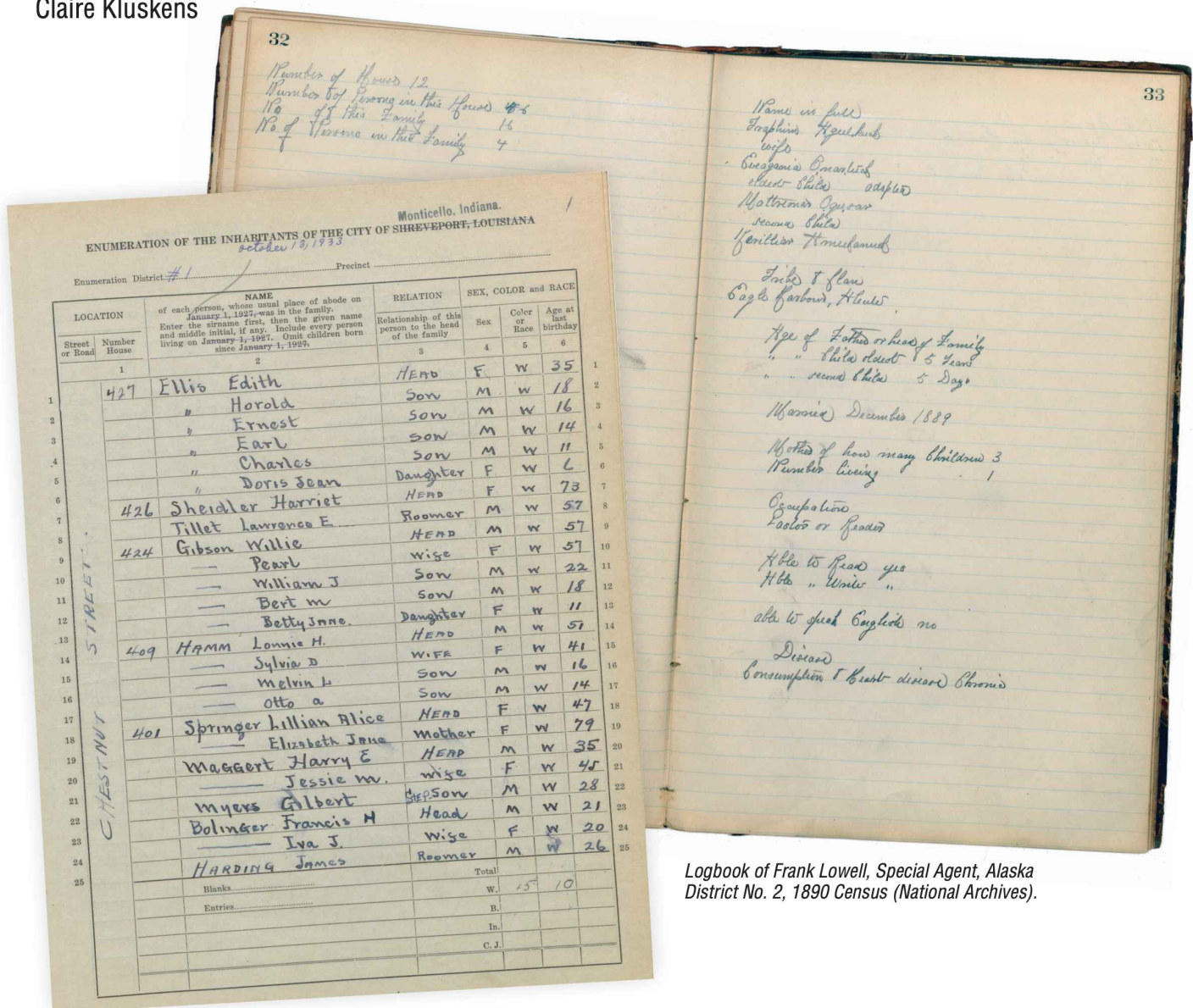


# Unusual Federal Census Records

Claire Kluskens



Logbook of Frank Lowell, Special Agent, Alaska District No. 2, 1890 Census (National Archives).

Schedules of Municipal Population Enumerations, Monticello, Indiana, 13 October 1933 (National Archives).

Claire Kluskens, digital projects archivist and genealogy/census subject matter expert at the National Archives and Records Administration, blogs about the 1950 census and other census records at *History Hub* and can be reached at [claire.kluskens@nara.gov](mailto:claire.kluskens@nara.gov).

The words *federal census records* conjure up the decennial censuses taken since 1790. Less well-known are other censuses and related administrative records held by the National Archives and Records Administration. This article discusses recently digitized records.

