

Navigating our Nation's Federal Records

Overview of the NARA System

Ann G. Lawthers
September 2022

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors[®]

by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Meet today's presenter



Ann G. Lawthers
Genealogist

OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
 - Background
 - The NARA Website
 - Accessing NARA
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**

Session Roadmap

Background

What is NARA?
Understanding
NARA Records

NARA Website

Navigation Tips and
Tricks
Focus on genealogy

Accessing Records

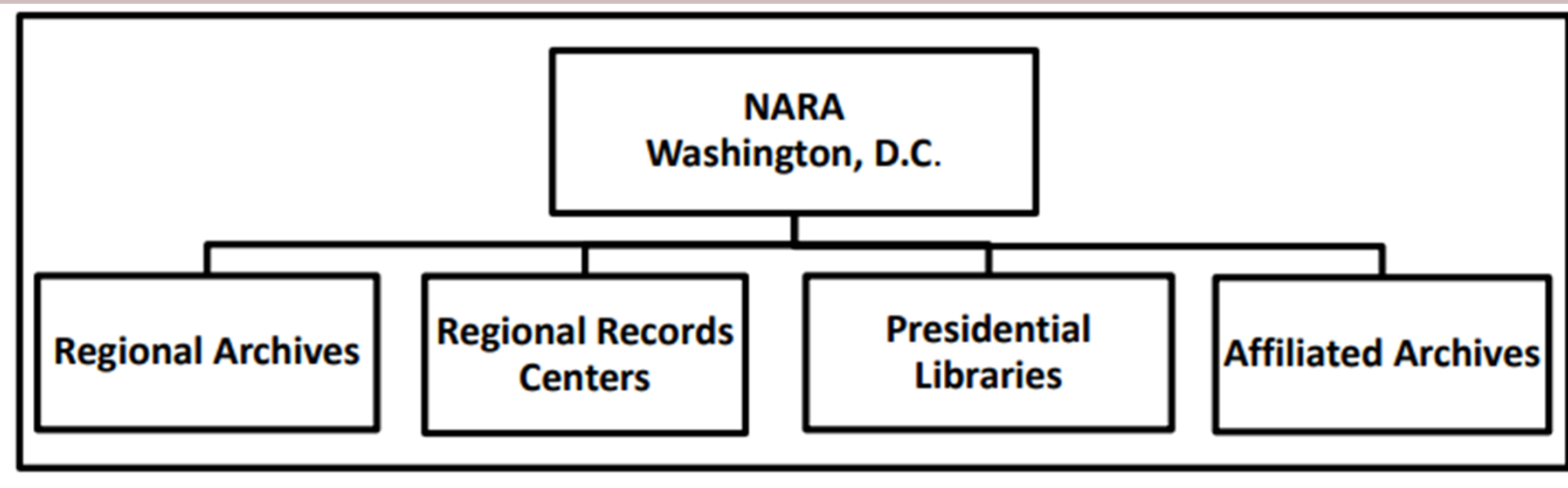
Catalogs
Ordering files
Planning a trip



Voice of
Ann G. Lawthers
Genealogist

What is NARA?

- National Archives and Records Administration
 - Established in 1934 as the nation's record keeper
 - Mission: “. . . to provide public access to Federal Government records in our custody and control”



NARA's Regional Archives



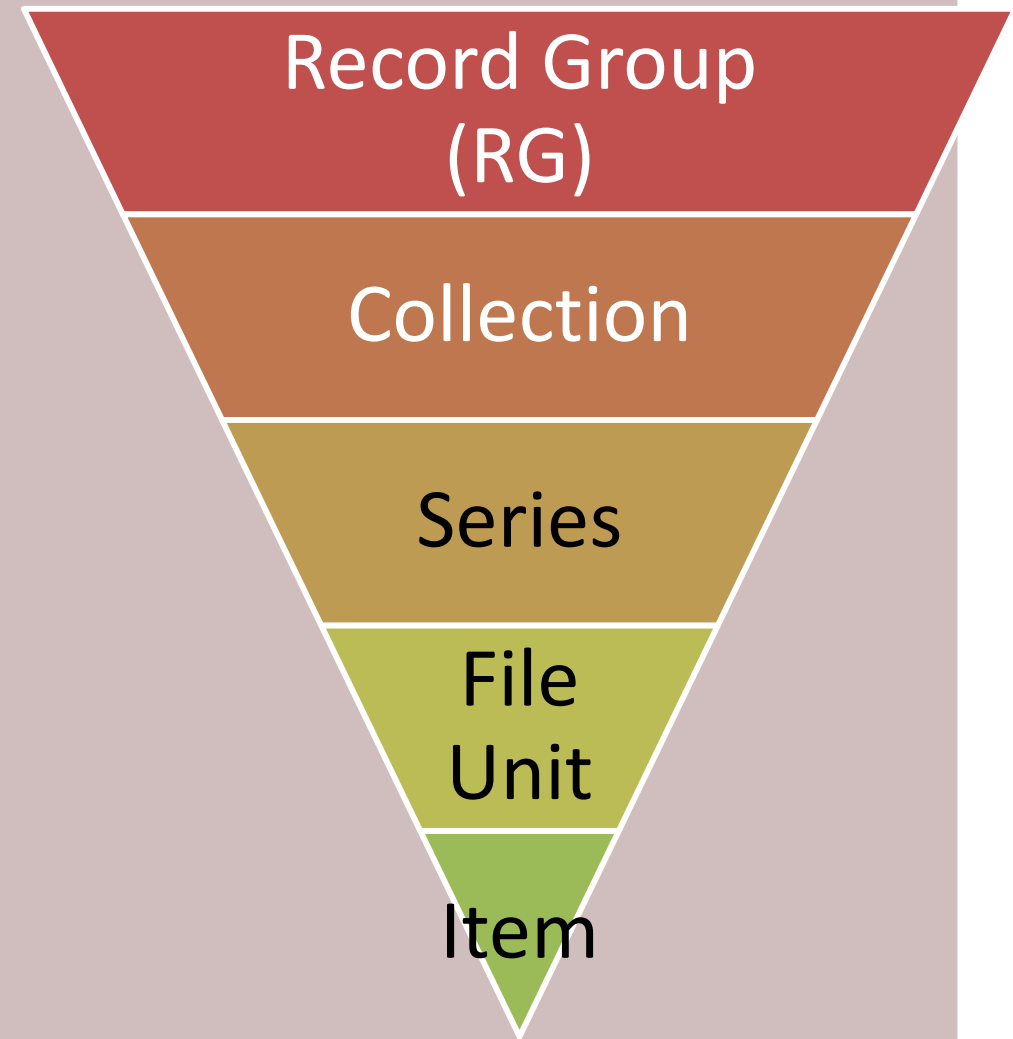
PowerPoint at <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/start-research>

NARA Records

- Created by a federal agency, bureau, commission or on behalf of the federal government
- Determined to be important for legal or historical reasons (2%-5% of all federal records created each year)
- By the numbers:
 - Textual records – 13.3 billion
 - Maps, chart, architectural drawings 10 million
 - Photographs – 44.4 million

Record Hierarchy

- **Record Groups (RG)** : documents from a specific federal agency, bureau, or commission
- **Collections:** Artificial grouping of records from different RGs for
- **Series:** Documents accumulated and used by the agency for a specific time or purpose
- **File Unit:** Group of documents within a series
- **Item:** Smallest archival unit, for example a report, or letter



<https://www.archives.gov/research/data-model/record-group.html>

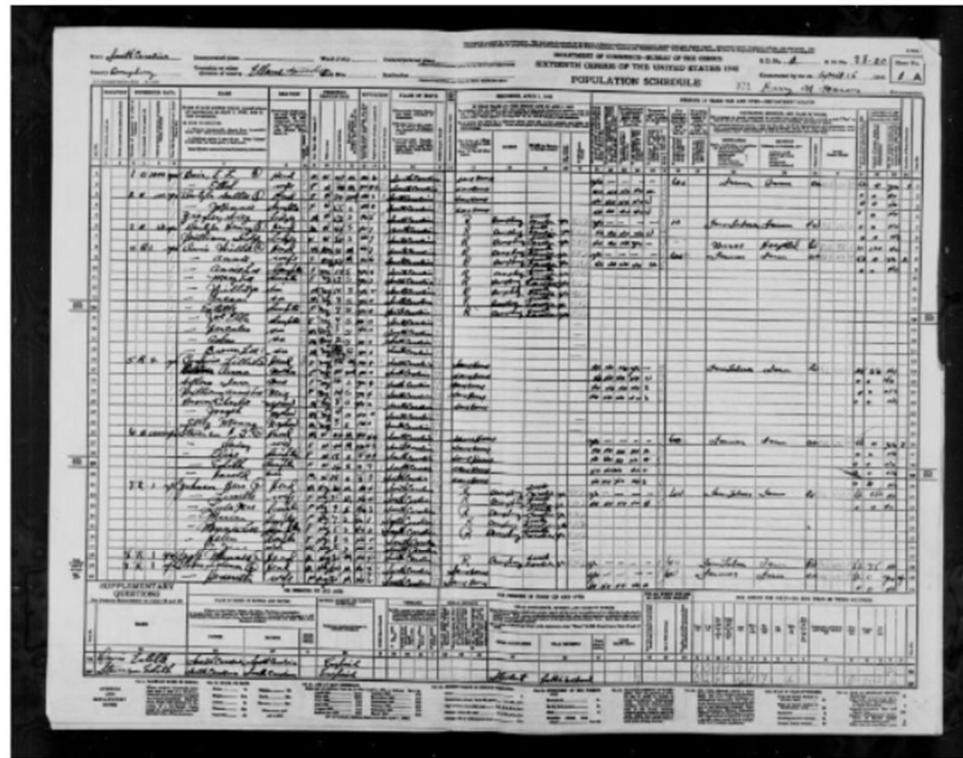
1940 Census Population Schedules - South Carolina - Orangeburg County - ED 38-20

