

Ivy Room for Genealogy and Local History

Genealogy 102: Census Records Online



Oconee County Library

Athens Regional Library System

1080 Experiment Station Road ♦ Watkinsville, GA 30677 ♦ 706-769-3950
Sarah Colombo November, 2011

I. Census Records and Social Security Death Index

A. Census Records

The U. S. government has conducted a census of each state and territory every ten years since 1790 for the purpose of apportioning representatives to the lower house of Congress.

To protect the privacy of those listed in the census, the records are restricted for seventy-two years after the census is taken. Records cannot be released to anyone except the named individuals, their heirs (on proof of death), or their legal representatives. The 1930 Census is the most recently available Census, and the 1940 Census is to be released in 2012.

B. Social Security Death Index

The Social Security Death Index (SSDI) is a database of people whose deaths were reported to the Social Security Administration (SSA) beginning around 1962. It was created from the Social Security Administration's Death Master File. You will not find everyone who died from 1962 to the present, but it does list many deaths in that time frame, especially in more recent years (particularly from the late 1980s to the present). It is close to being a national death index for the United States. If you find someone listed in the Social Security Death Index you can usually order a copy of the form they filled out when they applied for a Social Security Card (SS-5 form) for a fee.

- You can search the Social Security Death Index through Ancestry.com, and print a letter to request an official copy of the individual's Social Security application. You can also electronically request and pay online by going to this site: http://genealogy.about.com/od/online_records/a/ss5_request.htm and choosing "Request for deceased individual's social security record SS-5."

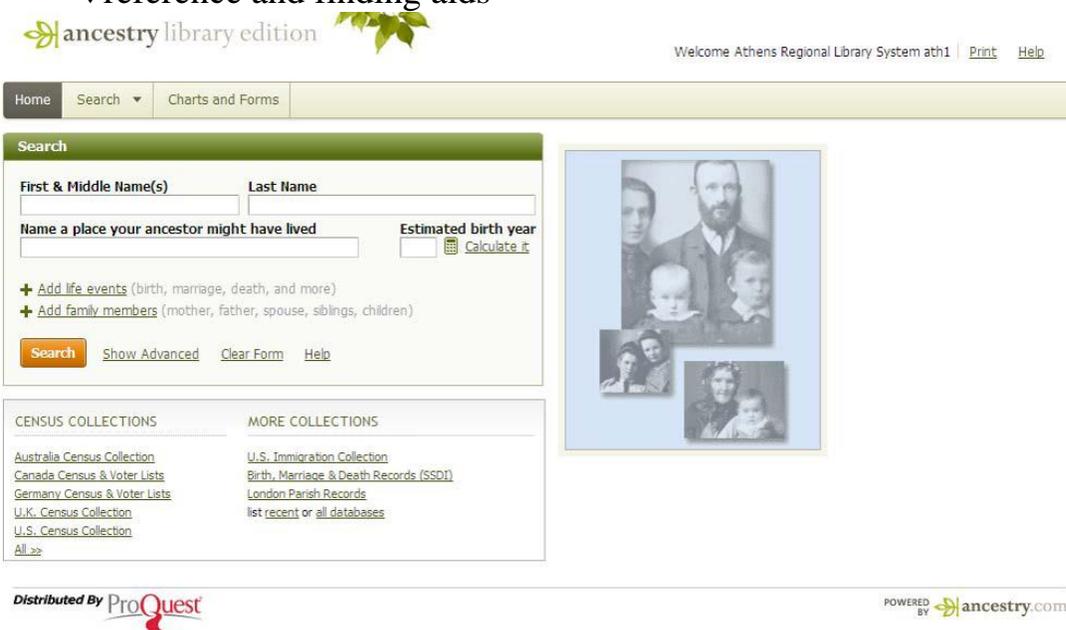
II. Genealogy Databases through GALILEO

Ancestry Library Edition and *HeritageQuest Online* are two of the most popular genealogy databases, especially for census and death records. **You must use GALILEO to gain access to them.** GALILEO is discussed in Part III.

A. Ancestry Library Edition

Ancestry.Com is a commercial genealogy database whose website requires a paid subscription to use. However, Ancestry Library Edition is a special version of *Ancestry.Com* for libraries and other institutions of learning, and accessing the database is free, through GALILEO. The database contains:

- ◆ the 1790-1930 U.S. Federal Census
- ◆ birth, marriage, and death records
- ◆ immigration records such as passenger lists, and emigration records
- ◆ military records such the Civil War service records
- ◆ directories and member lists
- ◆ court, land, and probate records
- ◆ slave narratives
- ◆ American Genealogical Biographical Index
- ◆ Daughters of the American Revolution Lineage
- ◆ more than 1,000 historical maps
- ◆ reference and finding aids



ancestry library edition

Welcome Athens Regional Library System ath1 | [Print](#) | [Help](#)

Home Search Charts and Forms

Search

First & Middle Name(s) Last Name

Name a place your ancestor might have lived Estimated birth year

+ Add life events (birth, marriage, death, and more)

+ Add family members (mother, father, spouse, siblings, children)

Search Show Advanced Clear Form Help

CENSUS COLLECTIONS MORE COLLECTIONS

[Australia Census Collection](#) [U.S. Immigration Collection](#)

[Canada Census & Voter Lists](#) [Birth, Marriage & Death Records \(SSDI\)](#)

[Germany Census & Voter Lists](#) [London Parish Records](#)

[U.K. Census Collection](#) [list recent or all databases](#)

[U.S. Census Collection](#)

All >>

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B. HeritageQuest Online

This database is the marriage of ProQuest's *Genealogy & Local History Online*, a collection of over 25,000 family and local histories, and content from *HeritageQuest*®, the largest genealogical data, products, supplies and equipment provider to consumers and institutions in the United States. HeritageQuest Online is designed specifically for patrons in public libraries who are just beginning their family research.

