1940 U. S. Census

John Shaw
New Jersey State Library
June 20, 2012
1940 Census opens window on history

By Haya El Nasser, USA TODAY

At 9 a.m. ET Monday, the federal government will unlatch a new window on history: 1940 Census records open to the public for the first time.
Behind The Scenes: The 1940 U.S. Census Release

April 2nd’s public debut of the 1940 U.S. Census images was big. So big, in fact, that the deluge of clicks on launch day gave the census servers a serious bout of stage fright.

Compounding the onslaught of traffic to the census site was the sheer scale of the census data. Now that the site is running smoothly, a quick glance at some staggering stats gives a fascinating snapshot of America’s newest love affair.

To see the 1940 Census visit: 1940census.archives.gov

NOTE: The entire printed collection of the Library of Congress is approximately 10 Terabytes.
DAY 1

22.5 MILLION HITS
TO WEBSITE IN THE
FIRST 3 HOURS AFTER
LAUNCH

100,000+
REQUESTS PER MINUTE DURING DAY

25,000+
REQUESTS PER MINUTE DURING NIGHT

120+
XLARGE CLOUD SERVERS

1,000+
NEWS ARTICLES WRITTEN ON DAY 1
Source: Google News

190,000+
PEOPLE SPENT 10+ MIN ON SITE,
GENERATING 3M+ PAGE VIEWS
DAY 2

40.1 MILLION HITS TO WEBSITE DURING PEAK 3 HOUR PERIOD

- 200,000+ REQUESTS PER MINUTE DURING DAY
- 25,000+ REQUESTS PER MINUTE DURING NIGHT
- 180+ 4XLARGE CLOUD SERVERS
- #1 TOPIC TRENDING ON TWITTER
  Source: twitter.com
- 250,000+ PEOPLE SPENT 10+ MIN ON SITE, GENERATING 4.2M+ PAGE VIEWS
Today’s Topics

• 1940 Census Schedules—What’s All the Fuss About?
• The Genealogical Significance of the Census Schedules
• The Census Over the Years—A Brief History
• 1940 Census Schedules—The Content
• 1940 Census Schedules—Searching
• The Census and Statistical Sampling
• The Census and Privacy
• Where to Go to Search the 1940 Census Schedules
1940 Census Schedules—What’s All the Fuss About?

• Some people have been waiting for years to get a look at the 1940 census schedules.
• Many of these people showed up on the National Archives website on April 2.
• So many that the site was down for much of the day.
Why the Great Interest in an Old Census?

Most are seeking information about their ancestors. They want to know:

• Dates of and places where their ancestors were born, married, and died.

• Names of each ancestor’s parents, spouse(s), siblings, children.

• Where their ancestors came from, and if foreign born, when they arrived in the U. S.
Why Search Census Records?

It’s not the statistical data people want. It’s the information on the “returns” or “schedules” that is of interest.

The schedules contain the raw data of the census, the individual answers to each of the questions asked by the enumerators.

In the schedules one will find a treasure-trove of information about everyone(?) living in the United States at the time of the census.

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The Genealogical Significance of the Census Schedules
The Goal of Genealogical Research
The Primary Source Document

Documents describing events in people’s lives written at the time of the event by people who were present at the event.

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Information on Census Schedules

• Approximate birth and marriage dates
• Place of birth (individual and parents)
• Location (at time of census)
• Names of and relationships to other family members (living in the household at the time of the census)
• Immigration data (year, naturalization)
The Power of Household Grouping

If you cannot find the person you are looking for, you can try searching for a

spouse, child, sibling, parent.

Sometimes you will find a record by using the name of an

aunt, uncle, grandfather or grandmother.

