

1



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Voice of
Melanie McComb
Senior Genealogist

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The Challenge

Many genealogical records can be found for individuals who owned property, were allowed to vote, and left wills after their death

This leaves other groups more underrepresented and sometimes forgotten including the following:

- Women
- Enslaved persons
- The impoverished
- Native Americans

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Women

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Historical Overview

- Historically, women lacked many rights including the right to own property, vote, serve in office, attend universities, and train in specific occupations
- Women are often listed according to their relationships to men in their lives (as daughters, wives, and sisters)
- Citizenship until 1922 was often based upon their husband

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The Approach

- First person records
 - Diaries
 - Letters
 - Family histories
- Second-hand records
 - Manuscript collections
 - Business records
- Follow the men – use the FAN Club

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The FAN Club Principle

- Family
- Associates
- Neighbors
- Tools for compiling the FAN Club
 - Census
 - Land records
 - Court and probate

9

Whaling Seaman's Wife

“Why was he permitted to return in safety, and behold his friends again in health and prosperity? While so many around us which left their homes never to return...”

Diary of Deidamia (Bourne) Swift, (1812-1888) Mss 658

10

Obstetric Cases 1852

Previous Records lost & part of this year & 1853

Mrs R. Johnson	Jan 23d	Male
Mrs W. H. Brown	June 21st	Female
Mrs J. Coombs	July 16	Female
Mrs J. Flynn	Aug 30	Female
Mrs J. Adams	Apr 2	Male
Mrs E. Richards	Apr 10	Female
Mrs Wm. Fay	May 9th	Female
Mrs Simon's Street	June 7	Female
Mrs H. Steel	Nov 24	Female
Mrs J. Key	Nov 26	Female

Diary of Oliver D. Norton, Obstetric Cases, 1852, Cincinnati, Ohio, Mss C 5568

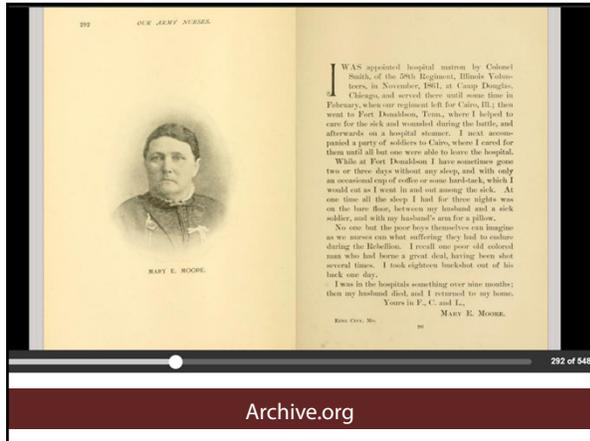
11

INTERNET ARCHIVE WEB BOOKS VIDEO AUDIO SOFTWARE IMAGES

ABOUT BLOG PROJECTS HELP DONATE CONTACT JOBS VOLUNTEER

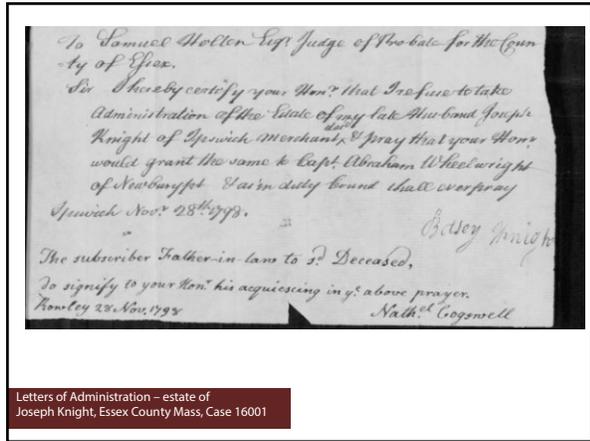
Archive.org

12



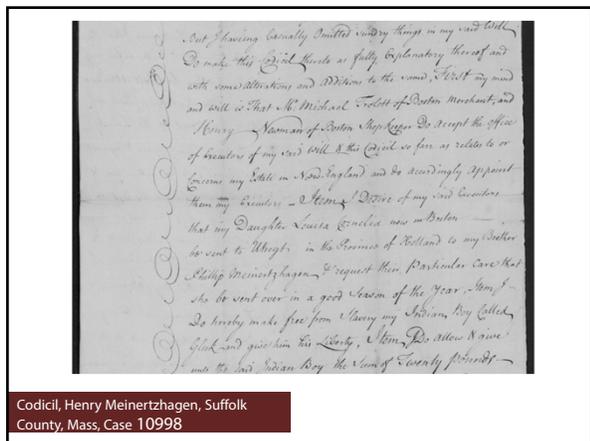
Archive.org

13



Letters of Administration - estate of Joseph Knight, Essex County Mass, Case 16001

