

# NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM & LIBRARY

## ***The People Count: The Census in the Making of America*** **March 13 – June 7**

### **Selected PR Images**

*What does it mean to be counted? America is unique among nations in writing the census into its constitution, and far from a mundane record-keeping exercise, the census figures in major debates concerning slavery and the expansion of the country across the continent. The People Count: The Census in the Making of America looks at the origins and story of the U.S. Census from 1790 through the late 1800s. Based on books and documents from the David M. Rubenstein Americana Collection, the exhibition reveals the critical role played by the census throughout the growth and development of the country.*

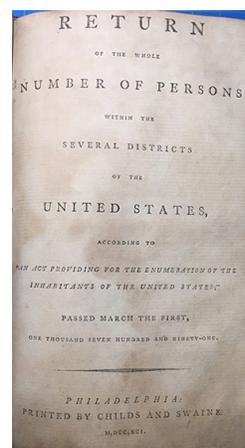
*Return of the Whole of Number of Persons*

Philadelphia, 1791

Printed for and signed by Thomas Jefferson

Courtesy of David M. Rubenstein

*When the results of the first census appeared in 1791, the population of America was mostly unknown. After 18 months, the first census counted 4 million people. Thomas Jefferson, then secretary of state, improvised a 56-page report, signing and circulating it privately, a copy of which is on view.*



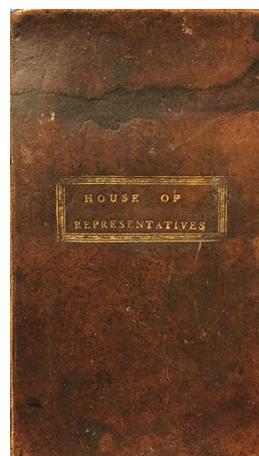
James Wilson

*Debates of the Convention*

Philadelphia: Joseph James, 1788

Courtesy of David M. Rubenstein

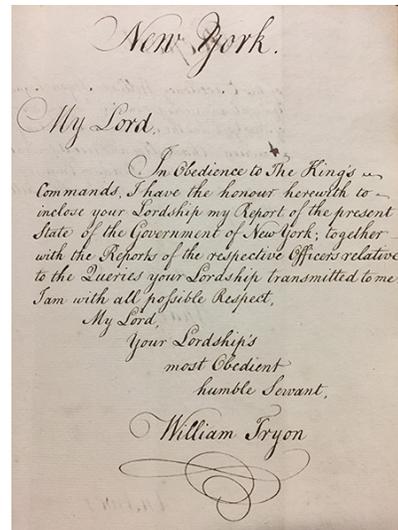
*James Wilson was one of the primary voices during Constitutional Convention. He was responsible for the census-related Three-Fifths Clause in the Constitution. His debates in favor of Pennsylvania's ratification of the Constitution were used by Federalists as propaganda for other states' ratification debates.*



“The Present State of the British Colonies in America” [Detail]

Manuscript census returns, from 1773 and 1775  
Courtesy of David M. Rubenstein

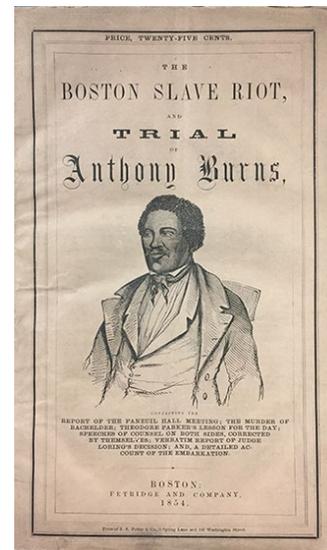
*Censuses before the Constitution were the charge of the Board of Trade, which sent questionnaires to every colonial governor. “The Present State of the British Colonies in America” transcribes the results from 1773 to 1775, just as the American Revolution began, describing the people and land that England controlled at the time.*



*The Boston Slave Riot, and Trial of Anthony Burns, Containing the Report of the Faneuil Hall Meeting Boston, 1854*

Courtesy of David M. Rubenstein

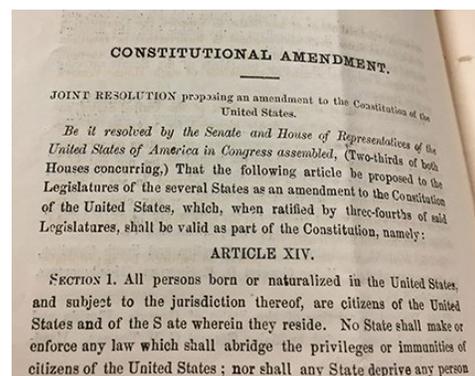
*The Trial of Anthony Burns was a notable legal battle resulting from the Fugitive Slave Act. The act was part of the Compromise of 1850, which granted California statehood. This gave free states a major increase in potential population. Slave states were allowed to capture escapees in the North. Riots would eventually erupt in northern cities.*



*Reconstruction Acts and Article 14th Constitutional Amendment, [Washington, D.C., 1867]*

Courtesy of David M. Rubenstein

*The Emancipation Proclamation and 13th Amendment undid the Three-Fifths Compromise. Former slaves could no longer be 3/5 a free person. The 14th Amendment had a direct effect on the census, by mandating that the House of Representatives must reflect the “the whole number of persons in each State”, black or white.*



Herman Hollerith's Punched Card Tabulator  
*Scientific American*, vol. 63., no. 9  
New York, 1890  
Courtesy of David M. Rubenstein

*An 1890 copy of Scientific American illustrates how counting the 11th census was accomplished in less time with the Punched Card Tabulator system invented by Herman Hollerith, a former census employee from Buffalo, New York. Divided into four devices for perforating, reading, and sorting, workers completed 62.9 million returns of 30 questions in less than five years.*

