

Snapshots of America: Pages from the 1880 Census

Items in brackets have been added for clarification.

Document Citations: Page 1, E.D. 100, Salem, Henry County, Iowa, U.S. Federal Population Census, 1880, (Microfilm Publication T9, Roll 344), Record Group 29 (RG 29); National Archives-Central Plains Region, Kansas City, MO.

Page 2, E.D. 101, Shawnee, Johnson County, Kansas, U.S. Federal Population Census, 1880, (Microfilm Publication T9, Roll 384), Record Group 29 (RG 29); National Archives-Central Plains Region, Kansas City, MO.

Page 32, E.D. 4, St. Louis, St. Louis City, Missouri, U.S. Federal Population Census, 1880, (Microfilm Publication T9, Roll 717), Record Group 29 (RG 29); National Archives-Central Plains Region, Kansas City, MO.

Page 2, E.D. 190, Territory N.W. of Holt, Unorganized Territory, Nebraska, U.S. Federal Population Census, 1880, (Microfilm Publication T9, Roll 757), Record Group 29 (RG 29); National Archives-Central Plains Region, Kansas City, MO.

1880 Federal Population Census Column Headings Explained

The first two columns were reserved for the street name and house number. The numbered columns are described below.

1. Dwelling number (Census takers were to number each dwelling in the order of visitation; for instance, the fifth house visited would be "5".)
2. Family number (Census takers also numbered each family they visited; more than one family could live in the same dwelling, such as an apartment house. Check the number of families in each dwelling to get an idea of the area's population density.)
3. Name of each person residing in the household as of June 1st (June 1st was the official census day, and the information the census taker recorded was supposed to reflect the situation on June 1st, rather than the actual day he or she visited the household.)
4. Color (Census takers could choose W-white, B-black, M-mulatto, C-Chinese, or I-Indian.)
5. Sex
6. Age at last birthday prior to June 1st, 1880 (The ages of children under one year were written as fractions; "5/12" indicates a five-month old.)
7. Month of birth if born in census year
8. Relationship to head of family (This column is often left blank for the head of household.)
Columns 9 – 11 have been reduced to one column on the census transcription.
9. Single
10. Married
11. Widowed or divorced
12. Married in census year?

Transcription

Primary Sources for Teachers 2006

*Created by the National Archives-Central Plains Region,
Kansas City, MO, (816) 268-8000.*

13. Profession, occupation, or trade
14. Number of months this person has been unemployed within the census year
15. Is this person sick or temporarily disabled on the day of the census taker's visit?
16. Blind
17. Deaf and dumb
18. Idiotic
19. Insane
20. Maimed, crippled, bedridden, or otherwise disabled
21. Attended school within census year
22. Cannot read
23. Cannot write
24. Place of birth, naming U.S. state or territory, or country if the person is of foreign birth
25. Father's birthplace
26. Mother's birthplace