Introduction to Genealogy at the National Archives

Claire Kluskens

Claire Kluskens will discuss basic genealogical research techniques using Federal records at the National Archives, including census, immigration, and military service and pension records.

www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair
Claire Kluskens is a genealogical projects archivist specializing in immigration, census, military, and other records of high genealogical value. She spearheaded the completion of more than 330 National Archives microfilm publications, and now works on certain projects for the National Archives Catalog. She lectures frequently and has published extensively in national, state, and local genealogical publications. Claire has been a National Archives staff member since 1992 and has done genealogical research since 1976.
Getting Started on Your Research

An Introduction to Using Records in the National Archives

Claire Kluskens
2016
A Look Back .... to the 1970s
A Look Back …. to the 1970s
A Look Back .... to the 1970s
A Look Back .... to 1990–2000

Email address!

World Wide Web!
Today... Plethora of websites

- Ancestry.com
- FamilySearch.org
- Fold3.com
- GenealogyBank.com
- HeritageQuest.com
- Newspapers.com

PUBLIC LIBRARY WEBSITES

STATE ARCHIVES WEBSITES

NATIONAL ARCHIVES WEBSITES
Successful Research Requires

- Careful logical reasoning and analysis
- Understanding
  - the records
  - the purpose of the records
  - the context in which the records were created
- “A reasonably exhaustive search for all relevant records”
And yet….

- **Billions of records that are NOT online**
  - Federal Government
  - State Government
  - Local Government
  - Private Organizations

- The **KEY to solving brick wall problems may be in records that are not online**
Suggestions for Success

- Think outside the box
  - Beyond Census and Vital Records
  - Beyond “Online”

- Cite Your Sources Fully
  - “1900 census” is not useful
  - “John A. Adams household, Harrison Twp., Knox Co., Indiana, E.D. 1, Sheet 1A, Family 1, 1900 Census” tells you exactly where the information came from
Suggestions for Success

- **Research Collateral Lines**
  - Records about other family members may have the information you need
  - Help you work around brick walls
Suggestions for Success

- **Never Ignore Friends, Neighbors, and Associations (FANs)**
  - People migrated with their FANs to new locations
  - People migrated to new locations because FANs were already there
  - FANs may be relatives
Suggestions for Success

- Do a literature search
- Genealogical Publications
- National Societies
- State Genealogical Societies
- Local Genealogical Societies
Suggestions for Success

- Do a literature search
  - State Historical Society Publications
  - Specialized historical publications
  - InternetArchive.com
  - Hathitrust.com
  - Google Books
Suggestions for Success

- Understand the Geography
  - Lots of maps online at various websites
  - Catalog.archives.gov
    - 1940 and 1950 Census Enumeration District Maps
  - Other Maps
Suggestions for Success

- **Keep a Research Log**
  - (1) What you looked at and found something in
  - (2) What you looked at and didn’t find something in
  - **Why?**
    - Don’t repeat yourself
    - Negative evidence is as useful (although more frustrating) as positive evidence
    - Keep yourself focused
Suggestions for Success

- **Keep a Research Log**

  - **Success**
    - Found 1848 declaration of intent for Mark Spinbottle in Barnacle Co., Massachusetts, Naturalization Records, Vol. 1, p. 20
    - Found Mark Spinbottle family in 1850 census, Lobster Point, Barnacle Co., Massachusetts, p. 5

  - **Failures**
    - Did not find Mark Spinbottle in passenger lists of vessels arriving at Boston, 1820-1891 on [website]
    - Did not find Mark Spinbottle in 1860 census in Barnacle Co., Massachusetts, on [website]
Suggestions for Success

- **Make a Timeline - here's a basic one**
  - 1838 - born
  - 1840 - father enumerated in census at ___ (location)
  - 1850 - enumerated in father’s family in census at __
  - 1859 - married [name]; marriage record in ___ County
  - 1860 - enumerated as head of household in census at __
  - 1863 - enlisted in Civil War in 1st Ohio Infantry
  - 1865 - discharged from service
  - 1870 - enumerated in census at __
  - 1880 - enumerated in census at __
  - 1881 - wife dies, buried at __
  - 1900 - enumerated in census at __
  - 1907 - died; death record in ___ County
Suggestions for Success

