

**HINSDALE COUNTY, COLORADO, SCHOOL CENSUS RECORDS
1891 - 1964**

June, 2019

By

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The Hinsdale county school census records are on Colorado State Archives microfilm L1542. Up through 1892 the annual report by the district secretary of children of school age residing in the district gives the date, district number, name, and sex. Beginning in 1889, they sometimes listed the parent or guardian. The residence town was usually added to the record beginning in 1893. Beginning in 1920, added to the record was place and date of birth, school grade last attended of each child enumerated; names, address and nativity of parents; names and number of deaf, mutes, blind, illiterates and crippled; and totals.

On the microfilm, the census is arranged numerically by school district, chronologically by year with the school district and alphabetically by the student's named within the record.

Hinsdale County was formed in 1874. The county was named for George Hinsdale, a Pueblo lawyer and lieutenant governor. Hinsdale County covers 1,062 square miles, and its surface nearly all is high rugged mountains with elevations ranging from 8500 to 14,306 feet. The Continental Divide crosses the county twice. The county is one of the most remote counties in Colorado and the United States.

Spurred by rich surface deposits of gold, silver, copper and zinc, and nearby water power for smelters, Lake City became the county seat and was incorporated in 1875. The Ute-Ulay mine on Henson Creek and the Golden Fleece Mine were the two main ore producers. Hinsdale County produced millions of dollars of ores until the collapse of silver mining in 1893. The population of the county in 1877 was about 1500 dropping to 862 in 1890, rising again in 1900 to 1609, then declining sharply to 538 in 1920, to 369 in 1940, 263 in 1950 and to 208 in 1960. The vicinity of Lake City has 16 lakes at or above timberline, and there are more than 500 miles of unposted streams for fishing.

District No.1 in Lake City was organized in 1876 just one year after Lake City was established. The first building, two rooms, was used as a school house until 1881 when the high school building was completed. This two story brick building was used until 1949 when the second story was removed and the school was remodeled. From 1878 to 1890 school enrollment varied from 199 to 115. Enrollment in 1892 was 221 and in 1912 was 122.

Hinsdale County School Districts:

District No.	Name or Location	1 st Census	Date Organized
1	Lake City	1891	1876 (1960 dissolved into Re-1)

2	Capitol City	1908	1878
3	Creede	1892	1878 (in Mineral Co. formed in 1893)
4	Henson	1908	ca1890
5	Powderhorn or Cathedral	1908	ca1892 (1960 dissolved into Re-1)
6	Lakeshore	1908	
7	Debs & Pagosa Springs	1912	
8	Hermit (later called Creede)	1915	
50Jt	Pagosa Springs	1960 (joint with Archuleta County)	1959
Re-1	Lake City & Powderhorn	1961	1960

In the attached school census index, names and ages of the students are indexed with the years that the student attended a school. The names and spellings that were given on the census have been used for the transcriptions in the index. Variations of various day, month and year for birth dates are retained. Different people filling out the forms for different years with different handwriting resulted in variations in all the recorded data and interpretation of the instructions for taking the school census.

Instructions for taking the school census were as follows:

1. This census blank usually is for use in districts having a school population less than 100 persons.
2. Sections 97 and 115 of the School Laws Annotated, 1912, should be carefully consulted for *directions*. Usually the age on last birthday prior to April 10th should be given.
3. Place names of boys on left-hand page and those of girls on right-hand page in *alphabetical order*.
4. The names of all persons between the ages of six (6) and twenty-one (21) years should be given. In districts below first class, under residence, enter name of parent or guardian and post office address. Enter on separate list in back of the book each deaf mute or blind child between the ages of four (4) and twenty-two (22) years, with *name and* post office address of each parent or guardian.
5. In calculating the numbers between 6 and 21, 8 and 14, the first number only in each case is to be included.
6. Students in a private or public institution, whose parents are not residences of the district in which such institution is located, should not be included in the census of that district.
7. This list must be taken, sworn to and filed with the County Superintendent on, or before the first day of June, of the current school year, or the district will forfeit its money for the ensuing year. The person taking the school census is directed to require each parent or guardian to subscribe or to take oath that such record is true and correct.
8. Crippled children up to the age of 21 years shall be included who have a physical deformity such as to restrict normal capacity for education or self-support. This includes all congenital deformities such as harelip, club feet, absence of some member, etc.; deformities caused by disease such as infantile paralysis, bone tuberculosis, etc.; or by accident such as fractures, burns which cause contractures, and the like. All children 6 years of age and under should be reported as early as possible to Colorado Child Welfare Bureau, Denver, Colorado.

