

1890 U.S. Census Substitutes

[VIDEO Link](#)

**Census Data of 120 Years
Ruined by Fire and Water**
Irreplaceable Records Stored in Basement of
Commerce Building Destroyed—Two
Firemen Overcome by Fumes.

Archives.gov



Many of us find it frustrating to research between 1880 and 1900 because we have this giant gaping hole where we no longer have the 1890 census due to a fire in 1921 that destroyed just about the entire 1890 U.S. Census. That leaves us with a 20 year gap. What can we do?

This document is designed to help give you ideas on where to look for other records to help fill the gap.

State Census Schedules

Some states created censuses in off years typically between censuses. For example, in 1885 Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan (1884), Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Wisconsin conducted state censuses. Be sure to look for 1895 state censuses too!

[Go here for a complete list of all U.S. State Census.](#)

Kansas
Census,
County,

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in the _____ of _____ Page No. 10										Page No. 11										
Post Office, _____ Assessor.										in the County of _____ in the State of Kansas, on the first day of March, 1885.										
Name of every person whose place of abode on the first day of March, 1885, was in this locality.			Age at last birthday, or date of birth, if under 1 year.			Sex		Race		Profession, Occupation or Trade of each Person, Male or Female, 10 years old and over.		Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S., or country, if a Foreigner.		Where born in Kansas, naming State or Territory of U. S., or country, if a Foreigner.		Trade or Profession being learned by each Person, Male or Female, under 10 years of age.			ILLITERACY. (Literate or illiterate on March 1st.)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
16	16	A Abbott	41	M	W					Farmer	Canada	Canada	13	15						
		Wife	28	F						Wife	Indiana	Indiana	9	12	15					
		Daughter	12	F						Daughter	Kansas	Kansas	7							
		Charles	9	M						son										
		Mattie	7	F						son										
		George	5	M						son										
		Maria D. Escalante	18	F						Wife										
		Thomas A. Davis	43	M	W					Farmer	Illinois	Illinois	9							
		Marney	26	F						Wife										
		Thomas	12	M						son										
		Rosa	9	F						Daughter										
		Ella	6	F						son										
		Henry	4	M						son										
		George A. Brown	39	M						Farmer	Pennsylvania	Penn	3							
		Elizabeth	31	F						Wife										
		Charles	16	M						son										

State
Johnson
1885



GenealogyTV.org

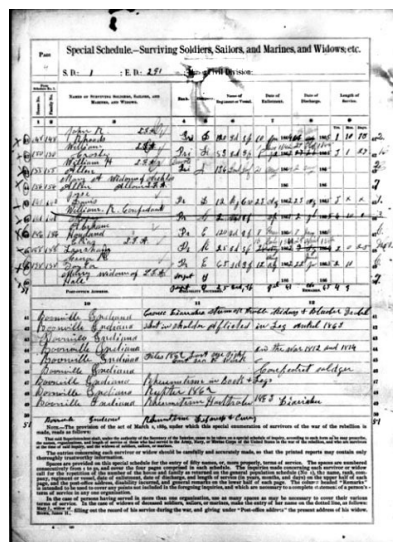


YouTube.com/GenealogyTV

City Directories

City directories are a great option to help find people in between 1880 and 1900 as city directories were often updated every two years. There are several collections at FamilySearch as well as Ancestry.com that crossover the 1880-1900 time frame. These two collection are:

- 1749-1940 [United States City and Business Directories, ca. 1749 - ca. 1990 at FamilySearch](#)
- 1822-1995 [U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 at Ancestry - index & images](#) (Ancestry subscription or free at FHL's)



Special Enumeration of Union Veterans and Widows (1890)

From [“First in the Path of the Firemen” - The Fate of the 1890 Population Census \(Archives.gov\)](#) - *“The extant schedules are available for part of Kentucky through Wyoming, Lincoln Post #3 in Washington, D.C., and selected U.S. vessels and navy yards.”*

These records can be found for free at [FamilySearch here](#).

Voter Registration

Voter lists often are found at the state archives, county courthouses, and local libraries. The best suggestion is to search the FamilySearch Wiki for where to find them in your area.

Church Records

Search for the church records for birth, marriage, and death... including the church cemeteries!

School Records

MyHeritage has a free to search collection of U.S. Yearbooks Index, 1890-1979.

[Go here to search the collection.](#)

Vital Records & More

While many birth and death certificates were not required prior to about 1899-1912, depending on the state and location, marriage records, birth indexes and other forms of vital registrations often do exist for this time.

Search the [Ancestry Card Catalog](#) for the areas you are researching.

See [FamilySearch Wiki](#) for what vital records are available in the area you are researching.

[U.S. Marriage Index on Ancestry 1800's - Current](#)

Maps

Don't forget the maps. Often, we can find maps in our local libraries, state archives, both in person and online. If you can find postal maps, they often have names of residents labeled right on the map. Pictured here is a land map from 1895.

