

CENSUS RESEARCH CHECK LIST

TO DO RESEARCH EFFICIENTLY, PREPARE A CENSUS CHECK LIST OF CENSUS RECORDS IN WHICH TO SEARCH FOR YOUR ANCESTORS

USE YOUR PEDIGREE CHART AS BASIS FOR THE DATA

Based on what you know, **ENTER Microfilm, Roll and Page numbers** (NARA Microfilm Catalogs available on FamilySearch.org). Enter Internet site if that is where you found information

For each year, indicate whether the ancestor would most likely be found as a head of household, a named member of a household or a statistic in a household.

YOU WILL USE THIS CHART AGAIN AND AGAIN (and add to it as your research proceeds)

LEAVE PLENTY OF SPACE BETWEEN LINES TO ENTER DATA

Based on what you now know about ancestors, using the Microfilm Catalogs, indicate the county and state where you would look for each ancestor

#2 Your Father (year born and year death)

Where **should** this person have been in each census year he was alive

- i.e. 1900- age 5 in household of his Father (his name)- County/State of residence
- 1910- age 15 in the household of his Father (location)
- 1920- age 25 (with parents, living alone or head of own household)
- 1930- age 35

#3 Your Mother (year born and year death)

i.e. organize the same as your Father

#4 Your Paternal Grandfather (year born and year death)

- i.e. 1870- age 3 in household of his Father (similar information as your parents)
- 1880- age 13 in household of Father
- 1890- would be age 23 but there is very little census for that year
- 1900- age 33- probably "head" of own household

#5 Your Paternal Grandmother (year born and year death)

Eventually you will want to search for information about your ancestor's siblings, children, etc after you become more skilled in doing census research

PREPARING FOR CENSUS RESEARCH

You need to see either the microfilm or a digitized version of each census in which each of your ancestors appear for each year they were alive from 1790-1930, not just indices or lists of names.

Free census extraction forms

Do a *Google* search for “free genealogy forms” and take your pick

FamilySearch.org (the Mormon site) under Research Help offers Extraction Forms

Create a set of forms for every year 1790-1930 and consider these your *Masters*. You will use them over and over

Start with at least 10 copies of the set

Now you are ready to find access to the census

Ancestry.com

A fee site providing indices and digitized images of all years

Free to MGS members on a dedicated computer at Darien Library

Free at some libraries... check libraries near you

Footnote.com

Another fee site with some years and some indices. Has a different and interesting search system

From time to time, both these sites offer FREE access as a *come-on* to encourage you to join. Their content is extensive and different

HeritageQuest is available free at home or libraries at UCONN.org with a State Library card (available free). Has digitized images of all years but NOT all are indexed. Easy to use

NARA-Nearest National Archives branches are in Pittsfield, MA or in New York City They have complete sets of microfilm, indices and the **Microfilm Catalogs**

Valuable for those who cannot use a computer and are not able to learn. Also valuable for certain census research tasks that are difficult to do on the Internet

FamilySearch.org does NOT have census images but does have useful tools, especially the Microfilm Catalogs which enable to you find the exact Microfilm number and roll number for each state and county microfilm. This information is critical to finding entries you seek and saves time when you go to NARA. Also information needed to prepare cites for your finds.

For really lazy (or busy) folks who have \$\$.
Censusresearch.com These “record searchers” can be useful when you know exactly what you want

THE INDICES TO CENSUS ENTRIES ARE FAR FROM PERFECT. THE SAME SEARCH ON DIFFERENT SITES RARELY RESULTS IN THE SAME “LIST” OF FOLKS! AND SOME FOLKS WERE MISSED ENTIRELY!