

HEADS OF FAMILIES AT THE FIRST CENSUS 1790

RECORDS OF THE STATE ENUMERATIONS: 1782 TO 1785,

INTRODUCTION.

The First Census of the United States (1790) comprised an enumeration of the inhabitants of the present states of Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, and Virginia.

A complete set of the schedules for each state, with a summary for the counties, and in many cases for towns, was filed in the State Department, but unfortunately they are not now complete, the returns for the states of Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Virginia having been destroyed when the British burned the Capitol at Washington during the War of 1812. For several of the states for which schedules are lacking it is probable that the Director of the Census could obtain lists which would present the names of most of the heads of families at the date of the First Census. At the census of 1790 the state of Virginia was returned with a population of 747,160, leading, by more than 300,000, Pennsylvania, the second state of the Union in point of population at the First Census. The loss of Virginia's original schedules for the First and Second censuses is so unfortunate that every endeavor has been made to secure data that would in some measure fill the vacancy. The only records that could be secured were some manuscript lists of state enumerations made in the years 1782, 1783, 1784, and 1785; also the tax lists of Greenbrier county from 1783 to 1786. These documents were on file in the State Library and could not be removed therefrom. Through the courtesy of the State Librarian and the members of the Library Board, an act was passed by the legislature allowing the Census Office to withdraw the lists for the purpose of making copies and publishing the names, in lieu of the Federal census returns. The counties for which the names of the heads of families are returned on the state census lists are 39 in number, and contained in 1790 a population of 370,000; 41 counties with 377,000 population are lacking; this publication covers, therefore, only about one-half of the state. A copy of the enumerator's list for the city of Richmond has been obtained, and the data are presented on page 111.

The schedules of 1790 form a unique inheritance for the Nation, since they represent for each of the states concerned a complete list of the heads of families in the United States at the time of the adoption of the Constitution. The framers were the statesman and leaders of thought, but those whose names appear upon the schedules of the First Census

were in general the plain citizens who by their conduct in war and peace made the Constitution possible and by their intelligence and self-restraint put it into successful operation.

The total population of the United States in 1790, exclusive of slaves, as derived from the schedules was 3,231,533. The only names appearing upon the schedules, however, were those of heads of families, and as at that period the families averaged 6 persons, the total number was approximately 540,000, or slightly more than half a million. The number of names which is now lacking because of the destruction of the schedules is approximately 140,000, thus leaving schedules containing about 400,000 names.

The information contained in the published report of the First Census of the United States, a small volume of 56 pages, was not uniform for the several states and territories. For New England and one or two of the other states the population was presented by counties and towns; that of New Jersey appeared partly by counties and towns and partly by counties only; in other, cases the returns were given by counties only. Thus the complete transcript of the names of heads of families, with accompanying information, presents for the first time detailed information as to the number of inhabitants-males, females, etc.-for each minor civil division in all those states for which such information was not originally published.

In response to repeated requests from patriotic societies and persons interested in genealogy, or desirous of studying the early history of the United States, Congress added to the sundry civil appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1907 the following paragraph:

The Director of the Census hereby authorized and directed to publish, in a permanent form, by counties and minor civil divisions, the names of the heads of families returned at the First Census of the United States in seventeen hundred and ninety; and the Director of the Census is authorized, in his discretion, to tell said publications the proceeds thereof to be covered into the Treasury of the United States, to be deposited to the credit of miscellaneous receipts on account of "Proceeds of sales of Government Property:"

Provided, That no expenses shall be incurred hereunder additional to appropriations for the Census Office for printing therefor made for the fiscal years nineteen hundred and seven; and the Director of the Census is hereby directed to report to Congress at its next session the cost incurred hereunder and the price fixed for said publications and the total received therefor.

First Generation

James Bias [2.1]

Was born May 17, 1722 in County Cavan, Ireland. He was the son of **Robert Byers**, born August 13, 1680 at St. Ives, Cornwallshire, England and Louisa Patterson. He was the grandson of William Byers (the Seaman) born August 11, 1647 at St. Ives, Cornwallshire, England and Louisa Kinkade born July 6, 1654 at St. Ives.

James came to America on August 27, 1734 with his family and lived in Chester and Lancaster Counties, Pensilvania. He married Elisabeth Larkin in Lancaster County and moved to Amherst County, Virginia about 1762.

Amherst County, Virginia was formed in 1761 from Albemarle County.

Index for Surveys made by William Cabell, Jr.

10 Mar 1762 Page 192 -- 230 acres for James Bias.

4 Apr 1771 Page 204 -- 53 acres for James Bias.

18 Nov 1772 Deed Book Page 21 James Byous to James Manees Deed of Trust 5 shillings for cows, pigs, dishes etc. Witness: Thomas Hargot

20 May 1778 John Coleman of Amherst Co. to Tyree Slading of Amherst County for (blank) sum. 100 acres. Lines near Huff Creek, top of the mountain, John Coleman, Benjamin Nowel, James Byas.

