

# DEVELOPING A SIXTH CENSUS:

FINDING MORE IN “THE CENSUS” THAN MEETS THE EYE

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- Collect census data by time and place then examine it by goal.
- There is more to “the Census” than Federal enumerations.

## WHY EVERY CENSUS RECORD IS IMPORTANT:

1. Catch inaccuracies by comparing
2. Catch temporary moves
3. Catch temporary household members
4. Almost every census has unique information not requested in other years
5. Understand areas and neighborhoods
6. Find miracles

## STATE CENSUS RECORDS:

Can be hard to find, used different formats and often did not follow a regular schedule but...

1. Can give you a look at a household every 5 years
2. Hold data never requested in the Federal Census
3. Data can be more precise than the Federal Census
4. Some were taken close to 1890

## DON'T FORGET “OTHER” CENSUS RECORDS:

1. Some very detailed censuses were taken in North America before 1790
2. The provinces of British North America/Canada took censuses every 10 years from 1851

## REFERENCE BOOKS:

- *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920*, Thorndale and Dollarhide
- *Census Substitutes & State Census Records*, (two volumes), Dollarhide
- *State Census Records*, Lainhart

## CENSUS REFERENCE WEBSITES:

- Rules for enumerators- <http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/pol02marv.pdf>
- William Dollarhide's *The Census Book* can be viewed from the main page of HeritageQuest's map tab, which also gives access to *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920*.
- 1940 Enumerators' Instructions youtube.com search “the 1940 census - census of population”



## CENSUS DATABASE WEBSITES:

- Ancestry ([www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com)) (U.S. Federal, “Canadian” and some state census records)
- HeritageQuest (via subscribing libraries only) (U.S. Federal Census, same as Ancestry)
- Fold3 (formerly Footnote) ([www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com)) (U.S. Federal Census, not all years)
- 1950census.archives.gov (The National Archives official 1950 census site)
- Family Search (<http://www.familysearch.org/>) Some U.S. and state censuses, “Canadian” censuses, English censuses...
- 1624/5 Muster at Virtual Jamestown ([www.virtualjamestown.org/Muster/muster24.html](http://www.virtualjamestown.org/Muster/muster24.html))
- UW Parkside has an online index to 1836 Wisconsin Territorial Census and original Terr/State for Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha for some years (<https://www.uwp.edu/learn/library/archives/census.cfm>)

## ONLINE FINDING AIDS AND TRANSCRIPTIONS:

- [usgenweb.org](http://usgenweb.org)
- [www.census-online.com](http://www.census-online.com)
- [www.censusfinder.com](http://www.censusfinder.com)
- [www.archives.gov/research/search/](http://www.archives.gov/research/search/) (for 1940 Enumeration District maps; search example: 1940 census maps libertyville lake Illinois)
- [www.stevemorse.org/census/unified.html](http://www.stevemorse.org/census/unified.html) gives ways to try to figure out the 1940 EDs

## MICROFILM:

- National Archives
- Family History Library
- State Archives

Descriptions of areas covered by enumerators for 1830-1930 can be found in NARA T1124 except for 1900, which is in NARA T1210. The Family History Library has copies of these films.

## A FEW RELEVANT POSTS FROM MY BLOG:

- Independence Data (1900 Census) (in the July 2010 archive) ([www.thepersonalpast.com/2010/07/07/independence-data/](http://www.thepersonalpast.com/2010/07/07/independence-data/))
- A Very Porous Border (Canadian Census) (in the February 2010 archive) ([www.thepersonalpast.com/2010/02/16/a-very-porous-border/](http://www.thepersonalpast.com/2010/02/16/a-very-porous-border/))
- Some Good Fortune with the 1871 Census of Ontario (non population schedules) (in the August 2009 archive) ([www.thepersonalpast.com/2009/08/05/some-good-fortune-with-the-1871-census-of-ontario/](http://www.thepersonalpast.com/2009/08/05/some-good-fortune-with-the-1871-census-of-ontario/))
- Census Relationship Cryptography (decoding a set of “coded” relationships) (in the August 2009 archive) ([www.thepersonalpast.com/2009/08/29/census-relationship-cryptography/](http://www.thepersonalpast.com/2009/08/29/census-relationship-cryptography/))

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