

Nebraska Population Census Records at History Nebraska

The territorial and 1869 Nebraska census enumerations from NEBRASKA AND MIDWEST GENEALOGICAL RECORD are now available on the web as part of the NEGenWeb Project. <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ne/topic/resources/OLLibrary/Journals/NMGR/index.html>

1854 Territorial Census

Contents: Head of household; number of white males of 21 and upwards; number of white males of 16 and upwards; number of white males under 16; number of females of 16 and upwards; number of females under 16; number of slaves; number of free colored males; number of free colored females; number of blind, deaf and dumb, and insane; not declared intention; precinct or place where resides; profession or occupation of head of household and where born; remarks.

Index: *1854, 1855, 1856 Nebraska Territorial Census Index*, compiled by Ronald Vern Jackson, Bountiful, Utah, Accelerated Indexing Systems, Inc., 1980.

Holdings: District 1: Richardson, Pawnee, Nemaha (part), Johnson (part), Gage (part); District 2: Nemaha (most), Otoe (most); District 3: Cass; District 4: Douglas, Sarpy; District 5: Dodge and additional territory; District 6: Burt and Washington (most).

Format: *Nebraska and Midwest Genealogical Record*, Vol. 13, Nebraska State Genealogical Society.

1855 Territorial Census

Contents: Same as 1854.

Index: Same as 1854.

Holdings: Richardson, Pawnee, Nemaha, Otoe, Cass, Douglas, Washington, and Dodge counties.

Format: *Nebraska and Midwest Genealogical Record*, Volumes 14 and 15, Nebraska State Genealogical Society.

1856 Territorial Census

Contents: Same as 1854.

Index: Same as 1854; Douglas (Sarpy County) published in *Remains to be Found*, June 1986; Lancaster and Clay counties published in *Lancaster County Nebraska Historical Records*, Series 3, Vol. 1, Deborah Avery Chapter, DAR, October, 1940.

Holdings: Richardson, Pawnee, Nemaha, Otoe, Cass, Lancaster, Clay, Dodge, Platte, Cuming, Douglas, Washington, Burt, and Dakota counties.

Format: *Nebraska and Midwest Genealogical Record*, Volumes 16, 17, 18, and 19, Nebraska State Genealogical Society. Lancaster and Clay counties published as noted in Index section.

1858 City Census

Contents: Head of household; white males; white females; slaves; free colored males and females; blind; insane; deaf and dumb; occupation; ward.

Index: None.

Holdings: Nebraska City, Otoe County.

Format: Original (RG210).

1860 Federal Census

Contents: Name; age; sex; color; occupation of persons over 15; value of real estate; value of personal estate; name of state, territory, or country of birth; married within year; deaf-mute, blind, insane, an idiot, a pauper, or a convict.

Index: *Nebraska 1860 Territorial Census Index*, edited by Ronald V. Jackson and Gary Ronald Teeple, (Bountiful, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1978). *Guide to Microfilm* available. Card index on microfilm. Lancaster and Clay counties indexed in *Lancaster County, Nebraska Historical Records, Series 3, Volume 1*, Deborah Avery Chapter DAR, October, 1940. Hall County printed alphabetically in *A Physicist Looks at the 1860 and 1870 Hall County Census* by Charles G. Robbins (Grand Island, Nebraska: Prairie Pioneer Press, 1983). The Nebraska City and Omaha census entries are indexed in *A Tale of Two Cities: Wherein A Physicist Looks at the 1860 Census of Nebraska City and Omaha Nebraska* by Charles G. Robbins (Grand Island, Nebraska: Prairie Pioneer Press, 1987).

