

NEWS RECORD News Magazine

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2007

PROMOTING INTEREST AND GUIDANCE IN GENEALOGY AND FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH SINCE 1903

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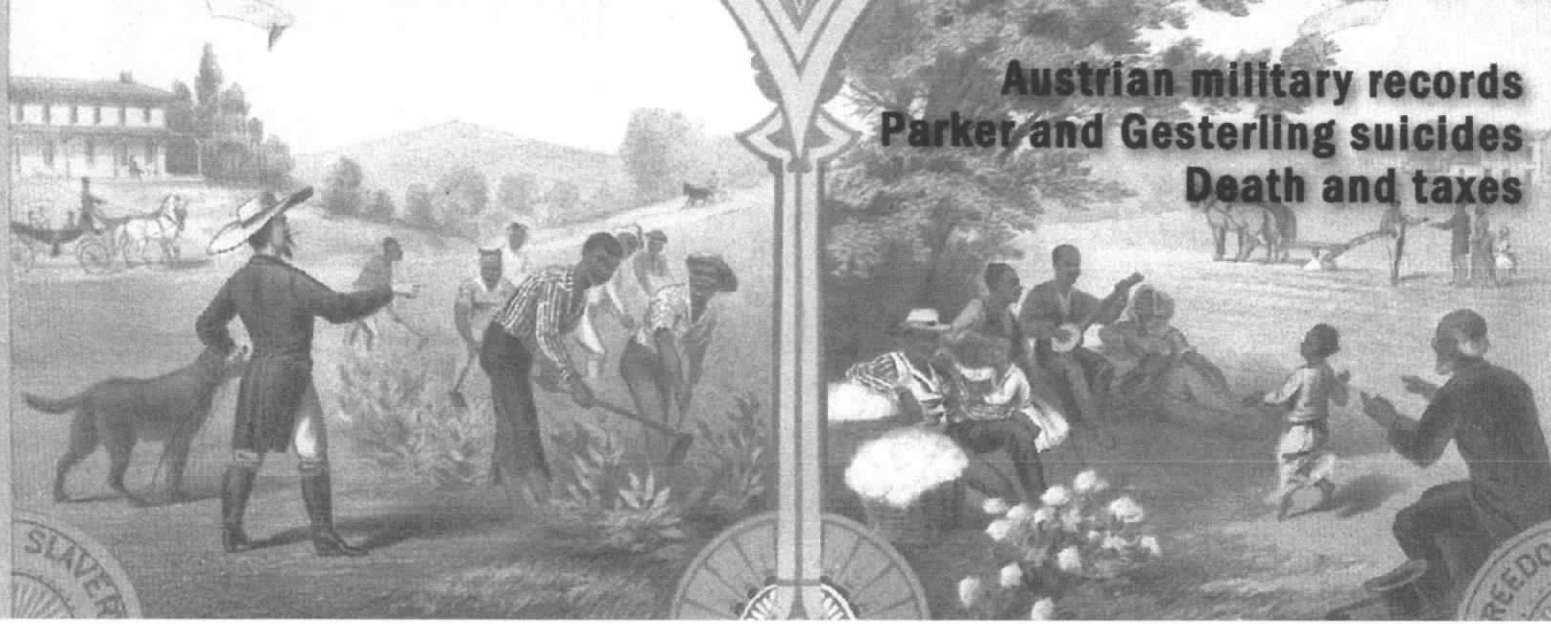
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BEFORE THE WAR AND SINCE **African American** research

**Austrian military records
Parker and Gesterling suicides
Death and taxes**



Substitutes for the 1890 census

BY CHRISTOPHER A. NORDMANN, PhD, CG

Census records are one of the most widely used resources by family historians. For those tracing ethnic groups, such as African Americans, census records of all types are usually one of the first sources outside of the home that genealogists consult. You find your ancestor in the 1930 census, the most recent federal population schedule available to the public, and work your way backwards every ten years until you get to 1890, and to your dismay, discover that most of it was either burned or damaged by water in a fire in the Commerce Building in 1921. What parts survived, and what alternatives are available to locate your ancestors around 1890?

