

Nevada

Research Outline

Table of Contents

- Records Of The Family History Library
- Family History Library Catalog
- Archives And Libraries
- Bible Records
- Biography
- Business Records And Commerce
- Cemeteries
- Census
- Church Records
- Court Records
- Directories
- Emigration And Immigration
- Gazetteers
- Genealogy
- History
- Land And Property
- Maps
- Military Records
- Native Races
- Naturalization And Citizenship
- Newspapers
- Periodicals
- Probate Records
- Taxation
- Vital Records
- Voting Records
- For Further Reading
- Comments And Suggestions

This outline describes major sources of information about families from Nevada. 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. The library's major holdings include federal census records from 1860 to 1910 and indexes to the federal censuses. The library has not acquired microfilm copies of county 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 may be used to locate materials in the Family History 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 FHLC for:

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

UNITED STATES - CENSUSNEVADA - PROBATE RECORDSNEVADA, STOREY - VITAL RECORDSNEVADA, STOREY, VIRGINIA CITY - CHURCH RECORDS

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

UNITED STATES - *CENSUSNEVADA - PROBATE RECORDSNEVADA, STOREY - VITAL RECORDSNEVADA, STOREY, VIRGINIA CITY - CHURCH RECORDS*

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 have collections or services helpful to researchers.

- Nevada State Library and Archives

Division of Archives and Records

100 North Steward Street

Carson City, NV 89701-4285

Telephone: 775-684-3360

Fax: 775-684-3330

The Nevada State Library and Archives has the territorial records for Carson County, Utah and Nevada Territory. A guide to these records is Marion Ellison, *An Inventory and Index to the Records of Carson County, Utah and Nevada Territories, 1855-1861* (Reno: The Grace Dangberg Foundation, 1984; FHL book 979.3 R2e). The records described in this guide include deeds and mining, court and probate records.

- National Archives—Pacific Sierra Region (San Bruno)

1000 Commodore Drive

San Bruno, CA 94066

(Serves Nevada except for Clark County)

Telephone: 650-238-3501

- National Archives—Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel)

24000 Avila Road
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677-3497
(Serves Clark County, Nevada)
Telephone: 714-360-2641
Fax: 714-360-2644
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 6719
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677-3497

- Nevada State Genealogical Society

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 20666
Reno, NV 89502

- Nevada Historical Society

1650 North Virginia Street
Reno, NV 89503
Telephone: 775-688-1191
Fax: 775-688-2917

- Nevada State Museum and Historical Society

700 Twin Lakes Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89107
Telephone: 702-486-5205
Fax: 702-486-5172

- University of Nevada—Reno Library

Special Collections
Reno, NV 89557-0044
Telephone: 702-784-6500 ext. #327
Fax 702-784-4529

To learn more about the history and record-keeping systems of Nevada counties, use the seven inventories of county archives produced by the Historical Records Survey around 1940. Copies of these inventories are available 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 Nevada 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://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.

BIBLE RECORDS

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) have collected some Bible records for Nevada families (FHL film 869278). These are partially indexed in 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 6099184).

BIOGRAPHY

Major collections of biographical materials are at the Nevada Historical Society and the University of Nevada—Reno. The Family History Library has few biographical records for Nevada. Some representative sources are:

Scrugham, James G. *Nevada: A Narrative of the Conquest of a Frontier Land* 3 vols. Chicago: The American Historical Society, 1935. (FHL book 979.3 H2s vols. 2-3; film 1000194 items 3-5.)

History of Nevada: with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers. Oakland, Calif.: Thompson & West, 1881. (FHL film 1000194 item 2.)

Two important indexes to biographies found in statewide and regional histories of Nevada are:

Parker, J. Carlyle, and Janet G. Parker. *Nevada Biographical and Genealogical Sketch Index.* Turlock, Calif.: Marietta Publishing, 1986. (FHL book 979.3 D32p.)

Wiggins, Marvin E. *Mormons and Their Neighbors: An Index of over 75,000 Biographical Sketches from 1820 to the Present.* 2 vols. (Provo, Utah: Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, 1984; FHL book Ref 978 D32w).

BUSINESS RECORDS AND COMMERCE

Early mining records were maintained by mining districts. These records later came under the jurisdiction of the county offices. These records include mining claims, mining locations, assessments, and so forth. The Family History Library does not have copies of these records.

The records of mining companies often include pay rolls, lists of customers, and other information. The Nevada Historical Society has an extensive collection of mining company records.

The Nevada Historical Society also has a mining accident file. This file lists the names of miners killed in Nevada mining accidents prior to 1900.

CEMETERIES

There is no major statewide collection or index of cemetery transcripts available at present. The Northeastern Nevada Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1903, Elko, NV 89801, is currently compiling cemetery records. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains inscriptions from some Nevada cemeteries (see the “Genealogy” section of this outline). The Nevada Historical Society and several county libraries have collected mortuary records that date back to the 1870s.

A list of cemetery names and addresses in each county is in Joyce V. Hawley Spiros, *Genealogical Guide to Arizona and Nevada* (Gallup, N.M.: Verlene Publishing, 1983; FHL book 979 D23s; fiche 6049613).

A statewide collection of Nevada cemetery records is presently being compiled by the Nevada Families Project. The first volume has been completed and published in Richard B. Taylor, comp., *The Nevada Tombstone Record Book, Volume 1* (Las Vegas: Nevada Families Project, 1986; FHL 979.3 V3n v.1; film 1421848 item 5). This contains cemetery lists from southern Nevada.

CENSUS

Federal

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

The Family History Library has the U.S. federal censuses of Nevada for 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910 and 1920. The 1890 census was destroyed, but the 1890 Union veterans schedule and index are available at the Family History Library.

