

State Michigan Incorporated place Reading City Ward of city 1 Unincorporated place _____
 County Hillsdale Township or other division of county Reading Block Nos. _____ Institution _____
(Name of institution and lines on which entries are made)

LOCATION	HOUSEHOLD DATA	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	ETHNICITY	RESIDENCE
		Name of each person whose usual place of residence on April 1, 1940, was in this household. <small>BE SURE TO INCLUDE:</small> 1. Persons temporarily absent from household. Write "A" after names of such persons. 2. Children under 1 year of age. Write "Infant" if child has not been given a first name. 3. Other names of persons if surviving.		Relationship of this person to the head of the household, or wife, daughter, father, mother-in-law, grand-uncle, nephew, etc. Write "Wife" with maiden name, "Widow", "Board", etc.	Age, sex, race, marital status, height, weight, hair, eyes, scars, etc.	Grade of school completed, or highest grade of school attended, or years of school attended.	If born in the United States, give State, Territory, or possession. If foreign born, give country or "X" which birthplace was assigned on January 1, 1940. DISTRICTS: Canada-French from Canada; English and Irish Free State; Irish born British or Ireland.	City, town, or village having 2,500 or more inhabitants. Write "U" for all other places.
306	1 0 100	John A. ...	Head	M 36	8	Illinois	U	Same house
311	2 0 3500	William ...	Head	M 34	11	Michigan	U	Same place
		Janet ...	Daughter	F 14	3	Michigan	U	Same place
321	3	Maya ...	Head	M 37	11	Indiana	R	La Gr...
		Theresa ...	Wife	F 26	11	Montana	R	La Gr...

The 1940 Census REVISITED

By CONSTANCE POTTER



POPULATION SCHEDULE

Enumerated by me on April 1, 1940

Mrs. Reginald Smith

Enumerator

The article “New Questions in the 1940 Census” (*Prologue*, Winter 2010) was based on instructions to the enumerator as well as information from the statistical summaries. Although these sources provide useful information, the only way to really understand the census is to look at the actual schedules and see how people answered the questions.

Changes in Enumeration Districts

Because the 1940 census had smaller enumeration districts (EDs) than earlier censuses, the overall number of EDs increased by 27,000 for a total of 147,000. Each ED was a clearly defined place—part of a minor civil division, township, or city—that could be covered by an enumerator in about two weeks in an urban area and one month in a rural area. Rural EDs were to include no more than 1,500 inhabitants and 250 farms. The Census Bureau even considered the topography and access roads in rural areas.

Differences in Pagination from Earlier Censuses

The 1940 census is available only online, and people sometimes refer to the online pagination. It is useful, however, to look at the page numbers written in the upper right-hand corner of the census schedules.

In the 1940 census, the enumeration districts had three possible numbering systems. Pages 1A and following enumerated the people at home on April 1, or the day the enumerator first came to their home. The first set of pages rarely goes as high as 60B; most pages only go up to the 30s. After that, beginning on pages 61A and above, the census lists the people who were not at home the first time the census taker visited. If you are having trouble finding a person or address, check to see if there is a page 61; you might find who you are looking for there. You will need to compare both sets of pages to see who might be neighbors.

Pages 81A and above list transients. In column 3, where the household visitation number usually goes, the enumerators wrote a “T” for transient. The 1930 census reflected some of the dislocation of the early days of the Great Depression when it asked enumerators to look in boxcars, small rooms, closets, or any place a transient could live. In 1940, the enumerators visited hotels, flophouses, etc. on April 8. These people are listed starting on page 81A.

Top and background: Pages 1A to 61A of the 1940 census sheets enumerated people who were at home on April 1.

Opposite: A neighborhood near the Atlanta, Georgia, State Capitol before demolition for new construction, ca. 1940.