Holdings: Buffalo, Burt, Butler, Calhoun (later Saunders), Cass, Cedar, Clay, Colorado-Nebraska Territory (Bolder City, Altoona City, Boulder Creek Settlement, Gold Hill Settlement, Miravalle City, Platte River Settlement), Cuming, Dakota, Dawson, Dixon, Dodge, Douglas, Ft. Laramie, Fort Randall, Gage, Greene (later Seward), Hall, Hayes (unorganized), Hitchcock (unorganized), Jones (later Jefferson), Johnson, Kearney, Lancaster (also RG207, Roll #1); L'Eau Qui Court (later Knox), Madison (w/ Platte), Merrick, Nance (Pawnee Reservation), Nemaha, Nuckolls, Omaha Reservation, Otoe, Pawnee, Pawnee Reservation (Nance), Platte, Polk, Richardson, Saline, Sarpy, Shorter (later Lincoln), Unorganized Territory, and Washington counties. Taylor (Loup) and West (Holt) counties not taken.

Format: National Archives produced microfilm; original supplements (RG513). Lancaster, Clay, and Hall counties and the towns of Omaha and Nebraska City are published as noted in Index section.

1864 State Census

Contents: Name, age, sex, nativity.

Index: None.

Holdings: Cedar County.

Format: Original (RG513).

1865 State Census

Contents: Name; age; name of state, territory, or country of birth; relationship; remarks, color. Lancaster County (name, age, sex, birthplace, and property valuation).

Index: Cuming and Otoe counties indexed in *Nebraska and Midwest Genealogical Record*, Volumes 19, 20, 21, and 22, Nebraska State Genealogical Society; Lancaster County (part) indexed in *Lancaster County Nebraska Historical Records*, Series 3, Volume 1., Deborah Avery Chapter DAR, Oct. 1940.

Holdings: Butler, Cuming, Lancaster (Saltillo and Lancaster Precincts), Otoe.

Format: Butler original (RG 513); Cuming County published as noted in Index section; Saltillo Precinct, Lancaster County, microfilm (RG207) and published as noted in Index section; Otoe County, published as noted in Index section.

1869 State Census

Contents: Butler County: Name, country, living or dead, and sane or insane.

Stanton County: Name, age group, precinct and total births and deaths (no names).

Index: *Nebraska and Midwest Genealogical Record*, Volume 22, Nebraska State Genealogical Society (surname index).

Holdings: Butler, Stanton counties.

Format: Published as noted in Index section; original (RG513).

1870 Federal Census

Contents: Same as 1860, plus notes if father and mother of foreign birth; month of birth and marriage if occurred within last year; male citizen of U.S. age 21 and over; male citizen whose right to vote is denied.

Index: *Nebraska 1870 Census Index*, edited by Ronald V. Jackson et al, North Salt Lake City Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1985. Separate index available for Dodge County. Lancaster County indexed in *Lancaster County, Nebraska Historical Records*, Series 3, Volume 1, Deborah Avery Chapter, DAR, October, 1940. Hall County is printed alphabetically in *A Physicist Looks at the 1860 and 1870 Hall County Census* by Dr. Charles G. Robbins (Grand Island, Nebraska: Prairie Pioneer Press, 1983). *Guide to Microfilm* available.

Holdings: Blackbird (Thurston), Buffalo, Burt, Butler, Cass; Cedar, Cheyenne, Clay, Colfax, Cuming, Dakota, Dawson, Dixon, Dodge, Douglas, Fillmore, Franklin, Ft. Kearny (Adams), Gage, Great Nemaha Agency, Hall, Hamilton, Jefferson, Johnson, Kearney, Lancaster, Lincoln, Madison (& unorganized territory), York (with Polk), Merrick, Nance, Nemaha, Nuckolls (Big Sandy), Omaha Indian Agency, Otoe Agency (Gage), Otoe, Pawnee, Pawnee Reservation, Pierce (Pierce Precinct), Platte, Polk, Red Cloud Agency, Richardson, Saline, Santee Agency (Knox), Sarpy, Saunders, Seward, Stanton, Washington, Wayne, Winnebago Indian Reservation, and York counties.

