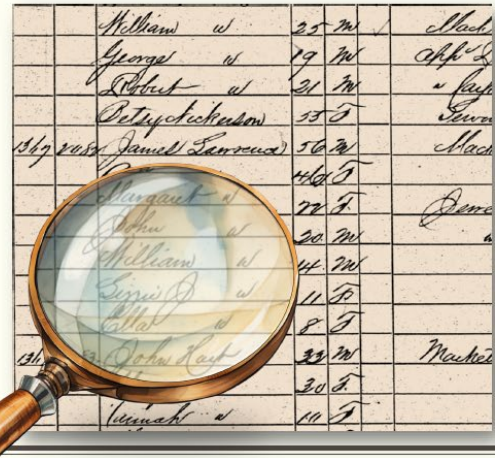


APPLYING RESEARCH STANDARDS TO THE CENSUS

Diane MacLean Boumenot, CG®



Genealogical Proof Standard

- Genealogical Proof Standard: Board for Certification of Genealogists, “Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS);” <https://bcgcertification.org/ethics-standards#genealogical-proof-standard-gps>
- Board for Certification of Genealogists, *Genealogy Standards*, second Edition, revised (Nashville, Tenn.: Ancestry, 2021).
- Jones, Thomas W. *Mastering Genealogical Proof* (Arlington, VA: National Genealogical Society, 2013).
- Citation discussions: Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*, fourth edition (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Pub. Co., 2024), in particular, Chapter 7, “Census Records.”

Working with U.S. Census Enumerations: 1790-1950

Data Collection and Analysis

1. Investigate all potential population census years and evaluate with additional sources of information.
2. For any location, understand any local or special census collections and how to access any surviving records. State practices and holdings vary widely.
3. Always examine original images rather than transcriptions or abstracts.
4. Understand the specific questions asked in each census year. The 1880 census began recording relationships to the head of household. The 1900 census uniquely included month and year of birth.
5. Pay attention to enumeration dates. The earliest were August 2 (1790), August 4 (1800), August 6 (1810) and August 7 (1820) with lengthy collection periods of 9-13 months. From 1830 to 1900, June 1st became the standard census date, and allowable collection periods gradually wound down to just one month by 1880. The twentieth century brought more variation in census dates: April 15 (1910), January 1 (1920), June 1 (1930-1950). All data was supposed to be accurate as of the official date, but the practice was prone to errors either on the part of the enumerator or by the comprehension of the (undetermined; could even be a neighbor) household reporter.

6. Analyze census page headers and footers and other markings. These often contain valuable information about enumeration districts, dates, and special notations that can affect interpretation of the data.
7. Occupational terms may have different meanings in historical context.
8. Although data in 1790-1840 only records heads of household names with the family data, so additional family names do not show, there is growing additional household data in each collection. Also, based on probable ages, it is sometimes easier to conclude that a person may NOT be in the household even though we can only guess at the names of those present and counted.
9. Although the 1850 census is often represented as the first census to list all names in the household, it is only in 1870 and after that the full population (enslaved persons were typically not listed by name in the 1850 and 1860 Slave Schedules) were named.
10. When filming problems are found, try Internet Archive and search for, for instance,

1810 census Providence County Rhode Island

Some rolls of microfilm will come up. You've already looked at page numbers elsewhere; look for that page.

Search Strategies

11. For searching problems:
 - Try additional major websites
 - Alternate forms and spellings of names, alternate places
 - Can separate local indexing be found?
 - Can a neighbor from other years be found?
 - Did boundaries change?
 - Go page-by-page through likely locations; perhaps one or two townships
12. Account for name variations and phonetic spellings. Census takers often recorded names as they heard them. Indexers may have indexed what they thought they were seeing. If any indexing is known to be done by locals, prefer that index.
13. Track property values when listed (1850-1870); indications of land ownership should lead to deed research.
14. Maintain research logs documenting which census years and locations have been searched, including unsuccessful searches. Note any gaps in coverage, damaged records, or other research limitations.

Documentation Methods

15. Create detailed citation templates for each census year, including enumeration district, page number, and line number. If using Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Evidence Explained, Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*, third edition revised, as mentioned in the If using Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Evidence Explained, Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*, fourth edition, section 7.10, NARA microfilm roll numbers are only necessary if you used the microfilm rolls. Online image citations should show the website specifics.

16. Document negative searches as thoroughly as positive ones. Record which name variations, locations, and alternative spellings were checked, even when the target individual wasn't found. This saves overall time on your project.

