

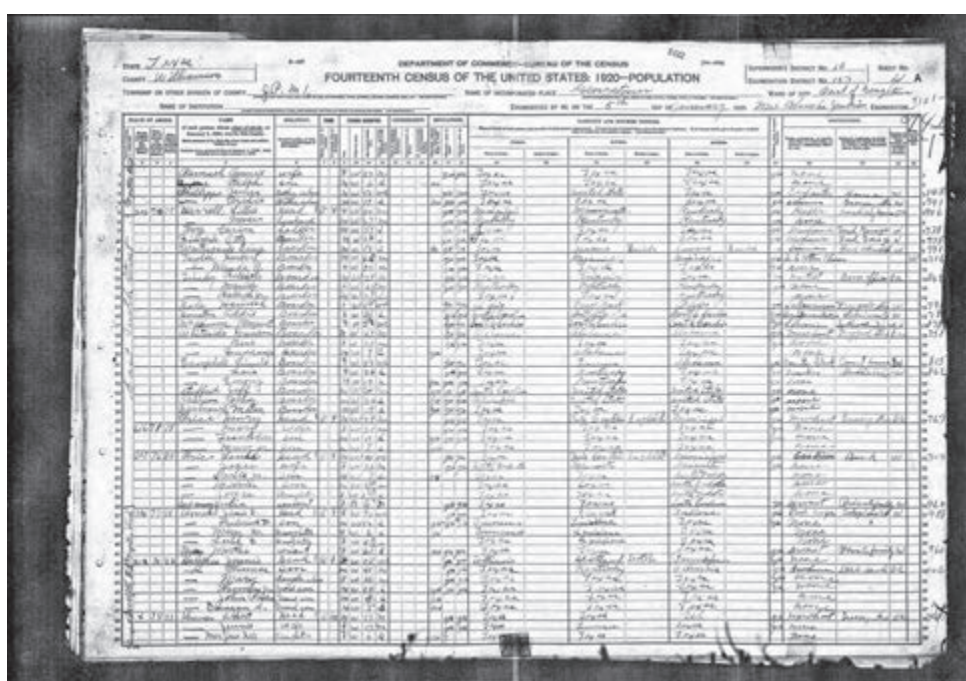
Census will help your family trace its roots

As genealogists know, historical census records provide an important link in family research. Statistics from each census are published quickly, but all personal information reported in the census is confidential for 72 years.

At this time, the most recent census information available to the public is from the 1940 census. Genealogists are eagerly awaiting the release of the 1950 census information in 2022. The Georgetown Public Library makes these historical census records available online in the library building through two databases — Ancestry and American Ancestors. Another database, HeritageQuest, is also available to library cardholders who might log in from home. If you are researching family history, historical census information provides crucial clues.

But fast-forward to the present — the 2020 Census is here — and the library wants to help ensure a complete census count. Library assistant Robert Barber and six other City of Georgetown staff members are serving on the Georgetown 2020 Census Complete Count Committee, making us part of a web of local entities trying to reach communities at risk of being undercounted and help people understand the importance of the census.

Why? Statistics collected through the Census have implications for our rapidly growing community over the next decade. Census data is crucial in determining government funding and political representation an area may receive. Children also need



This 1920 census image shows Jessie Daniel Ames, a suffragist and anti-lynching activist who lived on Myrtle Street in Old Town. Personal census information like this is crucial in genealogical research but is never released to the public until 72 years after each federal census is taken.

to be counted. It's estimated that the last Census, in 2010, undercounted children by 10 percent, which can have negative consequences for children's welfare.

The 2020 Census process begins with a mailing sent by the U.S. Census Bureau to each residence. The mailer has instructions for how to respond online. We have residents in Georgetown who do not have internet access at home, but our library is a place where everyone can use a public computer to access the internet and respond to the Census questions. People also have the option to respond to the census questions by mail or telephone in the event that the library is closed.

Since the first U.S. Census in 1790, the questions asked have varied with the times. The 2020 Census will collect some basic in-

Ames, Jessie D.	Head
Frederick D.	son
Mary K.	Daughter
Lulu D.	Daughter
Martha	servant

formation including name, age, sex and race for each person in each residence, as well as a phone number and owner or renter status. There is no question about citizenship status.

Knowing how to identify misinformation and scams is important. People who are worried about their online privacy and security should know that the Census Bureau will not send unsolicited emails or ask for your Social Security number, your bank account or credit card numbers, anything on behalf of a political party, or money or donations.

If a Census worker visits your home to collect your

response for the Census, you can verify their identity by first checking to make sure they have a valid ID badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date. If you still have questions, call 844-330-2020 to speak with a representative or to report suspected fraud.

Don't let our area be underrepresented or underserved — help your neighbors and friends understand the importance of being counted. And remember, your descendants will be tracing their genealogies in 100 years — make sure you are there in the 2020 Census to be found.

Sun City copes with COVID-19

All of the Sun City community's indoor and outdoor amenities are closed through Sunday, April 19 thanks to the Coronavirus. All buildings will be locked and no organized events, meetings or classes will be offered in an attempt to limit exposure to the illness.

Residents and guests are not allowed to use the

- fitness centers
- swimming pools
- spas
- golf courses
- community library
- pavilion
- picnic areas
- amphitheater
- woodworking shop
- arts and craft centers
- pickleball courts
- tennis courts
- billiards center
- bocce courts
- horseshoes courts
- softball field
- shuffleboard courts
- dog parks.

The community is now transitioning from retirement travel, socializing, recreational sports, art and dance to self isolation or limited interaction. Fist and elbow bumps have replaced hugs and handshakes and social distancing is the new norm.

Residents confided ways they are coping with the restrictions. Cathy Hotham's mahjong group will play at members' homes and forgo snacks. The Cinephile Movie Club will choose an online movie in place of a theater viewing.

The Illinois/Chicago Club canceled its annual St. Patrick's Day corned beef dinner. Neighborhood 32 Bunco Bunch received an email notice that game



CONFINED TO QUARTERS

Linda Dwyer

night was canceled.

Members of the Qigong Club were encouraged to continue the mind-body-spirit practice on their own at home.

Trips to and from the community were curtailed.

Resident Linda Baker's parents and brother from Minnesota had scheduled a visit to Texas.

"Those plans have been canceled," Ms. Baker lamented. "My brother was also trying to set up just our family reunion but those plans are now on hold too."

Mark and Marcia Whittier postponed a trip to Albuquerque to see their first grandson. "We're hoping to go by the end of the month or in early April but we will just have to wait and see what the recommendations are," Ms. Whittier said. "I am just dying to hold baby Miles!"

In these stressful times normalcy almost seems out of place.

Residents still walk their dogs, visit over fences and putz around in gardens while uncertainty, caution and a genuine desire to do what is best is on everyone's mind.

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