

## VIII. ANALYSIS OF THE FAMILY.

AVERAGE SIZE OF PRIVATE FAMILIES—SLAVE-  
HOLDING AND NONSLAVEHOLDING FAMILIES—  
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN—DWELLINGS.

### NUMBER OF FAMILIES.

In the preceding chapters analysis has been confined principally to tabulations of data secured from the report of the First Census and thus available for all the states. In this and in several of the succeeding chapters the statistics presented are derived principally from the schedules. This fact obviously precludes detailed consideration of returns for the states of New Jersey, Delaware, and Georgia, and for the districts of Kentucky and Tennessee. While the schedules for Virginia also are missing, their place is supplied in

a measure by lists of inhabitants at state enumerations made near the close of the Revolution. For the other states and territories mentioned, facts in some instances, can be approximated with reasonable accuracy from the returns for adjoining states.

*Size of families.*—In tabulating families as reported at the First Census only private families were considered—in other words, all households which were obviously institutions, or of a public or semipublic character, were excluded. The following table affords a comparison of the average size of private families in 1790 and 1900:

TABLE 26.—AVERAGE SIZE OF PRIVATE FAMILIES, BY STATES AND TERRITORIES: 1790 AND 1900.

STATE OR TERRITORY.	TOTAL FREE POPULATION IN FAMILIES.		NUMBER OF FAMILIES.		AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS IN EACH FAMILY.	
	1790	1900	1790	1900	1790	1900
Continental United States.....	3,199,784	73,410,992	557,889	15,963,965	5.7	4.6
Area enumerated in 1790.....	3,199,784	32,435,715	557,889	7,036,638	5.7	4.6
New England.....	993,879	5,351,133	174,017	1,236,929	5.7	4.3
Maine.....	96,089	670,067	17,009	161,588	5.6	4.1
New Hampshire.....	141,500	394,378	24,085	96,534	5.9	4.1
Vermont.....	85,239	332,800	14,992	80,559	5.7	4.1
Massachusetts.....	375,779	2,672,527	65,779	604,873	5.7	4.4
Rhode Island.....	66,533	409,713	11,296	92,735	5.9	4.4
Connecticut.....	233,739	871,648	40,876	200,640	5.7	4.3
Middle states.....	962,032	15,009,190	166,762	3,359,344	5.8	4.5
New York.....	315,409	6,922,931	54,878	1,608,170	5.7	4.3
New Jersey.....	172,716	1,819,831	129,779	408,993	5.8	4.4
Pennsylvania.....	423,698	6,086,595	73,374	1,303,174	5.7	4.7
Delaware.....	50,209	179,833	18,231	39,007	6.1	4.6
Southern states.....	1,238,873	12,075,392	217,110	2,440,365	5.7	4.9
Maryland and District of Columbia.....	202,966	1,414,205	36,228	295,302	5.6	4.8
Virginia and West Virginia.....	454,983	2,747,856	175,830	544,529	6.0	5.0
North Carolina.....	292,554	1,871,311	52,613	367,565	5.6	5.1
Georgia <sup>1</sup> .....	141,565	1,322,918	25,872	267,859	5.5	4.9
Kentucky.....	53,284	624,244	19,867	131,865	5.4	4.7
Tennessee.....	61,247	2,112,452	110,937	434,228	5.6	4.9
Tennessee.....	32,274	1,982,406	15,763	399,017	5.6	5.0
Added area.....		40,975,277		8,927,327		4.6

<sup>1</sup> Estimated.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated for 3 counties.

<sup>3</sup> Part enumerated in 1790.

In the foregoing table the average number of persons per private family for 1790 is necessarily computed for the free population only, while the average for 1900 is computed for the total population. Had the computation at the Twelfth Census been made for white and colored separately, greater accuracy could have

