

Washington Research Outline

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This outline describes major sources of information about families from Washington. 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 listed in this outline. The major holdings include cemetery, census, federal land, and vital records. The library is presently acquiring additional records of Washington counties, including cemetery, naturalization, probate, and vital records.

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

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

UNITED STATES - CENSUS
WASHINGTON - VITAL RECORDS
WASHINGTON, KING - HISTORY
WASHINGTON, KING, SEATTLE - DIRECTORIES

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

UNITED STATES - CENSUS
WASHINGTON - *VITAL RECORDS*
WASHINGTON, KING - *HISTORY*
WASHINGTON, KING, SEATTLE - *DIRECTORIES*

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

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

The archives, libraries, and societies listed below offer services or have major collections of genealogical and historical records relating to Washington.

- Washington State Archives

1129 Washington St. S.E.
Olympia, WA 98504-0238
Telephone 360-586-1492
Fax: 360-664-8814
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 40238
Olympia, WA 98504-0238

- National Archives—Pacific Northwest Region (Seattle)

6125 Sand Point Way, NE
Seattle, WA 98115-7999
Telephone: 206-336-5115
Fax: 206-336-5112

- Washington State Genealogical Society

1901 S. 12th Ave
Union Gap, WA 98903-1256

- Washington State Historical Society Library

Research Center
315 Stadium Way
Tacoma, WA 98403
Telephone: 253-798-5914
Fax: 253-597-4186

- Washington State Library

P.O. Box 42460
Olympia, WA 98504-2460
Telephone: 360-704-5200
Fax: 360-586-7575

- Seattle Public Library

1000 Fourth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104-1109
Telephone: 206-386-4636
Fax: 206-386-4632

- Suzzallo-Allen Library

University of Washington
P.O. Box 352900
Seattle, WA 98195-2900
Telephone: 206-543-0242
Fax: 206-685-8049

A helpful catalog for this library is University of Washington (Seattle) Library, *The Dictionary Catalog of the Pacific Northwest Collection of the University of Washington (Seattle) Libraries*, 6 vols. (Boston: G.K. Hall and Co., 1972; FHL book Q 979.7 A3w).

Two important guides to Washington records are:

Genealogical Resources in Washington State: A Guide to Genealogical Records Held at Repositories, Government Agencies and Archives. Olympia, Wash.: Secretary of State, Division of Archives and Records Management, 1983. (FHL book 979.7 A3g.)

Historical Records of Washington State: Records and Papers Held at Repositories.

Olympia, Wash.: Washington State Historical Records Advisory Board, 1981. (FHL book 979.7 A3hi; fiche 6051177.)

To learn more about the history and record-keeping systems of Washington counties use the 15 inventories of the county archives produced by the Historical Records Survey around 1940. Copies of these inventories are at the Family History Library.

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 Washington in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

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

- USGenWeb

<http://usgenweb.org/>

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.ancestry.com/roots-l/>

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

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

FamilySearch™

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

BIBLE RECORDS

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains some Bible records. This collection is described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline and is partially indexed by E. Kay Kirkham, *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States, vol. 2* (Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1984; FHL book 973 D22kk v.2; fiche 6089184).

Another publication that has a small number of Bible transcripts is *Bible Records . . .* (Tacoma, Wash.: The Tacoma Genealogical Society, 1963; FHL book 979.7 D2t; film 1036741 item 2).

BIOGRAPHY

The Suzzallo Library at the University of Washington has the best collection of biographical materials for Washington residents. The Family History Library has some compiled biographies of explorers, Indians, prominent citizens, and early settlers in the state. There is no statewide index to biographies.

Biographical information is often found in state and local histories. Another helpful biographical source is *Who's Who in Washington State: A Compilation of Biographical Sketches of Men and Women Prominent in the Affairs of Washington State* (Seattle: H. Allen Pub., 1927; FHL film 1000645 item 5).

CEMETERIES

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains tombstone inscriptions from some Washington cemeteries. This collection is described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline. Some tombstone inscriptions are also published in periodicals. See the *United States Research Outline* for further suggestions on locating cemetery records.

A valuable published collection of tombstone inscriptions covering parts of 12 counties is *Cemetery Records of Washington*, 6 vols. (Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society, 1957-60; FHL book 979.7 V3p; films 824254 item 4 to 824255-56).

Transcripts of other cemetery records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under specific counties.

CENSUS RECORDS

Federal

Many of the federal census records you'll want to use are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* (30972) provides more detailed information regarding the federal records.

The Family History Library has the **1850 census of Oregon Territory** that included Washington and has a separate index of the portion that became Washington. The library also has the **U.S. federal censuses for Washington Territory for 1860, 1870, and 1880 and for the state of Washington for 1900, 1910, and 1920**. The 1890 census has been destroyed. The **1890 veterans schedule and index** are available at the Family History Library and at the National Archives.

Indexes in book and microfiche format are available for the 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses. A soundex (phonetic) index is available on microfilm for part of the 1880 and all of the 1900 and 1920 censuses. For 1910 the Family History Library has a street index for Seattle (FHL fiche 6331481).

Mortality schedules exist for the **1850 (as part of Oregon Territory), 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses**. The mortality schedules for 1860 to 1880 are available at the DAR library in Washington D.C. and at the Washington State Library. The Family History Library has copies of the 1860, 1870, and 1880 mortality schedules.

Territorial and State

In addition to the federal censuses, territorial and state censuses also exist for a few counties for various years 1857-1892. These generally include heads of households only. These partial censuses are available at the Washington State Library and the Family History Library (beginning with FHL film 1841781).

CHURCH RECORDS

Before 1900 the largest religious groups in Washington were the Baptist, Roman Catholic, Methodist Episcopal, and Presbyterian churches. To help you learn more about

Church records in Washington, see *Guide to Church Vital Statistics Records in Washington* (Seattle: Historical Records Survey, 1942; FHL book 979.7 A3gc; fiche 6051172).

The Family History Library has very few church records from Washington. Many denominations have collected their records in central repositories. You can write to the following addresses to learn where their records are located.

