

Searching in the 1850 U.S Census- 1940 U.S Census

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Different Strategies searching in the 1850 U.S Census-1940 U.S Census

- Name of individual
- Add birth
- Add location
- Exact birth year and location
- Wild Cards
 - *: multiple letters
 - ?: a single letter
 - Example: Wil* Harris
 - Example: W?lliam Harris
- Different spelling of names
- Other family (especially if there is a unique name)

Different information can be gathered from Censuses to know what other records need to be searched and to help support indirect or direct evidence.

- Relationship to Head of Household
- Birth year/ age
- Birth location
- Parents birth location/ tongue
- Occupation
- Land
- Military
- Naturalization
- Read/ Write
- Street address
- Dwelling number/ family number
- Number of years married
- Number of children living
- What marriage (first or second)

Case Study for 1850 U.S Census- 1940 U.S Census

- **William Jasper Harris (1835-1909) Father**
 - **Case Study for 1850 U.S Census**

William Jasper Harris (1836-1909):

Born: 25 October 1836, Geneva, Morgan, Illinois.

Marriage: 21 April 1857, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory.

Death: 24 April 1909, Provo, Utah, Utah.

Wife: Martha Ann Smith (1841-1923)

Birth: 14 May 1841, Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois.

Death: 19 October 1923, Provo, Provo, Utah.

Parents:

Father: Zachariah Harris (1813-1841)

Born: 4 April 1813, Pendleton, Anderson, South Carolina.

Marriage: 6 March 1834, Macoupin, Illinois.

Death: September 1841, Geneva, Morgan, Illinois.

Mother: Almira Emily Hill (1815-1882)

Birth: 25 November 1815, Pendleton, Anderson, South Carolina.

Death: 20 March 1882, Provo, Utah, Utah, Territory.

- **William Jasper Harris (1859-1926) Son**
 - **Case Study for 1860 U.S Census- 1920 U.S Census**

William Jasper Harris:

Born: 4 August 1859, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory.

Married: 28 December 1882, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory.

Death: 23 December 1926, Provo, Utah, Utah.

Wife: Jessie Lena Freckleton

Birth: 22 September 1865, Deseret, Millard, Utah Territory.

Death: 5 August 1945, Provo, Utah, Utah.

Parents: Refer to above.

- **John Ernest Harris (1886-1964) Grandson**
 - **Case Study for 1930 U.S Census- 1940 U.S Census**

John Ernest Harris:

Born: 19 April 1886, Provo, Utah, Utah Territory.

Married: 5 September 1906, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah.

Death: 13 February 1964, Provo, Utah, Utah.

Wife: Ellen Pitman

Birth: 5 January 1888, Scofield, Carbon, Utah Territory.

Death: 29 August 1982, Provo, Utah, Utah.

Parents: Refer to above.

1850 U.S Census¹

504	504	Abraham O. Smoot	36	M	"	400	Ken?
		Margaret	42	F			SC
		William C. a.	23	M	"		Jenn.
		Adeline Freeman	24	F			"
		William	18	M	"		"
505	505	Edward Harris	34	M	"	200	MC
		Emily	54	F			"
		Artemisia	17	F			See
		William	15	M			"
		Alma	7	F			"

16m (7m 3f 6da)
11f
D. McBride

Steps used to find William Harris (1835-1909):

- First:
 - William Harris,
 - Birth: 1836
 - Several Results
 - Add Location: Illinois
 - Still Several Results
 - Next Step:
 - Searching with his mother
 - Almira Harris
 - Birth 1818
 - Several Results
 - Add Location: Utah
 - Many Results
 - Emily Harris (Middle name)
 - 1 Result
 - Next step:
 - Sister:
- Artemisa Harris
 - Birth 1835
 - Location: Utah
 - 2 Results on Ancestry
 - 1 Result on Family Search (Same person on both censuses)
- Result:
- William Harris
 - Emily Harris (Mother)
 - Edward Harris??
 - Emily remarried Abraham Smoot. Edward Harris is new to the picture.
- Information found:
- No relationship to head of house
 - No occupation listed

¹ 1850 U.S Census, Salt Lake County, Utah, population schedule, Salt Lake City, p.58, dwelling 505, family 505, William Harris, digital image, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org:accessed 7 December 2021).

1860 U.S Census²

663	34	William J Harris	23	m	farmer	100	600	Ill
		Martha Ann	19	f				
		William jr	1/2	m				Utah

Steps used to find William Harris (1859-1926):

First

- Name: William Harris
 - Several Results

Second:

- Add birth year: 1859
- Add location: Utah

Result:

- He was the first result, and his father was the second result.

