

Census

Portion Of The 1880 Census

Family number in order of visitation	Name of Persons in Place of Abode on June 1, 1880	Color	Sex	Age at Last Birthday	Relationship to head of Household	Civil Condition	Profession	Place of Birth	Place of Birth of Father	Place of Birth of Mother
	Townsend, Walter	W	M	15	Son	S	Working on Farm	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Townsend, Oliver	W	M	12	Son	S	Working on Farm	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
24	Pinkham, James	W	M	45		M	Secretary of State Temperance Society	Me.	Me.	Me.
	Pinkham Mary	W	F	48	Wife	M	Keeping House	Va.	Va.	Va.
	Pinkham, Sarah F.	W	F	9	Daughter	S		Iowa	Me.	Va.
25	Beeson, Richard	W	M	62		M		Ohio		
	Beeson, Rebecca	W	F	61	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio		
	Bundy, Rachel P.	W	F	56		W	Keeping House	Ohio	Va.	Va.
	Bundy, Rachel E.	W	F	20	Daughter	S	At Home	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
26	Hoover, Allen	W	M	35		M	Farmer	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Hoover, Amelia	W	F	33	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ind.	Ohio	Ohio
	Hoover, Alice	W	F	9	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio

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	Hoover, Walter	W	M	5	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
27	Keeler, Daniel	W	M	38		M	Farmer	N.Y.		
	Keeler, Louisa	W	F	38	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Ohio	Eng.
	Keeler, Grace	W	F	9	Step-Daughter	S		Ill.		
	Keeler, John	W	M	70	Father	W		Ohio	Ohio	Eng.
	Douglass, Sylvester	W	M	21	Son	S	Clerk in Agricultural Store	Iowa	Pa.	Ohio
	Douglass, Eddie	W	M	16	Son	S	Farm Hand	Iowa	Pa.	Ohio
	Douglass, Mary E.	W	F	13	Daughter	S	At Home	Iowa	Pa.	Ohio
	Douglass, Maude	W	F	2	Daughter	S		Iowa	Pa.	Ohio
67	Rummells, John	W	M	40		M	Butcher	Pa.	X	Pa.
	Rummells, Amanda	W	F	50	Wife	M	Keeping House	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.
	Rummells, Sarah	W	F	20	Daughter	S	At Home			
	Rummells, Susannah	W	F	16	Daughter	S	At Home			

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	Rummells, John	W	M	15	Son	S	Working on Farm			
	Rummells, Lydia	W	F	13	Daughter	S				
	Rummells, Josiah	W	M	9	Son	S				
68	Swafford, Louis	W	M	27		S	Merchant	Iowa	Pa.	Ohio
	Cook, Ellis	W	M	89		M		Pa.	Pa.	Pa.
	Cook, Betsey	W	F	72	Wife	M	Keeping House	N.H.	N.H.	N.H.
69	Hoover, Eli	W	M	59		M	Laborer	Ohio	N.C.	Ky.
	Hoover, Hannah	W	F	48	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ireland	Ireland	Ireland
	Hoover, Mary J.	W	F	18	Daughter	S	At Home	Iowa	Ohio	Ireland
	Collins, Eli	W	M	24	Son	S	Farmhand	Iowa	N.J.	N.J.
	Collins, Frances	W	F	9	Grand-Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Iowa
78	Hoover, Jesse	W	M	33		M	Agricultural Implement Dealer	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Hoover, Hulda	W	F	32	Wife	M	House Keeper	Canada	Canada	Canada
	Hoover,	W	M	9	Son	S	At School	Iowa	Ohio	Canada

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	Theodore									da
	Hoover, Herbert	W	M	5	Son	S	At School	Iowa	Ohio	Canada
	Hoover, Mary	W	F	3	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Canada
79	Smith, Peter	W	M	44		M	Carpenter	Mass.	R.I.	R.I.
	Smith, Mary	W	F	36	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Smith, Clara	W	F	18	Daughter	S	At Home	Ohio	Mass.	Ohio
	Smith, Ella	W	F	15	Daughter	S	At Home	Iowa	Mass.	Ohio
	Smith, Etta	W	F	10	Daughter	S	At Home	Iowa	Mass.	Ohio
	Smith, Eddie	W	M	8	Son	S		Iowa	Mass.	Ohio
	Smith, William	W	M	5	Son	S		Iowa	Mass.	Ohio
80	Coombs, Joseph	W	M	58		M	Carpenter	Me.		
	Coombs, Lucy	W	F	40	Wife	M	Keeping House	Me.	Me.	Me.
	Coombs, George	W	M	15	Son	S	Carpenter	Me.	Me.	Me.

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Discussion

The United States has taken a census of its population every ten years since 1780. The census offers a window through which we see the lives of people from long ago. When Herbert Hoover was five years old, Peter Thomas visited West Branch as an enumerator for the 1880 census. Thomas visited every house in West Branch and asked questions about all the people who lived there—including about their professions and the places of birth of their mothers and fathers. In total, he reported that the population of West Branch was 502, with 267 females and 225 males and 111 families in all.

Questions

Please look over the following three pages from that 1880 census and use them to answer the questions below. You will see that each family or household was assigned a number—Herbert Hoover’s family was listed as Family Number 78. Most of the terms and headings should be self explanatory. One note: “Civil Condition” refers to marital status: W = widowed, M = married, and S = single.

1. List the different jobs of people as reported in the census. Do these types of jobs fit your picture of historical West Branch from your visit to the park? How do they differ from the types of jobs people have in your town?
2. How many people were in Herbert Hoover’s family? How many relatives of Bert’s can you find in these pages?
3. How many of the people listed on these pages were born in Iowa? List where those not born in Iowa were from. What does this suggest about the town of West Branch (and the State of Iowa)?

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4. Based on the information in these pages from the census, can you figure out the names of some kids Bert might have played with?
5. What are some other ways you can imagine historians using census information?
6. Complete a census of your class! Make a list of things you'd like to know, and ask all of your classmates.