Researching Ancestors Using the United States Census

With the State Library of Pennsylvania

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U.S. Census

- Official count of a population at regular intervals
- U.S. Constitution
 - Article 1, Section 2
 - ... "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"....
 - 1790-1950
- Information not released for 72 years
- Questions varied with each census.
 - US Census Bureau Index of Questions
 - https://www.census.gov/history/www/through the decades/index of questions/
 - •NARA Charts and Forms
 - https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/charts
 -forms



National Archives Identifier: 6200775

Important Census Dates

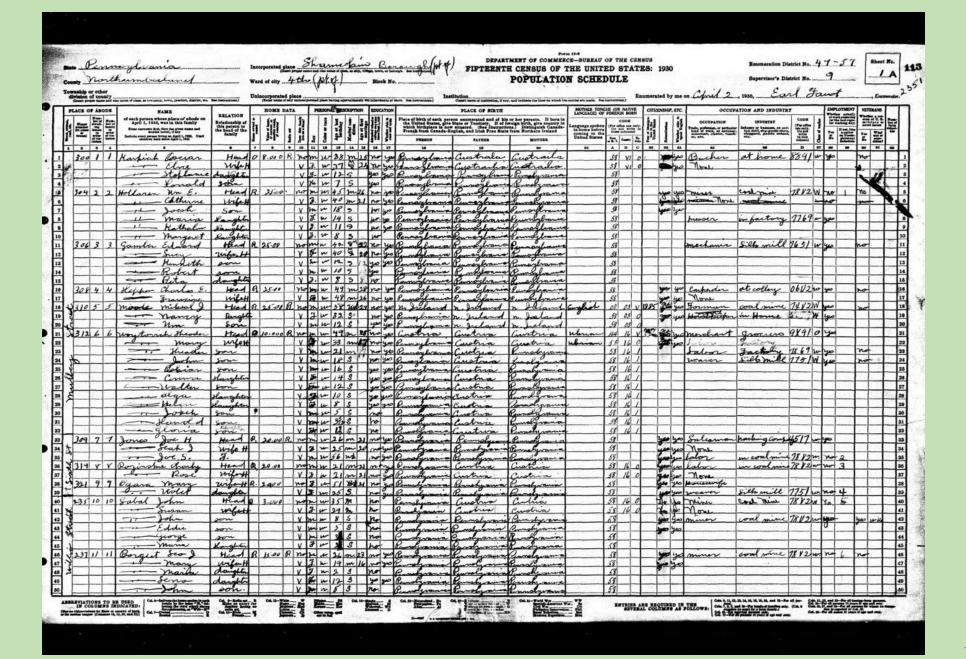
- 1790-1840
 - Only heads of household listed by name
 - Tally columns
 - Age/Gender/Race/Free/Slave
- 1840
 - Centralized Census Office created
 - Veterans Schedule
- 1850
 - All members of household enumerated by name
- 1870
 - First Census after the Civil War
- 1880
 - Relationship to head of household listed
- 1890
 - Veterans Schedule
 - Populations schedules destroyed
- 1902
 - U.S. Census Bureau created
- 1940
 - Native Americans counted in the General Population Schedule for the 1st time

What Information Can I Find on the Census?

- Names/Addresses/Family Relationships
- Vital Records
 - Marriages
 - Births
- Immigration
 - Year of arrival
 - Year of Naturalization
 - Place of birth
- Military Pensions
- Economics
 - Home Owner
 - Occupation
 - Employment status
- Literacy/Education Level

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Census Schedules

- Veterans
 - 1840 and 1890
- Slave
 - 1850 and 1860
- Native Americans
 - 1900, 1910, 1950
- Mortality
 - 1850-1880
- Dependent, Defective and Delinquent Classes
 - 1880
- Agricultural
 - 1840-1880
- Industry and Manufacturing
 - 1810 1910



