Assignment Sheet 4: USING THE CENSUS IN SOCIAL HISTORY

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
1. It works best for the people at both archives if we visit them on the same day. So, we’re set to meet at the National Archives by 9:45AM on Saturday, February 11 and next door at the State Archives of Georgia after lunch. This way, you’ll find out early enough in the semester if and when you need to return to do more. There will be no class on Monday, February 13.
2. The review of a book by a professional historian is due on Monday, February 20. Talk to me if you need help in choosing a book. Directions for the review are on a separate sheet.
3. I accidentally left out some pages on the essay by Robert McMath. Sorry. I’ll give you the missing pages in class. McMath will be speaking on “Religion and Higher Education” in Z-6 on Friday, February 17 at 7:00 if you would like to meet him.

REQUIRED READING (available on electronic reserve)
Frederick A. Bode and Donald E. Ginter, Excerpts from Farm Tenancy and the Census in Antebellum Georgia
Darrett B. Rutman, with Anita H. Rutman, “The Village South”
Robert C. Kenzer, Excerpts from Kinship and Neighborhood in a Southern Community
Nancy Shoemaker, “From Longhouse to Log House: Household Structure among the Senecas in 1900"

WEEKLY REPORT SHEET
1. Any thoughts, suggestions, and/or questions inspired by the LAST class meeting.
2. For each assigned reading, summarize BRIEFLY in your own words the main points and thesis, as well as your evaluation of its strengths and/or weaknesses. For the combined readings, indicate any thoughts and/or questions you have, including any terms you want us to discuss and any ideas they inspired about how to do your own research and analysis for this class.
3. What assumptions do these historians have about what factors united and separated people?
4. Summarize what the authors suggest as the main uses, problems, and potential solutions to problems for using census information in historical research, as well as what other kinds of sources and special methods they recommend to supplement using censuses.
5. What do you consider the strengths and weaknesses of using information from the census when doing social history and, particularly, your own research?
6. After browsing the websites for the Southeast Branch of the National Archives (http://www.archives.gov/facilities/ga/atlanta.html) and the Georgia Department of Archives and History (http://www.sos.state.ga.us/archives), what resources at each of them do you think might be especially useful for your research or interesting for other reasons?
7. Give the bibliographic information for a review in a scholarly journal of history about a book related to your research (not the book you are writing about) and any thoughts you have about it.
8. Any new thoughts you have about your final paper and any reading or other work you did in connection to it.
9. Anything else you think I should know.