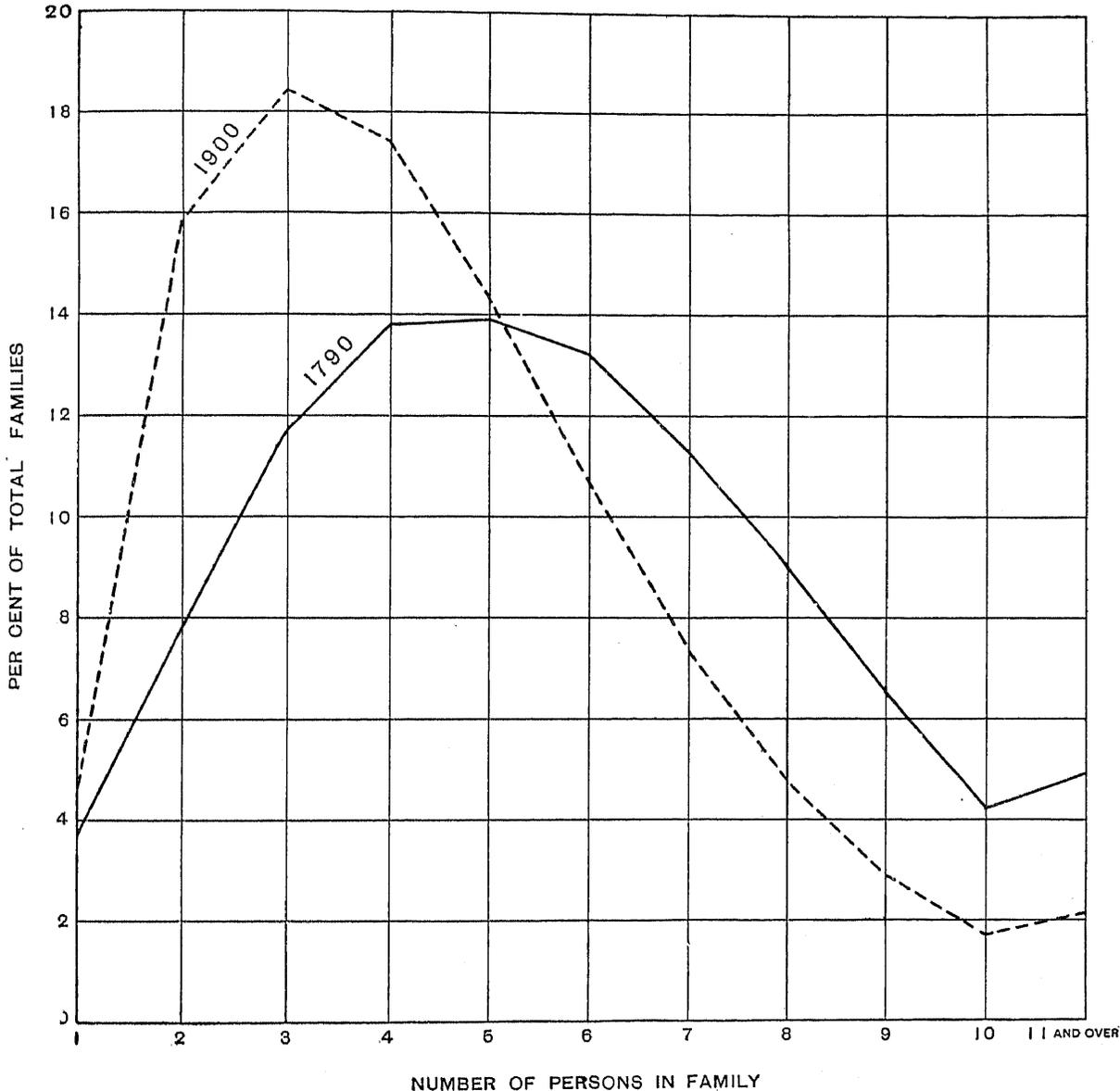
been secured by using the return for the white element alone for comparison with the returns for 1790; but such classification was not made. A study was made, however, during the preparation of the Twelfth Census reports, to determine whether such a classification was advisable by reason of apparent difference in size of

family in the two elements; and it was found that, in spite of popular impression to the contrary, the difference was so small as to be negligible.

The average size of family in 1790 was 5.7 persons for the entire area covered; for the several states it ranged from 5.4 in Georgia to 6.1 in Delaware. In

1900 the average size of family, both for continental United States as a whole and for the area covered in 1790, had decreased by more than 1 person (5.7 to 4.6); for the states covered in 1790 it ranged from 4.1 in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont to 5.1 in North Carolina.

DIAGRAM 8.—CHANGE IN AVERAGE SIZE OF FAMILIES: 1790 TO 1900.



This table furnishes another instance in which analysis of the returns of 1790, when compared with similar analysis for the returns of 1900, shows the minimum in 1790 to be larger than the maximum in 1900. At the Twelfth Census 73,410,992 persons in continental United States, out of an entire population of approximately 76,000,000, were returned as living in 15,963,965 private families. If this number of persons (both white and colored) had reported families of the size shown in 1790, the total number of families in 1900 would have been 12,879,121; in other words, in 1900, had the size of family remained the same as in 1790, the number of persons who composed the 15,963,965 families would have been grouped in

3,084,844 fewer families than were actually reported. On the other hand, if the average size of the 15,963,965 families reported in 1900 had been as great as the average shown in 1790, the population in 1900 would have been increased by nearly 20,000,000. This comparison suggests the increase which has been in progress in number of households, without corresponding increase in the number of members. The greater part of this change is doubtless the result of the decreased proportion of children.

The following tables show a distribution, according to size, of the number of private families in 1790 and of the total number of families in 1900:

A CENTURY OF POPULATION GROWTH.

