

Idaho

Research Outline

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Idaho

This outline describes major sources of information about families from Idaho. 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.

RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

The Family History Library has many of the records listed in this outline. The major holdings include census and LDS church records, cemetery transcriptions, city directories, local histories, vital, land, probate, military, and naturalization records.

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 available at the library, at each Family History Center, and on the Internet at www.familysearch.org. To find a record, look in the locality section of the catalog for:

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

UNITED STATES - CENSUS RECORDS
IDAHO - NATIVE RACES
IDAHO, ADA - CEMETERIES
IDAHO, ADA, BOISE - DIRECTORIES

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

UNITED STATES - **CENSUS RECORDS**
IDAHO - **NATIVE RACES**
IDAHO, ADA - **CEMETERIES**
IDAHO, ADA, BOISE - **DIRECTORIES**

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the Family History Library Catalog.

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

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

- Idaho State Historical Society Library and Archives
450 N. 4th St.
Boise, ID 83702
Telephone: 208-334-3356
Fax: 208-334-3198
Internet: www.idahohistory.net

The above library has on its Internet site an index to Confederate and Union soldiers who were buried in Idaho:

www.idahohistory.net/civilwar.html

- National Archives and Records Administration—Pacific Northwest Region
6125 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115
Telephone: 206-336-5115
Fax: 206-336-5112

Researchers can send them an e-mail from their Internet site.

- Brigham Young University-Idaho
Special Collections Area
Rexburg, ID 83460-0405
Telephone: 208-496-2386
Fax: 208-496-2390
Internet: www.lib.byui.edu/

Their library catalog is available through their Internet site.

- Idaho Falls Family History Center
750 W. Elva Ave.
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
Telephone: 208-524-5291

The center has indexed more than 200,000 Idaho obituaries, cemetery records, and funeral home records indexed in their Eastern Idaho Death

Records. The information is on the BYU-Idaho Internet site.

- University of Idaho
Special Collections Library
Moscow, ID 83843-4198
Telephone: 208-885-6534
Fax: 208-885-6817
Internet: www.lib.uidaho.edu
- Idaho Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 1854
Boise, ID 83701-1854
Internet: www.idahogenealogy.org

The Idaho Genealogical Society works closely with the Idaho State Historical Society Library and Archives.

To learn more about the history and the record-keeping systems of Idaho counties, use the nine inventories of Bingham, Boundary, Clark, Kootenai, Lemhi, Minidoka, Nez Perce, Power, and Teton county archives produced by the Historical Records Survey around 1940. The Family History Library has most of these inventories. These are listed in the Library Catalog under the County, then Archives and Libraries.

Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

The Internet can be a useful tool for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, the Internet serves 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 Idaho 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. The following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

- US GenWeb

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
A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly-updated research coordination list.
- Brigham Young University - Idaho
Special Collections Area
Rexburg, ID 83460-0405
Tel.: 208-496-2386
Fax: 208-496-2390

There are many helpful databases on this Internet site.

For further details about using the Internet 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 most United States family history centers have computers with FamilySearch. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing millions of 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.

Most United States family history centers have access to the Internet. These services are also available at many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations.

BIBLE RECORDS

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection contains some Bible records from Idaho. 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. II (Logan, Utah: The Everton Publishers, Inc., 1984; FHL book 973 D22kk v.2; fiche 6089184). The DAR collections are being indexed on their Internet site: www.dar.org.

BIOGRAPHY

The best collection of biographical materials is at the Idaho State Historical Society Library and Archives. They have a Biographical Name Index which they are putting on their Internet site. Some representative histories that are primarily biographical are:

Hawley, James H. *History of Idaho: The Gem of the Mountains*. 4 vols. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1920. (FHL book 979.6 H2h; vols. 1-3 on film 1,000,165; vol. 4 on film 908,926.)

An Illustrated History of the State of Idaho. 4 vols. in 2. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1899. (FHL book 979.6 H2ih; film 1,000,164.)

A biographical index to several statewide and regional histories of Idaho is Marvin E. Wiggins, *Mormons and Their Neighbors: An Index of Over 75,000 Biographical Sketches from 1820 to the Present*. 2 vols. Provo, Utah: Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, 1984. (FHL book Ref 979 D32w.) This source is indexed on the Internet site of Brigham Young University - Idaho:

www.byui.edu.

Brigham Young University has a collection, called *Trails of Hope: Overland Diaries and Letters, 1846-1869*, which includes information about many Idaho families. It is searchable on their Internet site:

<http://overlandtrails.lib.byu.edu>

At Brigham Young University - Idaho they have a project, Upper Snake River Valley Idaho Histories, in which many diaries and biographical sketches have been collected. These are indexed on their Internet site mentioned above.

