

The 1867 Census

Reference:

Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. Census commission. 1867 Census, conducted December 3rd. Landeshauptarchiv Schwerin (Central archive of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern). 5.12-3/20 Statistisches Landesamt (State Office for Statistics) (1851-1945).

Reason for the census and implementation:

Along with the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin joined the North German Confederation and the German Customs Union in 1867/68.

The German Customs Union regularly conducted censuses to have an overview of tax payers and men liable to military service. In 1867, Mecklenburg-Schwerin conducted such a census for the first time following a uniform pattern.

In the night from December 2nd to December 3rd, authorized officials with assigned districts went from house to house and listed every person staying in the actual dwelling. The head of each household was responsible for the correct completion of the census form.

Description of the census form:

Form A – Cover Sheet:

The cover sheet provided space for general information about the household:

Id number of the household

Name of the place

Name of the street

Number of the house

Name and social status/ occupation of the head of the household

Location of the flat within the house (basement, ground floor, 1st floor etc.)

The cover sheet also provided instructions for the correct completion of the form.

Form B:

listing of all attendant people in tabular form, total of 9 subdivided columns („I“ to „IX“) listing given name, family name, sex, year of birth , religion, marital status, occupation, social status, nationality, kind of stay, special physical deficiencies (deaf, blind etc.) of a person

I First names, family name

II Sex

male or female – to be marked with “1”

This made it possible to sum up the number of male and females first in each household and afterwards in the municipality.

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III Age

date of birth of a person

IV Religion

V Marital status

4 columns: 8th column “single”, 9th column “married”, 10th column “widowed”, 11th column “divorced” – to be marked with “1”

12th column: family members’ relationship to the head of household,

VI Social status, occupation

employment relationship, service, former/ practiced occupation, professional/ social rank (master, journeyman, apprentice, tenant, leaseholder etc.)

VII Nationality

14th column: citizen of Mecklenburg-Schwerin

15th column: different citizenship

VIII Kind of stay

Listed here is every person temporarily staying in the household, for instance boatmen, travelers or visitors. The remaining people were listed in column 19 (permanent resident) – to be marked with “1”.

IX Individual deficiencies

disabled or handicapped people

Form C – Appendix:

This form listed people who were away at the time of the census and gave reasons for their absence (column VII). Absentees being away for less than one year were subdivided into “boatmen/ seamen”, “travelers” or “being on a visit outside of the place”

Absentees being away for more than one year such as journeymen, soldiers, students etc. were listed under sub-column 17.