

## New Hampshire: John Parker

Born on November 16, 1732, both John Parker's law enforcement background and advanced age made him unique among his colleagues. For the majority of his career, Parker served as both the colonial sheriff and then state sheriff of Rockingham County, NH. Additionally, he worked as a merchant and soldier at different points during the American Revolution. Perhaps



Article announcing John Parker's appointment  
*Gazette of the United States* (New York, NY), 30 September 1789

it was because of his experience as a lawman and participation in the American Revolution that President Washington decided to appoint Parker as the U.S. marshal in New Hampshire in October 1789. Upon accepting the appointment, the 56-year-old Parker became the oldest marshal.<sup>18</sup>

It is unclear if Parker had any deputies while he carried out his duty as a census enumerator.<sup>19</sup> However, Parker submitted the 1790 Census returns for New Hampshire to Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson on August 10, 1791, a little more than a year after the census began on August 2, 1790.<sup>20</sup> The final 1790 returns show that New Hampshire had a population of 141,885 people, thus making it the third most populous state in New England—a position it maintains today with a population of 1.356 million people.<sup>21 22</sup> John Parker served his country to the end and passed away on October 4, 1791, just twenty days before Secretary of State Jefferson transmitted the initial returns to Congress.

---

<sup>18</sup> "History - The First Generation of United States Marshals/The First Marshal of New Hampshire: John Parker," U.S. marshals Service, last estimated release October 11, 2019, <https://www.usmarshals.gov/history/firstmarshals/parker.htm>. (Accessed October 11, 2019).

<sup>19</sup> "Summary of population, [of New Hampshire], by counties and towns: 1790," in *Heads of Families/1790/A Century of Population Growth Maine, New Hampshire, & Vermont*, 1:10.

"Henry Dearborn," National Park Service, last estimated release June 17, 2015, <https://www.nps.gov/people/henry-dearborn.htm>. (Accessed October 7, 2019).

<sup>20</sup> "New Hampshire". *Return of the whole number of persons within the several districts of the United States: according to "An act providing for the enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States," passed March the first, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one*, pg. 19. PDF. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/content/census/en/library/publications/1793/dec/number-of-persons.html>. (Accessed October 7, 2019).

<sup>21</sup> "New Hampshire". *Return of the whole number of persons within the several districts of the United States: according to "An act providing for the enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States," passed March the first, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one*, pg. 19.

<sup>22</sup> "History - The First Generation of United States Marshals/The First Marshal of New Hampshire: John Parker".