

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

### DEMOGRAPHICS

All demographic figures are based upon data collected from both the 1990 and 2000 Census, as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau. [<http://www.census.gov>] Financial information is based upon the New York State Comptroller’s report. [<http://osc.ny.gov>]

### Population

According to the 2000 Census, the Town of Pinckney grew by 18.1% between 1990 and 2000. The population of Lewis County grew by 0.6%, and the state as a whole experienced a 5.5% increase in population.

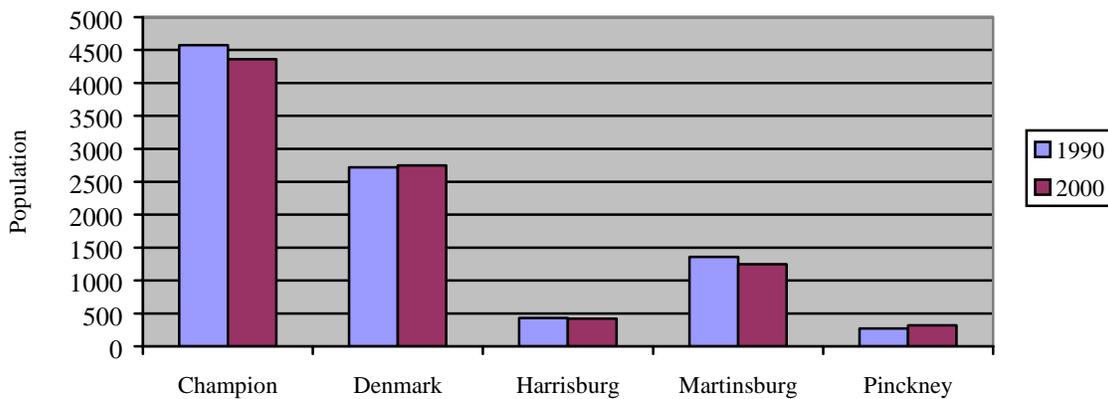
Table 1. Population Distribution

Population	1990	2000	% Change
Town of Pinckney	270	319	+18.1%
Lewis County	26,796	26,944	+0.6%
New York State	17,990,455	18,976,457	+5.5%

### Regional Population Changes

Several nearby towns experienced population loss during the 1990s; Champion and Harrisburg declined in size between 1990 and 2000, by –4.7% and –2.1% respectively. Population in the Town of Martinsburg also decreased by –8.0%.

Figure 1. Population Changes in Nearby and Adjacent Towns



### Household and Family Size

The Town of Pinckney has an average household of 2.66 persons. The average household size in the CTHC region is 2.71 persons, which is slightly higher than the NY State average of 2.61. Average family size is comparable to the CTHC average in the Town of Pinckney, at 3.16 persons. The CTHC average is 3.17, which is slightly lower than the state average of 3.22.

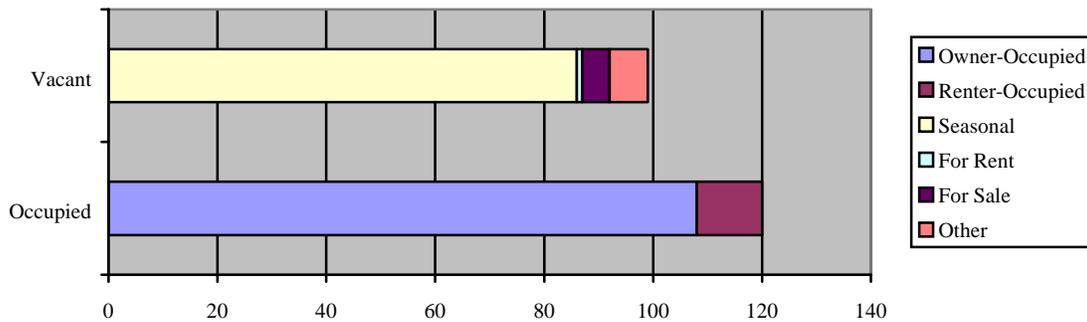
Table 2. Average Household and Family Size, 2000

	Town of Pinckney	Lewis County	CTHC Region	New York State
Average Household Size (2000)	2.66	2.66	2.71	2.61
Average Family Size (2000)	3.16	3.12	3.17	3.22

### Housing

According to the 2000 Census, 54.8% of all housing units are classified as occupied and 45.2% are vacant. Of occupied housing units, 90.0% are owner-occupied and 10.0% are renter-occupied. Seasonal units account for the majority of vacant units (86.9%), while homes for rent and sale are 1.0% and 5.1% respectively.

