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CENSUS DATA FOR IOWA

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Census data materials are valuable sources for researchers of many types, especially historians. Demographic, political, economic, and social information can be found in census schedules, tabular statements, and abstracts. Since census schedules generally became more and more detailed throughout the nineteenth century, the wealth of material contained in these sources cannot be ignored by historical or social science researchers. One of the major problems facing a prospective researcher is the availability of census data in manuscript schedule, microfilm, or printed form. A second major problem is that of identifying, within the mass of information in each census, that particular item which bears upon the question at hand. This guide is designed to provide partial solutions to both problems. Lists of manuscript and microfilm census schedules are given for each of the territorial and state censuses taken in Iowa, as well as briefer information for the federal censuses for Iowa. Bibliographies are also given which cite the various reprints, abstracts, and indexes to the territorial and state censuses, as well as examples of articles and books which have been written about them. This guide is not meant to be an exhaustive treatment of the subject. But in order to help understand the rationale for taking the censuses and the criteria used for developing the blank schedule forms, the constitutional and statute references are given whenever they seem pertinent. Also noted is the type of information the researcher can expect to find in any particular census. Iowa is rich in the number of censuses taken, probably because legislative apportionment was based upon them during the nineteenth century. This was a period of rapid migration into the area and rapid disposal of public lands, therefore it was thought necessary to have a census taken almost every election in order to maintain fairness in distributing legislative seats.

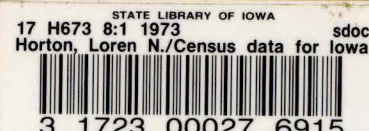
Note: There are two published sources which are pertinent to nearly every census taken in Iowa prior to their publication dates. They are cited here and will not be repeated for each census:

Dubester, Henry J. (ed.). State Censuses: An Annotated Bibliography of Censuses of Population Taken After the Year 1790 by States and Territories of the United States. Washington, D. C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1948. pp. 14-15, 68, 72.

Hull, John A. T. (ed.). Census of Iowa for 1880 and the Same Compared with the Findings of Each of the Other States, and Also with all Former Enumerations of the Territory Now Embraced Within the Limits of the State of Iowa, With Other Historical and Statistical Data. Des Moines: F. M. Mills, State Printer and Geo. E. Roberts, State Printer, 1883. pp. xi, 196-199.

1. 1836. The first census to be taken in the area which became Iowa was authorized by the organic law creating the Territory of Wisconsin, passed April 20, 1836. Section 4 of "An Act Establishing the Territorial Government of Wisconsin" stated that "Previously to the first election, the governor of the territory shall cause the census or enumeration of the inhabitants of the several counties in the territory to be taken and made by the sheriffs of said counties, respectively, and returns thereof made by the said sheriffs, to the governor." Territorial Governor Henry Dodge issued a Circular on July 13, 1836 ordering the taking of a census according to Section 16 of the organic law, to be completed on or before August 25, 1836, ". . . that you cause the number of the inhabitants of your County (Indians excepted) to be taken as follows the said enumeration shall distinguish the sexes of all free white persons." The manuscript schedules of this first census are preserved in 7 file folders in the Archives and Manuscript Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, under the heading Secretary of State: Elections and Records. "Wisconsin State Census: Population, 1836-1905," Series No. 2/3/6-4, Box Number I (1836, 1838, and 1842). No printed blanks were furnished. No special personnel were employed. The sheriffs were instructed simply to report, in writing, the names of heads of white families, with the number of persons in each family, divided into four groups: number of males under 21; number of males over 21; number of females under 21; number of females over 21; and totals. The returns of this census were certified by Governor Dodge in a proclamation of September 9, 1836, ". . . having caused the census of said territory to be taken according to the Provisions of said act -- Therefore, I do hereby proclaim and declare: that I have apportioned the members of the Council and House of Representatives, amongst the several counties of the territory. . . ." As this Proclamation indicates, the purpose of this territorial census was for legislative apportionment, therefore only white persons were counted, and hence the division into male and female, and into the age brackets of above and below 21.

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- Bloom, John Porter (ed.). The Territorial Papers of the United States. Volume XXVII. Washington, D.C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1969. pp. 78-79, 84.
- Harlan, E. R. "Extracts of so much of the Territorial Census of 1836 of Demoin County as is included in the present Van Buren County." Keosauqua (Iowa) Republican (September 28, 1905).
- Peters, Richard (ed.). Public Statutes at Large of the United States of America. Volume V. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1856. pp. 10-16.
- Shambaugh, Benjamin F. (ed.). Documentary Material Relating to the History of Iowa. Volume I. Iowa City: The State Historical Society of Iowa, 1896. pp. 78-91.
- Shambaugh, Benjamin F. The First Census of the Original Counties of Dubuque and Demoin (Iowa) Taken in July, 1836. Des Moines: The Historical Department of Iowa, 1897. 93 pp. (returns complete for Iowa area).
- Thwaites, Reuben Gold (ed.). "The Territorial Census for 1836." Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Volume XIII. Madison: Democrat Printing Company, State Printer, 1895. pp. 247-270.
- Acts passed at the First and Second Sessions of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Wisconsin. Burlington: James Clarke, Printer to the Legislative Assembly, 1838. pp. 5, 10-11.
- Microfilm at State Historical Society of Iowa (hereafter cited as S.H.S.I.), Iowa City - 1 reel.

2. 1838. An Act of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Wisconsin, Number 53, approved December 30, 1837, provided for the taking of the second census or enumeration of the inhabitants. A sample schedule form was provided, the sheriffs of each county were ordered to begin by May 1, 1838 and to finish within 30 days. They were to report the aggregate totals by counties to the Secretary of the Territory by June 10, 1838. This Act was signed by the Governor on January 2, 1838. The items in this census schedule differed from the preceding one. Six pieces of information were to be reported: "Names of Masters, Mistresses, Stewards, Overseers or Other Principal Persons; white males, white females, free males of colour, free females of colour; total."

