

BOUSE GENIES



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GETTING THE MOST OUT OF CENSUS RESEARCH

by Barbara A. H. Nuehring and Carolyn H. Brown
[from SKP Genies Newsletter Jan/Feb 2008]

It is a federal law: Article 1, Section 2 of the US Constitution specifies that an "Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct." Head count is the only part of the census that is called for by the Constitution, but later statutes and US Codes have required additional data and established the date the enumeration was to be taken.

It is a genealogical law: Early in your research find the federal census population schedules for your ancestors and periodically review them to glean additional insight into your people of interest. As your experience grows, seek out the other census schedules that will add to your knowledge of your ancestors.

To help you make "sense of the census" and to get the most out of the available data, here are some helpful tips:

First and foremost—census records are secondary source documents. They contain extraordinary clues, but they are still clues nonetheless. You do not know who gave the information to the census taker and you don't know if the census taker was conscientious or if the interviewee could accurately communicate with the enumerator. Start with a census, never end with it. Always look for primary source documents to verify [or refute] the census data.

Get the population schedules for every census year throughout the life of your individuals of interest. By skipping just one census you may be missing a lot of relevant information.

Read the enumerator's instructions. Was the enumerator supposed to record just those actually present at the time he showed up or those who resided there on the "official" census date or those who usually lived there? Was he supposed to record the person's age on their next birthday or as of the enumeration date or was he to round up or down to the nearest five years?

Don't trust ages! The most accurate ages are for children—others should be suspect. Women often gave their age incorrectly. In the early years they are trying to be younger, then as they get older they start to catch up and even get a lot older. Men were not exempt from "fudging" the figures as certain ages allowed for enlistment, draft deferment and pension application. In earlier centuries it was not so important to remember exactly what year you were born. After all, what difference does it make if you were 25 or 29? And who is around to remember if you were born 62 or 67 years ago? Recording the enumeration date will help you to determine the birth dates.

(Continues on Page 2)

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The Bouse Genies meet every other Friday from October thru April at one of the members homes. You may email Carol at sidcarol@escapees.com for the time, place and schedule.

The Bouse Genies Website is <http://bousegenies.weebly.com>

(Continued from page 1)

.Pay close attention to the MARITAL STATUS. Don't assume a relationship unless it is specifically stated—then find a collaborating source document.

In censuses where the relationship to head of household is not stated, don't assume that the man and woman are married or that the children are the biological children of both parents or that they are even the biological children of either parent.

Note all lodgers and visitors as they may have been family members—think: in-laws.

The columns MARRIED DURING CENSUS YEAR (1850, 1960, 1870), NUMBER OF YEARS MARRIED (1900, 1910) and AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE (1930) will help you determine if the children belonged to both parents and narrow down the marriage date.

In the 1900 and 1910 census there is a column for the number of CHILDREN BORN to each adult woman and then the number of CHILDREN LIVING. This will tell you if there are children alive or dead and can help you if you might be missing some children.

Pay close attention to YEAR OF IMMIGRATION and if they are NATURALIZED or ALIEN. This information can help you locate the individuals immigration and naturalization papers. The column LANGUAGE SPOKEN will direct you to the country of birth, emigration or ancestry.

Note the reported military status. This will help you access military records for that individual.

If you can't find your female ancestor it might be that her name is illegible or mis-spelled. Try searching for her first name—unless it is very common. Also, search for her children—particularly married daughters who she may have gone to live with. Also look for people who appear with her in other records—they might be relatives or friends that she moved in with.

Pay attention to the street address for city dwellers. If it was a rural area, note their neighbors in each census. This may indicate that the family moved within the same area. If a move occurred, check land deeds for that time frame.

See if you can find or determine the route the enumerator took. Did he go around a block? Did he zig-zag across the street? Did he go down one side of the street and back up on the other side? Did the enumeration district change in the middle of the road that your people of interest lived on? If so, a close relative who lived across the street was recorded in a different district.

Did you examine an index, an extraction or the actual handwritten record? If it was anything other than the actual handwritten record or the microform or digital copy of it, go back and look at that record.

Make a photocopy of the hand written record image. If you can't get a copy because the image was too dark/light, use a pre-printed paper extraction form or a Excel spreadsheet. Make sure you fill out every block you can.

