

VRCC minutes for 1-27-2022

Mike Johnson, President, opened the meeting and announced paid 57 members for this year and our sign-in book listed 15 participants today. Since our meeting numbers are still so low, we are going to try and handle most of our meeting programs in-house. It is not fair to a speaker to spend hours preparing a presentation for very few members. If you have a subject you are interested in and might possibly be able to do as a program or part of a program, please let us know.

Vicky will be doing next week's program on ***how to identify and avoid email and text scams.***

1950 US Census by Sandy McKenny was an overview of the Census process since 1790 with all the changes and problems over the years. It was started to assist the new country in apportioning the House of Representatives among the various states. It done every ten years for a certain date but not released to the general public until at least 72 years has passed. Some of the censuses are significant, such as the 1850. It was the first one that listed everyone in the household. The previous years had only head of household. Check out https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_census for more details and a great grid of all the years even the ones not yet released. Read the interesting notes down the right side of the grid. Or you can Google "US Census".

Sandy recommends researching the Census after exhausting your own family birth, marriage, etc. records. The census is a reliable place to find information for every ten years. You will want to transcribe your findings onto a year appropriate form so that you fix the details into your brain and can know what the question headings are. You can find the forms free online or we have master copies in the Lab for photocopying. When searching, look backwards 10 households and forward for the same so you do not miss other family households. Be creative in how you spell the surnames, census takers were sometimes barely literate themselves and it depends on who they asked the questions. Every year the questions and schedules were different. Save the images as you go along and name them so you can find them when you need them. Ie: Smith-George 1870 census, Smith-George 1880 census, etc. You want them to sort together in your computer.

The next most important anomaly was the 1890 census where most all the population schedules were destroyed following a fire & water in 1921 in St Lewis. It is called the Census Black Hole as it encompasses from 1880 to 1900. You can use other records for this time period; some states did their own census on the 5's: 1885, 1895, etc. Directories are also helpful.

The last one that was released was the 1940 census ten years ago. It took only 8 months to index instead of the predicted 8 years. It is expected that the 1950 one being released on April 1, 2022 will be done by FamilySearch.org volunteers in 6 months and it will be the most accurate. Ancestry.com & My Heritage.com will follow but done by people off shore who barely speak English. The National Archives are going to try

artificial intelligence and optical character resolution for their entry into this field. The 1950 should have most of Vista Royale residents in it in their respective home towns.

Sandy also spoke a bit regarding Enumerations Districts and ED maps if you want to browse the 1950 census before it is indexed. She is the Tuesday morning monitor in the VRCC Lab and will sign you into her personal Ancestry account or American Ancestors account for the morning or help you get a free account at FamilySearch.org. We did not renew our Lab Ancestry account as we do not have enough members to make it worthwhile for the \$1,000 cost. Bring your questions and the information you already have on your ancestors.

Promised Links:

Official census questions asked @ year:

https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/index_of_questions/

State census:

https://www.census.gov/history/www/genealogy/other_resources/state_censuses.html

1950 Census at Family Search WIKI:

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Census,_1850_-_FamilySearch_Historical_Records

Index of all 1950 census questions:

https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/index_of_questions/1950_population.html

Finding Your Native American Heritage

<https://www.powwows.com/am-i-native-american-how-to-find-my-indian-ancestors/>

1950 Census Substitute – Ancestry

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/categories/1950census/>

Finding Transcribed ED Descriptions for 1950 in One Step – Steve Morse

<https://stevemorse.org/ed/ed.php?year=1950&state=AL&keywords=>

How to Access the 1950 Census in One Step – Steve Morse

<https://stevemorse.org/census/quiz1950.php>

Occupation Codes 1950 Census – Steve Morse

<https://stevemorse.org/census/1950occupationcodes.html>