

The 1940 Census Records Release

Webinar

March 29, 2012

Webinar access information

Toll free number: 888-913-9972

Passcode: 1940CENSUS

URL: <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join/>

Conference/meeting number: PW7478285

Conference/meeting passcode: 1940CENSUS



Today's Speakers

Host

Michael Cook
Public Affairs Specialist
Public Information Office

Speakers

David M. Pemberton
Historian
U.S. Census Bureau

Constance Potter
Archivist
National Archives and Records Administration

Rebecca Warlow
1940 Census project manager
National Archives and Records Administration



The First Stop for You

For individual 1940 Census records:

<http://1940census.archives.gov>

For information about the 1940 Census:

<http://www.census.gov/1940census/>

Information on upcoming events

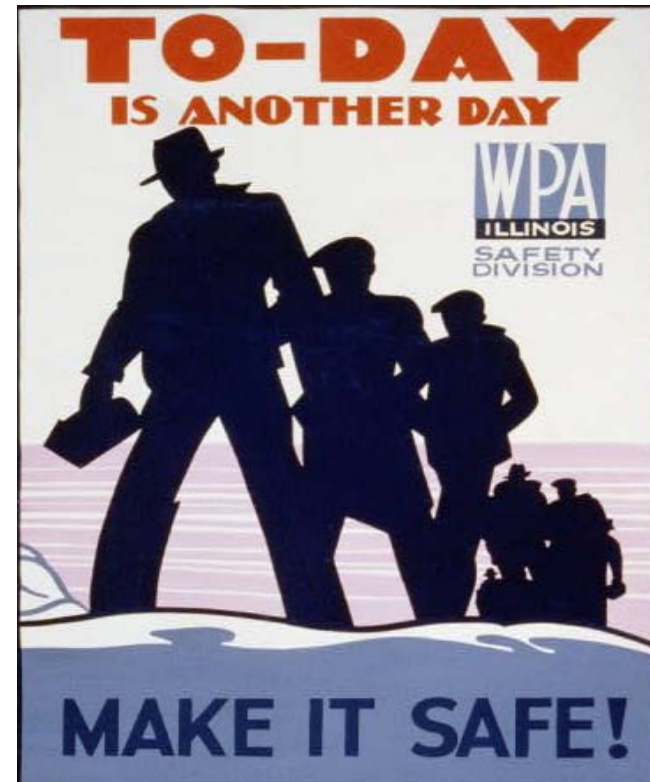
Facts and photos

Links to other resources



The Creation of the 1940 Census

- Evaluating the effectiveness of New Deal programs
- Growing business demand for statistics
- Growth of the social sciences



Source: Library of Congress



First Housing Census

“One-third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished”

Housing a huge focus of the New Deal

The Census Bureau did not preserve the housing schedules



Source: Library of Congress



Measuring Employment and Economic Dislocation

- Usual occupation and new workers
- Receipt of relief aid
- Number of trained workers in case of war
- Enumerating transients



Source: Library of Congress



1940 Census on Labor Force

- Persons 14 years old and over (versus 10-13 in 1930 and 16 years + on later censuses)
- 1930 gainful employment concept versus 1940 employment status
- Workers for relief agencies

Your report is required by Act of Congress. This Act makes it unlawful for the Bureau to disclose any facts, including names or identity, from your census reports. Only sworn census employees will see your statements. Data collected will be used solely for preparing statistical information concerning the Nation's population, resources, and business activities. Your Census Reports Cannot Be Used for Purposes of Taxation, Regulation, or Investigation.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
S. D. No. _____ E. D. _____

SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940
Enumerated by me on _____