Baptist

American Baptist - Samuel Colgate Historical Library 3
3001 Mercer University Dr.
Atlanta, GA 30341
Telephone: 678-547-6680
Fax: 716-473-1740

Methodist

United Methodist Church
Collins Memorial Library
University of Puget Sound
1500 North Warner
Tacoma, WA 98416-1201
Telephone: 253-879-3669
Fax: 253-756-3670

(This library has records of ministers but not of church members.)

For a history of the Methodists in Washington see Erle Howell, *Methodism in the Northwest* (Nashville, Tenn.: Pacific Northwest Conference Historical Society, 1966; FHL book 979 K2h).

Presbyterian

Presbyterian Historical Society
Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
425 Lombard Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147-1516
Telephone: 215-627-1852
Fax: 215-627-0509

For a history of the Presbyterians in Washington, see Robert Boyd, *History of the Synod of Washington of The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America 1835-1909* (Seattle: The Synod, [1910?]; FHL book 979.7 K2p; film 1321456 item 4).

Roman Catholic

Archdiocese of Seattle
Chancery Office
710 9th Avenue

Seattle, WA 98104
Telephone: 206-382-4560
Fax: 206-382-4840

COURT RECORDS

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

Probate courts were the primary courts for probate matters until 1891, when this responsibility was assumed by the superior courts. In some areas, the probate court had concurrent civil and criminal jurisdiction with the district courts.

Superior courts have had countywide jurisdiction over criminal cases and major civil cases, juvenile matters, and probate matters.

District courts have districtwide jurisdiction with the superior courts over misdemeanors, preliminary hearings for felony cases, and minor civil cases.

Supreme Court has statewide appellate jurisdiction.

The Family History Library does not have copies of Washington court records. They are available at the county courthouses, or some courts have transferred their records to the Washington State Archives.

DIRECTORIES

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

- Seattle

1872-1935

FHL film 1377464—

1911, 1913, 1917-18

FHL book 979.777/S1 E4p

1932, 1960, 1964, 1970,

1975, 1979

- Spokane

1915

FHL film 1035694 item 3

1913

FHL film 1035719 item 6

1918

FHL film 1035719 item 6

1923

FHL film 1321477 item 6

1939, 1955, 1960,
1966, 1984

FHL book 979.737/S1 E4ph

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

In the early 1800s, traders and trappers came from Canada, Russia, Latin America, and the United States into what is now Oregon and Washington. In 1811 John Jacob Astor, an American, established the first white settlement in Oregon. Most early settlements of the 1830s and 1840s were in the Willamette River Valley. In 1843 more than 900 emigrants came to Washington from Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa.

In the 1850s, gold was discovered in eastern Washington and prospectors flocked in. Major Indian hostilities, however, slowed migration. In 1860 gold was found near Walla Walla, and this brought another rush of prospectors, including large numbers of Chinese. After 1870 immigrants came from Germany, Scandinavia (especially Norway and Sweden), Holland, Britain, and the Philippines. Many Japanese immigrated to Washington starting in the mid-1880s.

The greatest influx of settlers started in the 1880s, when transport by rail became possible. The first of three transcontinental railroads to Washington was completed in 1888. Most of the settlers of the 1880s and 1890s were from Wisconsin, Minnesota, and other western, midwestern, and eastern states. Others came from Canada and Europe.

The Family History Library has copies of passenger and crew lists from Seattle (Port Townsend) from 1890 through 1921 (55 microfilms). Most Washington immigrants arrived in the United States through the port of New York or other east-coast ports. The Family History Library and the National Archives have records from 1820 to 1943. See the *United States Research Outline* for more information about these records.

Records of some ethnic groups in Washington, such as Chinese-Americans and Scandinavians, are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under WASHINGTON - MINORITIES.

GAZETTEERS

Several helpful gazetteers of Washington have been published, including:

Meany, Edmond S. *Origin of Washington Geographic Names*. 1923 reprint. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1968; (FHL book 979.7 E2m; fiche 6051179.)

R. L. Polk & Co. *Oregon & Washington Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1909-1910*. Seattle: R.L. Polk, 1909. (FHL film 1000367.)

Phillips, James W. *Washington State Place Names*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1971. (FHL book 979.7 E2p.)

GENEALOGY

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

The most important genealogical collections for Washington have been compiled by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). The Family History Library has two sets of DAR compilations microfilmed at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C. They are filed together as one entry in the catalog. The sets are:

- *Genealogical and Historical Gleanings*. Twelve volumes compiled from 1931 to 1959 (FHL films 849488-91).
- *The Family Records of Pioneers*. Forty volumes of transcripts of Bible records, cemetery records, church records, marriages, deaths, obituaries, and wills microfilmed in 1970 (on 22 FHL films beginning on film 0848702). Additional volumes compiled since 1970 are at the DAR Library. Volumes 1 through 52 are indexed by Shirley Swart, comp., *Index to Washington State Daughters of the American Revolution* (Yakima, Wash.: Yakima Valley Genealogical Society, 1983; FHL book 979.7 D22y). The original 52 volumes are in the care of the Yakima Genealogical Society Library (see Periodicals Section).

HISTORY

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

1800s	At the beginning of the nineteenth century, Spain, Russia, and England all claimed what is now Washington.
1811	John Jacob Astor (American) established a trading post at Astoria. This was the first settlement in this area.
1819	Spain withdrew her claims.
1825	Russia withdrew her claims.
1836	Marcus Whitman established the second white settlement near present-day Walla Walla. Early settlement centered in the Willamette valley.
1846	The present boundary between the United States and Canada was established.
1848	The Oregon Territory was created. It included what is now

- Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and parts of Montana and Wyoming.
- 1849 Settlers went farther north into the Puget Sound area to obtain food and lumber that was needed in the California gold fields.
- 1850 The Oregon Donation Act was passed. This guaranteed land to those who settled and cultivated land in the territory before 1855. This attracted an estimated 30,000 new settlers.
- 1853 Washington Territory was created from the northern part of Oregon Territory.
- 1859 Oregon became a state. Washington Territory was enlarged to include the remaining Oregon territory not included in the new state.
- 1860 The discovery of gold near Walla Walla attracted many prospectors.
- 1863 The Idaho Territory was created from lands in eastern Washington Territory.
- 1881 The Northern Pacific Railway reached Spokane.
- 1888 The transcontinental railroads reached Washington and brought a great influx of settlers.
- 1889 Washington became a state. Seattle was the largest city and the chief supply point for the gold rush to the Yukon territory in Alaska.

