



Black People in the US Census Before the Civil War

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ABSTRACT

Even official sources sometimes promote the misconception that Black people did not appear in by name in census records before 1870. In fact, free Black people have appeared by name in every US census, beginning with the first census in 1790. This paper will look at the distribution of enslaved and free Black populations by region, some characteristics of each population, as well as how freedom was experienced in each region. In addition, we will discuss ideas for future research on these topics.

KEY WORDS

US census; Black population statistics; gradual manumission; emancipation; freedom; Black Code

According to a fact sheet produced by the National Archives and Records Administration, entitled *African Americans and the Federal Census, 1790–1930* “. . . the 1870 census is the first to include African Americans by name along with the rest of the population . . .”¹ This is a common misconception repeated even by highly regarded official sources. As a result, research papers by reputable academics promulgate misinformation, while rank-and-file family history researchers miss out on opportunities to learn details about their ancestors assumed to be unknown. Sociologist Dr. Benjamin Bowser writes of doing what he thought was exhaustive research to find North Carolina ancestors in slave schedules of the 1850 and 1860 census, only to find out that he had overlooked his people by not considering they could be listed by name. In this case, Bowser learns that the information is available before publishing his paper “Tony Bowser’s Progeny: The Struggle of a Free African American Family, 1676–1860.” We learn a captivating story about his ancestors as a result. This article

appeared in volume 37 of the *AAHGS Journal* in 2020. In volume 38 in 2022, Andre Kearns traced his lineage back to 1619 in “A Cumbo Family Lineage: Connecting the Dots,” relying significantly on antebellum census records that list ancestors by name in this monumental effort. Also in this issue, I present “Finding My Fourth-Great-Grandmother and Her Contemporaries,” in which I

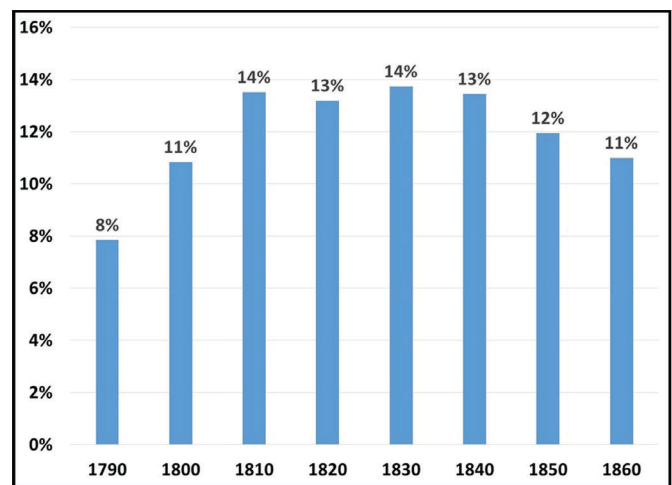


Figure 1 Free Black People in Each Census, 1790–1860.^{2,3}

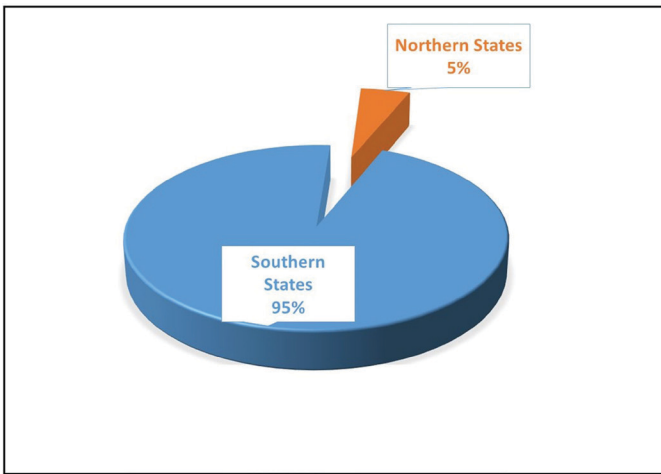


Figure 2 Distribution of Total Black Population by Region, 1860⁴

use antebellum census records to identify family members in New Jersey as well as in Philadelphia, where she was born around 1795. These are merely three examples. There are many more. In fact, nearly 500,000 free Black people were enumerated in the 1860 census, representing 12% of the US Black population.⁵ The proportion of free Black people had ranged between 11% and 14% in each census since 1800. These numbers are based on Black people who are listed by name.

Clearly this was not a new phenomenon in 1860. What can we learn about antebellum Black populations through the decennial US census? In this paper, we look at the distribution of the free Black population by region (North versus South),

and we will also compare the “freedom” experienced by Black people in the North as compared to the South. We publish summary tables of Black populations in each census between 1790 and 1860 by state. In this fashion, we seek to increase accessibility and awareness of these data that are also available on www.census.gov.⁷ In conclusion, we will pose questions for future research that we will address in a future issue of the *AAHGS Journal*.

On the eve of the Civil War, 4.4 million Black people lived in the United States. The vast majority, 4.2 million, or 95%, lived in Southern states. The number of Black people living in Northern states was comparatively small: just 226,516, or 5%, of the total.