The database contains:

- ◆ 1790-1930 U.S. Federal Census images
- ◆ Genealogy and Local History Collection
 - Over 20,000 fully digitized books of family and local histories, city and business directories, collective biographies, vital records, church records, military records, and more
- ◆ Periodical Source Index (PERSI)
 - Index of more than 6300 genealogy and local history periodicals
 - How-to articles that describing tips, techniques, and methods of research
- ◆ Revolutionary War Pension/Bounty Land Warrant Application Files
 - More than 80,000 pension files of American who served in the war, with information such as names of veterans as well as age or date of birth; rank, unit, and period of service; state of residence; information about spouse and/or children.

RESULTS LIST | NOTEBOOK | SEARCH HISTORY | HELP

HERITAGE QUEST ONLINE

CENSUS BOOKS PERSI™ FREEDMAN'S REV WAR SERIAL SET

Search :: Browse

Census Data Currently Searchable

1790
1800
1810
1820
1860
1870
1880
1890
1900
1910
1920
1930 (partial)

For more information go to:
▶ WHAT'S NEW

Search Census

BASIC SEARCH ADVANCED SEARCH FIND BY PAGE NUMBER

Surname SEARCH ▶

Given Name CLEAR SEARCH

Census Year ▼

State ▼

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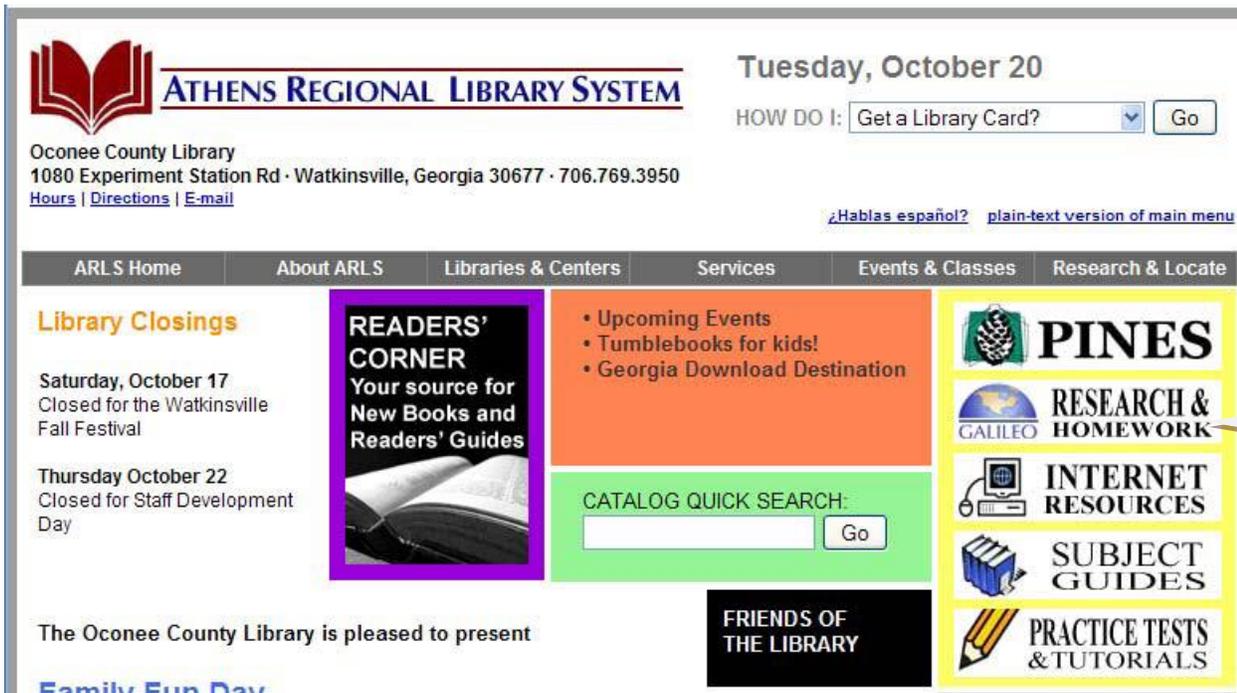
III. GALILEO



GALILEO (**Georgia Library Learning Online**) is a Web-based virtual library that provides schools and public/academic libraries access to resources like databases, magazines and scholarly journals, encyclopedias, government publications, and business directories. **You must use GALILEO to access Ancestry Library Edition and HeritageQuest Online.** If you are at home or at another non-library computer, you will need to type in the GALILEO password. You can call or stop by the library anytime to get the password. *The password changes quarterly.*

Ancestry Library edition can only be used within the library (i.e. any branch of the Athens Regional Library System, including the Oconee County Library), but Heritage Quest Online can be used from any computer regardless of location.

- ▶ Enter GALILEO from the Library’s website: www.clarke.public.lib.ga.us.
- ▶ On the library’s homepage, click on the “Research and Homework” icon:



► Then click on the “Genealogy and Georgia” in the green box:
Once you are in GALILEO, click on **Databases A-Z** in the green bar:

ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM Monday, November 21

HOW DO I:

Athens-Clarke County Library, Headquarters
2025 Baxter Street · Athens, Georgia 30606 · 706.613.3650
[Hours](#) | [Directions](#) [plain-text version of main menu](#)

ARLS Home About ARLS Libraries & Centers Services Events & Classes Research & Locate

Articles, Encyclopedias & More: Best of Galileo

These are just a few of the many databases available through GALILEO, and are a great place to start your research. To search additional databases, please go to the main [GALILEO](#) start page.

Password required for GALILEO databases. Please contact the Reference Desk (706-613-3650 x356) for the current password, or access GALILEO by logging into your PINES account.

