

United States Census: agriculture, industry, social statistics and mortality schedules for South Carolina, 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880

[Available on microfilm and Ancestry Library Edition online]

About Mortality Schedules

Frequently overlooked by family historians, mortality schedules comprise a particularly interesting group of records. While deaths are under-reported, the mortality schedules remain an invaluable source of information. By using these schedules to document death dates and family members, it is possible to follow up with focused searches in obituaries, mortuary records, cemeteries, and probate records.

Family Medical History

Mortality schedules are useful for tracing and documenting genetic symptoms and diseases, filling in the gaps of important family medical history. This information can be helpful to family members today.

U.S., Federal Census Mortality Schedules Index, 1850-1880

Surname:	Infant Mouzon
Year:	1860
County:	Williamsburg Dist
State:	SC
Age:	01m
Gender:	M
Month of Death:	Jun
State of Birth:	SC
ID#:	573_1883
Occupation:	NONE LISTED

Sample of 1880 U S Federal Census Mortality Schedules

Cultures not Otherwise Tracked

The Federal Mortality Schedules can be used to find information about ancestors who were not normally included in the census. For example, they can be used to verify and document African American, Chinese, and Native American ancestry. Unfortunately, African Americans are often not included, especially if they were slaves.

Mortality Schedules: Unlocking the Mystery

http://ancestrylibrary.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/4776/~mortality-schedules%3A-unlocking-the-mystery

Mortality schedules can help document death dates, add family members, and guide searches in other records. They also included information that wasn't listed in the general census.

One of the more revealing inclusions in a mortality schedule is the cause of death. Genetic diseases can offer a researcher insight into a family's health history.

Other illnesses may act as clues to lifestyle or employment. Criminal acts, like murder, can indicate a need to research court records and newspapers.

Mortality schedules can also be especially helpful for pre-1850 research since censuses prior to 1850 only listed names for heads of household; age-range was the only information included for other members of the household. Birthplace information was not listed.

Slave research may also benefit: mortality schedules from 1850 and 1860 can provide some of the only records including the name, age, and birthplace of a slave ancestor who died before the 1870 U.S. census. Also, noting the age, sex, and color of a deceased slave on an 1860 mortality schedule may help identify the same person on the 1850 slave schedules.

Federal Census Mortality Schedules for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 cover only the persons who died between 1 June and 31 May of the year prior to the census.

*This is not an annual schedule, it records deaths only in year prior to the census.