Statewide census indexes are available for the 1870, 1880, and 1910 censuses in book, microfilm, and microfiche format. Soundex (phonetic) indexes are on microfilm for the 1900 and 1920 censuses.

The 1870 and 1880 mortality schedules are at the Nevada Historical Society. The Family History Library has indexes to the 1870 and 1880 mortality schedules.

Territorial and State

The 1850 and 1860 federal censuses and the 1850 and 1860 mortality schedules for Utah Territory include present-day Nevada. The Family History Library has copies of the schedules and the indexes to them.

Copies of an 1862 territorial census are available at the Nevada Historical Society, the Nevada State Library and Archives. This census includes Douglas, Lyon, Ormsby, Storey, and Washoe counties, and part of Humboldt County. The schedules have been filmed and are available at several Nevada repositories. The information in this census varies with each county.

The Nevada State Library and Archives also has a census for Lander County for 1863.

The 1875 state census and index are available at the Nevada State Library and Archives, University of Nevada—Reno and the Nevada Historical Society. The Family History Library has a copy of the schedules for 14 counties (FHL fiche 6016536-53) and a microfiche index.

CHURCH RECORDS

The four largest religious groups in Nevada before 1900 were The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Methodist, Protestant Episcopal, and Roman Catholic churches. For a history of seven major denominations in Nevada, see Leon L. Loofbourow, *Steeple among the Sage* . . . (Oakland: Lake Park Press, 1964; FHL book 979.3 K2L).

The Family History Library has a few records for some Nevada churches. The largest collection of Nevada church records is for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Many denominations have collected their records into central repositories. You can write to the following addresses for help in locating their records:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Historical Department
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
50 East North Temple Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400
Telephone: 801-240-2745
Fax: 801-240-1845

Methodist

United Methodist Archives Center
Drew University Library
36 Madison Avenue
Madison, NJ 07940
Telephone: 973-408-3588
Fax: 973-408-3770
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 127
Madison, NJ 07940

Protestant Episcopal

The Nevada Historical Society
1650 N. Virginia Street
Reno, NV 89503-1799
Telephone: 702-688-1191
Fax: 702-688-2917
(They have the records for the Nevada Diocese from 1862 to 1969.)

To learn more about the records of the Protestant Episcopal Church, see *Inventory of the Church Archives of Nevada, Protestant Episcopal Church* (Reno: Historical Records Survey, 1941; FHL book 979.3 K2he; film 1036524 item 2; fiche 6051184).

Roman Catholic

Diocese of Reno—Las Vegas
Chancery Office
336 Cathedral Way
Las Vegas, NV 89109
Telephone: 702-735-7865
Fax: 702-735-2996
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 18316
Reno, NV 89504

To learn more about the records of the Catholic Church, see *Inventory of the Church Archives of Nevada: Roman Catholic Church* (Reno: Historical Records Survey, 1939; FHL book 979.3 K2hc; film 1036527 item 7; fiche 6051185).

COURT RECORDS

Nevada courts that have kept records of genealogical value are listed below.

Municipal courts have citywide jurisdiction over violations of city ordinances and minor criminal cases.

Justice courts have township wide jurisdiction over misdemeanors and minor civil cases.

District courts have district wide jurisdiction over criminal cases and over civil cases concerning equity, probate, divorce, and juvenile matters. They also have appellate jurisdiction over justice and municipal courts.

Supreme court has statewide appellate jurisdiction.

The Family History Library does not have copies of the court records. You can contact the county clerk to obtain copies of most of the records. A few of the original records are now in the Nevada State Library and Archives. The state library has compiled an index to many 1855 and 1864 court cases. These cases include probate, divorce, and other court actions.

Current inventories of Nevada county court records are being compiled by the Administrative Office of the Courts of the State of Nevada. When completed, these inventories will be available at the Nevada State Library and Archives.

DIRECTORIES

The Family History Library has directories of several cities and towns for 1862 to 1881 (FHL [films 1377106-9](#)) and a few other directories for the 1900s.

A helpful directory for early Nevada is:

Kelly, J. Wells, *First Directory of Nevada Territory: Containing the Names of Residents in the Principal Towns . . .* Los Gatos, California: The Talisman Press 1962. (FHL; film 1000196 item 2.)

Local county libraries, the University of Nevada—Reno, the Nevada Historical Society, and the Nevada State Library and Archives collect Nevada directories. The Nevada Historical Society also collects directories of county and municipal officers, dating from the 1860s.

A guide to Nevada directories is Joyce C. Lee, *Genealogical Prospecting in Nevada: a Guide to Nevada Directories* (Carson City: Nevada State Library, 1984. (FHL book 979.3 A1 No. 29.)

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

People

By 1826 American fur traders and trappers were in the area. During the 1840s emigrant wagons passed through the Humboldt and Truckee River valleys on the way to California.

In 1849 members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints made the first non-Indian settlement in Nevada at Mormon Station, now Genoa. Settlers from Salt Lake City also colonized southern Nevada, such as the Las Vegas area, in the 1850s. Most of these settlers were called back to central Utah in 1857, but new efforts at colonization were under way in southern Nevada by the mid-1860s. Further information on these colonies is in Leonard J. Arrington, *The Mormons in Nevada* (Las Vegas: *Las Vegas Sun*, 1979; FHL book 979.3 H2am; film LDS 1059488 item 7).

In 1859 the Comstock gold and silver deposits were discovered in the Carson Valley. Thousands of Cornish, Irish, and other miners came from California and established the boom town of Virginia City. By 1870 the census records listed over 40 percent of all Nevada residents as having come from Britain, Germany, Ireland, China, and Canada.

