

I use Information from Automated Census of Canada in Notes in my Database By Joe Petrie

I like the format and the content of the Automated Census of Canada so much that I often copy and paste family records into the Notes section of my database. As a result, my modified Register Reports (which often are available in cbgen.org) display the selected Census information. I'll admit that a failing on my part is because not all records contain Census information the reports are not always consistent.

The only drawback is that the Automated Census of Canada only has censuses for 1851 (New Brunswick), 1852 (Ontario and Quebec), 1901, 1906 (Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan) and 1911.

In my viewpoint, a census is a genealogy starting point and a 10 year snapshot best used for comparison with earlier or later snapshots. It can be an incomplete snapshot. There are people that should be in the household that may be missing. Comparing two or more censuses can fill in gaps. Of course, there may be new gaps.

A census often has errors. The Automated Census can have additional errors and omissions from transcription processes etc. The following is my father's family in the original 1911 Automated Census.

Peterie	Edward	M	Head	M	Jun	1873	37
Peterie	Hester	F	Wife	M	Jul	1880	30
Peterie	Edward	M	Son	S	Oct	1902	8
Peterie	Hazel	F	Daughter	S	Dec	1903	7
Peterie?		M	Son	S			
Peterie	Russell	M	Son	S	Apr	1909	2

Please note that one feature that I like about the Automated Census of Canada is that a registered user can request changes. I requested that my Dad's given name be changed to Leo. Dad's given name was originally listed as? (where the question mark indicates that the given name (Leo) was unreadable.) I also requested that three blank values be changed in my father's record: Month of Birth to May; Year of Birth to 1906, and Age to 5. The three values were contained in the original Census record. The changes were made.

While three given names (highlighted in green) were incorrect, I did not request changes. My grandfather's given name was Edmund not Edward. Some family friends called him Ed and others called him Ned. My grandmother's given name was Esther not Hester. She preferred Hester or Het. My uncle's given name was Charles Edward not Edward. My dad and others called him Eddie.

Also, for all the records, I requested that Peterie (highlighted in blue) be changed. It was not permitted. Thus, Peterie will never be changed to Petrie.

Joseph F. Petrie

Memberships: Association of Professional Genealogists; Friends of Irish Research; Cape Breton Genealogy and Historical Association; Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador and New England Historic Genealogical Society.