

TEACHING PEBBLE HILL



Taking Count: Learning About Slavery with Primary Resources

Lesson plan created by Shannon Brandt
Instructional Coach, Yarbrough Elementary School
sbrandt@auburnschools.org



aub.ie/teachingph



AUBURN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

*Caroline Marshall Draughon Center
for the Arts & Humanities*

Taking Count – Learning about Slavery with Primary Sources

AL Course of Study: 4th grade - 6. Describe cultural, economic, and political aspects of the lifestyles of early nineteenth-century farmers, plantation owners, slaves, and townspeople.

Objective: Students will analyze primary sources, including Agricultural and Slave Census information, a newspaper ad, and a newspaper article. Students will understand the practice of inventorying enslaved people as property and selling enslaved people to settle debt contributed to the dehumanization of enslaved Black people in Auburn, Alabama.

Materials:

- Copies of primary documents:
 - 1850 Agricultural Census
 - 1860 Agricultural Census
 - 1850 Slave Census
 - 1860 Slave Census
 - The Cahaba Gazette Article
 - The Tuskegee Republican Ad

(Available to download as PDFs at aub.ie/teachingphresources.)

Hook: Give to students (or project on a whiteboard) a copy of the 1850 Agricultural Census to answer the following questions:

1. What kind of document is it (letter, ad, newspaper, etc.)? How do you know?
2. Is there a date on it? If so, what is it?
3. Is there a location indicated? What is it?
4. For whom was the document written or created? How do you know?
5. What is the purpose of the document? What made you think this?
6. What questions do you have about the document?

Discussion Prompts and Lesson Intro:

“You have just practiced doing what historians do when they find a primary source. Primary sources are the pieces of evidence that historians use to learn about people, events, and everyday life in the past. Just like detectives, historians look at clues, sift through evidence, and reach

conclusions (History Explorer – Smithsonian Institute). The primary source we just explored is an inventory or counting of agriculture productions owned by men in Macon County, Alabama in 1850. It's called an Agricultural Census.

Every ten years the US government tries to count all of the people living in America and find out where they are living. The information helps decide representation in government and also how money is given to different communities. Back in 1850, the government also asked for a count of agricultural production to see how the economy was doing.

Now let's look at the Agricultural Census of 1860 and see if we can answer any questions about one of the men listed on both censuses."

Group or Partner Activity:

Using the 1850 and 1860 Agricultural Censuses, see if you can find a man named N.J. Scott on both. Spend some time with your group comparing the row of information for N.J. Scott. (His name is a little more than halfway down on the 1850 census and on the 5th line on the 1860 census.)

"Answer the questions on the handout with your group. What conclusion can you make about how Mr. Scott's farm changed from 1850 to 1860?"

Discuss with the class the advantages and disadvantages of using a primary source to learn information.

Whole Group Activity and Discussion:

The objective now shifts from collecting numeric and detailed info from a primary source to recognizing how the Slave Census is similar to the Agricultural Census in that livestock and enslaved people were both considered property. The discussion should lead students to recognize the lack of humanity in the way enslaved people were counted as property (no names given, tallied the same as livestock, etc.)

Project on the whiteboard or provide copies of the 1850 Slave Census. Allow students to discover the information, dates, purpose of the document. Share the 1860 Slave Census to gather further evidence (grouped by age, which might have been estimated).

Ask students to name other primary sources from this time period that might be helpful in understanding what life for an enslaved person might have been like. (If students mention personal narratives from slaves, you may want to mention that it is important to realize that for some slave narratives, the person writing down the narrative was white which may have changed what the enslaved person felt comfortable in revealing about his/her experiences. In other words, it is very important to think through the points of view and biases that even primary sources can contain.)

Share the Cahaba Gazette “Negro Stealing-Thief Caught” article and the Tuskegee Republican advertisement. (The Tuskegee ad is for two slaves being sold to help settle debt for Alexander Scott’s estate.) Ask students what these sources further reveal about enslaved people being considered property of their master.

Discuss the importance of primary sources and what these documents can reveal that a summary paragraph about slavery in a textbook might not tell.

