Iowa

Research Outline

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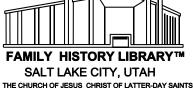
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Iowa

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 $^{\text{\tiny TM}}$

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:

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 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.

RECORD SELECTION TABLE: IOWA

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.

1. If You Need	2. Search These Record Types First	3. Search These Record Types Next
Adoptions	Probate Records, Court Records, Obituaries	Census, Societies, Church Records, Probate Records
Age	Census, Vital Records, Cemeteries	Military Records, Obituaries, Naturalization and Citizenship
Birth date	Vital Records, Church Records, Cemeteries	Bible Records, Obituaries, Military Records
Birth place	Vital Records, Church Records, Census	Obituaries, Genealogy, Military Records
Boundaries and origins	History, Maps	Gazetteers, Historical Geography
Children	Census, Probate Records, Obituaries, Genealogy	Bible Records, Vital Records, Church Records, Land and Property
City or parish of foreign birth	Vital Records, Naturalization and Citizenship	Obituaries, Church Records
Country of foreign birth	Census, Naturalization and Citizenship, Obituaries	Military Records, Vital Records, Church Records
Death information	Vital Records, Cemeteries, Probate Records	Bible Records, Church Records, Obituaries
Divorce	Court Records, Vital Records, Divorce Records	Newspapers
Ethnic background	Minorities, Native Races, Census	Societies, Church Records, Naturalization and Citizenship
Historical background	History, Periodicals, Biography	Minorities
Immigration date	Naturalization and Citizenship, Census, Emigration and Immigration	Newspapers, Obituaries, Genealogy
Living relatives	Genealogy, Directories, Obituaries	Census, Church Records, Probate Records
Maiden name	Vital Records, Church Records, Bible Records	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records, Obituaries

Marriage information	Vital Records, Church Records, Census, Divorce Records	Bible Records, Cemeteries, Probate Records, Land and Property
Naturalization	Naturalization and Citizenship, Census	Obituaries, Land and Property (sometimes in homestead records)
Occupations	Census, Directories, Land and Property	Court Records, Obituaries, Military Records
Other family members	Census, Probate Records, Obituaries	Bible Records, Genealogy, Land and Property
Parents	Vital Records, Church Records, Census	Probate Records, Obituaries, Land and Property
Physical description	Military Records, Biography, Emigration and Immigration	Naturalization and Citizenship (after Sept. 1906), Vital Records, Genealogy
Place-finding aids	Gazetteers, Maps, Historical Geography	History, Periodicals
Places of residence	Census, Land and Property, Genealogy	Military Records, Obituaries, Directories
Place of residence when you know only the state	Census (indexed), Genealogy, Military Records, Vital Records, and other records with a statewide index	Biography, Probate Records, History, Obituaries, Directories
Previous research	Genealogy, Periodicals, Societies	History, Biography
Record-finding aids	Archives and Libraries	Periodicals
Religion	Church Records, Biography	Cemeteries, Obituaries
Social activities	History, Biography, Newspapers	

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 recordfinding 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

Telephone: 515-281-6412 or 515-281-300 Fax: 515-282-0502

Internet address:

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*. Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1973. (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/

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 http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/ia.html 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 haveindividual 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:

Wimberly, Vera Meek. *Bible Records*. Conroe, Tex.: Montgomery County Genealogical and Historical Society, 1980. (FHL book 977.7 D29b index; computer number 572948.)

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

Press, 1979. (FHL book 977.7 D32m; computer number 14288.)

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 D22i; 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. Biographical Data Collection. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (FHL films 1023885–89 and 1023620; computer number 190897.) This collection consists of alphabetical personal-history surveys.

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 FHLNcal 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.)

Daughters of the American Revolution (Iowa). *Iowa Grave Records and Genealogical Data*, 1800–1900. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (On 4 FHL films beginning with 1023114 item 11; computer number 595496.) Information is by county. This set contains DAR volumes 1–4, 7, 9–10, 12–15, 33–34, 36–39, 41, 44–46, 49, 53, 56, and 80. Use this collection with the one above because many of the volumes missing here are in the above collection.

For Iowa soldiers who died in other states, see:

Iowa. War Records Survey. Graves Registration
Division. *Iowa Veterans Buried Out of State*. Salt
Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978.
(On 10 FHL films beginning with 1023908;
computer number 191576.)

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

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:

Buckway, Eileen G., comp. *U. S. 1910 Federal Census: Unindexed States: A Guide to Finding Census Enumeration Districts for Unindexed Cities, Towns, and Villages.* Salt Lake City:
Family History Library, 1992. (FHL book 973
X2bu 1910; fiche 6101340; computer number
678265.)

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:

Jackson, Ronald Vern. *Iowa 1850 Mortality*. North Salt Lake, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1987. (FHL book 977.7 X2j 1850; computer number 450369.)

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:

Jackson, Ronald Vern, ed. *Iowa Census Records*, 1841–1849. 2 vols. Salt Lake City: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1979, 1981. (FHL book 977.7 X22i 1841–1849; fiche 6019963 [vol. 1]; computer number 2818.)

Jackson, Ronald Vern, ed. *Iowa Census Records*, 1851 to 1859. North Salt Lake, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1981. (FHL book 977.7 X2i 1851–1859; computer number 453831.)

Jackson, Ronald Vern, ed. *Iowa 1852*. North Salt Lake, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1988. (FHL book 977.7 X22io 1852; computer number 482768.)

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 (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:

Lainhart, Ann S. *State Census Records*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 1992. (FHL book 973 X2Lai; computer number 669024.)

Census schedules and their indexes are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog 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

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.

American Lutheran Church Shelf List Index to Their Church Records Microfilmed as of 1987. N. p., 1988. (FHL book 973 K2aL; computer number 522728.)

Methodist

Iowa Wesleyan College Library Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641 Telephone: 319-385-6317 Fax: 319-385-6324 Internet address: 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.

