## 1850 Slave Census Schedule Caroline County, Virginia

In 1850 and 1860, the United States published slave schedules, enumerating the enslaved people in the slave-holding South. The government also published Agricultural and Manufacturing censuses. The purpose of all of these was to assess the economic production of the country.

This document lists the people on John Gouldin's plantation in 1850.

Begin by reviewing the columns with students:

- 1. Name of slave owner
- 2. Number of slaves
- 3. Age
- 4. Sex
- 5. Color (B = Black; M = Mulatto)
- 6. Fugitives from the state.
- 7. Number manumitted
- 8. Deaf & dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic (presumably these were identified because they would have been unable to add to the plantation's profits).

The students should notice that there are no names listed, except for the slave owners. Why might that be?

Students can count how many enslaved people were living on the plantation, figure out how many children there were, figure the average age. See if they can identify families (the census enumerator would have gone from cabin to cabin). Help students to understand that enslaved plantation workers were human beings with aspirations, dreams, fears, and families.

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