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 YouTube
Log in and type your questions and comments.

Join us at @USNatArchives
on Twitter #GenieSeries2022
After the broadcast, the video presentation and handout will remain available.
# March-April Schedule

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Presenter/Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>From Parchments to Printouts: History of the Census from 1790 to 1950</td>
<td>Sharon Tosi Lacey - Chief Historian U.S. Census Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>History of Census Records and the National Archives</td>
<td>Jessie Kratz - Historian of the National Archives National Archives in Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>Historic Census Bureau Sources for Filipino, Guamanian and Chamorro, American Samoan, and Native Hawaiian Research</td>
<td>Christopher Martin – Historian U.S. Census Bureau</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Genealogy/Census Subject Matter Expert Claire Kluskens provides an overview of what’s available (and not available) in the 1950 Census.
Claire Kluskens is the Genealogy/Census Subject Matter Expert at the National Archives in Washington, DC. She spearheaded the completion of more than 330 National Archives microfilm publications and now works on digital and description projects for the National Archives Catalog and NARA website. She lectures frequently and has published extensively in national, state, and local genealogical publications. Claire has been a National Archives and Records Administration staff member since 1992 and has done genealogical research since 1976.
Overview of

The 1950 Census

Claire Kluskens

March 2022
Why Does the U.S. Take a Census Every 10 Years?

• Required by Article I, Section 2, of the U.S. Constitution

• To allocate representation in the U.S. House of Representatives on the basis of population

• Provide statistical data for policymaking
The 1950 Census Release is Happening on April 1, 2022

- April 1 was the “official census day” in 1950
- 72-year rule has been in place since 1952
- Agreement later codified by Congress
230,000 Enumeration Districts
Enumerators Hired and Trained

• Ordinary citizens
• Temporary job
• Basic literacy skills – able to read, write legibly, do basic math, and interact successfully with other people
• Received training
Systematic Training for Enumerators and Crew Leaders
1950 CENSUS RELEASE

How Was the Enumeration Done?

• 140,000 enumerators personally visited 46 million dwellings
• 2.25 million dwellings visited each day – at a cost of $1 million/day
• Most enumeration was completed by May 30, 1950:
  • Winter storms in North and South Dakota delayed rural enumeration by 6 weeks
  • Floods in the Mississippi Valley and other waterways delayed enumeration
  • Some census offices didn’t hire enough enumerators
  • Some enumerators only worked 6 hours per day
  • Some enumerators did poor work that had to be redone
Advertising
Newspapers
Radio
Press Releases
Three Record Sets

• NARA Microfilm Publication T628, *Seventeenth Census of the United States, 1950* (6,373 rolls) – about 6.4 million digital images

• Forms P8, *Indian Reservation Schedules* – about 33,000 digital images

• Population census forms for Canton [Kanton], Johnston, Midway, and Wake Islands in the Pacific Ocean – about 2,000 images
1950 CENSUS RELEASE

NARA Microfilm Publication T628, Seventeenth Census of the United States, 1950 (6,373 rolls) (6.4 million digital images)

• Digital access only - no access to physical microfilm
• Continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands
• Paper records were microfilmed in 1952 by the Bureau of the Census
• The original paper records were destroyed in 1961-1963
1950 CENSUS RELEASE

Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

• Form used in most of the continental U.S.

• 30 persons per page

• 6 persons answered sample questions

• Person on last sample line answered even more sample questions

• 5 versions of form to ensure different lines were sampled on different pages

• Generally similar to 1940 census – the bulk of the variations with 1940 are in the sample questions
Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

- Reverse side of form – housing questions
- Not microfilmed - therefore not part of the census release
- Statistics compiled and published
1950 CENSUS RELEASE

Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

Heading Items – Upper Middle
### 1950 Census Release

**Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing**

**Heading Items – Upper Left**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a. STATE</th>
<th>e. HOTEL, LARGE ROOMING HOUSE, INSTITUTION, MILITARY INSTALLATION, ETC.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. COUNTY</td>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. INCORPORATED PLACE OR TOWNSHIP</td>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. E. D. NUMBER</td>
<td>Type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Line Nos. to , inclusive Line Nos. to , inclusive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOR HEAR OF HOUSEHOLD

(R5)
Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

Heading Items – Upper Right
### Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

