

### **Census Procedures**

- 1790 1870 U.S. Federal Marshals
  - Little training
  - 1790 1820, enumerators determined what to collected from the census acts passed prior to the census
  - 1830 was first year of printed schedules
- 1880 began specially hired and trained enumerators
- 1880 1950 census conducted primarily by doorto-door visitation

Chap. II.—An Act providing for the enumeration of the Inhabitants of the United States.(a)

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the marshals of the several districts of the United States shall be, and they are hereby authorized and required to cause the number of the inhabitants within their respective districts to be taken; omitting in such enumeration Indians not taxed, and distinguishing free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, from all others; distinguishing also the sexes and colours of free persons, and the free males of sixteen years and upwards from those under that age; for effecting which purpose the marshals shall have power to appoint as many assistants within their respective districts as to them shall appear necessary; assigning to each assistant a certain division of his district, which division shall consist of one or more counties, cities, towns, townships, hundreds or parishes, or of a territory plainly and distinctly bounded by water courses, mountains, or public roads. The marshals and their assistants shall

STATUTE II.

March 1, 1790.

[Obsolete.] Marshals in the several districts of the U. States to take the enumeration.

Mode of enumeration.

May appoint assistants.

Marshals and

'An act providing for the enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States,' according to the best of my ability." The enumeration shall commence on the first Monday in August next, and shall close within nine calendar months thereafter. The several assistants shall, within the said nine months, transmit to the marshals by whom they shall be respectively appointed, accurate returns of all persons, except Indians not taxed, within their respective divisions, which returns shall be made in a schedule, distinguishing the several families by the names of their master, mistress, steward, overseer, or other principal person therein, in manner following, that is to say:

The enumeration, to commence on the first Monday in August, 1790, and close in nine months.

Returns to be by schedule.

1790 Census Instructions - Statute

SEC. 5. Be it enacted, That every person whose usual place of abode shall be in any family on the aforesaid first Monday in August next, shall be returned as of such family; and the name of every person, who shall be an inhabitant of any district, but without a settled place of residence, shall be inserted in the column of the aforesaid schedule, which is allotted for the heads of families, in that division where he or she shall be on the said first Monday in August next, and every person occasionally absent at the time of the enumeration, as belonging to that place in which he usually resides in the United States.

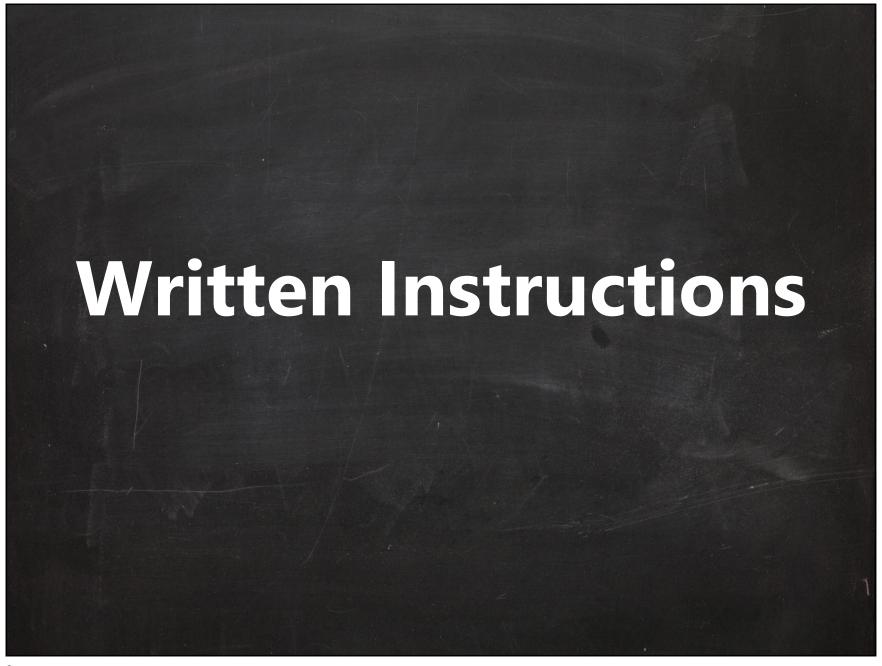
SEC. 6. And be it further enacted, That each and every person more than sixteen years of age, whether heads of families or not, belonging to any family within any division of a district made or established within the United States, shall be, and hereby is, obliged to render to such assistant of the division, a true account, if required, to the best of his or her knowledge, of all and every person belonging to such family respectively, according to the several descriptions aforesaid, on pain of forfeiting twenty dollars, to be sued for and recovered by such assistant, the one half for his own use, and the other half for the use of the United States.

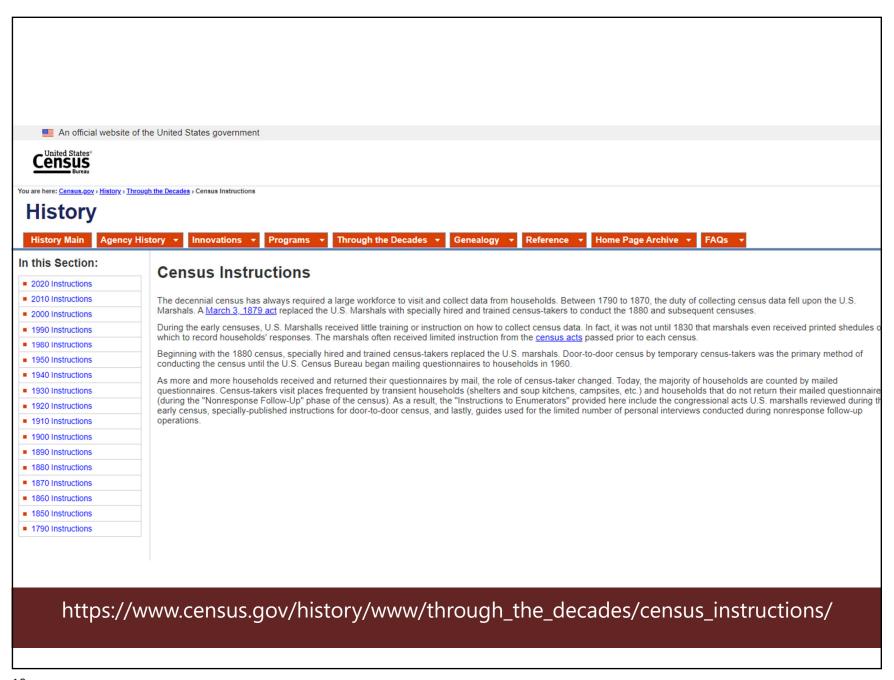
Rules for ascertaining residence.

What person of a family shall render an account of the numbers therein,

and penalty for refusing.

1790 Statute Continued





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EIGHTH CENSUS, UNITED STATES.-1860.

U. J. Detrastment of the interior ( Census office

ACT OF CONGRESS

TWENTY-THIRD MAY, 1850.

INSTRUCTIONS TO U. S. MARSHALS.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ASSISTANTS.

CENSUS OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

WASHINGTON: GEO. W. BOWMAN, PUBLIC PRINTER. 1860.

### 1860 Census Instructions

#### CENSUS LAW.

An Act providing for the taking of the Seventh and subsequent Censuses of the United States, and to fix the number of the members of the House of Representatives, and provide for their future apportionment among the several States.

I .- OF THE DUTIES, LIABILITIES, AND COMPENSATION OF MARSHALS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That the marshals of the several districts of the United States, including the District of Columbia and the Territories, are hereby required respectively to cause all the inhabitants to be enumerated, and to collect all the other statistical information within their respective districts, in the manner provided for in this act, and specified in the instructions which shall be given by the Secretary of the Interior, and in the tables annexed, and to return the same to the said Secretary on or before the first day of November next ensuing, omitting from the enumeration of the inhabitants Indians not taxed; also, at the discretion of said Secretary, any part or all the statistics of the Territories, except those of population: Provided, however, And if the time assigned for making the returns shall prove inadequate for the Territories, the said Secretary may extend the same: Provided, further, If there be any District or Territory of the United States in which there is no marshal of the United States, the President shall appoint some suitable person to discharge the duties assigned by this act to marshals.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That each of said marshals shall, before entering upon his duties, take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation, before any circuit or district judge of the United States, or before any judge of any State court, to wit:

#### EIGHTH CENSUS.-1860.

#### INSTRUCTIONS.

#### TO THE MARSHALS.

Department of the Interior, Washington, , 1860.

1. The appointment of Assistants.—Having determined on the proper subdivision of your district, you will proceed to appoint your Assistants; a duty involving great responsibility, and one which, it is hoped, you will exercise with judgment, as upon the fitness of those whom you appoint will depend, in a great degree, the reliability of the returns.

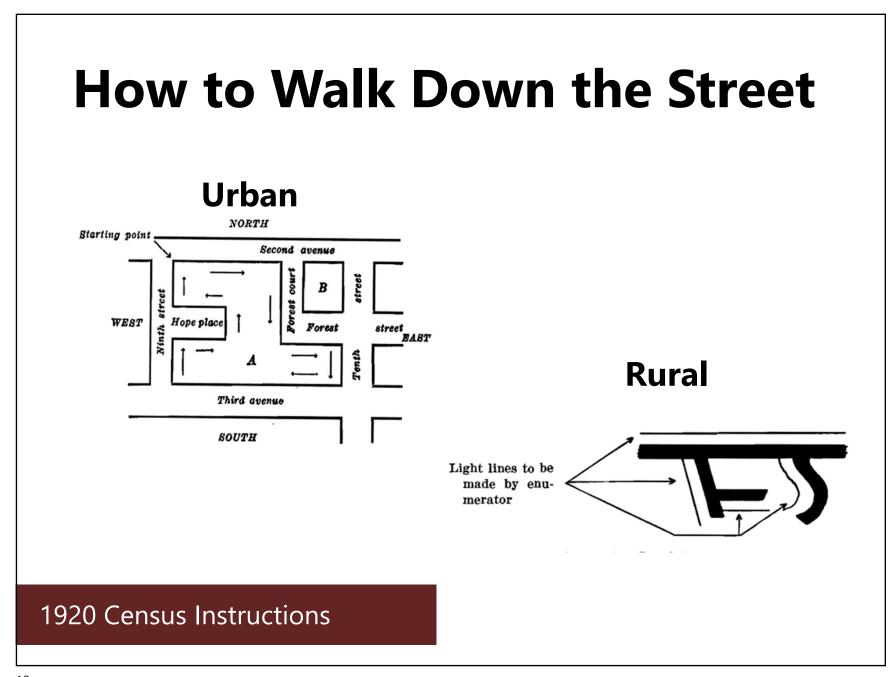
- 1. Qualifications of Assistants.—For your own security, the honor of the Department, and the credit of the Government, it is indispensable that you appoint judicious, temperate, reliable, intelligent, and active men for your Assistants. Each one should be a resident of the district or subdivision and well acquainted with the people. Where a foreign language is spoken to any great extent it is quite essential that you appoint Assistants who can communicate with such persons in their own tongue. Appointments should not be made of persons who do not write a plain neat hand.
- 3. Nature of Subdivisions.—It is particularly enjoined, while you may find it advisable to assign several townships, wards, villages, or boroughs to one Assistant, that you do not assign parts of townships, wards, &c., to one and parts of the same to another. Such a mode of cutting up small divisions would occasion, very unnecessarily, much inconvenience to this office in combining the returns. You may subdivide any one geographical or municipal district among many assistants, or you may (observing the proper limitation) assign several such districts to one, at your discretion; but you will avoid giving to one Assistant part of two or more subdivisions. In illustration: to John Doe may be assigned a properly defined portion of one ward, town, or county, and to Richard Roe the other part of the same ward, town or county; but you should not also assign to either of these Assistants a portion of any other ward, town, or county.
- 4. Return and change of Subdivisions.—In making return of your list of appointments you will clearly designate the nature of the subdivision; at the same time you will be at liberty, for what may appear a sufficient cause, to change the district; in which case you should immediately notify the Census Office, stating the object of the change.

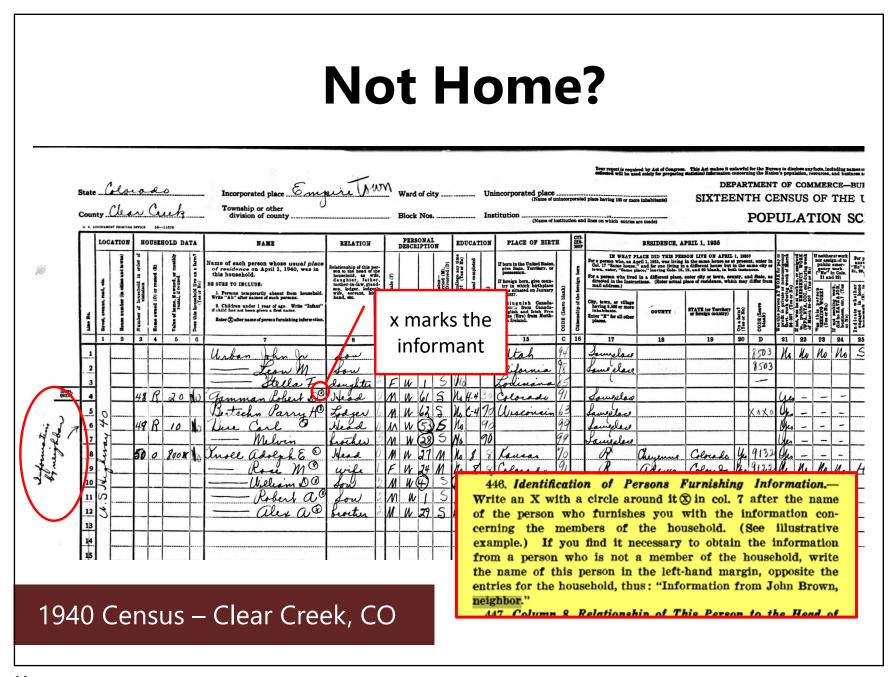
### 1860 Census Instructions (cont.)

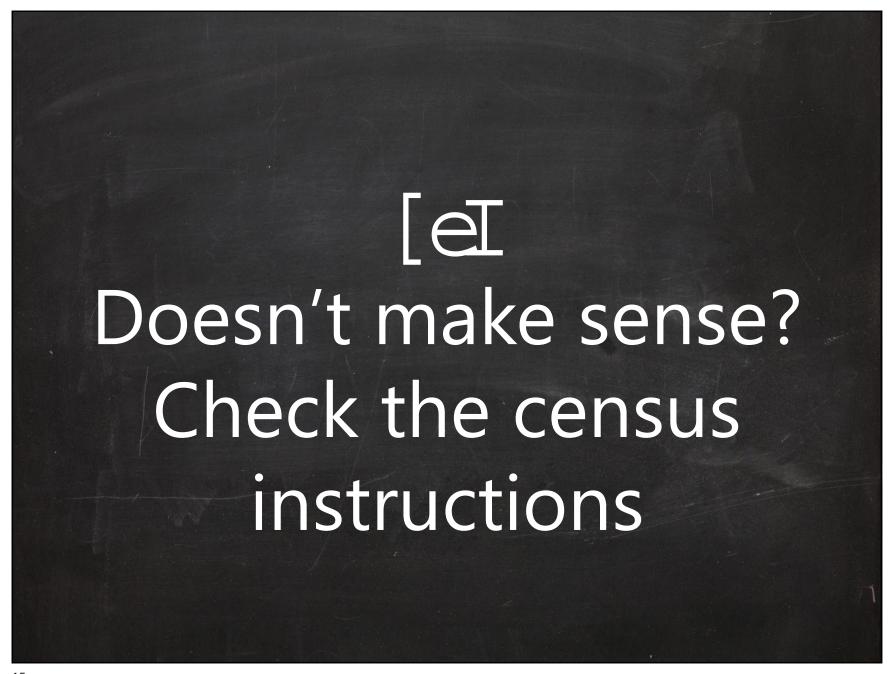
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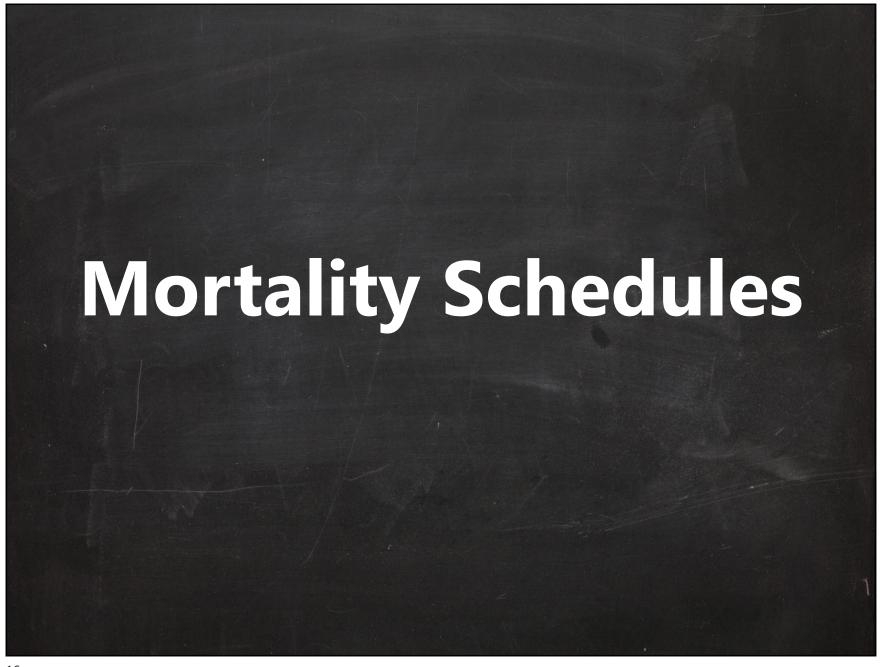
### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS IN TAKING THE EIGHTH CENSUS.