14



Codicil, Henry Meinertzhagen, Suffolk County, Mass, Case 10998

15

Guardianships

- Appointed for minors
- A father may be appointed guardian if his children inherit from his deceased wife's family
- Mothers were appointed, but it wasn't a given

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To the Honourable *Hannah Daves* Esquire,
 Judge of the Court of Probate for the County of *Suffolk*, in the Commonwealth of *Massachusetts*,

HUMBLE shews, *Hannah Corant* of *Boston* in said County *Suffolk* shews that there is occasion for a Guardian to be appointed for *Mary Lou Corant, Hannah Corant, Elizabeth Temple Corant, who are about the age of fourteen years and Adeline Nesbit Corant, who is under the age of fourteen years* and children of *Nathan Corant* formerly of *Townsend* in the County of *Middlesex* deceased,

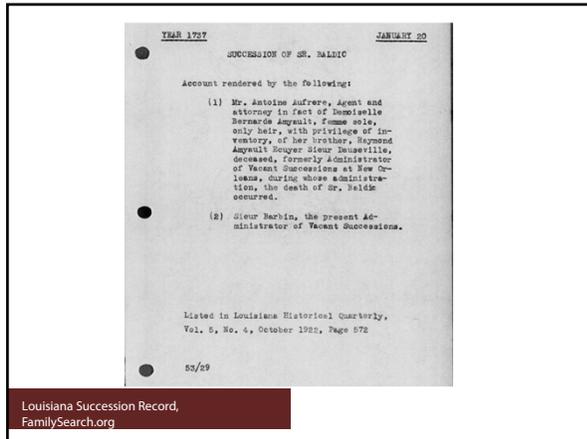
Guardian Bond, Suffolk County, Mass., Case 27577

17

Feme Sole

- A single woman who functioned on a legal par with men in property rights
- Separate Estate—by inheritance, dower, marriage contract

18



19



20

Historical Overview

- Slavery existed in North America as early as the 1500's in Spanish colonies like Florida, where indigenous peoples and Africans were enslaved
- First enslaved Africans in the English colonies came in 1619
- Slavery was formally abolished in December 1865 with the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution

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22

The 1870 Brick Wall

- It's a commonly repeated myth that you can't go beyond the 1870 U.S. census for African American research.
- This census lists the names of each household in the United States post-Emancipation.
- Prior to this, formerly enslaved persons were listed by age, sex, and race on slave schedules (if enslaved).
- This is not the end of your research

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The Approach: Identifying the Enslaver

- This requires consulting multiple sources to identify the enslaver of your enslaved ancestors with a focus on financial records (probate, deeds), court records (manumissions, chancery cases), Reconstruction records (Freedmen's Bureau records, cohabitation registers), and even DNA
- Many records of enslavers name their enslaved by their first names, and sometimes include details such as their age and other family members
- Look around the area where your family lived to identify the former enslavers, particularly around the 1870 U.S. census

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Slave Schedules

- The 1850 and 1860 U.S. Census had separate schedules to enumerate the number of enslaved persons per owner.
- Details include sex, race, and age
- These records do not list the names of the enslaved persons.
- Using records like probate records, deeds, and other records will help you identify the names of the enslaved.

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Cohabitation Registers

- Cohabitation registers were used as the legal document for the county to legitimize marriages between enslaved persons and the children that resulted from them prior to 1866
- There was a separate register for legitimizing children where the parents were no longer cohabiting together.