CEMETERIES

An indexed collection of tombstone inscriptions is:

Cemetery Records of Idaho, 12 vols. (Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society, 1952-68; FHL book 979.6 V3c; film 824,262 items 1-3).

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection also contains some inscriptions from Idaho cemeteries. This collection is described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline.

On the Rootsweb Internet site, www.rootsweb.com, volunteers are posting Idaho cemetery records.

The Idaho State Historical Society Library and Archives has many cemetery records. On their Internet site they have a list of the cemetery records in their collection.

Over 200,000 obituaries, cemetery, and funeral home records have been indexed by the Idaho Falls Family History Center, and the collection, *Eastern*

Idaho Death Records, is indexed on their Internet site www.byui.edu.

CENSUS

Federal

Many federal census records are available 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.

The Family History Library has the U.S. federal censuses for the state of Idaho for 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930, but there is no 1890 census. All are indexed.

Territorial

The area that is presently Idaho was included in censuses of the Oregon Territory (1850), Washington Territory (1860), and Idaho Territory (1870 and 1880). For the 1860 census of Idaho County, see Spokane County, Washington. Parts of southern Idaho were also included in the 1860 and 1870 censuses of Cache County, Utah. All are indexed.

Mortality schedules exist for the 1870 and 1880 censuses. The Family History Library has the schedules and indexes.

The Idaho State Historical Society Library and Archives has prepared a reconstructed 1890 census for several Idaho counties. See their Internet site for a listing of the counties.

CHURCH RECORDS

Before 1900 the largest religious groups in Idaho were The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), the Roman Catholic, the Methodist Episcopal, and the Presbyterian churches.

To locate church records see the *Directory of Churches and Religious Organizations of Idaho* (Boise, Id.: Historical Records Survey, 1940; FHL book 979.6 K24d; film 1,036,585 item 7; fiche 6,046,931).

The Idaho State Historical Society has a significant collection of Episcopal church records. They also have an index to Roman Catholic Records. The Family History Library and the LDS Church Archives, and BYU-Idaho Library have records of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Idaho as well as a few records of other churches.

You can write to the following addresses to learn where church records are located:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons)

LDS Church Archives
50 East North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84150
Telephone: 801-240-2272
Fax: 801-240-6134
Internet: www.lds.org (then see Church History)

Many Idaho Latter-day Saint families are listed in the church's records. See our research outline, Tracing LDS Families (34080).

Methodist

United Methodist Archives Center
Drew University Library
36 Madison Avenue
Madison, NJ 07940
Telephone: 973-408-3486
Fax: 973-408-3836
Internet: www.drew.edu/depts/library/methodist.umac.aspx

Presbyterian

Presbyterian Historical Society
United Presbyterian Church in U.S.
425 Lombard St.
Philadelphia, PA 19147
Telephone: 215-627-1852
Fax: 215-627-0509
Internet: www.history.pcusa.org

Roman Catholic

Chancery Office
Diocese of Boise
303 Federal Way
Boise, ID 83705
Telephone: 208-342-1311
Fax: 208-342-0224

CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The Idaho State Historical Society Library and Archives at Boise, has records of the Idaho Territorial/State prison.

COURT RECORDS

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

District courts have countywide jurisdiction over civil and criminal proceedings, including naturalization and property.

Probate courts had jurisdiction over probates, adoptions, and minor civil matters until they were abolished in 1971. Their records and functions were assigned to the district courts or the magistrate divisions of the district courts.

Justice of the peace courts had jurisdiction over minor cases until 1971 when they were abolished. Their jurisdiction was assigned to the district courts.

Magistrate divisions of district courts are citywide courts assigned court cases by the various district courts. These cases generally include minor civil and criminal cases, probates, and juvenile matters.

The Family History Library has microfilms of many Idaho court records. The original records are at the various county courthouses. The Idaho State Historical Society Library and Archives has some records of the Idaho Supreme Court.

DIRECTORIES

Directories of heads of households have been published for major cities in Idaho. For example, the Family History Library has:

- Boise
 - 1902 FHL film 1,036,517 item 3
 - 1905 FHL film 1,425,575 item 5
 - 1915 FHL film 1,320,813 item 4
 - 1918 FHL film 908,278 item 2
 - 1921, 1923, 1927 . . FHL films 908,174-75
 - 1904, 1914-18, etc. FHL book 979.628 E4p
- Pocatello
 - 1905-06 FHL fiche 6,046,575
 - 1921 FHL film 1,035,751 item 6
 - 1903-06, 1927, etc. FHL book 979.647/
P1 E4p
 - 1927 FHL film 1,320,869 item 8

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

The pioneers who traveled over the Oregon Trail in the 1840s and 1850s rarely settled in Idaho. There were temporary trading posts and Protestant and Catholic missions but no permanent white settlement in Idaho until 1860 when settlers from Utah established Latter-day Saint communities in the Cache Valley.

