

# Correlating Census Records

To verify our ancestors from one census to another, it is important to compare the details of the census records (along with other records) in reverse chronological order of their lifetime. We want to start with the most recent census records available and take note of all family members and details. The secret sauce is in the details.

Keep in mind that the census records were created to count the number of persons living in the U.S. for accurate representation in the U.S. House of Representatives. While it is the backbone of our genealogy research, that was not its intended purpose.

Questions asked on the census forms varied from year to year. Using multiple censuses can provide a rich family history and verify help your lineage.

## Census Items of Interest

### 1790 - 1840

If your ancestor did not move from one decade to the next, use the neighbors to help verify the ancestor as you go back in time. If you can find some of the same neighbors from one decade to

the next, then you likely have the right ancestor. Land, probate, and other records often name the neighbors in land boundaries, which may help verify them as well.

If they did move from one decade to another, look for other family members living nearby as they often migrated in groups.

## 1850 – 1950

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in District 66th in the County of Waynes State of Virginia enumerated by me, on the 30th day of July 1850. M. J. Spurlin Ass't Marshal.

Dwelling-houses in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	PLACE OF BIRTH. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.	
			Age.	Sex.	Color, (White, black, or mulatto.)							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	260	Washington Adams	26	m		Merchant	1205	VA				
2	261	Williams Mezer	30	m		farmer	20	Germany				
3		Francis do	21	f				VA				
4	262	Milton Ferguson	48	m		Merchant	900	do				
5		Charles do	21	m		D. Surveyor	150	do				
6		Milton J. do	17	m		farmer		do				
7		Joseph M. do	15	m		do		do				
8		Sarah Ferguson	70	f				VA				

## 1850-1860

Look for Slave Schedules for those enslaved and as well as their white owners in slave states.

## 1850-1880

Mortality Schedules listed persons who died within the preceding 12 months.

## 1850-1930

Beginning in 1850 showed immigration information.

## 1880+

Relationship to the head of household begins to be listed. Remember in prior years, just because they are listed in a household does not mean they are family.

## 1890

The 1890 census was nearly all destroyed by fire in 1921.

## 1940 – 1950

The 1940 – 1950 had supplemental questions. See the bottom of the page if your ancestor fell on one of the special supplemental question lines.

## CORRELATING CENSUS WORKSHEETS

There are three styles of worksheets in the “Correlating Census Records” Excel file and how you use them, will depending on how you wish to research.

1. **ONE PERSON WORKSHEET** (Tracks just one person).
2. **INDIVIDUAL YEAR WORKSHEETS** (Tracks the entire family unit and all the details for each year separately).
3. **COMPILED WORKSHEET** – (Tracks family unit across multiple decades).

**SAVE A COPY OF THE FILE BEFORE BEGINNING**, to preserve a master copy for future use.

**WORK BACKWARDS** starting with the most recent years.

I use one or all three of these worksheets to help solve a problem or tell the family story. While it might seem time consuming at first, if you’re stuck, focusing on the details to this level will help you recognize the details of your ancestor’s life, that you may not have seen before. It really doesn’t take that long.

## One Person Worksheets (Across Decades)

This is best used to track **one** person across many years.

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Census Record	Township, County, State	E.D. Page	Enumeration Date	Line #	Street Name	House #	Dwelling#	Family #	Name or HH	Age at last birthday	Est. Birth Yr.	Sex	Race	If person born w/in census yr, give month.	Relationship to H/Ht	Month of Birth	Year of Birth	Marital Status	Single	Married	Widowed/Divorced	Number of years married	Married During Census Year	Age at first marriage	Mother of nowmany children	Number of children living.	Occupation (note many Q's in 1940 and 1950 not listed here about occupation)
1850 (Every person named, except enslaved)	Dist 66, Wayne, VA		1 Jun 1850				250	264	Booth, Jamison	30	1820																Farmer
1860 (Every person named, except enslaved)	Wayne Co. VA		1 Jun 1860				508	508	Booth, James	39	1821																Farmer
1870 (1st census that named formerly)	Falls 12 Pole, Union Tshp, Wayne, WV		1 Jun 1870				56	56	Booth Jamirson	49	1821																Farming
1880	Ceredo, Wayne, West Virginia		1 Jun 1880				59	59	Boothe, Jamison	60	1820																Farmer
1890 (mostly burned, look to other records)			2 Jun 1890																								
1900			1 Jun 1900																								
1910			15 Apr 1910																								
1920			1 Jan 1920																								
1930			1 Apr 1930																								

“1790-1840 Master”

“1850-1950 Master”

These worksheets are designed to track **one person across several decades**.

