

Smith Household

Name	Age	Gender
John Smith	36-55	Male
unknown	36-55	Female
unknown	24-26	Female
unknown	under 10	Male
unknown	under 10	Male
unknown	under 10	Female
unknown	under 10	Female

Only the name of the head of the household was included on the 1840 census - all others are "unknown"

John Smith lived here from 1840 to 1847, along with six other people that may have been family members

John Smith was freed in 1840

His occupation was not recorded

1840 Census: Smith

Names of County, City, Ward, Town, Township, Parish, Precinct, Enumeration or District.	NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES.	FREE COLORED PERSONS.									
		MALES					FEMALES				
		Under 10	10 under 24	24 under 36	36 under 55	55 and up	Under 10	10 under 24	24 under 36	36 under 55	55 and up
	Mr. Dudley	2	1		1		3	2		1	
	George Brecht				1					1	
	John Smith	2			1		2		1	1	
	John F. Haugh		1						1		



What is a census?

Every ten years since 1790, the United States has attempted to record every person living in the country. The type of information recorded has changed over time.

What is recorded in 1840?

Only the name of each head of household was recorded. All others were marked by age, race, and gender.

There is no easy way to know if someone in the house is a roommate, sibling, child, or spouse.

Jasper Household

Name	Age	Gender	Literate (can read or write)
Harriet Jasper	50	Female	No

Harriet Jasper
lived here from
1849 - 1851

418 South Royal
was a one story
house when she
lived there

She was freed
by her nextdoor
neighbor, George
Brooks, in 1837,
along with her
daughter Martha

1850 Census & Tax Lists: Jasper

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in *The Town of Alexandria* **in the County of** *Alexandria* **State** *633*
of *Virginia* **enumerated by me, on the** *11th* **day of** *July* **1850.** *James Carwood* **Ass't Marshal.**

Dwelling-houses numbered in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	PLACE OF BIRTH. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Persons over 20 yrs of age who cannot read & write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
			Age.	Sex.	Color, White, black, or mulatto.							
182	191	George Brooks	65	M	B	Cartman		Virginia			1	
		Harriet	50	F				England			1	
		Lewis Davis	5	M				Virginia				
183	192	Harriet Jasper	50	F				"			1	
184	193	John Credit	27	M	W	Labour		Dist of Col			1	

Proprietor's Name	Description of Property	Street	Occupant	Assessed Value	Value of Furniture	No of Sigholes	No of Windows	No of Stables	No of Cattle	No of Horses	No of Cows	No of Sheep	No of Swine	No of Carts	No of Wagons
Belia Brooks, ldd	"	" Royal V "	Self	900	100	1	2								
Harriet Jasper ldd															
George Brooks ldd						1	1								

What are tax lists?

1850 property taxes list the owner and tenants of the property, street name, number of stories of the building, and the total property worth. People were taxed on ships, horses, cows, carts, and certain businesses. They also note if a person was considered "Col'd" (colored).

The 1850 census

1850 was the first year to list every person in the household, along with their age, sex, race, occupation, birthplace, and education.

The 1850 census did not list where people lived. Tax lists from the same year help to figure out which street they lived on.

Reverend Adams Household

Name	Wife	Children	Occupation
Reverend George Adams	No	None	Baptist Minister

Reverend Adams lived here in 1876 before moving to "Fairfax Court House" (Fairfax City) in 1877

A newspaper shows Reverend Adams gave a sermon at Alexandria's Beulah Baptist Church in 1877

The Reverend doesn't show up on the census in Hayti because he only lived there for one year

Directories & Newspapers: Adams

Use George R. Hill & Co.'s Superior Family
AD [34] AI

Adam H A Mrs, dressmaker, 208 King h same
Adam Robert A, clk, bds 144 Duke
Adam T I, physician, 206 King h same
Adam W W, (W W Adam & Son,) h 144 Duke
Adam William W, Jr, clk, bds 222 Prince
ADAMS EXPRESS Co., R W Falls agt, 15 n
Fairfax
Adams George Rev, h 106 s Royal
*Adams George, driver, h 55 s Peyton
Adams James L, lumber measurer, h 107 s Lee
Adams J L, R R ag't, h Washington cor Wolfe
*Adams John, lab, h 141 n St Asaph

Local Brevities.
Services will be held at Beulah Baptist Church (colored) to morrow, as follows:—At 11 a. m., Rev. H. C. Robinson, of Wayland Seminary, Washington, will preach; at 3 p. m., a social meeting will be held; at 7½ p. m., Rev. George Adams, of Fairfax C. H., Va., will preach.

