

# **“Finding Great-Grandpa: or How to Locate Lost Ancestors in 1890 Census Substitutes”**

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## What happened to the 1890 Federal Census?

1. A fire on 10 Jan 1921 in the Commerce Bldg., Washington, D.C. totally destroyed 25% of the 1890 Census.
2. Water, Smoke, and Fire destroyed 50% of the remaining documents.
3. Congress orders destruction of the records by 1934.

## A general overview of the census:

1. Census date: 2 June, 1890
2. Census duration: One month
3. Scope: 42 states and the territories of AZ, UT, NM, AK and OK
4. US population in 1890: 62,979,766
5. Surviving names from the 1890 Census: 6,160 or < 1%.

## Why was this census different than previous ones?

1. Race questions were expanded to other than white or black.
2. Each family had its own separate page.
3. Enumerators told to make no additional copies and send the original to Washington, D.C.
4. First census to ask questions about service in the Civil War.

## Why was this census special?

1. It was the first census to be tabulated electronically. Census employee, Herman Hollerith developed the punch cards used and later went on to found IBM.
2. The data showed that the “American frontier” was closed by 1890.
3. Its loss eventually led to the creation of the National Archives in 1935.

## All states were lost with the exception of fragments for parts of:

Alabama, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, and Texas.

## Different questions asked than 1880 and 1900 (It was a bridge between the two censuses)

1. Was the person a veteran of the Civil War or widow of a veteran? (Both Union and Confederate participants were counted)
2. Foreign born persons: Number of years lived in the US and whether naturalization papers were taken out?
3. Whether suffering from an acute or chronic illness; name of illness and how long you had it?
4. Whether a convict, prisoner, pauper or homeless child?

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5. Was the home or farm owned or rented? Was the home or farm mortgage free? If the head of house was a farmer, did he work on his own farm or for someone else?

### Main census substitutes:

1. **State censuses** - NOT ALL STATES HAD STATE CENSUSES IN THE 1880s or 1890s. State censuses taken between 1885 and 1895: AK, AZ, FL, HI (Kingdom of Hawaii), ID (reconstructed), IN, KS, MI, MN, NJ, OR, PA (Northampton Co.), RI, SD, TN, WA and WI
2. **Territorial censuses:** AK, UT, NM, AZ and OK (1890)
3. **1890 Veterans Schedule (Civil War)** – additional schedule to the 1890 population schedule. The purpose was to record Union veterans (as listed on the population schedule) but sometimes you can find a Confederate soldier on it.

### Local census substitutes:

1. **City directories**
2. **Personal property tax records**
3. **Voter Lists**
4. **School records**
5. **Hospitals, Orphanages, Asylums**
6. **Prison records**

### Lesser known census substitutes:

1. **1885 Congressional mandated census:** Only NE, FL, CO and territories of NM and the Dakotas participated. These, like other federal censuses, had population schedules, agricultural schedules, manufacturer schedules, and mortality schedules (1 Jun 1884 – 31 May 1885).
2. **1890 New York City Police Census** (Manhattan and West Bronx)
3. **Oakland Tribune listings** –listed names of those who were not enumerated.
4. **1890 Delaware African-Americans List** – compiled from 1890 and 1900 census.

### Where to find census substitutes?

1. **County archives**
2. **State archives and libraries**
3. **Local & state genealogy or historical societies**
4. **Online databases and aids**– Ancestry, FamilySearch, Cindy’s List, Google or US GenWeb (check individual states)
5. **Books** – “Census Substitutes and State Census Records” by William Dollarhide or “The California 1890 Great Register of Voters” by the California State Genealogical Alliance.
6. **Church and school histories or censuses**
7. **Newspapers**

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### Tips for searching for 1890 substitutes:

1. Have a **PLAN!**
2. Be **PATIENT!** –You will need to research more records to replace the 1890 census.
3. Be **CREATIVE!** – Consider the type of sources that might contain your information.
4. **LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED!** The repository for records of your ancestor may be located somewhere other than where he lived.
5. Look for **COLLATERAL** lines – siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, in-laws
6. The family could have moved out of state and back again within 20 years. **DON’T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS!**
7. Don’t forget to look in **COUNTY AND CHURCH HISTORIES** for founding families.
8. This will take lots more time than regular research. **REMEMBER TIP #2.**

### List of Existing Fragments of 1890 Census:

#### **Alabama**

Perryville Beat No.11 (Perry County) and Severe Beat No.8 (Perry County)