These one-person “1790-1840 Master” and “1850-1950 Master” tabs include all questions asked on the original census and are lined up to help visualize the details collectively.


### Steps

1. Work backwards in time.
2. As you look at each census, add the details in the boxes for each year.
3. Compare the years to help verify each census record is the same person from decade to decade.

Grayed out areas are where those questions were not asked during those years.

Use other worksheets to understand the full family unit.

## Individual Year Worksheets (Family Household)



This is best used to track family and Friends, Associates, & Neighbors (a.k.a. FAN Club).

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Census Record	Township, County, State	E.D.	Page	Enumeration Date	Name or Head of Household	Age	Est. Birth Yr.	SEX	Race	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
1820 (Listed HoH Only)	Cabell County, Virginia			7 Aug 1820	Charles Booth					Under 10		10 to under 16		16 to under 26																						
					Charles HoH b. bef. 1775		1775 or earlier			4 M, 1F		3 M		Bwn 16-18		1F																				
					Elizabeth (Wife) b. 1785		1775 to 1794									16 to 25																				
					Ferguson (b. 1799) NEXT DOOR											16 to 25																				
					Jane (b. 1801)		1795-1804									16-18																				
					Polly (b. 1803)		1802-1804																													
					Jonathan (b. 1805)		1804-1810									10 to 15																				
					Thomas (b. 1808)		1804-1810									10 to 15																				
					Samuel (b. ca. 1810)		1811-1820									10 to 15																				
					Elizabeth (dat. B. 1812)		1811-1820			1 under 10																										
					Geo. W. (b. 1814)		1811-1820			1 under 10																										
					Jefferson (b. 1815)		1811-1820			1 under 10																										
					John W. (b. 1818)		1811-1820			1 under 10																										
					Jameson W. (b. Jan 1820)		1811-1820			1 under 10																										
					Charles (b. 1822, not born yet)																															

Compiled Years & Family MASTER | 1790-1840 MASTER | 1850 - 1950 MASTER | 1790 | 1800 | 1810 | 1820 | 1830 | 1840 | 1840 Neighbors | 1850 | 1860 | 1870 | 1880 | 1900 | 1910 | 1920 | 1930 | 1940 | 1950 ...

Use these worksheets to track the entire family unit year by year. That would be everyone living in each household.

These worksheets are listed by year in the bottom tabs in yellow. This can be especially helpful in lining up the known family with the ages listed in pre-1850 census records.

### Steps

1. Use the top section in yellow to extract the data from the census record you found.
2. Then list the family members (as shown in blue and pink) for the known family from later census years.
3. Calculate the expected birth year or year range and add it to the Est. Birth Yr. column next to your family members. Do they line up with what you expected?

This is not a perfect science. The birth years might be off by one year if the person had not had a birthday yet that year.

Also, ages where not as important or known by the informant.

4. Do the boys and girls line up by the expected ages (for persons living during that census year)?

You will need to color the blue and pink rows, if you wish to show boys from girls.

## Compiled Worksheet (Simple Family Unit Across Decades)

Genealogy TV			ACADEMY			This is best used to track a family group across many years.													
Family: Jameson Wesley Booth			Age of Person																
Name	Place	Est. B. Yr	1790	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950
Jameson W. BOOTH (HoH) 1820-1896	Cabell & Wayne Co. WV and VA	1820				und 10	10-14	20-30	30	39	49	60							
Cynthia GARRETT (wife)		1821						15-19	28	38	48	58		79					
Hester (died at 2)		1838						und. 5											
Thomas J.		1840							9	19									
Benjamin Franklin		1842							7	17		37							
Alonzo		1844							5	15									
William Oliver		1847							3	13									
Elizabeth Jane		1849							1	11									
Milton		1851								9	19								
Sarah M.		1854								7	16								
Mary F.		1856								5	14								
Prudence		1858								1	11								
Charles Johnson		1861																	
Jameson Wesley		1864																	
Freelon Hysel		1866																	
Charles Booth (father to Jameson)		Bef. 1775	Listed				45+												
Elizabeth Ferguson (mother of Jameson)		1785				26-44													

This is the simplest of the worksheets and shows just the family unit, estimated birth years and ages listed within each census year.

Use the other style worksheets to gain a higher level of detail.

## Extras

There are backup copies of the Master tabs at the end in case you overwrite one by accident. They are located at the far right of your tabs. You may have to scroll right to see them.

The Jamison Wesley Booth Example file is in a separate document for your reference.