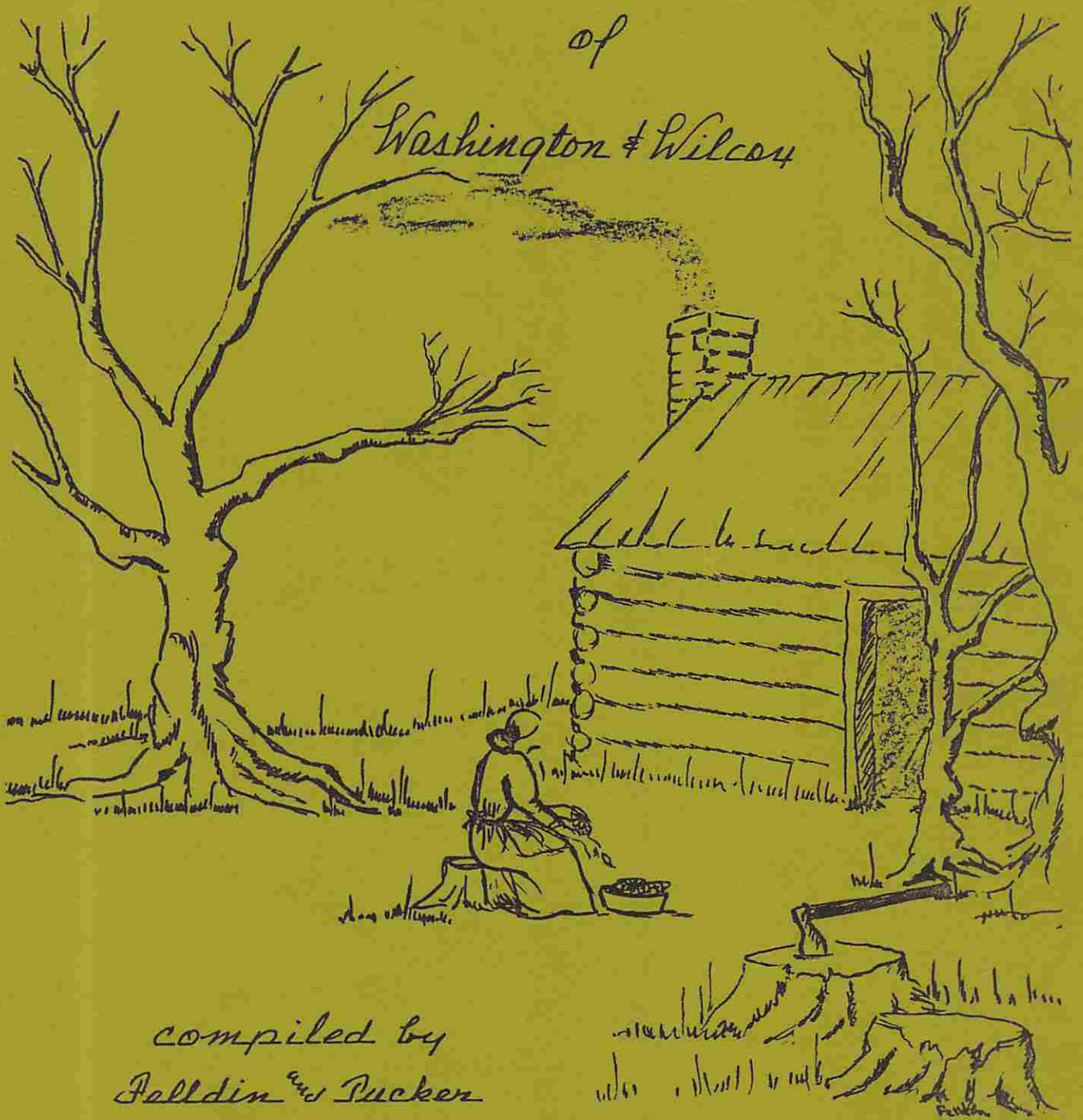


1860
United States Census Surname Index
The Alabama Counties

of
Washington & Wilcox



compiled by
Feldin and Pucker



THE 1860 UNITED STATES CENSUS SURNAME INDEX
THE ALABAMA COUNTIES
OF
WASHINGTON AND WILCOX

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PREFACE

The following index was transcribed from National Archives microfilm copies of the original handwritten census schedules. This automatically spells P-R-O-B-L-E-M-S for the transcriber and the user. Census records mean fading ink, poor spelling, and even poorer handwriting. They mean old script where Js and Is are identical; Ss and Ls could be Siamese twins. They often involve poor reproduction. These problems lead to understandable errors on the part of even the most conscientious transcriber. Unless one has actually read old census records on microfilm, it is impossible to appreciate the difficulties involved. The researcher must take all this into consideration and try all possible spelling variations of his/her surname.

Once in a while we found a name which was completely illegible and were forced to omit it; but if even one or two letters were fairly clear, they have been listed alphabetically. Names which could be interpreted two ways have been entered under both spellings and followed by a "?". Uncertainty has also been indicated by "?".

Page and household numbers were another sore spot. The census enumerator, or the person who bound the pages into books, did not always put household numbers in consecutive order. Sometimes pages are out of order. When this happens and a family is carried on the next page, it becomes necessary to check the household number in order to tell which people belonged in which family. This index uses the page numbers used by the National Archives. They are consecutive, but they sometimes appear on every page, sometimes every other page. In the latter case, unnumbered pages have been given "a" numbers. Page 43a, for example, designates the page between 43 and 44. On rare occasions, there were two or three consecutively unnumbered pages. The second unnumbered page was given a "b" number, the third a "c" number.

The census schedules for 1790 - 1840 show names of heads of families only, other family members being tallied in groups by age, sex, and race. 1850 - 1880 censuses list each person in a household by name (except for slaves in the '50 and '60 schedules. They give, for each person: age, occupation if over 15, and place of birth. The 1880 census also tells the relationship of each person in the house to the head of household.

For a small fee the National Archives will search for your ancestor's name and send you a copy of the specific census entry. Their search is limited to 75 pages and one person. Use GSA form no. 7029 obtainable from the National Archives and Records Service, Washington, DC 20408.

We sincerely hope our small effort is of help to you in your search for your ancestors!

Jeanna Robey Feildin and Charlotte Magee Tucker

Tomball, Texas
1 September 1976

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