



Swinging into the 1950s!

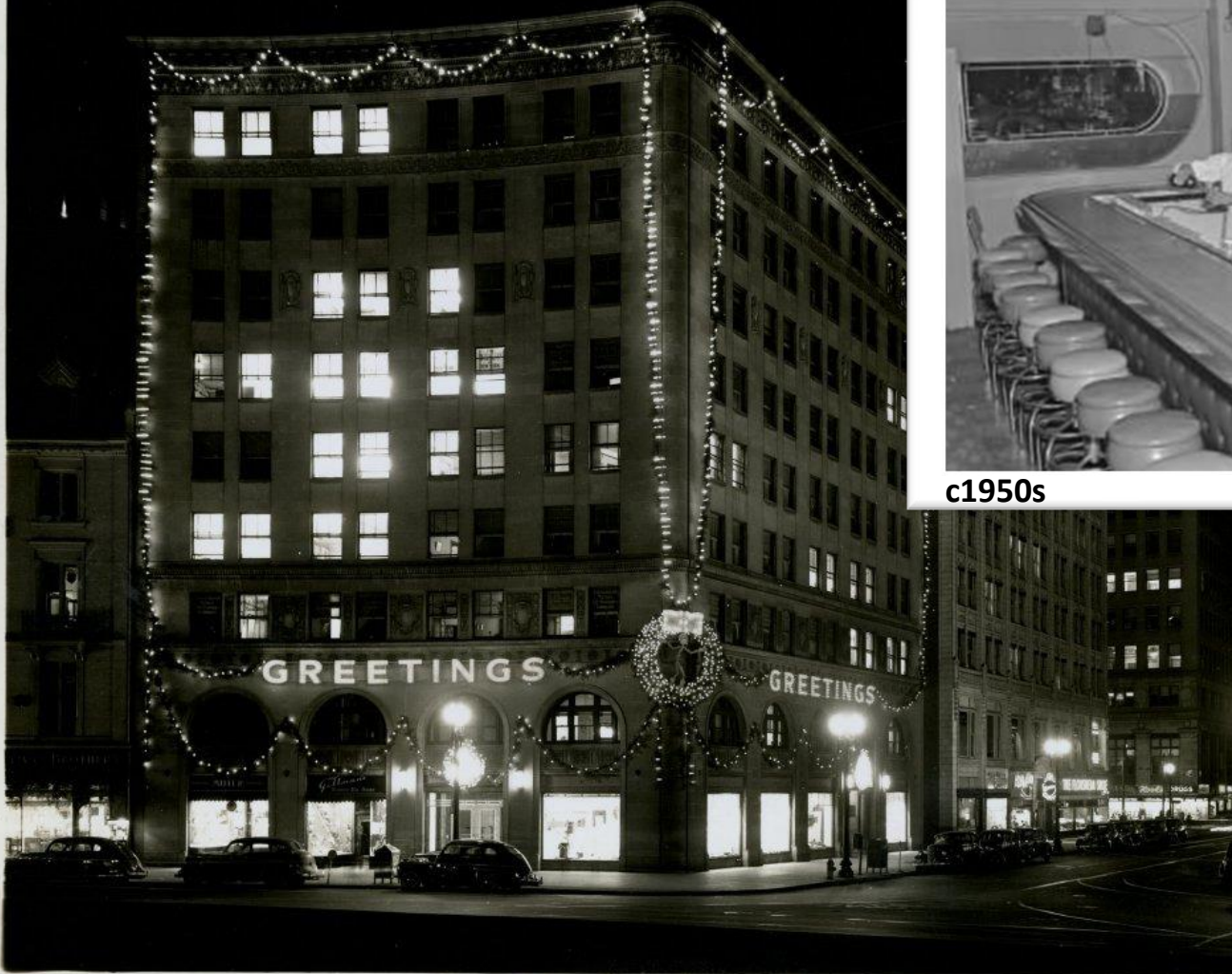
NARA RELEASES THE 1950 CENSUS

Katie Springer and Jamie Dunn
Indiana State Library

1950s America

- An era of prosperity after nearly 15 years of economic depression and wartime rationing
- Increased home and car ownership, along with consumer goods like televisions
- Post-war availability and affordability of modern technology to improve standard of living

INDIANAPOLIS
POWER &
LIGHT CO.



c1950



c1950s



c1949

Family Farms in the 1950s



93% married Hoosier men on rural farms in the labor force

12.3% married Hoosier women on rural farms in the labor force, low because all ages of women were working in the house supporting the farm workers.