State Michigan Incorporated place Reading City Ward of city 1 Unincorporated place _____
 County Hillsdale Township or other division of county Reading Block Nos. _____ Institution _____
(Name of unincorporated place having 100 or more inhabitants)
(Name of institution and time on which entries are made)

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 County Hillsdale Township or other division of county Reading Block Nos. _____ Institution _____
(Name of unincorporated place having 100 or more inhabitants)
(Name of institution and time on which entries are made)

Washington 167	7'			Larson, John Emil	Lodger	M	W	59	S	70	5
Accidental 221	179			Weaver, Charles W	Head	M	W	27	S	70	8
Washington 116	180			Martin, Elmer	Head	M	W	44	S	70	8
Yestercolly 119	181			Quin, Queen Jenny	Lodger	F	W	23	M	70	6
61	67 1/2	125		Ruder, Alma Frances	Lodger	F	W	25	M	70	1
Wagon St. 94	168			Radacoy, Joseph	Lodger	M	W	24	S	70	8
Wagon St. 309				Bellosillo, L. A.	Head	M	Fed	39	S	70	10
Accidental 311	171			Kelly, George B	Lodger	M	W	36	S	70	7

Top: Pages numbered 61A and above list people who were not at home the first time the census taker visited. Pages 81A and above list transients, indicated a by a "T" in column 3. Enumerators looked in boxcars, small rooms, closets, or any place a transient could live.

Left: The notation "M7" in the marital status column means that the person is married but not living with his or her spouse.

Opposite: The figures for income from wages and salary provided the government with an index of purchasing power and economic status. For these farmers from Seward County, Kansas, the \$0 in the wages and salary column indicates that they were self-employed; the next column notes if someone made more than \$50 that year.

Opposite bottom: A dust storm at Liberal, Kansas, April 14, 1935.

Marital Status

Many people have "M7" noted in the marital status column. M7 means that the person is married but not living with his or her spouse. Alma Frances Ruder, age 25, has M7 by her name. In 1935, she lived in Grand Coulee, Washington, and in 1940 she worked 26 weeks as a "nite" club singer in Seattle.

Economics and the 1940 Census

The 1940 census emphasized the country's economic problems. The government wanted to look for data on large-scale unemployment, underemployment, and irregular incomes. The following questions reflect this interest.

Comparison of Rent and Mortgages from 1930 to 1940

The 1940 housing census did not survive, but both the 1930 and 1940 censuses asked how much a house was worth or the amount of the monthly rent. In 1930, Katherine Holley, a black school teacher from Hedgesville, West Virginia, lived with her mother in a house valued at \$2,000. By the 1940 census, the house was worth \$2,500. Frank H.T. Potter, a business lawyer living in Evanston, Illinois, however, saw the price of his house decrease from \$18,000 in 1930 to \$15,000 in the 10 years between the censuses.

Education

The 1940 census asked respondents for the first time how many years of schooling he or she had up to five

years of college. The Bureau of the Census wanted to study the correlation between education and both income and jobs. At the time, many high schools graduated students at the 11th grade, so don't assume someone did not graduate from high school just because they did not have 12 years of schooling.

Income from Wages and Salary

The government used the information derived from the income from wages and salary as an index of purchasing power and economic status. When looking at the income of farmers from Seward County, Kansas, you can see that these men worked 52 weeks a year and that the farmers had \$0 in the wages and salary column. At first glance, it is easy to assume that none of these farmers had any income; that is not so. They have nothing in that column because they are self-employed. Check the next column that notes if someone made more than 50 dollars that year.

The O.K. Hotel in Seattle, Washington, listed many transients, most of them men. Louis Kahn, 64, single and from Germany, was naturalized and had two years of college. He had lived in the same place since 1935. He gathered junk for 15 hours the week of March 24–30. Because he worked on his own account (OA), the wages and salary column shows zero, but he put "yes" in the column asking if had made more than \$50.00 in 1939.

The Census Bureau put the question on wages and salary at the end of the schedule so that if people did not want to answer that question, they would have

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4884

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940

S. D. No. 3 E. D. No. 30-22

Sheet No.
81-A

POPULATION SCHEDULE

Enumerated by me on April 8, 1940

214 Mrs. Roger A. Smith, Enumerator.

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214 Mrs. Roger A. Smith

Hatcher, James N. (D)	head
—, Mena B	wife
—, Hazel "ab"	daughter
—, Kathleen "ab"	daughter
Baker, William A	head
—, Maud K (D)	wife
Smith, LaVern C. (D)	head
—, Edith M.	wife

50	0	Farmer	Farm	0A 000 VV 452	0	0	no	1A
					0	0	no	
					0	0	no	
84	0	Farmer	Farm	0A 000 VV 452	0	0	no	2
					0	0	no	
50	0	Farmer	Farm	0A 000 VV 452	0	0	no	3
					0	0	no	



