WHAT IS YOUR FAMILY STORY? INTRODUCTION TO GENEALOGY FOR ADULTS

A six week course
NSU Alvin Sherman Library
2019 Adult Summer Programming
Nora Quinlan
Session 4

- Census Records
- Immigration and Naturalization records
Census Records

The earliest known census records date back to the Babylonians and have been found recorded on clay tablets written in cuneiform.

Censuses have been done for thousands of years by advanced, complex civilizations throughout the world to record:

• population size
• ownership of property for taxation
• age and sex for military recruitment
• citizenship for government participation
A Famous Roman Census

1 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.
2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.
3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.
4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,
5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.
6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.
7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Gospel of Saint Luke 2:1,3 New King James Version
Medieval Censuses

*Domesday Book*

- The Domesday Book is a detailed survey and valuation of landed property in England at the end of the 11th century.
- The survey was ordered by William the Conqueror at the end of 1085 and undertaken in 1086.
- It records who held the land and how it was used, and also includes information on how this had changed since the Norman Conquest in 1066, twenty years earlier.
- It is not a true census of the population, but does record individuals who are exclusively land-holders.
- **Open Domesday**
- Search for images of Domesday by town or postcode. [https://opendomesday.org/](https://opendomesday.org/)
- **The Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England database**
- Search the Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England (PASE) database. It provides information on individual landholders in Domesday.
... Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct...
14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Adopted on July 9, 1868.

Section 2:
Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state, excluding Indians not taxed…
U.S. Census Factoids

• The first U.S. Census was conducted in 1790. The 24th census one will be in 2020.
• “Census Day” has been April 1 since 1930. Previously, from 1790 to 1820, the census counted the population as of the first Monday in August. It moved to June in 1830, (June 2 in 1890), April 15 in 1910, and January 1 in 1920.
• The 1850 census was the first to record every member of every household, including women, children and slaves. From this the first slave schedules were produced in 1850. Prior to 1850, census records had only recorded the name of the head of the household and tabulated the other household members within given age groups.
• The 1890 census was the first census to be mechanically tabulated.
• Almost all the population schedules for the 1890 census were destroyed following a fire in 1921.
• There is a 72 year wait for the release of a census. The census for 1950 will be released April 1, 2022.
• Want to get census information after 1940?
  • Age Search Service: https://www.census.gov/library/video/age-search-service.html
• No two censuses are alike!
  https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/questionnaires/1980_1.html
The United States Census

From 1850 to 1940, details are provided for all individuals in each household, such as:

• names of family members
• their ages at a certain point in time
• their state or country of birth
• their parent’s birthplaces
• year of immigration
• street address
• marriage status and years of marriage
• occupation(s)
• value of their home and personal belongings
• the crops that they grew, etc.

Not all of this kind of information is available in every census. Before the 1850 Census, few of these details were recorded. From 1790-1840, only the head of household is listed and the number of household members in selected age groups.
More than one Census

Do not forget state, or local, private or other national censuses.
Ex.: New York, New York City, Police Census, 1890

A federal census can have parts. In 1850, five different schedules listed people by name—i.e., the free population, slave (which listed owners or overseers, when owners were absent), industrial, agricultural, and mortality schedules.

There were different versions of federal censuses in the past—the one forwarded to Washington, the one sent to the state government, and the one deposited locally.
Immigrant or Emigrant?

Immigrant: a person who *comes* to a country to take up permanent residence [inbound]

Emigrant: one who *leave* one's place of residence or country to live elsewhere [outbound]
Immigration Records

Passenger lists (aka manifests)
Available on FamilySearch and Ancestry
- Before 1820 many records lost or destroyed.
- Colonial records – check British National Archives too!
- 1820-1880: Captains prepared a Customs Passenger List
  - Can include name, age and country of origin.
- 1880-1957: Available for most United States ports
  - Can also include destination or name of relative.
Immigration records:
   • Castle Garden and Ellis Island records – both are arrival in New York City only.
     • Castle Garden: 1855-1892 http://www.castlegarden.org/
     • Ellis Island: 1892-1954 https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger
   Remember that there are other ports of entry!
     Galveston, San Francisco, Boston, Baltimore, etc.
   • Foreign Port Departure Records – Hamburg, Cork, Liverpool, etc.
   • Germans to America; Italians to America; Famine Immigrants… Created by the Balch
     Institute for Ethnic Studies, all found in FamilySearch
John Lyons

Gold mine of information!

Information contained in the manifest includes given name, surname, age, gender, arrival date, port of arrival, port of departure and ship name. Twentieth century arrivals typically include more details.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Date of Arrival</th>
<th>Port of Embarkation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Dark</td>
<td>5/9/1856</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Light</td>
<td>6/1/1857</td>
<td>Boston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>7/2/1858</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williams</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Dark</td>
<td>8/3/1859</td>
<td>New Orleans</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The data includes various names, ages, sexes, skin colors, dates of arrival, and ports of embarkation.
Even the ship name!
Naturalization Records

Naturalization is the process by which an immigrant becomes a citizen.

From the late 18th century through the early 20th century American naturalization was done at a local court.

In 1906 the US Federal government standardized the process and assigned it to the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization.

In 1922 the law changed and wives were no longer automatically naturalized.

In 2002 naturalization was placed under Department Homeland Security and is now an agency called U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.
The USCIS has a Genealogy help page: https://www.uscis.gov/genealogy

Searching the USCIS Index $:
If a person is in their index this means that the agency:
• Created and maintained a record or file at Agency Headquarters in Washington, DC, between 1893 and 1975.
• This does not include ship passenger lists or border arrival manifests
• Maintained a file in any agency office between 1955 and 1975.
  • This includes Chinese Exclusion Act case files now at the National Archives.
Other sources

Records before 1906:
• Contact “Court of Record” – state, county or municipal.
• To search Federal court records contact the US National Archives and Records Administration – NARA

• See: https://www.archives.gov/research/naturalization

• Military Records
  In World War I, immigrants who served were naturalized.
In May, 1918 Congress passed and act that gave any alien serving in the military or naval services at that time the right to file for citizenship without making the preliminary declaration of intention or proof of five years of residency in the United States. Many soldiers took advantage of this offer.

Ancestry:
- U.S., World War I Soldier Naturalizations, 1918
- Washington D. C., Military Naturalization Petitions, 1918-1924
FamilySearch offers Naturalization databases using court records.

You will need to know where your family member lived when they were naturalized!  
https://www.archives.gov/nyc/finding-aids/district-courts.html

- **New York Naturalization Index (Soundex), 1792-1906**
- **New York, County Naturalization Records, 1791-1980**
- **New York, Eastern District Naturalization Petitions, Index, 1865-1957**
- **New York, Southern District Index to Petitions for Naturalization, 1824-1941**
- **New York, Southern District Naturalization Index, 1917-1950**
- **New York, Southern District, U.S District Court Naturalization Records, 1824-1946**
- **New York, Western District, Naturalization Index, 1907-1966**
Need more help?

https://stevemorse.org/