

As is generally known to Virginia researchers, the 1790 and 1800 USCensuses for Virginia were burned by the British during the war of 1812, and the USCensuses for several Virginia counties for 1810 were lost as well. However, various USCensus surrogates have been compiled to fill the gaping hole left by the absent USCensus for 1790.

The principal of these surrogate compilations

Netti Schreiner-Yantis & Florene Speakman Love,

The 1787 Census of Virginia, 3vols (SpringfieldVA: Genealogical Books in Print, 1987)

which has been compiled from the 1787 personal property tax lists of all the counties in 1787 (with one exception) isn’t covered here. However, there are two other such surrogate compilations that are sometimes overlooked:

Heads of Families, First Census of the United States: State Enumerations of Virginia from 1782 to 1785 (WashingtonDC: Government Printing Office, 1908; reprint 1952, Genealogical Book Co)

and

Augusta B. Fothergill and John Mark Naugle,

Virginia Taxpayers, 1782-1787, Other than those published by the United States Census Bureau (1940; reprint 1999. GPC)

in part because they are twain and not everyone has access to copies of both (or to either for that matter) and in part because the latter, generally referred to as “Heads of Families” has only an index to names, and none to the county sections, which are inconveniently organized in the book by the year(s) for which they supplied returns.

The main rationale for this publication is to supply such an index to the pages covered by these county sections in Heads of Families, but also to provide a single comprehensive list of all the Virginia counties (and two independent cities) covered by both of these publications, together with the year date for which each set of county data is predicated. The counties covered only by the supplemental compilations from tax lists, naturally have no paginated reference to *Heads of Families*, but just to be clear, I’ve also prefixed the year dates for the tax lists used by “tax”.

If the 1790 USCensus for Virginia has been lost, what is the source for the individual household tabulations by county in Heads of Families?

In “An act to ascertain the number of people in the Commonwealth”, passed May1782^[1], the Virginia Assembly directed all counties to compile a tally of “the number of white and black persons in each family”, and for the for the county clerk to deliver a fair copy list of same to the governor by December 10th of the year. Only a minority of counties were able to comply in this busy year, but the legislative requirement was renewed (continued) for several years, and over those additional years a majority of counties got around to sending in their returns, some of them piecemeal, over two years.

It’s not widely known that the county totals of persons for each county in the original 1790 USCensus for Virginia survived the depredations of the British, and I’ve included these as well for each county to provide some idea of whether the lists returned by the compliant counties are likely to be complete; after all, we know that many of them were returned piecemeal over several years. The relative sizes of these counties are also of some historical interest.

¹ *Henings Statutes* (1823) 11:40-41

A Consolidated County Index

for Virginia *Heads of Families...* and *Virginia Taxpayers, 1782-1787*

Page#s in VA Heads of Families	Counties	Population as of 1790 ^[2]	
	Accomack, tax1787	13,959	
80-81	Albemarle, 1785	12,585	
11-13	Amelia, 1782	....	
81-83	Amelia, 1785	18,097	Nottoway
47-49	Amherst, 1783	....	
83-85	Amherst, 1785	13,703	
	Augusta, tax1782	10,886	
	Bedford, tax1782	10,531	
	Berkeley, tax1782	19,713	
	Botetourt, tax1784	10,522	Montgomery
	Brunswick, tax1782	12,827	
	Buckingham, tax1782	9,779	
	Campbell, tax1785	7,685	
	Caroline, tax1783	17,489	
	CharlesCity, tax1783	5,588	
13-15	Charlotte, 1782	10,078	
49-51	Chesterfield, 1783	14,214	
	Culpeper, tax1783	22,105	
15-16	Cumberland, 1782	....	
67	Cumberland, 1784	8,153	
	Dinwiddie, tax1782	13,934	
	ElizabethCity, tax1782	3,450	
51-52	Essex, 1783	9,122	
16-18	Fairfax, 1782	....	
85-87	Fairfax, 1785	12,320	
	Fauquier, tax1782	17,892	
	Fayette(KY), tax1787		
18-19	Fluvanna, 1782	3,921	
	Franklin	6,842	
19-22	Frederick, 1782	19,681	
53-54	Gloucester, 1783	....	
68-69	Gloucester, 1784	13,498	
	Goochland, tax1782	9,053	
109-110	Greenbrier, tax1783-6%	6,015	Kanawha (a names only list)
54-55	Greensville, 1783	6,362	
22-24	Halifax, 1782	....	
87-90	Halifax, 1785	14,722	
24-27	Hampshire, 1782	....	
69-72	Hampshire, 1784	7,346	
27-29	Hanover, 1782	14,754	
	Hardy, tax1786	7,336	
90-91	Harrison, 1785	2,080	
	Henrico, tax1782	12,000	

