

early black community of the Capital City. From Bass' census, it appears that a sizable population of black residents, particularly those living in the State Street neighborhood, had a less than permanent home. Most individuals that are part of that group are listed as young, single, wage laborers. Therefore it is understandable how a single man could lose track of who he had already listed at a different address.

Another issue occurs frequently in the neighborhoods of the Blake Addition between downtown and the capitol area. This was a section of town where most of the large black families made their homes at the turn of the century. On several occasions, two different families lived at the same number but different street, e.g. 212 South Ewing and 212 South Beattie. By cross checking the census with the Polk City Directories of 1909, 1910, and 1911, we can determine that Bass simply confused the streets of certain families. Examples like 818 and 918 Breckenridge, both homes of large African American families showcase times when Bass confused the house numbers of individuals living on the same street. Interestingly, this might give historians a better understanding of how Bass performed the census enumeration. A likely theory is that instead of going door to door, as was customary, Bass used places like St. James AME Church or social functions to make a call for Helena's black residents to self-report the data. This makes sense, as several places show next door neighbors listed on two different sheets, many names apart from each other.

Those who search for the Helena census will notice that black residents in 1910 also are listed on the regular census. Names of Helena's black citizens can be found at the bottom of census sheets containing the names of the city's white residents. However, these names were written in a different ink, or perhaps pencil, making the second census practically unreadable today.

83		General Thomas	roomer	M W 34 S	Missouri	Ill
84		Hicks Ladio	roomer	M W 61 S	Missouri	Can Engle
85		Thompson Walter	roomer	M W 20 S	Montana	Ohio
86		Swick Hannell	roomer	M W 34 S	Massachusetts	W. Va.
87		Carlson John	roomer	M W 9 S	Swed. Swedish	Swed. Swed.
88		Barton John	roomer	M W 34 S	Missouri	Pennsylvania
89	325 193 177	James Richard	head	M W 47 B	Ant. Christian	Ant. Broth.
90		Jackson James	bird help	M 13 38 S	Maryland	Virginia
91	300 K X	Thomas Lamm	laborer	M 17 52 S		
92	212	Thomas Eldon	laborer	M 22 35 24 S	Kansas	Alabama
93	430 141	Thomas Perry	laborer	M 22 42 24 S	Kentucky	Kentucky
94		Thomas Perry	laborer	M 22 34 24 S	Missouri	
95	812	Thomas Perry	laborer	M 21 21 21 S	Texas	Texas
96		Thomas Perry	laborer	M 21 18 S	Kentucky	
97	142 14	Thomas Perry	laborer	M 21 24 S	Kentucky	Kentucky
98	21	Thomas Perry	laborer	M 21 21 21 S	Tennessee	Tennessee
99		Thomas Perry	laborer	M 21 21 S	Tennessee	Tennessee
100						

1910 census, Ancestry.com

The information contained in the 1910 Helena Census spreadsheet on this site is derived from checking the names and addresses against city directories, Sanborn insurance maps, and other pertinent information to create the most accurate resource possible.