ONLINE

- Use Google and other online search engines at least annually

- Use the National Archives Catalog at catalog.archives.gov at least annually – more than 40 million catalog entries and growing
Suggestions for Success

OFFLINE

- Step away from the computer
- Go to your public library – use its resources
- Go to research facilities with actual records and microfilm copies of records
- Go to the places your ancestors lived
  - Go to the local libraries
  - Go to the local genealogical and historical societies
  - See where they lived; where they are buried
Read and Learn More History

- Geography - boundary and name changes
- Economics
- Politics
- Social factors
- Religion
- Weather
- and other forces shaped our ancestors lives.

Tornado, Scottsbluff, Nebraska, 1955. NAID 283875
Begin with Yourself

- **First, Get Organized, Get Your Tools**
  - Box or Binder
  - Full-sized paper or notebooks
  - Pencils, pens, pencil sharpener, stapler.
  - Four- or five-generation ancestor chart
  - Family group sheets
  - Genealogy computer program? or word processing program
Begin with Yourself

- Fill out your ancestor chart
Begin with Yourself

- Fill out a family group sheet for each ancestor and each ancestor’s siblings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Husband</strong></th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Occupation(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Born</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Immigration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Christened</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Naturalization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Died</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Military Service</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Buried</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cause of Death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Married</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Date of Will</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Father</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Other Marriages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mother</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Wife (maiden name)</strong></th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Occupation(s)</th>
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<td><strong>Born</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Immigration</td>
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<td><strong>Died</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Buried</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cause of Death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Father</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Date of Will</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mother</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Other Marriages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Information/Records (i.e. Census, Passports, etc...)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

National Archives and Records Administration  
NARA’s website is [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)  
NA Form 14135 (2/13)
Begin with Yourself

Organize any “old family papers” you may have:
- Certificates of birth, marriage, death.
- Newspaper death notices.
- Military papers, Social Security Cards,
- Photographs, everything....
Interview Your Relatives

- Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins….

- They may know names, dates, places, family stories.

- They may have “old family records” pertinent to your ancestors.

- Stories, family traditions, “life in the olden days”
Starting points

- Collect basic facts
  - Names of ancestors, their siblings, other relatives
  - Dates of birth, marriage, death, divorce
  - Places of birth, marriage, death, divorce
  - Occupation
  - Military service
  - Other biographical details
Linking it all Together

Name plus some additional fact that links him or her to a specific geographic location or event on a specific date.

AND the source of that information.

Name by itself is not enough.
Why Knowing the Source is Important...

Fred T. Brown
Death certificate .... Died 1921
Gravestone .......... Died 1922
Why Knowing the Source is Important…

Sarah M. Presley Hayford
Death record...... Died 2 Apr. 1902
Newspaper....... Died 3 Apr. 1902
Join Genealogical Societies

- National Genealogical Society
- Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society
- State genealogical societies: the state in which you live, and the states in which your ancestors lived
- County genealogical societies: county in which you live and counties in which your ancestors lived
- Historical societies
Why Join Genealogical Societies?

- **Publications**
  - Articles useful to you
  - Vehicle for you to publish in
- **Information about the area**
  - History, records, research facilities, more
- **Networking**
- **Education** - conferences, classes, etc.
Publish or Your Research Perishes!

- Publications by Genealogical Societies:
  - County
  - State
  - National

- Self-publish.
  - Write up your family story - do it well.
  - Make sure copies of your “book” are with other family members, libraries where your family lived, libraries with “national” collections
Learn How to Do Genealogy Right

- Borrow books from your public library on how to do genealogy, relevant aspects of history, and so forth
- Take genealogy classes
- Follow the research standards recommended by the National Genealogical Society
Do Research in Real Records

- Federal
- State
- County
- Libraries: books, microfilmed records, more!
- Other: cemeteries, churches, funeral homes, private organizations
Federal Records (NARA)

- Census: 1790–1940
- Military Service Records, Pension Records, Unit Records, World War I and II Draft Registration Cards
- Immigration Records: 1820–1950s, entry at sea or land border ports of arrival
- Naturalization Records
- Many other possibilities
Doing Research in Archival Records: The “misspelled name”

- The name may not be spelled as you expect to find it.
  - The “ear” test:
    - What did the census taker (or other record keeper think was said?
    - Probably didn’t ask how it was spelled.
The misspelled name

- Martin Prechtel, age 85, living in his daughter’s household in 1910, was enumerated in the census as....
The misspelled name

Martin Prechtel, age 85, living in his daughter’s household in 1910, was enumerated as….

