Montana
Research Outline

Table of Contents

This outline describes major sources of information about families from Montana. As you read this outline, study the *United States Research Outline* (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

The Family History Library has some of the records described in this outline, including federal census reports, local histories, cemetery records, and records about American Indians. The library also has a few county courthouse records.

If the Family History Library has a record mentioned in this outline, the letters *FHL,* the abbreviation for *Family History Library,* precede the book, film, or fiche number. You can use these numbers to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers.

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

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

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

UNITED STATES - CENSUS*MONTANA* - CHURCH HISTORY*MONTANA, CASCADE* - MILITARY RECORDS*MONTANA, CASCADE, GREAT FALLS* - DIRECTORIES

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

UNITED STATES - *CENSUS*MONTANA - *CHURCH HISTORY*MONTANA, CASCADE - *MILITARY RECORDS*MONTANA, CASCADE, GREAT FALLS - *DIRECTORIES*

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

The following archives, libraries, and societies have major collections or services helpful to genealogical researchers.

- Montana Historical Society

225 North Roberts Street
Helena, MT 59620-1201
Telephone: 406-444-2694
Fax: 406-444-2696
The Montana Historical Society houses both the Montana Historical Society Library and the Montana State Archives. The library collects printed and manuscript sources, including histories and reference materials. The archives primarily collects government documents.

- National Archives Records Administration—Rocky Mountain Region (Denver)

Building 48, Denver Federal Center
P.O. Box 25307
Denver, CO 80225

Telephone: 303-236-0817
Fax: 303-236-9297

- University of Montana

Mansfield Library
Missoula, MT 59812
Telephone: 406-243-6800
Fax: 406-243-2060

- Montana State University

Renne Library
P.O. Box 173320
Bozeman, MT 59717-3320
Telephone: 406-994-3119
Fax: 406-994-2851
To learn more about the history and record-keeping systems of Montana counties, use the 16 inventories of county archives produced by the Historical Records Survey around 1940. The Family History Library has copies of most of these inventories.

Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

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

- Locate other researchers
- Post queries
- Send and receive e-mail
- Search large databases
- Search computer libraries
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions

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

- USGenWeb

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

- Roots-L

http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/
A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly-updated research coordination list.
For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the *United States Research Outline* (30972), 2nd ed., "Archives and Libraries" section.

FamilySearch™

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

BIOGRAPHY

The Montana Historical Society has an extensive collection of biographical materials. There is no statewide biographical index or major manuscript collection. You may find information in the biographical sections of state, regional, and county histories.

Representative biographical encyclopedias are:

Progressive Men of the State of Montana. Chicago: A. W. Bowen and Co., 1901. (FHL book 978.6 D3p; film 1000176.)

Stout, Tom. *Montana, Its Story and Biography.* . . . 3 vols. Chicago: American Historical Society, 1921. (FHL book 978.6 H2s; film 1000175.) There is also an every-name index (FHL book 978.6 H2s Index, film 1320700 item 3.)

Brief biographies of settlers who arrived in Montana before the territory was established in 1864 are found in James U. Sanders, *Society of Montana Pioneers: Constitution, Members and Officers, with Portraits and Maps,* vol. 1 (Akron, Ohio: Society of Montana Pioneers, 1899; FHL book 978.6 C4p; film 1000177 item 3).

CEMETERIES

There is no compiled list of Montana cemeteries or statewide collection or index of cemetery transcripts. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection contains tombstone inscriptions from some Montana cemeteries (see the "Genealogy" section of this outline).

Inscriptions from 10 central Montana cemeteries have been copied by the Lewistown Genealogical Society (FHL film 1035938 item 2). Additional transcripts of cemetery records are in *Cemetery Records of Montana,* 3 vols. (Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society, 1947-61; FHL book 978.6 V22c; film 873694 items 4-6, fiche 6051445).

Tombstone inscriptions have also been published in periodicals. See the *United States Research Outline* for further suggestions on locating cemetery records.

Montana's Genealogical and Local History Records . . . lists cemeteries in each county (see the "For Further Reading" section of this outline).

CENSUS

Federal

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

The Family History Library has the U.S. federal censuses for Montana for 1900, 1910, and 1920. A soundex (phonetic) index is available on microfilm for the 1900 and 1920 censuses.

The 1890 census was destroyed. The 1890 Union veterans schedule and index are available at the Family History Library and at the National Archives.

Territorial and State

In 1860 the area that is now western Montana was part of the Washington Territory. Eastern Montana was part of the unorganized area of Nebraska Territory in 1860. The 1860 censuses for these two territories list the individuals who lived in what is now Montana. Federal censuses for Montana Territory are available for 1870 and 1880.

Indexes for the Montana returns for 1860, 1870, and 1880 are available in book format. Mortality schedules for the 1870 and 1880 censuses are at the Montana Historical Society and at the DAR library in Washington, D.C. The Family History Library also has published indexes for the 1870 and 1880 mortality schedules.

To identify early settlers, see *List of Early Settlers: A List of All Persons (Except Indians) Who Were in What Is Now Montana During the Winter of 1862-1863,* compiled by the Montana Historical Society. It is found in *Contributions to the Historical Society of Montana . . . ,* 1: 293-308, 2d ed. (Helena: Rocky Mountain Publishing Co., 1902; FHL film 1000177 item 2).

The Montana Historical Society also has a manuscript of an 1864 Montana poll list. Although not as complete as a census, it gives the names of eligible voters.

CHURCH RECORDS

Before 1900 the largest religious groups in Montana were the Roman Catholic, Methodist, Episcopal, and Presbyterian churches. Each group arrived during the territorial period to proselyte among the Indians and the miners.

The Family History Library has a few church records for Montana. The collection also includes histories of the United Methodists, United Brethren, and Roman Catholics.