*Items 1 - 6*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Street, avenue, or road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>House and apartment number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Serial number of dwelling unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Is this house on a farm? (Yes / No)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>If not on a farm, is the house on more than 3 acres?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Agriculture Questionnaire Number</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

Item 7

Name of head of household

Wife

Unmarried sons & daughters by age

Married sons & daughters & their families

Other relatives

Other persons – lodgers, roomers, hired hands, etc., and their families

“No One at Home – See Sheet __ Line ___”
Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

Item 8 - Relationship to Head of Household
Item 9 - Race
Item 10 - Sex
Item 11 - Age at last birthday
  If under age 1 - month of birth
Item 12 - Marital Status - Mar, Wd, D, Sep, Nev
Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

**Items 13 - 14**

Item 13 – State or country of birth

Item 14 – If foreign born, is he [she] naturalized

- Yes
- No
- AP
Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

**Items 15 - 19**

- **Item 15** – Last week – Wk, H, Ot, U
- **Item 16** – If H or Ot – did they do any work at all?
- **Item 17** – If “No” in Item 16 – Was the person looking for work?
- **Item 18** – If “No” in Item 17 – Did person have a job or business?
- **Item 19** – If “Wk” in Item 15 or “Yes” in Item 16 – How many hours did he [she] work last week?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item 20a</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nails heels on shoes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry professor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm helper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed forces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never worked</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item 20b</th>
<th>Industry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For example:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoe factory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State university</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item 20c</th>
<th>Class of worker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For PRIVATE employer (P)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For GOVERNMENT (G)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In OWN business (O)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WITHOUT PAY on family farm or business (NP)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>20a</th>
<th>20b</th>
<th>20c</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing**

*Items 20a, b, c*

Item 20a – occupation
Item 20b – Industry
Item 20c – Class of worker
Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

Sample Line Markers
“Notes”
“Household Continued”
Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

Items 21 – 23 – Questions for Persons on Samples Lines

Item 21 – Was he [she] living in this same house a year ago?

If “No” in Item 21 –

Item 22 – Was he [she] living on a farm a year ago?

Item 23 – Was he [she] living in this same county a year ago?
Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

Items 24a – 24b, Questions for Persons on Sample Lines

24a – County the person was living in one year ago (1949)

24b – State or foreign country the person was living in one year ago (1949)
Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

Item 25, Question for Persons on Sample Lines

25 – What country were his [her] father and mother born in?
Answer – U.S. or name of Territory, possession, or foreign country.
Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

Items 26 – 28, Questions for Persons on Sample Lines

26 – What is the highest grade of school that he [she] has attended? O, K, S1–S12, C1-C5

27 – Did he [she] finish that grade? Yes / No

28 – Has he [she] attended school at any time since February 1? Yes / No / Age 30 or over
Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

**Items 29 – 30, Questions for Persons on Sample Lines**

29 – If looking for work - “Yes” in Item 17 – How many weeks has he [she] been looking for work?

30 – Last year, in how many weeks did this person do any work at all, not counting work around the house?
Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

Items 31a, 31b, 31c, Questions for Persons on Sample Lines

Last year (1949) –

31a – How much money did he [she] earn as an employee for wages or salary

31b – How much money did he [she] earn working in his own business, professional practice, or farm?

31c – How much did he [she] receive from interest, dividends, veteran’s allowances, pensions, rents, or other income?
Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

Items 32a, 32b, 32c, Questions for Persons on Sample Lines

Last year (1949) –

32a – How much money did the person’s relatives in this household earn as an employee for wages or salary?

32b – How much money did the person’s relatives in this household working in their own business, professional practice, or farm?

32c – How much did the person’s relatives in this household receive from interest, dividends, veteran’s allowances, pensions, rents, or other income?
Form P6, Confidential Report on Income, 1949
Fill out and mail to Census Bureau directly or hand back to enumerator
Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

Items 33a, 33b, 33c, Questions for Persons on Sample Lines

*If Male –*

Did he ever serve in the U.S. Armed Forces during

33a – World War II

33b – World War I

33c – Any other time, including present service
Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

Items 34 – 35c for the person on the last sample line

34 – If the person worked last year (at least one week in 1949) then ask –

35a – What kind of work did this person do in his/her last job?

35b – What kind of business or industry did he work in?

