Iowa
Research Outline

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This outline describes major sources of genealogical information about families from Iowa. 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.

HELPs FOR USING THIS RESEARCH OUTLINE

Before using this outline, you need to decide what you would like to learn about one of your ancestors, such as a birth date or a maiden name.

After you have decided what information you want to find, look at the Record Selection Table on pages two and three in this outline. Column 1 lists the kinds of information you may need and columns 2 and 3 suggest the best types of records for finding that information.

There is a section in this outline for each type of record. These sections give more information about the records and how to find them. The sections are listed in alphabetical order.

References to the Family History Library Catalog™

The Family History Library Catalog™ is a listing of all the records available at the Family History Library™. The catalog is available at the Family History Library and at each Family History Center™. Staff there can help you learn to use the catalog.

This outline gives instructions for finding information in the catalog. For example, in the section of this outline called “Census,” you may find the following statement:

This statement tells you to look in the catalog under:
- Iowa, and then the subject CENSUS.
- A county in Iowa, and then the subject CENSUS.
- A town in a county in Iowa, and then the subject CENSUS.

This outline includes many references to specific records. The references include call numbers and computer numbers and are listed in parentheses.

- Call Numbers. The call number is used to find a record in the Family History Library (FHL).
- Computer Numbers. Each record is assigned a number to identify it in the catalog. If you are using the Family History Library Catalog on computer or compact disc, you can search for the record by the computer number. This is the quickest way to find the catalog listing of the record.

For additional information on using the catalog, see Using the Family History Library Catalog (30966).

References to Other Family History Library Publications

The Family History Library has many other publications that may help you in your research. Some are referred to in this outline. Their titles are in italics and their order numbers are in parentheses. They are available at the Family History Library, the Salt Lake Distribution Center and on the Internet at www.familysearch.org.

For more information about census records, look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - CENSUS
IOWA, [COUNTY] - CENSUS
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - CENSUS
This table can help you decide which records to search. It is most helpful for research from 1800 to the present.

Step 1. Choose an ancestor you would like to know more about. Decide what new information you would like to learn about that person. This new information is your research goal.

Step 2. In column 1 of this table, find the goal you selected.

Step 3. In column 2 of this table, find the types of records most likely to have the information you need; then read the sections in this outline about those types of records.

Step 4. Look in the Family History Library Catalog™ and choose a specific record to search.

Step 5. Look at the record.

Step 6. If you do not find the information you need, go to column 3 and search those record types.

Note: Records of previous research (Genealogy, Locality Search, History, Periodicals, and Societies) are useful for most goals, but they are not listed unless they are especially helpful.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>1. If You Need</th>
<th>2. Search These Record Types First</th>
<th>3. Search These Record Types Next</th>
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<tr>
<td>City or parish of foreign birth</td>
<td>Vital Records, Naturalization and Citizenship</td>
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<td>Death information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Divorce</td>
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<td>Living relatives</td>
<td>Genealogy, Directories, Obituaries</td>
<td>Census, Church Records, Probate Records</td>
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<td>Maiden name</td>
<td>Vital Records, Church Records, Bible Records</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marriage information</td>
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<td>Bible Records, Cemeteries, Probate Records, Land and Property</td>
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<td>----------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Naturalization</td>
<td>Naturalization and Citizenship, Census</td>
<td>Obituaries, Land and Property (sometimes in homestead records)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occupations</td>
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<td>Other family members</td>
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<td>Bible Records, Genealogy, Land and Property</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parents</td>
<td>Vital Records, Church Records, Census</td>
<td>Probate Records, Obituaries, Land and Property</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical description</td>
<td>Military Records, Biography, Emigration and Immigration</td>
<td>Naturalization and Citizenship (after Sept. 1906), Vital Records, Genealogy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place-finding aids</td>
<td>Gazetteers, Maps, Historical Geography</td>
<td>History, Periodicals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places of residence</td>
<td>Census, Land and Property, Genealogy</td>
<td>Military Records, Obituaries, Directories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of residence when you know only the state</td>
<td>Census (indexed), Genealogy, Military Records, Vital Records, and other records with a statewide index</td>
<td>Biography, Probate Records, History, Obituaries, Directories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous research</td>
<td>Genealogy, Periodicals, Societies</td>
<td>History, Biography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Record-finding aids</td>
<td>Archives and Libraries</td>
<td>Periodicals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>Church Records, Biography</td>
<td>Cemeteries, Obituaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social activities</td>
<td>History, Biography, Newspapers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES**

Archives and libraries often have maps, gazetteers, and other place-finding aids. They frequently have collections of previous research, such as family and local histories and biographies. Many have record-finding aids, such as guides to their own collections or inventories of records housed elsewhere in the state.

The following organizations have major collections or services for genealogical researchers:

**State Historical Society of Iowa**
(formerly known as Iowa Historical Society or Iowa State Department of History and Archives)
Library and Archives
600 East Locust
Des Moines, IA 50319
Telephone: 515-281-6412 or 515-281-3007
Fax: 515-282-0502
Internet address: [http://www.iowahistory.org/](http://www.iowahistory.org/)

The Archives Division of the State Historical Society of Iowa primarily collects manuscript records of the state, including government, land, and military records. They also have family histories in book and manuscript form.

**State Historical Society of Iowa Library**
Centennial Building
402 Iowa Avenue
Iowa City, IA 52240-1806
Telephone: 319-335-3916
Fax: 319-335-3935

The State Historical Society of Iowa Library has manuscript records as well as numerous published sources, censuses, and newspapers. A helpful guide to these sources:

Harris, Katherine, comp., *Guide to Manuscripts.*
(FHL book 977.7 A3i; computer number 174788.)

**National Archives–Central Plains Region (Kansas City)**
2312 East Bannister Road
Kansas City, MO 64131-3060
Telephone: 816-926-6920
Fax: 816-926-6982
Internet address: [www.archives.gov/central-plains/](http://www.archives.gov/central-plains/)

The National Archives branch in Kansas City has the records of regional federal offices for Iowa,
Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska, including the following:

- Federal naturalization records
- Bureau of Indian Affairs and other American Indian records
- Copies of federal census, military, and immigration records

Iowa Genealogical Society
6000 Douglas Ave.
P.O. Box 7735
Des Moines, IA 50322
Telephone: 515-276-0287
Internet address: www.iowagenealogy.org/

To find other archives and libraries with collections of Iowa records, look in the directories listed in the “Archives and Libraries” section of the United States Research Outline (30972), 2nd ed.

To learn more about the history and record-keeping systems of Iowa counties, use the 11 inventories of county archives published by the Historical Records Survey from 1938 to 1942. They are available for Carroll, Cherokee, Dallas, Dubuque, Ida, Jasper, Montgomery, Polk, Sac, Taylor, and Woodbury Counties. The Family History Library has all of these, except for Carroll and Sac counties. Check the “Author/Title Search” of the Family History Library Catalog under Historical Records Survey (Iowa).

A 1978 project by the Iowa State Historical Society created inventories for 13 additional counties. The Family History Library has copies of these inventories for Allamakee, Dubuque, Franklin, Iowa, Osceola, and Ringgold Counties.

Inventories of archive and library collections are found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES
IOWA, [COUNTY] - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems are important 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 to:

- 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 Iowa in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most information is available at no cost. Remember that addresses on the Internet change frequently. The following sites are important gateways that can link you to many more network and bulletin-board sites:

- FamilySearch® Internet Genealogical Service http://www.familysearch.org
  This Web site from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Family History Department is useful for learning of other organizations, researchers and projects related to genealogical research.

- Cyndi’s List http://www.cyndislist.com/ia.htm
  This Web site is one of the best places on the Internet for links to other Iowa genealogical sites and resources.

- USGenWeb http://usgenweb.org/
  This is a cooperative volunteer effort to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county and state in the United States.

  Roots-L is a useful list of sites and resources. It 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 “Archives and Libraries” section of the United States Research Outline.

FamilySearch

The Family History Library and some Family History Centers have computers with the FamilySearch program. Most of the FamilySearch records are also found on the Internet at www.familysearch.org. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing several million names and is a good place to begin your search. Some of the records come from original sources.
Computers with FamilySearch do not have access to on-line services, networks, or bulletin boards. Those services are available at many public libraries, college libraries, and on personal computers.

**BIBLE RECORDS**

Bibles were often given to a bride as a wedding gift, and families often recorded information in them about their immediate family and close relatives. Bible records may include birth, marriage, and death dates; parents’ names and names of children and their spouses, including maiden names. The age of a person may be given at the time of death. Many families kept Bible records from 1850 to more recent times; however, few records have survived. Some have been donated to local libraries or societies or you may need to contact descendants to locate the family Bible.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) have transcribed some Iowa Bible records. Some are included in:

- **Daughters of the American Revolution (Iowa). Bible Records. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1971. (FHL film 851218 item 6; computer number 280536.)**

- **Daughters of the American Revolution (Iowa). Genealogical Collection. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1971. (FHL films 850405-409, 851208-220, 850411-2; computer numbers 277655, 277811, and others.)** This collection, filmed at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., consists of probate (transcripts), obituary, Bible, cemetery, church, marriage, and death records. The collection is in several parts and is listed in the Family History Library Catalog in the “Author-Title Search” under Daughters of the American Revolution (Iowa). The volumes are generally arranged by county, and many have individual indexes. A surname index to the above collection is:

  - **Kirkham, E. Kay. An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States: 45,500 References as Taken from Microfilm at the Genealogical Society of Utah. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1984. (FHL book 973 D22kk v.2; fiche 6089184; computer number 298346.)** For records from Iowa, see part two, pages 51–65. This work is a partial surname index to the DAR Genealogical Collection mentioned on page 7.

The State Historical Society of Iowa (see address in “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline) has copies of the DAR Genealogical Collection in 85 volumes. The society also has a short reference guide that indicates which volumes contain information about specific counties. This guide is available at the Family History Library:

- **Some Iowa Vital Records. Des Moines: Iowa Historical Society Library, 1961. (FHL Book 977.7 A3h, fiche 6050306; computer number 242654.)**

Iowa. State Department of History and Archives. Iowa Family Bible Records, A–Z. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (FHL film 1023889 items 2–9; computer number 191581.) The original records are in Des Moines at the State Historical Society of Iowa, where they have a large collection of family Bible records.

Burgess, Jo Ann, and Rita Goranson, comps. Bible Records from Iowa Libraries and Museums. 5 vols. Iowa: N.p., 1977. (FHL book 977.7 D29b v. 1; film 1036785 item 3; computer number 79720.) These volumes contain transcripts of Bible records in genealogical periodicals and books. There is an index to volumes 1–3 in:


Many Bible records are published in periodicals. In the “Periodicals” section of this outline, see **PERiodical Source Index (PERSI).**

Other collections and transcriptions of Bible records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

**IOWA - BIBLE RECORDS**

**BIOGRAPHY**

Biographies provide useful genealogical information, such as an individual's birth date and place (including foreign birthplace, where applicable); names of family members; wife's maiden name; parents' names; occupation and education; and social, political, and religious affiliation. They may also contain a physical description, previous residences, and immigration information. Biographies are the product of family knowledge or previous research often compiled about the early settlers and prominent citizens of the state, county, or town. Many lesser-known individuals may have biographical sketches written about them, especially in local histories.

An index to over 44,000 early pioneers named in 120 Iowa county histories is:

- **Morford, Charles. Biographical Index to the County Histories of Iowa. Baltimore, Md.: Gateway**
A similar index with about 8,000 names is:

Foresman, Sherry. *Iowa Biography Index*. Menlo, Iowa: State of Iowa Lending and Research Library, 1986. (FHL book 977.7 D22; fiche 6125666; computer number 465444.)

The State Historical Society in Des Moines and the Family History Library have three important biography collections about Iowa residents:

Citizens Historical Association (Indianapolis, Indiana). *Biographical Sketches of Iowans*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1976. (FHL films 985407–409; computer number 313104.) These sketches are alphabetical and were compiled between 1938 and the 1940s.


Iowa. State Department of History and Archives. *Biography Files*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (FHL films 1023616 item 2 and 1023617–19; computer number 190898.) These files are alphabetized folders of newspaper clippings and correspondence.

Two representative biographical encyclopedias are:

*A Memorial and Biographical Record of Iowa*, 2 vols. Reprint of 1896 edition, Marceline, Mo.: Walsworth Publishing Co., 1978. (FHL book 977.7 D3m; film 1033791 items 2–3; fiche 6051365; computer number 71632; also film 934926 item 6; computer number 279337.)