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Contents of Cohabitation Registers

- Names
- Ages
- Place of Birth
- Residence
- Occupation
- Previous Enslaver
- Previous Enslaver's City or County Residence
- Children's Names
- Children's Ages
- Date of Commencement of Cohabitation

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Buckingham County Cohabitation Register, Library of Virginia

Register of Children of Colored Persons in Buckingham County, State of Virginia, Whose Parents Had Consent to Cohabit. - Which the Father Resigned to the Wife

Source: 1866-1870, Buckingham County, VA, 1866, 1870
Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA

Page	Line	Age of Male	Place of Birth	Residence	Last Name	Residence of Mother	Last Name of Father	Residence and Age of Father at Birth	Last Name of Mother	Name and Age of Husband of Mother	Last Name of Mother	Name of Spouse
1	1	10	Virginia	Virginia	Smith	Virginia	Smith	18	Smith	18	Smith	Smith
1	2	10	Virginia	Virginia	Smith	Virginia	Smith	18	Smith	18	Smith	Smith
1	3	10	Virginia	Virginia	Smith	Virginia	Smith	18	Smith	18	Smith	Smith
1	4	10	Virginia	Virginia	Smith	Virginia	Smith	18	Smith	18	Smith	Smith
1	5	10	Virginia	Virginia	Smith	Virginia	Smith	18	Smith	18	Smith	Smith
1	6	10	Virginia	Virginia	Smith	Virginia	Smith	18	Smith	18	Smith	Smith
1	7	10	Virginia	Virginia	Smith	Virginia	Smith	18	Smith	18	Smith	Smith
1	8	10	Virginia	Virginia	Smith	Virginia	Smith	18	Smith	18	Smith	Smith
1	9	10	Virginia	Virginia	Smith	Virginia	Smith	18	Smith	18	Smith	Smith
1	10	10	Virginia	Virginia	Smith	Virginia	Smith	18	Smith	18	Smith	Smith
1	11	10	Virginia	Virginia	Smith	Virginia	Smith	18	Smith	18	Smith	Smith
1	12	10	Virginia	Virginia	Smith	Virginia	Smith	18	Smith	18	Smith	Smith
1	13	10	Virginia	Virginia	Smith	Virginia	Smith	18	Smith	18	Smith	Smith
1	14	10	Virginia	Virginia	Smith	Virginia	Smith	18	Smith	18	Smith	Smith
1	15	10	Virginia	Virginia	Smith	Virginia	Smith	18	Smith	18	Smith	Smith
1	16	10	Virginia	Virginia	Smith	Virginia	Smith	18	Smith	18	Smith	Smith
1	17	10	Virginia	Virginia	Smith	Virginia	Smith	18	Smith	18	Smith	Smith
1	18	10	Virginia	Virginia	Smith	Virginia	Smith	18	Smith	18	Smith	Smith
1	19	10	Virginia	Virginia	Smith	Virginia	Smith	18	Smith	18	Smith	Smith
1	20	10	Virginia	Virginia	Smith	Virginia	Smith	18	Smith	18	Smith	Smith

36

Runaway Ads

- Advertisements placed in local and regional newspapers describing the runaway enslaved person with details to help others identify them and bring back to their enslaver.
- Ads include name of enslaved person, physical description, possible route they were taking, name of enslaver, where the enslaved person escaped from, etc.

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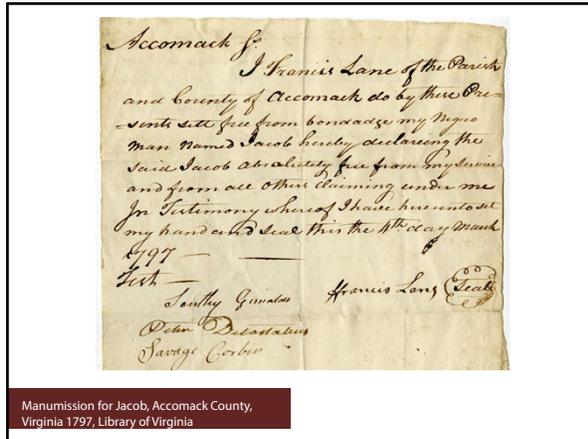
Runaway Ad, *Charleston Mercury*, 30 Nov. 1836, Freedom on the Move

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Manumission Records

- Manumission records released an enslaved person from servitude
- These may be recorded in land deeds, probate records, and court records.
- State archives, universities, and libraries hold many of these records in their digital collections

