

Who Was Your Earliest Ancestor to . . . ?

Fill in the Blank. A Look at History through What your
Ancestors Experienced or Knew

Charlestown Genealogy Society

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Looking at history through what
your ancestors experienced or
knew

<https://www.marist.edu/mindset-list>

1. Timelines: Beloit Mindset
2. Censuses

Mindset

- The Mindset List project extends back to a list created at Beloit College in 1997 showcasing an annual assessment of the event horizons of eighteen-year-olds. It has come out each August since then. Now it is moved from Beloit to Marist College and continues.

<https://www.marist.edu/mindset-list>

Mindset

- The mindset approach is a good way at looking at how fleeting experiences are. What we may think everyone knows because we have experienced it may not be in the knowledge base of someone born 20 or 40 or 60 years later.
- For instance, in the 2019 list, no one entering college that year --- (next slide)

<https://www.marist.edu/mindset-list>

- Entering College **Class of 2023** - Born in 2001 the incoming class of college students never shared the earth with Joey Ramone, George Harrison, Timothy McVeigh, or Ken Kesey.
- Like Pearl Harbor for their grandparents, and the Kennedy assassination for their parents, 9/11 is an historical event.
- Thumb, jump, and USB flash drives have always pushed floppy disks further into history.
- The primary use of a phone has always been to take pictures.
- The Tech Big Four--Apple, Facebook, Amazon and Google -- are to them what the Big Three automakers were to their grandparents.

2009 Beloit Mindset List (Class of 2013)

- They identify with websites more than with states or religions.
- They're the first generation in half a century to ask legitimately, "What Berlin Wall?"
- Few of them have ever "written" a letter.
- They can't figure out why anyone would bother to print out a whole set of encyclopedias.
- They've never actually "dialed" a telephone.

Class of 1898 – Women have always ridden bicycles

Class of 1918: Rum Has Always Been Demonic

Class of 1931: They Have Always Been Spoiled by Zippers

Class of 1944: The Shadow has always known

Class of 1957: Fluoride Has Always Been Controversial

Class of 1970: Magazines have always been Mad

Class of 1983: There has always been the Grateful Dead

Class of 1996: Michelangelo has always been a turtle

Born 1880 (Class of 1902)

Members of this class were born in 1880. If they graduated from high school, they would have done so in 1898. If they attended college (very unlikely), they would have finished in 1902.

Members of this class include Douglas MacArthur, W. C. Fields (born William Claude Dukenfield), and Helen Keller. English novelist George Eliot. President James Garfield; James Whistler's mother, Anna; and desperado Billy the Kid have always been dead.

Walt

McBride, Tom. *The Mindset Lists of American History: From Typewriters to Text Messages, What Ten Generations of Americans Think Is Normal* (pp. 7-8). Turner Publishing Company. Kindle Edition.

Born 1880 (continued)

1. Youngsters their age have always had a one in ten chance of graduating from high school.
2. When away on business, their fathers might have sneaked off to enjoy “Ruby Lips” or “Tantalizing Torsos” at the local burlesque establishment.
3. Their parents could go to the Bowery Theater to see Nellie, the Beautiful Cloak Model, then stay and have a drink with the actors.
4. Their elders have never thought darkened theaters were morally acceptable.
5. Most kids their age have left school, having gone to work at around the age of fourteen.

Born 1880 (continued)

6. They've always heard about buffalo chips being used out West for fuel.
7. Sectional rivalries between North and South, East and West, have always been spreading like bumper crops.
8. They've always been eating steak butchered in Chicago from Texas "dogies."
9. Lone cowboys have always been turning into corporate "ranch hands."
10. Dodge City is losing its reputation as a wild and woolly cow town.

Census as source of information

Census Questions through the Decades:

[https://www.census.gov/history/www/through the decades/index of questions/](https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/index_of_questions/)

- **Census Bureau measured phone use earlier, but it wasn't until 1889 that the Census Bureau counted the number of homes with telephones in the United States. There were 449,861 phones in the U.S.**
- **Mar 10, 1876.**
First Phone Ever. Alexander Graham Bell creates the first **phone**. ...
- **Jul 2, 1877.**
Bell Telephone Company.
...