TABLE 27.—PRIVATE FAMILIES, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO SIZE, BY STATES AND TERRITORIES:<sup>1</sup> 1790.

STATE OR TERRITORY.	Total number of families.	NUMBER OF FAMILIES CONTAINING—										
		1 person.	2 persons.	3 persons.	4 persons.	5 persons.	6 persons.	7 persons.	8 persons.	9 persons.	10 persons.	11 persons and over.
Area covered by 1790 schedules in existence.....	410,636	15,353	31,979	48,116	56,615	57,171	54,052	46,172	36,932	26,687	17,356	20,293
New England.....	174,017	5,134	13,564	20,428	23,857	24,240	23,247	19,944	15,979	11,600	7,542	8,482
Maine.....	17,009	1,109	1,115	1,978	2,201	2,223	2,175	1,886	1,531	1,129	784	878
New Hampshire.....	24,065	814	1,502	2,669	3,282	3,392	3,109	2,855	2,301	1,732	1,131	1,278
Vermont.....	14,992	505	1,060	1,734	2,146	2,130	2,040	1,781	1,400	885	638	654
Massachusetts.....	65,779	1,393	5,754	7,990	8,990	9,224	8,709	7,490	5,971	4,380	2,791	3,073
Rhode Island.....	11,296	231	865	1,357	1,523	1,472	1,551	1,221	1,028	810	510	695
Connecticut.....	40,576	1,082	3,268	4,670	5,706	5,790	5,663	4,711	3,748	2,654	1,688	1,836
Middle states.....	128,752	3,669	9,716	15,152	17,916	18,388	17,211	14,095	11,654	8,412	5,440	6,499
New York.....	54,578	1,123	3,909	6,560	7,945	8,197	7,466	6,330	4,918	3,555	2,233	2,642
Pennsylvania.....	73,874	2,546	5,807	8,592	9,971	10,191	9,745	8,365	6,736	4,857	3,207	3,857
Southern states.....	107,867	6,550	8,699	12,536	14,842	14,543	13,594	11,533	9,299	6,675	4,374	5,222
Maryland <sup>2</sup> .....	33,294	1,687	2,666	3,890	4,619	4,588	4,204	3,640	2,827	1,952	1,326	1,865
North Carolina <sup>3</sup> .....	48,701	3,519	3,754	5,483	6,482	6,491	6,083	5,162	4,326	3,134	2,038	2,229
South Carolina.....	25,872	1,344	2,249	3,163	3,741	3,464	3,307	2,731	2,146	1,589	1,010	1,123

<sup>1</sup>Data not available for New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, Georgia, Kentucky, or Southwest Territory.  
<sup>2</sup>Data not available for Allegany, Calvert, or Somerset county.  
<sup>3</sup>Data not available for Caswell, Granville, or Orange county.

TABLE 28.—PRIVATE FAMILIES IN 1790, AND ALL FAMILIES IN 1900, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO SIZE, BY STATES AND TERRITORIES.<sup>1</sup>

