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Clues in Census Records, 1850-1950

“Research Our Records,” National Archives (<https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1850-1950>).

1880

Official Census Date : June 1, 1880

Census legislation: <https://www2.census.gov/about/history/historical-censuses-surveys/program-references/legislation/1830-1899/1879-census-act.pdf>

Enumerator Instructions: <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/inst1880.shtml>

Census Bureau: 1880 Census Population & Housing Questionnaires & Instructions

[https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/technical-documentation/questionnaires.1890 Census.html#list-tab-1168974309](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/technical-documentation/questionnaires.1890%20Census.html#list-tab-1168974309)

Schedule 1 : Population

National Archives Federal Census Forms:

<https://www.archives.gov/files/research/genealogy/charts-forms/1880-census.pdf>

Schedule 2 : Agriculture

National Archives, Nonpopulation Census Forms : 1880 Agricultural Census Schedule

<https://www.archives.gov/files/research/genealogy/charts-forms/1880-agricultural.pdf>

Schedule 3 : Industry and Manufacturers*

National Archives, Nonpopulation Census Forms : 1880 Industrial and Manufacturers Census Schedule

<https://www.archives.gov/files/research/genealogy/charts-forms/1880-industrial-manufact.pdf>

* Data for particular industries were collected by the “experts” or “special agents”. This included: iron and steel manufacturing; cotton, woolen, and worsted good manufacturing; silk and silk good manufacturing; chemical products and salt; coke and glass; shipbuilding; fisheries; all aspects of mining; and railroad, telegraph and insurance statistics.

Schedule 4 : Social Statistics*

1880 Supplemental Schedules for the Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent (DDD) Classes

Supplemental Schedule 2 [form] : Insane

<https://www.archives.gov/files/research/genealogy/charts-forms/1880-census-insane.pdf>

Supplemental Schedule 3 [form] : Idiots

<https://www.archives.gov/files/research/genealogy/charts-forms/1880-census-idiots.pdf>

Supplemental Schedule 4 [form] : Deaf Mutes

<https://www.archives.gov/files/research/genealogy/charts-forms/1880-census-deaf-mutes.pdf>

Supplemental Schedule 5 [form] : Blind

<https://www.archives.gov/files/research/genealogy/charts-forms/1880-census-blind.pdf>

Supplemental Schedule 6 [form] : Homeless Children

<https://www.archives.gov/files/research/genealogy/charts-forms/1880-census-homeless-children.pdf>

Supplemental Schedule 7 [form] : Prison Inhabitants

<https://www.archives.gov/files/research/genealogy/charts-forms/1880-census-prisoners.pdf>

Supplemental Schedule 7a [form] : Pauper and Indigent Inhabitants in Institutions, Poor-Houses or Asylums, or boarded at public expense in private houses

<https://www.archives.gov/files/research/genealogy/charts-forms/1880-census-pauper.pdf>

* Collected by the “experts” or “special agents”

Schedule 5 : Mortality

National Archives, Nonpopulation Census Forms : 1880 Federal Mortality Schedule

<https://www.archives.gov/files/research/genealogy/charts-forms/1880-mortality.pdf>

1890

Official Census Date : June 2, 1890

National Archives 1890 Census : <https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1890>

Census Bureau : 1890 Census Population & Housing Questionnaires & Instructions

https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/technical-documentation/questionnaires.1880_Census.html#list-tab-1168974309

First in the Path of the Fireman – The Fate of the 1890 Population Census, Prologue Magazine, Spring 1995, Vol. 28, No. 1: <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1996/spring/1890-census>

Schedule 1: Family Schedule (Questionnaire)

https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/decennial/technical-documentation/questionnaires/1890_questionnaire.pdf

1890 Census Schedules that survived the fire	
Alabama	Perry County (Perryville Beat No. 11 & Severe Beat No. 8)
D.C.	Q.R.S. 13 th , 14 th , 15 th , Corcoran and Riggs Streets, & Johnson Ave.
Georgia	Muscogee County (Columbus)
Illinois	McDonough County (Mound Township)
Minnesota	Wright County (Rockford)
New Jersey	Hudson County (Jersey City)
New York	Westchester County (Eastchester) & Suffolk County (Brookhaven Twp.)
North Carolina	Gaston County (South Point & River Bend Twps) and Cleveland County (Twp. No. 2)

Ohio	Hamilton County (Cincinnati) and Clinton County (Wayne Twp.)
South Dakota	Union County (Jefferson Twp.)
Texas	Ellis County (J.P. No. 6, Mountain Peak and Ovilla Precinct), Hood County (Precinct No. 5), Rusk County (No. 6 and J.P. No. 7), Trinity County (Trinity Town and Precinct No. 2), & Kaufman County (Kaufman)

1890 Special Schedule: Surviving [Union] Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, and Widows, etc.

Extant records are *mostly* found in Kentucky through Wyoming. Records are available online at:

FamilySearch: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1877095>

Ancestry: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8667/>

CENSUS SUBSTITUTES

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Tax Records | Land Records |
| State Censuses | Church Records |
| School Censuses/Records | Newspapers |
| City Directories | Vital Records |
| Voter Registrations | Institutional Records |

Locating census substitutes

FamilySearch >

Search >

Catalog [type location] >

Record Categories [Open drop-down for desired record category and select record to examine] >

Catalog Page [Select specific source to examine]

Search Record – search options MAY include:

 Index/database	 Microfilm	 Full-text search
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Ancestry >

Search >

Card Catalog >

Keywords(s) >

Add Filters >

Select Source >

Search Record – options MAY include

Database search – enter search criteria (start with broad search parameters)

Browse this collection (right side column if available) – narrow the collection to be examined using the dropdown choices available in the Browse Collection box. The browse collection is typically only available IF Ancestry has images of the source(s) used to generate the database.

Ancestry database search box (left column)

Browse collection options (right column)

1900

Official Census Date : June 1, 1900

Census Population & Housing Questionnaires & Instructions :

https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/technical-documentation/questionnaires.1900_Census.html#list-tab-1168974309

Enumerator Instructions : <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/inst1900.shtml>

1910

Official Census Date : April 15, 1910

Enumerator Instructions : <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/inst1910.shtml>

1920

Official Census Date : January 1, 1920

Enumerator Instructions : <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/inst1920.shtml>

Complete Enumerator’s Instruction Book :

<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/decennial/technical-documentation/questionnaires/1920instructions.pdf>

1930

Official Census Date : April 1, 1930

National Archives 1930 Census FAQs:

<https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1930/general-faqs.html>

Enumerator Instructions : <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/inst1930.shtml>

Complete Enumerator's Instruction Book :

<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/decennial/technical-documentation/questionnaires/1930instructions.pdf>

1940

Official Census Date : April 1, 1940

National Archives 1940 Census: <https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940>

Enumerator's Instructions

Population Schedule Instructions : <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/inst1940.shtml>

Full Instructions Book :

<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/decennial/technical-documentation/questionnaires/1940instructions.pdf>

Deciphering Codes Appended to the 1940 Census: <https://stevemorse.org/census/mcodes1940.htm>

ENUMERATION MAPS

FamilySearch ED Maps (1900-1940) : <https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/2329948>

National Archives ED Descriptions (1850-1950) : <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/721175>

National Archives ED Maps (1880-1990) : <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/821491>

1950

Official Census Date : April 1, 1950

“Official 1950 Census: <https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1950>

National Archives 1950 Census FAQs: <https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1950/faqs>

Enumerator's Instructions : <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/inst1950.shtml>

Enumerator's Reference Manual : <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015081273297>
