

HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2020

Mail: PO Box 84, Harwinton, CT 06791

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U.S. Census: The Ten-Year Roll Call

By Bonnie Andrews

The 2020 census began arriving in mailboxes on March 12th. Each household should receive a notification of the survey by April 1st. For the first time, the census can be filled out online, by mail or by phone. If filling out the census from home, you should count everyone who is or will be living there on April 1, 2020.

The census helps determine how federal funds are disbursed to states and communities and determines how many seats each state gets in Congress. Each state is entitled to at least one representative, however small its population. Connecticut currently has five representatives in the United States House of Representatives

The census is a requirement of the United States Constitution Article 1, Section 2 and has been conducted every 10 years since 1790. There have been 22 federal decennial censuses since then.

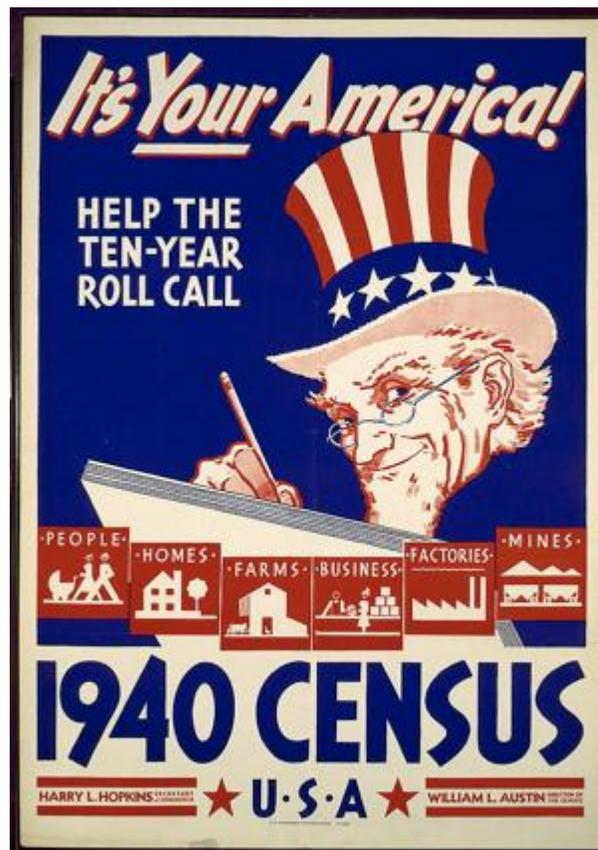
In 1790 the census asked a total of six questions about gender, race, relationship to the head of household, name of the head of household, and the number of slaves, if any. That first census was supervised by then Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson.

Today, everyone living in the United States and its five territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands) is required by law to be counted. Those not responding online, by mail or by phone will be contacted by a person authorized and trained by the Census Bureau.

Census records are kept confidential for 72 years, until they are released by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) – the nation's record keeper. Every 10 years, when a new set of individual records is released, the information is eagerly anticipated by genealogists, historians and researchers, creating an opportunity to increase awareness of census statistics.

According to the "72-Year Rule," the National Archives releases census records to the general public 72 years after Census Day. As a result, the 1930 census records were released April 1, 2002, and the 1940 records were released April 2, 2012. The 1950 census records will be released in April 2022.

To see a list of the questions that are being asked this year, along with an explanation of why that information is important, go to www.2020census.gov. The April 1940 census of the United States tallied the population of the country at 131,669,275 for the continental U.S. The 2020 Census is counting everyone living in the country, including non-citizens.



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Harwinton Historical Society
PO Box 84
Harwinton, CT 06791

A BIT OF TRIVIA:

1. Which President placed a sign on his Oval Office desk reading “*It CAN be done*”?
2. What was eerie about Presidential elections held every 20 years from 1840 to 1960?
3. Who was the best man at the wedding of Ronald and Nancy Reagan?
4. Why was Herbert Hoover’s likeness not included in the series of postage stamps of all former Presidents, brought out in 1938, long after he was Chief Executive?
5. Why was Captain Ulysses S. Grant asked to resign from the army?

