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Change History

Version	Date	Changes
FT-070.01	29-Aug-2025	Original document
FT-070.02	19-Jul-2026	Revised document to add the “Brick Wall” statement at the beginning of the “Story” section to show that my visit to Morehead City, NC did not enable me to identify the parents of either James Davis or Aley Handley.

Notes: The newest version is in blue font, and the changes made to the document are also denoted in blue font in the document below.

Parents of this Family

FT-XXX			
Father's Name		Mother's Name	
Birth Year	Death Year	Birth Year	Death Year

FT-XXX			
Father's Name		Mother's Name	
Birth Year	Death Year	Birth Year	Death Year

This Family

James Davis	
Born	
Where	
Died	1799 ¹
Where	
Buried	
Source(s)	1. 910, 911

Married:

Where:

Source:

Aley Handley	
Born	
Where	
Died	
Where	
Buried	
Source(s)	

Children:

Name	Born	Where	Source	Died	Where	Buried	Source
Mary (D)			FT-029				FT-029
Doley (D)			911				
Darcus (D)			911				
Delaney (D)			911				
William (S)			911				
James (S)			911				

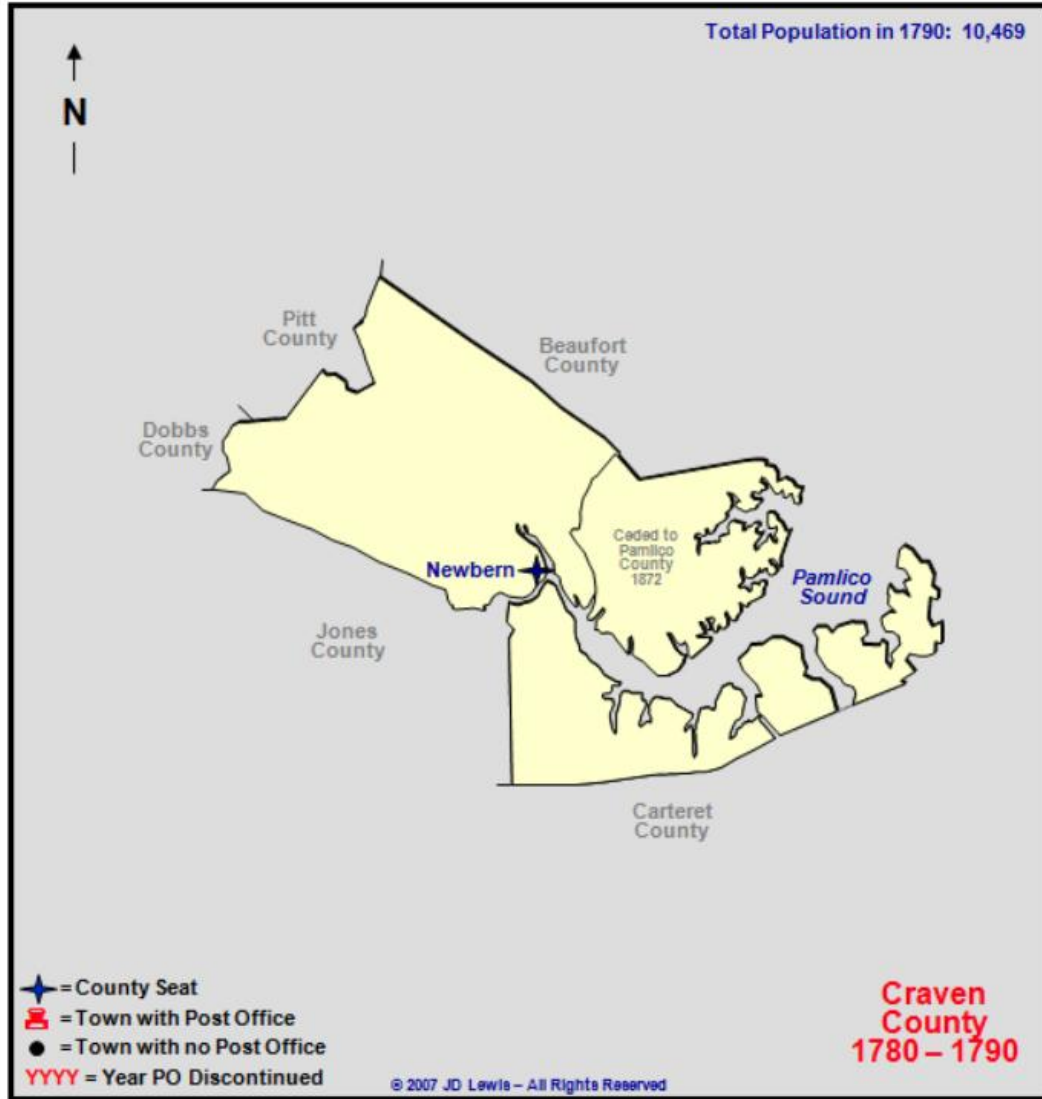
Other Marriages:

