



A Look Back: The 1910 Census

Julia Baldini, Educator

This year the federal government marks its twenty-third decennial tradition of counting the human inhabitants of the United States. In fact, it's more than a tradition; it was written into the United States Constitution: Article one, Section two. The first federal census was taken immediately afterwards in 1790 in which the total population was counted at just under 4,000,000. Before then, some states or individual towns required their own count.

In February 1782, Governor Jonathan Trumbull called for the first state-wide census of Connecticut. Copies of Windsor's census are located in the Society's research library and list the town's population at 2,382. At this time the state was interested in a few statistics: the number of white males over the age of 50; white males between the ages of 16 and 49; white males under 16; number of females; number of male and female Native Americans, blacks, and mulattoes. The town was organized regionally between the First Society, Wintonbury, Poquonock, and North Windsor. The total report took up only a third of a piece of paper.

On the federal level, the main purpose of collecting this data is to distribute congressional seats, electoral

Male Above the age of 50	Male Under the age of 16	Female	White Males between the ages of 16 and 49	White Males under 16	Female	Male and Female
35	109	117	269	6	6	2
35	157	204	356	0	2	0
33	127	138	279	0	14	2
34	99	92	249	0	9	2
137	492	557	1153	6	31	6

*First Society
Wintonbury
Poquonock
North Windsor*

votes and appropriate funding. However, historians and genealogists have found census information to be of critical importance in researching a town's or family's history. To mark this important event, we thought we would take a look back one hundred years to the 1910 census and share some of the information we found about our town.

That year, the Census Bureau hired 70,000 temporary enumerators and supervisors to manually count, record, tabulate and publish the data. This cost the federal government over \$10,000,000 and two years work. To apply to be an enumerator, applicants had to "be citizens of the United States, between the ages of 20 and 60, in good health and physical ability to perform required duty, of good character and habits," have two recommendations and pass a test, all to be placed on a list of acceptable candidates. From that list, the State Supervisor and Yale Professor William Bailey selected his team. Enumerators were assigned districts, ideally within their own communities, with roughly 2,000 inhabitants. Each inhabitant recorded earned the enumerator between two and four cents, while each farm recorded earned them between twenty and thirty cents.

As census years passed, the government looked for more information to be gathered. The 1910 census required: address, name, relationship, sex, race, age, marital status, birth place and language, number of children born and now living, occupation, whether employed, where, literacy, school attendance, home owned or

(Continued on page 4)

WINDSOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our Mission

The Windsor Historical Society aims to inspire public awareness and appreciation of the diverse peoples, places, and events that contribute to Windsor's evolving history. We preserve and interpret Windsor's historical record through active collecting, research, exhibitions, programs, and communications in the belief that an understanding of history can provide individuals and communities with connections to the past, a sense of belonging in the present, and responsibility for the future.

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Director's Message

Christine Ermenc, Executive Director



The 375th anniversary of Windsor's founding is part of our town's history now, but the pulse of historical consciousness continues to beat steadily in our community and region. In January, Connecticut's League of Women Voters mounted an exhibition at the State Capitol showing the evolution and history of the League. They urged local League chapters and historical society representatives to view the display with the idea that the exhibition might travel around Connecticut after its life at the Capitol. When the League approached me, I was delighted to be part of a car caravan travelling down to Hartford to view the exhibit. While the exhibition is too large for our space, it was great to spend a couple of hours seeing how the Connecticut suffragist movement evolved into the League and to start thinking about how we might partner with Windsor's League of Women Voters on future events or a smaller, more locally-focused exhibition.

Last month, Librarian Barbara Goodwin was approached by members of the Polish Heritage Society in the community of Suffield, two towns north of us. They had gathered a collection of immigration and naturalization documents, traditional costume pieces, photographs, and crafts for a display at the Suffield library and wanted to be able to record and catalogue the materials they had collected using PastPerfect software. Barbara gave them a PastPerfect tutorial and visited their exhibition. Several weeks later, when representatives from Windsor's St. Casimir's Lithuanian Society came to our library to see what resources we could offer for their 100th anniversary in May, Barbara could share with them another group's experience documenting their history, show them the few resources we have, and urge them to consider adding to our collections once their celebrations are complete so future researchers will have centralized access.

