Because they were not taken systematically and centrally archived, these census reports remain a much under-utilized resource.

The Value of State and Territorial Census

- These censuses can be important supplements to the decennial federal records.
- They can also serve as substitutes for some of the missing federal censuses, such as 1890.
  - Similar to the federal census, the questions varied from place to place, and year to year.
- Agriculture, Manufacturer and Mortality schedules were sometimes recorded in addition to the Population schedules.
- These records are not available through the National Archives, or any other central archive.
- Although some have been lost, many are still available, and are appearing online.

Territorial Censuses

- Except for the Thirteen Colonies, California, Kentucky, Maine, Texas, Vermont, and West Virginia, all the states went through a territorial stage before they were admitted to the Union.
- Territorial censuses were taken to petition for statehood, apportion the legislature, and/or for taxation purposes.
- The surviving records may be incomplete and most are not indexed.
- In all cases you must pay attention to which counties existed at the time the census was taken.
- Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org have copies of most available territorial censuses.

State Censuses

- Many states took censuses in ten-year intervals midway between the federal census counts (e.g., 1855, 1865, 1875, ...). Others conducted censuses in various years and at different intervals.
- A few states never conducted a census.
- State censuses may include different and/or more detailed questions than those in the federal census, such as date of the resident’s parents’ marriage, and the mother’s maiden name.
- Many post-Civil War state censuses asked for information about veterans, some even giving the regiment and company in which they had served.
- FamilySearch and Ancestry have many state censuses and substitutes online.
  - Some FamilySearch restricted images are only viewable on computers at the Family History Library, a Family History Center, or an affiliated library.
- Surviving records may also be available through the state archives or state historical societies.
- Always check for missing counties.
The 1885 State/Federal Census

- A provision in the 1880 census law requested states and territories take a semi-decennial census. Each state or territory would receive 50% of the amount paid to supervisors and enumerators.
- Florida, Nebraska, Colorado, and the New Mexico and Dakota territories conducted Population, Agriculture, Manufacturers and Mortality censuses.
- The Dakota Territory schedules were never transferred to the National Archives but are held at the North and South Dakota State Archives, depending where the individual resided.
- Ancestry and/or FamilySearch have online copies of the 1885 census.

Texas

- The Austin Colony Padrón of 1826.
  - Available online from the Texas General Land Office.
- The Atascosito Census of 1826.
  - Available at: Clayton Library – Houston; University of Texas – Austin; Sterling Municipal Library – Baytown; Family History Library - Salt Lake City
- DeWitt colonists of 1828.
  - Heads of households only. Is incomplete, supplemented by names from Land Grant records.
  - Abstract available online from Texas A&M University.
- 1835 Census, Residents of Texas.
  - Transcribed by the TXGenWeb Project with permission of the University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio.
- Gifford White used land grants and tax rolls to list 20,000 heads of households in 1840.
  - Total 1840 population estimated at 50,000 free citizens and 17,000 slaves.
  - Size of land grant depended on when the settler arrived in Texas.

New Mexico

- Index to Spanish Census of 1750
  - Includes Alamo, Albuquerque, Belen, Santa Fe and Valencia.
  - Available at USGenWeb Archives.
- Spanish and Mexican Census Abstracts: 1790, 1793, 1803, 1823, 1829, 1841. Available at:
  - Clayton Library – Houston.
  - University of New Mexico – Albuquerque.
  - New Mexico State University – Las Cruces.
- Presidio of Santa Fe – Military Census 1826.
  - Available at USGenWeb Archives.

Oklahoma

- Federal censuses in the so-called Indian Country taken from 1820 through 1870 were under the jurisdiction of the Arkansas federal marshals.
  - Only those Native Americans who lived off reservations and were subject to taxes were counted.
- In 1890, the Oklahoma Territory took a special census of its original seven counties:
  - Beaver, Canadian, Cleveland, Kingfisher, Logan, Oklahoma and Payne. (OkHistory.org)
Oklahoma (cont.)
- The 1900 federal Oklahoma Territory census included separate population schedules for Native Americans. (Ancestry.com)
- The only surviving schedules of the 1907 census of Indian and Oklahoma territories are for Seminole County. (Ancestry.com)
- The Indian Census Rolls, 1885-1940, are indexed and available online at Ancestry.com and Fold3.com.

Arkansas
- 1820 – Sheriffs were directed to conduct biennial censuses, beginning in 1823.
  - Censuses were conducted in 1823, 1825, 1827 and 1829.
  - Only surviving 1823 records are for Arkansas County.
  - All 1825 and 1827 records were lost.
  - 1823 & 1829 records are said to be included in Ancestry’s Arkansas, Compiled Census and Census Substitutes Index, 1819-1870.
- Original records of the 1829 census are at the Arkansas History Commission in Little Rock.
  - No records for Pope or Sevier counties. Sheriffs reported only summary data for Hempstead, Izard, Lafayette, Phillips and Pulaski counties.
  - Published indexes available for Arkansas, Chicot, Clark, Conway, Crawford, Crittendoen, Independence, and Lawrence counties.

Louisiana
- The Census Tables for the French Colony of Louisiana from 1699 Through 1732 (Digital book compiled and translated by Charles R. Maduell, Jr.)
- 1791 Census of New Orleans. English translation available from the New Orleans City Archives.

Before Your Start Your Research
Prior to searching for an individual in a state or territorial census one should:
- Become familiar with the content and limitations of the records by reading relevant research guides, books, wikis and catalog descriptions.
- Answer the following questions:
  - Was a census taken?
  - Which counties were surveyed? Which counties existed at that time?
  - Did the records survive?
  - Where are the records? On Ancestry/FamilySearch/MyHeritage? At the state archives? At the state historical society?
  - In what form are the records? Originals, microfilm, transcription, summary?
  - Have the records been indexed?
Resources

**Web Sites**  (All links verified on 21 Dec 2018.)

  https://search.ancestry.com/search/cardcatalog.aspx#ccat=hc=25&dbSort=1&sbo=1&title=state%20census
  https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Census_State_Censuses
  www.myheritage.com/research/catalog/category-1000/census-voter-lists?location=USA
  www.findmypast.com/articles/world-records/full-list-of-united-states-records/census-land-and-substitutes. Scroll down the menu on the left of the page to see the various available states.
- Red Book: American State, County & Town Sources, Third Edition
  http://www.researchguides.net/census/state.htm
- Newberry Library.  *Atlas of Historical County Boundaries.*
  http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/
  http://www.okhistory.org/research/1890
- Sons of DeWitt Colony Texas.  *Inhabitants DeWitt Colony 1828.*
  http://www.sonsofdewittcolony.org//1828census.htm
- TXGenWeb Project.  *1835 Census, Residents of Texas.*
  http://files.usgwarchives.net/tx/census/1835/ Read the preface.txt, r1notes.txt, r2notes.txt and r3notes.txt files first!
- North Dakota State Archive.  *Dakota Territory 1885 Census Database.*
  https://library.ndsu.edu/ndsarchives/dakota-territory-1885-census-database
- South Dakota State Historical Society.  *Civil War Veteran’s 1885 Census.*

**References**