The sheriffs began their census taking before May 1, in Clayton County, and on that day in all of the other counties on the west side of the Mississippi. Twenty-one counties reported. The sheriffs declared that no inhabitants could be found in Keokuk and Benton counties, and no returns were made for Buchanan, Delaware, and Fayette counties. Original schedules are preserved in 24 file folders in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin under the same heading previously cited for the 1836 census. All of them were certified no later than June 10, 1838. Complete schedules are extant for Cedar, Clayton, Clinton, Johnson, Lee, Louisa, Muscatine, and Slaughter counties, but only abstracts of totals survive for Des Moines, Dubuque, Henry, Jackson, and Scott counties.

In a Message to the Legislative Assembly on June 11, 1838, Governor Dodge stated: "You are convened for the purpose of making the apportionment of representation for the House of Representatives of this Territory in conformity with the organic law of Congress creating the Territorial government of Wisconsin and in accordance with the laws passed at the last Session of the Legislative Assembly for taking the census or enumeration of the Inhabitants by the several Sheriffs of the different counties in this Territory." However, a Select Committee was appointed by the House of Representatives on June 14, 1838 to "... inquire why the Secretary of the Territory has not furnished the Legislative Assembly with the returns of the late census taken by the several sheriffs of the different counties." The Secretary of the Territory did transmit an abstract of totals by counties, broken into two groups for those counties east of the Mississippi River and those to the west, on June 15, 1838. These totals were printed in the Journal of the House of Representatives, and the Council ordered that 300 copies be printed.

On June 12, 1838, Congress passed "An Act to Divide the Territory of Wisconsin and to Establish the Territorial Government of Iowa." This Act contained the same provision as the Act of Wisconsin, that the Governor was to have a census taken by the sheriffs, prior to the first election, for apportionment purposes. Some sources indicate that the 1838 census was taken by direction of Governor Robert Lucas of the Territory of Iowa, but since the census of the Wisconsin Territory, which included Iowa, was completed before the separation, it seems likely that the Iowa Territorial government simply used the existing population statistics. Support for this conclusion is found in the Journal of the House of Representatives for the Territory of Iowa, where the census returns for 1838 are printed, and are identical to those already printed in the Journal of the Wisconsin House of Representatives. No manuscript schedules for a separate census by the Territory of Iowa have ever been found.

In the Executive Journal of Iowa is recorded a Message to Council and House of Representatives by Robert Lucas on November 12, 1838. "It also becomes our duty to provide a law for taking census [sic] of the Territory at certain periods. . . . This subject will require your early attention." This seems to indicate that he had not already directed another census to be taken in 1838. It should also be noted that the white and non-white population were counted separately in this census, a method which was not used again until 1865, and that no breakdown by age was required.

Haefner, Marie. "The Census of 1838." The Palimpsest, XIX, 5 (May 1938), pp. 185-192.

Peters, pp. 235-241.

Shambaugh, Documentary Materials, pp. 102-116.

Shambaugh, Benjamin F. (ed.). The Executive Journal of Iowa as kept by Governor Robert Lucas from July 17, 1838 to June 18, 1841. Iowa City: The State Historical Society of Iowa, 1906. p. 54.

The Statute Laws of the Territory of Iowa, Enacted at the First Session of the Legislative Assembly of Said Territory, held at Burlington, A.D. 1838-'39. Dubuque: Russell & Reeves, Printers, 1839. p. 33.

Journal of the House of Representatives of the Third Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Iowa. Dubuque: Wm. W. Coriell, Printer, 1841. pp. 315-316.

Secretary of State: Elections and Records, Box 1.

Acts Passed at the First Session of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Wisconsin. Belmont: James Clarke, Printer, 1836. pp. 97-101.

Journal of the House of Representatives of the Legislative Assembly of Wisconsin: Being the Second Session. (Begun and Held at Burlington on the Sixth Day of November, one thousand eight hundred and thirty seven). Green Bay: Charles C. Sholes, 1837. pp. 195-196, 208, 244.

Journal of the Council of the First Legislative Assembly of Wisconsin, at the Session Thereof: Begun and Held at Burlington, on the Sixth Day of November, A.D. 1837. Wisconsin: published for the Territory by F. J. Munger, 1838. pp. 84, 100, 194, 195.

Journal of the House of Representatives of the Legislative Assembly of Wisconsin. Being a Special Session, begun and held at Burlington on the eleventh day of June, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight. Green Bay: Charles C. Sholes, 1838. pp. 20, 23-24.

Microfilm at S. H. S. I., Iowa City - 1 reel.

3. 1840. The sixth federal census.

Obert, Rowene T., Helen M. Blumhagen, and Wilma Adkins. The 1840 Iowa Census. Salt Lake City: privately printed, 1968. 342 pp. (alphabetized transcript of entries, and index to names of heads of households.)

Hollingsworth, Henry. Henry County, Iowa: Sixth U.S. Census Schedules, 1840 (All Statistics). Los Angeles: privately printed, 1967. 36 pp. Indexed.

Microfilm at S. H. S. I., Iowa City - 2 reels (National Archives #101-102).

4. 1844. Chapter 26, entitled "Census and Extra Session," of the Laws of Iowa was passed February 15, 1844. It was the first time that a census had been taken of the Territory of Iowa. Section 1 stated that the county, township, or precinct assessors of each county in the territory were to take a census of the white inhabitants. A schedule of 5 items was to be used, including: heads of families or households; males over 21; males under 21; females; and total. The assessors were to file a certificate of the aggregate number of white inhabitants with the clerk of the board of county commissioners by the second Monday in June. The clerks were required to transmit a certified copy of the aggregate number of white inhabitants in the respective counties to the Secretary of the Territory by June 16, 1844.

Only the manuscript schedule for Keokuk County now exists, although 21 counties reported returns. The Keokuk County schedule has been alphabetized and published in the July 1966 American Genealogist. Total population by counties for the 1844 census have been printed in Hull. This census deviated from the previous ones in that the assessors, not the sheriffs, were to take the enumerations, and the returns passed through the hands of a county official before being transmitted to the territorial government. No blank forms were printed for the returns, and the items were similar to the count in 1836.

