



# 2022 Genealogy Series: 1950 Census

## Welcome!

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is pleased to present this educational series of lectures on how to do family research.

As one of the nation's premier genealogy institutions, it is our mission to inform the public about National Archives' holdings that relate to family history and to make those records available to you.





# About the Lecture Series

These lectures will demonstrate how to use records from the 1950 Census and other federal resources for genealogical research. Our presenters include experts from the National Archives and Records Administration and the U.S. Census Bureau. Sessions are intended for beginners to experienced family historians – all are welcome!





# Join the conversation!

Participate with the presenters and other family historians during a session's premiere.

Live Chat on **You Tube**

Log in and type your questions and comments.

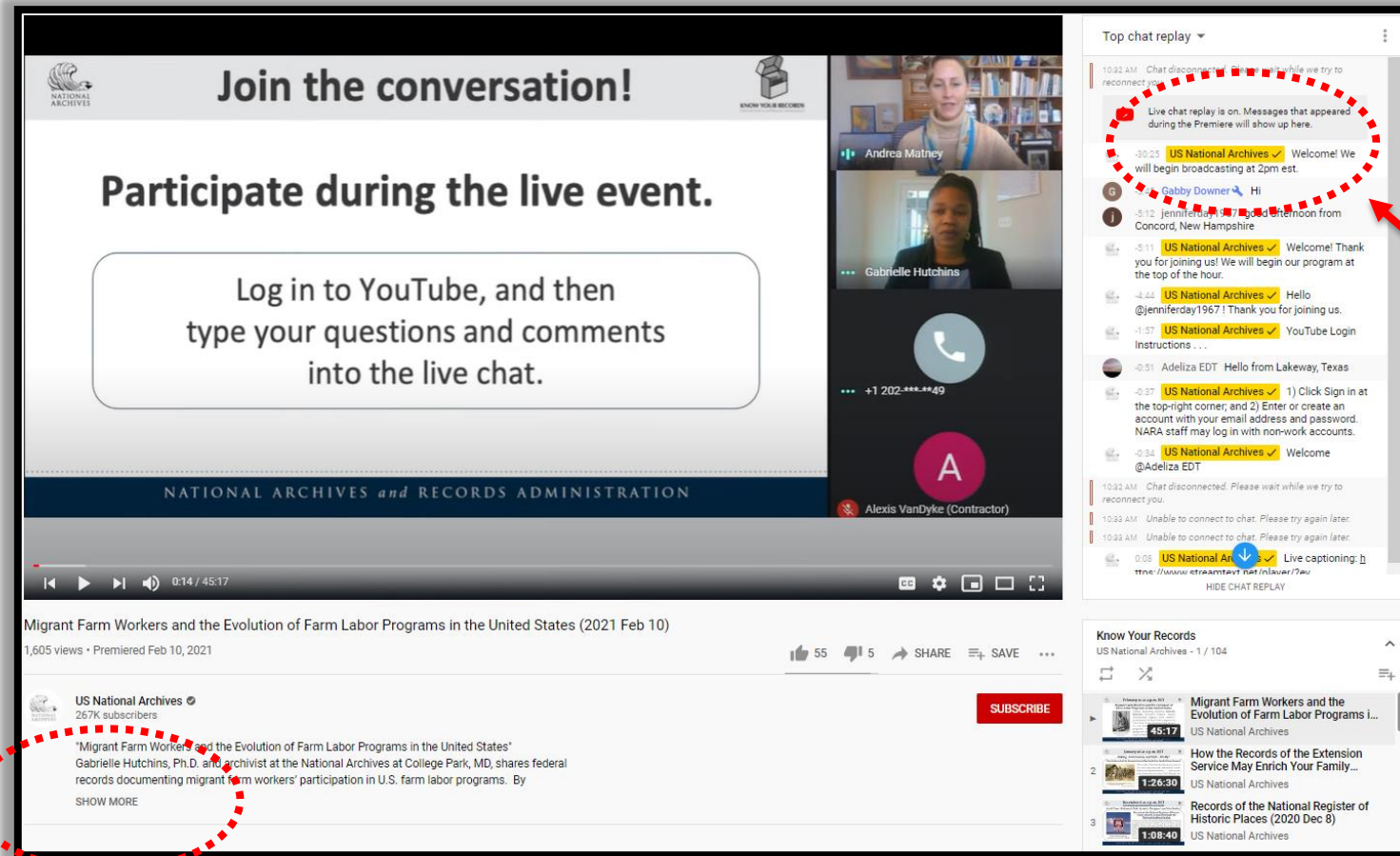
Join us at **@USNatArchives** on  **twitter**



