



Madison County Genealogical Society



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P.O. Box 1031, Norfolk, NE 68702-1031
mcgs@telebeep.com

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nemcgs/ www.nesgs.org/~mcgs

The 1790 Census: For genealogists, the 1790 federal census is an important source for clues as to where their early American families lived and additional statistics about them. If you can locate your families in the first census, chances are also good that some of your ancestors participated in the Revolutionary War, and that you descend from some early American lines.

Some unusual and amusing (at least to our 20th-century ears) combinations of given and surnames noted in the 1790 census are:

Anguish Lemmon, Mercy Pepper, Pleasant Basket, Cutlip Hoof, Hardy Baptist, Truelove Sparks, Snow Frost, Mourning Chestnut, Boston Frog, Jedediah Brickhouse, Hannah Petticoat and Hannah Cheese, Ruth Shaves, Christy Forgot, Joseph Came, Joseph Rodeback, Agreeen Crabtree, River Jordan, Booze Still, Comfort Clock, Sharp Blount, Sarah Simperts, Barbary Staggers, and Noble Gun.

Using the 1790 census can help genealogists discover the variant spellings under which their ancestors' surnames may appear in other records. For example, the surname of Morgan is also listed as spelled Maughan, Maughon, Morgain, Morgen, Morggen, Morgin, Morgon, Moughan and Moughon.

Watch for more census tips in future issues.