The copy or extraction you make should include the households immediately before and after your household of interest. If possible copy the whole page before and after your household of interest. Neighbors may be related to your persons of interest.

We have always been a nation on the move—migration was the norm, not the exception. Don't assume the family stayed in the same area. If you can't find them in one census year, they may have been in a different county or state or even overseas. Use one of the on-line census lookup sites to see if a family matching yours shows up somewhere else.

Follow family migrations by paying careful attention to the birth places of everyone in the household. If the family came from another country, check out the birth places of their neighbors as they may have come from the same area.

Put everything you have found on a time line for each individual. This can usually help you get by some of those looming brick walls.

Cite your sources. Don't forget to include the complete name of the census, the type of schedule, the Enumeration District, date of enumeration, page number and line number.



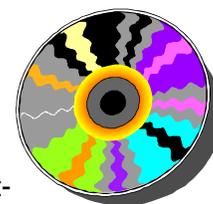
CENSUS TIP

Seek alternate spellings of your ancestor's names. Check those trusty search tips to see whether a search automatically looks for similar names (a soundex search, for example, will find people who share your ancestral surname's Soundex code). Even if it does, try odd spellings: A census taker or an indexer might've interpreted the name so outlandishly that even a "soundex like" search wouldn't pick up on it.



FROM THE COMPUTER DESK

by Carolyn H Brown



STRETCH YOUR TONER & INK CARTRIDGE DOLLARS

[from the SKP Genies Newsletter Jan/Feb 2008]

For those of us with a computer printing is a necessity, however you can save money and get more mileage out of your printer cartridges by employing a few of these toner & ink cartridge tips.

Use a laser printer for all black and white printing - Most of us print mostly in black and white for our genealogy. You will save lots of money over the years by buying a laser printer for your regular printing and use your inkjet printer for color printing only when necessary. The difference is - an inkjet printer cartridge usually gets close to 300 pages of output per cartridge and the price for an inkjet cartridge runs about \$30 each when purchased individually. A laser cartridge costs about \$70 - \$80 each and gets between 3000 and 4000 pages per cartridge. That means that you get 10 times more printout from one laser cartridge. *A big saving wouldn't you say?* Also laser cartridges travel much better than inkjet cartridges.

Print a test page - Print a test page or two before printing out large documents to be sure the margins, spacing, text, and graphics render correctly. Fix any mistakes before printing out the full document. If you need multiple copies of the document, print out one and then photocopy the rest.

Buy re-manufactured toner cartridges they cost less than new cartridges because they are disassembled, cleaned, and refilled. Any worn parts are replaced. Many companies fully test, certify and back their products.

Prevent ink cartridges from drying out - If you alternate between using a black ink cartridge and a color cartridge, store the one not in use in a cartridge storage container to prevent it from drying out. You can also cover the print head with removable Scotch Tape to help keep air out of the cartridge and save the ink.

Assess your printer: If your printer is more than five years old, consider upgrading to a newer, more efficient machine. Print forms as needed: Eliminate pre-printed forms. Print forms on an as-needed basis, rather than printing several copies that may become outdated in time.

Access your usage: If you don't print many pictures—you may not even need a color inkjet printer. Have your pictures printed at Wal-mart, Costco or at one of the drugstore chains. In fact, you can e-mail the digital photo and pick up the copies later. At less than 20¢ a photo, that is a lot of pictures for the cost of one ink cartridge.



Web sites come, move, and go on a regular basis. These URLs were current at the time of publication and are subject to unannounced changes.

Census Research Resources

Forms for recording Federal and State Census

<http://censustools.com>

Free download a set of Excel spreadsheets that has a page for each of the federal censuses and for many state censuses. The spreadsheet columns match the columns on the population schedules. Donation is appreciated.

Links by location of transcribed census records

www.censuslinks.com

Many volunteers and genealogical groups are transcribing census records and putting them on the Internet. This site solves the problem of finding them.

