

District of Columbia Research Outline

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This outline describes major sources of information about families from the District of Columbia. As you read this outline, study the *United States Research Outline* (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records. The research outlines for Maryland and Virginia will help if you have ancestors who lived in the area prior to 1800.

RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

The Family History Library has some of the records described in this outline. The library's major holdings include federal censuses, deeds, city directories, and newspapers. Some church, cemetery, and tax records are also available at the library. Several collections of records have been purchased from the National Archives.

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, and microfiche numbers. These are preceded by *FHL*, the abbreviation for

Family History Library. You can use these numbers to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers.

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

The library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog found at the library and at each Family History Center. To find a record, look in the Locality Search of the catalog for:

- The *place* where your ancestor lived, such as:

UNITED STATES - CENSUS

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - TAXATION

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON - CEMETERIES

- The *record type* you want to search, such as:

UNITED STATES - ***CENSUS***

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - ***TAXATION***

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON - ***CEMETERIES***

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the library catalog.

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

The following archives, libraries, and societies have collections or services helpful for genealogical research.

- National Archives

Pennsylvania Avenue at 8th St., N.W.

Washington, DC 20408

Telephone: 202-501-5415

Fax: 301-713-6740

- Columbia Historical Society

1307 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.
 Washington, DC 20036
 Telephone: 202-785-2068
 Fax: 202-887-5785
 Internet address: www.columbiahistoricalsociety.org

- District of Columbia Public Library

Information and Reference
 901 "G" Street, N.W.
 Washington, DC 20001-4599
 Telephone: 202-727-1101
 Fax: 202-707-1129
 Internet address: www.dclibrary.org/

- Library of Congress

General Reference and Bibliography Division
 101 Independence Ave. at First St., S.E.
 Washington, DC 20504
 Telephone: 202-707-5000
 Fax: 202-707-5844
 Internet address: www.loc.gov

- Maryland State Archives

350 Rowe Blvd.
 Annapolis, MD 21401
 Telephone: 410-974-3914
 Fax: 410-974-3895
 Internet address: www.msa.md.gov

Guides to specific research collections are:

Benton, Mildred, ed. *Library and Reference Facilities in the Area of the District of Columbia*. 12th ed. American Society for Information Science, 1986. (FHL book 975.3 J5j.)

Provine, Dorothy S. *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Government of the District of Columbia. Record Group 351*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Service, 1976. (FHL book 975.3 A1 No. 8.)

Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with [modems](#) can be useful tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The [Internet](#), certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers
- Post queries
- Send and receive e-mail

- Search large databases
- Search computer libraries
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from the District of Columbia in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

Addresses on the Internet change frequently. As of April 1997, the following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

- USGenWeb (www.usgenweb.com)

A cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county, state, and country.

- Roots-L (www.rootsweb.com/roots-1/usa)

A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly-updated research coordination list.

For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the *United States Research Outline* (30972), 2nd ed., “Archives and Libraries” section.

FamilySearch™

The Family History Library and some Family History Centers have computers with FamilySearch™. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing several million names. FamilySearch is a good place to begin your research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; some have been automated from original sources.

BIBLE RECORDS

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains some District of Columbia Bible records. This collection is described in the “Genealogy” section of this outline, and is partially indexed by E. Kay Kirkham, *An Index to Some of the Bibles and*

Family Records of the United States, vol. 2 (Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1984; FHL book 973 D22kk v.2; fiche 6089184).

BIOGRAPHY

Two of the better biographical encyclopedias and social registers to consult are:

American Biographical Directories, District of Columbia . . . , 1908-1909. Washington, D.C.: Potomac Press, 1908. (FHL film 1000157.)

Williamson, Stanley. *Who's Who in the Nation's Capital*. Washington, D.C.: Ransdell, Inc., biennial. (FHL book 975.3/W1 D3w 1926/27 and 1929/30.)

Lists of federal employees were published annually in *The Official Register of the United States: Containing a List of Officers and Employees in the Civil, Military, and Naval Service*. Registers for the years 1863, 1883, 1895, 1909, 1911, 1913, and 1932 are also in book form (FHL book 973 N24o; beginning on film 496565 item 2).

You can find additional information about records for government employees in *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives* (see "For Further Reading").

The Family History Library has 1865, 1904, 1907 to 1950, and 1965 editions of the U.S. Congress, *Official Congressional Directory for the Use of the U.S. Congress* (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1809–; FHL book 973 E4uc; FHL films 1425531-43). Another source you may use is U.S. Congress, *Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1971* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1971; FHL book 973 D3u; the 1903 edition is on film 496555 item 1).

CEMETERIES

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Library has the original Registers of Burials in District of Columbia Cemeteries, 1847 to 1938 in six volumes. These are also at the Family History Library (FHL film 887587). The DAR collection, described in the "Genealogy" section, has many tombstone inscriptions.

In some cases, you will need to write to the cemetery sexton's office for information. The oldest existing cemeteries are:

- Rock Creek Cemetery

Rock Creek Church Rd. and Webster St. N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20010

Telephone: 202-829-0585

Fax: 202-829-6505

The Daughters of the American Colonists have transcribed the tombstones of this cemetery (FHL book 975.3 V22d; [film 874221](#)).

- Congressional Cemetery

1801 "E" St., S.E.

Washington, DC 20003

Telephone: 202-543-0539

Internet address: www.congressionalcemetery.org

They have a "Famous People" card file.

- Mount Olivet Cemetery (Roman Catholic)

1300 Bladensburg Road, N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20002

Telephone: 202-399-3000

Internet address: www.mountolivetcemeteryinc.com

- Glenwood Cemetery

2219 Lincoln Rd., N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20002

Telephone: 202-667-1016

Internet address: www.glenwoodcemetery.net

The stones were transcribed by the DAR (FHL book 975.3 V22da).

- Arlington Fort Myers National Cemetery

Arlington, VA 22211

Telephone: 703-697-2131

Internet address: www.arlingtoncemetery.org

- The Oak Hill Cemetery

3001 "R" St., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20007-2923

Telephone: 202-337-2835

Internet address: www.oakhillcemeterydc.org

- Prospect Hill Cemetery

2201 N. Capitol St., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20002

Telephone: 202-667-0676

Internet address: www.geocities.com/prospecthillcem

CENSUS

Federal

Federal census records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more detailed information about these records.

In 1790, residents living east of the Potomac in what is now the District of Columbia were in Prince George and Montgomery counties of Maryland. The census for Maryland is indexed. The area west of the Potomac was included in the Virginia census, which is missing.

