

# The 1890 Casey County, Kentucky, “Census” Reconstructed from the 1890 tax lists

The United States Census taken as of June 2, 1890, was destroyed by a fire in 1921.<sup>1</sup> As to each household, it had collected the following information:

1. address
2. number of families in house
3. number of persons in house
4. names
5. whether a soldier, sailor or marine (Union or Confederate) during Civil War, or widow of such person
6. relationship to head of family
7. race, described as white, black, mulatto, quadroon, octoroon, Chinese, Japanese, or Indian
8. sex
9. age
10. marital status
11. married within the year
12. mother of how many children, and number now living
13. place of birth of person, and their father and mother
14. if foreign-born, number of years in US
15. whether naturalized
16. whether naturalization papers have been taken out
17. profession, trade or occupation
18. months unemployed during census year
19. ability to read and write
20. ability to speak English, and, if unable, language or dialect spoken
21. whether suffering from acute or chronic disease, with name of disease and length of time afflicted
22. whether defective in mind, sight, hearing or speech, or whether crippled, maimed or deformed, with name of defect
23. whether a prisoner, convict, homeless child, or pauper

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<sup>1</sup> Even though many records survived, they were destroyed in 1933 or so at the direction of Congress.

24. home rented, or owned by head or member of family, and, if owned, whether free from mortgage
25. if farmer, whether farm is rented, or owned by head or member of family; if owned, whether free from mortgage; if rented, post office box of owner

Under Federal law, the details of a census may not be released for 72 years after being taken. This is apparently to protect the privacy of the citizens and their information, as identities might be matched to confidential information in small populations. Although many totals were available within a few months of completing the 1890 census, the only result we have been able to find for Casey County is the total population of 11,848.

The gap between 1880 and 1900 is significant for genealogists, and this research is an effort to partially fill the void.

In 1880, the population of Casey County was **10,983**. In 1890, the population was **11,848**, an increase of only 7.9%. This might lead us to infer that the residents in 1890 were much the same as the residents in 1880, but we had no way to verify that premise or to show that they were not completely or substantially different people. By 1900, the population had grown to **15,144**, an increase of 27.8% in only ten years! We might consider the boom in the Yosemite area from the railroad and logging as a possible explanation.

We are indexing the 1890 Veterans Census, which does survive, and adding to the information originally provided by the veteran, or survivor: the military record from an independent source; the family of the veteran; and, the burial place of the veteran.

In this effort, have digitized from microfilm the raw 1890 tax assessments for Casey County. We are working on a web site to host the digitized pages. These are eight pages for each of the 96 parts, or 768 pages of data.

From the digital data we made one index of taxpayers, together with the precinct, assessment part, acres of land in each parcel, and nearest neighbor to each parcel. This index alphabetizes all taxpayers (resident and nonresident) and takes 83 pages in PDF format. Since it is compiled by tracts, it is redundant for taxpayers owning multiple tracts. This index will be made available on the Internet and is now available in hard copy at the Casey County Library.

Then, we extracted the named "nearest neighbors," eliminated entries without land, and alphabetized the list. This list requires 51 pages to print in PDF format.

Again, since an actual resident may adjoin multiple taxable tracts, this list contains redundancies. This index will be made available on the Internet and is now available in hard copy at the Casey County Library.

Just as the 1790 and 1800 Censuses have been reconstructed from tax lists, with all their imperfections and omissions, we at least have more than we have had before.

If the researcher is lucky enough to find the name of a resident ancestor in the indexes we have prepared, then reference to the raw data will provide answers to the following questions (with answers to the bold questions being included in the index) as to each household:

## Questions presented for the 1890 Casey County, Kentucky, property tax assessments

**Full Name of Tax-Payer, Whether Resident or Non-Resident**

7. (Not used)

– **Precinct in which situated**

8. Number of Thoroughbred Stallions

– **(Part Number on which found)**

9. Value of Thoroughbred Stallions

**1. Land, each tract in acres**

10. Number of Thoroughbred Geldings

– **Nearest Actual Resident**

11. Value

2. Assessed value of each tract with its improvements

12. Number Thoroughbred Mares and Colts

3. (Not used)