In the early 1860s, many settlers returned from Washington, Oregon, and California to the gold fields of Idaho. At the peak of this first mining boom as many as 70,000 whites may have been in Idaho, but by 1870 this number had dwindled to the 15,000 counted in the census.

Settlement was stimulated in the 1880s and 1890s by new mining booms in the north and by the arrival of railroads in the farmlands of southern Idaho. During this period, some Mormon families who had moved from Utah continued their migration northward to Alberta Province in Canada.

In the early 1900s, when reclamation projects opened desert lands to farming, a new wave of settlement from nearby states took place in southern Idaho. Today, nearly 70 percent of Idaho's population lives within 30 miles of the Snake River.

Most Idaho residents are of British, German, or Scandinavian origin, although there are many Basques living near Boise. If you are looking for information on Basque settlement, you may find helpful information in Pat Bieter, *The Basques in Idaho*. Boise: Idaho State Historical Society, 197? (FHL book 979.6 A1 no. 41; film 1,036,796 item 15).

At the Basque Museum & Cultural Center in Boise, there is much information about Basque settlers in Idaho and surrounding areas. Their library includes oral histories, books, magazines, articles, family histories, and photographs. Their Internet site has an index to many oral history interviews they have collected of the Basque immigrants. The Center is located at:

Basque Museum & Cultural Center
611 Grove St.
Boise, ID 83702
Telephone: 208-343-2671
Internet: www.basquemuseum.com

A list of many Japanese immigrants to Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming, 1887-1924 is available at the Brigham Young University - Idaho Internet site. Japanese immigrants to other states will also be included. Volunteers are gathering information from censuses, cemetery records, obituaries, and local histories. The Internet site with the index is:

<http://abish.byui.edu/specialcollections/fhc/Japan/>

A few records of other ethnic groups are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under IDAHO - MINORITIES.

There was no port of entry common to overseas immigrants who settled in Idaho. The Family History Library and the National Archives have passenger lists for east coast ports for the years between 1820 and about 1950. You'll find suggestions on Latter-day Saint immigration sources in the *Utah Research Outline*. Detailed information on other immigration sources is in the *United States Research Outline*.

GAZETTEERS

A guide to Idaho place names is *Gazetteer of Cities, Villages . . . in the State of Idaho* (Idaho Department of Highways, 1966; FHL book 979.6 E5i; film 1,321,491 item 4).

GENEALOGY

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value.

The *Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection* is a small manuscript collection consisting of Bible records, cemetery records, church records, marriages, deaths, obituaries, and wills. It was microfilmed in 1971 at the DAR Library, Washington, D.C., and is at the Family History Library (FHL films 849,914; 869,290; and 907,987). Their collection is being indexed on their Internet site: www.dar.org.

Information about the ancestry of 450 Idaho members of the Sons of the American Revolution is found in John R. Gobble, *Lineages of the Members (Past and Present), Idaho Society, Sons of the American Revolution, 1909 through 1961 . . .* (Idaho Falls, Idaho: J.R. Gobble, 1962; FHL book 979.6 D2s).

Information about many Latter-day Saint families, from 1830-1914, is indexed in the Early Church Information File on FHL films 1,750,655-1,750,799.

HISTORY

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

- 1834 Fort Hall trading post was founded on the Snake River near the site of present-day Pocatello. During the 1840s and 1850s it became a major way station for those who passed through Idaho over the Oregon Trail.
- 1848 Idaho became part of the Oregon Territory.

- 1859 Idaho became part of the Washington Territory.
- 1860 The Latter-day Saint community of Franklin in Cache Valley became the first permanent white settlement in Idaho.
- 1860-1863 Gold discoveries in the river valleys of Idaho attracted temporary settlement.
- 1860-1880s A series of Indian conflicts continued until the Indians were assigned to reservations.
- 1863- The Idaho Territory was created out of the Washington and Dakota Territories. In 1864, the Montana Territory was established from the Idaho Territory. In 1868, a small part of Idaho Territory was transferred to the new Wyoming Territory.
- 1880s Mining booms in the north and the coming of the railroads to the south brought new settlers.
- 1890 Idaho became a state.
- 1900-1910 Reclamation projects brought another wave of settlement to the former desert lands of southern Idaho.

An especially helpful source for studying the history of Idaho is Merrill D. Beal and Merle W. Wells, *History of Idaho*, 3 vols. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1959; FHL book 979.6 H2b). Volume 3 has family histories.

Another history is Leonard J. Arrington, *History of Idaho*, 2 vols. (Boise, Idaho: Idaho Historical Society, 1994; FHL book 979.6 H2a).