Many denominations have gathered their records into central repositories. You can write to the following addresses to learn where their records are located.

Methodist

Montana Methodist Historical Society
Paul M. Adams Memorial Library
Rocky Mountain College
1511 Poly Dr.
Billings, MT 59102
Telephone: 406-657-1087
Fax: 406-657-1085

Presbyterian
Presbyterian Historical Society
United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.
425 Lombard Street

Philadelphia, PA 19147-1516
Telephone: 215-627-1852
Fax: 215-627-0509
Internet address: www.history.pcusa.org

Roman Catholic
Archives of the Diocese of Great Falls—Billings
121 23rd Street So.
P.O. Box 1399
Great Falls, MT 59403-1399
Telephone: 406-727-6683
Fax: 406-454-3480
Internet address: www.dioceseofgfb.org

Historian Archivist
Diocese of Helena
515 North Ewing
P.O. Box 1729
Helena, MT 59624
Telephone: 406-442-5820
Fax: 406-442-5191
Internet address: www.diocesehelena.org/archives/default.htm

The following guides may help you find church records:

A Directory of Churches and Religious Organizations in Montana. Bozeman: Historical Records Survey, 1941. (FHL book 978.6 K24h; film 908039 item 8.)

Inventory of the Vital Statistics Records of Church and Religious Organizations in Montana. Bozeman, Mont.: Historical Records Survey, 1942. (FHL book 978.6 V2hi; film 1036415 item 3; fiche 6046711.) This gives the types of records available in 1942 and the years covered by the records.

A list of pre-1910 churches, their addresses, and dates they began keeping records is in *Montana's Genealogical and Local History Records* . . . (see the "For Further Reading" section of this outline).

COURT RECORDS

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

District courts are districtwide courts that serve as the major trial courts for one to seven counties. They have jurisdiction over criminal cases, naturalizations, guardianships, divorces, debts, probates (since 1889), juvenile matters, and some appeals. Court sessions are held in each county, where a clerk of the district court keeps the records.

Probate courts had jurisdiction over probates, marriages, and minor civil and criminal matters. Probate courts were disbanded in 1889 when their functions and records were transferred to the district courts.

The Supreme Court is the statewide appellate court.

The Family History Library does not have copies of Montana court records. You can obtain copies at the clerk's office in each county courthouse or from the Montana State Archives at the Montana Historical Society.

DIRECTORIES

Extensive collections of city and business directories are available at the Montana Historical Society, Montana State University, and the University of Montana.

The Family History Library has useful directories for the years 1868 and 1879 on FHL film 1377090. The library has some directories from the 1930s to 1980s for larger cities, such as Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell, and Missoula.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Prestatehood settlers of Montana were trappers, missionaries, miners, cattlemen, farmers, and lumbermen. They came primarily from the midwestern states, although refugees from Confederate states came to the early mining camps.

In the 1860s many gold seekers took steamboats from Saint Louis to Fort Benton, Montana, where they joined the Mullan Wagon Road leading to the camps. Other settlers traveled from the east by way of the Northern Overland Road, or the Bozeman Cutoff and other branches of the Oregon Trail. From the west, some took the Mullan Road at its terminus in Walla Walla. Others took an older route from Salt Lake City. The era of steamboats and trails finally came to an end in the 1880s when transcontinental railroads from Utah and Minnesota reached Montana.

In the 1890s and 1900s, the building of branch railroad lines encouraged new mining and homesteading. Some immigrants from Europe came to work in the mines, and others

joined Midwesterners in homesteading parts of eastern Montana. Between 1910 and 1920 a homestead boom brought thousands of settlers, but years of drought in the 1920s caused many of them to leave the state.

In 1920 nearly half the Montana population was foreign-born. Most immigrants were from Germany, Canada, Ireland, Norway, England, Sweden, or Austria. Many overseas immigrants to Montana came through the port of New York or other East Coast ports.

The Family History Library and the National Archives and its regional centers have passenger lists or indexes for various United States ports. The years covered in the lists and indexes at the Family History Library vary by port but range from 1820 to 1940. More detailed information on U.S. immigration records is in the *United States Research Outline*. The Family History Library and the Public Archives of Canada have some passenger lists for Canadian ports for 1865 to 1900. The Family History Library and National Archives have Canadian border crossing records, 1865 to 1954.

GAZETTEERS

The Family History Library has national gazetteers that can help you locate place-names in Montana. If you need help finding where a town was located or determining the name of a place, contact one of the archives listed in the "Archives and Libraries" section and request a search of their gazetteers.

A helpful list of Montana place-names is:

Northwestern Gazetteer, Minnesota, North and South Dakota and Montana Gazetteer and Business Directory. St. Paul: R. L. Polk & Company, 1914. (FHL film 1321220-21.)

GENEALOGY

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. For example, the Montana Historical Society has an excellent collection of local and family histories. These collections must usually be searched in person.

A small collection of some genealogical value is the *Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection*. This collection has transcripts of some cemetery records,

church records, and wills. It was microfilmed in 1971 at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., and is available at the Family History Library (FHL films 870042-43 and 870178).