Additional Learning: Primary sources for Alabama History can be found at <https://alabama200.org/educators/primary-sources/>.

Assessment: Handout using N.J. Scott’s Agricultural Census data from 1850 and 1860; Students may also respond to the open-ended question, “Using the primary sources from the censuses and newspapers as evidence, explain how enslaved people were considered property of their owners.”

N.J. Scott's Agricultural Census 1850 to 1860

Name _____

1. What is the total number of acres of Mr. Scott's land in 1850?
Add the improved (450) and unimproved (550) totals. _____

2. What is the total number of acres in 1860? _____ Did his
farm increase or decrease in size? _____

3. How much more was his farm worth (Cash value of Farm) in
1860 than 1850? _____

4. What was the only animal Mr. Scott had less of in 1860 than
1850? _____

5. Make up your own question that can be answered with the data
on the censuses. Be sure to record the answer to your question.

Question:

Answer: _____

SCHEDULE 4.—Productions of Agriculture in																			747 ¹³		in the	
enumerated by me, on the 19 th 21 st 4 th day of October																			1850.			
Name of Owner, Agent, or Manager of the Farm.	Acres of Land.		Cult. value of Farm.	Value of farming Imple- ments and Machinery.	Live Stock, June 1st, 1850.										Produce during the							
	Improved.	Unimproved.			Horses.	Asses and Mules.	Cattle.	Swine.	Working Oxen.	Other Cattle.	Sheep.	Goats.	Value of Live Stock.	Wheat, bushels of.	Rye, bushels of.	Indian Corn, bushels of.	Oats, bushels of.	Barley, bushels of.				
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19				
Dean Hendrick	150	192	1660	10	1	3	3	2	20	30	90	400	15		600	40						
John Williams	130	30	800	20	3		7	2			25	405	16		400	100						
Ed. Williams	95	21	812	35	3		4	2	5		25	595	25		450	100						
Geo. Wolt	90	245	3000	150	2	2	1		12		60	750	35	4	450		300					
Stephen Thomas	95	45	800	50	2	1	1	2	12	18	16	280	55		500	25	560					
William G. Swanson	215	203	3500	300	3	4	10	2	12		65	1450			1200	300						
John Healy	70	144	800	150	2	3	3	2	5	25	20	470	60		500	400						
Green B. Lyman	26	14	400	5	1		1	2			8	120			250	100						
William B. Lovely	60	11	1000	125	2		2		10		12	220	29		500	60						
Lydia A. Reynolds	100	80	800	75	2		2		14		25	260			450							
John Brady	100	220	3000	150	4	3	3		12		40	810			1600							
B. H. Odium	150	170	1600	60	3	1	5	2	8	30	30	600			1600							
B. F. Schuster	100	170	1320	125	4		4	2	3		40	540	162		600	50						
Yemen M. Leman	220	180	2500	225	2	1	4	2	5	10	48	480			600	150						
William L. Carleton	150	365	4120	130	1	5	5	2	8		30	770	40		1000	150						
Samuel J. Carleton	30	20	600	25	2	1	1		1		5	190			200							
John F. Fowler	57	116	1660	150	2	1	2	2	10		20	270			600	100						
W. Fowler	40	120	1600	40	2	1	2	2	7		16	620	40		400	40						
J. H. Thompson	40	280	960	10	1		4		5			100	25		250	40						
John Mitchell	75	245	6000	125	2		3	2	12		16	700	48		400	60						
John Bond	30	150	800	50	2		6	2	6		30	252			300	80						
J. H. Turner	150	90	1600	50	1	1	2		10		8	250	18		200	150						
J. L. Scott	450	570	12000	500	6	6	20	4	30		150	1920	165		2000	500						
John B. Lyman	350	410	5000	200	4	5	7	4	30	12	125	1560	125	20	2500	500						
W. W. Mason	480	530	2500	600	3	18	25		50	100	150	4000	50	10	3500	500	2000					
J. M. Thornton	95	125	1500	100	1	2	6	2	12	30		450	30		750	30						
Alba Hightower	110	210	1800	160	3	1	8	2	10	30	40	585	60		500	100						
Thomas Brady	150	90	1200	120	3		9	2	11		40	460			500	150						
Marion P. Mahone	170	150	1500	160	2	2	7		5		50	585			500	60						
George Mahone	160	360	2400	200	2	3	6		16		40	661	49		900	60						
Wm. Taylor	200	360	7860	150	2	2	8	2	13		90	825	80		700	250						
Geo. Taylor	175	145	2000	125	4		6	2	8		18	265	65		1000	50						
James M. Taylor	45	375	1200	10	1		5		6		12	150			200							
W. W. Moore	300	780	5000	300	1	5	16	2	30	28	60	1800	45	22	1500	800						
J. H. Brewster	70	110	500	10	2		4		11		10	200	15		200							
Leah Brooks	50	30	525	80	2		4	2	4		19	330	16		300	80						
Oliver Fleming	160	300	9220	500	5		4	2	20		50	550	40		800							
Geo. Jones	115	125	2000	75	2		4	2	10		30	360	38		800	25						
William Moore	130	120	2000	75	2	2	5	2	8	15	30	250	26		600	80						
John Taylor	100	15	920	75	2		4	2	9	10	30	400	80	10	120	100						
James Taylor	40		150	5	2		3		3		25	225			300							

