

Hooks - Holland

June 2012

The Periodic Newsletter on Family History and Genealogy of
Bennett Hardy Hooks (1890-1929) and Bertha Gertrude Holland (1896-1991)

Issue number 002

1940 CENSUS

Apex, NC

White Oak Township
Wake County, NC

Bertha, Harold, James, and Edna Ruth in 1940 on Holleman Street

Harold Edgerton married the widow Bertha Holland Hooks on November 30, 1933, so the 1940 U.S. Census was the first on which they appeared together. They have just this year released the 1940 Census to the public, and examining Bertha and Harold's entry is a good way to see just what type of information family historians can draw from Census records.

Background: Bertha was widowed June 12, 1929 at the death of her first husband B. Hardy Hooks. The 1930 Census showed her living with her four children in Apex, and while no address for them was given, it indicated they were renting for \$5 a month. (In the 1920 Census, Hardy Hooks and family were shown renting a house on Hunter Street, so in 1930 the family was probably living in the same house.) In the 1930 Census, Bertha gave her age as 33, and she was listed as unemployed. Mary Louise was 16, not in school, and working as a stenographer in a doctor's office. Alma (age 14) and James (age 8) were in school, and 5-year-old Edna Ruth completed the list.

Meanwhile in 1930, Harold (age 26) was living with his father Ivey Edgerton and his younger sister Agnes in a house rented for \$55 a month at 2005 Clark in Raleigh where the First Citizens Bank building is now in Cameron Village. Harold was listed as a butcher for Pender Stores.

Holleman Street											
280	120	20	Edgerton, H. J. (H)	Head	0	M	W	36	M	Pro	44
			Bertha	wife	17	W	41	M	No	6	
			Hooks, James	Step-	2	M	W	19	S	No	44
			Edna Ruth	Step-	2	W	15	S	10	11	
90			Clerk	Retail grocery	120	6	1	52	910	No	
60			Bookkeeper	Truck line	10	5	0	41	400	No	

Above: Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940. North Carolina, Wake County, White Oak Township, town of Apex. Enumeration District 92-90, page 12-B.

Below: Bertha & Harold Edgerton, photographed outside their home about 1940.

1940 Census: I have reproduced most of the family's 1940 listing above, and here are the major items we learn from it:

- By this time, both Mary Louise and Alma had gotten married and were out of the home. Harold's remaining 2 step-children, James (age 19) and Edna Ruth (age 15), were still living at home.
- Harold is listed as age 36, but Bertha was a little coy by listing her age as 41, making her 2 years "younger" than if you added 10 years to the age she gave in 1930. Perhaps she was sensitive about having married a man 7 years younger than she.
- Harold and Bertha owned the house on Holleman Street, and its value was given as \$1200.
- Both Harold and James indicated they had completed 4 years of high school, and Edna Ruth had completed 1 year. Bertha had a 6th grade education.
- Harold was listed as a "clerk" in a "retail grocery." The Census asked the number of hours worked in the week of March 24-30, 1940, and Harold replied



- 90. He worked 52 weeks of the previous year, and his annual salary is given as \$910.
- James was a bookkeeper for a truck line company, the name of which is difficult to read. It almost looks like it says "Motors Truck Line." (Can anyone make it out above?) He worked 60 hours in the week of March 24-30, 1940, worked 41 weeks of the previous year, and earned an annual salary of \$400.
- Bertha was listed as "engaged in housework," and Edna Ruth was listed as a student.