Dust Storm 4-14-35
Turtle Studio, Liberal, Kans

State West Virginia Incorporated place _____ Ward of city _____ Unincorporated place _____
 County Barkeley Township or other division of county Hedgesville Block Nos. _____
 Institution 666. 977P (Name of institution and lines on which entries are made)

Line No.	LOCATION		HOUSEHOLD DATA				NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION				EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH		CITIZENSHIP	RES.
	Street, avenue, road, etc.	House number (in cities and towns)	Number of household in order of visitation	Home owned (O) or rented (R)	Value of home, if owned, or monthly rental, if rented	Does this household live on a farm? (Yes or No)			Relationship of this person to the head of the household, as wife, daughter, father, mother-in-law, grand-mother, lodger, lodger's wife, servant, hired hand, etc.	Sex—Male (M), Female (F)	Color or race	Age at last birthday		Marital status—Single (S), Married (M), Widowed (W), Divorced (D)	Attended school or college any time since March 1, 1941 (Yes or No)		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1			1			No	Emerson-Alleg M	Head	M	W	40	M	7	80	Indiana	60	R
2							Dull-Louis G	Wife	F	W	25	M	4	30	Indiana	40	R
3							Porter-Gary W.	Wife	F	W	31	M	6	70	Pennsylvania	58	Mountain
4							Parsons-Peter Jr	Wife	F	M	49	M	6	6	Sweden	06+	Colorado
5							Barren-Hornuth B.	Wife	F	M	32	S	7	7	Pennsylvania	58	Mountain
6							Brown-Richard B.	Wife	F	M	22	S	4	30	West Virginia	75	R
12		623	124	O	45000		Hoover Herbert	head	M	W	65	M	0	70	Iowa	65	same house
13							— Lou Henry	wife	F	W	65	M	0	70	Iowa	65	same house
14							Sam Wu	servant	M	W	39	S	0	0	California	98	California
15							Lee Frank	servant	M	W	41	M	5	5	China	31	same house
16		634	125	O	20000		Burwin Robert E	head	M	W	65	M	0	50	Virginia	74	same house

answered the other questions. The highest salary noted was \$5,000+. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a wealthy man, noted his salary as \$5,000+, but future President Lyndon Johnson listed his salary as \$10,000.

Emergency Work Employment Programs

One of the pillars of the New Deal was employing people on emergency work programs. These programs included the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and the National Youth Administration (NYA). Census returns showed 2,400,000 people were employed by these agencies during the week of March 24–30, 1940. The records of the emergency work agencies, however, showed they employed 3,500,000 that week.

Civilian Conservation Corps

The Department of Labor selected single men between 18 and 23 for enrollment in the Civilian Conservation Corps, but the Veterans Administration could select veterans without regard to age or marital status. Enrollees served six months with the opportunity to re-enroll for up to two years. Both the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture managed the tasks assigned to the men. The War Department oversaw transportation, administration, conditioning, discipline, medical care,

entertainment, religious activities, and the work details of the enrollees. The military-type training gave the War Department a group of well-conditioned and trained young men when the country entered World War II.

Other records relating to CCC workers are the CCC accident reports and inspection reports held at College Park, MD. The inspection reports provide information on company numbers, the race of the enrollees, the date the camp was established, camp location, the names of military personnel, the condition of the buildings and sanitary facilities, medical services, religious services, safety, discharges, and brief descriptions of work projects.

Some inspection reports include correspondence about problems with camp facilities or the conduct of enrollees and supervisory personnel. The series also includes records of special investigations arising from complaints and charges of mistreatment or fraud.

Most of the camps reported an average weight gain of between 8 and 12 pounds per man, and one camp in eastern Tennessee reported an average weight gain of 54 pounds. The availability of adequate, nourishing food at the camps eventually produced healthier soldiers during World War II.

CCC camps usually appear at the end of a county as a separate enumeration district. The schedules show only the permanent full-time employees working at the camp. The enrollees are enumerated at their homes.

Top: Civilian Conservation Camp enumerations usually appear at the end of a county, and show only the permanent full-time employees working at camp. The enrollees are enumerated at their homes. Above: The census can provide important information about famous households.