After 1880 Italians came in large numbers to Nevada. They were the largest immigrant group reported in the 1910 census, numbering nearly 3,000. German, English, Irish, and Greek immigrants were also major groups within the total 1910 population of just over 80,000. There have also been small numbers of Mexicans and blacks in the state since the days of the early mining camps.

More recent immigrants to Nevada have included Basque sheepherders from the Pyrenees Mountains of Spain and France. Today it is estimated that between 5,000 and 10,000 Nevadans are of Basque descent. Helpful information on Basque settlement in Nevada is in Flavina Maria McCullough, *The Basques in the Northwest: A Dissertation*, 1945, Reprint (San Francisco: R and E Research Associates, 1974; FHL book 979 A1 No. 3; film 940048 item 4).

Descendants of the original inhabitants— the Paiute, Shoshoni, and Washo Indians— live on small reservations scattered through the state. A few records of American Indians are listed in the FHLC under NEVADA - NATIVE RACES. Others are listed in the subject section of the FHLC under the names of the tribes.

Books on blacks, Chinese, and Yugoslavs in nineteenth-century Nevada are listed in the FHL subject section under NEVADA - MINORITIES.

Immigration Records

There was no single port of entry common to overseas immigrants who settled in Nevada. The Family History Library and the National Archives have passenger lists or indexes for east coast ports for 1820 to about 1940. West coast passenger arrival records do not begin until the 1880s. More detailed information on federal immigration sources is in the *United States Research Outline*.

GAZETTEERS

The following gazetteers can help you locate places in Nevada:

Carlson, Helen S. *Nevada Place Names: A Geographical Dictionary*. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1974. (FHL book 979.3 E2c.)

Leigh, Rufus Wood. *Nevada Place Names: Their Origin and Significance*. Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1964. (FHL book 979.3 E2L.)

Paher, Stanley W. *Nevada Ghost Towns and Mining Camps*. Las Vegas, Nev.: Nevada Publications, 1970. (FHL book 979.3 H2p; film 1598077 item 2.)

GENEALOGY

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

A major collection of compiled genealogies is the Nevada Centennial Commission's *Collection for Early Day Families* at the Nevada Historical Society. This collection has information about the state's pioneers and their descendants.

Various chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the American Colonists have made transcripts of Bible, cemetery, church, marriage, death, obituary, and probate records. Some of these transcripts are on FHL films 869278 and 176645. Others are in Mrs. Chester A. Paterson, ed., *Genealogical Records* (Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1953-58; FHL book 979.3 D2d; film 1425613 items 6-8).

HISTORY

The following events affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements:

1821	Mexico claimed the area after a successful revolt against Spain.
1840s	Americans on the way to California traveled through the region.
1848	Nevada was part of the area ceded by Mexico to the United States.
1849	The first non-Indian settlement was made at Mormon Station (Genoa).
1850	When Utah Territory was organized, almost all of present-day Nevada was included except the southern tip, which was then part of the New Mexico Territory.
1859	The Comstock Lode of gold and silver was discovered at Virginia City, and many miners began coming from California.
1861	Congress created Nevada Territory. In 1862 the territory was enlarged by shifting the eastern boundary.
1863	Nevada became a state. In 1866 and 1867 more eastern land was gained from Utah Territory, and the southern tip was acquired from Arizona Territory.
1880-1890	As the Comstock Lode declined, the states population fell from 62,000 to 47,000.
1900	The discovery of silver at Tonopah, soon followed by gold strikes at Goldfield and the discovery of copper at Ely, led to a new mining boom that lasted until after World War I.

An especially helpful source for studying the history of Nevada is Russell R. Elliott, *History of Nevada*, 1973, Reprint (Lincoln, Nebr.: University of Nebraska Press, 1984; FHL book 979.3 H2e).

LAND AND PROPERTY

Land Office Records

When the United States acquired Nevada, the federal government distributed unclaimed land through the U.S. Government Land Office (GLO). The first local office was established in Carson City in 1864. Others were in Elko, Eureka, and Reno. The local

offices kept tract books (records for each section of land) and township plats (maps of land entries for each township).

Land was generally obtained through cash payment, called cash entry, or by meeting certain conditions of settlement, such as homesteading. The original tract books, plats, homestead entries, and cash entry records are available at the National Archives. The National Archives also has an index to cash entry files and homestead records prior to July 1908.

Other land office records, such as patents, land tracts, and township plats, from about 1861 to 1964, are available at the National Archives—Pacific Sierra Region (San Bruno). Patents and copies of tract books are also at:

Bureau of Land Management
1340 Financial Blvd
Reno, NV 89502
Telephone: 775-861-6400

County Records

After land has been transferred from government to private ownership, subsequent transactions, including deeds and mortgages, are recorded by the county. You can obtain a copy of a county land record by writing to the county recorder. The Family History Library does not have copies of these records.

MAPS

The libraries of the University of Nevada—Reno and the University of Nevada—Las Vegas have large collections of maps and atlases. The Nevada State Library and Archives also has a good map collection.

Maps of the Nevada area in 1862, 1878, 1884, and 1917 are on FHL [film 002083](#). The Family History Library has a small collection of individual maps.

MILITARY RECORDS

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

Many military records are available at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more information about the federal records.

The Nevada State Library and Archives has an excellent collection of military records, including:

- Muster rolls from the 1860s to 1902
- Nevada State Militia records beginning in 1865
- National Guard records
- Selective Service cards from World War I to the Vietnam War

Civil War (1861-1865)

An index to service records of Union army volunteers is on FHL film 821939. The library also has the index to the pension applications. The service and pension records are available at the National Archives.

A special census was taken in 1890 of Union veterans of the Civil War and their widows (FHL film 338198; index in book 979.3 X22jv 1890).