A helpful source for studying the history of Washington is Harvey K. Hines, *An Illustrated History of the State of Washington: Containing . . . Biographical Mention of . . . its Pioneers and Prominent Citizens . . .* (Chicago: Lewis Pub. Co., 1893; FHL book 979.7 D3h; film 1000637).

Background information on Washington counties is in Newton Carl Abbott and Fred E. Carver, *The Evolution of Washington Counties* (N.p.: Yakima Valley Genealogical Society & Klickitat County Historical Society, 1978; FHL book 979.7 D25a; fiche 6051194). This is listed in the Family History Library Catalog under WASHINGTON - HANDBOOKS, MANUALS, ETC.

LAND AND PROPERTY RECORDS

Federal Land Records

Washington is a public land state. The area that now comprises the state was part of the public domain and was administered by the federal government through local land offices under the direction of the General Land Office (GLO), later known as the Bureau of Land

Management (BLM). The first land office in Washington was established at Olympia in 1855.

The process of obtaining private title to government land is called land entry. Settlers could acquire land in several ways:

- *Donation land* could be claimed by individuals who settled and cultivated land before 1855. The Family History Library has a register with indexes and abstracts of the Washington Donation Land Claims 1855-1902 (FHL film 418160). This identifies each claim by name, local office, and certificate number. It can be used to locate the original file. The original files for 1851-1903 are at the National Archives and on microfilm at the National Archives—Pacific Northwest Region (Seattle) and at the Family History Library (on 108 FHL films beginning with film 1028543).
- *Cash entries* were granted for cash payment for the land. Anyone who was twenty-one years old or was a head of household (including widows) could purchase up to 160 acres of land.
- *Homestead grants* were obtained after 1862 by living on the land, raising crops, and making improvements for five years. To be eligible, an applicant either had to be a U.S. citizen or must have filed his intention to become a citizen.

The land entry case files are usually the most helpful records to the genealogist because they may provide names, dates of birth, date and place of marriage, citizenship information, records of migration, and other data. They are arranged according to the state, land office, type of entry, and certificate number.

The National Archives has the land entry case files. To obtain a copy of a file, you will need to provide the following information: name of the person who filed, legal description of the land, patent number, date of the patent, and land office of issuance.

The local GLO offices recorded the transactions for each section of land in tract books. They also created township plats, which are maps of land entries for each township. The original tract books and township plats are at the National Archives. Microfilm copies of the tract books and township plats are at the Family History Library and at the Oregon State Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), P.O. Box 2965, 1515 S.W. 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97208-2965, Telephone: 503-808-6002, Fax: 503-952-6333. Other local land office records are at the National Archives—Pacific Northwest Region (Seattle).

After the settler completed the requirements for land entry, his case file was sent to the General Land Office in Washington, D.C., where a patent (or first-title deed) was issued. Patent records contain the name of the entryman, the legal description of the land (including the acreage), the date of patent, and other information. The Oregon State Office of the BLM (address above) has the patent records.

County Land Records

After land was transferred from the government by sale or grant to private ownership, it could be sold again, inherited, lost by foreclosure of a mortgage, or distributed through a divorce. These transactions are recorded at a county courthouse in the form of deeds and mortgages. You can obtain copies of these records by writing to the county auditor. The Family History Library has not acquired copies of county land records except for Clark County.

State Land Records

Water rights applications, permits, and certificates were issued by the State Department of Ecology beginning in 1917. These records will be found at either the Department of Ecology or the Washington State Archives. The county auditor usually has copies. State land records generally provide the same kinds of information as other land records.

MAPS

Several historical maps are found in Ralph N. Preston, *Early Washington: Overland Stage Routes, Old Military Roads, Indian Battle Grounds, Old Forts, Old Gold Mines* (Corvallis, Ore.: Western Guide Publishers, 1974; FHL book Q 979.7 E3e).

The Family History Library has several maps of Washington. Larger collections of maps are available at the University of Washington in Seattle and Western Washington State College in Bellingham.

MILITARY RECORDS

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

Many of the federal military records you'll want to use are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more information regarding the federal records. For Washington, the following sources are also very helpful:

Civil War (1861-1865)

The Family History Library has the index to service records of Union volunteers from Washington Territory (FHL film 821948) and the federal index to pension applications. The actual service and pension records are available only at the National Archives. The library also has a copy of a *special census taken in 1890 of Union veterans of the Civil War* (FHL film 338267).

Indian Wars (1798-1914)

Muster rolls are available at the Washington State Archives. The National Archives and the Family History Library have the enlistment registers of soldiers who served in the regular army from 1798 to 1914 (81 FHL films beginning with 350307). Many of these soldiers served in the western states, including Washington, during the Indian Wars. The enlistment registers provide the soldier's rank, unit, commanders, physical description, occupation, and birth place. The records are arranged by year and by the first letter of the surname.

The Family History Library and the National Archives have an index to soldiers who applied for pensions as a result of service in the Indian Wars from 1817 to 1898 (FHL films 821610-21). The pension records are only available at the National Archives.

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 Washington, see:

United States. Selective Service System. Washington *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 1991532.)

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.)

Additional Military Records

Histories and rosters of soldiers of the Washington Militia and National Guard who served in the Indian Wars of the 1850s to the post-World War II era are in Virgil F. Field, *Washington National Guard Pamphlet: The Official History of the Washington*

National Guard, 7 vols. in 3 (Tacoma: Office of the Adjutant General, 1961; FHL book 979.7 M25w; film 1321447 item 1-3 vols. 1-7).