Gue, Benjamin F., and Benjamin Franklin Shambaugh. *Biographies and Portraits of the Progressive Men of Iowa: Leaders in Business, Politics and the Professions, Together with an Original and Authentic History of the State*, 2 vols. Des Moines: Conaway and Shaw, 1899. (FHL book 977.7 D3b; film 934927 items 2–3; fiche 6051353; computer number 241525.)

The following gazetteer contains biographical information:

Hair, James T. *Iowa State Gazetteer*. (Cited fully in the “Gazetteers” section of this outline.)

See also the “Genealogy” and “History” sections of the *United States Research Outline* for helpful nationwide indexes such as:

- *Family Finder Index.*
- *Old Surname File.*
- *Biography and Genealogy Master Index* (for prominent persons).

The Family History Library has many biographical publications and histories with biographical information. They are generally listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - BIOGRAPHY
IOWA, [COUNTY] - BIOGRAPHY
IOWA, [COUNTY] - HISTORY

**CEMETERIES**

Cemetery tombstones, or sexton’s records, may give birth and death dates, age at death, name of spouse, names of children, and maiden names. Less often, they contain birth places. Tombstones may have symbols or insignias indicating military service and social or religious affiliations. Also, family members may be buried in the same plot or nearby.

There are several major collections of Iowa cemetery records created by various organizations that transcribed tombstones and sexton’s records. Search each collection because no collection includes all the cemeteries, although there is some duplication. Some of the collections include the following:

Iowa. State Department of History and Archives. *Iowa Cemetery and Grave Registration Project of the W.P.A. and D.A.R.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (On 21 FHL films beginning with 1022211; computer number 190894.) This is the most comprehensive cemetery collection for Iowa. The records are listed by county and then alphabetically by the names of persons buried in that county.

Iowa. State Department of History and Archives. *Iowa Cemeteries*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (FHL films 1023603 items 6–13 to 1023609 items 1–10; computer number 190895.) These records were filmed at Des Moines, Iowa. The cemeteries are listed by county, starting with Adair County. The records give location, history, and a physical description of most cemeteries. Headstones are listed by rows.
Daughters of the American Revolution (Iowa). *Iowa Genealogical Data*, vols. 1–24, 41–62. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1971. (On 10 FHL films beginning with 851208 item 8; computer number 277811.) The DAR Library in Washington, D.C., contains Iowa volumes 1–24, 41–62. (For volumes 33–34, 36–39, see the collection below.) Most volumes are indexed. The State Historical Society of Iowa (see the address in "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline) has a collection of 85 DAR volumes. There is also a short guide indicating which volumes contain information about specific counties. (See the “Bible Records” section of this outline for the library call number of the guide.)


For Iowa soldiers who died in other states, see:


A project to locate all cemeteries in Iowa is published in:

*Iowa Cemetery Locations: Regions 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 1, 2, and 5*. 8 vols. Des Moines, Iowa: Iowa Genealogical Society, 1990. (FHL book 977.7 V3i; computer number 463801.) Each volume of this series covers one region and includes county maps showing cemetery locations. Many of the cemetery records listed have been published by the Iowa Genealogical Society and are available at the Family History Library.

Many cemetery records are published in periodicals. See the “Periodicals” section of this outline for indexes to major periodicals.

The Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog lists more of these records under:

IOWA - CEMETERIES
IOWA, [COUNTY] - CEMETERIES
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - CEMETERIES

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**CENSUS**

Census records from 1850 on can show names of each member of the household, his or her age, state or country of birth, occupation and race. Censuses can also give clues about marital status, marriage dates, death dates, immigration and naturalization information, migration patterns, previous residence, adoptions, and divorces. (See the *United States Research Outline* for more details.) Censuses for 1840 and earlier list only heads of families.

Most families were listed when a census taker made his visits, making these records rich in clues. Other persons in the county with the same surname may be related to each other. Statewide indexes can also help to locate families when only the state where they lived is known.

**Federal Censuses**

Federal censuses for the state of Iowa begin with 1850 and were taken every ten years through 1990. See the *United States Research Outline* for more information about nationwide census records and indexes.

Many federal census records are at the following archives:

- State Historical Society (in Des Moines and Iowa City)
- The Family History Library (Iowa censuses from 1850 to 1920)
- The National Archives
- Other federal and state archives

The 1890 census schedules for Iowa and most other states were destroyed in a fire on 21 January 1921 at the Commerce Department in Washington, D.C.

The 1850, 1860, and 1870 federal censuses have statewide, head-of-household indexes (in books). These were compiled by various organizations. If an ancestor does not appear in one index, check another for the same year as the handwriting may not have been deciphered correctly.

The 1880 (partial), 1900, and 1920 censuses have Soundex (phonetic) indexes on microfilm.

The 1910 census does not have a Soundex index for Iowa; however, if you know the town or city where your ancestor lived, you can find the appropriate county, enumeration district number, and Family History Library film number by looking in the following source:
Mortality Schedules, 1850–1880

The 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses have mortality schedules. These schedules list the names of persons who died during the year preceding the census. Mortality schedules contain information on a person’s age, state or country of birth, month of death, cause of death, number of days ill, race, occupation, and for 1880, parents’ birthplaces.

The State Historical Society in Des Moines and Iowa City and the Family History Library have copies of the mortality schedules.

1850 (FHL film 1421006; computer number 451131)
1860 (FHL film 1421007; computer number 288910)
1870 (FHL films 1421008-10; computer number 451141)
1880 (FHL films 1421011-14; computer number 451143)

Like the census, these records are arranged by county and then by town. The 1850 census mortality schedule has been indexed in:


Territorial Censuses

Territorial census enumerations were taken for the following years (although in most cases only records of a few counties have survived):

- Wisconsin Territory: 1836 and 1838
- Iowa Territory: 1840, 1844, and 1846

The above censuses give the name of the head of household and the county of residence.

The 1840 territorial census also provides the name of the head of household and the number of males and females with age indications: under 5, 5–10, 10–15, 15–20, 20–30, and ten-year increments to 100 plus.

Indexes to the territorial censuses for 1836, 1838, 1840, and 1841–1846 are available in book form at the Family History Library.

State Censuses

State censuses were taken from 1846 to 1925 and give the following information:

- The state censuses taken through 1854 list: heads of households, and the number of males and females by age groups.
- The 1854 census also indicates race, citizenship, militia status and whether the person is registered to vote.

State censuses were taken in the following years:

- 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844 (Keokuk County)
- 1846 (Louisa, Polk, and Wapello Counties)
- 1847, 1849, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854
- 1856 (statewide, by county)
- 1881 (Mason City, Cerro Gordo County)
- 1882 (town of Keokuk, Lee County)
- 1885 (statewide)
- 1888 (town of Algona, Kossuth County)
- 1889 (town of Cherokee, Cherokee County)
- 1891 (town of Emmetsburg, Palo Alto County, town of Spencer, Clay County, town of Villisca, Montgomery County)
- 1892 (town of Carroll, Carroll County, town of Eagle Grove, Wright County, town of Estherville, Emmett County, town of Greene, Jefferson County, and town of Tama, Tama County)
- 1893 (town of Mystic, Appanoose County, town of Hampton, Franklin County, town of Ames, Story County, town of Bloomfield, Davis County, town of Nevada, Story County, and town of West Union, Fayette County)
- 1895 (statewide)
- 1905 (statewide)
- 1915 (statewide, alphabetical by county)
- 1925 (statewide)
The following indexes are available for 1841 to 1859:


For 1856 a census substitute for many cities in Iowa is:

Sopp, Elsie L. *Personal Name Index to the 1856 City Directories of Iowa*. Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Co., 1980. (FHL book 977.7 D42s; computer number 57070.)

The 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, and 1925 Iowa census records list each person in the household and give the following information:

1856 - Name, sex, age, birthplace, marital status, length of residence, race, citizenship, native or naturalized voter, occupation, militia status, years of residence in Iowa, land ownership, disability, economic status, and agriculture or manufacturing information.

1885 - Name, address, age, race, marital status, occupation, state or country of birth, county of birth (if born in Iowa), native or foreign parentage, military service eligibility and whether they are registered to vote. If the person is an alien, it also lists whether he or she has applied for citizenship.

1895 - Name, age, race, marital status, state or country of birth, occupation, religious affiliation, military service eligibility, whether they are registered to vote, citizenship status, births and deaths in 1894, and Civil War service (and unit).

1905 - There is a card for each person, and the cards are arranged by county. They contain: name, city, ward, post office address, sex, race, age, state or country of birth, parents’ state or country of birth, home or farm ownership, estimated property value, mortgage debt, citizenship status, years of residence in the United States and in Iowa, marital status, occupation, and military service (war and unit, with dates of enlistment and discharge). Note: some of the cards are difficult to read.

1915 - Name, age, race, marital status, citizenship status, years in the United States and in Iowa, occupation, education, state or country of birth, home or farm ownership, military service (war and unit), religious affiliation, and parents’ state or country of birth.

1925 - Name, relationship to head of family, race, age, marital status, home ownership or rental information, citizenship status, years in the United States and in Iowa, education, state or country of birth, father’s name, state or country of birth and age, mother’s full maiden name, state or country of birth and age, and parents’ place of marriage.

For the 1925 census, there is an index for the following cities: Boone, Cedar Falls, Centerville, Cedar Rapids, Clinton, Council Bluffs, Dubuque, Ottumwa, Sioux City, Waterloo, Davenport, and Des Moines. Under each city, residents are listed alphabetically. You can find this information in:

1925 *Iowa State Census Index*. [Des Moines]: State of Iowa, Department of General Services, Records Management Division, Micrographics Section, 1980. (On 29 FHL films beginning with 1430705; computer number 436267.)

Iowa state censuses are available at:

- The State Historical Society in Des Moines and the [Family History Library](https://www.familysearch.org) (Iowa censuses through 1925).

- The State Historical Society of Iowa in Iowa City (all Iowa censuses except 1905).

For further information about state censuses of Iowa, see:


Census schedules and their indexes are listed in the Locality Search of the [Family History Library Catalog](https://www.familysearch.org) under:

- IOWA - CENSUS
- IOWA - CENSUS - [YEAR]
- IOWA - CENSUS - [YEAR] - INDEXES
- IOWA, [COUNTY] - CENSUS - [YEAR]
- IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - CENSUS - [YEAR]
CHURCH RECORDS

Church records have been kept in Iowa since the 1830s. Information from church records varies greatly, depending upon the denomination and the record keeper. Records may contain such information about members of the congregation as age, dates of baptism, christening, or birth, marriage information, wife’s maiden name, and death dates. Records may include names of other relatives who were witnesses at church events or members of the congregation. The members of some churches were predominately of one nationality or ethnic group. Knowing this may help you find the foreign town from which your ancestors immigrated.

Early churches in Iowa included the following:

- Before 1900 the largest religious groups were the Roman Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Lutheran churches.
- The Society of Friends (Quakers) and other small groups were also early settlers.

The Family History Library has:

- Records of churches, including Catholic, Presbyterian and the Society of Friends (see the Family History Library Catalog).
- Histories of denominations in Iowa, including Mennonite, Congregational, Quaker, Catholic, Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and Methodist-Episcopal.

A useful list of books and articles about the various religious groups of Iowa is found on pages 116–125 in:

Petersen, William J. Iowa History Reference Guide.
(Cited fully in the “For Further Reading” section of this outline.)

Many denominations have collected and stored their records in central repositories. You can write to the following addresses to learn where their records are located:

**Baptist**

North American Baptist Conference
1 South 210 Summit Ave.
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181
Telephone: 630-495-2000
Fax: 630-495-0333

**Lutheran**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Wartburg Theological Seminary
333 Wartburg Place
Dubuque, IA 52001
Telephone: 319-589-0200
Fax: 319-589-0333

The Wartburg Theological Seminary has Lutheran records from Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, and upper Michigan. Many of the records in this repository can be borrowed for a small fee. For a list of some of the records, see:

ALC Archives, ALC Congregations on Microfilm.
Dubuque, Iowa: The Archives, [197-?]. (FHL fiche 6330690–93; computer number 170040.) The list is alphabetical by state and then by city. Fiche 6330690 has records from Iowa.


**Methodist**

Iowa Wesleyan College Library
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641
Telephone: 319-385-6317
Fax: 319-385-6324
Internet address: [http://chadwick.iwc.edu/](http://chadwick.iwc.edu/)

You can find two of the library’s collections in:

Iowa Churches: A File at the Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975. (FHL films 956387–417; computer number 311771.) This file consists of church histories, anniversary programs, and newspaper clippings. It is arranged by towns or by the name of the church.


**Presbyterian**

The Presbyterian Historical Society
425 Lombard Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147
Telephone: 215-627-1852
Fax: 215-627-0509
Many of the biographies and church records of this society have been microfilmed. The society and the Family History Library are continuing to collect Iowa Presbyterian church records.