HISTORY

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

1803-1850s	The United States acquired from France the area of Montana east of the mountains. Britain relinquished its claims to the western section in 1846. Until the 1850s, Montana was the domain of Indians, explorers, fur traders, trappers, and missionaries.
1841	Jesuit priests founded St. Mary's mission. In the 1850s this mission became the center of ranching activity in the Bitterroot Valley of western Montana.
1846	Fort Benton, the only Montana trading post to become a permanent settlement, was established on the Missouri River.
1859	Steamboats first reached Fort Benton.
1860s	Montana west of the continental divide was designated Missoula County, Washington Territory, in 1860. In 1861 the unsettled eastern portion was attached to Dakota Territory. In 1863 and 1864 all of Montana was included in Idaho Territory.
1862-1864	The discovery of gold in western Montana brought an influx of miners to Bannack, Virginia City, and Helena. Many of the miners began farming and set up supply centers—such as Missoula, Deer Lodge, and Bozeman.
1864	Montana Territory was established with nine counties.
1880s	Railroads first crossed Montana. The population of the territory was about 40,000.
1889	Montana became a state.
1910-1925	The number of counties doubled from 28 to the present 56 as homesteaders moved into eastern Montana. By 1930 a cycle of drought years had driven many of the settlers from the state.

An especially helpful source for studying the history of Montana is Merrill G. Burlingame and K. Ross Toole, eds., *A History of Montana,* 3 vols. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1957; FHL book 978.6 H2b). Vol. 3 has family histories.

Local histories for Montana's counties are listed in *Montana's Genealogical and Local History Records . . .* (see the "For Further Reading" section of this outline).

LAND AND PROPERTY

Federal Land Records

After 1862, settlers could apply for homestead land in Montana through the General Land Office in Washington, D.C. Eventually they could apply for land through eight local land offices. The first local land office was established in Helena in 1867.

The land office records are at the National Archives Records Administration—Rocky Mountain Region (Denver). The county courthouses also have records of patents on homesteads. Tract books, township plats, and pre-1908 patent records are at the:

Montana State Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
5001 Southgate Drive
Billings, MT 59101
Phone: 406 896-5000
Fax: 406 896-5299
E-mail: MT_SO_Information@blm.gov
Internet address: www.blm.gov/mt/st/en.html

The Family History Library has copies of the federal land tract books for Montana (FHL films 1444840-909). See the *United States Research Outline* for more information on these records.

County Land Records

After land was transferred to private ownership, it could be sold again, inherited, lost by foreclosure of a mortgage, or redistributed through a divorce. These transactions are recorded in the deed and mortgage records kept by the county recorder. The records usually have both grantee (buyer) and grantor (seller) indexes.

The county recorder also has records of patents on timber and mining claims as well as real property assessment books and plat books.

The Family History Library does not have copies of the county land records.

MAPS

The Family History Library has several Montana maps from 1860 to the present. The Montana Historical Society and other archives have more extensive collections of maps and atlases.

To Maps section.

MILITARY RECORDS

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

Many military records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives and its regional centers, and state archives. An online database, Footenote.com is available at the BYU Family History Center. The *United States Research Outline* provides more information about the federal records. For Montana the following sources are helpful.

Civil War

A special census was taken in 1890 of Union veterans of the Civil War. Copies of the returns for Montana residents are at the Family History Library (FHL film 338194). A published index is also available.

Indian Wars

Historical sketches of army posts are available at the Family History Library (FHL film 1025168) and the National Archives and its regional centers. You can also find historical sketches in local histories. The Family History Library also has microfilm copies of the service and pension indexes for the many Indian conflicts. The actual records are available only at the National Archives.

Published sources about the soldiers who died at the Battle of the Little Big Horn are available. Military histories of the officers and enlisted men are in:

Carroll, John M., and Byron Price. *Roll Call on the Little Big Horn, 28 June 1876*. Fort Collins, Colo.: The Old Army Press, 1974. (FHL book 973 M25hc.)

Hammer, Kenneth. *Men with Custer: Biographies of the 7th Cavalry, 25 June, 1876*. Fort Collins, Colo.: The Old Army Press, 1972. (FHL book 973 M25hk.)

World War I (1917 to 1918)

The Montana Historical Society Archives has some records created by the Montana Department of Military Affairs, including original service records for the world wars. They also have enlistment records for the Montana National Guard from 1905 through about 1920.

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

United States. Selective Service System. *Montana. World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M1509. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987-1988. (On FHL films beginning with film number 1684099.)

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

Most counties had only one board; large cities had several. A map showing the boundaries of individual draft boards is available for most large cities. Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you in using the draft board map. There is an alphabetical list of cities that are on the map. For a copy of this map see:

United States. Selective Service System. *List of World War One Draft Board Maps*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives. (FHL film 1498803.) These maps cover the years 1917 to 1918.

NATIVE RACES

About four percent of the present population of Montana is American Indian. The major groups include the Blackfoot, Cree, Crow, Northern Cheyenne, Chippewa, Flathead, Kutenai, and Assiniboin.

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of Indian records at the National Archives—Pacific Alaska Region (Seattle). These include excellent collections for the Blackfoot, Crow, Flathead, Northern Cheyenne, and other tribes. The available records include heirship, school, welfare, census, annuity, and family documents. The records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under MONTANA - MINORITIES or MONTANA - NATIVE RACES. Records are also listed in the Subject Search of the Family History Library Catalog under the names of the tribes.

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization records have generally been filed in the county and district courts of Montana. You can write to the clerk of the court and request a search of indexes to certificates of arrival, petitions, declarations, and final naturalization papers.

The Family History Library has copies of some Montana naturalizations. The National Archives—Pacific Alaska Region (Seattle) has documents for:

- The four territorial district courts (1868-89). (Indexes on FHL film 1490886 items 1-8.)
- U.S. district courts in Butte (1894-1929), Great Falls (1924-26), Helena (1892-1929). (FHL films 1492066 items 1-4 and 1490886 items 11-27.)
- The U.S. Circuit Court (1891-98). (FHL films 1490886 items 9-10 and 1492068 items 1-20.)

To obtain records since 1906, contact the federal office of the Immigration and Naturalization, which you can find in the federal office building nearest to you.

NEWSPAPERS

The Montana Historical Society has the largest collection of Montana newspapers. The society has a card file of obituaries, primarily from pre-1920 newspapers.

