

Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace

multiple pages, you should cite inclusive page numbers for the whole household and specify the page on which your person of interest appears.

6.7 Citing Line Numbers

If the census does not identify a household by dwelling and family number (as with the 1790–1840 U.S. decennial censuses, for example), then your citation should include the line number for the household as well as the page number. When you do cite dwelling and family numbers, adding a line number is superfluous.

Note: NARA Style citations, discussed at 6.14 and more extensively in Chapter 11, call for citing line numbers rather than family or dwelling numbers, reflecting an expectation that researchers are interested only in individuals. Census pages, however, do not always have line numbers, and history researchers appraise census data in the context of *households* and *families*, rather than isolating individuals from those with whom they lived.

6.8 Citing Page, Folio, or Sheet Numbers

Census citations should always include the specific page for the item of interest. Across time, you will find censuses paginated in many ways—often multiple ways within the same record. The most common systems are these:

FOLIO NUMBERS (RECTO & VERSO)

Typically, folio numbers appear on just one side of a sheet, usually the right side. When you record a folio number, you will need to note whether you are referring to the front or back side. You may use the classic terms *recto* (front) and *verso* (reverse side) if you choose, or you may cite “folio 32 (front)” or “folio 32 (back).” You could simply say “page 32 (front)” or “page 32 (back),” even though the page is technically a folio. Any of these methods will serve the basic purpose of clearly identifying where you found that census entry.

FOLIO/SHEET NUMBERS (A, B, C, D)

Folios originated as large sheets of paper folded to create four sides, or some other multiple of four, that might later be bound. When these folios were used for census data, all sides of the sheet usually carried the same arabic number, with an added A, B, C, or D, etc., on each individual sheet. When you encounter this situation, you should use both the number and the letter—e.g., page 349-C.

FRAME NUMBER vs. PAGE NUMBERS

If no page numbers are visible on a filmed census image, you should check the borders of the microfilm to see if frame numbers are imprinted there. If so, the frame number on the film itself will serve as a means by which the unnumbered census page can be located. Conversely, if pages carry their own numbers, you do not have to record the film's frame number. When you do cite a frame number, you should clearly identify it as a *frame* number and attach it to the part of the citation that identifies the film, not the portion that cites the original census.

PENNED NUMBERS vs. STAMPED NUMBERS

Many census pages carry more than one set of page numbers. For U.S. federal censuses, enumerators carried loose sheets on their rounds and numbered them as they used them. After they submitted copies to the Census Bureau, those copies were bound into volumes that contained the returns of several enumerators, each of whom had already numbered their pages. The Bureau then created a consecutive numbering scheme for the whole volume. Typically, the Bureau's number will be stamped, while the original number will be penned.

When a census has both penned and stamped numbers, your citation will need to state which number you are referencing. If you simply cite "p. 39" for a particular entry and that census contains more than one page 39 (particularly in large jurisdictions), your entry may take considerable time to relocate. Specifying "p. 39 (penned)" or "p. 487 (stamped)" eliminates confusion. See also 6.20, Citing Page Numbers.

SHEET NUMBERS (BY ENUMERATION DISTRICT)

Beginning in 1880, U.S. censuses divided counties and cities into enumeration districts (EDs). The census forms are typically printed, with "Page ____" or "Sheet ____" appearing in a top corner, and each ED starts its numbering with page or sheet 1. If you choose to cite the page or sheet number that corresponds to an enumeration district, rather than a stamped page number, you should (a) use the exact term *sheet* or *page*, whichever appears for that year, and (b) place that number immediately *after the ED number to which it belongs*.

WEBSITE IMAGE NUMBERS

Online providers of census images may assign an image number that is different from any of the page numbers above. Citing the image number is not advised. Those can change when a website is reorganized or more material is imaged.