



1



2



3



4



5

What is the 1870 Brick Wall?

- The 1870 US Federal Census is the first Federal Census after the emancipation of slavery.
- This is typically the first federal census which names formerly enslaved people with first and last names, ages and household composition.
- When researching African American Genealogy this is the most common place to run into a brick wall for research.

6

What type of records can I use?

- Freedmen’s Bureau records
- State Specific Schedules or Registers
- 1867 Voter Lists
- Military and Pension Records

7

Freedmen’s Bureau records

- The Freedmen’s Bureau was responsible for the supervision and management of all matters relating to formerly enslaved people in the Southern United States.
- There are many different types of Freedmen’s Bureau Records.
- These records are held in a variety of locations virtually: (Some on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch and the Smithsonian Website).

8

Divisions of the Freedmen’s Bureau

- There were four divisions that records are held under
 - Government Controlled Lands
 - Records will relate to land and property occupied by Federal Troops during the Civil War.
 - Financial Affairs
 - Records will relate to The Freedmen’s Banks and other financial institutions.
 - Medical Affairs
 - Records will relate to food, healthcare, shelter and medical care.
 - Records
 - Can be a variety of record types, including school lists, educational records and even vital records that occurred on military lands.

9

List of Departments of the Freedmen's Bureau

- Alabama
- Arkansas
- District of Columbia (Washington, DC)
- Florida
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maryland & Delaware
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Virginia

10

State Specific Schedules or Registers

- States often have specific collections that give detailed information about formerly enslaved individuals.
- An example is the 1867 Maryland Slave Statistics
 - These registers were compiled in 1867 and record the first and last name of every person enslaved in the state of Maryland as of the year 1864.
 - These records are recorded by county and some are available to view for free on the Maryland State Archives Website
 - We will see an example in a case study later in the presentation .

11

1867 Voter Registration

- For many southern states, the voter lists from the 1867 Elections have survived.
- These records can put your ancestor at a specific location depending on where they registered.
- These records will also show other eligible voters in the area which can help with cluster research.

12

Military Records

- Records related to African American soldiers during the American Civil War can be outstanding resources for family history research.
- The following types of records can be extremely helpful:
 - Widows Pensions
 - Disability or Minors Pensions
 - Compiled Service Files
 - Unit Rosters and Muster Rolls

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Overall Helpful Tips

- Spellings of surnames can vary greatly from record to record. Try very broad and phonetic spellings for best results.
- Always look at other members of the same household to try to expand the network of possible associates and family.
- Ages of individuals can vary greatly from record to record. Be aware that ages of formerly enslaved people are likely going to be very broad.

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Developing a Research Strategy

15

Developing a Research Strategy

-  Step one: Write out clear research questions
-  Step Two Know Your History
-  Step three: Identify Potential Sources
-  Step Four: Gather Information – Keep it organized
-  Step Five: Repeat steps 1-4

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**Research Strategy Step 1:
Write Out Clear Research Questions**

- Was this individual born into slavery?
- If so, who enslaved them?
- Can we find more information about their parents?

17

**Research Strategy Step 2:
Know Your History**

- Create a timeline of Virginia Slave Laws
- Note laws that may lead to record sets
- Know where you are
- Look at maps from the time period and today.

18



22

Laws Creating Records in Virginia

- 1853 – Virginia requires the registration of births and deaths including enslaved people.
- 1850 – Virginia demands that emancipated slaves leave the state within a year and forbids the legislature from freeing any slave.
- 1865 – 13th Amendment and establishment of the Freedmen’s Bureau.

23

**Research Strategy Step 4:
Gather and Organize Information**

- Make checklists of record sets you want to check.
- Determine what information you can pull from each record.
- Make sure your notes are easy to view quickly and include as much information as possible.
- Suggestion: use Microsoft Excel to organize complex research.

24

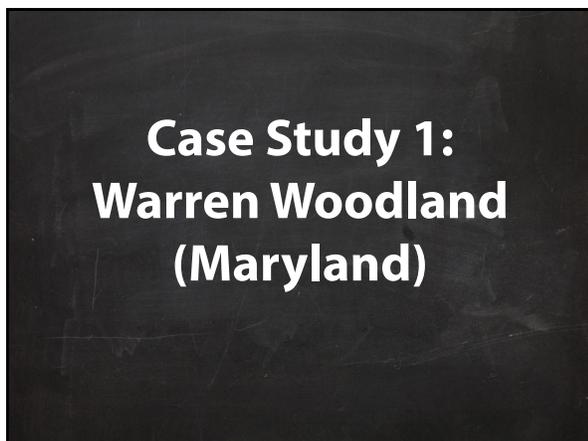
What you can learn from the 1870 Census

- It can tell you exactly where your ancestors were beyond just an enumeration district.
- Note neighbors to compare to the 1860 federal census and/or maps of the area.
- Who owned land in the area (check Real Estate Value column).
- Compare to 1860 Slave Schedules for Slaveowners.
- Provide additional surnames to research.