STATE OR TERRITORY, AND CENSUS YEAR.	PER CENT OF FAMILIES CONTAINING—										
	1 person.	2 persons.	3 persons.	4 persons.	5 persons.	6 persons.	7 persons.	8 persons.	9 persons.	10 persons.	11 persons and over.
Continental United States:											
1790.....	3.7	7.8	11.7	13.8	13.9	13.2	11.2	9.0	6.5	4.2	4.9
1900.....	5.1	15.0	17.6	16.9	14.2	10.9	7.7	5.2	3.2	1.9	2.2
Area covered by 1790 schedules in existence:											
1790.....	3.7	7.8	11.7	13.8	13.9	13.2	11.2	9.0	6.5	4.2	4.9
1900.....	4.4	15.9	18.4	17.4	14.3	10.7	7.4	4.8	2.9	1.7	2.1
New England—											
1790.....	3.0	7.8	11.7	13.7	13.9	13.4	11.5	9.2	6.7	4.3	4.9
1900.....	4.9	17.6	19.6	17.7	13.9	9.9	6.5	4.1	2.4	1.4	2.0
Maine—											
1790.....	6.5	6.6	11.6	12.9	13.1	12.8	11.1	9.0	6.6	4.6	5.2
1900.....	5.3	19.0	21.0	18.2	13.4	9.1	5.7	3.5	2.1	1.2	1.6
New Hampshire—											
1790.....	3.4	6.2	11.1	13.6	14.1	12.9	11.9	9.6	7.2	4.7	5.3
1900.....	6.6	20.4	20.5	17.3	12.7	8.5	5.4	3.4	2.1	1.3	2.0
Vermont—											
1790.....	3.4	7.1	11.6	14.3	14.3	13.6	11.9	9.3	6.0	4.3	4.4
1900.....	5.2	18.5	21.0	18.3	13.9	9.5	5.8	3.5	1.9	1.0	1.3
Massachusetts—											
1790.....	2.1	8.7	12.1	13.7	14.0	13.2	11.4	9.1	6.7	4.2	4.7
1900.....	4.5	16.8	19.0	17.7	14.2	10.3	6.8	4.3	2.6	1.5	2.2
Rhode Island—											
1790.....	2.0	7.7	12.3	13.5	13.0	13.7	10.8	9.1	7.2	4.5	6.2
1900.....	4.4	17.7	18.8	17.4	13.8	10.0	6.9	4.5	2.8	1.6	2.2
Connecticut—											
1790.....	2.6	8.0	11.4	14.0	14.2	13.9	11.5	9.2	6.5	4.1	4.6
1900.....	4.8	17.3	19.2	17.7	14.0	10.3	6.8	4.3	2.5	1.3	1.8
Middle states—											
1790.....	2.8	7.5	11.8	13.9	14.3	13.4	11.4	9.1	6.5	4.2	5.0
1900.....	4.0	16.0	18.8	17.9	14.7	10.8	7.3	4.5	2.7	1.5	1.8
New York—											
1790.....	2.0	7.1	12.0	14.5	14.9	13.6	11.5	9.0	6.5	4.1	4.8
1900.....	4.6	17.5	19.5	18.0	14.3	10.3	6.7	4.1	2.3	1.2	1.6
Pennsylvania—											
1790.....	3.4	7.9	11.6	13.5	13.8	13.2	11.3	9.1	6.6	4.3	5.2
1900.....	3.3	14.1	18.0	17.7	15.1	11.5	8.0	5.2	3.2	1.8	2.1
Southern states—											
1790.....	6.1	8.1	11.6	13.8	13.5	12.6	10.7	8.6	6.2	4.1	4.8
1900.....	4.9	13.1	15.6	15.4	13.8	11.5	8.9	6.6	4.4	2.7	3.1
Maryland and District of Columbia—											
1790.....	5.1	8.1	11.7	13.9	13.8	12.6	10.9	8.5	5.9	4.0	5.6
1900.....	4.1	13.7	16.7	16.6	14.7	11.7	8.5	5.8	3.6	2.1	2.5
North Carolina—											
1790.....	7.2	7.7	11.3	13.3	13.3	12.5	10.6	8.9	6.4	4.2	4.6
1900.....	4.6	12.1	14.9	15.1	13.7	11.7	9.4	7.2	5.0	3.1	3.3
South Carolina—											
1790.....	5.2	8.7	12.2	14.5	13.4	12.8	10.6	8.3	6.1	3.9	4.4
1900.....	6.2	13.8	15.2	14.7	12.9	10.9	8.7	6.7	4.6	3.0	3.4
Added area:											
1790.....	5.4	14.6	17.2	16.7	14.2	11.0	7.9	5.4	3.4	2.0	2.2

<sup>1</sup>Data for 1790 not available for New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, Georgia, Kentucky, or Southwest Territory.

In each class of families having less than 6 members, the proportion of the total number of families was less in 1790 than in 1900 both for the United States as a whole and for the area for which the 1790 schedules are in existence. For families having 6 members and over, the reverse was true. It is significant that in 1900 the proportion of families having 2, 3, 4, and 5 members was smaller, while the proportion in each class having more than 5 members was larger, in the added area than in the area for which the 1790 schedules are in existence. This doubtless reflects the influence of dense population, and especially of urban population, upon the size of family. For the area enumerated in 1790 the proportion of families having only 2 members was twice as large in 1900 as in 1790, while the proportion of those having 9 persons or more was only half as large in 1900. These facts emphasize the decided reduction in the size of families which occurred during the course of the century.

In 1900, as compared with 1790, New England showed a greater decrease in the size of family than the other sections of the original area;<sup>1</sup> the proportion of families having 8 members was less than one-half as great in 1900 as in 1790, and the proportion having 10 members less than one-third as great in the later year. In the state of Vermont the proportion of families having 10 members dropped to one-fourth.

In the Southern states the decline in the size of the family was less marked.

Upon arranging the total number of families in four general groups according to size, it is found that in 1790 approximately one-third of all families had less than 5 members, while in 1900 this group included considerably more than one-half of all families. Contrast between the classification of families by size in 1790 and in 1900 is equally marked in the remaining groups, the larger families showing a much greater proportion in 1790 than in the later year.