Record Group 29:
Records of the Bureau
of the Census, 1790 -
2007

Series:
Sixteenth Census of
the United States,
1940 - 1940

File Unit:
1940 Census -
South Carolina -
Orangeburg
County

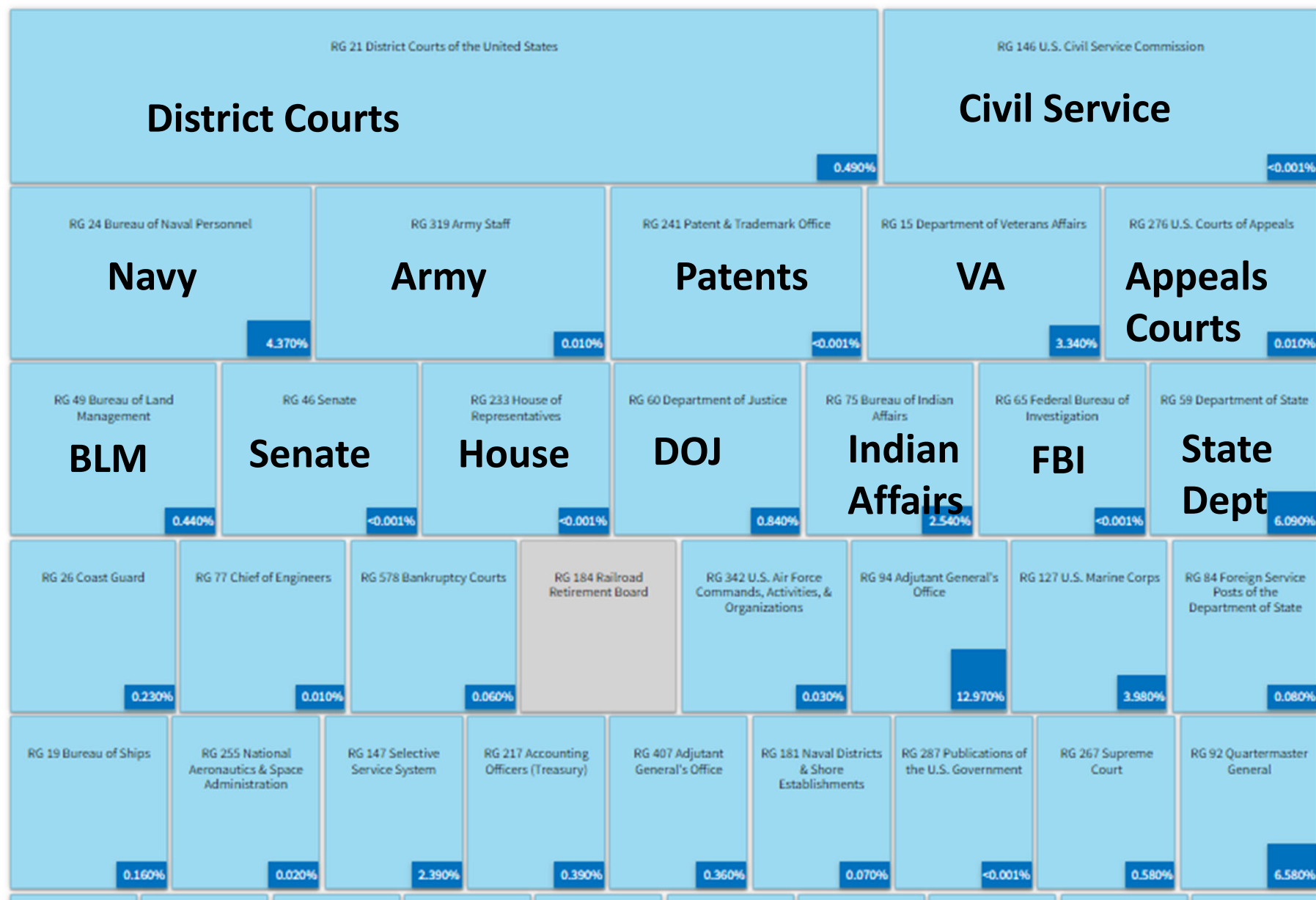
Item:
1940 Census
Population
Schedules -
South Carolina -
Orangeburg
County - ED 38-
20

[View/Add Contributions](#)

<< < Image 1 of 10 > >>

Record Group 29:	Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790 - 2007
Series:	Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940 - 1940
File Unit:	1940 Census - South Carolina - Orangeburg County
Item:	1940 Census Population Schedules - South Carolina - Orangeburg County - ED 38-20

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/138342922>



Largest record groups

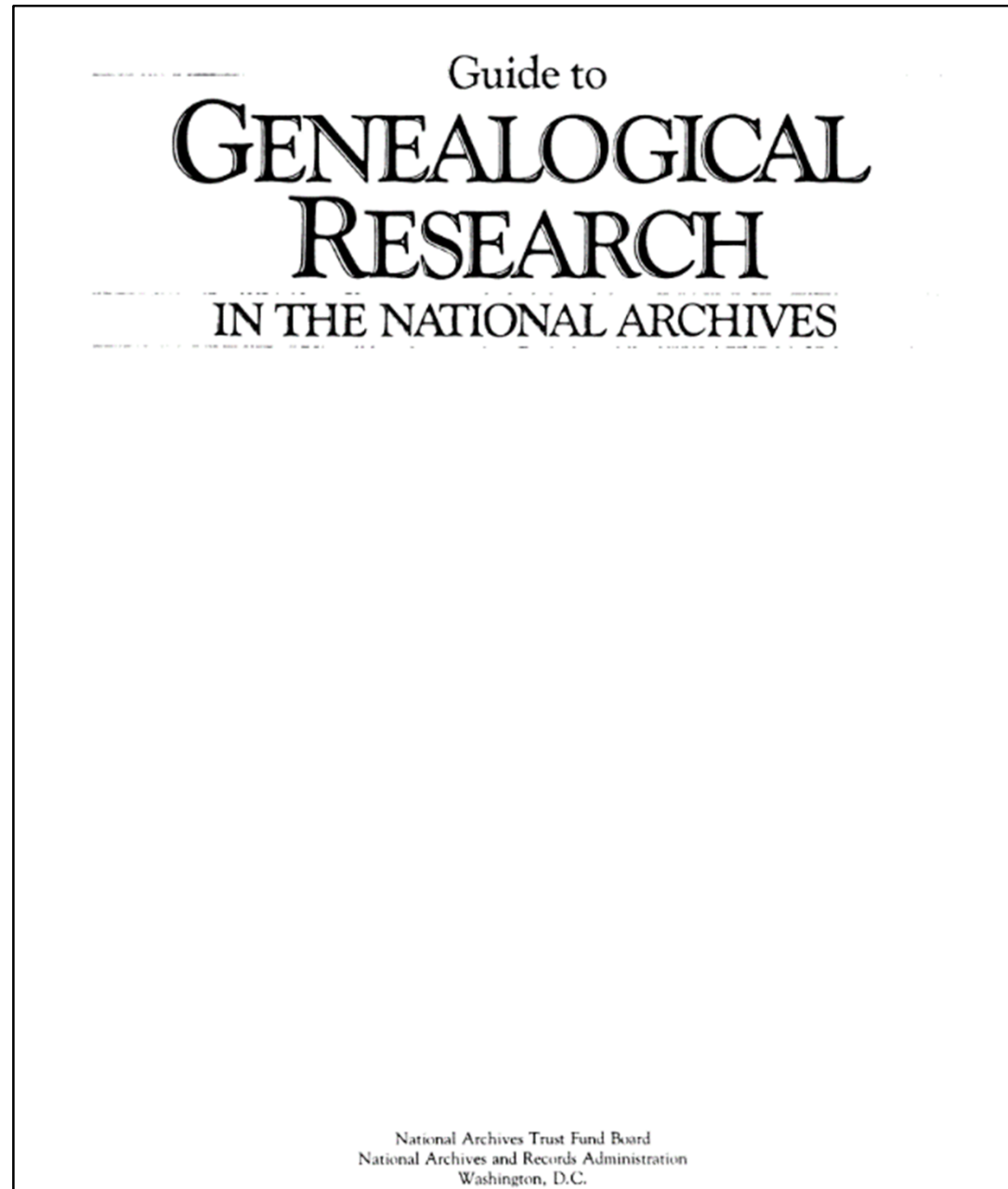
<https://www.archives.gov/findingaid/stat/disc>
covery

Record Group	↕ Title	↕	Number of Textual Scans in the Catalog
85	Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service	●	34,524,977
24	Records of the Bureau of Naval Personnel	●	23,291,566
94	Records of the Adjutant General's Office	●	17,707,643
109	War Department Collection of Confederate Records	●	14,345,716
15	Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs	●	10,966,502
59	General Records of the Department of State		10,375,805
21	Records of District Courts of the United States	●	9,172,866
26	Records of the U.S. Coast Guard		6,439,712
147	Records of the Selective Service System	●	5,535,609
29	Records of the Bureau of the Census	●	5,236,954
92	Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General		4,997,562
127	Records of the U.S. Marine Corps		4,892,333
75	Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs	●	4,765,294
64	Records of the National Archives and Records Administration		3,447,886
33	Records of the Extension Service		3,208,101
60	General Records of the Department of Justice		2,782,536
93	War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records	●	2,069,647

RGs with most online content

Which RGs Have Genealogy Records?

NARA Record Group	Record Type
RG 29-Census	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Census
RG 85-INS, RG 36-Customs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Passenger Lists
RG 85-INS, RG 21-District Courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Naturalizations
RG 24-Navy, 93-Rev War 94, Adjutant General, RG 109-Confederate Records	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compiled Military Service Records
RG 15-VA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Military Pension Files
RG 49-BLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homestead Files



<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.c067015933&vi>



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Search

Coronavirus Information

Research rooms are open by appointment and without limits on days and hours of operation. Check the specific [facility page](#) for hours and how to make an appointment.

The National Archives Museum in Washington, DC, and Presidential Library museums are open. Find out hours of operation on each [museum's website](#). Check our [coronavirus information page](#) for more information.

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Home > Research Our Records



National Archives Operations

Research rooms are open to the public by appointment only. Advance virtual consultations are required for research room visits to all [research facilities](#) outside the Washington, DC, area and highly encouraged for visits in the Washington, DC, area. Further information is on our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) web page.

The [National Archives Museum](#) in Washington, DC, and [Presidential Library museums](#) are open to the public without limits on occupancy or days and hours of operation.

More information about the National Archives' response to coronavirus can be found at [archives.gov/coronavirus](https://www.archives.gov/coronavirus).

Research in the National Archives Catalog



- [Search the Catalog](#)
- [About the National Archives Catalog](#)
- [Using the National Archives Catalog](#)
- [Search Tips](#)
- [Contribute as a Citizen Archivist: Tagging / Transcription](#)

Other Online Research Tools



- [Guide to Federal Records](#)
- [Online Tools / Ways to Search Online](#)
- [Access to Archival Databases \(AAD\)](#)
- [Microfilm Catalog](#)
- [Free Databases at NARA facilities](#)
- [Links to Records Digitized by our Partners](#)

<https://www.archives.gov/research>

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Guide to Federal Records

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Guide to Federal Records

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[What's New?](#)
[New Accessions](#)
[On Our Partners' Websites](#)
[Get Started](#)

Search Online

[Search](#) our Guide to Federal Records 🔍
[National Archives Catalog](#)
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[Online Research Tools and Aids](#)
[Presidential Libraries](#)

Research in Person

[Free at the Archives](#)
[Plan your Research Visit](#)
[Locate a Facility Near You](#)

Guide to Federal Records in the National Archives of the United States

The Web Version of the Guide

This web version of the *Guide to Federal Records in the National Archives of the United States* is based on a paper version with the same title compiled by Robert B. Matchette et al in 1995.

This version incorporates descriptive information about federal records acquired by the National Archives after the 1995 paper edition went to press, and it is regularly updated to reflect new acquisitions of federal records.