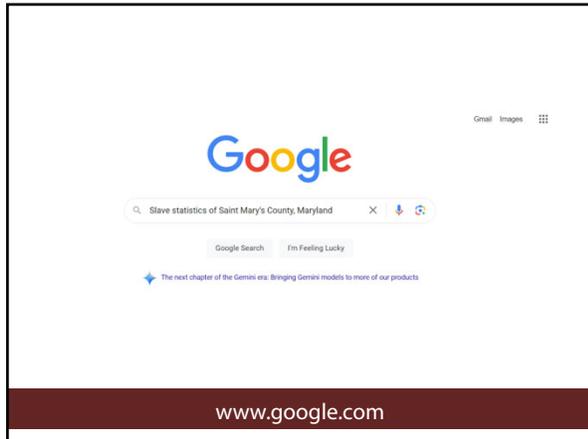
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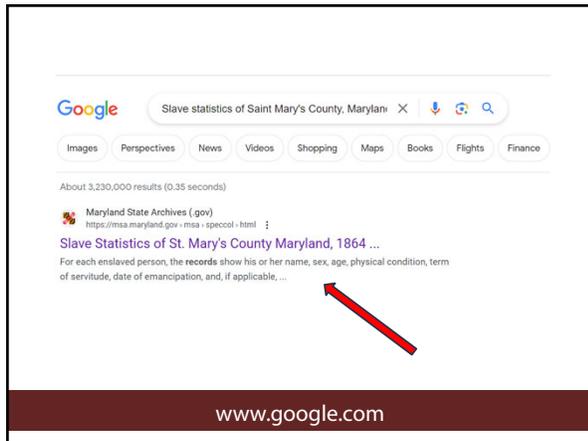
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33

Slave Statistics of St. Mary's County Maryland, 1864, Commissioner George R. Dent by Agnes Kane Callum
 Volume 369, Page 177 [View pdf image \(13K\)](#) [Jump to page](#) [Previous](#) [Next](#)

777		
Wood, Sandy, 74	Yorkshire, Joseph, 98	
Woodland, Cornelius, 23, 41	Yorkshire, Mary, 19	
Woodland, Daniel, 25, 41	Young, Albert, 48	
Woodland, Douglas, 25	Young, Amos, 94	
Woodland, Elias, 41	Young, Ann, 48, 107, 112	
Woodland, Elizabeth, 52	Young, Ann Catherine, 62	
Woodland, Emline, 52	Young, Arbellia, 54	
Woodland, Francis, 41	Young, Clarence, 42	
Woodland, Harriet, 25	Young, Dettie, 112	
Woodland, Hattie, 19	Young, Caroline, 112	
Woodland, Henry, 60	Young, Cecelia, 49	
Woodland, Henry, 23	Young, Charles, 114	
Woodland, Ignatius, 23	Young, Charles Joseph, 113	
Woodland, James, 123	Young, Cornelius, 42	
Woodland, Jane T., 25	Young, Eliza, 112	
Woodland, Jane, 52	Young, Elizabeth, 49	
Woodland, John, 18, 30	Young, Emily, 112	
Woodland, John Dugler, 19	Young, Esqui, 49	
Woodland, John Lewis, 52	Young, Estelle, 48	
Woodland, Jos. N. G., 45	Young, Eugene, 42	
Woodland, Martha, 41	Young, Frank, 30, 36	
Woodland, Philip, 29	Young, George, 89, 62, 113	
Woodland, Robert Hewitt, 19	Young, Hannah, 112	
Woodland, Ross, 28	Young, Harriet, 43	
Woodland, Warren, 57	Young, Henry, 8	
Woodland, Washington, 28	Young, Herri Ann, 117	
Woodland, William F., 52	Young, Ida, 94	
Woodland, William H., 28	Young, Isabella, 94	
Worleston, Hannah A., 37	Young, James Heap, 112	
Yates, Ally, 33	Young, Jane, 49	

msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/html/index.html

34

original document
 Maryland State Archives | Home | Help | Search
 Slave Statistics of St. Mary's County Maryland, 1864, Commissioner George R. Dent by Agnes Kane Callum
 Volume 369, Page 57 [View pdf image \(13K\)](#) [Jump to page](#) [Previous](#) [Next](#)

57
 Thomas Hebb
 OWNER

DATE November 21, 1867

Name Of Slave	Sex	Age	State of Maryland	Remarks
Elizabeth Milburn	F	16	Nov. 1, 1864	
Caroline Boscoe	F	17	***	
Margaret Milburn	F	15	***	
Alexander Milburn	M	13	***	
James Milburn	M	12	***	
Albert Milburn	M	11	***	
Susan Milburn	F	8	***	
Henry Milburn	M	6	***	
Lewis Milburn	M	2	***	
Nicholas Watts	M	63	***	
John Watts	M	36	***	E-Feb. 28, 1864
Washington Watts	M	35	***	E-Feb. 28, 1864
Hanson Watts	M	33	***	E-Feb. 28, 1864
Cecelia Boscoe	F	18	Nov. 1, 1864	
William Milburn	M	70	E-Feb. 28, 1864	

msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/html/index.html

35

57.

OWNER Thomas Hebb
 DATE November 21, 1867

Name Of Slave	Sex	Age	State of Maryland	Remarks
Elizabeth Milburn	F	36	Nov. 1, 1864	
Caroline Boscoe	F	17	-	
Margaret Milburn	F	15	-	
Alexander Milburn	M	13	-	
James Milburn	M	12	-	
Albert Milburn	M	11	-	
Susan Milburn	F	8	-	
Henry Milburn	M	6	-	
Lewis Milburn	M	2	-	
Nicholas Watts	M	63	-	
John Watts	M	36	-	E-Feb. 28, 1864
Washington Watts	M	35	-	E-Feb. 28, 1864
Hanson Watts	M	33	-	E-Feb. 28, 1864
Cecelia Boscoe	F	18	Nov. 1, 1864	
William Milburn	M	20	E-Feb. 28, 1864	
James Hebb	M	63	Nov. 1, 1864	
No. of Slaves #16 (115)				
Mrs. Matilda Hamilton, Owner				
November 21, 1867 (119)				
Henry Munroe	M	29	Nov. 1, 1864	
Warren Woodland	M	22	E-7th. U.S.C.T., Nov. 1865	
Lucy Johnson	F	21	E-June 15, 1864	
Grandison Brent	M	15	Nov. 1, 1864	

msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/html/index.html

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Answers to initial question:

- Was Warren Woodland enslaved?
 - Yes
- If so, who was he enslaved by?
 - He was enslaved by Mrs. Matilda Hamilton

37

**Case Study 2:
Edward Lewis
(Louisiana)**

38

1880 United States Census for Edward Lewis

Name	Age	Sex	Relationship	Occupation
Edward Lewis	32	M	Head	Teacher
Lucinda Lewis	28	F	Wife	at home
John Lewis	16	M	Son	at school
William Lewis	14	M	Son	at school
John Lewis	12	M	Son	at home
Joseph Lewis	10	M	Son	at home
Esther Lewis	8	F	Daughter	at home
Samuel Lewis	6	M	Son	at home

39

Questions for Case Study 2:

1. Who were the parents of Edward Lewis?
2. Did Edward have siblings or extended family?

40

The Freedman's Bank

- The Freedman's Savings and Trust Company was incorporated in 1865 by an act signed by President Abraham Lincoln.
- The purpose of the company was to create an institution where former slaves and their dependents could place and save their money.

41

Freedmen's Bureau Bank Records

- When people opened accounts at the Freedmen's Bank, they were required to provide a great deal of personal information to ensure that bank officials could locate family members in the event of a depositor's death.
- The records of 29 branches of the Freedmen's Bank survive today.
- These records are on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org.

42

Freedmen's Bank locations

- Atlanta, Georgia
- Augusta, Georgia
- Baltimore, Maryland
- Beaufort, South Carolina
- Charleston, South Carolina
- Columbus, Mississippi
- Huntsville, Alabama
- Lexington, Kentucky
- Little Rock, Arkansas
- Louisville, Kentucky
- Lynchburg, Virginia
- Memphis, Tennessee
- Mobile, Alabama
- Nashville, Tennessee
- Natchez, Mississippi
- New Bern, North Carolina
- New Orleans, Louisiana
- New York, New York
- Norfolk, Virginia
- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Raleigh, North Carolina
- Richmond, Virginia
- Savannah, Georgia
- Shreveport, Louisiana
- St. Louis, Missouri
- Tallahassee, Florida
- Vicksburg, Mississippi
- Washington, D.C.
- Wilmington, North Carolina

43

Card Catalog
Searchable listing of all record collections

Title

Results 1-1 of 1 Sort By: Date Added ▾

Keywords	Title	Category	Records
Freedman's Bank Records, 1865-1874	U.S., Freedman's Bank Records, 1865-1874	Court, Land, Wills & Financial	699,322

Filters Clear All

- > Court, Land, Wills & Financial 1
- > Filter By Location
 - > North America 1
 - > USA 1
- > Filter by Dates

www.Ancestry.com

44

U.S., Freedman's Bank Records, 1865-1874

Search Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s) Last Name

Edward Lewis Exact & similar

Quick Fill Suggestions

No suggestions found

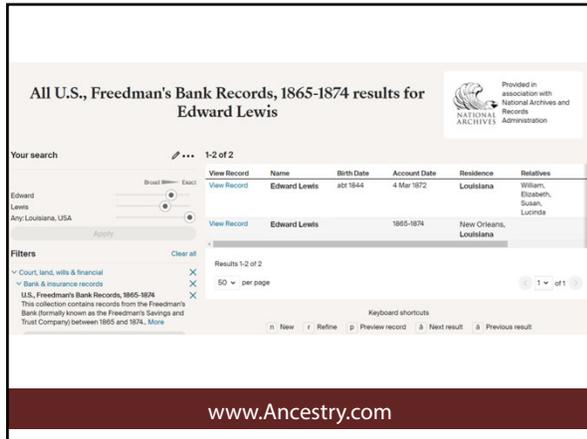
Day Month Year Location

Lived In Louisiana, USA

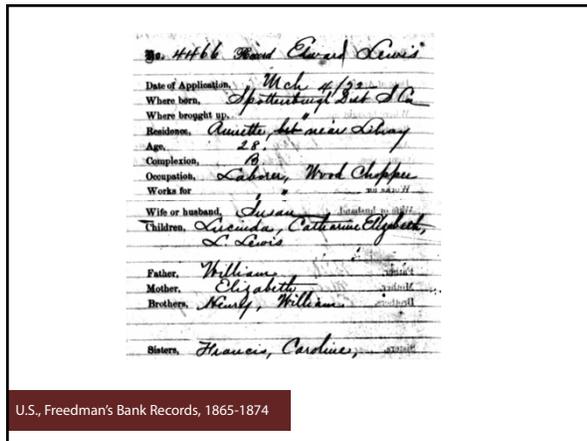
Any Event

www.Ancestry.com

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46



U.S., Freedman's Bank Records, 1865-1874

47

Answers for Case Study 2:

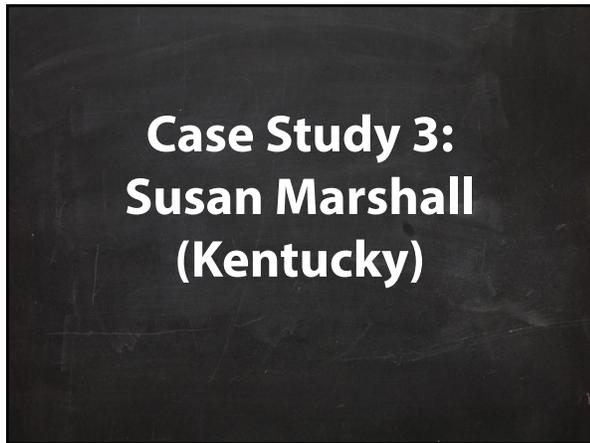
1. Who were the parents of Edward Lewis?
 - Edward Lewis was the son of William and Elizabeth.