Format: National Archives produced microfilm. Hall and Lancaster counties published as noted in Index section. Mortality Schedules for miscellaneous counties are published in *Roots and Leaves*, Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society, 1983.

1870 State Census

Contents: Name, place of birth, living or dead, date of death, insane, idiot.

Index: *Lancaster County Nebraska Historical Records*, Series 3, Volume 1, Deborah Avery Chapter, DAR Oct. 1940.

Holdings: Lancaster County.

Format: Microfilm (RG207) and published as noted in Index section including name, residence and birth-place only.

1872 State Census

Contents: Head of household and detailed statistical information on all residents.

Index: None.

Holdings: Dawson County.

Format: Original (RG217).

1874 State Census

Contents: Name, age group, remarks.

Index: Lancaster County indexed in *Lancaster County, Nebraska Historical Records*, Series 3, Volume 1, Deborah Avery Chapter, DAR, October, 1940.

Holdings: Jefferson, Kearney, Lancaster counties.

Format: Jefferson County, original (RG214); Kearney County, original (RG513); Lancaster County published as noted in Index section.

1875 State Census

Contents: Name; age; sex; birthplace; profession; education; incapacities; statistics (by age group; and number of births, deaths, and causes.

Index: Lancaster County indexed in *Lancaster County, Nebraska Historical Records*, Series 3, Volumes 2 and 3, Deborah Avery Chapter, DAR, May 1941.

Holdings: Lancaster County.

Format: Microfilm (RG207); published as noted in Index section.

1876 State Census

Contents: Household number; family number; name; age; sex; place of birth; profession, trade, or occupation; education; handicaps; degree of handicaps; statistics on age groups; birth statistics on reverse with registration of deaths and causes.

Index: Sarpy County, Richland Precinct, indexed by surname in *Remains to be Found*, Greater Omaha Genealogical Society, June 1986.

Holdings: Frontier, Sarpy (Richland Precinct) counties.

Format: Frontier County (head of household and statistics) original (RG513); and Sarpy County, Richland Precinct published as noted in Index section. Statistics only available for all counties on microfilm (RG002).

1876-1882 State Censuses

Contents: Same as 1876 state census.

Index: None.

Holdings: Cass County.

Format: Microfilm (RG220).

1878-1879 State Censuses

Contents: Same as 1876 state census.

Index: Lancaster County, *Lancaster County, Nebraska Historical Records, Series 3, Volume 4, Deborah Avery Chapter, DAR, Sept. 1941.*

Holdings: Lancaster County.

Format: Microfilm (RG207) and published as noted in Index section.

1880 Federal Census

Contents: Same as 1870 plus name of street; house number; relation of each person to head of household; marital status; number of months employed in previous year; whether ill or injured on day of enumeration; birthplaces of father and mother (state or country).

Index: National Archives Soundex on microfilm arranged phonetically by last name, only lists households with children under age of ten. Separate indexes for Custer, Howard, Lincoln, Knox, and Red Willow counties have been published by various local and state organizations. Hall County is printed alphabetically in *The Same Physicist Looks at the 1880 Hall County Census* by Charles G. Robbins (Grand Island, Nebraska: Prairie Pioneer Press, 1984-1985). *Guide to Microfilm* available.

Holdings: Adams, Antelope, Blackbird (Thurston), Boone, Boyd (w/Dakota Territory), Buffalo, Burt, Butler, Cass, Cedar, Chase, Cheyenne, Clay, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dakota, Dawson, Dixon, Dodge, Douglas, Dundy, Fillmore, Franklin, Frontier, Furnas, Gage, Gosper, Greeley, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Holt, Howard, Jefferson, Johnson, Kearney, Keith, Keya Paha (w/Dakota Territory), Knox (w/ Dakota Territory), Lancaster, Lincoln, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Nemaha, Nuckolls, Otoe, Pawnee, Phelps, Pierce, Platte, Polk, Red Willow, Richardson, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward, Sherman, Sioux (including unorganized territory, some of Ft. Laramie, Ft. Robinson, and Camp Sheridan), Stanton, Thayer, Valley (including Ft. Hartsuff), Washington, Wayne, Webster, Wheeler, and York counties and Unorganized Territory of Nebraska.