- Having been duly commissioned and taken the oath prescribed in section 9, law of May 23, 1850, the Assistants will be supplied by the Marshal with the necessary schedules, and a suitable portfolio for their preservation, wherein they should be carried without folding.
- 2. You will find it necessary to provide a portable inkstand, with good ink and suitable pens. Each portfolio will be accompanied with a sheet of blotting paper with which you will carefully dry all entries made on the schedules.
- 3. Numbering Pages.—You will not fail to number each page of the schedules in the exact order of their filling up, using care to complete up one sheet before making any entries on another of like character. In the filling up of the sheets, they must not be folded one in another. The first page of each of the six schedules must be number 1, the first page of the second sheet must be number 5, and thus continuously through your work. This order must be preserved with respect to the different classes of schedules, each variety whereof must have the first page number 1.
- 4. Care of Papers.—When travelling from house to house you will observe care in preserving your papers from loss, and while at rest protect them from meddling hands. Carry with you as little finished work as possible, and do not encumber yourself with an unnecessary quantity of blank schedules. At all times have this pamphlet of Instructions with you.
- 5. Distinguisk Boundaries.—When you have completed the enumeration of a town, township, village, ward, or county, leave a blank space of four or five lines, unless such termination occurs at or near the bottom of a page, in which case write "concluded." Let your work on each schedule clearly indicate the point of completing every geographical or municipal division.
- 6. Refusal to Answer.—If any person to whom application is made for information should refuse to give it, or should designedly make false representations, you should inform him of the responsibility he incurs thereby, and the penalty to which he becomes liable under the 15th section of the law.
- Personal Inquiry.—The 10th section of the law imperatively requires of you to "make the enumeration by actual inquiry at every dwelling-house, or by personal inquiry of the head of every family, and not otherwise.
- 8 To Verify Returns.—In order to avoid error, or misapprehension, the entries you have made should be read to the party from whom they are obtained, and any error or omission should be promptly corrected or supplied.
- You will be expected to complete the enumeration without any delay, and once in two weeks advise the Marshal of the progress you are making. Should

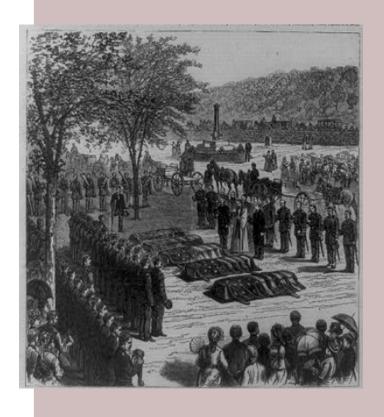




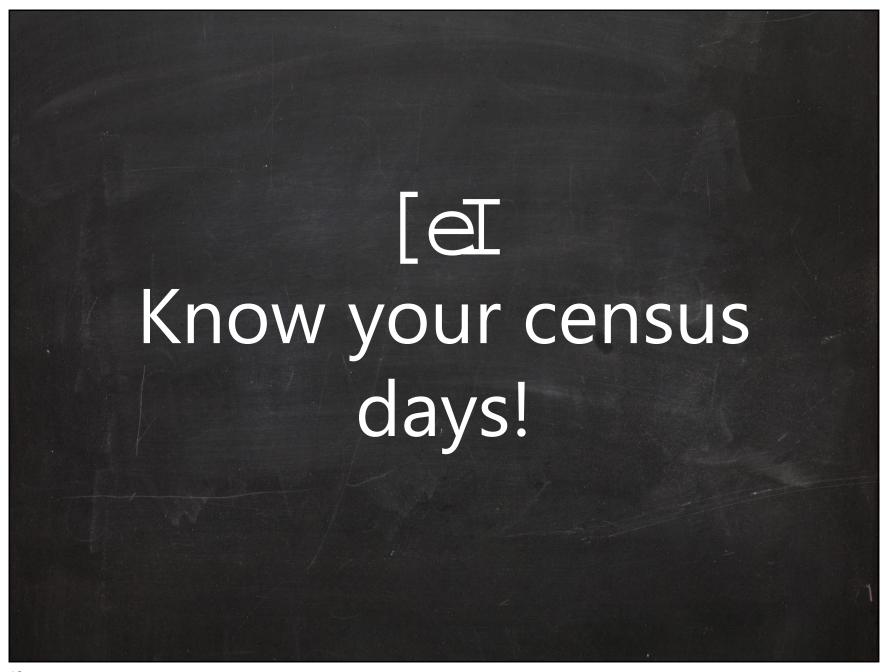


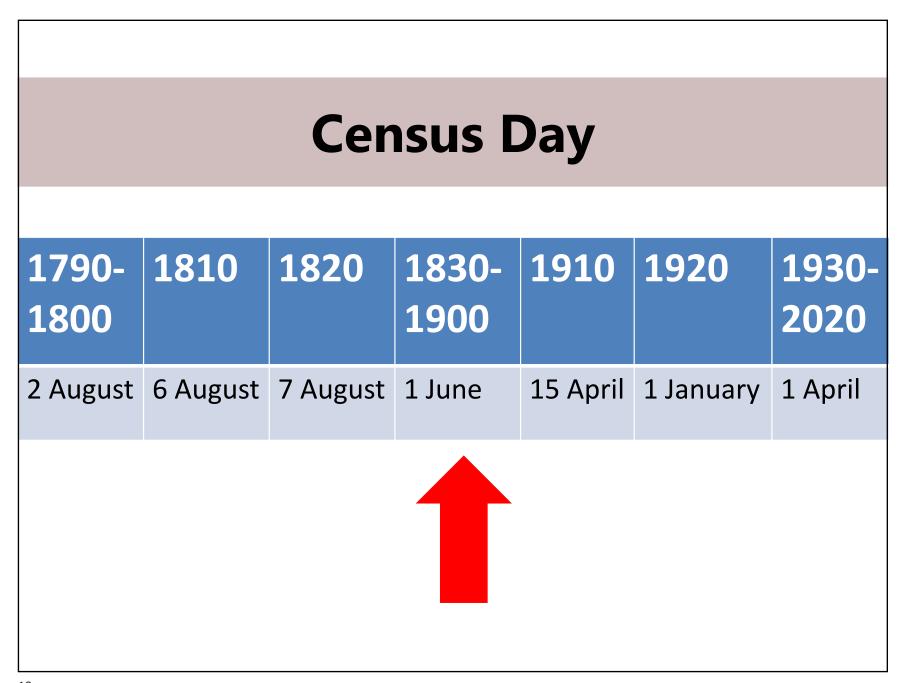


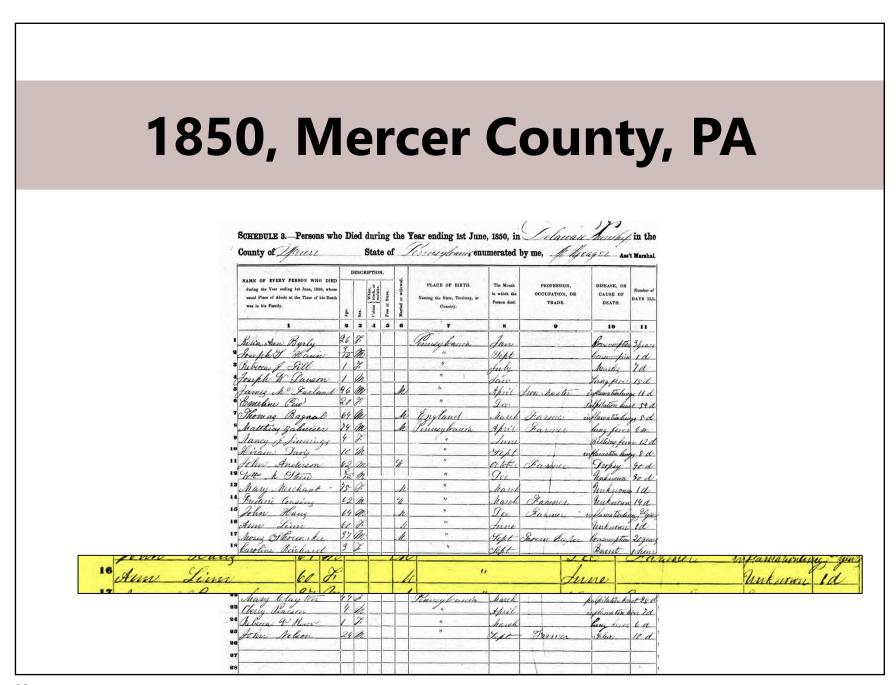
## **Mortality Schedules**



- Taken in 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880
- Name of the deceased person
- Age, race, gender, cause of death, and occupation also included
- Died between 1 June (of the previous year) and 31 May (of the census year)



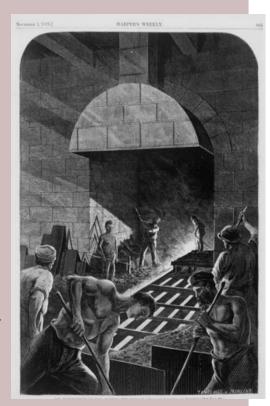






## Industry and Manufacturing Schedules

- 1820 and 1840 Industry questions embedded in Population Schedule
- 1850-1880 Industrial-Manufacturera
- Operations valued at \$500 or more
- Available digitally on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org



# Industry Related Questions in Population Schedule

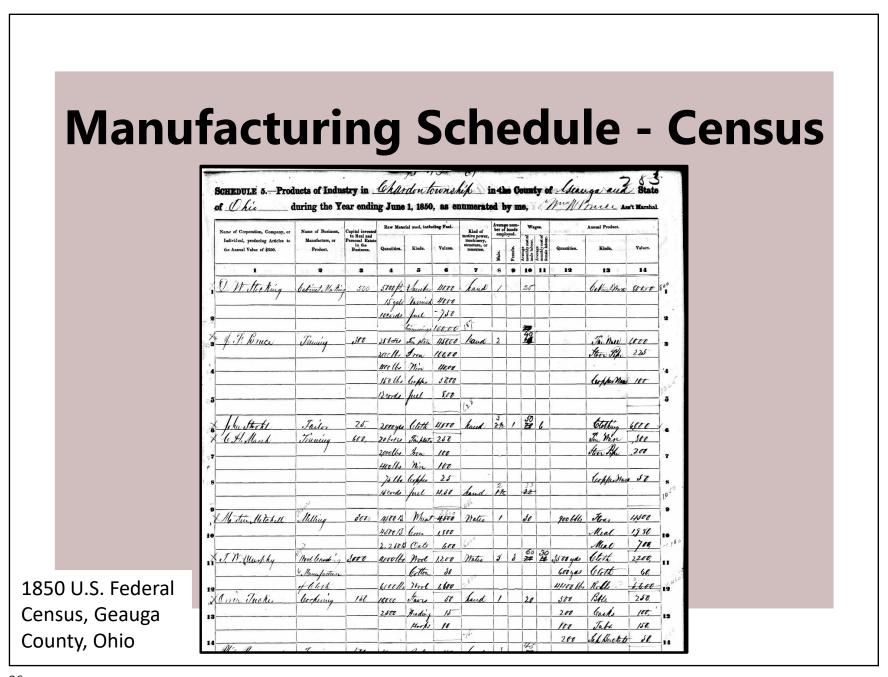
- 1820 Numbers of persons engaged in Manufactures
- 1840 Number of persons in each family engaged in Manufacturers and Trades

# Industry and Manufacturing Schedules (1850-1880)

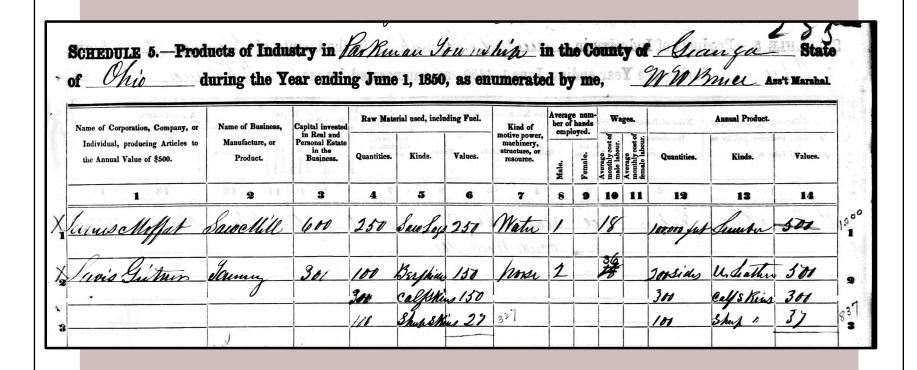
- Name of the manufacturer
- Type of business or product
- Amount of capital invested
- Quantities, kinds, and value of raw materials used
- Quantities and value of product produced annually
- Kind of power or machinery used
  - Extensive detail by 1880
- Number of men and women employed
- Average monthly cost of male and female labor
  - Broke out skilled mechanic and "ordinary" labor by 1880

as enumerated by	ducts of Industry in	_ in the	Coun	ty of	State of					_ during the Year ending June 1, 18						_											
Name of Corporation, Company, or Individual, producing Articles to the Annual Value of \$500	Name of Business, Manufacturer, or Product	Capital Invested in Real and Personal Estate in the Business		Material luding l		Kind of Motive Power, Machinery, Structure or Resource				f	w	Wages		Annual !		Products											
			Quantities	Kinds	Value			Male	-	remaie	Average monthly cost of male labor	Average monthly cost of	female labor	Quantities	Kinds	Values											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8		9	10	11		12	13	14	4										
			1880 Industrial and Manufacturer												rs C	Cen	sus	Scl	nedu	les	1						
				_	Schedule 3. – Manufactures. – Products of Industry in, in the County of, State of during the twelve months beginning June 1, 1879, and ending May 31, 1880, as enumerated by me, ass't Marshal																						
								Su																			
National Archives an	d Records Administration	N		Name of Corporation, Company, or Individual producing to th	Name of Business, Manufacture, or Product	Capital (rea or personal) invested in the business	s emp	Average number hands employed		of Wages and Hours o			of Labor		Months in Operation			Value of Product (including Jobbing and Repairing)		Pov			wer Used in Manufact		are		
					value of \$500 annually			umber of ha	91 94			s (s (s.		t so at		÷	, á		of Product (in		If Water		Power is Used Wheels		IfS	If Steam Power Used	
1								Greatest n	Males above years Females abo	15 years Children an	May to November November 1 May	May Average day wages for skilled mechanic	Average day wages for ordinary laborer	Total amount paid in wages during the year	On Full tim	On 2/3 time only	only On % time or	ldle	Value of	On What River or Stream?	Fall, in feet	Number	Breadth, in feet	Revoluti ons per minute	Number o	Number o	engines Horse-pow
					1	2	3	4	5	6 7	8 9	10	11	12	13 1	4 15	16	17 1	8 19	20	21 2	22 23	3 24	25	26 27	7 28	8 29
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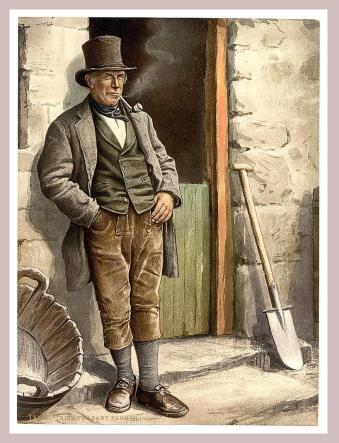
### **Manufacturing Schedule Detail**



1850 U.S. Federal Census, Geauga County, Ohio, Manufacturing and Industry Schedule

## **Agricultural Schedules**

- 1820-1840 Agriculture question embedded in Popualtion Schedule
- 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880, 1885
- Name of the farmer, statistics about livestock and produce
- Available digitally on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org

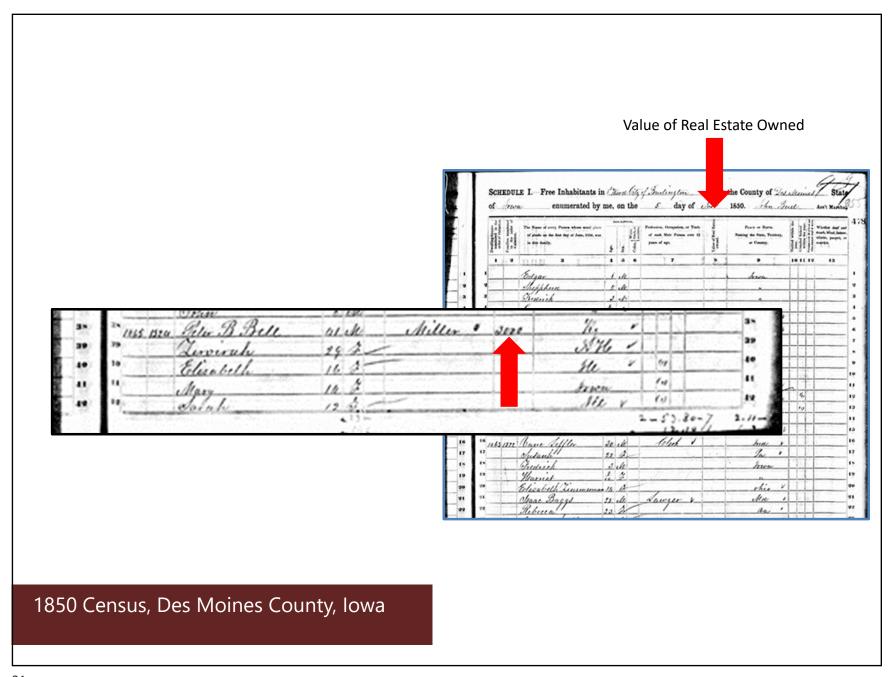


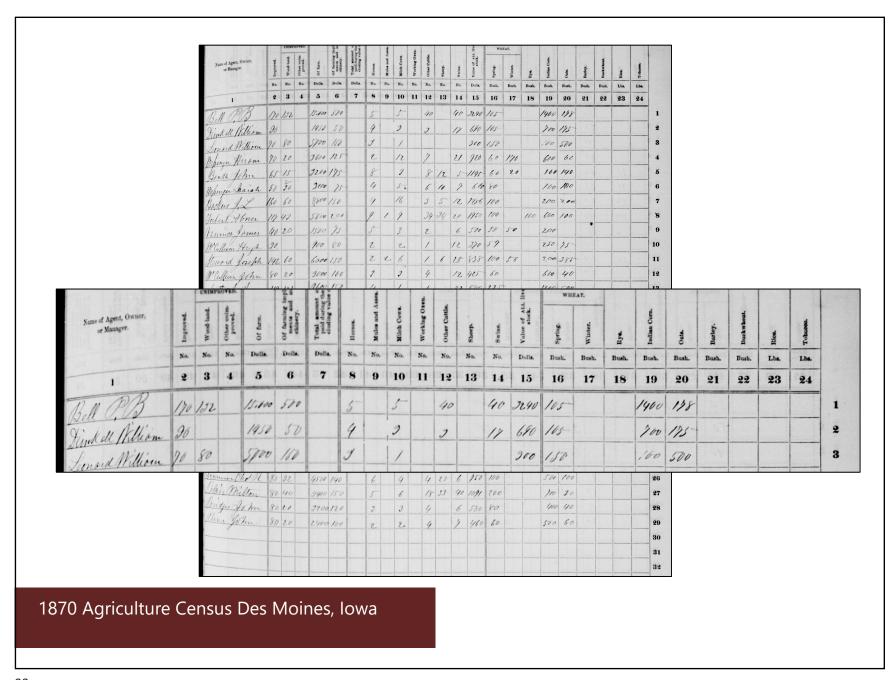
# Agricultural Schedules (1850-1860)

