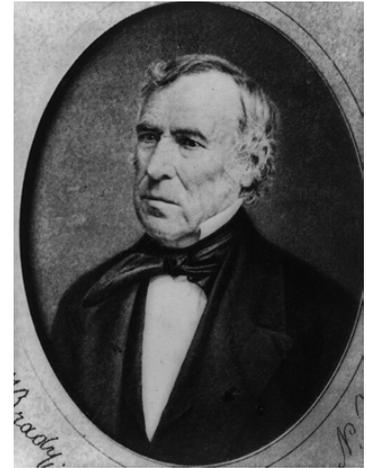


1850

Census Day was June 1, 1850.

Authorizing Legislation

In March 1849, Congress enacted a bill establishing a census board whose membership consisted of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the postmaster general. The law authorized this board to prepare and cause to be printed such forms and schedules as may be necessary for the full enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States; it also authorized the board to prepare forms and schedules for collecting information on mines, agriculture, commerce, manufactures, education, and other topics, as well as "exhibit a full view of the pursuits, industry, education, and resources of the country."



Zachary Taylor was President of the United States on Census Day, June 1, 1850.

The seventh census was governed by the provisions of an act of May 23, 1850 that directed that six schedules be used to collect the information requested by the Congress. The act directed enumerators to return their results to the secretary of the interior by November 1, 1850.

Enumeration

The number of population inquiries grew in the 1850 census. Every free person's name was to be listed, not just the head of the household. The marshals also collected additional "social statistics," including information on taxes, schools, crime, wages, value of the estate, etc. and data on mortality.

Each marshal was also responsible for subdividing his district into "known civil divisions," such as counties, townships, or wards, and ensuring that his assistants' returns were completed properly.



Joseph C.G. Kennedy was Secretary of the U.S. Census Board on Census Day, June 1, 1850.

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in *Thornbury Township* in the County of *Chester* State of *Pennsylvania* enumerated by me, on the *17th* day of *October* 1850. *Joel Roberts* Ass't Marshal.

1	2	3	Descendants.			7	8	9		10	11	12	13
			Age	Sex	Color			Place or Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.				
		<i>Elizabeth Penney</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>♀</i>				<i>Pa</i>					
		<i>Melrose Lindeman</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>♂</i>		<i>Labourer</i>							
<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Lewis Brinton</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>♂</i>		<i>James</i>	<i>\$2500</i>						
		<i>Ann</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>♀</i>				<i>New Jersey</i>					
		<i>Christian</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>♂</i>				<i>Pa</i>					
		<i>Joseph</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>♂</i>		<i>Student</i>							
		<i>Abelilio</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>♂</i>									
		<i>Judith Lopez</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>♀</i>	<i>B</i>								
		<i>Martha</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>♀</i>	<i>B</i>								

An excerpt from an 1850 census schedule for Chester County, PA.