View more resources you can access from home at our [Online Library](#) web page.

- NEW!
- Learn a Language
- Magazine & Newspaper Articles
- Encyclopedias
- High School/College Research
- Middle School/Elementary Research
- Health
- Careers & College
- Practice Tests
- Genealogy & Georgia
- Business & Investing
- Search other libraries
- Education
- Reading Suggestions, Reviews & eBooks

(706) 613-3650 x356
E-mail Us

► Choose “Ancestry Library Edition” from the alphabetical list:

Genealogy & Georgia

[Ancestry Library Edition](#) collection has approximately 4,000 databases including key collections such as U.S. federal census images and [more](#). **This database is not available outside of your library.**

[The Digital Library of Georgia](#) is a gateway to Georgia's history and culture found in digitized books, manuscripts, photographs, government documents, newspapers, maps, audio, video, and other resources. The Digital Library of Georgia connects users to a million digital objects in 110 collections from 60 institutions and 100 government agencies. Though this represents only a fraction of Georgia's cultural treasures, the Digital Library of Georgia continues to grow through its partnerships with libraries, archives, museums, government agencies, and allied organizations across the state.

[Fold3 History and Genealogy Archives](#) combines original historical documents and personal histories. The collection features millions of digital images of records preserved in the National Archives and other regional archives. This archive features documents relating to the Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI, WWII, U.S. Presidents, historical newspapers, naturalization documents, and much more. Some other very notable material includes the Matthew Brady collection of Civil War photos and UFO documents from 1947 - 1969. *For Athens Regional Library cardholders only.*

[HeritageQuest Online](#) combines digital, searchable images of U.S. federal census records, the Freedman's Bank, Revolutionary War Records and more.

[New Georgia Encyclopedia](#) Authoritative resource for information about the state of Georgia.

[Sanborn® Fire Insurance Maps for Georgia Towns and Cities, 1884-1922](#) consists of fire insurance maps created by the Sanborn Map Company that depict the commercial, industrial, and residential areas of Georgia cities. The highly-detailed, color-coded maps document the changing face of Georgia cities by depicting not only the community but also each building, block, and neighborhood. The maps detail building construction, sizes, and usage as well as city services such as water and fire services.

[return to top](#)

IV. Ancestry Library Edition

This is the home page of *Ancestry Library Edition*; it also the main search screen:

The screenshot shows the search interface for Ancestry Library Edition. It features a green header with the word "Search". Below the header are several input fields: "First & Middle Name(s)", "Last Name", "Name a place your ancestor might have lived", and "Estimated birth year". The "Estimated birth year" field includes a calendar icon and a "Calculate it" link. There are also dropdown menus for "Any Event" and "Year", and a "Location" input field with a "Remove" link. Below these fields are two expandable sections: "+ Add life events (birth, marriage, death, and more)" and "+ Add family members (mother, father, spouse, siblings, children)". At the bottom of the search area are buttons for "Search", "Show Advanced", "Clear Form", and "Help".

CENSUS COLLECTIONS

- [Australia Census Collection](#)
- [Canada Census & Voter Lists](#)
- [Germany Census & Voter Lists](#)
- [U.K. Census Collection](#)
- [U.S. Census Collection](#)
- [All >>](#)

MORE COLLECTIONS

- [U.S. Immigration Collection](#)
- [Birth, Marriage & Death Records \(SSDI\)](#)
- [London Parish Records](#)
- [list recent or all databases](#)

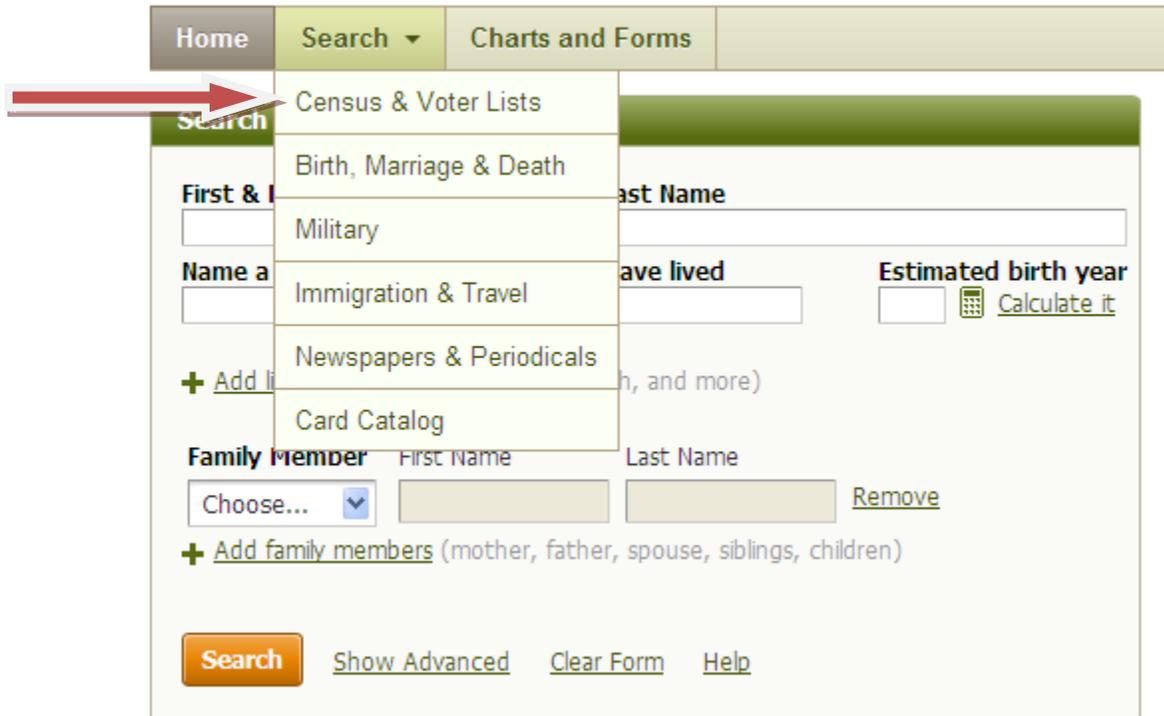
It's best to start with a broad search without including any places or dates. If you get too many results you can refine your terms and search again.