Even the names of in-laws work at times; and the geographical ordering of the schedules allows you to use known neighbors as a search key.
Sample Schedule from 1930 U. S. Census
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place of Abode</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relation</th>
<th>Home Data</th>
<th>Personal Description</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2037 62 76</td>
<td>Sieg</td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>R</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ada</td>
<td>Wife</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>George William</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ida</td>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>R</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2043 63 72</td>
<td>Cap</td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>R</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lillian Lillian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2043 64 73</td>
<td>Lillian</td>
<td>Daughter</td>
<td>R</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>R</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Donna</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2043 64 73</td>
<td>Barney</td>
<td>Brother</td>
<td>R</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anna</td>
<td>Sister</td>
<td>R</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Daughter</td>
<td>R</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1930 U. S. Census**

**George A. Kimber on Line 64**

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1790 U. S. Census Schedule, New York, Township of Flatbush
William B. Gifford Household in 1790 U. S. Census

1. Name of Head of Household: William B. Gifford
2. Free white males of 16 years & upwards, including heads of families: 1
3. Free white males under 16 years: 2
4. Free white females including heads of families: 4
5. All other free persons: 1
6. Slaves: 10
The Census Over the Years—A Brief History
1790 – 1840: Of Limited Use

(New Jersey U. S. Census 1790 – 1820 Lost)

1790  
Name of family head; free white males of 16 years and up; free white males under 16; free white females; slaves; other free persons.

1800  
Names of family head; if white, age and sex; race; slaves.

1810  
Name of family head; if white, age and sex; race; slaves.

1820  
Name of family head; age; sex; race; foreigners not naturalized; slaves; industry (agriculture, commerce, and manufactures).

1830  
Name of family head; age; sex; race; foreigners not naturalized; slaves; industry.

1840  
Name of family head; age; sex; race; slaves; number of deaf and dumb; number of blind; number of insane and idiotic and whether in public or private charge; number of persons in each family employed in each of six classes of industry and one of occupation; literacy; pensioners for Revolutionary or military service.
What Happened to the 1790 – 1820 New Jersey Returns?

“By this act [First Census Act 1790], which was approved March 1, 1790, the marshals of the several judicial districts of the United States were required to cause the number of the inhabitants within their respective districts to be taken.”

[The History and Growth of the United States Census]
The Instructions for Preservation

“The marshals were required to file the assistants’ returns with the clerks of their respective district courts, who were in turn directed to receive and carefully preserve the same, while the marshals were further required to transmit to the President of the United States . . . the aggregate amount of each description of persons within their respective districts.”
“It was . . . provided by the resolution of May 28, 1830, that the original returns filed in the offices of the clerks of the several district and superior courts . . . should be transmitted to the Secretary of State, and these returns, together with the copies of the returns of the censuses of 1830 and 1840, were transferred to the custody of the Department of the Interior upon its organization in 1849.”
1850 – 1870: Starting to Get Interesting

1850
Name: age; sex; race; whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic; value of real estate; occupation; birthplace; whether married within the year; school attendance; literacy; whether a pauper or convict.

Supplemental schedules for slaves, and persons who died during the year.

1860
Name: age; sex; race; value of real estate; value of personal estate; occupation; birthplace; whether married within the year; school attendance; literacy; whether deaf and dumb; blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.

Supplemental schedules for slaves, and persons who died during the year.

1870
Name; age; race; occupation; value of real estate; value of personal estate; birthplace; whether parents were foreign born; month of birth if born within the year; month of marriage if married within the year; school attendance; literacy; whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic; male citizens 21 and over, and number of such persons denied the right to vote for other than rebellion.

First to list all names of everyone in household

Last census that used judicial marshals

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1880 – 1920: Really Useful Except for 1890

1880
Address; name, relationship to family head; sex; race; age; marital status; month of birth if born within the census year; occupation; months unemployed during the year; sickness or temporary disability; whether blind, deaf and dumb, idiotic, insane, maimed, crippled, bedridden, or otherwise disabled; school attendance; literacy; birthplace of person and parents.

Supplemental schedules for persons who died during the year.

1890
General schedules—destroyed.

Supplemental schedules for Union veterans of the Civil War and their widows.

1900
Address; name; relationship to family head; sex; race; age; marital status; number of years married; for women, number of children born and number now living; birthplace of person and parents; if foreign born, year of immigration and whether naturalized; occupation; months not employed; school attendance; literacy; ability to speak English; whether on a farm; home owned or rented and if owned, whether mortgaged.

1910
Address; name; relationship to family head; sex; race; age; marital status; number of years of present marriage for women, number of children born and number now living; birthplace and mother tongue of person and parents; if foreign born, year of immigration, whether naturalized, and whether able to speak English, or if not, language spoken; occupation, industry, and class of worker; if an employee, whether out of work during year; literacy; school attendance; home owned or rented; if owned, whether mortgaged; whether farm or house; whether a survivor of Union or Confederate Army or Navy; whether blind or deaf and dumb.

