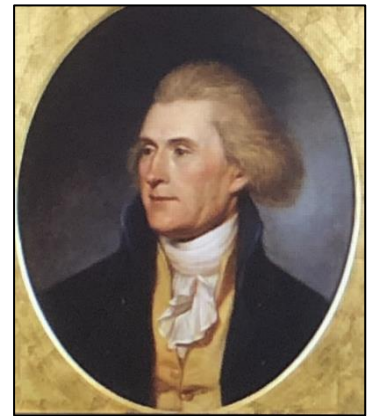


Conclusion

With the submission of Isaac Huger's returns for South Carolina on February 5, 1792, the sixteen U.S. marshals, Governor Blount, and their approximately 650 deputies completed the first census of the nation's population—counting 3,929,214 people.^{229 230} When President Washington and Secretary of State Jefferson received the final census results they were disappointed in the final count.²³¹ According to President Washington, he believed that the 1790 returns were so low because some people failed to complete the census for religious reasons, fears of being taxed, a general mistrust of the federal government, or because lazy deputies failed to count entire households.²³² President Washington's reasoning reveals some of the challenges that the marshals and their deputies experienced during the enumeration—some of which enumerators still experience today.

Since 1790, the U.S. Census Bureau has evolved into a complex federal agency that collects, analyzes, and interprets a vast amount of data related to the United States and its territories and island areas. While the scope of the Census Bureau's mission has grown in scale, its primary objective, as specified in the U.S. Constitution, remains the foundational bedrock upon which the organization was built. Today, the United States has a population 327,167,434 people and encompasses a landmass of 3,531,905 sq. miles. The Census Bureau remains committed to expanding upon the legacy of public service that the first class of the U.S. Marshal Service established in 1789-1790.²³³



For the first five census in American history, the Secretary of State was responsible for ensuring the marshals completed their census returns. Thomas Jefferson, the first Secretary of State, presided over the 1790

Courtesy of Independence National Historical Park

²²⁹ W.S. Rossiter, "The First Census of the United States," pg. 46.

²³⁰ "The First Census," in *Heads of Families/1790/A Century of Population Growth Maine, New Hampshire, & Vermont*, 1:4.

²³¹ "1790 Overview," United States Census Bureau, last estimated release October 21, 2019, https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/overview/1790.html. (Accessed October 21, 2019).

²³² "From George Washington to Gouverneur Morris., 28, July 1791," *Online Library of Liberty*, last estimated release 2004, https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/washington-the-writings-of-george-washington-vol-xii-1790-1794?q=census#Washington_1450-12_53. (Accessed November 15, 2019). [Original source: *The Writings of George Washington*, vol. 12, 1790-1794, ed. Editor: Worthington Chauncey Ford (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1890, pp.NA)]

²³³ "QuickFacts: United States," United States Census Bureau, last estimated release October 31, 2019, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045218>. (Accessed October 31, 2019).