Ministerial Biographies: A File in the Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975. (FHL films 956418–42; computer number 311493.) These films contain biographies, mainly of Methodist ministers.

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.)
- 1942, 1960, 1965, 1972, 1975, 1980, 1985, and 1990. (FHL book 977.758 E4pd; computer number 224066.)

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

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

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.
- 1833–50. The Black Hawk Treaty of 1833 opened most of Iowa to white settlement. Southern Iowa immigration began as the American government negotiated treaties extinguishing the remaining Indian claims. Settlers came from other states, particularly Kentucky and Tennessee. Northern Iowa immigration came primarily from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and the Middle Atlantic and New England states.
- 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. For detailed information about federal immigration sources, including Canadian border-crossing records, see the *United States Research Outline* (30972).

GAZETTEERS

Gazetteers list geographical names such as towns, settlements, rivers, mountains, villages, and districts. They also identify these locations and sometimes give historical and biographical information concerning early residents.

Several helpful lists of Iowa place names have been published, including:

Hair, James T. *Iowa State Gazetteer*. Chicago:
Bailey & Hair, 1865. (FHL book 977.7 E4h; film 1024846 item 5 and film 982200 item 2; computer number 236479.) This gazetteer contains some limited biographical information. There are also lists of occupations, the names of people employed in that occupation and the cities where these people lived.

Mott, David C. *Abandoned Towns, Villages, and Post Offices of Iowa*. Council Bluffs, Iowa: J. W. Hoffman and S. L. Purington Publishing, 1973. (FHL book 977.7 E2m; film 973276 item 2 and film 967574 item 5; fiche 6051149; computer number 241550.)

R. L. Polk and Company. *Iowa State Gazetteer and Business Directory*. St. Paul, Minn.: Polk; A.C. Danser, 1882-1883. (FHL film 989449 item 9 for 1882–1883 ed.; film 1007937 item 3 for 1884–1885 ed.; computer number 379001.)

Ramsey, Guy Reed. *Postmarked Iowa: A List of Discontinued and Renamed Post Offices.* Crete, Neb.: J-B Publishing Co., 1976. (FHL book 977.7 E5r; computer number 222715.)

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

IOWA - GAZETTEERS IOWA - NAMES GEOGRAPHICAL

GENEALOGY

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. These collections often contain birth, marriage, and death information, as well as family histories. You may wish to write to these organizations for help in your search. Sometimes their collections must be searched in person.

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 977.7 A3ga; fiche 6046633; 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, childrens' 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– The Iowa area remained Indian land and was32 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– The population of Iowa nearly tripled as60 immigrants poured in from the older midwestern states and Europe.
- 1861 Over 75,000 Iowans served in the Union 65 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
- 1893 State, experienced financial depressions. 1930s

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:

United States, Bureau of Land Management. *Card Files*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Land Management, [19–]. (FHL films 1501522-681; computer number 547365.)

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.)

Iowa. Land Department. *Miscellaneous Land Records*, *1839 to 1930*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1977. (FHL films 1011643–44, 1011665–67, and 1011671; computer number 190061.)

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.)

Swierenga, Robert P. *Pioneers and Profits: Land Speculation on the Iowa Frontier.* Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1968. (FHL book 977.7 R21s; computer number 242149.)

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:

Cobb, David A. *Guide to U.S. Map Resources*. Chicago and London: American Library Association, 1986. (FHL book 973 E74co; computer number 412054.)

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

Iowa. Adjutant General's Office. *List of Ex-Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, Living in Iowa*. Des Moines, Iowa: G. E. Roberts, State Printer, 1886. (FHL book 977.7 M22ig; film 982150; computer number 281796.) This book lists men living in Iowa in 1886 who served in the War of 1812 and later wars. It also gives each man's name, rank, state from which he served, and sometimes, the company or regiment in which he served.

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; M0351. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1961. (FHL films 471465 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.

Tyler, Daniel. *A Concise History of the Mormon Battalion in the Mexican War, 1846–1847.*Waynesboro, Va.: M & R Books, 1964. (FHL book 973 M2td; film 928153 item 5; computer number 271195.)

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.

United States. Bureau of Pensions. Selected Pension Applications Files for Members of the Morman [sic] Battalion, Mexican War, 1846–48.

Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Record Service, 1934. (FHL films 480129–49; computer number 110863.) The files are generally in alphabetical order.

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:

Meyer, Steve. *Discovering Your Iowa Civil War Ancestry*. Garrison, Iowa: Meyer Pub., 1993. (FHL book 977.7 M2ms; computer number 714016.)

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
 1712 Sauk and the Fox) failed to overcome the
 French and allied Indians; they then fled to central Wisconsin.
- 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

War. 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:

United States. District Court (Iowa: Central Division). *General Index to Declaration of Intentions and Petitions, 1909–1948; Declaration of Intentions, 1917–1936; Petitions, 1909–1936.*Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1991. (On 11 FHL films beginning with 1769765 item 12; computer number 709141.)

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:

United States. District Court (Illinois: Northern District). Soundex Index to Naturalization Petitions for U.S. District & Circuit Courts, Northern District of Illinois and Immigration and Naturalization Service District 9, 1840–1950. National Archives Microfilm Publication; M1285. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (FHL films 1432001–183; computer number 161074.) The Family History Library Catalog entry alphabetically lists the Iowa counties in this collection, all of which were formerly in Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) District 9.

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.

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

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:

Iowa Genealogical Society (Des Moines, Iowa). *Iowa Obituaries, 1860–1982*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1987. (On 101 FHL films beginning with 1487572 item 3; computer number 536965.)

Iowa Genealogical Society (Des Moines, Iowa). *Obituary Cards, 1850-1991*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1991. (On 87 FHL films beginning with 1766206 item 2; computer number 651877.)

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 977.3 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 in this outline 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 Wahkaw. 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:

Dolan, John P., and Lisa Lacher. *Guide to the Public Records of Iowa Counties*. Des Moines, Iowa: Connie Wimer, 1986. (FHL book 977.7 D27d; computer number 544892.) This guide lists many resources for 20th-century research.

