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Western Montana Genealogical Society



NEXT MEETING - Tuesday, Sep 13, 2011

Missoula Public Library

Large Downstairs Meeting Room — 7:00 pm.

SEPTEMBER 2011

“Free Subscription Databases at the FHL”

Judith Field will present a program on using the free Subscription Databases available on the new Family History Center Portal. 19th Century British Library Newspaper Digital Archive, Alexander Street Press - The American Civil War, Ancestry.com (Library Edition), Find My Past (British), Fold3.com (formerly Footnote.com), The Genealogist (British), Genline FamilyFinder (Swedish Church Records), Godfrey Memorial Library, Heritage Quest Online, Historic Map Works Library Edition, Paper Trail (pioneer diaries and journals), and World Vital Records

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The 1940 Census: A Peek Inside

by Juliana Smith

Was your ancestor among the 14.6% of Americans who were unemployed in 1940? Did family members work on “New Deal” programs like the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), or the National Youth Administration (NYA) in March of 1940? What was his or her income for the year ending December 31, 1939, as the United States was emerging from the Great Depression? Where did the family live in 1940? In 1935?

These are just a few of the questions that may be answered when the 1940 census is released in just under seven months. (210 days as of today. Yes, I’m counting down already. It’s that good.)

Let’s take a peek at some of the goodies that are in store for us.

Who?

Who was enumerated? Everyone “whose usual place of residence on April 1, 1940 was in this household” was named, along with the relationship to the head of the household. Persons absent at the time of the

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Western Montana
Genealogical Society
SEP 2011

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

The Missoula Family History Library, 3201 Bancroft St., Missoula.

COMPUTER RESERVATIONS

(1 hour session) Call 543-6148

FHL HOURS

Tue. 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM & 6:30-8:30 PM

Thurs. 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM & 6:30-8:30 PM

census were noted with the abbreviation "Ab" following the name.

We'll learn the usual details about each individual—name, gender, age and place of birth, and marital status. For the first time, the 1940 enumeration also asked for the highest grade of school completed, as well as whether that individual had attended a school or college that year.

One neat thing about this census is that it noted who supplied the information to the census taker. In column seven, the informant was indicated by an x with a circle around it. If the census taker had to turn to a neighbor for information, the name of the neighbor was to be noted in the left margin. This will be helpful when it comes to weighing conflicting pieces of information.

While I'm disappointed that this enumeration didn't ask for immigration dates (as the previous four censuses did), it did ask about citizenship of the foreign born. The usual "Na" abbreviation indicated the person had been naturalized. "Pa" meant they had begun the naturalization process by filing their "first papers" but had not completed the process. "Al" was the annotation for aliens not naturalized, and this census added "Am Cit" for American citizens who were born at sea or abroad. Since, with the exception of the American citizen denotation, these abbreviations were used in previous censuses going back to 1900, locating your ancestor in earlier enumerations may help you zero in on when and where your ancestor was naturalized.

Where and When?

Knowing where and when your ancestors lived in a particular place is a key that can open the door to other records they left behind.

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In The Mail



Internet Genealogy, Aug/Sep 2011. *Mobile Genealogy: Family History Research on Your Phone, Tablet and More!*, *Leafing Through History: What Our Ancestors Read*, *Czech Research*, *Researching Your French Roots*, *Military Burials*, *Tracing Your Welsh Roots*, *The Genealogist's Google Toolbox*—a book review.

Internet Genealogy, Jun/Jul 2011. *Google's Archives: News You Can Use*, *Family History Centers*, *The New Look of Family Search*, *Top Websites For Irish Research*, *Civil Registration Records in Western Europe*, *Two Great Collections Available Online (Honolulu Passenger Lists, 1900-1953 and Reports of Deaths of American Citizens Abroad, 1963-1974.)*

Family Chronicle, Jul/Aug 2011. *Follow the Money (financial records)*, *Learning About the Census*, *What's In a Name-Tracking ancestors with ever-changing names*, *Divorce Records and Your Genealogy*, *The Duchess of Cambridge and Her American Connections (Kate Middleton's family)*, *Frame Those Memories*.

NGS Magazine, Jul-Sep 2011. *Protecting Precious Photographic Memories*, *How typical Were Your Ancestors? New York City's "Little Germany"*, *Fur Trade Permits Granted in the District of Montreal, 1721-1752*, *Kilroy Was Here (the Kilroy behind the legend)*, *The Lightening Brothers: A Brief Case Study in Union Civil War Research*, *Ooen Access*, *Public Domain*, and *Bibliographic Tools*.—about citation and clipping management services.

National Genealogical Society Quarterly, June 2011. *Documents and DNA Identify a Little-Known Lee Family in Virginia*, *Illegitimacy*, *Desertion*, and *Divorce: Using Indirect Evidence to Find Nicholas Mauer of Dromersheim*, *Using Freedman's Bank Registers to Trace Enslaved Families*, *Village Jews in Imperial Russia's Nineteenth-Century Minsk Governorate*.