The Family History Library has the U.S. federal censuses of the District of Columbia for 1800 (the eastern portion only), 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920.

The 1810 and most of the 1890 censuses have been lost or destroyed. The enumerations of a few streets in 1890 are on FHL film 926498 and all the names have been indexed (FHL book 973 X2na 1890; films 543341-42). The veterans schedule for 1890 (FHL film 0338277) and an index (FHL book 975.3 X22j 1890) are also at the Family History Library.

Indexes are available for the 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses in book and microfiche formats. The 1880 has a partial soundex (phonetic) index on microfilm. The 1900 has a complete soundex as does the 1920 census. For the 1910 census, the Family History Library has a street index for the District of Columbia (FHL fiche 6331481).

Mortality schedules for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 are on FHL films 1549978-9. All have been indexed.

District and Police Censuses

In addition to the federal censuses, district censuses were taken beginning in 1803. Those for 1803, 1807, and 1818 have little information, but those for 1867 and 1878 are quite detailed. They provide name, age, sex, marital status, color, length of residence, occupation, and nativity of parents. These are at the Maryland State Archives.

Police censuses were also taken in 1885, 1894, 1897, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1912, 1915, 1917, 1919, and 1925 (the 1925 census is missing). These are similar in content to the 1820 federal census and were published in the *Annual Reports of the Commissioner of the District of Columbia*, which are available at the National Archives.

COURT RECORDS

Major courts that kept records of genealogical value were established as follows:

1801-1863	<i>Circuit court</i> kept records of civil and criminal cases.
1863-1928	<i>Supreme court</i> replaced the circuit court.
1928-pres.	<i>Superior court</i> replaced the supreme court.
1801-1871	<i>Levy court</i> governed Washington County outside the City of Washington and assessed taxes.
1800s-pres.	<i>District court</i> for the District of Columbia is the federal court that serves the general area, with jurisdiction over civil and criminal cases.

The Family History Library has copies of a few District of Columbia court records, but most are at the National Records Center in Suitland, Maryland. That collection includes Washington County District Court docket books (1801-40), minute books (1801-42), case papers (1802-40), and indentures of apprenticeship (1801-74).

The Virginia State Library has circuit court order books (1801-27) and minute books (1825-46), and U.S. district court minute books (1801-25).

DIRECTORIES

Directories of heads of households have been published for the District of Columbia. For example, the Family History Library has directories for:

- 1822-1860 FHL fiche 6044618-28
- 1862-1935 FHL films 1377578—
- 1889-1928 FHL book 975.3 E4b
- 1941 FHL film 1320614
- 1956, 1960 FHL book Q 975.3/W1 E4p

The library also has a prominent citizens directory for the years 1908-9 (FHL film 1000157).

These and additional directories for Washington and Georgetown are also at the Library of Congress.

CHURCH RECORDS

Before 1900 the largest religious groups in the District of Columbia were the Roman Catholic, Baptist, Protestant Episcopal, and Methodist Episcopal churches. To locate church records see *A Directory of Churches and Religious Organizations in the District of Columbia, 1939* (Washington, D.C.: District of Columbia Historical Records Survey, 1939; FHL book 975.3/W1 E4h; film 1036761).

The Family History Library has few District of Columbia church records. You can write to the following addresses to learn where their records are located:

Baptist

American Baptist Historical Society
1106 South Goodman Street
Rochester, NY 14620
Telephone: 716-473-1740
Fax: 716-473-1740
Internet address: www.baptisthistory.us

Episcopal

The Episcopal Church Historian
Washington National Cathedral
Massachusetts and Wisconsin Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016
Telephone; 202-537-6200
Fax: 202-364-6600

St. Alban's Parish
Massachusetts and Wisconsin Ave. N.W.
Washington DC 20016-5098
Telephone: 202-363-8286

For information on Episcopal churches see *Inventory of Church Archives in the District of Columbia: the Protestant Episcopal Church, Diocese of Washington*, 2 vols. (Washington, D.C.: Historical Records Survey, 1940; FHL book 975.3 K2h; film 1036702 items 1-2).

Methodist

United Methodist Archives Center
Drew University Library
P.O. Box 127

Madison, NJ 07940
Telephone: 201-408-3189
Fax: 201-408-3909
Internet address: www.drew.edu/depts/library/methodist/umac.asp

Roman Catholic

Historiographer
Archdiocese of Washington
5001 Eastern Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20017
Telephone: 301-853-4500
Fax: 301-853-3246
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 29260
Washington, DC 20017

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Immigrants

The first land grants to English settlers, in what is now the District of Columbia (then Charles County, Maryland), were made in 1663. Scottish immigrants founded Georgetown in 1751. Only a few people lived in the area when the federal government offices were moved there from Philadelphia in 1800. The city grew slowly until the 1860s, when the population more than doubled during and after the [Civil War](#).

The District of Columbia did not attract much overseas immigration during the nineteenth century, but a large transient population came from all parts of the nation to work as government officials and congressional staffers. Permanent residents also came from all of the states, but especially from the middle Atlantic region and from the upper tier of southern states.

Black Americans constituted about one-fifth of the population prior to the Civil War and one-third after. By 1970, the population of the District of Columbia was 70 percent black. Slavery was abolished in the District of Columbia in 1862. Records of slave emancipations and manumissions from 1851 to 1863 are listed in the Family History Library Catalog Locality Search under DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - SLAVERY AND BONDAGE. Additional records on blacks are in the National Archives.

Passenger Lists

The port of entry in the District of Columbia was Georgetown, but most ship passengers whose official arrival records date from 1800 landed at Baltimore and Philadelphia. The Family History Library and the National Archives have passenger lists for Georgetown only for the years 1820 and 1821 (FHL film 830234). More detailed information on immigration sources is in the *United States Research Outline*.

GAZETTEERS

The following gazetteers will help you locate places within the District of Columbia:

Martin, Joseph. *A New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia, and the District of Columbia*. . . . Charlottesville, Va.: J. Martin, 1835. (FHL 975 E5m; film 897469.)

Truett, Randall Bond. *Washington, D.C.: A Guide to the Nation's Capital*. Original edition 1942. New York: Hastings House, 1968. (FHL book 975.3 E6t.)

GENEALOGY

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. These must usually be searched in person.

A notable manuscript collection of compiled genealogies is the *Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection*. This collection consists of transcripts of Bible records, cemetery records, church records, marriages, deaths, obituaries, and wills for Washington, D.C. and surrounding states. It was microfilmed in 1971 at the DAR Library and is available on 52 films at the Family History Library (FHL **films beginning on film 845766**). The volumes are generally arranged by county, and many have individual indexes.