Special Populations

17. Special schedules supplement regular population schedules and can provide valuable additional information about individuals or the community; not all collections have survived. Check Ancestry.com for most.

Holdings for each state vary and are detailed on the NARA website: “Nonpopulation Census Records,” <https://www.archives.gov/research/census/nonpopulation>

Collections included:

- mortality schedules (1850-1885)
 - agricultural schedules (1850-1880)
 - social statistics (1850-1870)
 - schedules of delinquent, defective, and dependent classes (1880)
 - slave schedules (1850-1860)
 - industry and manufactures schedules (1820, 1850-1880)
 - business schedule (1935)
17. Understand enumeration practices for institutional populations. Individuals in prisons, hospitals, and asylums were typically enumerated within that institutional location. “Inmate” may indicate any kind of institutional living situation, not just imprisonment.

Enumerators

1790-1870	Marshalls of the U.S. Judicial Districts and their assistants
1880-1900	Appointed Enumerators, Supervisors, and Agents for specialized data / Privacy rules
1902	Federal Bureau of the Census established Begin testing for Enumerators
1960-present	Use of mail and other methods that begin to replace the enumerator interview

U.S. Census Forms

Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com/c/census-forms>)

Midwest Genealogy Center, Census Forms and summary of census data collected:
(<https://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/research/family-history-forms>)

Books

1860 U.S. census final statistical population report, *Population of the United States in 1860; Compiled from the Original Returns of the Eighth Census....* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1864)
<https://hdl.handle.net/2027/osu.32435070003405> - brings up book on Hathitrust.org.

Hinckley, Kathleen W. *Your Guide to the Federal Census*. Cincinnati: Betterway Books, 2002.

Kemp, Thomas Jay. *The American Census Handbook*. Wilmington, Del.: Scholarly Resources, Inc., 2001.

Lainhart, Ann S. *State Census Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1992).

U.S. Census Bureau. *Measuring America: The Decennial Censuses from 1790 to 2000* (Sept, 2002).
(www.census.gov: https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2002/dec/pol_02-ma.html)

Sample Pages Used:

U.S. 1810 census, Providence Co., R.I., Cumberland, p. 417, Richard Ballou.
(https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7613/images/RIM252_58-0061)

U.S. 1810 census, Providence Co., R.I., Glocester, p. 467, Charles Field.
(https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7613/images/4433196_00083)

U.S. 1850 census, Pittsylvania Co., Virginia, Danville, p. 321-322 (penned), family 14, James Lawrence.
(https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4206390_00325)

U.S. 1850 census, Norfolk Co., Massachusetts, Wrentham, p. 371 (penned), 186 (stamped) family 675, Nathan Aldrich.
(https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4199360_00329)

U.S. 1850 Non-Population Schedules, Massachusetts, Agriculture, 1850, Norfolk, Wrentham, entry for William or Nathan Aldrich not found on seven pages.
(https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1276/images/31644_217888-00137)

U.S. 1860 census, Providence Co., R.I., Ward 5, Providence, p. 264, family 2082, James Lawrence.
(https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7667/images/4293578_00392)

U.S. 1860 census, Allegany Co., N.Y., Amity, p. 142 (penned), p. 694 (stamped), family 1141, Ed Baldin.
(<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/45726241:7667>).

U.S. 1860 Non-Population Schedules, Massachusetts, Social Statistics, 1860, sorted by county and town, Fitchburg, image 270 of 309.
(https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1276/images/31644_217899-00280)

1865 Rhode Island State Census, Providence Co., Providence, Ward 7, p. 88, line 17, District #43, James Lawrence household.
(https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/4721/images/41271_307532-00094)

U.S. 1900 census, Providence Co., R.I., Ward 2, Providence, p. 171A, family 115, Charles Corey.
(https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4120510_00147)

U.S. 1940 census, Providence Co., R.I., Ward 12, Providence, E.D. 6-234, p.1A, family 22, Mary Greenway. (<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2442/images/m-t0627-03779-01028>)

Sample Citation

Mills, Elizabeth Shown, *Evidence Explained*, 3rd ed., rev (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 2017):

1830 U.S. census, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, population schedule, Townsend, p. 265 (penned and stamped), p. 1057 (penned), line 2, Eli Baldwin; image, “1830 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8058/records/1301728>: 12 March 2022); **citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 67.**

Mills, Elizabeth Shown, *Evidence Explained*, 4th ed. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 2024):

U.S. 1830 census, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, population schedule, Townsend, p. 265 (penned and stamped), p. 1057 (penned), line 2, Eli Baldwin; image, “1830 United States Federal Census,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8058/records/1301728>: 12 March 2022).