<sup>1</sup> Of economic and social conditions in New England at the close of the eighteenth century, W. B. Weeden writes as follows: "A controlling feature of our society was in the rapid and easy growth of the family out of the conditions prevailing in all the towns. The common people created self-sustaining families as readily as the banyan tree spreads a grove around the parent trunk. New land was easily obtained. A thrifty farmer could buy acres enough on which to settle his sons from the savings of a few years. The ax could create the log house anywhere, and in most places sawmills gave a cheap supply of planks and deals. The splitting of shingles was an accomplishment almost as common as whittling. The practice of making this cheap and excellent roofing material was carried into the Middle states by the New England emigrants. The homestead was often given to the younger son, who provided for the parents in their old age, the elder brothers having acquired settlements of their own. Thus the teeming social soil was ready for the family roots, which were constantly extending. Unmarried men of thirty were rare in country towns. Matrons were grandmothers at forty; mother and daughter frequently nursed their children at the same time. Father, son, and grandson often worked together in one field; and the field was their own."—*Economic and Social History of New England, 1620-1789, Vol. II, page 860.*

TABLE 29.—*Private families in 1790 and all families in 1900, classified according to size, with per cent distribution.*

SIZE OF FAMILY.	Private families in 1790.	ALL FAMILIES IN 1900.	
		In continental United States.	In area for which 1790 schedules are in existence.
		NUMBER.	
All families.....	1 410,636	16,187,715	5,108,092
Less than 5 persons.....	152,063	8,832,364	2,865,677
5 to 8 persons.....	194,327	6,171,689	1,902,366
9 or 10 persons.....	44,043	830,616	235,217
11 persons and over.....	20,203	353,046	104,832
		PER CENT DISTRIBUTION.	
All families.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 5 persons.....	37.0	54.6	56.1
5 to 8 persons.....	47.3	38.1	37.2
9 or 10 persons.....	10.7	5.1	4.6
11 persons and over.....	4.9	2.2	2.1

<sup>1</sup> Incomplete owing to loss of schedules.

The progress of the nation from 1790 to 1900 has involved far-reaching social changes, during which the inhabitants have gathered from farm and frontier into densely settled industrial centers. The effect of this change on the size of family and on family environment has been very marked; it is probable that no statistical change recorded in these pages as having occurred during the century is more decided or possesses greater economic significance.

#### SLAVEHOLDING AND NONSLAVEHOLDING FAMILIES.

A subdivision of the white and free colored families reported at the First Census into two general classes, slaveholding and nonslaveholding, is presented in Table 30.

The average size of white slaveholding families was slightly greater than the average for white nonslaveholding families. Of the total number of families under consideration, little more than 10 per cent were classed as slaveholding. Approximately one-fourth of the slaveholding families reported were located in New England and the Middle states. Those in New England were reported principally by Rhode Island and Connecticut; and of the 2 Middle states represented, New York contributed much the larger number of slaveholders.

Table 114, page 276, presents the information summarized in Table 30, extended to counties and minor civil divisions so far as they were returned separately.

TABLE 30.—NUMBER OF PRIVATE FAMILIES, CLASSIFIED AS SLAVEHOLDING AND NONSLAVEHOLDING WHITE AND FREE COLORED, WITH PER CENT FAMILIES OF EACH CLASS FORM OF ALL PRIVATE FAMILIES, BY STATES AND TERRITORIES:<sup>1</sup> 1790.

STATE OR TERRITORY.	Total number.	PRIVATE FAMILIES.												PER CENT FAMILIES OF EACH CLASS FORM OF ALL PRIVATE FAMILIES.			
		Slaveholding.						Nonslaveholding.						Slaveholding.		Nonslaveholding.	
		White.			Free colored.			White.			Free colored.			White.	Free colored.	White.	Free colored.
		Number of families.	Number of members.		Number of families.	Number of members.		Number of families.	Number of members.		Number of families.	Number of members.					
			Total.	Average per family.													
Area covered by 1790 schedules in existence.....	410,636	47,664	280,345	5.9	195	652	3.3	357,811	2,032,708	5.7	4,966	19,533	3.9	11.6	( <sup>2</sup> )	87.1	1.2
New England.....	174,017	2,141	13,522	6.3	6	23	3.8	170,242	978,684	5.7	1,628	6,650	4.1	1.2	( <sup>2</sup> )	97.8	0.9
Maine.....	17,009	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16,972	95,953	5.7	37	136	3.7	.....	.....	99.8	0.2
New Hampshire.....	24,065	123	760	6.2	.....	.....	.....	23,850	140,428	5.9	83	312	3.8	.....	.....	99.8	0.3
Vermont.....	14,992	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14,969	85,154	5.7	23	85	3.7	0.5	.....	99.8	0.2
Massachusetts.....	65,779	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	65,149	373,187	5.7	630	2,592	4.1	.....	.....	99.0	1.0
Rhode Island.....	11,296	461	2,993	6.5	.....	.....	.....	10,393	61,590	5.9	42	1,950	4.4	4.1	.....	92.0	3.9
Connecticut.....	40,876	1,557	9,769	6.3	6	23	3.8	38,900	222,372	5.7	413	1,575	3.8	3.8	( <sup>2</sup> )	95.2	1.0
Middle states.....	128,752	9,638	60,437	6.3	16	63	3.9	117,869	674,120	5.7	1,229	4,487	3.7	7.5	( <sup>2</sup> )	91.5	1.0
New York.....	54,878	7,787	47,495	6.1	9	40	4.4	46,398	265,430	5.7	684	2,444	3.6	14.2	( <sup>2</sup> )	84.5	1.2
Pennsylvania.....	73,874	1,851	12,942	7.0	7	23	3.3	71,471	408,600	5.7	545	2,043	3.7	2.5	( <sup>2</sup> )	96.7	0.7
Southern states.....	107,867	35,885	206,386	5.8	173	566	3.3	69,700	370,964	5.5	2,109	8,396	4.0	33.3	0.2	64.6	2.0
Maryland <sup>3</sup> .....	33,294	12,142	71,108	5.9	84	211	2.5	19,870	109,577	5.5	1,198	4,372	3.8	36.5	0.3	59.7	3.6
North Carolina <sup>4</sup> .....	48,701	14,945	87,121	5.8	28	110	4.3	33,076	178,077	5.4	652	2,902	4.5	30.7	0.1	67.9	1.3
South Carolina.....	25,872	8,798	48,007	5.5	61	236	3.0	16,754	92,310	5.5	239	922	3.6	34.0	0.2	64.8	1.0