"1844 Census of Iowa Territory, Keokuk County." The American Genealogist, 42, 3 (July 1966). pp. 136-139. (the 5 items are alphabetized.)

Laws of Iowa, Passed at the Session of the Legislative Assembly which commenced on the 4th of December, 1843. Burlington: James Clarke, Printer, 1844. pp. 48-49.

Manuscript schedule of the 1844 census for Keokuk County is in Box 1, Iowa Department of History and Archives (hereafter cited as I. D. H. A.), Des Moines.

5. 1846. The Seventh Legislative Assembly, at its second session, passed an act, Chapter 3, on January 2, 1846 providing for a census to be taken at the time of the assessment of property that year. Eight counties failed to report and an estimate was made for apportionment purposes. Manuscript schedules are available for the 1846 census of Louisa, Polk and Wapello counties. They are in the Iowa Department of History and Archives and no other original schedules are known to be extant. The items on the schedule form include: heads of families; males under 21; males over 21; females under 21; females over 21; total.

The printed returns for Louisa County have been published in the April 1967 American Genealogist, but only the first 5 items are given and the list is not alphabetized. The totals by counties are printed in the Secretary of State's Report to the House of Representatives on January 12, 1847.

"Iowa Territorial Census 1846, Louisa County." The American Genealogist, 43, 2 (April 1967). pp. 111-117.
Laws of Iowa, Passed at the Annual Session of the Legislative Assembly, which commenced on the first day of December, eighteen hundred and forty-five. Iowa City: A. H. & G. D. Palmer, Printers, 1846. pp. 2-3.
Journal of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Iowa, begun and held at the Capitol, in Iowa City, on Monday, the thirtieth day of November, A.D. 1846; being the first session under the Constitution of Government of the State of Iowa. Burlington: Printed at the Hawk-Eye Office, 1847. pp. 142-143.

Manuscript schedules of Louisa, Polk, and Wapello counties are in Box 1, I. D. H. A., Des Moines.

6. 1847. A new constitution was adopted by a vote of the people of Iowa on August 3, 1846. As a result of federal action the Territory of Iowa became a state on December 28, 1846. Section 31 of Article 4 of the new constitution specified that: "Within one year after the ratification of the Constitution, and within every subsequent term of two years, for the term of eight years, an enumeration of all the white inhabitants of this State shall be made, in such manner as shall be directed by law." The First General Assembly passed an act on January 20, 1847 to implement this provision: "Chapter VIII, An Act to provide for the taking of an enumeration of the white inhabitants of the State of Iowa." The assessors of each organized county were to take the census before August 1, 1847, and every second year thereafter for 8 years. Enumeration was of all white persons of all ages. Assessors were to file the returns with the clerk of the board of commissioners in each county by September 15 and the clerks were to forward a certified copy of the returns to the Secretary of State within 30 days.

Apparently the only information gathered in this census was the names of heads of households and the total number of persons living in the household. Thirty-two counties reported, but the manuscript schedules are available only for Clinton, Davis, Louisa, Marion, Scott, Wapello, and Van Buren counties. An abstract of totals by counties was printed in the Journal of the Senate in 1848, and these totals are also found in Hull. Reprints of data for Davis County are in the October 1966 issue of American Genealogist and reprints of the data for Clinton County are found in the January 1967 issue of the same journal. In each case the lists are not alphabetized, and contain the 2 items mentioned above.

Shambaugh, Documentary Material, p. 199.

"1847 Iowa State Census, Davis County." The American Genealogist, 42, 4 (October 1966). pp. 232-239.

"Iowa State Census 1847, Clinton County." The American Genealogist, 43, 1 (January 1967). pp. 59-62.

Acts and Resolutions Passed at the First Session of the General Assembly of the State of Iowa. Iowa City: A. H. Palmer, Printer, 1847. p. 3.

Journal of the Senate, at the Extra Session of the First General Assembly of the State of Iowa. Iowa City: A. H. Palmer, by Palmer and Paul, 1848. pp. 145-146.

Manuscript schedules of Clinton, Davis, Louisa, Marion, Scott, Wapello, and Van Buren counties are in Box 1, I. D. H. A., Des Moines.

7. 1849. Pursuant to Section 31, Article 4 of the Constitution of 1846, another census of Iowa was taken in 1849. Thirty-two counties reported their returns, but 6 failed to report and estimates were made for them. Manuscript schedules still exist for Benton, Boone, Clinton, Jackson, Louisa, Madison, Poweshiek, Scott, Van Buren, and Washington counties, and the totals by counties were printed in the Journal of the Senate for 1850. These returns were certified by the Secretary of State on December 2, 1850, and it was noted that no returns were received from Lee, Clayton, Delaware, Iowa, Lucas, and Monroe counties. Totals by counties also appear in tabular form in Hull, as do the totals by counties for each territorial, state, and federal census from 1836 to 1880.

Journal of the Senate of the Third General Assembly of the State of Iowa. Iowa City: Palmer & Paul, State Printers, 1850. pp. 35-36 of Appendix B.

8. 1850. The seventh federal census.

"Index to Heads of Households in 1850 Census for Jasper County." Hawkeye Heritage, 1, 4 (Fall 1966). pp. 106-107.

Pottawattamie County, 1850 Index. Research Department: Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1966.

Vermays, Dick. Decatur County, Iowa, 1850 Census. 23 pp. (a typescript of entries, alphabetized.)
 Switzer, Harry. Jasper County, Iowa, 1850 Census. 27 pp. (a typescript of entries, alphabetized.)
1850 Census for Johnson County, Iowa. Iowa City: Iowa City Chapter, Iowa Genealogical Society, 1972. 93 pp.
 (a typescript of entries, not alphabetized.)
 Smith, Violet. Lucas County, Iowa (1850 Census). 12 pp. (a typescript of entries, alphabetized.)
1850 Census for Muscatine County, Iowa. Iowa City: Iowa City Chapter, Iowa Genealogical Society, 1972.
 116 pp. (a typescript of entries, not alphabetized.)
 Demijean, Hazel. Page County, Iowa (1850 Census). 14 pp. (a typescript of entries, alphabetized.)
 Seaton, Myrna. Poweshiek County, Iowa (1850 Census). 15 pp. (a typescript of entries, alphabetized.)
1850 Federal Census, Scott County, Iowa. No compiler or date given. 184 pp. (a typescript of entries, al-
 phabetized.)
Census Record of Tama County, Iowa (1850 and 1856). 4 pp. No compiler or date given. (a typescript of
 entries, not alphabetized.)
 Snedden, Barbara. Winneshiek County, Iowa (1850 Census). 14 pp. (a typescript of entries, alphabetized.)
 Seaton, Myrna. Wayne County, Iowa (1850 Census). 8 pp. (a typescript of entries, alphabetized.)
 Microfilm at S. H. S. I., Iowa City - 8 reels (National Archives #182-189).