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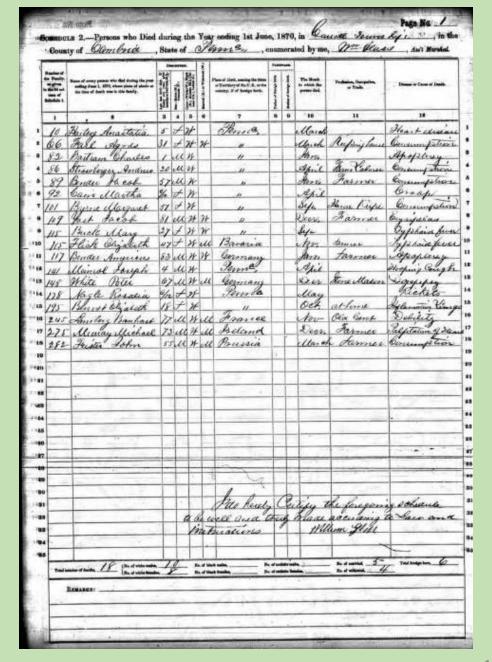
Veterans Schedules

- 1890 Veterans Schedules
 - Union Civil War Veterans and Widows
 - Name, rank, regiment, date of enlistment, date of discharge, length of service, injuries
- 1840 Revolutionary War Pensioner Census
 - https://www.census.gov/library/publications/ 1841/dec/1840d.htm
- Available from Ancestry and the U.S. Census Bureau Website

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Mortality

- Deaths during the previous 12 months
- 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880
 - Lists deaths that occurred between June 1st and May 31st in the year prior
- Name, age, sex, color, place of birth, month of death, occupation and cause of death



Slave Schedules

- 1850 and 1860
- Slaves were not listed by name
- Freedman's Bureau
 - https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/freedmens-bureau

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Native Americans

- 1860 –1880
 - Living in the general population and considered "taxed."
- 1890
 - 1st census to include enumeration of all Native Americans
 - Destroyed by fire
- 1900 1910
 - Special Inquiries Relating to Indians
 - "Indian Population Schedules"
 - 1900 and 1910 Census
 - Enumeration of Native Americans living on and off reservations
- 1920-1930
 - Normal questionnaires with special instructions for Native American respondents
- 1924
 - Indian Citizenship Act of 1924
- 1940
 - Native Americans fully counted on normal population schedules for the first time
- 1950
 - Form P8 Indian Reservation Schedule
 - Names/tribal or clan affiliation/ degree of Indian blood/ability to read and write English

Additional Native American Resources

- Indian Census Rolls (NARA)
 - 1885 –1940
 - Annual
 - Conducted by Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - Digitally at Ancestry.com and Fold3
 - Name, roll no., age, sex, relationship to head of family
 - Formal affiliation with a tribe
- Dawes Records
 - •"Final Rolls"
 - 1898-1914
 - Digital Copy in National Archives Catalog
 - •https://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/dawes/tutorial/intro.html
 - Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw and Seminole Tribes

