



State Census Records

Genealogical Research Series Pamphlet No. 5

THIS PAMPHLET IS ONE IN A SERIES DESIGNED TO ASSIST THE GENEALOGICAL RESEARCHER in using the most pertinent of related federal, state, and local governmental records in the possession of the Illinois State Archives and its Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) system. This pamphlet concerns state censuses.

STATE CENSUS RECORDS

Historical Background

The Illinois Constitution of 1818 required that a state census be taken in 1820 and every fifth year thereafter to determine apportionment of representation in the General Assembly. The state Constitution of 1848 accepted the federal decennial censuses as the bases for apportionment but also provided for state censuses at mid-decades. Thus, state censuses were conducted in 1855 and 1865. The Illinois Constitution of 1870 ended the practice of state censuses when it established the federal decennial censuses as the sole guide to reapportionment.

State censuses were taken in 1820, 1825, 1830, 1835, 1840, 1845, 1855, and 1865. Unfortunately, only the 1820, 1855, and 1865 ones have survived reasonably intact. Most of the county returns for 1825, 1830, 1835, and 1845 are missing and nearly half of the 1840 state census is lost.

Record Contents

State censuses list only the name of the head of each household. Other inhabitants simply were tallied. All the state censuses listed below are available on microfilm for consultation at the Illinois State Archives in Springfield.

1820 Record Series 103.002. STATE CENSUS. 2 vols. Index.

Each county return includes the name of county, and for each household the name of the head of household and numbers of free white males age 21 and older, other white inhabitants, slaves and servants, and free Negroes and mulattoes. Returns are included for 18 of 19 counties existing at that time:

Alexander	Gallatin	Monroe	Washington
Bond	Jackson	Pope	Wayne
Clark	Jefferson	Randolph	White
Crawford	Johnson	St. Clair	
Franklin	Madison	Union	

*Only Edwards County is missing.

Census was edited, indexed, and published in Margaret Cross Norton, ed., *Illinois Census Returns: 1820* in Theodore Calvin Pease, ed., *Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library*, Statistical Series, III (Springfield, 1934).

1825 Record Series 103.003. STATE CENSUS. 0.1 cu. ft. and 1 microfilm roll. Index.

Each county return includes the name of county and the names or legal descriptions of legal subdivisions contained in the county (e.g., townships, towns, villages). Under each of these categories entries for each household include the name of head of household; number of free white males age 21 and older, including heads of families; number of free white males under age 21, including heads of families; number of free white females, including heads of families; numbers of male and female servants and slaves, and free persons of color; and type (e.g., mill, distillery) and number of manufacturing establishments. Returns are included for three of 43 counties existing at that time: **Edwards, Fulton, and Randolph.**

1830 Record Series 103.004. STATE CENSUS. 1 partial microfilm reel. Index.
Each county return includes the name of county, and for each household the name of the head of household; numbers of white males and females in each decennial age group (e.g., ages 0-9, 10-19, 20-29); numbers of male and female Negroes and mulattoes, indentured or registered servants, and French Negroes and mulattoes held in bondage; total number of inhabitants in the household; number of males subject to duty in the state militia; and type (e.g., gristmill) and number of manufacturing establishments. Of the 51 counties existing at that time, the only return included is for **Morgan** County.

1835 Record Series 103.005. STATE CENSUS. 1 partial microfilm reel. Index.
Each county return includes the name of county, and for each household the name of the head of household; numbers of free white males and females in each decennial age group (e.g., ages 0-9, 10-19, 20-29); numbers of male and female Negroes and mulattoes, indentured or registered servants and their children, and French Negroes and mulattoes held in bondage; total number of inhabitants in household; number of males subject to duty in state militia; and type (e.g., gristmill) and number of manufacturing establishments. Returns are included for four of 60 counties existing at that time: **Fayette, Fulton, Jasper, and Morgan**.

1840 Record Series 103.006. STATE CENSUS. 3 microfilm reels and 1 partial microfilm reel. Index.
Each county return includes the name of county and occasionally the names or legal descriptions of legal subdivisions contained in counties (e.g., townships, cities, villages). Under each of these categories entries for each household include the name of head of household; numbers of free white males and females in each decennial age group (e.g., ages 0-9, 10-19, 20-29); numbers of male and female Negroes and mulattoes, indentured and registered servants and their children, and French Negroes and mulattoes held in bondage; number of males subject to duty in the state militia; total number of inhabitants in the household; and type (e.g., sawmill, gristmill) and number of manufacturing establishments. Returns are included for 35 of 87 counties existing at that time:

Adams	Cook	Jasper	Rock Island
Bond	Crawford	Jo Daviess	Schuyler
Brown	Edgar	Johnson	Stark
Calhoun	Effingham	Knox	Tazewell
Champaign	Franklin	La Salle	Union
Clark	Fulton	Lawrence	Vermilion
Clay	Hamilton	Livingston	White
Clinton	Hardin	Monroe	Whiteside
Coles	Jackson	Randolph	

1845 Record Series 103.007. STATE CENSUS. 1 partial microfilm reel. Index.
Each county return includes the name of county, and for each household the name of the head of household; numbers of free white males and females in each decennial age group (e.g., ages 0-9, 10-19, 20-29); numbers of male and female Negroes and mulattoes, indentured or registered servants, and French Negroes and mulattoes held in bondage; total number of inhabitants in household; number of males subject to duty in state militia; and type (e.g., gristmill) and number of manufacturing establishments. Returns are included for three of 98 counties existing at that time: **Cass, Putnam, and Tazewell**.

