

Beginning U.S. Census Tracking

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Getting started with MagiCensus: Every Name Census

Step 1. Open File - MagiCensus can open any GEDCOM file. Use the File Menu > Open command to open up a GEDCOM file. The file opens in the Pedigree view.

Step 2. Use the Pedigree view to find a relative born between the years of 1860-1920. Once highlighted, you can press H to move them to Head of Pedigree.

Step 3. Click on the Census Tracker Icon (Map) or press Alt+ C to open the Census Tracker view.

Tip: The Census Tracker shows research tips before you start census research

- Displays the ages of the individuals you are looking for per census year
- Displays when name changes have occurred based on database information.
- Data is only displayed if there is a country associated with an event place.
- The cells are white, meaning that no extraction forms have been linked to the Census Tracker.

What can you do in the Census Tracker

- a. Double click a person in the name column - Opens the Individual Information Editor
- b. Double click a cell in the born column - Opens the Timeline view
- c. Double click on a specific census year - Opens the Census Extraction form for that year with the individual highlighted as head of household.

Step 4. Find census information - Use Ancestry.com or pilot.familysearch.org to find a census record using their default browser.

Step 5. Open up the Extraction Form for the year of found census information. (Double-Click on cell in the Census Tracker)

Step 6. Fill out the top part of the Census Extraction form.

- a. **Place** -The name of country is automatically added. You must add a county and state OR the completed form will not be saved when you click “accept changes and close”.
- b. **Source** - Select an existing source or add a new source.
 - a. **Quality** - Determine the reliability of a source by choosing from one of our four quality levels:
 - i. The original census is a Primary Source for a census event.
 - ii. The original census is a Secondary Source for birth year and place.
 - iii. A copied census that you cannot verify would be classified as a Questionable Source.
 - iv. Writing down census information from memory would be considered an unreliable source.

Step 7. Fill in the Extracted Household section - Get this information from the original census found in step 4.

1. If the same name and other census data of the person you are transcribing appears in the Unassociated Family Members section the easiest method is:
 - a. Click the Add button next to the matching name in the Unassociated Family Members section
 - b. The name, with information from your file will now appear in the Extracted Household section. The Link button by the name will change to an Unlink button.
 - c. Edit any information needed to match census record.
2. If the census household you are extracting has individuals not included in your database then using the census data, type the name, age, sex, etc. for each household member into the appropriate fields in the Extracted Household section.
 - a. MagiCensus will add a new row to the Extracted Household section when the blank name field is filled in.
 - b. After typing, click the Link button for each of the names you just typed in to the Extracted Household box, to add the new individuals to your database or link to unassociated family members.

Step 8. Close the Extraction Form and return to the Census Tracker view

Step 9. Continue to extract census information from additional census years

Closing: Review Census Tracking steps and how MagiCensus makes it easier.

1. Write down known information - MagiCensus uses any previous database information
2. Find Census record - MagiCensus tells you age and name of individual for any census year
3. Extract information - Save time by extracting all information directly into database.
4. Create chart - MagiCensus automatically creates the Tracker for you
5. Analyze information - Color codes and comparisons helps to analyze census information
6. Verify assumptions - Use other sources to verify assumptions.

Understanding the Census Tracker Legend

- Surnames in parentheses - married names of daughters
- Numbers in quotation marks - age or age range indicated by census
- Numbers in parentheses - estimated age or age range calculated by the application based on census data, when no exact birth date is known.

Double-click name to edit individual, birthdate to view timeline, or a cell for extraction data.

Add/Remove Census Columns...