40



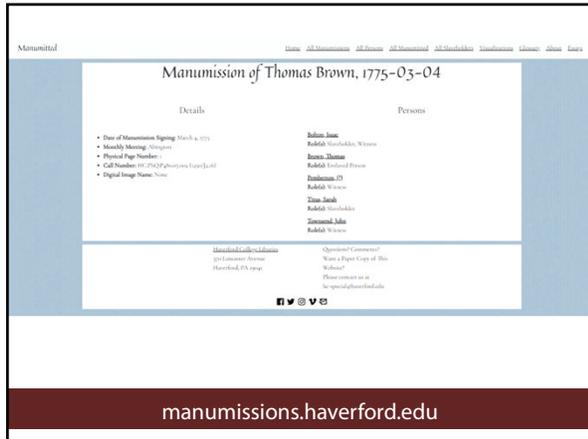
Manumission for Jacob, Accomack County, Virginia 1797, Library of Virginia

41

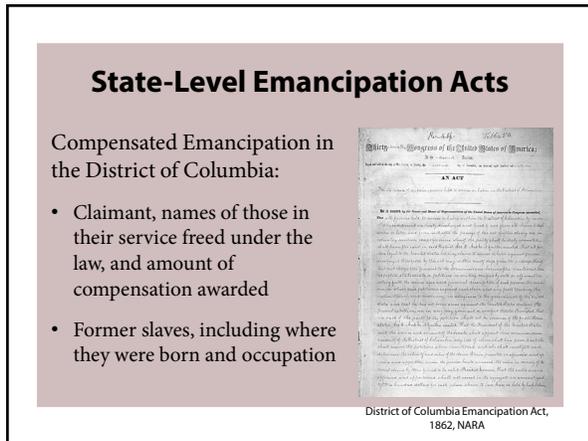


manumissions.haverford.edu

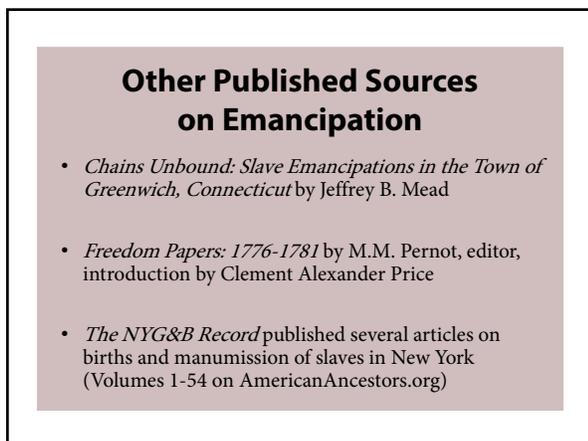
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WPA's Slave Narrative Collection

- During the Great Depression one of the projects set up during the New Deal was the Federal Writers' Project
- One of their projects was interviewing formerly enslaved persons between 1936 and 1938
- Collection was done from the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia

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The screenshot shows the Ancestry.com search interface. At the top, there are navigation links for Home, Trees, Search, Memories, and DNA. The main heading is "U.S., Interviews with Formerly Enslaved People, 1936-1938". Below this is a search form with fields for "First & Middle Name(s)", "Last Name", "Year", "Location", "Birth", "Lived In", and "Any Event". There is also a section for "Add family member" with fields for Father, Mother, Sibling, Spouse, and Child. On the right side, there are options to "Browse this collection" and "Related data collections".

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The screenshot shows a typed document for Dora Franks. The text reads: "DORA FRANKS, Aberdeen, Mississippi. Dora Franks, ex-slave, lives at Aberdeen, Monroe County. She is about five feet tall and weighs 100 pounds. Her hair is inclined to be curly rather than kinky. She is very active and does most of her own work. 'I was born in Choctaw County, but I never knowed sashly how old I was, 'cause none o' my folks could read an' write. I reckon I be's 'bout a hund'ed, 'cause I was a big girl long time fo' Surrender. I was old 'nough to marry two years after dat. 'My mummy come from Virginny. Her name was Harriet Brewer. My daddy was my young Marster. His name was Marster George Brewer an' my mummy always tol' me dat I was his'n. I know dat dere was".

