

YES, THERE ARE STATE CENSUSES

By George A. Turner

Forty-three states at different times have conducted their own censuses. States that did not do a census are Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Kentucky, Idaho, and Montana. Usually, but not always, state enumerations took place in a year ending in five. There is a very useful Web site entitled State Census Records: A Census Research Guide found at <http://www.censusresearch.com/stcens.htm>. When you click on a specific state map, you will see a message giving the year(s) when a census occurred.

The following is a list of states bordering Pennsylvania from which a large number of individuals would have moved to the Keystone state. New York had ten state-wide censuses in 1815, 1835, 1845, 1855, 1865, 1875, 1892, 1905, 1915, and 1925. For additional information about the New York state census records, go to the Internet and log on to <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/genealogy/nyscens.htm>. Many New Jersey people became Pennsylvanians. It had seven state-wide censuses in the years of 1855, 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905, and 1915. Delaware only conducted one census which occurred in 1782. Maryland's enumeration took place at the time of Revolutionary War, 1776, and the constables censuses of Charles County in the years 1775 to 1778. Ohio did not undertake an entire state-wide count; instead, for the years 1811, 1819, 1823, 1831, 1835, 1839, 1843, and 1847 there were censuses for only certain counties. The State Census Records Web site stated: "After 1850 many counties have quadrennial enumerations that still exist but are too numerous to list here." Virginia had yearly censuses from 1782 to 1786; however, not all the counties were included.

The amount of census information varies considerably between states as well as those taken at different times in the same state. Despite the lack of uniformity in state census schedules, it is a resource that can provide valuable facts about individuals and particular areas. Likely places to find microfilm copies of these records are at a state archives, state library, state historical society, and certain genealogy societies. Some of the state censuses taken in the 1880s and 1890s can be found at Ancestry.com. To learn more about state censuses, review Ann Lainhart's book, *State Census Records*, and *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*, edited by Alice Eicholz.