9. 1851. The third regular state census under the Constitution of 1846 was taken in 1851. Eleven coun-
 ties failed to make returns, and when these figures were published in the report of the 1859 census, an es-
 timate was made for the missing counties. Only a few manuscript schedules are extant, those for Cedar,
 Clinton, Decatur, Guthrie, Iowa, Johnson, Madison, Mahaska, Page, Pottawattamie, Poweshiek, Scott, and
 Washington counties, and abstracts of data for Jackson, Jasper, and Jefferson counties. Totals by counties
 are contained in Hull.

The Census Returns of the Different Counties of the State of Iowa, for 1859. Des Moines: John Teesdale,
 State Printer, 1859. 95 pp. and a tabular sheet of totals by counties for each census since 1836.
Legislative Documents, 1859-60. Tabular sheet of totals by counties for each census since 1836.
 Manuscript schedules for 13 counties, and abstracts for 3 counties are in Box 2, I. D. H. A., Des Moines.

10. 1852. A law passed in 1851 negated the provision in the Constitution of 1846 which specified the
 years for which a state census was to be taken. Title III, Chapter 39, "The Census" stated that a state cen-
 sus was to be taken by the county assessors in 1852, 1854, 1856, and every ten years thereafter. Items
 specified for the schedules were: total number of males; total number of females; number of persons en-
 titled to vote; number of militia; number of foreigners not naturalized.

The law also created a Census Board, consisting of the Governor, the Secretary of State, the Auditor
 of State, and the Treasurer of State. This Board was empowered to require such other facts to be ascer-
 tained and returned in the censuses as they deemed expedient. The Board was ordered to prepare printed
 blank forms and printed directions for using the blank forms, and to furnish these materials to the asses-
 sors by the first Monday in March of the year in which a census was to be taken. The assessor was to com-
 plete the census by the first Monday in July and to furnish a duplicate of the schedules to the Secretary of
 State within 30 days. The Secretary of State was to file these duplicate schedules and to prepare an ab-
 stract from them ". . . to be recorded in a book to be by him prepared for that purpose and published in
 such a manner as the census board directs."

At their first meeting, December 22, 1851, the Census Board adopted a census schedule which added
 two items to those specified in the Code. Coloured males and coloured females were to be counted. The
 Board also ordered 40 gross of blank census forms and 3 gross of printed instructions from the state prin-
 ter. This form for 1852 was the first since 1838 which clearly specified the number of non-white residents
 of Iowa. Manuscript schedules are extant for 39 counties and abstracts of data for 8 counties. The popu-
 lation of Chickasaw County was estimated. Total figures by item are recorded in the Journal of the Census
Board, undated sheet between entries of December 22, 1851 and December 6, 1853.

The Code of Iowa, Passed at the Session of the General Assembly of 1850-1, and Approved 5th February,
1851. Iowa City: Palmer & Paul, State Printers, 1851. pp. 100-101.

Journal of the Census Board 22 December 1851 - 28 June 1873, mss. in I. D. H. A., Des Moines. (Ex 392,
 C X Series I).

Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Iowa. Iowa City: Wm. H. Merritt, State Printer,
 1852. p. 69.

Journal of the Senate of the Fourth General Assembly of the State of Iowa. Iowa City: Wm. H. Merritt,
 State Printer, 1852. p. 56.

Manuscript schedules for 39 counties and abstracts of data for 7 counties are in Boxes 3 and 4, I. D. H. A.,
 Des Moines.

By the provisions of Chapter 69, passed January 22, 1853, the Code of Iowa of 1851 was amended at Chapter 37, Section 613. Township assessors were to take the census instead of county assessors. The act provided for the popular election of assessors in each township to serve for one year, instead of the election of a county assessor. The same session of the legislature passed Chapter 95 on January 24, 1853, "An Act to provide for taking the census of a part of Warren County." The township assessors of township 77 north, of ranges 25, 24, 23, and so much of range 22 as lay in Warren County were to take a census of this township when they assessed it in 1853. No explanation of the purposes of or motivation for this particular special census has been found.

Acts, Resolutions and Memorials Passed at the Regular Session of the Fourth General Assembly of the State of Iowa. Iowa City: Wm. H. Merritt, State Printer, 1853. pp. 122-125, 151.

Manuscript schedules for the 1853 special census of Warren County are in Box 5, I. D. H. A., Des Moines.

11. 1854. The Census Board adopted the same blank schedule form with 8 items and the same instruction sheet for the census of 1854 as had been used in 1852. However, the returns actually show 4 additional items: number of idiots; number of insane; number of deaf and dumb; and number of blind. Manuscript schedules exist for 50 counties and abstracts of data for an additional 14 counties. Eight new counties reported for the first time in 1854.

Journal of the Census Board.

Census of Iowa, By Counties, as returned to the Secretary of State, For the Year 1854. Iowa City: D. A. Mahony and J. B. Dorr, State Printers, 1854. 1 page.

Journal of the Senate of the State of Iowa. Iowa City: D. A. Mahony and J. B. Dorr, State Printers, 1855. pp. 179-181 of the Appendix.

Manuscript schedules and abstracts are in Boxes 5, 6, and 7 of I. D. H. A., Des Moines.