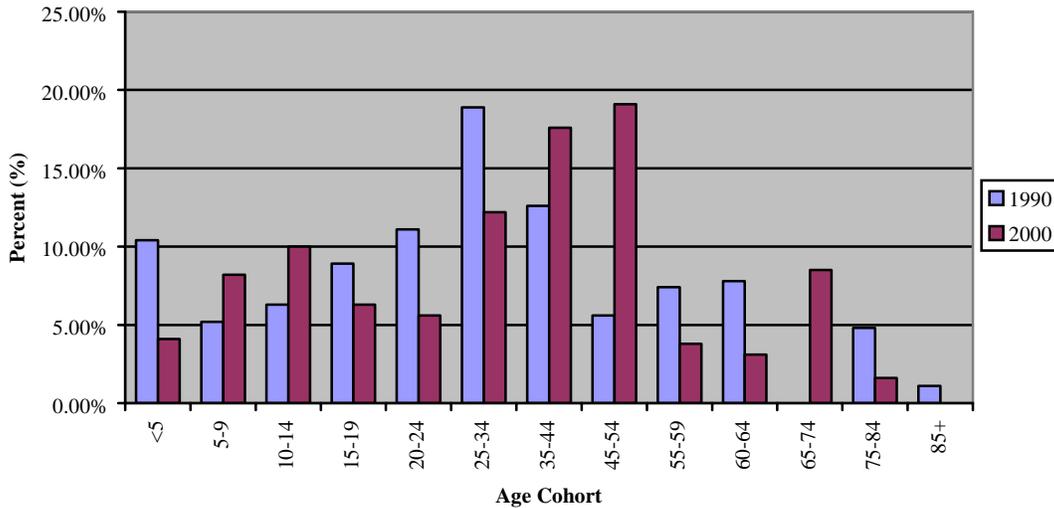
Figure 2. Housing Units, by Classification (2000)



### Age

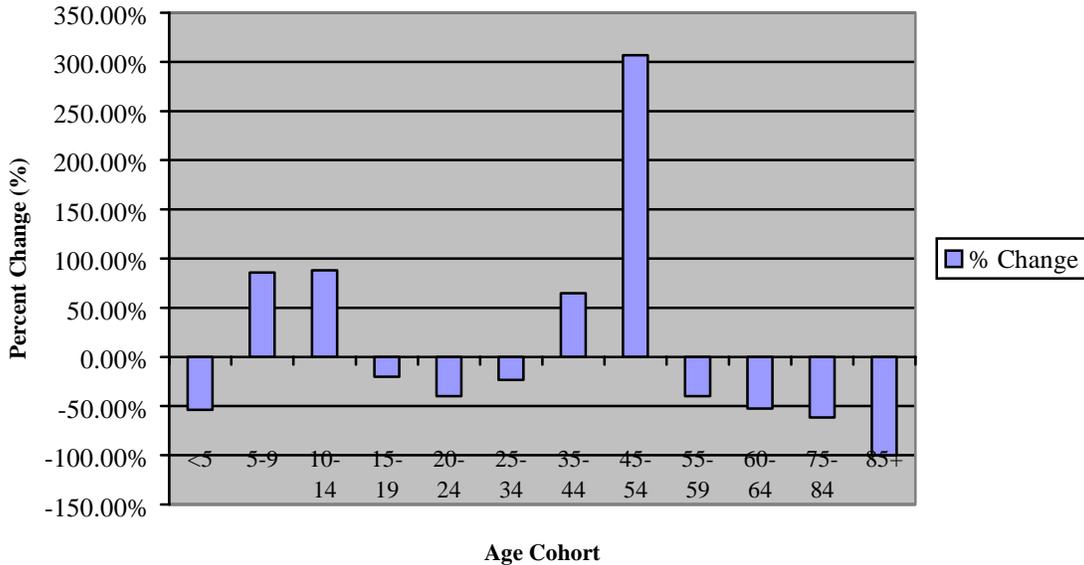
Although the population of the town grew, when viewed by percentage of the total population, eight of the age cohorts were smaller in 2000 than they were in 1990. The most significant change was in the age 45-54 cohort, which went from 5.6% of the total population in 1990 to nearly 20% of the population in 2000. These figures (as represented in Figure 3) show changes in each cohort's size, relative to the total population. Figure 4 more accurately illustrates growth or decline within each age cohort.

