

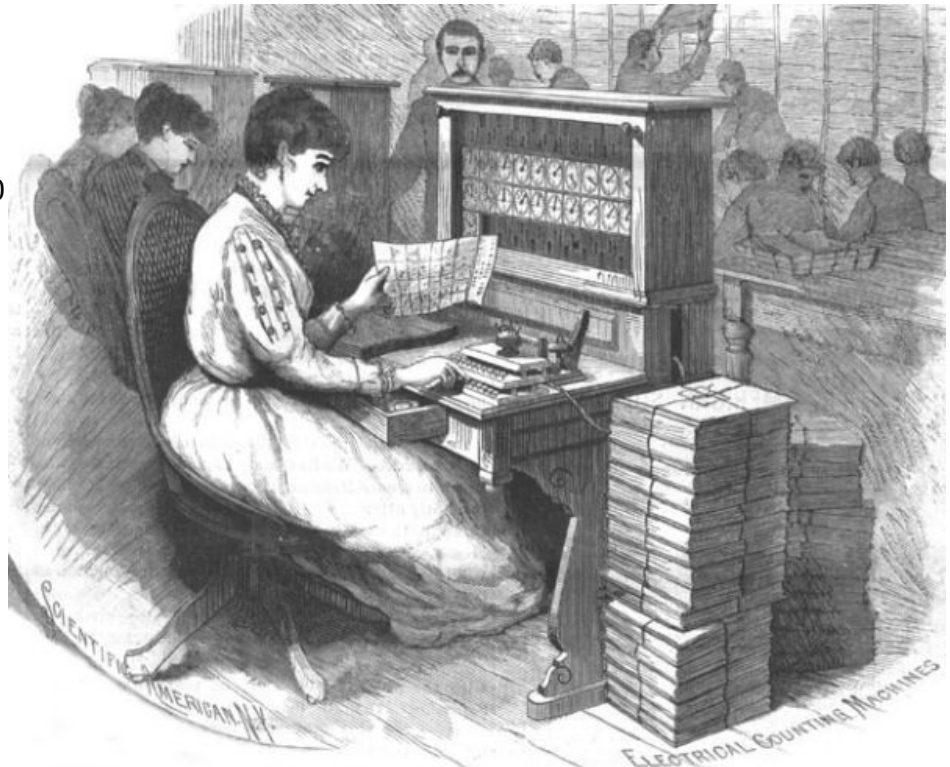
## Hollerith Tabulator Keyboard

In the last issue of the VIE, we mentioned that the “first pass” of the 1890 census was completed in six weeks and that amazing feat was a result of using the Hollerith tabulator fitted with a 20 key keyboard rather than the “waffle iron” card reader.

This picture from an 1890 Scientific American magazine shows an operator keying directly from the census forms. In the 1890 census, each form contained information for one household with up to five members.

Later cards were punched and used for detailed analyses.

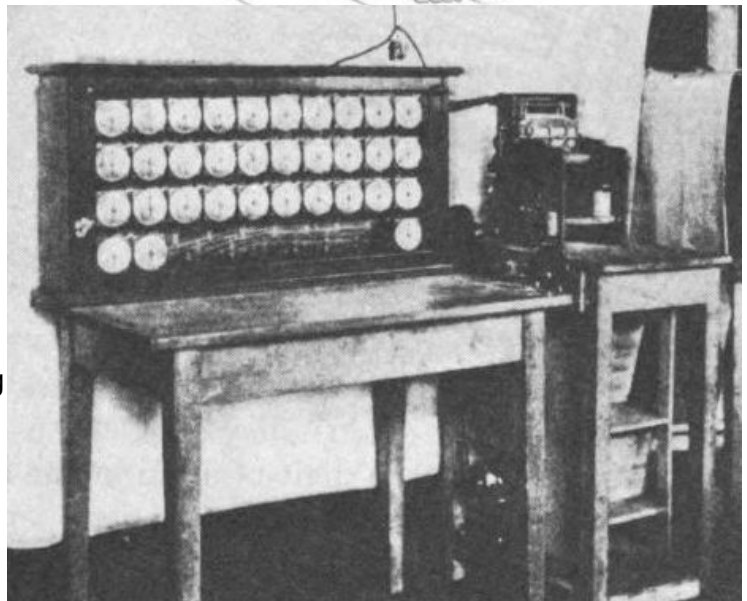
This picture also appears in the film loop shown above the tabulator.



## Hollerith Tabulator - Auto Feed

At the right is a tabulator, c. 1902, showing an automatic feed at the right. Also note that the tabulator had 33 counters rather than the 40 that our 1890 replica has.

Above the machine is what appears to be a little bell. In 1890, the bell signalled successful reading of a card. Perhaps in 1902 it signalled an error in the auto feed.



**The software engineering field is staffed primarily by men; the ratio of male to female software engineers is on the order of 15 to 1. This makes it pretty easy for women to find potential mates among their peers. However, software types have a well-earned reputation for being... a little strange.**

**While discussing the prospect of working in the software industry, one woman commented to another: "The odds are good, but the goods are odd."**