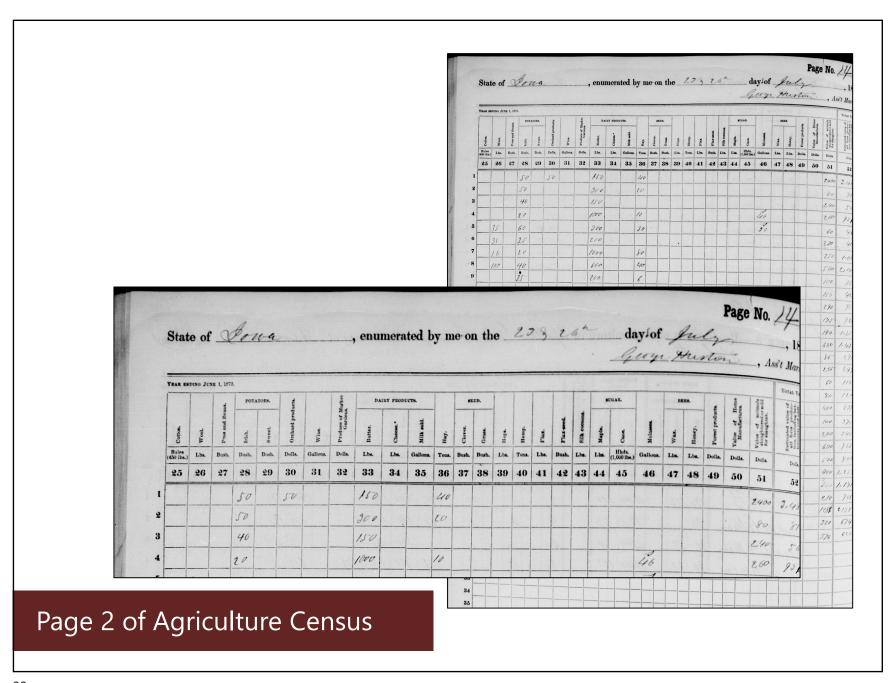
- Limited to farms valued at more than \$100
- Name of the farmer, owner, or manager
- Acreage- both improved and unimproved
- Inventory of livestock (by breed)
- Count of agricultural goods produced in the previous year (by crop)
- Cash value of the farm- including machinery, livestock, goods produced, etc.

# Agricultural Schedule (1870-1880)

- Limited to farms valued at more than \$500
- Acreage- both improved and unimproved (1880 by crop)
- Inventory of poultry and the number of eggs produced (1880)

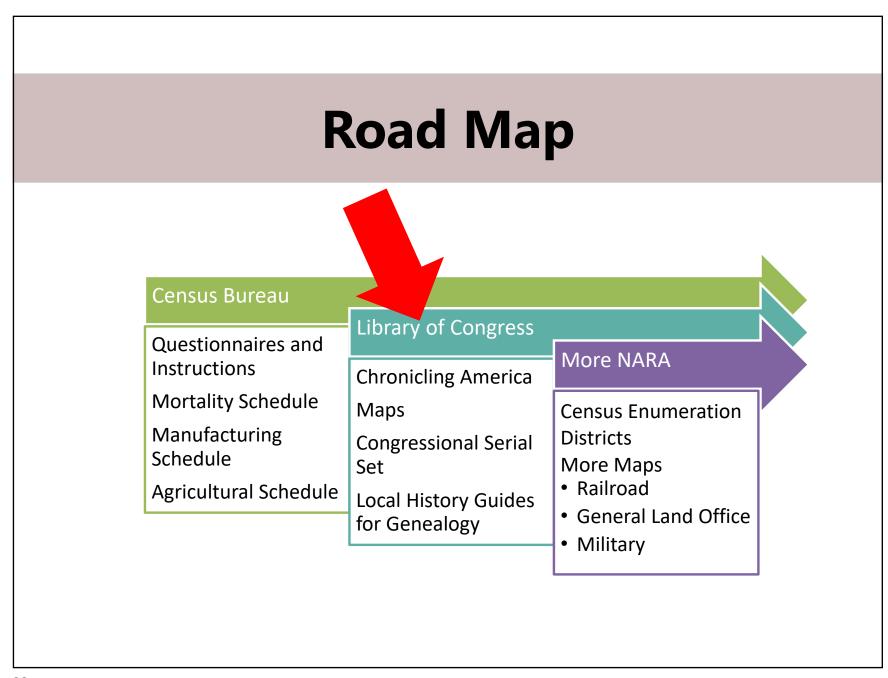


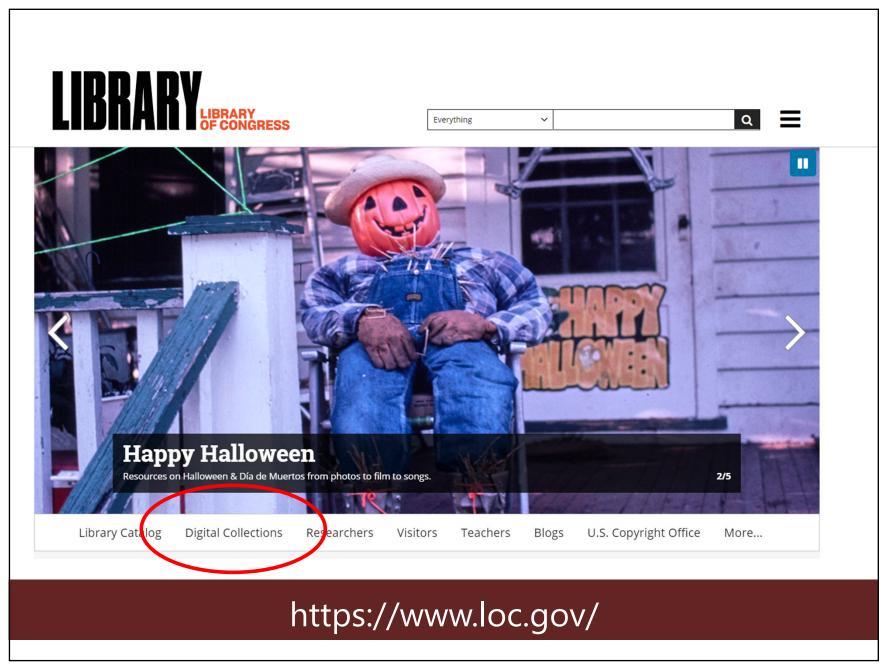


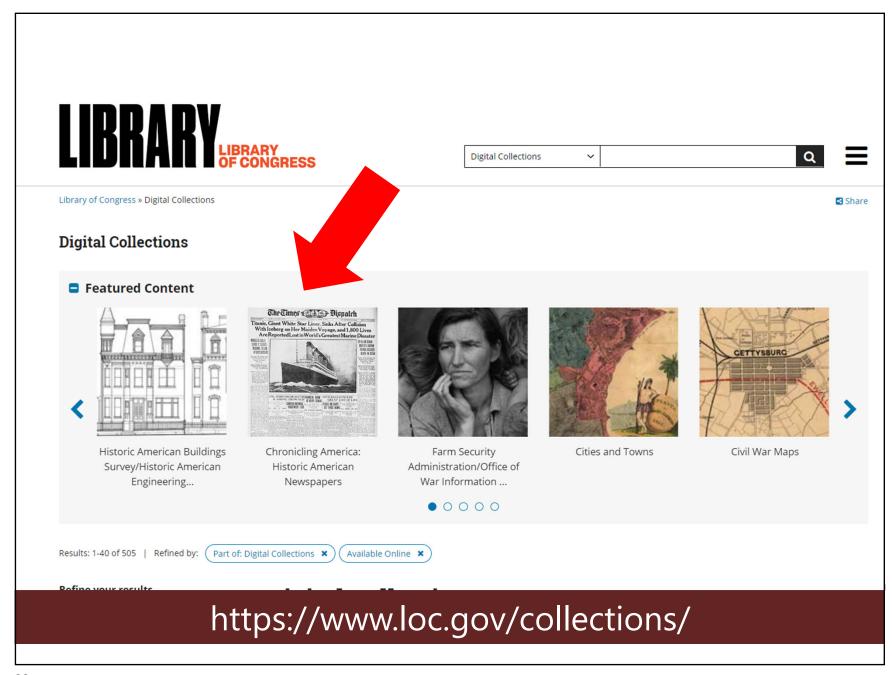


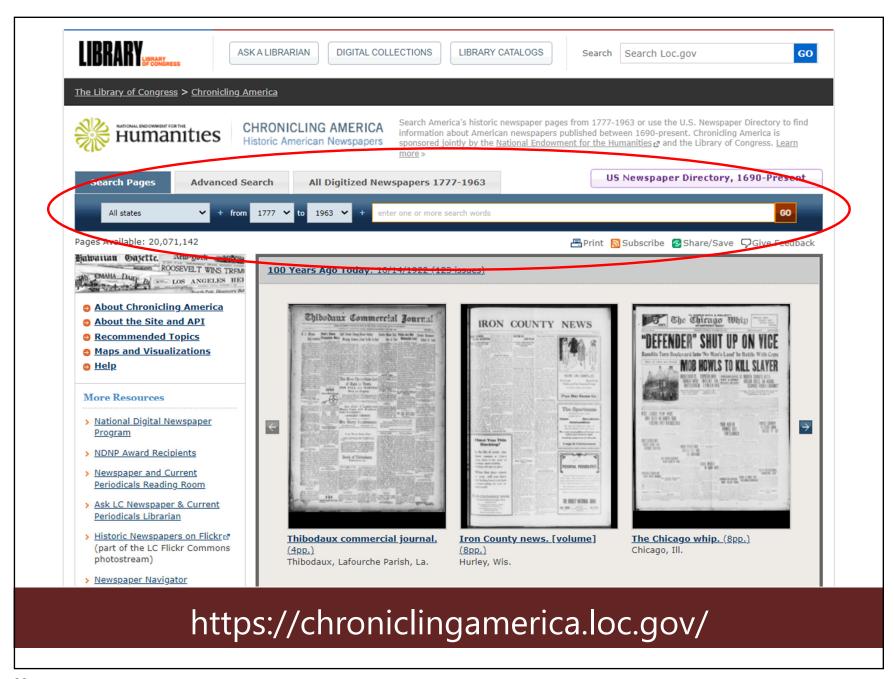


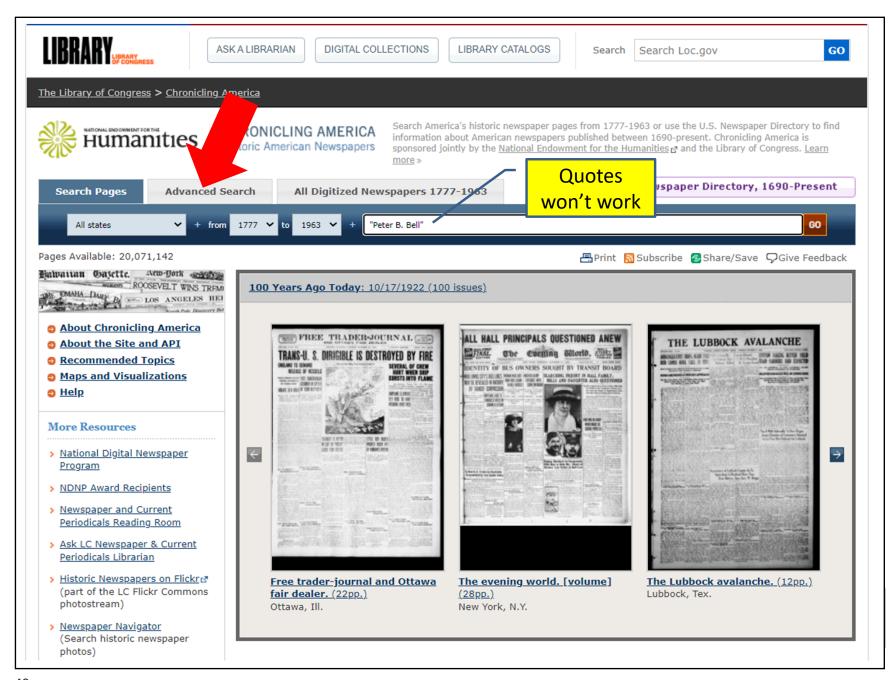




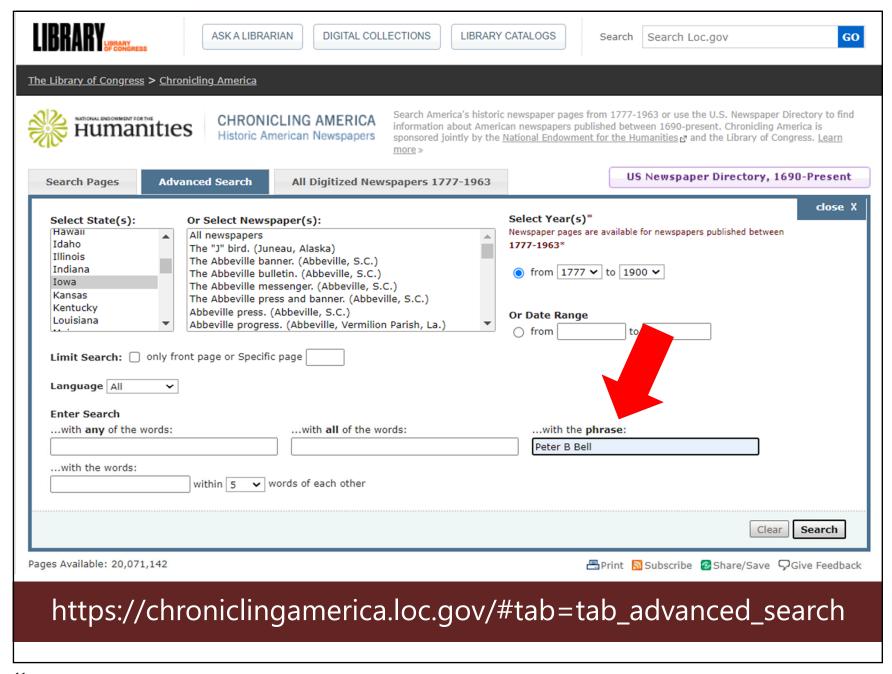




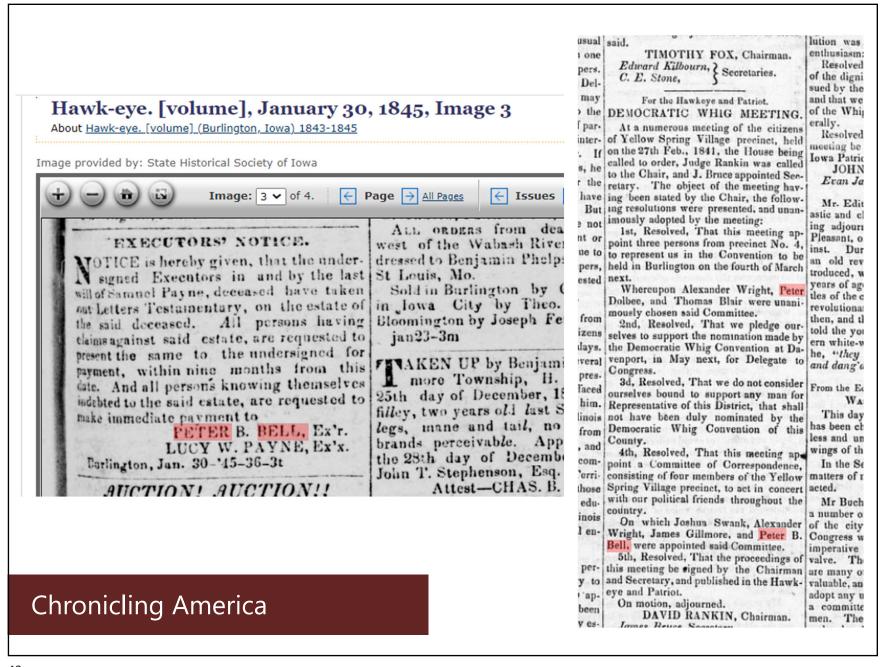




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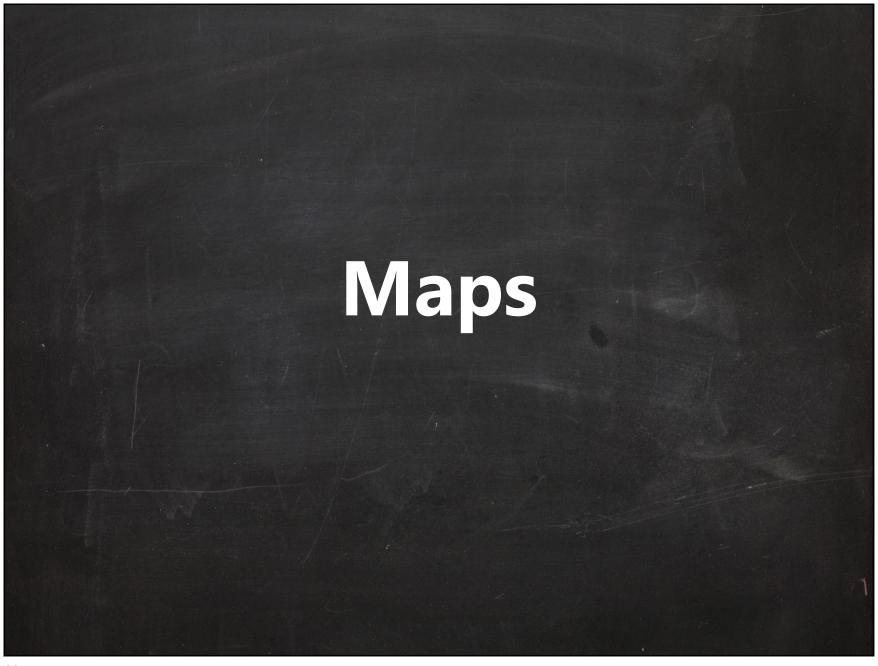


