

1950 Census

*John Q. Barrett**

In May 1950, United States census taker William C. Halley, Jr., enumerated residents in Fairfax County, Virginia.

In rural McLean, Mr. Halley visited Hickory Hill, an antebellum house located on about six acres of land. He spoke to one or both residents, a married couple. They had owned and lived in the property since 1941. They lived by themselves—their two children were grown, married, and had their own homes and families.

Mr. Halley learned that the man, age 58, was employed outside the home, and that the woman, age 59, was a homemaker.

This was, in that time and place, quite typical. Indeed, Mr. Halley made his notes on a preprinted Census form that categorized household residents as “Head,” “Wife,” and so forth. By implication, the census took the view that a married woman could not be the head of a household. At Hickory Hill, the man thus was enumerated as the “Head” of the household and his partner was enumerated as “Wife.”

The man’s work and business, however, were atypical. He worked, Mr. Halley, noted, for the government as a “Justice.” His business was the “U.S. Supreme C”.

This couple was, of course, Robert and Irene Jackson.

The April 1, 2022, official release of the 1950 U.S. Census includes their data:

110	one	W	1950	Jackson, Robert H.	Head	W	M	58	Mar	White	New York	Justice	U.S. Supreme C.
				Jackson, Irene G.	Wife	W	F	59	Mar	White	New York		

* Benjamin N. Cardozo Professor of Law, St. John’s University, New York City, and Elizabeth S. Lenna Fellow, Robert H. Jackson Center, Jamestown, New York. I emailed an earlier version of this essay to The Jackson List on April 1, 2022.

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1950 CENSUS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
1950 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

Form 100 (1950)

NAME: [Handwritten]

DATE: 30-97

CONFIDENTIAL

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
1950 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

FOR ALL PERSONS

FOR PERSONS 14 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER

FOR PERSONS 14 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER

THE QUESTIONS BELOW ARE FOR PERSONS LISTED ON SAMPLE LINES

FOR ALL AGES

FOR PERSONS 14 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER

FOR ALL PERSONS		FOR PERSONS 14 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER	
What is your race or the race of your ancestor?	What is your sex?	What is your race or the race of your ancestor?	What is your sex?
099 Yes 10 34	Hurst, Floyd D. Head W M 67 Mar Va.	DT Yes	10 Farm work Owner
098	Mary C. Wife W F 61 Mar Va.	HT No	No
097	No one at Home		
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