

The 1940 Census and Preparing for the 1950 Census

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8 June 2021

Tips for searching the Census:

- Spelling Does Not Count! Dates Can Be Off!
- Look at neighbors (on the page before and after too!) and their information compared to your family (birth place, occupation, owned or rented, etc.)
- Search for other members of the household if your ancestor is not coming up
- Make a list of surname variations on other records to find patterns of misspellings
- Do specific searches for just the first or last names (remember to limit results to a location)
- Search without a name but with all the other information filled in (limit results)

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; education 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 + 5% of the population were asked supplemental questions

- [www.census.gov/history/www/through the decades/index of questions/1940 population.html](http://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/index_of_questions/1940_population.html)
- [www.census.gov/history/www/through the decades/questionnaires/1940 1.html](http://www.census.gov/history/www/through the decades/questionnaires/1940_1.html)

1950

Address; whether house is on farm; name; relationship to household head; race; sex; age; marital status; birthplace if foreign born, whether naturalized; employment status; hours worked in week; occupation, industry, and class of worker

+ 5% of the population were asked supplemental questions

- [www.census.gov/history/www/through the decades/index of questions/1950 population.html](http://www.census.gov/history/www/through the decades/index_of_questions/1950_population.html)
- www.census.gov/library/photos/1950a.html

The 1950 Census will be released on April 1, 2022.

Searching for information:

- Look for addresses: Family letters, 1940 Census, Military Records, City Directories—get creative!
- 1950 Census Substitute Database on Ancestry contains city directories from around 1950. If your family is not included in these records, start with online search, then the local library, and the state libraries, historical societies, and archives.
- Enumeration Districts: www.archives.gov/research/search/ or <http://stevemorse.org/census/>.
- Create a chart of names and locations to prepare.
- Use FAN (Family, Associates, Neighbors) Club or cluster research

City Directory Resources

- Library of Congress
 - www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/bib_guid/telephon.html
- The Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center
 - www.genealogycenter.org
- Google
 - www.google.com
- Ancestry \$
 - www.ancestry.com
- FamilySearch
 - www.familysearch.org/library/books
- Internet Archive
 - archive.org

Life Magazine Online

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