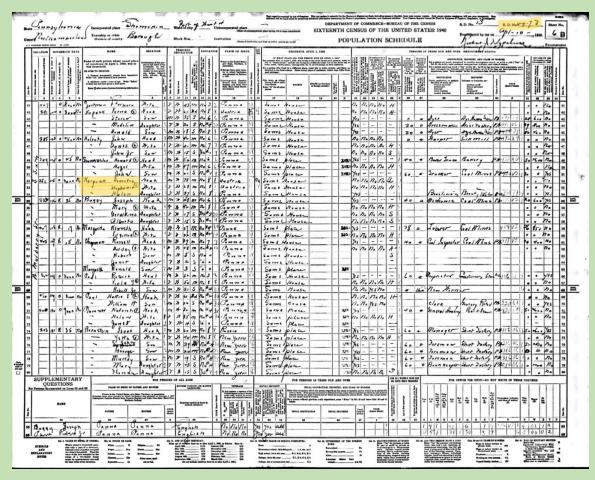
Enumeration Districts

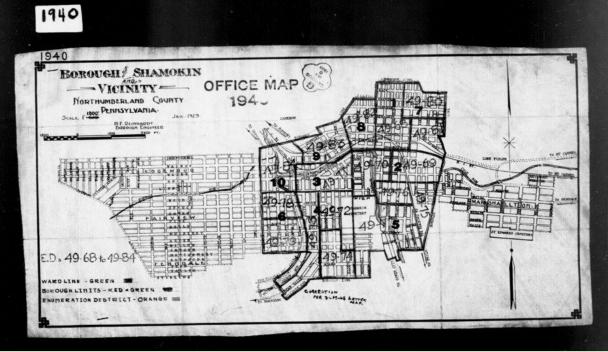
- **1880-1970**
- Mapped area that was covered by a single enumerator during the Census period
- May change from one Census to the next
- Vary in size
- Use to narrow search
- Maps of districts were created by the Census Bureau
- National Archives Catalog
 - https://catalog.archives.gov/id/821491
- Steve Morse Unified Census ED Finder
 - https://stevemorse.org/census/unified.html



National Archives Identifier: 207899870

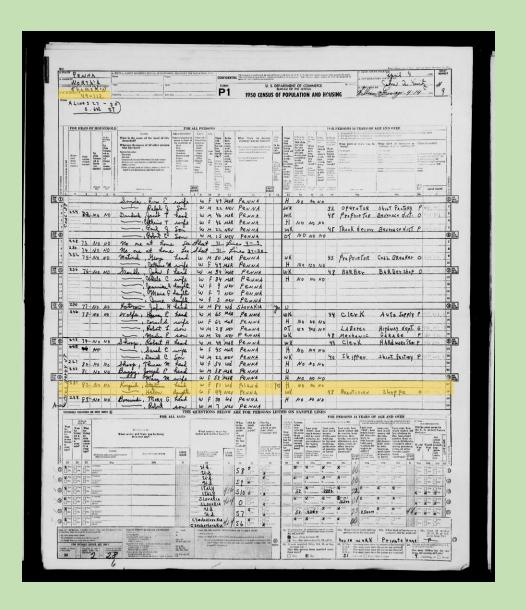
ED 49-13





1950 ED 49-113



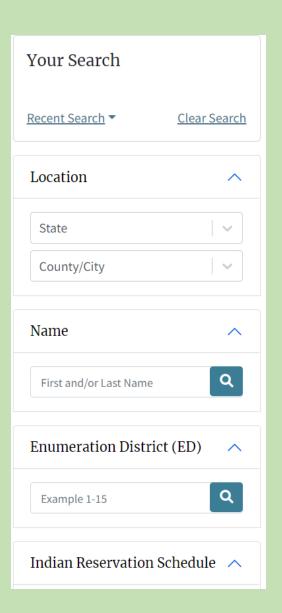


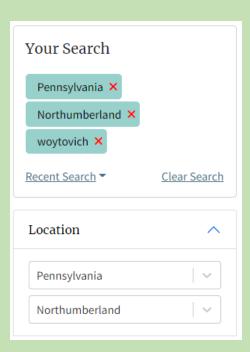
1950 Census

- Search by State, County/City, Name or Enumeration District
 - https://1950census.archives.gov/search/



