

# Clues Found on the U.S. Federal Census

Created by Alice Childs  
alicechilds.com

## [Link to United States Census Forms at FamilySearch](#)

### Address:

- 1920-1940 - Street of person's place of abode
- 1920-1930 - House number or farm
- 1940 - House Number
- 1940 - Where did the family live in 1935?

### Birthdate:

- 1790 - Listed number of free white males under 16 and number of free white males over 16. Females were all grouped in one category
- 1800-1840 - persons in the household represented by tick marks in a certain age category
- 1850-1940 - age
- 1870-1880 - if born in the last year, what month?
- 1900 - Asks for Date of birth - Month and year

### Birthplace

- 1850-1930 - Lists birthplace - state, territory, or country

### Birthplaces of Parents

- 1870 - Were father and mother of foreign birth?
- 1880-1930 - Father and mother's places of birth
- 1940 - Parent birthplaces only listed for people enumerated on lines 14 and 29.

### Relationships

- 1850-1870 - Every person in household listed, relationships not stated but can be inferred.
- 1880 - 1940 - relationship to head of household stated.
- 1900-1910 - How many children has a woman had, how many still living?
- 1880 - 1940 - relationship to head of household stated.
- 1900-1910 - How many children has a woman had, how many still living?

### Marriage

- 1850-1860 - Was the person married within the last year?
- 1870 - If married in the last year, which month?
- 1880 - Marital Status Married, single, widowed, or divorced, was the person married within the census year?
- 1900 - Marital Status, number of years in present marriage
- 1910 - Marital Status (M1 for first marriage, M2 for second or subsequent marriage), number of years in present marriage
- 1920 - Marital Status
- 1930 - Marital status, age at first marriage
- 1940 - Marital Status. For people who were enumerated on lines 14 and 29: if a woman who has been married, has this person been married more than once, age at first marriage, number of children ever born.

### **Citizenship**

- 1820 - Number of foreigners not naturalized
- 1830 - Number of foreigners not naturalized
- 1870 - Is the person a male citizen of the United States of 21 years or upwards?
- 1900 - Year of immigration to the U.S., How long an immigrant has been in the United States and whether naturalized.
- 1910 - Year of immigration and whether naturalized
- 1920 - year of immigration, whether naturalized, year of naturalization
- 1930 - Native language, What year did the person immigrate to the United States? Is the person naturalized?
- 1940 - If foreign born, is the person a citizen?

### **Ethnicity**

- 1860-1940 - Color or race

### **Property Ownership**

- 1850-1870 - Value of real and personal estate owned by a person
- 1900-1910 - Is the person's home owned or rented? Does the person live in a farm or in a house? If on farm, corresponding ID number to agricultural schedule
- 1920 - Is the person's home owned or rented? If on farm, corresponding ID number to agricultural schedule
- 1930 - Home owned or rented - do they live on a farm? If on farm, corresponding ID number to agricultural schedule
- 1940 - Home Owned or rented, value of home, do they live on a farm - corresponding ID number to farm schedule.

### **Military Service**

- 1840 - Name and age of pensioners for Revolutionary or military service (Written on back?)
- 1900-1910 - Is the person a civil war veteran (Union or Confederate) or the widow of a veteran.
- 1930 - Is the person a veteran of the U.S. military or naval forces mobilized for any war or expedition. If yes, which expedition?
- 1940 - Only for people enumerated on two designated lines: Is this person a veteran of the United States military forces; or the wife, widow, or under-18-year old child of a veteran. Is the veteran father dead? Military Service (which war or peacetime).

### **Occupation**

- 1820 - Number of persons (including slaves) engaged in agriculture, commerce, and manufactures
- 1840 - The number of persons in each family employed in mining; agriculture; commerce; manufacture and trade; navigation of the ocean; navigation of canals, lakes and rivers; and learned professional engineers.
- 1850 - 1860 - Occupation of each person over 15 years of age
- 1870-1930 - Asked for Occupation
- 1940- Employment status/occupation of persons 14 or older

### **African American Research**

- 1790 - Number of Slaves
- 1800 - Number of Slaves
- 1810 - Number of Slaves
- 1820 - Number of free colored males and females of particular ages
- 1830 - Number of free colored males and females of particular ages
- 1840 - Number of free colored males and females of particular ages
- 1850 - asked for a person's color. Also had a slave schedule
- 1860 - Color

\*Additional information about education, disabilities, etc. are found on census enumerations from 1830 forward.