A bibliography of local histories for Idaho is Milo G. Nelson and Charles A. Webb, eds., *Idaho Local History: A Bibliography*. (Moscow, Id.: The University Press of Idaho, 1976; FHL book 979.6 A3n).

LAND AND PROPERTY

Federal Land Records

When Idaho was first settled, the federal government administered most of the land through local land offices. Available land was surveyed and could then be transferred to private ownership in a process known as land entry.

The first general land offices were established in Boise and Lewiston by 1870. These offices kept tract books (recording transactions for each section of land) and township plats (maps of land entries for

each township). The Family History Library has microfilms of Idaho tract books:

United States. Bureau of Land Management. Tract Books. Washington, D.C.: Records Improvement, Bureau of Land Management, 1957. (On 1,265 FHL films beginning with 1,445,277.)

After a settler completed the requirements for homesteading or purchasing land, the local land office sent his case file to the General Land Office in Washington, D.C., where a patent or first title deed was issued, transferring the land to private ownership.

To locate the land entry or homestead case file from the 1870's to the 1960's, you can go to the Internet site of the Bureau of Land Management

and type in the name of an ancestor, and the state where they obtained the land. The site will then give you information about when the relative purchased land, the location, and the BLM serial number (patent number). You can use this to send for copies of the original patent application papers from the following office:

Idaho State Office of the Bureau of Land Management
1387 So. Vinnell Way
Boise, ID 83709-1657
Telephone: 208-373-4000 or 3890
Fax: 208-373-3899
Internet: <http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en.html>

The National Archives and Records Administration—Pacific Northwest Region has copies of the township plats and the original tract books, plats, homestead entry files, and cash entry files.

County Land Records

After land was transferred from the government by sale or grant to private ownership, it could be sold again, inherited, lost by foreclosure of a mortgage, or distributed through a divorce. Deeds, mortgages, and other transactions are recorded in each county by the clerk of the district court. The Family History Library has microfilms of many county land records, including deeds, homestead records, and preemption claims, for example:

Bear Lake County (Idaho). County Recorder. *Deeds, 1876-1919; Index, 1875-1925*. Salt Lake City: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (FHL films 1,450,970 items 3-5, 1,450,975)

Preemption claim records list persons who have filed their initial papers but have not yet paid for the land.

MAPS

The best map collections are at libraries of the University of Idaho, the Idaho State Historical Society Library and Archives, and Idaho State University. The Family History Library has a collection on microfilms of U.S. Geological Survey topographical maps, including maps for Idaho:

United States. Geological Survey. *Topographic Maps of the United States*. Suitland, Md.: National Archives and Records Service, 1976-. (FHL films 1,433,631-921.) The maps are arranged by the name of the quadrangle within each state. For towns and cities in Idaho, the Internet site, www.topozone.com, gives the name of the topographical map for that area.

The following publications include maps that can aid your research:

Preston, Ralph N. *Maps of Early Idaho*. (Corvallis, Oreg.: Western Guide Publishers, 1972. FHL book Q 979.6 E3p.) Lists early towns, gold mines, and old military roads.

An Atlas of Idaho Territory, 1863-1890. ([Boise, Idaho]: Idaho Historical Society, 1978. FHL book Folio 979.6 E7a.)

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 federal records. For Idaho the following sources are also very helpful:

Civil War (1861-1865)

There is an Internet site maintained by the Idaho State Historical Society which indexes Union and Confederate Civil War soldiers buried in Idaho:

<http://www.idahohistory.net/civilwar.html>

An index to service records of a few Union volunteers from the Washington Territory is at the Family History Library (FHL film 0821948). The library also has the federal index of pensioners, but

the actual service and pension records are only at the National Archives.

Indian Wars

Many soldiers served in Idaho and other western states during the Indian Wars. An index of pension applications filed between 1892-1926, for service in the Indian Wars from 1817 to 1898 is on FHL films 821,610-21. The pension records are at the National Archives.

The Family History Library has enlistment registers for soldiers who served in the regular army from 1798 to 1914. These provide the soldier's rank, unit, commanders, physical description, occupation, and birthplace. The records are arranged by year and by the first letter of the surname (on FHL films beginning with 350,307—).

World War I (1917-1918)

Some Idaho World War I county military discharge records are on microfilm at the Family History Library. The Idaho State Historical Society Library and Archives has Soldier's Home records for Idaho.

World War I draft registration records are being indexes on the Internet site:

www.ancestry.com

World War I draft registration cards for men age 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 Idaho, see:

United States. Selective Service System. Idaho, *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 1,452,106.)

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.

There is an alphabetical list of cities that are on the map. For a copy of this map see:

United States. Selective Service System. *List of World War One Draft Board Maps*.
Washington, D.C.: National Archives. (FHL film 1,498,803.)