Telephones



Mining the Censuses

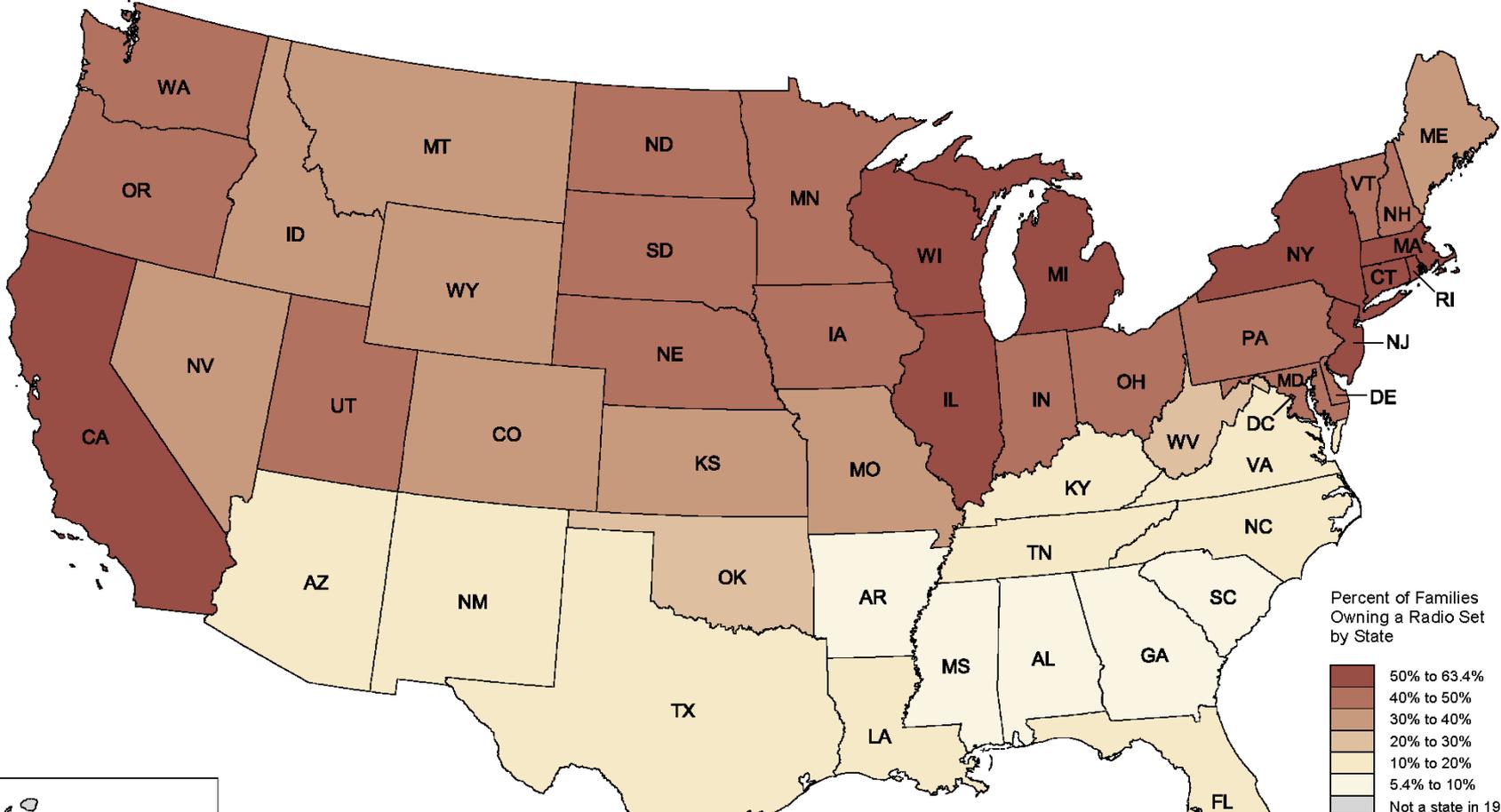
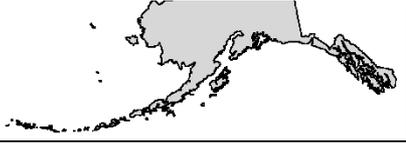
- First censuses counted the population and provided information on population by county. In 1790, the census also categorized white males by age: those under age 16 and those age 16 and older.
- The 1810 Census also collected economic data (on the quantity and value of manufactured goods).
- In 1850, the census began collecting "social statistics" (information about taxes, education, crime, and value of estate, etc.) and mortality data. Beginning in 1850, all members of the household were named on the census. First slave schedules included.

- In 1940, additional questions were asked of a sample of the population, including questions on internal migration, veteran status, and the number of children ever born to women. These questions helped society understand the impact of the Great Depression.
- Through the decades, the census has collected data on race, ancestry, education, health, housing, and transportation. An examination of the questions asked during each census illustrates changes in our nation's understanding of race, the impact of immigration, growth of the Hispanic population, and computer usage.