## Index of Insane in Illinois, 1870

National Archives Identifier (NAID) 2092972

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/209297225>

This volume's title is "Index of the Insane in the State of Illinois, A.D. 1870, as shown by the Census supplemented by correspondence." Male names are recorded on the left (even) pages and females on the right (odd) pages. Names are arranged in rough

alphabetical order by first letter and first vowel of surname. For example, Carl Ansgar, is listed in the Aa section while Belden Alderman is listed in the Ae section.

Each person's name and county of residence is provided. There are also folio and page numbers that do not appear to correspond to volume or page numbers in the 1870 population census schedules. Perplexingly, this list includes individuals who were not marked as "insane" in column 18 of the population schedules. For example, neither Phebe C. Alexander (page 3) of Woodbury Township, Cumberland County, nor Hiram Mix (page 76) of Byron Township, Ogle County, is indicated to be insane (column 18) on the 1870 population schedules. A stray check mark on Phebe's line in column 18 appears to refer to column 17 ("Cannot write"). Further study of this volume could prove informative. This volume is unique; there are no such indexes to the "insane" of other states.

### **Lists of Louisiana Sugar Planters, 1881-1882**

NAID 284332

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/2843329>

The taking of the 1880 census included collection of agricultural production information from farmers, and Louisiana's has been reproduced in National Archives Microfilm Publication T1136, Nonpopulation Census Schedules for Louisiana, 1850-1880 (fifteen rolls). While compiling statistical data, the Census Office apparently decided to collect additional information about sugar production. From 19 September to 19 November 1881, a clerk compiled lists of sugar planters in each parish (and whether on the east or west side of the Mississippi River). Each entry includes the planter's name and name of plantation, if known; post office address; the date Form 7-1019 was sent; the date the form was returned to the Bureau of the Census; and remarks. The date of reply column is usually blank with scattered notations of "unclaimed" or the date a reply was received from the planter. The last reply noted is dated May 1882. Most of the planters were men but there were also some women.

It is unknown what questions were asked on Form 7-1019 as no blank sample has yet been located.

The prefix 7 refers to the Census Office. Due to the apparent low return rate indicated in these records, it is likely that no special report on sugar production was compiled based on replies to that form.

### **Logbook of Frank Lowell, Special Agent, Alaska District No. 2, 1890 Census**

NAID 202288465

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/202288465>

Since most of the 1890 census was lost in a 1921 fire, every scrap of that census is precious. The National Archives recently digitized a previously unappreciated fragment of the 1890 census for Alaska.<sup>1</sup> Frank Lowell, who was the special agent for the Second District of Alaska, kept a logbook of his activities from 11 June to 28 September 1890. He began at Kodiak by hiring sailors and preparing a schooner for the voyage. Entries on pages 1-9 typically include his location(s), expenses, wind direction, numbers of persons enumerated, hours worked, and census forms used.

Lowell likely ran out of census forms and improvised by recording information about some households in his logbook. Therefore, thirteen families in nine houses are enumerated in his logbook on pages 10-35. The left (even-numbered) pages indicate the house number, number of persons in the house, family number, and number of persons in the family. "Family numbers" run from 5 to 17. Four "house numbers" are repeated, indicating that some houses contained two family units.

The right (odd-numbered) pages include some or all of the following information: name of each family member; age of each person if known; tribe and clan; marital status of head of household; number of children born to the mother and how many were still living; occupation of head of household; and whether a family member could read or write or speak English. Chronic diseases suffered by the head of household or another specified family member are listed. These thirteen families are the only Alaska families for which 1890 census information survives.

Websites cited in this article were viewed on 1 December 2022.

1. Claire Kluskens, "An 1890 Census Fragment for Alaska is Rediscovered," *The Text Message blog*, 31 August 2021 (<https://text-message.blogs.archives.gov/2021/08/31/an-1890-census-fragment-for-alaska-is-rediscovered>).



James W Grubbs  
Waynesboro Ga

1	41	5	0	0	8 <sup>00</sup>	
2	92	16	0	4	13 <sup>30</sup>	
4	59	6	0	1	8 <sup>20</sup>	
5	57	9	0	1	9 <sup>00</sup>	
6	x	x	x	x	x	Sick
7	81	13	1	1	13 <sup>00</sup>	
8	x	x	x	x	x	Sick
9	72	14	0	1	14 <sup>00</sup>	
11	x	x	x	x	x	Sick
12	88	13	0	0	12 <sup>30</sup>	
13	x	x	x	x	x	Sick
14	89	15	0	0	13 <sup>00</sup>	
15	61	13	0	0	12 <sup>00</sup>	
16	141	11	0	0	3 <sup>30</sup>	Out of day
18	100	11	0	0	12 <sup>00</sup>	
19	x	x	x	x	x	Sick
20	74	12	0	0	11 <sup>30</sup>	
21	x	x	x	x	x	
22	73	12	1	0	12 <sup>00</sup>	
23	x	x	x	x	x	Rain
24	58	10	0	1	11 <sup>00</sup>	
26	78	13	0	1	13	
27	x	x	x	x	x	
28	x	x	x	x	x	
29	106	16	0	8	3 <sup>00</sup>	
30	20	3	0	0		

Daily Work Reports of Enumerators for the First Supervisory District of Georgia, 1900; NAID 216887736 (<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/216887736>, image 11).

