

Genealogy Rocks!

The 1940 Census Provides Great Statistics

After a 72 year wait, the 1940 Federal census was made public on April 2 of this year. This is the 16th census. Estimated population of the United States was 134 million people. One of the additions to this census was the identification of the person who supplied the information to the census taker. He or she was identified with the use of a circle with an X in the center after their name.



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This information adds to our determination of accuracy of the data as we know if it was an adult or a child of that household who spoke with the enumerator. But the enumerators were inconsistent with use of this symbol.

Everyone was asked the highest grade of school completed and where they lived on April 1, 1935. This was to check internal

migration but it gives genealogists clues where to find their ancestors between censuses. One question asked for amount of wages or salary received in 1939. However self-employed farmers were listed as having no income.

This census is indexed and always available for free on www.familysearch.org. It is also free until the end of 2013 on www.ancestry.com/1940. Indexed means it is searchable by name, location or place of birth, so you do not have to search page by page for your ancestor. Many names may have been incorrectly indexed, so I suggest looking at both websites. Ancestry.com library edition is available for free at the Family History Center and at the public libraries in Fort Collins and Loveland.

❖ *Kathy Patrick is our society's vice president. Our society programs will be at the Old Town Library in Fort Collins starting in January 2013 at 6:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month except December. Please visit our website at www.lcgsc.org for more details of our monthly programs and classes.*