HISTORY

The following important events in the history of the District of Columbia affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements.

- 1788-1791 Maryland ceded parts of Montgomery (including Georgetown) and Prince George counties to the United States, and Virginia ceded part of Fairfax county (including the town of Alexandria). Those counties continued to govern the area until about 1801, but Virginia kept permanent custody of the records for Alexandria.
- 1800 Congress, the President, and a staff of about 140 people moved from Philadelphia to Washington.
- 1801 Two counties were established in the District: Washington County, east of the Potomac, and Alexandria County, on the west side of the river. The City of Washington was incorporated in 1802. Georgetown [wills](#) and [deeds](#) continued to be registered in Montgomery County, Maryland, until the late nineteenth century.
- 1814 During the [War of 1812](#), the British captured Washington and burned most of the public buildings and records.
- 1846 The portion originally given by Virginia was returned to that state.
- 1861-1865 Although defended by federal troops during the [Civil War](#), Washington was several times threatened by [Confederates](#). The civilian population of Washington more than doubled during the 1860s.
- 1871 Congress changed the city's status to that of a [federal territory](#).
- 1895 Georgetown was merged into the city of Washington. The boundaries of Washington became coextensive with those of the District of Columbia.

A good history of the District of Columbia is John Clagett Proctor, [Washington, Past and Present](#), 4 vols. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1930; FHL book 975.3/W1 H2p).

LAND AND PROPERTY

The District of Columbia was created in 1790 from Maryland and Virginia. Land records for the District of Columbia, 1792 to 1886, are on 694 microfilms at the Family History Library. The documents include deeds of transfer of title, bills of sale, mortgages, and manumissions. There is a grantor/grantee-index for 1792 to 1919.

The original records and indexes are located in the office of the Recorder of Deeds, 515 D Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone: 202-727-5189, Fax: 202-727-9629.

Deed books for Alexandria County, Virginia, are at the Alexandria City courthouse. Copies are at the Family History Library (1783-1865; indexed 1793-1870). The Family History Library also has the Maryland Circuit Court deeds for Prince George County (1696-1884) and Montgomery County (1773-1868).

A list of the earliest settlers is in Bessie Wilmarth Gahn, *Original Patentees of Land at Washington Prior to 1700*, 1936, Reprint (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1969; FHL book 975.3 R21g).

MILITARY RECORDS

The *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies.

Many military records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more information on the federal records.

Pre-Civil War

For a list of [Revolutionary War](#) soldiers buried in the District of Columbia see John Claggett Proctor, *Washington, Past and Present, A History* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1930; FHL book 975.3/W1 H2p).

A register of officers of the militia of the District of Columbia, 1813 to 1830, is in Record Group 94 of the Records of the Adjutant General's Office in the National Archives.

Civil War (1861-1865) and Later

An index to service records of the District of Columbia Union Army volunteers is at the Family History Library (FHL [films 881964-66](#)). The service and pension records have not been filmed and are only at the National Archives.

Cemetery lists of Civil War soldiers buried in the District of Columbia are in:

Sluby, Paul E., comp. *Civil War Cemeteries of the District of Columbia Metropolitan Area*. Washington, D.C.: Columbian Harmony Society, 1982. (FHL book 975.3 V3s.)

United States, Quartermaster's Department. *Roll of Honor, Vol. 1, Names of Soldiers Who Died in Defense of the American Union: Interred in the National Cemeteries at Washington, D.C. from August 3, 1861-June 30, 1865.* Washington: Government Print Office, 1869. (FHL film 1311589.) Includes Arlington National Cemetery.

The military history of the District of Columbia and lists of officers is found in William B. Webb, *Centennial History of the City of Washington, D.C.* (Dayton, Ohio: United Brethren Publishing House, 1892; FHL book 975.3/W1 H2w).

World War I (1917-1918)

World War I draft registration cards for men ages 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for the District of Columbia see:

United States. Selective Service System. District of Columbia, *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918.* National Archives Microfilm Publications, M1509. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987-1988. (On FHL films beginning with 1570933.)

To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board.

Most counties had only one board; large cities had several. A map showing the boundaries of individual draft boards is available for most large cities. Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you in using the draft board map. For copies of the maps, see:

United States. Selective Service System. *List of World War One Draft Board Maps.* Washington, D.C.: National Archives. (FHL film 1498803.)

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization records have been filed in the county and district courts. Early circuit court naturalizations have been published in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, vols. 41-45 (FHL book 973 B2ng; film 001289 has vols. 42-43).

The National Archives has district court naturalization records from 1802 to 1906. Most of the documents are [declarations of intention](#) or orders of admission. They are indexed to 1909. You can write to the National Archives for further information. The Family History Library has not acquired naturalization records for the District of Columbia.

For naturalization records after September 1906, contact the [Immigration and Naturalization Service](#) in Washington, D.C.

NEWSPAPERS and OBITUARIES

The first major newspaper in the area, the *Daily National Intelligencer*, began publication in 1800. The Family History Library has microfilm copies from 1800 to 1852 (FHL films [176483-564](#)). A history of the paper is available, and the marriage and death notices found in it have been abstracted and published for 1806-1858 (FHL film 441391).

The Reference Division of the District of Columbia Public Library has *The National Intelligencer* from 1800 to 1869, *The Evening Star* from 1852 to the present, and *The Washington Post* from 1877 to the present.

PERIODICALS

No periodicals with detailed genealogical information specifically about families from the District of Columbia are presently being published.

PROBATE RECORDS

Probate records prior to 1800 were kept by the appropriate courts of Virginia and Maryland. The National Archives has a series of will transcripts from 1801 to 1888. A second series of transcripts from 1801 to 1919 and the original wills from 1801 to the present are available at:

Register of Wills and Clerk of the Probate Court

U.S. Courthouse

500 Indiana Ave., N.W., Rm. 5000

Washington, D.C. 20001

Telephone: 202-879-1499

The National Archives has probate administrations (1801-36 and 1854-78) and guardianship papers (1801-78). They also have an index to administration dockets, guardian dockets, and case files.

Wills after 1888, and administrations after 1878, are also at the:

U.S. District Court

3rd and Constitution Ave. N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20001

Telephone: 202-273-0555

The Family History Library does not have District of Columbia probate records or microfilms. [Abstracts](#) of many early wills are in Mrs. Alexander H. Bell, *Abstracts of Wills in the District of Columbia, 1776-1815*, 2 vols. (Washington, D.C.: Bell, 1946; FHL book 975.3 S2b; vol. 2 on film 207695; vols. 1-2 on fiche 6051443-4).