Search the Guide:

(Enter 3 digits: "064" for RG 64)

Guide to Federal Records

[Information About the Guide](#)
[Alphabetical Index to the Guide](#)
[Statistical Summary of Holdings by Record Group Number](#)
[Record Groups by Topic Clusters](#)

Go to Record Group

(Enter 3 digits: "064" for RG 64)

<https://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records>

Records of the Veterans Administration [VA]

(Record Group 15)

1773-1985

Overview of Records Locations

Table of Contents

- [15.1 Administrative History](#)
- [15.2 Records of the Bureau of Pensions and its Predecessors 1805-1935](#)
 - [15.2.1 General records](#)
 - [15.2.2 Legal records](#)
 - [15.2.3 Financial records](#)
- [15.3 Records Relating to the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers and the National Homes Service, Veterans Administration 1866-1938](#)
- [15.4 Records of the Bureau of War Risk Insurance and the Insurance Division, U.S. Veterans Bureau 1914-34](#)
 - [15.4.1 General records](#)
 - [15.4.2 Records of the Allotment and Allowance Division](#)
 - [15.4.3 Records of the Marine and Seamen's Insurance Division](#)
 - [15.4.4 Records of the Civil Relief Section](#)
 - [15.4.5 Records of the Insurance Division](#)
 - [15.4.6 Records of the War Risk Section, Line of Communications, American Expeditionary Forces](#)
- [15.5 Records of the Rehabilitation Division of the Federal Board for Vocational Education, Veterans Bureau and U.S. Veterans Bureau 1918-28](#)
 - [15.5.1 Central office records](#)
 - [15.5.2 Records of district and regional offices](#)
- [15.6 Records of the Veterans Administration 1866-1969](#)
 - [15.6.1 Records of the Office of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs](#)
 - [15.6.2 General records](#)
 - [15.6.3 Records of the Investigation Division](#)
 - [15.6.4 Records of the Office of Construction](#)
 - [15.6.5 Records of the Directives Management Division](#)
 - [15.6.6 Records relating to the National Service Life Insurance Act of 1940](#)
- [15.7 Records Relating to Pension and Bounty-Land Claims 1773-1942](#)
 - [15.7.1 Correspondence](#)
 - [15.7.2 Pension and bounty land application files based upon service prior to the Civil War](#)
 - [15.7.3 Pension application files based upon service in the Civil War and Spanish-American War \("Civil War and Later"\)](#)
 - [15.7.4 Other pension and bounty land records](#)

<https://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/015.html>

15.7.3 Pension application files based upon service in the Civil War and Spanish-American War ("Civil War and Later")

Textual Records: Civil War and Spanish American War service case files (generally interfiled), consisting of approved and disapproved pension applications of veterans, widows, and dependents based on army service chiefly in these two wars, 1861- 1934, and covering both army and navy service after 1910, with separate files for approved and disapproved pension applications of veterans, widows, and dependents based on navy service, 1861- 1910. Microfilm copy of indexes to most case files, n.d. (2,807 rolls). Card index of names of remarried widows, n.d.

Specific Restrictions: Restrictions described under 15.7.2 are applicable to these records.

Microfilm Publications: M1274, M1391, T288, T289, T317.

Finding Aids: Frank E. Bridgers, Louise Southwick, and Evelyn Wade, comps., "Preliminary Inventory of Pension Case Files of the Bureau of Pensions and the Veterans Administration, 1861-1942," NM 17 (1963).

<https://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/015.html#15.7.3>

Confused? Fear Not!

- For genealogical material, start with your ancestor's relationship to the Federal Government
- Think of possible ways your ancestor interacted with the Federal Government.

Principal Records of Genealogical Interest

- Census Records
- Passenger Arrival Records (Immigration)
- Naturalization Records
- Land Records
- Military Records

Records of Groups Interacting with the Government

- Native Americans
- African Americans
- Japanese Americans
- Chinese Americans
- Hispanic Americans

Other Aids

- *Prologue* magazine
 - Quarterly journal to highlight NARA holdings
 - Special genealogy webpage -
<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/genealogy-notes>
- History Hub
 - Crowdsourced answers

Civilian Service


Women Workers in Wartime (Fall 2016) - Explore the personnel records of women who worked for the federal government during both World War I and World War II.

Serving at the Pleasure of the President: The Nomination Papers of the United States Senate, 1789–1946 (Winter 2005) - In providing "advice and consent" for Presidential appointments, the Senate has also produced a lot of controversy and drama.

The Official Register of the United States, 1816–1959 (Winter 2004) - Explore the national directory of employees, agents, and officers of the federal government.

Strategies for Reconstructing Careers of Foreign Service Officers, 1869–1887 (Spring 1999) - A guide through 19th-century political patronage in the U.S. foreign service.

Court Records

Broke, But Not Out of Luck: Using Bankruptcy Records for Genealogical Research  (Fall 2014) - Don't be put off by the negative image—bankruptcy records can be a genealogy gold mine.

"You have the body": Habeas Corpus Case Records of the U.S. Circuit Court for the District of Columbia, 1820–1863 (Fall 2005) - These case files can provide names of individuals and family members; birth, marriage, and death information; and detailed information on the daily lives of the people involved in the cases.

Headstones

Honoring Our War Dead: The Evolution of the Government Policy on Headstones for Fallen Soldiers and Sailors (Spring 2003) - Learn when the government started providing headstones for military personnel and how to use the records in your genealogical research.

Immigration and Naturalization

Ireland's Famine Children "Born at Sea" (Winter 2017–18) - Using online databases to discover those born aboard ships bringing Irish immigrants to America.

The Fate of Mali Kaltman: The Value of Immigration Records and Genealogy (Winter 2015) - Investigating the records of the Boards of Special Inquiry can turn up new leads in your genealogy research.

When Saying "I Do" Meant Giving Up Your Citizenship  (Spring 2014) - In the early 20th century, women

Some *Prologue* articles



Genealogy

Overview **Content** People Subspaces

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Genealogy

All Content (1424)



Type to filter by text

Filter by tag

Sort by date created: newest first ▾

1 2 ◀ ▶

? Seeking information on Anwyl family name and John Anwyl

I would like to find out information on my mothers maiden name it was, Anwyl her father was John Anwyl (no middle name) 1873 to 1934 was maybe born in Philadelphia and died in Horton Kansas, also any information on ...



last modified by
Scott West

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? Looking for citizens of Oswego, NY circa 1900

i Don't have facts, except did for my paternal grandmother, who passed away in Oswego where she was born. Her maiden name was James. hEr mothers 's was Langley or Longley.



last modified by
Carolyn Mack

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? Looking for Name Change Records, ca. 1927-1929

My Wifes Great Grandmother arrived on the SS George Washington on May 4th 1927 from Bremen Germany. She arrived under her name of Ursule Gabalaite (Technically its Gabalis as her father indicates even in the a...



last modified by
Dale Dewitt

👍 1 📌 0 💬 2

History Hub Questions

Re-Cap

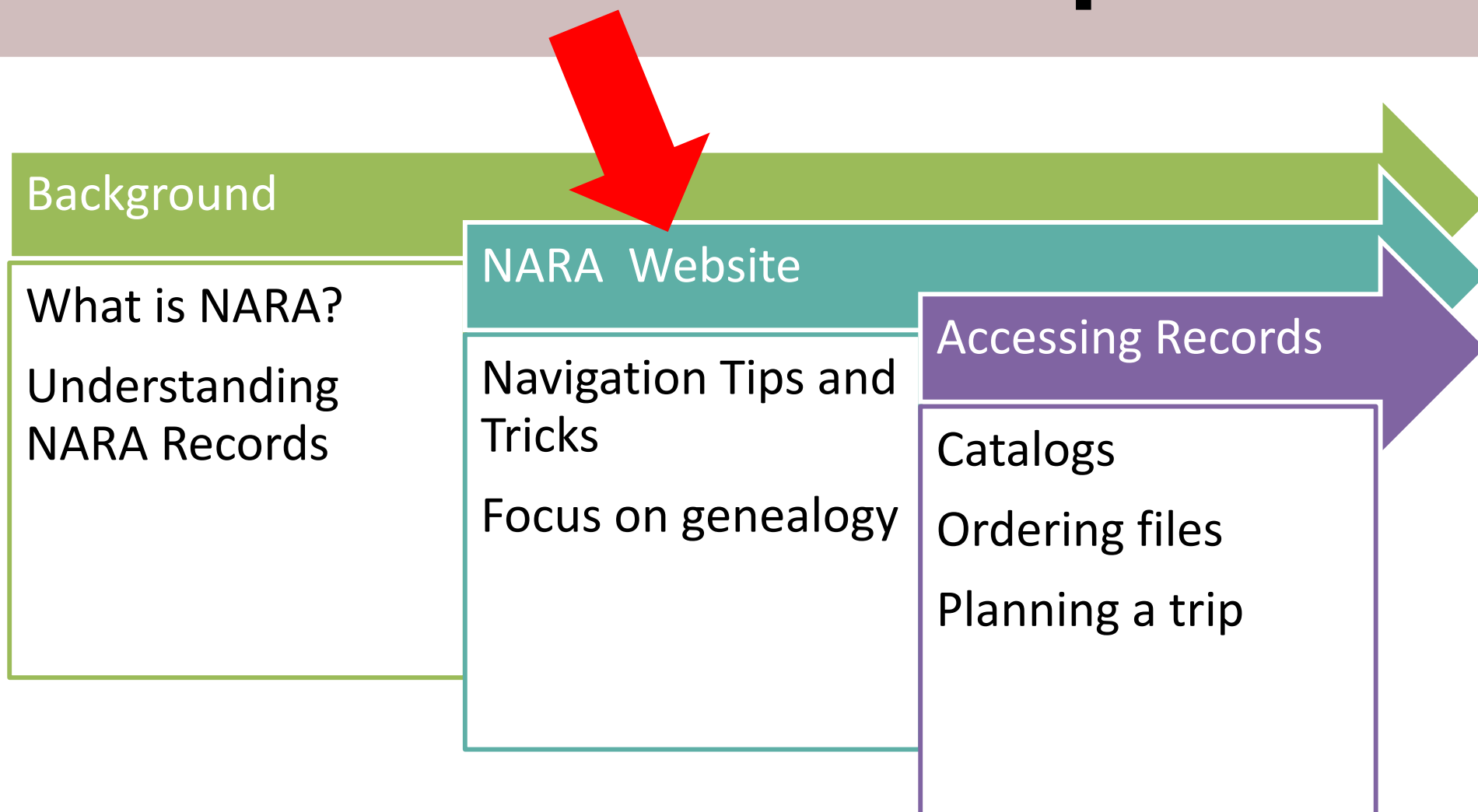
- NARA has federal records
 - No vital records (generated by state and local government, not the federal government)
 - No church records (generated by churches)
 - No state militia records (generated by states)
 - **No records before 1795**
- Held nationally and in regional archives
- Records created in the course of running a federal agency or department
 - No master name or subject index

Re-cap (cont.)

- Most popular NARA records for genealogists:
 - Census
 - Military
 - Immigration
 - Naturalization
 - Land
- Other important records
 - Native tribes – Dawes commission

QUESTIONS?

Session Roadmap





NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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Coronavirus Information

All research rooms are open to the public and without limits on days and hours of operation. Check the specific [facility page](#) for hours and how to make an appointment.

The National Archives Museum in Washington, DC, and Presidential Library museums are open. Find out hours of operation on each [museum's website](#). Check our [coronavirus information page](#) for updates.

RESEARCH OUR RECORDS



Explore our nation's history through our documents, photos, and records.

VETERANS' SERVICE RECORDS



Request military records and learn about other services for yourself or a family member.

EDUCATOR RESOURCES



Find primary sources, tools for teaching with documents, and student and educator programs.

VISIT US



Plan a trip to the Museum, to one of the Presidential Libraries, or to conduct research.

AMERICA'S FOUNDING DOCUMENTS



The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.



Archives News

National Archives Authenticates 1908 Wright Brothers Film
In Memoriam: Queen Elizabeth II (1926-2022)
The Presidential Records Act and the Federal Records Act



More News... Upcoming Events...

<https://www.archives.gov/>



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National Archives Operations

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Operating Status

Check our [Facebook](#) pages and [Twitter](#) or call 301-837-0700 in the DC area. Nationwide Federal government operating status updates are available on the OPM website.

What's New?