A published roster of soldiers who died in World War I is W.M. Haulsee, et al, *Soldiers in the Great War*; 3 vols. (Washington, D.C.: Soldiers Record Publishing Assoc., 1920; FHL book 973 M23s; fiche 6,051,244). Volume 1 includes Idaho.

NATIVE RACES

A few thousand American Indians of various tribes, including Kalispel, Kutenai, Nez Perce, Shoshoni, and Paiute, live in Idaho. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of the Bureau of Indian Affairs censuses 1885 - 1939, births, marriages, deaths, enrollments, allotments, schools, and family registers. These generally cover from about 1887 to 1952 for the Fort Hall and the Northern Idaho agencies.

The Idaho State Historical Society also has many of the above records.

Records of the various tribes are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under IDAHO - NATIVE RACES and also in the subject section under the names of the tribes. The original documents are at the National Archives—Pacific Northwest Region.

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization records have usually been filed with the clerk of the District Court in each county courthouse. The records of some counties are in neighboring counties. The Idaho Supreme Court in Boise has some records from 1890. The Family History Library has many county naturalization records on microfilm. The Idaho State Historical Society Library and Archives also has naturalization records.

For naturalization records after September 1906, contact the nearest office of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

NEWSPAPERS

Idaho newspapers were first published in the 1860s. The Idaho State Historical Society Library and Archives has a large collection of older newspapers on microfilm, and currently-published daily and weekly newspapers. Their Internet site has a listing

of their newspaper holdings. The Family History Library has not collected copies of newspapers from Idaho. You will find collections at public and university libraries. An obituary index to Salt Lake City newspapers, the Salt Lake Tribune and the Deseret News, to 1970, includes some Idaho residents (FHL films 821,636-99).

The Idaho Falls Family History Center has a project called the *Eastern Idaho Death Records*, where they have indexed more than 200,000 Idaho obituaries, cemetery and funeral home records. The information is on the BYU-Idaho Internet site:

<http://www.Lib.byui.edu>

PENSIONS

The State of Idaho gave pensions to needy mothers and orphans, beginning in 1913 and continuing to about 1930. These records contain much family history information about the father, mother, and children. The Idaho State Historical Society Library and Archives has many of these records. Some of these records are on microfilm at the Family History Library. For example the records of Mother's Pension Records, 1914-1930, are available for Franklin County, Idaho. These were microfilmed at the Franklin County Courthouse (FHL film 1,451,051 item 5.)

PERIODICALS

A periodical helpful for Idaho research is *The Idaho Genealogical Society Quarterly*, 1958- (Published by the Idaho Genealogical Society, 325 W. State St., Boise, ID 83702, Telephone: 208-384-0542; FHL book 979.6 B2ig).

Many periodicals have information about Idaho sources and families. These are indexed in the PERiodical Source Index (PERSI) and is available on microfiche from the Family History Library, and also available on the Internet.

PROBATE RECORDS

Probate courts had jurisdiction over probate records, adoptions, and minor civil matters until 1971 when they were abolished. Their records were transferred to the district courts. Idaho probate records include wills, appraisals, inventories, letters, claims, final accounts, estate cases, and guardianships. You can obtain copies of probate records from the clerk's office in each county courthouse. The Family History Library has microfilms of many Idaho county probate records, for example:

Idaho. Probate Court (Oneida County). *Probate Records, 1871-1952; Inventories, 1882-1943; index, 1882-1985; wills, 1879-1950*. Salt Lake City: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1987 (FHL films beginning with 1,450,645 item 2).

SCHOOL RECORDS

Many Idaho school districts took school censuses listing parents with their childrens' names and ages (from six to twenty). For years, 1913-1926, the records were to be sent to the District School Trustees and the County Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Family History Library has microfilmed some school census records. For example there are microfilms for Adams County, Idaho for 1913-1926 (FHL film 1502881 item 4.) Contact the County Superintendent of School to learn about county records that may exist.

TAXATION

County tax records may exist which list those who paid poll taxes, or, paid tax assessments. These records may begin as early as 1865. The Family History Library has microfilmed some of these records at the Idaho State Historical Society Library and Archives, for example, assessment records for Ada County: *Assessment Rolls, 1865-1890; Delinquent Tax Lists, 1878-1886* (FHL films 1,513,378-83.) Tax records might also be found at local county courthouses.

VITAL RECORDS

Births and Deaths

The first birth records were kept in the 1870s. The counties were officially required to keep records of births and deaths from 1907 to 1911. Most of these records are on microfilm at the Family History Library. Some of the death records continue to a later date, for example the death records for Oneida County are on film to 1919. Write to the county clerk for information about these records.