2. Did Edward have siblings or extended family?
 - Yes. Edward Lewis had two brothers Henry and William and two sisters Frances and Caroline.

48



49



50

1910 United States Federal Census

1	Marshall, William G.	Head	M	1847	20
	Susan B.	Wife	F	1840	26
	William A.	Son	M	1878	32
	James E.	Son	M	1878	32
	Louisa C.	Daughter	F	1875	35
	Earl E.	Son	M	1873	37
	Sarah F.	Daughter	F	1871	39
	Charlie T.	Son	M	1868	42
	John H.	Son	M	1866	44
	John H.	Son	M	1871	39

Susan S. Marshall born about 1870 living in Scott County Kentucky

51

Questions for Case Study 3:

1. What is the maiden name of Susan Marshall?
2. Who was her father?
3. Was her father born enslaved?
4. Where was her father born?

52

Card Catalog

Searchable listing of all record collections

Title

Keyword(s)
Kentucky Death Records, 1852-1965

Filters

- > Birth, Marriage & Death 1
- > Filter By Location
 - > North America 1
 - > USA 1
- > Filter by Dates

Results 1 of 1

Title	Category	Records
Kentucky U.S. Death Records, 1852-1965	Birth, Marriage & Death	5,193,656

www.Ancestry.com

53

Kentucky, U.S., Death Records, 1852-1965

Search Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)
Susan

Last Name
Marshall

Quick Fill Suggestions
Hill Family Tree

No suggestions found

Day Month Year Location

Birth

Death

Any Event

Add family member: Father Mother Spouse Child

Browse this collection

To browse this image set, select from the options below:

Collection
Choose...

Year
▼

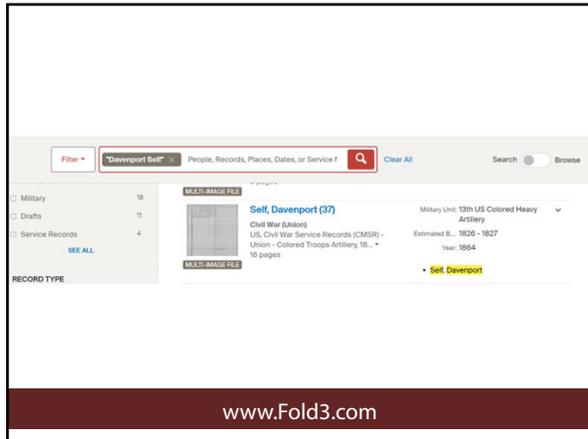
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Related data collections

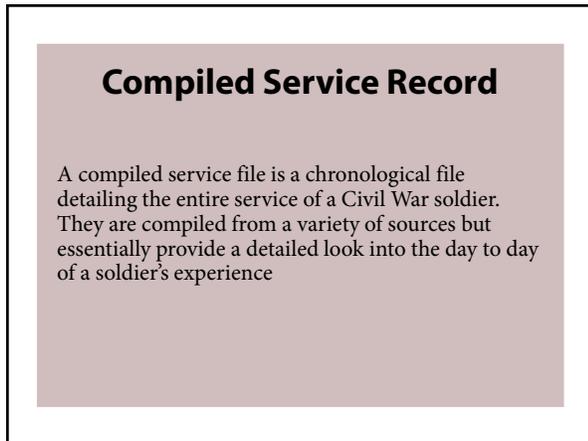
[Kentucky U.S. Birth Records, 1847-1921](#)
This database contains county birth records from Kentucky for the years 1852-1910. Information available in these records includes: name of child, gender, race, birth date, birth name.

www.Ancestry.com

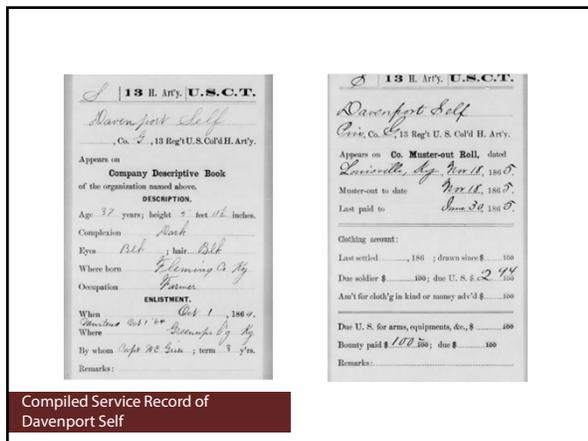
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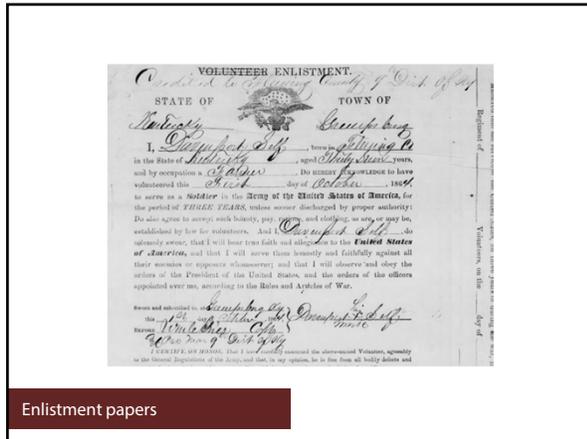
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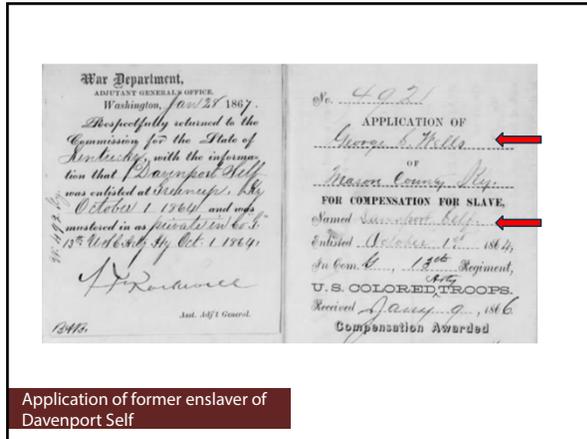