1920
Address; name; relationship to family head; sex; race; age; marital status; if foreign born, year of immigration to the U.S., whether naturalized, and year of naturalization; school attendance; literacy; birthplace of person and parents; mother tongue of foreign born; ability to speak English; occupation, industry, and class of worker; home owned or rented; if owned, whether free or mortgaged.

First to list address of household

First to provide immigration information

Fire

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1930 – 1940: Two Most Recent Available to the Public

**1930**
Address; name; relationship to family head; home owned or rented; value or monthly rental; radio set; whether on a farm; sex; race; age; marital status; age at first marriage; school attendance; literacy; birthplace of person and parents; if foreign-born language spoken in home before coming to U.S., year of immigration, whether naturalized, and ability to speak English; occupation, industry, and class of worker; whether at work previous day (or last regular working day); veteran status; for Indians, whether of full or mixed blood, and tribal affiliation.

**1940**
Address; home owned or rented; value or monthly rental; whether on a farm; name; relationship to household head; sex; race; age; marital status; school attendance; educational attainment; birthplace; citizenship of foreign born; location of residence 5 years ago and whether on a farm; employment status; if at work, whether in private or nonemergency government work, or in public emergency work (WPA, CCC, NYA, etc.); if in private work, hours worked in week; if seeking work or on public emergency work, duration of unemployment; occupation, industry, and class of worker; weeks worked last year, income last year.
1940 Census Schedules—The Content
## 1940 U. S. Census Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>HOUSEHOLD DATA</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>RELATION</th>
<th>PERSONAL DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Line No.</td>
<td>Street, avenue, road, etc.</td>
<td>House number in cities and towns</td>
<td>Number of household in order of visit</td>
<td>Home owned (O) or rented (R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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# 1940 U. S. Census Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
<th>PLACE OF BIRTH</th>
<th>CITIZENSHIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attended school or college anytime since March 1, 1940? (Yes or No)</td>
<td>If born in the United States, give State, Territory, or possession.</td>
<td>Citizenship of the foreign born</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest grade of school completed (Leave blank)</td>
<td>If foreign born, give country in which birthplace was situated on January 1, 1937.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Distinguish Canada-French from Canada-English and Irish Free State (Eire) from Northern Ireland.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1940 U. S. Census Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CITIZENSHIP</th>
<th>RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1935</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City, town, or village having 2,500 or more inhabitants. Enter “R” for all other places.</td>
<td>COUNTY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1940 U. S. Census Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER-EMPLOYMENT STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If at private or nonemergency Government work (&quot;Yes&quot; in Col. 21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of hours worked during 24h30, 1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1940 Census Schedules—Searching
Using the 1940 Census

• No name index until at least October 2012
• Records organized by state, county, city, enumeration district.
• If you know where the person was living in 1940, you should be able to find the record.
• There are several approaches: conversion programs, maps, enumeration district descriptions.

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### 1930 U. S. Census Index Record in Ancestry.com

#### George A. Kimber
- **Name:** George A. Kimber
- **Gender:** Male
- **Birth Year:** Abt 1872
- **Birthplace:** England
- **Race:** White
- **Home in 1930:** Chicago, Cook, Illinois
- **Marital Status:** Married
- **Immigration Year:** 1884
- **Relation to Head of House:** Head
- **Spouse’s Name:** Marie Kimber
- **Father’s Birthplace:** England
- **Mother’s Birthplace:** England
- **Occupation:** View image
- **Education:** View image
- **Military Service:** View image
- **Rent/home value:** View image
- **Age at first marriage:** View image
- **Parents’ birthplace:** View image

#### Household Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George A. Kimber</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marie Kimber</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Kimber</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Shaw</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theodore Shaw</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theodore Shaw</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