The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
World Headquarters
P. O. Box 1059
Independence, MO 64051
Telephone: 816-833-1000
Fax: 816-521-3089
Internet address: www.cofchrist.org/

Records of most Iowa congregations of this church have been microfilmed and are available at the Family History Library.

Roman Catholic

Diocese of Davenport
2706 N. Gaines St.
Davenport, IA 52804
Telephone: 319-324-1911
Fax: 319-324-5842

Diocese of Sioux City
1821 Jackson Street
Sioux City, IA 51105
Telephone: 712-255-7933
Fax: 712-233-7598

Diocese of Des Moines
610 Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Telephone: 515-243-7653
Fax: 515-237-5070

Society of Friends

Friends Historical Library
Swarthmore College
500 College Ave.
Swarthmore, PA 19081
Telephone: 610-328-8496
Fax: 610-328-7329
Internet address: http://www.swarthmore.edu

Magill Library
Haverford College
Haverford, PA 19041-1392
Telephone: 610-896-1161
Fax: 610-896-1102
Internet address: http://www.haverford.edu

Two collections of the Iowa Society of Friends records are:

Hinshaw, William Wade. *Index to Iowa Quaker Meeting Records*. 11 vols. N.p., 19--? (FHL book 977.7 K28h; films 924025–27; fiche 6051154; computer number 242150.)

Hinshaw, William Wade. The *William Wade Hinshaw Index to Quaker Meeting Records in the Friends Library in Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1957. (FHL films 002146–213, and 175409–13; computer number 98325.) Film 002148 has an index to surnames and indicates in which monthly meetings those surnames are found. These microfilms contain records of many Iowa monthly meetings.

The Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog lists church records under:

IOWA - CHURCH RECORDS
IOWA, [COUNTY] - CHURCH RECORDS
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - CHURCH RECORDS

COURT RECORDS

Iowa court records have been kept since 1827. The names of many Iowa residents are listed in civil court records, where information exists about property disputes, divorce, estate settlements and other disputes. These courts also handled criminal matters. Court order books and case files may list a person's age, residence, occupation, and family relationships. Sometimes friends and neighbors gave depositions as witnesses of events that occurred.

Major Iowa courts that kept records of genealogical value were:

**County courts, 1851–1868.** These county-wide courts had jurisdiction over lesser civil and criminal matters, such as probates, marriage licenses, and liquor permits. In 1868 the circuit court took over the duties from the county court. Many of these records are on microfilm at the Family History Library.

**Circuit courts, 1868–1887.** These county-wide courts had jurisdiction over juvenile, criminal, and civil cases. From about 1869 to 1887 this court handled probate cases. Circuit courts were abolished in 1887 and their jurisdiction was given to district courts. Many circuit court records are on microfilm at the Family History Library.

**District courts, 1836–present.** These courts have district-wide jurisdiction over probate, criminal, and civil cases. The records include chancery, trespass, debt, and assault cases. Many district court records are on microfilm at the Family History Library.
Municipal courts, primarily 1900s. These courts have city–wide jurisdiction, concurrent with district courts, over misdemeanors and minor civil matters. The Family History Library does not have these records.

Justice of the peace courts, 1839-present. These courts have district–wide jurisdiction over minor misdemeanors, search warrants, and town or city ordinance violations. Some of these records are on microfilm at the Family History Library.

Supreme Court, 1838-present. This is Iowa’s highest court, and is also a court of appeals. The Family History Library does not have these records.

You can also obtain copies of court records by contacting the appropriate clerk’s office.

To learn more about courts and their records, study one of the Historical Records Survey county courthouse inventories, such as:

**Inventory of the County Archives of Iowa, No. 18, Cherokee County (Cherokee).** Des Moines: Historical Records Survey, 1939. (FHL book 977.717 A3h; film 897358 item 2; computer number 243141.)

Court records can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

- IOWA - COURT RECORDS
- IOWA, [COUNTY] - COURT RECORDS

**DIRECTORIES**

City and county directories are similar to present-day telephone books and are useful for locating people. They were often published annually, listing heads of households and employed household members, their occupations, and addresses. They can be together used with census records or as substitutes for them.

Directories are particularly helpful for research in large cities, where a high percentage of the people were renters, new arrivals, or temporary residents. In fact, they may be the only source that lists an ancestor if he or she was not registered to vote, did not attend church, or did not own property. Most households were included because the directories were created for salesmen, merchants, and others interested in contacting the residents of an area. Directories are also useful tools for studying occupations and migration patterns.

Directories of heads of households have been published for major cities in Iowa. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of Des Moines directories for:

- 1866–1935. (On FHL films beginning with 1376808; computer number 657186.)

Some statewide directories, such as the following, list names:

**Farmers of Iowa: A List of Farmers of Each County with Postoffice, N.p., 1892.** (FHL film 1024846 item 4; computer number 352430.)

**Hair, James T. Iowa State Gazetteer.** (Cited fully in the “Gazetteers” section of this outline.)

Seven metropolitan Iowa areas have published name directories for 1856. An index to them is:

**Sopp, Elsie L. Personal Name Index to the 1856 City Directories of Iowa.** Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1980. (FHL book 977.7 D42s; computer number 57070.)

Directories are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

- IOWA - DIRECTORIES
- IOWA, [COUNTY] - DIRECTORIES
- IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - DIRECTORIES

**DIVORCE RECORDS**

Divorce records have been kept since about 1834, when the first Iowa county was formed. They may provide: a person’s age, the divorce date, maiden name of wife, marriage date and place, occupation, childrens’ names, names of other family members, and places the family lived. Early divorce proceedings are in the district court of each county, and beginning in 1906, transcribed copies of divorce records were sent to the state.

The Family History Library has copies of the following divorce records:

- Prior to 1906 (a few counties)
- 1906–mid 1900s (many counties)

In the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog, divorce records are listed under:

- IOWA, [COUNTY] - DIVORCE RECORDS
Iowa has no ports; consequently, many Iowa residents immigrated through ports in New York, New Orleans, or Canada. Passenger lists since 1820 may contain a person’s age, the state or country of birth, immigration date, occupation, names of children. After 29 July 1906, the passenger lists also contain a physical description.

The principal groups that came to Iowa from the early 1800s to the early 1900s were:

- 1788-1810. The first European settlers in Iowa were French-Canadians, who worked in the lead mines near present-day Dubuque.


- 1850–60. The population of Iowa nearly tripled. Ohio and Indiana contributed more settlers than all other states and immigration from Europe increased. Among the many German immigrants were the Amana colonists, who settled in Iowa in 1855 after having first lived near Buffalo, New York. Many immigrants arrived from Britain and Ireland.

- Late 1800s. Many Scandinavians immigrated.

- Early 1900s. Small groups of Austro-Hungarians and Italians arrived.

**Routes to Iowa**

Many early settlers of Iowa came by way of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. The main steamboat route from the Middle Atlantic states and the Southern states followed the Ohio River and the Mississippi River to Keokuk.

The westward migration of Latter-day Saints opened an overland trail from the Mississippi River to Council Bluffs which was still used by covered wagons long after the railroad first reached the Mississippi in 1854.

Until 1850 most overseas immigrants came through the ports of New Orleans or New York. After 1850 most European settlers came through ports in New York or Canada.
Nationwide Indexes

You can find information about people of Iowa in important nationwide genealogical indexes listed in the “Introduction,” “Census,” “Genealogy,” and “Periodicals” sections of the United States Research Outline.

Statewide Collections and Indexes

See the “Biography” and “History” sections of this outline for important sources containing biographical and genealogical information. For example, the State Historical Society in Des Moines has over 8,000 family genealogies.

The Family History Library also has excellent statewide collections, including the following:

**The Iowa Genealogical Society Surname Index**, 5 vols. Des Moines: Iowa Genealogical Society, 1973–90. (FHL book 977.7 D2I; computer number 189225.) These indexes sometimes have names of ancestors back to the 1600s. They list genealogical information for more than 100,000 ancestors of members of the Iowa Genealogical Society.

Iowa Genealogical Society (Des Moines, Iowa). *Surname Collection.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1987. (On 31 FHL films beginning with 1487493; computer number 537711.) This index of 3” x 5” cards gives information about ancestors of Iowa Genealogical Society members, sometimes back to the 1600s.

**Surname Index, 1500–1991.** Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1991. (On eight FHL films beginning with 1766048; computer number 651881.) The Iowa Genealogical Society has this collection. These cards are similar to the ones in the collection mentioned above.

Iowa Genealogical Society (Des Moines, Iowa). *Pioneer Certificates, 1800s–1991.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1987. (On 14 FHL films beginning with 1508882; computer number 537709.) This collection includes pedigree charts, family group forms, wills, marriage records, family histories, and land records. The information is arranged alphabetically.

Daughters of the American Revolution (Iowa). *Genealogical Collection.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1971. For information about this extensive collection, including film numbers and a partial index to it, see the “Bible Records” section of this outline.

Daughters of the American Revolution (Iowa). *Iowa Pioneer Families.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1971. (FHL films 851218 items 3–5, 7–9 and 851219 items 1–2; computer number 280450.) This publication contains eight volumes prepared in the 1940s and 1950s.

Iowa. State Department of History and Archives. *Family Record Collection.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (On six FHL films 1023611 item 11, through 1023616; computer number 388668.) This alphabetical collection contains extensive genealogies, pedigrees, and family histories.

Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. *Century Farm Applications.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (FHL films 1023895–902; computer number 190888.) This work contains applications from the owners of farms whose property had remained within the family for 100 years or longer. These records are arranged by county and then alphabetically by the name of the applicant. The names of previous owners, their relationship to the present owner, and a history of the family now owning the farm are usually given. The original documents are at the State Historical Society in Des Moines.

Iowa. State Department of History and Archives. *Fifty Year Iowa Farm Families.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (FHL film 1023893–94; computer number 190885.) This work contains lists of owners of farms whose property had remained within the family for 50 years or longer. These records are arranged by county and list the name of the owner, the city or town where the farm was located and the year of purchase.

State Historical Society (Iowa City, Iowa). *Essay Contest, 1923.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1976. (FHL films 986175–82; computer number 388557.) This is a collection of essays by high school students about their grandparents, old settlers, or their community. It includes an index to ancestors and an index by town and county. (FHL film 986175.)

Gilman, Aloys. *Unpublished Genealogies in the Iowa Historical Library: Manuscript, Typed or Carbon Copies.* N.p., 19--. (FHL book 9777 A3ga; fiche 60466633; computer number 241523.) This book was prepared in 1968 and is a list of genealogies. It gives the surname of the family, the name of the compiler, the date compiled and the number of pages.

**Charts and Genealogies of Pioneer Families of Iowa.** Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975. (FHL 908960 item 4; computer number 241030.) These records are in alphabetical order and were compiled by Mrs. F. A. Gordon. They contain genealogies from the mid 1700s to 1939.
Genealogy sources are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - GENEALOGY
IOWA, [COUNTY] - GENEALOGY
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - GENEALOGY

HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY

Historical geography books can help you learn about Iowa territorial, state, and county boundaries.

One source that shows changes in Iowa state boundaries is:

Shambaugh, Benjamin Franklin. *Maps Illustrative of the Boundary History of Iowa*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah. 1976. (FHL film 989450 item 3; computer number 227699.) This book has several maps showing state boundaries but does not have maps showing county boundaries.

A valuable bibliography concerning early settlements and territorial jurisdictions is:

Petersen, William John. *Iowa History Reference Guide*. (Cited fully in the “For Further Reading” section of this outline.)

To learn when a particular county was organized and from which county it was created, you may wish to consult:

*Ancestry’s Red Book: American State, County and Town Sources.* (Cited fully in the “For Further Reading” section of this outline.)

For historical geography books, look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY

HISTORY

Local history books for Iowa’s counties, cities, and towns contain biographical and historical information. Some have information on families back to the 1600s. The information about individuals may include age, birth date, birthplace, county origins and boundaries, death information, divorce, ethnicity, historical background, immigration date, names of living relatives, wife’s maiden name, marriage information, naturalization information, occupation, parents’ names, children’s names, names of other family members, place of previous residence, religion, and information about social activities.

The following important events in the history of Iowa affected political jurisdictions, record-keeping, and family movements.

1673 French explorers, Jolliet and Marquette, were in the region of Iowa.

1762 The land was ceded to Spain.

1788 The first white settlement (for lead mining) was established in Iowa, but it was abandoned in 1810.

1800 The land was returned to France.

1803 The United States acquired the area from France as part of the Louisiana Purchase.

1803–32 The Iowa area remained Indian land and was not open to legal settlement.

