

As the U.S. Census Bureau moves forward with innovation and transformative efforts, we embrace and utilize various tools and resources to support the public. From leveraging and providing a publicly available interface outlining our rich history to building diverse partnerships and opportunities, the Census Bureau continues to make openness and transparency paramount in its mission.

Open Government Blog Post – U.S. Census Bureau

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Telling Stories in American History with Census Data

The censuses and surveys conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau since 1790 are more than volumes of data and mountains of aging schedules. They contain the story of the United States and every one of its people. As the Census Bureau's history website attempts to demonstrate, nearly any story in American history can be enhanced with the addition of census data and records.

The Census Bureau launched its [history website](#) in March 2008 to highlight the history of the agency, its innovative statistical techniques and technologies, and notable alumni. Over the years, feedback about the early site confirmed what census historians and scholars have always recognized – census and survey data are key to understanding American history.

The monthly stories published on the Census Bureau's homepage in 2012 demonstrate how easily demographic and economic data can be integrated into the story of our nation. For example, data and publicly available census records help tell the story of the founding of our nation in pages about the American Revolution's [Battle of Bunker Hill](#) and 1788 [Ratification of the U.S. Constitution](#). Sex, race, and voting data enhance the story of [Rosa Parks and the Civil Rights Movement](#), the [Women's Rights Movement](#), and the struggle for worker's rights in the webpage dedicated to the [Triangle Shirtwaist Fire of 1911](#).

Publicly available census records from 1790 to 1950 help put a human face on our presidents, entertainers, inventors, explorers, authors, and athletes. Visitors to our page about [Mark Twain](#) learn that: one of the author's last conversations before his death was with a 1910 Census enumerator; [Philo T. Farnsworth](#) considered himself a "radio engineer" for years after inventing television; [Wizard of Oz](#) Author L. Frank Baum valued census data so much that he included demographic data about the Land of Oz in his 1910 book, *The Emerald City of Oz*; and physicist [Albert Einstein](#) posed for photos to help encourage participation in the 1950 Census.

From proofreaders to prisoners, activists to astronauts, conflicts to city-consuming conflagrations, stories about the people and events who have contributed to our nation's growth and prosperity can be found in the data we have collected for more than 230 years. Our history [homepage archive](#) contains nearly 100 of these stories and in the years ahead, we will be telling many more, including the 1773 Boston Tea Party, the 1919 Chicago Black Sox Scandal, construction of the Panama Canal, and the life of author and poet Maya Angelou.

Visit the Census Bureau's history website at <https://www.census.gov/history>.