
OPERATION GRANNY FILES

Census Bingo

A lighthearted way to sharpen your census-reading skills

Activity Sheet

Mission 06: Count Me In — Census Records

Clearance Level: Biscuit-Tin Operative

This workbook belongs to:

operationgrannyfiles.substack.com

QUICK-GRAB SUMMARY

Mark off the squares as you find each item in real census records. Play alone or with fellow genealogists. It's part game, part training exercise—and all Granny-approved.

How to Play

1. **Choose** a census year and a set of records to explore.
 2. **Review** each household and look for the items on your Bingo card.
 3. **Mark** a square when you find a match. Go in any direction—horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.
 4. **Win:** First to get five in a row wins (or play blackout for an extra challenge).
 5. **Share** your winning card and the records you used with friends or on social media.
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Bingo Card

Find these items in real census records. Mark off each one as you spot it!

B	I	N	G	O
Age fib of 5+ years	Name spelled 3+ ways	Occupation change	Boarder in household	Handwriting you can't read
Property value over \$5,000	Married more than once	Family with 10+ children	Widowed head of household	Immigrant from unexpected country
Enumerator note in margin	Non-English language listed	FREE SPACE	Birth month/year listed	Unusual occupation
Same family, same house 30+ yrs	Civil War veteran	Household on a farm	Adopted child	Two unrelated families at same address
Listed as "absent"	Twin or triplet siblings	Military service listed	4+ boarders in household	Mismatched birthplace for parents

Tips for Spotting These

- Read every column header before you start.
- Check both sides of the census page—neighbors can hold clues.
- Use the zoom feature in digital archives for hard-to-read handwriting.
- Look at multiple years to spot patterns or changes.

GRANNY SAYS:

“If you get a blackout on this card, you’ve earned honorary census-taker status. Frame it.”

Notes

Use this space for personal notes and discoveries.