1808 Fort Madison was built by the United States Army. Iowa’s area was included in the Illinois Territory in 1808 and in the Missouri Territory in 1812 through 1821. It was not under any territorial government from 1821 to 1834.

1831 The Sauk and Fox Indian tribes moved to Iowa from Illinois.

1832 The Black Hawk War took place.

1833 The first permanent white settlements were made in eastern Iowa. Between 1833 and 1851 a series of treaties extinguished Indian claims to the land.

1834 Congress attached the area to the Michigan Territory.

1836 Iowa was transferred to the Wisconsin Territory.

1838 The Iowa Territory was established. It included all of present-day Iowa, Minnesota, and parts of North and South Dakota.

1846 Iowa, with its present boundaries, became a state.

1850–60 The population of Iowa nearly tripled as immigrants poured in from the older midwestern states and Europe.

1861–65 Over 75,000 Iowans served in the Union armed forces during the Civil War.

1867 The first railroad was built from the Mississippi River to Council Bluffs.

1873 Iowa, known as the Hawkeye State and the Corn

1893–1930s State, experienced financial depressions.
An especially helpful history of Iowa is:

Gue, Benjamin F. *History of Iowa from the Earliest Times to the Beginning of the Twentieth Century*. 4 vols. New York: Century History Co., 1903. (FHL book 977.7 H2g; film 1036164 items 1–4; computer number 241545.)

An important bibliography that mentions books and articles about every major aspect of Iowa’s history is:

Petersen, William John. *Iowa History Reference Guide*. (Cited fully in the “For Further Reading” section of this outline.)

A bibliography of Iowa county histories is at the beginning of the following book:

Morford, Charles. *Biographical Index to the County Histories of Iowa*. Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1979. (FHL book 977.7 D32m; computer number 14288.)

There is an unusual set of records dealing with Iowa’s history from 1827 to 1857:

United States. Department of State. *Territorial Papers of Iowa, 1838–1852*. Washington, D. C.; The National Archives, 1988. (FHL films 1601629–730; computer number 467370.) Many aspects of Iowa’s state, local, and family histories are treated in these records. For example: military pension applications, military academy cadet applications, court records (1827-1845), land office records, Virginia warrant scrip, muster rolls giving enlistment town or city (1837-1857), military post records listing sick, wounded, and dead, Bureau of Indian Affairs records, Indian treaties, commissions for judges, marshals, attorneys, surveyors, and postmasters.

For two helpful bibliographies about Iowa historical topics, see the books by William Petersen and Patricia Dawson and David Hudson mentioned in the “For Further Reading” section of this outline.

To find Iowa local histories, see the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

- IOWA - HISTORY
- IOWA, [COUNTY] - HISTORY
- IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - HISTORY

**LAND AND PROPERTY**

In the 1700s and early 1800s, the area that is now Iowa was under the control of France, then Spain, and again France. Many of the private land claims for that period have been published in the *American State Papers*. (See the references near the end of this section.) In 1834 the area that is now Iowa was attached to the Michigan Territory, and in 1836 it was transferred to the Wisconsin Territory. The Iowa Territory was established in 1838. It included all of present-day Iowa, Minnesota, and parts of North and South Dakota. In 1846 Iowa, with its present boundaries, became a state.

Land records may supply the names and occupations of the seller and buyer, a description of the piece of land, the cost, witnesses’ names, date of signing and recording, and names of persons who may be relatives. In homestead records, you may also find naturalization information. Other information may include:

- A deed often took the place of a will. A parent may have sold land to the children or to brothers or sisters. Brothers and sisters may all have signed a deed giving up their claim to property received from their parents.
- Deeds of sale often give the first name of the wife.
- The first deed in a new place may mention the previous county and town of residence.
- If a person has moved, the deed for their previous property may tell the new county of residence.
- Deeds often give the names of adjacent property owners, who might be family members.
- Land was often given to soldiers or their widows for military service.

**Land Office Records**

Iowa land office records began in 1838, when Iowa became a territory and land offices were established. Iowa was a public domain state in which land was surveyed and distributed to private owners through land offices. The federal government granted land through cash sales (entries), homesteads, and military bounty land warrants.

The private land claim records of Iowa (originally part of the Louisiana Purchase) are at the National Archives. Time periods and genealogical information vary. (For more information, refer to the heading Early Private Land Claims, 1700s–1837 later in this section.)

Abstracts of lands that were registered or sold at land offices from the late 1840s to 1859 are found in:

Iowa. Land Department. *Abstract of Lands in Iowa Counties which were Entered or Sold at the Land Offices*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (FHL films 1023903–907; computer number 191586.) The original records are at the...
State Historical Society in Des Moines. These abstracts give the township, range, section, part of section, number of acres and name of purchaser. They also sometimes give the date and county of residence. These abstracts are listed by county. There is no index on these films. (See the United States Research Outline for more information on federal land records.)

Homestead Grants

Many Iowa residents applied for homestead grants from 1862 to about 1910. Homestead records may contain a person’s age, the previous place of residence, description of the land and cost. If the person was born abroad, the records may also contain a copy of naturalization proceedings and possibly a copy of a Union veteran’s military discharge papers. The records may also mention the places the family has lived. See the United States Research Outline to learn how to obtain copies of these records.

The Family History Library has a card file on microfilm that indexes many pre-1098 land patents issued in Iowa:


The Bureau of Land Management is also preparing a compact disc which indexes pre-1908 land patents for Iowa.

Iowa. Land Department. Tract Books of Iowa Land Districts, 1838 to 1910. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1977. (FHL films 1011597–641; computer number 190065.) These records list the name of the purchaser, the date of purchase, the name of the person who patented the land, the patent date, and the number of acres. To use these records, you need to know the township, range and section where your ancestor’s land was located. This information can be found in deed records or land ownership maps. (For more information, see the “Maps” section of this outline.)

Other Iowa Land Records

The Secretary of State’s office in Des Moines has the following records, which are available on microfilm at the Family History Library:

Iowa. Land Department. Des Moines River Lands, 1847 to 1904. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1977. (FHL films 1011643 item 3–1011661; computer number 190060.)

Iowa. Land Department. Swamp Land Records, 1859 to 1921. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1977. (FHL films 1011642 and 1011664; computer number 190064.)

Iowa. Land Department. School Land Grants, 1849 to 1917. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1977. (FHL films 1012735 items 2-3, 1011643 item 4, 1011644 items 1–2, 1011645 items 2-3, 1011646-56, 1011662-3; computer number 191587.)


For further information about Iowa land records, the following publications are helpful:

Lokken, Roscoe L. Iowa: Public Land Disposal. Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1942. (FHL book 977.7 R2L; film 1036183 item 2; computer number 242148.)


For information about Virginia warrant scrip from 1831 to 1842, see the “History” section of this outline for the Territorial Papers of Iowa, 1838–1852.

County Records

After land was transferred from the government to private individuals, subsequent land transactions were usually recorded by the county recorder. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of many counties’ deeds and indexes, some homestead and mortgage records, and a few original entries. For example, from Polk County, the library has 112 microfilms of deeds and mortgages, dating from 1846 to 1910.

There is a valuable biographical collection about farm owners in Iowa whose farms remained within a family for 100 years or more:

Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, Century Farm Applications. (Cited fully in the “Genealogy” section of this outline.)

Early Private Land Claims, 1700s–1837

If your ancestor lived in the area that is now Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, or Louisiana before 1837, you might find land claims in the following volumes:
United States. Congress. *American State Papers: Documents, Legislative and Executive of the Congress of the United States*. La Crosse, Wis.: Brookhaven Press, 1959. 38 vols. (On 29 FHL films beginning with 1631827; classes 8 and 9 are also on films 899878–85; computer number 277508.) Volumes for classes 8 and 9 deal with public lands and claims for 1789 to 1837 and may name siblings or heirs of original claimants. Classes 8 and 9 have been republished in:

United States. Congress. *American State Papers, Class 8: Public Lands; Class 9: Claims: Documents, Legislative and Executive, of the Congress of the United States*. (FHL book 973R2ag 1994; computer number 617316.)

This source and its accompanying index are cited fully in the “Land and Property” section of the *United States Research Outline*.

**Territorial Papers of Iowa, 1838–1852**

For information about the *Territorial Papers of Iowa, 1838-1852*, see the end of the “History” section in this outline.

For more land records, see the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

- IOWA - LAND AND PROPERTY
- IOWA, [COUNTY] - LAND AND PROPERTY

**MAPS**

Several types of maps are useful for genealogists. Some give historical background of the area or show migration routes, such as roads, rivers, and railroads. Topographical maps show physical and man-made features, such as creeks, hills, roads, cemeteries, and churches. Plat and land ownership maps and other types of maps are described in the “Maps” section of the *United States Research Outline*. Many maps are in published atlases. In the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog, atlases are listed under “Maps.”

**Land Ownership and Plat Maps**

Land ownership maps exist for certain Iowa counties from 1858 to 1900. These maps provide the name of the landowner and the names of the owners of adjacent land. There are 35 Iowa land ownership maps published from 1858 to 1900 on microfiche at the Family History Library in:

Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division. *Land Ownership Maps*. (FHL fiche 6079414-48 (Iowa); computer number 469740.) See the “Maps” section in the *United States Research Outline* for publication information.

**County Atlases**

Atlases for most Iowa counties begin about 1870 and may contain some biographical information about families in that county. Sometimes they include pictures of individuals and their homes and farms. Atlases and maps are both listed in the Family History Library Catalog under “Maps.”

A few maps of early Mormon and other pioneer trails are available at the Family History Library.

The following statewide collections of maps may be helpful to you:

Andreas, A. T. *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa, 1875*. Chicago: Lakeside Press, 1875. (FHL film 966235 item 2 or film 980875 item 1; computer number 272841.)

*Atlas of the State of Iowa*. N.p.: Huebinger, 1904. (FHL film 966236; computer number 312239.)

*Maps Taken from County Histories, etc. and Filed Separately at the Iowa State Historical Society*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1976. (FHL film 989450 item 8; computer number 227705.)

A valuable finding aid for Iowa maps is:


Also, the University of Iowa and Iowa State University have extensive map collections for the state.

Iowa maps and atlases are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

- IOWA - MAPS
- IOWA, [COUNTY] - MAPS
- IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - MAPS

**MILITARY RECORDS**

The *U. S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) by the Family History Library provides information on federal military records. Many federal records also include information about soldiers and sailors from Iowa and should be used with the records listed in this section.

Iowa military records began about 1808, when Fort Madison was established. Military service records, such as enlistments, muster rolls, and discharges, may include a person’s age, birth date, birthplace,
physical description, previous residence, and occupation.

The following book contains an extensive list of books and articles on pages 36–38 about the early forts and military expeditions in Iowa:

Petersen, William John. *Iowa History Reference Guide*. (Cited fully in the “For Further Reading” section of this outline.)

**Revolutionary War, 1775–1783**

The following book contains information about Revolutionary War soldiers and their families:

*Revolutionary War Soldiers and Patriots Buried in Iowa*. Marceline, Mo.: Walsworth, 1978. (FHL book 977.7 D3d; computer number 242657.) This book was compiled by the Abigail Adams Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Des Moines, Iowa. It contains birth, marriage, and death information about soldiers, their parents, children, and grandchildren. About 42 veterans are listed.

**War of 1812, 1812–1815**

Iowa was not settled until after the War of 1812, but many men who fought in that war settled in Iowa. See the *U. S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) for national indexes and records.

For a listing of 31 veterans of the War of 1812 who lived in Iowa in 1886, see pages 733–734 in the following book:


**Early Records Beginning with 1837**

For the earliest Iowa military records, beginning about 1837 with muster rolls and military post records, see the *Territorial Papers of Iowa, 1838–1852*, which is mentioned in the “History” section of this outline.

**Mexican War, 1846–1848**

The book mentioned above, *List of Ex-Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, Living in Iowa*, pages 734–751, lists 34 men from Iowa who served in the War with Mexico and who were living in Iowa in 1886. Hundreds of men from other states who served in the war are also listed by the state from which they served. In addition, each man’s name, rank, regiment, company, and post office address are listed.

A roster of Iowa troops in the War with Mexico (including the Mormon Battalion), Indian campaigns, Civil War, Spanish-American War, and the Philippine War are found in:

Iowa, Adjutant General’s Office. *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*. (Cited fully in the “Civil War” section of this outline.)

**Additional Mormon Battalion sources include:**

United States. Record and Pension Office. *Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served during the Mexican War in Mormon Organizations*. National Archives Microfilm Publications; M3051. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1961. (FHL films 471463 and 471517–18; computer number 279699.) These records are alphabetical by the name of the soldier and contain abstracts from company muster rolls and returns.