NARA - Tips on Using Census Records

www.archives.gov/genealogy/census

NARA - Article on Non-population Census Records

www.archives.gov/genealogy/census/nonpopulation

CENSUS PROBLEMS

[from Yakima Valley Genealogical Society, Vol. 38, No. 3, Sept. 2006 page 80]

Prior to 1800, IA did not mean Iowa, it meant Indiana. Virginia once covered many thousands of square miles more than it does now. A reference to a person having been born in Virginia could mean that the person really was born in:

Illinois - 1781-1818

Missouri-1775-1792

Pennsylvania -1752-1786

Indiana 1787-1816

Ohio 1782-1803

Tennessee 1760-1803

Kentucky - 1775-1792

North Carolina - 1728-1803

W. Virginia - 1769-1863

TRANSCRIBING OLD RECORDS

By Maryalice Gordon

[from the SKP Genies Newsletter Jul/Aug 2005]

Trying to decipher not only the words but also the handwriting on old documents can be a real challenge! Here's a suggestion that may help. It has worked very well for me. I transcribe (on the computer, if possible) the words and the parts of sentences that I immediately recognize or can figure out quickly. Not wanting to break the flow, any words that I do not know, or recognize, or have to scrutinize, I by-pass with a "_____". When finished, I print (double-spaced) what I have and correct any obvious mistakes. Then I read through my document, stop at missing words, and try to determine what the missing word should or could be. I compare strange looking letters with known letters in other known words. Many times I can figure out what should be there from the rest of the word or the sentence. I've done this with land, death, military, and retirement records. Going with the flow can really float your document!

***Genealogy is not just a pastime;
it's a passion.***

SOUNDEX vs MIRACODE

by Carolyn H. Brown #20363

In genealogy we often hear the words Soundex and Miracode, but just what is the difference?

The Soundex was created to help in indexing the 1880 census. It is an indexing system based on the phonetic sound of the consonants in the surname. Each name is assigned a letter and three numbers. The letter is always the first letter of the surname.

The Miracode was used for the 1900 and later censuses. It uses the same sound system but arranges the resulting lists by the visitation number assigned by the enumerator, rather than page numbers of the census schedule as in the Soundex.

If you can't find someone using the surname spelling you are familiar with, then spell the surname different ways and look under various start letters. For instance: Kohn and Coon could be the same family.

Jewish Census Coding System Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex System

The Daitch-Mokotoff soundex coding system recognizes the fact that many Eastern European Jewish names that sound the same do not, in fact, code the same under the Soundex System used in the US. If you have Jewish ancestors check out the Jewish Census Coding System at

www.stephenmorse.com/census/soundex.html

Genealogists don't die, they just lose their census.

Genealogists need to come to their census.

Your family is NEVER the first one listed in the Census!



Population schedules rarely, if ever, show distinctions as "step" or "half" when listing relationships. For instance, the son of the head of the household may be the child of the spouse's previous marriage and therefore, actually a step-son.

SURNAMES IN THE CENSUS

by Carolyn H. Brown # 20363

Many of us have lost our ancestors in the census records. Sometimes we are sure we know where they were living, but we just can't find them. I had one of those cases while researching the Smittkamp family in Illinois. I was pretty sure they would be in Edgar County, Illinois in 1870 since the mother and father were there in 1860 and the mother was there 1880. Of course they may have moved, but it did not seem likely. So—I went through the entire county one page at a time looking for any family that had the same parents and children, with the right ages. I was not too worried about the spelling of the last name. I found the mother with all of the right children in the right location with the same neighbors, but her last name was Smith.

Recently I was reading a genealogy magazine and the author of an article [I can't locate now] made a statement "If you can't find your family under the surname you are researching look under SMITH". There was my answer. It seems that the census takers were more interested in counting people, and putting them in the right location, than they were about what last name they used. When they did not understand the surname, due to the dialect spoken, or they could not figure out how to spell it, some were told to use the surname SMITH.

If you have lost your ancestors in the census, look for them under SMITH. Make sure to look for both the father's and mother's first names or nick names, since one or the other could have died in the past 10 years. You should also try to place them in the right location with the right neighbors if possible.

USGenWeb Census Projects: Two Sites—Different Content !

On the very bottom of the USGenWeb list of the various projects

www.usgenwe.org/projects/index/shtml is the following note: "There are two census projects. Both call themselves USGenWeb Census Projects, but neither are associated with The USGenWeb Project. Access them at: <http://www.us-census.org> and <http://www.rootsweb.com/~census>" The sites are completely different and have different information, transcriptions and images. Neither are complete, but worth a visit. You don't need every census schedule sheet—just the ones that your ancestors are on.