		Sources
Wife – Other husband		
When		
Where		
Other Children		
Comments		

Story:

Activity	Sources
Brick Walls – James Davis’ and Alley Handley’s Parents I visited Morehead City, NC in April 2026 to visit the Carteret County Historical Museum to do so genealogical research. Unfortunately, 2 days of research in the library yielded no further information on possibilities for James Davis’ and Alley Handley’s parents. I will just have to wait to see if any more information shows up, but will have to abandon this line of research at this time. In the Excel file entitled “John Sharp_Genealogy Map_Revised_Rev 2”, I have added tabs labeled “Davis Research” and “Handley Research” to show what I know at this time about the ancestors of James Davis and Alley Handley. The data that says William Davis and Isabelle Greenwood are James Davis’ parents is from a Geni.com source that lists no sources for this data. And that is the only data that links my James Davis to any ancestors.	
1790 US Federal Census for Craven County, NC USA In 1790, there is a James Davis living in Craven County, NC. My James Davis did live in Craven County, NC during this time, so maybe it’s my James Davis. This household consisted of: • The number of free White males aged under 16 = 0 • The number of free White males aged 16 and older = 2 • Number of free White females = 2 • Number of slaves = 12 There are no other James Davises in Craven County at this time, so I am going to assume this is my James Davis. James was apparently a slave owner. I know that Mary Davis married Edwards Gurley who was also a slave owner so this is not new to this family.	915
Craven County, NC 1790 Map Below is a map of what Craven County, NC looked like in 1790. It can be seen that it is just north of Carteret County where tons of my ancestors are from.	https://www.carolana.com/NC/Counties/craven_1780_to_1790.html

Craven County, NC - 1780 to 1790



<< 1779

1791 >>

James Davis Will, dated August 13, 1799

The images directly below are James Davis' will. I will put the transcript here:

In the name of God Amen I James Davis of the province of North Carolina Johnston County Being in Good Health of Body & of a Sound mind and memory Praise Be Given to almighty [almighty] God Do make and order this my Last Will and Testament In maner [manner] and form following that is to Say first and formist [foremost] I Commit my Sole [Soul] into the Hands of Almighty God hopping [hoping] thought the merits of Death and the pasions [passions?] of my Lord and Saviour [Savior] Jesus Christ to Move? full and full pardon and forgivings of all my Sins and my Body I Commit to the Earth to Be Disently [Decently] Buried at the Disgression [Discretion] of my Exetors [Executors] here forenamed and what worly [worldly] Goods and Estate it Hath pleased almighty [almighty]

910a through 910f
911

God to Restore upon me I Give and Dissast [disburse?] as following. First I will that all Debts and fienal [formal? Final?] Charges paid and Discharged.

Item. I Lend my Beloved wife Aley Davis the House where I now Live and the aple [apple] orchard and all the Lower land? Of the plantation During Her natural Life and all my stock of Cattle and Hogs and Sheep and all the plantation tools and Household furniture. Likewise one mare By the name of pigin [Pigeon?] and one horse By the name of Daiman.

Item. I Give my Daughter Marah Edwards Five Shillings Starling [sterling].