## Daily Work Reports of Enumerators for the First Supervisory District of Georgia, 1900

NAID 216887736

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/216887736>

This volume contains a daily record of the work done by each enumerator under the supervision of Henry Blun Jr., supervisor of the first census district of Georgia during the 1900 census, in Savannah, Darien, Midville, Pooler, Reidsville, Swainsboro, Sylvania, Waynesboro, and other nearby areas. The National Archives Catalog includes a complete list of enumerators with their post office addresses and page numbers in this volume.

Each enumerator's name and post office address is shown along with six columns that list each date worked in June (occasionally July) 1900; the numbers

of Schedules 1 (Population), 2 (Agriculture), 3 (Manufactures), and 4 (Mortality) used daily; and the number of hours worked daily. Days that an enumerator was sick or did not work for another reason are noted.

For example, James W. Grubbs of Waynesboro (page 14) took the entire month to complete his Enumeration District (ED), working from three to fourteen hours each day. However, he did not work on seven days in June, because he was sick, or on 23 June, due to rain, and he worked only part of a day on 16 June due to illness. He apparently also did not work on 24 June for which no explanation is indicated.

This volume is unique; there are no other such daily work report volumes for the 1900 census.

5. If more than one type of tobacco is grown in your county, name the different types grown, state as accurately as possible in what part of the county each type is grown, and give your estimate of the number of pounds of each type produced annually.  
(For example, in Charlotte County, Virginia, dark-fired tobacco is produced in the northern portion and bright fire-cured in the southern portion; and in Warren County, Kentucky, both Burley and One-Sucker are grown.)

Type Filler; where grown Entire County lbs. grown 20,000,000

Type \_\_\_\_\_; where grown \_\_\_\_\_; lbs. grown \_\_\_\_\_

Type \_\_\_\_\_; where grown \_\_\_\_\_; lbs. grown \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you use commercial fertilizers for tobacco on your farm? Yes  
(Answer "Yes" or "No.")

7. If so, how many pounds per acre and what grade (analysis) do you use?  
200 to 250 Phos. acid  
(Pounds per acre.) Ammonia 2% from Bone 8% Potash 8%  
(Grade.)

8. If you lease land from others or to others for growing tobacco, who pays for the fertilizer—the owner, or tenant or cropper, or both equally? Both equally.  
(State which.)

9. What is the usual distance of setting between the plants on your farm?  
(a) Between rows Three Feet. (b) In the rows Two feet.

10. What is the highest yield per acre realized by you from all your plantings in any given year during the past five years? Eleven hundred per acre.  
(Pounds.)  
What is the lowest? 750 (Pounds.) What is the average for the past five years? 900 (Pounds.)

11. If you rent land from others or to others for cash for growing tobacco, report usual rental price per acre \_\_\_\_\_ \$.

12. If you rent land from others or to others for a share of the crop for growing tobacco, state usual terms on which land is so rented Owner 75 renter 35  
(Write "one-half," "one-fourth," etc., as the case may be.)

c 11-3735

Tobacco schedule, V. A. Dunn, 1910, Brookville, Montgomery County, Ohio, ED 46, Farm 266; NAID 74895816 (<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/74895816>, images 17-18).

## Tobacco Schedules, 1910

NAID 2791148

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/2791148>

During August 1910, the Census Bureau mailed a special census form to farmers who grew tobacco. The tobacco questionnaire asked for information about the respondent's farm in 1909 and the county as a whole. For the particular farm, the form asked

what specific varieties of tobacco were grown; if commercial fertilizer was used, the number of pounds used per acre, and its chemical analysis (composition); who paid for fertilizer if the land was leased; land rental terms, if applicable; the usual distance between plants; and the highest, lowest, and average yield per acre for the previous five years. Concerning the county, the form asked for the respondent's opinion on whether tobacco was grown in all or part of the county, the types of tobacco grown, and an estimate of the number of pounds grown annually of each variety.