² These population numbers include residents of the indicated newly created counties as of 1790 (Nottoway, etc.)

Page#s in VA Heads of Families	Counties	Population as of 1790 ^[3]	
	Henry, tax1782	8,479	
29-32	IsleOfWight, 1782	9,028	
	JamesCity, tax1782	4,070	
	Jefferson(KY), tax		
	King&Queen, tax1782	9,377	
	KingGeorge, tax1782	7,366	
	KingWilliam, tax1782	8,128	
55-56	Lancaster, 1782	....	
91	Lancaster, 1785	5,638	
	Lincoln(KY), tax1787		
	Loudon, tax1782	18,962	
	Louisa, tax1782	8,467	
	Lunenburg, tax1782	8,959	
32-35	Mecklenburg, 1782	14,733	
56	Middlesex, 1783	4,140	
35-36	Monongalia, 1782	4,768	
	Montgomery, tax1782	13,228	Wythe
56-58	Nansemond, 1783	....	
72-74	Nansemond, 1784	....	
92	Nansemond, 1785	9,010	
36-37	NewKent, 1782	....	
92-93	NewKent, 1785	6,239	
93-96	Norfolk, 1785	14,524	
	Northampton, tax1782	6,889	
37-39	Northumberland, 1782	....	
74-76	Northumberland, 1784	9,103	
	Ohio		
39-40	Orange, 1782	....	
96-98	Orange, 1785	9,921	
	Pendleton	2,452	
40-42	Pittsylvania, 1782	....	
98-100	Pittsylvania, 1785	11,579	
58-59	Powhattan, 1783	6,822	
59-60	PrinceEdward, 1783	....	
100-102	PrinceEdward, 1785	8,100	
	PrinceGeorge, tax1782	8,173	
	PrinceWilliam, tax1782	11,615	
60-62	PrincessAnne, 1783	....	
102-104	PrincessAnne, 1785	7,793	
	Randolph	951	
111-119	Richmond CITY, 1783		
62-63	Richmond, 1783	6,985	
	Rockbridge, tax1782	6,548	
76-77	Rockingham, 1784	7,449	
	Russell	3,338	
63-66	Shenandoah, 1783	....	
104-107	Shenandoah, 1785	10,510	

³ These population numbers include residents of the indicated newly created counties as of 1790 (Nottaway, etc.)

Page#s in VA Heads of Families	Counties	Population as of 1790 ^[4]
	Southampton, tax1782	12,864
	Spotsylvania, tax1782	11,252
107-108	Stafford, 1785	9,588
42-43	Surry, 1782	....
78-79	Surry, 1784	6,227
44-45	Sussex, 1782	10,554
45	Warwick, 1782	....
79	Warwick, 1784	1,690
	Washington, tax1782	5,625
	Westmoreland, tax1783	7,722
45-46	Williamsburg CITY, 1782	
	York, tax1784	5,233

		742,341 ^[5]

⁴ These population numbers include residents of the indicated newly created counties as of 1790 (Nottaway, etc.)

⁵ This overall total for Virginia counties is missing the tallies for the independent cities of Williamsburg and Richmond, as well as the totals for Virginia's western lands ceded to Pennsylvania and Kentucky..