POPULATION SCHEDULE

RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1935					PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER—EMPLOYMENT STATUS													
IN WHAT PLACE DID THIS PERSON LIVE ON APRIL 1, 1935? For a person who, on April 1, 1935, was living in the same house as at present, enter in Col. 17 "Same house," and for one living in a different house but in the same city or town, enter "Same place," leaving Cols. 18, 19, and 20 blank, in both instances. For a person who lived in a different place, enter city or town, county, and State, as directed in the instructions. (Enter actual place of residence, which may differ from mail address.)					Was this person AT WORK for pay or profit in private or nonemergency work during week of March 24-30? (Yes or No)		If not, was he or she assigned to public emergency work (WPA, NYA, CCC, etc.) during week of March 24-30? (Yes or No)		If neither at work nor assigned to public emergency work, for persons answering "No" to questions 21, 22, 23, and 24		If at private or non-emergency Government work ("Yes" in Col. 21)		If seeking work or assigned to public emergency work ("Yes" in Col. 22 or 23)		OCCUPATION, INDUSTRY, AND CLASS OF WORKER For a person at work, assigned to public emergency work, or with a job in Col. 21, 22, or 24, enter present occupation, industry, and class of worker. For a person seeking work ("Yes" in Col. 23): (a) If he has previous work experience, enter "New worker" in Col. 28, and leave Cols. 29 and 30 blank.			
City, town, or village having 2,500 or more inhabitants. Enter "R" for all other places.	COUNTY	STATE (or Territory or foreign country)	On a farm? (Yes or No)	CODE (Leave blank)	Was this person AT WORK for pay or profit in private or nonemergency work during week of March 24-30? (Yes or No)	If not, was he or she assigned to public emergency work (WPA, NYA, CCC, etc.) during week of March 24-30? (Yes or No)	Was this person SEEKING WORK? (Yes or No)	If not seeking work, did he HAVE A JOB in business, etc.? (Yes or No)	Indicate whether engaged in home work (H), in school (S), unable to work (U), or other (O)	CODE	Number of hours worked during week of March 24-30, 1940	Period of unemployment up to March 30, 1940—in weeks	OCCUPATION Trade, profession, or particular kind of work, as— frame spinner salesman laborer river boatster music teacher	INDUSTRY Industry or business, as— cotton mill retail grocery farm shipyard public school	Class of worker	CLASS OF WORKER (Leave blank)		
17	18	19	20	D	21	22	23	24	25	E	26	27	28	29	30			

Source: U.S. Census Bureau History Staff



Income and Wealth

New questions attempted to compare the effects of the Great Depression on different groups

- Income question and its limitations
- Education attained
- Value/rent

25	26
Value of property	Mortgage on property
\$.....	Yes No
No. of dwlg. units.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 0
D	Present debt
	On 1st mtg.
	\$.....
	On 2d mtg.
	\$.....

INCOME IN 1939
(12 months ending December 31, 1939)

Amount of money wages or salary received (including commissions)

Did this person receive income of \$50 or more from sources other than money wages or salary? (Yes or No)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau History Staff



Census Sample Survey

To reconcile exploding demand for new questions with a public balking at answering and technology straining to make that many tabulations:

- Asked most frequently of people falling on lines 14 and 29
- Supplementary questions included
 - Parents' place of birth
 - Veterans status
 - If person had a Social Security number (not the person's number)
 - Usual occupation and industry
 - Age at first marriage
 - Number of children ever born

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS	
For Persons Enumerated on Lines 14 and 29	
Line No.	NAME
	35
14	
29	

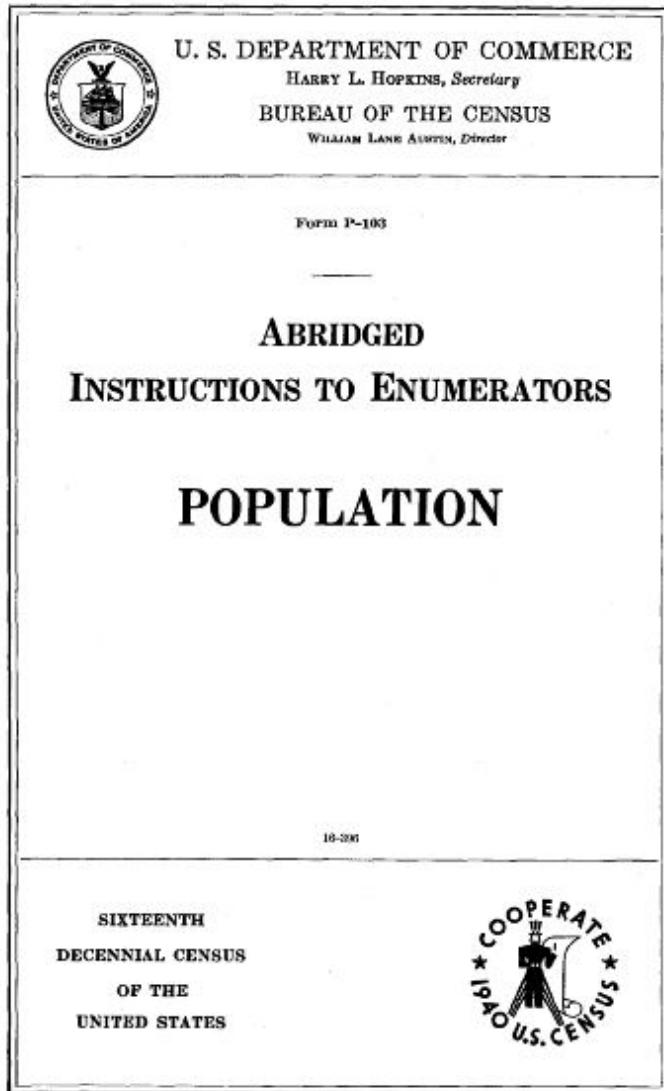
Source: U.S. Census Bureau History Staff