A majority of the 4.2 million Black people living in the South were enslaved, accounting for 94% of the Black population in that region. By contrast, just sixty-four enslaved people were living in Northern states, according to the 1860 census.⁸ They account for less than 1% of the Black population in this region.

By contrast, 226,452 free Black people living in the North accounted for more than 99% of the Black population in this region in 1860. The 261,918 free Black people living in the South represent a mere 6% of the Black population in that region.

Even though free Black people comprise a small minority of Black people living *within* the South,

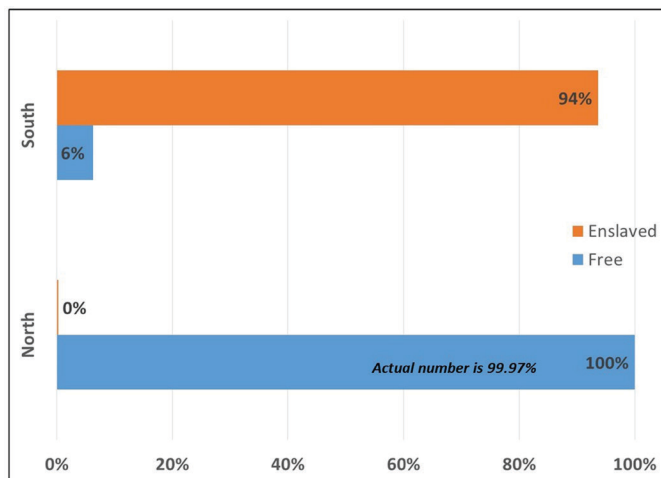


Figure 3 Distribution of Free and Enslaved Black Populations Within Each Region, 1860⁶

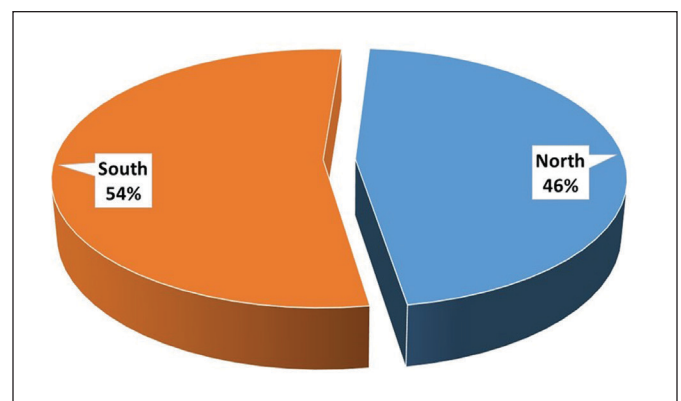


Figure 4 Proportion of Total Free Black Population in Each Region⁹

in the United States overall there are slightly more free Black people in the South (54%, or 261,918) as compared to the North (46%, or 226,452).

Some researchers question why the number of free Black people in southern states would exceed the number of free Black people in the North given the South's comparatively horrid conditions. For example, Sherri Burr poses this question in her research about free Black people in Virginia.¹⁰ She goes on to discuss the possible reasons why the number in the South would be larger, such as the familiarity of "home," lack of resources to travel substantial distance to free states, and legal restrictions imposed on movement, such as prohibiting free Black people from returning to Virginia if they left. These are all true and very relevant. However, what these discussions frequently miss is the impact of the exponential difference in population sizes in each region. Put simply, 261,918 free Black people is a mere "drop in the bucket in a universe of 4.4 million Black people who live in the South. In that context, it's not difficult to envision why the number of free Black people in Southern states exceeds the number of those living in the North, where the total Black population is substantially smaller.

A "snapshot" comparison of conditions and legal issues for free Black people in the North as compared to the South is described next. Please note these summaries are not meant to be comprehensive, but rather, to paint a general picture and raise questions for additional research.

Free Black People in Northern States

Typically, "free" Black people in Northern states had different prospects than those who lived in the South, even though Northern "freedom" had its limitations. By 1804, all the states in the north-east had had taken some action to end enslavement.¹¹ With the exception of Vermont in 1777, and Massachusetts in 1783, these were gradual manumission laws.

Gradual manumission meant that Black people born after a certain date would be free after a period of indentured servitude to their mother's enslavers. To use New Jersey as an example, males born after July 4, 1804, were declared free after twenty-five years of indenture, while females were free after twenty-one years.¹² A subsequent 1846 law purporting to end slavery completely left an indentured servitude measure in place.¹³ Other states that began the process with gradual