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Massachusetts Vital Records

- The names of enslaved persons were often recorded at the back of a town's vital record books
- They recorded baptisms, marriages, and deaths of enslaved and free Negroes and indigenous persons

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AmericanAncestors.org

50

List of Negroes, etc. in Arlington Town Vital Records, AmericanAncestors.org

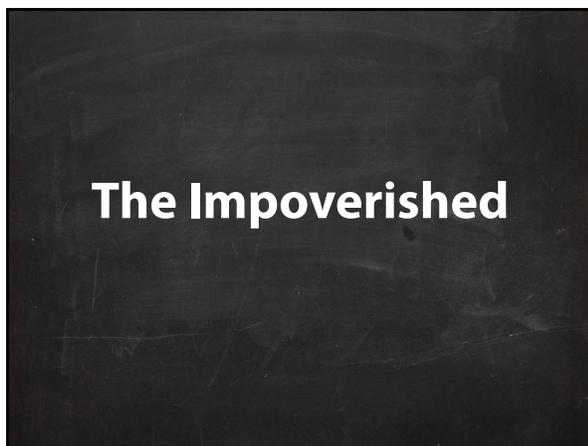
51



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53



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The Approach

- It's a commonly repeated myth that you can't find records on the poor as they didn't leave any financial assets behind
- While they may not appear in traditional records such as land deeds and probate records, they do create a paper trail as they were supported by their local governments and institutions

55

Colonial Poor Laws – Reluctant Public Charity

- Mirrored existing British law
- Strong Puritan influence, even in the southern colonies
 - Religious responsibility to help poor
 - But not the “idle poor”
 - And not individuals from outside the community

56

Representative Attitudes

- Idle poor characterized as vagabonds, beggars, drunkards
- 1645 – Virginia - Binding out of children of unemployed to prevent “sloth and idleness wherewith such young children are easily corrupted”
- 1727- Connecticut – “diverse idle and disorderly person” choose to “stroll from one country to another, neglecting labor”

Raymond A. Mohl, “Three Centuries of American Public Welfare: 1600-1932” *Current History*, Vol. 65, No. 383 (JULY, 1973), pp. 6-10, 38-39

57

Who Were the Poor?

- Children, orphaned or in pauper families
- Sick
- Aged
- Blind or had a crippling injury
- Also seasonally employed, day laborers, immigrants, widows, runaway enslaved people, abandoned families, social misfits, refugees, mentally ill

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General Principles Adopted by Colonies

- Family first - Three generations of family required to care for person
- Needy person must be a resident and eligible for relief
 - Three-month residency
- Persons capable of work must do so
- Pauper and orphaned children could be apprenticed

59

Towns

- Towns
 - Appointed Overseers of the Poor
 - Levied taxes to raise funds
 - Identified those in need and supplied relief
- Found in New England colonies
- Middle colony cities (e.g., Philadelphia)

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Who Were the Overseers of the Poor?

- Appointed by town or city or county
- Responsibilities of Overseers
 - Determining eligibility for services (e.g., residency)
 - Assessing needs
 - Providing services
 - Warning out
- In the latter part of the 18th century would establish a network of merchants to supply food and clothing

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Private Charities

- Religious
 - Episcopal Charitable Society of Boston (1724)
 - South Carolina Society (founded 1737 by Huguenots)
- Ethnic
 - The Scots Charitable Society (Boston, 1657)
 - Charitable Irish Society of Boston (1737)
- Other
 - Fellowship Society of Charleston (founded 1762)

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Outdoor Relief

- Non-institutional relief, in a home setting
- Funded by town or city taxes
- Methods:
 - Direct assistance to person - food, fuel, medicine in their own home
 - Boarding in someone else's home - host reimbursed by town
 - Pauper Auctions - town auctioned poor to lowest bidder
 - Indentures / Apprenticeships for children

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1880 Census Schedule

- The 1880 U.S. census has a separate population schedule for those deemed "Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent"
- The following classes are included in this schedule:
 - "Insane"
 - "Idiots"
 - Deaf-mutes
 - Blind
 - Paupers and indigent persons
 - Homeless children
 - Prisoners

70

1880 Census Schedule Available for the Following States

Alabama	Michigan	Nebraska	Virginia	Washington
California	Massachusetts	New Jersey	Texas	
Connecticut	Maine	New York	Tennessee	
Georgia	Kansas	Ohio	South Carolina	
Illinois	Iowa	Oregon	Pennsylvania	

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Questions on 1880 Census Schedule (Paupers)

- Line and page # for 1880 Census
- Name
- Residence when at home
- How supported (City or town, county, state, or institution)
- Is this person able-bodied? Y/N
- Is he (or she) habitually intemperate? Y/N
- Is he (or she) epileptic?
- Had he (or she) been convicted of a crime?