Larson, Carl V., comp. and ed. *A Database of the Mormon Battalion: An Identification of the Original Members of the Mormon Battalion*. Providence, Utah: Keith W. Watkins and Sons, 1987. (FHL book 973 M2lar; film 1592751 item 5; computer number 461971.) A second edition was published in 1997 (FHL 973 M2lar 1997; computer number 821627.) The soldiers are listed alphabetically, and the book provides birth date, birthplace, parents’ names, spouse’s name, marriage date, death date and place, place of burial, service records, pension records, and sometimes, physical description.


**Civil War, 1861–65**

Iowa provided over 76,000 troops to the Civil War, of which 13,000 died. An index to the compiled military service records is:
United States. Adjutant General’s Office. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Iowa*. National Archives Microfilm Publications; M0541. Washington, D.C.: The National Archives, 1964. (FHL films 881808–36; computer number 279543.) This index lists each soldier’s name, company, unit, rank in, and rank out. There are also references to service in other units. The actual service records have not been filmed and are available only at the National Archives.

For lists of the soldiers by regiment, see volumes 1–5 of the following:

Iowa. Adjutant General’s Office. *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion: Together with Historical Sketches of Volunteer Organizations, 1861–1866*. 6 vols. Des Moines, Iowa: E. H. English, 1908–1911. (FHL book 977.7 M2i; films 987646–50; computer number 100011.) This book provides each soldier’s name, rank, and often the date and place he was mustered out. The soldiers are listed by company but not alphabetically. Volume 6 has names of soldiers from later wars, as well. An index to the six volumes is found in:

*Index to Iowa Soldiers*. 7 vols. N.p.: Idaho State Historical Society Genealogical Library, 1979. (FHL book 977.7 M2i index; film 1033761 items 3–9; fiche 6051153; computer number 5766.)

For a list of the Civil War soldiers living in Iowa in 1886, see the book, *List of Ex-Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, Living in Iowa*, mentioned previously. The Civil War soldiers are listed by the state from which they served, then by their regiment and then alphabetically.

After the Civil War, veterans formed the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). At its peak in the 1890s, the GAR had posts and members throughout Iowa. Post records give the name, birth date, birthplace (town and state), war record (regiment, enlistment date, date mustered out), wife’s name and sometimes, the names and residences of children and parents. For the index and post records, see:

Iowa. Grand Army of the Republic. *Grand Army of the Republic Records, ca. 1800–1962*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978, 1987. (On 69 FHL films beginning with 1487370; computer number 238654.) The index cards generally provide the name of the person, his company and regiment, the state from which he served in the Civil War, and the number and city of the GAR post where he was listed. Often the cards also give the exact birth date, county of birth, exact death date and place, name and location of cemetery, and parents’ names. The forms are on microfilm, are listed by county, and often name the parents, spouse, and children. The original records are at the *State Historical Society* in Des Moines.

Three guidebooks to Iowa Civil War information are:


Robertson, James J. Jr. *Iowa in the Civil War: A Reference Guide*. Iowa City, Iowa: State Historical Society of Iowa, 197-. (FHL book 977.7A1 no. 40; fiche 6049713; computer number 150168.) This book mentions articles, reports, histories, letters, and diaries that have been published about the different regiments that were in the Civil War.

Stuart, Addison A. *Iowa Colonels and Regiments: Being a History of Iowa Regiments in the War of the Rebellion and Containing a Description of the Battles in Which They Fought*. Des Moines, Iowa: Mills, 1865. (FHL book 977.7 M2s; film 1036165; computer number 242143.)

Spanish-American War, 1898, and Philippine Insurrection, 1898–1902

For published rosters of those who served in these conflicts, see pages 275-782 in volume six of:

*Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*. (FHL film 390835; computer number 100011.) (Cited fully under the heading Civil War in this outline.)

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 Iowa see:

United States. Selective Service System. *Iowa, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*. National Archives Microfilm Publications; M1509. Washington, D.C.: The National Archives, 1987–1988. (On 96 FHL films beginning with 1642846; computer number 756743.) To find an individual’s draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged by county, by draft board within the county, and alphabetically. Most counties had only one board; large cities had several.
Military Discharge Records, 1860s–1950s

The Family History Library has microfilms of county military discharge records for men and women who served in the Civil War and in later wars (to the 1950s). These records are filed by the county where the soldier took the discharge papers to be recorded. They usually give the soldier’s name, the town and state of birth, age or exact birth date, date and place of enlistment, occupation, extensive military service history and physical description.

Militia Records, 1860s–1900s

The Iowa Adjutant General’s Office kept lists of men between the ages of 18 and about 50 from each county, who were subject to military (militia) service. These lists began in the Civil War and continued into the early 1900s. The lists are available for each county and are often arranged by township. They contain names, ages, and sometimes occupations. The original lists are at the State Historical Society in Des Moines. Microfilm copies are at the Family History Library:

Iowa. Adjutant-General’s Office. Persons Subject to Military Duty, ca. 1862-1910. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (On 94 FHL films beginning with 1024847; computer number 185691.) The records are arranged by county and then by year.

For information on Iowa Veterans buried out of state, see the “Cemeteries” section of this outline.

National Guard Application Forms, 1870–1920

The Iowa Genealogical Society is preparing an index to National Guard application forms from 1872 to 1920. The forms contain the name of the National Guard member, birthplace, birth date or age, residence, and physical description. By the end of 1998 the index to names A–H had been completed. The society hopes to complete the index in 1999 or 2000. The original application forms are at the address below.

Location of Original Records

Records of Iowa soldiers who served in the Civil War, the Spanish–American War, World War I or the Iowa National Guard are at:

Records Center
7700 N. W. Beaver Drive
Johnston, IA 50131
Telephone: 515-252-4329

Copies of the records are at the State Historical Society in Des Moines.

Military records for Iowa are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - MILITARY RECORDS
IOWA, [COUNTY] - MILITARY RECORDS

MINORITIES

Immigrants began to settle in Iowa around 1833. The Family History Library has many books about the different ethnic groups that settled in Iowa, including Amish, Danish, Dutch, German, and Swedish immigrants. These books may contain biographical information about individuals, groups that immigrated together, and ministers who immigrated with members of their church congregation.

An excellent bibliography about the different immigrant groups is:

Petersen, William John. Iowa History Reference Guide. (Cited fully in the “For Further Reading” section of this outline.)

Dawson, Patricia and David Hudson. Iowa History and Culture: A Bibliography of Materials Published Between 1952 and 1986. (Cited fully in the “For Further Reading” section of this outline.)

There were relatively few African Americans in Iowa before the Civil War. For a list of books and articles about slavery in early Iowa, see pages 5–6 of:

Robertson, James J. Jr. Iowa in the Civil War: A Reference Guide. Iowa City, Iowa: The State Historical Society of Iowa, 197- (FHL book 977.7 A1 no. 40; fiche 6049713; computer number 150168.)

For books about ethnic groups, see the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - MINORITIES
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - MINORITIES

NATIVE RACES

Among the major American Indian tribes that lived in what is now Iowa were the Sauk (or Sac) and Fox tribes. Events in their history include:

1665– Three relatively small tribes (including the Sauk and the Fox) failed to overcome the French and allied Indians; they then fled to central Wisconsin.

1712 Sauk and the Fox

1728 A series of attacks nearly destroyed the remaining Fox tribe.

1832 Fox survivors moved southward into Iowa and aligned with the Sauk in the Black Hawk
The Sauk and Fox tribes merged and were forced to move into Kansas by a U.S. government proclamation. Later the Fox tribe returned to Iowa and lived on a settlement tract of 80 acres that they had purchased.

The following are examples of available records:

- **Indian (Sac & Fox) Census of Iowa, ca. 1836–1840.** Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (FHL film 1022202 item 4; computer number 1110.)

- **United States. Bureau of Indian Affairs. Indian Census Rolls, 1885–1940.** Washington, D.C., 1965. (FHL films 581444–446; computer number 77106.) These rolls include the Sauk and Fox tribal rolls from 1888 to 1939. Film 581446 includes births and deaths from 1924 to 1932.

- **Annuity Payroll of the Sac and Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa, Sept. 15, 1910.** Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975. (FHL film 0989445 item 12; computer number 74263.) This record serves as a partial census for this tribe.

For further information on American Indians, see:

- Petersen, William John. *Iowa History Reference Guide.* (Cited fully in the “For Further Reading” section of this outline.) Pages 22–31 list books and articles about the various American Indian tribes, agents, treaties, and the half-breed tract in Iowa.

To find American Indian records in the Family History Library Catalog look in the Subject Search under the name of the tribe, such as:

- FOX INDIANS
- POTAWATOMI INDIANS
- SAUK INDIANS

You can also look in the Locality Search under:

- IOWA - NATIVE RACES
- IOWA, [COUNTY] - NATIVE RACES

**NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP**

Naturalization proceedings in Iowa are handled primarily by district courts. These records include declarations of intention, petitions for naturalization, and certificates of naturalization and citizenship (also called final orders or final papers). Naturalization records may give a person's age, country or city of origin, date of arrival, port of arrival, and names of witnesses. After September 1906, the records may also give birth date and birthplace, names of spouse and children (with their birth dates and birthplaces), and name of the ship. Naturalization papers may be included with homestead land applications.

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of the district court records for most Iowa counties. For Polk County, for instance, the library has naturalization applications and military petitions from 1907 to 1927 and an index to the records from 1852 to 1884:

- **Iowa. District Court (Polk County). Naturalization Records, 1907–1927.** Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1977. (FHL films 1015201–17 item 2; computer number 190612.)

- **Iowa. District Court. (Polk County). Index to Naturalization, 1852–1884.** Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1977. (FHL film 1015217 item 1; computer number 192115.)

The following district court index can be a useful source:


The National Archives-Central Plains Region (Kansas City, Missouri) has the records of the U.S. District Court in Keokuk for 1853 to 1874. These records are available on film:

- **List of Persons Naturalized, 1853–1874.** Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1973. (FHL film 928522 item 8; fiche 6046977; computer number 286156.)

The index below includes naturalization petitions from 44 counties of eastern Iowa:

For records of naturalizations after September 1906, contact the National Archives-Central Plains Region (Kansas City, Missouri) or the local office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. See the United States Research Outline for details.

Naturalization records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP
IOWA, [COUNTY] - NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

NEWSPAPERS

Iowa newspapers have been published since 1836 and can provide valuable information for family historians. They publish notices of marriage, divorce, death, funerals and probate matters. Since about 1880 they may also publish birth notices. Notices include the names of the persons involved, dates, and places. Marriage and death notices may contain maiden names, names of parents, and names of other living relatives. There are also social columns that tell of local events and visiting persons. Also, they often tell about marriages and who attended them (especially for prominent families). There may be engagement announcements and notices of 25th and 50th wedding anniversaries.

Legal notices, such as the settlement of estates, appointment of guardians, filing of divorces, coroner inquests, delinquent tax lists, and other legal advertising, can be of great help, especially if a fire destroyed the records in the courthouse. Newspapers also include local and national news and advertisements for commodities and services.

The State Historical Society of Iowa at Iowa City has a vast collection of newspapers. A guide to locating newspapers is:

United States Newspaper Project. A Bibliography of Iowa Newspapers, 1836–1976. Iowa City: Iowa State Historical Department, 1979. (FHL book 977.7 B33b; film 1033840 item 7; computer number 93532.)

The Family History Library collects indexes and abstracts of newspaper records but does not have original newspapers from Iowa.

Newspaper notices are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - NEWSPAPERS
IOWA, [COUNTY] - NEWSPAPERS
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - NEWSPAPERS

OBITUARIES

Obituaries, or death notices, have been published in Iowa since the 1800s. Obituaries may provide such information as the age of the deceased, birth date, birthplace (including town and country of birth), names of parents and siblings, name of spouse, names and residences of living children, death date, cause of death, place of burial, maiden name, and occupation. Previously deceased family members are frequently mentioned as well. Obituaries may occasionally indicate previous places of residence, immigration information, religion, and organizations to which the deceased belonged.

The “Obituaries” and “Newspapers” sections of the United States Research Outline list sources for finding obituaries and the newspapers that published them.

The Family History Library has two large alphabetical collections of Iowa obituaries. The original collections are at the Iowa Genealogical Society, where most of the obituaries were collected. These obituaries date from about 1850 to 1991. These collections are:


Obituary notices are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - OBITUARIES
IOWA, [COUNTY] - OBITUARIES
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - OBITUARIES
IOWA - NEWSPAPERS
IOWA, [COUNTY] - NEWSPAPERS
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - NEWSPAPERS

PERIODICALS

Family history periodicals contain much information. They often publish sources pertaining to their county or region. These sources may include genealogies, historical background, maps, information about local records and archives, queries, census records, transcripts of family Bibles, church records, court records, cemetery records, land records, obituaries, and wills. The Family History Library has copies of many periodicals, but some issues may be missing.
The major genealogical periodicals and magazines for Iowa research are listed below. Many of them have indexes either published separately or included in each volume.

