

Genealogists never die.  
They lose their census.

To find  
Answers  
to the  
Past,  
Look in a Census

Volume 32 Issue 1

March 2012

## The 1940 Census is Coming! The 1940 Census is Coming!

The countdown of the last 40 days until the 1940 U.S. Federal Census is released has begun! Now is the time to get ready and be prepared for when the census is available.

The National Archives and Records Administration, (NARA), will release the 1940 U.S. Census on April 2, 2012. The census was conducted based on the date of April 1, 1940. With the seventy-two year privacy restriction, and the fact that April 1 falls on Sunday in 2012, family historians will need to wait an additional day, Monday, April 2, to be able to access the 1940 Census schedules.

The National Archives and Archives.com has teamed together and posted the website that will host the 1940 Census beginning April 2, 2012:

[www.1940census.archives.gov](http://www.1940census.archives.gov)

You are encouraged to bookmark this website and watch the informational video providing behind-the-scenes look at the preparations made to publish the 1940 Census.

Being called "The Greatest Generation", the 1940 U.S. Federal Census is the largest and most recent record set which will be available to the public. 132 million people were living in the 48 Continental United States in 1940. Many of the people who were recorded in the census are still living today, making this a valuable tool that connects people with more recent family records. For those who lost their lives in WWII, this could be the last glimpse we have of their lives. The people of "The Greatest Generation" were a hardy and interesting generation, they:

- Survived the Great Depression
- Fought in the Second World War
- Innovated technology

- Sacrificed in the name of freedom
- Practiced thrift and compassion
- Understood hard work and industry

The 1940 census included several of the standard questions seen on past census's, name, age, gender, race, etc., but also introduced new questions such as if the person worked for CCC, WPA, or NYA the week of March 24-30, 1940, and the income for the 12 months ending December 31, 1939. The census asked where people lived 5 years before, highest educational grade achieved and detailed income and occupation.

As part of the census, 5% of respondents (two names per page) were asked supplemental question, which included the place of birth of person's father and mother, the respondent's usual occupation (not just for the week of March 24-30), and questions related to marriage for all women who were or had been married. The enumerator's asked women if they had been married more than once, the age at first marriage, and the total number of children that they had every given birth to.

To learn more about the 1940 Census and how you can prepare, visit [www.Archives.com/1940census](http://www.Archives.com/1940census)

In the following pages, I have added more information and websites about the 1940 Census. These websites have informational tools to help you be prepared and organized to get the most from the census.

So lets all get on board! The 1940 Census is coming!

Sources:

1940 Census – <http://the1940census.com>

The National Archives –The 1940 Census Records  
<http://archives.gov/research/census/1940>

# MESA DWELLERS

Explanation of:

## “The 72-Year Rule”

The U.S. government will not release personally identifiable information about an individual to any other individual or agency until 72 years after it is collected for the decennial census. This “72-Year Rule” (92 Stat. 915; Public Law 95-416; October 5, 1978) restricts access to decennial census records to all but the individual named on the record or their legal heir.

For more information about the origin of the “72-Year Rule,” see the following.

- Letter from Census Bureau Director, Roy V. Peel to Archivist of the United States, Wayne C. Grover, concerning 72-year lapse between collection and release of decennial census records, August 25, 1952.
- Letter from Archivist of the United States, Wayne C. Grover to Census Bureau Director Roy V. Peel, in reply to Peel’s August 1952 Letter (above), October 10, 1952.
- Letter from Assistant Attorney General Robert G. Dixon, Jr., to General Counsel, General Services Administration, William G. Casselman II, Esq., concerning the origins of the “72-Year Rule” its evolution to 1973, June 14.

After 72 years, the records are released to the public by the National Archives and Records Administration. In Accordance with the 72-Year Rule, the National Archives released the 1930 records in April 2002. The 1940 records will be released April 2, 2012.

For more information about the availability of census records, download *Availability of Census Records About Individuals* (PDF 150KB).

