

Finding Your Ancestors In the 1940 Census

Anna Hopkins-Arnold, PhD (Bio.)
Rootfinders Genealogy Research

General Links:

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

The 1940 Census <http://www.1940census.com/> (the official site – run for NARA by Archives.com)

Steve Morse One-Step Site - <http://stevemorse.org/census/unified.html> (useful tools for any census research – use this to help find your 1940 Enumeration District (ED))

See also Steve Morse's pages about the meaning of the 1940 Census codes:

Occupation Codes: <http://stevemorse.org/census/ocodes1940.htm>

Miscellaneous Codes: <http://stevemorse.org/census/mcodes1940.htm>

Census images are available free from the official site run for the NARA by Archives.com AND from several commercial sites including:

1. National Archives <http://1940census.archives.gov/>
2. MyHeritage.com – the first commercial site to load ALL the images
3. FamilyLink.com/genealogy/records-1940-us-census/ (apparently another MyHeritage viewer)
4. FamilySearch.org – they are also deeply involved in the nationwide community indexing project (for more info on the Community Indexing Project see www.the1940Census.com)
5. Ancestry.com – they have uploaded all images and are releasing indexed versions state by state

GENERAL SEARCH METHOD:

1. Find where your ancestor lived in 1940
2. Convert the address or general location to an Enumeration District (ED)
3. Find the images for that ED
4. Search the images for your address & family

FINDING WHERE THEY LIVED

1. Did they stay where they lived in 1930?
2. Ask living relatives
3. Find old letters or postcards
4. City Directories
5. World War II Draft Records
6. (esp Old Man's Draft 1942)

CONVERTING LOCATION TO ED

1. Use **Steve Morse's One-Step-Site**
2. Input address
3. Use maps to pick out search area – use maps and block descriptions to narrow search area
4. Convert from 1930 E.D. To 1940 E.D.

ONCE YOU HAVE YOUR 1940 ED

1. Use maps and block descriptions to find **Block Number** to narrow search area
2. Open images and search for Block Number
3. Within Block search for Street Name (vertically in first column)
4. Within Street search for House Number (the number of the street address – in column 2)
5. See Household listed there – remember some dwellings contain multiple households

Supplementary Questions:

If they were asked Supplementary Questions, see their responses at the bottom of the sheet. (only 5% of people were asked)