

# What Can You Learn From Censuses?

## **1810 Census**

City and county your ancestors were living in. Gives names of heads of families only. (If a woman is widowed or single, she would be named). Lists males and females separately categorized by ages. Number of slaves and number of “all other free persons” are given.

## **1820 and 1830 Censuses**

Added columns to count male and female slaves and “free colored persons” categorized by age. Still shows names of heads of households only.

## **1840 Census**

Added column for “Pensioners for Revolutionary or military services. Added columns for handicapped individuals: deaf, dumb, blind, insane. Added columns about schooling and areas of employment.

## **1850 and 1860 Censuses**

1850 was the first census to list all household members by name. Shows age, sex, color, profession, value of real estate owned, place of birth, whether they were married within the last year, and whether they attended school within the last year, ability to read/write, and handicaps. 1860 Census added “value of personal estate” in addition to value of real estate owned.

## **1870 Census**

Added parentage asking if father and mother were foreign born. Also asked if born or married within the past year. Added Education: whether able to read/write. Also added questions on Constitutional Relations looking for male citizens 21 years or older, and whether those male citizens had been denied the right to vote.

## **1880 Census**

First census to ask for relationship to Head of Household. Added columns for single, married, widowed or divorced. First census to ask for actual place of birth of father and mother.

## **1890 Census**

Mostly destroyed by fire. A few states have information, but very limited

## **1900 Census**

Only census to ask for month and year of birth. Also asked for number of years of present marriage. Women were asked for the number of children, and of those, how many were still living. Also asked for year of immigration to the U.S., how many years in the U.S., and year of naturalization. Ownership of home and farm also shown.

## **1910 and 1920 Censuses**

Same as 1900 except month and year of birth not shown. Questions about occupation were added. Also asks about service in the Union or Confederate Army or Navy.

## **1930 Census**

Similar to 1910. Added columns for age at time of first marriage and veterans of U.S. military or naval forces.