An index to extant schedules of the 1890 census for areas in Alabama, the District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, and Texas is available as National Archives (NARA) Microfilm Publication M496. And a small fragment for Delaware (NARA Microfilm Publication M1919) that contains a list of about 454 African American farmers has also survived.¹ The 1890 census contains a separate schedule for each family. Information on this enumeration is similar to that found in the 1880 record, showing, for example, names, relationship to the head of the family, age, places of birth, marital status, and occupation. For instance, Brisco James, a farmer, and his family resided in Perry County, Alabama. He and his parents were born in Maryland, and two sons and two daughters were born in Alabama. His wife was not shown.²

The 1890 special census of Union veterans and widows of the Union veterans of the Civil War may help some researchers find their ancestors in between the 1880 and 1900 federal enumerations. Information in the record may include name, rank, company, length of service, and dates of enlistment and discharge. Schedules are available only for about half of Kentucky and all states after that alphabetically.

In addition to these federal census records, family historians should not overlook state and territorial enumerations as they search for ancestors in the late nineteenth century. Some states that have these records are Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, and New Jersey. The 1885 Kansas record includes a population schedule with military data as well as an agricultural schedule. Wesley Townsend, a thirty-six-year-old "black" man from Alabama, resided in the city of Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1895. Sanford Craig, who appears as S. G. Craig, and his family lived in Nicodemus Township, Kansas, in 1895, but relationships are not shown.³

Home of an African American lawyer, circa 1890s, Atlanta, Georgia. Photo from the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.

Some cities took their own enumerations. Officials in Ballard, Washington, ordered that a census be taken to determine if the town could change its classification to that of a third-class city. The enumerator listed a person's name and age, such as Nicholas Beck and his family. Looking for someone in New York City? The Municipal Census of New York City, also known as the "Police Census," was recorded by that city's policemen and is an every name listing of people residing in New York County. A partial index to these records, available at Ancestry.com, provides the name, sex, and age of the person as well as the original book and page numbers and a Family History Library film number. John Adler, for instance, was 14 and appears in book 958 on page 3.⁴

Researchers tracing Native American ancestry may want to consult "Indian Census Rolls, 1885–1940," which are also available at Ancestry.com. These records appear as National Archives Microfilm Publication M595. Agents were required to submit these rolls annually. Information may include the English and/or Indian name of the individual, age or date of birth, sex, and relationship to the head of the family. It should be noted that "there is not a census for every reservation or group of Indians for every year. Only persons who maintained a formal affiliation with a tribe under federal supervision are listed on these census rolls." Researchers of Cherokee ancestors can also check the Wallace Roll of Cherokee Freedmen, 1890–1993, also online at Ancestry. More than 3,800 Cherokee appear on this roll, which shows age, sex, and residence.⁵

Two other types of census records deserve to be mentioned—church and school. Of course, typical church records, including birth, marriage, and death registers, should not be overlooked when researching your ancestors. Check to see if your ancestor's church took a census of its members. St. Joachim's Parish in Old Mines, Missouri, is just one such church. The Rev. E. T. Gallaher, parish priest, wrote the entries himself and included names of parents as well as their children and ages. St. Peter's Catholic Church in Belleville, Illinois, is another example of a church keeping track of its members. These records serve as great replacements for the federal

census of 1890.⁶ Some schools kept lists of their students, such as those in Fluvanna County, Virginia.⁷

City or county directories are other valuable sources. These books contain the names of individuals, institutions, churches, organizations, and cemeteries and are an excellent way to trace people from one year to the next. As with all other types of records, researchers should check variant spellings of surnames. Be sure to read directories for several years after the last located entry, as in some cases individuals may not appear in every possible directory, and you could miss finding an ancestor who appeared only once or twice. In addition to names, other information may include a person's race, occupation, or employer's name. After locating your ancestor, see what other family members with the same surname resided at the same address. Other records may help determine their relationship. For instance, several members of the African American Craig family resided at the same address in the city of Leavenworth in the early 1890s, including George, Jefferson, Jemima, Lizzie, and Peter. Some Detroit, Michigan, directories list name, age, and date of death for individuals who died in the city.⁸