John Shaw, New Jersey State Library
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Year Began</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Place of Work</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Shaw</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>W</td>
<td></td>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Library Director</td>
<td>New Jersey State Library</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1930 U. S. Census
George A. Kimber on Line 64
2043 N. Cicero Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place of Abode</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relation</th>
<th>Home Data No. 1</th>
<th>Personal Description</th>
<th>Education</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2043 64 23</td>
<td>Charles Jr</td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>0 10,000</td>
<td>M W 43 M 24</td>
<td>M 23 W 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2043 64 25</td>
<td>George Ann</td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>R 65 R</td>
<td>M W 26 M 22</td>
<td>M 26 W 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2043 64 25</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>M W 16 8</td>
<td>M W 16 8</td>
<td>M W 16 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2043 64 25</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>M W 21 M 17</td>
<td>M W 21 M 17</td>
<td>M W 21 M 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2043 64 25</td>
<td>Donald</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>M W 7 5</td>
<td>M W 7 5</td>
<td>M W 7 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2043 64 25</td>
<td>Stanley</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>M W 7 5</td>
<td>M W 7 5</td>
<td>M W 7 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2043 64 25</td>
<td>Barbra</td>
<td>Daughter</td>
<td>M W 16 8</td>
<td>M W 16 8</td>
<td>M W 16 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2043 64 25</td>
<td>Anna</td>
<td>Daughter</td>
<td>M W 16 8</td>
<td>M W 16 8</td>
<td>M W 16 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2043 64 25</td>
<td>George A</td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>0 65,000</td>
<td>M W 58 M 25</td>
<td>M W 58 M 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2043 64 25</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>M W 14 7</td>
<td>M W 14 7</td>
<td>M W 14 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2043 64 25</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>M W 56 M 24</td>
<td>M W 56 M 24</td>
<td>M W 56 M 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2043 64 25</td>
<td>Edward</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>M W 56 M 24</td>
<td>M W 56 M 24</td>
<td>M W 56 M 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2043 64 25</td>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>M W 56 M 24</td>
<td>M W 56 M 24</td>
<td>M W 56 M 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2043 64 25</td>
<td>George A</td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>0 65,000</td>
<td>M W 58 M 25</td>
<td>M W 58 M 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2043 64 25</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>M W 14 7</td>
<td>M W 14 7</td>
<td>M W 14 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2043 64 25</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>M W 56 M 24</td>
<td>M W 56 M 24</td>
<td>M W 56 M 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2043 64 25</td>
<td>Edward</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>M W 56 M 24</td>
<td>M W 56 M 24</td>
<td>M W 56 M 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2043 64 25</td>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>M W 56 M 24</td>
<td>M W 56 M 24</td>
<td>M W 56 M 24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Unified 1940 Census ED Finder

Enter as much of the 1940 location as you know

If you select your city from the list of cities displayed, you will be able to enter street-level information. If you select "other" from the city list, you will be able to type in your city or town name.

State: Illinois  County: Cook  City or Town: Chicago

House Number: 2043  Street: Cicero Av N

You can reduce the number of EDs by selecting cross streets and back streets that complete the city block.

Cross or back street on same city block:

If you know the 1930 ED for this location, enter it here

State: Illinois  ED: 16 (Cook)  1257

1940 ED numbers corresponding to your location

103-2232
1940 U. S. Census Schedule, ED 103-2232, Sheet 8B
### 1940 U. S. Census

**Kimbers/Shaws on Lines 55-58 and 64-69**

**2043 North Cicero Avenue, Chicago, Illinois**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Place of Birth</th>
<th>Place of Origin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kimber, John</td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimber, George</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimber, George</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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*Note: The above entries are marked for specific individuals.*

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**John Shaw, New Jersey State Library**
The Census and Statistical Sampling
Statistical Sampling in 1940

Some questions asked in earlier years were moved to the supplemental census, a 5 percent sampling of the population (or two people listed on every page of the census). [NARA]
Statistical Sampling

The Census Bureau first used statistical sampling methods in the 1937 test survey of unemployment ("Enumerative Check Census"). This test survey not only estimated the scope of unemployment in the United States during the Great Depression, but it also served as a "check" on a larger-scale, voluntary census effort attempting to measure the same thing.

The Census Bureau implemented statistical sampling in a decennial census for the first time in 1940. Sampling made it possible to ask additional detailed questions of the population without unduly increasing cost or respondent burden. Enumerators asked a random sample of the population (approximately 5 percent) a set of extra questions. The Census Bureau then used the sample to extrapolate demographic data for the entire United States.