On this schedule for Santa Clara, California, we learn that Sam Wu was the servant for former President Herbert Hoover. Wu was a citizen by birth. He worked 60 hours the week of March 24–30 and earned \$780 the previous year.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
 SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940
 POPULATION SCHEDULE

S. D. No. 7 E. D. No. 2-24
 Enumerated by me on April 10, 1940.

Sheet No. 1-A

Allen M. Emerson, Enumerator.

C. 5-11

DID THIS PERSON LIVE ON APRIL 1, 1935?				PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER—EMPLOYMENT STATUS															
1935, was living in the same house as at present, enter in Col. 18, 19, and 20 blank, in both instances.				For a person at work, assigned to public emergency work, or with a job ("Yes" in Col. 21, 22, or 23), 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 last occupation, industry, and class of worker; or (b) if he does not have previous work experience, enter "New worker" in Col. 23, and leave Col. 24 and 25 blank.															
COUNTY	STATE (or Territory or foreign country)	Sex (M or F)	CODE (Leave blank)	Whether person AT WORK for pay or profit in private or nonemergency work (Yes or No) (Use or No) (Use or No)	If not, was he at work on, or assigned to, public EMERGENCY WORK (Yes or No) (Use or No) (Use or No)	If neither at work nor assigned to public emergency work, ("No" in Col. 21 and 22)	For persons answering "No" to quest. 21, 22, 23, and 24	If at private or non-emergency unorganized work, ("Yes" in Col. 21)	If seeking work or assigned to public emergency work, ("Yes" in Col. 23 or 24)	OCCUPATION, INDUSTRY, AND CLASS OF WORKER			Class of worker	CODE (Leave blank)	Number of weeks worked in 1939 (Equivalent full-time weeks)	INCOME IN 1939 (12 months ending December 31, 1939)		Number of farm schedules	Line No.
										OCCUPATION	INDUSTRY	Class of worker				Amount of money received or salary received (Indicate amount of 100 or more farm income)	Did this person receive the amount of 100 or more farm income after this money was subtracted? (Yes or No)		
18	19	20	D	21	22	23	24	25	E	26	27	28	29	30	F	31	32	33	34
Del.	Texas	M	6011	Yes	-	-	-	2	60	Officer in charge	b b b	Sw	112	97	2	52	2621	No	1
Del.	Texas	M	6012	Yes	-	-	-	2	60	Jr. Officer in charge	b b b	Sw	112	97	2	52	2000	No	2
Del.	West Virginia	M	7515	Yes	-	-	-	2	44	Iron mill (operator)	b b b	Sw	134	99	2	52	2000	No	3
Del.	West Virginia	M	7516	Yes	-	-	-	2	44	Librarian	b b b	Sw	316	99	2	52	1650	No	4
Del.	West Virginia	M	7513	Yes	-	-	-	2	44	Librarian	b b b	Sw	316	99	2	52	1650	No	5
Del.	West Virginia	M	7521	Yes	-	-	-	2	48	Asst. Teacher	b b b	Sw	112	97	2	52	1050	No	6
				No	No	No	No	OT	8		Mining Engineer	Overseer	aa			0	0	Yes	12
				No	No	No	No	H	5							0	0	Yes	13
Francis	California	M	4747	Yes	-	-	-	1	60	servant	Private home	Pr	520	86	1	52	780	Yes	14
				Yes	-	-	-	1	60	servant	Private home	Pr	520	86	1	52	1080	Yes	15
				Yes	-	-	-	1	40	Professor	University	Pr	110	11	1	52	5000+	Yes	16

Works Progress Administration

Established May 6, 1935, the WPA provided work to those in need of relief and to improve the nation's infrastructure. Both men and women were eligible, but only one person from a household could work at a time. Applicants had to be over 18, but there was no upper age limit. The WPA also hired people with disabilities as long as their past experience qualified them for work other than manual labor. WPA workers are enumerated at their homes.

National Youth Administration

The NYA, a part of the WPA, hired students between 16 and 24 years of age. Students attending school received part-time work, and those who had dropped out of school performed community-related duties. The

program focused on African American students. NYA workers are enumerated at their homes.

Supplemental Questions

In the 1940 census, the enumerators asked additional questions of two people on each page, or approximately 5 percent of the population. Many of the questions on the supplemental census had appeared in some form in earlier censuses.

One of the questions people asked staff at the National Archives before the census opened last April was whether enumerators selected famous people over others. The story of Sam Wu shows this did not happen.

