, age, sex, race, occupation, and birthplace of each person living in a household.
- ◆ The 1880 census added two more pieces of information: the relationship of each person to the head of the household and the birthplace of each person's parents.
- ◆ The 1900 census is the only census to include the month and year of birth for each person.

# Federal Census Records

- ◆ The 1900 and 1910 censuses indicate the number of years of marriage for each couple, the number of children born to the mother, and the number of children still living.
- ◆ 1900 and 1910 census also showed whether a family rented or owned its residence and whether the residence was a house or farm.
- ◆ For individuals born outside the U.S., these censuses also indicate the year of immigration.
- ◆ Many people rounded off their ages to the nearest 5 or 0.

# Federal Census Records

- ◆ Expect your family's name to be spelled various ways. Census takers spelled what they heard, and many spellings are way off.
- ◆ Nicknames were often used in census records in place of formal given names.
- ◆ Keep in mind that it is impossible to know who gave the information to the census taker. Because it could have been a child, a parent, a boarder, or a neighbor, you should expect to encounter some errors.

# Searching Census Records

- ❖ Begin with the most current census year available and work backwards. With the 72-year restriction on access to the Census, the most current year available is 1930.

# Census Records at FamilySearch Labs

- ◆ Images for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1900 censuses as well as the index (no images) for the 1880 census are available
- ◆ State census records are also available for several states.
- ◆ Good site to search!
- ◆ <http://search.labs.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#p=0>

# Census Online

- ◆ Census records transcribed by volunteers for a large number of counties in the US
- ◆ <http://www.census-online.com/>

# US Census Bureau

- ◆ Census Bureau can help to a limited degree
- ◆ Census records from 1930 and earlier are available for sale or consultation through the National Archives and Records Administration
- ◆ <http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/index.html>
- ◆ Records from more recent censuses are under lock and key for 72 years to ensure that the records remain confidential

# Links

- ◆ <http://www.censusrecords.net/>
- ◆ <http://www.censusfinder.com/>
- ◆ <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com>
- ◆ <http://www.census-online.com/links/>
- ◆ <http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/default.aspx?rt=35>

# Special Censuses

- ◆ Also called non population censuses
- ◆ Count unique segments of population
- ◆ Taken during & between regular census years
- ◆ Counted farms, veterans, factories, American Indians, other groups
- ◆ Not all special census records survived
- ◆ Many aren't available online

# DDD Census

- ◆ Schedule of Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Classes
- ◆ Special census conducted in 1880
- ◆ Physically disabled, mentally ill, homeless children, prison inmates
- ◆ [heritagequestonline.com](http://heritagequestonline.com) – available through many larger libraries
- ◆ <http://www.eogen.com/HeritageQuestOnlineStatesFtoM>

# Heritage Quest

- ◆ DeKalb Public Library <http://www.dkpl.org>
- ◆ Rockford Public Library  
<http://www.rockfordpubliclibrary.org>
- ◆ Cherry Valley Public Library District  
<http://www.cherryvalley.lib.il.us>

# DDD Census

- ◆ Look carefully for marks in columns 15 through 20, showing whether person is sick or temporarily disabled, blind, deaf & dumb, idiotic, insane, crippled, bedridden
- ◆ Postpartum depression & menopause could have gotten you committed
- ◆ Aren't online and may be challenging to find on microfilm
- ◆ Statewide list of DDD schedules available on <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/upload/images/PDF/DDDschedules.pdf>

# Agricultural Census

- ◆ Taken every census year from 1850 to 1910
- ◆ 1890 destroyed in same fire that ruined 1890 population census
- ◆ 1900 and 1910 agricultural schedules were destroyed, un-microfilmed, by Congressional order

# Manufacturing & Industry Census

- ◆ Included mining, fisheries, mercantile, commercial and trading business
- ◆ First taken in 1810
- ◆ 1810 census was lost
- ◆ Not taken in 1830
- ◆ Do not list employees names

# Slave Schedules

- ◆ Taken in 1850 and 1860
- ◆ Lists names of slave owners, not the slaves
- ◆ Records number of slaves owned and released

# Indian Schedules

- ◆ Listed on 1880 census unless they were not taxed
- ◆ Those not paying taxes were listed on Special Census of Indians
- ◆ 1900 and 1910 census might be listed on Inquiries Relating to Indians
- ◆ 1920 and 1930 Indians listed on general population schedules