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Summer 2022

## Ancestry and the 1950 US Census

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# Ancestry and the 1950 US Census

Murray Library, Summer 2022

Beth Transue, Librarian

Cofounder- Thistle Genealogy Services

# Today's Session

- Messiah University genealogy resources
- Getting Started - create a family tree
- US Census with focus on 1950 census
- Finding family in 1950 census
- Workshop time (librarians here to help)

# Messiah University Resources

- Ancestry Library Edition
  - Search, Save, Print
  - Cannot create personal tree in Ancestry Library Edition
- Genealogy subject guide- Free Resources  
<https://libguides.messiah.edu/history/family>

# Create a Family Tree for Free

- FREE Individual Ancestry account
  - Create tree, add to tree, search 'free' databases, search library Ancestry
  - Cannot search 'paid' databases in Ancestry
- Family Search (join one 'global' tree)
  - Your family may already be listed in the global tree!
  - Beware of inaccurate information (FS is like Wikipedia)
- Free trees - see library guide
- If more serious - paid trees like Family Tree Maker software

# Get Started in Ancestry

- Write down what you already know. Talk to Family.
  - Parents, Grandparents, birth, marriage, death, locations
- General search for one individual with known information
  - Start with deceased individual if enough information is known
- Review evidence
- Move back one generation
- Ask for help when you hit a brick wall!

# US Federal Census

- Backbone of genealogy - lists entire family units
- US - every 10 years - required by US Constitution

*The actual Enumeration shall be made ..within every subsequent Term of ten Years*

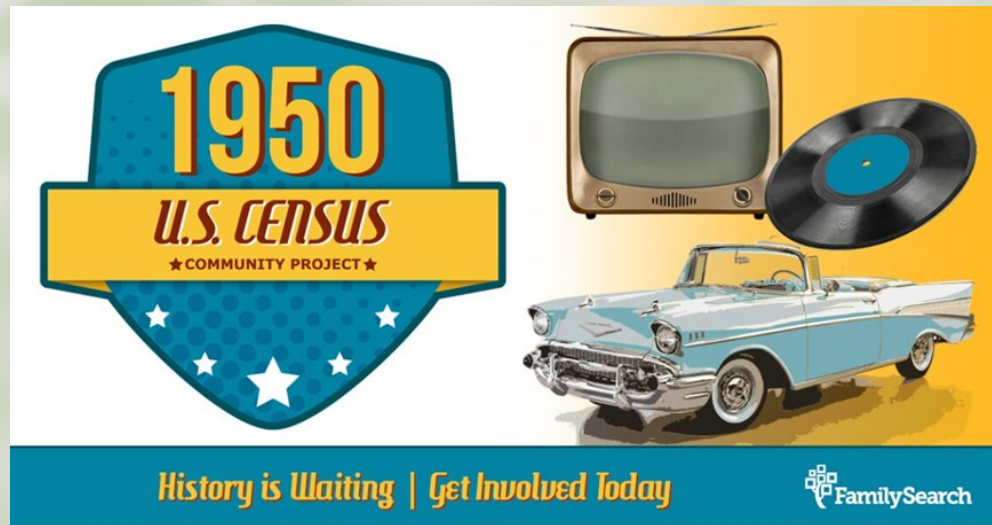
- Confidential for 72 years by law
- Started in 1790
- 1890 - a tragedy for genealogy

*The records of only 6,160 of the 62,979,766 people enumerated survived a fire*



# 1950 Census

- Released **April 1 2022** - 72 years after census officially taken
- the first census to **count college students where they lived** instead of their parent's home
- the first census to count Americans serving abroad in the military
  - ..... but the actual documents didn't survive





# Information in the 1950 Census

- Address
- Names/family unit
- Race, Sex, Age, Birthplace
- # hours worked, occupation
- Supplemental Information (If you are lucky!)
  - Living in the same place?
  - Education level
  - Salary
  - Military service
  - Parents' birthplace

# How Well Do You Know Messiah in 1950?

- Who was the President of Messiah in 1950?
- How many students lived on campus?
- Who Was the Librarian?
- Looking for Reconciliation in census documents....



# Messiah University – Then and Now

	<b>1950</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Name</b>	Messiah Bible College	Messiah University
<b>Residential Students</b>	85	1,977
<b>Gender</b>	60% female	60% female
<b>Race</b>	1% Underrepresented Pop	17% Underrepresented Pop
<b>US States</b>	11 states	42 states
<b>International/TCK Students</b>	5 countries	24 countries

# Messiah University in 1950

- BROWSE: PA, Cumberland County, Upper Allen Twp, ED22-91
  - Students - p44-46
  - Faculty - p33-34

Reconciliation in the US Census

Look at the first two students listed - what do you notice?

# How to Find Family in 1950 Census

## **Direct search**

- Go to 1950 Census search page in Ancestry
- Search for name, birthdate, location
- Current transcription - artificial intelligence with lots of transcription errors

If search doesn't work

1. Wait until better version available (Fall 2022)....OR
2. Indirect search by location

# How to Find Family in 1950 Census

## Indirect search

- Determine location/address
  - Oral history,
  - Search Ancestry: 1940 census, WWII draft card, City directories
- 1950 Census page in Ancestry
  - Explore Maps
  - Type in Address
  - Determine enumeration district
  - Browse census pages by street name





# Get Involved

- Help Crowdsourc Index so that everyone can easily find their relatives in the 1950 census. PA just opened!
- It's easy and you can help as little or as much as you want!
- <https://www.familysearch.org/getinvolved/1950>