~GENEALOGICAL VALUE OF CENSUS RECORDS~
Tracing a family through federal, state, and territorial census records provides a history of migration and indicates the locations in which to focus one's research. Relationships are shown beginning with the 1850 census. This guide sheet is for the federal census, but it should be noted that some territories and states have had additional census taken.

~FEDERAL CENSUS RECORDS~
The United States government has enumerated the population every ten years since 1790. Federal population schedules still exist and are available to the general public. Only fragments of the 1890 population schedules remain because they suffered water damage in connection with a fire in 1921. Due to the loss of census records, some states have incomplete or no schedules for other years. The Federal Census records have been microfilmed and are available from the National Archives, LDS Family History Centers, and certain lending libraries. Community libraries often purchase microfilm of census for their particular area.

~USING DATA FROM THE FEDERAL SCHEDULES~
Until 1850, the only name listed was that of the head of the household. Even so, you can use 1790-1840 census records to identify what locality to search, distinguish the target family from others of the same name, locate possible relatives with the same name, identify immediate neighbors who may be in-laws, check spelling variations of the surnames, help determine that family groups are complete, and identify blacks. Free men of color will be listed as heads of household by name. Slaves appear in age groupings by name of owner. By combining those age groupings with probate inventories and tax list data, you can determine birth order and names.

~THE SOUNDEX, A USEFUL AID~
The Soundex is an index coding system for surnames that was used by the WPA in the preparation of 3-by-5 index cards which were later microfilmed. The Soundex drops all vowels and a few consonants in a surname and produces a number code to use in locating families with similarly sounding surnames in any given state. Available for the 1880, 1900, 1920, and some 1910 and 1930 census records, the Soundex makes it faster to locate a particular person on the full census return. The index is also useful because of its grouping of widely varying spellings of many surnames. The 1880 Soundex was used only for households in which there was a child under age ten which somewhat limits its usefulness. The 1910 Miracode which is similar to the Soundex, is available for the following 21 states only: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia. For the 1930 Census, a Soundex index exists for a few counties in Kentucky and West Virginia and are complete for the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

~PUBLISHED CENSUS INDEXES~
There are quite a number of published indexes in book, microfilm, or CD format. These furnish excellent finding aids but do contain transcription errors and omissions.

~THE 1790 CENSUS~
Some of the 1790 schedules were burned during the War of 1812, and others have been lost for undetermined reasons. To bridge the gap, substitute schedules made from names in state censuses or tax lists, were published and are available in most larger libraries. Portions of the 1790 census which remained were published in the early 1900s by the government and have since been privately reprinted.

~THE 1800 AND 1810 CENSUS~
Name of the head of family, the address, the number of free white males and females under age 10, 10 and under 16, 16 and under 26, 26 and under 45, and 45 years and older. All other free persons, except Indians not taxed; number of slaves. The same questions were asked in 1810 as in the 1800 census.

~THE 1820 CENSUS~
Same as 1830, with additional columns for Revolutionary War pensioners and ages; number engaged in mining, agriculture, commerce, manufacturing and trade, navigation of the ocean, navigation of canals, lakes, and rivers, learned professions and engineers; number in schools, etc.; number in family over 21 who cannot read and write; number insane.

~THE 1830 CENSUS~
Columns run every 5 years of age, up to 20 years of age, then every 10 years of age, with columns added for up to 100 years of age, both male and female.

~THE 1840 CENSUS~
Same as 1830, with additional columns for Revolutionary War pensioners and ages; number engaged in mining, agriculture, commerce, manufacturing and trade, navigation of the ocean, navigation of canals, lakes, and rivers, learned professions and engineers; number in schools, etc.; number in family over 21 who cannot read and write; number insane.

~THE 1850 CENSUS~
Each member of the household is listed by name from 1850 on. This makes it possible to identify probable in-law relationships. The 1850 census lists the name of every person whose usual place of abode on June 1850 was in the family, his/her age, sex, and color (white, black, or mulatto); profession, occupation, or trade for each male over fifteen; value of real estate owned; birth state, territory, or country of each person listed; whether married within the year; whether attended school within the year; if over twenty whether unable to read and write; whether deaf, dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict; town (or district) and county of residence.

~THE 1860 CENSUS~
Address; name; age; sex; color; whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic; all free persons required to give value of real estate and of personal estate; profession, occupation, or trade for each male and female over 15; place of birth; whether married within the year; whether attended school within the year; whether unable to read and write for persons over 20; whether a pauper or convict.