Although not as inclusive as census records that may show all family members, voter rolls indicate that someone was in a certain place at a certain time. They also may contain birth, occupation, home address, immigration, and naturalization information. The list of voters for Chicago in 1892 gives name, address, place of birth, length of residence in the Chicago area, whether naturalized or not, date of naturalization papers, and

Parents	Children	Age
Boyer James Martha	Russ	41
	Frank	34
	Becky	10
	Bradford	6
Boyer Eugene Dora	6 mos	3
	Roman	37
	William	27
	John	16
	Anna	14
	Roger	11
Boyer Jacob Rosa	6 mos	9
	Edna	6
	Carlina	3
	6 mos	6 mos
	Samuel	46
	Maomi	43
	Francis	20
	Julia	19
	Edmund	17
	Melli	15
Boyer Ferdinand Joie	Benjamin	13
	Henry	11
	3	7
	5	5
	3	3
	44	44
	42	42
Boyer J. B.	Mary	22
	Melissa	20
	Sally	17
	Wade	9
	Stephanie	7
	Altenmay	5
Boyer J. B.	32	32
	3	3
	Chas	1

E. T. Gallaher, 1890 St. Joachim Parish Census of Old Mines, Missouri, Washington County (Old Mines, Mo.: Old Mines Area Historical Society, 1989), 16.

Record and Index of Persons Registered and of Poll Lists of Voters.		City of Chicago, Northern District of Illinois, 1892.	
1	101	101	101
2	102	102	102
3	103	103	103
4	104	104	104
5	105	105	105
6	106	106	106
7	107	107	107
8	108	108	108
9	109	109	109
10	110	110	110
11	111	111	111
12	112	112	112
13	113	113	113
14	114	114	114
15	115	115	115
16	116	116	116
17	117	117	117
18	118	118	118
19	119	119	119
20	120	120	120

Chicago, Illinois, Record and Index of Persons Registered and of Poll Lists of Voters, 1892, page 427, online <<http://www.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=6001>>.

the name of the court where those records were filed. Race was not shown. Louis Law, a native of Denmark residing at 383 N. Ohio Street, had been in Cook County for ten years. The date of his naturalization papers was 24 October 1892.⁹ Voter registration lists for Arizona and California are called the Great Registers and are available in California from 1866 to 1910. One such list shows that John Bell, a plumber from England, was 45 years old. Naturalization details were also recorded. The San Francisco records are especially valuable because of the loss of other official records in the 1906 earthquake and fire.¹⁰

If your ancestor owned real or other types of property, his or her name probably appears on a county tax roll. Like voting records, tax lists may place someone in a particular location at a particular time. (Of course, your ancestor could have lived and owned property in one county and still owned property in a different county.) As with city directories, tax lists can be used to trace people from one year to the next and are valuable substitutes in genealogical research for all parts of the country. Understanding tax laws, such as knowing who may be tithable, is important when analyzing these records.

When searching for published tax rolls for 1890, some titles may appear as “census substitutes” or “census reconstruction” records. (As with other types of documents, researchers should consult the originals whenever possible.) In addition to having tax records, these derivative sources may also include lists from other record types. For instance, the book *1890 Walker County, Texas Census Uniquely Reconstructed & Annotated* not only includes the 1890 county tax list, but also a list of inmates in the state penitentiary as of 1 June 1890 and names of Union veterans and widows not found in either tax or penitentiary records. Similarly, *1890 Genealogical Census Reconstruction: Mississippi Edition* contains names from a variety of sources, including World War I draft registration records that were used to show that the African American George Haywood was born in Pine Ridge, Mississippi, in 1889. The census reconstruction book for Missouri relied upon tax lists, death notices in local newspapers, and the 1890 veterans census.¹¹