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Questions on 1880 Census Schedule (Paupers) Cont'd

- If disabled, state form of disability
- Was this person born in the institution?
- Date of admission
- What other members of the family of this person are in this institution? Husband, wife, mother, father, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters
- Is this person also blind?
- Is he or she deaf and dumb?
- Is he or she insane?
- Is he or she idiotic?

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U.S., 1880 Federal Census Schedules of Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Classes

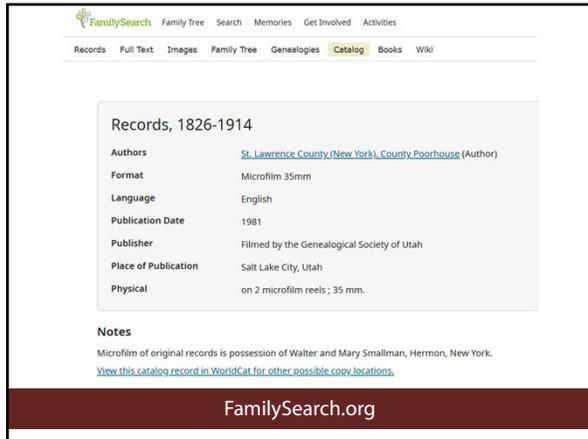
Search filters: First & Middle Name(s), Last Name, Lived In (Day, Month, Year, Location), Any Event, Keyword, Schedule Page, Page, Schedule Type.

Library logo highlighted with a red arrow.

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Tip:
Under "Schedule Type", type in the term "Pauper" to bring up anyone that is at a poorhouse or similar institution.

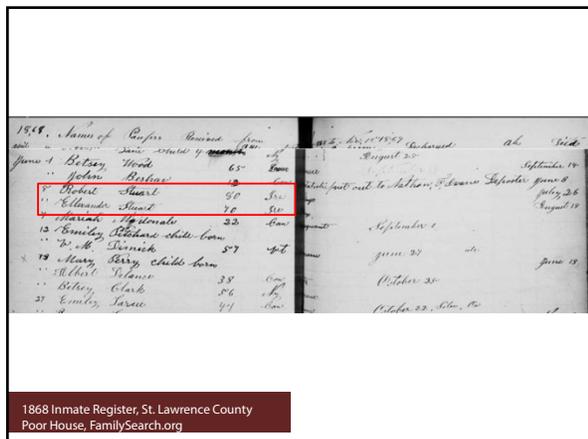
75



82



83



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Pauper Burials

- Usually paid by the local Overseers of the Poor, town governments, or churches
- Depending on the town these may be recorded separately from other deaths/burials
- Paupers were often buried in "potter's fields" and may have unmarked graves

85

Record of burials of indigents, 1931-1961

Authors [Sacramento County Cemetery \(Sacramento, California\)](#) (Author)

Format Microfilm 35mm

Language English

Publication Date 1990

Publisher Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah

Place of Publication Salt Lake City, Utah

Physical 1 microfilm reel ; 35 mm.

References (See Also) [Sacramento County burial grounds](#)

Notes
 Microfilm of records located at the Sexton's Office, St. Mary's Cemetery, Sacramento.
[View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations.](#)

FamilySearch.org

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Kichishita	Subitono 11/10/51 3-1-56 W. L. Kapp	Kennedy	Albert-Lolph 11/10/51 3-1-56 L. Kapp
King	Richard W. King 11/10/51 3-1-56 W. L. Kapp	Kitchin	Stanley 11/10/51 6-9-56 W. L. Kapp
Kramer	Richard Wayne 11/10/51 3-21-56	Kobayashi	Mitsuna 11/10/51 6-11-56 W. L. Kapp

Sacramento, California County Indigent Burials, FamilySearch

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The Approach

- Native Americans are one of the most marginalized groups in the United States. They were forcibly removed from their lands and have experienced loss of culture through governmental policies that forced assimilation.
- First, identify the tribe of your ancestor. This involves multiple records like vital records, census records, tribal enrollment records, and more.
 - DNA can be used as a tool to assist you.

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Why can't I find them in the Census?

1790

- "Omitting Indians not taxed, distinguishing free persons, including those bound to service, from all others."
- Indians living "wild," generally meaning plains Indians in the west, or on reservations, were not taxed—but those who were enumerated were recorded in the "all other free" column on the census form.