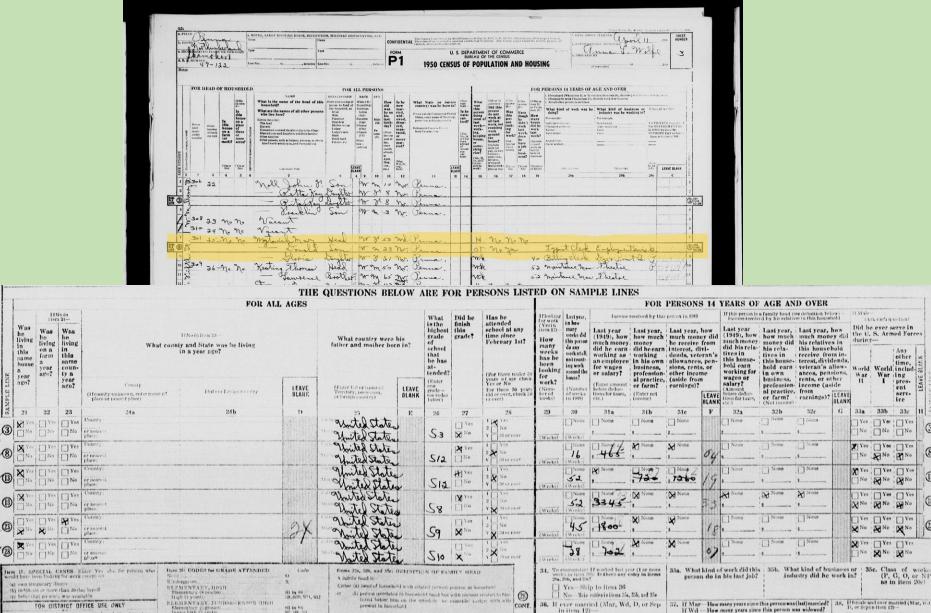
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in item 12)-

than once?

Lives

Has this person been married more

□ No

Was he living in this same house a year ago?

Was he he living fiving on a farm this a same year counage? Lya

22 23

No No No

he living

same

ty a year ago?

No No or beare

No No or nearesplace:

Yes Yes County

No No or neure

Yes County

COLLEGE OF UNIVERSITY

. C1, C2, C3, C1

No No No or neare

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(e) belief that no work was available

TYes TYes

□No □No

Yes Yes

other time,

serv-

(P, G, O, or NP, as in item 20c)

How many children has she ev borne, not counting stillbirths?

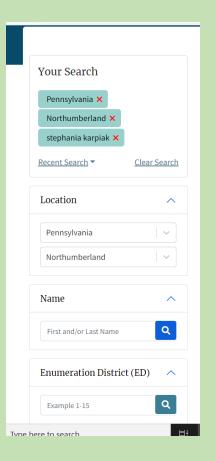
_ children, or None

How many years since this person was widowed?

If D — How many years since this person was divorced?

If Sep — How many years since this person was separated.

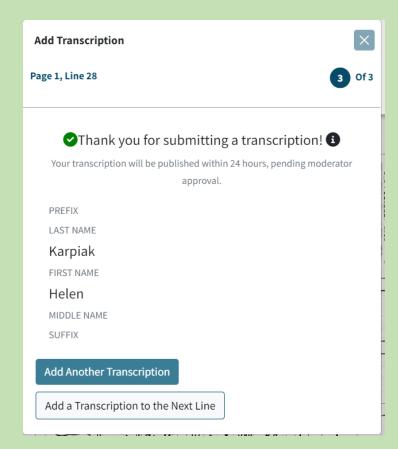
_ years, or D Less than I year





ED State County/City Matched Name(s) 49-112 Pennsylvania Northumberland Karpish Stephania **County/City Matched Name(s) **County/City Karpish Stephania **County/City Karpish Stephania **County/City Karpish Stephania **County/City Matched Name(s) **County/City Matched Name(

Transcription Tool *Need to know line number



Census Search Strategies

- Search for every relative on the Census
 - Search for every available Census during the person's lifetime
- Look for variations in names
 - Name Spellings
 - Nicknames
- Find where your ancestor was living
 - City directories
 - Enumeration District maps
- Read the entire entry
- Look through the entries of neighbors
- Work backwards in time
- Remember that Census information is secondary information

