

# Julie R. Jenney

Lawyer, Leader, Census Supervisor



The Woman Citizen (New York, NY)  
15 Nov 1919

The U.S. Census Bureau has always been ahead of the curve when it comes to employing women. Ever since 1880, when it started using professional enumerators rather than U.S. marshals, the Census Office has employed women in that role. With the advent of the Hollerith tabulating machine in 1890, women moved into the role of keypunchers. By 1909, 10 years before the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment granted national women's suffrage, over 50 percent of the Census Bureau's 624 permanent employees were women. As women proved themselves as capable as the men, and with the increasing number of women in the workforce, it became harder for the Census Bureau to justify assigning all supervisory positions to men. By 1920, the Census Bureau would once again push forward appointing the first five female supervisors, as well as the first three female expert chiefs of divisions.

Born on April 11, 1866, Julie Regula Jenney was the oldest child of

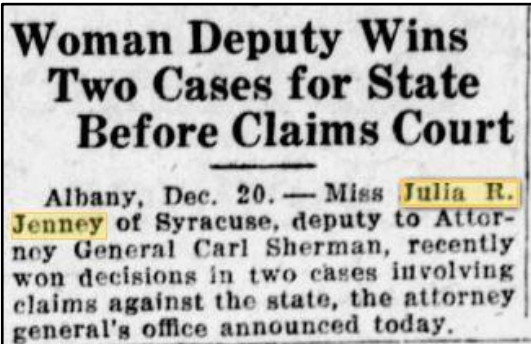
Colonel Edwin S. Jenney and Marie S. Jenney. Edwin served courageously in the Civil War and worked as a lawyer in Syracuse, NY. Marie was a society matron and, at the age of 69, marched in the first suffrage parade in New York City. Julie decided to study law. After a rejection from Cornell Law School, she became the first woman to graduate from Michigan Law School in 1892. Julie worked as a clerk for a few years in her father's office and took over after his passing in 1900. In 1920, she started her own law office and provided legal aid for many of Syracuse's less affluent citizens. Julie became the first female Deputy Attorney General of New York in 1923. During that same year, she won two cases that saved the state over \$55,000.

In August 1919, Julie R. Jenney received an appointment as one of the first five female enumerator supervisors for 5<sup>th</sup> District, Syracuse, NY. She began testing 500 prospective enumerators in early November, from which she selected 150. Following enumerator selection, Julie trained them all the way through the end of December, while also conducting meetings at various

localities to ensure proper coverage of her district. As the census got under way on January 1, 1920, the winter weather in Syracuse immediately took its toll. Despite initial optimism based on her early success, Julie still had to request an extension of a few days after a large blizzard disrupted the last week of counting the 11,932 residents.

## Jenney Family 1880 Census

Age	Sex	Color	Married	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Never	Married	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Never	Married	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Never
14	Female	White															
13	Female	White															
12	Female	White															
11	Female	White															
10	Female	White															
9	Female	White															
8	Female	White															
7	Female	White															
6	Female	White															
5	Female	White															
4	Female	White															
3	Female	White															
2	Female	White															
1	Female	White															
0	Male	White															



The Ithaca Journal (Ithaca, NY); 20 Dec 1923

In addition to being a successful lawyer and census supervisor, Julie was also a suffragist and social leader. In 1893, Julie was involved in the Political Equality Club. By 1895, she had joined the New York State Suffrage Association (NYSSA). Through the NYSSA, an offshoot of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, Julie became very influential in the national scene. As early as 1896, she shared the stage and voted alongside Susan B. Anthony, and she continued to be active in the NYSSA well into the 20th century. Julie also was involved with the Syracuse Legal Relief Society, the Syracuse Council of Women's Clubs, the Syracuse War Monument Association, and the Professional Women's League of Syracuse. She acted as mentor to some of New York's notable women such as Bessie Seeley, the first woman to graduate from Syracuse Law School in 1903, and Bernice Nash, the first woman nominated for a county position in the state of New York.



Miss Julie R. Jenney, of Syracuse, N.Y., the first woman census supervisor in the United States, appointed August 13, 1919.

Photo courtesy of Census Bureau Archives

In September 1945, the Onondaga Bar Association celebrated lawyers who had served for over 50 years, among whom Julie was the only woman. Two years later on December 21, 1947, Julie passed away at the age of 81 in her hometown of Syracuse, NY. Although Julie did not have any children during her amazing life, she left a legacy through her groundbreaking actions. Throughout her accomplishments as first female law graduate, first female deputy attorney general, and first female census supervisor, Julie continuously gave back to her community and set an example for women in the state of New York and beyond.

Jenney Family 1940 Census

Julie was not the only notable woman in her family. Marie, her sister, became even better known in her day. She graduated from the Unitarian Theological Seminary in Meadville, PA in 1897. After her 1904 marriage to Frederic Howe, she used the name Dr. Marie Jenney Howe. Marie was active in the suffragist movement like her mother and sister. She wrote several books and articles, became heavily involved in the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and founded the salon-like Heterodoxy Group that attracted the leading suffragists of the day. Marie passed away in 1934. Census records highlight Marie's transformation. On the first census after her marriage in 1910, Marie listed "None" as her occupation despite the fact that she was a writer and ordained theologian. However, by Marie's last census in 1930, she listed two occupations: writer and Unitarian minister.



The Atchison Daily (Atchison, KS); 4 Mar 1914