Source:  
[http://www.census.gov/history/www/reference/genealogy/the\\_72\\_year\\_rule.html](http://www.census.gov/history/www/reference/genealogy/the_72_year_rule.html)

The Mesa County Genealogical Society, established in 1980, is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization.

Objectives:

1. To promote an interest in genealogy, to encourage and instruct members in the art and practice of genealogical research.
2. To maintain and elevate genealogical standards, to stress the importance of accuracy in research through careful documentation.
3. To locate, preserve and index public and private genealogical records and make such records available to members and the general public.
4. To assist and support any genealogical library in Colorado, which is open to the public.

Society meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month in the Cross Orchards – Orchards View Room, 3073 F Road, 7:00 pm. The monthly Sack Lunch meeting is held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Museum conference room of the C. D Smith Building at 5<sup>th</sup> & Ute Streets at 12 noon on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. A Board of Directors meeting will often follow the Sack Lunch meeting from 1pm - 2pm.

### Society Officers

President	Dennis Jenkins
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Donna Jackson
Treasurer	Anita Caldwell

### Board Members

Jan Wilson	<u>3 year Term</u> 2011-2012-2013
Karen Grew-Ellison	2010-2011-2012
Jill Berthod	2012-2013-2014

### Standing Committee Chairpersons

Historian/Archivist	Jan Wilson
Co-Genealogist/Librarian	Kay Oxer
Co-Genealogist/Librarian	Linda Garey
Newsletter Editor	Kathie Vlahos
Assistant Editor	Karen Grew-Ellison
Society Webmaster	Caley Gredig
Parliamentarian	Vacant
Program Director	Dennis Jenkins
Research Director	Bob Cress
Membership	Donna Jackson

Membership year: March 1 - February 28/29  
Annual Dues: \$10 Single - \$12 Family (2 voting family members).  
Those with unpaid dues after April 30<sup>th</sup> of the membership year will not receive the newsletter.

Contributions to the *Mesa Dwellers* are encouraged and appreciated and should be neatly typed or written stories, queries, articles and/or other information applicable to genealogy research. Contribution (deadlines): March issue (Feb 15), June issue (May 15), September issue (August 15), December issue (November 15).

Send to: Kathie Vlahos at: [REDACTED] or telephone: [REDACTED]

## March 2012 – May 2012 ~ Upcoming Programs and Events

- 2 March 2012      Friday Help Session: 1-3 p.m. at the Main Mesa Library.
- 3 March 2012      Saturday Help session: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the De Beque Library Branch.
- 8 March 2012      Thursday Evening at Cross Orchards: 7 p.m.: Kathy Jordon will talk about her Daily Sentinel Column: "*History Here and Now*" and how she researches for her column.
- 28 March 2012     Wednesday Noon Sack Lunch at the Museum: Using FamilySearch.org for research and ordering films.
- 6 April 2012      Friday Help Session: 1-3 p.m. at the Fruita Library Branch.
- 12 April 2012     Thursday Evening at Cross Orchards: 7 p.m.: Melba Fulton will talk about her family history book: "*Window in Time.*"
- 25 April 2012     Wednesday Noon Sack Lunch at the Museum: Topic to be announced later.
- 4 May 2012        Friday Help Session: 1-3 p.m. at the Palisade Library Branch.
- 10 May 2012      Thursday Evening at Cross Orchards: 7 p.m.: Topic to be announced later.
- 23 May 2012      Wednesday Noon Sack Lunch at the Museum: We will talk about the 1940 U.S. Census and how to utilize it online.
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## President's Message

As I write this, I'm not able to mention the 2012 officers since we had to postpone the elections until February 22nd. I would like to thank the 2011 officers, board members and committee chairs for all your efforts this past year. I especially want to thank Jill Berthod for her many years as Treasurer and Iris Krogh for doing publicity as Vice President the past few years. Check on page 2 to see the 2012 officers.