Name		United States					
		1 JUN 1830	1 JUN 1840	1 JUN 1850	1 JUN 1860	1 JUN 1870	1 JUN 1880
Mary /Victor/	1819 KY	10-12	"15-20" (20-22) Clinton Co., Missouri, United States	"30" (30-32) (Mann) Washington Twp., Buchanan Co., Missouri	"40" (40-42) (Fleek) Washington Twp. Washington Twp., Doniphan Co., Kansas, United States	"51" (50-52) Washington Twp., Doniphan Co., Kansas, United States	"56" (60-62) Washington Twp., Doniphan Co.
+ John B. /Mann/	21 SEP 1815 WV	"10-15" (14) Monroe, Virginia, United States	24	"35" (34) Washington Twp., Buchanan	****	****	****
1. William A. /Mann/	1 JUN 1845 MO	****	****	"6" (5) Washington Twp., Buchanan Co.	"16" (15) Washington Twp., Buchanan Co.	25 Troy, Doniphan Co.	35 Helena, Lewis And Clark, Montana, United
1+ Mary /Linton/	1845 OH	****	****	4-6	14-16	"25" (24-26) (Mann) Troy	"34" (34-36) Helena
2. Nancy /Mann/	17 MAR 1846 MO	****	****	4 Washington Twp., Buchanan	14 Washington Twp., Buchanan	24	****
3. Green Berry /Mann/	9 MAR 1849 MO	****	****	1 Washington Twp., Buchanan	"12" (11) Washington Twp., Buchanan	21	31 Washington Twp., Doniphan

Legend



Linked to census record with matching age
 Linked to census record with age discrepancy
 No census record linked

Each cell contains one of the following:

- matching age (new surname if changed), location in census
- "recorded age" (expected age) (new surname if changed), location in census
- expected age

- Yellow Cell - Linked to census record with age discrepancy
- Green Cell - Linked to census record with matching age
- White Cell - No census record linked
- Grayed out cells - The census is either before a person's birth or after a person death
- Spouse of the head of household has a plus sign but no number
- A child of the head of household has a number
- A spouse of a child has the same number as the child with a plus sign



Census Tracking - Using Head of Household Censuses to a build probable case.

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Discover the benefits of census tracking and learn how to glean new information from your census data using logical assumptions. Strategies include comparing census records for families as they move and change over time, making head of household censuses (pre-1850 U.S. censuses) meaningful and useful, and improving deduction and analysis skills. Tracking censuses over time provides a building block as you try to prove your assumptions and unlocks new possibilities to further your research. MagiCensus software (formerly known as MagiKey Family Tree) makes census tracking easier and quicker. A free demo of MagiCensus is available at www.themagikey.com.

How to make a probable case from circumstantial evidence:

Start with the known, discover the probable, use other sources to prove.

Step 1. Start with the known - Use timelines and other research to find out what you know.

Step 2. Record known information on a census tracker

Step 3. Make assumptions based on census rules and logic

Step 4. Identify contradictions and make plausible explanations.

Use Occam's Razor: for us that means "...simplest explanation is the most likely one". This means explanations with fewer assumptions are better.

Step 5. Record assumptions into the Census Tracker

Step 6. Compare assumptions to another possible census or other sources and repeat.

Information that can be gleaned from censuses:

1. Suggest where to look for someone
2. Narrow down birth date
3. Identify possible recording errors or assumptions
4. Determine which entry is most likely the same family

Making Assumptions while census tracking:

Census rules change for every census taken.	MagiCensus links to the rules for each census year and incorporates them in logic
You need to calculate actual age of an individual as of a given census date before you can determine in which age range they belong for adjacent age ranges.	MagiCensus lists census dates in on the census tracker spreadsheet visual reference and uses appropriate dates for calculations

Tips when working with censuses:

- Information might not be as of census date
- Estimate about 2 years between each child
- Watch for boundary changes
- “Wife” age change may indicate remarriage
- Look for wife as head in case husband died
- Look for children as heads to find elderly parents

MagiCensus can simplify some census tracking steps:

Known Information	Logic	MagiCensus
Number of years in an age range can vary from census to census.	Using overlapping ranges for multiple years can narrow down birthdates.	Automatically estimates and calculates an age range using all census data available and updates it in a spreadsheet.
Location of an individual at specific point of time	Looking at known locations for all family members for many years gives you possible places for additional research.	Displays census locations of all known family members in a spreadsheet automatically.
Quantity and gender of the household members for a given census, also known as a footprint of a household.	Comparing footprints for families with identical head of household names can help you identify which census household matches your family.	Includes year specific extraction forms then expands the extracted information to provide the family footprint. Allows you link the known information about family members to a person recorded only by age and gender in the census.
Age range and gender of a household member in a census.	Determining potential relationships using age and gender. (e.g. wife or daughter)	Suggests probable relationships when associating an individual with the extracted family footprint.
	Identifying possible recording errors of age or gender by comparing the household footprint over many years.	Automatically highlights age discrepancies between expected and extracted information and displays them in color-coded cells.