Kuhlenschmidt family collection
Genealogy Division, Indiana State Library

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

9 Workers To Open First Business Census In 10 Years Tomorrow



Carl Eggert, Chief Interviewer
Indianapolis office of the Census Bureau
1949 Census of Business, Indianapolis

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

Census Bureau Ready For 'Dress Rehearsal'

DAILY

ACROSS

1—Let it stand (Print.)

5—Crust on a wound

9—White with age

10—A maiden of Moham-medan paradise

12—Protective covering

13—Beneath

14—Skips a stone on water

15—Ebb and flow of ocean

16—King of fish

20—Distant

By ARTHUR EDSON

Washington, April 12 (AP)—The Census Bureau has had two practice runs, and now is ready for its dress rehearsal for the 1950 census.

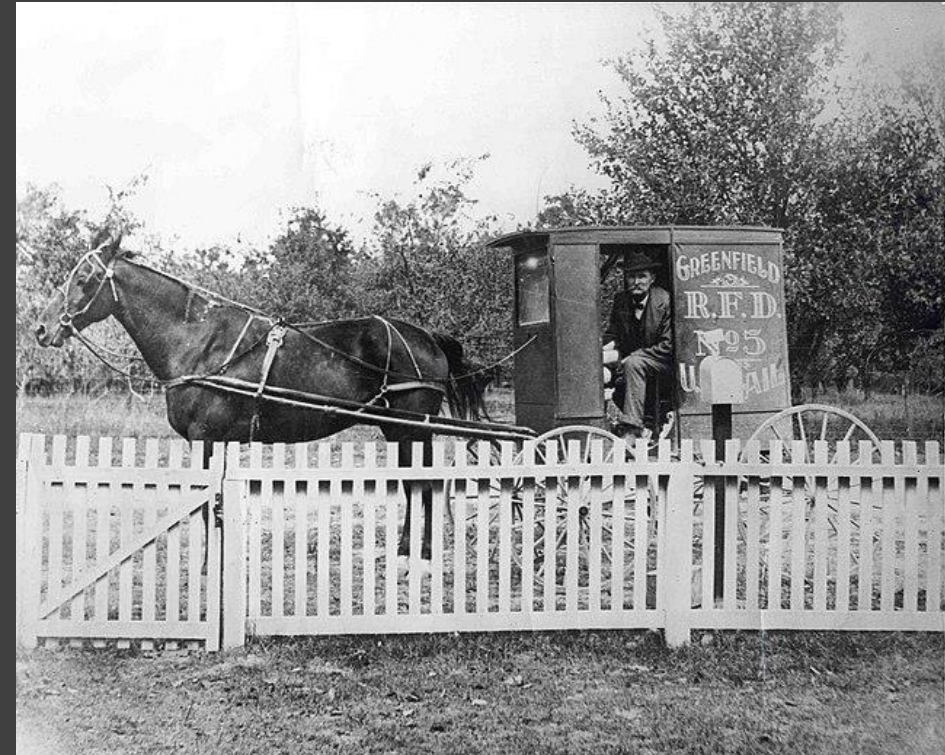
Maybe you never thought about a census-taker practicing census-taking. But he does.

Lowell T. Galt, who heads the Census Bureau's field operations, told me today that practice drills have been held at Cape Girardeau, Mo., and in rural counties of Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky. Another final, or dress rehearsal will begin soon in Anderson, S.C.

"Certainly we need them," Galt said. "I guess we made every mistake that could be made at Cape Girardeau. We've ironed out most of the bugs, though, and I'm hoping all will go well at Anderson."

