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# Appendix A

## Merged Mortality and Population Schedules from the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1850 and 1860

Joseph P. Ferrie

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The data were constructed to take advantage of the information on decedents in the mortality schedules and on survivors in the population schedules. These schedules were filled out by census marshals as they went from household to household. After the information on the living family members was inserted into the population schedule, the household was to report information on any deaths that had occurred in the twelve months preceding the census for insertion into the mortality schedules. The population schedules record each individual's place of residence (state, county, township), name, age, sex, race, marital status, occupation, wealth (real estate in both 1850 and 1860; personal wealth as well in 1860), birthplace, literacy, school attendance, and disability. The mortality schedules record each individual's name, age, sex, race, marital status, occupation, cause of death, month of death, and number of days ill before death, as well as the location (state, county, township) of the family that reported the death. Two data sets were constructed by merging these sources.

### **Males Aged Twenty and Over in Fifty Rural Counties in 1850**

Fifty counties were chosen for which computerized mortality and population schedules now exist.<sup>1</sup> Male decedents aged twenty and over from the mortality schedules were merged with male survivors aged twenty and over

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1. Alabama: Baldwin, Blount, Conecuh, Henry, Jackson, Jefferson, Lowndes, Madison, Marengo, Monroe, Shelby, Washington, and Wilcox; Illinois: Clark, Crawford, Gallatin, Grundy, Hamilton, McDonough, Perry, Saline, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott, Stark, Washington, and Wayne; Indiana: Boone, Fayette, Kosciusko, and White; Iowa: Appanoose and Cedar; Kentucky: Simpson and Spencer; Michigan: Ionia and Lapeer; North Carolina:

from the population schedules for the same counties. This yielded a sample of 83,173 individuals (927 decedents and 82,246 survivors). For each individual, the sample contains

- Location (state and county);<sup>2</sup>
- Name;
- Age;
- Race;
- Marital status (single, married, widowed, divorced);
- Occupation;
- Birthplace;
- Whether the individual died in the twelve months preceding the 1850 census; and
- If the individual died, the month and cause of death.

### **All Family Members in Eleven Rural Alabama and Illinois Counties in 1850 and 1860**

Eleven counties were chosen for which computerized transcriptions of the population schedules exist and for which transcriptions of the mortality schedules with families in the order they were visited by the census marshal have been published.<sup>3</sup> By arranging both the population and mortality schedules in the order they were originally written by the census marshals and setting the two lists side by side, it was possible to merge 85 percent of the decedents in the mortality schedules back to the families in the population schedules that reported their deaths. Decedents who could not be linked to surviving families were generally younger adults living away from their families, or the elderly. Families with more than \$10,000 in real estate, or with fewer than two or more than nine members, were excluded. This yielded 39,300 individuals in 1850 (304 decedents and 38,996 survivors) and 52,779 individuals in 1860 (511 decedents and 52,268 survivors). For each individual, the sample contains

- Location (state, county, and township);
- Name;
- Age;
- Sex;
- Race;
- Marital status (single, married, widowed, divorced);

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Northampton and Wake; Ohio: Henry, Pike, Sandusky, and Williams; Pennsylvania: Carbon, Sullivan, and Tioga; Texas: Galveston; Virginia: Charlotte, Fauquier, and Madison.

2. Although the computerized population schedules also report township, neither this variable nor "number of days ill" was included in the computerized mortality schedules. The manuscripts of these schedules will be examined to recover these variables.

3. For 1850, five counties in Illinois (Morgan, Jackson, Union, Saline, and Washington) and one in Alabama (Shelby) were used. For 1860, three counties in Illinois (Perry, Shelby, and Vermilion) and two in Alabama (St. Clair and Tuscaloosa) were used.

- Occupation;
- Individual and family wealth (real estate in 1850 and 1860; personal wealth as well in 1860);
- Birthplace;
- Whether the individual died in the twelve months preceding the 1850 census;
- If the individual died, the number of days ill and the month and cause of death; and
- If the individual survived, his or her level of literacy, school attendance, and any disabilities.