World War I (1917-1918)

Biographical sketches of soldiers who lost their lives during the war are in *Nevada's Golden Stars* (Reno: Nevada Adjutant General's Office 1924; FHL film 1000195 item 2).

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 Nevada, see:

United States. Selective Service System. *Nevada, 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 1711534.)

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.)

NATIVE RACES

Tribal census rolls, probate records, school records, tribal court records, a few vital records, and other records are available. The Family History Library has a few of these records. Many of the records are at the National Archives—Pacific Sierra Region (San Bruno).

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization records may have been filed in any court of record, but most people who applied for citizenship went to the clerk of a district court. You can obtain copies of declarations, petitions, and certificates by contacting the appropriate clerk's office. The Family History Library does not have copies of these records.

The Nevada State Library and Archives has naturalization records for Douglas County, including petitions, declarations, and certificates, for 1884 to 1929.

The National Archives—Pacific Sierra Region (San Bruno) has records from the two U.S. district courts in Nevada for 1853 to 1956.

For naturalization records after September 1906, contact the National Archives—San Francisco Region or a federal office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

NEWSPAPERS

Several handwritten news sheets circulated in the mining camps of Nevada in the early 1850s. Nevada's first printed newspaper, the *Territorial Gazette*, began in Genoa in 1858.

Major collections of Nevada newspapers are at the Nevada Historical Society, the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, as well as local courthouses and libraries.

Spiros's *Genealogical Guide to Arizona and Nevada* describes newspapers available on microfilm. (See the “For Further Reading” section of this outline.)

Several indexes to Nevada newspapers have been compiled, including an index to the *Territorial Enterprise*, 1859 to 1877, and an index to the *Nevada State Journal*, 1872 to 1876. These indexes are available at the Nevada Historical Society. Other indexes, such as an index to the *Pioche Record*, 1872 to 1904, are available at the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society.

A helpful bibliography of Nevada newspapers is Richard E. Lingenfelter and Karen Rix Gash, *The Newspapers of Nevada: A History and Bibliography, 1854-1979* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1984; FHL book 979.3 B3L 1984). The Family History Library has not collected Nevada newspapers.

PERIODICALS

Two periodicals helpful for Nevada research are:

Chart and Quill. 1979-. Published by the Northeastern Nevada Genealogical Society, 1515 Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801-4021. (FHL book 979.3 D25c.)

The Nevada State Genealogical Society Newsletter. 1981-. Published by the Nevada State Genealogical Society, 2931 Randolph Street, Reno, NV 89502. (FHL book 979.355 D25n.)

PROBATE RECORDS

Probate court actions before 1861 were recorded in Utah Territory courts. Most, if not all, of the existing records from this period are now at the Nevada State Library and Archives (see the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline).

Territorial probate courts were established in 1861 but were abolished in 1864 when Nevada became a state. The existing territorial probate records are now at the Nevada State Library and Archives. The state library also has an index to the supporting documents for the 1855 to 1864 probate courts.

The district courts in each county now have jurisdiction over the estates of deceased persons. You can obtain copies of the records, such as judgment rolls, bonds, and wills, by contacting the clerk of the district court in each county. The Family History Library does not have copies of the probate records of Nevada.

TAXATION

Tax records for Nevada begin in the 1860s. These records are especially helpful for locating miners or other citizens who didn't own land but were required to pay a poll tax.

Most tax records were kept by the county and can be obtained from the county treasurer or assessor. The University of Nevada Library at Reno has tax records for the territorial period. The Nevada State Library and Archives has tax records for 1890 and 1891. The state library also has the Ormsby County tax records from 1862 to 1950 and the Lander County tax records from 1862 to 1971.

The Family History Library does not have copies of Nevada tax records.

VITAL RECORDS

Birth and Death Records

Statewide registration of vital statistics began in 1911. The Family History Library does not have copies of the state records. You can obtain birth and death certificates by writing to:

Nevada Office of Vital Statistics
4150 Technology Way
Suite 104
Carson City, NV 89706
Telephone: 775-684-4242
Fax: 775-684-4156

State your relationship to the individual and the reason you want the information. The records are restricted to immediate family members.

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, August 1987). Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and many Family History Centers.

For records prior to 1911 contact the county recorder's office, or in some counties, the county health department. Some county records begin as early as 1887.

The Nevada State Library and Archives has a partial list of birth records in Washoe County for 1887 to 1911 and Lander County birth and death records for 1887 to 1910.

Marriage Records

Statewide registration of marriages and divorces began in 1968; however, many Nevada counties began keeping records at an earlier date. To obtain a marriage or a divorce record, write to the county recorder of the county where the event took place. Nevada marriage records are open to the public.

The Nevada State Library and Archives has marriage licenses for Washoe County for 1862 to 1872.

Divorce Records

Divorce cases were handled by the probate courts until 1864 and by the district courts after that date. The Nevada State Library and Archives has the early probate court records.

To obtain a record of a divorce since 1864, write to the clerk of the district court in the county. The documents are open to the public.

VOTING RECORDS

Official voting registers began in 1865. Beginning in 1869 the registers included the individual's name, age, birthplace, residence, and naturalization information. By 1918 most counties also had a card index with voter information. The records are kept in the county offices. The Family History Library does not have copies of these records.

FOR FURTHER READING

For more detailed information about research and records in Nevada, see:

Spiros, Joyce V. Hawley. *Genealogical Guide to Arizona and Nevada*. Gallup, N. M.: Verlone Publishing, 1983. (FHL book 979 D23s; fiche 6049613). This book briefly describes the records of genealogical value for each Nevada county.