Figure 3. Age Cohorts by Percentage of Total Population, 1990 and 2000



Only four cohorts experienced growth between 1990 and 2000: age 5-9, 10-14, 35-44, and 45-54. The greatest change occurred in the age 45-54 cohort (+306.7%). Also significant was the growth in the age 65-74 cohort, which grew from 0 persons in 1990 to 27 in 2000. Mathematically, a percentage could not be calculated for the growth experienced by this cohort. Median age in the Town of Pinckney was 37.9 years in 2000, which is slightly higher than the CTHC average of 36.8 years.

Figure 4. Percent Change by Age Cohort, 1990 to 2000



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Table 3. Percent Change by Age Cohort, 1990 to 2000

Age Cohort	1990	2000	% Change
<5 years	28	13	-53.6%
5-9	14	26	+85.7%
10-14	17	32	+88.2%
15-19	24	20	-20.0%
20-24	30	18	-40.0%
25-34	51	39	-23.5%
35-44	34	56	+64.7%
45-54	15	61	+306.7%*
55-59	20	12	-40.0%
60-64	21	10	-52.3%
65-74	0	27	n/a
75-84	13	5	-61.5%
85+	3	0	-100.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>+18.1%</b>

### Income

In the CTHC region, the average household income is \$34,507, while the average family income is slightly higher, \$38,406. Median annual income in the Town of Pinckney was \$36,146 for households and \$35,417 for families. Household income is slightly higher than the average figures and family income is lower than average.

Table 4. Median Income, 2000

LOCATION	Town of Pinckney	CTHC Region	Lewis County
Median household income	\$36,146	\$34,507	\$34,361
Median family income	\$35,417	\$38,406	\$39,287

### Employment and Occupation

The majority of persons over age 16 are in the labor force (71.3%). Most of these persons are employed (61.8%), although 9.4% are classified as unemployed. Service occupations are the most common (25.5%), followed by construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations (22.3%). Refer to Table 5 for employment figures and Table 6 for occupation information.

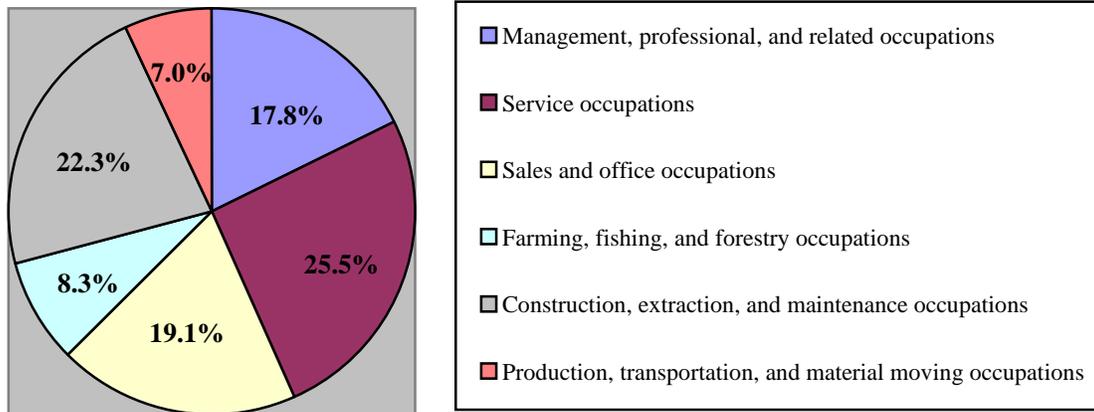
Table 5. Employment Status, 2000

Population age 16 years and over...	
In labor force	71.3%
Civilian	71.3%
Employed	61.8%
Unemployed	9.4%
Armed Forces	0.0%
Not in labor force	28.7%

Table 6. Percentage of Employed Population by Occupation, 2000

Occupation	
Management, professional, and related occupations	17.8%
Service occupations	25.5%
Sales and office occupations	19.1%
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	8.3%
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	22.3%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	7.0%

Figure 5. Percentage of Employed Population by Occupation, 2000



### Industry

The largest industry employing persons from the Town of Pinckney is educational, health and social services (16.6%). Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (15.9%) and construction (15.3%) are the second and third largest sectors.