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~THE 1870 CENSUS~
Address; name; age; sex; color (including Chinese and Indian); citizenship for males over 21; profession, occupation, or trade; value of real estate; value of personal estate; place of birth; whether father and mother were foreign born; born or married within the year; attended school within the year; for persons 10 years old and over whether able to read and write; whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.

~THE 1880 CENSUS~
Address; name; relationship to head of family; sex; race; age; marital status; born or married within the year; profession, occupation, or trade; number of months unemployed during census year; whether person is sick or temporarily disabled so as to be unable to attend to ordinary business or duties; if so, what is the sickness or disability; whether blind, deaf and dumb, idiotic, insane, maimed, crippled or bedridden; attended school within the year; ability to read and write; place of birth of person, father, and mother.

~THE 1890 CENSUS~
Almost all of the 1890 federal census was destroyed due to a fire and the accompanying water damage.

~THE 1900 CENSUS~
Address; name; relationship to the head of the household; color or race; sex; month and year of birth; age at last birthday; marital status; if a wife is listed within the household, then the number of years married, number of children born of that marriage, and number of children living; places of birth of each individual and of the parents of each individual; citizenship; if the individual is foreign born, then the year of immigration and the number of years in the United States; the citizenship status of foreign born individuals over age 21; occupation; whether or not person can read, write, and speak English; whether home is owned or rented; whether or not home is a farm; and whether or not home is mortgaged.

~THE 1910 CENSUS~
Address; name; relationship to family head; sex; race; marital status; number of years of present marriage; for women, number of children born and number now living; birthplace and mother tongue of person and parents; if foreign born, year of immigration, whether naturalized, and whether able to speak English, or if not, language spoken; occupation, industry, and class of worker; if an employee, whether out of work during year; literacy; school attendance; home owned or rented; if owned, whether mortgaged; whether farm or house; whether a survivor of Union or Confederate Army or Navy; and whether blind or deaf and dumb.

~THE 1920 CENSUS~
Address; name; relationship to head of family; home owned or rented; if owned, free or mortgaged; sex; color or race; age last birthday; marital status; year of immigration; whether naturalized; if naturalized, year of naturalization; whether attended school any time since September 1st, 1919; whether able to read and write; birth place and mother tongue of person and parents; whether able to speak English; person's occupation, type of industry, business, or establishment in which person worked; whether person is an employer, salary or wage worker, or working on own account.

~THE 1930 CENSUS~
This 1930 census provides extensive information in 12 main categories: place of abode; name; relationship; home data for the head of the household; personal description (sex, race, age, marital status, age at first marriage); education; place of birth and place of birth of the person's father and mother; mother tongue or native language of foreign born; citizenship (including person's year of immigration to the U.S. and whether naturalized or alien when first papers were filed, and whether able to speak English); occupation and industry; employment (or unemployment); veterans (for persons 21 and over, whether a veteran of U.S. military or naval forces -- yes or no, codes to indicate a war in which the person served, and the reference number of the farm schedule if the person lived on a farm.)

~SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULES~
In addition to federal censuses, some states conducted their own enumerations at various times, including territorial or colonial censuses before statehood. In addition to the population schedules, the federal government in some years requested specialized information for administrative decisions. These special schedules are invaluable for genealogy. Each entry is cross-referenced to the population schedule by household number and line. However, not all exist for each state. Many mortality and Union veterans schedules have been indexed and published. Some of the other supplemental schedules have been microfilmed.

~MORTALITY SCHEDULES~
Mortality schedules were included as part of the federal decennial census enumerations from 1850 to 1900, for persons who died within the year prior to the taking of the census. These schedules give the name, age, sex, color, occupation, birthplace, the month and year and cause of death, the number of days ill, the attending physician, and other details. Unfortunately, the 1890 and 1900 mortality schedules were destroyed.

~AGRICULTURE SCHEDULES~
A separate agricultural schedule was prepared for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. Listed by farmer's name were the acreage farmed along with different commodities and extent and type of animal husbandry.

~INDUSTRY SCHEDULES~
These were added in separate volumes to the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 federal enumerations. They listed goods and services provided and quantities furnished by listed businesses. The 1880 schedules are labeled "Manufactures."

~SLAVE SCHEDULES~
Free blacks were named and slaves were counted (but not named) in federal returns beginning in 1790. Then in 1850 and 1860 separate Slave Schedules were generated for slave-owning states. They tally the number of males and females in specific age groupings, listed by the name of the slave owner.

~UNION VETERANS AND WIDOWS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR~
A separate schedule enumerated those who qualified, including pensioners, widows, and minors, and were receiving pensions in 1890. Returns for Alabama to Kansas appear to have been lost before 1943.