

## 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 1841-1901\** (Scotland:1841-61\*\*)
  - *includes Isle of Man, Channel Islands\**
- ◆ *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*

## 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*

## Census: Ancestry vs. ProQuest

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

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

*\*\*can "print" to large pdf file with Adobe/pdf995; #only CT,DE,MD,TX,VA*

## 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

## 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 pdf file size of ancestry.com 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> ]

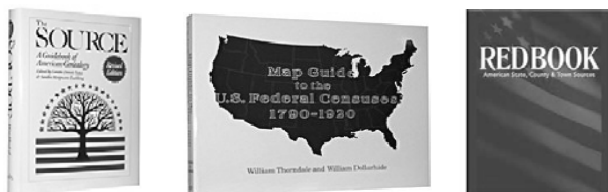
## U.S. Census:1790-1840

- ◆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

## Useful References



- ◆Lou Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, *The Source A Guidebook of American Genealogy* (1997) – details about record types (in ALL reading room)
- ◆William Thorndale and William Dollarhide, *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses 1780-1920* (1987)
- ◆Ancestry’s *RedBook: American State, County and Town Sources* (2004) – available records

## 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

## 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. 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>

### 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
  - 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