[More Researcher News](#) →

Research Events

- Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government - September 13, 2022, 6:00 p.m. PDT
- Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government - September 20, 2022, 6:00 p.m. PDT
- Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government - September 27, 2022, 6:00 p.m. PDT
- Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government - October 4, 2022, 6:00 p.m. PDT
- Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government - October 11, 2022, 6:00 p.m. PDT
- Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government - October 18, 2022, 6:00 p.m. PDT
- Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government - October 25, 2022, 6:00 p.m. PDT
- Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government - November 1, 2022, 6:00 p.m. PDT
- Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government - November 8, 2022, 6:00 p.m. PST
- Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government - November 15, 2022, 6:00 p.m. PST
- Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government - November 22, 2022, 6:00 p.m. PST

Research in the National Archives Catalog



- About the National Archives Catalog
- Using the National Archives Catalog
- Search the Catalog**
- Advanced Search
- Search Tips
- Contribute as a Citizen Archivist: Tagging / Transcription
- Catalog Guide for Genealogists
- Catalog Newsletter
- Record Group Explorer
- Presidential Library Explorer
- Donated Collections Explorer
- Reparative Description and Digitization at the National Archives
- NARA's Statement on Potentially Harmful Content

Other Online Research Tools



- Guide to Federal Records
- Online Tools / Ways to Search Online
- Access to Archival Databases (AAD)
- Microfilm Catalog
- Free Databases at NARA facilities
- Links to Records Digitized by our Partners

First time on site? Start here!



Research Your Ancestry



Research Military Records



Research a Specific Topic

Perform research on people,



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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Resources for Genealogists

[Home](#) > [Research Our Records](#) > [Resources for Genealogists](#)

Start Your Family Research



Learn how you can use the resources at the National Archives to explore your family's ancestry.

- [Start Your Genealogy Research](#)
- [Genealogy Resources](#)
- [Charts and Forms](#)
- [Free Databases at National Archives Facilities](#)
- [NARA Genealogy Videos \(YouTube\)](#)

Popular Topics



- [Census Records](#)
- [Military Service Records](#)
- [Immigration Records](#)
- [Naturalization Records](#)
- [More Topics and Record Types](#) →

Genealogy News



National Archives
1950 Census
Genealogy Series
webinars starting
March 2!

Events



- [Genealogy Workshops Nationwide](#)
- [Genealogy Events in the Washington, DC Area](#)
- [National Archives Calendar](#)
- [National Archives Genealogy Series: 1950 Census](#)

Tools for Genealogists



- [Catalog Guide for Genealogists | Search the Catalog](#)
- [Electronic Records for Genealogy | Search AAD](#)
- [Digitized by Partners](#)
- [Microfilm Catalog](#)
- [Reference Reports](#)
- [More Online Research Tools](#) →

Can I start my family history research by typing a name in the search box?

Our search box will not help you find information on a specific person. However, we have many [tools and resources](#) that can lead you to information about our holdings. Many of our records have been digitized and are made available by our [Digitization Partners](#).

What's New?

[1950 Census Resources](#)

[Maps at NARA of interest to Genealogists](#)

[Pictures at NARA of interest to Genealogists](#)

[Genealogy Activities for Kids](#)

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Other Learning Resources

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1950
CENSUS
EXPLORE & COLLABORATE

The 1950 Census

View questions asked on the 1950 Census, instructions for enumerators and the public, blank census forms, information and training videos, and more!

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Start Your Family Research



Learn how you can use the resources at the National Archives to explore your family's ancestry.

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- [NARA Genealogy Videos \(YouTube\)](#)

Start Your Genealogy Research

Introduction to NARA Resources

The records in our holdings that are most commonly used by genealogists include, Census, Military, Immigration (Ship Passenger Lists), Naturalization, and Land records.

To learn more about these records and how to access them, we recommend that you:

Start by reviewing our Powerpoint presentation

The "[Beginning your Genealogical Research at the National Archives and Records Administration](#)" presentation provides an excellent introduction to most popular genealogical records at NARA.

Powerpoint Tutorial



(Save to your computer and then open, or open directly.)

View our Introductory Videos on YouTube

- View our video on "[Introduction to Census Records](#)"
- View our videos on Military Records: [Pension Records](#), [Regular Service](#), and [Volunteer Service](#)
- View our videos on "[Introduction to Immigration Records](#)" and "[Immigrant Records: More than just Ship Passenger Arrival Lists](#)"
- View our video, "[Early Naturalization Records at the National Archives](#)"
- View our video on "[The Homestead Act: Land Records of your Ancestors](#)"

Learn more on our Research Topics pages

On the [Research Topics](#) pages, you will learn about records available at NARA, and how to use them. You will also find links to articles, finding aids, and links to digitized records in the Catalog, when available. You may want to start with these records:

- [Census](#)
- [Military](#)
- [Immigration](#)



NARA
Records

How to Use
Records

Start Your Family Research



Learn how you can use the resources at the National Archives to explore your family's ancestry.

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- [NARA Genealogy Videos \(YouTube\)](#)

Genealogy Resources

Using the NARA web site:

The National Archives website has articles, finding aids, webinars, and other information about our records and how to conduct research in our holdings. Additionally, we have a growing number of digitized records available online through the National Archives Catalog and in AAD that are useful for researching family history online.

What Information is Available Online Here:

- [How to start genealogical research, with links to web sites with tutorials.](#)
- [Topics on genealogical records](#) held in the Archives.
- [Reference Reports](#): Short descriptions of research strategies for frequently used records of genealogical interest held at the [National Archives Building in Washington, DC](#). (Most of the records described are on microfilm, and many are available online through Ancestry or Fold3. You can access Ancestry.com and Fold3 for free from any NARA facility).
- Use the [National Archives Catalog](#) to search for digitized records or descriptions of records. New digitized images are regularly being added to the catalog. You may want to first view our [Catalog Guide for Genealogists and Family Historians](#)

Reference Reports

Further down the page . . .

Online Highlights

What are some of the Genealogical Records we have online?

- [Casualty lists for the Korean and Vietnam Wars](#)
- [Selected Chinese exclusion lists](#), search in the National Archives Catalog
- [Fugitive Slave Case Papers, 1850 - 1860 and Petitions Filed Under the Fugitive Slave Act \(Fugitive Slave Petition Book\), 1850-1860](#), Search in the National Archives Catalog
- [Fort Smith, Arkansas: 50,000 Criminal Case Files](#), Search in the National Archives Catalog
- [Appointments and Oaths of U.S. Marshals and Deputy Marshals, 1864-1912](#), Search in the National Archives Catalog
- [Alien Registration Affidavits from the U.S. District Court, Phoenix Division](#), Search in the National Archives Catalog
- [Sample Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service, ca. 1800 - ca. 1900](#), Search in the National Archives Catalog
- [Records of Death and Interment at Camp Nelson, KY, 1864-1865](#), Search in the National Archives Catalog

Resources for Genealogists

Home > Research Our Records > Resources for Genealogists > Reference Reports for Genealogy

Getting Started

[Start Your Genealogy Research](#)

[Genealogy Tutorial](#)
(Powerpoint)

[Genealogy Research Topics](#)

[Charts and Forms](#)

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[Military Records](#)

[Preserving Family Records](#)

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[Ask Genealogy Questions on](#)
[History Hub](#)

[Digitized by Partners](#)

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[Genealogy Workshops](#)

[Genealogy FAQs](#)

Reference Reports for Genealogy

Reference Reports are brief (one to four page) descriptions of research strategies for frequently used records of genealogical interest held at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. Although some textual records are discussed, most of the records described are on microfilm. Many of these are also available on Ancestry, Fold3 (formerly Footnote), or Family Search, however, the reference reports generally do not indicate which records are online. These reports are also available in hard copy in the Microfilm Reading Room (MRR) at the [National Archives Building in Washington, DC](#).

The Reference Reports are arranged by general subject headings. The reports are listed by individual topic. Please check back soon for updates.

- [African Americans](#)
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Records and Populations

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<https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/reference-reports>

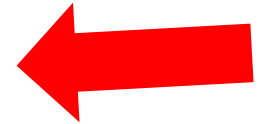
African Americans – Reference Reports

Records created by post-Civil War Federal agencies are perhaps some of the most important records available for the study of African American genealogy. Reconstruction-era Federal records document the black family's struggle for freedom and equality and provide insight into the Federal government's policies towards the nearly four million African Americans freed at the close of the American Civil War. The records help bridge the gap for the transitional period from slavery to freedom. African American Reference Reports describe research strategies for some of the most frequently used records relating to African American genealogy, including service in the United States Colored Troops (USCT), Buffalo soldiers, District of Columbia emancipation records, the Freedmen's Bureau, Freedman's Bank, and WPA Slave Narratives.

Click on the title to view a PDF version of the reference report.

Census








- [African-Americans and the Federal Census, 1790-1930](#) 
- [Federal Census Records for the District of Columbia Relating to Slavery, 1800-1860](#) 
- [Finding Patients and Staff at the Freedmen's Hospital, Washington, DC, the Federal Census, 1870-1930](#) 



Freedmen's Bureau Records, 1865-1872

- [Administrative Records](#) 
- [Pre-Bureau Records, 1863-1865](#) 

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<https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/reference-reports.html>



National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001

Patients and Staff at the Freedmen's Hospital, Washington, DC, in the Federal Censuses, 1870–1940

The Freedmen's Hospital in the District of Columbia was established in 1862. In 1863, Dr. Alexander Augusta, the head of the Freedmen's Hospital in Washington, DC, became the first African American to head a hospital. By 1869, the hospital relocated to the grounds of Howard University where it served as a teaching hospital. In 1975, the Freedmen's Hospital became Howard University Hospital.

Enumerating the Staff and Patients

The Federal census for the District of Columbia includes information about individuals living at institutions. This included the staff and patients at the Freedmen's Hospital. The hospital appears as the Freedmen's Hospital in 1870. In 1880, it appears as the Freedmen's Hospital Grounds. The 1890 census schedule is no longer extant. The hospital is listed as the Freedmen's Hospital in the 1900–1930 census schedules. From 1870 to 1930, census schedules list both the patients and staff of the hospital. The following information will help you locate the enumeration of the Freedmen's Hospital among the records.

___ M593, *Ninth Census of the United States, 1870*, **roll 127**. Subdivision East of 1st Street. Enumeration of Freeman's Hospital is on pages 12–17.

___ T9, *Tenth Census of the United States, 1880*, **roll 121**. Enumeration District 4. Enumeration of Freedmen's Hospital Grounds is on pages 32–37.

___ T623, *Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900*, **roll 158**. Enumeration District 147. (See

Resources for Genealogists

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Reference Reports for Genealogy

Reference Reports are brief (one to four page) descriptions of research strategies for frequently used records of genealogical interest held at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. Although some textual records are discussed, most of the records described are on microfilm. Many of these are also available on Ancestry, Fold3 (formerly Footnote), or Family Search, however, the reference reports generally do not indicate which records are online. These reports are also available in hard copy in the Microfilm Reading Room (MRR) at the [National Archives Building in Washington, DC](#).

The Reference Reports are arranged by general subject headings. The reports are listed by individual topic. Please check back soon for updates.

- [African Americans](#)
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- [College of Columbia](#)
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- [Immigrants](#)
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<https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/reference-reports>

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Genealogy News



National Archives
1950 Census
Genealogy Series
webinars starting
March 2!

Events



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Can I start my family history research by typing a name in the search box?

Our search box will not help you find information on a specific person. However, we have many [tools and resources](#) that can lead you to information about our holdings. Many of our records have been digitized and are made available by our [Digitization Partners](#).

What's New?

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1950
CENSUS
EXPLORE & COLLABORATE

The 1950 Census

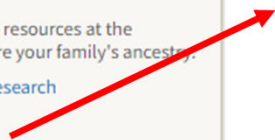
View questions asked on the 1950 Census, instructions for enumerators and the public, blank census forms, information and training videos, and more!

