

Overlooked Clues in U.S. Census Records

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RootsTech 2016 – Session RT2581



A Different Perspective

- Turn ages into dates; turn dates into ages.
- Establish family structure
- Use ages, places of birth, and marriage info to lead you vital records.
- Look for gaps in ages of children to find children who may have been born and died between censuses.
- For older persons who disappear from the enumerations, we can sometimes estimate death dates, but don't always assume that is the case. Search for them independently to see if they moved in with another relative, lived on their own, or were in an institution.



Location, Location, Location

- Get to know the community
- Collect addresses
- 1940 census gives you bonus residence in 1935

Immigration Clues in Census Records

- 1900-1930 U.S. Censuses all asked for year of immigration.
- 1900-1930 U.S. Censuses all asked for naturalization status and 1920 also asked for the year of naturalization

Military Clues in Census Records

- The 1840, 1910, and 1930 U.S. Censuses included questions about military service.
 - 1840 lists names and ages of military pensioners or their widows
 - 1910 asked whether a survivor of the Union or Confederate Army or Navy
 - 1930 asked whether a veteran of the U.S. military or naval forces mobilized for any war or expedition
- Some state censuses include military information

- 1890 Veterans' Schedule. Lists the residence, unit, and years of service of Civil War soldiers or their surviving widows

| Special Schedule.—Surviving Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, and Widows, etc. | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|---|---|----|
| S. D.: No. 1; E. D.: No. 140; Minor Civil Division: | | | | | | | | | |
| NAME | Rank | Service | Place of Enrollment or Post | Date of Discharge | Date of Death | Length of Service | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 2092 | Andrew John | Private | 4th Regt. Ill. Inf. | 11/26/1864 | 3/1/1865 | 1 yr. 9 mo. | | | |
| 2123 | George Joseph | 1st Lt. | U.S. Marine Corps | 2/3/1865 | 10/1/1865 | 8 yrs. | | | |
| 2124 | Brinsden Henry | Private | 10th Regt. Ill. Inf. | 1/15/1865 | 1/15/1865 | 1 yr. | | | |
| 2125 | James Newman | Private | 1st Regt. Ill. Inf. | 1/15/1865 | 1/15/1865 | 1 yr. | | | |
| 2126 | James Newman | Private | 1st Regt. Ill. Inf. | 1/15/1865 | 1/15/1865 | 1 yr. | | | |
| 2127 | James Newman | Private | 1st Regt. Ill. Inf. | 1/15/1865 | 1/15/1865 | 1 yr. | | | |
| 2128 | James Newman | Private | 1st Regt. Ill. Inf. | 1/15/1865 | 1/15/1865 | 1 yr. | | | |
| 2129 | James Newman | Private | 1st Regt. Ill. Inf. | 1/15/1865 | 1/15/1865 | 1 yr. | | | |
| 2130 | James Newman | Private | 1st Regt. Ill. Inf. | 1/15/1865 | 1/15/1865 | 1 yr. | | | |
| 2131 | James Newman | Private | 1st Regt. Ill. Inf. | 1/15/1865 | 1/15/1865 | 1 yr. | | | |
| 2132 | James Newman | Private | 1st Regt. Ill. Inf. | 1/15/1865 | 1/15/1865 | 1 yr. | | | |
| 2133 | James Newman | Private | 1st Regt. Ill. Inf. | 1/15/1865 | 1/15/1865 | 1 yr. | | | |
| 2134 | James Newman | Private | 1st Regt. Ill. Inf. | 1/15/1865 | 1/15/1865 | 1 yr. | | | |
| 2135 | James Newman | Private | 1st Regt. Ill. Inf. | 1/15/1865 | 1/15/1865 | 1 yr. | | | |
| 2136 | James Newman | Private | 1st Regt. Ill. Inf. | 1/15/1865 | 1/15/1865 | 1 yr. | | | |
| 2137 | James Newman | Private | 1st Regt. Ill. Inf. | 1/15/1865 | 1/15/1865 | 1 yr. | | | |
| 2138 | James Newman | Private | 1st Regt. Ill. Inf. | 1/15/1865 | 1/15/1865 | 1 yr. | | | |
| 2139 | James Newman | Private | 1st Regt. Ill. Inf. | 1/15/1865 | 1/15/1865 | 1 yr. | | | |
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Pre-1850 Census Records

- Estimate birth years wherever you can and project the approximate age for each census year.
- Use the projected ages to create a template that shows what your family's census record would look like.
- The 1840 Census—Those Other Columns
 - Slaves and Freed Colored Persons
 - Number of persons employed in various occupational categories
 - Pensioners (asked for their name and age)
 - Deaf, dumb, blind and insane
 - Education (7 columns, how many attended school, literacy)
- 1820 and 1830 Censuses
 - 1830 asked about household members who were deaf, dumb, and blind, and grouped deaf persons into age groups.
 - Both 1820 and 1830 asked for the number of “foreigners not naturalized” in the household.
 - 1820 asked the number of persons involved in commerce, agriculture, or manufacture.
- U.S. Census, 1880 Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Schedules
 - Seven supplemental schedules were taken with the 1880 U.S. Census that tallied and gave intimate details on the insane, “idiots,” deaf-mutes, blind persons, homeless children, inhabitants in prison, and paupers and the indigent.
 - Check the browse for availability by state.
- Mortality Schedules
 - Check for family that died within the census year.
 - Browse to see what people were dying of around that time. Did your ancestors survive a deadly epidemic?
- Schedules of Agriculture, Industry, Manufacturing, and Social Statistics, 1850-1880
 - Learn about your ancestor's livelihood
 - Check browse for availability by state and census year.
- U.S. Special Census on Deaf Family Marriages and Hearing Relatives, 1888-1895
- New York, Inmates in Almshouses & Poorhouses

Timelines

- Start a timeline with the census.
 - Add other censuses
 - Layer on historical events
 - e.g., The U.S. entered World War I in 1917.
 - Create a to-do list based on what you find and continue to add other types of records you uncover.
 - Cite sources on your list so you're prepared for any conflicts.
 - Create templates for censuses and other commonly-used records to make it easy.

Filling the Gaps

- State Censuses
- City Directories