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:

Wayne County (Iowa). County Recorder. *Old Age Assistance Records*, 1934–1936. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (FHL films 1653885–88; computer number 574912.) The records are alphabetical.

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:

Iowa Department of Public Health Vital Records Bureau Lucas State Office Building 321 East 12th Street Des Moines, IA 50319-0075 Telephone: 515-281-4944 Fax: 515-281-4529

Internet address:

www.idph.state.ia.us/apl/health_statistics.asp

The current fees for this service are listed in:

Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces. 19th ed. Hyattsville, Md.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 1993. (FHL book 973 V24wv; computer number 185507.) Copies are at the Family History Library and at the Family History Centers.

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:

Clayton County (Iowa). Coroner. *Coroner's Reports*, 1855–1959. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (On 5 FHL films beginning with 1671795; computer number 576853.)

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:

Scott County (Iowa). Clerk of the District Court. *Marriage Records, 1830–1956; Index,*1838–1860. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society

of Utah, 1976, 1986, 1992. (On 57 FHL films beginning with 104414; computer number 296059.)

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:

Fretwell, Shela S. *Iowa Marriages Before Statehood*, 1835–1846. Waterloo, Iowa: n.p., 1985. (FHL book 977.7 V2f; computer number 391698.)

Records of 11 counties are given in the following collection:

Iowa, State Department of History and Archives. *Iowa Marriages, ca. 1844–1900.* Salt Lake City:
Genealogical Society of Utah, 1978. (FHL film 1023609 items 11–21; computer number 190896.)
Contains marriage abstracts and newspaper marriage notices for Buena Vista, Chickasaw, Des Moines, Floyd, Freemont, Greene, Mills, Osceola, Plymouth, Pottawattamie, and Story Counties.

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:

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

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.

Dawson, Patricia and David Hudson. *Iowa History and Culture: A Bibliography of Materials Published Between 1952 and 1986.* Ames, Iowa. State Historical Society of Iowa, 1986. (FHL book 977.7 H23d; computer number 523059.) This book supplements the book mentioned above. For a supplement covering 1987–1991, see the *Annals of Iowa* (1993).

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

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

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

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

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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 lowa.
1762	The land was ceded to Spain.
1788	The first white settlement (for lead mining) was established in lowa, 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 lowa 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 lowa. Between 1833 and 1851 a series of treaties extinguished Indian claims to the land.
1834	Congress attached the area to the Michigan Territory.
1836	lowa 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	lowa, with its present boundaries, became a state.
1850–60	The population of lowa nearly tripled as immigrants poured in from the older midwestern states and Europe.

1861–65	Over 75,000 lowans 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	lowa, 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.
1964–1972	Over 8.7 million American men and women served in the Vietnam War.

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

Historical Sources

You may find state or local histories in the Family History Library Catalog under 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 lowa'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 lowa'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.) 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, 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:

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

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

A bibliography of lowa 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 lowa'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 lowa 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:

- Schlesinger, Jr., Arthur M. *The Almanac of American History*. Greenwich, Conn.: Bison Books, 1983. (FHL book 973 H2alm.) This provides brief historical essays and chronological descriptions of thousands of key events in United States history.
- Webster's Guide to American History: A Chronological, Geographical, and Biographical Survey and Compendium. Springfield, Mass.: G&C Merriam, 1971. (FHL book 973 H2v.) This includes a history, some maps, tables, and other historical information.
- *Dictionary of American History*, Revised ed., 8 vols. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976. (FHL book 973 H2ad.) This includes historical sketches on various topics in U.S. history, such as wars, people, laws, and organizations.

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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.)

1600s-1991	Iowa Genealogical Society, Des Moines, Iowa. Surname Index, 1500–1991. (On 8 FHL films beginning with 1766048.)
1600s-1995	PERiodical Source Index Annual Volumes. (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.
1600s-1900s	Gilman. Aloys. <i>Unpublished Genealogies in the Iowa Historical Library: Manuscript, Typed or Carbon Copies.</i> (FHL book 977.7 A3ga; fiche 6046633.) By surname.
1700–1950s	Iowa. State Department of History and Archives. <i>Biographical Data Collection</i> . (On 6 FHL films beginning with 1023885.)
1700–1950s	Iowa. State Dept. of History and Archives. <i>Biography File</i> . (On 4 FHL films beginning with 1023616 item 2.)
1700–1860	White, Virgil D. Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files. (FHL book 973 M28g).
1700–1840	A General Index to a Census of Pensioners For Revolutionary or Military Service, 1840. (FHL book 973 X2pc index; film 899835 items 1–2; fiche 6046771.) Lists Revolutionary War pensioners whose names are on the 1840 census lists. After using the general index, go to the original book (FHL book Ref 973 X2pc 1967; film 899835 item 3.) This book gives the pensioners town of residence, the name of the head of household where he was they were living, and age of pensioner or his widow.
1700–1860	Revolutionary War Soldiers and Patriots Buried in Iowa. (FHL book 977.7 D3d.) Compiled by the Iowa Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.
1700–1970	Kirkham, E. Kay. An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States: 45,500 References as Taken From Microfilms at the Genealogical Society of Utah. (FHL book 973 D22kk, vol. 2; fiche 6089184.) DAR. See source below.
1700–1970	Daughters of the American Revolution (Iowa). <i>Iowa Genealogical Data</i> . (FHL film 851208 items 8–9 has index to vols. 1–13.) Partly indexed in E. Kay Kirkham source listed above.
1700–1947	Daughters of the American Revolution. <i>Bible records</i> , 1947–1948. (FHL film 851218 item 6.) Indexed in E. Kay Kirkham source listed above.
1700–1970	Daughters of the American Revolution (Iowa). <i>Iowa Pioneer families</i> . (FHL films 851218 items 3–5, 7–9.) Indexed in E. Kay Kirkham source listed above.
1740–1900 1750–1940s	White, Virgil D. <i>Index to War of 1812 Pension Files.</i> (FHL book 973 M22i.) Burgess, Jo Ann. <i>Bible Records from Iowa Libraries and Museums.</i> (FHL book
1750–19405	977.7 D29b; film 1036785 item 3, for vol. 1.)
1750–1978	Iowa State Department of History and Archives. <i>Iowa Family Bible Records A-Z</i> . (FHL film 1023889 items 2–9.)
1760–1920	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.
1762-1939	Charts and Genealogies of Pioneer Families of Iowa. (FHL film 908960 item 4.)
1770–1850	Jackson, Ronald Vern. <i>Iowa 1850 Mortality</i> . (FHL book 977.7 X2j 1850.)
1780–1991	lowa Genealogical Society, Des Moines, Iowa. <i>Obituary Cards, 1850–1991</i> . (On 87 FHL films beginning with 1766206 item 2.) Alphabetical.
1780–1971	Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. <i>Century Farm Applications</i> . (On 8 FHL films beginning with 1023895.) Lists farms being in the same family for 100 years or more.
1780–1856	Sopp, Elsie L. Personal Name Index to the 1856 City Directories of Iowa. (FHL book 977.7 D42s.)
1782–1936	lowa. State Department of Archives and History. <i>Family Record Collection</i> . (On 6 FHL films beginning with 1023611 item 11.)
1795–1971	Iowa. State Department of Archives and History. <i>Iowa Cemeteries</i> . (On 7 FHL films beginning with 1023603 item 6).