<sup>1</sup> Data not available for New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, Georgia, Kentucky, or Southwest Territory.  
<sup>2</sup> Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.  
<sup>3</sup> Data not available for Allegany, Calvert, or Somerset county.  
<sup>4</sup> Data not available for Caswell, Granville, or Orange county, except the total number of families.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN PER WHITE FAMILY.

In the preceding chapter the number of white females under 16 years of age was determined with reasonable accuracy. Hence it is possible to consider the total number of children (under 16 years) per white family in 1790 in the area for which schedules are still in existence, as compared with the number shown by the census returns in 1900.

The number of private white families included in the schedules of the First Census which are still in existence is slightly more than 400,000. In the course of a century the number of private white families in the same area increased more than tenfold, but the number of white children under 16 years of age in the same area increased during the same period little more than sixfold. From the returns for the first and last censuses of record, it is possible to show that in the area included the average number of children under 16 years of age per family was nearly twice as great in 1790 as in 1900. Moreover, it will be observed from the table that the number varied but little (from 2.6 to 2.9) in 1790, while in 1900, although the averages returned were in general reduced about one-half, the range was much wider. Both at the beginning and at the close of the century the lowest average was shown for New England. In 1900 the highest average was shown for the Southern states.

TABLE 31.—Average number of white children under 16 years per private white family, by states: 1790 and 1900.<sup>1</sup>

STATE OR TERRITORY.	PRIVATE WHITE FAMILIES.		WHITE CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE.		AVERAGE NUMBER OF WHITE CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE PER FAMILY.	
	1790	1900	1790	1900	1790	1900
Area for which schedules are in existence.....	412,850	4,661,504	1,149,001	7,005,506	2.8	1.5
New England.....	172,383	1,221,856	466,290	1,610,495	2.7	1.3
Maine.....	16,972	161,041	48,753	200,792	2.9	1.2
New Hampshire.....	23,982	90,354	68,564	112,987	2.9	1.2
Vermont.....	14,969	80,388	43,632	100,867	2.9	1.3
Massachusetts.....	65,149	393,611	169,869	786,349	2.6	1.3
Rhode Island.....	10,854	90,458	29,987	144,163	2.8	1.6
Connecticut.....	40,457	197,604	105,485	265,347	2.6	1.3
Middle states.....	127,507	2,855,574	365,764	4,330,159	2.9	1.5
New York.....	54,185	1,584,311	155,090	2,212,213	2.9	1.4
Pennsylvania.....	73,322	1,271,263	210,674	2,117,946	2.9	1.7
Southern states.....	112,960	584,074	316,947	1,154,852	2.8	2.0
Maryland and District of Columbia <sup>2</sup> .....	35,052	232,270	93,843	381,253	2.7	1.6
North Carolina <sup>3</sup> .....	52,356	244,524	149,942	540,543	2.9	2.2
South Carolina.....	25,552	107,280	73,162	233,056	2.9	2.3

<sup>1</sup> Data not available for New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, Georgia, Kentucky, or Southwest Territory.  
<sup>2</sup> Includes an estimate for Allegany, Calvert, and Somerset counties.  
<sup>3</sup> Includes an estimate for Caswell, Granville, and Orange counties.

In the foregoing table the number of white children per private family has been considered only for the states for which schedules are in existence. For the entire United States in 1900 the average was 1.7, and for the area added after the First Census the average was 1.8. The highest proportions (2.3) were shown for Texas and Mississippi.

