

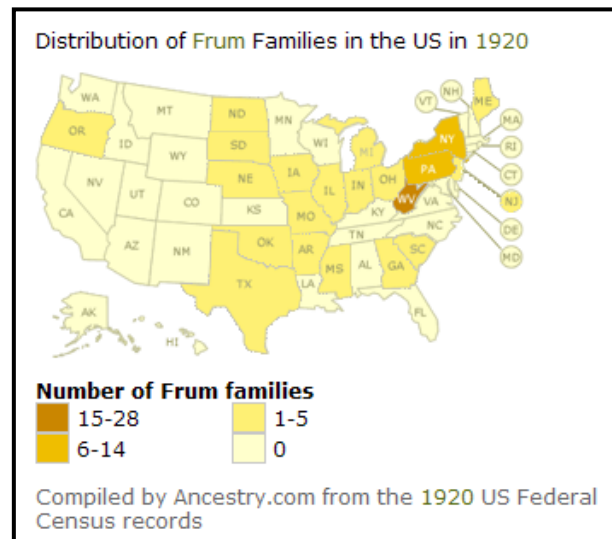
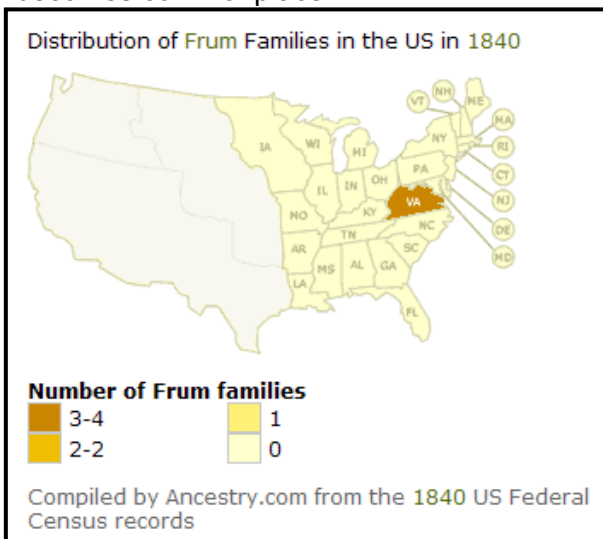
Preface

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of researching one's family comes from knowing and understanding those who came before us. When we link our relatives from one generation to the next we can remember and appreciate their contributions that brought us to our own lives. However, if we do not record the stories of these individuals the facts become harder to uncover as time goes on. This is especially true for early America where there was no strong central government and record keeping by both the church and state was limited. The state census records are among the most valuable basis for linking family members to locations. Land records, traditionally accurate and legally recognized, are also important sources of information.

The beginning of this Frum family history coincides with the colonies' War of Independence. Following the birth of our nation we see the Frum family as pioneers migrating to areas offering primarily agronomic opportunities. The concentration of the Frum family in this narrative centers in the founding state of Virginia, in the portion which became West Virginia following the division of the state. Consider the Skelton Run School in Doddridge County, West Virginia which was renamed Frum School (today there is just an historical marker depicting the site on County Highway 16/1; Left Prong Skelton Run Road).

In the colonial and early American history of the Frum family we find the interplay of several other early settler families including TALKINGTON, GOODWIN, SMITH, SWIGER, CARR, and ALLEN. Given the nature of their occupations, primarily agricultural based, large family size and large property holdings were an assets. The distances between families and the means of travel (walking, horseback and horse-drawn carriage) over country roads would probably draw eligible single people together within a certain radius. Thus, neighboring families often became related through marriage.

The story continues as states are formed, county lines are re-drafted, and the country engages in its greatest war on its own soil. West Virginia became the 35th state of the Union on June 20, 1863. Created in the midst of the Civil War, West Virginia provided to the Union Army 31,872 regular army troops, 133 sailors and marines, and 196 United States Colored Troops, during that terrible conflict of 1861-1865.¹ Frum men are soldiers in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War and World War II. From this point on family household size diminishes and divorce becomes commonplace.



¹ West Virginia in the Civil War, <http://www.wvcivilwar.com/>