Sam Wu's entry appears on line 14, one of the lines marked for supplemental questions. Herbert Hoover, former President of the United States, is listed two lines above Wu, so Hoover was not asked the questions. Instead it is Sam Wu, his servant. The census shows that Wu, age 39, was born in the United States. (Although the Chinese Exclusion Act had not been rescinded, Wu was an American citizen because he had been born in California.) In 1935, he lived in San Francisco. Wu answered that he did not have a Social Security number. The census also shows that he had "0" years of schooling. Both his usual occupation and his job the week of March 24-30 was as a servant in a private home. He

To learn more about

- "New Questions in the 1940 Census," go to www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2010/winter/.
- Locating the records of men who served in the CCC, go to www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2012/summer/.
- Civilian Conservation Corps accident reports, go to www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2011/winter/.



worked 60 hours the week of March 24–30. He worked 52 weeks the previous year for \$780, but he also made at least an additional \$50 from sources other than wages or salary.

Territories

The 1940 census enumerated the territories of Alaska, American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, the Panama Canal Zone, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rican census is the only one in Spanish. These forms do not ask as many questions as those on the continental schedule, nor do they have supplemental schedules. The employment questions are for people 10 years of age and older; on the continental schedule, they ask employment questions for people 14 and older. The Bureau of the Census did not take a census for the Philippines.

Money from Wages for Social Security and the Railroad Retirement Board

In the early 1940s, after the completed census schedules arrived in Washington, D.C., the Census Bureau ran comparisons with estimates from the Social Security Board. The staff realized that there were “serious deficiencies in the data,” which made the tabulation on Social Security status, except for persons not in the labor force, difficult. The estimate from the 1940 census recorded 33.5 million with Social Security or railroad accounts; the Social Security Board estimated 47 million people with accounts. Follow-up research concluded that too many respondents did not understand the question or did not know the answer, and 20 million “persons failed to report on the questions.”

Enumeration of Special Groups

In some cases, census takers received special instructions based on a person’s occupation. Their instructions included these categories:

1. *Servants.* Enumerate with the household any servants, laborers, or other employees who live with the household and sleep in the same house or dwelling unit.
2. *Student nurses.* Enumerate student nurses as residents of the hospital, nurses’ home, or other place in which they live while they are receiving their training.
3. *Persons in construction and other camps.* Enumerate where found, persons in railroad, highway, or other construction camps, lumber camps, convict camps, or other places that have shifting populations composed mainly of persons with no fixed address or residence.

4. *Soldiers, sailors, and marines.* Enumerate soldiers, sailors, and marines in the Army or Navy of the United States as residence of the place where they usually sleep in the area where they are stationed. If, therefore, any household in your district reports that one of its members is a soldier, sailor, marine stationed elsewhere, *do not report him as a member of that household.*

5. *Inmates of prisons, asylums, and institutions other than hospitals.* Your district may include a prison, reformatory, or jail, a home for orphans, for aged, infirm or needy persons, for blind, deaf, or incurable persons, a soldier’s home, an asylum or hospital for the insane of the feeble-minded, or a similar institution in which the inmates usually remains for long periods of time. Note that in the case of jails you must enumerate the persons there, however short the sentence. [Theoretically a person could be enumerated both at home and in the jail where he or she had spent the night.] In most prisons, the inmate number is in the column for relationship to the head of the household, and the columns on employment are not completed.

Overseas

Although the census was taken overseas, the original schedules do not survive. Because of the war in Europe, it would have been difficult to track American citizens living there.



It is important to remember that mistakes could be and were made on the census schedules. This information was taken orally, and it was easy to misunderstand what someone said. Or the enumerator may have misunderstood the question. Regardless of the reason for the error, these census schedules are permanent records of the federal government and cannot be changed.

Every census adds new questions. Researchers need to look at each census with an understanding of what questions were asked and why they were asked. With that understanding, it is easier to interpret the answers given on the schedules.

For more information on the 1940 census, see the 1940 census website at <http://1940census.archives.gov>. **P**

Author

Constance Potter is a reference archivist specializing in federal records of genealogical interest held at the National Archives and Records Administration.

The interior of the scroll case at Norris Dam, on the Clinch River in Tennessee. Constructed in the mid-1930s, the dam was the first major project for the Tennessee Valley Authority.