The “72-Year” Rule

- For 72 years, only the person named on the census record or their legal heir can request census records
- After 72 years, census records are released to the public
- The National Archives (NARA) distributes the records to their facilities for public use





Source: U.S. Census Bureau History Staff

Enumeration Instructions

<http://www.census.gov/history>

Information about how each question was asked

Abbreviations used



1940 Census

Constance Potter, National Archives and Records Administration

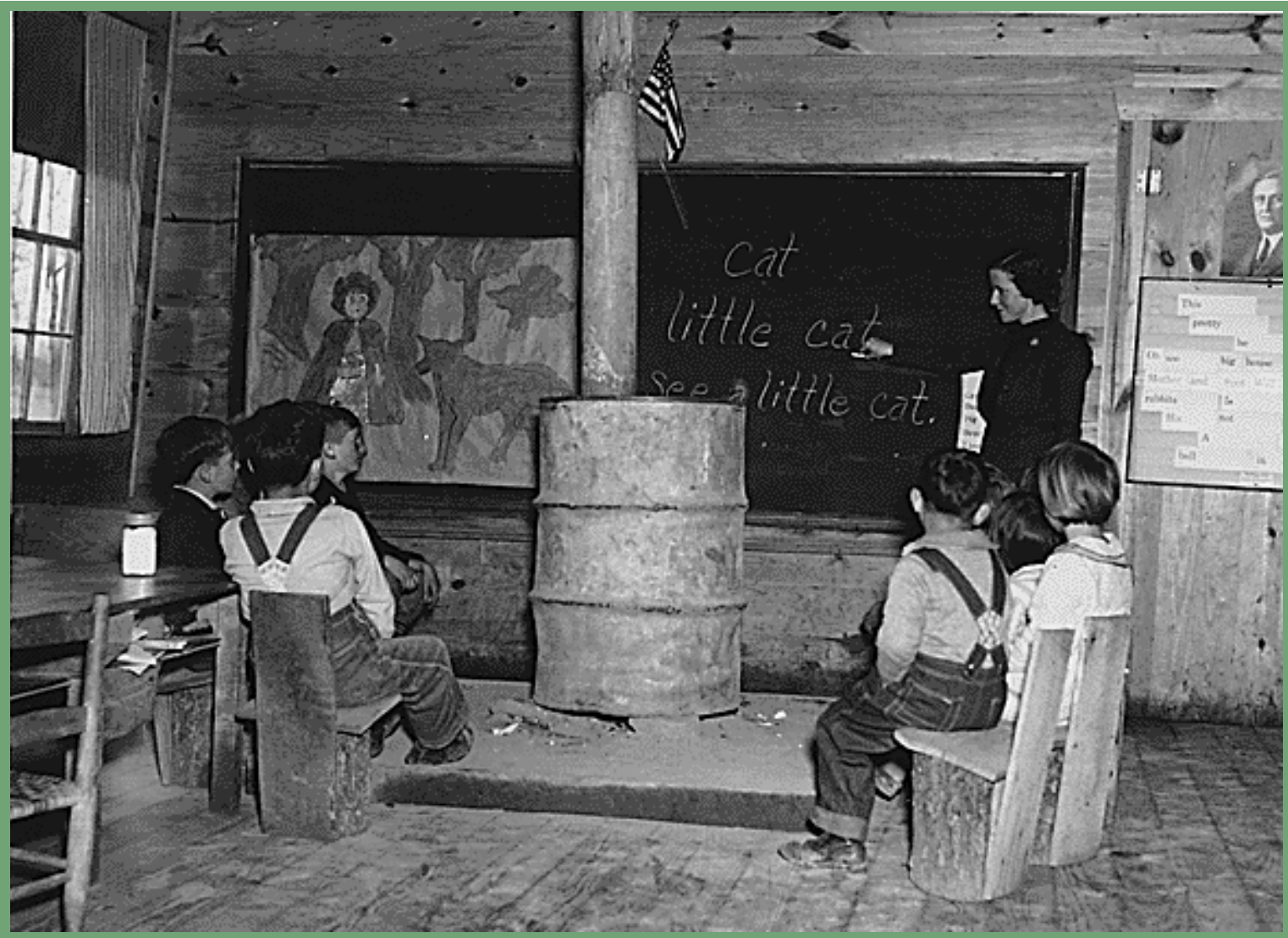
Abridged Instructions to the Enumerators

