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Session Roadmap

Background

What is NARA?
Understanding NARA Records



Voice of
Ann G. Lawthers
Genealogist

NARA Website

Navigation Tips and Tricks
Focus on genealogy

Accessing Records

Catalogs
Ordering files
Planning a trip

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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
Washington, D.C.

Regional Archives


Regional Records Centers

Presidential Libraries


Affiliated Archives

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NARA's Regional Archives




SEATTLE, WA




ANCHORAGE, AK




DENVER, CO




SAN FRANCISCO, CA




CHICAGO, IL




KANSAS CITY, MO




ST. LOUIS, MO




FORT WORTH, TX




DALLAS, TX



NEW YORK CITY, NY



PHILADELPHIA, PA



ATLANTA, GA

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

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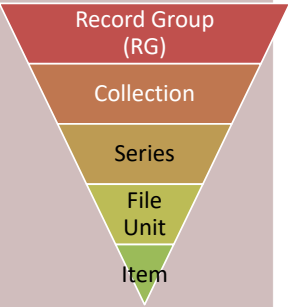
NARA Records

- 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

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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>

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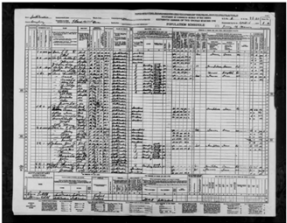
Record Hierarchy

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

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

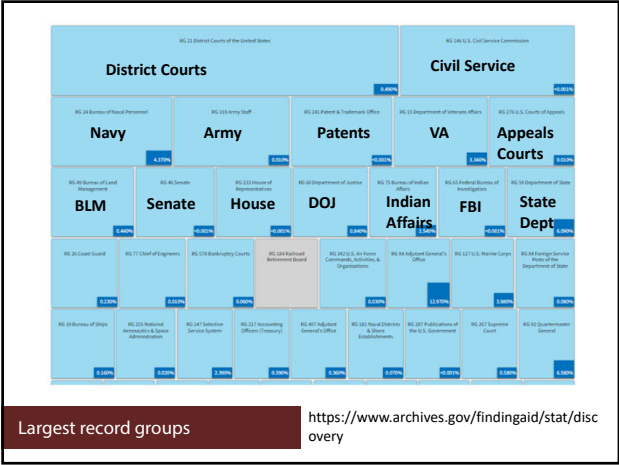
File Unit:
1940 Census - South Carolina - Orangeburg County

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



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>



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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		4,765,204
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

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Which RGs Have Genealogy Records?

NARA Record Group	Record Type
RG 29-Census	• Census
RG 85-INS, RG 36-Customs	• Passenger Lists
RG 85-INS, RG 21-District Courts	• Naturalizations
RG 24-Navy, 93-Rev War 94, Adjutant General, RG 109-Confederate Records	• Compiled Military Service Records
RG 15-VA	• Military Pension Files
RG 49-BLM	• Homestead Files

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

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

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

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Records of the Veterans Administration [VA]

(Record Group 15)

1773-1885

Overview of Records Locations

Table of Contents

- 15.1 Administrative History
 - 15.1.1 Records of the Bureau of Pensions and its Predecessors 1805-1915
 - 15.1.1.1 General records
 - 15.1.1.2 Legal records
 - 15.1.1.3 Financial records
- 15.3 Records Relating to the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers and the National Homes Service, Veterans Administration 1866-1938
 - 15.3.1 General records
 - 15.3.2 Records of the Bureau of War Risk Insurance and the Insurance Division, U.S. Veterans Bureau 1914-34
 - 15.3.2.1 Records of the Allotment and Allowance Division
 - 15.3.2.2 Records of the Marine and Seaman's Insurance Division
 - 15.3.2.3 Records of the Civil Relief Section
 - 15.3.2.4 Records of the Insurance Division
 - 15.3.2.5 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 General office records
 - 15.5.2 Records of district and regional offices
- 15.6 Records of the Veterans Administration 1866-1909
 - 15.6.1 Records of the Office of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs
 - 15.6.1.1 General records
 - 15.6.1.2 Records of the Investigation Division
 - 15.6.1.3 Records of the Office of Construction
 - 15.6.1.4 Records of the Directives Management Division
 - 15.6.2 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>

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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>

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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

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Records of Groups Interacting with the Government

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

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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 Deconstructing 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": Kansas 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 Kaitman: 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

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Genealogy

OverviewContentPeopleSubspacesActionsAbout

Sign in to follow, share, and participate in this community. Not a member? Join Now!