This spring also marks the 50th anniversary of Combustion Engineering, Inc.'s establishment in Windsor. Their site housed the first nuclear reactor in Connecticut. They produced fuel for U.S. Navy nuclear submarines and served as a nuclear propulsion training site during the Cold War. The site was returned to "Green Field" conditions in 2006 and ABB, Inc., the current site owner, is in the process of decommissioning areas and structures related to on-site nuclear work. ABB, Inc., has offered the Society a small collection of archival materials including a couple of signs from the site, photographs taken during construction and from the early days of nuclear research and development, training manuals, some historical documentation of the non-classified work done there, and a DVD documenting the site cleanup. The materials are not radioactive (the most frequently asked question when the subject comes up) and will be a fascinating addition to our collections.

The point to leave you with is this ~ that history is alive around us and is being created as we speak. It is part of the Society's chartered responsibility to be alert to all opportunities to preserve it. We take that responsibility seriously. Yet above and beyond the seriousness, it's a joy when the unexpected comes our way as it frequently does!

Come to our free exhibition opening, May 6

Windsor: A Photographer's Vision

Christine Ermenc, Executive Director

On Thursday, May 6, 2010, the Society opens *Windsor – A Photographer's Vision*, an exhibition of landscapes by local photographer Leonard Hellerman. Save the date and bring a friend! Enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres, and rediscover unexpected beauty in Windsor's outdoor landscapes. I asked Len the following questions, and here's how he responded:

What was it about photography that first drew you in? How old were you when you started to photograph, and what kind of a camera did you have?

I was struck with the urge to photograph during the seventh grade when my uncle showed me the magic of a gradually appearing image in a tray of developing solution. From that moment I knew I had discovered my future avocation. Although I photographed mainly in the documentary genre ~ sports and high school activities ~ I won a gold key for one of those images in Weaver High School's Scholastic Art Contest. I started photographing with a nine-by-twelve centimeter Ihagee view camera which required a tripod. It utilized sheet film that had to be loaded, in the dark, in film holders. The image appeared on a rear ground-glass, upside down. It was a bulky affair compared to the point-and-shoot cameras of today; however, I believe it led to more disciplined and contemplative composition.

What makes a photograph memorable?

Emotional impact is essential. People respond according to their individual experiences and personalities. Empathy, spirituality, nostalgia, beauty, and humor are a few examples.

What is special about Windsor, and what do you hope people will take from the exhibition?

Windsor is filled with unexpected, serendipitous discoveries for a nature/landscape photographer. Windsor's natural preserves, that is, the parks and trails, the agriculture, and the confluence of two major waterways provide a wonderful diversity for photographic imagery. "Elsewhere" is fine; however, Windsor has beauty aplenty. I hope people will find renewed contentment and pride in their town from viewing the exhibition.

Third Annual Genealogy Series

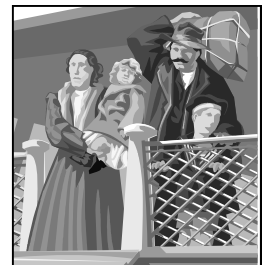
The Society again will be offering a four-part genealogy series on Tuesday evenings in July from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Come and listen to a variety of presentations by experts and learn more about how to research your family's history. In addition, the Society's research library will be open at 6 p.m. each week for program attendees who would like to do some research before the lecture. The cost will be \$15 per person or \$50 for the series.

July 6th, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. **"Introduction to Genealogy"** Learn the basics of family research from experts in the field. This is part one of a four-part genealogy series offered at the Society.

July 13th, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.: **"Genealogy Databases and Online Resources"** With so many genealogy resources available online, it's sometimes difficult to tell which sites offer the most useful information. Sheila Lafferty, Director of the University of Connecticut Torrington Campus Library, will compare and contrast some of the different websites. From HeritageQuest to Ancestry and Footnote, you will learn more about these options and take home useful research tips.