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|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | | Genealogy Series: Historic Census Bureau Sources for Asian American Pacific Islanders (2022 May 25)
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| 2 | | Genealogy Series: History of Census Records and the National Archives (2022 May 18)
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| 3 | | Genealogy Series: From Parchments to Printouts-History of the Census from 1790 to 1950 (2022 May 11)
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| 4 | | Genealogy Series: The Story of the 1950 P8 Indian Reservation Schedule (2022 April 27)
US National Archives | ⋮ |
| 5 | | 1950 Census: Overview of Website Features
US National Archives | ⋮ |
| 6 | | Genealogy Series: The 1950 Census Website: Design, Development, & Features to Expect (2022 March 30)
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Popular Topics



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Census Records

Census records can provide the building blocks of your research. The first Federal Population Census was taken in 1790, and has been taken every ten years since. Because of a 72-year restriction on access to the Census, the most recent year available is 1950. The **1950 Census** was released on April 1, 2022.

The National Archives has the census schedules available from 1790 to 1950, and most have now been digitized by our digitization partners. Family researchers generally find it most helpful to begin with the most current census and work backwards as a strategy for locating people in earlier generations.

What do you want to do today?



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Year and Ancestor's
Name



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About Census Records

Introduction to Census Records

You can start your census records search with only:

- The name of your relative or ancestor, and
- The state where he or she resided.



Search Census Records Online

The first Federal Population Census was taken in 1790, and a census

has been taken every ten years since. However, data from recent censuses are not available after 1950 because of a 72-

year gap in the Census. Most researchers find it helpful to begin with the 1950 Census and work

backwards to locate people in earlier generations.

Digital images of census schedules are available from 1790 to 1950. Online access is available through our digitization partners (free at any National Archives facility) as well in the National Archives Catalog (selected census years). See our [Census Resources](#) page to search the digitized records on our and partners' websites. (Please note: Most of the 1890 Census was destroyed in a Department of Commerce fire in 1921, though partial records are available for some states.)

What can the Census tell me?

Census records can provide the building blocks of your research, allowing you both to confirm information and learn more.

From 1850 to 1950, details are provided for all individuals in each household. Details can include:

- Name

Tip: Begin with the most

<https://www.archives.gov/research/census/about>

Clues in Census Records, 1850-1940

Experienced genealogical researchers use clues found in one record to find **other** records about the same individual. This page describes some of the clues found in census records.

Date of birth

- The **1900** census (column 7) indicates the person's month and year of birth; the **1850-1880** and **1910-1940** censuses indicate the person's age.
- The **1870** census (column 13) and **1880** census (column 7) indicate the month in which the person was born, if born "within the year," that is between June 1, 1869 and May 31, 1870 for the 1870 census, or June 1, 1879 and May 31, 1880, for the 1880 census. The official census day was June 1 in both 1870 and 1880, although the enumerator may have visited the household at a later date.
- While the person's age is not an exact date of birth, it at least provides a "ballpark" figure useful (1) for tracking the person from one census to the next, especially if other people have the same name, and (2) for locating the person in any existing vital records.

Place of birth

- The **1850-1940** censuses indicate the person's state or country of birth, which helps narrow the geographic scope of search for the specific town of birth.

Date of marriage

- The **1850** census (column 10), **1860** census (column 11), **1870** census (column 14), and **1880** census (column 12) indicate whether the person had married within the year.
- "Within the year" means during the year before the official census day, that is, between June 1, 1849 and May 31, 1850, for the 1850 census; between June 1, 1859 and May 31, 1860, for the 1860 census; between June 1, 1869 and May 31, 1870, for the 1870 census; and between June 1, 1879 and May 31, 1880, for the 1880 census. The official census day was June 1 in each of these census years, although the enumerator may have visited the household at a later date.
- The **1900** census (column 10) and **1910** census (column 9) indicate the number of years of marriage for each married person.

Number of children

- The **1900** census (column 11) and **1910** census (column 10) indicate how many children were **born** to each woman. The **1900** census (column 12) and **1910** census (column 11) indicate how many of those children were **still living**. These clues can help determine whether the researcher has identified all children in a given family, and whether any were deceased when either census was taken.

<https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1850-1940>

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Military Records

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Military Records Research

Research by Branch



Research by War or Conflict

The National Archives holds Federal military service records from the Revolutionary War to 1912 in the [National Archives in Washington, D.C.](#) Military service records from WWI - present are held in the [National Military Personnel Records Center \(NPRC\)](#), in St. Louis, Missouri. See [details of holdings](#).

Post-WWI regimental and unit records are primarily held at the [National Archives in College Park, Maryland](#).



American Revolutionary War (1775-1783)



War of 1812 (1812-1815)



Mexican War (1846-1848)



Civil War (1861-1865)



Spanish American War (1898)



Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902)

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Immigrant Records at the National Archives

Among the billions of historical records housed at the National Archives throughout the country, researchers can find information relating to immigrants from the late 1700s through the early 2000s. The National Archives preserves and makes available documents created by Federal agencies in the course of their daily business.

As you plan your research, consider this question: how does my research topic intersect with the US Federal Government?

What are you researching?

Please note: Although some of these records have been digitized and made available online, there are many records that are only available in paper or microfilm format at NARA locations.



Immigration Records



Naturalization Records



Visa Records



Alien Files (A-Files)



Enemy Alien Records



Passport Records



Other Immigrant Topics



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[Free at the Archives](#)
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Naturalization Records

Naturalization is the process by which an alien becomes an American citizen. It is a voluntary act; naturalization is not required.

Prior to September 27, 1906, any "court of record" (municipal, county, state, or Federal) could grant United States citizenship. Often petitioners went to the court most geographically convenient for them. As a general rule, the National Archives does not have naturalization records created in state or local courts. However, a few indexes and records have been donated to the National Archives from counties, states, and local courts. Researchers should contact the [National Archives facility](#) serving the state in which the petitioner resided to determine if records from lower courts are available. In certain cases county court naturalization records maintained by the National Archives are available as [microfilm publications](#). Records from state and local courts are often at state archives or historical societies.

Beginning September 27, 1906, US naturalization law imposed a fee structure that encouraged the transfer of naturalization to Federal courts. It took time for the lower courts to let go of the practice, so researchers may need to look at lower courts if the National Archives does not maintain a record of naturalization from the early-mid 20th century.

In general, naturalization was a two-step process* that took a minimum of five years. After residing in the United States for two years, an alien could file a "declaration of intention" ("first papers") to become a citizen. After three additional years, the alien could "petition for naturalization" ("second papers"). After the petition was granted, a certificate of citizenship was issued to the new citizen. These two steps did not have to take place in the same court. [*Exceptions can include cases of derivative citizenship, processes for minor aliens 1824-1906, and special consideration for veterans.]

If a naturalization took place in a Federal court, naturalization indexes, declarations of intention (with any accompanying certificates of arrival), and petitions for naturalization will usually be in the National Archives facility serving the state in which the [Federal court](#) is located. **No central index exists.**

To ensure a successful request with the National Archives researchers should include:

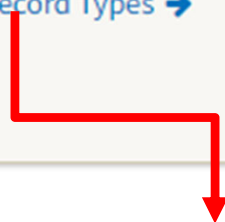
- name of petitioner (including known variants);
- date of birth;
- approximate date of entry to the US;

In an effort to assist patrons seeking dual citizenship to understand what the National Archives can and cannot assist them with, we've compiled some of the most [frequently asked questions](#).

Popular Topics



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Tools for Genealogists



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National Archives Catalog Guide for Genealogists and Family Historians



What is in the National Archives Catalog?

The National Archives holds historical U.S. government documents (federal, congressional, and presidential records) that are created or received by the President and his staff, by Congress, by employees of Federal government agencies, and by the Federal courts in the course of their official duties.

The [National Archives Catalog](#) contains descriptions for NARA's nationwide holdings in the Washington, DC area; regional facilities; and Presidential Libraries. The Catalog is a work in progress and currently contains descriptions for 95% of our records, described at the series level. This means you can find basic information about the records, including size and location, from the description. Additionally, every week we are adding more file unit and item descriptions, many of which include digital files.

Typically descriptions in the Catalog do not include individuals' names; however, the National Archives still might have records about your ancestors. It may be necessary to closely read records of interest to see if a particular individual is mentioned.

The National Archives Catalog vs. Online Genealogy Databases

- The Catalog is keyword searchable like many genealogy databases.
- You can narrow searches with filters.
- The Catalog allows you to search for records in all NARA facilities – not just selected databases.
- The current focus is on breadth of NARA's holdings (at the series level) and not individual records.
- Most Catalog descriptions do not include individual names.

Tools for Genealogists



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AAD



Electronic Records for Genealogy

Electronic Records Reference Report

Introduction

This reference report provides an overview of selected electronic data records in the custody of the National Archives directly relating to genealogy. Full descriptions of the series and data files listed in this report are in [National Archives Catalog](#). Users can search the Catalog by title, National Archives Identifier, type of archival material, or keyword.

Some of the series and files listed in this report are accessible online:

- **Download** - This is a link for downloading the files and documentation from the Catalog. For more details on downloading files, please review the [frequently asked questions \(FAQs\)](#).
- **Search** - This is a link for searching the records via the [Access to Archival Databases \(AAD\)](#) resource.

All of the files are also available for a cost-recovery fee. For more information see: [Ordering Information for Electronic Records](#).



I. Digital Records from the World War II Era

Record Group 38: Records of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations

- **Records of Duty Locations for Naval Intelligence Personnel, 1942 - 1945**

National Archives Identifier: 603333

File Unit: Naval Group China Muster Roll and Report of Change Punch Cards

Online Access: [Download](#) [Search](#)

This data file contains information about the military intelligence personnel attached to Naval Group China during World War II.

Record Group 64: Records of the National Archives and Records Administration

- **World War II Army Enlistment Records, 6/1/2002 - 9/30/2002**

National Archives Identifier: 604257

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National Archives Operations

Research rooms are open to the public by appointment only. Advance virtual consultations are required for research room visits to all research facilities outside the Washington, DC, area and highly encouraged for visits in the Washington, DC, area. Further information is on our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) web page.

The National Archives Museum in Washington, DC, and Presidential Library museums are open to the public without limits on occupancy or days and hours of operation.

More information about the National Archives' response to coronavirus can be found at [archives.gov/coronavirus](https://www.archives.gov/coronavirus).

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<u>Genealogy/ Personal History</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Casualties ▫ Civilians ▫ Military Personnel ▫ Immigrants ▫ Prisoners of War <u>Indexes to</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Photographs ▫ Textual Records 	<u>Private Sector</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Businesses ▫ Foundations ▫ Labor Unions ▫ Securities <u>Places</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Countries ▫ States ▫ Counties ▫ Cities/Towns ▫ Zip Codes 	<u>Wars/ International Relations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Civil War ▫ World War II ▫ Korean War ▫ Vietnam War ▫ Cold War ▫ Diplomatic Records <u>Government Spending</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Contracts ▫ Grants and Assistance 	<u>Time Spans</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ 1800 -1900 ▫ 1900 -1940 ▫ 1940 -1955 ▫ 1955 -1965 ▫ 1965 -1975 ▫ 1975 -1985 ▫ 1985 -1995 ▫ 1995 - present
---	--	---	---

[Browse by Subjects >>](#)

What's New?

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Numerical Identification Files (NUMIDENT)
 This series contains data from the Social Security Administration's Numerical Identification Files (NUMIDENT). The Claim Files contain information extracted from Social Security life or death claims for 25 million deceased individuals. The records include information such as name, social security number, birth date, and birth place. This is in addition to the nearly 50 million NUMIDENT death records and 72 million NUMIDENT application (SS-5) records already on AAD.