The Family History Library has a compact disk which indexes Idaho death records for 1911-1950:

Department of Health & Welfare. Bureau of Vital Records & Health Statistics. *Idaho Death Index for Years 1911 thru 1950*. [S. L. Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, 2001? (FHL CD-ROM no. 661.)

The Family History Library has an index to death certificates, 1911-1932 on microfilms, and death certificates on film 1911-1937:

Idaho. Department of Health and Welfare. *Death Certificates, 1911-1937; Index, 1911-1932*. Salt Lake City: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988 (On FHL films beginning with 1,543,485.)

Statewide registration of births and deaths began in 1911, and was generally complied with by the early 1920s. Copies of these records are available from:

Vital Statistics Unit
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
450 W. State St.
Statehouse Mail
Boise, Idaho 83720-9990
Telephone: 208-334-5988
Fax: 208-389-9096
Internet: www.state.id.us/dhw

State your relationship to the individual you want information about and the reason you want the information. Only family members can obtain the information in these files.

Mailing address:

Vital Statistics Unit
Idaho Department of Health & Welfare
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0036

Marriages and Divorces

County recorders have kept marriage records since the date each county was organized. The Family History Library has microfilms of many of these marriage records. The Brigham Young University - Idaho Family History Center has a *Western States Historical Marriage Records Index* on their Internet site. They are indexing civil marriage records of Idaho and other Western states. You can search by name of the groom or bride. Their Internet site is:

<http://www.lib.byui.edu>

Marriage records since 1947 are available from the Bureau of Vital Statistics (address above).

Divorce records are available from the clerk of the district court in the county where the decree was granted. Some divorce records are also on microfilm at the Family History Library.

Inventory of Vital Records

You can learn more about the history and the availability of vital records in *Guide to Public Vital Statistics Records In Idaho, State and County*. Boise: Historical Records Survey, 1942. (FHL book 979.6 V2h; film 1,036,585 item 8.)

VOTING REGISTERS

Voting registers were kept in many Idaho counties. These may be available in county courthouses, or at the Idaho State Historical Society Library and Archives. The Family History Library has records of *Banner Precinct, Boise County, 1888-1892* (FHL Q book 979.674 X3b.)

FOR FURTHER READING

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.) 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
USA

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

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File: US—Idaho

[NOTES]

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

ENGLISH





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Idaho 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 Idaho affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements.

1834	Fort Hall trading post was founded on the Snake River near the site of present-day Pocatello. During the 1840s and 1850s, it became a major way station for those who passed through Idaho over the Oregon Trail.
1848	Idaho became part of the Oregon Territory.
1858-1880s	A series of Indian conflicts continued until the Indians were assigned to reservations.
1859	Idaho became part of the Washington Territory.
1860	The Mormon community of Franklin in Cache Valley became the first permanent white settlement in Idaho.
1860-1863	Gold discoveries in the river valleys of northern Idaho attracted temporary settlement.
1863	The Idaho Territory was created out of the Washington and Dakota Territories. In 1864, the Montana Territory was cut away from the Idaho Territory. In 1868, a small part of Idaho Territory was transferred to the new Wyoming Territory.
1880s	Mining booms in the north and the coming of the railroads to the south brought new settlers.
1890	Idaho became a state.
1898	Over 300,000 men were involved in the Spanish-American War, which was fought mainly in Cuba and the Philippines.
1900-1910	Reclamation projects brought another wave of settlement to the former desert lands of southern Idaho.
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 Idaho 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 Idaho available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. Look under BIBLIOGRAPHY or HISTORY - BIBLIOGRAPHY.

A bibliography of local histories for Idaho is Milo G. Nelson and Charles A. Webbert, eds., *Idaho Local History: A Bibliography*. (Moscow, Id.: The University Press of Idaho, 1976; FHL book 979.6 A3n).

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

An especially helpful source for studying the history of Idaho is Merrill D. Beal and Merle W. Wells, *History of Idaho*, 3 vols. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1959; FHL book 979.6 H2b). Volume 3 has family histories.

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.



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Idaho 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 statewide 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 statewide indexes or collections.

Step 1. Find your ancestor's name in statewide 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.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1580–1900s | <i>Ancestral File</i>
<i>International Genealogical Index</i>
<i>Family History Library Catalog</i> - Surname Search |
| 1580–present | PERiodical Source Index. (FHL book 973 D25per 1847–1985; fiche 6016863 .)
for 1986–1996: (book 973 D25per 1986–1992; fiche 6016864 ; compact disc no. 61.) This has an index, by surname, to articles in family history periodicals. |