Had the ratio of children to private white families been the same in 1790 as it was in 1900, the number of children in 1790 would have been less than half the number actually reported at the First Census. It would be idle to speculate upon the effect which so low a proportion in 1790 and at subsequent early censuses would have wrought upon the nation; but without question had the proportion which now actually exists appeared at the beginning of the century, the history of the Republic would have been materially altered.

On the other hand, the application of the generous proportion of children shown for 1790 to the number of private white families reported in 1900 (which averaged less than 2 children each) results in a theoretical increase in the number of young children so great as to be astonishing. In short, had the households into which the white inhabitants of the United States were divided in 1900 been as prolific as were the households of the white citizens of the Republic at the beginning of Constitutional Government, the population of the United States in 1900 would have been greater by 15,500,000 children, regardless of the cumulative effect of the maintenance of the higher ratio at previous censuses.

#### FAMILIES AND DWELLINGS.

The printed schedules used by the enumerators for Massachusetts at the First Census included an inquiry regarding the number of dwellings within their respective districts, probably instituted as a result of a similar inquiry at the Colonial census of Massachusetts in 1764-65. The returns secured afford a basis for an interesting study concerning the average number of families and of persons to a dwelling in urban and in rural communities.

By Census definition in 1900, a dwelling is a place in which, at the time of the census, one or more persons regularly sleep; hence uninhabited houses were not counted as dwellings at the Twelfth Census. The same was true of the First Census, since no vacant houses were returned on the schedules.

Inasmuch as tenement and apartment houses were returned as dwellings in 1900, it would be natural (especially in a commonwealth conspicuous for its industrial interests and dense population) to expect that in 1900 the number of families per dwelling would be larger than in 1790, when there were few tenement houses and no apartment houses. The figures, however, clearly show that the average has not materially increased.

The following table shows the number of dwellings and private families, the total population, and the average number of families and of persons per dwelling, for each county of Massachusetts enumerated in 1790, and for the same areas in 1900:

TABLE 32.—Dwellings and private families in the counties of Massachusetts reported in 1790, and in the same areas<sup>1</sup> in 1900.

COUNTY.	Dwell-ings.	PRIVATE FAMILIES.		POPULATION.	
		Total.	Average per dwelling.	Total.	Average per dwelling.
1790					
The state.....	54,377	65,779	1.2	378,556	7.0
Barnstable.....	2,343	2,889	1.2	17,342	7.4
Berkshire.....	4,476	4,899	1.1	30,263	6.8
Bristol.....	4,514	5,541	1.2	31,696	7.0
Dukes and Nantucket.....	1,013	1,430	1.4	7,810	7.7
Essex.....	7,644	10,883	1.4	57,879	7.6
Hampshire.....	9,181	9,617	1.0	59,656	6.5
Middlesex.....	5,998	7,580	1.3	42,769	7.1
Plymouth.....	4,240	5,173	1.2	29,512	7.0
Suffolk.....	6,355	8,038	1.3	44,865	7.1
Worcester.....	8,613	9,729	1.1	56,764	6.6
1900					
The state.....	451,362	604,873	1.3	2,805,346	6.2
Barnstable.....	7,678	7,911	1.0	27,826	3.6
Berkshire.....	18,257	20,530	1.1	95,774	5.2
Bristol.....	34,451	53,856	1.6	251,229	7.3
Dukes and Nantucket.....	2,209	2,332	1.1	7,567	3.4
Essex.....	61,004	79,664	1.3	356,569	5.8
Hampshire.....	46,393	58,640	1.3	275,028	5.9
Middlesex.....	108,206	133,991	1.2	628,097	5.8
Plymouth.....	22,358	26,330	1.2	108,114	4.8
Suffolk.....	97,439	147,443	1.5	708,324	7.3
Worcester.....	53,367	74,176	1.4	346,818	6.5

<sup>1</sup> Except that no adjustment has been made for changes since 1790 in the boundary line between Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The average number of persons per dwelling in the state decreased from 7 in 1790 to 6.2 in 1900. In only 2 counties, Bristol and Suffolk, did the average increase; this increase was undoubtedly due to the influence of tenement and apartment house population; though it should be borne in mind that in these counties in 1900 were large numbers of foreign born, whose families were much larger than the average native family. The reduction in the average number of persons to a dwelling in the remaining counties is undoubtedly the result of the decreased size of family. It will be remembered that in this state, as in the other New England states, low average size of family was shown, and the influence of the great change recorded appears to have been such as to overcome the opposite tendency of occupancy of a dwelling or building by a considerable number of families.

The counties having the largest average number of persons to a dwelling in 1790 (Dukes and Nantucket and Essex) had very small averages in 1900. The explanation of the large averages for 1790 lies partly in the fact that these same counties showed the largest average numbers of families per dwelling. The very small averages shown for 1900 for these counties, and

also for Barnstable county, undoubtedly reflect the fact that the population of these counties is exceptional in several particulars. It is principally native white of native parents—in which element the average size of family is very small—and, as shown by the state census of 1905, is still decreasing.