Martin Rechtel
The misspelled name

Martin Prechtel, age 85, living in his daughter’s household in 1910, was enumerated as... Martin Rechtel

...or was he?

A case for studying the record thoroughly to make your own independent judgment ....
The misspelled name

Martin Prechtel, age 85, living in his daughter’s household in 1910, was enumerated as….

Indexed as

- Martin Rechtel, Census Bureau’s soundex
- Martine Rechter, Ancestry.com
- Martin Richtel, HeritageQuest.com
- Martin Richtel, FamilySearch.org
The misspelled name

Martin Prechtel, age 85, living in his daughter’s household in 1910, was enumerated as....
The misspelled name

Martin Prechtel, age 85, living in his daughter’s household in 1910, was enumerated as....
The misspelled name

PRECHTEL ... as

Brechtel, Bregkel, Brickel, ....

Prichtel, Prechtl....
The misspelled name

Westum .... Western, Weston

Hayford .... Hefford, Hafford, Heyford

Siml .... Symel, Chimel
The misspelled name

1810 census, Rutland Co., Vermont

William McCullar .... as ....

William McAlley

Took me 30 years to find him ... using evidence from other records.
Census, 1790–1940

- Start with 1940 and work backwards
- Find everyone in the entire extended family in every census
  - To get a complete picture of the family
  - Work yourself around brick walls
- Indexes (computer or in book form) have mistakes.
Census, 1790–1930

- What do you do when you “can’t” find the person using an index?
  - Try spelling the name a different way
  - Use “brute force” -- If you know where the person lived, read the microfilm for that town/township/village/district, etc., page by page, line by line.
Census, 1790–1930

- Census is arranged geographically
  - By state
  - Then by county
  - Then by local jurisdiction
Census, 1790–1940

- 1870–1940: Every person listed by name
  - Name
  - Age & gender
  - Race
  - Marital Status
  - Occupation
  - Birthplace
  - 1880-1930: birthplace of parents
  - & more
Census, 1790–1940

- 1850–1860: Every free person listed by name
  - Name
  - Age & gender
  - Race
  - Marital status
  - Occupation
  - Birthplace
Census, 1790–1940

- 1850–1860 Slave Schedules
  - Name of slave owner
  - List of slaves by age and gender: few names
Census, 1790–1940

- 1790–1840: Name of head of household
  - All household members listed by gender and age categories: no names
  - Slave would be part of master’s household
Sample Census Search for an African-American Family in Autauga Co., Alabama
Sample Search: “Jese” Washington Family - 1930


- Jese, 63
- Ella, 58
- Harry, 17
- Dotty, 16
- Betty, 15
- Arch, 14
- Quince, 13
- plus Albert Walter, grandson, 14
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place of Abode</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relation</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>State of Birth</th>
<th>Mother's Name</th>
<th>Father's Name</th>
<th>OCCUPATION</th>
<th>OCCUPATION</th>
<th>OCCUPATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Farm Labor</td>
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<td>Wife</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>White</td>
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<td>Farmer</td>
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<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Morgan</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Farm Labor</td>
<td>Farm Labor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Bob</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Farm Labor</td>
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<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Bob</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>M</td>
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<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Bob</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>M</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Alice</td>
<td>Daughter</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Farm Labor</td>
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<td>Daughter</td>
<td>F</td>
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<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Farm Labor</td>
<td>Farm Labor</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1930 Census Image
Sample Search: Joe Washington Family –1920

1920: Washington, Autauga County, Alabama. T625, Roll 1, E.D. 3:

- Joe, 45
- Ella, 40
- Ida, 24
- Anna, 16
- Eddie, 15
- Foster, 14
- Lula, 12
- William, 10
- Harry, 9
- Dollie, 8
- Bomista [?], 6
- Archie, 5
- Quincy, 3
- Albert, 4, “step son”

Notice: Parents are 45 & 40 instead of expected 53 & 48
1920 Census Image
Sample Search: Joe Washington Family – 1910

Washington, Autauga County, Alabama. T624, Roll 1, E.D. 3:

- Joe, 36
- Ella, 35
- Ida L., 13
- Clarence, 12
- Anna, 9
- Eddie, 7
- Foster, 5
- Lula, 3
- William, 2
- Harrie, 9/12

Note: Parents are 36 & 35 instead of the “expected” 35 & 30
Sample Search: Joe Washington Family – 1900

Washington, Autauga County, Alabama. T623, Roll 1, E.D. 3:

- Joe, Sept. 1869 (30)
- Ella, Jan. 1878 (22)
- Clarence, July 1898 (2)
- Idalee, July 1897 (3)
- George, Sept. 1899 (8/12)
### 1900 Census Image

#### Schedule No. 1 - Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relation</th>
<th>Personal Description</th>
<th>Nativity</th>
<th>Citizenship</th>
<th>Occupation, Trade, or Profession</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Turner John</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Turner James</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Turner George</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>Turner Martha</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Turner Sarah</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**State:** AL
**County:** Washington

Enumerated by: Jane Virginia Smith, Enumerator

Day of June, 1900
Sample Search: Joe Washington Family – 1890

- Sorry. Almost no census. Most destroyed due to 1921 fire in Commerce Department Building.

- Very little remains.
With the information I had, I tried online indexes, but did not find him. He must be on the census somewhere. Strategies:

- Use the Alabama soundex (microfilm index)
- Search Autauga County line by line.
- May be in a different county.
- Have to use other records to find parents & origins, or siblings....
Sample Search: Joe Washington – now back to 1880

- Issues:
  - He should be a son in someone’s household.
  - Age range is variable based on later censuses:
    - 1880: Age ? – somewhere between 5 and 13
    - 1900: Age 30 (Sept. 1869)
    - 1910: Age 36 (1874)
    - 1920: Age 45 (1875)
    - 1930: Age 63 (1867)
Joe Washington’s wife

- Autauga County Marriage Records
- Vol. 9, Page 408
- Joe Washington to Ella Livingston (1895)
- Be sure to get copy of original record; may have more information than what is online.
Joe Washington’s wife

### Autauga County, Alabama
Index To Marriage Records

Compiled By: Larry W. Nobles

Additional information may be acquired from:
- Autauga Genealogical Society
  Post Office Box 668
  Prattville, Alabama 36067-0668
- Autauga County Heritage Association
  Post Office Box 178
  Prattville, Alabama 36067-0178

### Search Results:

Entries matching "washington"

If no names are listed below here, then none were found.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>SPOUSE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>BK</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WASHINGTON, ARON</td>
<td>TATUM, SALLIE</td>
<td>15 DEC 1875</td>
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<td>WASHINGTON, CALLIE</td>
<td>CREWS, WILLIE</td>
<td>29 DEC 1892</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>WASHINGTON, CUBIT</td>
<td>WRIGHT, HATTIE</td>
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<td>GOLDEN, ELLA</td>
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<td>21 Oct 1874</td>
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<td>HUNTER, ARINA</td>
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<td>12 Feb 1880</td>
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<td>WASHINGTON, GEO.</td>
<td>DUBOSE, HATTIE</td>
<td>3 May 1890</td>
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<td>PORTER, COMFORT</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>DRAKE, MARY ANN</td>
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<td>DRAKE, MARY ANN</td>
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<td>LIVINGSTON, ELLA</td>
<td>14 Feb 1895</td>
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<td>DEJARNETTE, MATILDA</td>
<td>13 Dec 1868</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>WASHINGTON, LONALLA</td>
<td>GOLDSMITH, CHARLIE</td>
<td>10 Jun 1895</td>
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</table>
Joe Washington's wife's family

Autauga County, Alabama
Index To Marriage Records

Compiled By: Larry W. Nobles

Additional information may be acquired from:
Autauga Genealogical Society
Post Office Box 668
Prattville, Alabama 36067-0668

Autauga County Heritage Association
Post Office Box 178
Prattville, Alabama 36067-0178

Search Results:
Entries matching "livingston"

If no names are listed below here, then none were found.