Answers on page 4

2020 Historical Society dues are now past due. To maintain your membership and continue to receive board meeting minutes and special announcements, please forward your dues (\$15 per person) to: Treasurer, Harwinton Historical Society, PO Box 84, Harwinton, CT 06791. Please include your contact information.

Award Dinner Postponed

The 2020 Harwinton Outstanding Citizen Award ceremony, originally scheduled for April 17th, has been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. The ceremony to honor this year’s award recipient Historical Society Vice President Nancy Shanley Lyons will be rescheduled at a future date still to be determined. Anyone seeking information about ticket refunds may contact Cindy Orefice at cindy.orefice@gmail.com or Monty Lyons at montylyons01@gmail.com

Program Committee Updates

In the ever-changing landscape that we find ourselves, our first priority is the safety and well-being of all. Following CDC and Governor Lamont's guidelines, we have cancelled the April 5 program, "19th Amendment: A Tale of Suffrage, Sacrifice, and Success." We will try to reschedule the program.

Through the newsletter and emails, we will keep you informed of any changes that we need to make in the schedule of programs. In the meantime, two great sites are available when you need a history "fix":

* <https://todayinthehistory.com/> Today in History: Daily postings of CT historical events by State Historian Walt Woodward (Walt presented an engaging program on the *Constitution of 1818* in October and is scheduled to speak on June 7 to share his new book, *Creating Connecticut* (with a focus on the chapter on CT's Witch Trials)

* <https://www.harwintonhistory.com/> Harwinton History categorized by topics. Click on the HHS icon for pictures/info on our schoolhouse, barn, Country Store, and Shingle Mill. Monthly HHS newsletters are archived here.

Thank you for your support in attending programs! Your multitude of positive comments are so appreciated! We are thrilled that over 50 attendees have been attending our monthly programs . . . in March there were over 75 attendees! We are grateful to all our presenters- some of whom offer to donate their time. Our presenters have all commented what great attendees we have, and how much they enjoyed sharing their knowledge with you and answering your thoughtful questions! Kudos to our 2020 presenters: Roger Plaskett- *The Year Without a Summer* in March, Carol Deleppo- *Mary Todd Lincoln* in February, and Hamish Lutris- *Transcontinental Railroad* in January. Thank you, our members, for your suggestions of topics and speakers; please keep them coming!

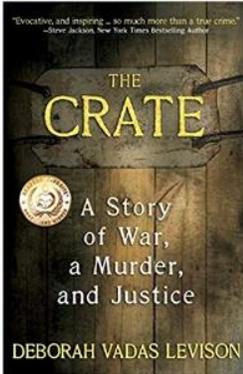
Please take care and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Bruce Burnett, Marti Lecko, Elaine Sederquist
Harwinton Historical Society Program Committee

***** Please see page 4 for a list and description of future programs *****

Upcoming Programs

(All dates subject to change based on the current pandemic)



The Crate- Reliving the Holocaust- Author Debbie Levison: Sunday, May 3 @6:30- TBA: Harwinton Public Library or Harwinton Town Hall (program co-sponsored with the Harwinton Public Library)

“The Crate” is the true story of a gruesome crime that involved the author’s family of Holocaust survivors. In 2010 the family discovered a wooden crate, nailed tightly shut and hidden underneath their lakeside cottage. The contents of the crate were horrific.

OTHER FUTURE PROGRAMS SCHEDULED:

Creating Connecticut (Walt’s new book) (*focus on the chapter “New England’s Other Witch Hunt”*)- State Historian Walt Woodward: Sunday, June 7 @6:30- Harwinton Town Hall

Looking Backward- The Future Seen from the Past- Hamish Lutris: Sunday, September 20, 2020 @2- Harwinton Town Hall

They Called Her Reckless—A True Story of War, Love and One Extraordinary Horse (Korean War)- Author Janet Barrett: Sunday, October 18, 2020 @2- Harwinton Town Hall

First Ladies: High Tea & High Notions--Champions of Social Causes: Mariann Millard (Presented a different well-received “First Ladies” program previously.)- Sunday, November 15 @2- Harwinton Town Hall.

