



## *Enumeration of the Yakima Indians, 1880–1940*

Under the Treaty of 1855, the Yakima Indians, along with 13 other smaller tribes, gave up the territory in the Pacific Northwest from the Cascade Mountains to the Snake and Palus Rivers. The U.S. Government classified those tribes as one Yakima Nation and gave them reservation land in what is now eastern Washington State. Researchers wishing to find particular Yakima Native Americans can search Federal decennial population censuses, special censuses created by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and other records.

### **Federal Population Census**

For listings prior to the 1870 census, researchers may be able to find Yakima tribe members in Walla Walla County, Washington, dispersed among the general population. Beginning in 1870, go to Yakima County, which was created from Walla Walla County on January 21, 1865. In 1870, the Yakima Indians are enumerated with the general population rather than on separate schedules.

In 1880 some tribal members may be found in the Federal census, but researchers should also check the Bureau of Indian Affairs censuses (see below). There are no records for 1890 because the general population census was destroyed in a fire at the Commerce Department building in 1921. The 1900 census lists the Yakima Indian schedules separately in Yakima County. However, the 1910, 1920, and 1930 censuses do not have separate Indian schedules within Yakima County.

For more information, see the following reference report: *Native Americans in the Federal Decennial Censuses, 1790–1930*.

### **Bureau of Indian Affairs Census**

\_\_\_M1791, *Schedules of a Special Census of Indians, 1880*. 5 rolls. DP. Congress authorized the Bureau of Indian Affairs to conduct a special census of all Native Americans living on reservations as of October 1, 1880. The census includes the person's Indian name and the English translation, percentage of tribal blood, the number of years the individual had "habitually" lived on and off the reservation, whether they are self-supported by their crops, number and type of animals, and other personal information relating to their place in the tribal community, as well as their marital status, age, and sex. The census usually records personal information only for the head of household; family members are often not named, but counted. The Yakima Agency is divided into five districts, which appear on **roll 3**. There is no index.

\_\_\_M595. *Indian Census Rolls, 1885–1940*. 692 rolls. DP. The records are arranged by Indian agency, sub-agency or other jurisdiction; then by census year. There is no index. Agents or superintendents in charge of Indian reservations usually submitted census rolls each year, as required by an act of July 4, 1884 (23 Stat. 98). The data on the rolls vary, but usually give the individual's English name, Indian name, or both; roll number; age or date of birth; sex; and relationship to the head of the family. Beginning in 1930, the rolls also show the degree of Indian blood, marital status, ward status, and place of residence. For certain years, including 1935, 1936, 1938, and 1939, only

supplemental rolls of additions and deletions were compiled. Censuses for the Yakima Indians are located on **rolls 672–679**.

### **Additional Bureau of Indian Affairs Records**

The microfilm publications listed below may provide insight on the relations between the Yakima tribes and the United States Government. These publications include reports describing the living situations of the tribe as well as various interactions with non-Indian settlers. As the Yakima tribes were not large, it is possible for researchers to find information on individual tribe members or their families in these reports.

\_\_\_M1070, *Reports of Inspection of the Field Jurisdictions of the Office of Indian Affairs, 1873–1900*. 60 rolls. DP. These records list reports from Federal inspectors that can describe the health of the tribes, the treatment of tribesmen by Federal workers or traders, Indian courts, sanitation, and housing conditions. There are also special reports that correspond to specific orders given to the inspectors. A special report may tell an agent how to handle a dispute over land, animals, or trade between Yakima and local non-Native American settlers. The Yakima agencies are located on **rolls 58–59**, arranged by superintendent and then by date of report.

\_\_\_M1011, *Superintendent's Annual Narrative and Statistical Reports from Field Jurisdictions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1907–1938*. 174 rolls. DP. This publication contains reports submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs by the agents or superintendents from each Indian agency or school. Their field reports may include interesting information for researchers regarding the activities, culture, and traditions of Yakima life. These yearly reports are arranged chronologically. The Yakima agencies are located on **rolls 172–173**.

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