Another index is Dorothy S. Provine *Index to District of Columbia Wills [1801-1920]*. Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1992. (FHL book 975.3 P22p.)

TAXATION

Tax assessments for the years 1790 to 1805 are at the Maryland State Archives. The 1798 Direct Tax of Maryland (including the District of Columbia) is at the Family History Library (FHL film 499897).

Alexandria City tax assessments from 1796 to 1869 are at the:

The Library of Virginia

11th Street at Capitol Square

Richmond, VA 23219-3491

Telephone: 804-786-8929

Fax: 804-786-5855

The Washingtoniana Division of the District of Columbia Public Library has the following:

- Washington assessments, 1800-19, 1835-79

- Georgetown taxbooks, 1871-79
- Washington County proceedings of the Levy Court, 1819-35, 1848-57, 1863-67
- General assessments, 1855-64, 1868-79
- Tax books, 1871-79
- Tax collection journal, 1871-78

The National Archives has microfilmed the following:

- Internal Revenue lists, 1862-66
- City of Washington assessments, 1814-1940
- Levy Court assessment books for the County of Washington, 1855-79
- Washington County tax books, 1871-79
- General assessment books, 1814-79
- City of Washington assessment lists, 1824-79 (exclusive of Georgetown)

The Family History Library has the following microfilm copies from the National Archives:

- Georgetown financial journals and ledgers, 1801-8, 1822-74
- Georgetown property tax records, 1800-20, 1862-79
- Federal assessments, 1790-1805

VITAL RECORDS

Births and Deaths

Registration of vital statistics began in 1874 and was generally complied with by 1915 for births and 1880 for deaths. You can obtain copies of these records by writing to:

Department of Human Services
 Vital Records Division
 800 9th St. S.W.
 Washington, DC 20024
 Telephone: 202-645-5962

The current fees for obtaining copies of the state's records are listed in *Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces* (Hyattsville, Md.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 1993 FHL book 973 V24wv). Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and many Family History Centers. You can also write to the Department of Human Services (address above) for current information.

Some earlier records of deaths exist from 1855, except for the war years of 1861 to 1865, and can be obtained from the above address. The Family History Library has copies of

some of the District's vital records: births, 1874-1897 (FHL films 2020343-4; deaths for 1855-1949 beginning on film 1994618).

Marriages

Registration of marriages began in 1811. Some of the early marriages for the years 1811 to 1858 have been transcribed by the DAR and are at the Family History Library (FHL book 975.3 V28p; films 485769-70). You can obtain marriage records from 1811 to the present by writing to:

Superior Court of the District of Columbia
Marriage License Bureau
500 Indiana Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20001
Telephone: 202-879-4840

Divorces

Divorce proceedings prior to September 1956 are available from:

Clerk of the U.S. District Court
3rd and Constitution Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20001
Telephone: 202-273-0555

Some of the early divorce records are at the National Archives. Divorce documents filed since 1956 are at:

Clerk of the Superior Court
Family Division
500 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001.
Telephone: 202-879-1418

The old divorce docket, 1803 to 1848, is in four volumes at the National Archives in Suitland. The Family History Library has no District of Columbia divorce records.

FOR FURTHER READING

More detailed information about research and records of the District of Columbia is in:

United States. National Archives and Records Service. *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Service, 1985. (FHL book 973 A3usn 1985; fiche 6051414 has the 1983 edition.)

Another helpful source is:

Eichholz, Alice, ed. *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*. Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992; computer number 594021.) Contains bibliographies and background information on history and ethnic groups. Also contains maps and tables showing when each county was created.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

Publications Coordination
Family History Library
35 N. West Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3400
USA

We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

Paper publication: Second Edition, July 1997. English approval: 7/97.



FAMILYSEARCH™

G U I D E

Family History Library • 35 North West Temple Street • Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400 USA

District of Columbia Historical Background

History

Effective family research requires some understanding of the historical events that may have affected your family and the records about them. Learning about wars, governments, laws, migrations, and religious trends may help you understand political boundaries, family movements, and settlement patterns. These events may have led to the creation of records that your family was listed in, such as land and military documents.

The following important events in the history of the District of Columbia affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1788-1791 | Maryland ceded parts of Montgomery (including Georgetown) and Prince George counties to the United States, and Virginia ceded part of Fairfax county (including the town of Alexandria). Those counties continued to govern the area until about 1801, but Virginia kept permanent custody of the records for Alexandria. |
| 1800 | Congress, the President, and a staff of about 140 people moved from Philadelphia to Washington. |
| 1801 | Two counties were established in the District: Washington County, east of the Potomac, and Alexandria County, on the west side of the river. The City of Washington was incorporated in 1802. Georgetown wills and deeds continued to be registered in Montgomery County, Maryland, until the late nineteenth century. |
| 1814 | During the War of 1812, the British captured Washington and burned most of the public buildings and records. |
| 1846 | The portion originally given by Virginia was returned to that state. |
| 1861-1865 | Although defended by federal troops during the Civil War, Washington was several times threatened by Confederates. The civilian population of Washington more than doubled during the 1860s. |
| 1871 | Congress changed the city's status to a federal territory. Georgetown was merged into the city of Washington. The boundaries of Washington became coextensive with those of the District of Columbia. |
| 1898 | Over 300,000 men were involved in the Spanish-American War, which was fought mainly in Cuba and the Philippines. |
| 1917–1918 | More than 26 million men from the United States ages 18 through 45 registered with the Selective Service for World War I, and over 4.7 million American men and women served during the war. |
| 1930s | The Great Depression closed many factories and mills. Many small farms were abandoned, and many families moved to cities. |

1940–1945	Over 50.6 million men ages 18 to 65 registered with the Selective Service. Over 16.3 million American men and women served in the armed forces during World War II.
1950–1953	Over 5.7 million American men and women served in the Korean War.
1950s–1960s	The building of interstate highways made it easier for people to move long distances.
1964–1972	Over 8.7 million American men and women served in the Vietnam War.

Your ancestors will become more interesting to you if you also use histories to learn about the events that were of interest to them or that they may have been involved in. For example, by using a history you might learn about the events that occurred in the year your great-grandparents were married.

Historical Sources

You may find state or local histories in the Family History Library Catalog under District of Columbia or the county or the town. For descriptions of records available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on **Family History Library Catalog** in the window to the left. The descriptions give book or film numbers, which you need to find or to order the records.

