

Census Records Checklist

1790-1940

When researching census records, take the time to review the headings and know what information is being collected for that particular census year. The later years collected more information.

When researching an ancestor in the census record, consider:

Bare Minimum:

- What census years should your research encompass?
- Where is your ancestor living? Note state, county and district.
- Is your ancestor the Head of Household (HOH)?
- Who is in the household? What is their relationship to your ancestor?
 - In the 1840 and earlier censuses, what are the age groups for each individual family member? Can any of the tick marks be identified?

Other types of Information to check for:

- What is the age and/or birth date of your ancestor? This may be an implied date/age.
- What is the birthplace of your ancestor?
- Birthplace of parents
- Naturalization **If yes, pursue Naturalization records**
 - Year of arrival **[year of NA?]**
- Occupation
- Was your ancestor a veteran? **If so, check for military records.**
- Did your ancestor rent or own his home? **If yes, search for land/deed records.**
 - Real and/or personal property listed?
- Neighbors on either side of the ancestor?
- Is the ancestor deaf, dumb or an "idiot" (census terminology, non mine!). **If so, check DDD schedule (1880)**