Soundex

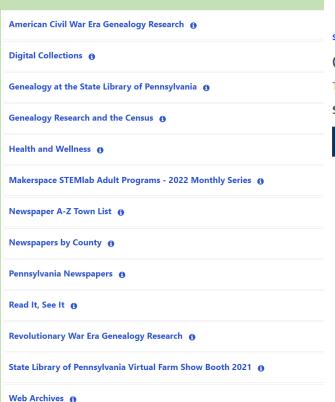
- Coded Surname Index
 - 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930
- Phonetic
 - Groups names that sound alike but are spelled differently
- Converts names to a single letter and 3-digit code
 - 1st letter of last name followed by numbers for 3 consonants
 - W312
- Soundex Calculator
 - http://sites.rootsweb.com/~nedodge/transfer/soundexlist.htm

Where to Search the U.S. Census

- Ancestry.com
 - In-library use only
 - https://www.statelibrary.pa.gov/Contact/Pages/The-State-Library-of-Pennsylvania.aspx
- HeritageQuest
 - Remote access for Commonwealth employees
 - https://pa-gov.libguides.com/az.php
- FamilySearch
 - Free
 - www.familysearch.org
- National Archives
 - https://www.archives.gov/research/census
 - Includes 1950 Census

Genealogy Research and the Census

https://pa-gov.libguides.com/c.php?g=1211818





State Library of Pennsylvania / LibGuides / Genealogy Research and the Census / Home

Genealogy Research and the Census

This guide provides information about using the United States Census when researching your family history.

Subjects: African Americans, Genealogy, History, Native Americans, Pennsylvania History Tags: Census, genealogy, Pennsylvania, U.S. Census, United States Census

Introduction

General Information

Soundex

Introduction

Home

Nonpopulation Schedules

Census Information for

Various Groups

Census Records Online

Photographs of the U.S. Census

The United States Census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution. The first census taken was in 1790 and the census is retaken every 10 years. The information collected varied with each census depending on the needs of the Federal Government. From 1790 to 1840, only heads of households were listed by name. Beginning with the 1850 census, all members of a household were listed.

• Why We Conduct the Decennial Census of Population and Housing (U.S. Census Bureau)

The 1790 to 1940 censuses are currently available to the public. The 1950 United States Census is scheduled to be released on April 1, 2022. Please see the National Archives site for more information about availability of the 1950 census records.

- 1950 United States Census (National Archives)
- Release of 1950 Census Will Increase Access to Records (National Archives)

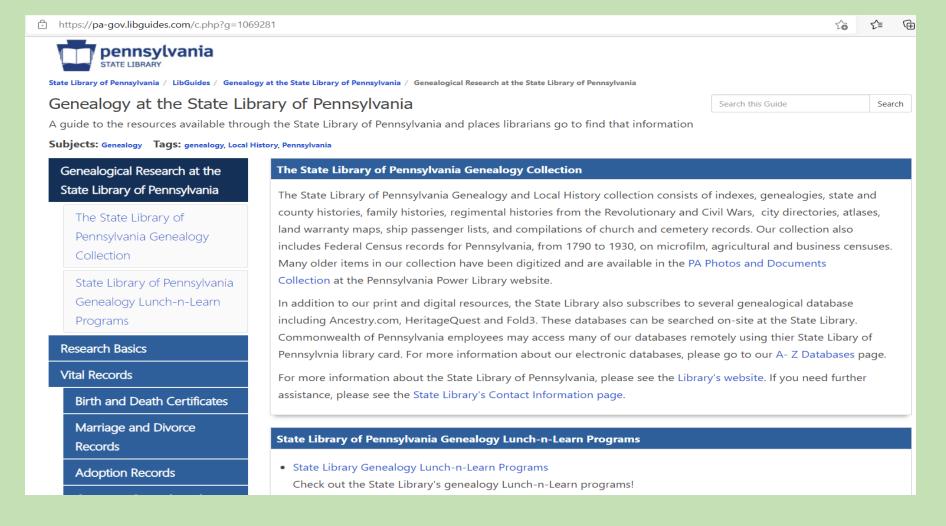
An article from the National Archives News discussing increased access to information about military service, government employment and participation in New Deal relief programs using the 1950 census.

Search

Search this Guide

Genealogy at the State Library of Pennsylvania

https://pa-gov.libguides.com/



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