#### **District of Columbia**

Q Street, 13th St., 14th St., R Street, Q Street, Corcoran St., 15th St., S Street, R Street, and Riggs Street, Johnson Avenue, and S Street

#### **Georgia**

Columbus (Muscogee County)

#### **Illinois**

Mound Township (McDonough County)

#### **Minnesota**

Rockford (Wright County)

#### **New Jersey**

Jersey City (Hudson County)

#### **New York**

Brookhaven Township (Suffolk County) and Eastchester (Westchester County)

#### **North Carolina**

South Point and River Bend Townships (Gaston County), Township No. 2 (Cleveland County)

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### **Ohio**

Cincinnati (Hamilton County) and Wayne Township (Clinton County)

### **South Dakota**

Jefferson Township (Union County)

### **Texas**

J.P. No. 6, Mountain Peak, Ovilla Precinct (Ellis County)

Precinct No. 5 (Hood County)

No. 6 and J.P. No. 7 (Rusk County)

Trinity Town and Precinct No. 2 (Trinity County)

Kaufman (Kaufman County)

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## **FAMILY SCHEDULE—1 TO 10 PERSONS.**

C44

Supervisor's District No. <u>3</u>		[7-558 a.]		Eleventh Census of the United States.	
Enumeration District No. <u>78</u>		SCHEDULE No. 1.			
POPULATION AND SOCIAL STATISTICS.					
Name of city, town, township, precinct, district, ham, or other minor civil division. <u>Perryville Post No 11</u> ; County: <u>Perry</u> ; State: <u>Alabama</u> ;					
Street and No.: <u>X</u> ; Ward: <u>X</u> ; Name of Institution: <u>X</u> ;					
Enumerated by me on the <u>4<sup>th</sup></u> day of June, 1890. <u>Leroy J Davis</u> Enumerator.					
A.—Number of Dwelling-house in the order of visitation.	<u>44</u>	B.—Number of families in this dwelling-house.	<u>1</u>	C.—Number of persons in this dwelling-house.	<u>8</u>
D.—Number of Family in the order of visitation.	<u>44</u>	E.—No. of Persons in this family.	<u>8</u>		
INQUIRIES.					
1	Christian name in full, and initial of middle name.	<u>William W</u>	<u>Eliza A</u>	<u>Charles A</u>	<u>Young E</u>
2	Surname.	<u>Smith</u>	<u>Smith</u>	<u>Smith</u>	<u>Smith</u>
3	Whether a soldier, sailor, or marine during the civil war (U. S. or Conf.), or widow of such person.	<u>Conf. Sol</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>
4	Relationship to head of family.	<u>Head</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>Son</u>
5	Whether white, black, mulatto, quadroon, octoroon, Chinese, Japanese, or Indian.	<u>White</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>White</u>
6	Sex.	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Male</u>
7	Age at nearest birthday. If under one year, give age in months.	<u>35-5</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>21</u>
8	Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced.	<u>Married</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Single</u>
9	Whether married during the census year (June 1, 1890, to May 31, 1890).	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>
10	Mother of how many children, and number of these children living.	<u>X</u>	<u>14-2 D.</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>
11	Place of birth.	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Alabama</u>
12	Place of birth of Father.	<u>South Carolina</u>	<u>Georgia</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Alabama</u>
13	Place of birth of Mother.	<u>South Carolina</u>	<u>Tennessee</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Alabama</u>
14	Number of years in the United States.	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>
15	Whether naturalized.	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>
16	Whether naturalization papers have been taken out.	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>
17	Profession, trade, or occupation.	<u>Farmen</u>	<u>Housewife</u>	<u>Farmen</u>	<u>Farmen</u>
18	Months unemployed during the census year (June 1, 1890, to May 31, 1890).	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
19	Attendance at school (in months) during the census year (June 1, 1890, to May 31, 1890).	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>6 Months</u>
20	Able to Read.	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>
21	Able to Write.	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>
22	Able to speak English. If not, the language or dialect spoken.	<u>English</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>English</u>
23	Whether suffering from acute or chronic disease, with name of disease and length of it as afflicted.	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
24	Whether defective in mind, sight, hearing, or speech, or whether crippled, maimed, or deformed, with name of defect.	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
25	Whether a prisoner, convict, homeless child, or pauper.	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
26	Supplemental schedule and page.				

TO ENUMERATORS.—See inquiries numbered 26 to 30, inclusive, on the second page of this schedule. These inquiries must be made concerning each family and each farm visited.

1890 U.S. Federal Census – Perry Co., Alabama