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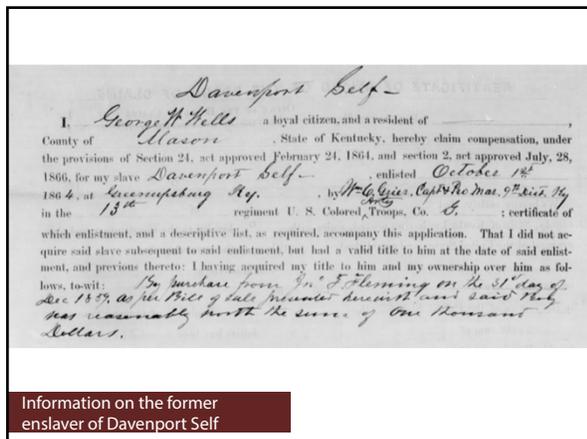
Enlistment papers

64



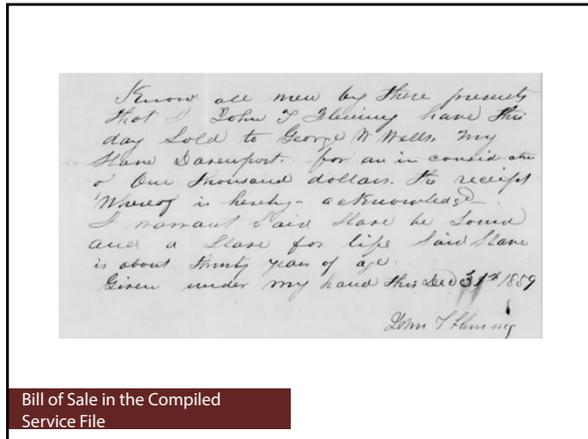
Application of former enslaver of Davenport Self

65

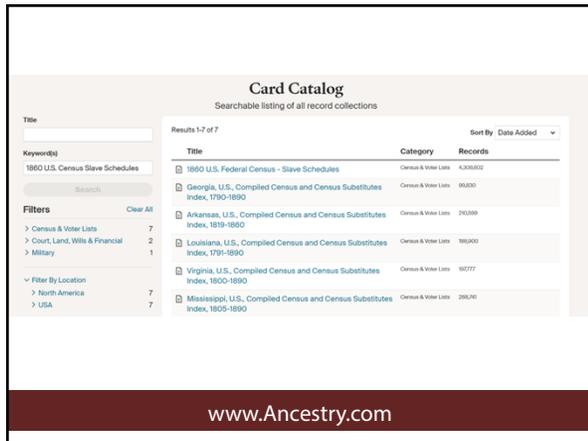


Information on the former enslaver of Davenport Self

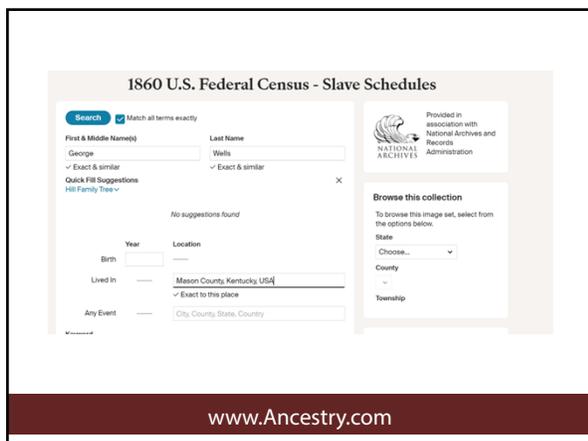
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68



69

1860 Slave Schedule for the enslaver George Wells

Sex	Age	Value
M	70	\$13
M	39	\$13
M	30	\$13
M	28	\$13
M	25	\$13
M	21	\$13
M	9	\$13
M	7	\$13

1860 Slave Schedule for the enslaver George Wells

70

Civil War Pensions

- Civil War Pensions can be ordered from the National Archives using the application number and certificate number
- These files can be hundreds of pages in length and provide great detail into the families and backgrounds of Civil War Veterans
- These files are typically not online and must be ordered from the National Archives

71

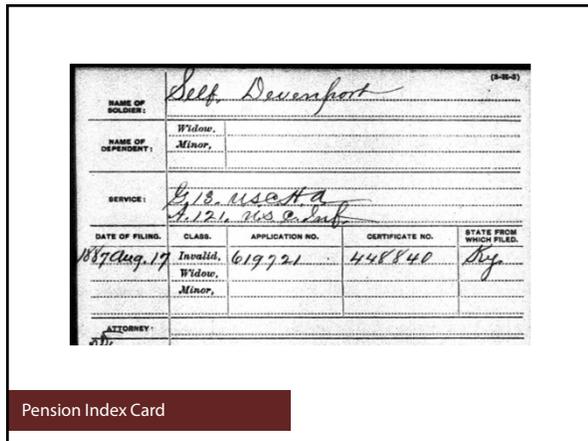
U.S., Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934

www.Ancestry.com

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Pension Index Card

74

Answers to Case Study 3:

1. What is the maiden name of Susan Marshall?
 - Susan Marshall was born Susan Self
2. Who was her father?
 - Davenport Self
3. Was her father born enslaved?
 - Yes, he was enslaved by John Fleming and later George Wells
4. Where was her father born?
 - He was born in Fleming County, Kentucky

75

Case Study 4: Sarah Thomasson (Georgia)

76

1870 United State Census

47	48	Thomasson Sarah	45	71	B
		Davis Martha	22	7	B
		— Infant	$\frac{2}{12}$	7	B
		— Lema	3		M.B.