1855 Record Series 103.008. STATE CENSUS. 13 microfilm reels. Index.
Each county return includes the name of the county and, frequently, the names or legal descriptions of legal subdivisions contained in the county (e.g., townships, cities, villages). Under each of these categories entries for each household include the name of head of household, numbers of free white males and females in each decennial age group (e.g., ages 0-9, 10-19, 20-29), numbers of male and female Negroes and mulattoes, total number of inhabitants in household, number of males eligible for duty in state militia, type (e.g., mill, tinshop, saddleshop) and valuations of products of manufacturing establishments, valuations of livestock and products of coal mines, pounds of wool produced, and infrequent remarks (e.g., occupation of head of household, legal description of area covered by return). Returns are included for 90 of 100 counties existing at that time:

Adams	Fulton	McHenry	Randolph
Alexander	Greene	McLean	Richland
Bond	Grundy	Macon	Rock Island
Boone	Hamilton	Macoupin	St. Clair
Brown	Hancock	Madison	Saline
Bureau	Hardin	Marion	Sangamon
Calhoun	Henderson	Marshall	Schuyler
Cass	Iroquois	Mason	Scott
Christian	Jackson	Massac	Shelby
Clark	Jasper	Menard	Stephenson
Clay	Jersey	Mercer	Tazewell
Clinton	Jo Daviess	Monroe	Union
Coles	Johnson	Montgomery	Vermilion
Cook	Kane	Morgan	Wabash
Crawford	Kankakee	Moultrie	Warren
Cumberland	Kendall	Ogle	Washington
De Kalb	Knox	Peoria	Wayne
De Witt	La Salle	Perry	White
Du Page	Lawrence	Piatt	Whiteside
Edgar	Lee	Pike	Williamson
Edwards	Livingston	Pope	Winnebago
Effingham	Logan	Pulaski	
Fayette	McDonough	Putnam	

1865 Record Series 103.010. STATE CENSUS. 18 microfilm reels. Partial index.

Each county return includes for each household the name of the head of household; numbers of free white males and females in each decennial age group (e.g., ages 0-9, 10-19, 20-29); numbers of male and female Negroes; total number of inhabitants in household; number of males eligible for duty in state militia; type (e.g., blacksmith shop, wheelwright shop) and valuation of products of manufacturing establishments; valuations of livestock, grain products, and other agricultural products; tons of coal produced annually; pounds of wool products; and numbers of flour and gristmills, sawmills, and distilleries. Returns are included for 99 of Illinois' 102 counties:

Adams*	Fayette*	Lee	Randolph*
Alexander*	Ford*	Livingston	Richland
Bond*	Franklin*	Logan*	Rock Island
Boone*	Fulton*	McDonough	St. Clair*
Brown*	Greene*	McHenry*	Saline*
Bureau*	Grundy*	McLean*	Sangamon
Calhoun*	Hamilton*	Macon*	Schuyler*
Carroll*	Hancock*	Macoupin	Scott
Cass*	Hardin*	Madison*	Shelby*
Champaign*	Henderson*	Marion*	Stark
Christian*	Henry	Marshall	Stephenson*
Clark*	Iroquois*	Massac*	Tazewell*†
Clay	Jackson*	Menard*	Union
Clinton*	Jasper*	Mercer	Vermilion*
Coles*	Jefferson*	Montgomery	Wabash*
Cook	Jersey*	Morgan*	Warren
Crawford*	Jo Daviess*	Moultrie	Washington
Cumberland*	Johnson*	Ogle*	Wayne
De Kalb*	Kane	Peoria*	White
De Witt*	Kankakee*	Perry	Whiteside*
Douglas*	Kendall*	Piatt*	Will
Du Page*	Knox*	Pike*	Williamson
Edgar*	Lake*	Pope*	Winnebago
Edwards*	La Salle	Pulaski*	Woodford
Effingham*	Lawrence	Putnam*	

*These counties have been indexed.

†Elm Grove Township only.

Finding Your Ancestors

Researching on Your Own

The Name Index to Early Illinois Records, located in the Archives card catalog aisle, includes entries for heads of households for state censuses through 1855. Filed separately, the index for the 1865 state census currently covers 70 counties. Because volunteers are in the process of indexing the remaining counties, an updated list should be requested at the reference desk. Index citations will enable the genealogist to reference original entries in the state censuses. The Archives also has a collection of published indexes to state censuses. Issued by local genealogical societies, these indexes cite heads of households of particular counties for various census years. Archives staff can provide a list of these published indexes.

Mail, Telephone and Internet Requests

In searching state censuses Archives staff members require the census year, the full name of the head of the household, that person's county residence and, if possible, the township. The 1865 census counties not yet indexed will be searched if the researcher can provide all of the above information. For this census reference staff cannot perform searches of cities exceeding 2,500 persons that have not been indexed. If a subject's name is found, the Archives will furnish the genealogist an uncertified and unofficial photocopy of the census page on which it appears. Because of limitations on staff research time, the Archives can research no more than two searches per inquiry. Send inquiries to: Illinois State Archives, Reference Unit, Norton Building, Springfield, Illinois 62756. Telephone: (217) 524-6700. Fax: (217) 524-3930. E-mail: jreinhardt@ilsos.net