Research Guidance 2

1800–1846	Fretwell, Shela S. <i>Iowa Marriages Before Statehood, 1835–1846.</i> (FHL book 977.7 V2f.)
1800-1865	United States. Adjutant General's Office. <i>Index to Compiled Service Records of</i>
	Volunteer Union Soldiers Who served in Organizations from the State of Iowa.
	(FHL films 881808–36.)
1800–1865	Index to Iowa Soldiers. (FHL film 1033761 items 3–9; fiche 6051153.) This is an
	index of solders 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.)
1800–1962	Iowa. Grand Army of the Republic. Grand Army of the Republic Records, ca.
.000 .002	1800–1962. (On 69 FHL films beginning with 1487370.) The index cards often
	have birth date and place, death date and place, and parents' names.
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
4000 4050	original files may be ordered from the National Archives.
1800–1850 1800–1900	<i>Iowa Marriages, Early to 1850: A Research Tool.</i> (FHL book 977.7 V22i.) Iowa State Department of History and Archives. <i>Iowa Marriages, ca. 1844–1900.</i>
1000-1900	(FHL film 1023609 items 11–21.)
1800–1991	Iowa Genealogical Society (Des Moines, Iowa). <i>Pioneer Certificates</i> , 1800s–
1000 1001	1991. (On 14 FHL films beginning with 1508885). Alphabetical.
1800-1923	State Historical Society (Iowa City, Iowa). Essay Contest, 1923. (FHL films
	986175–182.) Index on film 986175.
1806–1937	lowa. State Department of History and Archives. Iowa Cemetery & Grave
	Records by Grave Registration Project of the WPA and DAR. (FHL films
4005 4005	1022211–113 and 1023097–114 items 1–3.) By county.
1825–1905	lowa Director of the Census. <i>Iowa State Census</i> , 1905. (On 454 FHL films beginning with 1430251) Alphabetical by county.
1835–1915	Executive Council of the State of Iowa. <i>Iowa State Census, 1915.</i> (On 582 FHL)
1000-1910	films beginning with 1379445.) Alphabetical by county.
1860-1918	Haulsee, W. M. <i>Soldiers of the Great War.</i> (FHL book 973 M23s; vols. 1–3; Iowa
	on vol. 1; fiche 6051244.) Soldiers who died in WWI, 1914–18.
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.

Where to Find It

Family History Centers and the Family History Library

You can use the Family History Library book collection only at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, but many of our books have been microfilmed. Most of our films can be requested and

Research Guidance

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.

MapsComputer 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

Andriot, Jay. *Township Atlas of the U.S.* Virginia: Documents Index, 1991. Mic/Gen Ref- G 1201.F7 A5 1991

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

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

Eichholz, Alice. *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County & Town Sources.* Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992.

Mic/Gen Ref - CS 49.A55 1992. (3 copies in FHC)

<u>Summary</u>: 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.

Kirkam, E. Kay. A Genealogical and Historical Atlas of the United States. Utah: Everton Publishers, Inc., 1976.

Mic/Gen Ref- G1201.E6225.K5 1976

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

<u>Evaluation of lowa maps</u>: State historical information, p. 13; 1861 map, p. 151; 1909 map, p. 214.

Mattson, Mark T. *Macmillan Color Atlas of the States*. Toronto: Simon & Schuster Macmillan, 1996.

Mic/Gen Ref- Quarto Shelves G 1200.M4 1996.

<u>Summary</u>: 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.

Thorndale, William and William Dollarhide. *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses*, 1790-1931. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co, 1987.

Mic/Gen Ref- G 1201.F7 T5 1987

<u>Summary:</u> 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 lowa maps: pp.114 - 117.

Map Collection on the 2^{nd} 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.



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

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.

```
Example of a time an ancestor was in Iowa.

in Iowa from1868 [------] through1897

-]-----]-----]-----]-----]-----]-----]-

1840 1850 1860 1870 1880 1900 1910 1920

Iowa census years

This person would be included in Iowa censuses from 1870 to 1880.

(The 1890 census was mostly destroyed.)
```

Step 2. Determine a census to start with.

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

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

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

The censuses for 1930 and later are available from the U.S. Census Bureau only. For ways the census can help you find your ancestor's parents, see Tip 1.

Step 3. Search the census.