Item. I give my Son in Law Edgar? Howell five Shillings Starling [sterling].

Item. I Give my Daughter Darccis? Oliver Five Shillings Starling [sterling].

Item. I Give my Daughter Doley Deanes? five Shillings Starling [sterling].

Item. I Give my Son James Davis Five Shillings Starling [sterling].

Item. I Give my Son Henry Davis Five Shillings Starling [sterling].

Item. I give my Son William Davis the uper [upper] End of the plantation from the House upward and Likewise and House By the Name of Ladct? and all my Shop tools and After the Death of my Beloved wife all my Lands to Belong to my Son William Davis.

Item. I Give my Daughter Delaney Davis one feather Bead [Bed] and furniture to Be Delivered at my Death.

Item. I Leave that After the Death of my Beloved wife that all the stocks of Cattle and Hogs and Sheep and House Hold furniture and working tools Be Eaualey [Equally] Divided Between my Son William Davis and my Daughter Delaney Davis.

I Doe [do] Here Constitute and apoint [appoint] my Son William Davis and my Brother in Law James Handley my Hole [Whole] and Sole Exetors [Executors] of this my Last will and testament whereof I have here unto set my hand and Seal this thirteenth Day of August in the yeare of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine signed sealed in the presents [presence] of us.

James (his mark) Davis (Seal)

Robert? (his mark) Johnton [Johnston]

