3-10-2019

WE WORK: The Employment Journey

Reinette F. Jones  
*University of Kentucky, rjones@uky.edu*

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WE WORK : 

The Employment Journey

Black Soil
Sunday, March 10, 2019
Lyric Theatre & Cultural Arts Center
300 E. Third Street
Lexington, Kentucky
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>POPULATIONS</th>
<th>Domestic</th>
<th>Agriculture</th>
<th>Manufacturing</th>
<th>Trade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>236,167</td>
<td>29,414 (M)</td>
<td>37,029 (M)</td>
<td>9,975 (M)</td>
<td>9,654 (M)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>33,412 (F)</td>
<td>1,193 (F)</td>
<td>1,165 (F)</td>
<td>123 (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>222,210</td>
<td>30,594 (M)</td>
<td>38,222 (M)</td>
<td>11,140 (M)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>33,412 (F)</td>
<td>1,193 (F)</td>
<td>1,165 (F)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>284,706</td>
<td>62,826</td>
<td>38,222</td>
<td>11,140</td>
<td>9,777</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
1870 Census: Volume 1. The Statistics of the Population of the United States
1900 Census: Volume I. Population, Part 1
1900 Census Special Reports: Occupations at the Twelfth Census
Kentucky

African American Population

2000
311,878

2010
337,520

Sources:
“The Black Population 2010” Census 2010 Brief
USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service
CIGAR INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

• Yes, Kentucky had a cigar industry.

• Tobacco work in Kentucky was considered “Negro Work.”
  In 1900, African Americans were 2/3 of the total employees in the tobacco industry centers in Winston-Salem (NC), Durham (NC), St. Louis (MO), and Louisville (KY).

• The cigar industry was NOT considered “Negro Work!”
  Of the 1,019 tobacco & cigar factory operatives in Kentucky, there were only 9 African Americans employed in the Kentucky cigar industry in 1900.

• Best cigar industry employment for African American Kentuckians, was elsewhere.
The Hemp Industry

Image from UK Special Collections Research Center, Postcard Collection
HEMP INDUSTRY IN KENTUCKY

- Hemp Industry history and records, including photographs, at University of Kentucky Special Collections Research Center.

- 1st Hemp crop in Kentucky was in Danville, Clark’s Run Creek, in 1775.

- Mid-1800s Kentucky was a major hemp growing state. Slave labor was used in all aspects of hemp growing and processing, especially for hackling hemp. Kentucky led the nation in hemp production.

- An unidentified slave in Kentucky is said to have invented the hemp-brake machine.

- Competing industries were tobacco, livestock, coal, and whisky.

- African Americans continued to work in hemp industry after they were freed.

- Churchill White was living in Talmage, KY, when he invented a hemp brake machine for which he received patent #1358907 on November 16, 1920.
OTHE EMPLOYMENT

• **Shoemakers, Care, and Repairs**  
  [Kentucky #4 in nation for prison-made shoes in 1905. over $20M]

• **Teachers (females)**

• **Cigar Industry (other states)**  
  [African Americans from Kentucky were 46% of cigar and tobacco industry employees in Indiana in 1920]

• **Telephone Industry**  
  No African American women employees in Kentucky until the mid-1960s.

• **Racehorse Jockeys, Trainers, all other aspects (males)**

• **Lawyers (males)**

• **Libraries & Librarians (females)**
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