- Not just a shorter version of the earlier instructions but includes additional information
- Page 61: missed the day of the census
- Page 81: transients

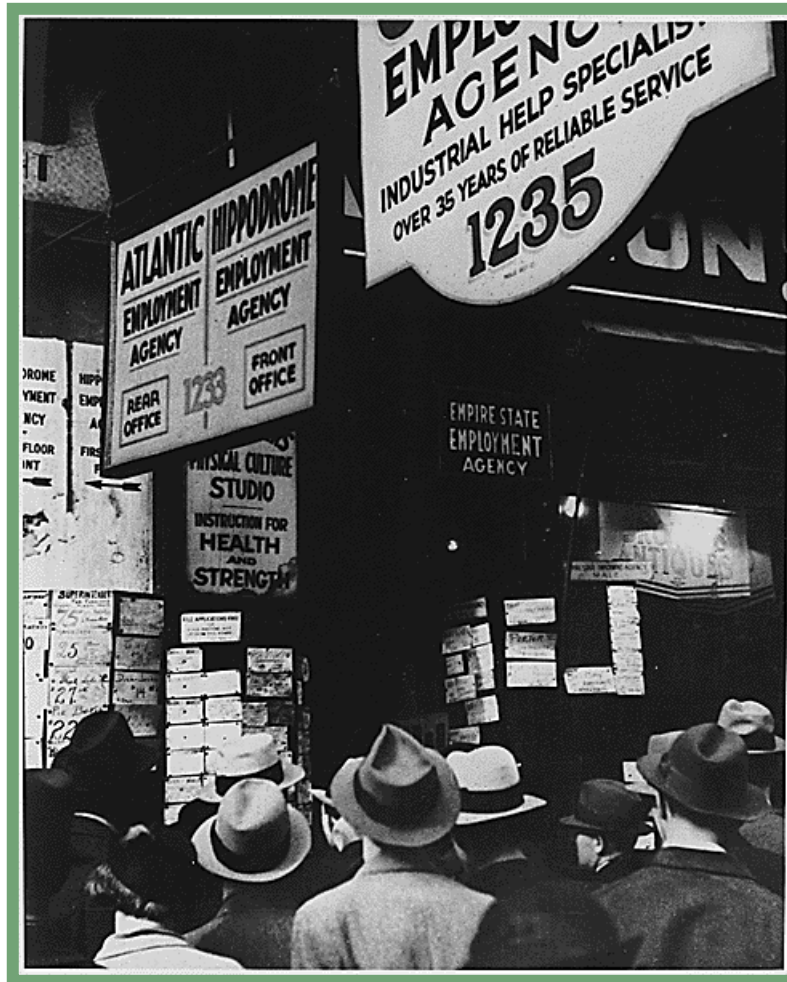
Person Giving the Information: Column 7



Highest Grade of School Completed: Column 14



Employment Status: Columns 21-33

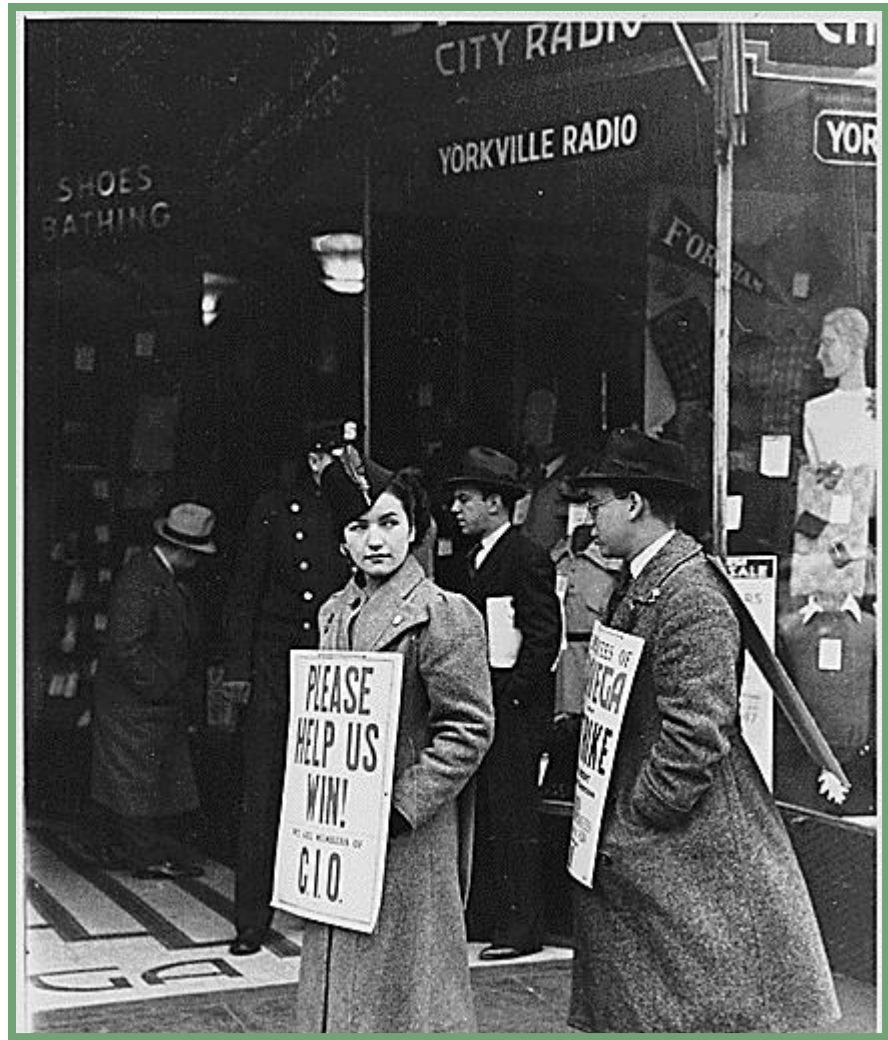


Emergency Public Works: Column 22



Not Working: Column 25

- H-Housework
- U-Unable to work
- S-Student
- Ot-Other



Employment Status: Columns 26-29



Class of Worker: Column 30

- PW Wage or salary worker in private work
- GW Wage or salary worker in government work
- E Employer
- OA Work on own account
- NP Unpaid family worker
- NW New Worker

Income in 1939: Columns 32 and 33



Territories and Possessions

- Alaska
- American Samoa
- Guam
- Hawaii
- Panama Canal Zone
- Virgin Islands (U.S.)
- Puerto Rico (the only schedule in Spanish)



THE 1940 CENSUS

Rebecca C. Warlow,
National Archives and Records Administration

The 1940 Census Goes Online!

- For the first time the National Archives will release the census online.
- <http://1940census.archives.gov>
- Available on any computer anywhere with internet access.
- Site is free of charge.
- The only site that will have the entire census on April 2.



Searching the 1940 Census

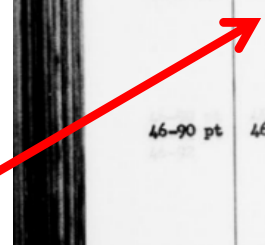
- ❑ No name index.
- ❑ You can search by location or address.
- ❑ With a location or address you will be able to determine the enumeration district in which a person was living.
- ❑ An enumeration district or ED was the geographic area that a census taker covered.
- ❑ Each enumeration district is assigned a number.