Trivia Answers:

1. *Ronald Reagan*
2. *The person elected in 1840, 1860, 1880, 1900, 1920, 1940 and 1960 died in office.*
3. *Film star William Holden*
4. *A Federal law forbade the likeness of a living person from being reproduced on any U.S. security*
5. *Because he was drunk so often.*

How many times would a state the size of Connecticut fit into the land area of Alaska?

Answer: 116

From “Connecticut Trivia” compiled by Frank Abate

**\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP
OFFERED BY THE HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

POST OFFICE BOX 84
HARWINTON, CONNECTICUT 06791
email: harwhistsoc@gmail.com

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the deadline for submitting a 2020 scholarship application to the Harwinton Historical Society has been extended. Applications must now be postmarked by **June 1, 2020**

Please mail to the *Harwinton Historical Society- Attention: Scholarship* at the above address

**Applications are available online at*
www.harwintonhistory.com/Historical_Society.htm

The applicant must be a student who is a resident of Harwinton and/or active in the Harwinton Historical Society.

The scholarship must be used to pursue post-secondary education by a graduating high school senior or a student currently pursuing an education beyond the high school level.

The applicant must show an interest in history/social science through coursework and/or experiences.

HISTORY FACTS FOR KIDS

From Ducksters Education Web Site

Interesting Facts about Daily Life on the Farm in Colonial Times

- The typical farming family lived in a one or two room house with dirt floors.
- Horses were an important means of transportation. They were expensive, however, costing up to half a year's wages.
- The only day of the week that the colonial farmer did not work was Sunday. On Sunday everyone was required to go to church.
- Farmers usually had large families of at least six or seven children.
- Despite working hard all day and wearing the same clothes most of the time, colonial farmers very seldom bathed or washed.

WINTER MEMORIES

The following excerpt is from a paper titled “Winter Memories” written in 1988 by Edna Drake Brehio. Edna was the daughter of Morgan and Laura Drake and sister of Elmer, Phyllis, Floyd, Gordon and Frances. The family lived on Harmony Hill Road.

“Years ago – way back in the 1930’s there was usually snow left on the road – not plowed and sanded and salted bare. Traffic was not that much – even on the Main Road (Route 4).

After school and after supper – even after dark – we used to slide down Harmony Hill Road, down to the Main Road. However, sometimes in fast snow we could cross the Main Road and go down Locust Road. Now that was a good long and fast ride. Someone usually kept watch to make sure no car was



coming when we went to cross. This was an advantage of having several kids in the family and neighbors with kids about the same ages. Always a drawback – we had to walk all the way back. It is funny, though, it was more fun walking at this time than walking to and from school, which was at the foot of Locust Road hill – before the fairgrounds.

Each of us had a sled – but no big ripper. The first sled I remember using had no steering mechanism – only rope on each side in front. It seemed to work, though.

We made our own rippers. The rope from each sled in back was anchored in the slots of the sled ahead of it, so it would follow the lead sled – or one kid would wrap the rope around himself. Sometimes I would sit on each sled with at least 3 sleds for the ripper. Once in a while, we had 4 sleds. The fastest sled was usually in the end. That tail end sled was smallest and whipped around.

The second person on the sled quite often steered and couldn’t always see the bumps – so over we all went, sometimes on purpose. We really did go fast. Sometimes we had races of individual sleds and kids.

By this time Elmer (Drake) and Bob Reynolds were older and had cars. All the neighbors knew each other and us kids. Once in a while walking back up after a slide a car would stop, and we hitched on the back and got pulled back up the hill.

We also used to slide in the fields in back of our barn which then belonged to Mr. & Mrs. Duval. No fences – only stone walls and trees at the end of the field. Lots of bumps and dips...

The snow was always COLD. Half the time our mittens were wet, and we were too – but oh so much fun. Thank goodness for Grandma Cables and Aunt Ella and Kate. They made mittens for us every year. (Grandma (Ida)Cables was Laura Drake’s mother. Aunt Ella was Ida’s sister, and Kate was Ella’s daughter. They continued to knit mittens for the next generation of kids.) ...

- June 5, 1988