Table 7. Percentage of Employed Persons by Industry, 2000

<b>Industry</b>	
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting and mining	12.7%
Construction	15.3%
Manufacturing	4.5%
Wholesale trade	0.0%
Retail trade	7.6%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	3.8%
Information	0.0%
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	1.9%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	3.8%
Educational, health, and social services	16.6%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	15.9%
Other services (except public administration)	3.2%
Public administration	14.6%

### **Educational Attainment**

In 2000, 84.6% of the population over age 25 had completed high school. Only 9.7% had bachelor's degrees or higher, although 13.2% of the adult population had taken at least some college courses.

Table 8. Educational Attainment, 2000

<b>Percent of the population age 25+ with...</b>	
Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	4.4%
9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> grade, no diploma	11.0%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	55.9%
Some college, no degree	13.2%
Associate degree	5.7%
Bachelor's degree	8.4%
Graduate or professional degree	1.3%
<b>Percent high school graduate or higher</b>	
	84.6%
<b>Percent bachelor's degree or higher</b>	
	9.7%

### **Transportation to Work**

Most of the employed population (age 16+) drives alone to work (76.6%); however, 9.7% carpool with others. Some persons (9.1%) walk to work. Less than five percent work at home. The average commute is 28.3 minutes.

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Table 9. Means of Transportation, Employed Population Age 16+ (2000)

<b>Means of transportation</b>	
Car, truck, or van – drove alone	76.6%
Car, truck or van – carpoled	9.7%
Public transportation (including taxicab)	0.0%
Walked	9.1%
Other means	0.0%
Worked at home	4.5%
<b>Mean travel time to work</b>	
	28.3 minutes

FINANCE

Financial data for the Town of Pinckney was unavailable from the NY State Comptroller’s report. Reports filed for 2000, 2001, and 2002 indicated that the Town of Pinckney had not submitted data before the date of publication.

**Tax Rates**

The NYS Comptroller reports the following property tax rates for 2003. Full taxable value is reported for 2002.

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>FULL TAXABLE VALUE (tax base)</b>	<b>County Tax (per \$1000)</b>	<b>Town Tax (per \$1000)</b>	<b>School Tax (per \$1000)</b>
Pinckney	Lewis	\$13,875,000	7.70	13.43	12.41-12.76

## **Town History - Town of Pinckney, New York**

By Susan C. Townsend

The Township of Pinckney in Lewis County, New York was formed on February 12, 1808. It was the second town formed, Denmark being the first, after Lewis County was erected. (At the time of its formation, Lewis County consisted of only 5 towns, namely: Leyden, Harrisburgh, Lowville, Martinsburgh, and Turin.) Pinckney was formed from tracts of land taken from the Towns of Harrisburgh and Harrison (now the Town of Rodman) and named by the state legislature in honor of Revolutionary War General and statesman, Thomas Pinckney of South Carolina.

Settlement was mainly by Americans, from the New England states, and began several years before the township was formed. The first known settlers were Samuel and Joseph Clear, who located in the southwest part of the town in about 1803. They soon left, however, and the next known to settle in were Ethan Russel and J. Greene of Rhode Island in 1804. Then in 1805 Levi and Elisha Barnes, from Middleton, Connecticut settled in what we now know as Barnes Corners, which was named for Elisha. They also later left the area, either just before or after the War of 1812, sources differ. When Elisha left, he apparently sold his property to Eber Lucas, also from Middleton, who had arrived in 1806.

By 1809, John W. Lucas, James and Stephen Hart, James Armstrong, Phineas Woolworth, Joel Webb, Silas Slater, David Canfield and several Stoddard families had come into the town. Mr. Canfield made the first real improvement in the town when he cleared a large area of land in what is now known as New Boston, erected a sawmill and built a bridge over Deer River.

Other early settlers were Richard Dye, Asa Cooley, Elijah Yarrington, Henry Warner, Noah and Jesse Merwin, Reuben Waite, Ira Pollack, Amos Barrett, Mr. Needum, Daniel Hall, Orasmus Streeter, and Ira Odell , who built the first saw mill in Barnes Corners.

As the town grew and changed, so did the families. The first birth occurred in the family of James Hunt or John Stoddard and the first death was Mrs. Elisha Moody.

Schools and churches were built and a Grange Hall were erected. Town government was formed, post offices assigned and businesses created.