1850 Agricultural Census

Page No. 115		SCHEDULE 4.—Productions of Agriculture in the North Division in the County of Mason in the Post Office of Auburn																			
NAME OF OWNER, AGENT, OR MANAGER OF THE FARM.	ACRES OF LAND.		CASH VALUE OF FARM.	VALUE OF FARMING IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY.	LIVE STOCK, JUNE 1, 1860										PRODUCE DURING THE YEAR.						
	Improved.	Unimproved.			Horses.	Asses and Mules.	Milk Cows.	Other Cattle.	Swine.	Value of Live Stock.	Wheat, bushels of.	Rye, bushels of.	Indian Corn, bushels of.	Oats, bushels of.	Hay, tons of.	Tobacco, lbs. of.	Glazed Cotton, bales of 400 lbs. each.	Wool, lbs. of.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
1 L. L. Roberts	125	114	6000	300	3	10	11	4	34		120	3585	89		1300	200			99	1	
2 Geo. B. Martin	60	60	2000	50		2	5				20	285			250					2	
3 Oliver Higgins	80	146	1500	75		1	2		4		15	235	20		500				10	3	
4 Wm. R. Stanford	700	1000	1500	500	7	18	12	6	40	8	100	3100			2500	500			100	4	
5 W. J. Elliott	700	1200	25000	700	5	10	50	8	30		150	3000	1450	50	3500		100		137	5	
6 Thos. Glaze	550	350	10000	130	3	8	10	1	30		100	2265	73	28	2500	100			85	6	
7 J. H. Houghney	400	116	25800	150	1	8	1	3	8		100	1900	138		2000	100			81	7	
8 G. W. Wiley	500	220	5000	350	2	5	10		12		50	1200			1500				80	8	
9 Wm. Bradish	170	520	7000	200	1	4	4		9		45	500			600				44	9	
10 Jacob H. Kirby	100	300	3000	25	2	3	15	4	60	4	45	800			800				31	10	
11 W. F. Dismuke	100	320	3200	125	2	1	6	2	15		40	900	50		350				13	11	
12 Daniel Roy	150	235	2000	80	3		11		19	16	30	800	55		500				20	12	
13 J. Williams				6	3	1	3		1		70	550			250				31	13	
14 Jacob H. Pitt	400	350	8000	250	2	9	7	4	15		70	2200			1500				45	14	
15 Russell Berren	400	550	8000	225	2	10	12	3	60	23	120	2600	65		1500				73	15	
16 Churchill Gibson	700	2500	15000	500	4	16	20	4	30	14	150	3500			3000				152	16	
17 James Wright	100	110	2500	200	4	4	4	2			35	800			500				35	17	
18 J. C. Chapman	300	200	5100	200	2	7	12	2	15		50	1500			2000				80	18	
19 Henry Liggett	350	450	9700	300	4	4	5		15		60				1200				48	19	
20 Peter Diskell	850	560	20000	500	8	16	35	4	40		180	5850	110		5000				247	20	
21 A. H. Russell	400	400	8000	300	3	8	4	3	30		55	2475			2500				82	21	
22 G. W. Polley	125	300	3000	400	1	3	8	4	14		50	500			500		10		24	22	
23 Charles O. Whiston	280	50	6000	150	3	3	5		10	6	50	1000			500	50			45	23	
24 W. H. Stafford	400	261	14000	490	1	8	11	4	20		140	2500	100		1000				91	24	
25 Benjamin Rush	350	250	7300	275	3	5	9	4	75		125	1775	100	12	1300				40	25	
26 Wm. Chambers	650	586	14832	400	4	13	6	4	7		140	3800			1200				141	26	
27 Thomas Loughry	400	300	12000	250	7	4	10	4	15		60	250			1350				36	27	
28 Wm. K. Wheat	700	700	22400	500	6	15	30	6	35	18	240	4000	115		5000				303	28	
29 John Thompson	1050	650	19000	600	11	14	15	4	35	77	100	5000	10	40	3500				173	29	
30 Joseph Kirkott	300	215	8000	235	4	2	4	3	20		50	1100			1000				50	30	
31 J. M. Bond	90	80	2000	125	1	2	4		10		25	550			300				35	31	
32 Wm. Colward	350	450	10000	350	3	9	7	6	5		50	2000			3000				96	32	
33 J. H. Cloud	400	300	14000	250	1	7	10	4	15		100	1800			2000				75	33	
34 Wm. Montague	300	300	7000	300	1	6	3			40	50	1700			500				50	34	
35 Margaret Cloud	35	32	500	35	1	1	4				25	250			500	7			7	35	
36 James Corbett	350	261	7350	150	7	3	3	2	3		70	750			100				22	36	
37 W. L. Church				35	1	1	1	3			13	250			500	8			21	37	
38 James M. Day	200	150	4000	200		3	3				71	450			1350				75	38	
39 J. H. Floyd	200	410	9150	135	2						25	700			900				33	39	
40 Charles Lloyd	200	410	9150	135	4	4	6	3	3	20	80	1900			1100				68	40	