**The Annals of Iowa.** 1893–. Published by the State Historical Society of Iowa at Iowa City (see the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline above for the address). (FHL book 977.7 B2i; some volumes and an index to volumes 1–8 are on 6 FHL films beginning with 967572 item 20; computer number 207855.) This periodical contains much biographical and historical information and has cumulative indexes through 1991.

**The Cedar Tree.** 1971–. Published by the Northeast Iowa Genealogical Society, 503 South St., Waterloo, IA 50701. (FHL book 977.73 D25c; computer number 223008.)

**The Genie Bug.** 1969–. Published by the North Central Iowa Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 237, Mason City, IA 50401 (FHL book 977.7 D25g; film 1697449 items 1–6 [vols. 1–6]; computer number 301825.) This includes lists of surnames being searched by society members.

**Hawkeye Heritage.** 1966–. Published by the Iowa Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 7735, Des Moines, IA 50322-7735. (FHL book 977.7 D25h; vols. 1–3 on film 928164 items 2–4; vols. 4–5 on film 893705; vols. 6–10 and topical index [vols. 1–10] on film 928349 items 1–6; computer number 212012.) An index to volumes 1–28 has recently been published. (FHL book 977.7 D25h index; computer number 212012.)

**Iowa Genealogical Society Newsletter.** 1980–. Published by the Iowa Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 7735, Des Moines, IA 50322. (FHL book 977.7 D25n; computer number 161160.)

**Iowa Queries.** 1987– Published by Shirley Penna-Oakes, P.O. Box 397, Black Eagle, WY 59414-0397. (FHL book 977.7 D2iq; fiche 6126472, vols. 1–5; computer number 484173.) This query periodical merged with another and is now Ohio-Indiana-Iowa Queries and Reviews.

**The Palimpsest.** 1920–. Published by the State Historical Society of Iowa at Iowa City (see the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline above for the address). (FHL book 977.7 B2p; films 1697369 items 1–9 [vol. 2] and 823597 item 11 [vol. 3]; computer number 225549.) There are cumulative indexes at the Family History Library for 1920–1929, 1930–1939, 1940–1976: (FHL book 977.7 B2p index; computer numbers 399174, 399475, and 399476.) This periodical is now called Iowa Heritage Illustrated.

**The Wahkw.** 1981–. Published by the Woodbury County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 624, 3412 Old Lakesport Rd., Sioux City, IA 51102. (FHL book 977.7 D25w; computer number 295531.) This periodical includes Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

The PERiodical Source Index (PERSI) partially indexes all the above periodicals (except *Iowa Queries*) and more. The compact disc and Internet editions are about twice the size of the microfiche edition available at most Family History Centers. PERSI is described in greater detail in the "Periodicals" section of the United States Research Outline.

Periodicals are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

- **IOWA - PERIODICALS**
- **IOWA - GENEALOGY - PERIODICALS**
- **IOWA - SOCIETIES - PERIODICALS**
- **IOWA, [COUNTY] - GENEALOGY - PERIODICALS**
- **IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - GENEALOGY - PERIODICALS**

**PROBATE RECORDS**

Iowa probate records date from about 1834, when the first county in the state was created. Probate records are an important source for family history research and are one of the best ways to link individuals to their parents, children and sometimes to brothers, sisters, and grandchildren. They may not give an exact death date, but you can assume the death generally occurred within a few months of the date of probate. Wills usually mention the names of heirs and frequently specify how those heirs are related. Names of children may be given, as well as married names of daughters. See the United States Research Outline for more information about probate records.

A probate court was created in each county when Iowa became an organized territory. These courts were responsible for settling estates. Probate courts were eventually discontinued, and probate matters have since been the responsibility of the district courts. Before 1887 some probate cases were settled in circuit courts and from 1851 to 1868, some in county courts. Probate records may include guardianship records.

You can write to the clerk of the district court for copies of wills, administrations, dockets, calendars, and other records.

The Family History Library has microfilm and microfiche copies of many probate records, including some will records as late as the 1970s and indexes to the 1990s.
Probate records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - PROBATE RECORDS
IOWA, [COUNTY] - PROBATE RECORDS

PUBLIC RECORDS

Many records created by local and state governments do not fit into the topics listed in this outline. These include records of: state licensing and certification bureaus, mayors, commissioners and overseers of the poor. Some collections that contain a variety of records, such as land, history, tax and court records, may be classified as public records.

Public records kept by the County Board of Supervisors in Iowa began about 1838. These records have been important public records from 1838 to the present. These boards supervise the establishment, drainage, alteration, and vacating of roads; take care of the blind, elderly and poor; levy taxes for county and school purposes; and set salaries for the county clerk and sheriff. The Family History Library has some of these records on microfilm.

Some types of Iowa county public records are described in:


Public records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - PUBLIC RECORDS
IOWA, [COUNTY] - PUBLIC RECORDS
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - PUBLIC RECORDS

SCHOOLS

Iowa school records date from the 1830s to the present. School records, such as school censuses, may list parents and their children, with the ages and birthplaces of the children.

Many school records are preserved at the Iowa Area Education Agencies, each of which keeps the school records for several school districts. Many of these records are on microfilm at the Family History Library, such as:

Cedar County Iowa, School Records, 1837–1949. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1976, 1990. (On 6 FHL films beginning with 985411 item 2; computer number 320946.) These include registers of parents and guardians from 1865 to 1886; school registers from 1868 to 1892; and school records and school censuses from 1837 to 1944.

School records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - SCHOOLS
IOWA, [COUNTY] - SCHOOLS
IOWA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - SCHOOLS

SOCIETIES

There are many societies which may help family historians. Genealogical, historical, lineage, veterans, and ethnic societies are especially helpful because of the records and resources they collect, transcribe, and publish. Often their records contain birth, marriage, death, and biographical information. See the “Societies” section in the United States Research Outline for more information.

Genealogical and historical societies often maintain a genealogical file for families in the area and may sponsor publications, some of which are cited in the “Genealogy” section of this outline.

Lineage societies, such as the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Colonial Dames, General Society of Colonial Wars, the Sons of the American Revolution, and many others, require members to prove they are descended from certain people, such as colonists or soldiers. The applications for membership in these societies are preserved, and many are on microfilm at the Family History Library. See the Register of U. S. Lineage Societies (mentioned in the “Societies” section of the United States Research Outline) for addresses, lists of microfilmed records, and publications.

One important society in Iowa is the Iowa Genealogical Society (see the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline). The Iowa Genealogical Society has a number of chapters throughout the state. Many chapters actively extract and index original records, which the society publishes. For a list of the society chapters, see:

Mary Keysor Meyer’s Meyer’s Directory of Genealogical Societies in the U.S.A. and Canada. (Cited fully in the “Societies” section of the United States Research Outline.) The directory lists ethnic genealogical groups and societies.

See the “Author/Title Search” of the Family History Library Catalog for many sources published by the Iowa Genealogical Society. There are, for example, birth, marriage, death and cemetery records; censuses (state and federal); newspaper obituaries; probates;
city directories; adoption records; county assessors’ books; indexes to scrapbooks; and church records.

Old Settlers’ Associations existed in many Iowa counties. Some of these records, with obituaries, are available on microfilm, such as:

Old Settlers’ Association (Cedar County, Iowa). *Annual Meeting Minutes and Obituaries of Settlers, 1917–1934*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1976. (FHL film 987411 or 281275; computer number 312516.)

See also the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline for other organizations with family history sources.

Society records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - SOCIETIES
IOWA - [COUNTY] - SOCIETIES

**TAXATION**

In Iowa tax records have been kept since 1834, when the first county was formed. Tax lists are often used as substitutes for missing census records. They are especially valuable because they are usually taken each year. They start about the time a county was created and records are generally kept in the county seat. They may include poll tax records, railroad tax books, taxable land lists, records of delinquent taxes, and road tax books. Some tax lists have been microfilmed and are at the Family History Library.

Tax lists for Civil War times are found in:

United States. Bureau of Internal Revenue. *Internal Revenue Assessment Lists for Iowa, 1862–1866*. National Archives Microfilm Publications; M0766. Washington, D.C.: The National Archives, 1988. (FHL films 1534648–63; computer number 463755.) The records are arranged by districts. The taxes were levied on carriages, billiard tables, gold and silver plate (dishware), income in excess of $600, and some inheritance of personal property. The state was divided into six districts, which are described in the Family History Library Catalog.

From mid-March 1934 to 1936, an Old Age Assistance Tax was levied. These tax records often provide the person’s birth date and birthplace and full names of the parents (including the wife’s maiden name). The persons listed were born between the 1850s and 1914. The lists only include persons who owned real estate or taxable personal property. The following source is an example of the records available:


Taxation records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

IOWA - TAXATION
IOWA, [COUNTY] - TAXATION

**VITAL RECORDS**

**County Records of Births and Deaths**

A few counties in Iowa began to register vital statistics during the 1870s, but most county records began in 1880, when a state law took effect requiring counties to register births and deaths. This law was generally complied with by 1924. In the 1940s, many people applied for delayed birth certificates in order to be eligible for Social Security benefits.

**Births**

Birth records contain much information for family historians. Because births are recorded near the time of the event, they are considered a primary source. In birth records, you generally find the date and place of birth; name and sex of the child; name, residence, race, age, birthplace, and occupation of the father and mother; the mother’s maiden name; number of children born to the mother; number of living children; and physician’s certificate.

**Deaths**

Death records are also a valuable source. Often, they give: date, place, and cause of death, name, residence, sex, race, marital status, age, occupation and birth place of the deceased, date and place of burial, name and birth place of father, and maiden name and birth place of mother.

These birth and death records are maintained by the clerk of the district court of the respective county. The Family History Library has some county birth and death records on microfilm to the early 1940s.

**State Records of Births and Deaths**

The state has copies of birth records beginning in July 1880 and copies of death records beginning in January 1891. Copies are available to immediate family members only. You will need to state your relationship to the individual whose record you want and the reason you want the information. To request copies or information about fees and restrictions, contact:
Coroner's Records

Coroners investigated deaths that were not attended by a physician and determined the cause of the death. The coroner of each county kept records of his findings. Some of these records began as early as 1855. The County Coroner’s Office was established by the Iowa State Constitution. The coroner’s records may provide the name of the deceased person, his or her age, the cause of death, the parents’ names, and circumstances of the death. Some of these records are available at the Family History Library. One example is:


Marriage

Iowa county marriage records have been kept since about 1835. These marriage records may provide names, ages, races, residences, occupations, birthplaces, maiden name of wife, marriage date and place, parents’ names, and the name of person who performed the marriage. Some certificates give the number of times the groom has been married.

You may obtain copies of the original records by contacting the clerk of the district court in the county where the license was issued. Many marriage records have been transcribed and published by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and other organizations. See the Bible Records section of this outline for information on the DAR collection.

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of marriage records from many counties, such as:


Two partial indexes list early records of marriages in 39 Iowa counties. These indexes are:

Iowa Marriages, Early to 1850: A Research Tool. Orem, Utah: Liahona Research, Inc., 1990. (FHL book 977.7 V22i; computer number 599839.)

Marriage Records Early-1850. Orem, Utah. Automated Archives, 1992. (FHL compact disc no. 9, pt. 227; computer number 683380.) This disc also contains marriages in Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Oregon, and Texas.

The following book indexes marriages in 24 counties:


Records of 11 counties are given in the following collection:


The Iowa Department of Public Health (address earlier in this section) has copies of marriage records from July 1880. They have an index to records after 1916.

Divorce Records

For divorce records, see the “Divorce Records” section in this outline.

Inventory of Vital Records

For more information about the history and availability of vital records in Iowa up to 1941, see:

Guide to Public Vital Statistics in Iowa. Des Moines, Iowa: Iowa Historical Records Survey, 1941. (FHL book 977.7 V2h; film 908988; computer number 242658.)

Birth, marriage, death, and coroner’s records and indexes for most Iowa counties are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:
OTHER RECORDS

Other types of records not mentioned in this outline may help you learn more about your ancestors from Iowa. These record types (topics) are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under the name of the place and topic. Some additional topics that might be useful are:

- BIBLIOGRAPHY
- CHURCH HISTORY
- FUNERAL HOMES
- SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS
- VOTING REGISTERS

FOR FURTHER READING

You may wish to consult the following sources for more information about Iowa:

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.

