

Today in Columbus History: On June 18, 1890, The *Columbus Enquirer-Sun* reported on a Columbus Council meeting that dealt with an important issue: The U.S. Census. Council members felt that the census takers for Columbus were falling behind in their duties -- there were many more people to be enumerated. And so, they proposed that the city supply additional census workers to help in the task. The motion was approved. Sadly to say, virtually all their work was in vain because almost all of the 1890 U.S. Census population schedules were destroyed by a fire in 1921. YES, THE 1890 CENSUS FOR THE WHOLE COUNTRY -- GONE. There were 62,947,714 people enumerated and only 6,160 names are legible. Interestingly, a few pages survived for Columbus -- only about 10 pages, with names on only about 4 of those. In 1890, each family had its own page (this was the only year this one done). The best of the surviving Columbus sheets is for the family of James Deaton, a wholesale grocer and member of St. Luke.

Compiled by Callie McGinnis, Muscogee Genealogical Society

Our snippets of Columbus history are usually based on a few days-worth of searching through the most popular sources for Muscogee County history. Meant to inspire readers to explore more about Columbus history, they are not exhaustive dissertations on the topic and may contain mistakes. If you have corrections or additional information, feel free to share them with the group.

Clipping from Georgia Historic Newspapers (GALILEO).

<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu>

AN IMPORTANT MOVE.

THE CITY COUNCIL TO LEND AID TO THE CENSUS ENUMERATORS.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, June 18, 1890.—Pursuant to call of the Mayor, the Board met at 4:30 o'clock p. m. Present—His honor, Mayor Dozier, Aldermen Epping, Kirven, Tarver, Foley, Curtis, Bush, White and Abney. Absent—Aldermen Garrett, McPhail, Swift, Humber, Joseph, Marcrum, Clegg and Farmer.

His Honor, the Mayor, said that he had called the meeting to consider a subject of great interest to the city; that the time for the completion of the work of the census enumerators would expire in a day or two and, of his own knowledge and the statements of a number of citizens, that there were a number of persons who had not yet been called upon by the enumerators, and he would suggest that steps be taken to get the names of such persons and have the proper authorities call upon them that they might not be omitted from the enumeration.

Alderman Foley moved that the Mayor be authorized to employ a sufficient number of persons, at such pay as he deemed proper, to canvass the city and get the names and locations of all persons who had been overlooked by the census enumerators, and furnish the same to the proper authorities, that they might be called upon and properly counted. Adopted.

Georgia > Muscogee > Columbus > District 85

1	Original name in full, and surname.	James, L. Deaton	Mary Deaton	Larrie Deaton	James, L. Deaton	Mariah Belones
2	Whether a soldier, sailor, or marine during the civil war (U. S. or Conf.), or sailor of such period.	Salv	x	x	x	x
3	Relationship to head of family.	Head	wife	Daughter	Serv	
4	Whether white, black, mulatto, quadroon, octoon, Chinese, Japanese, or Italian.	white	white	white	white	white
5	Sex.	Male	Female	Female	Male	Female
6	Age at census (including, if exact one year, give age in months).	45	30	12	10	40
7	Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced.	Married	Married	Single	Single	Single
8	Whether married during the census year (June 1, 1890, to May 31, 1891).	x	x	x	x	x
9	Number of live born children, and number of those children living.	x	3-2	x	x	x
10	Place of birth.	Ga	Ga	Ga	Ga	Ga
11	Place of birth of Father.	U. S.	Germany	Ga	Ga	Ga
12	Place of birth of Mother.	U. S.	Germany	Ga	Ga	Ga
13	Number of years in the United States.	x	x	x	x	x
14	Whether naturalized.	x	x	x	x	x
15	Whether naturalization papers have been taken out.	x	x	x	x	x
16	Profession, trade, or occupation.	Merchant	Housewife	Public school	Public school	x
17	Months unemployed during the census year (June 1, 1890, to May 31, 1891).	x	x	x	x	x

The best sheet from the Columbus 1890 U.S. Census -- for James Deaton and family.
From [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)

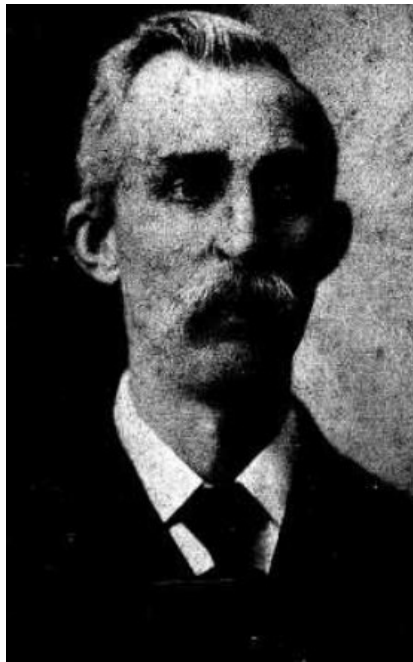
1890 United States Federal Census Fragment

Georgia > Muscogee > Columbus > District 85

		Age	Sex	Color
		7	M	White
		4	F	White
		16	F	White
Wife	no	X	X	X
Children	2-2	X	X	X
Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Kansas
Kentucky	Kentucky	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
Indiana	Indiana	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X
				House

Another sheet (of 10) that survived the fire. Too bad we can't read the names...

From Ancestry.com



James Eugene Deaton -- portrait from Nancy Telfair's History of Columbus, 1828 - 1928.

From Ancestry.com