Local Histories

Some of the most valuable sources for family history research are local histories. Published histories of towns, counties, and states usually contain accounts of families. They describe the settlement of the area and the founding of churches, schools, and businesses. You can also find lists of pioneers, soldiers, and civil officials. Even if your ancestor is not listed, information on other relatives may be included that will provide important clues for locating your ancestor. A local history may also suggest other records to search.

Most county and town histories include separate sections or volumes containing biographical information. These may include information on 50 percent or more of the families in the locality.

In addition, local histories should be studied and enjoyed for the background information they can provide about your family's lifestyle and the community and environment in which your family lived.

About 5,000 county histories have been published for over 80 percent of the counties in the United States. For many counties there is more than one history. In addition, tens of thousands of histories have been written about local towns and communities. Bibliographies that list these histories are available for nearly every state.

For descriptions of bibliographies for District of Columbia available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on **Family History Library Catalog**. Look under BIBLIOGRAPHY or HISTORY - BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Local histories are extensively collected by the Family History Library, public and university libraries, and state and local historical societies. Two useful guides are:

Filby, P. William. *A Bibliography of American County Histories*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1985. (FHL book 973 H23bi.)

Kaminkow, Marion J. *United States Local Histories in the Library of Congress*. 5 vols. Baltimore: Magna Charta Book, 1975-76. (FHL book 973 A3ka.)

State History

A good history of the District of Columbia is John Clagett Proctor, *Washington, Past and Present*, 4 vols. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1930; FHL book 975.3/W1 H2p).

United States History

The following are only a few of the many sources that are available at most large libraries:

Schlesinger, Jr., Arthur M. *The Almanac of American History*. Greenwich, Conn.: Bison Books, 1983. (FHL book 973 H2alm.) This provides brief historical essays and chronological descriptions of thousands of key events in United States history.

Webster's Guide to American History: A Chronological, Geographical, and Biographical Survey and Compendium. Springfield, Mass.: G&C Merriam, 1971. (FHL book 973 H2v.) This includes a history, some maps, tables, and other historical information.

Dictionary of American History, Revised ed., 8 vols. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976. (FHL book 973 H2ad.) This includes historical sketches on various topics in U.S. history, such as wars, people, laws, and organizations.

Maps

Computer Resources

MapQuest Maps

Summary: Must know address, city, state, and zip code; more recent maps

Animap

BYU FHL – on computer

Summary: Has each state with maps. Shows county boundary changes and allows marking of cities and finds distances.

Google Maps

Summary: Has address finder, allows keyword searching, and allows street, satellite, or terrain views

Geology.com Maps

Summary: Has Relief, Elevation, Drainage, Political and Road Maps for each state.

<http://www.dcpages.com/Tourism/Maps/Historical/>

<http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/Travel/wash/demap.htm>

Washington D.C. Maps Bibliography

Eichholz, Alice. *Ancestry's RedBook: American State, County & Town Sources*. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. **Rel/Fam Hist Ref - CS 49.A55 1992**, (3 copies in FHC)

Summary: This book does not have a map, but it does list the date the county was formed and parent county, and the date of first recorded deeds and certificates. The section on D.C. also includes a brief history and genealogical research information.

Kirkam, E. Kay. *A Genealogical and Historical Atlas of the United States*. Utah: Everton Publishers, Inc., 1976. **Rel/Fam Hist Ref- G1201.E6225.K5 1976**

Summary: Shows changes in boundaries in United States from Colonial days up to 1909. Civil war maps and information.

Evaluation of Washington D.C. map: Historical information, p. 9; 1909 map, p. 219.

Mattson, Mark T. *Macmillan Color Atlas of the States*. Toronto: Simon & Schuster Macmillan, 1996. **Rel/Fam Hist G 1200.M4 1996**

Summary: Washington D.C. maps and information on pages 59-61. Also includes a brief history.

Thorndale, William and William Dollarhide. *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1924*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co, 1987. **Rel/Fam Hist Ref- G 1201.F7 T5 1987**

Summary: History of Federal Censuses, records, and completeness. U.S. Maps from 1790 - 1920 showing U.S. boundary changes. Maps of each state for each census year beginning when the state was created up through 1920. Evaluation of Washington D.C. Maps: pp. 152- 159.

Map Collection on the 2nd floor of the old section of HBLL library. One map drawer for Washington, D.C.

G3850 - G3852. D.C. maps from 1800s up to 2000. Some maps include information about what was happening that year.

To find more maps, search the byline for Washington, D.C maps, atlases, and gazetteers.

District of Columbia Statewide Indexes and Collections

Guide

Introduction

In the United States, information about your ancestors is often found in town and county records. If you know which state but not the town or county your ancestor lived in, check the following indexes to find the town or county. Then search records for that town or county.

The indexes and collections listed below index various sources of information, such as histories, vital records, biographies, tax lists, immigration records, etc. You may find additional information about your ancestor other than the town or county of residence. The listings may contain:

- The author and title of the source.
- The Family History Library (FHL) book, film, fiche, or compact disc number. If the words *beginning with* appear before the film number, check the Family History Library Catalog for additional films.
- The name of the repository where the source can be found if the source is not available at the Family History Library.

What You Are Looking For

- Your ancestor's name in an index or collection.
- Where the ancestor was living.

Steps

These 2 steps will help you find information about your ancestor in indexes or collections.

Step 1. Find your ancestor's name in indexes or collections.

On the list below, if your ancestor lived between the years shown on the left, he or she may be listed in the source on the right.

1580–1900s	Ancestral File International Genealogical Index Family History Library Catalog - Surname Search To use this file, click here.
1700–1815	Bell, Mrs. Alexander H. <i>Abstracts of Wills in the District of Columbia, 1776–1815 Compiled From Records in the Office of the Register of Wills.</i> (FHL book 975.3 S2b; film 207695; fiche 6051443.)
1700–1920	Provins, Dorothy S. <i>Index to District of Columbia Wills.</i> (FHL book 975.3 P22p.)
1700–1920	Langille, Letitia A. <i>Wills, Book IV, Dated 1799 to 1837: as Recorded in the Office of Register of Wills, Municipal Court, Washington D. C.</i> (FHL film 907978 item 4.)
1700–1837	Rock Creek Cemetery, (Washington D.C.). Cemetery Records, 1775–1988. (FHL films beginning with 1530545 alphabetical.)