The Washington State Archives has other helpful records, including:

- *Records of residents of the State Soldiers Home and State Veterans Home up to the mid-1930s.*
- *Applications and supporting papers submitted by Washington veterans of World Wars I and II for a state bonus.* These often include information about the soldier's residence, occupation, relatives, age, place of birth, and enlistment.
- *National Guard Statements of Service cards for guardsmen who participated in World Wars I and II.* These cards list the name of the serviceman, last residence, date and place of enlistment, date and place of birth, years of service, military organization attachment, rank, and engagements.

NATIVE RACES

A wealth of genealogical information is available for the various Indian tribes in Washington. Besides published histories, the Family History Library has microfilm copies of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) records of births, marriages, deaths, censuses, schools, land allotments, heirships, and family records. They are available from about 1887 to 1952 from agencies such as the Colville, Puyallup, Taholah, Tylalip, and Yakima. The original documents are at the National Archives—Pacific Northwest Region (Seattle).

An especially useful source is the collection, *Family Index Cards, 1938-1950*, created by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Portland Area Office (FHL films 1028470 item 4 to 1028471).

Records of American Indians are also listed in the subject section of the Family History Library Catalog under the names of the agency or tribe. Some of these tribes are the Nez Perce, Yakima, and Chinook.

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization records have been filed in various courts, usually with the county clerk, who also served as the clerk of the superior court. The Family History Library has acquired many of the naturalization files for Washington. You can obtain copies of declarations, petitions, and proceedings from each county courthouse or federal court.

Naturalization records were often filed with donation and homestead land records (see the “Land and Property” section). The naturalization certificates in the donation land files were not microfilmed but can be obtained from the National Archives.

For naturalization records filed after September 1906, contact the National Archives—Pacific Northwest Region (Seattle) or the local office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The National Archives—Pacific Northwest Region (Seattle) has the records of the U.S. district and circuit courts in Spokane, Seattle, and Tacoma from 1890 to 1957. The U.S. District Court indexes and records, 1854 to the 1970s, are on microfilm at the Family History Library. It also has records from 1853 to 1975 relating to naturalization in territorial and other courts for King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Thurston counties.

NEWSPAPERS

The Washington State Library is in charge of the Washington State Newspaper Microfilm Project and maintains on film a large collection of newspapers dating from the 1870s. A guide to this collection is Katryn S. Hamilton, *Newspapers on Microfilm in the Washington State Library* (Olympia: Washington State Library, 1980; not at Family History Library).

A guide for locating early newspapers is “Newspapers of Washington Territory to 1890.” This was published in vol. 13 (1922), vol. 14 (1923), and vol. 26 (1935) of the *Washington Historical Quarterly* (FHL book 979 B2pn.)

The Family History Library has not acquired copies of newspapers for the state, but has a few published vital records abstracted from newspapers.

PERIODICALS

The major genealogical periodicals and magazines helpful for Washington research include:

Washington Heritage (formerly *Washington State Genealogical and Historical Review*). 1982-. Published by Heritage Quest, Drawer 40, Orting, WA 98630-0040. (FHL book 979.7 D25w.)

The Appleland Bulletin. 1972-. Published by the Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 5280, Wenatchee, WA 98807-5280, Telephone: 509-888-6246. (FHL book 979.7 B2a; film 1321434 items 3-7 vols. 1-10.) There is a cumulative index to vols. 1-4.

The Bulletin. 1963. Published by the Eastern Washington Genealogical Society Library, P.O. Box 1826, Spokane, WA 99210-1826. (FHL book 979.7 B2e; film 1321441 items 2-12 vols. 7-16, 18; film 1321457 item 8 vol. 17.)

Bulletin [Whatcom Genealogical Society]. 1971-. Published by the Whatcom Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1493, Bellingham, WA 98227-1493. (FHL book 979.773 B2w; vol. 1 on film 1321390 items 5-13; vols. 2-11 no. 1 on film 1321391.)

The Researcher. 1969-. Published by the Tacoma Pierce Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1952, Tacoma, WA 98401. Telephone: 509-572-6650. (FHL book 979.778/T1 B2r; film 1321395 some vols.)

Trail Breakers. 1974-. Published by the Clark County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 5249, Vancouver, WA 98668. (FHL book 979.786 B2t; film 1321411 items 1-32 vols. 1-12.)

Yakima Valley Genealogical Society Bulletin. 1973-. Published by the Yakima Valley Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 445, Yakima, WA 98907. Library location: 1901 S. 12th Ave., Union Gap, WA 98903, Telephone: 509-248-1328 (FHL book 979.755 B2y; FHL films have some vols. beginning on film 1421625 item 6.)

PROBATE RECORDS

In the territorial era, probate courts were established in each county to keep records of wills, bonds, orders, and the administrations of estates. When the superior courts succeeded the probate courts in 1891, all of the records of the clerks of the probate courts were transferred to the county clerk in each courthouse. Some probates were filed in the superior court.

The Family History Library has not acquired copies of probate records in Washington. They are available at the various county courthouses, or the county may have transferred early records to the Washington State Archives.

VITAL RECORDS

State Records of Births and Deaths

Statewide registration of births and deaths in Washington began in 1907 and was generally complied with by 1917. For copies of state birth and death records, write to:

Vital Records
P. O. Box 9709
Olympia, WA 98507-9709
Telephone: 360-236-4313
Fax: 360-753-4135

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

The Vital Records office has a series of indexes to state birth and death records from 1907 to the present. Copies of the indexes to death records from 1907 to 1979 are also at the Washington State Library.

The Family History Library has copies of most of the state records from 1907 to 1952. Although the files are incomplete, these records include:

- Birth certificates, 1907-1960, and five soundex indexes, 1907-1954 (on 1,432 FHL films beginning with film 1711751).
- Death certificates, 1907-1957, and five soundex indexes, 1907-1979 (on 521 FHL films beginning with film 230399).

Delayed Birth Records

Individuals who were born prior to 1907, or who did not have a birth certificate, may have applied for a delayed birth certificate at a superior court or at the State Department of Health. Washington began keeping delayed birth records in 1907. Many unrecorded births were finally registered during World War II.