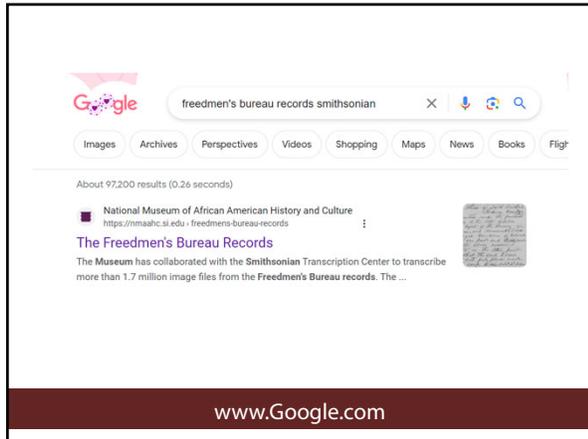
Sarah Thomasson born about 1825 and residing in Madison, Morgan County, Georgia

77

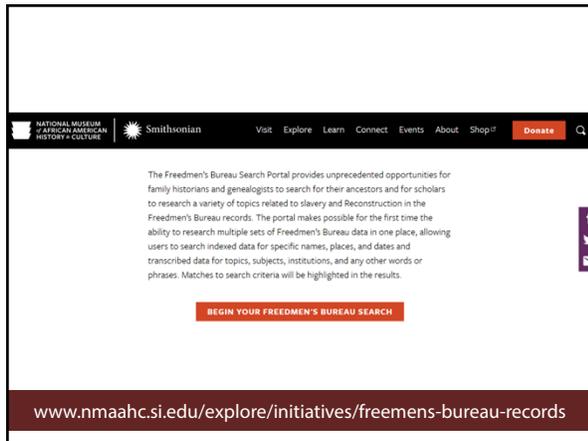
Questions for Case Study 4:

1. What can be learned about the parents of Sarah Thomasson?

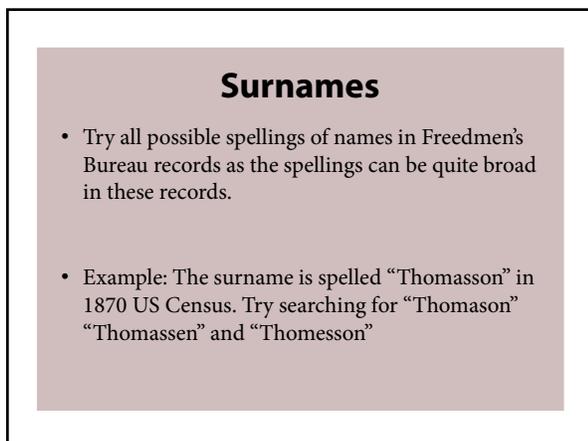
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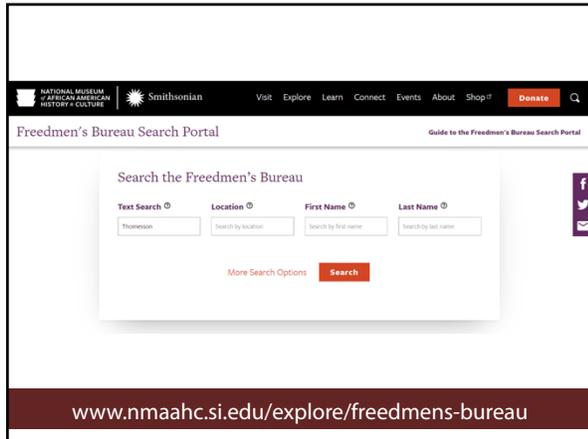
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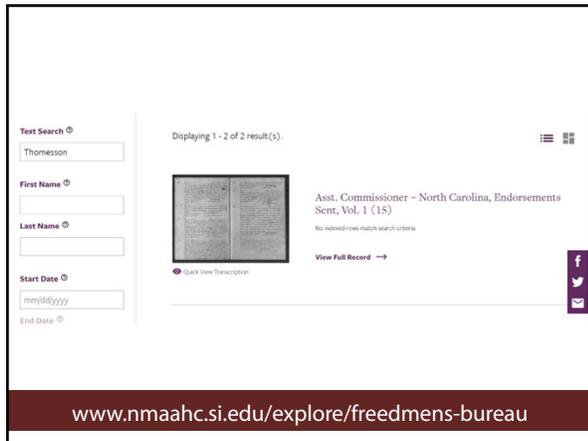
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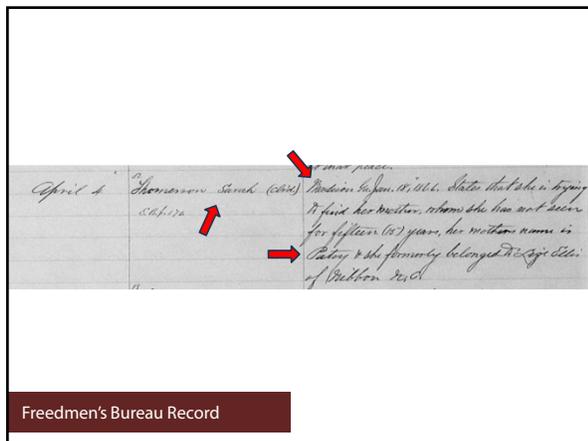
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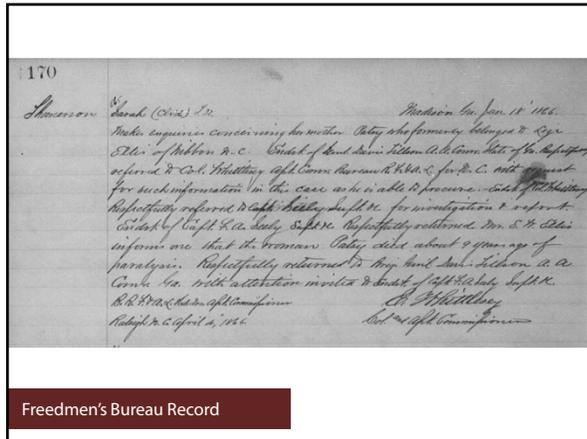
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84



