

# Census Records:



Gold Dust or Coal Dust



# Agenda

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- What do Census records tell us?
- Is the information in Census records accurate?
- Where you can find Census records.



# Census

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- What is a census?
  - “An official count of population.”
- There have been many census records down through history.



# U. S. Census History

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- 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?

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- 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

# What do Census records tell us? (2)

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- 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

# What do Census records tell us? (3)

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## □ 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



# What do Census records tell us? (4)

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## □ 1830 Census

- Increased number of age groups
- Identified Deaf, Dumb, Blind & Aliens

# What do Census records tell us? (5)

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## □ 1840 Census

- Increased occupations to include:
  - Mining
  - Navigation of Ocean
  - Navigation of lakes, rivers & canals
  - Professional Engineers
- Pensioners of Revolutionary or Military Service
- Education

# What do Census records tell us? (6)

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## □ 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

# What do Census records tell us? (7)

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## □ 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



# What do Census records tell us? (8)

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## □ 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

# What do Census records tell us? (9)

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## □ 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



# What do Census records tell us? (10)

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## □ 1910 Census

- Survivor of Union or Confederate Army or Navy

## □ 1920 Census

- Year of Naturalization
- Mother tongue of Head, Father & Mother



# What do Census records tell us? (11)

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- 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

# Agricultural Census 1850, 1860, 1870

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- Name of owner or manager, number of improved and unimproved acres, and the cash value of the farm, farming machinery, livestock, animals slaughtered during the past year, and "homemade manufactures." The schedules also indicate the number of horses, mules, "milch cows," working oxen, other cattle, sheep, and swine owned by the farmer. The amount of oats, rice, tobacco, cotton, wool, peas and beans, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, barley, buckwheat, orchard products, wine, butter, cheese, hay, clover seed, other grass seeds, hops, hemp, flax, flaxseed, silk cocoons, maple sugar, cane sugar, molasses, and beeswax and honey produced during the preceding year is also noted. The 1880 schedules provide additional details, such as the amount of acreage used for each kind of crop, the number of poultry, and the number of eggs produced.

# Manufacturing 1820, 1850 & 1860

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- Manufacturing schedules in 1820, 1850, and 1860 reported the name of the manufacturer; the type of business or product; the amount of capital invested; the quantities, kinds, and value of raw materials used; the quantities, kinds, and value of product produced annually; the kind of power or machinery used; the number of men and women employed; and the average monthly cost of male and female labor. The amount of detail reported in these schedules increased in 1870 and again in 1880. In 1880, supplemental schedules were also used for specific industries, such as for boot and shoemaking, lumber and saw mills, flour and grist mills.



# American Indians in Bureau of the Census Records

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- Most Native American Indian Census after 1900
- National Archives
  - <http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/census/native-americans/census-bureau.html>

# What do Census records tell us? (11)

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- 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

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



# The Best Census Information

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- 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

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## 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>

# Sources of Census Information

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## 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/>

# Sources of Census Information

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## 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](http://www.1930census.com/1940_census.php)



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# Measuring America: The Decennial Censuses From 1790 to 2000

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



# Thank you!

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- Roscoe G. Hastings
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