Click on + **Add Life events** to create entry fields for adding things like births, deaths, marriages.

Click on + **Add family members** to create entry fields for relatives associated with the person you are searching for.

A. Searching Census Records

► Step 1: To begin, we want to only search census records. The default setting on *Ancestry's* homepage is to search all of their records, so we need to tell the website that we only want Census Records. To do so, Go to “Search” at the top of the page, and choose “Census & Voter Lists.”



The image shows a screenshot of the Ancestry website's search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Search', and 'Charts and Forms'. The 'Search' dropdown menu is open, and a red arrow points to the 'Census & Voter Lists' option. Other options in the menu include 'Birth, Marriage & Death', 'Military', 'Immigration & Travel', 'Newspapers & Periodicals', and 'Card Catalog'. Below the menu, there are search input fields for 'First & Last Name', 'Name at birth', and 'Estimated birth year'. There is also a 'Family member' section with a dropdown menu and a 'Remove' button. At the bottom, there is a 'Search' button and links for 'Show Advanced', 'Clear Form', and 'Help'.

► Step 2: Choose U.S. Federal Census Collection from the box on the right-hand side:



The image shows a screenshot of the 'Narrow by Category' dropdown menu. A red arrow points to the 'U.S. Federal Census Collection' option. Other options in the menu include 'UK Census Collection', 'Canadian Census Collection', '1700s Censuses', '1800s Censuses', and '1900s Censuses'.

▶ Example 1: Enter **Thomas** and **Dodson** as first and last names, respectively. In the box for “Lived in,” begin typing *Kingsport*. The system will automatically give you a couple of choices. We want *Kingsport, Hawkins, Tennessee, USA* so click on that one. Click on the orange search button.

Search [Clear Form](#) [Show Advanced](#)

Name
 First & Middle Name(s) Last Name

Event
 Birth Year Location
 Lived In Location
 Any Event

Family Member First Name Last Name [Remove](#)
 [+ Add family members](#) (mother, father, spouse, siblings, children)

More
 Keyword
e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers"
 Gender Race/Nationality

A list of hits will be displayed. The right hand column gives thumbnail data to help you weed out irrelevant records without having to view each one in full.

▶ Click on the 1930 Census for Thomas E. Dodson to see the full record.

1850 United States Federal Census 1850s ★★★★★ View Image	NAME: Thomas Dodson BIRTH: abt 1826 - Tennessee RESIDENCE: 1850 - District 12, Hawkins, Tennessee
1930 United States Federal Census 1930s ★★★★★ View Image	NAME: Thomas E Dodson BIRTH: abt 1916 RESIDENCE: 1930 - Kingsport, Sullivan, Tennessee
1920 United States Federal Census 1920s ★★★★★ View Image	NAME: Thomas G Dodson BIRTH: abt 1896 - Tennessee RESIDENCE: 1920 - Civil District 3, Hamblen, Tennessee

Note: when searching for your ancestor, you may have to dig through **many** pages of hits before you find the right record.

You will see the following screen:

You searched for **Thomas Dodson**
All U.S. Federal Census Collection Results

Page Tools

- [Report Image Problem](#)
- [View printer-friendly](#)

1930 United States Federal Census about Thomas E Dodson

Name:	Thomas E Dodson
Home in 1930:	Kingsport, Sullivan, Tennessee View Map
Age:	14
Estimated birth year:	abt 1916
Relation to Head of House:	Son
Father's name:	Romas A Dodson
Mother's name:	Ruth L Dodson
Race:	White
Occupation:	} View image
Education:	
Military Service:	
Rent/home value:	
Age at first marriage:	
Parents' birthplace:	
Neighbors:	View others on page

Household Members:

Name	Age
Romas A Dodson	40
Ruth L Dodson	37
Thomas E Dodson	14
Sarah E Dodson	11

[View Original Record](#)
[View original image](#)
[View blank form](#)

This information has been extracted from the original census record. You can see that Thomas Dodson was 14 at the time of the 1930 census. You can also see his relationship to the head of the household (son) and the names and ages of the other household members.

Note the father's name: *Romas*. If you look at the census record (next page), you will see that the father's name is actually *Thomas*. This is a case of transcription error: you will encounter this kind of thing frequently in genealogical research.

► To view the actual census record, click on the big orange sunburst in the top right corner. On the next screen that appears, click on the button that says “No, just show me the image.”

Viewing the actual census record

Once you reach the actual form, you will be able to manipulate the image by zooming in and out and scrolling up/down and left/right.

State Tennessee Incorporated place Kingston
 County Sullivan Ward of city East Ward
 Township or other division of county 11th Civil District Unincorporated place _____

PLACE OF ABODE				NAME of each person whose place of abode on April 1, 1930, was in this family Enter surnames first, then the given name and middle initial, if any Include every person living on April 1, 1930. Omit children born since April 1, 1930.	RELATION Relationship of this person to the head of the family	HOME DATA				PERSONAL DESC	
Street, house, or lot no.	House number (on corner or corner)	Number of dwelling houses in order of visitation	Number of family in order of visitation			House owned or rented	Value of home, if owned, or monthly rental, if rented	Race and nat.	Does this family live on a farm?	Sex	Color or race
90	137	88	116	Dodson Thomas W	Head	0	6000	W	M	W	40
91				Beth E	Wife			V	F	W	37
92				Thomas G	Son			V	M	W	14
93				Sarah E	Daughter			V	F	W	11
94	141	89	116	Burtagu Hazel	Head	R	45	W	F	W	45
95				Beverly S	Son			V	M	W	15
96	130	70	117	Wax Melvin E	Head	0	6000	W	M	W	59
97				Elizabeth	Wife			V	F	W	50
98				Bonie L	Daughter			V	F	W	30
99				Geo R	Son			V	M	W	22
100				Dorothy E	Daughter			V	F	W	13

ABBREVIATIONS TO BE USED IN COLUMNS INDICATED:
 (Use no abbreviations for State or country of birth or for mother tongue (Columns 16, 19, 20, and 21).)

