

**Great Register of the County of Santa Cruz, California, for 1890
transcribed, annotated, and edited
by Stanley D. Stevens
Santa Cruz, Calif., 2010**

Introduction

Researchers of information about Santa Cruz County residents appreciate having every possible source available. This is especially true of the *Great Register of voters for 1890*. It is widely known that the U.S. Census of 1890 for California is not available due to a fire in 1921. Therefore, this compilation may serve as a valid substitute for many research queries.

Most of the original 1890 population schedules were destroyed or badly damaged by a fire in the Commerce Department in 1921. Records enumerating only 6,160 individuals—less than one percent of the schedules—survived. Unfortunately, no complete schedule for a state, county, or community survived, but only the following fragments:

1. **Alabama:** Perry County (Perryville Beat No. 11 and Severe Beat No. 8).
2. **District of Columbia:** Q. Thirteenth, Fourteenth, R.Q. Corcoran, fifteenth, S.R. and Riggs streets, Johnson Avenue, and S Street.
3. **Georgia:** Muscogee County (Columbus).
4. **Illinois:** McDonough County, Mound Township.
5. **Minnesota:** Wright County, Rockford.
6. **New Jersey:** Hudson County, Jersey City
7. **New York:** Westchester County, Eastchester, Suffolk County, Brookhaven Township.
8. **North Carolina:** Gaston County, South Point Township and River Bend Township; Cleveland County, Township No. 2.
9. **Ohio:** Hamilton County (Cincinnati) and Clinton County, Wayne Township.
10. **South Dakota:** Union County, Jefferson Township.
11. **Texas:** Ellis County, J.P. no. 6, Mountain Peak, and Ovila Precinct; Hood County, Precinct no. 5; Rusk County, Precinct no. 6 and J.P. no. 7; Trinity County, Trinity Town, and Precinct no. 2; Kaufman County, Kaufman.

This CD-ROM contains a transcription of the *Great Register for 1890* that has been annotated and edited to **include the missing data** that was **not** published in the three-volume *California 1890 Great Register of Voters Index* (see below).

I am indebted to Wayne Thalls of the *Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County*. He produced the initial CD-ROM from which I downloaded the basic data that had been submitted to the state-wide project. Then I checked each and every entry, added the missing data, corrected errors, and annotated data wherever appropriate.

The *Great Register* for 1890, published by then County Clerk Ed Martin, has a few errors and omissions. I also found this was true of the three-volume set, *California 1890 Great Register of Voters Index*. I have made those corrections and believe that my compilation is more representative of the original, manuscript *Great Register*.

The additional material that I have added to this CD-ROM, in particular the Precinct boundary descriptions, will provide tools for further research for those who might have the need to look beyond the published data.

See Appendix A for boundary descriptions of the Precincts of Santa Cruz County used for the 1890 Election.

The Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County participated in the statewide indexing of the 1890 *Great Register of Voters*, chosen to provide a partial substitute for the lost United States census for that year. The project, which took eleven years to complete, was organized by the California State Genealogical Alliance, a consortium of genealogical societies throughout California. Its *California 1890 Great Register of Voters Index*, a three volume set (California State Genealogical Alliance. North Salt Lake, Utah : Heritage Quest, c2001). It indexes 311,028 men living in California in 1890. It includes significant personal information but **not** the naturalization data, **nor** the occupation of the registrant, **nor** the Residence/Precinct in which the registrant lived. (This is the data that I have added.)

The California 1890 Great Register of Voters Index is available at the Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County reading room (Central Branch, Santa Cruz Public Library):

GeneSoc CALIF. 97A, 97B, 97C

It is also available at the UCSC McHenry Library, and may be found as follows:

McH Ref F860 .C345 2001

California Population

California became a territory of the United States of America on February 2, 1848 by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. It was news of the discovery of gold later that same year, however, that resulted in the explosion of California's population. Prior to the discovery of gold, the population was estimated at 15,000 persons. The news of the gold discovery quickly circled the globe and hopeful miners of every nationality migrated to the California gold fields in hopes of finding their share of the precious metal.

By the end of 1849 the California population had reached 100,000. In 1852 it was 224,000, in 1860 the official census showed 380,000, in 1870 the population had reached 650,000, and by 1880, 865,000, and in 1890, 1,208,130.

The 1890 Federal Census established the official count of population in California, as follows:

African-Americans:	11,437	
Chinese:	71,681	
Indian:	12,355	
Japanese:	1,099	
White:	1,111,558	
Total:	1,208,130	California

Santa Cruz County Population, 1890

Santa Cruz County's population was counted as follows:

African-Americans:	58	
Chinese:	767	
Indian:	13	
Japanese:	16	
White:	18,416	
Total:	19,270	Santa Cruz County

Among the adult male population of Santa Cruz County in 1890, 5,239 chose to register to vote; this represented roughly 28% of the total population. Only males, age twenty-one and above, were allowed to vote. Some voters included Hispanic residents, especially those who were automatically citizens as stipulated by Treaties between the United States and Mexico; however, Asians living in California could not vote. African-Americans, based on the adoption of the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1870, could vote.

Phil Reader, historian of African-Americans of Santa Cruz County, has written that:

The 1870 Census enumerated 53 African Americans living in Santa Cruz county. The 15th Amendment was finally ratified in 1870 by a 2/3 majority of the states and Black voter registration began. Within the first three months after the passage of the 15th Amendment, 100% of the black males living in [Santa Cruz] county registered to vote.

