



First Six Towns and Early Settlement Centers in the Pre-1700 Counties Essex Middlesex ucester (1623) 1643 Medford 163 Hampshire 1662 Hull (1624 Suffolk 1643 lymouth Bristol 1685 Barnstable Early Settlements (Year Settled) 1685 · First Towns and Year 50 miles Nantucket House of Seven Gables, Salem (1668) 1695 Dukes 1695

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17 Population 1790 <1,000 1,000 - 2,500 2,501 - 5,000 >5,000 In 1787 the Unites States Constitution was written and within this document was the requirement that all persons be counted every ten years. This is what we call the census. Back then, in 1790, U.S. Marshals set out on horseback to count all the people living in the country at the time. The purpose of the census was to give fair and equal representation in Congress. Thus, the number of representatives is based on the number of people that must be represented for each state. Throughout the 220 years of the existence of the U.S. Census, and as the technology has developed greatly, many changes have taken place in its make-up and means of taking it. While the first census included only six questions about people living in a particular household, the 2000 census had over seventy

make-up and means of taking it. While the first census included only six questions about people living in a particular household, the 2000 census had over seventy questions. The 2010 census had only ten questions for most people and it was the U.S. Postal Service that delivered the census report forms to each house. People were given the opportunity to complete the form when it was convenient for them. Those homes that did not return the forms would receive a visit from a U.S. Census Bureau official who administered the report.

Source: Massuchusette Citizen Information Service, http://www.soc.state.ma.us/cis/cispdf/ma_city_town.pdf

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