Index to the Correspondence
 This series consists of indices that contain information about letters received by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of the Secretary from 1983 - 1995. Most of the letters are from the general public, which were either sent directly to the agency or referred to the agency by other federal agencies, members of Congress, or the White House. The index covers the terms of Secretaries Samuel Pierce, Jack Kemp and Henry Cisneros.

AAD Highlights

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Genealogy/ Personal History

27 series, listed chronologically

Series and Files	No. of Records
Data Files Relating to the Immigration of Russians to the United States, created, ca. 1977 - 2002, documenting the period 1834 - 1897 - Collection CIR	566,865
Russians to America Passenger Data File, 1834 - 1897	527,394
Manifest Header Data File, 1834 - ca. 1900	39,471
Records for Passengers Who Arrived at the Port of New York During the Irish Famine, created, 1977 - 1989, documenting the period 1/12/1846 - 12/31/1851 - Collection CIR	607,822
Famine Irish Passenger Record Data File (FIPAS), 1/12/1846 - 12/31/1851	604,596
List of Ships that Arrived at the Port of New York During the Irish Famine, 1/12/1846 - 12/31/1851	3,226
Data Files Relating to the Immigration of Germans to the United States, created, ca. 1977 - 2002, documenting the period 1850 - 1897 - Collection CIR	4,108,378
Germans to America Passenger Data File, 1850 - 1897	4,068,907
Manifest Header Data File, 1834 - ca. 1900	39,471
Data Files Relating to the Immigration of Italians to the United States, created, ca. 1977 - 2002, documenting the period 1855 - 1900 - Collection CIR	884,839
Italians to America Passenger Data File, 1855 - 1900	845,368
Manifest Header Data File, 1834 - ca. 1900	39,471

https://www.archives.gov




<https://aad.archives.gov/aad/series-list.jsp?cat=GP44>



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Fielded Search


File unit: Famine Irish Passenger Record Data File (FIPAS), 1/12/1846 - 12/31/1851

in the Series: Records for Passengers Who Arrived at the Port of New York During the Irish Famine, created 1977 - 1989, documenting the period 1/12/1846 - 12/31/1851 - *Collection CIR* ([info](#)).

 You may wish to [View the FAQs](#) for this series.

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Enter values below to search within fields.  [show more fields](#)

Field Title	Enter Values
LAST NAME	<div>with all of the values ▼</div> <input type="text"/> Sample Values
FIRST NAME	<div>with all of the values ▼</div> <input type="text"/> Sample Values
AGE	Select from Code List
NATIVE COUNTRY CODE	Select from Code List
DESTINATION	<div>with all of the values ▼</div> <input type="text"/> Sample Values
PASSENGER PORT OF EMBARKATION CODE	Select from Code List
MANIFEST IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	Select from Code List
PASSENGER ARRIVAL DATE	<div>equals ▼</div> <input type="text"/> Sample Values

Crotty Search

You searched for: **Crotty** and any field.

You found **96 partial records** out of 604,596 total records in this file.

* If your search or query has returned more than 1,000 partial records neither the sort option nor the download option can be used. If the width of any column displayed in the partial records is greater than 80 characters, there is no option to sort the partial records by this column.



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Results per page 10 ▾































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View Record	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	AGE	NATIVE COUNTRY CODE	DESTINATION	PASSENGER PORT OF EMBARKATION CODE	MANIFEST IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	PASSENGER ARRIVAL DATE
	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
	CROTTY	ELIZA	age 21	Ireland	USA	CORK	AMERICA 046 05-03-1849 100	05/03/1849
	CROTTY	JOHANNA	age 40	Ireland	USA	WATERFORD	ORINOCO 050 05-08-1849 183	05/08/1849
	CROTTY	BRIDGET	age 32	Ireland	USA	WATERFORD	ORINOCO 050 05-08-1849 183	05/08/1849
	CROTTY	MICHL.	age 21	Ireland	USA	LIVERPOOL	NEW WORLD 004 05-26-1849 487	05/26/1849
	CROTTY	JAMES	age 22	Ireland	USA	LIVERPOOL	FIDELIA 004 05-31-1849 377	05/31/1849
	CROTTY	HANNAH	age 22	Ireland	USA	LIVERPOOL	CONSTELLATION 004 07-02-1850 644	07/02/1850
	CROTTY	U	Born at Sea	Ireland	USA	LIVERPOOL	CONSTELLATION 004 07-02-1850 644	07/02/1850
	CROTTY	JANE	age 40	Ireland	USA	LIVERPOOL	E.Z. 004 07-25-1850 196	07/25/1850

Crotty Results

Genealogy/ Personal History: Civilians

12 series, listed chronologically

Series and Files	No. of Records
Data Files Relating to the Immigration of Russians to the United States, created, ca. 1977 - 2002, documenting the period 1834 - 1897 - Collection CIR 	566,865
 Russians to America Passenger Data File, 1834 - 1897 	527,394
 Manifest Header Data File, 1834 - ca. 1900 	39,471
Records for Passengers Who Arrived at the Port of New York During the Irish Famine, created, 1977 - 1989, documenting the period 1/12/1846 - 12/31/1851 - Collection CIR 	607,822
 Famine Irish Passenger Record Data File (FIPAS), 1/12/1846 - 12/31/1851 	604,596
 List of Ships that Arrived at the Port of New York During the Irish Famine, 1/12/1846 - 12/31/1851 	3,226
Data Files Relating to the Immigration of Germans to the United States, created, ca. 1977 - 2002, documenting the period 1850 - 1897 - Collection CIR 	4,108,378
 Germans to America Passenger Data File, 1850 - 1897 	4,068,907
 Manifest Header Data File, 1834 - ca. 1900 	39,471
Data Files Relating to the Immigration of Italians to the United States, created, ca. 1977 - 2002, documenting the period 1855 - 1900 - Collection CIR 	884,839
 Italians to America Passenger Data File, 1855 - 1900 	845,368
 Manifest Header Data File, 1834 - ca. 1900 	39,471
Index to the Gorgas Hospital Mortuary Registers, created, 1979 - 1991, documenting the period 1906 - 1991 - Record Group 185 	26,213
 Index to the Gorgas Hospital Mortuary Death Records, 1906 - 1991 	26,213
Numerical Identification Files (NUMIDENT), created, 1936 - 2007, documenting the period 1936 - 2007 - Record Group 47 	146,870,508
 Application (SS-5) Files, 1936 - 2007 (Last Names A through B) 	8,962,060
 Application (SS-5) Files, 1936 - 2007 (Last Names C through D) 	8,837,364
 Application (SS-5) Files, 1936 - 2007 	7,614,534



Social Security Application Files

FIRST NAME	JOHN	JOHN
FIRST NAME OVERFLOW		
MIDDLE NAME	JOSEPH	JOSEPH
MIDDLE NAME OVERFLOW		
LAST NAME	ONEIL	ONEIL
LAST NAME OVERFLOW		
SUFFIX NAME		
FILLER 1		
DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH)	06	June
DATE OF BIRTH (DAY)	11	11
DATE OF BIRTH (YEAR)	1867	1867
SEX	1	Male
RACE	1	White
MOTHER'S FIRST NAME	CATHERINE	CATHERINE
MOTHER'S FIRST NAME OVERFLOW		
MOTHER'S MIDDLE NAME		
MOTHER'S MIDDLE NAME OVERFLOW		
MOTHER'S LAST NAME	CLANCY	CLANCY
MOTHER'S LAST NAME OVERFLOW		
MOTHER'S SUFFIX NAME		
FATHER'S FIRST NAME	MARTIN	MARTIN
FATHER'S FIRST NAME OVERFLOW		
FATHER'S MIDDLE NAME		
FATHER'S MIDDLE NAME OVERFLOW		
FATHER'S LAST NAME	ONEIL	ONEIL
FATHER'S LAST NAME OVERFLOW		
FATHER'S SUFFIX NAME		
PLACE OF BIRTH CITY	BOSTON	BOSTON
PLACE OF BIRTH CITY OVERFLOW		
STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY OF BIRTH	MA	Massachusetts

S-5 Application Numident File Example

Tools for Genealogists



- [Catalog Guide for Genealogists | Search the Catalog](#)
- [Electronic Records for Genealogy | Search AAD](#)
- [Digitized by Partners](#)
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Microfilm Publications and Original Records Digitized by Our Digitization Partners

Several of our digitization partners, including Ancestry.com, Fold3.com, and Familysearch.org, have digitized microfilm publications and original records from NARA's holdings and made them available on their websites. The list below includes microfilm publications and original records that have been either partially or wholly digitized by the partners. The list will be updated as additional materials are digitized.

Please note: Familysearch.org is a free site; however it does require registration to access all of the material on the site. Ancestry.com and Fold3.com are both subscription services that allow free searches of some or all index terms for each title. Free access to Ancestry.com and Fold3.com is available in all Research Rooms at National Archives locations, including those in our regional archives and Presidential libraries. All of the digitized records produced under [partnership agreements](#) will be made available through the National Archives Catalog. Original records that have been digitized for which there is no microfilm will have "Original records" listed in the microfilm publication number column. If you experience any issues with the information on this page, please report it to digitization@nara.gov.

Click the column headings to sort or download the [spreadsheet](#) to view on your computer.

Show entries

Search

Series NAID(s)	Microfilm Publication Number	Microform Publication Title (and Link to Images in Catalog if Available)	Fold3.com Link	Ancestry.com Link	FamilySearch.org Link	Other Partner Link	Record Group	NARA Completion Status
201532	Original Records	Defendant Jacket Files for U.S. District Court, Western, Division of Arkansas, Fort Smith Division, 1866-1900		Ancestry.com			51	Not Started
202017	T1249	Records of the Department of State Relating to Internal Affairs of the Soviet Union, 1930-1939	Fold3.com				59	Complete
251747	Original Records	Enrollment Cards for the Five Civilized Tribes (Dawes Enrollment Cards), 1898 - 1914		Ancestry.com			75	Not Started

Tools for Genealogists



- [Catalog Guide for Genealogists | Search the Catalog](#)
- [Electronic Records for Genealogy | Search AAD](#)
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- [Reference Reports](#)
- [More Online Research Tools →](#)

Online Research Tools and Aids

Find Records and Information about Records

Our website contains answers to many of the preliminary research-related questions you might have.

- To find copies of Federal records on our website and/or information about the records and their historical context, you will have to look in several places.
- Some sources listed below are databases while others are online guides, publications, and exhibits.

Ways to Search Online

National Archives Catalog

Our National Archives Catalog is the online portal to our records and information about our records. It provides access to data, digitized records, selected series from Access to Archival Databases (AAD), over one million electronic records from the Electronic Records Archives (ERA), all of the web pages from [Archives.gov](#), and all of the web pages from the Presidential Libraries.

[Go to the National Archives Catalog →](#)

History Hub

Get help with your research and find answers to your questions at History Hub, a crowdsourcing platform sponsored by the National Archives. Experts from the National Archives as well as other experts, history enthusiasts, and citizen archivists are available to help with your research.

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Microfilm Catalog

This is a searchable database of more than 3,400 numbered microfilm. The described microfilm include those created by or purchased by NARA for researchers. Determine which rolls of microfilm may be the most relevant for your research at NARA. You can search for microfilm by keyword, microfilm number, Record Group number, and/or location of our nationwide research facilities. Researchers at our research facilities may use this material for free.

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Access to Archival Databases (AAD) Search or browse some of NARA's electronic records. Search by person, geographic areas, organizations, or dates.

