



The Bartlett Line

Newsletter of the Bartlett Society

July 2021

USING THE 1790 – 1840 U.S. FEDERAL CENSUSES

By Wendy Callahan

The U.S. federal censuses are one of the easiest records to access and help us along our genealogical journey. Many people focus on the years from 1850 onward as a genealogical resource. The early censuses taken from 1790 to 1840 don't appear to have as much information, since they only name the head of household. Don't let that stop you, however, from analyzing them and finding genealogical gold among the tick marks. All it takes is a strategic approach.

Here is one method to analyze these early censuses and help you make the most of them.

Step #1

Transcribe the information for the head of household onto a blank census form for the census year being examined. Here is the 1830 Census showing my 5th great-grandfather, Charles Bartlett, in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Transcribing the tick marks into a blank form can make it easier to analyze them, especially if the page lacks a header or the person you're looking at is close to the bottom of the page.

79		SCHEDULE of the whole number of Persons within the DISTRICT																									
		FREE WHITE PERSONS, (INCLUDING HEADS OF FAMILIES.)																									
Name of County, City, Ward, Town, Township, Parish, Precinct, Hundred, or District.	NAMES OR HEADS OF FAMILIES.	MALES.													FEMALES.												
		Under five years of age.	Of five and under ten.	Of ten and under fifteen.	Of fifteen and under twenty.	Of twenty and under thirty.	Of thirty and under forty.	Of forty and under fifty.	Of fifty and under sixty.	Of sixty and under seventy.	Of seventy and under eighty.	Of eighty and under ninety.	Of ninety and under one hundred.	Of one hundred and upwards.	Under five years of age.	Of five and under ten.	Of ten and under fifteen.	Of fifteen and under twenty.	Of twenty and under thirty.	Of thirty and under forty.	Of forty and under fifty.	Of fifty and under sixty.	Of sixty and under seventy.	Of seventy and under eighty.	Of eighty and under ninety.	Of ninety and under one hundred.	Of one hundred and upwards.
		under 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100	100, &c.	under 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100	100, &c.
Plymouth	Stephen Bartlett	✓		✓		✓			✓								✓										
	Nathan Bartlett	✓								✓																	
	Lucy Bartlett	✓		✓	✓											✓	✓			✓	✓						
	Charles Bartlett	✓	✓	✓				✓								✓	✓										
	Zachariah Bartlett	✓					✓									✓											

Step #2

Create a list of people who may have been living with the head of household for that year. Include birth and death years if possible, as well as the potential relationship to the head of household. You may have to turn to post-1840 census records listing household members by name and/or family relationship, family histories, probate files, obituaries, and even online family trees. The goal is to create a list of people who *may* have been living with the head of household. Once you have names and dates, it will be much easier to search for other types of documents later to revise your information as necessary.

During this early research stage, you should not make any assumptions about family relationships. You may also want to add a “Notes” column for keeping track of the relationships and adding source citations.

Name	Notes
Charles Bartlett 12 Jan 1785 – 12 Feb 1871	Head of household
Lucinda Cornish 14 May 1798 – 30 Dec 1895	Charles’ wife
Thomas Mayo Bartlett Abt. 1818 – after 1870	Charles’ nephew and stepson
Charles Dana Bartlett 9 Jun 1821 – 12 Apr 1907	Charles’ son
Sarah C. Bartlett Abt. 1823 – 1900	Charles’ daughter
Hosea C. Bartlett 15 Nov 1826 – 15 Jan 1913	Charles’ son
Lucinda Bartlett 11 Nov 1829 – 29 Dec 1919	Charles’ daughter

Step #3

The next step is to calculate how old the people you found in Step 2 would have been in 1830:

Name	1830
Charles Bartlett	45
Lucinda Cornish	32
Thomas Mayo Bartlett	12
Charles Dana Bartlett	9
Sarah Bartlett	7
Hosea Bartlett	4
Lucinda Bartlett	1

Step #4

The last step is to match the ages in Step 3 to the people you found in Step 2 and then include any personal observations:

Free white males under 5:	Hosea	
Free white males 5-10:	Charles D.	
Free white males 10-15:	Thomas M.	
Free white males 40-50:	Charles	
Free white females under 5:	Lucinda	
Free white females 5-10:	Sarah C.	
Free white females 30-40:	Lucinda	
<u>Notes:</u>		
1. Charles and Lucinda had another daughter, Abigail, born 11 Sep 1837 and died 14 Nov 1923.		

It is important to include such observations because they often lead to additional records. However, since the 1790-1840 U.S. Federal censuses only list the heads of households by name, we can never be 100% sure of the names of the other people living with them. This strategy allows us to assign people to the age

brackets in these early census records, which can help us in locating other records to verify our conclusions or present us with new evidence to consider. This can also lead to new research questions.

For example, before this exercise, I only knew of Lucinda's son from her first marriage (Thomas Mayo Bartlett) and the four children listed in Plymouth vital records from her marriage to Charles (Charles, Hosea, Lucinda, and Abigail). This meant the person accounted for in the column for *Free White Female 5-10* was a mystery.