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

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

You will eventually want to know every country, state, country, 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 lowa was destroyed by fire.

Types of Census Schedules

The following census schedules are available for lowa 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, 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 lowa 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.

lowa became a state in 1846. There are lowa 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 *lowa 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 indexes and records and may have links to archives, libraries, and genealogical and historical societies.
- CensusLinks on the Net includes links to Internet sites that have United States and Canada censuses and indexes. It includes information about censuses and how to use them, a Soundex calculator, census forms you can print, an age calculator, and more.
- Browse Categories on this screen has links to records and indexes that are available on the Internet.
- The Archives and Libraries section of the *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:

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

Research Guidance 6

Version of Data: 08/16/01

IOWA

Iowa	Special Censuses	FILM 1022202
	A list of special censuses at the Iowa State Histoperatment.	item 3 orical
1807	Iowa 1836 territorial census.	FHC Table 7 CS49.Z99 IS
1836	Iowa County Heritage. Content: VOLUME 1. March and December 1847 territorial censuses of Iowa County, 1850	FILM 1320510 item 2
	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.	FILM 1320510 item 3
1836	The first census of the original counties of Dubuque and Demoine, Iowa, taken in July 1836	FILM 0989450 item 2 FILM 1022202 item 1-2
1841-	-1849 Census Index	FHC Table 7 CS49.Z99 I8
1846	Census of Louisa, Polk, and Wapello counties	FILM 1022202 item 7-9
1847	Census of Clinton, Davis, Louisa, Marion, Scott, Van Buren, and Wapello counties	FILM 1022202 item 10-16
1849	Census of Benton, Boone, Clinton, Jackson, Louisa, Madison, Poweshiek, Scott, Van Buren and Washington counties	FILM 1022202 item 17-25, 27
1851	Census of Cedar,' Clinton, Decatur, Gutherie, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Madison, Mahaska, Page, Pottawatamie, 'Poweshiek, Scott, and Washington counties	FILM 1022203
1852	Appanoose - Lucas Counties Madison - Wayne counties	FILM 1022204 FILM 1022205
52	Iowa 1852	FEC Table 7 CS49.Z99 IS

1853	Warren County	Film 1022206
	Adams - Lee Counties Linn - Winneshiek Counties Duplicate film of Page, Polk, Pottawattamie, and Poweshiek Counties	FILM 1022206 item 2-16 FILM 1022207 FILM 1022210 item 11
1838,	1847, 1849, 1854 Statistical Census	State Census Microfiche Cart 1 of 1
	Adair - Audubon Counties Benton - Buchanan Counties Calhoun - Chickasaw Counties Clarke and Clayton Counties Clinton and Crawford Counties Dallas and Davis Counties Decatur and Delaware Counties Des Moines County Dubuque County Fayette - Fremont Counties Greene - Henry Counties Howard - Jackson Counties Jefferson and Jasper Counties Johnson County Jones - Kossuth Counties Lee County Linn - Lucas Counties Mahaska and Madison Counties Marion County Marshall - Monroe Counties Monona - Page Counties Ringgold and Scott Counties Shelby - Van Buren Counties Wapello and Washington Counties Wayne - Wright Counties	FILM 1021290 1021291 1021293 1021294 1021295 1021296 1021297 1021298 1021299 1021300 1021301 1021302 1021303 1021304 1021305 1021306 1021307 1021308 1021308 1021310 1021311 1021312 1021313 1021314 1021315 item 1
	of the state of Iowa for 1856: showing in detail, the population, place of nativity, argicultural statistics, domestic and general manufactures, &c.	item 1
1856	Statistical Census	State Census Microfiche Cards 5 of 5

1050	iowa (Cont.)	
1859	Census of Iowa.	FILM 1022208
1859 1862	Statistical Census	State Census Microfiche Cards 2 of 2
	Census returns of the different counties	FILM 1000025 item 1
1862 1865	Statistical Census	State Census Microfiche Cards 2 of 2
1867	Statistical Census	State Census Microfiche Cards 2 of 2
	Census of Iowa	FILM 1000025 item 2
1867 1869	Statistical Census	State Census Microfiche Cards 3 of 3
1009	Census of Iowa as returned in the Year 1869.	FILM 1000025 item 3
	Statistical information only. Alphabetical list of post offices: p. 194-203.	
1869 1873	Statistical Census	State Census Microfiche Cards 3 of 3
10/3	Statistical Census	State Census Microfiche Cards 2 of 2
1875	Statistical Census	State Census Microfiche Cards 6 of 6
1885	Adair County Adams County Allamakee County Appanoose County Audubon County Benton County Benton County (cont.) Black Hawk County Boone County Boone County Bremer County	FILM 1021316 1021317 1021318 1021319 1021320 1021440 1021441 1021442 1021443 1021444 1021444

IOWA (Cent.)	1001446
Buchanan County	1021446
Buena Vista, Butler counties	1021448
Calhoun, Carroll counties	1021449
Cass County	1021450
Cedar County	1021451
Cerro Gordo, Cherokee counties	1021452
Chickasaw County	1021453
Clark, Clay counties Clayton County	1021454
Clinton County	1021455
Clinton County (cont.)	1021456
Crawford County	1021457 1021458
Dallas County	1021459
Davis County	1021460
Decatur County	1021461
Delaware County	1021462
Des Moines County Des Moines County (cont.), Dickinson County	1021463
	1021464
Dubuque County	1021465
Dubuque County (cont.) Emett, Fayette counties	1021466
Floyd County	1021467
Franklin County	1021468
Fremont County	1021469 1021470
Green County	1021470
Grundy County	1021472
Guthrie County	1021473
Hamilton, Hancock counties	1021474
Hardin County Harrison County (There are no listings for Allen	1021475
Township on film)	1021476
Henry County	1021477
Howard, Humboldt counties	1021478
Ida County	1021479
Iowa County	1021480
Jackson county	1021481
Jasper County	1021482
Jasper County (cont.) Jefferson County	1021483
Johnson County	1021484
Jones County	1021485
Keokuk County	1021486 1021487
Kossuth County	1021488
Lee County	1021489
Lee County (cont.)	1021490
Linn County	1021491
Linn County (cont.)	1021492
Louisa County Lucas, Lyon counties	1021493
Madison County	1021494
Mahaska County	1021495
Marion County	1021496 1021497
Marshall County	1021498
Mills, Mitchell counties	1021499
Monona County	1021500
Montgomery County	