Witness: John Daniel Coleman, William Peter, Moses Sweeney.

31 May 1783 Deed Book E Page 420 James Bias to William Camden, both of Amherst Co., Va. for £24 50 acres (Patented to Bias 3 Aug 1771 at Williamsburg) on south branch of Huff Creek. Lines: Benjamin Noell, John Coleman, Frye, Stataime, at old cove.

Witness: James Tucker, George Duncan, and John Duncan.

1783 Amherst County, Virginia State Census

James Byas had 6 white persons in his household. James and Elisabeth as head of household and four others. Roland and Lucy are known and two others not known. They would have been daughters. (Elizabeh and Sarah)

Jonathan, Larkin, and Obediah, their sons, were listed separately.

2 Aug 1784 Deed Book E Page 526 James Bias and *ux Elisabeth, to Lemaster Cooksey for £78 for 170 acres on south branch of Huff Creek, part of a patent to grantor at Williamsburg.

Witness: Charles Burrus, Joseph Layme, and William Camden.

Children

Jonathan Bias Born 1740-1750 1830 Amherst Co. Census Page 508

Larkin Bias Born 1750-1760 1830 Amherst Co. Census Page 508

Obediah Bias Born 1750-1760 1830 Logan Co. Va. Census Page 269

Roland Bias Born 1766-1771 1787 Virginia Tax Records

Lucy Bias Born B4 1765 1810 Amherst Co. Census Page 23

*uxorious - having the characteristics of a wife.

SECOND GENERATION

(issue of James [1] and Elizabeth (Larkin) Bias

Jonathan Bias [7.1]

Was born about 1749 in Virginia. He married Sarah In the 1783 Amherst County census they had seven white people in the household. In the 1787 Virginia state census no son was 16 years of age.

28 Jun 1798 John Camden of Amherst Co. to Jeremiah Whitten, Jr. of Amherst County, 100 acres on Pigg Creek. Lines: John Bias, Morris, and John Hogg.

Virginia Genealogist Vol 5 Page 155

1800 Amherst County Tax List - John Bias 1 male over 21 (himself).

1810 Amherst Co Va Census Page 5

John Bias born before 1765. Spouse born 1765-1784. In the household:

2 male born 1794-1800. 1 female born 1810.

Obediah Knuckles “a natural born son of Jonathan” was born 1790

20 Dec 1811 Jonathan and Richard L. Ellis of Amherst Co., to James Ware of Amherst Co., \$600.00 for 332 acres on the Fluvanna River (now the James) Lines: Jonathan Byas, William Noel, near the road, Thomas N. Eubank, Thomas Higginbotham, Robert Knuckles, Corenius Roach Samuel Nicely. To D. Ware 18 Aug 1812.

21 Sep 1812 James Ware and wife, Nancy C., of Amherst Co., to Dabney Ware of Amherst Co. for \$1,105.00 for 282 acres head borders the Shackelford Mill Creek. Lines: William Noel, Anthony Nicely, Jonathan Byas, and a road, Thomas N. Eubank, Thomas Higgenbotham and Robert Knuckles. To A. Ware 20 Jun 1814.

7 Aug 1814 Dabney Ware and wife, Elizabeth of Amherst Co., to Anderson Ware of Amherst Co., for \$705.00 282 acres. Same descriptions above.

2 Sep 1817 Anthony Nicely of Amherst Co. to Anderson Ware of Amherst Co. \$300.00 for 100 acres on Pigg Creek. Lines: Jonathan Byas, Jonathan Hogg’s heirs, Allison Morris, Anderson Ware.

Witness: James Ware, Peter Rucker, Samuel Tuley and R.N. Eubank.

1830 Amherst Co Va Census Page 528

John Bias born 1740-1750. Others were in the household and it appears to have been his son, James R. Bias and family. James was not listed in 1830.

2 Sep 1831 Anderson ware and wife, Cynthia, to Lindsey Burks, \$1,200.00 for 282 acres head borders Thomas Mill Creek. Lines: William Noel, Anthony Nicely, Jonathan Bias, the road, Thomas N. Eubank, Thomas Higginbotham, Robert Knuckles, D. S. Garland and Isaac Rucker Justice of the Peace.

14 Nov 1833 Anderson Ware and wife, Cynthia, to Richard S. Ellis \$1.00 for 100 acres on Thomas Mill Creek, as above. Lines: Jonathan Byas, William Noel, Thomas Morris. bought from Anthony Nicely. Justices as above.

31 Aug 1835 Jonathan Bias, to natural son, Obediah Knuckles, for love and \$1.00 for kindness to me during a long affliction. 100 acres where I live.

Lines: Richard S. Ellis, Talbot Noel.

Witness: Thomas N. Eubank, Jonathan Gue, Archibald Reynolds.