For example, V. A. Dunn of Brookville, Montgomery County, Ohio (Enumeration District 46, Farm No. 266), a sharecropper (renter), grew Zimmer Spanish tobacco for cigar filler for domestic consumption. In the previous five years, he averaged nine hundred pounds per acre, with 750 during the worst year and eleven hundred during the best year. Rows were spaced three feet apart and plants were set two feet apart within the row. Commercial fertilizers containing 2 percent ammonia, 8 percent phosphoric acid from bone, and 8 percent potash were used at the rate of 200 to 250 pounds per acre. The owner and renter shared equally in the cost of fertilizer, but the renter received three-fifths of the value of the crops and the owner two-fifths. Dunn estimated that twenty million pounds of filler tobacco were grown in the entire county annually.

The tobacco schedules are arranged by state, county, enumeration district (ED) number, and farm number, which normally corresponds to the "Number of farm schedule" shown in Column 29 of the 1910 population census schedules, reproduced in National Archives Microfilm Publication T624, Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910. Most farmers signed their names to the form, but those that did not can be identified with some confidence due to the farm number that links them back to the population census.

## States and counties represented in the 1910 tobacco schedules

- Connecticut: Hartford
- Florida: Gadsden
- Indiana: Dearborn, Jefferson, Ripley, Rush, Spencer, Switzerland, Warrick
- Kentucky: Adair, Ballard, Breckinridge, Caldwell, Calloway, Christian, Daviess, Fayette, Fulton, Graves, Greenup, Hart, Henderson, Hopkins, Logan, Lyon, Mason, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Owen, Trigg, Warren
- Maryland: Montgomery, Prince George's, Saint Mary's
- Missouri: Clay, Platte
- New York: Chemung, Onondaga
- North Carolina: Alamance, Beaufort, Bertie, Caswell, Chatham, Columbus, Forsyth, Granville, Greene, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Lenoir, Nash, Onslow, Pitt, Robeson, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, Wake
- Ohio: Belmont, Brown, Montgomery
- Pennsylvania: Lancaster
- South Carolina: Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Horry, Lee, Marion, Williamsburg
- Tennessee: Cheatham, Henry, Jackson, Macon, Montgomery, Robertson, Smith, Stewart, Trousdale, Weakley, Williamson
- Virginia: Amelia, Bedford, Brunswick, Caroline, Charlotte, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fluvanna, Franklin, Halifax, Henry, Louisa, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nelson, Nottoway, Pittsylvania, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Rockingham
- West Virginia: Jackson, Lincoln, Putnam
- Wisconsin: Rock, Vernon



*Farmers sometimes supplemented their answers to the tobacco schedules with correspondence, fertilizer bag tags, and other materials, such as the business card of J. R. Skaggs of Mt. Sherman, Kentucky (ED 72, Farm 206) showing a valuable hog. Tobacco Schedules, Hart County, Kentucky (<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/74895774>, image 115).*



## Schedules of Municipal Population Enumerations, 1932-1938

NAID 2791185

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/2791185>

During the twentieth century, the Census Bureau conducted special enumerations of local areas upon request and payment of a fee. Records of fifteen such enumerations exist for special censuses taken between 1932 and 1938. The census schedules indicate name, relationship to head of household, gender, race, age at last birthday, and street address. Digital images are currently available for the 1933 censuses for Monticello, North Vernon, and Petersburg, Indiana, and the 1932 census of Hickory, North Carolina. Digitization of this record series is ongoing.

Residents of the three Indiana cities requested a census because they faced the loss of city status under legislation enacted by the Indiana General Assembly that would require cities with population under three

thousand to return to town government on 1 January 1934. The requestors hoped that the special 1933 censuses would document higher population.

In North Vernon, the scheduled November 1933 election was stopped when the new census disclosed the municipality had sufficient population to still be classified as a city.<sup>2</sup> Petersburg residents paid the Bureau \$150 for the census. The enumerators counted 3,106 persons so Petersburg also retained city status.<sup>3</sup> The censuses were conducted by local persons appointed as special agents of the Census Bureau.

### Conclusion

The records discussed in this article are just a few of the less well-known census and administrative records in Record Group 29, Records of the Bureau of the Census, in the National Archives and Records Administration. Information about other records is available in the National Archives Catalog at <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/358>. 🌳

2. "Town Elections Holding Interest in Hoosierdom," *Kokomo (Indiana) Tribune*, 7 November 1933, p. 13.

3. For more information, see "Fight to Retain Status as City," *Evansville (Indiana) Courier and Press*, 26 October 1933, p. 4; "Federal Men to Take Census in Petersburg," *Evansville (Indiana) Courier and Press*, 28 October 1933, p. 14; and "Stops Vote at Petersburg," *Evansville (Indiana) Journal*, 2 November 1933, p. 1.

# Working to the latest standards?

- 7 new DNA standards
- 4 modified standards
- Updated Genealogist's Code



**BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF GENEALOGISTS®**  
[www.BCGcertification.org](http://www.BCGcertification.org)

