

## The Decennial Census

- ◆ *Very revealing snapshot in time*
  - *find every ancestor in every year*
  - ... *and their siblings and kids!*
- ◆ *Easy to get, easy to use*
- ◆ *U.S. 1790-1930 now all on-line*
- ◆ *U.K. 1841+, 1871-1901 @ ancestry*
- ◆ *Canada: 1871 index on-line; 1901?*

ALL Class Web Site: <http://copland.udel.edu/~tdoherty>

## U.S. Census:1790-1840

- ◆ **Named only head of household**
  - **usually oldest male, but not always**
- ◆ **Categories: sex, “other free”\*, slaves**
- ◆ **Household distribution by age:**
  - *identify “family” using tax, probate, orphan records*
- ◆ **Feds supplied paper 1830+:** *enumerator 1st numbered pages; gov. bound pages, hand-stamped #*
- ◆ **List ordered by enumerator’s pathway**
- ◆ **Nearby neighbors/relatives; slaveowners**

\* *white, “other free” (non-white); untaxed Indians censuses: 1885-1910*

## U.S. Census:1790-1840

### Named Only Head of Household

- ◆ *1790: 16+m, <16m, f, other free\*, slaves\**
- ◆ *1800-10 (mf): 0-9, 10-15, 16-25, 26-44, 45+*
- ◆ *1820: same as 1810 + males 16-17*
- ◆ *1830-40 (mf): 0-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-89, 90-99, 100+*
- ◆ *1840: employment, military pensioners and ages*
- ◆ *1850+ lists every name in household*

\* *Females by age 1800+, other free & slaves after 1820+*  
- *generally more age groupings for whites and white males*

## U.S. Census:1850-1890

### name/age/sex/race/birthplace/occupation

- ◆ *1850-60: 1<sup>st</sup> to name all in household\**
  - *property value, married within year? literacy*
- ◆ *1870: father/mother foreign born, eligible to vote?*
- ◆ *1880: relationship to head of household,*
  - *father/mother birthplace, marital status,*
  - *street address; health (sick, disabled, insane)*
- ◆ *1890: lost to fire/flood, but Union vet (or widow)*
  - rank, when served, unit, disability [33/49 states]*

\* *separate slave schedule 1850-60, but slaves not named*  
Forms: <http://www.ancestry.com/save/charts/census.htm>

## U.S. Census:1900-1930

### name/age/sex/race/birthplace/occupation

- ◆ *1900: month/yr of birth\*, yr of marriage\*,*
  - *children (total and # living)\*\*, citizen?*
  - *immigration year, speak English?(or what\*)*
  - *rent/own/mortgage*
- ◆ *1910: Nature of business, employee/employer/self*
  - *Civil War survivor?\**
- ◆ *1920: mother tongue of person/father\*/mother\**
  - *year of naturalization\**
- ◆ *1930: owned radio?, veteran (war/expedition)*
  - *age at 1<sup>st</sup> marriage*

\* *uniquely not repeated in following years; \*\* 1900/1910 only*

## Other Censuses in U.S.

- ◆ *Mortality Schedules (yr bef 6/1 1850-80, 1885)*
- ◆ *Agriculture Schedule 1840-1910*
- ◆ *Manufacture Schedule 1820, Industry 1850-70*
- ◆ *State censuses – often 5<sup>th</sup> year of decade*
  - *1845:*
  - *1852: CA (gold rush time)*
  - *1855: MA*
  - *1865 NY: relation to head, in military, NY Co born*
  - *1885: CO, FL, MN, NE, NJ, RI, WI*
  - *1895: FL, MN, NJ, OR, WI*
  - *1925: Iowa: mother’s maiden name*
  - *1945: SD (very detailed)*
- ◆ *Most state censuses not indexed; many not filmed*

## **Census: Ancestry vs. ProQuest**

*Free access: student udel email DE Pub. library*

*Indexed: all (by head) not 1830-50,1880*

*Every-name: 1790-1900,1930 1790-1820*

*Searching: Soundex or not\* no Soundex*

*Searching: wildcards:\*,?\* exact spelling only*

*Transcribing: lower quality higher quality*

*Page numbers: variable often ProQuest's*

*Printing: slow fast*

*e-Formats: .gif or .bmp\*\* pdf files*

*Usual Image Quality: lower higher*

*\*Soundex overrides wildcard; no wildcard allowed in 1<sup>st</sup> three letters*

*\*\*can print to pdf file with Adobe Acrobat*

## **Ancestry Searching Techniques**

◆ *Soundex Code Idea: homonyms have same code*

- *Start with first letter of surname*

- *Convert remaining letters to numbers (3 max)*

- *BPFV=1, CSK GJQXZ=2, DT=3, L=4, MN=5*

- *R=6; Ignore AEIOUWYH*

- *Count double letters only once [tt=3, not 33]*

- *If needed, add zeros to get 3 numbers*

- *e.g. Doherty D-630, Springer S-165, Lee L-000*

◆ *Wildcard \* Fran\* = Frank, Francis*

◆ *Wildcard ? Johns?n = Johnsen, Johnson*

## **Census Searching Techniques**

**Almost everyone was counted**

◆ *Imagine original misspellings*

◆ *Imagine mis-transcriptions*

◆ *Is surname's 1<sup>st</sup> letter wrong in index*

◆ *Don't limit search to presumed head*

◆ *Can always browse page by page*

◆ *Don't accept "no" as an answer*

◆ *Be persistent*