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Ella Livingston’s family – 1880

- Issues: We’re working with little information. Likely in Autauga County.

- Ella’s age range is variable based on later censuses:
  - 1880: Age ? – between 2 and 8 years old.
  - 1900: Age 33 (1878)
  - 1910: Age 35 (1875)
  - 1920: Age 40 (1880)
  - 1930: Age 58 (1872)
Ella Livingston’s family – 1880

Prattville, Autauga County, Alabama, T9, Roll 1, E.D. 2. Likely match:

- Hill Livingston, age 45
- Mary, 30
- Melissa, 16
- George, 12
- Archie, 12
- Clara, 11
- Hilliard, 7
- Ella, 6
- Edgar, 3
- Hattie, 6 months

“Hill” is likely short for Hilliard.
1880 Census Image

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<th>Relationship</th>
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Ella Livingston’s family – 1870


- Where’s his wife and children?
### 1870 Census Image (1)

#### Schedule 1: Inhabitants

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**Post Office:** Prattville

**County:** Alabama

**State:** Alabama

**In the County of Alabama, State of Alabama, enumerated by me on the 15th day of June 1870.**

**William P. Johnson, Asst. Marshal.**
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Ella Livingston’s family – 1870

Beat No. 5, Autauga County, Alabama, M593, Roll 1.

- Alexander, Mary, age 30
- Alexander, Malissa, 6
- Alexander, George, 3
- Alexander, Arch, 3
- Alexander, “Clarence,” 9/12 (Sept. 1869)
- Livingston, Hilliard, age 33
Military Service Records and Military Pension Records, ca. 1775-ca. 1906

- Revolutionary War
- War of 1812
- Civil War
- Miscellaneous wars
- Indian Wars
- Spanish-American War
- Philippine Insurrection
Military Service Records

- Indexed by War, then by name
- Provides basic facts & possibly more
  - Name
  - Age
  - Location of enlistment & how long
  - Unit(s) in which served & rank(s)
  - Basic information about his service
Military Service Records

McUllar, William
15 Massachusetts Regiment
(Revolutionary War)

Card Numbers:
1 3559 4158
2 4182
3 6242
4 6346
5 6372
6 5312
7 74912
8 118179
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27

Number of personal papers herein: 6
Book Mark: 436786
See also

Appears on
Company Muster Roll
of the organization named above for the month
of April 1778.
Roll dated April 2, 1778.
Appointed: 1778
Commissioned: 1778
Enlisted: 1778
Term of enlistment: 3 yrs.
Time since last muster or enlistment: 
Alterations since last muster: 
Casualties: 
Remarks: 

Handwritten Notes:
Military Service Record
Original Record copied to Record Card

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Note: The table continues with more entries, and the page includes additional information at the top and bottom.
Military Pension Records, ca. 1775-ca. 1916

- Indexed
  - Revolutionary War
  - War of 1812
  - “Old Wars”
  - Civil War & later

- More details about service, family members (widow and dependent children), medical condition
World War I and II Draft Registration Cards

- World War I: All men age 18-45 (whether or not they served)
  - Three different types of cards (information content varies)
  - Name, date & place of birth, occupation & employer, next of kin & their address, physical description

- World War II (whether or not they served)
  - 1st- 3rd Registrations - beginning to go online on Fold3.com
  - 4th Registration (“old men”), age 45 & up
World War II Draft Registration Card – 1942

The Fourth Registration, often referred to as the "old man's registration," was conducted on 27 April 1942 and registered men who born on or between 28 April 1877 and 16 February 1897 - men who were between 45 and 64 years old - who were not already in the military.
Immigration Records