Ancestry has the [U.S. Indexed County Land Ownership Maps 1860 to 1918](#).



Postal Maps

<https://www.archives.gov/research/post-offices/locations-1837-1950.html>

Tax Records

Often forgotten are tax records. Most people had to pay taxes either for their real property and or males often had to pay a poll tax when they became an adult (varies depending on the state). Be sure to see tax records on the platform that you are researching or at your state and local archives and libraries.

- Here is a link to more [Tax Resources by State at FamilySearch](#).
- Here is the [U.S. IRS Tax Assessment Lists, 1862-1918 on Ancestry](#).

Land/Deeds

Be sure to check with county and state archives for land records.

Also at Ancestry:

- [U.S., Indexed County Land Ownership Maps, 1860-1918](#)
- [U.S., General Land Office Records, 1776-2015](#)

Newspapers by Timeframe

A great strategy for researching newspapers is to search by location and by time frame.

Use the FamilySearch wiki (free) to drill into the location you are researching, then look on the right hand side for newspapers for the area. See which papers are available for the time frame in which you are searching.

Here is a list of some of my favorite newspaper repositories.

- [Chronicling America \(Free\)](#)
- [Genealogy Bank](#) (subscription)

- [Newspapers.com](https://www.newspapers.com) (Ancestry & subscription)
- [NewspaperArchives.com](https://www.newspaperarchives.com) (Subscription)
- State Archives (free) – [See this handout for a every state archive in the U.S. with links to their online digital collections.](#)



Ancestry's 1890 Census Substitute Searchable Database

Ancestry has compiled an 1890 database specific to researching records that help fill in the gaps for this time frame. It contains fragments of the actual 1890 U.S. Federal census, what is left of it. Additionally, they have the 1890 veterans schedules as well as a long list of records such as city directories, tax lists, voter registration list, to help fill the gap in your ancestors timeline.

[Go here to find more information about the 1890 census substitute](#) and where you can search it.

Search the Card Catalog at Ancestry: Specific to the Era

Here's a quick tip to search ancestry's card catalog.

- At the top of your home page go to search and drop down to card catalog.
- In the left hand column Scroll down to where it says filter by location and click on USA.
- Then select 1800's at the top of the filter by dates section. We don't want to filter all the way down to 1890, because we want to include the 1880's.
- Choose the state and then county in which you are researching.
 - Note: If your search results are few, remove the county.
- In the upper right corner sort by record count. This gives you the best odds for results.
- Then strategically, filter by category (in the left column) by right-clicking and opening in a new tab each record set that looks interesting. For example, Census and Voter lists. By opening each record set in a new tab this preserves your original list. Then close each tab as you finish each search.

Card Catalog

Searchable listing of all record collections

Title

Keyword(s)

Search or Clear All

Filters

- USA
- Kansas
- 1800-1899
- Census & Voter Lists

Filter By Category

1700s 1800s 1900s

Results 1-20 of 20 Sort By Record Count

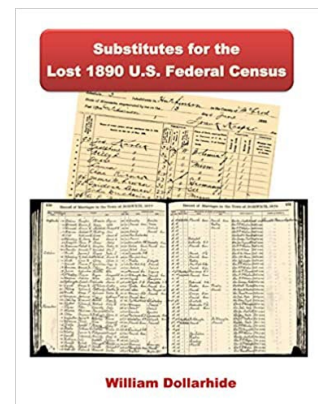
Search entire "Census & Voter Lists" Category

Title	Category	Records	Activity
1880 United States Federal Census	Census & Voter Lists	50,480,843	
1870 United States Federal Census	Census & Voter Lists	40,405,476	UPDATED
1860 United States Federal Census	Census & Voter Lists	27,463,617	
Kansas, U.S. State Census Collection, 1855-1925	Census & Voter Lists	8,238,557	
U.S., Indian Census Rolls, 1885-1940	Census & Voter Lists	7,559,854	
U.S., Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880	Census & Voter Lists	5,884,130	
U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850-1885	Census & Voter Lists	1,807,736	

Substitutes for the Lost 1890 U.S. Federal Census Paperback

Book by William W. Dollarhide

While researching this video & handout, I discovered a recent book (2019) written by the famous William W. Dollarhide. [Here it is on Amazon \(affiliate\)](#). Yep. I ordered it! What I like about it is it is organized by state.



American Indian Census Records

There are various American Indian and Indigenous Persons who were enumerated at different times throughout our history. Depending on the tribe and location, you may find your ancestors listed on one of these rolls.

Go here to learn more about the [American Indian Census Rolls](#) that have survived.

What's Left of the 1890 U.S. Census

Not much survived the fire of 1921. To see specifically which states and counties survived, [go here](#).

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