	IOWA (Cant.)	
	Muscatine County	1.0201.68
	O'Brien, Osceola counties	1020169
		1.0201.70
	Page, Palo Alto counties	1.0201.70
	(Note: the townships of Fern Valley,	
	Freedom and Grant Oak missing	
	from Palo county)	
	Plymouth, Pocahontas counties	1.0201.71.
	Polk County	1.0201.72
		1.0201.73
	Polk County (cont.)	1.0201.73
	Polk County (cont.)	
	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.
		1.0201.81
	Shelby County	
	Sioux County	1.0201.83
	Story County	1.0201.84
	Tama County	1.0201.85
	Taylor County Union, Van Buren counties	1.0201.86
	Union Van Buren counties	1.0201.87
	Wapello County	1.0201.88
	Warran County	1.021.698
	Warren County	
	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
	Worth and Wright	1.021.703
1.885		\mathbf{c}
	Statistical Census	State Census
		Microfiche
		Cards 6 of 6
1.895		FILM
1.093		1.021.706
	Adair county	
	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
		1.021.71.5
	Townships: Amaqua, Beacer, Cass, Colfax,	
	Des Moines,	
	Town/City: Boone	4 0 - 0
	Boone county	1.020332
	Townships: Dodge, Douglas, Garden, Grant,	
	Harrison, Jackson, Marcy, Peoples,	
	pilot Mound, Union, Worth, Yell	
	Town/City: Madrid, Angus, Ogden	
		'1.020333
	Bremer county	1.040333
	•	

	1000000
Buchanan county	1020334
Buena Vista county	1020335
Butler county	1020336
Calhoun county	1020337
Carroll county	1020338
	1020339
Cass county	1020340
Cedar county	1020340
Cerro Gordo county	1020341
Cherokee county	
Chickasaw county	1020343
Clarke county	1020344
Clay county	1020189
Clayton county	1020190
Clinton county	1020191
Clinton township and city	
Clinton county	1020192
Townships: Berlin, Bloomfield, Brookfield,	
Camanche, Centre, Deep Creek, Dewitt,	
Edon Elle Divon Homoshine Liberty	
Eden, Elk River, Hampshire, Liberty,	
Lincoln	
Town/City: Delmar, Elwood, Camanche, Dewitt,	
Low Moor	
Clinton county	1020193
Township: Lyons, Olive, Orange, Sharon,	
Spring Rock, Spring Valley, Washington,	
Waterford, Welton	
Town/City: Lyons, Grandmound, Wheatland	
	1020194
Crawford county	1020194
Dallas county	1020196
Davis county	
Decatur county	1020197
Delaware county	1020198
Des Moines county	1020199
City of Burlington	
Des Moines county	1020200
Townships: Augusta, Benton, Burlington,	
Danville, Flint River, Franklin, Huron,	
Jackson, Pleasant Grove, Union,	
Washington, Yellow Springs	
Town/City: West Burlington, Mediapolis	
	1020345
Dickinson county	1020346
Dubuque county	1020340
City of Dubuque (1-3 wards)	1020245
Dubuque county	1020347
City of Dubuque (4-5 wards)	
Dubuque county	1020348
Townships: Cascade, Center, Concord, Dodge,	
Dubuque, Iowa, Jefferson, Liberty, Mosalem, New Wine, Peru, Prairie Creek,	
Mosalem, New Wine, Peru, Prairie Creek.	
Table Mound, Taylor, Vernon, Washington,	
White Water	
Town/City: Cascade, Dyersville, Epworth,	
•	
Earley	1020349
Emmet county	
Fayette county	1020350
Floyd county	1020351

Towa (cont.)	
Franklin county	1020352
Fremont county	1020353
Greene county	1020354
Grundy county	1020355
Guthrie county	1020356
Hamilton county	1020357
Hancock county	1020358
Hardin county	1020359
Harrison county	1020360
Henry county	1020361
Howard and Humboldt counties	1020362
Ida county	1020362
Iowa county	1020364
	1020364
Jackson county	
Jasper county	1020366
Jefferson county	1020367
Johnson county	1020201
Jones county	1022067
Keokuk county	1022068
Townships: Adams, Benton, Clear Creek, English River, German, Jackson, Lafayette,	
English River, German, Jackson, Lafayette,	
Lancaster, Liberty, Prairie	
Town/City: Keswick, Hedrick, South English,	
Ollie, Harper, Keota	
Keokuk county	1022069
Townships: Richland, Sigourney, Steady Run,	
Van Buren, Warren, Washington	
Town/City: Thornbury, Richland, Sigourney,	
Townships: Richland, Sigourney, Steady Run, Van Buren, Warren, Washington Town/City: Thornbury, Richland, Sigourney, Martinsburg, Delta, What Cheer	
Kossuth county	1022070
Lee county	1022071
Townships: Cedar, Charleston, Denmark, Des	1022071
Moines, Franklin, Green Bay, Harrison,	
Jackson, Jefferson	
Town/City: Keokuk, Donnellson, Franklin,	
Fort Madison (1-2 wards)	4000000
Lee county	1022072
Townships: Montrose, Pleasant Ridge, Van	
Townships: Montrose, Pleasant Ridge, Van Buren, Washington, West Point Town/City: Fort Madison (3-5 wards),	
Town/City: Fort Madison (3-5 wards),	
Montrose, West Point	
Linn county	1022073
Townships: Bertram, Boulder, Brown, Buffalo, Clinton, College, Fairfax, Fayette, Franklin, Grant, Jackson, Linn, Maine	
Clinton, College, Fairfax, Fayette,	
Franklin, Grant, Jackson, Linn, Maine	
Town/City: Springville, Lisbon, Mt. Vernon,	
Walker, Coggon	
Linn county	1022074
Townships: Marion, Monroe, Otter Creek, Putnam, Rapids, Spring Grove, Washington	
Putnam, Rapids, Spring Grove, Washington	
Town/City: Central City, Marion, Kenwood	
Park, Center Point	
Linn county	1022075
City of Cedar Rapids	
Louisa and Lucas counties	1022076
Lyon county	1022077