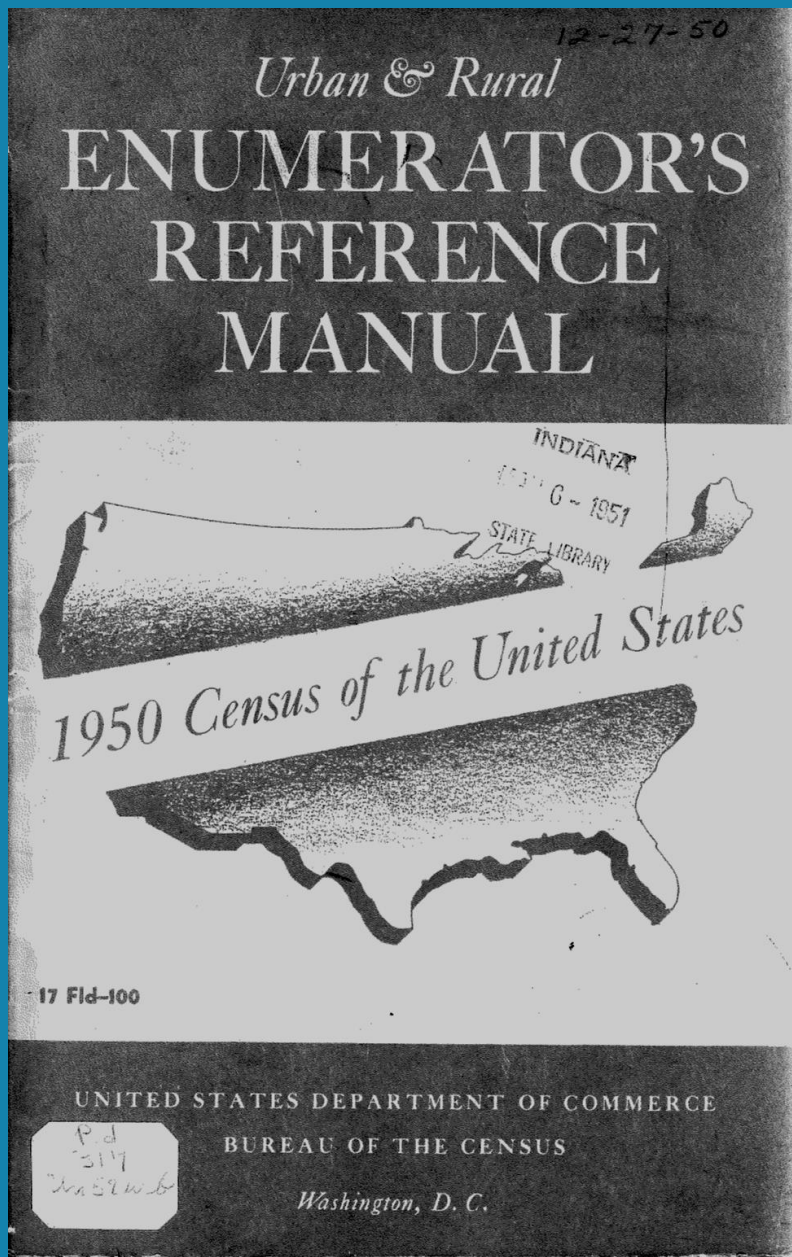
In the 1950 census—to be taken the first week of next April—blanks will be dropped in each of the nation's 5,000,000 R.F.D. boxes. Every R.F.D. patron is supposed to fill out the blanks then the census-taker will pick up the filled-out sheet. Considerable time is expected to be saved.

Indianapolis Star
April 13, 1949



Rural Free Delivery (RFD) carrier, horse, and wagon
Greenfield, IN

1950 Census Dress Rehearsal
Usage of USPS Rural Free Delivery (RFD) boxes



Guides for
Enumerators
“Pointers”
And
Questions for
women about
total children
born in lifetime



April
1950

17 934-1
Rev. 9-7-49

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

PORTFOLIO CONTROL LABEL
SEVENTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1950

State _____ E. D. No. _____
County _____
Incorporated place _____
Unincorporated place _____
Division of county (M. C. D.) _____
(Township, precinct, or other division of county)

ENUMERATOR: NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ TELEPHONE NO. _____

SECTION I—FOR FIELD OFFICE USE ONLY

OPERATION	ITEM NO.	CLERK	DATE COMPLETED
Pay-roll count	1		
Verification of pay-roll count	2		
Final count	3		
Verification of final count	4		
	5		
	6		
	7		
Portfolio prepared for shipment	8		

PORTFOLIO NUMBER _____

FINAL FIELD COUNTS

Persons on population schedules

Persons on ICR's

Total persons

Dwelling units on population schedules

FOR WASHINGTON OFFICE USE ONLY

★ 1950 Census of

May
1950

Census Count
Begins to Lag

**CENSUS TAKER
SAILING ALONG**

Says That Reports of
Public Resentment Are
Largely Exaggerated.