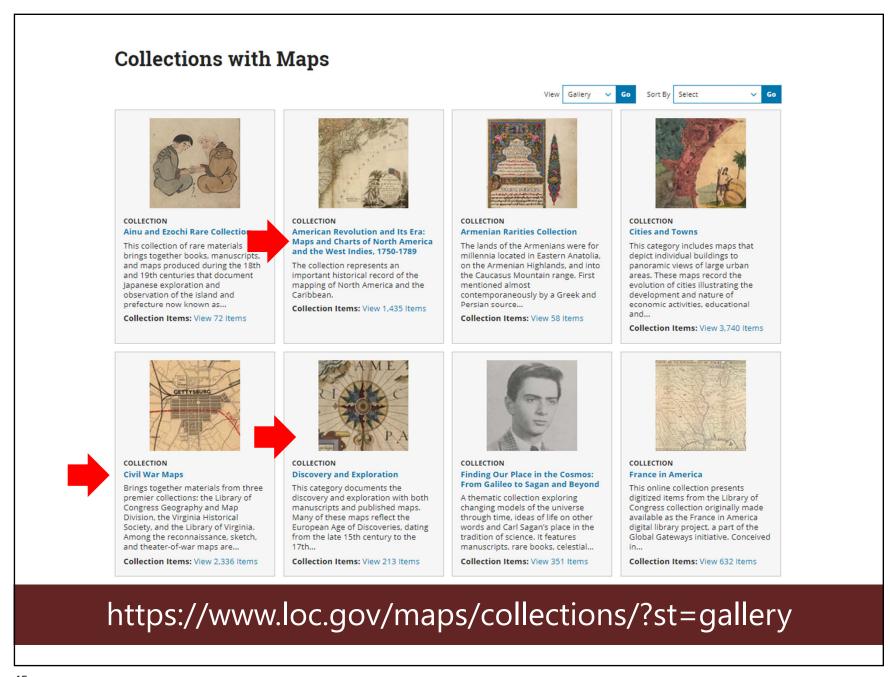
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## **Use Chronicling America For...**

- Advertising
- Births & deaths
- Legal notices and public announcements
- Lists
- News articles
- Community and social events







## COLLECTION General Maps

This category includes maps that typically portray the physical environment and a variety of cultural elements for a geographic area at a particular point in time. The maps in this category show...

Collection Items: View 6,670 Items



## COLLECTION Hotchkiss Map Collection

The Hotchkiss Map Collection contains cartographic items made by Major Jedediah Hotchkiss (1828-1899), a topographic engineer in the Confederate Army. Hotchkiss made detailed battle maps primarily of the Shenandoah Valley, some of...

Collection Items: View 350 Items



## COLLECTION Louisiana: European Explorations and the Louisiana Purchase

The Louisiana Purchase is a landmark event in American history, one that had a lasting impact not only on the size of the United States, but also on its economic, cultural, and...

Collection Items: View 82 Items



## COLLECTION Maps of Liberia, 1830-1870

This collection of Liberia maps includes twenty examples from the American Colonization Society (ACS), organized in 1817 to resettle free black Americans in West Africa. These maps show early settlements in Liberia

Collection Items: View 30 Items



### COLLECTION

## **Meeting of Frontiers**

Meeting of Frontiers is a project, originally funded by the United States Congress, devoted to the theme of the exploration and settlement of the American West, the parallel exploration and settlement of...

Collection Items: View 19,656 Items



### COLLECTION

## **Military Battles and Campaigns**

This category contains maps showing campaigns of major military conflicts including troop movements, defensive structures and groundworks, roads to and from sites of military engagements, campsites, and local buildings, topography and vegetation....

Collection Items: View 4,489 Items



## COLLECTION

## **Mapping the National Parks**

This collection documents the history, cultural aspects and geological formations of areas that eventually became National Parks. The collection consists of approximately 200 maps dating from the 17th century to the present....

Collection Items: View 174 Items



## COLLECTION

## **Panoramic Maps**

The panoramic map was a popular cartographic form used to depict U.S. and Canadian cities and towns during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Known also as bird's-eye views, perspective maps,...

Collection Items: View 1,518 Items



#### COLLECTION

Parallel Histories: Spain, the United States, and the American Frontier

This online collection contains books, maps, prints and photographs, manuscripts, and other documents from the Library of Congress collection that was originally made available as Parallel Histories: Spain, the United States, and...

Collection Items: View 389 Items



## COLLECTION Railroad Maps, 1828-1900

Contains 623 maps chosen from more than 3,000 railroad maps and about 2,000 regional, state, and county maps, and other maps which show "internal improvements" of the past century. The maps presented...

Collection Items: View 635 Items



### COLLECTION **Rochambeau Map Collection**

The collection consists of 40 manuscript and 26 printed maps, and a manuscript atlas, the originals of which are in the Library of Congress' Geography and Map

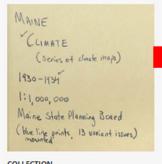
Collection Items: View 71 Items



### COLLECTION Sanborn Maps

The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps Online Checklist provides a searchable database of the fire insurance maps published by the Sanborn Map Company housed in the collections of the Geography and Map Division....

Collection Items: View 35,041 Items



## COLLECTION

### Single Sheet Maps, Title Collection

The Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress holds over 1.5 million single-sheet maps. Many of the single-sheet maps that were received by the Geography and Map Division before the advent of...

Collection Items: View 446 Items



### COLLECTION Transportation and Communication

These maps document the development and status of transportation and communication systems on the national, state, and local level. Transportation maps can depict canal and river systems, cycling routes, railway lines...

Collection Items: View 1,177 Items



#### COLLECTION

## The United States and Brazil: **Expanding Frontiers, Comparing** Cultures

This online collection contains digitized items from the Library of Congress collection that was originally made available as The United States and Brazil: Expanding Frontiers, Comparing Cultures/Brasil e Estados Unidos: Expandindo Fronteiras,...

Collection Items: View 81 Items

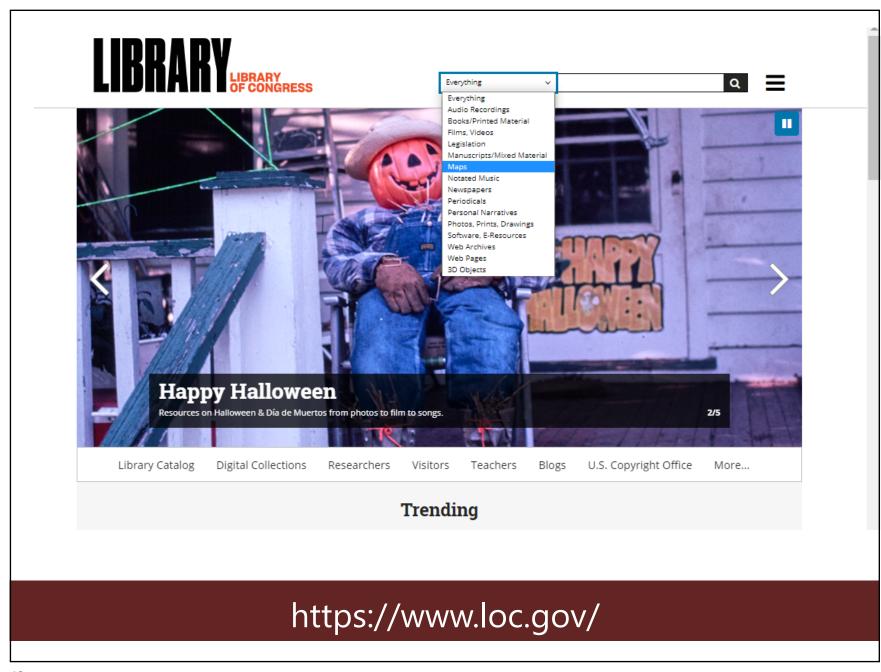


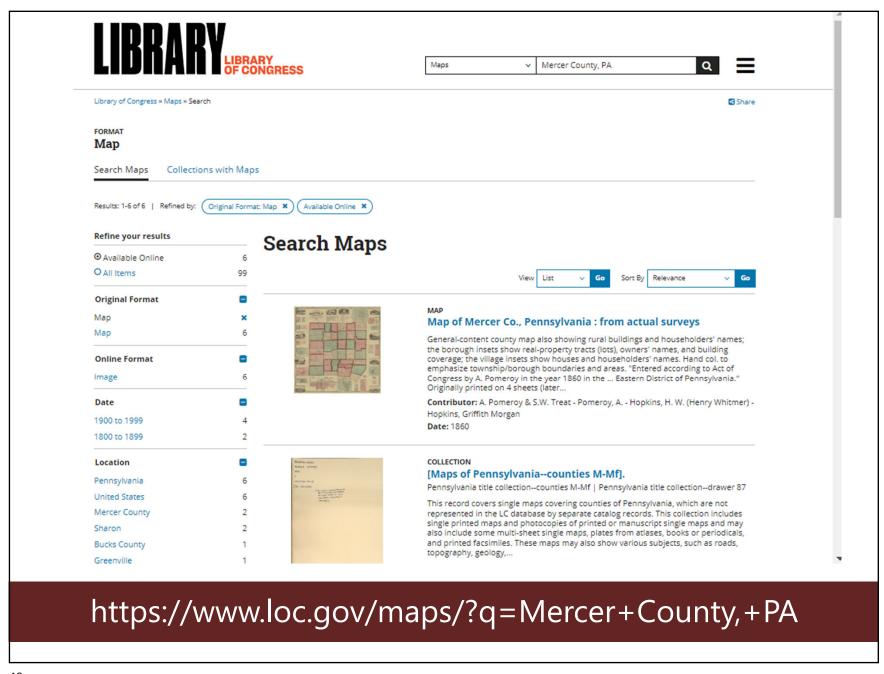
## COLLECTION

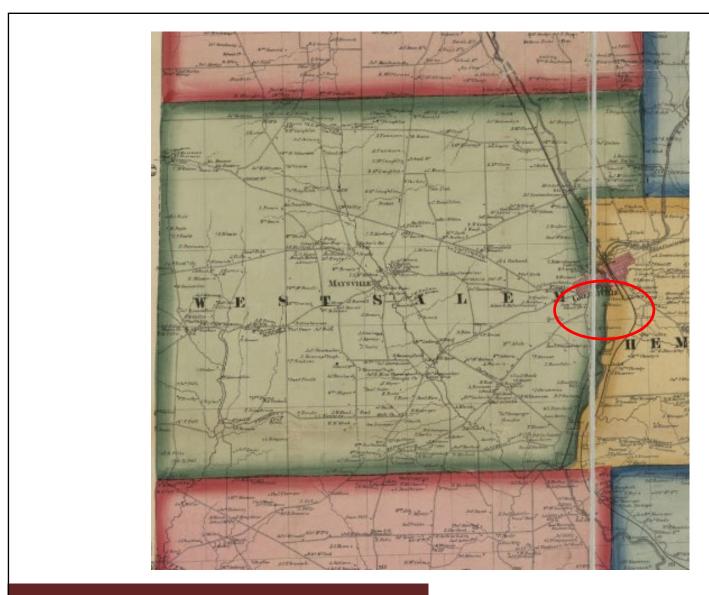
## **World Digital Library**

This collection contains cultural heritage materials gathered during the World Digital Library (WDL) project, including thousands of items contributed by partner organizations worldwide as well as content from Library of Congress collections....

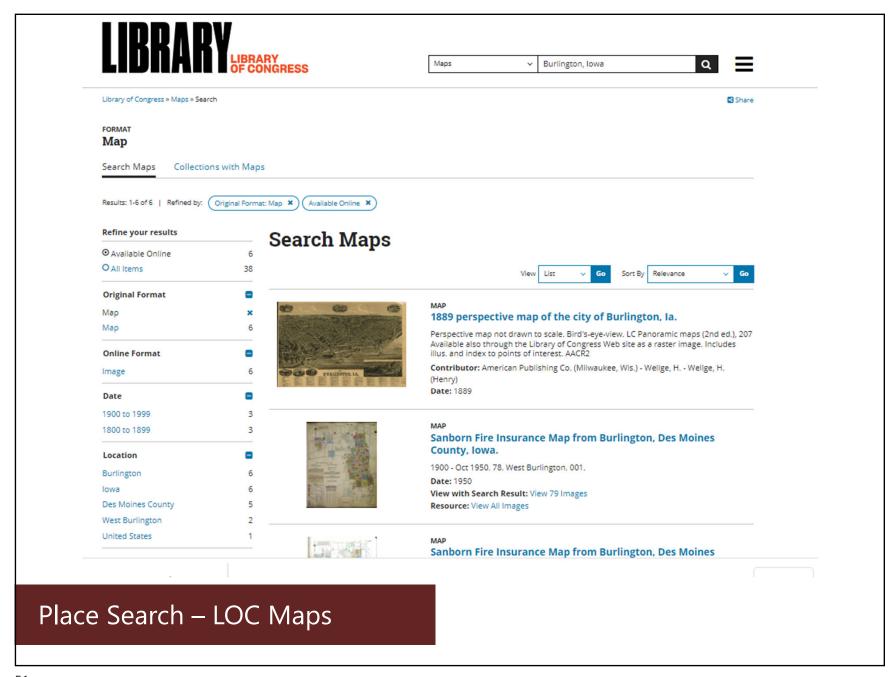
Collection Items: View 19.383 Items







Detail from Mercer County 1860 Map

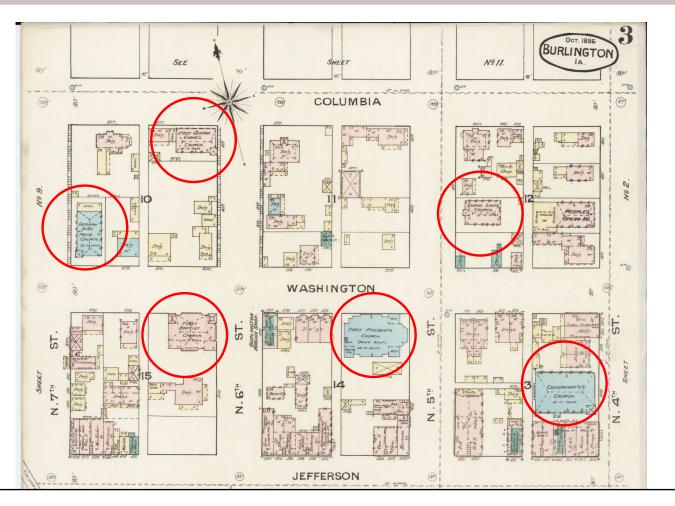


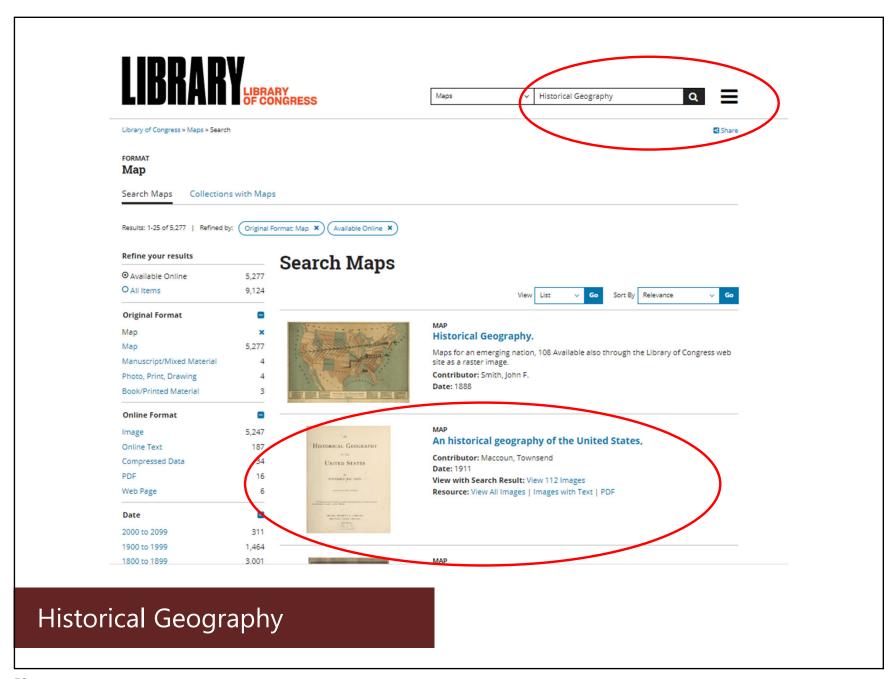
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## Sanborn Maps - LOC