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 Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3400
USA

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

Nevada 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 Nevada affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements:

1821	Mexico claimed the area after a successful revolt against Spain.
1840s	Americans on the way to California traveled through the region.
1848	Nevada was part of the area ceded by Mexico to the United States.
1849	The first non-Indian settlement was made at Mormon Station (Genoa).
1850	When Utah Territory was organized, almost all of present-day Nevada was included except the southern tip, which was then part of the New Mexico Territory.
1859	The Comstock Lode of gold and silver was discovered at Virginia City, and many miners began coming from California.
1861	Congress created Nevada Territory. In 1862 the territory was enlarged by shifting the eastern boundary.
1864	Nevada became a state. In 1866 and 1867 more eastern land was gained from Utah Territory, and the southern tip was acquired from Arizona Territory.
1880-1890	As the Comstock Lode declined, the state's population fell from 62,000 to 47,000.
1898	Over 300,000 men were involved in the Spanish-American War, which was fought mainly in Cuba and the Philippines.
1900	The discovery of silver at Tonopah, soon followed by gold strikes at Goldfield and the discovery of copper at Ely, led to a new mining boom that lasted until after World War I.
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 Nevada 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 Nevada available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. Look under BIBLIOGRAPHY or HISTORY - BIBLIOGRAPHY.

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

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

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

State History

An especially helpful source for studying the history of Nevada is Russell R. Elliott, *History of Nevada*, 1973, Reprint (Lincoln, Nebr.: University of Nebraska Press, 1984; FHL book 979.3 H2e).

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.

Nevada 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–Present [Ancestral File.](#)
[International Genealogical Index.](#)
[Family History Library Catalog - Surname Search.](#)
To see these files, click here.

1580–present [PERiodical Source Index \(PERSI\)](#) lists records (by place or surname) that were published in genealogical magazines or periodicals. This resource should not be overlooked. It is available on the Internet through Ancestry.com. (FHL book 973 D25 per, various combined indexes and, annual supplements; [fiche 6016863, 6016864](#); compact disc no. 61.)

- 1620–1985 Parker, J. Carlyle. *Nevada Biographical and Genealogical Sketch Index*. (FHL book 979.3 D32p.) This is a valuable guide to help you find biographical sketches of ancestors.
- 1700–1981 Wiggins, Marvin E. *Mormons and Their Neighbors: An Index of Over 75,000 Biographical Sketches for 1820 to the Present*. (FHL book Reg Table 978 D32w 2 vols.) This is a guide to finding biographical sketches of Latter-day Saints.
- 1700–1995 *Chart and Quill*. (FHL book 979.3 D25c.) A periodical. See annual indexes.
- 1700–1995 *The Prospector: Publication of the Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society, Las Vegas, Nevada*. (FHL book 979.313 D25p.) See annual indexes.
- 1700–1995 Nevada Historical Society. *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly*. (FHL book 979.3 H25n.) A periodical. Write for a search of their indexes.
- 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.) Indexes by surname the item just below.
- 1700–1970 *Miscellaneous Genealogical Records*. (FHL film 869278 items 1, 2, 3, 5; 869278 item 2, 869278 item 3; Lyon Co. 869278 item 5.) Compiled by the Daughters of the American Revolution; has Bible and cemetery records. Indexed by surname in the source above.
- 1700–1954 *Genealogical Records*. (FHL book 979.3 D2d 3 vols.; film 1425613 items 6–8.) Compiled by various chapters of the Nevada DAR, 1953–1954.
- 1770–1850 Jackson, Ronald Vern, et. al. *Utah 1850 Census Index*. (FHL book 979.2 X22u.) Utah included parts of what is now Nevada.
- 1770–1970 *Obituary Index File to the Salt Lake Tribune and Deseret News as of 31 Dec 1970*. (FHL films 821636–699.) Includes some Latter-day Saint families in Nevada.
- 1780–1900s *Collection for Early-Day Families*. (Not at FHL.) Write the Nevada Historical Society for a search. Lists pioneers and their descendants. There is a binder for each county with family information. An index to these is included in their library catalog.
- 1780–1864 *Index to probate records, 1855–1864*. (Not at FHL.) At the Nevada State Archives and Library. You may wish to write for a search.
- 1780–1861 Ellison, Marion. *An Inventory and Index to the Records of Carson County, Utah and Nevada Territories, 1855–1861*. (FHL book 979.3 R2e.) Compiled from deeds, court, probate, etc. records.
- 1780–1860 Jackson, Ronald Vern. *Utah 1860 Territorial Census Index*. (FHL book 979.2 X2j.) The 1860 census of Utah included the present Nevada area.
- 1780–1860 Jackson, Ronald Vern, et al. *Nevada 1860 Mortality Schedule*. (FHL book 979.3 X22jm1.)
- 1780–1880 *Nevada Territory Directories*. (FHL films 1377106–109.) For 1862–1881; not published for some years.
- 1780–1877 Index to the *Territorial Enterprise* newspaper 1859–1877. (Not at FHL.) At the Nevada Historical Society. You may wish to write for a search. Additional newspaper indexes are listed in: Eichholz, Alice. *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources* (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992 page 470).