1800

- Indians living off of reservations and not "wild" would have been recorded in the "all other free persons" column on the census form.
- Options were free, white, slave and "all other free persons."

1810 -

- Indians living off of reservations would have been recorded in the "all others" column on the census form.
- Options were free white, slave and "all other."

1820

- Indians living off of reservations would have been recorded in the "free colored persons" categories.
- Other options were free whites, slaves and "all others except Indians not taxed."

91

Why can't I find them in the Census?

1830

- Indians living off of reservations and not "wild" would have been recorded in the "free colored persons" category. Other options were free whites and slaves.

1840

- Essentially the same as 1830 with the exception that an additional column labeled "pensioners for revolutionary or military services" with a blank for the pensioner's name to be included and applies to all individuals.

1850

- First census in which every individual in the household was enumerated.
- In prior years, only the name of the head of household was recorded and other household members were recorded by age grouping by category.
- In 1850, the instructions say that Indians not taxed (meaning on reservations) were not to be enumerated and the categories for race were white, black, mulatto.
- If your ancestor looked "dark" and was an Indian, chances are they were recorded as M for mulatto.

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CONTINUED FROM THE REVERSE SIDE OF PAGE 1

The following instructions apply to columns 33 to 46:

Columns 33, 34, and 35. **Tribal relations.**—If the Indian was born in this country answers should be obtained, if possible, to inquiries 12, 13, and 14, relating to the state or territory of birth of the person and of his or her parents. In any event, take particular pains to secure the name of the tribe with which the person is connected and the name of the tribe of each of his or her parents, and enter the same in columns 33, 34, and 35.

Columns 36, 37, and 38. **Proportions of Indian and other blood.**—If the Indian is a full-blood, write "full" in column 36, and leave columns 37 and 38 blank. If the Indian is of mixed blood, write in columns 36, 37, and 38 the fractions which show the proportions of Indian and other blood, as (column 36, Indian) $\frac{1}{2}$, (column 37, white) $\frac{1}{2}$, and (column 38, negro) 0. For Indians of mixed blood all three columns should be filled, and the sum, in each case, should equal 1, as $\frac{1}{2}$, 0, $\frac{1}{2}$; $\frac{1}{4}$, 0; $\frac{3}{4}$, 1; 1, 1; etc.

Wherever possible, the statement that an Indian is of full blood should be verified by inquiry of the older men of the tribe, as an Indian is sometimes of mixed blood without knowing it.

Column 39. **Number of times married.**—If the Indian is married, enter in this column the number of times he or she has been married.

Column 40. **Whether now living in polygamy.**—If the Indian man is living with more than one wife, write "Yes" in this column; otherwise, write "No."

Column 41. **If living in polygamy, whether the wives are sisters.**—If the Indian man is living with more than one wife, and if his wives are sisters, write "Yes" in this column. If his wives are not sisters, write "No."

Column 42. **Graduated from what educational institution.**—If the Indian is a graduate of any educational institution, give the name and location of such institution.

Column 43. **Is this Indian taxed?**—An Indian is to be considered "taxed" if he or she is detached from his or her tribe and is living among white people as an individual, and as such is subject to taxation (whether he or she actually pays taxes or not); or if he or she is living with his or her tribe but has received an allotment of land, and thereby has acquired citizenship. In either of these two cases write "Yes" in this column.

An Indian on a reservation, without an allotment, or roaming over unsettled territory, is considered "not taxed," and for such Indians the answer to this inquiry is "No."

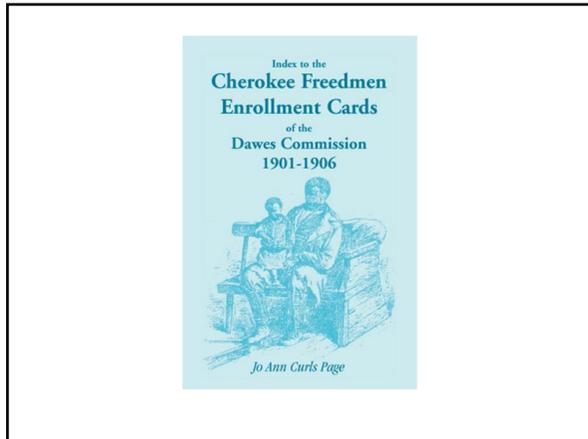
Column 44. **If Indian has received allotment, give year of allotment.**—If the Indian has received an allotment of land, enter in column 44, the year in which the allotment was made.