Delayed birth records are available from the Vital Records office (see address above). The Family History Library has copies and accompanying soundex indexes of the delayed birth records issued from 1936 to 1953 (65 films).

County Records of Births and Deaths

Although a few counties began recording births and deaths several years earlier, most Washington counties began keeping records in 1891. County birth and death records from the earliest dates to 1906 are at each county auditor's office or county health department. Some of the larger counties have copies of records after 1906, but most counties do not.

The Family History Library does not have copies of the county birth and death records. However, the library has some published birth and death records for a few counties, such as the Snohomish County death records from 1891 to 1914.

City Records of Births and Deaths

Some Washington cities have kept birth and death records. For example, Tacoma birth and death records from 1887 to the present are available at the Pierce County Health Department. For information about city records, write to the appropriate county health department. Some city records have been indexed.

Marriage and Divorce Records

The following records are available:

- *State marriage and divorce records.* Statewide registration of marriages and divorces began in 1968. For copies of these records, write to the Vital Records office (address above). The Family History Library does not have copies of these records.
- *County marriage records.* Most counties began recording marriages soon after the county was organized. The records of some counties begin as early as the 1850s. Each county auditor has copies of county marriage records from the earliest dates to the present. The Family History Library does not have copies of these records, but has copies of transcribed marriage records published for a few counties, such as Clark County from 1862 to 1913.
- *County divorce records.* County divorce records generally begin in 1889, although a number of counties kept records prior to that date. Some county divorce records begin as early as the 1850s. These records are available from the county clerk.
- *Territorial divorce records.* Some divorce records from 1853 to 1889 are included in the Washington territorial records. These early divorce proceedings are interfiled with other territorial records and have not been indexed. The Washington State Library has copies of the territorial records.

Guide to Vital Records

You can learn more about the history and availability of the records in *Guide to Public Vital Statistics Records in Washington* (Seattle: Historical Records Survey, 1941; FHL book 979.7 A3gp; fiche 6051171).

FOR FURTHER READING

Eichholz, Alice, ed. *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources.* Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992; 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.

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

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 1800s | At the beginning of the nineteenth century, Spain, Russia, and England all claimed what is now Washington. |
| 1811 | John Jacob Astor (American) established a trading post at Astoria. This was the first settlement in this area. |
| 1819 | Spain withdrew her claims. |
| 1825 | Russia withdrew her claims. |
| 1836 | Marcus Whitman established the second white settlement near present-day Walla Walla. Early settlement centered in the Willamette valley. |
| 1846 | The present boundary between the United States and Canada, (except for the boundary with Alaska), was established. |
| 1848 | The Oregon Territory was created. It included what is now Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and parts of Montana and Wyoming. |
| 1849 | Settlers went farther north into the Puget Sound area to obtain lumber needed for the construction of the growing cities, influenced by the discovery of gold, in California. |
| 1850 | The Oregon Donation Act was passed. This guaranteed land to those who settled and cultivated land in the territory before 1855. This attracted an estimated 30,000 new settlers. |
| 1853 | Washington Territory was created from the northern part of Oregon Territory. |
| 1859 | Oregon became a state. Washington Territory was enlarged to include the remaining Oregon territory not included in the new state. |
| 1860 | The discovery of gold near Walla Walla attracted many prospectors. |
| 1863 | The Idaho Territory was created from lands in eastern Washington Territory. |
| 1881 | The Northern Pacific Railway reached Spokane. |
| 1888 | The transcontinental railroads reached Washington and brought a great influx of settlers. |
| 1889 | Washington became a state. Seattle was the largest city and the chief supply point for the gold rush to the Yukon territory in Alaska. |

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 Washington 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 Washington 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.

Background information on Washington counties is in Newton Carl Abbott and Fred E. Carver, *The Evolution of Washington Counties* (N.p.: Yakima Valley Genealogical Society & Klickitat County Historical Society, 1978; FHL book 979.7 D25a; fiche 6051194). This is listed in the

Family History Library Catalog under WASHINGTON - HANDBOOKS, MANUALS, ETC.

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

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

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

State History

A helpful source for studying the history of Washington is Harvey K. Hines, *An Illustrated History of the State of Washington: Containing . . . Biographical Mention of . . . its Pioneers and Prominent Citizens. . .* (Chicago: Lewis Pub. Co., 1893; FHL book 979.7 D3h; film 1000637).