U.S. State Censuses

iowa (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	
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	
	1.022083
Mills county	1.022084
Mitchell county	1.022085
Monona county	1.022086
Monroe county	1.022087
Montgomery county	1.022088
Muscatine county	1.022089
O'Brien county	1.022090
Osceola county	1022091.
Page county	1.022092
Palo Alto county	1.022093
Plymouth county	1.022094
Pocahantos county	1022095
Polk county	1022093
City of Des Moines	
1-2 wards, Des Moines township	1.022096
Polk county	1.022090
City of Des Moines	
3rd ward, Des Moines township	1022097
Polk county	1022097
City of Des Moines	
4th ward, Des Moines township	
5th ward/1-9 districts, Lee township	1.022098
Polk county	1.022098
City of Des Moines	
5th ward/10-12 districts, Lee township	
6-7 ward "	1 022000
Polk county	1.022099
Townships: Allen, Beaver, Bloomfield, Camp,	
Clay, Crocker, Delaware, Douglas, Elkhart,	
Four Mile, Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln,	
Madison, Saylor, Walnut, Washington, Webster	

IOWA (Cont.)	
Town/City: Mitchellville, Altoona,	
Bondurant, Sheldahl, Polk City, Valley	
Junction, Grimes	
Pottawattamie county	1022100
City of Council Bluffs	
Pottawattamie county	1022101
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	1022174
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	1022175
Ringgold county	1022176
Sac county	1022177
Scott county	1022178
City of Davenport (1-3 wards)	
Scott county '	1022179
City of Davenport (4-5 wards)	
Iowa soldier's orphans home and home for	
indigent children (6th ward)	
·	
Scott county	1022180
Scott county Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo,	1022180
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo,	1022180
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove,	1022180
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley,	1022180
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield	1022180
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield Town/City: Walcott, Buffalo, Le Claire, New	1022180
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield Town/City: Walcott, Buffalo, Le Claire, New Liberty, Dixon, Big Rock, Princeton	
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield Town/City: Walcott, Buffalo, Le Claire, New Liberty, Dixon, Big Rock, Princeton Shelby county	1022181
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield Town/City: Walcott, Buffalo, Le Claire, New Liberty, Dixon, Big Rock, Princeton Shelby county Sioux county	1022181 1022182
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield Town/City: Walcott, Buffalo, Le Claire, New Liberty, Dixon, Big Rock, Princeton Shelby county Sioux county Story county	1022181 1022182 1022183
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield Town/City: Walcott, Buffalo, Le Claire, New Liberty, Dixon, Big Rock, Princeton Shelby county Sioux county Story county Tama county	1022181 1022182 1022183 1022184
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield Town/City: Walcott, Buffalo, Le Claire, New Liberty, Dixon, Big Rock, Princeton Shelby county Sioux county Story county Tama county Taylor county	1022181 1022182 1022183 1022184 1022185
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield Town/City: Walcott, Buffalo, Le Claire, New Liberty, Dixon, Big Rock, Princeton Shelby county Sioux county Story county Tama county Taylor county Union county	1022181 1022182 1022183 1022184 1022185 1022186
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield 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	1022181 1022182 1022183 1022184 1022185 1022186 1022187
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield 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	1022181 1022182 1022183 1022184 1022185 1022186
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield 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	1022181 1022182 1022183 1022184 1022185 1022186 1022187 1022188
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield 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	1022181 1022182 1022183 1022184 1022185 1022186 1022187
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield 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,	1022181 1022182 1022183 1022184 1022185 1022186 1022187 1022188
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield 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, Compeline, Dahlonega, Green, Highland, Keokuk, Pleasant, Polk,	1022181 1022182 1022183 1022184 1022185 1022186 1022187 1022188
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield 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, Compeline, Dahlonega, Green, Highland, Keokuk, Pleasant, Polk,	1022181 1022182 1022183 1022184 1022185 1022186 1022187 1022188
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield 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, Compeline, Dahlonega, Green, Highland, Keokuk, Pleasant, Polk, Richland, Washington	1022181 1022182 1022183 1022184 1022185 1022186 1022187 1022188
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield Town/City: Walcott, Buffalo, Le Claire, New Liberty, Dixon, Big Rock, Princeton Shelby county Sioux county Tama county Taylor county Union county Van Buren county Wapello county City of Ottumwa Wapello county Townships: Adams, Agency, Cass, Center, Columbia, Compeline, Dahlonega, Green, Highland, Keokuk, Pleasant, Polk, Richland, Washington Town/City: Blakesburg, Agency City,	1022181 1022182 1022183 1022184 1022185 1022186 1022187 1022188
Townships: AlIens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield 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, Compeline, Dahlonega, Green, Highland, Keokuk, Pleasant, Polk, Richland, Washington Town/City: Blakesburg, Agency City, Chillicothe, Eddyville, Kirkville, Eldon	1022181 1022182 1022183 1022184 1022185 1022186 1022187 1022188
Townships: AlIens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield 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, Compeline, Dahlonega, Green, Highland, Keokuk, Pleasant, Polk, Richland, Washington Town/City: Blakesburg, Agency City, Chillicothe, Eddyville, Kirkville, Eldon Warren county	1022181 1022182 1022183 1022184 1022185 1022186 1022187 1022188
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield Town/City: Walcott, Buffalo, Le Claire, New Liberty, Dixon, Big Rock, Princeton Shelby county Sioux county Tama county Tama county Union county Van Buren county Wapello county City of Ottumwa Wapello county Townships: Adams, Agency, Cass, Center, Columbia, Compeline, Dahlonega, Green, Highland, Keokuk, Pleasant, Polk, Richland, Washington Town/City: Blakesburg, Agency City, Chillicothe, Eddyville, Kirkville, Eldon Warren county Washington county	1022181 1022182 1022183 1022184 1022185 1022186 1022187 1022188 1022189
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield Town/City: Walcott, Buffalo, Le Claire, New Liberty, Dixon, Big Rock, Princeton Shelby county Sioux county Tama county Tama county Union county Van Buren county Wapello county City of Ottumwa Wapello county Townships: Adams, Agency, Cass, Center, Columbia, Compeline, Dahlonega, Green, Highland, Keokuk, Pleasant, Polk, Richland, Washington Town/City: Blakesburg, Agency City, Chillicothe, Eddyville, Kirkville, Eldon Warren county Washington county Washington county	1022181 1022182 1022183 1022184 1022185 1022186 1022187 1022188 1022189
Townships: Allens Grove, Blue Grass, Buffalo, Butler, Cleona, Davenport, Hickory Grove, Le Claire, Liberty, Lincoln, Pleasant Valley, Princeton, Rockingham, Sheridan, Winfield Town/City: Walcott, Buffalo, Le Claire, New Liberty, Dixon, Big Rock, Princeton Shelby county Sioux county Tama county Tama county Union county Van Buren county Wapello county City of Ottumwa Wapello county Townships: Adams, Agency, Cass, Center, Columbia, Compeline, Dahlonega, Green, Highland, Keokuk, Pleasant, Polk, Richland, Washington Town/City: Blakesburg, Agency City, Chillicothe, Eddyville, Kirkville, Eldon Warren county Washington county	1022181 1022182 1022183 1022184 1022185 1022186 1022187 1022188 1022189

