U.S. Federal Census Research

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A Timeline of Census History (https://www.census.gov/history/img/timeline\_census\_history.bmp)

**United States Census Abbreviations** 

(https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United States Census Abbreviations)

Blank Census Forms for each U.S. Census year

(https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United States Census Forms

United States Census Records for Beginners

(https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United States Census Records for Beginners)

Index of Census Questions Asked Each Year

(https://www.census.gov/history/www/through the decades/index of questions/)

Pinyin to Wade-Giles Conversion Table

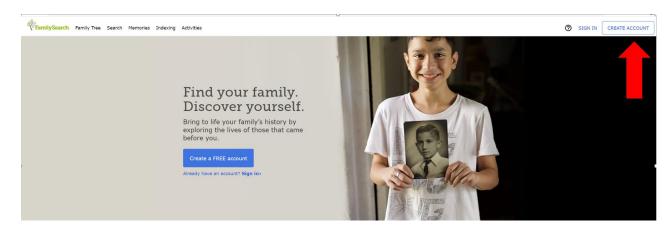
(http://www.eastasianlib.org/ctp/RomTable/Chipinyintowade.pdf)

**United States Census Research Strategies** 

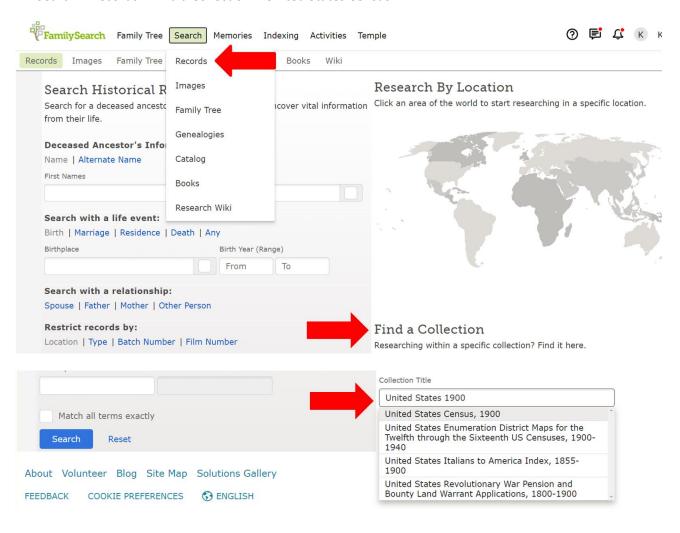
- Begin searching the most recent census year and work back in time
- Search for one census year at a time
- 5 years age difference is okay
- Try different spellings (Especially important for Chinese-American research)
- Wildcard searching (\*)
- Try using the surname only or try one name only
- Search using all names (Paper names, real names)
- Search for family members
- Try a different index at a different website (search formulas different)
- Always look at the images the indexes can be incorrect
- Identify immigration clues

FamilySearch.org – Free

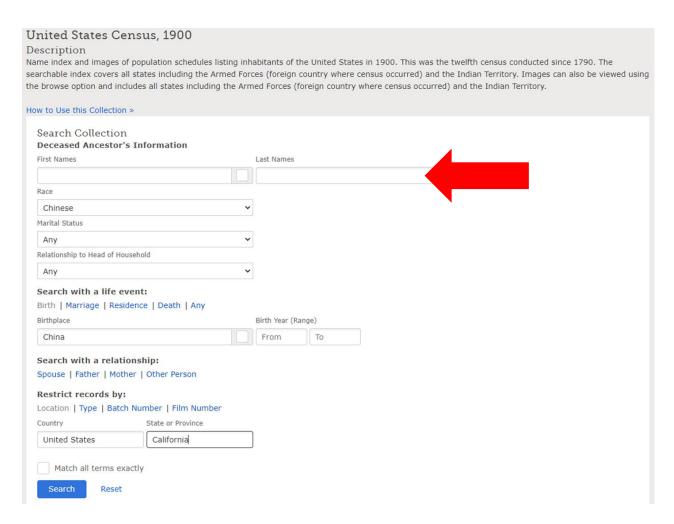
#### 1 - Create an Account



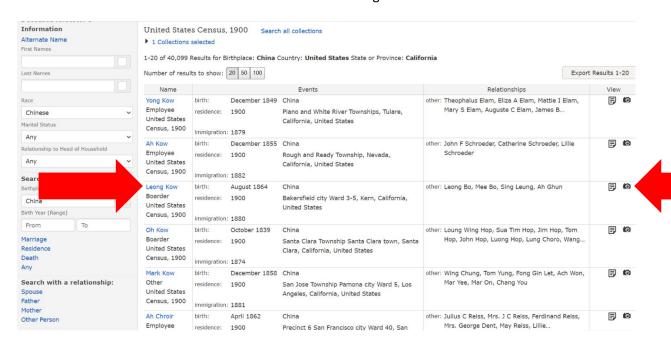
### 2 - Search > Records > Find a Collection > United States Census