June
1950

Enumeration
99% finished

Indiana
 COUNTY
 INCORPORATED PLACE OR TOWNSHIP
 NUMBER
 2-13

e. HOTEL, LARGE ROOMING HOUSE, INSTITUTION, MILITARY INSTALLATION, ETC.

Name _____ Name _____
 Type _____ Type _____
 Line Nos. _____ to _____, inclusive Line Nos. _____ to _____, inclusive

CONFIDENTIAL This inquiry is authorized by Act of Congress. The information furnished is accorded confidential status for purposes of taxation, investigation, or regulation.

FORM P1 U. S. DEPT. OF COMMERCE
1950 CENSUS OF HOUSING

Budget No. _____

18) which requires that a report be made, and report cannot be used for purposes of _____

f. DATE SHEET STARTED
 April 3

g. ENUMERATOR'S SIGNATURE
 Jurgla G W

h. CHECKED BY _____
 (Crew leader)

14-59923-1

FOR HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD						FOR ALL PERSONS						
House (and apartment) number	Serial number of dwelling unit	Is this house on a farm (or ranch)? (Yes or No)	If No in item 4-- Is this house on a place of three or more acres? (Yes or No)	Agriculture Questionnaire Number	NAME What is the name of the head of this household? What are the names of all other persons who live here? List in this order: The head His wife Unmarried sons and daughters (in order of age) Married sons and daughters and their families Other relatives Other persons, such as lodgers, roomers, maids or hired hands who live in, and their relatives (Last name first)	RELATIONSHIP Enter relationship of person to head of the household, as: Head Wife Daughter Grandson Mother-in-law Lodger Lodger's wife Maids Hired hand Patient, etc.	RACE White (W) Negro (Neg) American Indian (Ind) Japanese (Jap) Chinese (Chi) Filipino (Fil) Other race—spell out	SEX Male (M) Female (F)	How old was he on his last birthday? (Number one year of age, enter month of birth as April, May, Dec., etc.)	Is he now married, widowed, separated, or never married? (Mar., Wd., D., Sep., Nov)	What State (or foreign country) was he born in? If born outside Continental United States, enter name of Territory, possession, or foreign country Distinguish Canada-French from Canada-other	If foreign born— Is he naturalized? (Yes, No, or AP for born abroad of American parents)
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14

FOR PERSONS 14 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER

1. If employed (Wk in item 16, or Yes in item 16 or item 15), or
 2. If looking for work (Yes in item 17), describe last job or business
 4. For all other persons, leave blank

If No in item 17-- Even though he didn't work last week, does he have a job or business?	If Wk in item 15 or Yes in item 16-- How many hours did he work last week? (Include unpaid work on family farm or business)	What kind of work was he doing? For example: Nails heels on shoes..... Chemistry professor..... Farmer..... Farm helper..... Armed forces..... Never worked..... (Occupation)	What kind of industry was he in? For example: Shoe factory..... State university..... Farm..... Farm..... (Industry)
18	19	20a	20

What's On the 1950 Census?