13. Value

4. City or Town Lots

14. Number of Stallions of common or mixed stock

5. City or Town in which situated

15. Value

6. Assessed value of each lot with its improvements

16. Number of Geldings, Mares and Colts

of common or mixed stock

17. Value

18. Number of Mules and Mule Colts

19. Value

20. Number of Jacks

21. Value

22. Number of Jennets

23. Value

24. Number of Thoroughbred Bulls

25. Value

26. Number of Thoroughbred Cows and Calves

27. Value

28. Number of Bulls, Steers, Cows, and Calves of common or mixed stock

29. Value

30. Number of Sheep

31. Value

32. Number of Hogs over 6 months old

33. Value

34. Number of Stores

35. Value

36. Value of Watches and Clocks

37. Value of Gold, Silver and Plated Ware

38. Value of Jewelry

39. Number of Diamonds

40. Value

41. Value of Household Furniture in Excess of \$250.00 Worth

42. Number of Paintings other than Family Likenesses and Prints

43. Value

44. Value of Professional Library in Excess of \$250.00 Worth

45. Value of Piano Fortes and other Musical Instruments

46. Value of sewing and Knitting Machines over \$30.00 in value.

47. Value of Safes

48. Value of Wagons, Carriages, Barouches, Buggies, and vehicles of every description

49. Value of Raw Material to be used in Manufacturing

50. Value of Manufactured Articles	Property subject to Equalization (This should include value columns 4 to 63, inclusive)
51. Value of Manufacturing Implements and Machinery in of all Kinds	
52. Value of Agricultural Implements and Machinery in excess of \$250.00	65. Total Equalized Value of Real and Personal Property (This is not to be filled up by the Assessor.)
53. Value of Agricultural Products of all kinds (Not raised this year.)	66. Credits or money at Interest either in or out of this State
54. Value of Corporate Franchise	67. All Other demands against Corporations in or out of the State
55. Value of Slaughtered Animals	
56. Present Annual Value of Annuities and Royalties	68. Money in possession, or on deposit with Corporations or Persons in or out of this State
57. Number of Steamboats, Sailboats, or other Water Craft, or any interest therein	69. Bonds of all kinds except U.S. Government Bonds
58. Value	70. Stocks not paid on by Corporation
59. Value of Patent Rights and Value of Territory in which to sell patents	71. Value of all Judgments or Notes in suit or in the hands of another
60. Value of Steam Engines, including Boilers	72. Value of all other property after deducting debts
61. Value of Mineral Products, Oil, Gas and Salt Wells	73. Total assessed value of Personal Property not subject to Equalization (This should include Columns 66 to 72, inclusive.)
62. Value of all Wines, Whiskies, Brandies and mixtures thereof, not in Bond	
63. Miscellany – Value of all Property not hereinbefore specified	74. Grand Total Value of Real and Personal Property upon which tax is to be collected (for this add Columns 65 and 73.) (This is not to be filled up by the Assessor.)
64. Total Value of Real and Personal	

75. (Not used)	88. Bushels of Oats
76. Males over 21 years	89. Bushels of Barley
77. Legal Voters	90. Bushels of Clover and Grass Seed
78. Enrolled Militia	91. Tons of Coal
79. Children between 6 and 20 years	92. Tons of Pig Metal
80. Number of Bulls, Studs and Jacks	93. Tons of Bloom
81. Rates per season	94. Tons of Bar Iron
82. Tavern Licenses	95. Number of Acres of Wheat
83. Pounds of Tobacco	96. Number of Acres of Corn
84. Pounds of Hemp	97. Number of Acres of Meadow
85. Tons of Hay	98. Number of Acres of Woodland
86. Bushels of Corn	99. Number of Cattle Exempt from Taxation
87. Bushels of Wheat	100. Value

Notice particularly Items 76 through 79, as these may help to identify or verify the family and its members. We should be able to estimate the number of females over 21 from the number of males, and the number of children under six from the average of children aged six to twenty. Nevertheless, from other research we can determine that not all males over 21 were listed.

In order to take the tax assessment, the county was divided into nine “precincts.” Whether these coincided with existing magisterial precincts is not known.