I hope you are all getting excited about the 1940 census that will be available in a few weeks. Read through the information in this newsletter as you prepare for the census on April 2nd. I will make another plug that everyone consider becoming a 1940 census indexer. The more indexers involved, the sooner we will have the indexes available. To become an indexer go online to <http://the1940census.com/> and sign up.

If you haven't been to the Mesa County Public Library Branches for our previous help sessions, consider doing so to get help for yourself or to help those who are attending. Check out the program list in this newsletter for the dates and places in March, April and May and consider attending one or more of them.

Caley Gredig has been working very hard on our new website at [REDACTED] and even though parts of it are still under construction, you are encouraged to check it out. If you have any suggestions for the website, contact Caley using the "Contact" button.

Dennis Jenkins, President, MCGS

We can all help! FamilySearch.org, Archives.com, findmypast.com and several other organizers, are asking for volunteers to help make history by joining the "1940 U.S. Census Community Project". This is a wonderful opportunity to help not only other family historians, but our own research as we can transcribe in a designated volunteer group. The following is a sample of what is involved and what is expected of the volunteers.

## **Make History: Join the 1940 U.S. Census Community Project**

The 1940 U.S. Census Community Project is a national service project established to make the census records of the "Greatest Generation" accessible and searchable online. Volunteers around the world are joining Archives.com, FamilySearch.org, FindMyPast.com and other project organizers and volunteers to transcribe these priceless census records - giving others the opportunity to connect with their past, while at the same time connecting with their own.

What's involved? The process is quite simple: First, you sign up for the 1940 census, so you can receive census-related updates. Then, you download and install a software program for indexing. You will then register as an indexing volunteer and designate the volunteer group you wish to be affiliated with (if you have one). When you launch the indexing software, you can download a "batch" of images for you to transcribe. You view the record in one pane, and enter what you see into a spreadsheet-like user interface in another. You see Frederick G. Jones in the image and you type just that in the designated cell. The names, dates, places and other information you type in will become part of the web search, opening up that record's information in ways that weren't possible before.

To join or for more information go to: <http://the1940census.com./make-history-join-the-1940-u-s-census-community-project>

Source: <http://the1940census.com> The 1940 U.S. Census Indexing Project

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## **1940 U.S. Census Records**

This is general information found on the National Archives website to help in preparing for the release of the 1940 U.S. Census Website: [www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/](http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/)

1. General Information
  - FAQs about the 1940 Census
  - 1940 Census Forms
  - Questions Asked on the 1940 Census
  - Selected List of Codes
  - 1940 Census Lectures by NARA staff nationwide
2. How to Start Your 1940 Census Research (*This information on pages 6 & 7 of this newsletter*)
3. Finding Aids
  - Geographic Descriptions of Census Enumeration Districts
  - Enumeration District Maps
  - Abridged Instructions to the Enumerator
  - Complete Instructions to the Enumerator
  - Occupation and Industry Classifications
  - 1940 City Directories at NARA
  - Find Census Enumeration District Numbers using Stephen P. Morse's Search Engines.
4. Videos
5. Articles and Online Data
6. Information for Libraries, Genealogical Organizations, and other Organizations.

For more information, contact the National Archives at: [www.archives.gov/research/census/1940](http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940)

Source: <http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940>

## Start Your 1940 Population Census

What can you do now in preparation for the opening of the 1940 Census?

1. **Make a list of all the people you want to look for in the 1940 census.** Think broadly – ancestors, their siblings, cousins, etc., whom ever you want to look up.
2. **Collect addresses for these people for whom you plan to search.** Sources for addresses include:
  - **City Directories** – Check the Library of Congress for the largest nationwide collection of city directories and city libraries, genealogical societies and genealogical websites for local directories.
  - **The 1930 Census** – Useful for people who did not move between 1930 and 1940. If you have a person's enumeration district (ED) number from the 1930 Census you can use "The converting between 1930 and 1940 Census ED1940s in One Step" search engine from Steve Morse's One-Step website at <http://stevemorse.org/census/ed2040.php?year=1940> to find the equivalent ED for the 1940 Census.
  - **World War II Draft Records** – You can contact the National Archives Regional locations for the state in which you ancestor lived, or a website that have the records listed such as, [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com).
  - **Naturalization Petitions or Declarations of Intent filed close to 1940** – Contact the National Archives Regional Location for the state in which your ancestor lived.
  - **Old letters or documents from the 1940's** - Check with family to see if they have any letters or documents from the 1940's that they have kept from the person you are trying to find.
3. **Identify the enumeration district (ED) in which each address was located.** There are several ways to do this:

- **Search the 1940 Census Maps for Enumeration District Numbers**

Go to the Online Public Access Search (OPA): <http://www.archives.gov/research/search/>

Enter 1940 census maps + the county + the state: *1940 Census maps Sussex Delaware*

You can narrow the search by including a town name in the search: *1940 Census maps Sussex Milford Delaware*

**Note:** Not all towns will have individual maps. You may need to look at county maps for some towns.

The search will bring back any matching results. The first three results will be listed, to see additional results, click "*View all Online Holdings.*"

You may use the zoom and pan features to enlarge the map and move the images on the screen.

If you have the address of an ancestor from 1940, find the address on the map and then look for the enumeration district number for that address. The map may have many other numbers on it. The ED number may be a two part number separated by a hyphen. The first number represents the county number and the

second number is the number of the enumeration district within that county.

Save the enumeration district numbers for the opening of the 1940 Census on April 2, 2012. You will be able to search the digitized copies of the census by ED number and then browse for your family members census entry.

- **Search the 1940 Census Enumeration District Descriptions**

Go to the Online Public Access search (OPA): at <http://www.archives.gov/research/search>

Enter 1940 Census enumeration district descriptions + the county + the state: *1940 Census enumeration district descriptions Sussex Delaware.*

You can narrow the search by including a town name in the search: *1940 Census enumeration district descriptions Sussex Delaware.*

In the search results, click on the title of the description to see the full description.

- **Use the Search Utilities at <http://stevemorse.org/census/>**

These utilities are useful tools to search for the 1940 EDs from addresses or locations as well as to convert a 1930 Census ED to a 1940 Census ED.

Source: <http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/start-research.html>

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## Additional Information to Help With the 1940 Census

Another good source to find older maps and locate the ED you need is at the Library of Congress website:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/>

The U.S. Census Bureau has a helpful website with a wealth of information about the Censuses. Check the main menu bar for Agency History, and FAQs, Reference, Programs, etc.

The main history website: <http://www.census.gov/history/>

*Submitted by Kathie Vlahos, 29 February 2012*

The You Tube video "Are you in it?" At: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?>

4 training videos for the 1940 Census on YouTube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/usnationalarchives#g/c/9D64D8D2FD4C281D>

Dick Eastman's blog list of questions asked about the 1940 census, at:

[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2010/07/release-of-the-1940-census.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2010/07/release-of-the-1940-census.html)

Dick Eastman's blog training films used for enumerators of the 1940 census at:

[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2010/07/1940-census-training-in-now-online.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2010/07/1940-census-training-in-now-online.html)

*Submitted by Dennis Jenkins, 29 February 2012*

Although we are working on the 1940 Census, you may consider other censuses that may be helpful; one of these is the State censuses. They could be used as an important tool in helping you locate your ancestor for the upcoming 1940 Census.

## State Censuses

State censuses can be as important as the federal census to genealogists but, because they were taken randomly, remain a much under-utilized resource in American Genealogy. State censuses often can serve as substitutes for some of the missing federal census records – most notably the 1790, 1800, 1810, and 1890 censuses. Many state censuses also asked different questions than the federal census, thus recording information that cannot be found elsewhere in the federal schedules.

While not all states took their own censuses, and some have not survived, state and local census records can be found in many locations. Most states which took censuses usually did so every 10 years, in years ending in “5” (1855, 1865, etc.) to complement the federal census. These state census records are most often found at the state archives or state library. Many are also on microfilm through a local Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and online via commercial genealogy websites.