Women did not receive the vote in California until 1911; although there was one known exception: the famous stage-coach driver, Charles Darkey Parkhurst, a woman, disguised her identity (which was discovered at her death). Her name appears in the first manuscript Great Register, having registered on April 25, 1867. By a notation within the Register, it is indicated that she did vote in the 1868 election.

California Election Precincts

The California Political Code, Sections 1127-1129 (in effect for the 1890 Election) established the method of creating Election Precincts:

1127. The Board of Supervisors, or other Board having charge and control of elections in each of the counties, and cities and counties, of the State, shall, as soon before a general election as is convenient, proceed to divide such county, or city and county, into election precincts, of which there shall be as many as shall be sufficient to make the number of votes polled at any one election precinct to be not more than two hundred, as nearly as can be ascertained.

1128. In the order establishing precincts, the boundaries thereof must be defined.

1129. The Board of Supervisors, or other Board having charge and control of elections in each of the counties, and cities and counties, of the State, may, from time to time, change the boundaries of, create new, or consolidate established precincts; *provided*, that there shall always be as many precincts as shall be sufficient to make the number of votes polled at any one precinct to be not more than two hundred, as nearly as can be ascertained.

See Appendix A for boundary descriptions of the Precincts of Santa Cruz County used for the 1890 Election.

California Great Registers of Voters

The administration of government with this quick growth required that formal voting procedures be implemented to create voter districts and avoid fraud. Voter registration became necessary and the "Great Registers of Voters" were created. The earliest Great Registers were produced in 1866 as a result of the enactment of Chapter CCLXV, Laws of the 16th Session of the California State Legislature; 1865-66. This legislation, approved March 19th, 1866, and known as the Registration Act provided "for the registration of the citizens of the State, and for the enrollment in the several election districts of all the legal voters thereof."

Section 3 of the Act required that "The manner of registration shall be as follows: Clear and distinct entries shall be made in said books, setting forth in separate columns the name at full length (without the use of initials [however, this requirement was often ignored]) of the person registered; his age, omitting fractions of years; the country of his nativity; his occupation; the particular city, town,

township, ward, or district of his residence; if a naturalized foreigner, when where, and by what Court he was admitted to become a citizen of the United States; also the date of registry, and a number affixed to each name, which numbers shall run successively in the order of registration; and to the truth of the facts stated in such entries the person registered shall be duly sworn, which shall also be noted and verified by the word "sworn", to be entered in a separate column opposite his name.

Each county government was directed to establish a Great Register for the voters of their county. The various Great Registers of Voters resulting from this legislation contain a wealth of information concerning the registrants, especially for the foreign-born/naturalized citizens of California, and their occupations.

Santa Cruz County Great Registers of Voters

It can't be emphasized enough that Great Registers include **only those who chose to register**. If a person who was known to be a resident of Santa Cruz County isn't found in the Register, one must look to other sources for data about that individual.

The first *manuscript* (hand-written) Great Register for Santa Cruz County includes registrants beginning in 1866, ending in 1875. The "Political Code of 1872" added a provision that dictated that every California county maintain its Great Registers and print an alphabetical list of voters every two years. It also required updated supplements prior to each election.

Unfortunately, transcription errors are reflected in the printed lists. Hand-written records often leave the transcriber puzzled by what is correct. In my transcriptions (e.g., 1866-1875, 1882, 1890, 1908), I have consulted other sources to determine the correct spelling of a name, place of birth, or naturalization, as appropriate. I have made corrections (often leaving the incorrect name in parentheses). Nevertheless, it is advisable to check the manuscript original if there is any doubt about the use of a name or other data.

The Archives at the Museum of Art & History @ The McPherson Center, (705 Front Street, Santa Cruz), is the repository for the manuscript Great Registers, and some of the printed Indexes.

The first *printed Great Register* was published in 1867 under the authority of Thomas Theodore Tidball, County Clerk, and printed in Santa Cruz at the *Santa Cruz Sentinel Office*, Santa Cruz. It contained data transcribed from the manuscript book. These printed registers have typical Nineteenth Century, explanatory titles:

Great resister containing the names and registration of the domiciled inhabitants of the County of Santa Cruz, who, by virtue of the citizenship, lawful age and other qualifications prescribed by the Constitution and laws, are qualified electors and legal voters thereof.

Special Collections, at McHenry Library, University of California at Santa Cruz, holds copies of the printed registers for the following years: 1867, 1871, 1872, 1875, 1876, 1888, 1892, 1894 (supplement only), 1896, and 1898. The published lists serve as indices to the manuscript Registers; however, they are not always in strict alphabetical order, nor in order by community of residence.

In the original manuscript register, standard information is recorded: name, age (at the date of registration), birthplace (state or country), occupation, local residence, when and where the granting of U.S. citizenship occurred and the court where that took place (if applicable), and the date of registration. Notations appear in some Registers that indicate where and when the individual transferred ("removed") to another California County.

Other *Great registers* of voters for Santa Cruz County, 1900-1944, have been microfilmed and are available at some public institutions:

At McHenry Library, University of California, Santa Cruz, the 3-reel set of film may be found in the Microfilm cabinets near the Reference Desk.

McH Microfrm	JS451.C29S337 1986 1900-1922
McH Microfrm	JS451.C29S337 1986 1924-1936
McH Microfrm	JS451.C29S337 1986 1938-1944

At the Santa Cruz Public Libraries (Central Branch, downtown Santa Cruz) this set is filed with the Microfilm: Call Number: MF 324.025 GRE

Best wishes for successful research.

Stanley D. Stevens 3/01/2010