Another valuable census substitute is online at Ancestry.com and is simply called “1890 Census Substitute.” According to the Web site “more than twenty million records have been identified for inclusion in the collection and additions will be made regularly as they become available for posting. It will include

FAMILY SCHEDULE—1 TO 10 PERSONS.		319		
Supervisor's District No. 8		Seventh Census of the United States.		
Enumeration District No. 78		SCHEDULE No. 1.		
Precinct and name of Precinct: <i>Seven Beat 8</i> ; County: <i>Perry</i> ; State: <i>Alabama</i>		POPULATION AND SOCIAL STATISTICS.		
Street and No.: _____; Ward: _____; Line of lot: _____		Enumerated by me on the <i>19th</i> day of June, 1890. <i>L. W. & Davis</i>		
A—Number of Dwelling-household in district	813	B—Number of Dwelling-houses	1	
C—Number of Families	7	D—Number of Persons in the household	319	
E—Males of Population	140	F—Females of Population	179	
1	Male	Female	Male	Female
2	White	Black	Other	Other
3	Single	Married	Widow	Divorced
4	Male	Female	Male	Female
5	Male	Female	Male	Female
6	Male	Female	Male	Female
7	Male	Female	Male	Female
8	Male	Female	Male	Female
9	Male	Female	Male	Female
10	Male	Female	Male	Female
11	Male	Female	Male	Female
12	Male	Female	Male	Female
13	Male	Female	Male	Female
14	Male	Female	Male	Female
15	Male	Female	Male	Female
16	Male	Female	Male	Female
17	Male	Female	Male	Female
18	Male	Female	Male	Female
19	Male	Female	Male	Female
20	Male	Female	Male	Female
21	Male	Female	Male	Female
22	Male	Female	Male	Female
23	Male	Female	Male	Female
24	Male	Female	Male	Female
25	Male	Female	Male	Female

Brisco James household, 1890 U.S. census, Perry County, Alabama, population/family schedule, Beat 8, enumeration district 78, supervisor's district 3, page 319, dwelling 313, family 313.

fragments of the original 1890 census that survived the fire, special veterans' schedules, several Native American tribe censuses for years surrounding 1890, state censuses (1885 or 1895), city and county directories, alumni directories, and voter registration documents."¹²

If after checking some of these sources you still have not located your ancestor, why not search daily or weekly newspapers, including legal and African American newspapers? Some examples of the types of information that may be found in them are births, marriages, deaths, legal notices, tax lists, and deeds. One such account reported the death of James H. M. Jackson, an African American member of the Episcopal Church, who had served as an assistant postmaster in North Carolina. The obituary noted that "he was born in Liverpool, England, and was of half Spanish descent." Guides to locating older newspapers are available.¹³

Numerous other sources may be used to trace your ancestors in the gap left by the absence of the 1890 census. Some hospital registers are available to the public. These may show information similar to some census data, including a patient's name, age, race, place of birth, marital status, occupation, and place of residence. For instance, on 17 January 1893, Julia Porter, an African American twenty-four-year-old servant from Mississippi, was married and had been in the city of St. Louis for only one year prior to her admittance into a city hospital.¹⁴ Coroner and death records, some of which are online, are valuable genealogical resources. Other types of resources that might be helpful include, for instance, road overseer records, registers of prisoners, militia registers, medical license records, jury lists, various court records, and orphan asylum records. Thus, despite the destruction of most of the 1890 federal census, you can still trace your ancestors between the 1880 and 1900 federal census records. 🌳

Notes

1. Kellee Blake, "First in the Path of the Firemen": The Fate of the 1890 Population Census," *Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives and Records Administration* 28 (Spring 1996): 64–81; online at <<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1996/spring/1890-census-1.html>> (Part 1) and <<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1996/spring/1890-census-2.html>> (Part 2); Claire Prechtel-Klusens, "The 'New' 1890 Census Fragment for Delaware," *NGS NewsMagazine* 31 (April/May/June 2005): 29–31.