The assessments were made on sequentially numbered “parts” which could contain up to forty taxpayers or properties per part. Since the parts were numbered from

one to ninety-six, knowing the part number is more important than knowing the precinct number. The actual breakdown is as follows:

Precinct 1	.....	Parts 1 through 16
Precinct 2	.....	Parts 17 through 31
Precinct 3	.....	Parts 31 through 43
Precinct 4	.....	Parts 44 through 53
Precinct 5	.....	Parts 53 through 67
Precinct 6	.....	Parts 67 through 72
Precinct 7	.....	Parts 73 through 78
Precinct 8	.....	Parts 79 through 92
Colored 9	.....	Parts 93 through 96

The raw data was on microfilm at the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives and has been converted to digital in its negative format. For ease of printing, we will also scan and provide this on our website in positive format.

The primary data taken in the field was probably in household sequence, but that copy has not been found, thus eliminating some very interesting and valuable information. The secondary copy was not perfectly alphabetized, but all names starting with the same letter in the same precinct were listed together.

The master indexes we have compiled have names in two formats: Names of taxpayers, whether residents or not; names of nearest actual residents to the property. Consulting both may assist in identifying families and their location in the county.

Please provide your family information for the vertical family files in the Casey County Library. Unless we record our memories, they will be lost to future generations.

As we examine the results that follow, it will be helpful to know that, based solely on inflation, each 1890 U.S. dollar would be worth \$25.41 in 2016. We were surprised that the difference was not greater. In the discussion, where it is meaningful to compare, we will do the math for you. The totals from the tax lists are analyzed:

<b>1.</b>	<b>Land, each tract in acres</b>	<b>231,587</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Assessed Value of Each Tract With Its Improvements</b>	<b>\$1,030,898</b>

The Tax Assessment shows a total of 231,587 acres of land worth a total of \$1,030,898. This is an average of **\$4.45** per acre, were all acres equal.

We were surprised to find that the exact acreage for Casey County is not easily verified. Estimates recalled or located have ranged from 435 to 446 square miles. Since there are 640 acres per square mile, this would be a range from 278,400 acres to 285,440 acres. Thus, the tax rolls show unreported acreage of between 46,813 and 58,853 acres. Using averages, a shortage of 52,833 acres from a total 281,920 acres would be 18.74%, and those 52,833 acres would have been worth about \$23,286.

<b>4.</b>	<b>Number of City of Town Lots</b>	<b>203</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>City or Town in which situated</b>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Assessed value of each lot with its improvements.</b>	<b>\$33,196</b>

Cities specifically recognized were Liberty, Yosemite, Middleburg, Dunnville and Jacktown. A total of 203 town lots were listed and, with their improvements, were valued at a total of \$33,196. This is an average of only \$163.53, so surely many vacant lots were listed.

#### **Highest and lowest and range?**

<b>8.</b>	<b>Number of Thoroughbred Stallions</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Value of Thoroughbred Stallions</b>	<b>\$770</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Number of Thoroughbred Geldings</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Value,</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Number Thoroughbred Mares and Colts</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>13.</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>\$0</b>

The use of the term “thoroughbred” in the context of this tax assessment is confusing because the same term is used to classify cattle. We don’t remember Churchill



Downs having a Milk Cow Derby on the first Saturday of May. More likely, this term is synonymous with “pure bred.” Therefore, these horses could be any breed other than the race horses we now commonly call “thoroughbreds.”

There were three horses reported as thoroughbred stallions and they were worth a total of \$770, or an average of **\$256.67** each.

No one reported owning any thoroughbred geldings, mares or colts.

14.	<b>Stallions, Common or Mixed</b>	<b>18</b>
15.	<b>Value</b>	<b>\$2,750</b>
16.	<b>Number of Geldings, Mares and Colts of common or mixed stock</b>	<b>28,224</b>
17.	<b>Value</b>	<b>\$169,194</b>
18.	<b>Number of Mules and Mule Colts</b>	<b>843</b>
19.	<b>Value</b>	<b>\$56,622</b>
20.	<b>Number of Jacks</b>	<b>27</b>
21.	<b>Value</b>	<b>\$4,203</b>
22.	<b>Number of Jennets</b>	<b>32</b>
23.	<b>Value</b>	<b>\$1,285</b>

This group is of horses, mules and donkeys of common or mixed stock. They were the work animals that pulled the economy prior to tractors and the internal combustion engine, and they were transportation.