- 1700–1985 Sluby, Paul Edward Sr. *Selected Small Cemeteries of Washington, DC*. (FHL book 975.3 V38ss.)
- 1700–1858 Leach, Frank Willing. *Extracts of Some of the Marriages and Deaths Printed in the National Intelligencer, Washington, D. C. Between the Years 1806–1858*. (FHL film 441391.)
- 1700–1860 Daughters of the American Revolution. *DAR Patriot Index*. Centennial Edition. (FHL 973 C42da 1990, vol. 1–3.) Lists Rev. War patriots and their spouses; about 100,000 names.
- 1700–1860 Daughters of the American Revolution. *DAR Patriot Index*. (FHL 973 C42da vol. 3.) Volume 3 is especially useful in that it lists the wives of the soldiers; about 60,000 names.
- 1700–1868 *D.A.R. Revolutionary War Burial Index*. (FHL films 1307675–82.) Alphabetical; prepared by Brigham Young Univ. from D.A.R. records; often lists name, birth date, death date, burial place, name of cemetery, company/and or regt., sometimes gives the place of birth, etc. About 67,000 names.
- 1700–1868 Hatcher, Patricia Law. *Abstract of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots*. (FHL book 973 V38h vols. 1–4.) For entire U.S.A. About 67,200 names.
- 1700–1860 Brakebill, Clovis. *Revolutionary War Graves Register*. (FHL book 973 V3br.) About 53,760 names. Covers entire U.S.A.
- 1700–1783 *Military Abstract Card File for the Revolutionary War, 1775–1783*. (FHL films beginning with 1266810.) Has indexes for Continental units, active duty militia, two sets, and inactive duty militia; about 128,000 names.
- 1700–1840 *A General Index to a Census of Pensioners For Revolutionary or Military Service, 1840*. (FHL book 973 X2pc index; film 899835 items 1–2; fiche 6046771.) Lists Revolutionary War pensioners whose names are on the 1840 census lists. After using the general index, go to the original book (FHL book Ref 973 X2pc 1967; film 899835 item 3.) This book gives the pensioner's town of residence, the name of the head of household where he was living, and the age of the pensioner or his widow.
- 1700–1835 *The Pension Roll of 1835*. Indexed Edition. (FHL book 973 M24ua 1992, vols. 1–4.) Vol. 4 has the index; vols. 1–4 list Revolutionary War soldiers; gives county of residence; state of service; often gives age; often has data on soldiers who received pensions and died from 1820s–1835.
- 1700–1970 Daughters of the American Revolution. *Genealogical Collection ca. 1700–1900*. (FHL films beginning with 845766; indexes in most volumes.) DAR, includes some marriages 1811–1858.
- 1730–1975 Sluby, Paul Edward Sr. *Woodlawn Cemetery, Washington, D.C.: Brief History and Inscriptions*. (FHL book 975.3 V38s.)
- 1740–1899 Sluby, Paul Edward Sr. *Columbian Harmony Cemetery Records, District of Columbia, 1831–1899*. (FHL book 975.3/W1 V22s; film 962039 item 2.)
- 1750–1988 Oak Hill Cemetery. (Washington D. C.). *Cemetery Records, 1845–1988*. (FHL films 1543685–690.)
- 1750–1830 Wright, Edward F. *Marriage Licenses of Washington, DC, 1811–1830*. (FHL book 975.3 V28w.)
- 1750–1938 Daughters of the American Revolution. *Registers of Burials in District of Columbia Cemeteries, 1847–1938* (FHL film 887587) DAR.
- 1750–1870 Sluby, Paul Edward Sr. *Blacks in the Marriage Records of the District of Columbia*. (FHL film 1597787 items 11–12.) Has marriage records for 23 Dec., 1811 to 16 June, 1870.
- 1750–1938 Sluby, Paul Edward Sr. *Register of Burials of the Joseph F. Birch Funeral Home: Jan 1, 1847–Dec 31, 1938*. (FHL book 975.3 V39r.)
- 1760–1880 United States. Bureau of Census. *Federal Mortality Census Schedules and Related Indexes: 1850–1880*. (FHL films 1549978–979.)
- 1760–1988 Glenwood Cemetery, (Washington D.C.). *Internment Card File: 1854–1988*. (FHL films beginning with 1530875.) Alphabetical.

- 1760–1897 Sluby, Paul Edward Sr. *Presbyterian Cemetery Records, (Georgetown) Washington, DC, 1856–1897.* (FHL book 975.3 V3spr.)
- 1770–1920 **Census indexes, 1820–1880, 1900, and 1920.** See What to Do Next, and click on **Family History Library Catalog**. Then select CENSUS or CENSUS - INDEXES from the topics that are listed.
- 1770–1988 Prospect Hill Cemetery, (Washington D.C.) *Cemetery Records, 1858–1988.* (FHL films beginning with 1530939.) Alphabetical.
- 1796–1814 Sluby, Paul Edward Sr. *Index to Christian Hines' "Early Recollections of Washington City.* (FHL book 975.3 H2s.)
- 1800–1865 United States. Adjutant General's Office. Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the District of Columbia. (FHL films 881964–66.)
- 1800–1934 United States. Veterans Administration. **General Index of Pension Files, 1861–1934.** (On 544 FHL films beginning with 540757.) This is a card index to pension applications of Civil War and Spanish-American War veterans; copies of the original files may be ordered from the National Archives.
- 1820–1947 Payne's Cemetery, (Washington, D. C.). *Records of Payne's Cemetery Washington, D.C.* (FHL book 975.3 V39p; film 1697777 items 6–9.)
- 1878–1918 Haulsee, W.M. **Soldiers in the Great War.** (FHL book 973 M23s; fiche 6051244.) Lists soldiers who died in World War I. Vol. 1 has District of Columbia.
- 1878–1918 United States. Selective Service System. *District of Columbia, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918.* (On 19 FHL films beginning with 1570933.) Men ages 18 to 45 are listed alphabetically by county or draft board. Gives birth date, residence, and name of close relatives.

For ideas on ways your ancestor's name might be spelled by indexers or in collections, see Name Variations.

Step 2. Copy and document the information.

The best method is to:

- Make a photocopy of the page(s) with your ancestor's name.
- Document where the information came from by writing the title, call number, and page number of the index or collection on the photocopy. Also write the name of the library or archive.

Where to Find It

Family History Centers and the Family History Library

You can use the Family History Library book collection only at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, but many of our books have been microfilmed. Most of our films can be requested and used at our Family History Centers. To locate the address for your nearest Family History Center, click here.

For information about contacting or visiting the library or a center, see Family History Library and Family History Centers.