The Montana State University Library and the Mansfield Library at the University of Montana also have collections. The Family History Library has not acquired newspapers from the state.

PERIODICALS

The major genealogical periodicals and magazines helpful for Montana research are:

Central Montana Wagon Trails. 1979-. Published by the Lewistown Genealogy Society, 701 W. Main, Lewistown, MT 59457-2501, Telephone 406-538-5212. (FHL book 978.6292 H25c; fiche 6105092.)

Treasure State Lines. 1976-. Published by the Great Falls Genealogical Society, Paris Gibson Square, 1400 1st Ave. No., Great Falls, MT 59401-3299, Telephone 406-727-3922. (FHL book 978.6 B2t.)

Trees and Trails. 1976-. Published by the Flathead Valley Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 584, Kalispell, MT 59903-0584. (FHL book 978.6 D25f.)

Tri-County Searcher. 1980-. Published by the Broken Mountains Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 261, Chester, MT 59522, Telephone 406-759-5445, Fax 406-759-5445. (FHL book 978.6 H25s.)

PROBATE RECORDS

Probate courts existed in the counties from 1864 to 1889. Their records and jurisdiction were then transferred to the district courts. Montana probate records include administrators' books, probate proceedings, registers, files, wills, bonds, and exhibits. The Family History Library does not have copies of Montana probate records. They are available at the various county courthouses.

VITAL RECORDS

County Records of Births and Deaths

Some counties began recording births and deaths as early as 1864. These records have been kept by the clerk of the court in each county. The Family History Library does not have copies of these records. A few of the early county records have been transcribed and published, and these are available at the Family History Library.

State Records of Births and Deaths

Statewide registration of vital statistics began in 1907 and was generally complied with by 1920. Delayed registrations of births are included in the indexes maintained by the state office. All of the records are available to relatives by writing to:

Montana Vital Records
Department of Public Health and Human Services
111 N Sanders Rm 209
PO BOX 4210
Helena MT 59604
Telephone: 406-444-2685
Fax: 406-444-1803
Internet address: http://vhsp.dphhs.mt.gov/certificates/ordercertificates.shtml

The current fees for obtaining copies of the state's vital records are listed in *Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces* (Hyattsville, Md.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 1993; FHL book 973 V24wv). Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and many Family History Centers. The Family History Library does not have copies of the state records.

Marriage and Divorce Records

There is no centralized registration of marriage records. Each county generally began keeping marriage records soon after its organization. Write to the clerk of the district court for copies of marriage and divorce records.

The State Department of Health has an index to marriages beginning in 1943. This index helps to identify the county in which the marriage occurred. The records are available only in the county. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of some county marriage records.

Inventory of Vital Records

More information about the history and availability of vital records is in *Guide to the Public Vital Statistics in Montana . . .* (Bozeman: Historical Records Survey, 1941; FHL book 978.6 V2h; film 1036403 item 7; fiche 6046712).

FOR FURTHER READING

An excellent source of more detailed information about research and the records in each county is:

Richards, Dennis Lee. *Montana's Genealogical and Local History Records.* Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1981. (FHL 978.6 A3r; fiche 6019973.)

Another helpful source is:

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

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

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

Publications Coordination
Family History Library
35 N. West Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3400
USA
We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

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

1803-1850s	The United States acquired from France the area of Montana east of the mountains. Britain relinquished its claims to the western section in 1846. Until the 1850s, Montana was the domain of Indians, explorers, fur traders, trappers, and missionaries.
1841	Jesuit priests founded St. Mary's mission. In the 1840s this mission became a center of activity in the Bitterroot Valley of western Montana.
1846	Fort Benton, the only Montana trading post to become a permanent settlement, was established on the Missouri River.
1859	Steamboats first reached Fort Benton.
1860s	Montana west of the continental divide was designated Missoula County, Washington Territory, in 1860. In 1861 the unsettled eastern portion was attached to Dakota Territory. In 1863 and 1864 all of Montana was included in Idaho Territory.
1862-1864	The discovery of gold in western Montana brought an influx of miners to Bannack, Virginia City, and Helena. Many of the miners began farming and set up supply centers—such as Missoula, Deer Lodge, and Bozeman.
1864	Montana Territory was established with nine counties.
1880s	Railroads first crossed Montana. The population of the territory was about 40,000.
1889	Montana became a state.
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 Montana or the county or the town. For descriptions of records available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. The descriptions give book or film numbers, which you need to find or to order the records.

Local Histories

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

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

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

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

For descriptions of bibliographies for Montana 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 for Montana's counties are listed in Dennis Lee Richards' *Montana's Genealogical and Local History Records*... Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1981. (FHL 978.6 A3r; fiche 6019973.)

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

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

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

State History

An especially helpful source for studying the history of Montana is Merrill G. Burlingame and K. Ross Toole, eds., *A History of Montana,* 3 vols. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1957; FHL book 978.6 H2b). Vol. 3 has family histories.

United States History

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

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

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

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

Montana 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
              To see these files, click here.

1650–present *Biographical Index.* (Not at FHL.) At the Montana Historical Society Library. This is an index to biographical sketches in major statewide publications. This does not index county history books. You may wish to write for a search.

1650–present *Vertical File. (*Not at FHL.) Biographies at Montana Historical Society Library. You may wish to write for a search.

1650–1995 *Trees and Trails Flathead Genealogical Bulletin.* (FHL book 978.6 D2f.) A periodical. See annual indexes.

1650–1995 Great Falls Genealogy Society. *Treasure State Lines.* (FHL book 978.6 B2t.) A periodical. See annual indexes.

1650–1959 Genealogical Society of Montana. *Golden Grains of Research.* (FHL book 978.6 B2g.) A periodical. See annual indexes.

