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
After the broadcast, the video presentation and handout will remain available.
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<td>Claire Kluskens</td>
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<td>Michael L. Knight</td>
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<td>Sharon Tosi Lacey - Chief Historian</td>
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<td>May 25</td>
<td>Historic Census Bureau Sources for Filipino, Guamanian and Chamorro, American Samoan, and Native Hawaiian Research</td>
<td>Christopher Martin – Historian</td>
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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.
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
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
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
- 147,000 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
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
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
sharon.a.tosi.lacey@census.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

[Website Link](www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records)

Videos and Handouts on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)
Thank You
Genealogy
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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.