

U.S. Federal Census Indexes and Images

The following U.S. Federal Censuses can be accessed **FREE** either at home (**Home**) or at Family History Centers (**FHC**). Note that the *FamilySearch.org* images are often the most legible, and they can be inverted (white on black) when needed to further improve legibility. In addition, the specific census entries of interest can be enlarged and printed in landscape format.

- 1930** (FHC) Every-name index and images for all states on *Footnote*.
(FHC) Every-name index and images for all states at *Ancestry FH Library Edition*.
(Home) Images for all states and Head-of Household (HH) index for Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Texas, and Virginia at *HeritageQuest*.
- 1920** (Home) Every-name index at *FamilySearch.org*.
Images and HH Index for all states at *HeritageQuest*.
(FHC) Every-name index and images for all states at *Ancestry FH Library Edition*.
- 1910** (FHC) Every-name index and images for all states at *Ancestry FH Library Edition*.
(Home) Images and HH Index for all states at *HeritageQuest*.
- 1900** (Home) Every-name index and images for all states at *FamilySearch.org*
Images and HH Index for all states at *HeritageQuest*.
(FHC) Every-name index and images for all states at *Ancestry FH Library Edition*.
- 1890** (Home) Images and HH Index for selected counties at *HeritageQuest*.
(FHC) Every-name index and images for all states at *Ancestry FH Library Edition*.
- 1880** (Home) Every-name index at *FamilySearch.org* for all states (Click on *Advanced Search / Census / 1880 US Census*)
Images and HH Index for all states at *HeritageQuest*.
(FHC) Every-name index and images for all states at *Ancestry FH Library Edition*.
(FHC) The 1880 US Census is also available on CD at the FHC. It can be searched using wildcards to find misspelled names.
- 1870** (Home) Every-name index and images for all states at *FamilySearch.org*.
Images and HH Index for all states at *HeritageQuest*.
(FHC) Every-name index and images for all states at *Ancestry FH Library Edition*.
- 1860** (FHC) Every-name index and images for all states on *Footnote*.
(FHC) Every-name index and images for all states at *Ancestry FH Library Edition*.
Many 1860-1870 census indexes on CD are listed in the state descriptions. Note also that CDs 310-320 have HH indexes for many states from colonial times through 1880.
(Home) Images and HH Index for all states at *HeritageQuest*.
- 1850** (Home) Every-name, index and images for all states at *FamilySearch.org*.
(FHC) Every-name index and images for all states at *Ancestry FH Library Edition*.
Use the HH census index books in the basement and the AIS HH census indexes on microfiche in the microfilm room to find the head of household's location and page number, and then find the image on *HeritageQuest*.
- 1840** (FHC) HH index and images for all states at *Ancestry FH Library Edition*.
Use the HH census index books in the basement and the AIS HH census indexes on microfiche in the microfilm room to find the head of household's location and page number, and then find the image on *HeritageQuest*.
- 1830** (FHC) HH index and images for all states at *Ancestry FH Library Edition*.
Use the HH census index books in the basement and the AIS HH census indexes on microfiche in the microfilm room to find the head of household's location and page number, and then find the image on *HeritageQuest*.
- 1820** (FHC) HH index and images for all states at *Ancestry FH Library Edition*.

(Home) Images and HH Index for all states at *HeritageQuest*.

(FHC) Use the HH census index books in the basement and the AIS HH census indexes on microfiche in the microfilm room to find the head of household's location and page number, and then find the image on *HeritageQuest*.

1790 - 1810 Same as 1820.

Search Tips

Using Heritage Quest At Home. You can search the *HeritageQuest* censuses (plus several thousand family history books) from home using your Richland or Mid-Columbia library card number. For Richland, go to *richland.lib.wa.us*, click on *Databases*, then *HeritageQuest Online*, then enter your card number. For Mid-Columbia, go to *mcl-lib.org*, click on *Electronic Resources*, then on *HeritageQuest From Home*, then enter your card number. It may be necessary to try several surname variants, or combinations of given names and surnames. For example, Albert Hanson in the 1880 Census was found as A. Hanson in the 1870 Census. Other family members were found under Hansen and Hansom. Coley Hanson in the 1900 Census was listed as Celey Hanson in the 1880 Census and Clay Hanson on the 1870 Census.

I Know My Ancestors Lived There - Why Can't I Find Them in the Census? It is frustrating to look at an index or a record where you believe your ancestor should appear and not find the person listed. This happens for a number of reasons. In the past, people were not consistent about the spelling of their surnames. Trying alternative spellings is a key to success in genealogical research. The record taker may have misunderstood the informant when the name was said, or the name may have been Americanized in the records. Handwriting has changed considerably over the centuries, and may have been misread by the indexer. All these factors explain why sometimes it is a challenge to find your ancestor in records, even when the person is there. Before you decide your ancestor is not in the census, try the following suggestions:

- 1) **Think of the ways your ancestor's name may have changed.** Then look for his or her name under those spellings. Look for the surname with the first or middle names as initials or abbreviations. Look for the middle name instead of the first name. Look for the name spelled with different vowels. Variations in the ending letters are not addressed by Soundex, and can have a major effect on index searches. For example, the name *Kinsey* was finally found under *Kinsiy*, and *Simmons* was found as *Simmonds*.
- 2) **Look for relatives in the index.** If it is an Every Name Index, look for the names of parents, children, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts. The person you seek may be in the same household, or living nearby.
- 3) **Search using only the given name or surname.** If the surname is seriously garbled but the county or township is known, the person often can be found by entering just the given name plus other definitive information such as the birth year, immigration year, etc. *HeritageQuest* gives an alphabetical list of the relevant surnames. Similarly, if the given name is garbled or only an initial, enter just the surname and see an alphabetical list of the given names.
- 4) **Search using combinations of given names.** The correct William Callahan family could not be found in the 1900 census for Illinois using *Pilot.FamilySearch.org*. However, by entering William as the father, Bridget as the mother, Robert as the child, and Illinois as the place, the William **Kelhelhan** family with the correct children was found. The census taker was a German, who misspelled the Irish names.
- 5) **Search the census images.** Find the appropriate State, County, and Township (if known). Then search the images as you would a microfilmed record. With high-speed Internet, it is almost as fast as searching a microfilm.