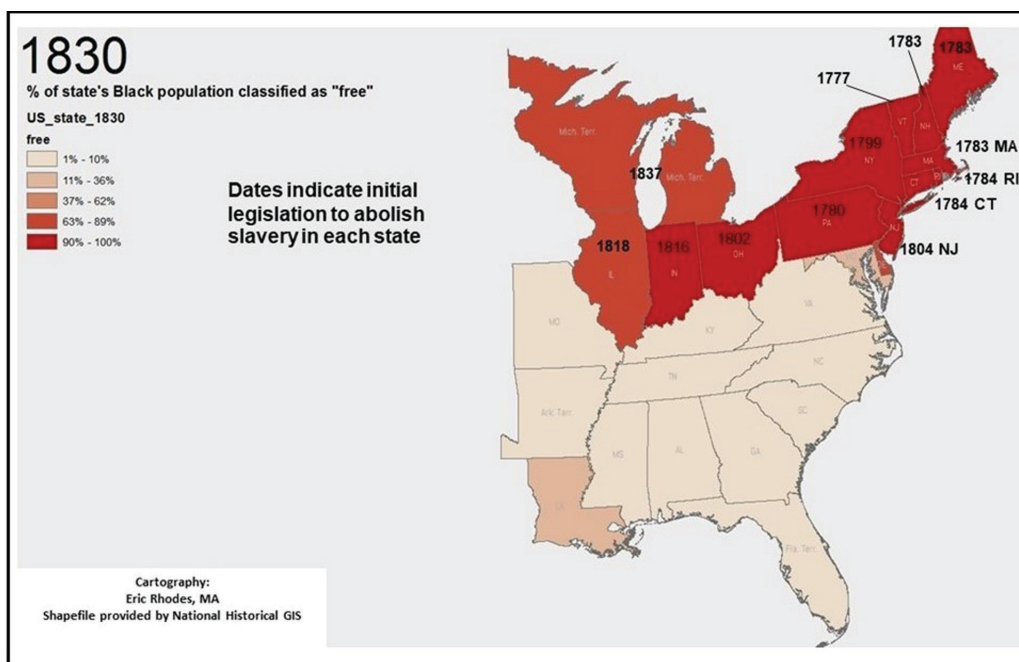


Figure 5 Status of Legislation to End Enslavement, with Percent Free Black Population, 1830.¹⁵

manumission all passed laws to end legal enslavement long before the Civil War. The 1860 census enumerated only eighteen enslaved people in the northeast, all in New Jersey, while forty-six remained in Utah, Nebraska, and Kansas combined.¹⁴ On this basis, nearly 100% of Black people in these regions were *enumerated* as “Free Colored Persons” in 1860. As early as 1830, 97% were enumerated as free.¹⁶

What did freedom look like when free Black people were a majority? Gigantino describes cases of “free” New Jersey blacks being sold as enslaved, even though New Jersey law required that they be freed after their indentured servitude was completed, including the case of a woman who was listed as a free in the 1850 census but was sold as enslaved in 1856.¹⁷ In addition, bounty hunters were engaged by southern enslavers to capture and return Black people who had self-emancipated. In doing so, free and freed Black people were vulnerable to capture. Perhaps the most notorious of these was Solomon Northrup, who was born of free parents in New York in 1808, became a successful musician, homeowner, and businessman, but was captured and sold into enslavement in 1841, where he remained for twelve years.¹⁸ In this context, our free and free Northern ancestors had to constantly be vigilant to avoid capture.

Northrup was not unique as a homeowner and businessman. In my ancestral home of Timbuctoo in New Jersey, settled by formerly enslaved and free Black people in 1826, my ancestors and their neighbors owned land, established institutions, and filed legal documents in the office of the county clerk.¹⁹ One very illuminating deed was filed for land purchased to establish the African Union School on January 4, 1834.²⁰ This deed emphasized the importance of education for “people of color”²¹ and indicates that future trustees of the school must be “*people of color* who live within ten miles of the premises.” Other aspects of Timbuctoo’s history include inspiring signs of progress and community development, as well as

daunting challenges.²² In addition to the school, antebellum Timbuctoo residents established an AME Zion Church, a cemetery, and a benevolent society to help residents in need. Land records indicate that most Timbuctoo residents owned their property, initially purchased from local Quakers. On the other hand, incidents of bounty hunters looking for self-emancipated members of the community are reported in local newspapers. In some incidents, the bounty hunters were successful, in others they were not. In addition, a suspicious fire that burned a “meeting house” in Timbuctoo in 1842 is speculated to have been caused by white detractors.²³

The 1860 Battle of Pine Swamp is a captivating account of a bounty hunter who came to an area near Timbuctoo with a posse seeking to capture Perry Simmons, who had escaped enslavement in Maryland a decade earlier. In 1,100 words, the *New Jersey Mirror* newspaper describes the confrontation between Simmons and his would-be captors, how a passerby noticed and notified his Timbuctoo neighbors, and how they came to Simmons’s defense, wielding weapons and screaming. The newspaper reports that the would-be captors hastily retreated to their carriages and “left the scene of their brilliant achievement as though Old Satan was after them,” clearly criticizing the capture effort, siding with Simmons and his supporters, and celebrating their victory. The full text of the “*New Jersey Mirror* Battle of Pine Swamp” article transcribed and published in Volume 35 of *AAHGS Journal* and can be accessed at <https://timbuctoonj.com/battle-of-pine-swamp>.

It is noteworthy that Philadelphia was an important hub of antislavery activity due to its strategic location as the first major city north of the Mason-Dixon line, large and influential Quaker population, and, perhaps most importantly, a large free Black population. As early as the ending period of the American Revolution, the US Census Bureau reported a Black population of 1,630 in Philadelphia, who represented 6% of the city’s residents.