1650–1995 Lewiston Genealogy Society. *Central Montana Wagon Trails.* (FHL book 978.6292 H25c; fiche 6105092–98.) A periodical. See annual indexes.

1700–1978 Lareau, Paul J. *French-Canadian Families of the North Central States: A Genealogical Dictionary.* (FHL book 973 D2La; 8 vols.; fiche 6010503–511.) Alphabetical.

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 the Microfilm at the Genealogical Society of Utah.* (FHL book 973 D22kk, vol. 2; fiche 6089184.)

1700–1970 *Abstracts of Wills, Cascade County, Montana 1884–1927.* DAR. (FHL book 978.661 S28a, 3 vols.; film 870042 items 2–3.) Indexed in the source above.

1780–1920 Census indexes, 1860–1880, 1900, and 1920. In the window to the left click on **Family History Library Catalog**. Then select CENSUS or CENSUS - INDEXES from the topics that are listed.

1780–1937 McLaughlin, James. *Major James McLaughlin Papers, 1855–1937.* (FHL films beginning with 541380; index on films 541379–80.) Records of Native-Americans.

1800–1899 *Society of Montana Pioneers: Constitution, Members and Officers, With Portraits and Maps.* (FHL book 978.6 C4p; film 1000177 item 3.) See source just below.

1800–1900s *Applications of the Society of Montana Pioneers.* (Not at FHL.) At the Montana Historical Society. You may wish to write for a search.

1800–1945 *Montana Pioneer Heritage.* (FHL book 978.6 D2m.) Published by the Sons and Daughters of the Pioneers; see information on applications below.

1800–1900s *Applications, Sons and Daughters of Montana Pioneers.* (Not at FHL.) At the Montana Historical Society. You may wish to write for a search. About 1,600 ancestors listed.

1800–1934 United States. Veterans Administration. *General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934.* (On 544 FHL films beginning with 540757.) This is a card index to pension applications of Civil War and Spanish-American War veterans. Copies of the original files may be ordered from the National Archives.

1800–1890 Jackson, Ronald Vern. *1890 Montana Census Index: Special Schedule of the Eleventh Census (1890) Enumerating Union Veterans of the Union Veterans of the Civil War.* (FHL book 978.6 X22j 1890.) Lists Civil War soldiers or their widows.

1800–1886 *Progressive Men of the State of Montana.* (FHL book 978.6 D3p; film 1000176.)

1800–1921 *Every-Name Index to Stout's Montana: Its Story and Biography.* (FHL book 978.6 H2s, index; film 1320700 item 3.) An index to the book below.

1800–1921   Stout, Tom. *Montana, Its Story and Biography: A History of Aboriginal and Territorial Montana and Three Decades of Statehood.* (FHL book 978.6 H2s; film 1000175.) Indexed in the source above.

1800–1864   Historical Society of Montana. *Contributions to the Historical Society of Montana With its Transactions, Officers and Members.* (FHL film 1000177 item 2, 4–10.)

1800–1920   *Obituaries from Pre-1920 Newspapers. (*Not at FHL.) At the Montana Historical Society Library. You may wish to write for a search.

1800–1900   Fuhrman, Diane. *Swedish Immigrants Living in Montana, 1900.* (FHL book 978.6 F2f.) Has almost the complete census information.

1800–1900   Hyde, C.W.G. *History of the Great Northwest and Its Men of Progress: A Select List of Biographical Sketches and Portraits of the Leaders in Business, Professionals and Official Life.* (FHL book Q 977 D3h; film 962338.)

1800–1958   *Cemetery Records of Montana, 1947–1961.* (FHL book 978.6 V22c, 3 vols.; film 873694 items 4–6; fiche 6051445.)

1810–1980   Lewiston Genealogy Society. M*ontana Cemetery Records.* (FHL film 1035938 item 2.)

1840–1900s   *Newspaper Index.* (Not at FHL.) At Montana Historical Society Library. You may wish to write for a search.

1840–present   Montana. State Department of Health. *Index to deaths from 1907–present. (*Not at FHL.) You may wish to write for a search.

1850–1876   Carroll, John M. *Roll Call on the Little Big Horn, 28 June 1876.* (FHL book 973 M25hc.)

1850–1876   Hammer, Kenneth. *Men With Custer: Biographies of the 7th Calvary, 25 June, 1876.* (FHL book 973 M25hk.)

1860–1918   Haulsee, W.M. *Soldiers of the Great War.* (FHL book 973 M23s; fiche 6051244.) Volume 2 has Montana. Soldiers who died in World War I, 1914–1918.

1878–1918   United States Selective Service System. *Montana, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918.* (On 37 FHL films beginning with 1684099.) Men ages 18 to 45 are listed alphabetically by county or draft board.

1878–1918   *World War I Records.* (Not at FHL.) At the Montana Historical Society. You may wish to write for information.

1900–1945   *World War II Records.* (Not at FHL.) At the Montana Historical Society. You may wish to write for information.

1900–present   Montana State Department of Health. *Marriage Index, 1943–present.* (Not at FHL.) You may wish to write for a search.

1907–present   Montana State Department of Health. *Births from 1907–present.* (Not at FHL.) You may wish to write for a search.

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 of copying information is to:

- Make a photocopy of the page(s) that include 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 the films can be requested and used at our Family History Centers. To locate the address for the nearest Family History Center, click here.

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

Libraries and Archives

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

To use interlibrary loan:

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

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

Maps
Computer Resources

MapQuest Maps

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

Animap
BYU FHL – on computer

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

Google Maps

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

Geology.com Maps

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

Montana Maps Bibliography

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

　　Summary: Shows the townships in a particular county for each state except
　　Hawaii and Alaska. Maps start after 1930.
　　Evaluation of Montana Maps: pp. 557-582. One page history of state, list of
　　counties and counties with minor civil divisions. Maps of census county
　　divisions.