12. 1856. The census of 1856 was more extensive in scope than any previous census taken by the state of Iowa. It contained several categories including such information as agricultural statistics, livestock, general manufactures, professions, and nativity of inhabitants. The printed schedules contained 42 separate items, but the printed report of the returns showed 76 items. This is because the entry "occupations" was broken down into 11 items and the entry "nativity" was broken down into 25 items. The other data was categorized with 18 items under the population entry, 13 items under the agricultural statistics entry, and 9 items under livestock and general manufactures.

Fourteen counties were reported for the first time, and a total of 80 counties made returns. Two organized counties, Warren and Woodbury, made no returns, and no report was received for the products of Sac County. Six thousand copies of the printed report of the returns for 1856 were made and these were distributed to the counties and to the members of the legislature. This was a greater number of printed reports than had been made for any previous census. Because of the expanded number of items in this schedule, a vast amount of data thus became more widely known, and since this was a period of rapid population growth was probably used for promotional purposes by the state officials and the land speculators.

The Census Returns of the Different Counties of the State of Iowa for 1856. Iowa City: Crum and Boye, Printers, 1857. 426 pp.

Journal of the Census Board.

Acts, Resolutions and Memorials Passed at the Regular Session of the Sixth General Assembly of the State of Iowa. Iowa City: P. Moriarty, State Printer, 1857. pp. 406-407. (By Chapter 245, the Auditor of State was ordered to provide a suitable index for the census returns. No evidence of such an index has been found.)

Manuscript schedules for 80 counties, in 33 bound volumes, are found in the I. D. H. A., Des Moines. Microfilm of these schedules is contained in 17 reels at the S. H. S. I., Iowa City.

13. 1859. A new Constitution was adopted for the state of Iowa on September 3, 1857. Article III, Section 33 stated that the General Assembly should in 1859, 1863, 1865, 1867, 1869, 1875 ". . . and every ten years thereafter, cause an enumeration to be made of all the white inhabitants of the State." Enabling legislation was passed on March 23, 1858. Chapter 138, Sections 1-11 ordered that the township assessor, at the time of assessing property in the years specified in the Constitution, shall ". . . take an enumeration of the inhabitants in his township."

The Census Board adopted a 50 item schedule, a holograph draft of which is recorded in the Journal of the Census Board along with a detailed text of the instructions to the assessors. Twenty-five reams of blank forms and 1500 copies of instructions were to be distributed through the clerks of the district court in each county. Returns were to be made to the clerks by June 1, 1859, abstracts were to be prepared by them and

forwarded to the Secretary of State by September 1, 1859.

Ninety-two counties reported census returns in 1859, giving a wide variety of population, agricultural, and domestic and general manufactures for the state. A printed report was published, the population items were included in the volume of Legislative Documents for 1859-60 along with a tabular sheet showing comparisons with previous censuses, and the Census Board ordered 3000 copies of a pamphlet digest of the material printed.

Shambaugh, Benjamin F. The Constitutions of Iowa. Iowa City: The State Historical Society of Iowa, 1934. pp. 269-280.

Shambaugh, Documentary Material. pp. 217-256.

The Census Returns of the Different Counties of the State of Iowa, for 1859. Des Moines: John Teesdale, State Printer, 1859. 95 pp.

Acts and Resolutions Passed at the Regular Session of the Seventh General Assembly of the State of Iowa. Des Moines: J. Teesdale, State Printer, 1858. pp. 261-263.

Legislative Documents, 1859-60. (no title page, 95 page census returns bound in with other documents.) Journal of the Census Board.

Manuscript schedules of the abstracts of statistics for 92 counties are preserved in Box 7, I. D. H. A., Des Moines.

14. 1860. The eighth federal census.

Microfilm at the S. H. S. I., Iowa City. 34 reels (NA #310-345).

15. 1863. The Code of Iowa was revised in 1860, but Title VIII, Chapter 48 of the new Code repeated the provisions of Chapter 138 of the Laws of 1858 pertaining to censuses. The Census Board, at their meeting November 18, 1862, adopted a 78 item schedule to be used in the census of 1863. Blank forms and instruction sheets were again provided at state expense. The printed report of these returns is misleadingly entitled as the returns for 1862, apparently in reference to the fact that the economic statistics were for the year preceding that in which the information was gathered. No manuscript schedules exist; however, in addition to the printed report, 104 pages of 1863 returns are printed in the Legislative Documents, Volume 2 of 1864 as well as a table of comparisons of these figures with those from the federal census of 1860.

Some sources infer that the men away in military service were not counted in this census. They may not have been counted directly, but the Journal of the Census Board refers to many commissioners being appointed in 1862 and 1863 for the purposes of taking the votes of the volunteer regiments. These votes could have at least roughly approximated a census count, if indeed the commissioners did not take an actual census. The references are vague and such figures would have been useful only in the total population statistics. Twelve items appear in the printed report for the population schedule, broken down by townships, and there are separate tables for economic data with county totals only.

Revision of 1860, Containing all of the Statutes of a General Nature of the State of Iowa, Which are now in Force, or to be in Force, as the Result of the Legislation of the Eighth General Assembly. Des Moines: John Teesdale, State Printer, 1860. pp. 161-162.

Census Returns of the Different Counties of the State of Iowa for the Year 1862. Des Moines: F. W. Palmer, State Printer, 1863. 105 pp.

Legislative Documents Compiled by Order of the Tenth General Assembly. Des Moines: F. W. Palmer, State Printer, 1864. Volume 2.

Journal of the Census Board.

16. 1865. The census for 1865 contained items that were substantially the same as for the preceding one. The notable difference was that, for the first time under state authority, the blanks were prepared to show clearly the total number of people (both whites and non-whites). This was because the Constitution had been amended to delete references to race. The economic data was the same as in 1863. No manuscript schedules for this census have survived.

Hair, James T. (comp. and ed.). Iowa State Gazetteer Embracing Descriptive and Historical Sketches of Counties, Cities, Towns and Villages Which Include Much Valuable Information Respecting the Agriculture, Manufactories, Commerce, Education and Religious Institutions; Population and History of the State. Chicago: Bailey & Hair, 1865. pp. 25, 66-79. (contains population totals for Iowa for each census year 1836 to 1862, including federal censuses, the census returns for 1865 contain total white, total non-white by county and township, and no other items, totals or otherwise.)