America's Historical Documents - a sample

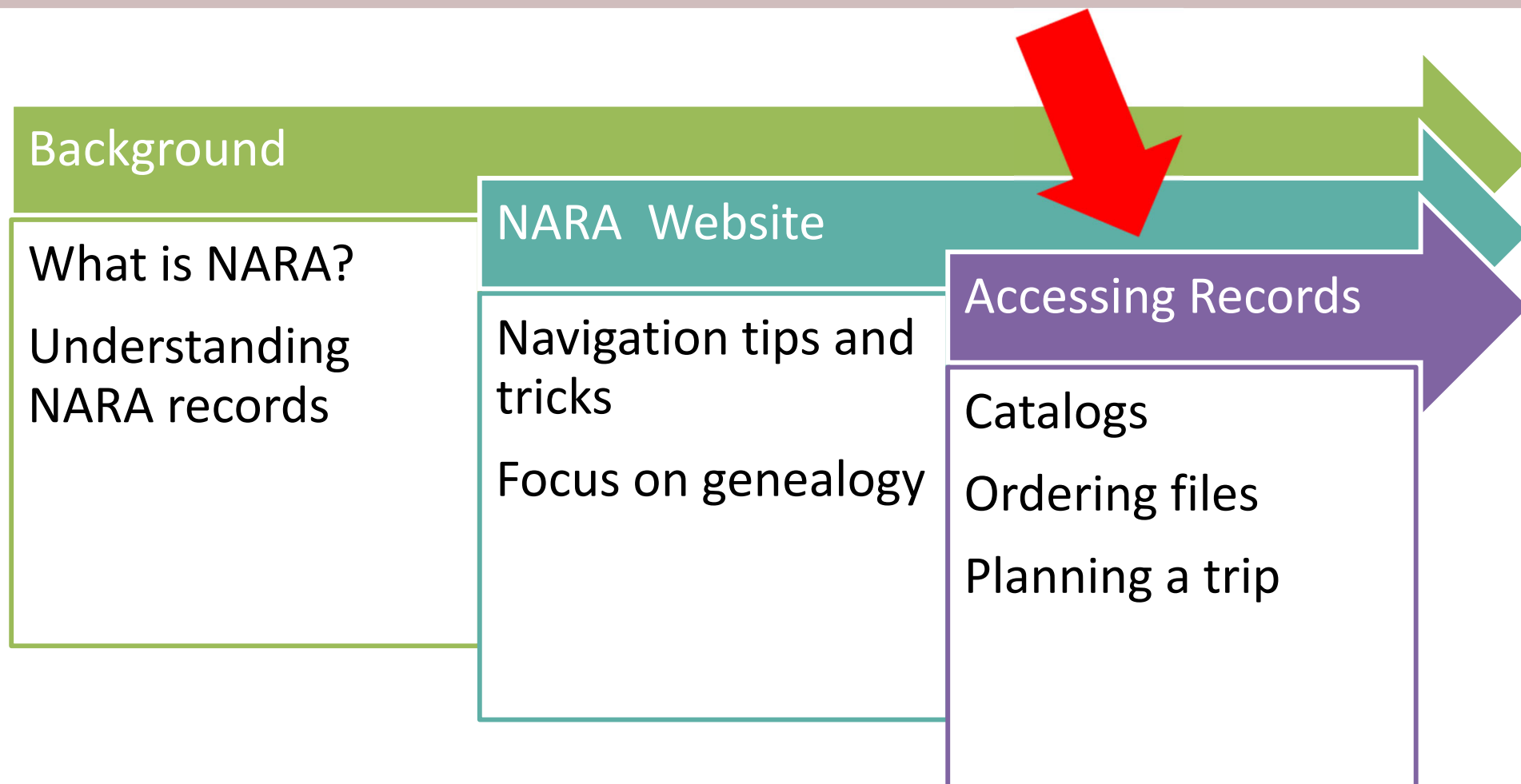
Federal Register - Federal laws, Presidential documents, administrative regulations and notices.

Online Exhibits

Our Documents - 100 milestone documents of American history.

QUESTIONS?

Session Roadmap





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Operating Status

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What's New?

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Research Events

- Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government - September 13, 2022, 6:00 p.m. PDT
- Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government - September 20, 2022, 6:00 p.m. PDT
- Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government - September 27, 2022, 6:00 p.m. PDT
- Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government - October 4, 2022, 6:00 p.m. PDT
- Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government - October 11, 2022, 6:00 p.m. PDT
- Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government - October 18, 2022, 6:00 p.m. PDT
- Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government - October 25, 2022, 6:00 p.m. PDT
- Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government - November 1, 2022, 6:00 p.m. PDT
- Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government - November 8, 2022, 6:00 p.m. PST
- Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government - November 15, 2022, 6:00 p.m. PST
- Becoming America: How We Gained and Secured Freedom and Self-Government - November 22, 2022, 6:00 p.m. PST

Research in the National Archives Catalog



- About the National Archives Catalog
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- Catalog Guide for Genealogists
- Catalog Newsletter
- Record Group Explorer
- Presidential Library Explorer
- Donated Collections Explorer
- Reparative Description and Digitization at the National Archives
- NARA's Statement on Potentially Harmful Content

Other Online Research Tools



- Guide to Federal Records
- Online Tools / Ways to Search Online
- Access to Archival Databases (AAD)
- Microfilm Catalog
- Free Databases at NARA facilities
- Links to Records Digitized by our Partners



Research Your
Ancestry



Research Military
Records



Research a
Specific Topic

Perform research on people,

Record Hierarchy

National Archives Record Hierarchy

Record Group

- Comprises the records of a major government entity

Series

- Records with the same function or created by the same activity

File Unit

- An organized unit of documents grouped together either for current use or in the process of archival arrangement.

Item

- The smallest archival unit (e.g. a letter, memorandum, report, or photograph).



Searching for Names

- Full name in first name, surname order (preferred) but some additional records returned if use surname, first name order
- Surname only
- Variant spellings (wildcards only allowed at end of word)
- Consider Americanized version of first name, e.g. Joseph for Guiseppe
- Consider whether your ancestor participated in an event, search for that

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Search Operators

Search Term	Results
Babe Ruth	Returns results where term Babe is found and where term Ruth is found, in the same record. The AND is implicit 6,233 results
Babe AND Ruth	Same as above 6,233 results
"Babe Ruth"	Exact string 574 results
Babe OR Ruth	All results with term Babe plus all results with term Ruth 136,795 results
Babe NOT Ruth	Results with Babe, but excludes any results with both Babe and Ruth 11,582 results
Bal*	Finds ball, balance, ballast, balderdash, etc.

Keywords for Searching

Topic	Suggested Keywords
African-American	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands”• Slave• Slavery
Court records	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Admiralty case”• “Bankruptcy case”• “Civil case”• “Civil War prize”• “Criminal case”• “Equity case”• “Law case”
Immigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alien• Chinese AND immigration• Immigration• Manifests• Naturalization• “Passenger lists”

More Keywords

Topic	Suggested Keywords
Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Bounty land”• Homestead• “Land entry”
Military	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Bounty land”• “Draft registration”• Pension• “Selective Service”• Service records AND <i>[name of war, ex: Civil War]</i>• Veteran
Native Americans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>[name of tribe, ex: Cherokee]</i>AND “census card”• “Indian allotments”• “Indian funds”• “Indian school”

Clues Your Ancestor May Have a Federal Record

- Well known clues
 - Immigrant (passenger lists or naturalization)
 - Military service (enrollment, service, pensions)
 - Homesteader
- Significant decrease in net worth between censuses – check bankruptcy records
 - Search catalog for bankruptcy AND [state where you ancestor lived at the time]
- Criminal activity
 - Search catalog for (“criminal case” OR inmate) AND [ancestor’s name’]

ARCHIVES.GOV LOGIN REGISTER VETERANS' SERVICE RECORDS HELP API CONTACT US

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("Plowman, George" OR "George Plowman") AND pension

Advanced Search

Login Register

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1 – 13 of 13 results in 0.90 seconds. Did you mean ("pollman, George" OR "George pollman") AND pension?

Show expanded search terms

Highlight Results Sort Share Export

▼ Refine By: Data Source

Archival Descriptions with Digital Objects (12)

Archival Descriptions (1)

▼ Refine By: Level of Description

File Unit (13)

▼ Refine By: Type of Materials

Textual Records (13)

▼ Refine By: File Format

Image (JPG) (12)


▼ Refine By: Location

National Archives - Washington, DC - Archives I Textual Reference (12)


National Archives at St. Louis (1)

All Available Online Web Pages Documents Images Videos


Results per page: 20




Plowman, George H - Age 22, Year: 1862 - Sixteenth Infantry, G-Z
From RG: 94
Carded Records Showing Military Service of Soldiers Who Fought in Volunteer Organizations During the American Civil War
National Archives Identifier: 45286521 HMS Entry Number(s): PI17 519
Creator: War Department. Record and Pension Office. 1892-5/11/1904



[Minnesota] Plowman, George - 2nd Infantry, Company K
From RG: 94
Indexes to the Carded Records of Soldiers Who Served in Volunteer Organizations During the Civil War
The volunteer's Enlistment Rank is listed as Pvt and the Discharge Rank is listed as Pvt.
National Archives Identifier: 83814601 HMS Entry Number(s): PI-17 520
Creator: War Department. Record and Pension Office. 1892-5/11/1904



[Minnesota] Plowman, George - 4th Infantry, Company I
From RG: 94
Indexes to the Carded Records of Soldiers Who Served in Volunteer Organizations During the Civil War
The volunteer's Enlistment Rank is listed as 2 Lieut and the Discharge Rank is listed as 2 Lieut.
National Archives Identifier: 83814603 HMS Entry Number(s): PI-17 520
Creator: War Department. Record and Pension Office. 1892-5/11/1904



Ploughman, George - Unit: 6th Heavy Artillery, Company: C - Enlistment Rank: Pvt, Discharge Rank: Pvt
From RG: 94
Indexes to the Carded Records of Soldiers Who Served in Volunteer Organizations During the Civil War
National Archives Identifier: 50971055 HMS Entry Number(s): PI-17 520
Creator: War Department. Record and Pension Office. 1892-5/11/1904

("Plowman, George" OR "George Plowman") AND pension

Interpreting Your Results

Record Hierarchy

Record Group 94:
Records of the Adjutant
General's Office, 1762 - 1984

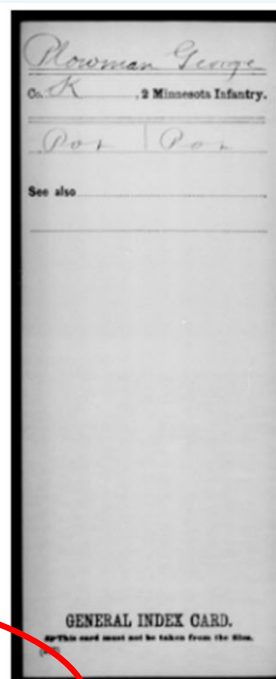
Series:

Indexes to the Carded
Records of Soldiers Who
Served in Volunteer
Organizations During the
Civil War, 1899 - 1927

File Unit:

[Minnesota] **Plowman,**
George - 2nd Infantry,
Company K

[Minnesota] Plowman, George - 2nd Infantry, Company K



Fold3 File #299661689, Image provided by Fold3.



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Details



Level of Description:	File Unit
Type(s) of Archival Materials:	Textual Records
The creator compiled or maintained the series between:	1899 - 1927
Access Restriction(s):	Unrestricted
Use Restriction(s):	Unrestricted
Microform Publication(s):	<u>M546</u> The start of this file can be found on Roll 7. Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the State of Minnesota.
Online Resource(s):	<u>Fold3</u> This file was scanned as part of a collaboration effort between Fold3 and the National Archives.