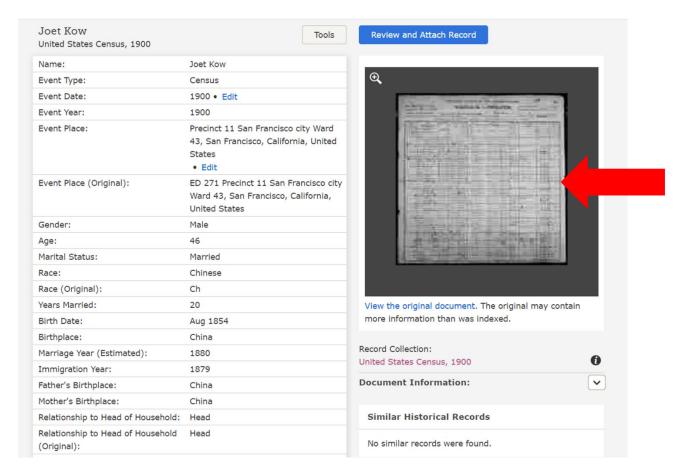
3 - United States Census, 19xx > Search



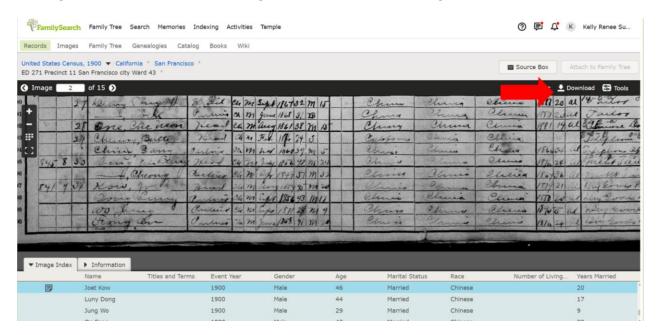
#### 4 – Search Results. Click on name or icons for index and image



# 5 – Index and Image.

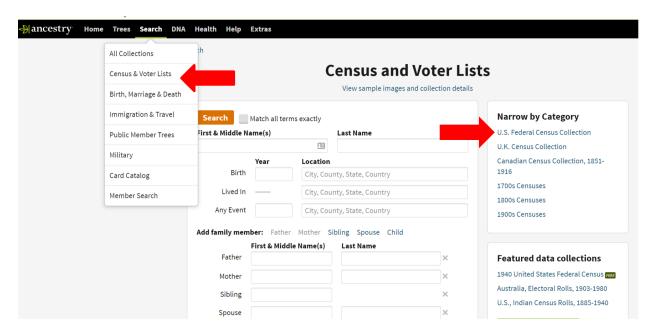


## 6 - Image. You can zoom in or out of image. You can download the image.



# Ancestry.com - Subscription \$\$

1 – Search > Census & Voter Lists > U.S. Federal Census Collection

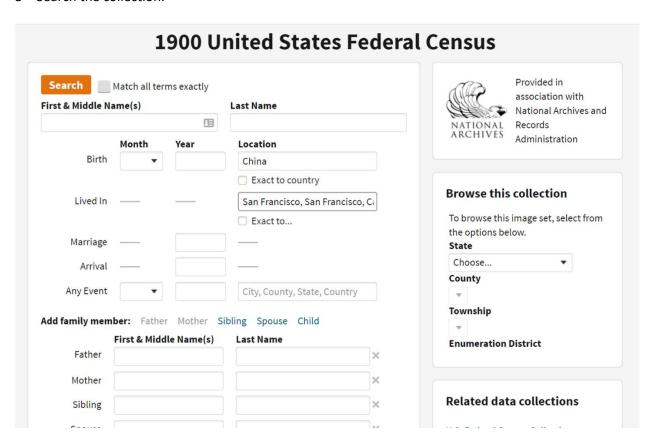


2 – Scroll down the page until you see the census collections by year. Select the year you want to search.