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

　　Summary: The previous map was copied from page 447 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
　　Montana 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**

　　Summary: Shows changes in boundaries in United States from Colonial days up
　　to 1909. Civil war maps and information.
　　Evaluation of Montana maps: State historical information, p.22, 1860 map, p.
　　149; 1878 map, 162-164; 1883 map, 177; 1909 map, p. 225.

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

　　Summary: Montana maps and information on pages 181-187. Includes maps
　　comparing Montana 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,
　　1790-1942.* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co, 1987. Mic/Gen Ref- **G
　　1201.F7 T5 1987**

　　Summary: History of Federal Censuses, records, and completeness. U.S. Maps
　　from 1790 - 1920 showing U.S. boundary changes. Maps of each state for each
　　census year beginning when the state was created up through 1920. Evaluation
　　of Montana maps: pp. 199-205.

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

> **G4251-G4254** State maps from 1800s to 2000. Many of the maps show county boundaries and county seats, railroad lines, private land grants, population, etc. Some maps include information about what was happening that year.

To find more maps, search the byline for Montana maps, atlases, and gazetteers.

Montana Federal Census Population Schedules, 1860 to 1920

Guide

Introduction

Federal censuses are taken every 10 years. Montana residents are included in territorial or federal censuses from 1860 through 1920.

  • The 1850 census was the first federal census to give the names of all members of each household.

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

What you are looking for

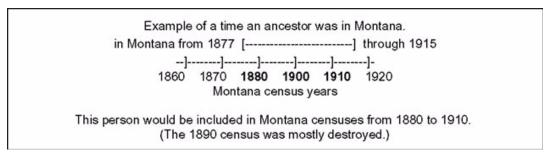The information you find varies from record to record. These records may include:

  • Names of family members.
  • Ages of family members, which you can use to calculate birth or marriage years.
  • The county and state where your ancestors lived.
  • People living with (or gone from) the family.
  • Relatives who 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 Montana with the census years. This will determine which censuses you will search.

Example of a time an ancestor was in Montana.
in Montana from 1877 [------------------------] through 1915
--]--------]--------]--------]--------]--------]-
1860   1870   **1880   1900   1910**   1920
Montana census years

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

Step 2. Determine a census to start with.

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

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

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

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

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

Step 3. Search the census.

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

    1860 1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920

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

Step 4. Search another census.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tips

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

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

Tip 2. How can I understand the information better?

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

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

Comparing censuses indicates:

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

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

The age and estimated birth date of an individual may vary greatly from census to census. Often ages are listed more accurately for young children than for older 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. In 1885 the federal government also helped 5 states or territories (Colorado, Florida, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Dakota Territory) conduct special censuses.

Most of the 1890 census was destroyed by fire. However, portions of a special schedule taken in 1890, of Union Civil War veterans and their widows, have survived. The surviving 1890 veterans' schedules cover Washington D.C., half of Kentucky, and all of Louisiana through Wyoming (states are in alphabetical order from K to W). These schedules contain approximately 700,000 names.

Types of census schedules

The following census schedules are available for Montana 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 1870 and 1880 censuses.
- **1890 veterans' schedules** list Union veterans from the Civil War or their widows who were living in 1890.
- **Agricultural schedules** list data about farms and the names of the farmers for the 1870 and 1880 censuses.
- **Manufacturing or industrial schedules** list data about businesses and industries for the 1870 and 1880 censuses.

How Censuses Were Taken

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

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

When Censuses Were Taken

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

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

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

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

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

Censuses from 1930 to the present

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

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

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

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

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. In 1860, parts of the Montana area were included in the censuses of three territories:

- Nebraska Territory
- Washington Territory
- Dakota Territory

There are Montana territorial censuses for 1870 and 1880.

Montana became a state in 1889. Montana has no state censuses.

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

Where to Find It

Internet

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

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

U.S. Census Bureau

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

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

Genealogical Search Services

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

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

For more information, see Hiring a Professional Genealogist.

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

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

Codes Used in the Census Availability Charts

A **<u>Double Date "1880/93"</u>** indicates the time of existence of the county under that name. If the county is still in existence, see the bottom of the last page for that state for the new name of that county, and the time of the change will be given under that county name.

Where <u>"C"</u> appears in the state/census column, it means that there is no indexing, and only the complete census is available.

An <u>"F"</u> indicates that a fire occurred at the court house in the year indicated, and in most instances, some earlier records are still available. In just a few instances were all records lost.

An <u>"I"</u> indicates that an index is available, normally by a large firm, and if it is followed by an <u>"*"</u>, that a county abstract and index has been prepared. The <u>"I"</u> also means that a census for that year and county is available on microfilm.

Where <u>"L"</u> appears in the state/census column, it means that the census was taken, but is now lost, probably in the was of 1812.

Where <u>"N"</u> appears in the state/census column, it means that no census information is available for that year, and that no census was taken for that time period.

A <u>"P"</u> means that a partial census for 1890 is available for the county indicated. See individual states to ascertain what counties are available.

An <u>"R"</u> means that the 1790 or 1800 census is reconstructed.

If an <u>"S"</u> appears in the state/census column, it means that the census for that year has been soundexed, and everyone in the household is listed, only if there is a child ten (10) years or younger in the household. If there are no children under ten (10), you must resort to checking the complete census for the desired county. You must know the name of the head of household, or look for all members in a family.

A <u>"T"</u> means that a tornado hit the courthouse, and records may or may not have been salvaged.

A <u>"TL"</u> means that a tax list was used to indicate families where a census was lost or destroyed.

A <u>"V"</u> indicates that a "Veterans" Census is all that is available, as for the 1890 census, when a fire destroyed most of the regular census records for that year.

