

Census Records: Gold Dust or Coal Dust?

U. S. Census History

- ❑ In 1790, the first census was taken by U.S. marshals on horseback and counted 3.9 million people. Census 2000 counted more than 281 million people
- ❑ Census data are used to distribute Congressional seats to states, to make decisions about what community services to provide, and to distribute \$400 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year.

What do Census records tell us?

- ❑ First U. S. Census 1790
 - State
 - County
 - City
 - Enumeration Date
 - Name head of family
 - Free white males 16 and upwards
 - Free white males under 16
 - Free white females
 - All other free persons
 - Slaves
- ❑ 1800 & 1810 Census
 - Both males & females under 10 years
 - Both males & females under 10 thru 15 years
 - Both males & females under 15 thru 25 years
 - Both males & females 26 thru 44 years
 - Both males & females 45 years & over
- ❑ 1820 Census
 - Added free white males between 16 & 18
 - ❑ Foreigners not Naturalized
 - ❑ Number of persons engaged in agriculture
 - ❑ Number of persons engaged in commerce
 - ❑ Number of persons engaged in manufactures
 - Added: Slaves & Free Colored People
 - ❑ Males & Females under 14
 - ❑ Males & Females 14 and under 26
 - ❑ Males & Females 26 and under 45
 - ❑ Males & Females 45 and upwards
 - All other persons except Indians not taxed
- ❑ 1830 Census
 - Increased number of age groups
 - Identified Deaf, Dumb, Blind & Aliens

- ❑ 1840 Census
 - Increased occupations to include:
 - ❑ Mining
 - ❑ Navigation of Ocean
 - ❑ Navigation of lakes, rivers & canals
 - ❑ Professional Engineers
 - Pensioners of Revolutionary or Military Service
 - Education
- ❑ 1850 Census
 - Every Name listed
 - Age, Sex, Color
 - Occupation
 - Value of Real Estate
 - Place of Birth
 - Married Within Past Year
 - Attended School within the year
 - Persons over 20 who can not read or write
 - Deaf, Dumb, Blind, Insane, Idiotic, Pauper or Convict
- ❑ 1860 Census
 - Value of Personal Estate
- ❑ 1870 Census
 - Mother or Father Foreign Born
 - If born within the year, Month of Birth
 - If Married within the year, Month of Marriage
 - Male citizen 21 years and upward
 - Male citizen 21 years and upward whose right to vote is denied
- ❑ 1880 Census
 - Name of Street & House Number
 - Relationship to Head of Household
 - Single, Married, Widowed, Divorced
 - Number of Months unemployed during census year
 - Sickness & Disability on census day
 - Place of birth of Father & Mother
- ❑ 1900 Census
 - Date of birth (Month & Year)
 - Age last birthday
 - Number of years of present marriage
 - Mother of how many children, number living
 - Year of Immigration, Years in U.S., Naturalization
 - Can speak English
 - Owned or Rented, Mortgage, Farm or Home
- ❑ 1910 Census
 - Survivor of Union or Confederate Army or Navy
- ❑ 1920 Census
 - Year of Naturalization
 - Mother tongue of Head, Father & Mother

- 1930 Census
 - Value of Home
 - Radio set
 - Age at First marriage
 - Veteran of U.S. Military or Naval force mobilized for any war
 - What war or expedition

American Indians in Bureau of the Census Records

- National Archives
 - <http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/census/native-americans/census-bureau.html>

Other Census Records

- NYS - Birth, Marriage & Deaths during the Census year.
- Military deaths 1865 NYS Census
- Agricultural Census 1855, 1865 & 1875
- Type of house – log, frame, block & shanty
- Churches, Businesses, Newspapers, Wages & Weather conditions

Reliability of Census Records

- Name
- Age
- Sex
- Relationship
- Birth Place
- Parents Birth Place
- Naturalization

The Best Census Information

- Location of a person or family on a specific date.
- Developing family relationships.
- Other information provides important clues towards finding other records.
- The census was usually conducted by going from door-to-door. Neighbors may be family members.

Sources of Census Information

Ancestry.com

- <http://www.ancestry.com/>

Family Search

- <http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp>

Heritage Quest

- <http://www.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/index>

Canadian Census

- <http://automatedgenealogy.com/index.html>

British Census

- <http://www.1901censusonline.com/> <http://www.1911census.co.uk/>

Census Record Index

- <http://www.census-online.com/>

Other Countries

- ❑ Argentina
 - <http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#p=allCollections;r=2>
- ❑ England, Wales
 - <http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#p=allCollections;r=1>
- ❑ Canada, USA, Mexico
 - <http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#p=allCollections;r=0>

1940 Census

- http://www.1930census.com/1940_census.php

Measuring America: The Decennial Censuses From 1790 to 2000

- <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/ma.html>

Thank you!

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