BOOK FROLIC AT MSGA CONFERENCE

They need donations of items of **genealogical** or **historical** interest for the for the book frolic silent auction—annuals, directories, county histories, genealogy books, tapes, software or videos (**NO** quarterlies or outdated material.) You can bring items to the WMGS meeting on Sep. 11th or get them to Judith Field (728-1628).

Survey question #10 What general advice would you give to a beginner?

- First, start where you are, write down all information about your family, parents, and grandparents. Keep your attention to detail, yet be able to see the overall picture. Touch upon all available sources. It takes time, and lots of it. Don't lose sight of where you are going. Photos are also a vital source.
- Document as much as possible and read over the documents every once in a while. Something that you didn't think was important at first may become interesting later and provide a clue to or verification of a date or relationship.
- Consult with the experienced members
- Ancestry.com is a great place to start. Use the library copy if you want to test drive it, you find information fast. People really get excited when grandpa's name shows up in a census from 1910.
- Go for it, and join WMGS for inspiration
- Listen to old timers and cite your sources as you go. (You can tell, I didn't)
- I started at the Mormon center, they were extremely helpful.
- Ask a lot of questions of all your living relatives and document what you are told with primary research (original documents).
- Always remember to write down your references—no matter how good your memory is, you won't remember where all your information came from. If you can't back it up with a reference, the information is worthless.
- Ask the older folks in your family lots of questions and write the information down. Only do one family at a time.
- Start!
- NEVER, NEVER GIVE UP !!
- Just do it. We learn as we go.
- As you discover a new avenue that looks promising, put it into a "to do list". If possible, keep that on the computer so you can edit it easily.
- Document, document, document. When I began, I was so eager to record my findings, I neglected to do so. Big mistake!
- Cite everything!!!!!! Clearly!!!!!! Some of early citations are so poor that I find it difficult to find the original source. This was never suggested to me when I first started.
- Start out small, one line at a time. If you try to do too much at once you will not get anything done.

Bits & Bytes



National Archives of Norway They have just added the 1910 Census to the 1801, 1865, 1875 and 1900 Censuses and digitized parish registers, probate material and court records that are part of the Digital Archives. The material is sorted geographically, by dates, and by source type.

You can get the English language version by clicking on the British flag (far right) or by selecting the translate tab on the pages. From the main page you can go directly to the 1910 Census or click on the 'Database Selector' tab to search all databases.

[Http://da.digitalarkivet.no](http://da.digitalarkivet.no)

ANCESTRY.COM NEWS

1940 Census Will be Free on Ancestry.com

Posted by Diane (Haddad), FamilyTree Magazine's Genealogy Insider, 17 Aug 2011

Subscription genealogy website Ancestry.com has decided to make the 1940 census images and index—which will be on the site after the 1940 census is opened next year for research—free to search and view through 2013. That'll be more than 3.8 million images with 130 million records. Even better, they'll be indexed by 45 fields, meaning you'll be able to search on the name, street address, county, state, parents' birthplaces and more. The records won't be on Ancestry.com right when the census is released April 2, 2012. Ancestry.com's press release says they'll commence "streaming onto the website in mid-April 2012." Can't wait until mid-April? The record images will be available first on the National Archives' [website](#), but they won't be searchable right away by name. Click here to see our post about finding your ancestors' [1940 census enumeration district](#). Get help with your census research—including preparing for the release of the 1940 census records—in the May 2010 [Family Tree Magazine](#)

New and Updated Naturalization Records

New records for Delaware, Florida and Utah, and updates to the US Naturalization Records, 1795-1972, in the World Archives Project.

**WESTERN MONTANA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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We're On The Web
www.rootsweb.
com/~mtwmgs

Dues , Queries & Meetings

Dues are \$11 a year for individuals and \$13 for families, which includes a Newsletter (Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar, & May) and membership in the Montana State Genealogical Society. Queries are published free for members, \$2 for non-members. Membership runs from September to May of the next year. Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar, & May at 7:00 pm in the large downstairs meeting room of the Missoula Public Library unless otherwise noted in the newsletter.

***** DUES ARE NOW DUE FOR THE
2011-2012 YEAR *****

PLEASE USE ENCLOSED FORM

Upcoming Conferences

MSGs Conference

**Sept 22-24, 2011 Kalispell at the Hilton
Garden Inn**

Main Speaker; Thomas W. Jones, PhD

Topics:

- Solving the Mystery of the Disappearing Ancestor
- Five Proven Techniques for Finding Your Ancestors European Origins
- Organizing Evidence to Overcome Record Shortages
- How to Avoid Being Duped by the Internet

Submissions

We would appreciate any submissions of articles on genealogy for the Newsletter including *How You Solved It*, local pedigrees, book reviews of local history/genealogy