Petersen, William John. *Iowa History Reference Guide*. Iowa City, Iowa: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1952. (FHL book 977.7 A3p; computer number 241027.) This bibliography includes sections about American Indians, immigration, land, government, courts, military, schools, churches, businesses, history, and biographies. It is arranged by subject and has an index.


COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:
Iowa 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 Iowa affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements.

1673 French explorers Jolliet and Marquette were in the region of Iowa.

1762 The land was ceded to Spain.

1788 The first white settlement (for lead mining) was established in Iowa, but it was abandoned in 1810.

1800 The land was returned to France.

1803 The United States acquired the area from France as part of the Louisiana Purchase.

1803–32 The Iowa area remained Indian land and was not open to legal settlement.

1808 Fort Madison was built by the United States Army. Iowa’s area was included in the Illinois Territory in 1808 and in the Missouri Territory in 1812 through 1821. It was not under any territorial government from 1821 to 1834.

1831 The Sauk and Fox Indian tribes moved to Iowa from Illinois.

1832 The Black Hawk War took place.

1833 The first permanent white settlements were made in eastern Iowa. Between 1833 and 1851 a series of treaties extinguished Indian claims to the land.

1834 Congress attached the area to the Michigan Territory.

1836 Iowa was transferred to the Wisconsin Territory.

1838 The Iowa Territory was established. It included all of present-day Iowa, Minnesota, and parts of North and South Dakota.

1846 Iowa, with its present boundaries, became a state.

1850–60 The population of Iowa nearly tripled as immigrants poured in from the older midwestern states and Europe.
1861–65  Over 75,000 Iowans served in the Union armed forces during the Civil War.

1867  The first railroad was built from the Mississippi River to Council Bluffs.

1873, 1893, 1930s  Iowa, known as the Hawkeye State and the Corn State, experienced financial depressions.

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.


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 Iowa 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.

An especially helpful history of Iowa is:

Gue, Benjamin F. *History of Iowa from the Earliest Times to the Beginning of the Twentieth Century*. 4 vols. New York: Century History Co., 1903. (FHL book 977.7 H2g; film 1036164 items 1–4.)

An important bibliography that mentions books and articles about every major aspect of Iowa’s history is:

Petersen, William John. *Iowa History Reference Guide*. Iowa City, Iowa: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1952. (FHL book 977.7 A3p.) This bibliography includes sections about American Indians, immigration, land, government, courts, military, schools, churches, businesses, history, and biographies. It is arranged by subject and has an index.

There is an unusual set of records dealing with Iowa’s history from 1827 to 1857:

and family histories are treated in these records. For example: military pension applications; military academy cadet applications; court records (1827-1845); land office records; Virginia warrant scrip; muster rolls giving enlistment town or city (1837-1857); military post records listing sick, wounded, and dead; Bureau of Indian Affairs records; Indian treaties; commissions for judges, marshals, attorneys, surveyors, and postmasters.

For two helpful bibliographies about Iowa historical topics, see the books by William Petersen, Patricia Dawson and David Hudson mentioned in the “For Further Reading” section of the Iowa Research Outline.

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 Iowa 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.

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

A bibliography of Iowa county histories is at the beginning of:
Morford, Charles. Biographical Index to the County Histories of Iowa. Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1979. (FHL book 977.7 D32m.)

Local history books for Iowa's counties, cities, and towns contain biographical and historical information. Some have information on families back to the 1600s. The information about individuals may include age, birth date, birthplace, county origins and boundaries, death information, divorce, ethnicity, historical background, immigration date, names of living relatives, wife's maiden name, marriage information, naturalization information, occupation, parents' names, childrens' names, names of other family members, place of previous residence, religion, and information about social activities.

To find Iowa local histories, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left.
**United States History**

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


*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.
Iowa 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 on the right.

- **1580–1900s**
  - Ancestral File
  - International Genealogical Index
  - Family History Library Catalog - Surname Search

- **1600s–1950s**
  - Morford, Charles. *Biographical Index to the County Histories of Iowa*. (FHL book 977.7 D32m.)

- **1600s–1990**
  - *The Iowa Genealogical Society Surname Index*. (FHL book 977.7 D2i, vols. 1–5.) About 150,000 names.

- **1600s–1987**
  - Iowa Genealogical Society (Des Moines, Iowa). *Surname Collection*. (On 31 FHL films beginning with 1487493.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1600s–1991</td>
<td>Iowa Genealogical Society, Des Moines, Iowa. <em>Surname Index, 1500–1991.</em> (On 8 FHL films beginning with 1766048.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600s–1995</td>
<td><em>Periodical Source Index Annual Volumes.</em> (FHL book 973 D25per, 1847–1996; fiche 6016863, 40 fiche; 1986–1990 annual cumulation: fiche 6016864, 15 fiche; compact disc no. 61.) This is a valuable index to most family history periodicals, by surname, and place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700–1950s</td>
<td>Iowa. State Department of History and Archives. <em>Biographical Data Collection.</em> (On 6 FHL films beginning with 1023885.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700–1950s</td>
<td>Iowa. State Dept. of History and Archives. <em>Biography File.</em> (On 4 FHL films beginning with 1023616 item 2.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700–1840</td>
<td><em>A General Index to a Census of Pensioners For Revolutionary or Military Service, 1840.</em> (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 pensioners town of residence, the name of the head of household where he was they were living, and age of pensioner or his widow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1740–1900</td>
<td>White, Virgil D. <em>Index to War of 1812 Pension Files.</em> (FHL book 973 M22i.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1750–1940s</td>
<td>Burgess, Jo Ann. <em>Bible Records from Iowa Libraries and Museums.</em> (FHL book 977.7 D29b; film 1036785 item 3, for vol. 1.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1750–1978</td>
<td>Iowa State Department of History and Archives. <em>Iowa Family Bible Records A-Z.</em> (FHL film 1023889 items 2–9.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1760–1920</td>
<td>Census indexes, 1840–1880, 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1762–1939</td>
<td><em>Charts and Genealogies of Pioneer Families of Iowa.</em> (FHL film 908960 item 4.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1770–1850</td>
<td>Jackson, Ronald Vern. <em>Iowa 1850 Mortality.</em> (FHL book 977.7 X2) 1850.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1780–1971</td>
<td>Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. <em>Century Farm Applications.</em> (On 8 FHL films beginning with 1023895.) Lists farms being in the same family for 100 years or more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1780–1856</td>
<td>Sopp, Elsie L. <em>Personal Name Index to the 1856 City Directories of Iowa.</em> (FHL book 977.7 D42s.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1782–1936</td>
<td>Iowa. State Department of Archives and History. <em>Family Record Collection.</em> (On 6 FHL films beginning with 1023611 item 11.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1795–1971</td>
<td>Iowa. State Department of Archives and History. <em>Iowa Cemeteries.</em> (On 7 FHL films beginning with 1023603 item 6.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1800–1865  Index to Iowa Soldiers. (FHL film 1033761 items 3–9; fiche 6051153.) This is an index of soldiers listed in Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion: Together with Historical Sketches of Volunteer Organizations, 1861–1866. (FHL book 977.2 M2I; films 987646–50.)
1800–1934  United States. Veterans Administration. General Index to 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.
1800–1850  Iowa Marriages, Early to 1850: A Research Tool. (FHL book 977.7 V22I.)
1800–1900  Iowa State Department of History and Archives. Iowa Marriages, ca. 1844–1900. (FHL film 1023609 items 11–21.)
1806–1937  Iowa. State Department of History and Archives. Iowa Cemetery & Grave Records by Grave Registration Project of the WPA and DAR. (FHL films 102211–113 and 1023097–114 items 1–3.) By county.
1873–1918  United States Selective Service System. Iowa, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918. (On 96 FHL films beginning with 1642846.) Men ages 18 to 45 are listed alphabetically by county or draft board.

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.
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.
Iowa Maps Bibliography

Mic/Gen Ref- G 1201.F7 A5 1991

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

**Evaluation of Iowa Maps:** pp. 281 - 312. One page history of state, list of counties and counties with minor civil divisions. Maps of census county divisions.


**Summary:** The previous map was copied from page 224 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 Iowa also includes a brief history and genealogical research information.


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

**Evaluation of Iowa maps:** State historical information, p. 13; 1861 map, p. 151; 1909 map, p. 214.


**Summary:** Iowa maps and information on pages 104 - 110. Includes maps comparing Iowa to other states, cultural features, population density, agriculture, economic facts, etc. Also includes a brief state history.

Mic/Gen 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 Iowa maps:** pp.114 - 117.
**Map Collection on the 2nd floor of the old section of HBLL library.** Two map drawers of the state of Iowa.

**G4150 - G4154.** 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 HBLL Online Catalog for Iowa maps, atlases, and gazetteers.
Iowa Federal Census Population Schedules, 1840 to 1920

Guide

Introduction

Federal censuses are taken every 10 years. Iowa residents are included in territorial and federal censuses from 1840 through 1920.

- 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 Iowa 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:

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

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 Iowa was destroyed by fire.
Types of Census Schedules

The following census schedules are available for Iowa 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 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.
- **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 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 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 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, State, and Local Censuses

Territorial, state, and local governments also took censuses. Nonfederal censuses generally contain information similar to and sometimes more than federal censuses of the same period. Residents of the Iowa area were included in the following territorial censuses:

- 1836, 1838: Wisconsin Territory
- 1840-1846: Iowa Territory

The territorial censuses were taken in 1836, 1838, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, and 1846. Iowa became a state in 1846. There are Iowa state censuses for 1847, 1849, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1856, 1881, 1882, 1885, 1888, 1889, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1905, 1915, and 1925. For more information, see the "Census" section of the Iowa Research Outline.

Territorial, state, 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:

- Iowa GenWeb and USGenWeb 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 Iowa Research Outline lists Internet addresses for several Iowa archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Iowa 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 Iowa Research Outline lists Internet addresses for several Iowa archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Iowa 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:

- CyndiList 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.
Iowa Special Censuses

A list of special censuses at the Iowa State Historical Department.

1807
Iowa 1836 territorial census.

1836
Iowa County Heritage.
Content: VOLUME 1. March and December 1847 territorial censuses of Iowa County; 1850 federal census of Iowa County: Wisconsin.
Content: VOLUME 2. March and December 1847 territorial censuses of Lafayette County, 1850 federal census of Lafayette County, Wisconsin.

1836
The first census of the original counties of Dubuque and Demoine, Iowa, taken in July 1836

1841-1849
Census Index

1846
Census of Louisa, Polk, and Wapello counties

1847
Census of Clinton, Davis, Louisa, Marion, Scott, Van Buren, and Wapello counties

1849
Census of Benton, Boone, Clinton, Jackson, Louisa, Madison, Poweshiek, Scott, Van Buren and Washington counties

1851
Census of Cedar, Clinton, Decatur, Guthrie, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Madison, Mahaska, Page, Pottawatamie, Poweshiek, Scott, and Washington counties

1852
Appanoose - Lucas Counties
Madison - Wayne counties

Iowa 1852
### U.S. State Censuses

**IOWA (Cont.)**

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**1856**

Census returns of the different counties of the state of Iowa for 1856: showing in detail, the population, place of nativity, agricultural statistics, domestic and general manufactures, &c.

**1856**

Statistical Census

State Census Microfiche Cards 5 of 5
1859
Census of Iowa.

1859
Statistical Census

1862
Census returns of the different counties

1862
Statistical Census

1865
Statistical Census

1867
Census of Iowa

1867
Statistical Census

1869
Census of Iowa as returned in the Year 1869.
Statistical information only. Alphabetical list of post offices: p. 194-203.

1869
Statistical Census

1873
Statistical Census

1875
Statistical Census

1885
Adair County
Adams County
Allamakee County
Appanoose County
Audubon County
Benton County
Benton County (cont.)
Black Hawk County
Boone County
Boone County (cont.)
Bremer County
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O'Brien, Osceola counties 1.0201.69
Page, Palo Alto counties 1.0201.70
(Note: the townships of Fern Valley, Freedom and Grant Oak missing from Palo county)
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Polk County 1.0201.72
Polk County (cont.) 1.0201.73
Polk County (cont.) 1.0201.74
Pottawattamie County 1.0201.75
Pottawattamie County (cant.) 1.0201.76
Poweshiek County 1.0201.77
Ringgold County 1.0201.78
Sac County 1.0201.79
Scott County 1.0201.80
Scott County (cant.) 1.0201.81
Shelby County 1.0201.82
Sioux County 1.0201.83
Story County 1.0201.84
Tama County 1.0201.85
Taylor County 1.0201.86
Union, Van Buren counties 1.0201.87
Wapello County 1.0201.88
Warren County 1.021.698
Washington County 1.021.699
Wayne County 1.021.700
Webster County 1.021.701.
Winnebago and Winneshiek counties 1.021.702
Woodbury County 1.021.703
Woodbury County (cant.) 1.021.704
Worth and Wright 1.021.705

1.885
Statistical Census

State Census Microfiche
Cards 6 of 6

1.895

FILM

Adair county 1.021.706
Adams county 1.021.707
Allamakee county 1.021.708
Appanoose county 1.021.709
Audubon county 1.021.71.0
Benton county 1.021.71.1.
Black Hawk county 1.021.71.2
Boone county 1.021.71.3
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Town/City: Boone
Boone county 1.020332
Townships: Dodge, Douglas, Garden, Grant, Harrison, Jackson, Marcy, Peoples, 
pi lot Mound, Union, Worth, Yell
Town/City: Madrid, Angus, Ogden
Bremer county 1.020333
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IODA (Cont.)