# Instructions

## Show More

- captioning
- handout
- evaluation



## Chat

- log in
- participate
- ask questions

After the broadcast, the video presentation and handout will remain available.





# March-April Schedule

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>March 2</b><br>1 p.m. ET  | <b>Overview of What's on the 1950 Census</b><br><b>Claire Kluskens</b> - Genealogy/Census Subject Matter Expert and digital projects archivist<br>National Archives in Washington, DC                                   |
| <b>March 16</b><br>1 p.m. ET | <b>Mapping the 1950 Census: Census Enumeration District Maps at the National Archives</b><br><b>Brandi Oswald</b> - Supervisory archivist, Cartographic Branch<br>National Archives at College Park, MD                 |
| <b>March 30</b><br>1 p.m. ET | <b>The 1950 Census Website: Design, Development, and Features to Expect</b><br><b>Michael L. Knight</b> - Web Branch Chief, Office of Innovation (Digital Engagement Division)<br>National Archives at College Park, MD |
| <b>April 27</b><br>1 p.m. ET | <b>The Story of the 1950 Census P8 Indian Reservation Schedule</b><br><b>Cody White</b> - Native American-Related Records Subject Matter Expert and archivist<br>National Archives at Denver, CO                        |





# May Schedule

**May 11**

1 p.m. ET

**From Parchments to Printouts: History of the Census from 1790 to 1950**

**Sharon Tosi Lacey** - Chief Historian

U.S. Census Bureau

**May 18**

1 p.m. ET

**History of Census Records and the National Archives**

**Jessie Kratz** - Historian of the National Archives

National Archives in Washington, DC

**May 25**

1 p.m. ET

**Historic Census Bureau Sources for Filipino, Guamanian and Chamorro, American Samoan, and Native Hawaiian Research**

**Christopher Martin** – Historian

U.S. Census Bureau

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

**1950**  
CENSUS  
EXPLORE & COLLABORATE

NATIONAL ARCHIVES *and* RECORDS ADMINISTRATION







# From Parchments to Printouts: History of the Census from 1790 to 1950

Every census is a snapshot of our country at a particular point in time. As America has grown and changed, the U.S. census has evolved with it. As the first census after World War II, the 1950 Census marked the beginning of pivotal changes in every aspect of our society: economically, demographically, and technologically. This presentation will trace the arc of progress from 1790 to 1940, then delve into the 1950 Census in order to provide the context in which the Census Bureau collected, processed, and analyzed this data.



# Presenter Biography



**Sharon Tosi Lacey**

Sharon Tosi Lacey has served as the Chief Historian for the U.S. Census Bureau since June 2015. Previously, she spent 25 years as an officer in the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Reserves before retiring in 2015 as a lieutenant colonel. She holds a B.S. in engineering psychology from the United States Military Academy, an M.S. in education from Long Island University, and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Leeds.