The census record on these films may consist of these parts: student's name, date attended, district number, sex, place of birth (towns are in Colorado unless noted otherwise), birth date, usually age as of April 10th, residence and school grade last attended of each child enumerated, year of attendance census; parents or guardian names occasionally given, and country nativity of parents (after 1920) and whether illiterate; names and number of deaf, mutes, blind, illiterates and crippled. Some of the children had infantile paralysis which is an old synonym for polio, an inflammation of the central nervous system especially of the spinal cord and brain stem, resulting in muscle function disability. In some cases the last grade attended may be some years prior to the census year. The Census was taken about May of the census year. In some cases it appears the students continued to attend school even after having attended for twelve years which is reflected in the census as grade numbers larger than twelve. In some cases the girls got married, changed their surname, but continued to attend school. In the case of information conflicts, one should always check the original records. Some of the records list the residence as "Ranch" which is not a town but indicates that they lived on a rural large farm. In some cases, the residence listed is the school name or a nearby creek and is not a town. It should be noted that only the most common residences specified were indexed in the attached database, and where residences are not specified one should check the original records which may have a residence specified. Some conflicts especially in birth dates and birth place appears in the records, and further study evaluating an age with a grade level or through other sources such as birth certificates, U.S. census and obituaries would be required to determine the correct birth date or birth place. Also in some cases divorces and remarriages has created confusion in the information recorded for the parents or guardians. The larger school districts appear to have much more reliable birth information.

Listed below is the following information: student's name, birth place, birth date (**only listed students born 1925 and earlier**), residence (Joint districts included counties other than Eagle), school district attended, parents or guardian, age, attendance year, and film number. For the residence, state abbreviations were used, and Colorado towns have no Colorado state abbreviation. aka means "also known as". At the very top of the columns (the first first record in the database) on the right is the year of the census which begins with 1920 and ends with **1946 although later records are available**. An X in the column indicates that the student is reflected in the census for that year. Most of the records were handwritten, and it was hard to distinguish between the letters a & o , i & e, u & a, u & n, T & I, T & F and S & L, the numbers 2 & 3 and the names Lu and Lee.

Complete information from these records may be obtained by contacting:

The Colorado State Archives
Room 120
1313 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203
Phone 303-866-2358
Fax 303-866-2257

Internet web site: <https://www.colorado.gov/archives>

References:

1. <http://lakecitymuseum.com/genealogy> “Hinsdale County Historical Society”
2. <https://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/media/document/2017/631.pdf>
“Hinsdale County Metal Mining History 1870 – 1950”
3. <https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/hinsdale-county> “Hinsdale County History”
4. echs@eaglecountyhistoricalsociety.com “Hinsdale County School District RE-1
History”

Student	Birth Place	Birth Date	Residence	District	Parent / Guardian	Age	Year Attended	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
LAWTON, CLARA			LAKE CITY	1		10	1893																							
LEE, FANNY			CREEDE	3		11	1892																							
LEE, HATTIE			LAKE CITY	1		8	1905																							
LEE, JOHN			LAKE CITY	1		10	1905																							
LEE, MARY			LAKE CITY	1		14	1905																							
LEE, WALKER			CREEDE	3		9	1892																							
LEE, WALTER			LAKE CITY	1		12	1905																							
LEIHEY, INEZ Mrs				1		20	1914																							
LENNWAY, WALTER			LAKE CITY	1		17	1911																							
LEO, ELLEN	SAFRINERO	1910JAN27	LAKE CITY	1						X																				
LEO, MARY	SAFRINERO	1908FEB27	LAKE CITY	1						X																				
LEO, SAMMY	SAFRINERO	1912MAY25	LAKE CITY	1						X																				
LEWIS, MYRTLE			CREEDE	3		10	1892																							
LEWIS, WILBER			CREEDE	3		12	1892																							
LIBBY, EDWARD			CREEDE	3		19	1892																							
LIESEMAY, MAMIE			LAKE CITY	1		7	1911																							
LIETHEY, INEZ Mrs			LAKE CITY	1		19	1913																							
LIMA, ALBERT	SALIDA	1920OCT20	LAKE CITY	1											X	X	X	X												
LINDLEY, ALBERT			LAKE CITY	1		7	1903																							
LINDLEY, ALBERT			LAKE CITY	1		8	1904																							
LINDLEY, ALBERT			LAKE CITY	1		9	1905																							
LINDLEY, VIDA			LAKE CITY	1		6	1904																							
LINDLEY, VIOLA			LAKE CITY	1		7	1905																							
LOCKETT, L			LAKE CITY	1		17	1893																							
LOCKETT, ROSA			LAKE CITY	1		20	1893																							
LOGAN, BERTIE			CREEDE	3		18	1892																							
LOGAN, FRANK			CREEDE	3		16	1892																							
LOGAN, GEORGE			CREEDE	3		14	1892																							
LOGAN, HENRY			CREEDE	3		10	1892																							
LONG, EDGAR			CREEDE	3		8	1892																							
LONG, RAYMOND			LAKE CITY	1		18	1903																							
LONG, WILLIE			CREEDE	3		7	1892																							
LORRAN, JOE			LAKE CITY	1		15	1911																							
LORRAN, JOHN			LAKE CITY	1		6	1911																							
LORRAN, MAMIE			LAKE CITY	1		7	1911																							
LOUMANS, IDA			LAKE CITY	1		6	1893																							
LOUMANS, MAUDE			LAKE CITY	1		8	1893																							
LOWE, SHERWIN			LAKE CITY	1		8	1903																							
LOWE, SHERWIN			LAKE CITY	1		9	1904																							
LUND, LUTHER	MONTROSE	1914NOV4	LAKE CITY	1						X																				
LUND, LUTHER	MONTROSE	1915NOV8	LAKE CITY	1							X																			
LUND, PEARL	MONTROSE	1911AUG9	LAKE CITY	1						X																				
LUND, PEARL	NORWOOD	1911AUG9	LAKE CITY	1							X																			
LYKE, Z			LAKE CITY	1		7	1891																							
LYNDE, HARRY			LAKE CITY	1		11	1912																							
MAAEZ, SUR				1		8	1919																							
MADDOX, ROBERT			LAKE CITY	1		19	1905																							
MADISON, ALICE				1		20	1917																							
MADISON, AVRY			LAKE CITY	1		8	1903																							
MADISON, BILLY	LAKE CITY	1919NOV7	LAKE CITY	1																		X	X	X						