Col. 6—Indicate the house-maker in each family by the letter "H," following the word which shows the relationship, as "Wife—H"	Col. 9—Race and nat. Make an entry for families having no race nat.	Col. 12—White Negro Mexican Mex Indian Chinese Japanese	Col. 13—White Negro Mexican Mex Indian Chinese Japanese	Col. 14—Filipino Hindu Korean Other race or group not in full
--	---	---	---	--

As you see in the truncated version of the record, the father's name is actually *Thomas* and not *Romas*.

This example dwells only on the names of the household members. But as you read across the form you'll find information about each member that can help you in your search, such as place of birth, occupation, citizenship status, and more.

Having a copy of the blank census record form in hand at the same time is very helpful: instead of scrolling up and down or zooming in and out to read column names, you can refer to the blank form.

Keep in mind: the families listed above and below your ancestor were his or her neighbors. Years ago, neighbors were more involved in each other's lives; in fact, a neighbor is sometime the informant listed on a death record. Neighborhood children often married each other when they grew up, which means neighbors of your ancestor could actually be relatives as well. If you hit a brick wall with your ancestor and have no idea where to go next, consider researching the neighbors' records – there's a chance you might find a lead you can work with.

Alternate Spellings, Nicknames, Middle name, Initials

If you can't find a record of your ancestor, consider an alternate to the full name.

▶ Example 2: Go back to the search screen and enter *Tom* instead of *Thomas*.



This hit doesn't seem to be correct, yet it has some matching information (location).

▶ Click on it to view the record summary:

1920 United States Federal Census about Lam C Dodson

Name:	Lam C Dodson [Tom C Dadson]												
Home in 1920:	Kingsport, Sullivan, Tennessee												
Age:	2 [2 11/12]												
Estimated birth year:	abt 1918 [abt 1917]												
Birthplace:	Tennessee												
Relation to Head of House:	Son												
Father's name:	Lam A Dodson												
Father's Birth Place:	Tennessee												
Mother's name:	Ruth L Dodson												
Mother's Birth Place:	Tennessee												
Marital Status:	Single												
Race:	White												
Sex:	Male												
Neighbors:	View others on page												
Household Members:													
	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Name</th><th>Age</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Lam A Dodson</td><td>29</td></tr><tr><td>Ruth L Dodson</td><td>27</td></tr><tr><td>Lam C Dodson</td><td>2 [2 11/12]</td></tr><tr><td>Sarah C Dodson</td><td>1 [1 8/12]</td></tr><tr><td>Bettie L Inan</td><td>53</td></tr></tbody></table>	Name	Age	Lam A Dodson	29	Ruth L Dodson	27	Lam C Dodson	2 [2 11/12]	Sarah C Dodson	1 [1 8/12]	Bettie L Inan	53
Name	Age												
Lam A Dodson	29												
Ruth L Dodson	27												
Lam C Dodson	2 [2 11/12]												
Sarah C Dodson	1 [1 8/12]												
Bettie L Inan	53												

[View original image](#)
[View blank form](#)

View Original Record

Enough information is similar to warrant a look:

- Location
- Date of birth
- Mother's name
- Sister's name.

▶ Click on the orange sunburst to view the census record.

In this truncated view of the census record, you can see that the handwriting is questionable. This is a case in which older handwriting is difficult to decipher, something you'll definitely come across.

66			Class M.	Daughters
67	*	11/12/12	Dadson Sam J.	Wife
68			Ruth J.	son
80			Lam C.	Daughters
70			Sarah C.	mother
71			Ligon Bettie	

You may have to use information from other sources to prove that a record like this is the correct record for your ancestor.

Note: this is the 1920 census, and you can see an additional member of the household, Bettie Ligon, the mother of Ruth. She did not appear in the 1930 census we just examined. If we were looking for *her* and had no death date whatsoever, this record could be a clue that she might have died in the intervening decade.

Other hints for searching

- Use truncation and wildcard characters. The asterisk (*) is a wildcard that matches zero or more characters. For example, a search on **sam*** will bring back results that include 'sam', 'samantha', 'samuel', etc. You can also search alternate spellings with the asterisk (*), which represents 0 to 5 unknown characters. The query **Johann*** will search for **Johann** and **Johannes**. A query for **Smel*er** will search for **Smeltzer** and **Smelzer**, among others.

- The question (?) mark acts as a single-character wildcard. For example, a search on **eli?abeth** will yield results that include 'elisabeth' or 'elizabeth'.

Note: You cannot use a question mark as the first character of a search term.

B. Records from the Social Security Death Index

► Example 3: Return to *Ancestry Library Edition's* home page and click on [Birth, Marriage & Death Records](#) under “More collections.” On the next page, click on [Social Security Death Index](#) under “Featured data collections.”

Enter **Thomas** and **Dodson** in the name fields, and **Kingsport Tennessee** in the location field for “Any Event.” Then click Search.

Click “View Record” by the name circled below.

Searching for...