Libraries and Archives

You may be able to find the books at public or college libraries. If these libraries do not have a copy of the book you need, they may be able to order it from another library on interlibrary loan.

To use interlibrary loan:

- Go to a public or college library.
- Ask the librarian to order a book or microfilm for you through interlibrary loan from another library. You will need the title of the item and the name of the author.
- The library staff will direct you in their procedures. Sometimes this is free; sometimes there is a small fee.

You can find addresses and phone numbers for most libraries and archives in the *American Library Directory*, published by the American Library Association. The *American Library Directory* is available at most public and college libraries.

District of Columbia Federal Census Population Schedules, 1790 to 1920

Guide

Introduction

Federal censuses are taken every 10 years. District of Columbia residents are included in censuses from 1790 through 1800, and 1820 through 1920. In 1790 some of the residents were listed in the 1790 census of Maryland. The 1810 census was lost or destroyed.

- The 1790 through 1840 censuses give the name of the head of each household. Other household members are mentioned only by age groupings of males and females.
- The 1850 census was the first federal census to give the names of all members of each household.

For more information about the U.S. Federal Censuses, see Background.

What You Are Looking For

The information you find varies from record to record. These records may include:

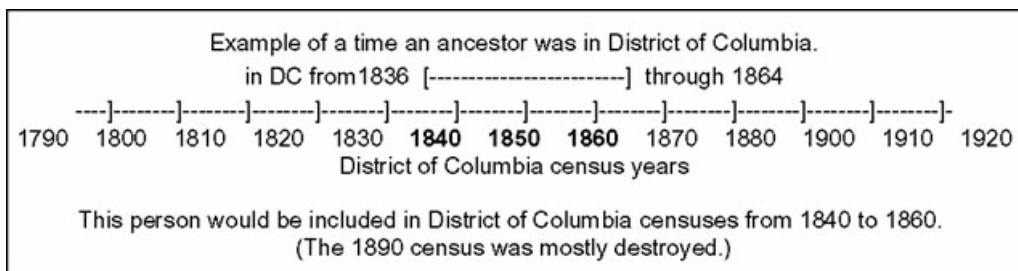
- Names of family members.
- Ages of family members, which you can use to calculate birth or marriage years.
- The county and state where your ancestors lived.
- People living with (or gone from) the family.
- Relatives that may have lived nearby.

Steps

These 5 steps will help you use census records.

Step 1. Determine which censuses might include your ancestors.

Match the probable time your ancestor was in the District of Columbia with the census years. This will determine which censuses you will search.



Step 2. Determine a census to start with.

Start with the last census taken during the life of your ancestor.

The censuses from **1850 to 1920** give more information and include the name, age, and birthplace of every person in each household.

The censuses from **1790 to 1840** give the name of the head of each household and the number of males and females in age groups **without** their names.

The censuses for 1930 and later are available from the U.S. Census Bureau only.

For ways the census can help you find your ancestor's parents, see Tip 1.

Step 3. Search the census.

For instructions on how to search a specific census, click on one of the following years:

1790 1800 1810 1820 1830 1840 1850
1860 1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920

For information about archives and libraries that have census records, see Where to Find It.

Step 4. Search another census.

Repeat steps 2 and 3 until you search all the censuses taken during the life span of your ancestor. Each census may contain additional information.

If you skip a census taken when your ancestor lived, you risk missing additional information, such as names of in-laws or other relatives who may have lived with or near the family. Those names and relationships may help you identify earlier generations.

For other information about how to search the census, see Tips.

Step 5. Analyze the information you obtain from the censuses.

To effectively use the information from the census, ask yourself these questions:

- Who was in the family?
- About when were they born?
- Where were they born? (Birthplaces are shown in censuses for 1850 to 1920.)
- Where were they living—town or township, county, and state?
- Where were their parents born? (Birthplaces are shown in censuses for 1880 to 1920.)
- Do they have neighbors with the same last name? Could they be relatives?

For more about comparing information in several censuses, see Tip 3.

Tips

Tip 1. How can the census help me find my ancestor's parents?

Searching the census taken closest to the time the ancestor married has the best possibility of finding your ancestor and spouse living close to their parents and other family members.

Tip 2. How can I understand the information better?

Sometimes knowing why the census taker asked a question can help you understand the answer. Detailed instructions given to census takers are in the book *Twenty Censuses: Population and Housing Questions 1790-1980*, updated as *200 Years of U.S. Census Taking*, both by the United States Census Bureau.

Tip 3. How can comparing information in more than one census help me?

Comparing censuses indicates:

- Changes in who was in the household, such as children leaving home or the death of grandparents or a child.
- Changes in neighbors. Remember, neighbors might be relatives or in-laws.
- Changes about each individual, such as age.
- Movement of the family within the District of Columbia to a different county or town.
- Movement of the family out of the District of Columbia if the family no longer appears in the census for the District of Columbia.

You will eventually want to know every country, state, county, township, and town where your ancestor was located. You can then check information in other records for those places. A careful check of all available federal census records can help you identify those places.

The age and estimated birth date of an individual may vary greatly from census to census. Often ages are listed more accurately for young children than for adults.

Background

Description

A census is a count and a description of the population of a country, colony, territory, state, county, or city. Census records are also called census schedules or population schedules.

Early censuses are basically head counts. Later censuses give information about marriage, immigration, and literacy. United States censuses are useful because they begin early and cover a large portion of the population.

What U.S. Federal Censuses Are Available

Censuses have been taken by the United States government every 10 years since 1790. The 1920 census is the most recent federal census available to the public; the 1930 census will be released in 2002.

The 1890 census of the District of Columbia was destroyed by fire, except for the portions for Johnson Avenue and the following streets, Q, R, S, 13th, 14th, 15th, Corcoran, and Riggs Streets.

Types of Census Schedules

The following census schedules are available for the District of Columbia and were created in various years by the federal government:

- **Population schedules** list a large portion of the population for 1790 through 1800, and 1820 through 1920; most are well-indexed and are available at many repositories. There are no District of Columbia federal returns for 1810.
- **Mortality schedules** list those who died in the 12 months prior to the day the census was taken, for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.
- **1840 pensioners' schedules** list people who were receiving pensions in 1840. Included were men who fought in the Revolutionary War or in the War of 1812 or their widows.
- **Slave schedules** for Southern states list slave owners and the number of slaves they owned in 1850 and 1860.
- **Agricultural schedules** list data about farms and the names of the farmers for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.
- **Manufacturing or industrial schedules** list data about businesses and industries for the 1820, 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.