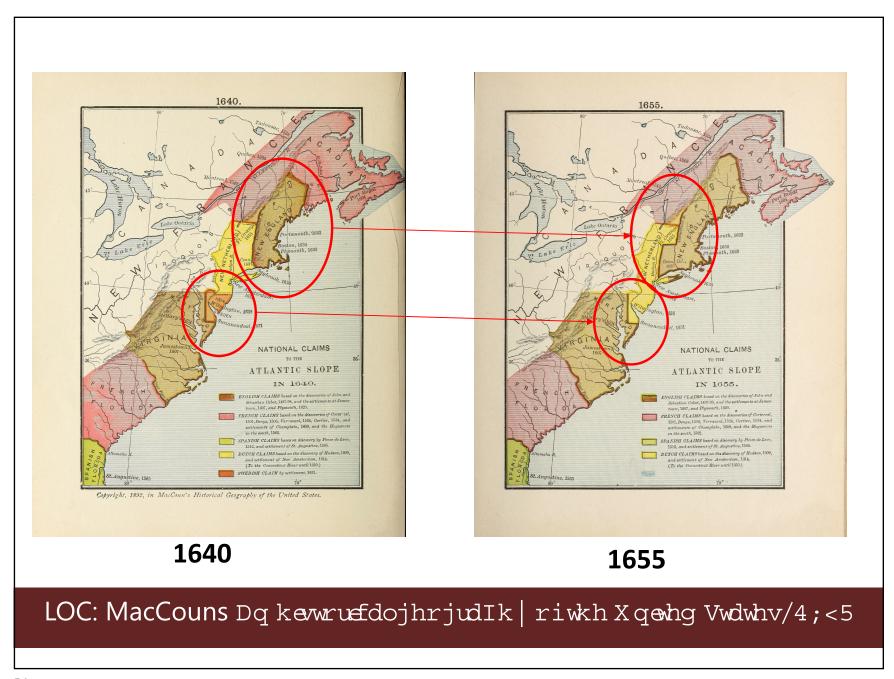
loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps

Churches in Burlington, IA





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# **Congressional Serial Set**

- House and Senate Documents and House and Senate Reports
  - Reports of congressional committees
  - Documents include all other papers ordered printed by the House or Senate
- Began 1817 1819, the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress
- Numbering system, e.g. decoding H.rp 948 (78-1) 10764

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H.rp = (House or Senate; document type)
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948 = (report number)

(78-1) = (Congress and session)

10764 = (Serial Set volume number)

# Value for Family Historians

- Private claims for military service
- Relief petitions
- Patent lists
- Land grants
- War of the Rebellion records
- Official Register (Federal employees)
- Maps of exploration and state boundaries
- Native American data

- Lands surveys, post road routes
- Military registers
- Census statistics
- Lighthouse reports
- DAR grave registers
- Private Petitions and Memorials

# **American State Papers**

- First 13 Congresses 1789-1838
- Topics
  - Foreign Relations
  - Indian Affairs
  - Finances
  - Commerce and Navigation
  - Military Affairs
  - Naval Affairs
  - Post Office Department
  - Public Lands
  - Claims
  - Miscellaneous

## **Accessing the Serial Set**

- Congressional Information Service (now LexisNexis and Readex) have digitized and indexed.
- Heritage Quest
- American Memory at LOC has <u>American State</u> <u>Papers</u>
- AND ...





## 50 JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE

Also, a petition of Robert Horner, of York county, in the state of Pennsylvania, praying the liquidation and settlement of a claim for the use of a waggon and team, which were taken into the service of the United States, in the month of November, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven.

Also, a petition of Eliphalet Thorp, praying that he may receive an allowance for rations due him as a captain in the seventh Massachusetts regiment of the continental army, during the late war.

Ordered, That the faid petitions do lie on the table.

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Otis, their Secretary.

Mr. Speaker—The Senate have passed a bill, intituled "An Act making an alteration in the slag of the United States," to which they desire the concurrence of this House: And then he withdrew.

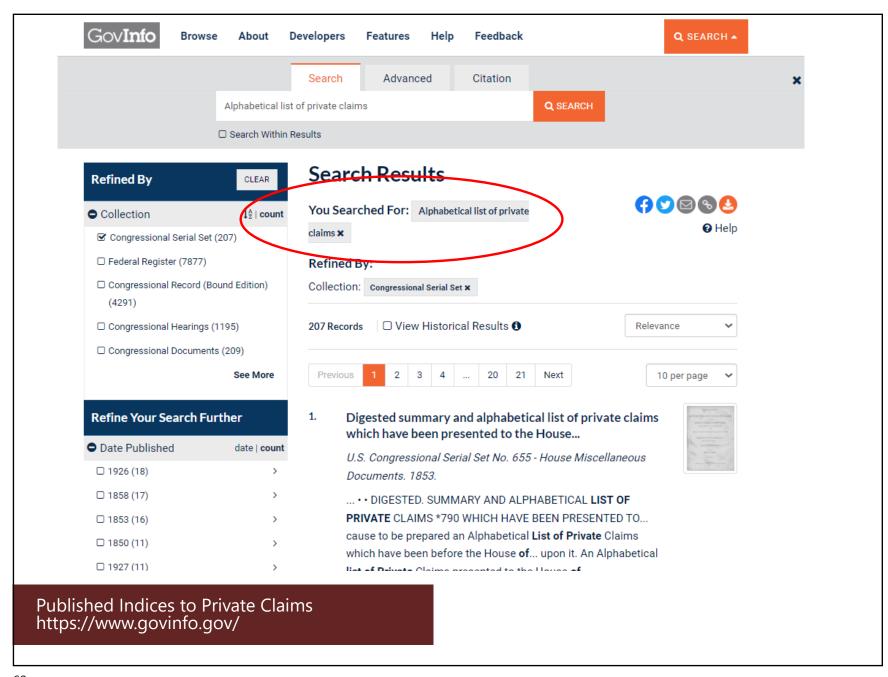
The faid bill was read the first time.

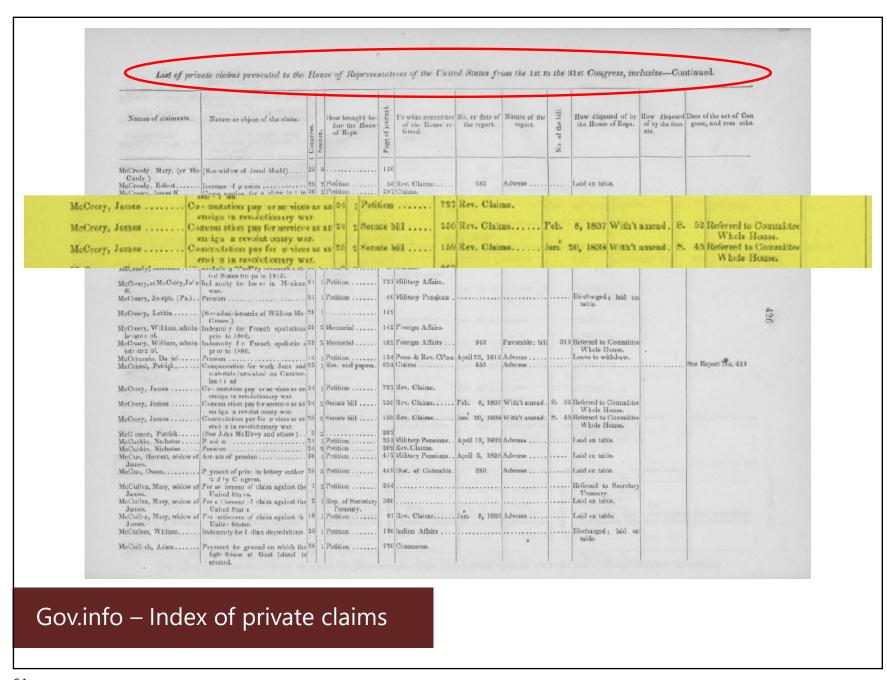
On motion,

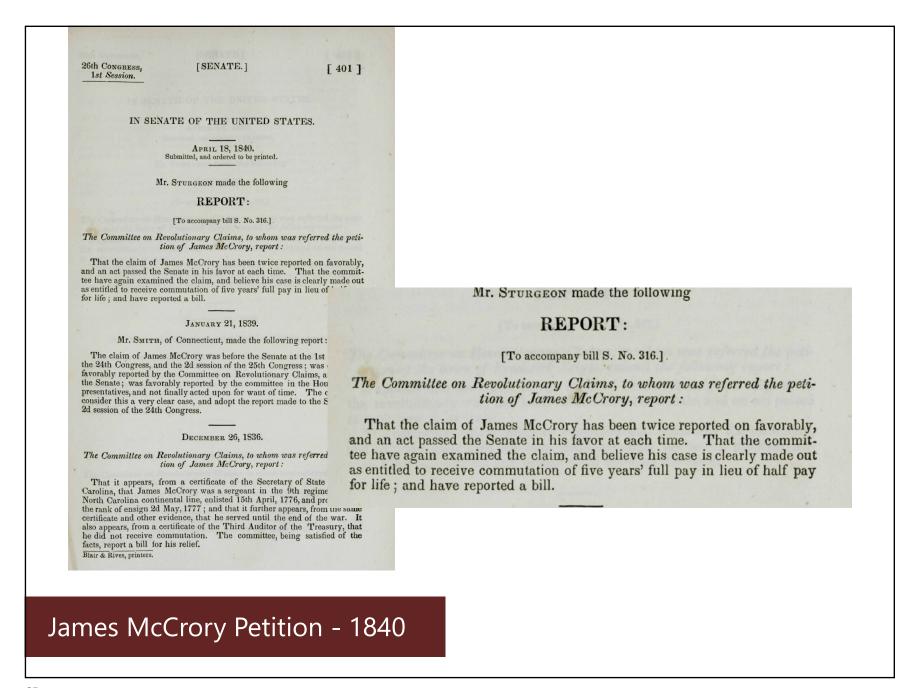
The faid bill was read the fecond time, and ordered to be committed to a committee of the whole House, on

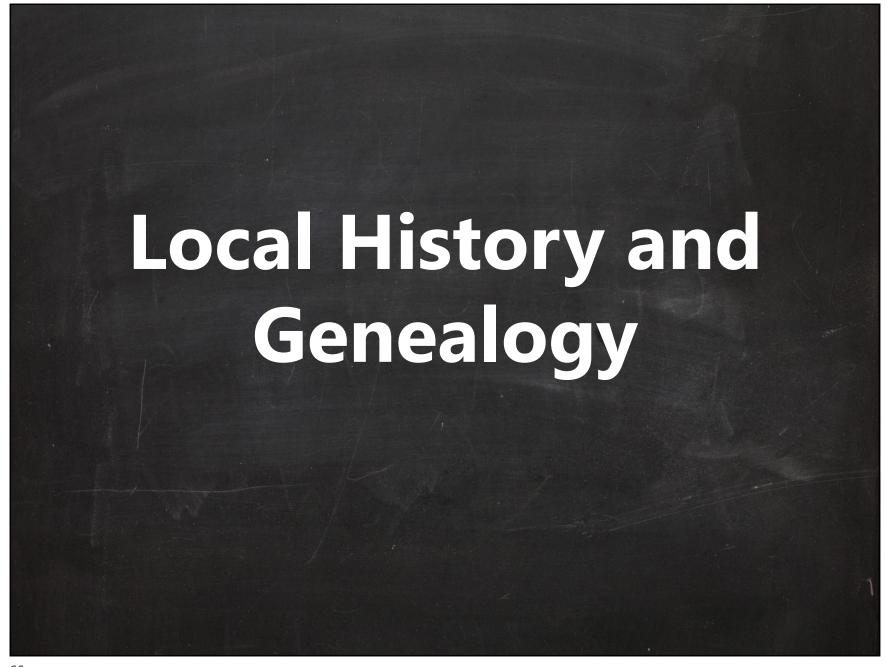
Private Petitions: American State Papers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 1793

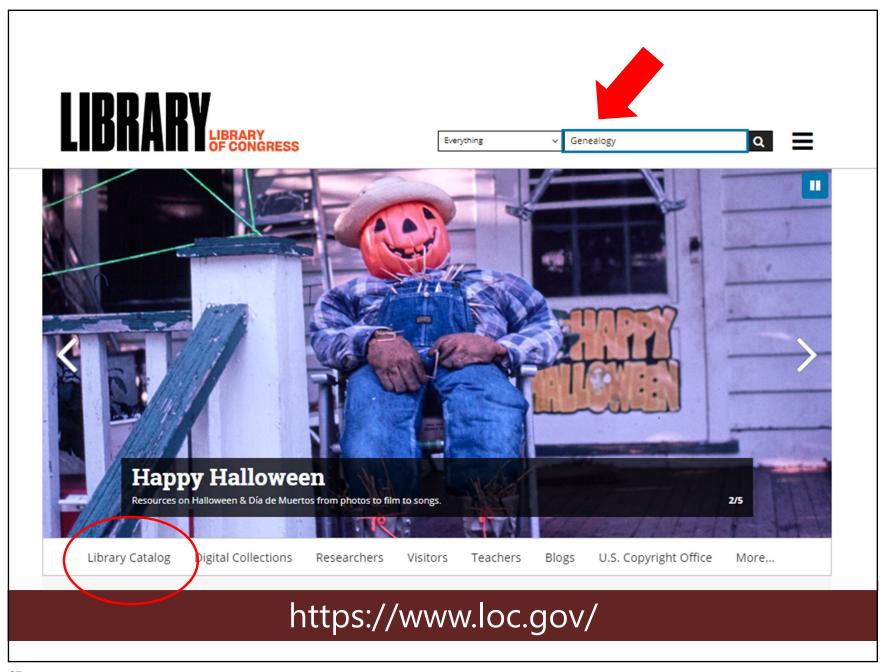
Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States, at the first session of the Third Congress. Anno MDCCXC... More
Monday, Dec 02, 1793 | Page:50

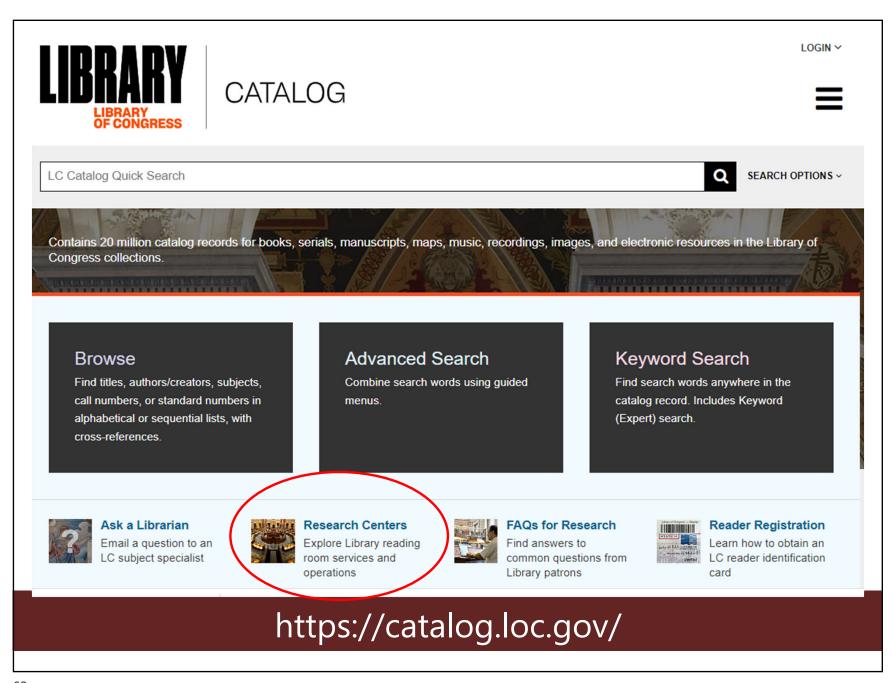


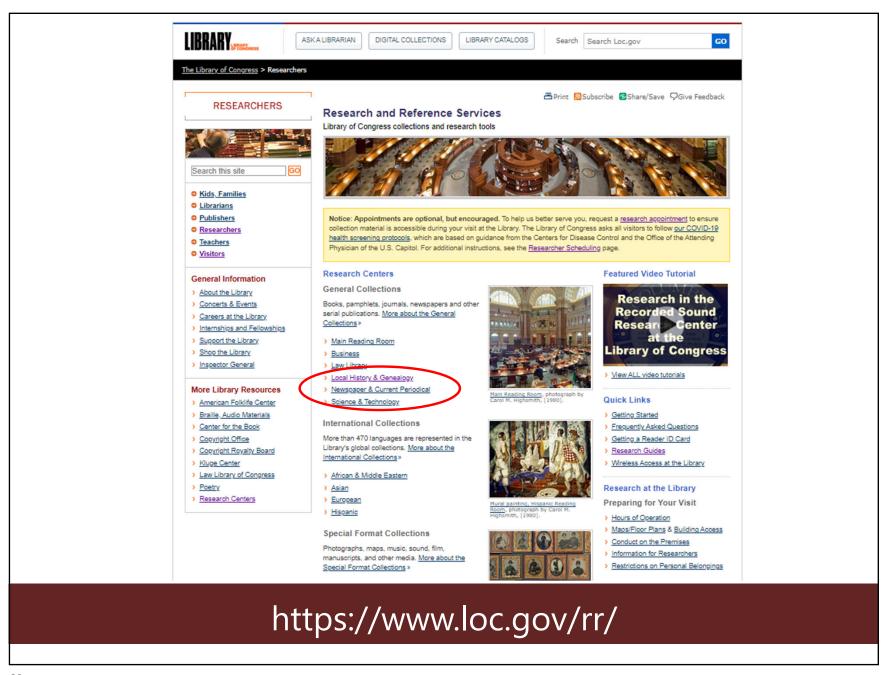


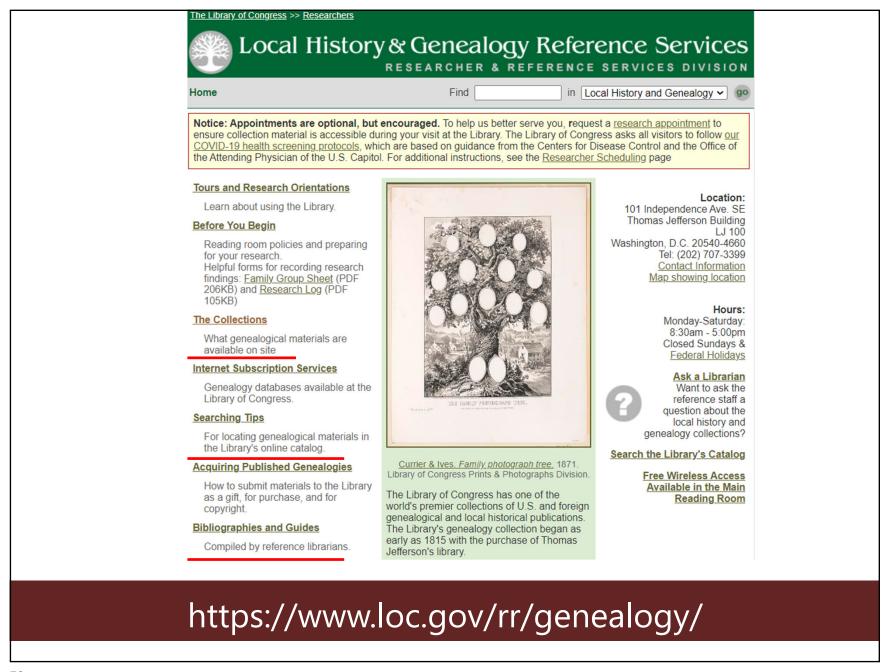














## **RESEARCH GUIDES**

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Library of Congress / Research Guides / Local History & Genealogy / Vertical Files: Local History and Genealogy Reference Services / Introduction

## Vertical Files: Local History and Genealogy Reference Services

This guide provides an index to the Local History and Genealogy vertical files available for researchers to access in the Main Reading Room of the Jefferson Building at the Library of

Family and Regional Newsletters

Local History and Genealogy Subjects

Using the Library of Congress

Candice Buchanan, Reference Librarian, History and Genealogy

Sheree Budge, Reference Librarian, History and Genealogy Section

Created: November 27, 2021

Last Updated: December 9, 2021

## Local History & Genealogy



Have a question? Need assistance? Use our online form to ask a librarian for help

## Introduction

The Library of Congress Local History and Genealogy Reference Section maintains vertical files for families and communities that have contributed or generated papers over the years. These include drafts of letters written by reference librarians, pamphlets and brochures, magazine and newspaper clippings, genealogical charts, newsletters, and more. They also include additions or corrections submitted to update the information appearing in books in the Library's collections. Materials in the vertical files are not cataloged and do not appear in the Library of Congress Online Catalog; however, researchers visiting the Main Reading Room may ask a librarian to view the vertical files. Requests may also be submitted through Ask a Librarian.