Name: Thomas Dodson
Any Event: kingsport tennessee

[Edit Search](#)
or [Start a new search](#)

Narrow by Collection

- All Categories
- Birth, Marriage & Death
- Death, Burial, Cemetery & Obituaries
- Social Security Death Index**

ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH INDEX

The Social Security Administration Death Master File contains information on millions of deceased individuals with United States social security numbers whose deaths were reported to the...

[Learn more about this database >>](#)

Hot Keys

- n** New search
- r** Refine search
- p** Preview current record
- >** Highlight next record

Matches 1-10 of 14,242 Sorted By Relevance

View Record	Name	Birth Date	Death Date	Last Residence (City, County, State)
A little more information will give you better results. Try adding a state, province or country in "Lived In (Residence)" Try adding a birth or death date; even a guess might help.				
You can press 'r' to refine your search , or 'n' to start a new one . Check out Getting the most out of new search for more tips and tricks.				
View Record ★★★★☆	Thomas Dodson	19 Mar 1877	May 1974	Lebanon, Wilson, Tennessee
View Record ★★★★☆	Thomas Dodson	24 Jan 1890	Apr 1974	Kingsport, Sullivan, Tennessee
View Record ★★★★☆	Thomas Dodson	24 Dec 1892	Feb 1967	Bowling Green, Warren, Kentucky
View Record ★★★★☆	Thomas H. Dodson	31 Jan 1912	18 Mar 1993	San Antonio, Bexar, Texas
View Record ★★★★☆	Thomas H. Dodson	22 May 1915	10 Nov 1997	Livingston, Overton, Tennessee
View Record ★★★★☆	Thomas A. Dodson	4 Feb 1916	28 Sep 1997	Decatur, Dekalb, Georgia
View Record	Thomas K. Dodson	18 Mar 1918	18 Mar 1989	Chattanooga, Hamilton,

This is information on file at the Social Security Administration. **It is not a death certificate.** However, as you can see in the example below, more information is yielded, including the full dates of birth and death, as well as the Social Security Number.

All Social Security Death Index Results

Page Tools

- [View printer-friendly](#)
- [Request copy of original application](#)

Social Security Death Index about Thomas A. Dodson

Name:	Thomas A. Dodson
SSN:	415-03-9514
Last Residence:	30033 Decatur, Dekalb, Georgia, United States of America
Born:	4 Feb 1916
Last Benefit:	37660 Kingsport, Sullivan, Tennessee, United States of America
Died:	28 Sep 1997
State (Year) SSN issued:	Tennessee (Before 1951)

Source Citation:
Number: 415-03-9514; Issue State: Tennessee; Issue Date: Before 1951.

Source Information:
Ancestry.com. *Social Security Death Index* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010.
Original data: Social Security Administration. *Social Security Death Index, Master File*. Social Security Administration.

Description:
The Social Security Administration Death Master File contains information on millions of deceased individuals with United States social security numbers whose deaths were reported to the Social Security Administration. Birth years for the individuals listed range from 1875 to last year. Information in these records includes name, birth date, death date, and last known residence. [Learn more...](#)

Suggested Records

These records may also be relevant to **Thomas A. Dodson**:

- Thomas A Dodson Georgia Deaths, 1919-98
- Thomas A Dodson U.S. Veterans Gravesites, ca.1775-2006
- Thomas Dodson U.S. Public Records Index, Volume 2
- Thomas Dodson U.S. Public Records Index, Volume 2
- Thomas Dodson U.S. Public Records Index, Volume 2

You can request a copy of the original application for your relative's social security number from the Social Security Administration by clicking on the entry marked by the red arrow and following the instructions. The original application form (SS-5) contains a wealth of information about the individual including:

- Full name
- Age at last birthday
- Date of birth
- Place of birth (City, county, state)
- Father's and mother's full name

Note the panel to the right, "Suggested Records:"

You can see Georgia Death records and U.S. Veterans Gravesites records related to this name. Click the first one to view it.

This is the official record for Georgia, with the certificate number.

Georgia Deaths, 1919-98 about Thomas A Dodson

Name:	Thomas A Dodson
Death Date:	28 Sep 1997
County of Death:	Dekalb
Gender:	M (Male)
Race:	White
Age:	81 years
County of Residence:	Dekalb
Certificate:	041699
Date Filed:	8 Oct 1997

Source Citation: Certificate number: 041699.

Source Information:
Ancestry.com. *Georgia Deaths, 1919-98* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2001.
Original data: State of Georgia. *Indexes of Vital Records for Georgia: Deaths, 1919-1998*. Georgia, USA: Georgia Health Department, Office of Vital Records, 1998.

Description:
This database is an index of more than 2.7 million deaths recorded by the State of Georgia, USA, from 1919 to 1998. The index includes the name of the deceased, the volume of the certificate number, the death date, the race of the deceased, the deceased's gender, the county of death, the death certificate number, the date the certificate was filed, and the deceased's age. [Learn more...](#)

Go back and click on the Veterans gravesites entry:

U.S. Veterans Gravesites, ca.1775-2006 about Thomas A Jr Dodson

Name:	Thomas A Jr Dodson
Service Info.:	COX US NAVY WORLD WAR II
Birth Date:	4 Feb 1916
Death Date:	28 Sep 1997
Cemetery:	Oak Hill Cemetery
Cemetery Address:	800 Truxton Drive Kingsport, TN 37660

Source Information:
National Cemetery Administration. *U.S. Veterans Gravesites, ca.1775-2006* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.
Original data: National Cemetery Administration. *Nationwide Gravesite Locator*

Description:
This database is a compilation of burial records from a variety of sources and cemeteries. These records provide information on the burials of U.S. veterans and their dependents who were buried in the various Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemeteries, state veterans cemeteries, or other military cemeteries. Because the information regarding the burials is compiled from multiple sources, the amount of information provided for each burial will vary. Some of the information you may find in this database includes: name of deceased, birth date, death date, interment date, burial location/site, cemetery name, cemetery address, relationship to veteran, veteran service dates, military rank, and military branch. [Learn more...](#)

Here you see information about his years in the armed forces, as well as the cemetery he is buried in.