Searching the 1940 Census

Enumeration District Descriptions

- Search by location or address.
- Read the descriptions to locate an address.
- Note the enumeration district number.
- Search the census by the ED number.



16-8 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS		ENUMERATION DISTRICTS—1940 CENSUS		Page 33	
State Pennsylvania		County 46 Montgomery		1940 S. D. 17	
1930 E. D.	1940 E. D.	DESCRIPTION OF ENUMERATION DISTRICT	1940 Pop.	1930 Census Population	Area
		Nerberth borough:	5,217		
46-90 pt	46-127	Nerberth borough - That part of Ward 1 Bounded by Borough limits Meetinghouse Lane, Iona Ave. Windsor Ave. Essex Ave., Woodbine Ave., Nerberth Ave.	1,432		
46-90 pt	46-128	Nerberth borough - That part of Ward 1 Bounded by Borough limits Borough limits, Haverford and Merion Ave. Essex Ave. Windsor Ave., Iona Ave., Meetinghouse Lane	495		
46-91 pt	46-129	Nerberth borough - That part of Ward 2 Bounded by Borough limits Borough limits Sabine Ave.	787		
46-92 pt	46-130	Nerberth borough - That part of Ward 3 Bounded by Borough limits			

Searching the 1940 Census

- Find the pages for an enumeration district or location.
- Browse the images for the names you are seeking.

Enumeration District No. 40-240 Sheet No. 18 B
 Supervisor's District No. 10
 5264

	PLACE OF ABODE				NAME of each person whose place of abode on April 1, 1930, was in this family Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any Include every person living on April 1, 1930. Omit children born since April 1, 1930	RELATION Relationship of this person to the head of the family	HOME	
	Street, avenue, road, etc.	House number (in cities or towns)	Number of dwelling house in order of visitation	Number of family in order of visitation			Home owned or rented	Value of home, if owned, or monthly rental
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
51		605	11	11	Reilly, John	Head	O	\$200.
52					Alice S.	Wife - H		
53					John	Son		
54					Mary A.	Daug		
55					Margaret	Daug		
56		642	12	12	De Vos, Arnold	Head	R	\$55
57					Allie	Wife - H		
58		640	13	13	Olds, Frank	Head	O	\$650.
59					Julia	Wife - H		
60					Mary	Daug		
61					Margaret J.	Daug		
62		638	14	14	De Gelleke, Annetta M.	Head	O	\$450.

1930 census for Milwaukee

Saving and Sharing the 1940 Census

- Researchers can
 - ▣ Download images
 - ▣ Share via social media
 - ▣ Bookmark and email to themselves or others
 - ▣ Bookmark and save in a personal account on the site



1940 Census Opens to the Public

- The 1940 Census opens on April 2 at 9:00 AM (Eastern)
- Opening event begins at 8:30 AM
 - ▣ Live streamed from the National Archives at 1940census.archives.gov
 - ▣ Remarks from David S. Ferreiro, Archivist of the United States, and Robert Groves, Director of the Bureau of the Census, plus others
 - ▣ Q & A session with Michael Snow and Connie Potter.



29-C-10-5 New Census Building. At the peak of activity, 9,987 persons were employed in Washington.

1940 Census Online Resources

- Search: <http://1940census.archives.gov> for the schedules
- Email: 1940Census@nara.gov for questions
- Subscribe to NARAtions [Blog](http://blogs.archives.gov/online-public-access/?cat=163) posts:
blogs.archives.gov/online-public-access/?cat=163
- Follow the 1940 Census on [Twitter](#) using hashtag #1940Census

Questions?



For Further Information

Search the 1940 Census: <http://1940census.archives.gov>

View live on Ustream:

http://archives.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?event_id=8

National Archives and Records Administration

Email: 1940Census@nara.gov

Media

U.S. Census Bureau
Public Information Office
301-763-3030

General Public

U.S. Census Bureau
Customer Services Center
1-800-923-8282 or (301) 763-INFO (4636)