Figure 6 Portrait of James Forten

A majority of the Black population was classified as free: 1,420, or 87%.²⁴ When the US Capitol was located in Philadelphia, even President George Washington had to rotate the people he enslaved back and forth from his Virginia estate because he was legally required to free them if they remained in Pennsylvania for more than six months.²⁵

There are multiple prominent nineteenth-century Black people associated with Philadelphia. We will name two. James Forten (1766–1842) was a freeborn abolitionist and businessman who made his fortune as a sailmaker, which was a trade he learned through an apprenticeship. He became one of the wealthiest men (of any race) in Philadelphia and used his fortune to support abolitionist causes. James Still (1821–1902) was born free in what is now Shamong, Township New Jersey. He moved to Philadelphia in 1847, where he became a clerk for the Pennsylvania Society for the Abolition of Slavery. Eventually he became known as the Father of the Underground Railroad, responsible for protecting and resettling numerous people who escaped enslavement. He also became a wealthy businessman as a coal merchant and real estate investor. Note that both of these men were born free, and their parents were living as free people at the time of their birth.

In the years leading up to the Civil War, Philadelphia had the largest Black population outside the Southern states. The 1860 census counted

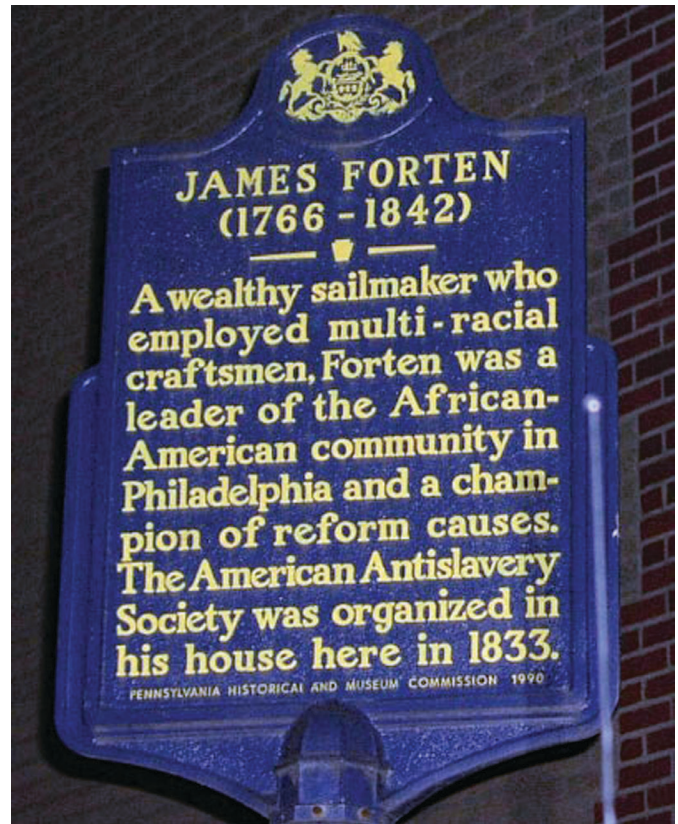


Figure 7 Historic marker of James Forten

more than 22,185 free Black people in Philadelphia, all of whom were classified as free.²⁶ Historian Andrew Diemer points out the limitations of this “freedom,” noting that “the dramatic growth of the region’s free Black population provoked anxiety among many of the region’s White residents,” resulting in obstructionist actions by the state



Figure 8 Portrait of James Still

legislature, as well as threats of mob violence and riots.²⁷ This is true, but is still a stark contrast from the life of free Black people in Southern states who were always a miniscule minority population and usually prohibited from community organizing, establishing autochthonous institutions such as schools and churches, and establishing businesses.

Free Black People in Southern States

The dominant condition of enslavement impeded opportunities to pursue any semblance of liberty, independence, or self-determination. Some Southern states had passed legislation requiring manumitted Black people to leave the state to avoid “distracting” the enslaved majority. For example, in response to the infamous Nat Turner rebellion in Virginia, Alabama passed legislation in 1833 prohibiting settlement of free Black people to settle in Alabama, and required any free Blacks found to vacate Alabama in 30 days.²⁸ In Arkansas, legislation was passed in 1859 that enslaved any Black person still present in 1860.²⁹ In Mississippi, a free Black person could be sold into enslavement if found to be there for more than ten days,³⁰ according to an 1822 law. In An 1861 Florida law required enslavers wishing to manumit an enslaved person to post a bond guaranteeing the manumitted person would leave Florida within thirty days.³¹ In addition, free Black people and mulattos were required to register with the local probate judge; anyone failing to do so could legally become the property of any white person asserting a claim of ownership.³²

Writing about free Black people in Cumberland County Virginia, Ellen Katz points out that state laws placing restrictions on free Black people were not uniformly enforced throughout the state, noting that that “much of the restrictive state legislation targeting free Blacks was enforced sporadically, if at all . . . and that the events prompting the enactment of new laws-most prominently, reports of slave rebellions-had no discernible impact on

litigation in the county.”³³ She goes on to note that the state legislature never acted to restrict land ownership among Black people. In some cases, free Black Virginians became enslavers. However, it is important to note that sometimes free Black people with the means to do so purchased family members to protect them and manumitted them later, if feasible. On the other hand, Virginia later barred free Black people from entering the state by 1859. Clearly, these restrictions changed over time in response to provocative events.