Something to consider:

The entries we just looked at are for the same person: Thomas Dodson.

The census records lists him as *Thomas E Dodson*,

All 1930 United States Federal Census results for Thomas Dodson

View Record ★★★★☆	Thomas E Dodson	Romas A, Ruth L	Kingsport, Sullivan, Tennessee	abt 1916	Son
--------------------------------------	--------------------	--------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------	-----

whereas the SSDI lists him as *Thomas A Dodson*.

All Social Security Death Index results for Thomas Dodson

View Record ★★★★☆	Thomas A. Dodson	4 Feb 1916	28 Sep 1997	Decatur, Dekalb, Georgia
--------------------------------------	------------------	------------	-------------	--------------------------

It is logical to assume that one of the names is a typo. However, this man legally changed his name, from Thomas Elliot Dodson to Thomas A. Dodson, Jr. In fact, the veterans gravesites record reflects the full name change.

U.S. Veterans Gravesites, ca.1775-2006 about Thomas A Jr Dodson	
Name:	Thomas A Jr Dodson
Service Info:	COX US NAVY WORLD WAR II

Thus, all entries are correct even though they seem to contradict each other.

Keep in mind that people do change their names, for various reasons: some personal, some practical, some illegal. If you hit a brick wall with a relative, consider the slim - but possible - chance that he changed his name.

V. HeritageQuest Online

A. Census Records

- ▶ Click on the first entry...



HERITAGE QUEST ONLINE

- ▶ **Search Census** Find ancestors in the complete set of U.S. Federal Census images from 1790-1930, including name indexes for many years.
- ▶ **Search Books** Find information on people and places described in over 25,000 family and local histories.
- ▶ **Search PERSI™** Find information about people and places from this index of over 2.1 million genealogy and local history articles.
- ▶ **Search Revolutionary War** Search selected records from the Revolutionary War Era Pension & Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files.
- ▶ **Search Freedman's Bank** Search for individuals in Freedman's Bank (1865-1874), which was founded to serve African Americans.
- ▶ **Search U.S. Serial Set** Search the Memorials, Petitions, and Private Relief Actions of the U.S. Congress in the LexisNexis® U.S. Serial Set.

- ▶ to reach the census search page:

RESULTS LIST | NOTEBOOK | SEARCH HISTORY | HELP

HERITAGE QUEST ONLINE

CENSUS BOOKS PERST™ FREEDMAN'S REV WAR SERIAL SET

Search :: Browse

Census Data Currently Searchable

1790
1800
1810
1820
1860
1870
1880
1890
1900
1910
1920
1930 (partial)

For more information go to:
▶ WHAT'S NEW

Search Census

BASIC SEARCH ADVANCED SEARCH FIND BY PAGE NUMBER

Surname

Given Name

Census Year All

State All

Not all Census material is available on this website. The decades listed in the left margin represent the decades available to search by name. Other census decades that have not yet been indexed by name are also available by browsing by locality. Click the "Browse" button (in blue print) to see additional content.

Important! For census records, HeritageQuest Online is not as user friendly as Ancestry Library Edition. The records are indexed by head of household information only; thus wives, children, and other family members cannot be looked up directly unless they are the head of the household.

Also, HeritageQuest Online does not give you a list of names *similar* to your entry: it's an all-or-nothing search. Remember to search using spelling variations, shortened names/nicknames, middle names, and initials.

▶ Example 4: Enter **Bettini** in the surname field:

The screenshot shows the search interface with the following fields and values:

Surname	<input type="text" value="bettini"/>	<input type="button" value="SEARCH"/> <input type="button" value="CLEAR SEARCH"/>
Given Name	<input type="text"/>	
Census Year	<input type="button" value="All"/>	
State	<input type="button" value="All"/>	

You'll see the following list of hits in the different census records:

The screenshot shows the 'Census Results' page with the following table:

HERITAGE QUEST ONLINE		
CENSUS RESULTS		
Census Year	Results	Expand by State
Total Number of Results: 82		
1860 Census	Results: 1	Expand by State
1870 Census	Results: 1	Expand by State
1880 Census	Results: 1	Expand by State
1900 Census	Results: 9	Expand by State
1910 Census	Results: 28	Expand by State
1920 Census	Results: 39	Expand by State
1930 Census	Results: 3	Expand by State

The “Census Results” page shows you how many times your entry appears in each census decade. When searching for your relatives, you will want to be as thorough as possible and look through all records that show at least one result.

▶ In this example, however, click on the 1910 Census.

► Example 2: Go back to the search page and type in **Bettimi** with an **m** (not **n**).

RESULTS LIST | NOTEBOOK | SEARCH HISTORY | HELP

HERITAGE QUEST ONLINE

CENSUS BOOKS PERSI™ FREEDMAN'S REV WAR SERIAL SET

Search :: Browse

NEW SEARCH

Census Results

US Federal Census Total Number of Results: 1

Help with the Federal Census

1920 Census Results: 1 ▾ Expand by State

1930 Census Results: NA ▾ Expand by State

► Click on the 1920 record.

RESULTS LIST | NOTEBOOK | SEARCH HISTORY | HELP

HERITAGE QUEST ONLINE

CENSUS BOOKS PERSI™ FREEDMAN'S REV WAR SERIAL SET

Search :: Browse

Why didn't I find someone in the Census?

Use check boxes below to add items to Notebook.