This guide provides the complete list of subjects in the Vertical Files to help you prepare for your visit. The index is divided into three categories: Family and Regional Newsletters, Local History and Genealogy Subjects, and Map Case (oversized items.)

### Collection Statement

they should be sent forward for cataloging.

While it is true, as a rule, that the Library collects comprehensively in the areas of genealogy and local history, there are exceptions. The credentials of the publisher, content of the work, amount of original

research, scope, intended audience, and overall quality of the production, all play a role in the selection decision. For serials and newsletters, staff determine whether to acquire permanently, acquire current issues only, or not at all - even for a title that would class in a subject area where the Library normally takes all.

Unpublished gift materials are reviewed on a case by case basis; materials of an ephemeral nature, brochures and pamphlets, are generally added to the Vertical File in the Local History and Genealogy Reference Section. Family history and local history newsletters are typically filed in the Local History and Genealogy Reference Section Vertical File until the Recommending Officer decides whether



United States. Office of War Information. Jeannette Poirier looking at photographs in file cabinet drawer at the Washington office of the Overseas Branch of the U.S. Office of War information 1945. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.

https://guides.loc.gov/local-history-genealogy-vertical-files

## Tips for Locating Genealogical Resources in the Library of Congress Online Catalog

- Search the Library's Catalog
- . Locating Digitized Materials

## Browsing by Exact Subject Phrase

To retrieve publications about	Enter the words below as a subject search:	
Family history and genealogy (example: Walsh family)	Walsh family	
Counties (example: Berks County, Pennsylvania)	Berks co (Note: entries may be displayed under both "co." and "county" in an alphabetical list by state. Highlight the appropriate state and useful subdivisions.)	
Cities or towns (example: Livonia, Michigan)	Livonia (Mich.)	
Coats of arms (example: Germany)	Heraldry Germany	
Passenger lists	Ships passenger lists	
Pension records for the United States	Military pensions United States	
Pension records for states (example: Georgia)	Military pensions Georgia	
Records from a state or locality (Examples: Birth, death, marriage records; church records for states, land records, wills)	Registers of births, etc. Virginia Church records and registers Virginia Land grants Virginia Wills Virginia Fairfax County	

## Command Keyword Searches

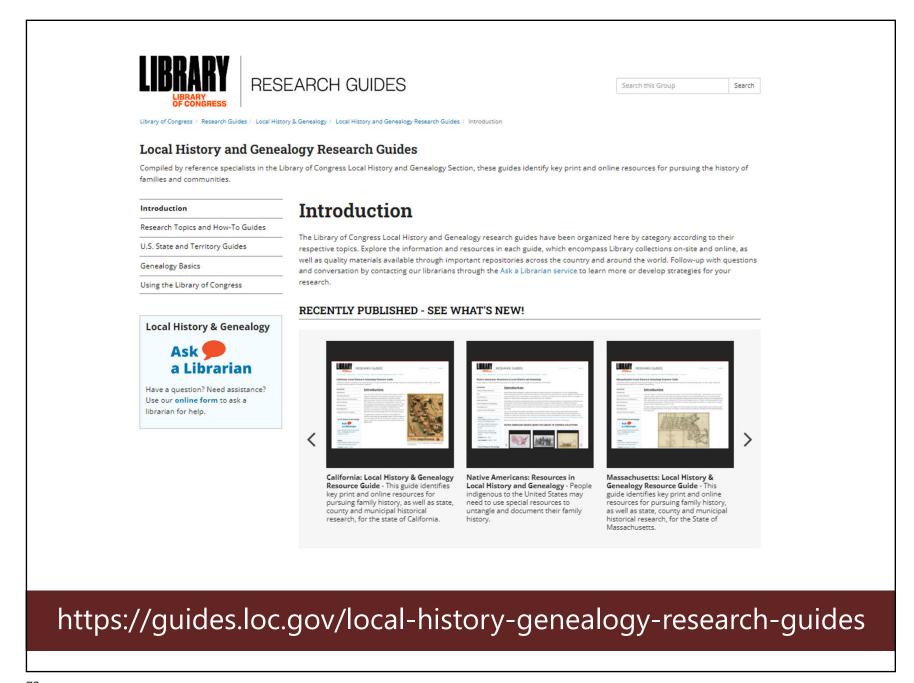
Note: Search syntax for keyword searching in the Library of Congress online catalog is similar to that of some Internet search engines—use double quotes for phrase searches and type Boolean operators in UPPERCASE.

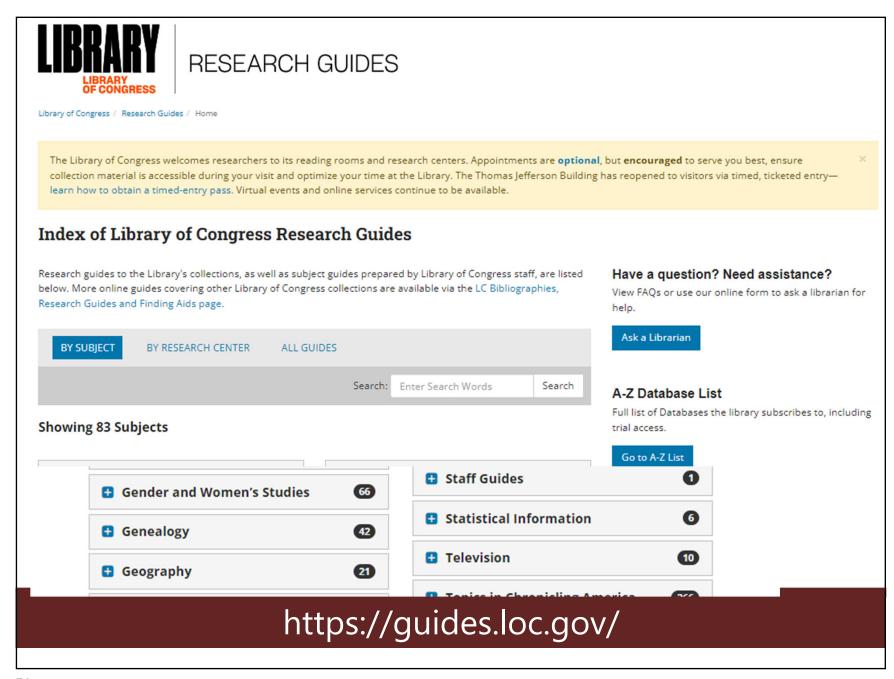
To retrieve publications about	Enter the words below:
Wills from Virginia	Wills AND Virginia
Pension records for Georgia	"military pensions" AND Georgia

## Command Keyword Searches For Known Items

To retrieve this book	Enter the words below:
American Presidential Families by Hugh Brogan	Brogan AND presidential
The A to Z of Genealogy by Janet Reakes	"A to Z" AND Reakes

## https://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/tips.html







### **RESEARCH GUIDES**

Search this Guide

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Library of Congress / Research Guides / Local History & Genealogy / Genealogy and Family History Research: A Guide to Online Resources / Introduction

### Genealogy and Family History Research: A Guide to Online Resources

While not all materials useful in genealogical research are available for at-home research, the number of online resources continues to grow. This guide connects you with Library of Congress digitized collections and external websites to get you started.

### Introduction

Digital Primary Sources

External Resources

Finding Books Online

Video Presentation

### Introduction

The Library of Congress holds vast and unique resources for genealogy and family history research. Not all such materials are online, of course. But getting started with digital collections and other online resources can help better prepare you for an in-person research visit. Working with online materials sharpens your skills and helps focus your research questions so that, when you are able to come do research here, you will get the most out of your visit. This guide offers several ways to begin your research from your home computer. It is divided into three sections: Digital Primary Resources provides direct access to digitized collection materials; External Resources assembles links to websites with more online research materials; and Books provides a bibliography of print materials that you can access through your local library, or other organizations.

### **Digital Collections**



Have a question? Need assistance? Use our **online form** to ask a librarian for help.

Chat with a librarian, Monday through Friday, 12-4pm Eastern Time (except Federal Holidays).

#### Author:

A J Aiseirithe, Reference Librarian, Local History and Genealogy Section

Created: August 21, 2020

### SELECTED PRIMARY SOURCES AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



Diary of Horatio Gates Spafford, American Colony (Jerusalem). Unpublished journal, 1882



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Abilene, Taylor County, Texas. 1902.



New Jersey Memorial Home, Vineland. HABS. Documentation created after 1933

https://guides.loc.gov/genealogy-research-online-resources

### **Digitized Collection Materials**

The following digitized manuscript collection materials can be helpful in locating information about your ancestor.

### American Colony in Jerusalem, 1870 to 2006

· View the American Colony in Jerusalem Collection

This collection focuses on the personal and business life of the colony from the waning years of the Ottoman Empire, through World War I and the British Mandate, and into the formation of the state of Israel. It includes draft manuscripts, letters, postcards, telegrams, diaries or journals, scrapbooks, printed materials, photographs, hand-drawn maps and ephemera. Most collection items are in English, with some material in Arabic, Hebrew, Turkish, and Swedish.

#### **Civil War Diaries**

· View Civil War Diaries

This page displays a number of digital collections at the Library of Congress containing diaries for the American Civil War era. Diaries can be a very useful source when tracing your ancestors.

### Federal Writers Project (WPA) Interviews with Formerly Enslaved Americans

View the Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936 to 1938 Collection

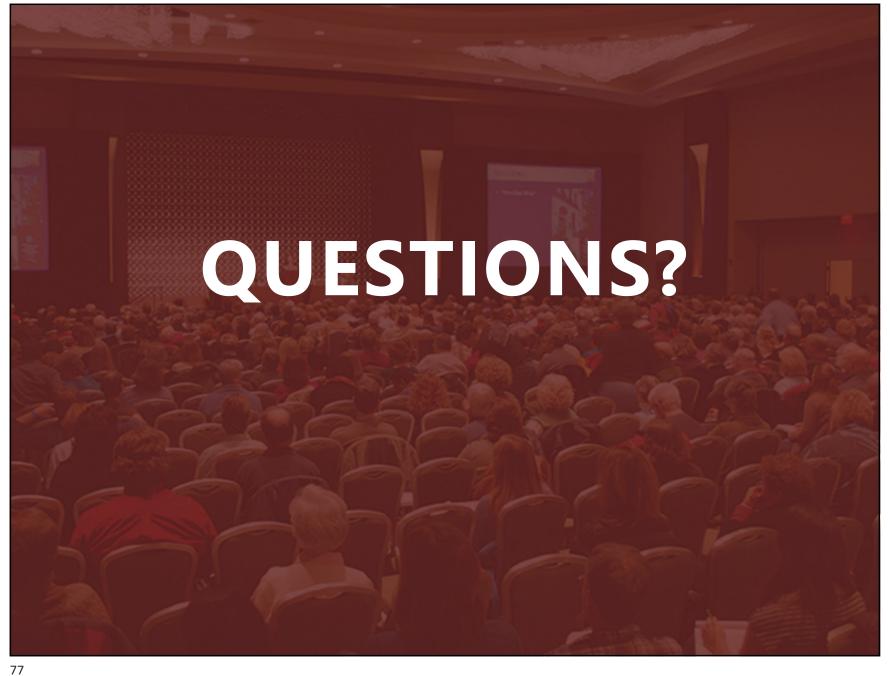
This collection contains more than 2,300 first-person accounts of slavery and 500 black-and-white photographs of former slaves. These narratives were collected in the 1930s as part of the Federal Writers' Project (FWP) of the Works Progress Administration, later renamed Work Projects Administration (WPA). At the conclusion of the Slave Narrative project, a set of edited transcripts was assembled and microfilmed in 1941 as the seventeen-volume Slave Narratives: A Folk History of Slavery in the United States from Interviews with Former Slaves.

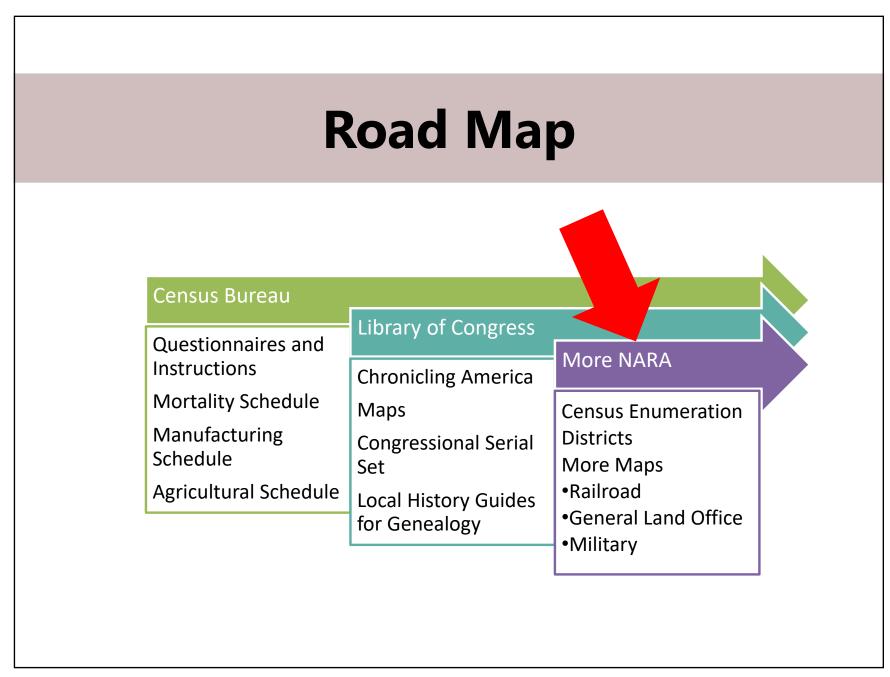
### Gladstone Collection on African Americans' Military Service

View the William A. Gladstone Afro-American Military Collection

This collection spans the years 1773 to 1987, with the bulk of the material dating from the Civil War period, 1861-1865. The collection consists of correspondence, pay vouchers, orders, muster rolls, enlistment and discharge papers, receipts, contracts, affidavits, tax records, miscellaneous military documents, and printed matter. Most items document African Americans in military service, especially the United States Corps d'Afrique and the United States Colored Troops, which were organized during the Civil War. Also included are many documents concerning slavery and various other Civil War documents that mention African Americans. The Revolutionary War items are primarily pay vouchers to Connecticut blacks who served in the Continental Army. World War I is represented by the papers of Lieutenant Edward L. Goodlett of the 370th Infantry, 93rd Division. Printed matter includes nineteenth-century speeches and writings on slavery, government orders, broadsides, and twentieth-century booklets and journal articles for scholars or collectors.

