

The Decennial Census

- ◆ **Very revealing snapshot in time**
 - find every ancestor in every year ... and their siblings & kids! - misspelling is common
- ◆ **Easy to get, easy to use: ancestry.com UD**
 - use HeritageQuest (DE library) with ancestry.com
- ◆ **all U.S. 1790-1930*** (also HeritageQuest/ProQuest)
 - also certain state, county, country census and
- ◆ **England, Wales, Isle Man, Channel Is 1841-1901***
 - Scotland** (pay for images: scotlandsppeople.gov.uk)
- ◆ **Canada: 1851*(NB,NS,ON), 1861, 1871 ON**^**
 - 1881^LDS, 1891, 1901^ 1906*(AB,MB,SK), 1911*
- ◆ **Beginnings: Germany***

*images/**index on ancestry.com; ^index elsewhere

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 with 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: 1st 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. Union vet/widow census:**

[33/49 states]: rank, when served, unit, disability
* separate slave schedule 1850-60, but slaves not named
Forms: <http://www.ancestry.com/trees/charts/census.aspx?>

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?*, children (all + # living)**
- ◆ **1920: mother tongue of person/father*/mother***
 - year of naturalization*
- ◆ **1930: owned radio?, veteran (war/expedition)**
 - age at 1st 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 5th year of decade**
 - Most not indexed; many not filmed
 - 1845:
 - 1852: CA (gold rush time)
 - 1855: KS* MA
 - 1865 NY: relation to head, in military, birth Co
 - 1885: CO* FL* IA** MN, NE, NJ, RI, WI
 - 1892: NY* 1894: MI**
 - 1895: FL, IA** MN, NJ, OR, SD** WI*
 - 1905: WI*
 - 1925: IA: mother's maiden name
 - 1945: SD (very detailed) *images/**index on ancestry.com

Which Sources to Believe?

Original vs Secondary* Records

- ◆ *Closest to date of event*
- ◆ *Eye witness to event*
- ◆ *Unbiased and competent*
- ◆ *No reason to hide the truth*
- ◆ *Incentive to be accurate*

* *history/genealogy book, on-line, hearsay*

Original vs Secondary Records What Can You Believe in the Census?

- ◆ Occurred on date of the event
 - "event" is only taking the census on a particular day
 - enumerator told to get household makeup as of earlier day; did they?
- ◆ Made by an unbiased and competent eye-witness to the event with no reason to hide the truth and an incentive to be accurate
 - but we don't know who answered the questions!
- ◆ How much trust can you put in the answers?
 - secondary records: age, birthplace, parents' birthplaces, occupation, relationship to head, citizen, marital status
- ◆ Thus, try to get every census a person was in
 - draw conclusions by considering data from all censuses

Census Searching Techniques

Almost everyone was counted

- ◆ *Imagine original misspellings*
- ◆ *Imagine mis-transcriptions*
- ◆ *Is surname's 1st 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 – most all were counted*

Census: Ancestry vs. ProQuest

Free access:	<i>udel.edu email</i>	<i>DE public library</i>
US Indexed:	<i>every-name</i>	<i>1930[#]; not 1830-50</i>
Every-name:	<i>1790-1930</i>	<i>1790-1820, 1880</i>
Searching:	<i>Soundex or not*</i>	<i>no Soundex</i>
Searching:	<i>wildcards:*,?*</i>	<i>exact spelling only</i>
Transcribing:	<i>unique!!</i>	<i>unique!!</i>
Page numbers:	<i>variable</i>	<i>often ProQuest's</i>
Printing:	<i>slow</i>	<i>fast</i>
e-Formats:	<i>jpg**</i>	<i>pdf files</i>
Usual Image Quality:	<i>lower</i>	<i>higher</i>

*Soundex overrides wildcard; no wildcard allowed in 1st three letters
**can "print" to large pdf file with Adobe/pdf995; [#]only CT,DE,MD,TX,VA

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, CSKGJQXZ=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*

Why Use HeritageQuest* at all?

- ◆ Can download census image as a pdf file directly instead of using pdf995 or Adobe Acrobat which are needed to print an ancestry.com image
 - pdf files are easily viewed on a PC or Mac, can be enlarged for transcribing and all (or selected parts) can be printed
 - HeritageQuest pdf files are usually higher quality and less than 10% the file size of ancestry.com pdf images
 - Smaller HeritageQuest pdf files are better for emailing
 - ◆ Different indexing system than ancestry.com
 - may find your ancestor in one and not the other
 - ◆ Search/browse while viewing ancestry.com image
 - ◆ Unique databases: PERSI; Freedman's Bank and Revolutionary War Pension images; 20,000 Books
- * Note: you may need to either disable Norton Internet Security to gain access to HeritageQuest or modify Norton's settings
[see <http://copland.udel.edu/~tdoherty/HeritageQuestAccessWithNorton.pdf>]