July 20th, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.: **"Timelines: Placing Your Heritage in Historical Perspective"** Laura Prescott will show you how to place your ancestors within their historical, social, and political environment. Match historical events to an ancestor's life, or synchronize one ancestor's life events to another's using genealogical software as well as everyday software programs to create a graphic profile and timeline.

July 27th, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.: **"Ellis Island Online and On-Site: Finding Your Ellis Island Ancestors"**. You may be one of millions to have used the web site www.ellisland.org, but have you harnessed all the power the site has to offer? Dan Lynch's workshop will be an in-depth discussion of all the site features with a special emphasis on tips and tricks for finding those elusive immigrant arrivals. Once you understand how the data are structured, you'll find it easier to adapt your search strategies to match your situation.



(Continued from page one, Census)

rented, farm or house, survivor of Union or Confederate army, and deaf, blind, or dumb.

In 1910, two enumerators were assigned to Windsor. Reverend William Cary and Lucius Merritt, Jr., of Windsor scaled the town, knocked on doors, and searched out neighbors to record 4,174 names. William, the church clerk at First Church in Windsor was 68 when he worked as an enumerator in 1910, eight years older than the age limit for workers at that time. His position in the community and, no doubt, a long list of references helped his employers overlook that issue. In fact, his position in the church and his familiarity with the community probably made him an ideal candidate for the job. In addition to his church work, William was involved with the Windsor Village Improvement Society and the Hartford Central Association, an organization of ministers from the Hartford area. He appears again in the 1920 census, this time on the list of employees and prisoners at the Wethersfield State Prison where he served as Chaplain.

Lucius Merritt, Jr., was 21 years old and a college student when he applied for the enumerator position with the Census Bureau. Lucius, his new wife Sarah, and their newborn son (recorded as 0/12 months old in the census) lived with Sarah's parents, George and Mary Hyde on Loomis Avenue, a living arrangement that was relatively common. In the 1920 census, Lucius appeared in Northampton, MA where he'd moved with his wife and seven children after securing

a job as a principal for one of the public schools.

William and Lucius hand wrote the records of 4,174 individuals in town over 96 census pages. In several instances, information was not listed or was illegible so these figures should be taken as approximates. Windsor had 2,092 women and 2,086 men. Racially the town was divided between 3,992 white, 166 black, and 14 mulatto residents. While every resident's age was recorded, I divided them into four age groups for easier calculation: (0 - 13) 1,082; (14 - 25) 778; (26 - 39) 1009; and (40 and over) 1305.

New to the 1910 census was a question for women regarding childbirth, specifically the number of children born versus the number still alive. While this information provides a clear link between birth and death rates in the country, the sensitivity of the question presumably made it difficult to answer. Windsor women had given birth to 2,727 children, of which only 2,114 were still alive at the time of the census. In addition, men and women were asked the number of times married but only the years comprising their last marriage were recorded. This question could raise eyebrows, particularly when women had children born over the course of several marriages. Windsor individuals' marital status revealed the following: (married) 1,809; (widowed) 256; (divorced) 9; and (single) 2,097. While it might seem unusual that the married count carries an odd number, I found several instances where a single married man or woman lived with their parents or in-laws and did not list information about their significant other.

Connecticut	2669	Maine	12	Minnesota	3	Indiana	1
Massachusetts	268	Illinois	10	Tennessee	3	Iowa	1
New York	240	Rhode Island	8	California	2	Kansas	1
Pennsylvania	31	Ohio	7	Kentucky	2	Louisiana	1
Vermont	28	US (unknown)	6	North Carolina	2	Texas	1
New Hampshire	26	Michigan	5	South Carolina	2		
New Jersey	22	Wisconsin	5	Washington D.C.	2		
Virginia	17	Maryland	4	Florida	1	Total	3,380

Figure 1. Windsor Residents' Birth Places – United States

In the figures (below/above), I have tabulated the birth place for all Windsor residents. The first figure shows all residents born within the United States. In several instances, the enumerators recorded “United States” where boarders were living. Most likely the person answering the questions did not know where their boarder was born or the boarder was an orphan and unaware of their birthplace. The second figure shows the country recorded for residents who were born outside of the United States.