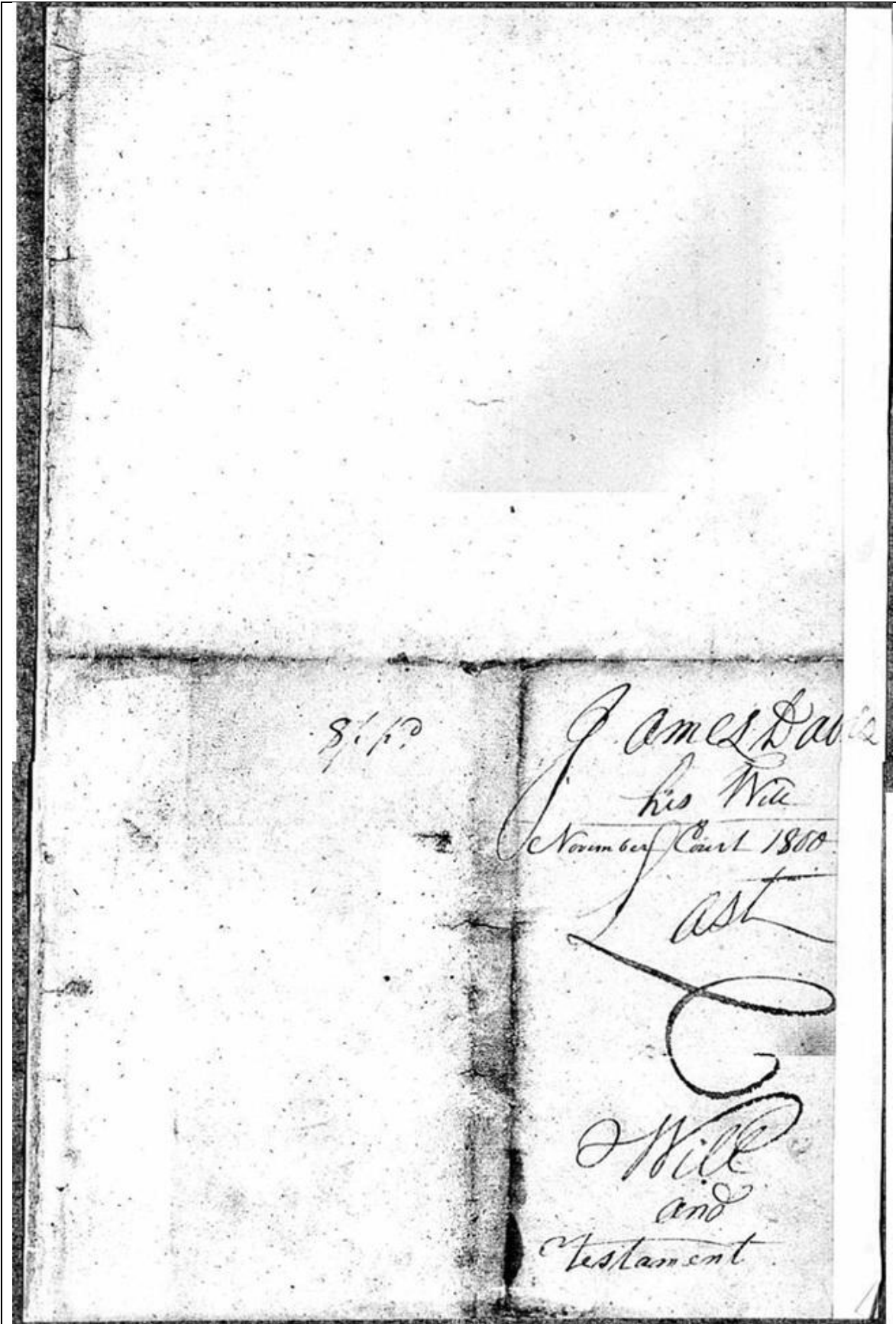
Benetes (hur [her] mark) Lofton

Meed (his mark) Gielley

Wm Davis Exor only 2 p?

Recorded in Book No. 3 and Page 324

R. Sanders



In the name of God Amen I James
 Davis of the province of North Carolina
 Johnston County Being in God that that
 Body & of a sound mind and memory
 Beise Be Given to almighty God Do make
 and order this my Last will and Testament
 In manner and form following that is to
 Say first and foremost I Commit
 my Soul into the Hands of all mighty
 God Hoping through the
 Merits of Death and the passion of my
 Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to
 have full and free pardon and forgiveness
 of all my sins and my Body I Commit
 to the Earth to be Decently Buried at the
 Discretion of my Executors here fore named
 and that worthy Good and Statute
 that blessed almighty God to bestow upon
 me I Give and Bequeath as following
 first I will that all Debts and
 funeral Charges be paid and Discharge
 Attest I Give my Beloved wife Mary
 Davis the House where I now live and the apple
 Orchard and all the power and of the plantation
 During her natural life and all my stock
 of Cattle and Hogs and Sheep and all the plantation
 Tools and Household furniture like wise one
 more on the same of my in and one horse on
 the name of Daimita.

I now I Leave that After the Death
 of my Beloved wife that all the Stocks
 of Cattle and Hogs and Sheep and ~~House~~
 House Hold furniture and working tools
 be Equally Divided Between my Son
 William Davis and my Daughter
 Delaney Davis

I Doe Here Constitute and appoint
 my Son William Davis and my Brother
 in law James Goodley my Sole and
 Sole Executors of this my Last will
 and Testament whereof I have
 here unto set my hand and seal
 this thirtieth Day of August
 in the year of our Lord one thousand
 seven hundred and ninety nine Signed
 Sealed in the presence of us

his his
 Signed & Johnator James & Davis
 my self marks

Benet & Lottin
 made

James Goodley
 made

Wm Davis Esq only
 213

Recorded in Book No 3 page
 324

R. Sanders ecc

Item I Give my Daughter Sarah Davis
Five Shillings Sterling

Item I Give my Son in Law John Davis Five Shillings
Sterling

Item I Give my Daughter Darius Davis
Five Shillings Sterling

Item I Give my Daughter Doley Davis
Five Shillings Sterling

Item I Give my Son John Davis
Five Shillings Sterling

Item I Give my Son James Davis
Five Shilling Sterling

Item I Give my Son Henry Davis
Five Shillings Sterling

Item I Give my Son William Davis the
Upper End of the Plantation from the House
upward and likewise one House by the
craze of I sell and all my Hoptool
and After the Death of my beloved
wife all my Lands to belong to my
Son William Davis

Item I Give my Daughter Dilany Davis
one feather Bed and furniture to be delivered
at my Death

I now I Leave that After the Death
 of my Beloved wife that all the Stocks
 of Cattle and Hogs and Sheep and ~~House~~
 House Hold Furniture and working tools
 be Equally Divided Between my Son
 William Davis and my Daughter
 Delaney Davis