- 1790–1870 Las Vegas Branch Genealogical Library. *Nevada 1870 Federal Census Index*. (FHL films 1206333–337.) An every-name card index.
- 1790–1920 *Census indexes, 1850–1880, 1900, and 1920*. In the window to the left, and click on **Family History Library Catalog**. Then select CENSUS or CENSUS - INDEXES from the topics that are listed.
- 1790–1876 *Index to the Nevada State Journal, 1872–1876*. (Not at FHL.) At Nevada Historical Society. You may wish to write for a search.
- 1790–1879 Parkin, Nona. *Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1871–1879 With Missing Dates Published in Nevada State Journal*. (FHL book 979.3 A1 no. 12; film 962218 item 12.)
- 1800–1862 Wells, J. Kelly. *First Directory of Nevada Territory: Containing the Names of Names of Residents in the Principal Towns, a Historical Sketch* [1862]. (FHL film 1000196 item 2.) The *First Directory* . . . was published in 1862. An index is found on film 1598348 item 16.
- 1800–1865 United States. Adjutant General's Office. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the State of Nevada*. (FHL film 821939.)
- 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, et. Al. *1890 Nevada Census Index: Special Schedule of the Eleventh Census (1890) Enumerating Union Veterans and the Union Veterans of the Civil War*. (FHL book 979.3 X22jv.) Civil War soldiers.
- 1800–1900 Eterovich, Adam S. *Yugoslavs in Nevada: 1859–1900, Croats, Dalmatians, Montenegrins, Hercegovinians*. (FHL book 979.3 F2ye.) Includes index.
- 1800–1975 Douglas, William A. *Amerikanuak, Basques in the New World*. (FHL book 970 F2dw.)
- 1800–1880 Jackson, Ronald Vern, et. al. *Nevada 1880 Mortality Schedule*. (FHL book 979.3 X2n 1880.)
- 1800–1880 Jackson, Ronald Vern, et. al. *Nevada 1880 Territorial Census Index*. (FHL book 979.3 X2j.)
- 1810–1900 Jackson, Ronald Vern. *Nevada 1900*. (FHL book 979.3 X22j 1900.) This is a 1900 census index.
- 1820–1910 Dilts, Bryan Lee. *1910 Nevada Census Index: Heads of Households and Other Surnames in Households Index*. (FHL book 979.3 X22n; fiche 6331388.)
- 1820–1910 Jackson, Ronald Vern, ed. *Nevada 1910 Census Index*. (FHL book 979.3 X22j 1910.)
- 1820–1900 Erwin, Patricia J. *Obituaries of Persons Born Pre–1900 Taken From Ohio, Michigan, Colorado, Kentucky, Nevada, and Other States*. (FHL film 1597926 item 13.)
- 1847–1984 Taylor, Richard B. *The Nevada Tombstone Record Book*. (FHL book 979.3 V3n 2 vols.; film 1421848 item 5 has vol. 1.)
- 1860–1968 Ostrander, Edna E. *Index to Marriage Licenses and Marriage Notices, 1906–1968 in Misc. Nevada Newspapers*. (FHL film 1421646 item 5.)

- 1873–1918 Sullivan, Maurice J. *Nevada's Golden Stars: A Memorial Volume Designed as a Gift from the State of Nevada to the Relatives of Those Nevada Heroes Who Died in the World War.* (FHL film 1000195 item 2.)
- 1873–1918 Haulsee, W. M. *Soldiers of the Great War.* (FHL book 973 M23s; fiche 6051244.) Vol. 2 has Nevada. Lists soldiers who died in World War I.
- 1873–1918 United States Selective Service System. *Nevada, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918.* (On 7 FHL films beginning with 1711534.) Men ages 18 to 45 are listed alphabetically by county or draft board.
- 1900–1991 *Nevada Vital Statistics, Marriages by Name Index, 1968–1991.* (FHL fiche beginning with 6334402.)
- 1909–present State Health Division. *Index to Birth Records, 1909–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 includes 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 your nearest Family History Centers, 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.

Nevada Maps Bibliography

Andriot, Jay. *Township Atlas of the US*. Virginia: Documents Index, 1991.
Rel/Fam Hist 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 Nevada Maps: pp.615-616. 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.
Rel/Fam Hist Ref- CS **49.A55 1992**. (3 copies in FHC)

Summary: The previous map was copied from page 472 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 Nevada 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.
Rel/Fam Hist Ref- **GI201.E6225.K5 1976**

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

Evaluation of Nevada maps: State historical information, p. 23; 1865 maps, 154; 1878 map, p. 172; 1883 map, p. 195; 1909 map, p. 227.

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

Summary: Nevada maps and information on pages 195-201. Includes maps comparing Nevada to other states, cultural features, population density, agriculture, economic facts, etc. Also includes a brief state history.

Thorndale, William and William Dollarhide. *Map Guide to the US. Federal Censuses, 1790-1944*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co, 1987.
Rel/Fam Hist 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 Nevada maps: pp.211-215.

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

G43S6-G43S4 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 Nevada maps, atlases, and gazetteers.



FAMILYSEARCH™

G U I D E

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

Nevada Federal Census Population Schedules, 1850 to 1920

Guide

Introduction

Federal censuses are taken every 10 years. Nevada residents are included in territorial or 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:

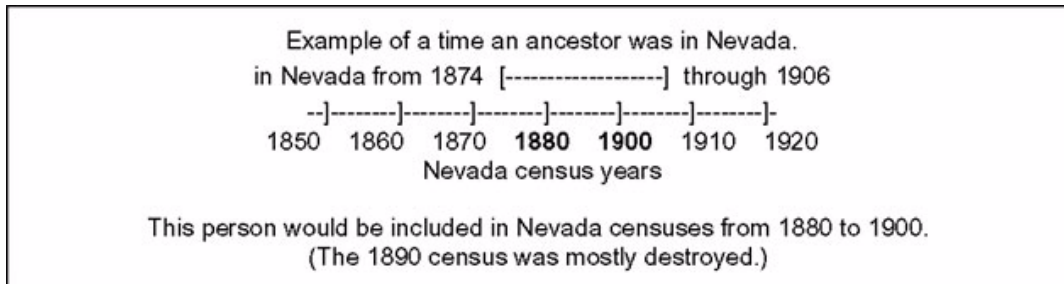
- Names of family members.
- Ages of family members, which you can use to calculate birth or marriage years.
- The county and state where your ancestors lived.
- People living with (or gone from) the family.
- Relatives who may have lived nearby.