Further steps in proving a probable case:

1. Use tax records or land records to narrow down when a family moved
2. Use a personal timeline for each possibility when trying to track a person
3. Look for other sources in the localities found (wills, probates, cemeteries, marriages of possible children, etc.)
4. Contact descendants of possible children

MagiCensus Head of Household Extraction Forms Instructions

1. Extract the census data to the head of household census extraction form
 - a. Type the head of household name in to the Extracted Household section.
 - b. Enter the correct number of individuals into each age bracket for both males and females.
 - i. MagiCensus will add a new row for each individual with the corresponding age bracket into the Associated Family Member section.

The screenshot shows the '1840 United States Census' software interface. At the top, there are fields for 'Date' (1 JUN 1840), 'Place' (Clinton Co., Missouri, United States), 'Source' (1840 United States Federal Census), and 'Quality' (Questionable). Below this is the 'Extracted household' section, which contains a table with columns for 'Name', 'Males' (ages 0-5 to 100+), and 'Females' (ages 0-5 to 100+). The row for 'Truett Davis' shows 2 males in the 5-10 age bracket and 2 females in the 10-15 age bracket. Below the extracted household is the 'Associated household' section, which is a table with columns for 'Go to', 'Link', 'Name', 'Sex', 'Age', and 'Relationship'. It lists five individuals: Alsea /Cottingham/ (1799-Est 1867) as wife, Truitt /Davis/ (1803-Est 1867) as Head, Mary /Victor/ (1819-1899) as wife's daughter, Susannah Elizabeth /Victor/ (Est 1831-Est 1831) as wife's daughter, and Eleanor Benton /Davis/ (1825-1899) as daughter. Below that is the 'Unassociated family members' section, which is a similar table listing four individuals: William C. /Victor/ (Est 1828-Est 19...) as wife's son, Hannah /Victor/ (Abt 1818-1883) as wife's daughter, Isaac Fleek /Victor/ (Est 1831-Est 18...) as wife's son, and Cincinnanna /Davis/ (1827-Est 1845) as daughter. At the bottom right, there is a button labeled 'Accept Changes and Close'.

2. Compare the footprint in the Associated Household section with the footprint of the Unassociated Family Members section to verify that this is a likely census for this family.
 - a. Link the head of household
 - i. If the person who is head of household in the census is listed in the Unassociated Family Members section and the age fits into the oldest male age bracket, click the Link button by the name in the Unassociated Family Members section.
 - ii. Once the Head of household is linked, MagiCensus will include the relationship of the individual to the head of household in the Unassociated Family Members section.
 - b. Link the wife of head of household.
 - i. Look for the wife in the Unassociated Family Members section, if the person listed as the wife corresponds with a correct age bracket from the extracted census, click the Link button in the Unassociated Family Members section by her name.

- ii. Wives are generally within plus or minus ten years of the age range of their spouses. If the age doesn't match, click the Link button in the Associated Household to look for the correct individual.
- c. Link the children.
 - i. If the Unassociated Family Members section lists children, and their ages and gender of the children match the extracted census then:
 1. Ask yourself, "Which sex and age range fits ____?" Use any known information as evidence to link a child in a row that has the correct gender and the age range.
 2. Click the Link button by each child's name in the Unassociated Family Members section.
 3. Remember the enumerator instructions when deciding between close ranges such as 10-15 or 15-20. The enumerator was instructed not to include a person in the 10-15 category if they had already turned 15.
 - ii. If no children are listed in the Associated Family Member section, then create place holding names such as Daughter 1 or Son 2 to help create a footprint.