See **"Footnotes"** at end of each state for symbol use definitions, i. e., <u>" + "</u> and <u>"*"</u> . These symbols may have different meanings for different states, but their use has been kept consistent as far as possible.

MONTANA

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Wright, Bob. <u>Montana—Territory of Treasures: People, Places, Events.</u> Bellevue, Nebraska: Old Army Press, 1970. **Special Collections Americana F 731 .W67**

Beaverhead County

Established in 1865 as an original county.

Noyes, Alva Josiah. <u>The Story of Ajax: Life in the Big Hole Basin</u>. Helena, Montana: State Publishing Company, 1914. F **737 .B38** N9 also **Microfiche F 737 .B38 N9** also **Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12718**

Ovitt, Mable. <u>Golden Treasure</u>. Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Printers, 1952. **Special Collections Americana Z 232 .C395 095x 1952**

Big Horn County

Created in 1913 from Rosebud and Yellowstone counties.

Buschlen, John Preston. <u>Big Horn County in the World War, 1917-1919</u>. Hardin, Montana: Hardin Tribune, 1919. **D 570.85 .M91 B5**

Blaine County

Created in 1912 from Chouteau County.

Noyes, Alva Josiah. <u>In the Land of Chinook: or, The Story of Blaine County</u>. Helena, Montana: State Publishing Company, 1917. **Special Collections Americana F 737 .B63 N8** also **Microfiche F 737 .B63 N8**

Jubilee Centennial Edition: Blain County History, 1964. Chinook, Montana: 1964. **Special Collections Americana Quarto F 737 .B63 J82 1964**

Broadwater County

Carbon County

Created in 1895 from Park, Yellowstone, and Custer counties.

An Illustrated History of the Yellowstone Valley: The Counties of Park, Sweet Grass, Carbon, Yellowstone, Rosebud, Custer and Dawson, State of Montana. Spokane, Washington: Western Historical Publishing Company, 1907. **Special Collections Americana Quarto F 737 .Y4 129**

Carter County

Created in 1917 from Custer County.

Cascade County

Created in 1887 from Chouteau, Meagher, and Lewis and Clark counties.

Portrait of Progress: Great Falls, Montana: Diamond Jubilee, 75 years. Great Falls, Montana: Diamond Jubilee, 1959. **Quarto F 739 .G7 G74x**

Chouteau County

Established in 1865 as an original county.

Curtis Media Corporation. The War Years, Chouteau County, Montana. Dallas: Curtis Media, 1995. **D 769.85 .M22 C49 1995**

Custer County

Established in 1865 as an original county.

An Illustrated History of the Yellowstone Valley: The Counties of Park, Sweet Grass, Carbon, Yellowstone, Rosebud, Custer and Dawson, State of Montana. Spokane, Washington: Western Historical Publishing Company, 1907. **Special Collections Americana Quarto F 737 .Y4 129**

Jones, Helen. Custer County Area History, As We Recall: A Centennial History of Custer County, Montana, 1889-1989. Dallas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1990. **Quarto F 737 .C9 C87 1990**

Daniels County

Created in 1920 from Sheridan and Valley counties.

Dawson County

Established in 1865 as an original county.

An Illustrated History of the Yellowstone Valley: The Counties of Park, Sweet Grass, Carbon, Yellowstone, Rosebud, Custer and Dawson, State of Montana. Spokane, Washington: Western Historical Publishing Company, 1907. **Special Collections Americana Quarto F 737 .Y4 129**

Deer Lodge County

Established in 1865 as an original county.

Grant, Johnny. Very Close to Trouble: The Johnny Grant Memoir. Pullman, Washington: Washington State University, 1996. **F 731 .G72 1996**

Edgerton

Name changed to Lewis and Clark 20 Dec 1867.

Fallon County

Created in 1913 from Custer County.

Fergus County

Created in 1885 from Meagher and Chouteau counties.

Grosskopf, Linda. On Flatwillow Creek. Helena, Montana: Falcon Press Pub Company, 1991. **F 737 .F3 G76**

Flathead County

Created in 1893 from Missoula County.

Gallatin County

Established in 1865 as an original county.

Houston, Elizabeth. Early History of Gallatin County. Bozeman, Montana: Bozeman Chronicle Print, 1933. **Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12465**

Garfield County

Garfield County: The Golden Years. Jordan, Montana: 1969. **F7 37 .G3 G37x**

Glacier County

Created in 1919 from Teton County.

Golden Valley County

Created in 1920 from Musselshell and Sweet Grass counties.

Granite County

Hill County

Created in 1912 from Chouteau County.

Jefferson County

Hemingway, John Hylan. Yonder: A Place in Montana. Washington D.C.: National Geographic Society, 2000). **F 737 .J4 H45 2000**

Judith Basin County

Murray, Henry. Judith Basin Pioneers Microform: A Story of Early Days in Central Montana. Missoula, Montana: 1966. **Microfiche CS 43 .G46x G4922**

Lake County

Created in 1923 from Flathead and Missoula counties.

Davis, William L. A History of Ignatius Mission. Spokane, Washington: CW Hill, 1954. **F 737 .L3 D3**

Lewis and Clark County

Established in 1865 as an original county.

Noyes, Alva Josiah. The Story of Aiax: Life in the Big Hole Basin. Helena, Montana: State Publishing Company, 1914 **Microfiche F 737 .B38 N9**

MONTANA

Liberty County
Created in 1920 from Chouteau and Hill counties.

Lincoln County
Created in 1909 from Flathead County.

Madison County
Established in 1865 as an original county.

