

# A Guide to Census Resources in the SC Room

## Federal Census Records

The census has been taken every ten years since 1790. For privacy reasons, the most recent census available to the public is the 1940 Federal Census. The older census records contain only the name and age of the head of household, location, and the number of dependents, but beginning in 1850 there are more headings, including the names and ages of other household members, state/country of origin, and education levels.

### South Carolina Census Records on Microfilm

The SCR holds the census film for South Carolina only, and there are bound index volumes organized alphabetically by surname for 1790-1870. Beginning in 1880, the indexes are only available on microfilm in the Soundex (this index is organized phonetically by code so that multiple surnames variations appear together, making it easier for researchers to find their ancestor even if the name was misspelled in the census).

### Census Records on the Computer

All the census material for other states as well as S.C. up to 1940 is available on Ancestry.com, which has a name search option. Ancestry.com is a subscription-based internet resource, but is available to patrons free of charge on library computers.

### Research Tips:

- \*The census records were handwritten and can be difficult to decipher. This, along with census taker errors, means that there are numerous misspellings and mistakes in the computer database and bound indexes. Please try numerous spelling variations for both surnames and first names.
- \* Researchers looking for S.C. census information may want to check the microfilm if they are unsuccessful in locating their ancestors on Ancestry.com, because the microfilm index is more thorough.
- \*Most of the U.S. Census for 1890 was destroyed in a fire in Washington, D.C. Only the records for Union soldiers living in the state survive for S.C.

## Other Censuses for South Carolina

Microfilm	<u>1869 Census of SC</u>
Microfilm	<u>U.S. Census of Industry for S.C.:</u> 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880
Microfilm	<u>U.S. Census of Agriculture for S.C.:</u> 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880
Microfilm	<u>U.S. Census of Mortality, S.C.:</u> 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880 (indexes for 1850 and 1860)
Microfilm	<u>U.S. Social Statistics Census, S.C.:</u> 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880
Microfilm	<u>U.S. Census Enumeration Districts, SC:</u> 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880
SCR 317.3 South	<u>Free Blacks and Mulattoes in the 1850 Census</u>
SCR 317.57915 Chas	<u>Census of the City of Charleston, 1848</u>
SCR 317.57915 Chas	<u>Census of the City of Charleston, 1861</u> (bound copy on Index table; also on film).
SCR 929.2 Motes	<u>Irish in the South Carolina Census, 1850</u>
SCR 929.3757 Green	<u>1860 South Carolina Agricultural Census, Vol. 1-3</u> (There is no name index for the Agricultural Census film, but this book has census abstracts and a name index for all of 1860.)
SCR 929.3757 Motes	<u>Migration to South Carolina-1850 Census: From England, Scotland, Germany, etc.</u>
SCR 929.3757 Motes	<u>Migration to South Carolina-1850 Census: From New England and Middle Atlantic States</u>

\* For books of census abstracts for individual counties, please see the catalog.



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