

Flushing Black, Native American, and Mixed Race Population

Demographic Analysis

1880 federal census, Enumeration District 266

Source: FamilySearch

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GYBX-98J2?wc=X4VQ-HZ9%3A1589409304%2C1589410660%2C1589406982%2C1589398626&cc=1417683>

by Lori Rothstein

728 (Public History), Queens College

Professor Johnathan Thayer

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The 1880 federal census for Enumeration District 266 allows us to begin painting a picture of the Black, Native American, and mixed-race community in Flushing in the late 19th century.

Because the entire 1880 census for Flushing has not yet been examined, and because it is impossible to know whether all of the questions were asked of all households, inferences about the broader community should be made with caution.

Location of Birth

The majority of the 243 Black, Native American, and mixed-race individuals in Enumeration District 266, and/or their parents, were born on Long Island or in New York (state). Only 23 individuals or their parents were born elsewhere, including:

Alabama

Baltimore

Connecticut
Cuba
Maryland
New Jersey
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
Virginia
Washington, D.C.
West Indies
"Southern"

Age Distribution

The population was strikingly young, with roughly 46% under the age of 19, suggesting an established community experiencing a generational turnover.

<5 = 26
5-10 = 39
11-15 = 29
16-19 = 18
20-29 = 42
30-39 = 22
40-49 = 28
50-59 = 23
60-69 = 14
70+ = 2

Gender

Female: 121

Male: 122

Race

Terms are as given in the census. "Mulatto" was applied to individuals of mixed Black and Native American and mixed Black and white heritage. "Indian" is equivalent to Native American.

Black: 216/217 (one record unclear)

Mulatto: 9/10 (one record unclear)

Indian: 17

Occupations

The occupations recorded indicate a diverse array of skills necessary to feed and support the community. Comparison with earlier and later censuses could shed light on whether some occupations persisted across generations of the same family.

Men (18+)

Men's occupations were recorded more specifically than those of women. The terms for occupations were not standardized. No occupation was listed for a few adult males. One 40-year-old's occupation was unlisted because he died during the census year.

Barber: 2

Bay man/Bayman/Work in bay: 11

Boatman: 2

Coachman: 6

Cook: 1

Farm hand/Farmer/Works on farm: 6

Fisherman: 1

Groom: 3

Laborer: 44

Oysterman: 3

Servant: 3

Stonemason: 1

Waiter: 1

Women (18+)

An occupation was not recorded for some adult females. The range of occupations is much narrower and less specific than for men. "Servant" was applied (with three exceptions) entirely to women.

House keeper/Keeps house: 38

Servant: 33

Day work/Work (going out): 2

At home (not employed, not female head of household): 3

At school: Age 18: 1; Age 19: 1

Children at Work

Boys: 5

(Laborer, farm hand)

Age 12: 1

Age 13: 1

Age 14: 3

Age 15: 1

Girls: 10

(Servant, "to work")

Age 12: 3

Age 14: 1

Age 15: 2

Age 16: 3

Age 17: 1

Additionally, one 14-year-old girl was keeping house for her siblings, in a family for which no parents were listed.

Children at School

Two children appear to have been listed as truant (scratched out).

Boys: 14

Age 5: 1

Age 7: 3

Age 8: 1

Age 10: 3

Age 11: 2

Age 12: 2

Age 14: 1

Age 15: 1

Girls: 20

Age 6: 3

Age 7: 4

Age 8: 2

Age 9: 3

Age 10: 2

Age 11: 1

Age 12: 3

Age 13: 2

Children at Home (5 and younger)

31

Adult Literacy

Most of the adult population was literate. "Cannot read" and "Cannot write" were indicated for 22 individuals (16 surnames). Additionally, one 14-year-old boy, working as a laborer, was indicated as not able to read or write.

Men: 9

Age 44: 1

Age 29: 1

Age 30: 1

Age 35: 1

Age 45: 1

Age 49: 1

Age 50: 1

Age 65: 1

Age 68: 1

Women: 13

Age 23: 1

Age 29: 1

Age 30: 2

Age 36: 1

Age 39: 1

Age 50: 1

Age 53: 1

Age 55: 2

Age 57: 1

Age 60: 1

Age 69: 1