Pace, Dick. Golden Gulch. Virginia City, Montana: Duke Place, 1962. F **739** .V5 **P3**

Progressive Years: Madison County. Sheridan, Montana: The Association, 1983. **F 737 .M2 P56x**

McCone County

Meagher County

Watson, Art H. Devil Man With a Gun. White Sulphur Springs, Montana: Meagher County News, 1967.
    F 739 .D526 W28x 1967

Doig, Ivan. This House of Sky: Landscapes of a Western Mind. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich,
    1978. **F 737 .M4 D643**

Mineral County
Created in 1914 from Missoula County.

Missoula County
Established in 1865 as an original county.

Clyman, James. Journal of a Mountain Man. Missoula, Montana: Mountain Press Publishing Co., 1984.
    F **592 .C65**

Cohen, Stan. The Streets Were Paved With Gold: A Pictorial History of the Klondike Gold Rush,
    1896-1899. Missoula: Pictorial Histories Publishing Co., 1977. **F 1095 .K5 C63**

History of Missoula and Ravalli Counties. Montana.: Bryan Bros. & Hawk **Quarto F 737 .M6 H58x**

Rainbolt, Jo. Missoula Valley History. Dallas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1991.
    Quarto F 737 .M6 R36 1991

<p align="center">***MONTANA***</p>

Musselshell County

Created in 1911 from Fergus and Yellowstone counties.

Stearns, Harold J. <u>A History of the Upper Musselshell Valley of Montana</u>. 1966.
Special Collections Americana F 737 .M9 S8x 1960

Park County

Created in 1887 from Gallatin County.

<u>History of Park County, Montana, 1984</u>. Dallas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1985. **F
737 .P23 H57 1985**

<u>An Illustrated History of the Yellowstone Valley: The Counties of Park, Sweet Grass, Carbon,
Yellowstone, Rosebud, Custer and Dawson, State of Montana.</u> Spokane, Washington: Western
Historical Publishing Company, 1907. **Special Collections Americana Quarto F 737 .Y4 I29**

Petroleum County

Created in 1924 (or 1925) from Fergus and Garfield counties.

Phillips County

Pondera County

Created in 1919 from Chouteau and Teton counties.

Pondera History Association. <u>Pondera.</u> Great Falls, Montana: Blueprint and Letter Company, 1968
Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH 12459

Powder River County

Created in 1919 from Custer County.

Powell County

Created in 1901 from Deer Lodge and Missoula counties.

Prairie County

<u>The War Years, Prairie County, Montana</u>. Dallas, Texas.: Curtis Media Corp., 1993 **D
769.85 .M91 W37 1993**

Last updated 03/05

Ravalli County

Created in 1893 from Missoula County.

An Illustrated History of the Yellowstone Valley: Embracing the Counties of Park, Sweet Grass, Carbon, Yellowstone, Rosebud, Custer and Dawson, State of Montana. Spokane, Washington: Western Historical Publishing Company, 1907. **Special Collections Americana Quarto F** 737 **.Y4 129**

History of Missoula and Ravalli Counties, Montana. Bryan Bros. & Hawk
Quarto F 737 .M6 H58x

Richland County

Roosevelt County

Created in 1919 from Sheridan, Valley, and Richland counties.

Rosebud County

Created in 1901 from Custer County.

An Illustrated History of the Yellowstone Valley: The Counties of Park, Sweet Grass, Carbon, Yellowstone, Rosebud, Custer and Dawson, State of Montana. Spokane, Washington: Western Historical Publishing Company, 1907. **Special Collections Americana Quarto F 737 .Y4 129**

Sanders County

Created in 1905 (or 1906) from Missoula County.

Sheridan County

Created in 1913 from Valley County.

Aasheim, Magnus. Sheridan's Daybreak. Great Falls, Montana: Blue Print & Letter Company, 1970. F 737 .S4 A63

Silver Bow County

Created in 1881 from Deer Lodge County.

Freeman, Harry C. A Brief History of Butte, Montana. Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Printers, 1969. **Special Collections Americana F 739 .B8 F8**

Stillwater County

Created in 1913 from Carbon, Sweet Grass, and Yellowstone counties.

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Annin, Jim. They Gazed on Beartooths. Billings, Montana: Reporter Printing Supply Company, 1964. **F 739 .S8 A5**

Sweet Grass County
Created in 1913 from Carbon, Sweet Grass, and Yellowstone counties.

Teton County
Created in 1893 from Chouteau County.

Righter, Robert W. A Teton Country Anthology. Boulder, Colorado: Roberts Rineharts, 1990. **F 737 .T4 T47x 1990**

Toole County
Created in 1914 from Hill and Teton counties.

Treasure County

V alley County
Created in 1893 from Dawson County.

Esval, Orland Eittreim. Prairie Tales: Adventures of Growing up on a Frontier. Banner Elk, North Carolina: Landmark House, 1979. **F 737 .V3 E884**

Wheatland County

Wibaux County

Yellowstone County
Created in 1883 from Custer, Carbon, Meagher, and Gallatin counties.

Brown, Mark H. The Plainsmen of the Yellowstone: A History of the Yellowstone Basin. New York: Putnam, 1961. F **737** .Y4 B7

An Illustrated History of the Yellowstone Valley. Spokane, Washington: Western Historical Publishing Company, 1907. **Special Collections Americana Quarto F 737 .Y4 129**

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Other Resources Montana

Index to vital statistics from Bozeman, Montana newspapers, 1870-1910
Film Number 1035604 (Available at HBLL)

Cyndi's List Montana Links
http://www.cyndislist.com/mt.htm

Rootsweb Resources Montana
http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/mt.html

Genealogy Research Montana State Archives
http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/research/library/requestsgene.asp

Montana Office of Vital Statistics
http://vhsp.dphhs.mt.gov/certificates/ordercertificates.shtml

Wiki FamilySearch
http://www.familysearchwiki.org