Census Returns of the Different Counties of the State of Iowa, as Returned in the Year 1865. Des Moines: F. W. Palmer, State Printer, 1866. (157 pages of census returns, lists of state officials, county officials, newspapers published in the state, etc.)
Journal of the Census Board.

17. 1867. The census of 1867 was a repetition of the two preceding ones, with the same items on the schedules. Geographically this was the most complete census to that time since all 97 organized counties in the state made returns, as did every township except two in Monona County. No manuscript schedules exist.

The Census of Iowa, as Returned in the Year 1867. Des Moines: F. W. Palmer, State Printer, 1867. 250 pp.

18. 1869. The census of 1869 presented the same items of information as those in 1867. No manuscript schedules exist.

The Census of Iowa as Returned in the Year 1869. Des Moines: F. M. Mills, State Printer, 1869. 267 pp.

19. 1870. The ninth federal census.

Microfilm at the S. H. S. I., Iowa City. 54 reels (NA #374-427).

20. 1873. A special census was taken in 1873 that was not under the provisions of Chapter 138 of the Act of 1858. An act was approved on April 9, 1872 called Chapter LII, "An Act to Provide for Taking a Census of this State in the year A. D. 1873," although no rationale was given for adding such a census so soon after the 1870 federal survey and so soon prior to the regular state census of 1875. A variation in normal procedure was stipulated whereby the township assessors reported the census returns to the county auditor instead of the clerk of court. Seventeen items appeared on the schedule, including the usual ones common to all previous censuses. All 99 counties in the state made returns, only three townships being left out. No manuscript schedules have survived, but 5000 copies of the report were printed, of which 10 were distributed to each county auditor by January 1, 1874. Breakdown in the printed report was by county, township, town or by city and ward.

Private, Local, and Temporary Acts Passed at the Regular Session of the Fourteenth General Assembly of the State of Iowa. Des Moines: G. W. Edwards, State Printer, 1872. pp. 53-54.
The Census of Iowa, as Returned in the Year 1873. Des Moines: R. P. Clarkson, State Printer, 1874. 156pp.

21. 1875. The 1873 Code of Iowa, Title II, Chapter 8, made two changes in the procedures for taking censuses in Iowa. The 1873 reform of having the township assessors report returns to the county auditor was made permanent. Also, the title of the Census Board was changed to Executive Council, which henceforth had the duties of preparing the blank schedule forms, determining the items on them, and distributing the forms and the instructions to the county auditors. The auditors in turn distributed the materials to the township assessors. Another modification was that the auditor was only required to submit an abstract of the returns to the Secretary of State. In most instances the manuscript schedules were collected and preserved in the Secretary's office.

Eleven items were required to be on the schedules for 1875 and after. One of these items was a general one, "An enumeration of agriculture, mining, and manufacturing statistics, including the value of the products of the farm, herd, orchard, dairy, each and value of manufactured articles, and of minerals sold, the year preceding the census." The Executive Council could require such other items to be added to the schedule at any time as they felt desirable.

In fact, the Executive Council determined to make the 1875 census the most exhaustive compilation of information ever yet undertaken on the state level. A schedule of 189 items was adopted, under 10 broad headings. The item headings indicate quite clearly the type of data that can be gained from the printed report of this census. They were: statistics of population (44 entries); statistics of the farm (48 entries); statistics of forest and hedge (3 entries); statistics of orchard and vine (18 entries); statistics of herd (25 entries); miscellaneous statistics (3 entries); statistics of value of products in 1874 (7 entries); statistics of manufactures (18 entries); statistics of mines and quarries (9 entries); statistics of colleges, seminaries, and other private schools (14 entries).

The Executive Council had a large number of the printed reports distributed throughout the state, and

also had recommendations to make about procedures for taking future censuses. They suggested that some person other than the assessor be selected to make the enumeration since it had been found that people were reluctant to give data about property to the assessor for fear it might be used for assessment purposes. "If the suggestion herein made, that the enumeration be taken by a person specially selected for the work, be adopted, the census can then be taken at the same time of year as that of the United States; which would have a tendency, the time being different from that of assessment, to keep the queries used for the census from being confounded with those designed to obtain data for taxation." No manuscript schedules for this 1875 census have been located.

Andreas, A. T. Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa. Chicago: Andreas Atlas Company, 1875. pp. 431-482 $\frac{3}{4}$ (totals by counties plus breakdowns by townships of 5 of the statistical headings were printed in certain editions of this atlas).

Thirteenth State Census: The Census of Iowa, as Returned in the Year 1875. Des Moines: R.P. Clarkson, State Printer, November 1, 1875. 507 pp.

22. 1880. The tenth federal census.

Microfilm at the S. H. S. I., Iowa City. 47 reels (NA #325-371).

23. 1885. This enumeration was the first in Iowa to be taken as of a particular day. It was ordered to be taken on January 1, but the council recommended that this be changed for later censuses to June 1, so it would coincide with the date on which the federal census was taken. This is also the first time that the assessors were required to make duplicate schedules of the population returns. One copy was to be forwarded by each auditor to the Secretary of State, and the other copy retained in the county. The Secretary was to compile the abstracts of the statistical data himself, instead of relying on the abstracts forwarded to him. The items on the schedule forms were the same as in 1875.

Jackson, Frank D., Secretary of State (comp.). Census of Iowa for the Year 1885. Des Moines: Geo. E. Roberts, State Printer, 1885. 517 pp.

Manuscript schedules in 142 bound volumes are in the I.D.H.A., Des Moines. There are occasional townships missing, and the index is arranged by county, township, and precinct.

24. 1890. The eleventh federal census.

25. 1895. The information compiled in this census is substantially the same as that for 1875 and 1885. One change was made in the reporting. The duplicate schedules of all headings, not just population, were forwarded to the Secretary of State for centralized compilation of data. Several alterations appear in the printed report for this year. The section devoted to population statistics was considerably enlarged, with tables presenting the population according to race, sex, broad age brackets, etc., and tables on the rural-urban distribution, occupational distribution by counties, families per dwelling unit, nativity totals by state and country of birth, and other such important social information.