It should come as no surprise that agriculture and mill work led the list of Windsor industries for men and women during the 1910 census. There were 1,537 women who were over the age of 14; 78% of them were mothers and homemakers or listed no employment. Of the 300 women who listed an employment, 33% of them worked in the mills, while another 20% worked for private families as a cook, servant, laundress, or housekeeper, usually residing in the house in which they worked. Women sought additional work as bookkeepers and clerks, public school teachers, artists, home decorators or worked on family farms.

Most of the 1,559 men who were over the age of 14 had some type of employment, only 9% recorded “none”. 32% worked in agriculture, whether that was in or on tobacco farms, tobacco warehouses, general farms, or markets. Another 10% worked for machine shops, 9% worked in the mills, and other fields were distributed between brick making, livery stables, carpenters/painters, electrical, odd jobs and others.

Due to the success and usefulness of the trolley system between Windsor’s villages and downtown Hartford, men also found work in the city at insurance companies, or did factory work at Underwood Typewriter, automobile manufacturing companies, and Colt Arms Manufacturing.

The information presented here is only a fraction of what can be culled from a census. At the Society, we often look towards the census records of the town and state to fill in blanks that are missing from the published histories of Windsor. The Society has the town’s federal censuses available in the research library. You can access them through HeritageQuest on www.iconn.org using your town library card number.

Interested in learning more about the US census? Join us on April 6th at the Society for our program, “Timely Topics: The U.S. Census: Past, Present and Future” from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Diana McCain from the Connecticut Historical Society will review the history of the U.S. Census from 1790 to 1930 and show how historical census data aids the work of historians and genealogists. Orlando Rodriguez from the Connecticut State Data Center at UCONN will address the importance of the 2010 census, how it will be used by demographers, and the trends he expects to see. A representative from Senator John Larson’s office will talk about how census data impacts state representation at the federal level and our state’s potential for receiving federal funds.

Ireland	121	Russia/Lettish	59	Denmark	11	Norway	1
Russia/Poland	119	Sweden	42	Russia/Yiddish	10	Russia	1
Russia/ Lithuania	93	Italy	37	Russia/Germany	5		
Canada	88	France	31	Switzerland	4		
Germany	69	Austria	22	Portugal	3		
England	61	Scotland	15	Belgium	2	Total	794

Figure 2. Windsor Residents’ Birth Places – Global

Spring Cleaning

Connie Thomas, Administrative Assistant

I've been contemplating the 18th and 19th century ritual of spring cleaning in New England. After reading *At Home* by Elizabeth Garrett and *Our Own Snug Fireplace* by Jane Nylander, I'm thankful I don't feel compelled to perform this annual task. So why did these women feel the necessity to scour their homes yearly? Let's think about the 18th and 19th century households of Dr. Chaffee and residents of the John and Sarah Strong house right here on our museum grounds. Consider open fireplaces, coal-burning stoves, and tallow candles throughout the houses and the resultant soot accumulating on the wool curtains and whitewashed walls. Think of the difficulty of procuring enough water from an outdoor well in freezing weather to wash one's clothing and limbs during the winter and the odors of chamber pots and wood smoke. We all know the messes wet and snowy boots leave on floors that might be laid with wool carpets.



Babbitt's Best Soap trade card.
Marguerite Mills Advertisement Card
Collection, (1986.75.900.818)

To freshen the house and prepare it for warm weather, all furniture was removed from the rooms, walls washed, and one or two coats of whitewash applied. Carpets that had been tacked to the floors and stairs were pried off the floors, taken outdoors, hung over a tree limb, vigorously beaten, then stored in a cloth bag in the garret away from bleaching sunlight. Bed curtains that retained body-generated heat in the winter were taken down, washed, and stored with a sachet of tobacco or lavender to fend off the moths. Those big, fluffy, down comforters had to be washed, hung on a outside line to dry, replenished with new downy feathers, and stored away until winter.