I Doe Here Acknowledge and appoint
 my Son William Davis and my Brother
 in law James Galloway my Heir and
 Sole Executors of this my Last will
 and Testament where of I have
 here unto set my hand and Seal
 this Thirtieth Day of August
 in the Year of our Lord one thousand
 seven hundred and ninety nine Signed
 Sealed in the presence of us

his his
 David X Johnator James X David
 my self marks

Benjamin X Lottor
 mark

David X Galloway
 mark

Am Davis Exec only
 213

Recorded in Book No 3 page
 324

Re Sanders etc

As of yet, I don't know how much longer Alely lived after James died. More research will need to be done. John Sharp, 20-Aug-2025	
1800 US Federal Census for Alely (Ally) Davis, Johnston County, CN USA In 1800, we see a family in Johnston County, NC headed by an Ally Davis, - The number of free White males and females aged, respectively: - under 10 years of age = 0 male, 0 female - of 10 years but under 16 years = 0 male, 0 female - of 16 years but under 26 years = 1 male, 2 female - of 26 years but under 45 years = 1 female 45 years and upward - Number of all other free persons = 0 - Number of slaves = 0 So no slaves by 1800. Different county, so was the plantation passed on down to a son, who stayed in Craven County and kept all the slaves and then Ally moved to Johnston County with kids in tow? In the 1799 will of James Davis, he bequeathed his plantation in Craven County to his son William Davis. In Source 916 – the 1800 Federal Census for Johnston County, NC – there is a William Davis listed directly above Ally Davis. This William Davis household consists of: - The number of free White males and females aged, respectively: - under 10 years of age = 1 male, 0 female - of 10 years but under 16 years = 0 male, 0 female - of 16 years but under 26 years = 2 male, 1 female - of 26 years but under 45 years = 0 male, 0 female 45 years and upward - Number of all other free persons = 0 - Number of slaves = 0 It doesn't seem likely that this is the William Davis we are looking for, as this one is in Johnston County, not Craven County where the Plantation is. If we look at the 1800 Federal Census in Craven County for a William Davis, we find that there is only one William Davis in Craven County, NC in 1800. His family consists of: - The number of free White males and females aged, respectively: - under 10 years of age = 1 male, 0 female - of 10 years but under 16 years = 1 male, 0 female - of 16 years but under 26 years = 0 male, 2 female - of 26 years but under 45 years = 0 male, 0 female 45 years and upward = 1 male, 1 female - Number of all other free persons = 1 - Number of slaves = 2 This William Davis lives near Mary Caraway, Jacob Caraway, Aun Vandrick, Abraham Vandrick, Nelson Delamar, Joseph Nelson, George Paris, Thomas Delamar, Henry Caraway. If we go back to the 1790 Federal Census for James Davis, none of these people lived near the James Davis plantation. However, there is a William Davis who lives next door to James Davis, and we know that James had a son named William, to whom he bequeathed his plantation to. But again, none of William's neighbors in 1800 match any of the neighbors in 1790. So is this the same William? And is it James' William?	916