McFarland, W. M., Secretary of State (comp.). Census of Iowa for the Year 1895. Des Moines: F. R. Conway, State Printer, 1896. 892 pp.

Manuscript schedules in 133 bound volumes are found in the I.D.H.A., Des Moines. (These returns are apparently complete.)

26. 1900. The twelfth federal census.

27. 1905. An act of the Legislature passed April 13, 1904 changed some conditions of taking the state censuses in Iowa. Chapter 8 of Title II in the Code was repealed by this act. The law provided that 25 items of information of a general nature were to be required, with 3 more items for veterans. The Executive Council was authorized to use its discretion as to the construction, form, and number of inquiries necessary to secure the information under the topics specified. Not only were blank schedule forms to be distributed to the census takers, but abstracts or compilations of each census were to be prepared and recorded by the Secretary of State, and published in book form. For the first time earmarked funds were appropriated to collect, compile, and proofread the 1905 report. It should be noted that the assessor was still the official who took the census and he still did it at the same time that he assessed property for taxation.

The manuscript schedules for the 1905 returns are missing, but the registers still exist. These consist of 125 bound volumes, by county, with larger cities bound in separate volumes. All names of persons counted in the 1905 census are copied in holograph, arranged by the numbers of the card on which the original enumeration was taken. Thus, other than the printed report, the only information available for this year is the name, and the township, ward, and post office address of each person.

Each bound register contains a printed foreword, all identical, which have some revealing comments. Items on the 1905 schedule are listed as: name, P. O. address, street number and name, town or township, county, color, place of birth, naturalization, years in U. S., years in Iowa, conjugal condition, school attendance, literacy, occupation, and military service. Another comment on the preservation of census records states, "It is the intention to preserve these cards [the ones now missing], the Registers serving as indexes to the same. The cards are to be arranged in steel cases by counties, in packages, by an age and sex arrangement indicated by the labels thereon." Further evidence as to the chaotic nature of census manuscripts is contained in the foreword. "These registers, it is hoped may find in the State Historical Department a place where they will be preserved for the use of succeeding generations. There having been up to this period no uniform record of the names of people in the different territories of the state, it is believed that the value of this list will in time become very great. Lists of names from previous census enumerations have been discovered in the debris of the attic of the Capitol building which will be placed with these registers in the Historical Department, whenever the legislature shall give legal sanction to the same."

Acts and Resolutions Passed at the Regular Session of the Thirtieth General Assembly of the State of Iowa.
Des Moines: Bernard Murphy, State Printer, 1905. pp. 7-8.

Census of Iowa for the Year 1905. Des Moines: Bernard Murphy, State Printer, 1905. 908 pp.

Manuscript schedules are missing, but the 125 volumes of the bound registers are preserved in the I. D. H. A. Des Moines.

28. 1910. The thirteenth federal census.

29. 1915. The general organization of this census is similar to that of 1905. For the first time an inquiry was made into the specific details of the educational achievements of the total population. The tabulated data on the urban-rural distribution of the population is more extensive than in any preceding census. The returns were taken on printed cards (which still exist), the fronts of which contain the population data and the backs of which contain economic information. There are 53 items of data about each person for whom a card was made.

Williams, Ora, Census Editor. Census of Iowa for the Year 1915. Des Moines: Robert Henderson, State Printer, January 3, 1916. 777 pp.

Manuscript schedule cards are preserved in 742 metal file drawers, organized by precinct, ward, town or township, and county, in the I. D. H. A., Des Moines.

30. 1920. The fourteenth federal census.

31. 1925. This enumeration was the last to be taken by the state of Iowa. It is similar to the census of 1915 in schedule items, the major addition being the amount for which each listed property owner's house was insured. In the printed report are tables on unemployment and on the religious distribution of the population by sex, neither of which was commonly included in other printed reports. The format of the manuscript schedules is also different, consisting of booklets with fold-out sheets, which makes it the easiest of all of the state schedules to examine in the original.

Morgans, Lou F., Director of the Census. Census of Iowa for the Year 1925. Des Moines: published by the State of Iowa, February 1, 1926. 1120 pp.

Manuscript schedules are in more than 18,000 leaflets and forms, stored in 75 metal filing cabinet drawers in the I. D. H. A., Des Moines.

32. 1930. The fifteenth federal census.

The taking of state censuses in Iowa was ended by action of the Legislature in a Joint Resolution, Chapter 268, passed in 1933, and Chapter 223, passed in 1935. These Joint Resolutions were an amendment to Article III of the Constitution of the State of Iowa, and, in effect, repealed Section 33 relating to the state

census. The action was ratified by the voters of the state at the election held on November 3, 1936, and certified as adopted as Amendment of 1936 on January 14, 1937. Thereafter only federal census data in printed form is available, as the manuscript federal censuses since 1890 are closed to research at the present time.

Brown, David K. (ed.). State of Iowa: Official Register, 1939-1940. Des Moines: published by the State of Iowa, 1939. p. 442.

Stiles, Cassius C. Public Archives. Reprinted from Annals of Iowa (3), X, 3 (October 1911), pp. 166-193, and X, 4-5 (January-April 1912), pp. 273-319; XVI, 2 (October 1927), pp. 107-130; XVI, 4 (April 1928), pp. 241-308 and 5 (July 1928), pp. 331-394, and 6 (October 1928), pp. 448-466, and 8 (April 1929), pp. 610-621.

Acts and Joint Resolutions Passed at the Regular Session of the Forty-Fifth General Assembly of the State of Iowa, 1933. p. 309.

Acts and Joint Resolutions Passed at the Regular Session of the Forty-Sixth General Assembly of the State of Iowa, 1935. p. 288.

33. 1940. The sixteenth federal census.

34. 1950. The seventeenth federal census.

35. 1960. The eighteenth federal census.

36. 1970. The nineteenth federal census.