Student	Birth Place	Birth Date	Residence	District	Parent / Guardian	Age	Year Attended	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
RUCKER, ETHEL				7	RUCKER, SAM	8	1912																							
RUFF, K			LAKE CITY	1		18	1891																							
RUKER, CHARLIE			LAKE CITY	1		13	1908																							
RUNNEY, MATTHEW				1		19	1915																							
RUNOLTON, NATHAN				1		12	1919																		X	X	X			
RURRIE, W MADISON	LAKE CITY	1919NOV7	LAKE CITY	1										X																
RUSSEL, HARRY	LAKE CITY	1907NOV15	LAKE CITY	1				X																						
RUSSELL, WILLIAM			CREEDE	3		17	1892																							
RUSSELL, WILLIAM			CREEDE	3		18	1892																							
RUTLEGE, EDWARD			CREEDE	3		8	1892																							
RYDEN, FRITZ M			CREEDE	3		7	1892																							
SAMMET, MADISON	CREEDE	1919JUN15	LAKE CITY	1										X																
SANCHEZ, DANIEL	COLMON, NM	1919DEC6	LAKE CITY	1											X	X														
SANCHEZ, DANIEL	CALMOR, NM	1920MAR22	LAKE CITY	1																										
SANCHEZ, PEDRA A	CALMOR, NM	1922DEC26	LAKE CITY	1																										
SANCHEZ, TONY		ca1921	LAKE CITY	1												X														
SANFFER, W A			CREEDE	3		15	1892																							
SARLOW, EVERETT			CREEDE	3		11	1892																							
SATTERLEN, LENA			CREEDE	3		6	1892																							
SCHADE, GENEVIEVE	PUEBLO	1915MAR24	LAKE CITY	1																				X						
SCHADE, JOHN	GRAND JUNCTION	1912MAY29	LAKE CITY	1																				X						
SCHADE, MARIE	FLORENCE	1923APR7	LAKE CITY	1																				X						
SCHADE, MORTON	PUEBLO	1918JAN25	LAKE CITY	1																				X						
SCHADE, ROBERT	PUEBLO	1921FEB21	LAKE CITY	1																				X						
SCHADE, WILLIAM	PUEBLO	1917JAN15	LAKE CITY	1																				X						
SCHAFFER, L			LAKE CITY	1		6	1893																							
SCHAFFER, LOUIS			LAKE CITY	1		7	1904																							
SCHAFFER, LOUIS			LAKE CITY	1		16	1903																							
SCHAFFER, LOUIS			LAKE CITY	1		18	1905																							
SCHAFFER, REX			LAKE CITY	1		14	1903																							
SCHAFFER, REX			LAKE CITY	1		15	1904																							
SCHAFFER, REX			LAKE CITY	1		16	1905																							
SCHAFFER, REX			LAKE CITY	1		19	1908																							
SCHLUPE, BERTRAND	KINGMAN, KS	1910FEB23	CATHEDRAL	5									X																	
SCHWYHART, EDITH			DEBS	7	SCHWYHART, IRA	9	1918																							
SCHWYHART, EDITH			DEBS	7		10	1919																							
SCHWYHART, LUCILLE			DEBS	7	SCHWYHART, IRA	6	1918																							
SCHWYHART, LUCILLE			DEBS	7		7	1919																							
SCHWYHART, MARY			DEBS	7	SCHWYHART, IRA	13	1918																							
SCHWYHART, MARY			DEBS	7		14	1919																							
SEAMAN, AREIA				7	SEAMAN, JERRY	7	1912																							
SEAMAN, CLARA				7	SEAMAN, JERRY	9	1912																							
SEAMAN, DOROTHY				7	SEAMAN, JERRY	11	1912																							
SEAMAN, ROLLIN			Pagosa Springs	7	SEAMAN, JERRY	13	1912																							
SEEVERS, CLARENCE	MONTROSE	1918AUG16	LAKE CITY	1										X																
SEEVERS, CLARIAN	MONTROSE	1918AUG16	LAKE CITY	1												X														
SEEVERS, MELVIN	MONTROSE	1912OCT21	LAKE CITY	1										X		X														
SEEVERS, ORIAN	MONTROSE	1911JUL11	LAKE CITY	1												X														
SEEVERS, ORRAM	MONTROSE	1911JUL11	LAKE CITY	1										X																
SEEVERS, RAYMOND	MONTROSE	1915APR11	LAKE CITY	1												X										X	X			