85

Note on Freedmen's Bureau Records

Even though Sarah Thomasson was residing in Madison, Georgia her petition was filed through the North Carolina Field Office as her mother Patsy was last seen in North Carolina

86

Answers to Case Study 4:

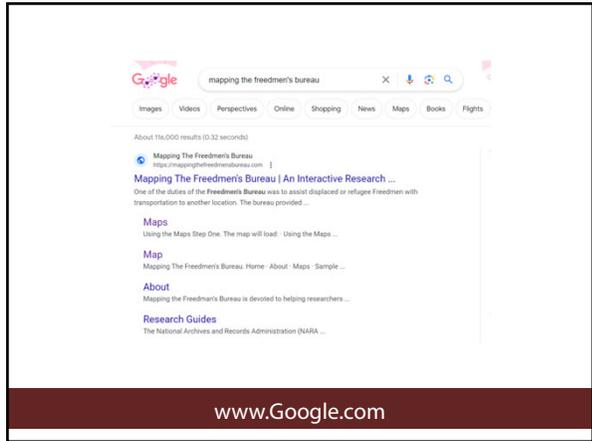
1. What can be learned about the parents of Sarah Thomasson?

- Sarah Thomasson was the daughter of Patsy who was enslaved by the Ellis family of North Carolina and died prior to the end of the Civil War

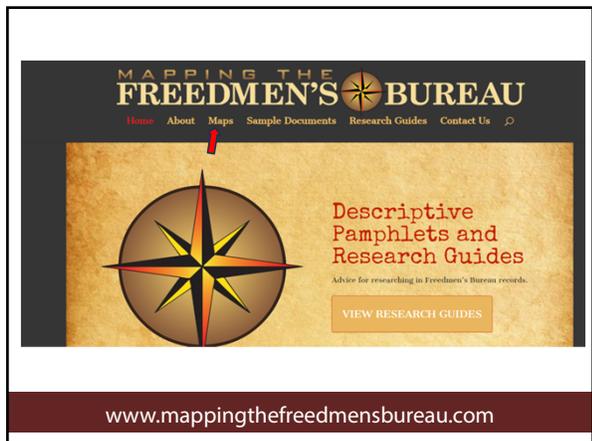
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Finding Freedmen's Bureau Field Offices Records