Click on a surname to view the census image. Sort By: Surname ▾

Page 1 of 1

Surname	Given Name	Age	Sex	Race	Birthplace	State	County	Location	Year
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BETTIMI	FRANK	60	M	W	AUST	NC	GUILFORD	MONROE	1920

Page 1 of 1 [Jump to top of page]

We saw **P.F. Bettini** in the last example, and here's a **Frank**. The state and county also match the last record, so this looks like a possible hit.

9-187 DEPARTMENT OF CC

FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF T

STATE North Carolina COUNTY Guilford TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY Monroe Township NAME

NAME OF INSTITUTION _____

Serial number of family (1000)	Household number (100)	Name of head of household	Name of person	RELATION.	SEX	Color of race	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.				CITIZENSHIP.			EDUCATION.	
							Age at last birth	Married	Year of immigration	Year of naturalization	Whether able to read	Whether able to write			
1	1	Bettimi Frank	Frank	Head	M	W	60	18	20	1880	N	1880	Yes	Yes	
2			Alice	Wife	F	W	45						Yes	Yes	
3			Mary	Daughter	F	W	21						No	No	
4			John	Son	M	W	19						No	No	
5			Charlie	Son	M	W	17						No	No	
6			Julia	Daughter	F	W	16						Yes	Yes	
7			Archie	Daughter	F	W	14						Yes	Yes	
8			Rocky	Son	M	W	12						Yes	Yes	
9			Rocky	Son	M	W	10						Yes	Yes	
10			Robna	Daughter	F	W	8						Yes	No	
11			Joe	Son	M	W	5						No	No	

Yes, it's the same family as in the last example. You can see that the name in the record *does* look as though it's spelled with **m** instead of **n**. It could be that when the family member spelled the name for the interviewer, he heard m instead of n; it could be that the interviewer wrote a sloppy n that look like an m. In other words, any number of reasons are possible.

Something else to think about:

Peter Frank Bettini came from Trieste, a small town northeast of Venice, in Italy. So why is his place of birth listed as **Austria**? Is this a mistake?

NAME	RELATION.	YEMIG.		
		Does speak or understand English?	If aged, does he or she read and write English?	Sex.
Bettini Frank	Head	OF		M
Alice	Wife			F
Mary	Daughter			F
John	Son			M
Charlie	Son			M

PERSON.	Place of Birth.	
	State	Country
	18	
	Austria	alt
	North Carolina	En
	Pennsylvania	En
	North Carolina	En
	North Carolina	En

Actually, no. Here's a case in which historical research can shed light on findings in genealogical research:

- Peter Frank Bettini came to the US in the late 1880s, more than two decades before World War I.
- From the 1300s until after WWI, the town of Trieste was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. As a result of WWI, that empire was dissolved and the borders of many nations were redrawn, bringing Trieste into the Italian nation.

This means that anyone searching for Peter Frank Bettini prior to his emigration may need to consult Austrian records and well as Italian ones.

Consulting the federal census records can bring you lots of information about your ancestors and point you in the right direction for further searching. As with all genealogical research however, you will always want to corroborate your census findings with other documents.

Using the census records often requires patience and detective work, but the results are worth it!

VI. Other Helpful Sites

A. Through the Oconee County Library's Website:

By following the steps laid out on pages 5 and 6 of this packet, you can see other helpful genealogical sites. Some are free for anyone to use and others are free for Athens Regional Library Cardholders.

The Digital Library of Georgia is a gateway to Georgia's history and culture found in digitized books, manuscripts, photographs, government documents, newspapers, maps, audio, video, and other resources. The Digital Library of Georgia connects users to a million digital objects in 110 collections from 60 institutions and 100 government agencies. Though this represents only a fraction of Georgia's cultural treasures, the Digital Library of Georgia continues to grow through its partnerships with libraries, archives, museums, government agencies, and allied organizations across the state.

Fold3 History and Genealogy Archives combines original historical documents and personal histories. The collection features millions of digital images of records preserved in the National Archives and other regional archives. This archive features documents relating to the Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI, WWII, U.S. Presidents, historical newspapers, naturalization documents, and much more. Some other very notable material includes the Matthew Brady collection of Civil War photos and UFO documents from 1947 - 1969. *For Athens Regional Library cardholders only.*

New Georgia Encyclopedia Authoritative resource for information about the state of Georgia.

Sanborn® Fire Insurance Maps for Georgia Towns and Cities, 1884-1922 consists of fire insurance maps created by the Sanborn Map Company that depict the commercial, industrial, and residential areas of Georgia cities. The highly-detailed, color-coded maps document the changing face of Georgia cities by depicting not only the community but also each building, block, and neighborhood. The maps detail building construction, sizes, and usage as well as city services such as water and fire services.

B. Other Sites:

FamilySearch (www.familysearch.org) A project of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, FamilySearch is the largest genealogical organization in the world. Their website contains a combination of searchable records, microfilm, and books. Searching under “records” allows you to find census records, marriage records, military records, and more. Often these records are transcribed but there is no image of the original available to view.

Under “Catalog” you can search by place names, last names, call numbers, etc for records of books or microfilm. Those on microfilm can be ordered and sent to your local Family Search Center and books can be obtained through inter-library loan at your public library. There is also a “Books” section which allows you to search digitized books from Brigham Young University.

By selecting “Learn” at the top of the webpage, you will be taken to the wiki, video tutorials about doing specific types of research, and discussion boards. The topics covered in the online tutorials range from beginning genealogy to deciphering foreign scripts.

The online genealogies under Family Trees (Ancestral File and Pedigree Resource File) from this and other sites should be viewed as clues not as documents, proof, or true.

Cyndi’s List (www.cyndislist.com) Cyndi’s List is a free site which attempts to index all genealogical websites. You can browse topics alphabetically and find a list of sites related to that topic. Topics represented include “Germans from Russia,” “Births and Baptisms,” and “African American.” This site is a great place to start exploring the wide range of internet resources available.

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