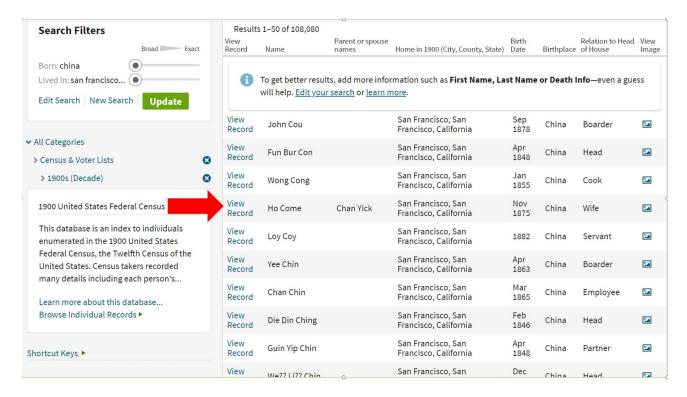


Included data collections:
1790 United States Federal Census
1800 United States Federal Census
1810 United States Federal Census
1820 United States Federal Census
1830 United States Federal Census
1840 United States Federal Census
1850 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules FREE
1850 United States Federal Census
1860 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules FREE
1860 United States Federal Census
1870 United States Federal Census
1880 United States Federal Census FREE
1890 United States Federal Census Fragment
1890 Veterans Schedules of the U.S. Federal Court (UPDATED)
1900 United States Federal Census
1910 United States Federal Census
1920 United States Federal Census
1930 United States Federal Census
1940 United States Federal Census FREE UPDATED
U.S. Enumeration District Maps and Descriptions, 1940 FREE
U.S. Federal Census - 1880 Schedules of Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Classes
U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850-1885 FREE INDEX

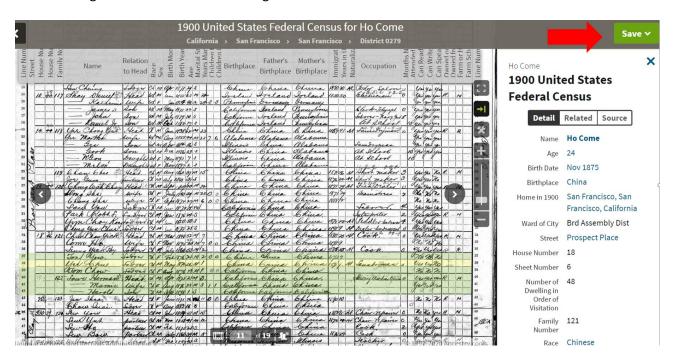
# 3 – Search the collection.



#### 4 – Results. View record to see index and image.



### 5 – Save image to a tree or download image.



### Research Log - Keep Track of your Research!

- Keeps you organized
- Reduces duplication of searches
- Where did you search? What did you search for?
- What did you find?
- What was not found?
- What different searches were tried?
- Do you have any comments on the search results?

Research Logs (https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Research\_Logs)

## Example Research Log

Research Objective: Chin F. Sun (paper name) or Gong Yuen Tim, born, 3 May 1903, Guangdong, China and died 25 Sep 2001, Daly City, San Mateo, California, United States. Immigrated to the US about 1917-1918. Married Low Hop Yee, born 28 Nov 1906 and died 8 Mar 1982, United States.

Researcher – Kelly Summers

Date – Nov 2020

1			
Source Location Website	Source Collection Details	Search - Goal	Results/Comments
FamilySearch.org	United States Census 1940	Yuen Tim Gong, born 1902-4,	nil
		China, residence California	
		Gong, born 1902-4, China,	Need to know residence in 1940. Death location
		residence California	is Daly City, San Mateo, California
		Add San Mateo county, California	nil
		Gong Yuen, born 1902-4, China, residence California	nil
		Yuen, born 1902-4, China,	Thomas Yuen, San Francisco, San Francisco,
		residence California	California, spouse Chin fay Yuen, children,
			Chester, Donald, Edward, Steven
			Shue Yuen, San Francisco, San Francisco,
			California, boarder
			Henry Yuen, San Francisco, San Francisco,
			California, boarder
			Yow Yon Yuen, San Francisco, San Francisco,
			California, head
FamilySearch.org	United States Census 1940	Chin F Sun, born 1902-4, China, residence California	nil
		Sun, born 1902-4, China, residence	nil
		San Mateo, California	
		Sun Chin, 1902-4, China, residence	1 result in California
		California	Ginn, employee, birth 1904, China
			Residence San Francisco, San Francisco, California
			Unlikely to be the correct person

#### Homework

- Search for an ancestor in multiple census years
- If you cannot find your ancestor search another website
- Record your searches and results in a research log
  - Include multiple spellings used for searches
  - If a census is found:
- Save the census images found
- Transcribe all the information about your ancestor from the census
  - Look for the details for example which street, who are the neighbors
- Write up an analysis of your ancestor and the information found about him