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EIGHTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES FOR  
THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF HALIFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA, 1860:  
SCHEDULES OF FREE INHABITANTS, SLAVE INHABITANTS, MORTALITY, AGRICULTURE,  
INDUSTRY, AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

Introduction

On the single roll of this microfilm publication, M1808, are reproduced the 1860 census schedules for the Northern District of Halifax County, Virginia. The original schedules are in the custody of the Duke University Library, which filmed them prior to 1972. Two copies were deposited in the National Archives. One copy was placed in the Microfilm Reading Room for use by researchers and was assigned the number GR8, by which it is referred to in the *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives* (National Archives and Records Administration, revised 1985). In 1994, GR8 was assigned a new number, M1808, in order to issue it as an official National Archives microfilm publication.

The complete history of the census schedules held by the Duke University Library is unknown. However, the following information was provided to a National Archives staff member in a Library letter dated September 6, 1994:

"Our accession records from the time of the receipt of the Halifax County, Virginia, census schedules are not complete, but we do know at least some of the story of how the census records arrived here. At one point in the early part of this century the federal government offered each state their census records, and some did not want them. At that point, Duke's library acquired the census records for the states that did not agree to take their own. Oddly though, Virginia was not one of those states, but the Halifax County census was entered into the card catalogue here on the same date as the others--March 24, 1934.

There is no indication in our copy of the census that reveals whether it is a state or a county copy, or how many copies were made of this particular census. One interesting clue, though, is on the first page, on which it is written "Census Returns N.D. Halifax County, Va./1860." Under this writing are two hands, traced by a pencil, the smaller of which says in the middle of it "J.R. Taylor/ 1864/ 2 yrs old," and the larger of which says "J.R. Taylor/ 11 years old." The census was taken by John H. Taylor, Ass't Marshal, which leads me to think that this census sat in the Taylor house, maybe on the Taylor coffee table, for at least fifteen years after the census. I'm not sure what can be deduced from this--perhaps the county copy would have been more likely than the state copy to sit in a private home?"

Thus the census schedules on this roll are either the "county" or "state" copy. The instructions given to the marshals and assistant marshals who conducted the census enumerations provided that:

"...you shall transmit, forthwith, 'one set of the returns to the census office.'...You are required...to

transmit the other copy thereof to the office of the secretary of the State, or Territory, to which your district belongs."

In addition to these two copies, the instructions also mentioned a third copy filed with the county clerk of courts:

"When your original copies are filed with the clerks of the courts and secretary of your state, they will be under the control of those officers and subject to the usual regulations of the respective offices, and you can enjoy the same access to them which can be had by any citizen." (Emphasis added). See Carroll D. Wright, *History and Growth of the United States Census*, pp. 148-50 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1900; reprinted by Johnson Reprint Corporation, New York, 1966.)

Theoretically, all copies of the census should have been identical, but the process of hand copying undoubtedly resulted in errors and omissions in second- and third-generation copies.

The National Archives previously published the "federal" copy of the Halifax County population and slave schedules in "Eighth Census of the United States, 1860," National Archives Microfilm Publication M653, Rolls 1349 (free) and 1391 (slave), and the nonpopulation schedules in "Nonpopulation Census Schedules for Virginia, 1850-1880," National Archives Microfilm Publication T1132, rolls 5 through 8.

The mortality schedules on this roll differ from the "federal" mortality schedules in that they frequently indicate the name of the person to whom the slave belonged. The "federal" copy does not indicate the name of the slave owner. In both copies, the enumerator specified the county of birth for each individual, instead of merely the state of birth.

The schedules are reproduced in the order filmed by the Duke University Library; the pages of some schedules were filmed out of numerical order.

## CONTENTS

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Northern District of Halifax County, Virginia Schedule 1 -- Free inhabitants Schedule 2 -- Slave inhabitants Schedule 3 -- Persons who died during the year ending June 1st, 1860 ("mortality schedule") Schedule 4 -- Products of Agriculture Schedule 5 -- Products of Industry Schedule 4 -- Products of Agriculture Schedule 6 -- Social Statistics Schedule 4 -- Products of Agriculture