

Wayne H. Chattin and Sydnee C. Chattin

Importance of the Census from Generation to Generation



Wayne and Sydnee Chattin

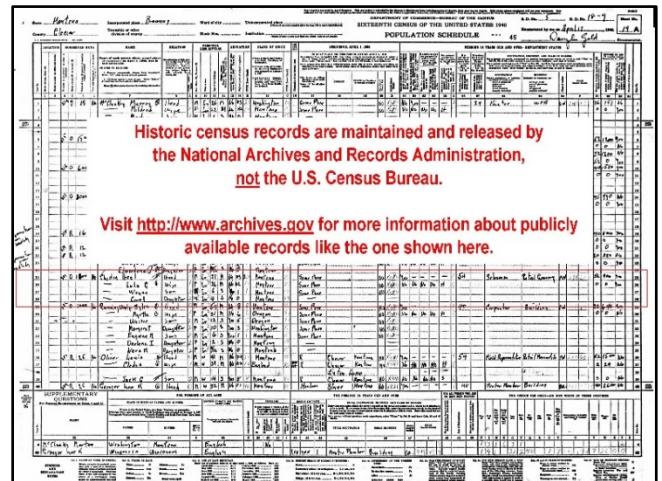
Great Falls Tribune (Great Falls, MT) July 19, 2015/ *Counterparts*, December 2012, Vol 12 No 21

From the beginning, the United States vacillated on how to enumerate American Indians. The U.S. Constitution specifically excluded “Indians not taxed” (defined as those living in tribal relations as part of a sovereign community) from the once-a decade census. However, the federal government soon recognized it had to count the American Indian population, even if the numbers were not part of apportionment decisions. And in 1850, the United States began sporadically conducting separate censuses for these communities, a practice that continued for nearly 100 years. In 1860, for the first time, American Indians not living

on tribal lands had their own racial category in the census. The 1880 Census contained the first full count of Alaska Natives, while the 1900 Census was the first to count and classify all Indians living in the United States, regardless of their status. Throughout the evolution of the enumeration of American Indians and Alaskan Natives, the Census Bureau has embraced the hiring of a diverse workforce representative of local communities being counted.

Wayne Howard Chattin was born May 20, 1934, in Browning, Montana. His parents, Iola and William Acel Chattin, were members of the Blackfeet Nation. Iola worked for the state liquor board, and Acel worked as a salesman for a retail grocery company and practiced amateur photography. After graduating from Browning High School in 1952, Wayne attended the University of Montana (then known as Montana State University).

But just two years later, he was drafted into the Army in the wake of the Korean War – and did not return to college until 1957. Upon his return, he worked as an art editor on the school’s literary magazine, and earned a bachelor’s degree sociology in 1960.



Wayne’s 1940 Census.

2010 census strives for better counting of Native Americans

By KARL PUCKETT
Tribune Staff Writer

Members of the Native American Local Government Commission — pointing out that a few thousand Cascade County Indians were not recorded in the 2000 census — told U.S. Census Bureau officials Tuesday they could reduce the undercounting by hiring better counters in 2010,



Chattin

tribal partnership specialist, at the Courthouse Annex. Hellfritz and Chattin, who have been in Montana for more than a week meeting with Montana’s eight tribes, are with the Census Bureau in Denver, a regional office that oversees 10 states, including Montana. They are scheduled to conclude their Montana meetings today on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

Great Falls Tribune (Great Falls, MT) May 7, 2008.

While still in college, Wayne began working on issues he felt strongly about, most notably ways to socially and economically enhance the lives of American Indians as a whole and the Blackfeet Nation in particular. Among other things, he spoke to local groups like the Rotary Club about the need to bring work opportunities directly to tribal lands and reservations. When Wayne graduated, he began working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). He would end up spending his entire professional career at BIA and other agencies in the Department of Interior serving American Indians and Alaska Natives throughout the country.



Sydnee with promotional material for the 2000 Census.

Pensacola New Journal (Pensacola, FL) December 28, 1999

outreach during the 2000 and 2010 Censuses. While serving his community and working as a professional, Wayne also established a family. Soon after graduating, Wayne married Myrna Mooney, who would also go on to work for the federal government. Together they had three children. One of their children, Sydnee, born April 2, 1961, would go on to follow in her father's footsteps and work at the Census Bureau.

Thanks to her dad's work, Sydnee recalled growing up all across the Western United States, living on a diverse range of reservations, including Navajo, Blackfeet, Northern Cheyenne, Apache, Laguna, Flathead and Colorado River. After attending the University of Colorado for two years, Sydnee transferred to and graduated from Metropolitan State College of Denver in 1983 with a bachelor's degree in computer science and information systems. Sydnee first started working for the Census Bureau in 1980, while still a student, as a temporary hire in the Denver Regional Office.

After Denver, Sydnee moved to the Atlanta Regional Office, where she served as a survey statistician for most of the 1990s. She finally landed at Census Bureau Headquarters in Suitland, Maryland, where she worked on American Indian and Native American participation outreach for the 2000 Census, which included one of the first census paid ad campaigns. In 2007, Sydnee moved to the Kansas City Regional Office to serve as assistant regional director. Just three years later, she won the Bronze Medal, the Census Bureau's highest award, for her outstanding work there. Sydnee's final position at the Census Bureau was as assistant division chief, Decennial Support Programs Field Division, where she led program development for the 2020 Census Partnership, Quality Assurance, and Special Census programs.



Secretary Gutierrez looks at outreach items with Sydnee Chattin-Reynolds.

Sydnee with then-Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez in 2008.

Counterparts. May 2008, Vol 17, No 5.

Wayne's achievements include serving as the first director of the then- newly created Division of Self-Determination Services; being awarded a 1970 Certificate of Special Achievement from the BIA; working on American Indian representation in the 1976 American Bicentennial; working on the Indian Self Determination and Educational Assistance Act; and serving in several senior Indian affairs roles for the federal government. After retiring from the federal government in the 1990s, Wayne continued to follow his lifelong passion by serving on land management and American Indian committees and boards. He also served a partnership specialist for American Indian



Posing for a picture at the Kansas City Regional Office — Front row (l-r): Debra Stanley (RCC partnership coordinator), Broshel Gray (RO program coordinator), Sydnee Chattin-Reynolds (assistant regional director), Under Secretary Cynthia Glassman. Back row: Dennis Deeney (RO program coordinator), Donna Kingston (RCC assistant regional census manager), Rich Gerdes (RO program coordinator), Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, Richard Taegel (RCC assistant regional census manager), Dennis Johnson (regional director).

Sydnee, center, with members of the Kansas City Regional Office in 2008.

Counterparts. May 2008, Vol 17, No 5.

After a long life dedicated to public service, Wayne died in Tucson, Arizona, on June 27, 2015. Unfortunately, Sydnee died just a few years later, on August 18, 2019, in Kalispell, Montana. The Census Bureau appreciates Wayne and Sydnee's contributions to their communities and our nation.