

CENSUS LIST INTRODUCTION

Pelham census lists for 1790, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1862, 1870 and 1880 follow. Many are relatively easy to read. Others were created by printing copies from well-used microfilm. The printed copies (some of which contain lines, extraneous dots and other clutter) were then scanned into a digital format using PaperPort 11 software. The volunteer Hayes-Genoter Library staff is in the process of cleaning up some of the more difficult to read pages using the PageViewer software offered as part of the PaperPort 11 software package.

Over time we hope to clean up most of the poor quality images. It was felt that it would be better to offer the poor quality images, rather than no images at all.

The library is looking for volunteers to clean up some of the poor quality pages using PageViewer, or some other suitable software package. The clean up is accomplished by enlarging the image many times over and then removing the blemishes using the eraser function. This is a relatively easy, but tedious task. Functions that whiten backgrounds and blacken print can also be used to improve the image. Please contact William Hayes or Karen Genoter, if you wish to volunteer your services. Your contribution will be acknowledged at the beginning of any document that you have worked on.

Users of the census lists should be aware of the following. The local census takers in the early years went from house to house, either walking, on horseback, or by horse and wagon, taking the census in the order in which the families were found. Because of this practice, it is relatively easy to ascertain where, in Pelham, each family lived at the time the census was taken. Elsewhere in this library we plan to present street maps made in 1803, 1852 and 1892 showing where each family lived at the time the map was made. Those maps, the relative immobility (stability) of Pelham's early families, and the ordered census lists should allow genealogists to ascertain, with reasonable accuracy, the location of their ancestor's home in the year the census was taken.

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