

## What's in the Census?

- Mandated by the constitution, first collected in 1790. Every 10 years, released after 72 years.
- Most recently released is 1950. Indexed and online.
- Has had many variations over the years.
- Most of 1890 lost due to fire in Washington, D.C.

## Finding people

- Only heads of household were enumerated in 1840 and earlier. Hash marks for others.
- No relationship between people in the household before 1880.
- Spelling was how the enumerator heard it. Some are better than others.
- No indication on who gave the information except on 1940 –not always noted
- No proof needed for answers.
- Instructions for enumerators not printed until 1850.
- In most years the race was decided by appearance by the enumerator.

## Places to find census

- FamilySearch.org
- NARA.gov 1940 & 1950
- HeritageQuest.com free with library card
- Fold3.com selected years
- ancestry.com \*
- GenealogyBank \* does not include 1950
- Microfilms at Valparaiso library up to 1940 for local area, most states through 1880.  
\* subscriptions

## Other records

- Civil War Veterans 1890
  - States alphabetical after Kentucky
- Slave schedules 1850, 1860
  - Listed by owner, persons often not named
- Indian census Various years 1885-1940
- Mortality schedules 1850-1880
  - Persons who died within the year of the census
- DDD Defective, Dependent, Delinquent 1880
  - Not every state on ancestry.com
- Manufacturing
- Agricultural

## State census

- Some states collected information in different years. Mostly used for population changes.