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## MANUFACTURING SCHEDULES CONTAINED IN THE 1810 POPULATION CENSUS SCHEDULES OF NEW YORK STATE

### Introduction

On the single roll of this microfilm publication, M1792, is reproduced New York State manufacturing census data on rolls 26 (Broome and Chenango Counties), 27 (Essex and Genesee Counties), 29 (Niagara and Orange Counties), 30 (Clinton and Dutchess Counties), 31 (Cayuga County), and 34 (Queens County) of National Archives Microfilm Publication M252, "Third Census of the United States, 1810." These schedules are reproduced on this roll to bring them together in a manner more convenient to researchers.

The Third Census of the United States (1810) was taken under the direction of the Secretary of State, and under the same general provisions of law which governed the two preceding censuses. However, by the terms of the act of March 26, 1810, the marshals and the secretaries of the territories were required to appoint one or more assistants in each county and city, who must be residents thereof, and to assign to each of these assistants a certain division of their districts. The enumeration, which the law now stipulated was to be made "by an actual inquiry at every dwelling house, or of the head of every family within each district, and not otherwise," was to commence on the first Monday in August and to close nine calendar months thereafter. The time was limited to five months by an act of April 12, 1810. Since this did not prove sufficient for the completion of the work, an act of March 2, 1811, extended the time for assistants to make their return to the first Monday in June, and for the Marshals and secretaries to the first Monday in July, 1811.

The schedule of inquires relating to population called for exactly the same information as in the census of 1800. However, by another provision of the law--the act of May 1, 1810--an attempt was made, for the first time, to gather industrial statistics. In section 2, the act provided:

That it shall be the duty of the several marshals secretaries, and their assistants aforesaid, at the time for taking the census or enumeration aforesaid, to take, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, and according to such instructions as he shall give, an account of the several manufacturing establishments and manufactures within their several districts, territories, and divisions. The said assistants shall make return of the same to the marshals or secretaries of their respective districts or territories, and the said marshal and secretary shall transmit the said returns and abstracts thereof to the Secretary of the Treasury, at the same times at which they are by this act, and the several acts to which this act is an addition, required respectively to make their return of said enumeration to the Secretary of State; for the performance of which additional services they shall respectively receive such compensation as shall hereafter be provided by law.

No schedule was prescribed by the law, nor was the nature of the inquiries to be made indicated but were wholly subject to the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury. However, the Secretary did not prescribe a form to be used so the information recorded by the marshals and their assistants was merely annotated

onto the population census schedule. The information collected varied greatly or was not recorded at all. In many cases, such as in Broome County, New York, only the occupation (cooper smith, minister) or type of machinery (saw mill) were listed. In other counties, such as Essex, the number of looms and the annual amount of cloth produced by each family were listed.

For more information on the history of the early censuses, including population, agriculture, manufacturing, and other schedules, see Carroll D. Wright, *The History and Growth of the United States Census* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1900). The 1810 census, including the manufacturing “schedule,” is discussed on pages 20-25.

## CONTENTS

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Volume I; Broome and Chenango Counties Volume II; Essex and Genesee Counties Volume IV; Niagara and Orange Counties Volume V; Clinton, Dutchess, and Cayuga Counties Volume IX; Queens County