Many states passed anti-literacy laws prohibiting teaching Black people to read, both because literate Black people could produce documents that could facilitate escape and because enslaved people who were educated could develop a consciousness that would undermine the dominion of enslavement and facilitate insurrection,³⁴ such as Nat Turner’s rebellion, noted above. By 1834, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, and Virginia all passed anti-literacy laws.³⁵ Span and Sanya report the United States is believed to be the only country to ever enact anti-literacy laws.³⁶ It is noteworthy that 1834 was also the year the African Union School was established in Timbuctoo, New Jersey, as discussed earlier.

While antebellum free Blacks were restricted from owning property by well-documented discriminatory behaviors by the white majority, outright bans on property ownership were not as common as we might think. Roy Copeland summarizes multiple Southern states with substantial property ownership by free Black people as follows:³⁷

▣ The state of Louisiana had several planters who owned their land, including Marie Metoyer of Natchitoches Parish who enslaved multiple men and women, and owned more than 2,000 acres of land when she died in 1840, as well as Charles Roque, who owned approximately 1,000 acres in 1854. In 1860, Blacks owned property valued at more than \$15 million in New Orleans.³⁸



Figure 9 Portrait of Marie Metoyer

- ▣ In Maryland, in 1860, Blacks paid taxes on more than one million dollars' worth of property.
- ▣ In Virginia, Blacks owned approximately 60,000 acres of farmland.
- ▣ African American ownership of city property in Virginia had an assessed value of approximately \$463,000.
- ▣ In South Carolina, there were a few Black planters that owned real property.

John Hope Franklin published a study of property ownership among antebellum free Black people in North Carolina.³⁹ He found that “free blacks possessed full rights to acquire, transfer, and devise property. He also summarized the case law recognizing these rights.” Additionally, he noted that free Blacks had acquired property valued at more than one million dollars and owned several hundred slaves during the seventy-year period ending in 1860, describing white detractors

as “a hostile community that often made them as unwelcome as a contagious disease.”

Black People in the District of Columbia

The District of Columbia was also home to “one of the most active slave depots in the nation.”⁴⁰

Damiani Davis describes how this location was ideal for those trafficking Black people, offering a strategic location between upper South and lower South. He also describes the squalid conditions in the markets where captives were sometimes held in detention pens for months.

Abolitionists used the atrocities of this contradiction to illustrate the horrors of slavery in newspapers, pamphlets, and books. Some researchers suggest that atrocities of Washington slave markets helped illustrate the horrors of slavery in a way that facilitated the substantial reduction of slavery that occurred in the years leading up to the Civil War.

Despite being fertile ground for facilitating trafficking of Black human beings, the District of Columbia (DC) was unique among Southern jurisdictions in that beginning with the 1830 census, the proportion of free Black residents surpassed the number of enslaved—three decades before the Civil War.

The strong will and determination of free Black Washingtonians was evident in their achievements. Between 1810 and 1859, there were fourteen Black churches forty-three Black schools, and six Black benevolent organizations were established in DC.⁴¹ Many, if not most, were active in, and resulted from the abolitionist movement. Why was this district so different from contiguous neighbors (Maryland and Virginia) in this regard? Perhaps the fact that a Congress was responsible for administrative oversight of DC had some role. Congress was composed of representatives from Northern and Southern states. This would likely have resulted in a more diverse array of opinions

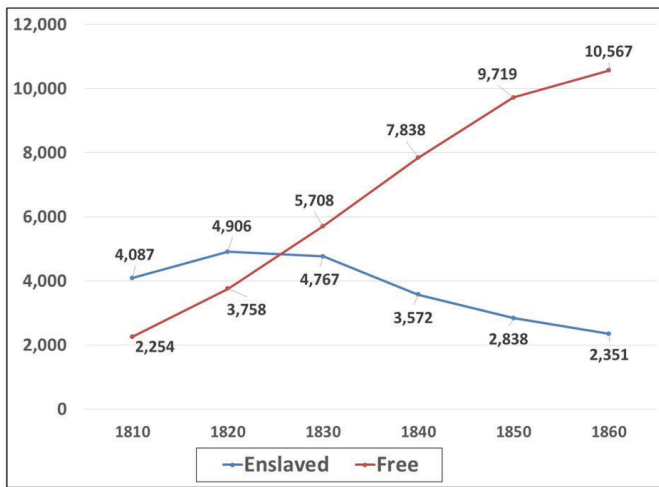


Figure 10 District of Columbia Black Population by Status, 1810–1860⁴²

on matters of enslavement than would be found in Southern legislatures.