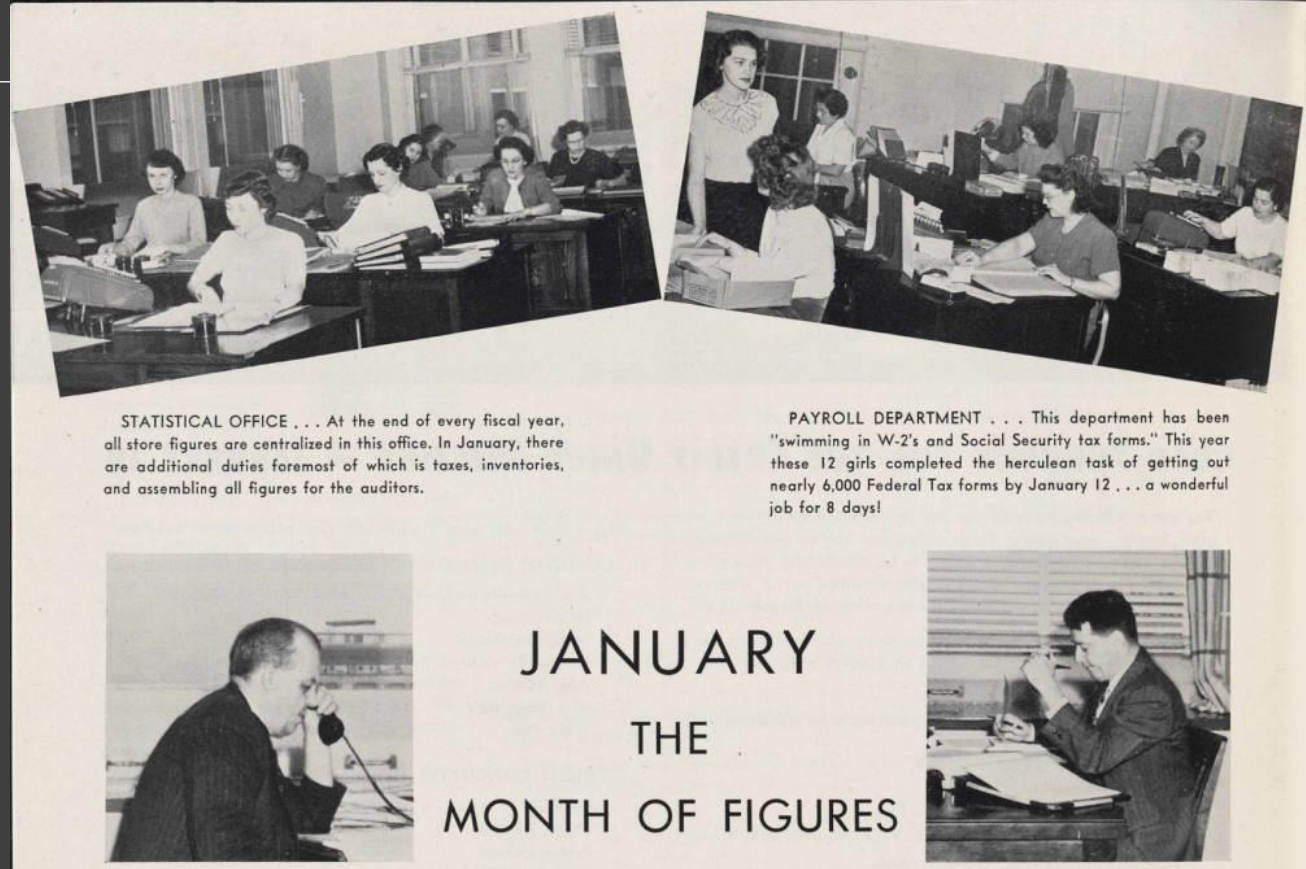
Dunn family photo

Demographic Information

- House/apartment number
- Sex
- Is this house on a farm?
- Age
- Name
- Marital status
- Role in household
- Place of birth
- Race
- Naturalization status

Employment Information

- Did they have a job?
- Hours worked per week
- Type of job
- Industry



STATISTICAL OFFICE . . . At the end of every fiscal year, all store figures are centralized in this office. In January, there are additional duties foremost of which is taxes, inventories, and assembling all figures for the auditors.

PAYROLL DEPARTMENT . . . This department has been "swimming in W-2's and Social Security tax forms." This year these 12 girls completed the herculean task of getting out nearly 6,000 Federal Tax forms by January 12 . . . a wonderful job for 8 days!

JANUARY
THE
MONTH OF FIGURES

1950s Ayres employee newsletter
Indiana Digital Collection

Trace	my
olford, Belle	head
opkins, Nora	sister
osse, Lottie	head
ver, Florence E.	head
met, Arthur	head
— Helma	wife
in Roman C.	head
— Marguerite M.	wife
— Mary Ann	daughter
o One Home see lines	
ndt Marie E.	Head
— Edward J.	son

Special Sample Questions

- Asked the **country of birth** of the person's parents
- Asked about **education** level
- Asked about **income**, whether from a job, investments, veteran's benefits, etc.
- Asked about prior **military service**

Resulting
1950 Census data:

BABY BOOM!