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



Step 2. Determine a census to start with.

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

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

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

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

Step 3. Search the census.

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

1850 1860 1870 1880
1890 1900 1910 1920

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

Step 4. Search another census.

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more about comparing information in several censuses, see [Tip 3](#).

Tips

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

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

Tip 2. How can I understand the information better?

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

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

Comparing censuses indicates:

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

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

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

Background

Description

A census is a count and a description of the population of a country, colony, territory, state, county, or city. Census records are also called census schedules or population schedules.

Early censuses are basically head counts. Later censuses give information about marriage, immigration, and literacy. United States censuses are useful because they begin early and cover a large portion of the population.

What U.S. Federal Censuses Are Available

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

The 1890 census of Nevada was destroyed. 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 Nevada 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 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 the 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 time period.

The Nevada area was included in the following territorial censuses:

- 1850: Utah Territory
- 1860: Utah Territory
- 1862-63: Nevada Territory

Nevada became a state in 1864, and a state census was taken in 1875.

Territorial, and local censuses may be available on the Internet, at Family History Centers, 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:

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

U.S. Census Bureau

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

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

Genealogical Search Services

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

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

For more information, see [Hiring a Professional Genealogist](#).

U.S. State Censuses

NEVADA

1875	MICROFICHE CARD #
Churchill, Douglas, and Esmeralda Counties (part)	1
Esmeralda (part) and Elko Counties (part)	2
Elko (part) and Eureka (part) Counties	3
Eureka (part) County	4
Eureka, Humboldt and Lander (part) Counties	5
Lander (part) and Lincoln (part) Counties	6
Lincoln (part) and Lyon (part) Counties	7
Lyon (part), Nye and Ormsby (part) Counties	8
Ormsby (part) and Storey (part) Counties	9
Storey (part) County	10
Storey (part) County	11
Storey (part) County	12
Storey (part) County	13
Storey (part) County	14
Storey (part) County	15
Washoe (part) County	16
Washoe (part) and White Pine County	17
Storey (part) County	18

NEVADA

- Angel, Myron. History of Nevada. Berkeley, California: Howell-North Books, 1958. **Microfiche Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 16860**
- Averett, Walter R. Through the Rainbow Canyon. Grand Junction, Colorado: W.R. Averett, 1995. **F 847 .R35 A94x 1995**
- Beatty, David. Nevada: Land of Discovery. Reno: First National Bank of Nevada, 1976. **Americana Quarto F 842 .B42**
- Curran, Harold. Fearful Crossing. Reno: Great Basin Press, 1983. **Americana F 841 .C87x 1983**
- Danner, Ruth Fenstermaker. Gabbs Valley, Nevada: Its History and Legend. Gabbs, Nevada: R. Danner, 1992. **F 847 .G32 D36 1992**
- Elliot, Russell R. History of Nevada. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1984. **F 841 .E43 1984**
- Hinckley, T.C. Studies in Territorial History. Manhattan, Kansas: Sunflower University Press, 1981. **F 965 .S78**
- Miller, Donald C. Ghost Towns of Nevada. Boulder, Colorado: Pruett Pub. Co., 1979. **F 841 .M52 1979**
- Mills, Lester W. A Sagebrush Saga. Springville, Utah: Art City Pub. Co., 1956. **Quarto F 847 .E4 M5**
- Paher, Stanley W. Nevada Ghost Towns and Mining Camps. Berkeley, California: Howell-North Books, 1970. **F852 .P3 1984**
- Paher, Stanley W. Nevada Towns & Tales. Las Vegas: Nevada Publications, 1981. **Americana F 841 .N48x 1981**
- Schreier, Nancy B. Highgrade, the Mining Story of National Nevada. Glendale, California: A.H. Clark Co., 1981. **Americana TN 423 .N3 S37**

Carson County

Carson County, created 17 January 1854, an area of 20,000 sq. miles, encompassed all of what subsequently became counties of Douglas, Lyon, Ormsby (now Carson City), Storey and portions of Washoe, Pershing, Churchill, Mineral, Esmeralda, and Nye in Nevada

NEVADA

Ellison, Robert W. First Impressions: The Trail Through Carson Valley, 1848-1852. Minden, NV: Hot Springs Mountain Press, 2001. **F 847 .C37 2001 Americana Collection**

Paher, Stanley W. Fort Churchill; Nevada's Military Outpost of the 1860's. Las Vegas, Nevada: Nevada Publications, 1981. **F 849 .F6 P3x**

Churchill County

County created 1861 as an original county

Clark County

County created 1909 from Lincoln

Hafner, Arabell L. One Hundred Years on the Muddy. Springville, Utah: Art City Pub. Co., 1967. **F 847 .M6 H3**

Leavitt, Francis H. The Influence of the Mormon People in the Settlement of Clark County. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1934. **Americana F 847 .C5 L43x 1934**

Miranda, M.L. A History of Hispanics in Southern Nevada. Reno, NV: University of Nevada Press, 1996. **F 850 .S75 M57 1997**.