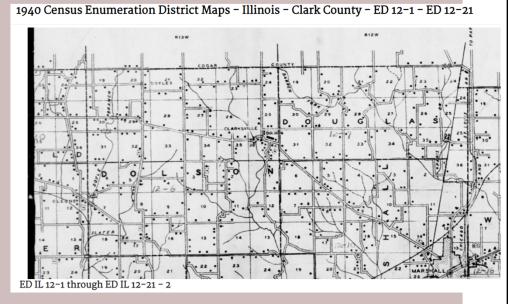
https://guides.loc.gov/genealogy-research-online-resources/digital-primary-sources





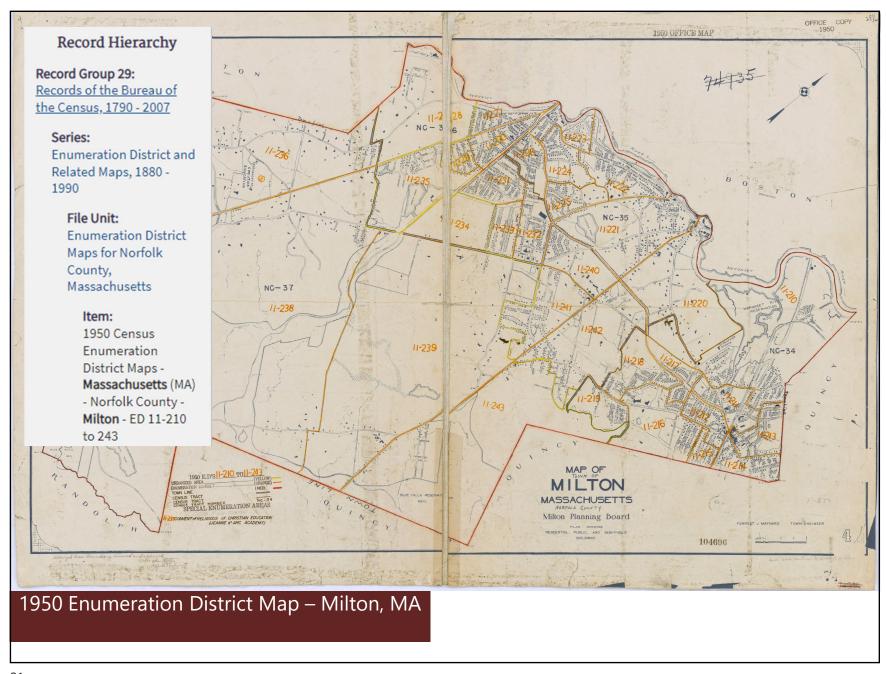
## **Census Areas**

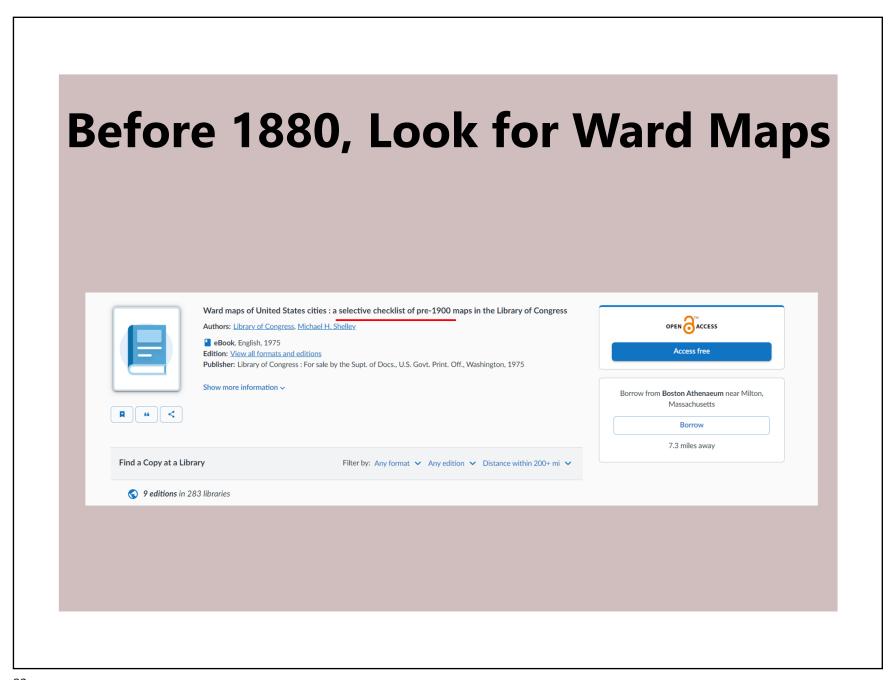
- 1790-1870enumerators were assigned a specific division, usually town, city, or county
- 1880-presentenumerators were assigned an enumeration district

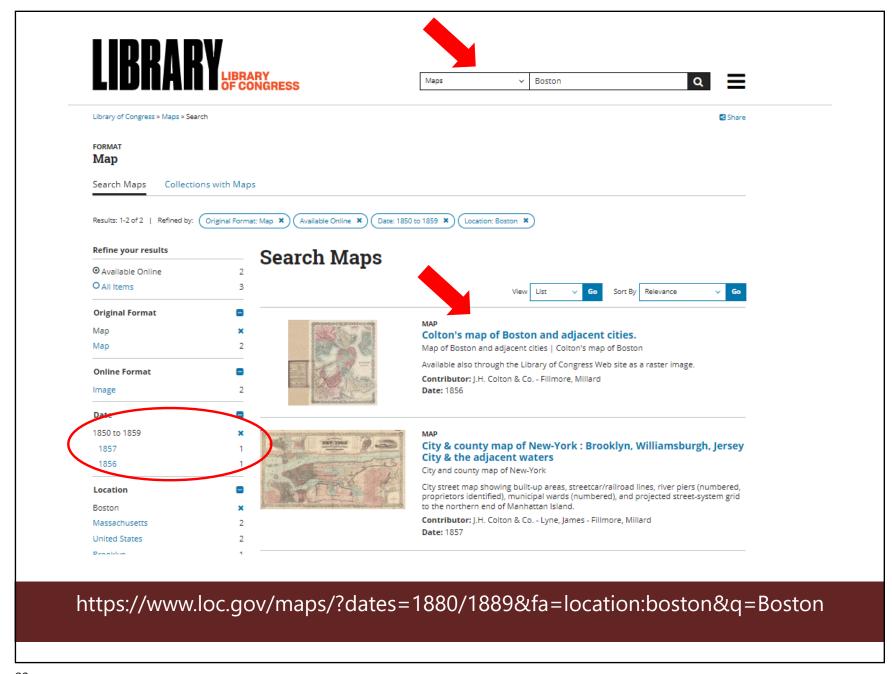


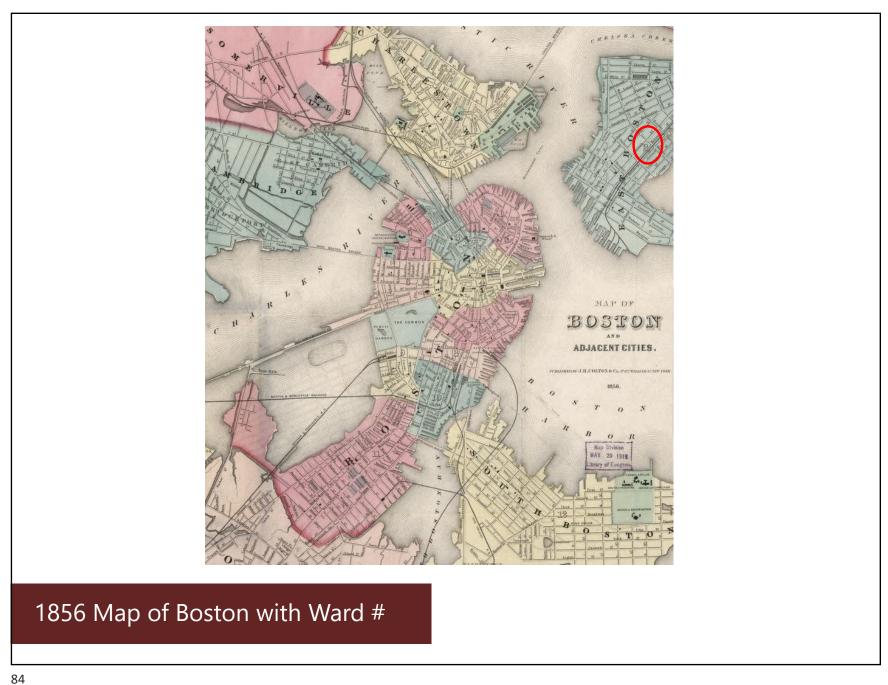
# **Enumeration District Maps**

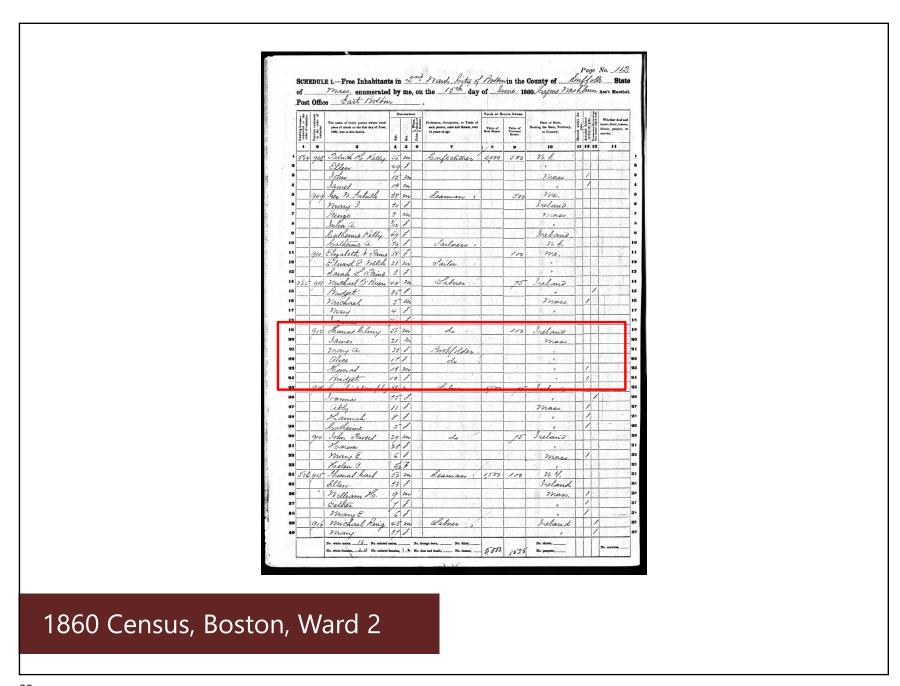
- National Archives and Records Administration
  - Enumeration District and <u>Related Map</u>s, 1880-1990
  - Enumeration <u>District Descriptions</u>, 1850-1950 (RG29)
- FamilySearch.org (20<sup>th</sup> century)
- Ancestry.com (20<sup>th</sup> century)