Information found:

- No relationship to head of household
- Occupation: Farmer (William J Harris Sr)
- Birth Location:
 - Illinois
 - Illinois
 - Utah
- Value of Real Estate: 100
- Value of personal Estate: 600

1870 U.S Census³

64	56	Harris William	32	M	Laborer			Illinois
		" Martha	29	F	Keeping House			Illinois
		" William	12	M	at school			Utah
		" Joseph	9	M	at school			Utah
		" Myram	6	M	at home			Utah
		" Mary	4	F	at home			Utah
		" Franklin	2	M	at home			Utah
		" Lincy	1/2	F				Utah

Steps used to find William Harris (1859-1926):

First step:

- Name William Harris
- Birth: 1859
- Several Results different places

Second Step:

- Add Location: Utah
- Several Results in Utah

Third step:

- William Harris
- Birth: 1838
- Location: Utah

Result:

- Found under his father William Jasper Harris

² 1860 U.S Census, Salt Lake County, Utah, population schedule, Salt Lake City, p.96, dwelling 663, family 34, William Harris, digital image, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org:accessed 7 December 2021).

³ 1870 U.S Census, Utah County, Utah, population schedule, Provo, p.267 (back), dwelling 64, family 56, William Harris, digital image, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org:accessed 7 December 2021).

Information found:

- No relationship to Head
- Occupation listed:
 - William: Laborer
 - Martha: Keeping House
 - William: at school

- Joseph: at school
- All the rest of the kids at home
- Location of birth:
 - Illinois
 - Illinois
 - All the children in Utah

1880 U.S Census⁴

2123	Harris William	W. No. 41	1	Farming	U	Illinois	W. No. 10	1859
	Martha	W. No. 40	1	Keeping House		Illinois	W. No. 10	1859
2123	Harris William	W. No. 21	1	Son	At Home	Utah	W. No. 21	1859
	Hiram	W. No. 15	1	Son	at Home	Utah	W. No. 15	1859
	Mary E	W. No. 14	1	Daughter		Utah	W. No. 14	1859

Steps used to find William Jasper Harris (1859-1926):

First step

Name: William Harris

- Birth: 1859
- Several Results different places

Next step

- Add location: Utah
- William J Harris

Result:

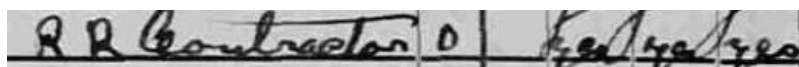
- William B Harris (middle initial was indexed incorrectly).

Information found:

- Relationship to head of household: Son (Relationship is stated starting in the 1880 U.S Census)
- Occupation
- Birth location
- Birth location of parents

⁴ 1880 U.S Census, Utah County, Utah, population schedule, Pleasant Grove, ED 89, p. 296D(stamped), dwelling 21, family 23, William J Harris; digital image, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org:accessed 7 December 2021).

1900 U.S Census⁵



Steps used to find William Harris (1859-1926):

First Step:

- Name: William Jasper
- Birth: 1859
- Many results

Next step:

- Add location: Utah
- Different results, one being his dad

Next step:

- William's wife: Jessie

Result:

- living with her brother and children.
Still married.

Next step:

- Will J Harris
- Exact birth
- Location:

- Utah
- No Results

Next step:

- William J Harris
- Birth: 1859
- Exact Location: Utah

Result: W J Harris

Information found:

- Name: W J Harris
- Relationship to head: Boarder
- Birth: August 1859
- Birth location: Utah
- Parents Birth location: Illinois
- Occupation: Railroad Contractor

⁵ 1900 U.S Census, Sweetwater County, Wyoming, population schedule, ED 57, p.94, sheet 13B (stamped), dwelling 140, family 141, W. J Harris; digital image, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org:accessed 7 December 2021).

1910 U.S Census:⁶

214	78	85	Harris W. J.	Great-Grandfather	M	W	49	10/1	11	Illinois	Vermont	Eng. English
			Sumner, Edna, Mrs	Gr-Daughter	F	W	11	S		Utah	Utah	Utah
			John A	Gr-Son	M	W	9	S		Utah	Utah	Utah
			Harris W. J.	Son	M	W	50	11/23		Utah	Illinois	Illinois
			Essie L.	Daughter	F	W	41	11/22	2	Utah	Ill. England	Ill. England
			Ruby L.	Gr-Daughter	F	W	21	S		Utah	Utah	Utah
			Wilford L.	Gr-Son	M	W	19	S		Utah	Utah	Utah
			Bessie L.	Gr-Daughter	F	W	16	S		Utah	Utah	Utah
			Reuel J.	Gr-Son	M	W	12	S		Utah	Utah	Utah
			Udell P.	Gr-Daughter	F	W	10	S		Utah	Utah	Utah
			Victor W.	Gr-Daughter	F	W	8	S		Utah	Utah	Utah
			Udell B.	Gr-Daughter	F	W	7	S		Utah	Utah	Utah
English	Drummaking	at Home	CA							Yes	Yes	
English	None									Yes	Yes	Yes
English	None									Yes	Yes	Yes
English	Contractor	R R Grading	CA							Yes	Yes	
English	None									Yes	Yes	
English	None									Yes	Yes	
English	Clerk	Business	W	W	0					Yes	Yes	
English	None									Yes	Yes	Yes
English	None									Yes	Yes	Yes
English	None									Yes	Yes	Yes
English	None									Yes	Yes	Yes
English	None									Yes	Yes	Yes