- 1700–1961 Gobble, John R. *Lineages of the Members Past and Present 1909 through 1961*. (FHL book 979.6 D2s.)
- 1700–1994 *The Idaho Genealogical Society Quarterly* (FHL book 979.6 B2ig; film 1321418) Film 1321418 has index and vols. 1–25.)
- 1700–1970 Daughters of the American Revolution. *Family Records: Idaho DAR*. (FHL film 849914 item 10.)
- 1700–1860 White, Virgil. *Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files*. (FHL book 973 M28g, vols. 1–4.) The index, in vol. 4, lists the soldiers and often their wives and children.
- 1740–1900 White, Virgil. *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files*. (FHL book 973 M22i, vols. 1–2.) The index often lists the name of the soldier's wife.
- 1760–1966 *Cemetery Records of Idaho*. (FHL book 979.6 V3c; films 824262–264.)
- 1780–1920 *Census indexes*, 1860–1880 and 1900–1920. In the window to the left click on **Family History Library Catalog**. Then select CENSUS or CENSUS - INDEXES from the topics that are listed.
- 1780–1995 For members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints see also the Utah Statewide Indexes and Collections list. It mentions sources such as the Latter-Day Saint church censuses for 1914–35, 1940, 1950–60, which include names of Latter-day Saints in Idaho.
- 1790–1918 *Idaho World Newspaper: Published at Idaho City, Idaho, 29 Sept 1863 to 1 Nov. 1918*. (FHL book 979.674 V2i; film 873530.) Births, marriages, divorces, and deaths.)
- 1790–1870 *Idaho Territory Federal Population Schedule and Mortality Schedule, 1870*. (FHL book 979.6 X2pa 1870.)
- 1790–1963 Wiggins, Marvin E. *Mormons and Their Neighbors: An Index to Over 75,000 Biographical Sketches From 1820 to the Present*. (FHL book 978 D32w.)
- 1790–1906 *The Idaho Statesman, Boise, Ada County, Idaho*. (FHL book 979.628/B1 B3i 1865–1906.) Newspaper: births, marriages, and deaths 1865–1906.
- 1790–1930 White Virgil D. *Index to Indian Wars Pension Files, 1892–1926*. (FHL book 973 M22whi.)
- 1790–1930 *Registers of Enlistments in the United States Army, 1798–1914*. (FHL films beginning with 350307.) Lists soldiers who served in Indian Wars.
- 1800–1968 Beal, Merrill D. *History of Idaho*. (FHL book 979.6 H2b.) Vol. 3 has family histories.
- 1800–1880 *Idaho Territory Federal Population Schedules and Mortality Schedule, 1880*. (FHL book 979.6 X2p.)
- 1800–1900 *Index to pre-1900 Idaho marriages*. (not at the Family History Library.) At Ricks College.
- 1800–1865 United States. Adjutant General's Office. Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served from Organizations from the Territory of Washington. (FHL film 821948.) This includes some soldiers from what is now Idaho.
- 1800–1934 United States. Veterans Administration. *General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934*. (On 544 FHL films beginning with 540757.) For veterans of Civil War and later wars, up to but not including World War I.

- 1816–1919 Hawley, James H. ed. *History of Idaho: The Gem of the Mountains*. (FHL book 979.6 H2h; films 1000165 vols. 1–3, and 908926 vol. 4.) Volumes 2–4 contain biographies.
- 1830–1995 *Statewide Birth and Death Records, 1911–1995*. At the Vital Statistics Unit.
- 1830–1917 Idaho Genealogical Society (Boise, Idaho). *Births, Marriages, and Deaths Extracted From The Idaho Daily Statesman, 1907–1917*. (FHL book 976.628/B1 B3i 1907–1917.)
- 1850–1996 *Social Security Death Index*. (FHL) In 1937 the Social Security Administration began keeping records. Family History Centers have this on compact discs.
- 1873–1918 Haulsee, W. M. *Soldiers of the Great War*. (FHL book 973 M23s; fiche 6051244.) Volume 1 has Idaho. Lists soldiers who died in World War I, 1917–1918.
- 1873–1918 United States Selective Service System. *Idaho, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*. (On 20 FHL films beginning with 1452106.) Men ages 18 to 45 are listed alphabetically by county or draft boards.
- 1880–1995 *Statewide Marriage and Divorce Records, 1947–1995*. The records are at the Vital Statistics Unit.

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 with the index or collection.

Where to Find It

Family History Centers and 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 the 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.

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.

Idaho Maps Bibliography

Andriot, Jay. *Township Atlas of the US*. Virginia: Documents Index, 1991.
Mic/Gen Ref- G 1201.F7 AS 1991

Summary: Shows the townships in a particular county for each state except Hawaii and Alaska. Maps start after 1930.

Evaluation of Idaho maps: pp. 199-219. One page history of state, list of counties and counties with minor civil divisions. Maps of census county divisions.

