

Genealogical Material From United States Censuses, 1790-1890*

Positive microfilm copies of the original Federal population census schedules for 1800-90 may now be purchased from the National Archives. Also available on microfilm are the volumes published by the Bureau of the Census in 1907-8 giving the names of heads of families as shown in the 1790 census schedules; a card index to those entries on the 1880 census schedules that relate to households including a child aged 10 or under; and the 1890 special census schedules enumerating Union veterans and widows of Union veterans of the Civil War.

The schedules of population contain a wealth of information for genealogists as well as for historians and social scientists. They are of use to the family historian and to the researcher interested in such subjects as westward expansion, the status of free and slave labor, regional and local history, and immigration. Often they contain evidence necessary for proving citizenship.

As a rule the information given in the schedules for each successive census is progressively more detailed. The schedules for the period 1790-1840 show the names of enumerated heads of families only, other members of the families being accounted for statistically by age groups, sex, and race (white or Negro). All subsequent enumerations, however, list each individual in a household by name with the exception of the slave schedules for 1850 and 1860, which show only the name of the owner and the number of his slaves by age group and sex. The 1850 census was the first to record for each person enumerated his age, occupation if over age 15, and place of birth. If the parent of a person enumerated in the 1870 schedules was of foreign birth, that fact is indicated. The 1880 schedules add the relationship of each individual to the head of the family.

The card index to the 1880 schedules is only to those entries that relate to households including a child aged 10 or under. The cards give the names, ages, and birthplaces

* The material which follows has been reproduced verbatim without condensation from the Preface, written by Wayne C. Grover, Archivist of the United States, of the *Federal Population Censuses, 1790-1890* (Washington: National Archives, 1965). This information should be especially useful to genealogists.

of all members of such households; and there is a separate cross-reference card for each child aged 10 or under whose surname is different from that of the head of the household in which he is listed. The cards are arranged by State or Territory and thereunder by the Soundex system; that is, alphabetically by the first letter of the surname, thereunder by the sound of the surname, and thereunder alphabetically by given name. The cards giving the names of persons in institutions are usually at the end of a State. A guide for the use of the Soundex system is reproduced as an appendix to this list.

Most of the 1890 population schedules were destroyed or badly damaged by fire; the few surviving schedules have been microfilmed. The 1890 special census schedules enumerating Union veterans and widows of Union veterans of the Civil War give information about the military service of each veteran named and the post-office address of each listed person who was living at the time of the enumeration.

This list is arranged chronologically by census year, thereunder alphabetically by name of State or Territory, and then, as a rule, alphabetically by county. For each microfilm publication it gives the microcopy number; the total number of rolls and their price; the price of the microfilm for each State and Territory; and a complete list of the microfilm rolls, showing for each roll its number, contents, and price.

Positive prints of one or more rolls of the microfilm listed may be purchased at the prices quoted. These prices are based on a charge of 8 cents for each foot of 35-mm. or 4 cents for each foot of 16-mm. microfilm, with all prices rounded off to the nearest dollar. A 10-percent discount is given on orders for more than \$1,000 and a 15-percent discount on orders for more than \$3,000. Checks or money orders for microfilm should be made payable to the General Services Administration (NCE) and should be sent to the Collections Officer, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. 20408. Each order should specify the microcopy number, the census year, roll number or numbers, and the price of the microfilm ordered. Please use the order forms at the end of this list.

The National Archives can provide photostat or Xerox reproductions of pages from the original schedules or enlargements from the microfilm copies. Prices depend on the type and size of the reproduction desired.