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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Washington 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	<i>Ancestral File</i> <i>International Genealogical Index</i> <i>Family History Library Catalog - Surname Search</i>
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- 1600–1972 Washington State Genealogical Society. *Washington Pioneers*. (FHL book 979.7 D2w, vols. 1–3.) Alphabetical and supplement. Contains much family history information from applications submitted by descendants of Washington State pioneers. About 57,500 names.
- 1600–1980 *Index to Washington State Daughters of the American Revolution, Volume 1, 1931-1932 – Volume 52, 1979-1980: Family Records of Washington Pioneers, Cemetery Records, Vital Statistics, Family Genealogies, Histories, and Other Genealogical Gleanings as Collected by the Daughters of the American Revolution of the State of Washington*. (FHL book 979.7 D22y.) This is a surname index to vols. 1–52, years 1931–1980 of the Washington DAR collection. Note: The Family History Library has vols. 1–40 of these 52 vols.
- 1600–1971 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; fiche 6089184.) The index for Washington is in vol. 2, section 2, beginning with pp. 94. This has a surname index to Washington DAR vols. 1–42, to the year 1970, of the Washington DAR collection.
- 1600–1980 Daughters of the American Revolution (Washington). *Genealogical Collection*. (FHL book 979.7 D2d vol.47; on films beginning with 848702.) Vol. 47 is on film 1321425 item 1. Note: The original 52 volumes were in the care of the Yakima Valley Genealogical Society Library.
- 1600–1975 *Yakima Valley Genealogical Society Surname Index 1981*. (FHL book 979.755 D22y.) Lists about 11,000 surnames. Also see their publication: *Yakima Valley Genealogical Society Bulletin*. (FHL book 979.755 B2y; film 1421625 item 6, vol. 17 #3–4 vol. 17 #1–2, vol. 18.)
- 1600–1979 *Index to Queries, March 1975–December 1979, From Eastern Washington Genealogical Society*. (FHL book 979.7 D22i; film 1321441 item 1.) Lists name, birth, marriage, or death year, sometimes name of spouse, parent, child, or residence.
- 1600–1928 Tacoma-Pierce Genealogical Society. *The Researcher*. (FHL book 979.778/T1 B2r; film 1321395 items 1–28, and 1321478 items 4–11.) A periodical; see the annual indexes. Lists about 75,000 names.
- 1600–1980 *The Appleland Bulletin Vol. 1, #1 (Spring 1972)*. (FHL book 979.7 B2a; vols. 1–10 on film 1321434 items 3–7.) A periodical; see indexes.
- 1600–1989 *Trail Breakers*. (FHL book 979.786 B2t, vols. 1–12; film 1321411 items 1–32.) A periodical; indexed quarterly.
- 1600–1969 *Bulletin (Whatcom Genealogical Society)*. (FHL book 979.773 B2w; films 1321390 item 5–13; 1321391, items 1, 22, 33, 37, 39, 42, 46, 49–53, 57–58.) A periodical; see annual indexes.
- 1700–1860 White, Virgil D. *Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files*. (FHL book 973 M28g vols. 1–4.) Lists the soldiers and often their spouse and children. There is an every-name index in vol. 4. Lists about 431,700 names.
- 1700–1900 Sons of the American Revolution. Washington Society. *Register of the Washington Society, Sons of the American Revolution, 1895–1900*. (FHL book 979.7 C4s; film 1321427 item 1.) Has about 200 names of Revolutionary soldiers.
- 1700–1980 *Ancestor Records: Submitted by Members of the Eastern Washington Genealogical Society (U.S. & Foreign)*. (FHL book 979.7 D2a.) About 30,000 names.
- 1700–1990 *Olympia Genealogical Society Surnames Index: Vol. 1 1991*. (FHL book 979.777/01 C4o.)
- 1740–1900 White, Virgil D. *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files*. (FHL book 973 M22i, vols. 1–2.) The spouse is often listed.
- 1760–1826 *Washington State Lineage Book*. (FHL book 979.7 D2Lb.) By the National Society United States Daughters of 1812. Lists War of 1812 soldiers and some of their descendants. About 2,000 names.

- 1761–1962 *Bible Records: Records From Twenty-nine Bibles, Containing One Hundred Ninety Family Names.* (FHL book 979.7 D2t; film 1036741 item 2.) Has 190 family names.
- 1770–1973 *Bulletin.* Eastern Washington Genealogical Society. (FHL book 979.7 B2e; films beginning with 1321441 item 2.) See quarterly indexes.
- 1770–1850 *Washington 1850 Mortality Schedule.* (FHL book 979.7 X2w 1850.)
- 1780–1889 *Frontier Justice: Guide to the Court Records of Washington Territory, 1853–1889.* (FHL book 979.7 P2f; films 1490089–90.) About 60,000 names.
- 1790–1920 *Census indexes, 1850–1880, 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.
- 1790–1870 *Washington 1870 Mortality Schedule.* (FHL book 979.7 X2j 1870.)
- 1790–1856 *Washington Territory Donation Land Claims: an Abstract of Information in the Land Claim Papers of Persons who settled in Washington Territory before 1856.* (FHL book 979.7 R28w.) The original files are on FHL films 1490243–258.
- 1790–1902 United States. General Land Office. *Abstracts of the Washington Donation Land Claims, 1855–1902.* (FHL film 1024457 or 418160.) The index and background information are at the beginning of film. This is National Archives Microfilm Publication M203. The original files are on FHL films 1490243–258, National Archives Microfilm Publication M815. About 970 names.
- 1795–1856 *Indian War Muster Rolls, 1855–1856.* (FHL film 1689334.) This is an index. Has records of the Washington 1st and 2nd Regiments for years 1855–1856. See also the index to pensions below. About 2,800 names.
- 1795–1926 White, Virgil D. *Index to Indian War Pension Files, 1892–1926.* (FHL book 973 M22whi.) For entire U. S. A.; concerns soldiers who fought in Indian Wars between 1817–1898. This indexes the following source: United States. Veterans Administration. *Pension Index Files, Indian Wars, 1892 to 1926.* (FHL films 821610–621.) Concerns pension applications to 1926.
- 1800–1880 *Washington 1880 Mortality Schedule.* (FHL book 979.7 X2j 1880.)
- 1800–1865 United States. Adjutant General's Office. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Union Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the Territory of Washington.* (FHL film 821948.) Lists Civil War veterans. About 400 names.
- 1800–1890 Jackson, Ronald Vern. *1890 Washington Census Index* (FHL book 979.7 X2j 1890.) Lists Civil War veterans or their widows.
- 1800–1934 United States. *General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934.* (On 544 FHL films beginning with 540757.) This is a nationwide card index and lists many Civil War soldiers; it may list the first name of the spouse. You can send for the pension application papers from the National Archives.
- 1800–1912 Carter, John D. ed. *Washington's First Marriages of the 39 Counties.* (FHL book 979.7 V2w.) About 6,800 names.
- 1800–1959 Priestley, Marilyn. *Comprehensive Guide to the Manuscripts Collection and to the Personal Papers in the University Archives.* (FHL book 979.7 A3p.) About 11,000 names.
- 1800–1980 *Historical Records of Washington State: Records and Papers held at Repositories.* (FHL book 979.7 A3hi; fiche 6051177.)
- 1814–1959 *Cemetery Records of Washington.* (FHL book 979.7 V3p, vols. 1–6; film 824254 item 4; films 824255–6.) Transcribed by Edna Hagin. About 17,400 names.
- 1814–1966 *Washington Heritage.* (FHL book 979.7 D25w, vols. 1–3.) This was formerly the periodical *Washington State Genealogical and Historical Review*. Published 1982–1985. About 7,200 names.
- 1815–1950 United States Bureau of Indian Affairs. Yakima Agency. *Vital Statistics; Births, Marriages, Deaths, 1895–1950.* (FHL films 1022014–19.)
- 1817–1890 Hines, Harvey K. *An Illustrated History of the State of Washington: Containing... Biographical Mention of...its Pioneers and Prominent Citizens.* (FHL book 979.7 D3h; film 1000637 item 1.) About 1,095 names.