Student	Birth Place	Birth Date	Residence	District	Parent / Guardian	Age	Year Attended	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
STEELE, HERBERT			LAKE CITY	5		7	1914																							
STEELE, HERBERT				5		8	1915																							
STEELE, HERBERT				5		8	1916																							
STEELE, HERBERT			LAKE CITY	5	STEELE, CHARLES	10	1917																							
STEELE, HERBERT			LAKE CITY	5		11	1918																							
STEELE, HERBERT			LAKE CITY	5		12	1919																							
STEELE, HERBERT	LAKE CITY	1907JAN29	LAKE CITY	5				X	X	X			X																	
STEELE, HERBERT	LAKE CITY	1908JAN19	LAKE CITY	5							X																			
STEELE, MABEL			Baker's Ranch	5	STEELE, CHARLES	10	1908																							
STEELE, MABEL			LAKE CITY	1		11	1910																							
STEELE, MABEL				5		14	1913																							
STEELE, MABEL				5		15	1914																							
STEELE, MABEL				5		16	1915																							
STEELE, MABEL				5		17	1916																							
STEELE, MABEL			LAKE CITY	5	STEELE, CHARLES	18	1917																							
STEELE, MABEL			LAKE CITY	5		19	1918																							
STEELE, MABLE				1		16	1915																							
STEELE, MARY			LAKE CITY	1		8	1910																							
STEELE, MARY				5		12	1913																							
STEELE, MARY				5		13	1914																							
STEELE, MARY				5		14	1915																							
STEELE, MARY				5		15	1916																							
STEELE, MARY			LAKE CITY	5	STEELE, CHARLES	16	1917																							
STEELE, MARY			LAKE CITY	5		17	1918																							
STEELE, MARY			LAKE CITY	5		18	1919																							
STEELE, MOREY			Baker's Ranch	5	STEELE, CHARLES	7	1908																							
STEELE, NELLIE				5		8	1913																							
STEELE, NELLIE				5		9	1914																							
STEELE, NELLIE				5		10	1915																							
STEELE, NELLIE				5		11	1916																							
STEELE, NELLIE			LAKE CITY	5	STEELE, CHARLES	12	1917																							
STEELE, NELLIE			LAKE CITY	5		15	1918																							
STEELE, NELLIE			LAKE CITY	5		15	1919																							
STEELE, NELLIE	LAKE CITY	1904MAR26	LAKE CITY	5				X	X																					
STEINBECK, A			LAKE CITY	1		6	1893																							
STEINBECK, ARCHIE			LAKE CITY	1		17	1904																							
STEINBECK, ARCHIE			LAKE CITY	1		19	1906																							
STEINBECK, ARCHIE RUSSEL	LAKE CITY	1925OCT10	LAKE CITY	1																	X	X	X	X						
STEINBECK, ARET			LAKE CITY	1		18	1905																							
STEINBECK, B			LAKE CITY	1		6	1891																							
STEINBECK, B			LAKE CITY	1		8	1893																							
STEINBECK, BARB			LAKE CITY	1		19	1904																							
STEINBECK, BART			LAKE CITY	1		20	1905																							
STEINBECK, BOBBY	SALIDA	1924NOV6	LAKE CITY	1															X		X									
STEINBECK, JAMES			LAKE CITY	1		15	1904																							
STEINBECK, JAMES			LAKE CITY	1		16	1905																							
STEINBECK, JAMES			LAKE CITY	1		17	1906																							
STEINBECK, JAMES			LAKE CITY	1		19	1908																							
STEINBECK, JAMES			LAKE CITY	1		20	1910																							
STEINBECK, LLOYD ROBERT	SALIDA	1924NOV6	LAKE CITY	1																X		X	X							