Column 45. **Residing on his own lands.**—If the Indian lives on his or her own land, write "Yes" in this column; if the Indian lives elsewhere, write "No."

Column 46. **Living in civilized or aboriginal dwelling.**—If the Indian is living in a house of civilized design, as a

1910 Instructions

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Dawes Final Rolls Index

This is the index to the Dawes Final Rolls, listing individuals eligible for enrollment in the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory. Each entry includes the enrollee's name, final roll number, blood quantum, and index page.

Please note: Not every roll number in this index corresponds to an individual listed in the original Dawes Rolls. The final rolls include additions from court filings, new births, and other updates.

Use this index to find your ancestor's correct roll number. Once you have their enrollment category and final roll number, [search the Dawes Rolls](#) to locate their census card. You can do this automatically by clicking on their Roll ID in the results.

Search
Clear

[Alabama](#)
[Alaska](#)
[Arizona](#)
[Arkansas](#)
[California](#)
[Colorado](#)
[Connecticut](#)
[Delaware](#)
[Florida](#)
[Georgia](#)
[Hawaii](#)
[Idaho](#)
[Illinois](#)
[Indiana](#)
[Iowa](#)
[Kansas](#)
[Kentucky](#)
[Louisiana](#)
[Maine](#)
[Maryland](#)
[Massachusetts](#)

accessgenealogy.com/native/final-rolls-index.htm

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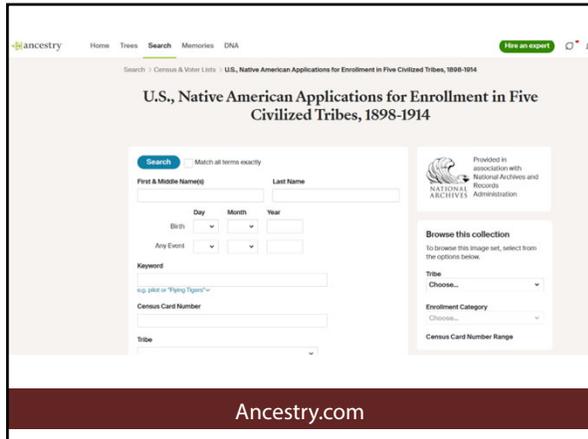
Tribe	Last	First	Middle	Age	Sex	Blood	Card #	Roll #	Misc	Type
Choctaw	Brown	Agnes		50	F	FULL	599	1372	KULLI TURKLO	BB
Choctaw	Brown	Austin		7	M	FULL	599	1375	KULLI TURKLO	BB
Choctaw	Brown	Byington			M		599			P
Choctaw	Brown	Grayson		12	M	FULL	599	1373	KULLI TURKLO	BB
Choctaw	Brown	Mary		10	F	FULL	599	1374	KULLI TURKLO	BB
Choctaw	John				M		599			P

The following letter guide was furnished by the National Archives. These letters can appear both on Type and Card number.

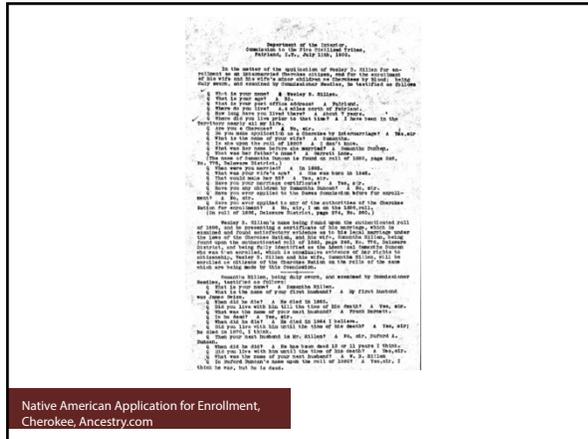
A - Adopted AD - Adopted Delaware BB - By Blood D - Doubtful or denied F - Freedman FD - Freedman, doubtful or denied FM - Freedman, minor	FRR - Freedman, rejected IW - Intermarried White MR - Mississippi Choctaw Rejected NR - Not Registered, Non Resident O - Owner - at one time a slave OS - Old Series' Old Settler P - Parent
--	--

accessgenealogy.com/native/final-rolls-index.htm

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100



101



102



109



110



111



112



113