How Censuses Were Taken

People called enumerators were hired by the United States government to take the census. The enumerators were given forms to fill out and were assigned to gather information about everyone living in a certain area or district. Enumerators could visit houses in any order, so families who are listed together in the census may or may not have been neighbors. The accuracy of the enumerators and the readability of their handwriting varies.

After the census was taken, usually one copy was sent to the state and another to the federal government. Sometimes copies were also kept by the counties. Few of the state and county copies survived.

When Censuses Were Taken

Census takers were supposed to gather information about the people who were part of each household on the following dates:

1790 to 1820: First Monday in August
1830 to 1900: 1 June (2 June in 1890)
1910: 15 April
1920: 1 January
1930: 1 April

If your ancestor was born in the census year, your ancestor should be listed only if he or she was born before the census date.

If your ancestor died in the census year, your ancestor should be listed only if he or she died after the census date.

The census may have actually taken several months to complete and may reflect births and deaths after the census date.

Censuses from 1930 to the Present

U.S. Federal Censuses from 1930 to the present are confidential. The 1930 census will be available in 2002. You may ask the U.S. Census Bureau to send information about:

- Yourself.
- Another living person, if you are that person's "authorized representative."
- Deceased individuals, if you are "their heirs or administrators."

You may request information for only one person at a time. There is a fee for each search. To request information, you must provide the person's name, address at the time of the census, and other details on Form BC-600, available from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For the address of the U.S. Census Bureau, see *Where to Find It*.

Local Censuses

Local governments also took censuses. Nonfederal censuses generally contain information similar to and sometimes more than federal censuses of the same period. The District of Columbia has district censuses for 1803, 1807, 1818, 1867, and 1878, which are at the Maryland State Archives. There are also police censuses for 1885 to 1919, which list heads of households. See the census section of the *District of Columbia Research Outline* for more information.

Local censuses may be available on the Internet, at Family History Centers, at the Family History Library, and in state and local archives and libraries.

Where to Find It

Internet

Many Internet sites include census records, census indexes, or information about censuses. You may find the following sites helpful:

- District of Columbia GenWeb and USGenWeb have links to indexes and records and may have links to archives, libraries, and genealogical and historical societies.
- CensusLinks on the 'Net includes links to Internet sites that have United States and Canada censuses and indexes. It includes information about censuses and how to use them, a Soundex calculator, census forms you can print, an age calculator, and more.
- **Browse Categories** on this screen has links to records and indexes that are available on the Internet.
- The Archives and Libraries section of the *District of Columbia Research Outline* lists Internet addresses for several District of Columbia archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of District of Columbia census records, and the Internet sites may list what records they have.

Family History Centers

Many Family History Centers keep copies of some census microfilms. Family History Centers can borrow microfilms of a U.S. Federal Census from the Family History Library. A small fee is charged to have a microfilm sent to a center.

You may request photocopies of U.S. Federal Censuses from the Family History Library. Staff at the Family History Center can show you how to request this service.

Family History Centers are located throughout the United States and other areas of the world. See *Family History Centers* for the address and phone number of the center nearest you.

Family History Library

The Family History Library has complete sets of the existing U.S. Federal Censuses from 1790 to 1920. No fee is charged for using the census microfilms in person.

For a list of indexes and other census records, click on **Family History Library Catalog** in the window to the left. Select from the list of titles to see descriptions of the records with the film or book call numbers. Use that information to obtain the records at a family history center or at the Family History Library.

For information about contacting or visiting the library, see *Family History Library and Family History Centers*.

National Archives

Copies of the existing federal censuses from 1790 to 1920 are available in the Microfilm Research Room in the National Archives Building and at the 13 Regional National Archives. The National Archives has a microfilm rental program for census records. Call 301-604-3699 for rental information. For information on how to order photocopies of census records from the National Archives, click here.

College and Public Libraries

Many college libraries have copies of census microfilms, particularly for their own states. Many larger public libraries have copies of the census soundex and populations schedules. Smaller public libraries may be able to obtain the records through interlibrary loan.

State Archives, Libraries, and Historical Societies

The Archives and Libraries section of the *District of Columbia Research Outline* lists Internet and mailing addresses for several District of Columbia archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of District of Columbia census records, and the Internet sites may list what records they have.

U.S. Census Bureau

To request information from the 1930 census and later censuses, you must provide your relative's name, address, and other details on Form BC-600, available from:

The U.S. Census Bureau
P.O. Box 1545
Jeffersonville, IN 47131
Telephone: 812-218-3300

Genealogical Search Services

Many genealogical search services will search the census for a fee. These sources can help you find a genealogical search service:

- CyndisList lists many companies and individuals who do research and mentions publications about how to hire a professional genealogist.
- Advertisements in major genealogical journals may help you find a researcher.

For more information, see *Hiring a Professional Genealogist*.

U.S. State Censuses

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- 1867
Educational census. Age, sex, marital status, color, nativity of parents, length of residence, voting residence, occupation, government employment, place and amount of education of those attending school, and literacy of those over 15 years of age.
Available in the National Archives.
- 1803
Statistical Census
**State Census
Microfiche
Card 1 of 1**
- 1810-1830
Statistical Census
**State Census
Microfiche
Card 1 of 1**
- 1894
Statistical Census
**State Census
Microfiche
Card 1 of 1**
- 1867, 1878, 1885, 1888, 1897, 1905, 1906
Statistical Census
**State Census
Microfiche
Card 1 of 1**
- 1907, 1908, 1909, 1912, 1913, 1915, 1919
Statistical Census
**State Census
Microfiche
Card 1 of 1**

WASHINGTON, D.C.

An Enquiry Respecting the Capture of Washington by the British, on the 24th August, 1814: With Examination of the Report of the Committee of Investigation Appointed by Congress. Washington City: s.n., 1816. **Microfiche 080 Sh64a no.38989**

Arnebeck, Bob. Through a Fiery Trial: Building Washington, 1790-1800. Lanham: Madison Books, c1991. **F197 .A76**

Bowling, Kenneth R. The Creation of Washington, D.C.: The Idea and Location of the American Capital. Fairfax, VA: George Mason University Press, c1991. **F197 .B69**

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Daughters of the American Revolution Library

<http://www.dar.org/library/default.cfm>

Cyndi's List Genealogy Links

<http://www.cyndislist.com/dc.htm>

Genealogy Today's page of Washington D.C. Links

http://www.genealogytoday.com/genealogy/states/washington_dc.html

FamilySearch Wiki

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