1930 Census – Lists Radio under Home Data

Steuterand Raymond J.	Head	R. Wm.	R.	9/10	M	W.	52	M	29	No	410	
-	Caris G	Wife-H			v	F	W.	43	M	20	No	410
-	Hope	Daughter			v	F	W.	19	J.		410	410
-	Barbara	Daughter			v	F	W.	17	J		410	410
-	Judith G.	Daughter			v	F	W.	9	J		410	
-	Raymond H.	Son.			v	M	W.	6	J.		410	

Radio Set Ownership 1930



Percent of Families Owning a Radio Set by State

- 50% to 63.4%
- 40% to 50%
- 30% to 40%
- 20% to 30%
- 10% to 20%
- 5.4% to 10%
- Not a state in 1930

1940 Census – Housing Occupied Dwellings

13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
Number of rooms	Water supply	Toilet facilities	Bathub or shower with running water in structure	Principal lighting equip't	Principal refrigeration equip't	Radio in dwelling unit?	Heating equipment	Principal fuel used for heating	Principal fuel used for cooking		
	Running water in dwelling unit... <input type="checkbox"/> 1	Flush toilet in str., excl. use <input type="checkbox"/> 1	Exclu- sive use... <input type="checkbox"/> 1	Elec- tric <input type="checkbox"/> 1	Mechan- ical <input type="checkbox"/> 1	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1	Steam or hot water system... <input type="checkbox"/> 1	Coal or coke... <input type="checkbox"/> 1	Fuel oil... <input type="checkbox"/> 5	Coal or coke... <input type="checkbox"/> 1	Ker. or gasol... <input type="checkbox"/> 6
	Hand pump in dwelling unit... <input type="checkbox"/> 2	Flush toilet in str., shared... <input type="checkbox"/> 2	Shar- ed... <input type="checkbox"/> 2	Gas <input type="checkbox"/> 2	Ice <input type="checkbox"/> 2	No <input type="checkbox"/> 0	Piped warm air system... <input type="checkbox"/> 2	Wood... <input type="checkbox"/> 2	Ker. or gasol... <input type="checkbox"/> 6	Wood <input type="checkbox"/> 2	Other... <input type="checkbox"/> 7
	Running water within 50 ft... <input type="checkbox"/> 3	Nonflush toilet in structure... <input type="checkbox"/> 3	None... <input type="checkbox"/> 3	Ker. gasol... <input type="checkbox"/> 3	Other <input type="checkbox"/> 3		Pipeless warm air furnace... <input type="checkbox"/> 3	Gas... <input type="checkbox"/> 3	Other <input type="checkbox"/> 7	Gas... <input type="checkbox"/> 3	None... <input type="checkbox"/> 8
B	Other supply within 50 ft... <input type="checkbox"/> 4	Outside toilet or privy... <input type="checkbox"/> 4					Heating stove... <input type="checkbox"/> 4	Electric... <input type="checkbox"/> 4	None... <input type="checkbox"/> 8	Electric... <input type="checkbox"/> 4	C
	No water supply within 50 ft... <input type="checkbox"/> 5	No toilet or privy... <input type="checkbox"/> 5		Other <input type="checkbox"/> 4	None <input type="checkbox"/> 4		Other or none... <input type="checkbox"/> 5				

[https://www.census.gov/history/www/through the decades/index of questions/1940 housing.html](https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/index_of_questions/1940_housing.html)

- 1950 Census – Asks both Radio and TV questions
- 1960 Census – Question re telephone available where resident(s) can be called

Census Image Gallery

The Census Bureau's collection of historic photographs includes images of enumerators, advertising, household scenes, buildings, and technology. In these image galleries, you will find that the Census Bureau frequently documented its operations for counting the population, its work at headquarters, and the invention of tabulating technology. Included are images of pottery celebrating the first census in 1790, questionnaires, artwork, maps, enumerators at work.

Census Taker at Work



Other Approaches to Look at What your Ancestors Lived Through

- What wars did your ancestors live through?
- What famines or economic turmoil did your ancestors experience?
- What epidemics or pandemics did your ancestors live through?

Q&A

- Charlestown Genealogy Club:
<https://walthowe.com/genclub/>
- Walt – walt@walthowe.com
- Hope – hope@hopetillman.com

Epidemics and Pandemics in the U.S.

<http://www.joycetice.com/articles/epidemics.htm>