# From Parchments to Printouts: A History of the Census Bureau 1790-1950

Presented by  
Sharon Tosi Lacey  
Chief Historian  
U.S. Census Bureau

# Overview

- Early Census History: 1790-1840
- Redefining the Census: 1850-1900
- Transition: 1902-1930
- Modernization: 1940
- The 1950 Census

# Disclaimers

- Historic census records are maintained and released by the National Archives and Records Administration, not the U.S. Census Bureau
- Historical content on the Census Bureau's history website and in historical census documents may contain outdated terminology or views which reflect the authors' attitudes or that of the period in which the item was written and may be considered inappropriate or offensive today

# Why Take a Census?

- Mandated by Constitution (Article I, Section 2, Clause 3)
- Apportionment of representatives
- Not used for conscription or punitive taxation
- Supreme Court has ruled that this covers other statistical collection as needed for “intelligent exercise of other powers enumerated in the Constitution”

# Early Censuses: 1790-1840

- 1790 – US Marshals conduct enumeration
- 1800 – Only whites tallied by age
- 1810 – Census of Manufactures added
- 1820 – Foreigners not naturalized added
- 1830 – Uniform printed schedule
- 1840 – Revolutionary War pensioners

346

*Schedule of the whole number of Persons in the town of New-Haven*

New-Haven County  
R. I.

*Names of heads of Families*

Name	White	Black	Indian	Foreigner
John Newland	1	2	2	3
Thomas Maynard	1	2	3	-
William Martin	1	1	3	-
Richard Butler	3	1	1	-

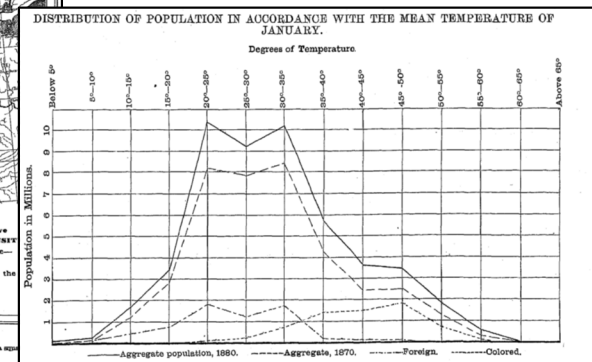
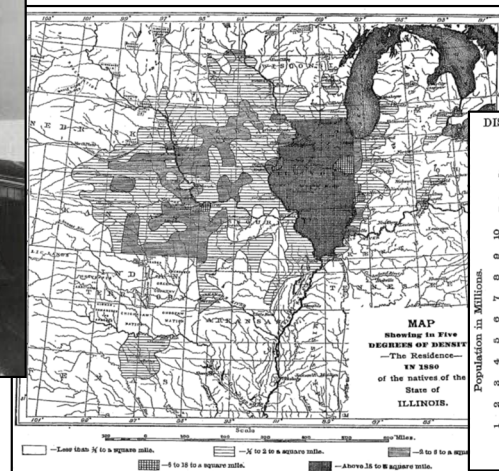
by the Marshal of the District (or Territory) of *Delaware*

SEX	SLAVES	FREE COLORED PERSONS	WHITE	TOTAL
MALES				
FEMALES				
TOTAL				



# Redefining the Census: 1850-1900

- 1850 – Individual becomes unit of data collection
- 1860 – American Indian added to list of races
- 1870 – Beginning of modern statistical analysis
- 1880 – Professional enumerators
- 1890 – Hollerith tabulating machine
- 1900 – All American Indians enumerated on the general schedule





# Transition: 1902-1930

- 1902 – Permanent Census Bureau established
- 1905 – Economic census separated from decennial census
- 1910 – Usual place of abode
- 1911 – Number of seats in House of Representatives set at 435
- 1920 – No apportionment after census
- 1930 – Congress only specifies subjects, not questions



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR-BUREAU OF THE CENSUS									
THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910-INDIAN POPULATION 722									
INDIAN POPULATION BY SEX, COLOR, AND AGE									
SPECIAL INQUIRIES RELATING TO INDIANS									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

# Modernization: 1940

- Introduction of statistical sampling
- Imputation
- Separation of population and housing
- Victory Plan
- WWII