Paher, Stanley W. Las Vegas; As It Began--As It Grew. Las Vegas: Nevada Publications, 1971. **Quarto F 849 .L35 P3**

Douglas County

County created 1861 as an original county

Elko County

County created 1869 from St. Mary's

McElrath, Jean S. Aged In Sage. Wells, Nevada: Nevada Recorder, 1969. **F 847 .E4 M2**

Patterson, Edna B. Hallack County, Nevada: The story of The Land and its People. Reno: Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Nevada, 1982. **F 847 .E4 P277x 1982**

Patterson, Edna B. Nevada's Northeast Frontier. Sparks, Nevada: Western Printing and Pub. Co., 1969. **F 841 .P37 1969**

NEVADA

Esmeralda County

Paher, Stanley W. Goldfield, Boom Town of Nevada. Las Vegas: Nevada Publications, 1977.
Quarto F 849 .G64 P34x

Eureka County

County created 1873 from Lander

Eureka and Its Resources: a Complete History of Eureka County, Nevada. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1982. **F 847 .E8 E95 1982**

Knudtsen, Molly F. Under the Mountain. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1982.
F 847 .G7 K86 1982

Knudsten, Molly. Here is Our Valley. Reno: University of Nevada, 1975. **F 847 .G7 K85**

Humboldt County

County created 1861 as an original county

Lander County

County created 1862 as an original county

Knudtsen, Molly F. Here is Our Valley. Reno: Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Nevada Press, 1975. **F 847 .G7 K85**

Knudtsen, Molly F. Under the Mountain. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1982. **F 847 .G7 K86 1982**

Lewis, Oscar. The Town That Died Laughing: The Story of Austin, Nevada. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1986. **F 849 .A9 L4 1986**

Lincoln County

County created 1866 from Nye

A Century in Meadow Valley. Panaca Nevada: Panaca Centennial Book Committee, 1966.
F 849 .P3 P

NEVADA

Hulse, James W. Lincoln County, Nevada, 1864-1909. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1971. **F 847 .L5 H8**

Kayen, Eva H. Treasures of Tempiute. Sparks, Nevada: Western Printing and Pub. Co., 1967. **Americana 979.314 K849t**

Townley, John M. Conquered Provinces: Nevada Moves Southeast, 1864-1871. Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University Press, 1973. **F 595 .C53x no. 2 1973** also **Americana F 595 .C53x no. 2 1973**

Lyon County

County was created 1861 as an original county

Fort Churchill Nevada; Military Outpost of the 1860's. Las Vegas: Nevada Publications, 1981. **F 849 .F6 P3x**

Mineral County

County created 1911 from Esmeralda

Nye County

County created 1864 from Esmeralda

Paher, Stanley W. Death Valley Ghost Towns. Las Vegas: Nevada Publications, 1973. **Quarto F 868 .D2 P25**

Paher, Stanley W. Tonopah, Silver Camp of Nevada. Las Vegas: Nevada Publications, 1978. **Quarto F 849 .T6 P34x**

Ormsby County

Ormsby County created November 25, 1861 with Carson City as county seat, had a land area of 168 sq. miles, 12 of which were under water (Lake Tahoe). In 1969 the county and Carson City were consolidated into one municipal government named Carson City.

Pershing County

County created 1919 from Humboldt

Roop County

Last Updated 4/2006

NEVADA

St. Mary's County

Hulse, James W. The Afterlife of St. Mary's County; or Utah's Penumbra in Eastern Nevada. Utah Historical Quarterly, Summer 1987, v. 55, n. 3, p. 236-249. **F 821 .U92 vol. 55 no. 3**

Storey County

Hermann, Ruth. Virginia City, Nevada, Revisited. Sparks, Nevada: Falcon Hill Press, 1981. **F 849 .V8 H47**

Historic Virginia City, Nevada. Virginia City, Nevada: Lamp Post, 1953. **F 849 .V8 H57x 1953**

McDonald, Douglas. Virginia City and the Silver Region of the Comstock Lode. Las Vegas, Nevada: Nevada Publications, 1982. **Americana Quarto F 849 .V8 M32x 1982**

Washoe County

County created 1861 original county

Hummel, N.A. General History and Resources of Washoe County, Nevada. 1969. **F 847 .W3 H94 1969**

Olds, Sarah E. Twenty Miles From a Match. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1978. **F 847 .W3 047**

Paher, Stanley W. Ponderosa County. Las Vegas: Nevada Publications, 1972. **Quarto F 842 .P32**

Townley, John M. Tough Little Town on the Truckee. Reno: Great Basin Studies Center, 1983. **F 849 .R4 T68x 1983**

White Pine County

Crum, Steven J. The "White Pine War" of 1875: a Case of White Hysteria. Utah Historical Quarterly, Summer 1991, v. 59, n.3, p. 286-299. **F 821 .U92 vol. 59 no. 3**

Fleming, Jack. Copper Times: an Animated Chronicle of White Pine County, Nevada. Seattle, WA: J. Fleming Publications, 1987. **F 847 .W5 F57 1987**

NEVADA

Jackson, William T. Treasure Hill; Portrait of a Silver Mining Camp. Tucson, University of Arizona Press, 1963. **F 847 .W5 J3**

Read, Effie O. White Pine Lang Syne. Denver, Colorado: Big Mountain Press, 1965. **F 8 47 .W5 R4**

Other Nevada Resources

Index to Marriage licenses and marriage notices in miscellaneous Nevada Newspapers
1906-1968 **HBLL Call Number Film 1421646 item 5**

Northeastern Nevada Genealogical Society
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~nvnengs/>

Northeastern Nevada Genealogical Society "Chart and Quill" Indexes
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~nvnengs/quill.html>

Cyndi's List Nevada Links
<http://www.cyndislist.com/nv.htm>

Nevada Rootsweb Links
<http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-1/usa/nv/index.html>

Nevada State Library and Archives Genealogical Resources
<http://dmla.clan.lib.nv.us/docs/nsla/services/genealres.htm>

FamilySearch Wiki
<http://www.familysearchwiki.org>