

# Cobbler, Tailor, Trunkmaker: How My Grandpappies Made a Living



*Learning more about our ancestors by learning how they made a living*

## Sources of Information on our Ancestors' Occupations:

### Standard Sources

- City Directories
- Newspaper Articles
- Advertisements
- Classifieds
- Encyclopedias
- County/City Histories
- Books on Trades
- Labor Histories
- "Vertical Files" at the Library
- Historical Societies and Museums

### Additional Sources

- Postcard Collections
- Digital Libraries
- e-Bay
- Bankruptcy Records
- Court Cases
- Fire Insurance Maps
- Manuscript Collections
- Corporate Museums and Archives
- Newberry Biography and Industry File
- Business Cards
- Diaries
- Magazines
- "Advice" Manuals
- Trade Journals
- Cookbooks
- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- National Archives
- Books.google.com
- Business or Professional Licenses

## General Reference Books:

Carter, Susan B. , ed. **Historical Statistics of the United States : Earliest Times to the Present.** New York : Cambridge University Press, c2006.

Derks, Scott. **The Value of a Dollar: Colonial Era to the Civil War, 1600-1865.** Millerton, NY : Grey House Pub., 2005.

Weir, Robert E., Hanlan, James P., eds. **Historical encyclopedia of American labor.** Westport, Conn. : Greenwood Press, 2004.

Willets, Gilson. **Workers of the Nation; an Encyclopedia of the Occupations of the American People and a Record of Business, Professional and Industrial Achievement at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century.** New York : P.F. Collier and Son, 1903. (Available on <http://books.google.com>)

United States. **Descriptions of Occupations.** Washington: U.S. Govt. Print. Off, 1918. There are several editions of this work which was published in multiple volumes. A few are **Descriptions of Occupations** available on <http://books.google.com>

[1] Boots and shoes, harness and saddlery, tanning

[2] Cane-sugar refining, flour milling.

[3] Coal and water gas, paint and varnish, paper, printing trades, rubber goods.

[4] Electrical manufacturing, distribution and maintenance.

[5] Glass.

- [6] Hotels and restaurants.
- [7] Logging camps and sawmills.
- [8] Medicinal manufacturing.
- [9] Metal working, building and general construction, railroad transportation, shipbuilding.
- [10] Mines and mining.
- [11] Office employees
- [12] Slaughtering and meat packing.
- [13] Street railways.
- [14] Textiles and clothing.
- [15] Water transportation.

## Websites:

### Cyndi's List

Links to a variety of helpful sites.

<http://www.cyndislist.com/occupatn.htm#General>

### Database of Historical Occupations

This database offers tens of thousands of occupational titles from countries and languages around the world from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries, with a short description of the content of the work.

<http://search.iisg.nl/search/search?action=transform&xsl=hisco-form.xsl&col=hisco&lang=en>

### General Report on Occupations (1930 census)

Includes a section with the instructions to enumerators concerning the returns on occupations for the US Federal Census 1870-1930

[http://www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/41129379v5\\_TOC.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/41129379v5_TOC.pdf)

### Labor History – University of Washington

The Labor History Guide provides links to useful databases and electronic and print resources for researching the history of labor with an emphasis on American labor history.

<http://guides.lib.washington.edu/content.php?pid=80438&sid=596045>

### U.S. Federal Census Enumerator Instructions

Instructions given to the census enumerators, 1850-1950

<http://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/tEnumInstr.shtml>

### Women Working, 1820-1930

This site focuses on women's role in the United States economy and provides access to digitized historical, manuscript, and image resources selected from Harvard University's library and museum collections.

<http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/ww/index.html>

### The Farm, Field and Fireside collection – University of Illinois

Contains historically significant U.S. farm weeklies published in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

<http://www.library.illinois.edu/dnc/fff/>