

[Get to Know the U.S. State Census Because Original Vital Information Is Available](#)

Census records are a great way to narrow down searches for ancestors in the U.S. A census of the population of the United States has been taken every ten years by the federal government since 1790. Copies of this census for Pennsylvania are available at the State Archives for the years 1790 to 1940. Census schedules are restricted for seventy-two years after the census is taken in order to protect the privacy of the individuals surveyed. **Note:** reference archivists cannot search or copy federal census records.

State censuses were often recorded on years when the U.S. Federal Census wasn't, and they include much of the same types of information. Years and frequency of these censuses vary by state. In **The Family History Guide**, see the United States page, Goal C1, **Choice C** for some helpful resources including several excellent video tutorials as well as links to articles and videos from **Ancestry** and **FamilySearch**. ([See All Tips](#))

This Facebook group also has two previous Census postings that you should also cross-check for more tips:

- [Handy 1790 - 1840 U.S. Census Worksheet to Supplement August 30th Census Post:](#) *or see November 21, 2019 posting*
- [Census records are a great way to narrow down searches for ancestors in the U.S.:](#) *or see August 30, 2019 posting*

Closing Comments

For those of you who have American pioneers, don't overlook state census because there probably is a good probability they can be traced. Pennsylvania never took a state census. Their records indicated as state censuses are in reality reconstructed tax lists. For example, the state of Pennsylvania has a state census from 1790 to 1940 (except for 1890 which was destroyed by fire in 1921) Except for 1870, there is a name index for each of the Pennsylvania population census schedules. Book indexes list the heads of families from 1790 through 1860. For 1870, only portions of the Pennsylvania census have been indexed. The 1880 Soundex Index includes only households with children aged ten years and younger but the 1900 Soundex Index and the 1910 Miracode Index include all heads of families.

For those of you interested in pursuing this matter further, listed below are some resources and lessons found **on FamilySearch.org**.

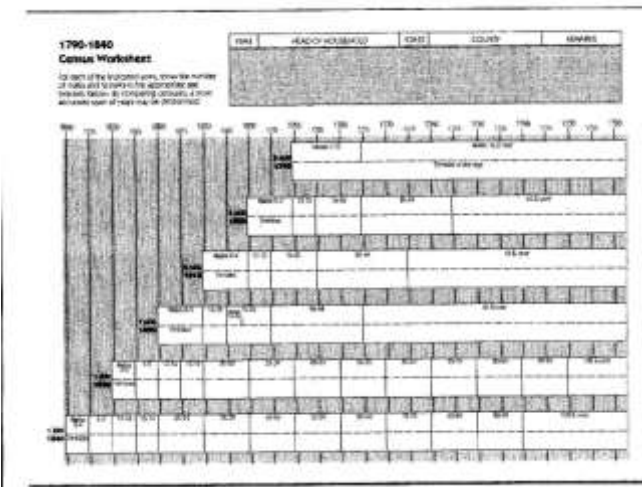
- [State and Special Census Records](#)
In this lesson, you will learn how the different types of state and special census records.
- [United States Research: Midwest Region Census Records](#)
This segment will discuss state and territorial census records of the Midwest.
- [Beginning Census Research and Record Keeping](#)
This course teaches a little history behind the United States Census. You will also learn some of the basic information found in a census.





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Amos Lee	130	2109	1146	3919	302	149
James Lee	131	3	3	3		
Baltus Emrick	132	1	2	6		
Charles Schultz	133	4		3		
Elizabeth Child	134			1		
Phu Hinckle	135	1	2	3		
Thomas Mungatond	136	1	3	1	2	
David Child	137	2	1	3		
Thomas Mungatond	138	2		3	2	



The U.S. Census

The first census was taken in 1790, under the responsibility of Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson. That census, taken by U.S. marshals on horseback, counted 3.9 million inhabitants.

An Enumeration of the Inhabitants of the town of Hingham 1790

Name	Age	Sex	Color	Free	Slave	Total
John Smith	25	M	W	1	0	1
Mary Jones	22	F	W	1	0	1
James Lee	30	M	W	1	0	1
Elizabeth Child	28	F	W	1	0	1
Phu Hinckle	20	M	W	1	0	1
Thomas Mungatond	35	M	W	1	0	1
David Child	25	M	W	1	0	1
Thomas Mungatond	30	M	W	1	0	1