Overall, I don't think I can say anything at this time about which William Davis was in Craven County and which was in Johnston County in 1800.	
1810 US Federal Census for Aley Davis In 1810, the slate of questions asked by assistant U.S. marshals was identical to the 1800 census. This census recorded the name of the county, parish, township, town, or city in which each family resided. Each family was listed by the name of the head of household and asked the following questions: • Number of free White males and females aged, respectively: ○ under 10 years of age ○ of 10 years but under 16 years ○ of 16 years but under 26 years ○ of 26 years but under 45 years ○ 45 years and upward • Number of all other free persons • Number of slaves First Economic Inquiries In addition to population inquiries, the 1810 census was the first to collect data about the nation's manufactures. A May 1, 1810, act directed that, "it shall be the duty of the several marshals, secretaries, and their assistants aforesaid, to take, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, and according to such instructions as he shall give, an account of the several manufacturing establishments and manufactures within their several districts, territories, and divisions." The act did not outline specific questions or prescribe a schedule, leaving those matters to the Secretary of the Treasury's discretion. To facilitate data collection, the Treasury Department divided manufactured products into 25 broad categories, encompassing more than 220 kinds of goods. As the U.S. marshals and their assistants conducted the decennial census, they also visited the manufacturing establishments in their assigned areas to obtain economic data. These data generally consisted of the quantity and value of products manufactured. In March 1812, Congress authorized \$2,000 for the Treasury Department to prepare a statistical report on the kind, quantity, and value of goods manufactured and the number of manufacturing establishments in each state, territory, district, and county. The May 1813 report noted that the economic data were of poor quality because of serious undercounting and omissions during the enumeration.	
1820 US Federal Census for Aley Davis The 1820 census built on the questions asked in 1810. The age questions were the same, except for the addition of a 16 - 18 years category for males. • The number of free White males and females aged, respectively: ○ under 10 years of age ○ of 10 years but under 16 years ○ of 16 years but under 18 years (for males) ○ of 16 years but under 26 years (for males) ○ of 16 years but under 26 years (for females) ○ of 26 years but under 45 years ○ 45 years and upward	

• The number of male and female slaves aged, respectively: ○ under 14 years of age ○ of 14 years but under 26 years ○ of 26 years but under 45 years ○ 45 years and upwards • The number of free colored males and females aged, respectively: ○ under 14 years of age ○ of 14 years but under 26 years ○ of 26 years but under 45 years ○ 45 years and upwards • Number of foreigners not naturalized • Number of persons (including slaves) engaged in agriculture, commerce, and manufactures	
1830 US Federal Census for Aley Davis For the 1830 census, the age categories were expanded again. Additionally, some social categories made their first appearance. Each head of family was listed and was asked: • The number of free White males and females, respectively: ○ under 5 years ○ 5 to 10 years ○ 10 to 15 years ○ 15 to 20 years ○ 20 to 30 years ○ 30 to 40 years ○ 40 to 50 years ○ 50 to 60 years ○ 60 to 70 years ○ 70 to 80 years ○ 80 to 90 years ○ 90 to 100 years ○ 100 years and upward • The number of slaves and free colored persons of each sex, respectively: ○ under 10 years ○ 10 to 24 years ○ 24 to 36 years ○ 36 to 55 years ○ 55 to 100 years ○ 100 years and upward • The number of White persons and the number of "slaves and colored persons" who were deaf and dumb aged: ○ under 14 years ○ 14 and under 25 years ○ 25 years and upward • The number of White persons and "slaves or colored persons" who were blind, respectively • The number of White persons who were foreigners not naturalized	
1840 US Federal Census for Aley Davis	

Each head of family was asked: • The number of free White males and females, respectively: ○ under 5 years ○ 5 to 10 years ○ 10 to 15 years ○ 15 to 20 years ○ 20 to 30 years ○ 30 to 40 years ○ 40 to 50 years ○ 50 to 60 years ○ 60 to 70 years ○ 70 to 80 years ○ 80 to 90 years ○ 90 to 100 years ○ 100 years and upward • The number of slaves and free colored persons of each sex, respectively: ○ under 10 years ○ 10 to 24 years ○ 24 to 36 years ○ 36 to 55 years ○ 55 to 100 years ○ 100 years and upward • The number of persons in each family employed in mining; agriculture; commerce; manufacture and trade; navigation of the ocean; navigation of canals, lakes and rivers; and learned professional engineers. • Name and age of pensioners for Revolutionary or military service. • The number of White persons who were deaf and dumb: ○ under 14 years ○ 14 and under 25 years ○ 25 years and upward • The number of White persons who were were blind. • The number of White persons who were insane and idiots (at public and private charge). • The number of Colored persons who were deaf, dumb and blind. • The number of Colored persons who were insane and idiots (at public and private charge). • Number of colleges or universities, primary schools, and grammar schools. ○ Number of students or scholars associated with each institution. ○ Number of scholars at public charge. • Number of White persons age 20 years and older who could not read and write.	