35c – Class of worker – P, G, O, NP
Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

*Items 36 – 38 for the person on the last sample line*

36 – If ever married (Mar, Wd, D, or Sep) – Has this person been married more than once? 
37 – How many years since the person was married, widowed, divorced, or separated? 
38 – If female and ever married (Mar, Wd, D, or Sep) – How many children has she ever borne – not counting stillbirths?
Field Enumeration Procedures
Field Enumeration Procedures

Call back (repeat visit)
Form P1, *1950 Census of Population and Housing*

**Key Point:**

Sheets 71 and up are people enumerated out of order

- No One at Home - “Call backs”
- People who filled out Form P2, *Individual Census Report*
- “Missed persons”
Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

Missed Persons Campaign – May 1950

1950 CENSUS—HAVE YOU BEEN COUNTED?

The Census is nearing completion. If you have not been counted here or anywhere else, please fill out the form below and mail it immediately to the U.S. Census District Office at the address shown:

Cut out this form and mail to:
Aarnout Castel, Crew Leader, Bureau of the Census,
Box 168, Nome, Alaska.
Mail This Report In Immediately!

ALASKA CENSUS
ALMOST COMPLETE

The 17th decennial census in Alaska is now in the final stage of enumeration. Many areas have been completed. However, it is possible that some persons have been missed. The census bureau is mailing to each of the postmasters in the Territory a supply of individual census report forms with return envelopes to be given, upon request, to all such persons missed in this initial canvass.

Every attempt is being made to make this the most complete census ever taken in the Territory.

Images courtesy of Library of Congress

Samples of newspaper article and advertisement

Nome Nugget (Alaska), May 12, 1950, page 4
Form P2, Individual Census Report

• Side 1
• Trifold like a brochure
• Returned to enumerator
Form P2, Individual Census Report

- Side 2
- Trifold like a brochure
- Returned to enumerator
Transients – T-Night #1 – April 11

- Tuesday, April 11, 1950
- Intense drive to cover hotels, YMCAs, and tourist courts (campgrounds).
- Enumerators were stationed at these places from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Tuesday and 7 a.m. to 12 noon on Wednesday.
- Each person was provided an ICR (Form P2, Individual Census Report) for self-enumeration - the enumerator followed up to ensure it was turned in.
- The Census Bureau transcribed the information from the ICR onto the Form P1 for the ED where the person lived.
Form P4, Crews of Vessels Report

- Trifold brochure
- Given to crew members
- Crew returned form to a vessel officer
- Sent to Census Bureau
- Census Bureau transcribed information onto Form P1
Self-enumeration on “Household” forms tested in Ingham and Livingston Counties, Michigan, and Franklin County, Ohio.

“Household” forms were also tested in selected EDs in Genesee County, Michigan, and in Coshocton, Defiance, Delaware, Fulton, Henry, Knox, Licking, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Van Wert, and Williams Counties, Ohio, but the enumerators completed the forms for households in those areas.
Self Enumeration Forms
Other Forms Used in Experimental Michigan and Ohio Areas – Form P10, Form P11
Other Forms Used in Experimental Michigan and Ohio Areas – Form P12A
Enumeration of Special Populations

- Infants
- College Students
- Transients
- Native Americans on Reservations
- Overseas Military and Civilians
Infants – Special Study of the Baby Undercount Problem

- Babies born Jan.-Mar. 1950 were recorded on P1 and on the P3, *Infant Card*
  
- P3 asked actual place of birth, name of hospital, type of attendant, maiden name of mother
  
- **P3 cards do not exist**
  
- Results
  
  - 95.1 percent enumerated
  
  - Urban & white babies more likely to be counted
  
  - Babies with mothers with less than 7 years of school more likely to be missed
  
  - No real difference between reporting of boys & girls
Form P3, Infant Card
College Students

- About 2.3 million college students
- Census Bureau decided to enumerate them at their “college” address - usual place of residence during the school year
- Still the rule today
Transients – T-Night #2 – April 13

- Thursday, April 13, 1950
- Intense drive to cover missions and “flophouses” (cheap motels where the room rate was under 50 cents)
- Enumerators were stationed at these places from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Thursday and 7 a.m. to 12 noon on Friday.
- The enumerator interviewed guests and any resident staff and employees, recording the information on the Form P1 - No selfenumeration
Form P8, Indian Reservation Schedule