[Source: U. S. Census Bureau]
1940 U. S. Census, ED 103-2232, Sheet 8B
Sampling—The 5%
Questions for the Sampled Group

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<th>LOCATION</th>
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<th>RELATION</th>
<th>PERSONAL DESCRIPTION</th>
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<th>PLACE OF BIRTH</th>
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List No. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 A 9 10 11 12 13 14 B 15 C 16

**RECORDS FOR YEARS BEFORE 1935**

**RECORDS FOR YEARS AFTER 1935**

**RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1935**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CITY, TOWN, OR VILLAGE</th>
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<th>OCCUPATION, INDUSTRY, AND CLASS OF WORK</th>
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**PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER—EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

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**INCOME IN 1935**

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**INCOME IN 1930**

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</table>

**John Shaw, New Jersey State Library**
American Community Survey

Sampling became a fixture of the decennial censuses, with a certain percentage of the population being required to fill out longer questionnaires with more detailed questions, through the end of the twentieth century. In fact, because the American Community Survey is now the instrument used to gather long form information, the 2010 census will be the first since 1930 in which no additional questions will be asked of a sample of the population.

The success of statistical sampling in the decennial census contributed to the development of scores of recurring demographic surveys, most notably the Monthly Report on the Labor Force in 1943, expanded and renamed the Current Population Survey in 1947. The Census Bureau now conducts more than 200 economic and demographic surveys every year, using these results to produce national figures.

[Source: U. S. Census Bureau]
The Census and Privacy
Privacy and the Census

Your answers are confidential. Every Census Bureau employee takes a lifetime oath to protect your personal identification. Disclosing ANY information that could identify you or your family means 5 years in prison, or $250,000 in fines, or both. [U. S. Census Bureau]
Why 2012?

The privacy of personal information collected during the decennial censuses of the United States ends 72 years after the time of the census.
Quick History of Privacy and the U. S. Census

• January 1921 fire destroyed much of the 1890 census.
• National Archives was formed in 1934.
• Shortly after the National Archives was established and the population census schedules transferred to the Archives, the Director of the Bureau of the Census and the Archivist of the U. S. agreed that early population census records, 1790 to 1870, would be opened to all researchers immediately.
• The 1870 census records were made available when they were transferred to the Archives in 1942 (72 years after the census).
History Continued

• This established the 72-year precedent on population census records.
• Those censuses had been taken with no privacy or confidentiality restrictions; the original 1870 schedule, for example, went to the county courthouses for public access after the enumeration.
History Continued

• August 26, 1952, the Census Bureau Director proposed a transfer of more census material to the National Archives.
• October 10, 1952, the Archivist agreed to accept the terms proposed.
• With that agreement, the 1880 census was released to the public in 1952 (72 years again).
• The 1880 census did place privacy restrictions on enumerators.
Where to Go to Search the 1940 Census Schedules
Welcome to the 1940 census

The 1940 census records were released by the US National Archives April 2, 2012, and brought online through a partnership with Archives.com. This website allows you full access to the 1940 census images, in addition to 1940 census maps and descriptions.

Please visit Getting Started to determine the best way to begin your search.

Get Involved!
Interested in helping to index the 1940 census? We invite you to join the 1940 census community indexing project at The1940Census.com and start creating a name index for the 1940 census today!

How It Works

Find census maps and descriptions to locate an enumeration district.
To find a person in the census, you first need to determine the appropriate enumeration district number. This can be found by searching census district maps and descriptions.

Browse census images to locate a person in the 1940 census.
Census images are organized by enumeration district number. Once you've located the correct one, you can begin to browse census images to look for your ancestor.

Save, share, and download images to save your work and share with family members.
When you locate a census image, you can easily save, share, or download the image for future reference. This image can be a great keepsake, or addition to your family tree!
Where Can You Access 1940 Census?

• U. S. National Archives and Records Administration
  http://1940census.archives.gov/

• Archives
  http://www.archives.com/1940census/

• FamilySearch
  https://familysearch.org/1940census/

• Findmypast.com
  http://www.findmypast.com/

• Ancestry.com
  http://www.ancestry.com/
How’s the Indexing Going?

Indexing Progress  Image Available

Overall Progress  63.98%

- Mississippi  100%
- Nevada  100%
- New York  70%
- Missouri  85%
- New Hampshire  100%
- North Carolina  21%
- Montana  100%
- New Jersey  20%
- North Dakota  100%
- Nebraska  99%
- New Mexico  100%
- Ohio  45%