# 1950: Context

- Post World War II
- Population growth
- Building boom
- Americans living abroad
- Research and methodology changes
- Technological advances





# 1940 vs 1950 Censuses

1940

- 50 possible questions
- 5% sampling
- 25 final reports
- Census of Manufacturing, Minerals, and Industry conducted in same year
- 147,00 Enumeration Districts



1950

- 38 possible questions
- 20% & 3.5% sampling
- 47 final reports
- Census of Manufacturing, Minerals, and Industry moved to years ending in “3” and “8”
- 230,000 Enumeration Districts



# 1950: The Questions



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1950

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE FOR INDIAN POPULATION**  
*For instructions and illustrative example see other side of this sheet*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Superior's District No. \_\_\_\_\_ Enumeration District No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Family or other district of county \_\_\_\_\_ Name of city, town, or village \_\_\_\_\_  
 Situation (if any) \_\_\_\_\_ Enumerator \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature)

Preceding Schedule Sheet No.	Line No.	Name	Sex	Age	Full Blood or Mixed Blood	Title	Part-Other Address	Apport When Enrolled
1	1							
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								

**FORM P3 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS**  
**INFANT CARD**  
1950 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING  
(For every child born in January, February, or March 1950)

This inquiry is authorized by Act of Congress (46 Stat. 21; 15 U. S. C. 201-218) which requires that a report be made... CONFIDENTIAL

State \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
 R. D. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Sheet No. \_\_\_\_\_ Line No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Enumerated by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

ASK THESE ITEMS

1. Is residence on a farm? (Copy from Population schedule item 4 for "land of household.") Yes  No

2. NAME OF INFANT (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

3. RACE OF INFANT (Copy from schedule item 4) White  Negro  American Indian  Other

4. SEX OF INFANT (Copy from schedule item 10) Male  Female

5. Is father enumerated in this household? Yes  No

IF "YES" in item 5, copy the answers in items 6, 7, 8, and 9, from the Population schedule. If "NO" in item 5, skip to item 10.

6. NAME OF FATHER (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

7. AGE OF FATHER ON LAST BIRTHDAY (Copy from schedule item 11) \_\_\_\_\_

8. OCCUPATION OF FATHER (Copy from schedule item 28; if that item is blank, enter "None.") \_\_\_\_\_

9. INDUSTRY OF FATHER (Copy from schedule item 29; if that item is blank, enter "None.") \_\_\_\_\_

10. DATE OF BIRTH (Month) \_\_\_\_\_ (Year) \_\_\_\_\_ 1950

11. POST OFFICE ADDRESS OF INFANT'S USUAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE (House Number and Street or RFD No.) \_\_\_\_\_

12. INFANT'S PLACE OF BIRTH (ACTUAL PLACE—NOT USUAL RESIDENCE) (City or Town) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of city town, with "RURAL") \_\_\_\_\_

13. NAME OF HOSPITAL (If "NONE" above, type of attendant at birth: Doctor  Midwife  Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_)

14. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

15. AGE OF MOTHER ON LAST BIRTHDAY (Copy from schedule item 11, or ask question) \_\_\_\_\_

16. EDUCATION OF MOTHER (Copy from schedule items 25 and 27, or ask question)  
 a. What is the highest grade of school that she has attended? \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. Did she finish this grade? Yes  No

17. ORDER OF BIRTH (Do not count stillbirths but count all live births, including children now deceased.)  
 Is this the 1st, 2d, etc., child the mother has ever borne? \_\_\_\_\_