- 1820–1979 Washington (State). Bureau of Vital Statistics. *Death Certificates, 1907–1957; Index to Death Certificates, 1907–1959, 1960–1979*. (On 466 FHL films beginning with 230399.) About 23,400 names.
- 1820–1990 Lang, Mary Beth, ed. *Washington's Centennial Farms: Yesterday and Today*. (FHL book 979.7 H2wc.) Information about farms that have existed for 100 years or more. About 1,000 names.
- 1820–1950 United States. District Court (Washington: Eastern District). *Declaration of Intention, 1890–1972; Petition for Naturalization, 1907–1950; Repatriations, 1940–1942; Application for Citizenship, 1879–1906; 1879–1906; Indexes, 1890–1947*. (On 26 FHL films beginning with 1536438 item 3.) For Spokane, Walla Walla, and Yakima counties. There are separate indexes for 1890–1908 and 1890–1947.
- 1830–1943 United States Bureau of Indian Affairs. Colville Agency. *Vital Statistics, Births, Marriages, Divorces and Deaths, 1909–1943*. (FHL films 1020973–76.) Lists Native Americans.
- 1840–1953 United States District Court (Washington: Western District). Seattle. *Naturalization Records 1890–1952; Indexes; Declarations of Intention, 1890–1938; Petitions for Naturalization, 1892–1935*. (On 218 FHL films beginning with 1697261 item 6.)
- 1840–1935 United States Bureau of Indian Affairs. Coeur d'Alene Agency. *Birth and Death Records, 1918–1935*. (FHL film 1030792 item 2.) Lists Native Americans.
- 1848–1927 *Who's Who in Washington State: A Compilation of Biographical Sketches of Men and Women Prominent in the Affairs of Washington State*. (FHL film 1000645 item 5.) About 2,600 names.
- 1852–1948 United States. Bureau of Indian Affairs: Portland Area Office. *Family Index Cards 1938–1950*. (FHL films 1028470 item 4; 1028471.) Lists about 1,000 names of Native Americans in the Portland area. Often gives names of father, mother, brothers and sisters, address, tribe, degree of blood, birth date or birth year, and file number. In two alphabetical series.
- 1860–1910 Cain, Myrtle. *Extract of Vital Records in the Spokesman Review*. (FHL book 979.737 V2c; film 1321456 item 3.) This is an index to births, marriages, death notices, and obituaries for 1910.
- 1870–1970s *Records of Residents of the State Soldiers Home and State Veterans Home up to the mid-1930s*. (Not at Family History Library.) Write to the Washington State Archives.
- 1870–1950s *Applications and Supporting Papers Submitted by Washington Veterans of World War I for State Bonus*. (Not at Family History Library.) Write to the Washington State Archives. Indexed. May include a copy of the discharge papers. May list father, mother, and birth information.
- 1873–1918 Haulsee, W. M. *Soldiers of the Great War*. (FHL book 973 M23s vols. 1–3; fiche 6051244.) Vol. 3 has Washington; lists soldiers who died in World War I.
- 1873–1918 United States. Selective Service System. *Washington, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*. (On 62 FHL films beginning with 1991532.) Men ages 18 to 45 were registered. Alphabetical by county or draft board.
- 1880–1980 *Washington State Oral/Aural History Program Tape/Transcript Archives Sheets*. (On 249 FHL fiche beginning with 6334494.)
- 1900–1950s *Applications and Supporting Papers Submitted by Washington Veterans of World War II for State Bonus*. (Not at Family History Library.) Write to the Washington State Archives. Indexed. May include a copy of the discharge papers. May list father, mother, and birth information.
- 1907–1960 Washington. Department of Health. Bureau of Vital Statistics. *Birth Index, 1907–1954; Births, 1907–1960, Delayed Birth Certificates, 1850–1960*. (FHL films beginning with 1711751.)

- 1920–1970s *Applications and Supporting Papers Submitted by Washington Veterans of the Korean War for State Bonus.* (Not at Family History Library.) Write to the Washington State Archives. Indexed. May include a copy of the discharge papers. May list father, mother, and birth information.
- 1925–1980s *Applications and Supporting Papers Submitted by Washington Veterans of the Vietnam War for State Bonus.* (Not at Family History Library) Write to the Washington State Archives. Indexed; may include copy of discharge papers. May list parents and birth information.

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 our films can be requested and used at our Family History Centers. To locate the address for the nearest Family History Center, [click here](#).

For information about contacting or visiting the library or a center, see [Family History Library and Family History Centers](#).

Libraries and Archives

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

To use interlibrary loan:

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

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

Maps

Computer Resources

MapQuest Maps

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

Animap

BYU FHL – on computer

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

Google Maps

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

Geology.com Maps

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

Washington Maps Bibliography

Andriot, Jay. *Township Atlas of the U.S.* McLean, Virginia, 1991.
Mic/Gen Ref- G 1201.F7 AS 1991

Summary: Shows "minor county subdivisions" maps start after 1930 and are provided by the Bureau of the Census. Census county subdivisions or minor civil divisions. Does not include Hawaii or Alaska.

Evaluation of Washington Maps: pp. 1057-1083. General history of counties with precincts, census county divisions, public land surveys and townships.

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

Mic/Gen Ref- G1201.E622S.K5 1976.

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

Evaluation of Washington Maps: State historical information, p. 50. Maps: 1860 p 149; 1878 p 164; 1883 P 193; 1909 p 249.

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

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

Summary: General state information.

Evaluation of Washington Maps: pp. 329-335. General state information includes; Maps with highways, climate & environment, history & important events, population & government, ethnicity & education, economy & resources.