A search of Massachusetts records quickly uncovered a death record for Sarah C. Bartlett Cahoon in Bourne, Massachusetts in 1900, and lists her parents as Charles and Lucinda. Had I not taken the time to analyze these tick marks, I never would have been aware of this fifth child of their marriage.

I hope this will help you with your own analysis of the population schedules from 1790 to 1840. As you can see, they may help answer more questions than you realized!

BARTLETT SOCIETY WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Did you know you can now keep up with us on social media? Visit us on Facebook and Twitter!

The website has also received a makeover. The address is still the same – www.bartlettsociety.org or www.bartlettsociety.com – but the look has changed. We hope you like it!

Like our page on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to receive weekly news about genealogy, Plymouth, and Robert Bartlett.



facebook.com/DescendantsofRobertBartlett



twitter.com/BartlettSociety

THE BARTLETT SOCIETY Society of the Descendants of Robert Bartlett of Plymouth, MA

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Society of the Descendants of Robert Bartlett
of Plymouth, Massachusetts
113th Reunion
October 23rd, 2021

Indian Brook Association Club House
142 Seaview Drive
Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360

The Society of the Descendants of Robert Bartlett of Plymouth, Massachusetts will hold their 113th Reunion as a joint meeting with the National Society of Old Plymouth Colony Descendants, and The Warren Cousins. After the meetings, NSOPCD, the Bartlett Society and the Warren Cousins will be presented a program by Peggy MacLachlan Baker, Director Emerita – The Pilgrim Society, entitled “*The Brewster Teapot.*”

10:30 A.M. Business Meeting – The National Society of Old Plymouth Colony Descendants
11:00 A.M. Business Meeting – Descendants of Robert Bartlett of Plymouth, Massachusetts
11:30 A.M. Business Meeting – The Warren
12:00 P.M. Program
12:30 P.M. Luncheon

Spinach Lasagna
Meatballs in Sauce
Salad
Dessert

Cost is \$10.00 each for the Luncheon

Please send your reservation to our Historian, **Jay Lucas** on or before Wednesday, 21 October, 2021. Please also list your guests. Thank You.



Checks & reservations to:
Jay Lucas
107 Ellisville Drive
Plymouth, MA 02360-1257

**DEADLINE: Wednesday,
October 21, 2021**
No tickets will be mailed

I plan to attend the luncheon. Enclosed is my check, payable to **G. Steven Brown**.
Total of _____ reservations at **\$ 10.00 each**. Total enclosed \$ _____.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Guests: _____

BARTLETT SOCIETY DUES

If you have not already sent in your dues for 2021, please do so. Our dues are modest, but it does cost money to print and distribute *The Bartlett Line* and other communications.

If you are not sure if you are paid through 2021, check your address label. It will tell you your member number, membership type, and year through which dues are paid.

\$10.00	New member fee
\$10.00	Annual Dues
\$18.00	Two years' dues
\$5.00	Gift membership annual fee (Please include family member's name and address)

Also, please consider making a donation to the maintenance of the Bartlett lot, which is owned by the Society. Please specify "Bartlett Lot" on your check, if making a donation separate from your dues.

Thank you very much for your support!

2021 DUES

Name: _____ Member Number: _____

Address: _____

Make checks payable to:	New Member Fee	\$10.00	_____
THE BARTLETT SOCIETY	Annual Dues	\$10.00	_____
Please include your member number on your check and mail to:	Two Years' Dues	\$18.00	_____
	Gift Memberships	\$ 5.00	_____
Robert B. Freeland Treasurer, The Bartlett Society PO Box 466 Manomet, MA 02345-0466	Donation for Bartlett Lot		_____
	Total Amount Enclosed		_____

THE BARTLETT LOT

Thank you to those who have contributed to the Bartlett Lot Fund over the years! We hope you will consider including a visit to the Bartlett Lot, as well as other historic sites, when you attend the reunion or plan your next trip to Massachusetts.

Virginia Anderson

Margaret Babertz

Beatrice Bartlett

James W Bartlett

Mary Bartlett

Paul C Bartlett

Stanley Bartlett

Carol Berobe

Jack Berryman

Susan Christopher

G. Wayne Clark

Mavise Crocker

Barbara Dillon

Dorothy Dreher

Arlene Franklin

Gloriane Garth

Richard Gilmore

June Gorman

Claudia Holmes

Richard Imore

Alma Johnson

Frank G Lesure

James Lucas

Karen Ludwig

Judy MacDonald

William Sloan

Brad Smith



The Bartlett Line
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Manomet, MA 02345-0616



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TELL US ABOUT YOU!

We would love to get to know our members! If you would like to be featured in *The Bartlett Line*, let us know. We want to hear from you. Tell us your name, location, hobbies, your Bartlett connection(s), and what got you started in family history!

Please send your bio and a photo, and anything else you would like to include – maybe a family story – to editor@bartlettsociety.com.

We would also love to hear about your notable Bartlett ancestors, how you learned about them, and how they connect to Robert, or if you have additional Bartlett lines.

Finally, we would like to feature your photos of past Bartlett reunions in the newsletter and on the website. Please email your photos to webmaster@bartlettsociety.com.

Your contributions are what keep our *newsletter* and *website* interesting, and help potential members learn more about us!