Format: National Archives produced microfilm. Custer, Hall, Howard, Knox, Lincoln, and Red Willow counties are published as noted in Index section.

1880 State Census

Contents: Same as 1876.

Index: Lancaster County is indexed in *Lancaster County, Nebraska Historical Records, Series 3, Volumes 5, 6, and 7, Deborah Avery Chapter, DAR, July, 1941.*

Holdings: Cass, Lancaster counties.

Format: Cass County, microfilm (RG220); Lancaster County is published as noted in Index

section.

1884 State Census

Contents: Same as 1876.

Index: None.

Holdings: Madison County.

Format: Original (RG251).

1885 State Census

Contents: 1880 Federal census format used.

Index: Dundy and Hitchcock counties were indexed in *Hitchcock County Records* compiled by Paul Riley, Nebraska State Historical Society, May 1972. *Guide to Microfilm* available.

Holdings: Adams, Antelope, Boone, Brown, Buffalo, Burt, Butler, Cass, Cedar, Cherry, Cheyenne, Clay, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dakota, Dawes, Dawson, Dixon, Dodge, Douglas, Dundy, Fillmore, Franklin, Frontier, Furnas, Gage, Garfield, Gosper, Greeley, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Holt, Howard, Jefferson, Johnson, Kearney, Keith, Keya Paha, Knox, Lancaster, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Nemaha, Nuckolls, Otoe, Pawnee, Phelps, Pierce, Platte, Polk, Red Willow, Richardson, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward, Sheridan, Sherman, Sioux, Stanton, Thayer, Valley, Washington, Wayne, Webster, Wheeler, and York counties.

Format: National Archives produced microfilm. Hitchcock and Dundy counties published as noted in Index section.

1890 Federal Census

Holdings: None. This census was destroyed by fire in Washington, D.C., in 1921 and is therefore **NOT AVAILABLE**.

1890 Federal Census (Veterans Census)

Contents: Name of surviving veteran or widow; rank; company; regiment or vessel; date of enlistment; date of discharge; length of service; post office address; disability incurred; and remarks.

Index: *Nebraska 1890 Census (Veterans Census)*, edited by Ronald V. Jackson, North Salt Lake City, Utah; Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1987. Burt, Colfax, Cuming, Saunders, and Washington counties are published in alphabetical order by Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society, 1990. Perkins County has been published in alphabetical order by members of the Nebraska State Genealogical Society. *Guide to Microfilm* available.

Holdings: Same as 1885, plus Arthur, Banner, Blaine, Box Butte, Chase, Deuel, Grant, Hooker, Kimball, McPherson, Perkins, Rock, Scotts Bluff, Thomas, and Thurston counties.

Format: National Archives produced microfilm. Burt, Colfax, Cuming, Perkins, Saunders, and Washington counties published as noted in Index section.

1898 State Census

Contents: Names of members of family including hired help; age (male, female); address (not used); number of voters.

Index: None.

Holdings: Gage County.

Format: Original (RG200).

1900 Federal Census

Contents: Same as 1880, plus month and year of birth; mother of how many children and number of children living; number of years married; year of immigration to U. S.; number of years in U.S.; naturalization; literacy; English speaking; ownership of home.

Index: National Archives Soundex on microfilm, same as 1880 but lists all households. *Guide to Microfilm* available. Published indexes to Hooker, Perkins and Kimball counties are available.

Holdings: All Nebraska counties except Arthur (part of McPherson), Garden (part of Deuel), and Morrill (part of Cheyenne). Hooker, Perkins, and Kimball counties published as noted in Index section.