1860 Agricultural Census

State of Alabama SCHEDULE 2. Slave Inhabitants in Section 21 in the County of Marion State Alabama
 enumerated by me, on the 19 day of Oct, 1850. Wm. H. Gann Ass't Marshal 803

1	DESCRIPTION.				7	8
	2	3	4	5		
NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	Number of Slaves.	Age.	Sex.	Color.	Deaf & dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Number enumerated.
	1	12	F	B		
	1	9	M	B		
	1	8	M	B		
	1	5	F	B		
	1	5	F	B		
	1	3	M	B		
	1	1	M	M		
<u>Wm. H. Gann</u>	1	30	F	B		
	1	28	M	B		
	1	22	F	B		
	1	17	M	B		
	1	12	F	M		
	1	8	M	B		
	1	7	M	B		
	1	4	F	B		
	1	3	M	B		
<u>W. S. Carter</u>	1	60	M	B		
	1	30	M	B		
	1	20	M	B		
	1	20	M	B		
	1	23	F	M		
	1	14	F	B		
	1	14	F	B		
	1	14	F	B		
	1	12	F	B		
	1	6	F	B		
	1	3	F	B		
	1	2	F	B		
<u>Wm. H. Gann</u>	1	20	M	B		
<u>W. H. Thompson</u>	1	50	F	B		
	1	10	M	B		
	1	9	M	B		
	1	5	M	B		
	1	2	M	B		
<u>Wm. H. Gann</u>	1	18	F	B		
<u>Wm. H. Gann</u>	1	28	M	B		
	1	17	F	B		
<u>W. H. Gann</u>	1	30	F	B		
	1	27	M	B		
	1	20	M	B		
	1	14	F	M		
	1	12	F	B		