Steps used to find William Harris (1859-1926):

First Step:

- Name: William Harris
- Birth: 1859
- Many results

Next step:

- Add location: Utah
- Different results

Next Step:

- Name: W*ll Harris
- Many Results

Next step:

- Name W. J Harris

Result:

- Found under W. J Harris

Information found:

- Name: W. J Harris
- Relationship to head of household: Son
- Occupation: R R Grading

⁶ 1910 U.S Census, Utah County, Utah, population schedule, Provo, ED 193, p.33, sheet 4B (stamped), dwelling 78, family 85, W. J Harris; digital image, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org:accessed 7 December 2021).

1920 U.S Census⁷

91m	86	91	William J Harris	Head	18	M	W	60	M			Yes	Yes	Utah	Missouri	Missouri
✓			Jasper	Wife		F	W	54	M			Yes	Yes	Utah	Utah	Utah
✓			Paul S	Son		M	W	22	S			Yes	Yes	Utah	Utah	Utah
✓			Alice K	Daughter		F	W	17	S		No	Yes	Yes	Utah	Utah	Utah
✓			Shirley	Daughter		M	W	9	S		Yes			Utah	Utah	Utah
✓			Shirley	Daughter		F	W	9	S		Yes			Utah	Utah	Utah
✓			Howard	Grandson		M	W	7	S		Yes			Utah	Utah	Utah
✓			Heaven	Grandson		M	W	5	S		No			Utah	Utah	Utah

Yes	Yes	Farmer	Utah	EM	56
Yes	Yes	None			
Yes	Yes	Farmer	Utah	W	
Yes	Yes	None			
		None			
		None			

Steps used to find William Harris (1859-1926)

First Step:

- Name: William Jasper
- Birth: 1859
- Many results

Next step:

- Add location: Utah

Result:

- Living in Idaho with his family

Information found:

- William is head of household
- William's mother's birthplace is listed as Missouri.
- Occupation: Farmer
- He can also read and writ

1930 U.S Census⁸

⁷ 1920 U.S Census, Butt County, Idaho, population schedule, Moor, ED 133, p.220, sheet 5B (stamped), dwelling 86, family 91, William J Harris; digital image, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org:accessed 8 December 2021).

⁸ 1930 U.S Census, Utah County, Utah, population schedule, Provo, ED 30-57, p.733, sheet 7A (stamped), dwelling 259, family 290, John E Harris; digital image, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org:accessed 8 December 2021).

115259290	Harris, John E.	Head	0	8000 R	no	m	W	43	M	20	no	yes	Utah	Utah	Utah
	Ellen	Wife-H			✓	f	W	42	M	19	no	yes	Utah	England	Utah
	Agnes	Daughter			✓	f	W	20	d		no	yes	Utah	Utah	Utah
	Leonard	Son			✓	m	W	17	d		yes	yes	Utah	Utah	Utah
	Mary	Daughter			✓	f	W	14	d		yes	yes	Utah	Utah	Utah
	Lola	Daughter			✓	f	W	10	d		yes	yes	Idaho	Utah	Utah
	Alton	Daughter			✓	f	W	7	d		yes	yes	Texas	Utah	Utah

yes	Book Keeper	Newspaper	6749	W	yes
yes	none				
yes	none				
yes	none				

Steps to finding John Ernest Harris (1889-1964)

First Step:

- Name: John Harris
- Several Results

Next step:

- Name: John Harris
- Birth: 1886
- Many results

Next step:

- Name: John Harris
- Birth: 1886

- Location: Utah

Result:

- John E Harris

Information found:

- Married at the age of 20
- Parents birth location is Utah
- Occupation: booker keeper at a Newspaper office.

1940 U.S Census⁹

⁹ 1940 U.S Census, Salt Lake County, Utah, population schedule, Salt Lake City, ED 25-42, p.42, sheet 12B (stamped), John E Harris; digital image, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org:accessed 8 December 2021).

