

Finding Clues In The Census Records

By Kathy Foggia



After gathering all the information, you can from relatives, both from their memories and from documents they have shared, it is time to start looking through census records for your family. By working your way back through the censuses, you can trace your family to when they first arrived in the United States.

There are US and State census records available with a wealth of information in them. Using family information, you can get to the **1940 Federal Census** (the last released census). From this census you can find out where your family lived, names, ages, attended school, grade level, birthplace, citizenship, place of birth of father and mother, language spoken in childhood, if a veteran, war or military service, does this person have a Social Security number, were deductions for old age insurance or Railroad Retirement made from this person's wages in 1939.

The **1930 Federal Census** will tell you where they lived, each family member as well as relation to head of family, home owned, value, age, married, age at first marriage, able to read or write, place of birth of person, and parents, native language, year of immigration to US, naturalized or alien, able to speak English, occupation, employed, veteran, what war.

State Iowa Incorporated place Des Moines City DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
 COUNTY Polk Ward of city 8 (part) FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1930
 Township or other division of county See Township Unincorporated place _____ Enumeration District No. 77-133 Sheet No. 14 B
 NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE _____ WARD OF CITY _____ SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT No. 9
 NAME OF INSTITUTION _____ ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE April 23, 1930 DAY OF April, 1930. Naomi Wells ENUMERATOR

PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME	RELATION	HOME DATA	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH		MOTHER TONGUE OR NATIVE LANGUAGE	CITIZENSHIP, ETC.	OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY		EMPLOYMENT	VETERAN
						FATHER	MOTHER			INDUSTRY	OCCUPATION		
Italy	De Philippe-Mike	Head	1570	47	20	Italy	Italy	Italian	1907	Labourer	2-23	no	
Italy	Mary	Wife		47	20	Italy	Italy	Italian	1907	Homemaker			
Italy	Mose	Son		15	8	Italy	Italy	Italian	1914	none			
Italy	Paula	Daughter		15	8	Italy	Italy	Italian	1914	none			
Italy	Francis	Son		13	9	Italy	Italy	Italian	1916	none			
Italy	Pat	Son		10	12	Italy	Italy	Italian	1919	none			

The **1920 Federal Census** will tell you where they lived, each family member as well as relationship to head of family, age, home owned or rented, year of immigration to US, naturalized or alien, if naturalized-year of naturalization, able to read or write, place of birth, mother tongue, place of birth of father and mother, occupation.

STATE Iowa COUNTY Polk DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
 TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY Part of precinct 2 NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE Des Moines City FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920—POPULATION
 NAME OF INSTITUTION _____ ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 7th DAY OF January, 1920. Harmon H. Jaggart ENUMERATOR

PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME	RELATION	DETL.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	CITIZENSHIP	EDUCATION	NATIVITY AND MOTHER TONGUE		OCCUPATION
							FATHER	MOTHER	
Italy	Mary - Virginia	Wife	F. M.	35	7	1904	Italy	Italian	none
Italy	John	Son	F. M.	7	5	1913	Italy	Italian	none
Italy	Sam	Son	F. M.	5	5	1915	Italy	Italian	none
Italy	Sarah	Daughter	F. M.	5	5	1915	Italy	Italian	none

The **1910 Federal Census** will tell you where they lived, each family member as well as relationship to head of family, age, number of years married, number of children, number of children living, place of birth, place of birth of father and mother, year of immigration to US, naturalized or alien, able to speak English, profession, working, number of weeks out of work in 1909, able to read and write, own or rent home, farm or house, whether a survivor of the Union or Confederate Army or Navy.

STATE Iowa COUNTY Polk DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
 TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY X NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE Des Moines City (part of) THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910—POPULATION
 NAME OF INSTITUTION _____ ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 26 DAY OF April, 1910. William Clark ENUMERATOR

PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	SEX	AGE	EDUCATION	MARRIAGE	CITIZENSHIP	NATIVITY AND MOTHER TONGUE		OCCUPATION	EDUCATION	WEEKS # EMP.
									FATHER	MOTHER			
Italy	Michael Joseph	Head	37	M	49	8	1	1907	Italy	Italian	Labourer	1	1
Italy	Martha Joseph	Wife	37	F	47	12	1	1907	Italy	Italian	Homemaker	1	1
Italy	Calogian Joe	Brother	24	M	23	3	1	1907	Italy	Italian	Labourer	1	1
Italy	Franklin Joe	Brother	21	M	20	1	1	1907	Italy	Italian	Labourer	1	1
Italy	Josephine	Daughter	11	F	11	0	1	1907	Italy	Italian	none	1	1