Inspection of the average number of persons per dwelling in the Massachusetts counties in 1790, as compared with similar figures for 1900, shows that the range of variation was more than three times as great at the Twelfth Census as it was at the First. The relative uniformity shown in 1790, and the fact that nearly all the population of the country was engaged in agriculture, go far to justify the presumption that, at the time of the First Census, the conditions of population in one state closely resembled those in the other states of the limited area covered by the census. On this basis the approximate number of dwellings in the United States may reasonably be computed by employing as a ratio the number of families per dwelling in Massachusetts.

The number of dwellings occupied in 1900 by families, other than private, can not be deducted from the total number; but it is doubtful whether such a deduction, if it could be made, would affect appreciably the average number of private families per dwelling. It was found by computation that the ratio of all families to all dwellings in Massachusetts differed from the ratio of private families to all dwellings by only one one-hundredth of a family per dwelling.

Since in Massachusetts the proportion of colored families was so small that their effect on the ratio of all families to all dwellings may be disregarded, it was deemed more accurate to apply the ratio for this state to the white population of the other states (in many of which the colored population was relatively very numerous), rather than to their total population, and thus to obtain the number of dwellings of white persons only.

The increase during the century in the number of dwellings in the area enumerated in 1790 was nearly twelvefold. This table further illustrates the tendency toward large families in 1790, offsetting, in the averages, the small families and large buildings (such as the apartment and tenement houses) in 1900. As previously suggested, the effect of the former over-

comes the latter, with the rather unexpected result that the average of 7 white persons per dwelling in 1790 declined to 5.7 in 1900, and in 4 out of the 17 states presented the average was less than 5. Had the average number of white persons to a dwelling which appeared in 1900 prevailed in 1790, there would have been approximately 100,000 more dwellings of white persons in the Republic. On the other hand, had the average which prevailed in 1790 prevailed also in 1900, the number of dwellings would be reduced approximately 1,000,000—the equivalent of all the dwellings in New York, the most populous state in the Union. These comparisons, however, possess value only as measuring vividly the change which has occurred in the proportions.

TABLE 33.—Estimated average number of white persons per dwelling, for each state and territory enumerated in 1790, and for the same areas<sup>1</sup> in 1900.

STATE OR TERRITORY.	1790			1900		
	White population.	Number of dwellings of white persons. <sup>2</sup>	Average number of persons to a dwelling.	White population.	Number of dwellings of white persons. <sup>3</sup>	Average number of persons to a dwelling.
Area enumerated in 1790.....	3,172,444	454,309	7.0	29,564,821	5,209,847	5.7
New England.....	992,384	140,742	7.1	5,527,026	978,140	5.7
Maine.....	96,107	14,218	6.8	692,226	148,028	4.7
New Hampshire.....	141,112	19,986	7.1	410,791	86,407	4.8
Vermont.....	85,072	12,467	6.8	342,771	74,831	4.6
Massachusetts.....	373,187	53,312	7.0	2,769,764	445,637	6.2
Rhode Island.....	64,670	9,045	7.1	419,050	66,312	6.3
Connecticut.....	232,236	31,714	7.3	892,424	156,865	5.7
Middle states.....	954,003	136,477	7.0	15,264,839	2,564,696	6.0
New York.....	314,366	45,158	7.0	7,156,881	1,019,228	7.0
New Jersey.....	169,954	24,279	7.0	1,812,317	308,872	5.9
Pennsylvania.....	423,373	61,103	6.9	6,141,664	1,204,764	5.1
Delaware.....	46,310	5,937	7.8	153,977	31,832	4.8
Southern states.....	1,226,057	177,090	6.9	8,772,956	1,667,011	5.3
Maryland and District of Columbia.....	208,649	26,677	7.8	1,143,956	211,429	5.4
Virginia and West Virginia.....	442,117	61,405	7.2	2,108,088	395,596	5.3
North Carolina.....	289,181	40,018	7.2	1,263,603	240,530	5.3
South Carolina.....	140,178	21,293	6.6	557,807	107,915	5.2
Georgia <sup>4</sup> .....	52,886	12,507	4.2	297,007	58,580	5.1
Kentucky.....	61,133	10,233	6.0	1,862,369	359,052	5.2
Tennessee.....	31,913	4,957	6.4	1,540,186	293,909	5.2

<sup>1</sup> Except that no adjustment has been made for changes since 1790 in the boundary line between Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated on the basis of the ratio of white and free colored families to all dwellings in Massachusetts.

<sup>3</sup> Estimated.

<sup>4</sup> Part enumerated in 1790.