When did this bevy of activities commence? It was recommended to start when all the trees had their new leaves on them or the first Thursday in May and cleaning could last to the end of the month. Why wait that long? Springs can be cold and wet in New England, and it would be difficult to keep a family warm when the stoves had been dismantled, cleaned, and put away. How extensive was the cleaning? From attic to cellar, in that order. Were husbands involved? Not a chance; they despaired over the chaos and loss of the dinner hour.

And, what were the ladies' cleaning solutions? I consulted *www.Google Books* and typed in *Frugal Housewife* by Lydia Child. Here I learned that spirits of turpentine can remove a spot of grease from a woolen garment; a paste of salt and vinegar can clean a brass kettle; and your hair can be cleaned and kept disease free by washing it in New England rum (not brandy).

Today's Green Movement is recommending cleansers similar to Lydia Child's. The current theory is that our commercially produced, synthetic, household cleansers are causing respiratory distress and contain toxic and polluting substances (*Eartheasy.com*). We are encouraged to clean with baking soda just as women did in the 1913 edition of *Household Science and Arts* found in our research library. So I tried it on berry juice left on my kitchen counter and voila! Gone! We are instructed to use soap which does not contain petroleum distillates, so I checked *Windsor Cook Book* published by Grace Church, Windsor, in 1893 to see what they had to say about soap. This book directs readers to boil for one hour water with cleansed grease, Babbitt's potash, pulverized rosin, and borax. Cool in a tub overnight, cut into squares, and dry in the air. I think I'll buy my soap at the grocery store! I consulted the 1928 edition of *Wit and Wisdom of Wilson Women*, Vol. III, to see what they were cleaning with and found them washing windows with water, a little ammonia, and a chamois cloth. I can forsake Windex and try this myself.

This May when you drive by our two historic houses, imagine furniture in the yard, clotheslines hung with wet curtains, and windows open to the fresh air. Our houses and the objects displayed are cared for weekly and are always ready to welcome you.

Volunteer Highlight

Julia Baldini, Educator

We are going to feature a Society volunteer in most future newsletters. Our volunteers supplement the work of our paid staff by presenting school and adult programs, conducting tours for guests, maintaining our facilities, and helping our librarian. It is a privilege and honor to be entrusted with our local history, and together we get it done!

Carlton Parkinson

When did you start volunteering at the Society?
I began volunteering in June 2009 in response to an ad for docent training in the *Weekly Reminder*. I wanted to expand my knowledge as it pertains to Windsor history.

What types of programs/events have you volunteered for?
Along with serving as a docent (providing guided tours) I also participate in various museum education programs (day programs on Colonial Life), Native American research, as well as administrative front desk duties.

What do you like most about volunteering at WHS?
I enjoy the collaboration between staff, volunteers, and the community and teaching others through non-formal education. Volunteering affords me the opportunity to apply both formal and informal teaching skills. Some of the students I have taken on tours I see at the public library. We get to talking and we have the opportunity to chat about what they have learned. For example, the Strong House, herb garden, and living in colonial time. It's great to know they've kept the knowledge they have gained in the trunks of their minds!

What is your connection to Windsor History?
Well, my father came over from Jamaica during the West Indian migration and worked in a tobacco camp in Windsor as a cook. He received a diploma from the Pennsylvania Culinary Institute and became food service manager at the camp. There he met my mother who was a camp nurse. As a youth I spent many summers working in tobacco. It was arduous, labor-intensive work and I can appreciate those who toiled in the industry.



Who were your influences on the subject of history?
Dr. Samuel Goldberger, a history professor at Capital Community Technical College, and Dr. Jai Smith both encouraged me to tutor history at the college.

Do you have any professional training in history?
I have taken history courses and participated in oral history and public history service learning projects as well as cultural resource development.

Do you have any advice for someone interested in volunteering but might be nervous about getting started?
Volunteering at WHS can be a very rewarding experience. I would encourage those who are interested in self-enrichment or have a desire to make history useful to their community by connecting with the past to go to the WHS website, take a tour, and/or attend a WHS function.