Eichholz, Alice. *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County & Town Sources*. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992.
Mic/Gen Ref- CS 49.ASS 1992. (3 copies in FHC)

Summary: The previous map was copied from page 177 of this book. On the next page is a listing of the counties, the date the county was formed and parent county, and the date of first recorded deeds and certificates. The section on Delaware 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.
Mic/Gen Ref- G1201.E622S.KS 1976

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

Evaluation of Idaho maps: State historical information, p.11; 1860 map, p. 149; 1878 map, p. 164; 1883 map, p. 192; 1909 map, p. 211.

Mattson, Mark T. *Macmillan Color Atlas of the States*. Toronto: Simon & Schuster Macmillan, 1996.
Mic/Gen Ref- Quarto Shelves G 1200.M4 1996.

Summary: Idaho maps and information on pages 83 - 89. Includes maps comparing Idaho to other states, cultural features, population density, agriculture, economic facts, etc. Also includes a brief state history.

Thorndale, William and William Dollarhide. *Map Guide to the US. Federal Censuses, 1790-1928*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co, 1987.
Mic/Gen Ref- G 1201.F7 TS 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 Idaho maps: pp. 93 - 99.

Map Collection on the 2nd floor of the old section of HBLL library. Five map drawers for the state of Idaho.

G4270 - G4274. State maps from 1800s to 2000. Many of the maps show county boundaries and county seats, railroad lines, private land grants, population, etc. Some maps include information about what was happening that year.

To find more maps, search the HBLL Online Catalog for Idaho maps, atlases, and gazetteers.



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Idaho Federal Census Population Schedules, 1860 to 1920

Guide

Introduction

Federal censuses are taken every 10 years. Idaho residents are included in territorial or federal censuses from 1850 to 1880, and 1900 to 1920.

- 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 Idaho with the census years. This will determine which censuses you will search.

Example of a time an ancestor was in Idaho.
in Idaho from 1874 [-----] through 1913
-]-----]-]-----]-]-----]-
1860 1870 1880 1900 1910 1920
Idaho census years

This person would be included in Idaho censuses from 1880 to 1910.
(The 1890 census was mostly destroyed.)

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:

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 U.S. 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 Idaho to a different county or town.
- Movement of the family out of Idaho if the family no longer appears in the census for Idaho.

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 for 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 available in 2002.

The Idaho 1890 census was destroyed in a fire.

Types of Census Schedules

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

- **Population schedules** list a large portion of the population; most are well-indexed and are available at many repositories.
- **Mortality schedules** list those who died in the 12 months prior to the day the census taken, for the 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 the 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 vary.

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 only 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*.

Territorial and Local Censuses

Territorial and local governments also took censuses. Nonfederal censuses generally contain information similar to and sometimes more than federal censuses of the same period.

The Idaho area was included in the following territorial censuses:

- 1850: Oregon Territory
- 1860: Washington Territory and Utah Territory
- 1870: Idaho Territory

Idaho became a state in 1890. Idaho has no state censuses.

Territorial, and 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:

- Idaho 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 *Idaho Research Outline* lists Internet addresses for several Idaho archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Idaho census records, and the Internet sites may list what other 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 the census microfilms, particularly for their own states. Many larger public libraries have copies of the census soundex and population schedules. Smaller public libraries may be able to obtain the records through interlibrary loan.

State Historical Society, Libraries, etc.

The Archives and Libraries section of the *Idaho Research Outline* lists Internet and mailing addresses for several Idaho archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Idaho 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

IDAHO

1863
Statistical Territorial Census

**State Census
Microfiche
Card 1 of 1**

IDAHO

Arrington, Leonard J. History of Idaho. Moscow, ID: Univ. of Idaho Press; Boise, ID: Idaho State Historical Society, 1994. **F 746 .A75 1994 (vol. 1-2)** also **F 746 .A75 1994** (Special Collections: Americana)

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Stoker, Martha B. Old Market Lake. ID: M.B. Stoker, c1983. **F 754 .R62 S761X 1983** also **F 754 .R62 S761X 1983** (Special Collections: Americana)

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Simpson, Claude. North of the Narrows: Men and Women of the Upper Priest Lake Country, Idaho. Moscow, ID: Univ. Press of Idaho, c1981. **F 752.P95 S62x**

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Camas County Camas County was created in 1917 from Blaine County.

Ryan, John F. A History of Camas Prairie. Fairfield, ID: Camas County Historical Society, 1975. **F 752 .C17 R93x 1975** (Special Collections: Americana)

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Idaho Other Resources

Cyndi's List Idaho Links

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

Rootsweb Idaho Links

<http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-1/USA/id.html>

Idaho State Historical Library Genealogy

http://www.idahohistory.net/library_collections.html#anchor562626

Idaho Family History Centers

http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHC/FHC_Results.asp?FHCCountry=United+States&FHCCStateProv=ID&FHCCCounty=&FHCCity=&submit=Search