Census Materials Used

Helpful link for many U.S. Enumerator Instructions:

<https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/tEnumInstr.shtml>

Ancestry, U.S., Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850-1885

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8756/>

Ancestry, U.S., Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1276/>

U.S. Census Bureau, *1850 Census: The Seventh Census of the United States* (see pdf for each state)

<https://www.census.gov/library/publications/1853/dec/1850a.html>

U.S. Census Bureau, *1860 Census: Population of the United States* (pdf for Rhode Island, p. 446)

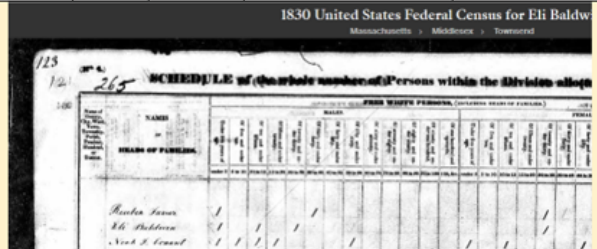
<https://www.census.gov/library/publications/1864/dec/1860a.html>

Note-taking Sample, Written Document

In 1860 at twenty-two, Margaret Lawrence was working in the jewelry industry and living in Providence, Rhode Island, with James and Ann Lawrence, and (younger than her) John, William, Lizzie, and Ella Lawrence.¹

This census entry gives no clue that Margaret had been married & divorced.

Note-taking Grid Sample

#	ATT #	date	event	Still need?	footnote
<i>Content transcription, abstracts, information, image</i>					<i>Physical characteristics, provenance, evaluation, follow-ups, notes about location or contact</i>
1.	35	10 Aug 1804	Eli Baldwin born, plus list of most siblings	<i>Need to check book title Pepperell</i>	Pepperell, Massachusetts, "Pepperell Births, Intentions, Marriages, Deaths 1746-1848, Book B," Birth and Deaths section, p. 72, children of Abiel and Lucy Baldwin; digital image, "Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988," <i>Ancestry</i> (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2495/images/40143_271585_0002-00035 : accessed 27 June 2022).
<p>[each different pen] Minot son of Abiel Baldwin [interlined: Born 1776] and Lucy [interlined: (Gassett)] his wife Born Feby 14 1803 Eli Baldwin Son of Abiel Baldwin and Lucy his wife Born August 10th 1804. [rest Royal – Alpha in same hand, same pen] Royal <u>born</u> May 14th 1806 Mary <u>born</u> Nov 11th 1807 Levi <u>born</u> Sept 5th 1809 James Adams <u>born</u> March 10th 1811 Elbridge <u>born</u> Oct 16th 1812 Albert <u>born</u> July 5th 1814 Lydia <u>born</u> May 29th 1816 Finis <u>born</u> Sept 1st 1818 Alpha Walton <u>born</u> June 5th 1820 [last in different hand, different pen] Henry Baldwin <u>born</u> August 21st 1822 son of Abiel Baldwin & Lucy (Gassett) his wife. Entered Jan 2d 1867 – from family Record Attest David W. Jewett, Town Clerk.</p>					<p>Image 574 of 1148 The first two entries seem like contemporary records to the <u>date</u>. The next 9 all written same day. The last entry for Henry has a much later date and attests to a family record, unknown.</p>
2.	45	1830	Eli Baldwin in census		1830 U.S. census, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, Townsend, p. 265 (penned and stamped), p. 1057 (penned), line 2, Eli Baldwin; digital image, <i>Ancestry</i> (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8058/images/4411243_00533 : accessed 12 March 2022).
1 male under 5, 1 male 10-15, 1 male 20-30, 1 female 20-30					<p>Minot Baldwin is 5 names up on the previous page. Youngest male could be Edward. Young boy could be Eli's brother. Find Noah J. Conant on later map??</p>
 <p>1830 United States Federal Census for Eli Baldwin Massachusetts Middlesex Townsend</p> <p>123 124 265 SCHEDULE of the whole number of Persons within the Division alleged</p> <p>HEAD OF FAMILY</p> <p>Richard Jones Eli Baldwin Noah J. Conant</p>					