

# Tyringham by the Numbers

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From a talk given on July 21, 2012, on the Tyringham Shakers, at Union Church, Tyringham, sponsored by Bidwell House Museum.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Information</b>
1790	abt. 45	First Census	71 Shakers 34M & 37F
1800	48	Second Census	53 Shakers 23M & 30F
1801	48	Covenant	26M and 22F
1810	62	Third Census	72 Shakers 33M & 39F
1816	60	Covenant	33M and 27F
1820	73	Fourth Census	92 Shakers 45M & 47F
1830	69	Fifth Census	101 Shakers 49M & 52F
1832	56	Covenant	24M and 32F
1840	64	Sixth Census*	107 Shakers 42M & 65F
1846	abt. 57	Shaker Census	97 Shakers 47M & 50F
1850	46	Seventh Census	91 Shakers 46M & 45F
1855	37	State Census	77 Shakers 32M & 45F
1860	38	Eighth Census	55 Shakers 19M & 36F
1865	26	State Census	40 Shakers 12M & 28F
1870	24	Ninth Census	27 Shakers 10M & 17F
1875	14	April 1	14 Shakers 5M & 9F

\*This census is problematic as the main body with a clear Shaker identification lists just seventy-six people. At the time the Shakers had two distinct families. Later in the census is another group of thirty-one people who fit the profile of a group of Shakers, but are listed under a person named Sarah Ann Maddison. This was not a listing for the poorhouse because the number of town paupers was smaller than this. In 1850, paupers numbered thirteen and in 1860 they numbered fourteen according to the federal census. Also, the poorhouse would not be headed by a woman. Finally, Sarah Ann Maddison is not a Shaker nor is she to be found in the town reports of the day. She is also absent from subsequent census enumerations where individuals are listed. My surmise is that this is a remarkable transcription error and that the thirty-one persons under her name should be added to the seventy-six already noted as Shakers. This would put the total at 107 or the highest number of people who ever lived in the society. This number is consistent with the Shaker census of 1846, just six years later, which lists sixty Shakers in the Church Family and thirty-seven Shakers in the Second Family. The Shaker census of 1846 is courtesy of The Winterthur Library, Edward Deming Andrews Memorial Shaker Collection, no. 1065.