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Students and Teachers of the Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in the Federal Census, 1860–1940

In February 1857, the Columbia Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind opened to provide primary education to deaf, mute, and blind children. Located in the District of Columbia, the school attracted students from all over the United States. In 1865, the Institution established the National Deaf Mute College, now known as Gallaudet University.

Enumerating the Columbia Institution

Federal census takers recorded information about who was living at institutions, which included the students and faculty living at the Columbia Institution.

- 1860 Census. *Eighth Census of the United States, 1860* (National Archives Microfilm Publication M653, roll 103) 4th Ward, page 48.
- 1870 Census. *Ninth Census of the United States, 1870* (National Archives Microfilm Publication M593, **roll 127**) Subdivision east of 7th Street, pages 61–63.
- 1880 Census. *Tenth Census of the United States, 1880* (National Archives Microfilm Publication T9, **roll 121**) ED 5, pages 29–32.
- 1900 Census. *Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900* (National Archives Microfilm Publication T623, **roll 158**) ED 18, pages 1A–3A.
- 1910 Census. *Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910* (National Archives Microfilm Publication T624, roll 154) ED 197, pages 1A–1B.
- 1920 Census. *Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920* (National Archives Microfilm Publication T625, **roll 298**) ED 262, pages 1A–1B.
- 1930 Census. *Fifteenth Census of the United States*, *1930* (National Archives Microfilm Publication T626, **roll 298**) ED 233, pages 1A–1B. Unlike earlier censuses, the 1930 census only lists staff and faculty.
- 1940 Census. Available online only. ED 1-462, pages 1A-84B.

For more information, see the following reference report: Annual Reports of the Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, 1857–1927.

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