Of horses, we had 18 stallions worth a total of \$2,750.00, or **\$152.78** each. From here you might fast forward to questions #80 and #81. There, we will learn that 24 bulls, studs or jacks were held for service and that the average service or “cover” fee was

\$6.46. Even today, cover or stud fees are a major factor in the thoroughbred race horse industry and artificial insemination is not allowed.

Of geldings, mares and colts, we had **28,224** worth a total of **\$169,194.00**, or an average of **\$5.99** each.

Of mules and mule colts, we had 843 head worth \$56,622, or **\$67.17** each.

We had 27 jacks (male donkeys) worth \$4,203.00, or **\$155.67** each, on average. Jennets (female donkeys) totaled 32 worth \$1,285.00, or \$40.16 each. A donkey jack, with 62 sets of chromosomes, and a horse mare, with 64 sets of chromosomes, produce a mule, with 63 sets of chromosomes and sterile; a horse stallion and a donkey jennet produce a “hinny” with the same chromosomal imbalance and sterility. Mules and hinnys have different physical traits, abilities and personalities.<sup>2</sup>

Male mules were generally neutered to make them more docile.

<b>24.</b>	<b>Number of Thoroughbred Bulls</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>25.</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>\$184</b>
<b>26.</b>	<b>Number of Thoroughbred Cows and Calves</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27.</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>\$292</b>

Again assuming the term “thoroughbred” to mean “pure bred,” we had eight pure bred bulls worth \$184.00, or \$23.00 each.

Pure bred cows and calves accounted for 26 head worth \$292.00, or 11.23 each.

We have no way of knowing the breed of the bulls or cows and that makes comparisons to current values impossible. Further, what was cutting edge animal husbandry in 1890 is unlikely to be of importance today.

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<sup>2</sup> See “<http://luckythreeranch.com/lucky-three-ranch-training/mule-facts/>”.

<b>28.</b>	<b>Number of Bulls, Steers, Cows, and Calves of Common or Mixed Stock</b>	<b>2,257</b>
<b>29.</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>\$25,838</b>
<b>30.</b>	<b>Number of Sheep</b>	<b>6,009</b>
<b>31.</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>\$11,511</b>
<b>32.</b>	<b>Number of Hogs over 6 Months Old</b>	<b>9,280</b>
<b>33.</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>\$30,202</b>

This is a grouping of common or mixed breed stock. These animals would appear to serve no purpose other than as food, or perhaps fibre.

What we would ordinarily call “cattle” totaled 2,257 head worth \$25,838.00, or an average of \$11.45. Oddly, the legal term “cattle” includes many other species not generally referred to as cattle. Kentucky Revised Statutes 446.010(8) specifies that “‘Cattle’ includes horse, mule, ass, cow, ox, sheep, hog, or goat of any age or sex.”

There were 6,009 sheep worth \$11,511.00, or only **\$1.92** each. One might have thought wool and mutton more valuable.

Who doesn’t love bacon? There were 9,280 head of hogs over six months old. They were worth \$30,202.00, or \$3.25 each.

<b>34.</b>	<b>Number of Stores</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>35.</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>\$46,744</b>

Scattered about the county were 41 stores. Doubtless, these stores had “drummers” going door to door selling their wares, as this writer’s grandfather did at about that time. These stores had an aggregate value of \$46,744, making the average store worth \$1,140.10.

**Store values ranged from a low of \$xxx to a high of \$zzz, with the most valuable having been owned and operated by yyy.**

<b>36.</b>	<b>Value of Watches and Clocks</b>	<b>\$6,274</b>
<b>37.</b>	<b>Value of Gold, Silver and Plated Ware</b>	<b>\$195</b>
<b>38.</b>	<b>Value of Jewelry</b>	<b>\$7</b>
<b>39.</b>	<b>Number of Diamonds</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>40.</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Naturally, the tax assessor wanted it all, right down to your pocket watch. Actually, in this grouping of jewelry and similar items, we cannot distinguish among the many types of time pieces from pocket watches to grandfather clocks, as only gross values were reported. Even in one household, the value does not betray the number. Gross value of watches and clocks was **\$6,274.00**. Households reported time pieces ranging in value from xyz to xyz.

A few people had gold, silver or plated ware worth a total of \$195.00.