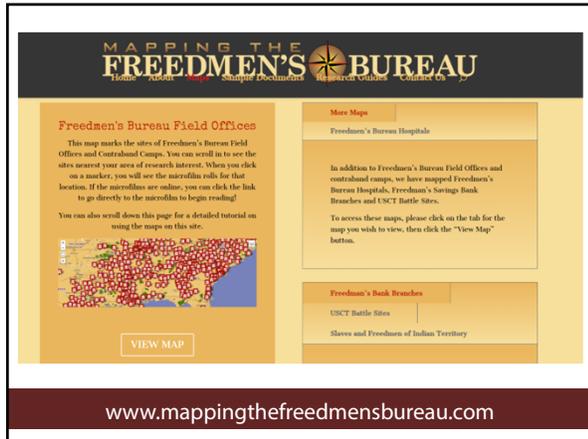
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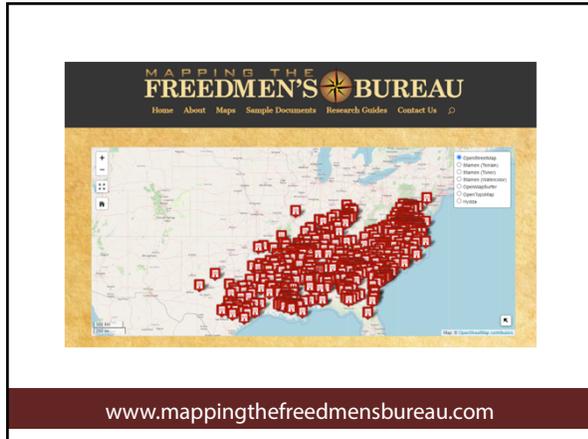
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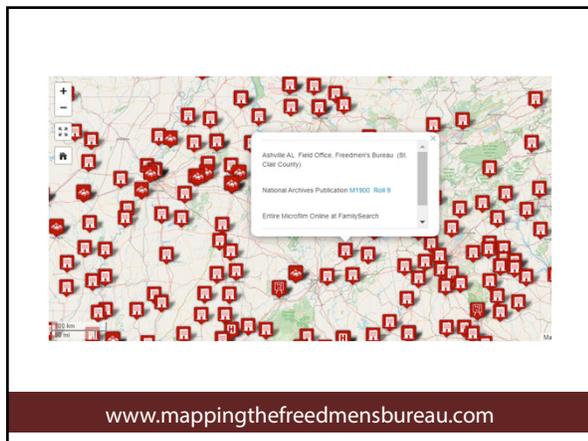
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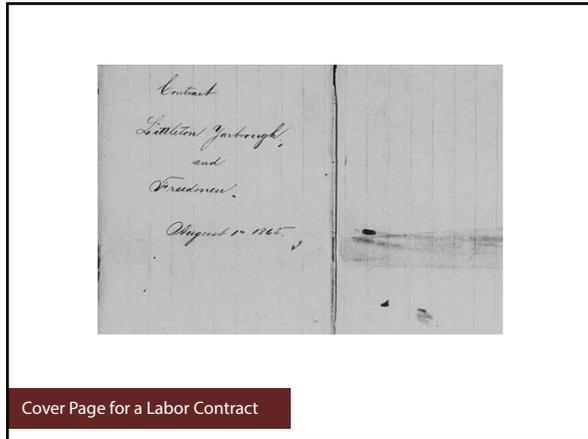
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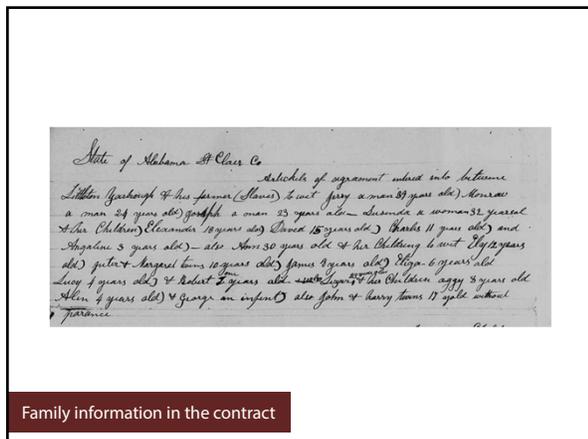
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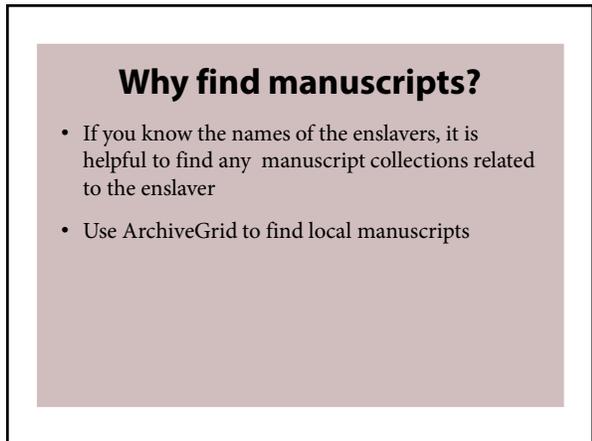
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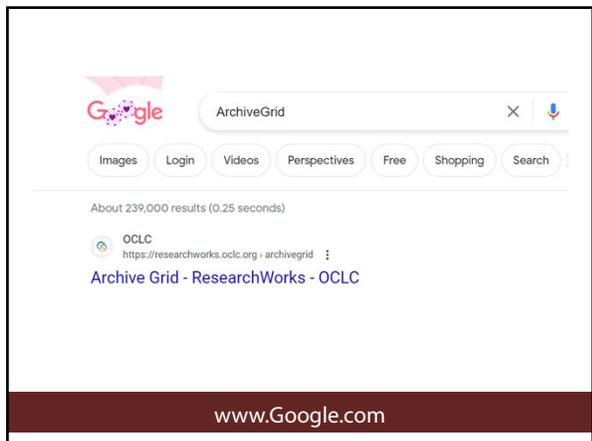
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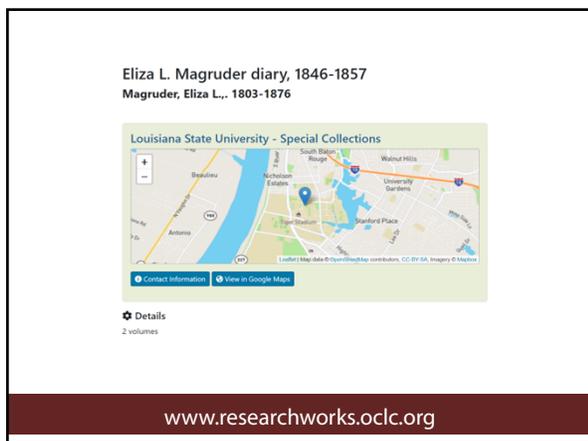
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100



101



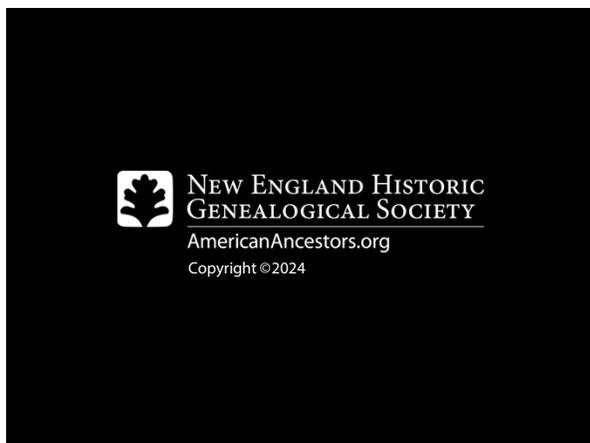
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103



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