Conclusion

We have merely scratched the surface of describing population trends among antebellum Black people in the Northern States as compared to the South. More research is needed to better delineate landownership among antebellum Black people in the North as compared to the South, as well as to dispel myths, such as that Black people could not own land in the US during the antebellum period. The latter is merely a matter of disseminating information that is well documented. Additional research will improve our understanding of landownership in Southern states and how these trends compare to the North, as well as the distribution of free and enslaved within each region. For example, the map in Figure 5 shows that the proportion of free Black people in Louisiana is higher than the rest of the South. Why would that be? Unfortunately, investigation of that question would exceed the space allocated for this paper.

Although census data are subject to limitations of bias and error on the part of census enumerators, and the reluctance of some individuals to disclose information considered personal, these data can provide a *useful approximation* on simple questions, such as

population numbers by various levels of geography, family, or household size, male to female ratio, multigenerational families, literacy, and employment status and type. Many of these variables can be cross tabulated by geography among free Black heads of household who are named in census records in the North and the South up to 1840. Beginning in 1850, all household members are named, expanding these possibilities.

Parts of the statistical analysis presented in this article also appeared in my article entitled *Free People of Color: North and South* in *AAHGS News*, November–December 2021 edition. The discussion of free Black people in Philadelphia is mostly based on information included in "Finding My Fourth Great Grandmother and her Contemporaries" in *AAHGS Journal*, Volume 38.

Guy Weston's current work encompasses research and public history initiatives to raise the profile of Timbuctoo, New Jersey, where his fourth-greatgrandfather purchased land in 1829. These have included interpretive signage in Timbuctoo, coordination of a curriculum development project in collaboration with local teachers, and preservation efforts for the Timbuctoo cemetery, where the oldest gravestone is dated 1847. He currently serves as managing director of the Timbuctoo Historical Society, is the editor of *Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) Journal*, and is a visiting scholar at Rutgers University. He has contributed articles about his research to *AAHGS Journal*, *AAHGS News*, *National Genealogical Society Magazine*, and *New Jersey Studies*. He maintains a website at www.timbuctoonj.com.



ENDNOTES

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- american/census-1790-1930.pdf : retrieved on 12 December 2023. Interestingly, the same fact sheet also says, “Free African Americans in 1790–1840 Censuses: enumerated with the remainder of the free population,” which is contradictory and incomplete, because free African Americans are also enumerated by name in 1850 and 1860.
- 2 It is important to note that new states are added to the union in each decade, such that a full understanding of upward and downward trends would require further analysis.
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 - 5 Derived from Campbell Gibson and Kay Jung. *Historical Census Statistics on Population Totals by Race.*
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 - 7 Full URL: <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/working-papers/2002/demo/POP-twps0056.pdf> Previously, these data were available on Excel tables that have been removed. The Census Bureau now has a subscription service which may provide a more user-friendly version of this document.
 - 8 At this point, our only consideration is census statistics. Later we will discuss the limitations of freedom for many Black people during this period.
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APPENDIX:
UNITED STATES BLACK POPULATION BY STATE, 1790–1860
(number free, number enslaved, and percent free)

These data are also available from the US Census Bureau at
https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/overview

Black Population of the United States by State, 1790

1790	Number Free	Number Enslaved	Total	% Free
Maine	538	-	538	100.0%
New Hampshire	630	158	788	79.9%
Vermont	271	-	271	100.0%
Massachusetts	5,463	-	5,463	100.0%
Rhode Island	3,407	948	4,355	78.2%
Connecticut	2,808	2,764	5,572	50.4%
New York	4,654	21,324	25,978	17.9%
New Jersey	2,762	11,423	14,185	19.5%
Pennsylvania	6,537	3,737	10,274	63.6%
Delaware	3,899	8,887	12,786	30.5%
Maryland	8,043	103,036	111,079	7.2%
Virginia	12,866	292,627	305,493	4.2%
North Carolina	4,975	100,572	105,547	4.7%
South Carolina	1,801	107,094	108,895	1.7%
Georgia	398	29,264	29,662	1.3%
Kentucky	114	12,430	12,544	0.9%
Tennessee	361	3,417	3,778	9.6%
TOTAL	59,527	697,681	757,208	8%

Black Population of the United States by State, 1800

1800	Number Free	Number Enslaved	Total	% Free
New Hampshire	852	8	860	99%
Vermont	557	-	557	100%
Massachusetts	6,452	-	6,452	100%
Rhode Island	3,304	380	3,684	90%
Connecticut	5,330	951	6,281	85%
New York	10,417	20,903	31,320	33%
New Jersey	4,402	12,422	16,824	26%
Pennsylvania	14,564	1,706	16,270	90%
Ohio (Northwest Territory)	337	-	337	100%
Indiana Territory	163	135	298	55%
Illinois	76	107	183	42%
Michigan Territory	139	-	139	100%
Delaware	8,268	6,153	14,421	57%
Maryland	19,587	105,625	125,212	16%
District of Columbia	783	3,244	4,027	19%
Virginia	20,124	345,796	365,920	5%
North Carolina	7,043	133,296	140,339	5%
South Carolina	3,185	146,151	149,336	2%
Georgia	1,019	59,406	60,425	2%
Kentucky	739	40,343	41,082	2%
Tennessee	309	13,584	13,893	2%
Alabama	23	494	517	4%
Mississippi Territory	182	3,489	3,671	5%
TOTAL	107,855	894,193	1,002,048	11%