The total for jewelry was only \$7.00, and no one confessed to owning a diamond. So much for Jared's.

<b>41.</b>	<b>Value of Household Furniture in Excess of \$250.00 Worth</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>42.</b>	<b>Number of Paintings Other than Family Likenesses and Prints</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>43.</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>44.</b>	<b>Value of Professional Library in Excess of \$250.00 Worth</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>45.</b>	<b>Value of Piano Fortes and other Musical Instruments</b>	<b>\$3,420</b>
<b>46.</b>	<b>Value of sewing and Knitting Machines over \$30.00 in value</b>	<b>\$547</b>
<b>47.</b>	<b>Value of Safes</b>	<b>\$277</b>
<b>48 .</b>	<b>Value of Wagons, Carriages, Barouches, Buggies, and vehicles of every description</b>	<b>\$24,894</b>

This grouping would appear to be personal property intended for household or professional use.

Surprisingly, no one reported owning household furnishings worth more than \$250.00. If you are counting, notice this exemption of the first \$250.00 of value.

No one had a painting (other than of a family member) worth reporting. While it is not surprising that there were no actual paintings in this area in 1890, we would expect to find many daguerreotypes (reversed image on silver) and tintypes (reversed image on tin) as these boomed in popularity during the Civil War. Every soldier had to have his portrait, perhaps his last, made with his firearms and knives before he went off to war. We would not expect to find many calotypes (actual prints using paper “negatives”) or collodion prints (prints made from negatives on glass).

The exemption for a professional library was \$250.00, and no one reported owning a library worth more than that. Surely there were ~~cockroaches~~ lawyers then. Just joking, as this writer was a lawyer before getting saved. Actually, we know that Col. Silas Adams was a Liberty resident practicing law at that time, and that Col. Frank L. Wolford owned land and frequently practiced cases here from his office in Columbia.

Ten years earlier, in 1880, Casey County boasted eight lawyers: Silas Adams (39, died 05/05/1896 at 55); Arrastus Clark (40); Wallace Jones (26); Masterson Peyton (23); William V. Repert (20); **John B. Stone (33)**; Andrew B Williams (45); John A. Wolford (23). Col. Silas G. Adams had been shot in the head during the Civil War and immediately qualified to become a lawyer.

In 1890, from our tax and residence indexes, the following five individuals might match the lawyers from either 1880 or 1900: Silas G. Adams; A.R. Clark; William B. Cochran; J. Boyle Stone; and, George E. Stone.

Ten years later, in 1900, we had seven lawyers, with only one being the same as in 1880: John D. Beldon (70); William Brandden Cochran (38); George P. Fogle (27); **John B. Stone (53)**; George E. Storie (51); Milford E. Tartar (51); and, Patrick H. Taylor (32). Given the difficulty of establishing a legal practice, it seems odd that the legal community would be in such flux.

The category of value of piano fortes and other musical instruments makes it impossible to determine the precise number or type. We can determine the number of households reporting ownership as xxx. Further, the total value of pianos and musical instruments was \$3,320.00, so the average was \$xxx. Comparing this to other categories, this would appear to be one of which we might be proud.

Sewing machines would appear to have been a necessity, so there was an exemption of the first \$30.00 in value. Over that threshold, xyz households reported owning \$547 of value of sewing machines.

There were xyz reports of safes worth \$277.00, or an average of about \$xyz.

In 1928, during a time of national prosperity, Republican Presidential candidate Herbert Hoover made the outrageous (for the time) campaign promise of a "chicken in every pot and two cars in every garage." In 1890, the affluent needed two carriages in every garage. The actual number of carriages, buggies, bicycles, and wagons is not stated, but the total values of wagons and carriages was \$24,894.00.

<b>49.</b>	<b>Value of Raw Material to be used in Manufacturing</b>	<b>\$571</b>
<b>50.</b>	<b>Value of Manufactured Articles</b>	<b>\$3,855</b>
<b>51.</b>	<b>Value of Manufacturing Implements and Machinery in of all Kinds</b>	<b>\$784</b>

The tax assessor wanted to know about manufacturing. The first question was addressed to raw materials held to be manufactured into finished products, and he found only \$571.00 worth.

In finished manufactured articles, wholly unspecified as to type, the assessor found \$3,855.00.

