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CONFERENCE TIPS

FOLLOWING ANCESTORS

PRINCIPAL'S ALBUMS

1950 Census

1950 CENSUS

Thanks to Claire Kluskens, Genealogy/Census Subject Matter Expert and Digital Project Archivist at NARA and OGS Life Member, for writing in to share her recent History Hub blog post about the various enumeration procedures conducted during the 1950 Census.

The 1950 Census was the first time the Census Bureau experimented with self-enumeration on household forms. This was tested in Franklin County, Ohio, and two Michigan counties. Certain enumeration districts in fourteen Ohio counties and one Michigan county also utilized self-enumeration; however, census enumerators completed the forms for each household in those areas.

You can read more on Kluskens' blog post here: https://tinyurl.com/5xr9v2h3

The 1950 Census was made available to the public on April 1.

Some facts about the 17th decennial census:

- The first post-WWII census
- 152 million people were counted[1]
- The first census that asked if the person owned a TV
- The dataset (which includes metadata index, population schedules, enumeration district maps, and enumeration district descriptions) contains over 165 terabytes of data[2]
- The first census to be released using optical character recognition/artificial intelligence (OCR/AI) to recognize handwriting

A dedicated 1950 Census website has been established. While the census has been indexed by OCR/AI, there are still limits to the technology. There will be a transcription tool on the website where users can submit updates. Happy searching!

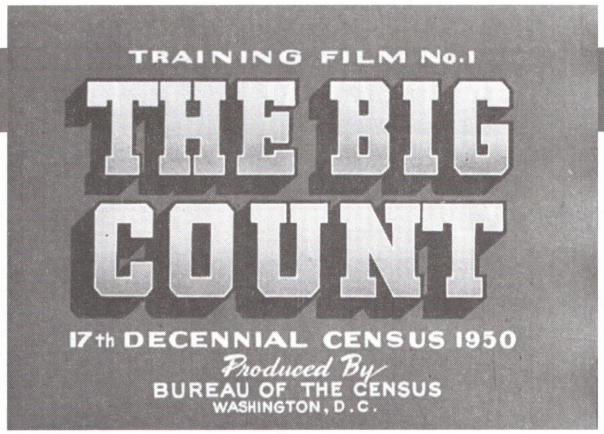

Image from "The Big Count." Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1970-2007, Record Group 29; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD [online version available through the Archival Research Catalog (ARC Identifier 178688266) at https://catalog.archives.gov/ : 19 February 2022].

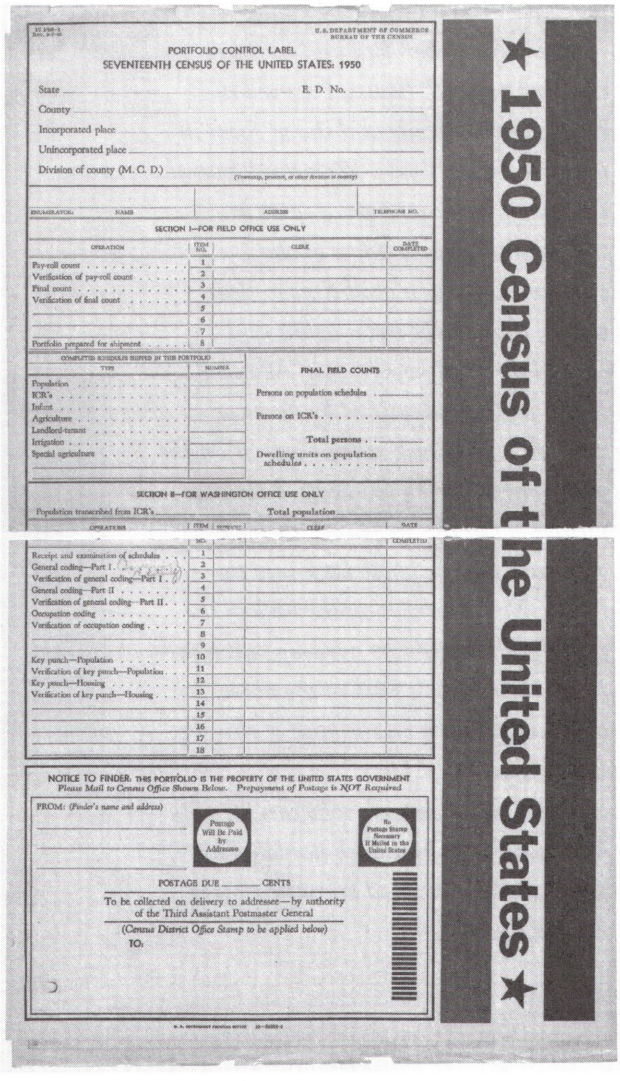

Image from "[Folder 14] Form 17Fld-1, Portfolio Control Label, 17th Decennial Census, 1949-1950" Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1970-2007, Record Group 29; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD [online version available through the Archival Research Catalog (ARC Identifier 195980248) at https://catalog.archives.gov/ : 1 March 2022].

1. "1950 Census Fact Sheet," National Archives, https://www.archives.gov/press/press-kits/1950-census-fact-sheet#:~:text=1950%20Census%20Release%3A%20What%E2%80%99s%20New%3F%20First%20time%20using,a%20transcription%20tool%20to%20improve%20the%20name%20index (accessed 1 March 2022)

2. "1950 Census Release Will Offer Enhanced Digital Access, Public Collaboration Opportunity," National Archives, https://www.archives.gov/news/articles/1950-census-access (accessed 1 March 2022)