Thorndale, William and William Dollarhide. *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1947.* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1987.

Mic/Gen Ref- G1201.F7 TS 1987

Summary: Outlines counties and changes in 10 year intervals. Gives brief history on census, its growth and accuracy. Sources for maps come from state/territorial laws.

Evaluation of Washington Maps: pp. 360-366. Shows modern boundaries and changes.

Map Collection on 2nd floor of the old section of **HBLL**

Smith, Richard M. Jr. and Jon M. Levernez. *Atlas of the Pacific Northwest Resources and Development*, Oregon State University Press, 1968.

Map Collection - G 1466 .G3 O7 1973 (first of four editions)

Summary: Physical maps: Agriculture, land, mineral resources, settlement patterns, fisheries, evolution of economy and trade.

Evaluation: Evolution of the economy and settlement patterns includes, Indian tribes, pioneers, routes and settlement and Indian reservations. Maps are accompanied with histories, which are very informative, in understanding what your ancestor might have done there.

Map Collection - Map Cases G4280-G4284. Individual maps that illustrate things from military movement to censuses.

Web Sites/Computer Programs

www.topozone.com

Summary: Gives options, of place name searches, coordinate searches, UTM searches.

Evaluation: Excellent for finding what new town your old town (etc) may be in.

www.MapQuest.com

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

Evaluation: Good, to find an existing relative if you have their address.

Animap

Mic/Gen Family Search room - on computer and C.D. version available

Summary: Each state is different, with maps. Shows boundary changes with boundaries now.

Evaluation: Excellent to find older maps quick.

Washington State Map Bibliography

Map of a Part of the Territory of Washington, Olympia (1855)

Map Collection: **G 4280 1855 .T5**

Summary: Not separated by county. Black and white format. Not indexed. Gives rivers, mountains, and some towns.

Evaluation: Good condition, not much information given.

Map of Part of Washington Territory, Olympia (1861)

Map Collection: **G 4280 1861 .T5**

Summary: Not separated by county. Black and white format. Not indexed. Gives rivers, mountains, canals, trails and roads.

Evaluation: Good condition, not much information given.

Washington Territory, Washington D.C. (1883)

Map Collection: **G 4280 1883 .U5**

Summary: Color format. Gives Indian reservations and military reservations, counties, towns, villages, rail roads, mountains, and rivers. Not indexed.

Evaluation: Good condition

Rand McNally & company's indexed Atlas of the World: Washington, Chicago (1892)

Map Collection: **G 4280 1892 .R3**

Summary: Color format. Separated by counties. Indexed by counties, creeks, Indian reservations, Islands, lakes, mountains, rivers and towns. Also gives two tables concerning religious denomination and religious creeds in the United States in 1890.

Evaluation: Great condition, easy to use.

State of Washington, Washington D.C. (1909)

Map Collection: **G 4280 1909 .US**

Summary: Color format. Separated by counties. Not indexed. Gives cities, towns, villages, National parks, National forest, Indian reservations, and military reservations.

Not indexed.

Evaluation: good condition.

State of Washington map, Washington D.C. (1924)

Summary: Color format. Separated by counties. Not indexed. Gives cities, towns, villages, National parks, National forest, Indian reservations, and military reservations.

Not indexed.

Evaluation: fair condition.



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Washington Federal Census Population Schedules, 1790 to 1920

Guide

Introduction

Federal censuses are taken every 10 years. Washington residents are included in territorial and federal censuses from 1850 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 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 Washington with the census years. This will determine which censuses you will search.

Example of a time an ancestor was in Washington.
in Washington from 1878 [-----] through 1907
--]-----]-]-----]-]-----]-]-----]-]-----]-
1850 1860 1870 1880 1900 1910 1920
Washington census years

This person would be included in Washington censuses from 1880 to 1900.
(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 **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 from **1850 to 1920** give more information and include the name, age, and birthplace of every person in each household.

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

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

Step 3. Search the census.

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

1850 1860 1870 1880
1890 1900 1910 1920

For information about archives and libraries that have census records, see [Where to Find It](#).

Step 4. Search another census.

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

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

For other information about how to search the census, see [Tips](#).

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

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

- Who was in the family?
- About when were they born?
- Where were they born?
- 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 Washington to a different county or town.
- Movement of the family out of Washington if the family no longer appears in the census for Washington.

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

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

Background

Description

A census is a count and a description of the population of a country, colony, territory, state, county, or city. Census records are also called census schedules or population schedules. Early censuses are basically head counts. Later censuses give information about marriage, immigration, and literacy. United States censuses are useful because they begin early and cover a large portion of the population.

What U.S. Federal Censuses Are Available

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

The 1890 census for Washington 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 through W). These schedules contain approximately 700,000 names.

Types of Census Schedules

The following census schedules are available for Washington 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.
- 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 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.
- Manufacturing or industrial schedules list data about businesses and industries for the 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.

How Censuses Were Taken

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

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

When Censuses Were Taken

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

- 1790 to 1820: First Monday in August
- 1830 to 1900: June 1 (June 2 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 time period.

The Washington area was included in the following censuses:

- 1850: Oregon Territory
- 1860, 1870, and 1880: Washington Territory

Other territorial censuses were taken of the Washington area from 1854 through 1889. A list of these censuses is found in the census section for Washington state in *Ancestry's Redbook: American State, County, & Town Sources*.

Washington became a state in 1889. A state census of Washington was taken in 1892. 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:

- Washington 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 *Washington Research Outline* lists Internet addresses for several Washington archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Washington censuses, 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 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 *Washington Research Outline* lists Internet and mailing addresses for several Washington archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Washington censuses, and the Internet sites may list what records they have.

U.S. Census Bureau

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

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

Genealogical Search Services

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

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

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

U.S. State Censuses

WASHINGTON

1857-61

Washington territorial census index : 1857,
1860 and 1861 state censuses.

FHC Table 7
CS49.Z99 W2 1857

1871

Lewis County, Washington 1871 census.

CS49.Z99 W2 1871

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