- Ship Passenger Arrival Records, 1820–1957
- Land Border (Canada): 1895–1950s
- Land Border (Mexico): 1903–1950s
Immigration Records

- Ship Passenger Arrival Records, 1820–1957

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<tr>
<td>Samuel Garcia</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Cuba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ana Rodriguez</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Page 1
## Norddeutscher Lloyd, Bremen, Steamship Company

**LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN IMMIGRANTS FOR THE COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION.**

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, under Act of Congress approved March 3, 1893, to be delivered to the Commissioner of Immigration by the Commanding officer of any vessel having such passengers on board upon arrival at a port in the United States.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. on List</th>
<th>Name in Full</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Married or Single</th>
<th>Calling or Occupation</th>
<th>Able to Read or Write</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Last Residence</th>
<th>Respect for landing in the United States</th>
<th>First disembarkation in the United States (State, City or Town)</th>
<th>Whether naturalized in the United States and if so, when and where</th>
<th>Whether going to join a relative, and if so, whose name and address</th>
<th>Whether going to engage in business or skilled occupation</th>
<th>Whether under an agreement to labor for hire or wages</th>
<th>Whether under the care of a parent or guardian</th>
<th>Condition of Health, Mental and Physical</th>
<th>Whether a Convict or a Drunkard</th>
<th>Number List</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Steiner, Charles</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Farm Laborer</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>344,000 for landing in the United States</td>
<td>Bremen, Maryland</td>
<td>No, arrived in Bremen on 22 Aug. 1908</td>
<td>No, arrived in Bremen on 22 Aug. 1908</td>
<td>Yes, arrived in Bremen on 22 Aug. 1908</td>
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<td>Arrived in Bremen on 22 Aug. 1908</td>
<td>Arrived in Bremen on 22 Aug. 1908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Steiner, Caroline</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Farm Laborer</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>344,000 for landing in the United States</td>
<td>Bremen, Maryland</td>
<td>No, arrived in Bremen on 22 Aug. 1908</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Steiner, John</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Farm Laborer</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>344,000 for landing in the United States</td>
<td>Bremen, Maryland</td>
<td>No, arrived in Bremen on 22 Aug. 1908</td>
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<td>Arrived in Bremen on 22 Aug. 1908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Steiner, Mary</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Farm Laborer</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>344,000 for landing in the United States</td>
<td>Bremen, Maryland</td>
<td>No, arrived in Bremen on 22 Aug. 1908</td>
<td>No, arrived in Bremen on 22 Aug. 1908</td>
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<td>Arrived in Bremen on 22 Aug. 1908</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Immigration Records

- Land Border (Canada): 1895–1950s
- Land Border (Mexico): 1903–1950s
Naturalization Records

- The process of becoming a citizen

- Two steps:
  - Declare Intent to become a citizen (2 yrs.)

  - Petition for naturalization (3 yrs.)
Other Federal Records

- What relationship did your relatives have with the Federal Government?

- Postmaster
- Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
- Freedman’s Savings & Trust (Freedman’s Bank)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (Cherokee freedmen)
- Southern Claims Commission
- & more
State Records

- Vital Records

Birth and death records kept at the state level, since the early 1900s, with copy at the county level.
County Records

- Vital records: birth, marriage, death, divorce
- Land records: deeds, mortgages, taxes
- Court records: naturalization, probate, litigation, criminal justice
- Voter registration
- Other
Libraries

- Microfilmed original records
- Newspapers (microfilmed) for death notices, obituaries, news stories, etc.
- Books for compiled records, histories, genealogies, and more
Keep Researching

- There’s always more to learn about your family.
- Stay organized!
- Keep writing your family’s history as you go along! (Don’t wait for “someday”)
- Remember that names are not always spelled how you expect to find them.
- Different records may give conflicting information.
- “Google” often
Thank You!

- National Archives (NARA)
  archives.gov
- NARA genealogy
  archives.gov/genealogy/topics
- NARA Catalog of Records
  catalog.archives.gov

Mennonite Farm, Haskell, Kansas. April 1941.
NAID 522088. catalog.archives.gov
Presenter didn’t get to your question?

You may email us at inquire@nara.gov