Volunteers

Bakers: Elaine Brophy. **Educators:** Carolyn Doyle, Heather Renaud, Carlton Parkinson, Jan Stevens. **Front desk and administrative:** Bill Allen, Barbara Byczkiewicz, May Checho, Carolyn Doyle, Bill Harris, Cora Lee Jones, Dee Jubrey, Sue Lescher, Mary Ann Maksimoski, Ada Martin, Steve McGoldrick, Josephine Mitchell, Willa Nemetz, Elizabeth Parker, Carlton Parkinson, Margaret Quigley, Mary Ransom, Dorothy Simon, Mary Fran Sumple, Jim Trocchi, Helene Westenburg, **Library:** Elaine Brophy, Ruth Budlong, Beverly Garvan, Bill Harris, Sara Hawran, Dee Jubrey, Sue Lescher, Mary Ann Maksimoski, Sandy McGraw, Willa Nemetz, Margaret Quigley, Shirley Quintero, and Mary Ransom.

Spencer Arms

Does anyone know where there are company records for the Spencer Arms Company? This company manufactured repeating rifles during the Civil War at a small plant on Mechanics Street. Please let our Librarian Barbara Goodwin know at BGoodwin@WindsorHistoricalSociety.org.

Upcoming Events at Windsor Historical Society

All programs are held at 96 Palisado Avenue (Rt. 159), Windsor, CT, unless stated otherwise.
For more information, call 860/688-3813, see <http://windsorhistoricalsociety.org> or visit our Facebook page.
Programs fees offset program costs, but we turn nobody away for lack of funds.

Tuesday, April 6 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
TIMELY TOPICS: THE U.S. CENSUS - PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Let's see how the census works and how it works for historians and genealogists. Three speakers "in the know" will explain. COST: \$6/adults; \$5/seniors and students; \$4/Society members.

Saturday, April 24 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
PERFORMANCE: RECYCLED RHYTHMS

Scott Kessell will show you there's a world of instruments in your recycling bin. Make your own instrument, learn rhythms, songs, and culture from around the world and participate in the grand finale. COST: \$6/adults; \$5/seniors and students; \$4/Society members.

Thursday, May 6 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
EXHIBITION OPENING: LEN HELLERMAN'S PHOTOGRAPHS
Rediscover the beauty of Windsor's many and varied landscapes at this exhibition opening. Wine and hors d'oeuvres served. COST: Free.

Tuesday, May 25 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
TIMELY TOPICS: WINDSOR'S BROAD STREET GREEN
Join the community discussion about how you think our town center should look and function. Hear local and state-wide experts. COST: \$6/adults; \$5/seniors and students; \$4/Society members.

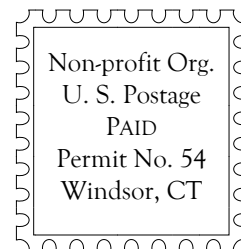
Saturday, June 5 10 a.m. - noon
HISTORIC WINDSOR BIKE TOUR
Our Society Educator, Julia Baldini, will lead you on a ten-mile bike tour through the Historic District and Windsor center. **Reservations required** by June 4. COST: \$6/adults; \$5/seniors and students; \$4/Society members.

Tuesday, June 8 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
VISIONS OF WINDSOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST
Your vote is needed for the best five-minute PowerPoint show of Windsor landscapes, buildings, wildlife, and people by local photographers. First prize, \$150; second prize, \$100; and third prize, \$50. Photographers **need to register** with the Society by June 1. COST: \$6/adults; \$5/seniors and students; \$4/Society members.

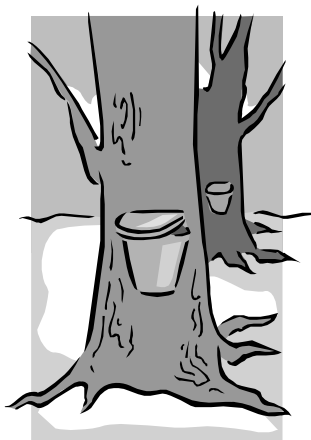


Windsor
Historical Society

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