The first school in Pinckney was the Dye Schoolhouse which was built near the Richard Dye home. The first church services were also held in this schoolhouse. The first school in Barnes Corners was held in the log cabin built by Elisha Barnes, where the Barnes Corners Hotel now stands. As the years progressed schools were located in several areas of the town. There were schools at New Boston, Cronks Corners, on the 7x9 Road (White School District), Pinckney Corners, the Hardscrabble School located about two miles down the Copenhagen Road from Barnes Corners, the River Road School and one at Barnes Corners.

There were several churches in the town at different times. The First Methodist Episcopal Society formed and erected a meeting house at Boynton's Corners on August 8, 1831. The Pinckney Corners Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1851. The First Baptist Church of Barnes

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Corners was built in 1856 and a Methodist church was built in Barnes Corners in 1857. Also started in 1856 and finished in 1860 was the Roman Catholic Church at New Boston. The first building for the Catholic Church was originally 1½ miles from New Boston. At present, only the Methodist and Catholic churches survive to conduct services.

When the town government was formed in 1808, the first town meeting was held at the home of Stephen Hart, where Ethan Green was elected the first supervisor. An interesting note; although there had been a town clerk for many years, the first marriage license wasn't issued until 1908. It was issued by Charles D. Lucas for the marriage of Hattie Edwards to Harry Larkin.

Post offices were first located at Boynton's Corners, Cronks Corners and Barnes Corners, which was the last to close; the residents now receiving their mail rural route from Copenhagen.

As in any period of history, the first settlers in an area are often farmers. So it was in Pinckney. The economy was agriculturally based (as much of it is also today) and most everything for a family's use was produced at home. Before businesses were developed and built within the town, most people had to travel to Watertown, Copenhagen or Lowville for the things they couldn't provide for themselves. By 1840, though, businesses had started to spring up.

The first Tavern and Hotel was built by Horace Lucas in 1846. It was located in Barnes Corners on South Main St. (7x9 Road) just south of Elisha Barnes' log cabin on the corner. The first building used as a store in Barnes Corners was built in the 1840's by a Mr. Delano. It was located where the cheese factory now stands, but was bought, moved and turned into a store by Joseph Davis. William Mahar built and conducted, for many years, a store at New Boston and Amos Stoddard was engaged for many years in the mercantile business in a store located about 3 ½ miles from Barnes Corners on the Copenhagen Road.

Many more stores, shops and businesses opened and closed over the years. There were general mercantile stores, feed stores, harness shops, blacksmith shops, a carriage shop, two more hotels (the Savell House, built in 1887, and later called the Hotel Curtis, now Barnes Corner's Hotel, and the Central House built in New Boston in 1888, which operated as a hotel until September 1, 1917 when it was turned into a store.) Also there were a drug store, barber shops, weavers, dressmakers, milliners (hat makers), grocery stores, a meat store, cheese factories, a creamery (where the Grange Hall in Barnes Corners now stands), saw mills, a manufactory of agricultural implements, a furniture factory (made and repaired furniture, also made sleighs and skis), a hoop factory, a printing press, a shingle mill, a grist mill (the grist mill was later changed into a potash and cooper factory), a gun shop, an opera house and poolroom, and even a 10 Cent store. At different times, there were four doctors who practiced in the town, a watch repair shop, and (for when the doctors could do no more and your time had run out) undertakers.

The residents of Pinckney were not without amusements and pleasures. The Grange at one time had a ball club that played at several surrounding communities. Plays, dances and programs of interest were put on by the Grange. The Churches and Ladies Aid Society held dinners, socials and bazaars. The schools held field days and dances were held at nearly all the hotels in town on a weekly basis. Then, for ten years, 1933-1943, Barnes Corners held a community Old Home Days that was sponsored by both the Grange and the Methodist Church.

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History, they say, repeats itself. The Town of Pinckney was settled and then nearly abandoned. Many businesses that prospered no longer exist. Today there are few commercial businesses in the town outside of Barnes Corners. Although these businesses are concentrated in a small area, they serve all the residents and also a fluctuating but growing population of campers, hunters and tourists. Perhaps Pinckney is again being slowly settled; for oft times they come for the weekend and stay a lifetime.

Sources:

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Tyler Notebooks by Ella O. Tyler

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Business Directory of Lewis Co., N.Y. 1895-1896 by William Adams

History of the North County, Vol. 1 by Henry F. Landon