In addition to the territorial, state, and federal censuses taken in Iowa, there were occasionally special or local censuses which were not statewide. Nevertheless the information in them can be of value to the historian. These restricted censuses are not generally available for examination, and the location of the material will be cited with each date and place.

Adams' Advertising Directory Containing the Cards of Many of the Principal Business Houses in the City of Dubuque in the Spring of 1857. Dubuque: Nonpareil Publishing House, 1857. Census of Dubuque taken by the Board of Education in September 1856 is abstracted on page 18. There is a breakdown by wards, by total population, and by whole numbers of families.

Commercial Advertiser Directory for the City of Dubuque. Dubuque: Gilmore and Corr, 1858. Census of Dubuque taken by the Board of Education in September 1857 is abstracted on page 16.

Express and Herald (Dubuque, Iowa), October 14, 1857. Census of Dubuque taken by the Board of Education in September 1857 is printed in this issue.

Denny, Paris P. Census of the City of Davenport, Iowa, Taken March, 1858. Davenport: no publishing company indicated, 1858. Complete census returns are printed in this book.

Manuscript Collection, Census Division, Boxes 8, 9, and 10, I.D.H.A., Des Moines, Iowa contain:

1881 City Census of Mason City.	1892 City Census of Tama.
1887 City Census of Clinton.	1893 City Census of Ames.
1888 City Census of Algona.	1893 City Census of Bloomfield.
1889 City Census of North Des Moines.	1893 City Census of Hampton.
1891 City Census of Emmetsburg.	1893 City Census of Mystic.
1891 City Census of Ottumwa.	1893 City Census of Nevada.
1891 City Census of Spencer.	1893 City Census of West Union.
1891 City Census of Villisca.	1895 City Census of Independence.
1892 City Census of Carroll.	1896 City Census of Oelwein.
1892 City Census of Eagle Grove.	1897 City Census of Cherokee (or 1891).
1892 City Census of Estherville.	1897 City Census of New Hampton.
1892 City Census of Jefferson.	

Following is a general bibliography of census finding aids.

Brewer, Mary Marie (comp.). Index to Census Schedules in Printed Form - Those Available and Where to Obtain Them. Huntsville, Arkansas: Century Enterprises, 1969. 63 pp.

Census Records. Special catalog of reprints from Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 1973. 16 pp.

- Federal Population Censuses, 1790-1890. Washington, D. C.: The National Archives, 1966. 154 pp.
- Federal Population Census, 1790-1890: A Catalog of Microfilm Copies of the Schedules. Washington, D. C.: National Archives and Records Service, 1971. 90 pp.
- Franklin, W. Neil. "Availability of Federal Population Census Schedules in the States." National Genealogical Society Quarterly, 50, 1 (March 1962). pp. 19-25 and 2 (June 1962). pp. 101-109.
- Franklin, W. Neil. Federal Population and Mortality Census Schedules, 1790-1890, in the National Archives and the States: Outline of a Lecture on Their Availability, Content, and Use. Washington, D. C.: The National Archives, 1971. 89 pp.
- Gallaher, Ruth A. "Vagaries of the Census." The Palimpsest, XXIX, 4 (April 1948). pp. 127-128.
- Howard, Winifred McGuinn. "The Census of 1840." The Palimpsest, XXI, 6 (June 1940). pp. 165-180.
- Kirkham, E. Kay. A Survey of American Census Schedules. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Company, 1959. 102 pp.
- Stemmons, John D. The United States Census Compendium. Logan: The Everton Publishers, Inc., 1973. 144 pp.

Other census materials on microfilm at the State Historical Society of Iowa from federal census sources include Productions of Agriculture schedules, Products of Industry schedules, Social Statistics schedules, Defective, Dependent and Delinquent schedules, and Mortality schedules. In addition, the following printed census reports are available at the Society:

- Shambaugh, Benjamin F. (ed.). The First Census of the Original Counties of Dubuque and Des Moines (Iowa) Taken in July, 1836. Des Moines: The Historical Department of Iowa, 1897. 93 pp.
- Census of Iowa, By Counties, as returned to the Secretary of State, For the Year 1854. Iowa City: D. A. Mahony and J. B. Dorr, State Printers, 1854. 1 page.
- The Census Returns of the Different Counties of the State of Iowa for 1856. Iowa City: Crum and Boye, Printers, 1857. 426 pp.
- The Census Returns of the Different Counties of the State of Iowa for 1859. Des Moines: John Teesdale, State Printer, 1859. 95 pp.
- Census Returns of the Different Counties of the State of Iowa for the Year 1862. Des Moines: F. W. Palmer, State Printer, 1863. 105 pp.
- Census Returns of the Different Counties of the State of Iowa, as Returned in the Year 1865. Des Moines: F. W. Palmer, State Printer, 1865. 157 pp.
- The Census of Iowa, as Returned in the Year 1867. Des Moines: F. W. Palmer, State Printer, 1867. 250 pp.
- The Census of Iowa as Returned in the Year 1869. Des Moines: F. M. Mills, State Printer, 1869. 267 pp.
- The Census of Iowa as Returned in the Year 1873. Des Moines: R. P. Clarkson, State Printer, 1874. 156 pp.
- Thirteenth State Census: The Census of Iowa, as Returned in the Year 1875. Des Moines: R. P. Clarkson, State Printer, November 1, 1875. 507 pp.
- Census of Iowa for the Year 1885. Frank D. Jackson, Secretary of State (comp.). Des Moines: Geo. E. Roberts, State Printer, 1885. 517 pp.
- Census of Iowa for the Year 1895. W. M. McFarland, Secretary of State (comp.). Des Moines: F. R. Conway, State Printer, 1896. 892 pp.
- Census of Iowa for the Year 1905. Des Moines: Bernard Murphy, State Printer, 1905. 908 pp.
- Census of Iowa for the Year 1915. Ora Williams, Census Editor. Des Moines: Robert Henderson, State Printer, January 3, 1916. 777 pp.
- Census of Iowa for the Year 1925. Lou F. Morgans, Director of the Census. Des Moines: published by the State of Iowa, February 1, 1926. 1120 pp.