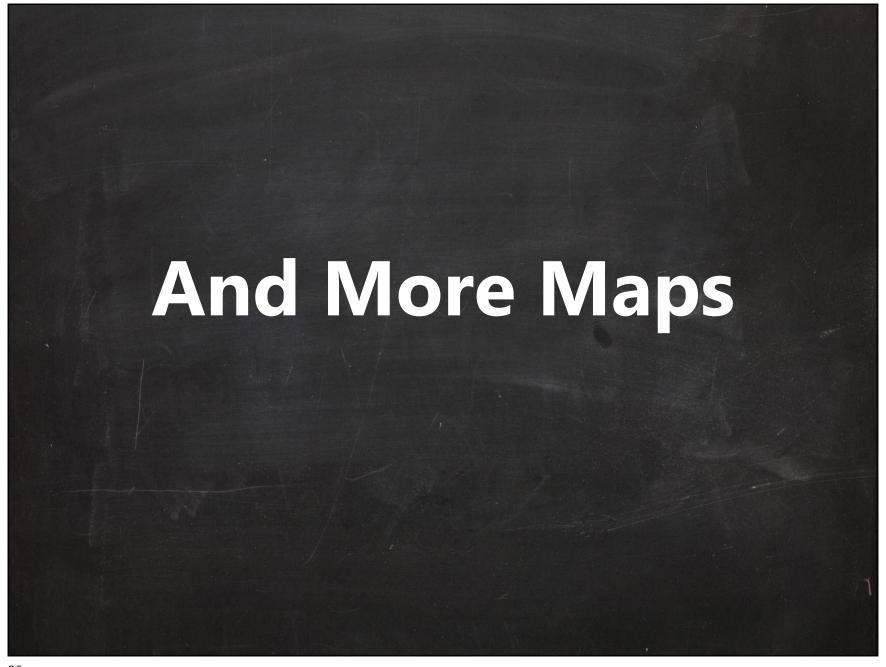


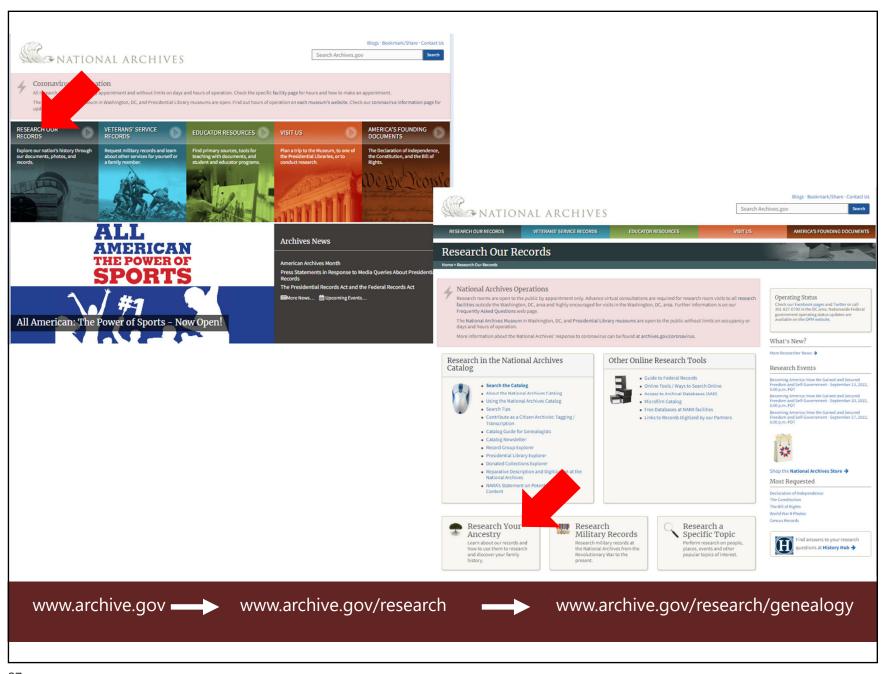




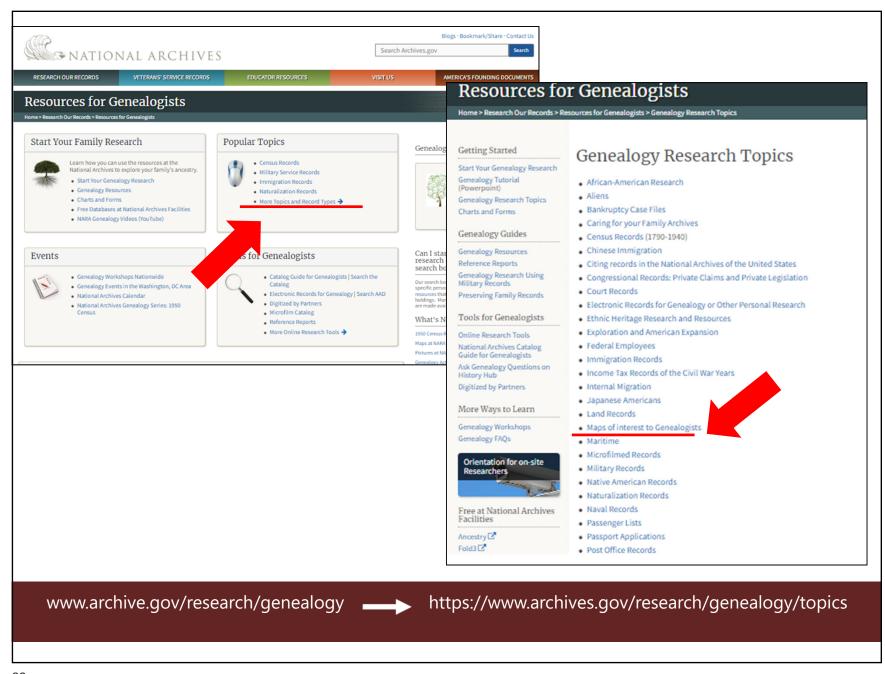


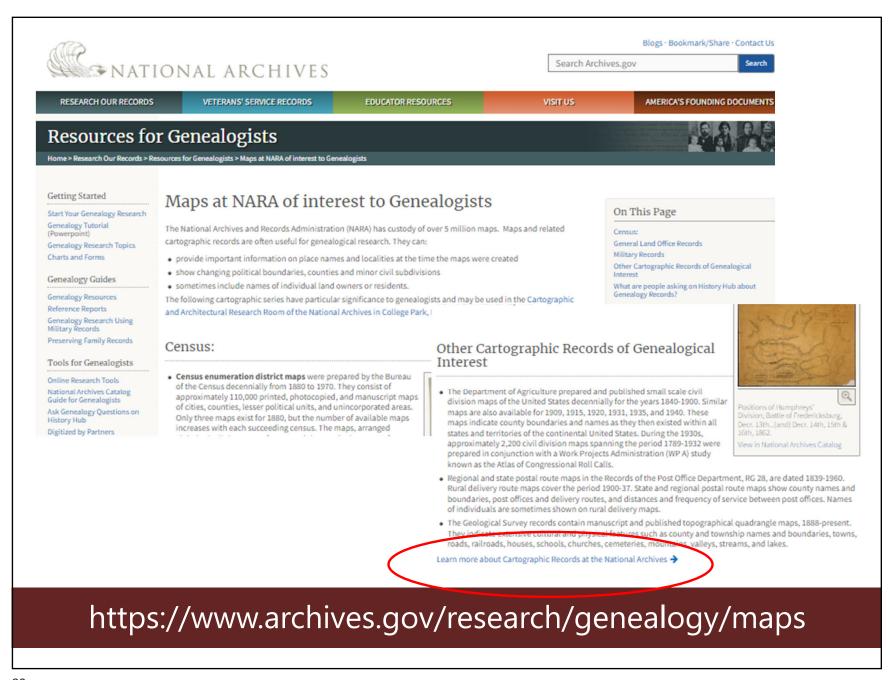


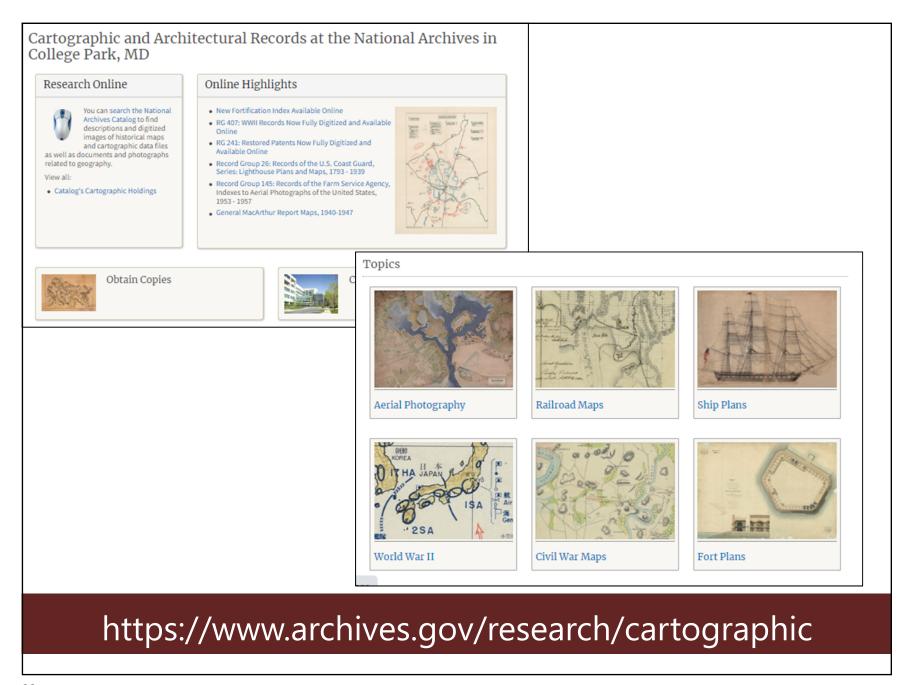




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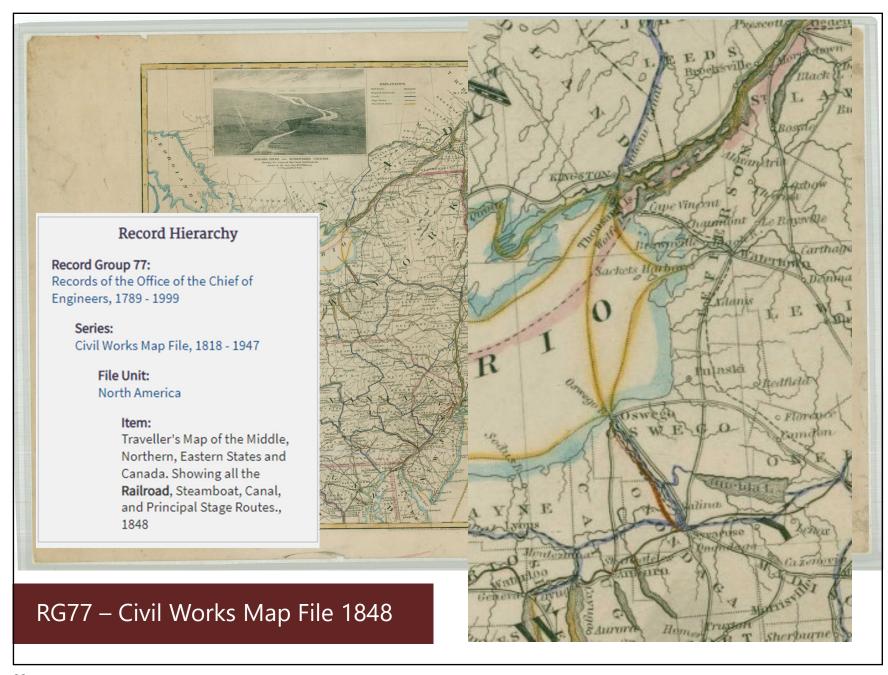


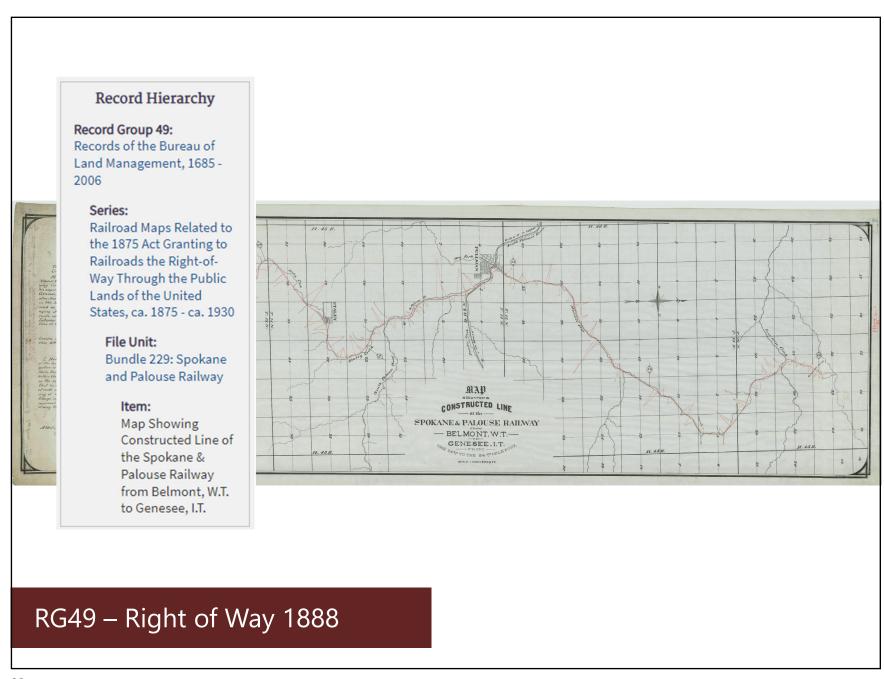


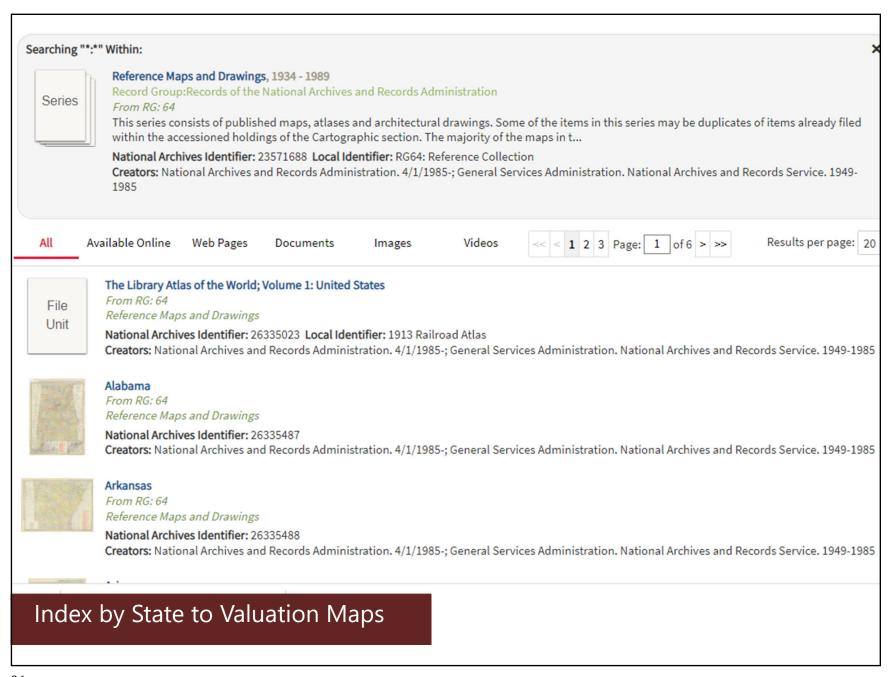


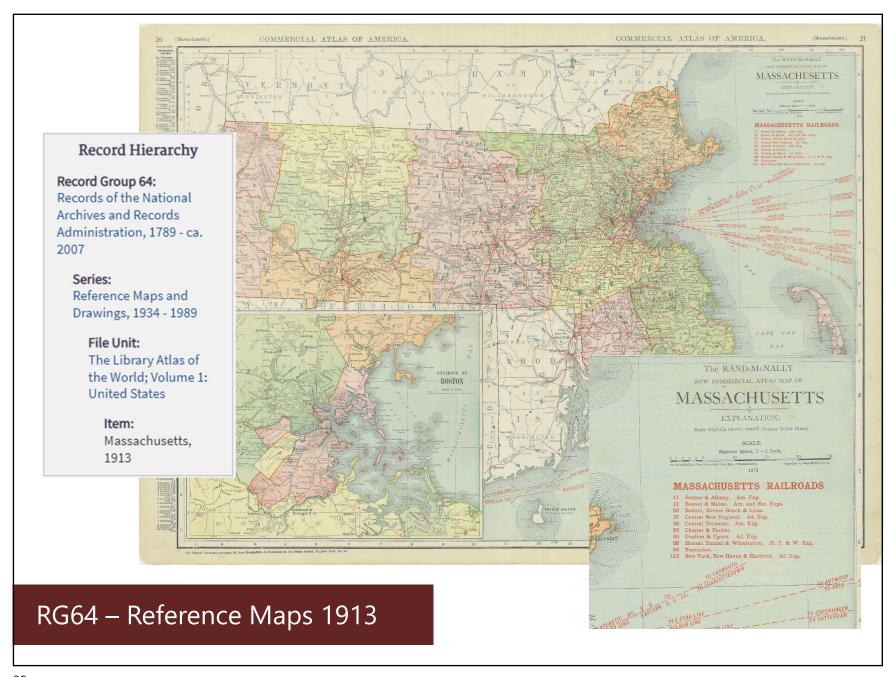
# Railroad Maps

- Answers the question: Is it possible my ancestor traveled by rail?
- Early maps include canals migration routes
- Right-of-Way maps 1875-1930
- Railroad valuation maps
  - 1913 Valuation Act to set freight rates
  - Landowners names



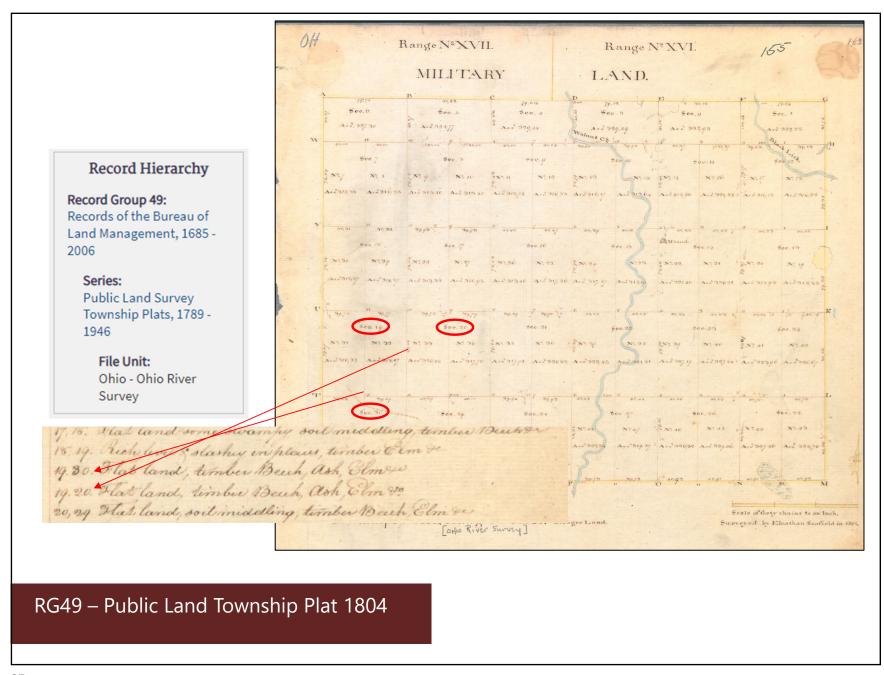






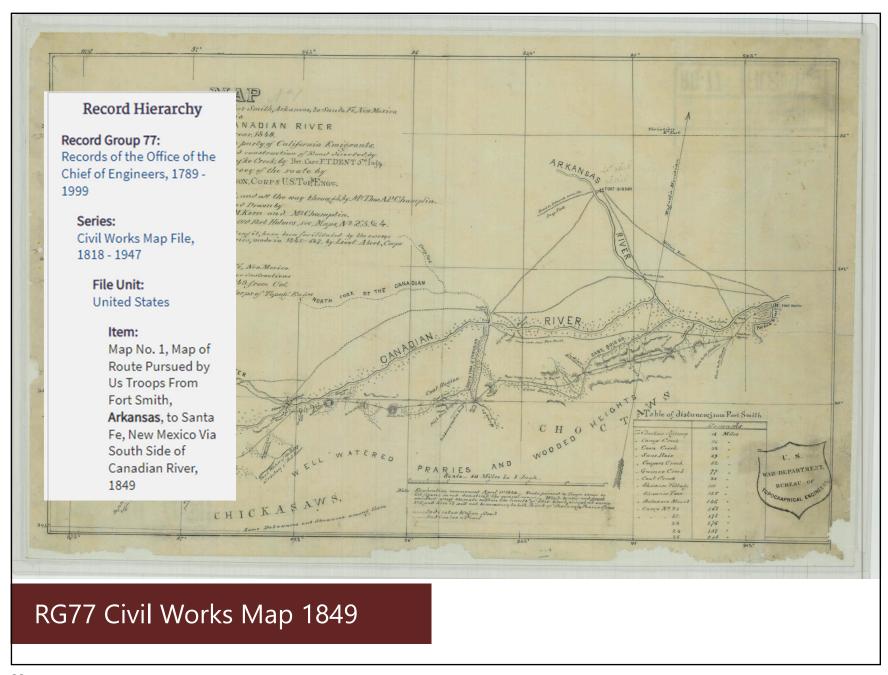
# **General Land Office Maps**

- Size of sections
- Watercourses
- Some maps include detailed descriptions of the quality of the land



# **Military Maps**

- Civil Works Map File Notable are detailed area and county maps of parts of Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Texas, and Virginia during the 1860s. RG 77
- Army Graves Registration Service among the Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, RG 92
- Records of the American Battle Monuments Commission, RG 117.
  - WW I and WW II names and service numbers of some of the U.S. military personnel who are buried overseas



# Summary

- The federal Census Bureau has more tools to help family historians than just the population schedules:
  - Instructions to enumerators
  - Non-population schedules of mortality, agriculture and manufacturing/industry
- The Library of Congress has gems:
  - Chronicling America (historic newspapers)
  - Maps
  - Congressional Serial Set (private petitions from your ancestor to Congress)
- Misc. NARA
  - Census enumeration district maps
  - Maps railroad, Land Office, civil trace migrations



### Navigating our Nation's Federal Records 2022

### Thank you for registering for the online course, Navigating our Nation's Federal Records!

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Washington, DC is home to a genealogical goldmine of federal records kept since our nation's founding. From military pension records to federal land grants to immigration and naturalization records and beyond, this five-session online seminar will introduce you to the many records available, discuss how to access them from home or in-person, and demonstrate how to leverage these resources in your family history research.

This course includes five 90-minute classes; exclusive access to handouts and recordings of each presentation; and in-depth q&a sessions with the instructors. These recordings and all course materials will be available for the foreseeable future.

### JOIN THE LIVE SESSIONS

Click here to join the live broadcasts: https://zoom.us/j/99357341114

If you are unable to attend the live session, you will be able to watch the recordings on this course page.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

#### September 28 - Class 1: Overview of the NARA System

Presented by Ann G. Lawthers

The website of the National Archives and Records Administration (Archives.gov) is your at-home portal to a myriad of records. This first class will demonstrate how to navigate the online catalog, access or request records from home, and, because not everything is online, discuss tips for planning a research trip. We will also discuss the difference between the National Archives in Washington, DC and the regional branches found across the country.

#### October 5 - Class 2: Military and Pension Files

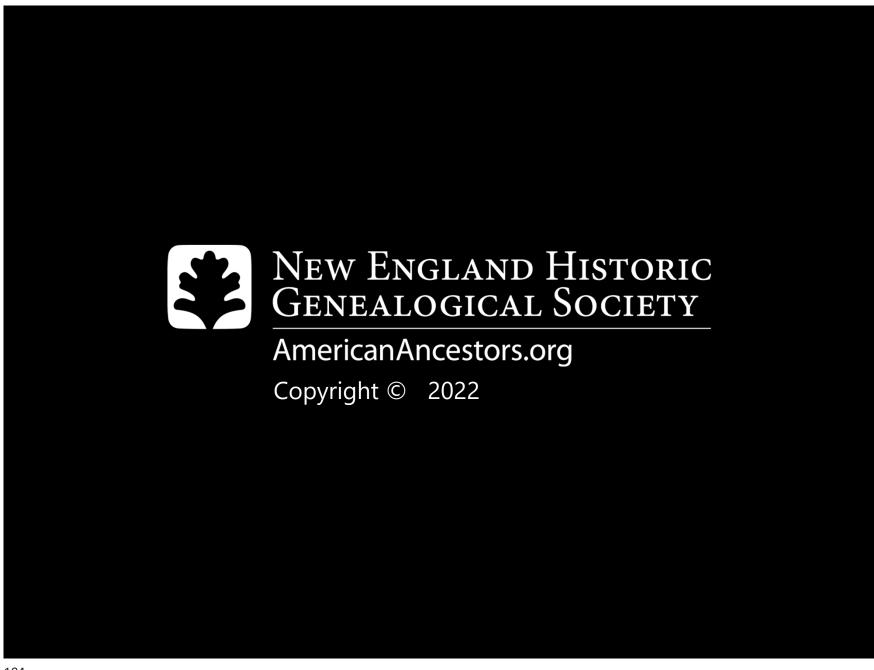
Presented by David Allen Lambert

The military records at the National Archives detail service given between 1775 and 1912. Military expert David Allen Lambert will discuss how to locate, access, and utilize compiled service records, pension applications, and other resources that detail your veteran ancestor's service. He will also discuss briefly more recent records available through the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis (WWI-present).

October 12 - Class 3: Federal Land Decords: Rounty Land Land Entry Files, and Homesteading

https://www.americanancestors.org/navigating-our-nations-federal-records-2022





10/26/2022