The implements and machinery required to manufacture these products, reported by xyz owners, were worth \$784.00.

<b>52.</b>	<b>Value of Agricultural Implements and Machinery in excess of \$250.00</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>53.</b>	<b>Value of Agricultural Products of all kinds (Not raised this year)</b>	<b>\$404</b>

The was an apparent exemption of the first \$250.00 of farm equipment, and the result was that no one reported owning equipment worth more than the exemption.

As for agricultural products held over from a previous crop year, the tax assessor found a total of \$404.00.

54.	Value of Corporate Franchise	\$0
55.	Value of Slaughtered Animals	\$0
56.	Present Annual Value of Annuities and Royalties	\$0
57.	Number of Steamboats, Sailboats, or other Water Craft, or any interest therein	0
58.	Value	\$0
59.	Value of Patent Rights and Value of Territory in which to sell patents	\$140
60.	Value of Steam Engines, including Boilers	\$23,100
61.	Value of Mineral Products, Oil, Gas and Salt Wells	\$0
62.	Value of all Wines, Whiskies, Brandies and mixtures thereof, not in Bond	\$530
63.	Miscellany – Value of all Property not hereinbefore specified	\$3,011

This category of disparate items was largely irrelevant to the boondocks. There were no corporate franchises, slaughtered animals on hand (although we pray that every household had a few sugar cured hams), annuities, royalties, steamboats, sailboats, other water craft, mineral products, or oil wells to be found.

On the other hand, undescribed patent rights were worth \$140.00. It is unclear whether these were patents such as issued by the Federal Patent Office or patents to unclaimed land, but the latter is more likely. Xyz?

Steam engines and boilers were fairly common with xyz reports of ownership and total value of \$23,100.00. **Why? Sawmills?**

And, when it all went south, we were holding \$530.00 worth of wines and whiskies across xyz households. Notice from #82 below that there was not a single tavern license in the county.

Finally, a catchall category of the value of all property not hereinbefore specified caught all of \$3,011.00.

64.	<b>Total Value of Real and Personal Property subject to Equalization (This should include value columns 4 to 63, inclusive)</b>	<b>\$1,481,698</b>
65.	<b>Total Equalized Value of Real and Personal Property (This is not to be filled up by the Assessor.)</b>	
66.	<b>Credits or money at Interest either in or out of this State</b>	<b>\$102,621</b>
67.	<b>All Other demands against Corporations in or out of the State</b>	<b>\$3,235</b>
68.	<b>Money in possession, or on deposit with Corporations or Persons in or out of this State</b>	<b>\$13,070</b>
69.	<b>Bonds of all kinds except U.S. Government Bonds</b>	<b>\$14,194</b>
70.	<b>Stocks not paid on by Corporation</b>	<b>\$0</b>
71.	<b>Value of all Judgments or Notes in suit or in the hands of another</b>	<b>\$72</b>
72.	<b>Value of all other property after deducting debts</b>	<b>\$600</b>
73.	<b>Total assessed value of Personal Property not subject to Equalization (This should include Columns 66 to 72, inclusive.)</b>	<b>\$133,792</b>



74.	<b>Grand Total Value of Real and Personal Property upon which tax is to be collected (for this add Columns 65 and 73.) (This is not to be filled up by the Assessor.)</b>	<b>1,615,490</b>
75.	<b>(Not used)</b>	

Aside from the totals, which we will consider in a moment, this is a category of intangible assets. Residents reported \$102,621.00 in money loaned at interest. It is not clear whether this includes the banking system, but two questions later the questionnaire specifies cash on hand or on deposit, so we assume that question #66 covers only intra-personal loans.

Other demands against corporations (an unusual category) totaled \$3,235.

Cash on hand or on deposit totaled \$13,070.00.

Bonds, other than U.S. Government bonds, totaled \$14,194.00. These could have included local toll road bonds.

No one reported corporate stock which did not pay dividends, another strange category.

The value of uncollected judgments or notes in litigation was only \$72.00.

The catch all of "All Else, Net of Debt" elicited \$600.00, but we have no footnotes or other way of knowing what this might have included.

Turning back to the totals, real estate and tangible personal property, prior to "equalization," totaled \$1,481,698.00.