Black Population of the United States by State, 1810

1810	Number Free	Number Enslaved	Total	% Free
Maine	969	-	969	100%
New Hampshire	970	-	970	100%
Vermont	750	-	750	100%
Massachusetts	6,737	-	6,737	100%
Rhode Island	3,609	108	3,717	97%
Connecticut	6,453	310	6,763	95%
New York	25,333	15,017	40,350	63%
New Jersey	7,843	10,851	18,694	42%
Pennsylvania	22,492	795	23,287	97%
Ohio	1,899	-	1,899	100%
Indiana	393	237	630	62%
Illinois	613	168	781	78%
Michigan Territory	120	24	144	83%
Missouri	607	3,011	3,618	17%
Delaware	13,136	4,177	17,313	76%
Maryland	33,927	111,502	145,429	23%
District of Columbia	2,549	5,395	7,944	32%
Virginia	30,570	392,516	423,086	7%
North Carolina	10,266	168,824	179,090	6%
South Carolina	4,554	196,365	200,919	2%
Georgia	1,801	105,218	107,019	2%
Kentucky	1,713	80,561	82,274	2%
Tennessee	1,317	44,535	45,852	3%
Alabama	59	2,565	2,624	2%
Mississippi Territory	240	17,088	17,328	1%
Arkansas	2	136	138	1%
Louisiana (Orleans Territory)	7,585	34,660	42,245	18%
TOTAL	186,507	1,194,063	1,380,570	14%

Black Population of the United States by State, 1820

1820	Number Free	Number Enslaved	Total	% Free
Maine	929	-	929	100%
New Hampshire	786	-	786	100%
Vermont	903	-	903	100%
Massachusetts	6,740	-	6,740	100%
Rhode Island	3,554	48	3,602	99%
Connecticut	7,870	97	7,967	99%
New York	29,279	10,088	39,367	74%
New Jersey	12,460	7,557	20,017	62%
Pennsylvania	30,202	211	30,413	99%
Ohio	4,723	-	4,723	100%
Indiana	1,230	190	1,420	87%
Illinois	457	917	1,374	33%
Michigan Territory	174	-	174	100%
Wisconsin	17	-	17	100%
Missouri	347	10,222	10,569	3%
Delaware	12,958	4,509	17,467	74%
Maryland	39,730	107,397	147,127	27%
District of Columbia	4,048	6,377	10,425	39%
Virginia	36,883	425,148	462,031	8%
North Carolina	14,712	204,917	219,629	7%
South Carolina	6,826	258,475	265,301	3%
Georgia	1,763	149,656	151,419	1%
Kentucky	2,759	126,732	129,491	2%
Tennessee	2,737	80,107	82,844	3%
Alabama	571	41,879	42,450	1%
Mississippi	458	32,814	33,272	1%
Arkansas	59	1,617	1,676	4%
Louisiana	10,476	69,064	79,540	13%
TOTAL	233,651	1,538,022	1,771,673	13%

**Black Population
of the United
States by State,
1830**

1830	Number Free	Number Enslaved	Total	% Free
Maine	1,190	2	1,192	100%
New Hampshire	604	3	607	100%
Vermont	881		881	100%
Massachusetts	7,048	1	7,049	100%
Rhode Island	3,561	17	3,578	100%
Connecticut	8,047	25	8,072	100%
New York	44,870	75	44,945	100%
New Jersey	18,303	2,254	20,557	89%
Pennsylvania	37,930	403	38,333	99%
Ohio	9,568	6	9,574	100%
Indiana	3,629	3	3,632	100%
Illinois	1,637	747	2,384	69%
Michigan Territory	261	32	293	89%
Wisconsin	33	31	64	52%
Missouri	569	25,091	25,660	2%
Delaware	15,855	3,292	19,147	83%
Maryland	52,938	102,994	155,932	34%
District of Columbia	6,152	6,119	12,271	50%
Virginia	47,348	469,757	517,105	9%
North Carolina	19,543	245,601	265,144	7%
South Carolina	7,921	315,401	323,322	2%
Georgia	2,486	217,531	220,017	1%
Florida	844	15,501	16,345	5%
Kentucky	4,917	165,213	170,130	3%
Tennessee	4,555	141,603	146,158	3%
Alabama	1,572	117,549	119,121	1%
Mississippi	519	65,659	66,178	1%
Arkansas	141	4,576	4,717	3%
Louisiana	16,710	109,588	126,298	13%
TOTAL	319,632	2,009,074	2,328,706	14%