IOWA (Cent.)	
Cooper, Dayton, Deer Creek, Douglas,	
Elkhorn, Fulton, Gowrie, Hardin, Jackson,	
Lost Grove	
Town/City: Badger, Dayton, Gowrie, Clare,	
Barnum	
Webster county	1022194
Townships: Newark, Otho, Pleasant Valley,	1022194
Roland, Sumner, Washington, Webster, Yell	
Town/City: Vincent, Callender, Lehigh, Fort	
Dodge, Duncombe	
Winnebago county	1022195
Winnesheik county	1022196
Woodbury county	1022197
Townships: Arlington, Banner, Concord,	1022197
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	1022100
Woodbury county Sioux City	1022198
1-3 wards	
4th ward except 1st district	1022199
Woodbury county	1022199
Sioux City 4th ward/1st district	
5-8 wards	
	1022200
Worth county Wright county and state institutions	1022200
wright county and state institutions	1022201
1895	
Statistical Census	State Comme
Statistical Census	State Census
	Microfiche
	Cards 10 of 10
1005	TT W
1905 Adair and Adams	FILM
	1026366
All amakee, Appanoos, Audubon Benton and Blackhawk	1026367 1026368
Boone, Bremer, Buchanan	1026369
Buena Vista and Butler	1026370
Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Cedar	1026371
Cerro Gordo, Cherokee, Chickasaw	1026372
Clarke, Clay, Clayton	1026373
Clinton and Crawford	1026374
Dalla, Davis, Decatur	1026375
Delaware and Des Moines counties	1026376
Dickinson and Dubuque	1026377
Emmet, Fayette, Floyd	1026378
Franklin, Fremont	1026379
Greene, Grundy, Gutherie	1026380
Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin	1026381 1026382
Harrison, Henry, Howard, Hunboldt	1020302

iown (cont.)	
Ida and Iowa	1026383
Jackson and Jasper	1026384
Jefferson and Johnson	1026385
Jones, Keokuk, Kossuth	1026498
Lee	1026499
Linn and Louisa	1026500
	102650J.
Lucas and Lyon	
Madison and Mahaska	1026502
Marion, Marshall, Mills	1026503
Mitchell, Monona, Monroe	1026504
Montgomery and Muscatine	1026505
O'Brien and Osceola	1026506
Page, Palo Alto, Plymouth	1026507
Pocahontas	1026508
Polk (city of Des Moines wards 5, 6, 7, 1, 2)	1026509
Polk (city of Des Moines wards 3, 4) and	
township	
Pottawattamie	1026511
	1026512
Poweshiek and Ringgold	1026512
Sac and Scott	
Shelby, Sioux, Story	1026514
Tama, Taylor, Union	1026515
Van Buren and Wapello	1026516
Warren, Washington, Wayne	1026517
Webster, Winnebago, winneshiek	1026518
Woodbury	1026519
Worth and Wright	1026520
,, orth who ,, 118.10	
1005	
1905 Statistical Carava	State Census
Statistical Census	Microfiche
	Cards 12 of 12
1915	G G
Statistical Census	State Census
	Microfiche
	Cards 10 of 10
1925	
Statistical Census	State Census
Statistical Communication	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 Ohio form 1728-1803

Indiana from 1787-1816 Pennsylvania from 1752-1786

Missouri from 1775-1792 Tennessee from 1760-1803

North Carolina from 1728-1803 West Virginia from 1769-1863

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IOWA 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.
1308-16	United States Army builds four forts in Iowa.
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 Moine 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 capita1.
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.

1861-65	Ci vil War
1867	Railroad completed across Iowa from Mississippi River to Council Bluffs.
1880	Statewide registration of vital records by counties with copies ordered to the state office.

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 http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHC/FHC_Results.asp?FHCCountry=United+States&FHCStateProv=Iowa&submit=Search