Madison county 1020202
Mahaska county 1022078
Townships: Adams, Black Oak, Cedar, East Des Moines, Garfield, Harrison, Jefferson, Lincoln
Town/City: Fremont, Beacon, Oskaloosa (1-3 wards)

Mahaska county 1022079
Townships: Madison, Monroe, Pleasant Grove, Prairie, Richland, Scott, Spring Creek, Union, West Des Moines, White Oak
Town/City: Oskaloosa (4-5 wards), Sharon (New Sharon?), Peoria, Rose Hill

Marion county 1022080
Marshall county 1.022081.
Townships: Bangor, Eden, Green Castle, Iowa, Jefferson, Le Grand, Liberty, Linn, Liscomb, Logan, Marietta, Marion
Town/City: Edenville, Albion, Le Grand, Liscomb

Marshall county 1.022082
Townships: Minerva, State Center, Taylor, Timber Creek, Vienna, Washington
Town/City: Green Mountain, Marshalltown, State Center

Mills county 1.022083
Mitchell county 1.022084
Monona county 1.022085
Monroe county 1.022086
Montgomery county 1.022087
Muscatine county 1.022088
O'Brien county 1.022089
Osceola county 1.022090
Page county 1022091.
Palo Alto county 1.022092
Plymouth county 1.022093
Pocahontas county 1.022094
Polk county 1022095
City of Des Moines
1-2 wards, Des Moines township

Polk county 1.022096
City of Des Moines
3rd ward, Des Moines township

Polk county 1022097
City of Des Moines
4th ward, Des Moines township
5th ward/1-9 districts, Lee township

Polk county 1.022098
City of Des Moines
5th ward/10-12 districts, Lee township
6-7 ward

Polk county 1.022099
IOWA (Cont.)

Town/City: Mitchellville, Altoona, Bondurant, Sheldahl, Polk City, Valley Junction, Grimes

Pottawattamie county

City of Council Bluffs

Pottawattamie county

Townships: Belknap, Boomer, Carson, Center, Crescent, Garner, Grove, Hardin, Hazel Dell, James, Kane, Keg Creek, Knox

Town/City: Oakland, Carson, Avoca

Includes the Christian Home located in Kane township, 2nd ward

Pottawattamie county

Townships: Layton, Lewis, Lincoln, Macedonia, Minden, Neola, Norwalk, Pleasant, Rockford, Silver Creek, Valley, Washington, Waveland, Wright, York

Town/City: Walnut, Macedonia, Minden, Neola, Hancock

Poweshiek county

Ringgold county

Sac county

Scott county

City of Davenport (1-3 wards)

Scott county

City of Davenport (4-5 wards)

Iowa soldier's orphans home and home for indigent children (6th ward)

Scott county


Town/City: Walcott, Buffalo, Le Claire, New Liberty, Dixon, Big Rock, Princeton

Shelby county

Sioux county

Story county

Tama county

Taylor county

Union county

Van Buren county

Wapello county

City of Ottumwa

Wapello county

Townships: Adams, Agency, Cass, Center, Columbia, Compelme, Dahlonega, Green, Highland, Keokuk, Pleasant, Polk, Richland, Washington

Town/City: Blakesburg, Agency City, Chillicothe, Eddyville, Kirkville, Eldon

Warren county

Washington county

Wayne county

Webster county

Townships: Badger, Burnside, Clay, Colfax,
Cooper, Dayton, Deer Creek, Douglas, Elkhorn, Fulton, Gowrie, Hardin, Jackson, Lost Grove
Town/City: Badger, Dayton, Gowrie, Clare, Barnum

Webster county
Townships: Newark, Otho, Pleasant Valley, Roland, Sumner, Washington, Webster, Yell
Town/City: Vincent, Callender, Lehigh, Fort Dodge, Duncombe

Winnebago county

Woodbury county
Townships: Arlington, Banner, Concord, Floyd, Grange, Grant, Kedron, Lakeport, Liberty, Lisbon, Little Sioux, Miller, Morgan, Moville, Oto, Rock, Rutland, Sloan, Union, West Park, Willow, Wolf Creek, Woodbury
Town/City: Moville, Anthon, Correctionville, Salix, Danbury, Smithland, Oto, Cushing, Pierson, Sloan, Sergeants Bluff

Woodbury county
Sioux City
1-3 wards
4th ward except 1st district

Woodbury county
Sioux City
4th ward/1st district
5-8 wards

Worth county

Wright county and state institutions

1895

Statistical Census

State Census
Microfiche
Cards 10 of 10

1905

Adair and Adams
All amakee, Appanoos, Audubon
Benton and Blackhawk
Boone, Bremer, Buchanan
Buena Vista and Butler
Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Cedar
Cerro Gordo, Cherokee, Chickasaw
Clarke, Clay, Clayton
Clinton and Crawford
Dalla, Davis, Decatur
Delaware and Des Moines counties
Dickinson and Dubuque
Emmet, Fayette, Floyd
Franklin, Fremont
Greene, Grundy, Guthrie
Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin
Harrison, Henry, Howard, Hunboldt
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County Names</th>
<th>Microfilm Numbers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ida and Iowa</td>
<td>1026383</td>
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<td>Jackson and Jasper</td>
<td>1026384</td>
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<td>Jefferson and Johnson</td>
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<td>Jones, Keokuk, Kossuth</td>
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<td>Lee</td>
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<td>Linn and Louisa</td>
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<td>Lucas and Lyon</td>
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<td>Madison and Mahaska</td>
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<td>Marion, Marshall, Mills</td>
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<td>Mitchell, Monona, Monroe</td>
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<td>Montgomery and Muscatine</td>
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<td>O'Brien and Osceola</td>
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<td>Page, Palo Alto, Plymouth</td>
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<td>Pocahontas</td>
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<td>Polk (city of Des Moines wards 5, 6, 7, 1, 2)</td>
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<td>Polk (city of Des Moines wards 3, 4) and township</td>
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<td>Pottawattamie</td>
<td>1026511</td>
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<td>Poweshiek and Ringgold</td>
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<td>Sac and Scott</td>
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<td>Shelby, Sioux, Story</td>
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<td>Tama, Taylor, Union</td>
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<td>Van Buren and Wapello</td>
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<td>Warren, Washington, Wayne</td>
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<td>Webster, Winnebago, winneshiek</td>
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<td>Woodbury</td>
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<td>Worth and Wright</td>
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**1905**

Statistical Census

State Census Microfiche Cards 12 of 12

**1915**

Statistical Census

State Census Microfiche Cards 10 of 10

**1925**

Statistical Census

State Census Microfiche Cards 13 of 13
Census problems? Maybe this is why we can’t always find our ancestors…

1790 - Washington D.C. is with Montgomery & Prince George Co.’s in Maryland

1820 and 1830 - Wisconsin is with the Michigan Census

1836 - Iowa Territory Census includes Minnesota

1840 - Montana is with Clayton Co., Iowa

1860 - Colorado is with the Kansas Census

- Montana is found in the 1860 Nebraska Census under "unorganized territory," which also includes what is now NE Colorado

- Oklahoma is with Arkansas, which was then Indian land

- Wyoming is included with Nebraska

Prior to 1880 IA did NOT mean Iowa, but Indiana

Virginia once covered many thousands of square miles more than it does now. A reference made to a person having been born in Virginia could mean that the person really was born in part of:

Illinois from 1781-1818
Indiana from 1787-1816
Missouri from 1775-1792
North Carolina from 1728-1803

Ohio form 1728-1803
Pennsylvania from 1752-1786
Tennessee from 1760-1803
West Virginia from 1769-1863

(Taken from Walla Walla Gen. Soc. Blue Mt. Heritage, Vol. 16, No.4)


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**Adair County**

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**Adams County**

Allamakee County


Appanoose County


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Benton County


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Bremer County


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Butler County


Calhoun County


Carroll County


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**Clarke County**

**Clay County**


**Clayton County**


**Clinton County**


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Decatur County
IOWA


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Floyd County


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Last updated 03/04

Fremont County


Greene County


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Grundy County


Guthrie County

History of Guthrie and Adair Counties, Iowa Together with Sketches of Their Towns, Villages and Townships, Education, Civil, Military and Political History; Portraits of Prominent Persons, and Biographies of Old Settlers and Representative Citizens, History of Iowa, Embracing Accounts of the Pre-historic Races, and a Brief Review of

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Hardin County


Harrison County


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**Humboldt County**

**Ida County**


**Iowa County**

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Jones County


Keokuk County


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Kossuth County


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Louisa County

Lucas County


Lyon County


Madison County


Mahaska County


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**Mills County**


**Mitchell County**


Monona County


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O'Brien County


Osceola County


Page County

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Palo Alto County


Pocahontas County


Polk County

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**Plymouth County**

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**Ringgold County**

Biographical and Historical Records of Ringgold and Decatur Counties, Iowa: Containing Portraits of All the Presidents of the United States from Washington to Cleveland, with Accompanying Biographies of Each; a Condensed History of the State of Iowa; Portraits and Biographies of the Governors of the Territory and State; Engravings of Prominent Citizens of Ringgold and Decatur Counties. Chicago: Lewis Pub. Co., 1887. *F 627 .R5 B6 1887* (Special Collections: Americana Rare)

Parker, Jessica M. *Ringgold County History, Iowa.* Mount Ayr, IA: s.n., 1942. *Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 6308*

**Sac County**


**Scott County**

Last updated 03/04


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Last updated 03/04
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MINORITIES AND ETHNIC GROUPS


Historical Background

- **1673** Joliet and Marquette explore Iowa region for France.
- **1762** France cedes part of Louisiana including Iowa to Spain.
- **1788** First settler, Julien Dubuque, begins mining lead near Dubuque.
- **1800** Louisiana transferred by Spain to France.
- **1803** United States acquires Iowa in the Louisiana Purchase.
- **1808** Illinois Territory established, includes Iowa.
- **1812-21** Iowa included in Missouri Territory.
- **1821-37** Wisconsin and Michigan territories include present-day Iowa.
- **1832** Black Hawk War and Treaty; first Indian Session of eastern Iowa opens lands for settlement.
- **1833** Settlers from Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Illinois, Ohio, and Indiana establish permanent settlements in Iowa.
- **1834-36** Counties of Des Moines and Dubuque, Iowa established as part of Michigan Territory.
- **1836** Wisconsin Territory created, Iowa included. Iowa territorial census. First public land surveys taken.
- **1838** Iowa Territory created with capital at Burlington; influx of settlers. Iowa territorial census.
- **1840** Territorial law requires marriage licenses and records. Territorial capital moved to Iowa City.
- **1840s** Scandinavians, Dutch, Germans, Scots, and Welsh settlers immigrate to Iowa.
- **1846** Iowa becomes the twenty-ninth state of the Union on 28 December. Mormon migration to Iowa.
- **1846-57** Iowa City serves as capital.
- **1850-80** Mass German migration to Iowa.
- **1850-77** Steamboat industry peak years.
- **1855** First Iowa railroad links Davenport and Muscatine. State capital changed to Des Moines.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1861-65</td>
<td>Civil War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Railroad completed across Iowa from Mississippi River to Council Bluffs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>Statewide registration of vital records by counties with copies ordered to the state office.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Iowa Other Resources

Cyndi’s List Iowa Resources  
http://www.cyndislist.com/ia.htm

Iowa Rootsweb Resources  
http://resources.rootsweb.com/USA/IA/

State Historical Society of Iowa Archives  
http://www.iowahistory.org/archives/index.html

Iowa Genealogical Society  
http://www.iowagenealogy.org/

Iowa Bureau of Health Statistics- Vital Records Available  
http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/health_statistics.asp

Iowa Family History Centers Locations  
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