**Black Population
of the United
States by State,
1840**

1840	Number Free	Number Enslaved	Total	% Free
Maine	1,355	-	1,355	100%
New Hampshire	537	1	538	100%
Vermont	730	-	730	100%
Massachusetts	8,669	-	8,669	100%
Rhode Island	3,238	5	3,243	100%
Connecticut	8,105	17	8,122	100%
New York	50,027	4	50,031	100%
New Jersey	21,044	674	21,718	97%
Pennsylvania	47,854	64	47,918	100%
Ohio	17,342	3	17,345	100%
Indiana	7,165	3	7,168	100%
Illinois	3,598	331	3,929	92%
Michigan	707	-	707	100%
Wisconsin	185	11	196	94%
Iowa	172	16	188	91%
Missouri	1,574	58,240	59,814	3%
Delaware	16,919	2,605	19,524	87%
Maryland	62,078	89,737	151,815	41%
District of Columbia	8,361	4,694	13,055	64%
Virginia	49,842	448,987	498,829	10%
North Carolina	22,732	245,817	268,549	8%
South Carolina	8,276	327,038	335,314	2%
Georgia	2,753	280,944	283,697	1%
Florida	817	25,717	26,534	3%
Kentucky	7,317	182,258	189,575	4%
Tennessee	5,524	183,059	188,583	3%
Alabama	2,039	253,532	255,571	1%
Mississippi	1,366	195,211	196,577	1%
Arkansas	465	19,935	20,400	2%
Louisiana	25,502	168,452	193,954	13%
TOTAL	386,293	2,487,355	2,873,648	13%

Black Population of the United States by State, 1850

1850	Number Free	Number Enslaved	Total	% Free
Maine	1,356	-	1,356	100%
New Hampshire	520	-	520	100%
Vermont	718	-	718	100%
Massachusetts	9,064	-	9,064	100%
Rhode Island	3,670	-	3,670	100%
Connecticut	7,693	-	7,693	100%
New York	49,069	-	49,069	100%
New Jersey	23,810	236	24,046	99%
Pennsylvania	53,626	-	53,626	100%
Ohio	25,279	-	25,279	100%
Indiana	11,262	-	11,262	100%
Illinois	5,436	-	5,436	100%
Michigan	2,583	-	2,583	100%
Wisconsin	635	-	635	100%
Minnesota	39	-	39	100%
Iowa	333	-	333	100%
Missouri	2,618	87,422	90,040	3%
Delaware	18,073	2,290	20,363	89%
Maryland	74,723	90,368	165,091	45%
District of Columbia	10,059	3,687	13,746	73%
Virginia	54,333	472,528	526,861	10%
North Carolina	27,463	288,548	316,011	9%
South Carolina	8,960	384,984	393,944	2%
Georgia	2,931	381,682	384,613	1%
Florida	932	39,310	40,242	2%
Kentucky	10,011	210,981	220,992	5%
Tennessee	6,422	239,459	245,881	3%
Alabama	2,265	342,844	345,109	1%
Mississippi	930	309,878	310,808	0%
Arkansas	608	47,100	47,708	1%
Louisiana	17,462	244,809	262,271	7%
Texas	397	58,161	58,558	1%
New Mexico Territory	22	-	22	100%
Utah	24	26	50	48%
Washington	152	-	152	100%
Oregon	55	-	55	100%
California	962	-	962	100%
TOTAL	434,495	3,204,313	3,638,808	12%

Black Population of the United States by State, 1860

1860	Number Free	Number Enslaved	Total	% Free
Maine	1,327	-	1,327	100%
New Hampshire	494	-	494	100%
Vermont	709	-	709	100%
Massachusetts	9,602	-	9,602	100%
Rhode Island	3,952	-	3,952	100%
Connecticut	8,927	-	8,927	100%
New York	49,005	-	49,005	100%
New Jersey	25,318	18	25,336	100%
Pennsylvania	56,949	-	56,949	100%
Ohio	36,673	-	36,673	100%
Indiana	11,428	-	11,428	100%
Illinois	7,628	-	7,628	100%
Michigan	6,799	-	6,799	100%
Wisconsin	1,171	-	1,171	100%
Minnesota	259	-	259	100%
Iowa	1,069	-	1,069	100%
Missouri	3,572	114,931	118,503	3%
Nebraska	67	15	82	82%
Kansas	625	2	627	100%
Delaware	19,829	1,798	21,627	92%
Maryland	83,942	87,189	171,131	49%
District of Columbia	11,131	3,185	14,316	78%
Virginia	58,042	490,865	548,907	11%
North Carolina	30,463	331,059	361,522	8%
South Carolina	9,914	402,406	412,320	2%
Georgia	3,500	462,198	465,698	1%
Florida	932	61,745	62,677	1%
Kentucky	10,684	225,483	236,167	5%
Tennessee	7,300	275,719	283,019	3%
Alabama	2,690	435,080	437,770	1%
Mississippi	773	436,631	437,404	0%
Arkansas	144	111,115	111,259	0%
Louisiana	18,647	331,726	350,373	5%
Texas	355	182,566	182,921	0%
Colorado	46	-	46	100%
New Mexico Territory	85	-	85	100%
Utah	30	29	59	51%
Nevada	45	-	45	100%
Washington	30	-	30	100%
Oregon	128	-	128	100%
California	4,086	-	4,086	100%
	488,370	3,953,760	4,442,130	11%