21
19

23
19

1850 Slave Census

NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.		DESCRIPTION.				No. of Slave houses.		NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.		DESCRIPTION.				No. of Slave houses.			
No. of owners.	No. of female slaves.	No. of male slaves.	No. of female slaves.	No. of male slaves.	No. of deaf & dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	No. of fugitives from the State.	No. of Slave houses.	No. of owners.	No. of female slaves.	No. of male slaves.	No. of deaf & dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	No. of fugitives from the State.	No. of Slave houses.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
J. H. Brown	3	55	M	B			22		3	16	M						
	8	35	M						4	2	M						
	20	25	M						x	2	4	M					
	10	15	M							1	80	F					
	8	10	M						x	2	12	F					
	6	5	M							5	25	F					
	7	3	M							3	18	F					
	3	35	F							4	8	F					
	9	35	F							3	6	F					
	10	20	F							2	1	F					
	13	15	F						John B. Martin	1	24	F					
	5	10	F							1	5	M					
	6	5	F							1	3	"					
	9	3	F							1	2	F					
A. N. Adams	1	30	F	B				1	W. F. Spaulford	5	50	M	B				
	1	21	M							5	40	F					
	1	14	F							5	40	M					
	1	5	M							20	25	M					
	1	3	F							30	10	F					
	1	15	F							3	45	M	B				
F. M. Ligon	1	30	F	B				1	W. J. Scott	3	45	F					
	1	13	M							3	45	F					
	1	11	M							3	35	M					
	1	9	M							6	35	F					
	1	7	M							7	25	F					
	1	9	M							5	25	M					
Wm Jones	2	48	M	B				4		7	15	M					
	2	15	M	"						8	15	F					
	2	12	M	"						10	4	M					
	2	4	M	"						8	4	F					
	1	2	M	"					Thomas Glaze	2	50	F					
	1	50	F							1	34	M					
	3	30	F							2	25	M					
	2	20	F														

ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE.

WILL be sold for cash, on the first Monday in January next, before the Court House, in the town of Tuskegee, two negroes belonging to the estate of Alexander Scott deceased. One is a negro man name Cyrus, young and likely, and about 21 years of age; the other is a likely negro woman name Sylvia, 28 or 30 years of age, and a good fieldhand.

N. J. SCOTT,
F. W. DILLARD,
Admr's.

Nov. 24—lds.

NEGRO STEALING—THIEF CAUGHT.

On Tuesday last, a man named N. Burge, who has been living here for some time, was arrested at the instance of Col. N. J. Scott and placed in confinement to await a trial for conviction, charged with stealing one of Col. Scott's negroes. The circumstances are briefly these: Sometime during last fall a negro boy ran away from the plantation of Scott. He was known to be in the neighborhood for some weeks, but about the first of December he disappeared and was not heard of until last Saturday. On that day a gentleman residing near here came to Col. Scott and showed him a letter which he had received from an uncle of Burge's residing near Macon Ga., making inquiries about a negro which his nephew had sent or carried there and left with him. His uncle is an honest man, and began to suspect that something was wrong, although he knew that this Burge used to own a negro man. From the letter, and other corroborating circumstances, Col. Scott concluded it was his negro, and without letting any one know where he was going, left on Sunday morning for Macon, reached there Sunday night, escaped the vigilance of a brother of Burge's who was watching continually at the depot, hired a carriage early Monday morning, and in company with a brother of Maj White of this place, drove to the residence of Burge's uncle, and by a little maneuvering got the negro, who proved to be his, and brought him back, arriving here on Tuesday, having travelled over 400 miles. Just before getting to town the cars stopped and let Col. Scott get out. He came home, and immediately sent to town and had Burge arrested before Burge knew any thing about it. On Wednesday morning he was tried before Magistrates Grayson and Johnson, and the evidence being so plain, was committed for trial at the next court from whence he will be unavoidably domiciliated in the public receptacle for evildoers.—*Auburn Gazette.*