In 1883, the legislature created a state board of equalization in order to neutralize disparate assessments throughout the state. We do not know how these totals were adjusted or equalized. Adding intangibles of \$133,792.00, which did not need to be equalized, the total of all taxable real and personal property, as assessed locally, became **\$1,615,490.00**.

Notice that the dollar valuations end at question #75, and the remaining questions do not carry meaningful dollar values and would appear to be merely informational.

76.	Males over 21 years	2,630
77.	Legal Voters	2,625
78.	Enrolled Militia	1,868
79.	Children between 6 and 20 years	3,855

This is the group of questions that was of most interest to us when we began this research. We know from the U.S. Census that we should be able to account for **11,848** residents. In order to identify them, we first transcribed and alphabetized the list of taxpayers, many of whom were duplicated (due to owning multiple tracts of land) and many were nonresidents. Then we transcribed and alphabetized the list of actual “nearest neighbors” to the tracts of land who were necessarily actual residents. From a comparison of the two it quickly becomes apparent that not all residents were listed as taxpayers, perhaps because they owned nothing of value (above exemptions to be considered below).

From the enumeration sheets, **2,630** males over 21 were listed. Perhaps amazingly, all but five were registered to vote! We say “perhaps” because at that time there may have been a “poll” tax on each male over the age of 21 and otherwise qualified to vote.

It seems reasonable to expect to see about the same, or slightly more due to the longer life expectancy, number of females, or another **2,630**.

Of the males, 1,868, or 71%, were enrolled in the militia. This seems somewhat odd at this late date, as 1890 marked the end of the frontier in the United States, and it had passed Kentucky almost 100 years before. The 1870's had witnessed “wars” in the far west against the Apache, Utes, and Sioux. The Five Civilized Tribes (Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek and Seminole) had been moved to Oklahoma decades earlier. The Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars were yet to come. Nevertheless, the populace remained on alert against unknown threats from without.

The category of “Children between 6 and 20 years of age seems ambiguous. Literally, it would include only those “seven years of age through 19 years of age,” but we would think that they intended to mean those “six years of age through 20 years of age,” or of school age. The total was **3,855**, and using the latter definition covering fifteen years we would expect to find 257 children of each age year. Looking ahead, there may have been a higher number of children from six through nine years of age.

Therefore, of children zero through 5, or six full years, we should expect to find about **1,482** young children. It is likely there were more.

The foregoing known and inferred sums total **10,597**, leaving **1,251** individuals to be identified by sex or age.

In 1890, the life of a child was fraught with dangers. Consider the following life expectancy tables:

	Age								
	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
<b>1890 Males</b>									
Additional expectancy	<b>42.5</b>	<b>48.5</b>	40.7	34.1	27.4	20.7	14.7	9.4	5.4
Total Expectancy	<b>42.5</b>	<b>58.5</b>	60.7	64.1	67.4	70.7	74.7	79.4	85.4
<b>1890 Females</b>									
Additional Expectancy	<b>44.5</b>	<b>49.6</b>	42.0	35.4	28.8	22.1	15.7	10.2	5.8
Total Expectancy	<b>44.5</b>	<b>59.6</b>	62.0	65.4	68.8	72.1	75.7	80.2	85.8
<b>2011 Males</b>									
Additional expectancy	76.3	66.9	57.2	47.9	38.6	29.6	21.5	14.3	8.2
Total Expectancy	76.3	76.9	77.2	77.9	78.6	79.6	81.5	84.3	88.2

	Age								
	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
<b>2011 Females</b>									
Additional Expectancy	81.1	71.6	61.8	52.0	42.5	33.2	24.5	16.5	9.7
Total Expectancy	81.1	81.6	81.8	82.0	82.5	83.2	84.5	86.5	89.7

With regard to current (2011) total life expectancy, notice the linear but relatively slight progression as the individual ages. On the other hand, notice that in 1890 there is a tremendous jump in life expectancy if the child just lives to be ten years of age, after which the life expectancy become more linear but with more variation between decades. This naturally leads us to infer that infant or childhood mortality in the 1890's was a very serious issue yet to be solved.

The tremendous jump in total life expectancy at birth of about 43.5 years, to about 59 years if the child lives until ten, may account for some of our missing population. Perhaps an actuary, economist or mathematician more knowledgeable than we can closely estimate the actual number of children between birth and through age twenty, or the actual spread of all ages of the population.