Scope & Content



The volunteer's Enlistment Rank is listed as Pvt and the Discharge Rank is listed as Pvt.

Variant Control Numbers



ARC Identifier:	83814601
Search Identifier:	Fold3 2018
HMS/MLR Entry Number:	PI-17 520

Tip
Sometimes You Have to
Order a Record

Frequently Ordered NARA Records

- Military
 - Service records
 - Civil War pensions
- Immigration and Naturalization
 - A-files
- Land
 - Homestead case files

Welcome



Record Reproductions & Microfilm

Order copies of select records.

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Research and order Federal records stored as microfilm.

[Microfilm](#)

User Login

Registration is required to submit a **Reference Request** or **Order Reproductions** online. If you are already a registered user, please enter your User ID and Password.

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Check My Reference Request or Order Status

Enter your Reference Request Number or Order Number.

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FAQs

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<https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline/start.swe?SWECmd=Start&SWEHo=eservices.archives.gov>

How to Order Older Military Service or Pension Records

Select the type of Military Service or Pension Records (pre-1917) you need and select the Order Online or Download the Form link:

Military Service Records

[Order Online](#)  | [Download the Form](#) 

Form Number: **NATF 86**

Use to: Order compiled records based on pre-1917 military service in the United States forces.

Military Pension/Bounty-Land Warrant Applications

[Order Online](#)  | [Download the Form](#) 

Form Number: **NATF 85**

Use to: Order copies of military pension application files based on Federal (not State or Confederate) service between 1775 and 1903 (before World War I).

Categories of pension/bounty land files available using NATF Form 85:

Order copies of military pension application files based on Federal (not State or Confederate) service between 1775 and 1903 (before World War I).


Categories of pension/bounty land files available using NATF Form 85:

1. A complete Civil War and later pension application file (up to 100 pages), based on Federal (not State or Confederate) military service during the Civil War or later (includes the Pension Documents Packet.)
2. A complete Federal pre-Civil War military pension application based on Federal military service before 1861 (includes the Pension Documents Packet.)
3. A pension document packet that contains reproductions of eight documents containing genealogical information about the pension applicant, to the extent these documents are present in the file.
4. A complete military bounty land application file based on service 1775-1855 (includes only rejected Revolutionary War applications).

Step 1: Choose the Record Type

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Select an item to view Additional Details and Add to Cart

Items

Compiled Military Service File (NATF 86)

Compiled records based on military service in the United States Army for regular forces raised by the Federal Government (officers who served before June 30, 1917 and enlisted men who served before October 31, 1912), Confederate Armed Forces (officers and enlisted men, 1861-1865), and volunteer service during wars from the Revolutionary War through the Phillipine Insurrection, (1775-1902).

Fee (includes shipping & handling): \$30.00

Federal Military Pension Application - Civil War and Later Complete File (NATF 85D)

Reproduction of the complete pension application file (up to 100 pages), based on Federal (not State or Confederate) military service during the Civil War or later. It includes the Pension Documents Packet and all other information of an official or personal nature in the file. If the file exceeds 100 pages, you will receive a form and instructions to order copies of the remaining pages.

Fee (includes shipping & handling): \$80.00

Federal Military Pension Application - Pre-Civil War Complete File (NATF 85A)

Reproduction of the complete pension application file, based on Federal (not State or Confederate) military service before the Civil War. It includes the Pension Documents Packet and all other information of an official or personal nature in the file.

Fee (includes shipping & handling): \$55.00

Federal Military Pension Applications - Pension Documents Packet (NATF 85B)

Reproduction of eight documents that contain genealogical information about the pension applicant, to the extent they are present in the file. These documents are for Federal (not State or Confederate) service between 1775 and 1912 (before World War I). Select the FAQ at the right for a list of specific documents.

Fee (includes shipping & handling): \$30.00

Military Bounty-Land Warrant Application File (NATF 85C)

Bounty-land warrant application files are based on Federal (not State) military service before 1856. Documents in a bounty-land warrant application are similar to those in a pension application file. In addition, these files usually give the veteran's age and place of residence at the time the application was submitted.

FAQs

Is the NATF

What i packe includ

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Why c 1789?

Step 2: Choose the file and add to cart

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Select **Add to Cart** to **provide your order details** and add the item to your shopping cart.

Item	Value
1	10
2	20
3	30
4	40
5	50
6	60
7	70
8	80
9	90
10	100

Federal Military Pension Application - Civil War and Later Complete File (NATF 85D)

Add to Cart

Fee (includes shipping & handling): \$80.00

Select a Delivery Format:

This product usually ships in 42 - 120 calendar days.

Item Details

[Additional Information about Federal Military Service Pension Application Files at the National Archives](#)

Civil War Pension File Sample Image (.pdf)

Indian Wars Pension File Sample Image (.pdf)

Add to Cart

FAQs

◀ 1 - 5 of 6+ ▶

How can I find more information about my ancestor's military service?

Is the online Federal Military Pension Application File the same as the NATF Form 85?

What is the difference between a complete and packet?

Ann Lawthers (Ann.Lawthers@neh

Are the documents provided in the Pension Documents Packet included in the Complete Pension File?

If I purchase the complete pension file after I have already purchased the pension documents packet, will the fee for the complete pension file be reduced?

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Registration is required to submit a **Reference Request** or **Order Reproductions** online. If you are already a registered user, please enter your User ID and Password.

User ID: Password: [New User?](#)[Forgot Your User ID?](#)[Forgot Your Password?](#)[Archives.gov Home](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Freedom of Information Act](#)

The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001
Telephone: 1-86-NARA-NARA or 1-866-272-6272

Step 4: Log In

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Order Information - Federal Military Pension Application-Civil War and Later Complete File

[Save & Finish Later](#)
[Cancel Order](#)

[Continue to Pay & Ship](#)

Do not use your browser's Back or Forward buttons while you are ordering.

OMB No: 3095-0027

Expires: 03/31/2014

Please provide the following information, if known. The ★ indicates this information is required to process your order.

Do you need to stop, do more research, and **come back later**? Then, use the **Save & Finish Later** button.

Not sure what something means or where to find the required information? Then, visit our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section for more information.

Veteran's Identification	Service Description - General	Service Description - Army	Application Information
★ Veteran's First Name: <input type="text"/>	★ Branch of Service in Which he Served: -Select- ▼		Pension File Number: <input type="text"/>
Veteran's Middle Name: <input type="text"/>	Rank: -Select- ▼	Service Description - Navy <input type="text"/>	Name of Widow or Other Claimant: <input type="text"/>
★ Veteran's Last Name: <input type="text"/>	★ Kind of Service: Not Sure ▼	Service Description - Marine Corps <input type="text"/>	
Year of Birth (YYYY): <input type="text"/>	★ War in Which he Served: -Select- ▼		
Year of Death (YYYY): <input type="text"/>	★ State From Which he Served: <input type="text"/>		
Place of Birth (City, County, State, etc.): <input type="text"/>			
Place of Death (City, County, State, etc.): <input type="text"/>			
Place(s) Veteran Lived After Service: <input type="text"/>			
If Veteran Lived In a Home for Soldiers, Give Location (City and State): <input type="text"/>			
Please provide any additional information (e.g., alternate spellings of the Veteran's name) or comments here: <input type="text"/>			

Step 5: File in the details

Order Details - Federal Military Pension Application-Civil War and Later Complete File

Edit Order Details

Submit Order

OMB No: 3095-0027
Expires: 03/31/2014

Veteran's Identification	Service Description - General	Service Description - Army	Application Information
* Veteran's First Name: George	* Branch of Service in Which he Served: Army	Arm in Which he Served: Infantry	Pension File Number: 296905(soldier)536874 (Widow)
Veteran's Middle Name:	Rank: Enlisted	If Other, Please Specify:	Name of Widow or Other Claimant: Selina Plowman
* Veteran's Last Name: Plowman	* Kind of Service: Not Sure	Company: K & I	
Year of Birth (YYYY): 1838	* War in Which he Served: Union, Civil War (1861-1865)	Regiment: 2 & 4	
Year of Death (YYYY): 1902	* State From Which he Served: Minnesota		
Place of Birth (City, County, State, etc.): Ontario, Canada		Service Description - Navy	
Place of Death (City, County, State, etc.): Le Sueur, Minnesota		Service Description - Marine Corps	
Place(s) Veteran Lived After Service: Le Sueur, Minnesota			
If Veteran Lived In a Home for Soldiers, Give Location (City and State):			

Please provide any additional information (e.g., alternate spellings of the Veteran's name) or comments here:

Edit Order Details

Submit Order

Review

Planning a Trip

Using a Research Room

- Registration – Card valid for 1 year
 - Id with photo
 - Complete form
 - Watch presentation
 - Takes 15-20 minutes at first visit
- Call in advance
 - Strongly recommended
 - Check availability of what you seek
- Complete pull slips for records

Completing a Pull Slip

- Record group
- Entry name
- Entry number
- Box number
- Folder title/File number
- Location



From the Catalog

Summary

- The National Archives preserves federal records from about 1775 forward
- The NARA website has implemented numerous tools to help genealogists find the records they seek
- Records are frequently available through digitization partnerships with NARA
- Frequently ordered records include:
 - Ship Passenger Arrival records, 1820-1959
 - Individual Census Pages, 1790-1940
 - Eastern Cherokee Applications, 1906-1909
 - Federal Land Entry Files
 - Federal Military Pension Files for the Revolutionary War through the Civil War
 - Bounty land warrant applications
 - Compiled Military Service Records through the Spanish-American War

QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services

research@nehgs.org

Chat with a Genealogist

AmericanAncestors.org/chat

Navigating our Nation's Federal Records 2022

Thank you for registering for the online course, *Navigating our Nation's Federal Records*!

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Washington, DC is home to a genealogical goldmine of federal records kept since our nation's founding. From military pension records to federal land grants to immigration and naturalization records and beyond, this five-session online seminar will introduce you to the many records available, discuss how to access them from home or in-person, and demonstrate how to leverage these resources in your family history research.

This course includes five 90-minute classes; exclusive access to handouts and recordings of each presentation; and in-depth q&a sessions with the instructors. These recordings and all course materials will be available for the foreseeable future.

JOIN THE LIVE SESSIONS

Click here to join the live broadcasts: <https://zoom.us/j/99357341114>

If you are unable to attend the live session, you will be able to watch the recordings on this course page.

COURSE SCHEDULE

September 28 - Class 1: Overview of the NARA System

Presented by Ann G. Lawthers

The website of the National Archives and Records Administration ([Archives.gov](https://www.archives.gov)) is your at-home portal to a myriad of records. This first class will demonstrate how to navigate the online catalog, access or request records from home, and, because not everything is online, discuss tips for planning a research trip. We will also discuss the difference between the National Archives in Washington, DC and the regional branches found across the country.

October 5 - Class 2: Military and Pension Files

Presented by David Allen Lambert

The military records at the National Archives detail service given between 1775 and 1912. Military expert David Allen Lambert will discuss how to locate, access, and utilize compiled service records, pension applications, and other resources that detail your veteran ancestor's service. He will also discuss briefly more recent records available through the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis (WWI-present).

October 12 - Class 3: Federal Land Records: Bounty Land, Land Entry Files, and Homesteading

<https://www.americanancestors.org/navigating-our-nations-federal-records-2022>

A large audience is seated in a conference hall, facing a stage. The audience is seen from behind, filling the foreground and middle ground. The stage is at the far end of the room, featuring a large presentation screen displaying a slide. The room has a high ceiling with recessed lighting. The overall image has a warm, reddish-brown tint.

THANK YOU!

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