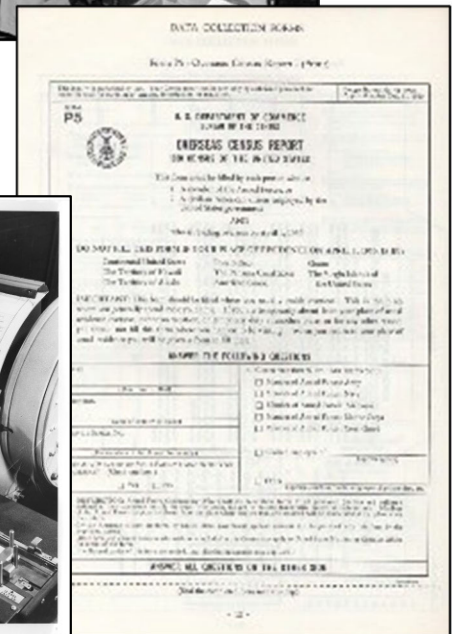
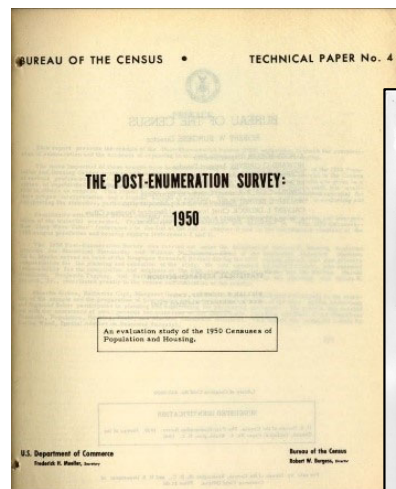
U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1949-10-28

Form P3 - Infant Card



# 1950: Innovations and Changes

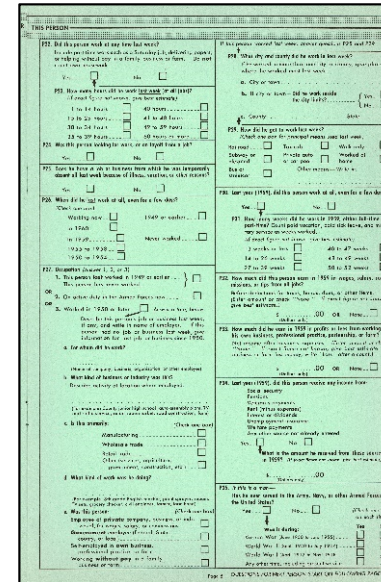
- Standard Metropolitan Areas (SMA)
- Overseas/vessel crew enumerations
- Counting of college students
- Hard to count populations
- UNIVAC I
- Experimentation
- Post-enumeration Survey





# After 1950

- Agriculture and Economic Censuses
- American Indian Census
- Self enumeration
- Long form
- Film Optical Sensing Device for Input to Computers (FOSDIC)
- Employment and Transportation
- Data Preparation Division (later National Processing Center)



# Contact Information

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History Website: <https://www.census.gov/history>

1950 Information:

[https://www.census.gov/history/www/homepage\\_archive/2022/march\\_2022.html](https://www.census.gov/history/www/homepage_archive/2022/march_2022.html)



# Feedback

## We value your opinion.

Please take a minute to complete a short evaluation. Your comments help us maintain the quality of our services and plan future programs.

Thank you!

### Event Evaluation:

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/KYREventEval](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KYREventEval)





# After the broadcast . . .

Email questions to  
[sharon.a.tosi.lacey@census.gov](mailto:sharon.a.tosi.lacey@census.gov)

Video recordings of lectures and  
downloadable handouts  
will remain online at

[www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-series/2022](http://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-series/2022)





# KNOW YOUR RECORDS

National Archives and Records Administration

Educational resources on how to access and do research using U.S. federal government records held at the National Archives and Records Administration.

## Know Your Records

[www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records](http://www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records)

Videos and Handouts on **You** 



**Thank You  
Genealogy  
Series Team!**

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Hilary Parkinson

Laura Sheehan

Mary Ryan

Robin Waldman

Victoria Blue







# Questions & Answers in Chat

**Please stay if you have questions.**

Although this concludes the video portion of the broadcast, we will continue to take your questions in **chat** for another 10 minutes.