Started in 1946

GI population

- Came home from war
- Got married
- Started families

Lead to increased
population for multiple
generations nationwide



Kuhlenschmidt family collection
Genealogy Division, Indiana State Library

What were women doing
during the census?

In the Labor Force

43.9 % of single women

21.3 % of married women



Top Occupations for People of Color, 14+

Men of Color

Metal Industries

Cleaners and Porters

Construction

Truck Drivers and
Deliverymen

Women of Color

Private household workers
(not live-in) and public
service jobs

Manufacturing

Clerical workers

Teachers



FOR HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD

FOR ALL PERSONS

NATIONAL ARCHIVES
1950
 CENSUS
 EXPLORE & COLLABORATE

LINE NUMBER
 1
 2
 3
 4
 5
 6
 7
 8
 9
 10

Name of street, avenue, or road
 1
 2
 3
 4
 5
 6
 7
 8
 9
 10

If No in item 4 - Is this

NAME
 What is the name of the head of this household?
 What are the names of all other persons who live here?

RELATIONSHIP
 Enter relationship of person to head of the household, as Head

RACE
 White (W)
 Negro (Neg)
 American Indian (Ind)
 Chinese (Ch)
 Japanese (Jap)
 Filipino (Fil)
 Other race - all out

SEX
 Male (M)
 Female (F)

How old was he on his last birthday?
 (If under one year of age, enter month of birth as April, May, Dec., etc.)

Is he now married, widowed, divorced, separated, or never married?
 (Mar. Wd, D, Sep, Nev)

What State (or foreign country) was he born in?
 If born outside Continental United States, under name of Territory, possession, or foreign country
 Distinguish Canada-French from Canada-other

Is he naturalized?
 (Yes, No, or A P for born abroad of American parents)

What was this person doing most of last week - working, keeping house, or something else?
 (Wk, H, Ot, or U for unable to work)

Did this person do any work at all last week, not counting work around the house?
 (Includes work for pay, in own business, on farm, or unpaid family work) (Yes or No)

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
W	M	49	Mar	Kentucky	061		Wk
W	F	46	Mar	Kentucky	061		H No
W	M	5	Ne	Indiana			
W	M	32	Mar	Indiana			Ot Yes
W	F	30	Mar	Indiana			H Yes
W	F	8	Ne	Indiana			
W	F	2	Ne	Indiana			
W	F	1	Ne	Indiana			
W	M	55	Mar	Kentucky	061		Wk

Carolyn A. daughter
 Marilyn S. daughter
 King, Raymond Head

3 - Yes

LEAVE BLANK

Access to the 1950 Census records

National Archives website

<https://1950census.archives.gov/>

Ancestry.com at the Indiana State Library

Visit us!

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

<https://www.in.gov/library/>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the 1950 Census website. At the top, the title "1950 Census" is displayed in a large, dark blue font, with the subtitle "Official 1950 Census Website" below it. To the right of the title, there are navigation links for "Search", "FAQs", "Resources", and "About". The main content area features a large, dark background image of a man in a hat standing next to a horse-drawn wagon in a rural setting. The National Archives logo is positioned in the upper left of this image. The central text reads "Welcome to the Official 1950 Census Website" in a large, white, bold font. Below this, a smaller line of text states: "The 1950 census records were released by the U.S. National Archives on April 1, 2022. This website provides full access to the 1950 census images, including population schedules, enumeration district maps, and enumeration district descriptions." At the bottom of the image, there are two prominent buttons: a red "Begin Search" button and a blue "Resources" button. The entire page is framed by a dark grey border.

Helpful Tools for Census Research

- SteveMorse.org – One Stop shop for genealogical researchers, Customized tools including how to identify enumeration districts from a street address and a list of occupation codes
- City Directories – Available in print at the State Library, many also digitized by Ancestry.com and Internet Archive
- 1950census.archives.gov – Search the AI index of the 1950 Census for free
- <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/decennial-publications.1950.html> - Access the official Census Bureau publications for the 1950 Census
- <https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1950/data> - 1950 Census published statistical data
- <https://www.nhgis.org/> - Historical census data files