The following list of state and territorial censuses was compiled by Ann S. Lainhart’s State Census Records. Consult this reference for the extent and availability of records for each state and territorial census.

**Alabama** – 1818, 1820, 1821, 1823, 1850, 1855, 1866, 1907.

**Alaska** – 1870, 1878, 1879, 1881, 1885, 1887, 1890-95, 1904-07, 1914, 1917.

**Arizona** – 1866, 1867, 1869, 1872, 1874, 1876, 1880, 1882.

**Arkansas** – 1823, 1829, 1865, 1911.

**California** – 1788, 1790, 1796, 1797-98, 1816, 1836, 1844, 1852.

**Colorado** – 1861, 1866, 1885.

**Connecticut** – No state census records are known to exist.

**Delaware** – 1782.

**District of Columbia** – 1803, 1867, 1878.

**Florida** – 1825, 1855, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1935, 1945.

**Georgia** – 1798, 1800, 1810, 1827, 1834, 1838, 1845, 1852, 1853, 1859, 1865, 1879.

**Hawaii** – 1878, 1890, 1896.

**Idaho** – No state census records are known to exist.

**Illinois** – 1810, 1818, 1820, 1825, 1830, 1835, 1840, 1845, 1855, 1865.

**Indiana** – 1807, 1853, 1857, 1871, 1877, 1883, 1889, 1901, 1913, 1919, 1931.

**Iowa** – 1836, 1838, 1844, 1846, 1847, 1849, 1851, 1852, 1854, 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, 1925.

**Kansas** – 1855, 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, 1925.

**Kentucky** – No state census records are known to exist.

**Louisiana** – 1853, 1858.

**Maine** – 1837.

**Maryland** – 1776, 1778.

**Massachusetts** – 1855, 1865.

**Michigan** – 1837, 1845, 1854, 1864, 1874, 1884, 1888, 1894, 1904.

**Minnesota** – 1849, 1853, 1855, 1857, 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905.

**Mississippi** – 1801, 1805, 1808, 1810, 1816, 1818, 1820, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1830, 1833, 1837, 1840, 1841, 1845, 1850, 1853, 1866.

**Missouri** – 1797, 1803, 1817, 1819, 1840, 1844, 1852, 1856, 1860, 1864, 1876, 1880.

**Montana** – No state census records are known to exist.

**Nebraska** – 1854, 1855, 1856, 1865, 1869, 1885.

**Nevada** – 1862, 1863, 1875.

**New Hampshire** – No state census records are known to exist.

**New Jersey** – 1855, 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915.

**New Mexico** – 1790, 1823, 1845, 1885.

**New York** – 1790, 1825, 1835, 1845, 1855, 1865, 1875, 1892, 1905, 1815, 1925.

**North Carolina** – 1786.

**North Dakota** – 1885, 1915, 1925.

**Ohio** – No state census records are known to exist.

**Oklahoma** – 1890, 1907.

**Oregon** – 1842, 1843, 1845, 1849, 1850, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1865, 1870, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905.

**Pennsylvania** – No state census records are known to exist.

**Rhode Island** – 1774, 1777, 1782, 1865, 1875, 1885, 1905, 1915, 1925, 1935.

**South Carolina** – 1825, 1839, 1869, 1875.

**South Dakota** – 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, 1925, 1935, 1945.

**Tennessee** – 1891.

**Texas** – 1829, 1836.

**Utah** – 1856.

**Vermont** – No state census records are known to exist.

**Virginia** – 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786.

**Washington** – 1856, 1857, 1858, 1860, 1871, 1874, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1883, 1885, 1887, 1889, 1891, 1892, 1898.

**West Virginia** – No state census records are known to exist.

**Wisconsin** – 1836, 1838, 1842, 1846, 1847, 1855, 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905.

**Wyoming** – 1875, 1878.

Source: [http://www.census.gov/history/www/reference/genealogy/state\\_censuses.html](http://www.census.gov/history/www/reference/genealogy/state_censuses.html), 1 March 2012

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## Special Censuses

There are also a variety of special censuses because the government wanted other information about our ancestor's lives. These were a variety of surveys, called schedules and provide additional insight and clues for researchers.