What is a directory?

City directories list the names, addresses, and sometimes occupations of people and businesses in Alexandria. In 1876, Reverend Adams was listed on what is now the 400 block of South Royal Street.

Making the News

Newspapers contain a wealth of information and can add to the life stories of residents beyond basic demographics.

Reynolds & Redd Household

Name	Age	Gender	Occupation
Roy Reynolds	36	Male	Laborer
Catherine Reynolds	32	Female	Keeps House
Emily Reynolds	14	Female	
Richard Reynolds	10	Male	
John Reynolds	9	Male	
Lettie Reynolds	7	Female	
Linday Reynolds	1	Female	
Thomas Reynolds	21	Male	Laborer
Rueben Redd	33	Male	Laborer
Marietta Redd	9	Female	

Roy & Catherine Reynolds lived here with their five children from 1878 - 1882

Roy's brother Thomas lived with them, along with renters Rueben & Marietta Redd

Rueben is most likely Marietta's father

1880 Census: Reynolds & Redd

In Cities		The Name of each Person whose place of abode, on 1st day of June, 1880, was in this family.	Personal Description.			Relationship of each person to the head of this family—whether wife, son, daughter, servant, boarder, or other.	Civil Condition.				Occupation.	Health.	Education.			Nativity.									
Name of Street.	House Number.		Color—White, W.; Black, B.; Mulatto, M.; Chinese, C.; Indian, I.	Sex—Male, M.; Female, F.	Age at last birthday prior to June 1, 1880. If under 1 year, give months in fractions, thus: 3/4.		Single, /.	Married, /.	Widowed, /.	Divorced, /.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.	Is the person (on the day of the Enumerator's visit) sick or temporarily disabled, so as to be unable to attend to ordinary business or duties? If so, what is the sickness or disability?	Ill, /.	Deaf and dumb, /.	Idiotic, /.	Insane, /.	Attended school within the Census year, /.	Cannot read, /.	Cannot write, /.	Place of Birth of this person, naming State or Territory of United States, or the Country, if of foreign birth.	Place of Birth of the Father of this person, naming the State or Territory of United States, or the Country, if of foreign birth.	Place of Birth of the Mother of this person, naming the State or Territory of United States, or the Country, if of foreign birth.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Royal Street	236	253	Biech John	B M 39				1				Laborer	5						1	1		Alabama	Ala.	Ala.	
			— Matthew	B F 34		Wife		1				Keeping house							1	1		Md.	Md.	Md.	
			— William H.	B M 11		Son		1				At home							1	1		Md.	Ala.	Md.	
	237	254	Ducket Colin	B F 74					1			Keeping house							1	1		Va.	Va.	Va.	
			— Charles	B M 29		Son		1				Laborer	6						1	1		Md.	Md.	Va.	
			Bell Asbury	B M 11		Grand son		1											1	1		Md.	Georgia	Va.	
			Hungerford Eliza	B F 11		Adopted child		1											1	1		Va.	Md.	Va.	
	238	255	Reynolds Ray	B M 36					1				Laborer	5					1	1		Va.	Va.	Va.	
			— Catherine	B F 32					1				Keeping house						1	1		Va.	Va.	Va.	
			— Emily	B F 14		Daughter		1					At home						1	1		Va.	Va.	Va.	
			— Richard	B M 10		Son		1					At home						1	1		Va.	Va.	Va.	
			— John	B M 9		Son		1											1	1		Va.	Va.	Va.	
			— Lettie	B F 7		Daughter		1											1	1		Va.	Va.	Va.	
			— James	B M 6		Son		1											1	1		Va.	Va.	Va.	
			— Lesty	B F 21		Daughter		1											1	1		Va.	Va.	Va.	
		— Lerby	B M 1		Son		1											1	1		Va.	Va.	Va.		
		— Thomas	B M 21		Brother		1					Laborer	1					1	1		Va.	Va.	Va.		
		Redd Reuben	M M 33		Boarder		1					Laborer	11					1	1		Va.	Va.	Va.		
		— Manilla	M F 4		Boarder		1											1	1		Va.	Va.	Va.		

What was recorded in 1880?

The 1880 census has much more information. Every single person in the household was listed, along with their name, race, sex, age, marital status, occupation, and place of birth. Relationships between the head of household and other people in the house were listed as well, making it easier to understand each household. Additional columns listed disabilities and education.