- Links to the P1 Schedule
  - ED, sheet, line numbers
- Family schedule
- 10 persons – add 2nd page if needed
- Not every reservation
  - None – Alaska
  - None – Oklahoma
  - None – some others
Form P8, Indian Reservation Schedule

Name
Other Name (Indian Name)
Tribe
Clan
Degree of Indian Blood (full, 1/2, 1/4, less than 1/4)
Read, write, speak English?
Read, write, speak another language?
Participated in any “native Indian ceremonies” in 1949?
Enumeration in U.S. Territories and Possessions

**Standard Forms Similar to U.S. Form P1**

- Form P80 - American Samoa
- Form P82 – Alaska
- Form P85 – Guam
- Form P87 – Hawaii
- Form P91 – Panama Canal Zone
- Form P93 – Puerto Rico
- Form P97 – U.S. Virgin Islands

Form P82 – Alaska
Overseas U.S. Military and Civilians

Exist only for 4 Pacific Islands:

- Johnston – one U.S. Navy vessel refueling
- Midway – U.S. Navy personnel & families
- Wake – U.S. Navy personnel & families

NO other census records of Americans overseas
Overseas U.S. Military and Civilians

- Census Bureau obtained cooperation of U.S. Departments of State and Defense as well as the U.S. Maritime Administration to achieve enumeration of people under their jurisdiction.
- Enumeration took place – but was done for informational purposes only.
- These census forms do not exist (except for the 4 islands already noted)
  - Overseas members of the Armed Forces – 301,595 (No census record)
  - Overseas civilian citizens employed by the U.S. Government – 26,910 (No census record)
  - Overseas families of Armed Forces personnel or civilian citizen employees – 107,350 (No census record)
NARA’s 1950 Census Website

www.archives.gov/research/census/1950

1950 Census Records

Taken every 10 years since 1790, the United States census provides a snapshot of the nation’s population. Because of a 72-year restriction on access to the records, the most recent census year currently available is 1940.

On April 1, 2022, the 1950 Census will be released, and users will be able to access it for free through a dedicated website. This population census is the 37th decennial census of the United States. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has digitized and will provide free online access to the 1950 Census population schedules for U.S. states and territories, enumeration district maps, and enumeration district descriptions.

Bulk Download: In addition, researchers will be able to download the full 1950 Census dataset through the Amazon Web Services’ (AWS) Registry of Open Data (ROD).

How You Can Help

You will be able to search the 1950 Census website by name and location. You will also be able to search by Indian Reservation for form PB Indian Reservation Schedules.

To develop the initial name index, we are using Amazon Web Services’ artificial intelligence / optical character recognition (AI/OCR) Textact tool to extract the handwritten names from the digitized 1950 Census population schedules.

Because the initial name index is built on optical character recognition (OCR) technology, it will not be 100-percent accurate. The National Archives is asking for your help in submitting name updates to the index using a transcription tool that will be available on the 1950 Census website. You can help us improve the accuracy of the name index and

Resources

- genealogy
- main page
- census
- census main page
- about census records
- search census records online
- 1950 census idx
- 1940 census
- 1930 census
- 1920-1940 census clave
- 1970-1980 census clave
- intercensal population census
- 1930 business census
- indian census rolls
- presidents in the US census records
- census links by year
- resources
- sources coding system
- blank census forms and charts
- order census copies online
- using census microfilm

Published

- statistical data
- native americans in the census
- external resources

FAQs about the 1950 Census

Finding Aids

Information and training videos

Instructions for Enumerators and the Public

Blank Census Forms

External Resources

Census enumerator assisting a farmer view in National Archives Catalog

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
History Hub website

https://historyhub.history.gov

Ask Questions!

Follow the 1950 Census Blog Series!
Wrap Up

Forms Used in the 1950 Census

Procedures Used During the Enumeration

Form P1 – Standard U.S. Form

Other Forms Used During Census
Thank You!

Please Visit

www.archives.gov/research/census/1950
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
After the broadcast . . .

Email questions to inquire@nara.gov

Video recordings of lectures and downloadable handouts will remain online at

www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-series/2022
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

Videos and Handouts on YouTube
Thank You
Genealogy Series Team!

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Jamie Atkinson
Jason Winston
Julie Reid
Vernon Smith

Publicity
Erin Townsend
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.