**Agricultural Schedules** - 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880. 1850, farms that produced more than \$100 a year listed. 1870, farms over three acres or those that produced less than \$500 listed.

**Manufacturing Schedules** – 1820, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900 and 1910. Enumeration included list of articles manufactured and market value, etc.

**Mortality Schedules** – 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880. These have limited value as only individuals who died the 12 months preceding the population schedules were included. Example: Anyone who died between June 1, 1859 and May 31, 1860 could be listed on the 1860 Mortality Schedule.

**Veterans Schedule** – 1890. This could be a substitution for the 1890 population census that was destroyed from fire in 1921. Intended to Record Civil War Union veterans, some confederate and veterans of 1812 War are listed also.

**Slaves** – 1850, 1860. List of slave owners by name with a count of their slaves.



**Social Statistics** – 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880. Good overview of the community that you're relative lived in. List of schools, libraries, newspapers, churches and average wage paid to some groups of people.

**Census of the American Indians** - Prior to 1900, few Indians are included in the federal census. Indians are not identified in the 1790-1840 censuses. 1860 is the first time Indians in the general population are identified.

Beginning with the 1900 census, Indians are enumerated on reservations as well as in the general population.

**Records Available:**

- **Enumeration of Pueblo Indians:** 1850-1870 New Mexico Territory Censuses.
- **1857 Shawnee Census:** A census of the Shawnee Indians tribe was taken as part of the Kansas Territorial Censuses, 1855-1859.
- **1880 Special Census of Indians:** The Census Bureau undertook enumerations in Washington Territory, Dakota Territory, and California.
- **1890 Census Report:** Report on Indians taxed and Indians not taxed in the United States, except Alaska.
- **1907 Census of Seminole County, Oklahoma:** Presidential directive ordering a census of the population of Indian Territory and the Territory of Oklahoma prior to their admittance to the Union as the State of Oklahoma.

**For more information go to:** American Indians in the Federal Decennial Census 1790-1930.

For a more detailed description of the Censuses and Schedules and how to locate these check the Census Bureau history website: [http://www.census.gov/history/www/reference/genealogy/state\\_censuses.html](http://www.census.gov/history/www/reference/genealogy/state_censuses.html)

Source: [http://www.census.gov/history/www/reference/genealogy/census\\_of\\_american\\_indians.html](http://www.census.gov/history/www/reference/genealogy/census_of_american_indians.html) and [http://www.census.gov/history/www/reference/genealogy/state\\_censuses.html](http://www.census.gov/history/www/reference/genealogy/state_censuses.html)

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**It is that time of year again! 2012 renewals are due starting March 1, 2012.**

**Mesa County Genealogical Society – Annual Dues Invoice**

(\$10.00 Single, \$12.00 Family per year – covering 3/1/2012 – 2/28/2013) – Payable in March 2012

New: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_


Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

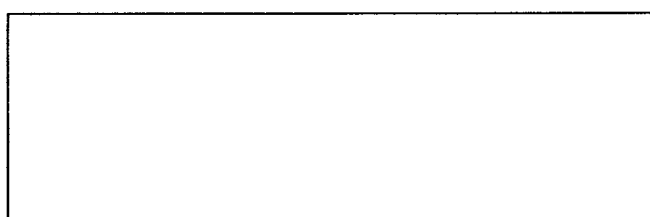
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print Clearly) I/We belong to the following

Genealogical Societies: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to the Mesa County Genealogical Society (or MCGS) and mail application and

Dues to: MCGS, P.O. Box 1506, Grand Junction, CO 81502.

  
P.O. Box 1506  
Grand Junction, CO  
81502-1506



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# Get Ready for the 1940 U.S. Census!

## Coming 2 April 2012!

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P.O. Box 1506  
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81502-1506