Format: National Archives produced microfilm. Hooker, Perkins, and Kimball counties published as noted in Index section.

1910 Federal Census

Contents: Same as 1900, plus language spoken; type of industry employed in; unemployed in 1909; if unemployed on 4/15/1910; if a survivor of the Union or Confederate Army or Navy.

Index: No statewide index available. The following counties have separate published indexes compiled by local and state genealogical societies: Douglas (part), Hooker, Johnson, Kearney, Keith, Keya Paha, Kimball, Knox, Lancaster, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, Nemaha, Pawnee, and Perkins counties. *Guide to Microfilm* available.

Holdings: All Nebraska counties.

Format: National Archives produced microfilm. See Index section for separately published county indexes. Street guides to Omaha, Lincoln, and York have been compiled by the History Nebraska Archives staff and volunteers.

1917 State Census

Contents: Name of members of family including hired help; age (male, female); address (not used); number of voters.

Index: None.

Holdings: Cass County.

Format: Original (RG220).

1920 Federal Census

Contents: Name, relationship to head of household; home owned or mortgaged; sex; race; age; marital status; year of immigration; naturalized or alien; year of naturalization birthplace (state or country) of person, father, mother; English speaking; occupation

Index: National Archives Soundex on microfilm; names arranged phonetically by last name, lists all households. *Guide to Microfilm* available.

Holdings: All Nebraska counties.

Format: National Archives produced microfilm.

1930 Federal Census

Contents: Name, relationship to head of household; home owned or rented; sex; color or race; age; marital condition; birthplace (state or country) of person, father, mother; native language; year of immigration; naturalized or alien; occupation; industry; employment; veterans.

Index: National Archives Soundex on microfilm; names arranged phonetically by last name, lists all households. *Guide to Microfilm* available.

Holdings: All Nebraska counties.

Format: National Archives produced microfilm.

1940 Federal Census

The 1940 census was officially released by the National Archives on April 2, 2012. Unlike the release of previous census records on microfilm (you purchased in advance and it was shipped out on the day of release), this was the first census that was "made available as free digital images" at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) (<http://1940census.archives.gov/>). **As of this date, an index for the Nebraska 1940 census has not been completed.** (We will post it when an index is available). You can still follow the instructions at the National Archives website and use the sources they have made available for you to help you locate your family on the census.

The [1940 U.S. Census Community Project](#) is a joint initiative between NARA, [Archives.com](#), [FamilySearch.org](#), [findmypast.com](#), ProQuest (HeritageQuest) and other leading genealogy organizations. Presently, the images for the entire 1940 census are browsable on the Project sites linked in the previous sentence and they are updating continually the availability of indexed states. These partners of NARA have enlisted a community of volunteers to index the census and thereby make a "free index of the census records and corresponding images" that "will be available to the public for perpetuity." [Ancestry.com](#) is indexing the 1940 census, but they have hired commercial keying vendors to index the census.

The Nebraska History Library (NSHS) has 1940 Nebraska city directories and phone books (if they exist) for communities in Nebraska. These publications can help assist you in your research in the census by verifying street addresses for your ancestors who lived in larger communities in the state. The Nebraska Library Commission is posting online [1940 Nebraska White Pages](#) from Nebraska phonebooks.

[Frequently Asked Questions About the 1940 Census](#) has been posted on the NARA website. The Nebraska Library Commission has a web page devoted to the 1940 census that includes a link to another web page on their site titled [Genealogy Sources for Nebraska](#). You might also want to review other genealogical sources that the NSHS Library/Archives has available that might assist you in your 1940 census research that are listed in [A Guide to Genealogical Research at the History Nebraska](#).

If you have questions about the 1940 census for Nebraska, please [contact our Library staff](#).

Note: In addition to these census records, school census records for some counties and dates are available at the Nebraska State Historical Society. These records are generally not indexed, so to use them efficiently you will need to know in what county and precinct a family might have lived at a given time.