For reference, since its creation in 1806, the population of Casey County has historically been as follows, with our peak having been in 1940:

Year	Population	Year	Population	Year	Population
<b>1810</b>	3,825	<b>1890</b>	<b>11,848</b>	<b>1970</b>	12,930
<b>1820</b>	4,349	<b>1900</b>	15,144	<b>1980</b>	14,818
<b>1830</b>	4,342	<b>1910</b>	15,479	<b>1990</b>	14,211
<b>1840</b>	4,939	<b>1920</b>	17,213	<b>2000</b>	15,447
<b>1850</b>	6,556	<b>1930</b>	16,747	<b>2010</b>	15,955
<b>1860</b>	6,466	<b>1940</b>	<b>19,962</b>	<b>2016 Est.</b>	15,815
<b>1870</b>	8,884	<b>1950</b>	17,446		

<b>Year</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Population</b>
<b>1880</b>	10,963	<b>1960</b>	14,327		

<b>80.</b>	<b>Number of Bulls, Studs and Jacks</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>81.</b>	<b>(Total) Rates per season</b>	<b>\$155</b>

There were 24 bulls, studs or jacks available for rental and the average “season” was \$6.46. One bull, stud or jack should have been capable of multiple seasons or “covers” each year. Now what do you propose to do with that information?

<b>82.</b>	<b>Tavern Licenses</b>	<b>0</b>
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There was not a single tavern license reported in the entire county. **Was Casey County “dry” in 1890?**

<b>#</b>	<b>Agricultural Product</b>	<b>1890</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>83.</b>	<b>Pounds of Tobacco</b>	<b>33,348</b>	<b>681,798</b>
<b>84.</b>	<b>Pounds of Hemp</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>85.</b>	<b>Tons of Hay</b>	<b>2,146</b>	<b>68,464</b>
<b>86.</b>	<b>Bushels of Corn</b>	<b>416,656</b>	<b>757,790</b>
<b>87.</b>	<b>Bushels of Wheat</b>	<b>19,826</b>	<b>93,310</b>
<b>88.</b>	<b>Bushels of Oats</b>	<b>34,476</b>	<b>4,925</b>

#	Agricultural Product	1890	2012
89.	Bushels of Barley	0	11,061
90.	Bushels of Clover and Grass Seed	0	?

It would appear that the tax questionnaire was devised to address the entire state of Kentucky and the following do not apply to this area (even though farms and blacksmiths must have had some bar iron):

91.	Tons of Coal	0
92.	Tons of Pig Metal	0
93.	Tons of Bloom	0
94.	Tons of Bar Iron	0

The following do apply to Casey County and were reported as follows:

#	Agricultural Acreage	1890	2012
95.	Number of Acres of Wheat	2,258	1,726
96.	Number of Acres of Corn	20,817	7,991
97.	Number of Acres of Meadow	2,947	33,435
98.	Number of Acres of Woodland	90,306	?

If #86 represents total bushels of corn produced (#86; 416,656 bushels) in Casey County in 1889 or 1890, and #96 represents total number of acres of corn (#96; 20,817) planted in that year, then the yield in 1890 would have been only about **twenty bushels of corn per acre**, compared to about 150 or more bushels per acre today (although the tables do not support that estimate).

<b>99.</b>	<b>Number of Cattle Exempt from Taxation</b>	<b>4,849</b>
<b>100.</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>\$63,540</b>

Finally, the number of cattle exempt from taxation was 4,849 worth \$63,540.00, or an average of **\$13.10** each. Notice how much more valuable exempt cows were than taxable cows which were worth only about \$11.45 each. Very curious. Actually, we would expect a family to select their most valuable cow or cows, probably milk cows, to claim as exempt.

From the foregoing, we can now list and add the **assets exempt from taxation** as follows:

Household furnishings.....	\$250.00
Professional libraries.....	\$250.00
Sewing machines.....	\$30.00
Agricultural implements and machinery.....	\$250.00
U.S. Bonds.....	100%
Cattle .....	method unknown, but perhaps related to family size

FIN

C:\Reference\Casey County 1890 Tax Census\Article about totals and values.wpd