

THE MAZE

Middlebrooks Family Association, Inc.

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The 1940 Census of Population

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The public will have access to the sixteenth United States Census on Monday, April 2, 2012. This is 72 years and one day after the 1940 enumeration on Monday, April 1. An interesting note is the 72-year period has no connection with an person's average life span, federal legislation, or any privacy considerations. Yes, this is hard to believe, but it is the number of years between when the 1790-1870 censuses were transferred to our National Archives and thus became available to the public in 1942.

When our National Archives was established 1934, not long afterward the US Bureau of the Census' director and the US National Archive's archivist both agreed that the 1790-1870 early population records would be immediately available to all researchers. The transfer completion of the 1870 census records and their availability to the public was in 1942, 72 years after the census was taken. This time period established the 72-year precedent.

For researchers familiar with the 1790-1930 indexed censuses the NARA 1940 census will not have a text searchable index for some time, nor is it clear what this "some time" time period will be. In the meantime microfilm era techniques must be deployed to locate any one of the approximately 132 million individuals enumerated. The individual's state, county, city/town, exact enumeration district and street name must be known to pin-point their enumeration data.

The 1940 form layout is similar to the previous 1930 census. A digital image of the complete form may be found at <http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/1940.pdf> one added notation is the household member who gave the enumeration information. Basic information provided is the street, avenue, or road name, house number and the visitation order of the house and family.

Additional information collected was:

- 1] whether the home was owned or rented;
- 2] home value if owned, or monthly rental;
- 3] whether the family lived on a farm;
- 4] the name of each person residing in the enumerated household on April 1, 1940;
- 5] relationship of each person to the household head;
- 6] each person's sex, color or race, age at last birthday and their marital status;
- 7] whether the person attended school or college any time since March 1, 1940 and the highest

school grade completed;

8] the person's place of birth and citizenship if foreign-born;

9] place of residence on April 1, 1935;

If the person was 14 years or older:

10] the person's trade, profession, or particular kind of work done and the industry or business with which they were employed;

11] the individual's worker class and number of weeks worked in 1939;

12] wages or salary received in 1939 and whether or not \$50 or more was earned from non-wage or non-salary sources;

13] and if applicable, the corresponding farm schedule number.

There were 40 numbered lines on the 1940 census form and each person on the 14th and 29th lines were asked supplementary questions pertaining to:

- 1] parents' place of birth;
- 2] person's native language;
- 3] if the person is a veteran, or the wife, widow or minor child of a veteran;
- 4] if a minor child of a veteran, is their veteran father dead;
- 5] military service of veteran;

6] if the person has a social security number;

7] if old-age insurance or railroad retirement deductions were taken from their wages or salary in 1939 and if so, were they made from all, half or more, or less than half the wages or salary;

8] the person's usual trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, the usual industry of business with which the person was involved, and their usual worker class;

9] for all women, whether they have been married more than once, age at first marriage and number of live births.

A simple comparison of the 1930 and 1940 census questions shows added questions consisting of: highest school grade completed and the return of the 1870 real estate value questions. Omitted questions consist of: ability to read or write, immigration year, and naturalization status.

It is not clear why the 1940 census asked supplemental questions of the 14th and 29th individual on each form. This data were used to make statistical analyses about the population and this writer will leave the inference and validity to the reader.

Image sites such as Ancestry.com project the availability of 3.8 million images that will contain at least 130 million records. Ancestry.com and its library edition, Ancestry Plus, will make the census collection available for free through the next year. Ancestry announced that images and index will begin streaming to their site in mid-April.

For those who cannot wait, the National Archives will have the digital images available April 2, 2012. Unfortunately knowing a person's 1940 address is not sufficient to locate their enumeration data. A person's Enumeration District [ED] must be known. To get the ED number, the person's state, county and street name are needed. Knowing the ED will only lead to the first census page of the district and paging from page to page will be needed to locate the person.

There is a good link for locating a family in the 1940 census provided the basic information is known <http://stevemorse.org/>. This is a good site with many research tips and information, and until an index is prepared, locating a family will be very similar to pre-computer indexes and the use of microfilm. The only thing missing is the whap, whap, whap of the microfilm when rewound.

Reference and sites of interest:

<http://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/items1940.shtml> form in questionnaire form

http://www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=1940_U.S._Census Ancestry.com's comparison

www.archives.gov/genealogy/census/1940/ National Archives 1940 Census Web site



FTDNA Discounts 11-15-11 from Bob Middlebrooks:



Family Tree DNA is offering holiday discounts for new participants and upgrades for existing members. It is an excellent time to take advantage of both. Details below. Effective immediately this promotion will end on December 31, 2011. I can be contacted at mid293@earthlink.net to assist in orders.

<u>New Kits</u>	Current Group Price	SALE PRICE
Y-DNA 37	\$149	\$119
Y-DNA 67	\$239	\$199
mtFullSequence	\$299	\$239
SuperDNA (Y-DNA67 and FMS)	\$518	\$438
Family Finder	\$289	\$199
Family Finder + mtPlus	\$438	\$318
Family Finder + FMS	\$559	\$439
Family Finder+ Y-DNA37	\$438	\$318
Comprehensive (FF + FMS + Y-67)	\$797	\$627
 <u>Upgrades</u>		
12-25 Marker	\$49	\$35
12-37 Marker	\$99	\$69
12-67 Marker	\$189	\$148
25-37 Marker	\$49	\$35
25-67 Marker	\$148	\$114
37-67 Marker	\$99	\$79
Family Finder	\$289	\$199
mtHVR1toMega	\$269	\$229
mtHVR2toMega	\$239	\$209

ALL ORDERS MUST BE PLACED AND PAID FOR BY **MIDNIGHT DECEMBER 31st 2011** TO RECEIVE THE SALE PRICES. THIS PROMOTION IS NOT VALID IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER PROMOTIONS OR COUPONS. AT THIS TIME, WE WILL NOT BE OFFERING DISCOUNTS FOR THE **-DNA111, NEW KITS OR UPGRADES**. THOSE MAY BE OFFERED AT A LATER TIME PENDING THE LAB VOLUMES WITH THE TESTS UNDER PROMOTION.