

# Keys to Research Success: **State & Special Census**

Gary R. Toms, Midwest Genealogy Center

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## *Be aware:*

Like most records used in genealogical research, census records were created for other purposes, not for genealogy. As a result, they do not always tell us exactly what we want to know, but it can tell us a lot. Use census with other records, and with an awareness of this fact, for best results.

## Some Types of Census

Population schedules . . . familiar to researchers

Slave schedules

Native American census

Military census

Mortality Schedules

Agricultural, Industry/ Manufactures

"DDD" (defective, dependent, and delinquent)

State census, School census

## Other types of Federal census schedules: An Overview

	1850	1860	1870	1880
Agricultural Schedules	X	X	X	X
Defective, Dependent, & Delinquent				X
Industry/Manufacturing	X	X	X	X
Mortality Schedules	X	X	X	X
Slave Schedules	X	X		
Social Statistics	X	X	X	X

## Data Contained in Census

### Slave schedules

- Available for 1850 and 1860
- Gives names of owners
- Provides age and descriptions, only, for slaves

### Native American census

- Earliest in 1817–19
- Act of 1884 ordered annual enumeration
- Some are only at NARA, not filmed or published
- Arranged by agency, then by tribe, then by year
- Does not include the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma / Indian Territory

Research use of slave schedules and Native American census by consulting relevant chapters in: *The Source*, edited by Loretto Dennis Szucs, published by Ancestry, Inc. (also two previous editions with other editors/authors); and *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives* (NARA, 2000); and specialized research guides

### Military schedules include

- Census of pensioners, 1840; just pensioners, not all soldiers. Widely published.
- 1890 Special Veterans' Census; Union veterans & widows, details of service (some Confederates)
- Confederate veterans: 1911, some in 1907 and 1913; mostly taken by southern states, similar to 1890 Union veteran's census

### Mortality Schedules

### Questions on mortality schedules:

- Name
- Gender, Age
- Race
- marital status
- place of birth
- month of death
- Occupation
- Disease
- number of days ill

Supplemental Schedules: Agricultural, Industry/Manufacturers, etc.

- Provide details of livelihood, income
- Description of homeplace
- Amount of production
- Nature of business

Special schedules: The DDD – defective, dependent and delinquent

- Taken in 1880: look for mark in columns 15-20, then see supplemental schedule
- Details those classified as "insane" or "idiots", those in prisons, maimed or crippled, those deaf and mute, blind, homeless children, and paupers and indigents
- 15 states filmed by NARA; seven states had none
- Some schedules appear to be missing or incomplete

Questions vary by category. Some examples include:

- Duration of present attack
- Total number of attacks
- Age at which first attack occurred
- Residence when at home
- Is this child's father deceased? / Is this child's mother deceased?
- Has this child been abandoned by his/her parents?
- Has he/she been rescued from criminal surroundings?
- See: <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/upload/images/PDF/DDDschedules.pdf>

**Different types of Census: Non-Federal** Some local, special census available, such as:

- School census; some in family units, with parents' names, many give ages of children
- Especially valuable if they help you bridge missing 1890, or predate 1850
- These are limited and scattered, but always check for them
- Search FHL catalog, local library collections, USGenWeb sites, and appropriate archives

State Census Schedules — Can be a major resource.

- Wider coverage makes these more valuable
- Earliest ones taken in colonies in 1623
- Many from 1790s and after mirror the Federal schedules
- Fewer state schedules survive than for the Federal census
- More difficult to locate and access
- Some states have much available; Lainhart (below) will lead you to it. New York, Kansas, Iowa, Michigan and Mississippi are all great examples. Five states took census in 1885 with Federal assistance. Others took state census on their own. Always check Lainhart.
- 1925 Iowa reputed to be the best state schedule in terms of genealogical data collected; New York schedules are great.
- Few Missouri state census schedules survive

*State Census Records*, by Ann S. Lainhart – major resource (Gen. Pub. Co., 1992); copies available in many libraries. MGC has circulating copies. Check: *Census Substitutes & State Census Records: An Annotated Bibliography of Published Name Lists for All 50 U.S. States and State Censuses for 37 States*, by William Dollarhide (Family Roots Pub. Co., 2008). See also charts in *The Source* (various editions) and in *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives* (NARA, 2000) and listed entries in *The American Census Handbook* by Thomas Jay Kemp (Scholarly Resources, 2001).

To find state census schedules:

- Consult Midwest Genealogical Center topical guides
- Also check Family History Library catalog, under the state and then subject, "census".
- Check catalog of any state-level library or historical/archival agency for state of interest to you.
- Search in PerSI on Heritage Quest

Other Census Available

Foreign census are also available

- Canada – we can borrow on interlibrary loan, and have some index volumes in the collection
- England – online through commercial sites such as WorldVitalRecords.com, FindMyPast.co.uk, and also through FamilySearch.org; microfilm can be ordered from the Family History Library
- Ireland – entitlement lists are similar to census; Midwest Genealogy Center has two of these, more are available from the Family History Library
- Much more available – search FHL catalog; holdings are extensive for certain countries

Ways to Use the Data

- Account for whereabouts, disappearance
- Complete or expand the family group
- Add details and interest to the family narrative, either for writing or telling
- Provide additional facts to combine with what you already have for more effective analysis

How to Access

It is important that you know and use *Map Guide to the U. S. Federal Census, 1790–1820*, by William Thorndale and William Dollarhide (Gen. Pub. Co., 1997) when working with U.S. census. It is essential to know location when working with census.

- Many mortality and veterans schedules and some other special schedules also in printed index volumes or other published form
- Some special schedules and state census have been extracted and published on a local basis
- Many, many census schedules available from Family History Library

Multiple access options available to you.

- Online; multiple sources
- Microfilm, here in the collection
- Borrowing a copy from outside
- Look for various versions of indexing or published transcriptions.
- Don't overlook PerSI, in Heritage Quest online
- Explore further with bibliographies. A good one is *The American Census Handbook*, by Thomas J. Kemp.

Basic approach for almost any census:

- Check online databases
- Check for index in print or online
- Search catalogs of Midwest Genealogy Center and the Family History Library
- Consult Midwest Genealogy Center topical guides
- Search PerSI in Heritage Quest online

And ask questions, if MGC reference staff can help.