2. Brisco James household, 1890 U.S. census, Perry County, Alabama, population/family schedule, Bear 8, enumeration district 78, supervisor's district 3, dwelling 313, family 313 (NARA Microfilm Publication M496).

3. Ann S. Lainhart, *State Census Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1992), 9, 45–46; Jane Biggs household, 1885 Kansas state census, population schedule, Leavenworth County, Kansas, city of Leavenworth, ward 4, page 23, dwelling 184, family 186, microfilm 570306, Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City, Utah.; S. G. Craig household, 1895 Kansas state census,

Graham County, Kansas, population schedule, Nicodemus township, post office Bogue, page 4, dwelling 28, family 28, FHL microfilm 570276.

4. Debra R. Wright, *Ballard Census of 1890* (Seattle, Wash.: Seattle Genealogical Society, 1989), 4; Cary Lynne Hall, "Lost Someone in 1890 in New York City?," *The Genealogical Record* 47 (No. 1 & 2, 2005): 73–74; John Adler, New York City Police Census, 1890, online at <<http://www.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3519>>.

5. U. S. National Archives, *American Indians: A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications* (Washington, D.C.: National Archives Trust Fund Board, U. S. General Services Administration, 1984), 32. See, for example, Curt B. Witcher and George J. Nixon, "Native American Research," in *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*, Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, editors (Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing, 2006), 777–837.

6. E. T. Gallaher, *1890 St. Joachim Parish Census of Old Mines, Missouri, Washington County* (Old Mines, Mo.: Old Mines Area Historical Society, 1989); Diane Renner Walsh, *St. Peter's Cathedral Census 1888-1895, Belleville, Illinois* (Belleville, Ill.: St. Clair County Genealogical Society, 2007).

7. School Census, 1890, and Registers, 1887–1903, Fluvanna County, Virginia, FHL microfilm 1930089, item 4.

8. *1891–92 Hoye's City Directory of Leavenworth, Kansas* (Leavenworth, Kan.: Hoye Directory Company, 1891), 82, FHL microfilm 2156600; Connie Bradbury, "1 Love City Directories," *NGS NewsMagazine* 31 (April/May/June, 2005), 35–37.

9. Chicago, Illinois, Record and Index of Persons Registered and of Poll Lists of Voters, 1892, page 427, online at <<http://www.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=6001>>.

10. Jane Billings Steiner, editor, *San Francisco, California: 1890 Great Register of Voters / California Genealogical Society* (North Salt Lake, Utah: Heritage Quest, 2001), 47.

11. Mary C. Moody, compiler, *1890 Walker County, Texas Census Uniquely Reconstructed & Annotated* (Arlington, Texas: Blackstone Publishing Company, 1992), v–vii; Sherida K. Eddlemon, *1890 Genealogical Census Reconstruction*, vol. 1, *Mississippi Edition* (Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 2002), 98; Eddlemon, *1890 Genealogical Census Reconstruction*, vol. 1, *Missouri Edition* (Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 2004).

12. 1890 Census Substitute, online at <<http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/census/1890sub/main.htm>>.

13. Berry Munson, compiler, *Afro-American Death Notices from Eastern North Carolina Newspapers, 1859–1935* (Greenville, N.C.: B. Munson, 2003), 43; James P. Danky, editor, *African-American Newspapers and Periodicals: A National Bibliography* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1998); Barbara K. Henritze, *Bibliographic Checklist of African American Newspapers* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1995); Winifred Gregory under the Auspices of the Bibliographical Society of America, editor, *African Newspapers, 1821–1936: A Union List of Files Available in the United States and Canada* (New York: H.W. Wilson Company, 1937).

14. "Register of Patients, City Hospital # 1, Female Hospital, St. Louis, Mo., April 1, 1886—March 31, 1893," entry 1638, City of St. Louis Archival Library, St. Louis City Hall, quoted in Chris Nordmann, "Basic Genealogical Research Methods and Their Application to African Americans," in *African American Genealogical Sourcebook*, Paula K. Byers, ed. (New York: Gale Research, 1995), 35.

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