CENSUS FACTS

Official census dates were:

1790-1820: First Monday in August

1830-1880: 1 June

1890: 2 June

1900: 1 June

1910: 15 April

1920: 1 January

1930: 1 April

Other Federal Census Schedules:

Agriculture Schedules: 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880

Indian Population Schedules: 1900, 1910

Manufacturing Schedules: 1820, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880

Mortality Schedules: 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880

Slave Schedules: 1850, 1860

Veteran's Schedule: 1890

Census Research Suggested Reading

The Census Book: A Genealogist's Guide to Federal Census Facts, Schedules, and Indexes. By William Dollarhide. Bountiful, Ut: Heritage Quest, 1999;

Your guide to the Federal Census for Genealogists, Researches, and Family Historians. By Kathleen W. Hinckley, Cincinnati, Oh: Betterway Books, 2002.

For State Censuses: ***An Annotated Bibliography of Censuses of Population Taken After the Year 1790 by States and Territories of the United States.*** Prepared by Henry J. Dubester, Chief, Census Library Project, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1948.



Life is lived forward, but understood backward.

Theory of relativity: If you go back far enough, we're all related.

Bouse Genies 2008 Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held every other Friday from September to May at 10:00 a.m. in the Bouse Community Building next to the library.

January 4 & 18, 2008

February 1, 15 & 29, 2008

March 14 & 28, 2008

April 11 & 25, 2008

May 9 & 23, 2008

2008 Special Speakers

Barbara Nuehring will be our special speaker on January 18, 2008. She will be speaking on "Reaching in Europe" and she will touch on a few oddities in each of the countries. For those of you who were members last year, she is the person who spoke to us on Germany. She is an excellent speaker and really knows her topic.

Bonny McDaniel will be our special speaker on February 15, 2008. Her topic will be on "How to Use Land Records for Genealogical Research". You can Find more than a land description in many deed records.

Both Barbara and Bonny have been researching for a very long time and have a lot to share with us. Please plan to attend these special meeting and support our group.

Bouse Genies News

The Bouse Genies have finally gotten fully organized with a slate of officers for 2007-2008 which are:

Chairman - Carol Brown

Co-Chairman - Roberta Willis

Secretary - Betty Gilbert

Corresponding Secretary - Beth Van Sickle

Assistant Secretary - Donna Potter

Treasurer - Brenda Dixon

Webmaster - Dennis Chapman

Newsletter Editor - Carol Brown

We thank all of you for serving this year.

We have been meeting every other Friday with great success. Following a brief business session, we have been discussing various topics related to our genealogy research. This last meeting we discussed "researching your Indian ancestors". We never know what problem someone will bring up and what topics will be discussed.

Brenda Dixon and Carol Brown have finally gotten us a bank account for the Bouse Genies at the Horizon Bank in Parker. The bank was very helpful and does not charge for the checking account or the checks and deposit slips. The first deposit was for \$1044.75. This included the monies left from the \$1000 received from the Bouse Boosters (less the \$321 we had to repay the Friends of the Bouse Public Library for the purchase of Ancestry.com last summer) as well as money collected from dues payments and for the computer and genealogy classes taught by Carol Brown for the library. We now have 22 paid members.

The Bouse Genies are collecting the money for the Genealogy and Computer classes for the library. All money collected from these classes must be used for items for genealogy or computers for the library. Hopefully this year we can purchase more books or even get Heritage Quest On-line for the library.

Carol has attended two meetings of the Bouse Chamber of Commerce this year to try to get them to help with Ancestry.com and to repay the money we had to pay the Friends of the Bouse Public Library for Ancestry last year. Unfortunately the Chamber did not have a quorum of officers at either meeting to give us the funds requested. Carol will attend the Chamber meeting in January to try again. Carol requests that some of our members please attend this meeting with her to help our cause.

Carol is going to get with the board (all officers) of the club to review a first draft of the Bouse Genies Policies and Procedures. Once they have been reviewed by the board they will be presented to the members for approval.

We also need someone to be chairman of the Library Committee to oversee the books we place in the library and to be a liaison with the library. Anyone interested please let Carol know.

We are looking forward to a very productive year in 2008.

Happy New Year Everyone!