NEW THE BLOG

Genealogy

All Content (1424)

Type to filter by textFilter by tagSort by date created · newest first

Looking for information on Anyet family name and John Anyet?

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

last modified by Scott West

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 mother's was Langley or Longley.

last modified by Carolyn Mack

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 Ursula Gabalaite (Technically its Gabala as her father indicates even in the a...

last modified by Dale Dowell

History Hub Questions

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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

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Re-cap (cont.)

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

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QUESTIONS?

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Session Roadmap

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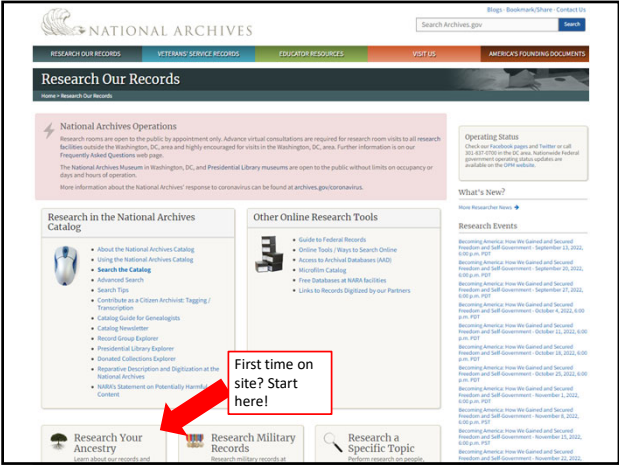
Catalogs

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Planning a trip



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Start Your Family Research

Learn how you can use the resources at the National Archives to explore your family history.

- Start Your Genealogy Research
- Genealogy Resources
- Charts and Forms
- Free Databases at National Archives Facilities
- 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

[Image of a PowerPoint slide titled 'Introduction to NARA Resources']

[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

[Image of a video player showing a person at a desk with a sign that says 'Census Records']

NARA Records

How to Use Records

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Start Your Family Research

Learn how you can use the resources at the National Archives to explore your family history.

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- Charts and Forms
- Free Databases at National Archives Facilities
- 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 try [these our Catalog guides for Genealogists and Family Historians](#).

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 Books), 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 Internment at Camp Nelson, KY, 1864-1865, Search in the National Archives Catalog

Reference Reports

Online Highlights

Further down the page . . .

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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 FamilySearch), or FamilySearch, 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

Asian Americans

Census

Citizenship

District of Columbia

Federal Employees

Hispanic Americans

Immigration

Military

Records and Populations

Related Topics

Research in Electronic Records

Research African American Records at NARA

Research Immigration Records (Ship Passenger Arrivals)

Research Military Records at NARA

Research Native American Records at NARA

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

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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

By State

Alabama

Arkansas

District of Columbia

Florida


Georgia

Kentucky

Louisiana

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

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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

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Resources for Genealogists

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- African Americans
- Asian Americans
- Census
- Immigration and Naturalization
- Military

Related Topics

Research in Electronic Records
Research African American Records at NARA
Research Immigration Records (Ship Passenger Arrivals)
Research Military Records at NARA
Research Native American Records at NARA

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

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Research at the National Archives

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African American Research

Freedmen's Bureau Records
Black Family Research: Post-Civil War
African American Research
African American Reference Reports
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Veterans' Service Records
Military Records
WWII Pictures of African Americans
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Search Archives.gov

Search

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VETERANS SERVICE RECORDS

EDUCATOR RESOURCES

VISIT US

AMERICA'S FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

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
- FamilySearch
- Free Databases at National Archives Facilities
- NARA Genealogy Videos (YouTube)

Popular Topics

- Census 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 AID
- 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 tool will not help you find information on a specific person. However, we have many tools and resources that can help you to learn more about your 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
Subscribe to Email Newsletter Updates
Connect with us on Social Media

Other Learning Resources

Videos from our Virtual Genealogy Fair
Videos from our "New Your Research" series

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

1950 CENSUS

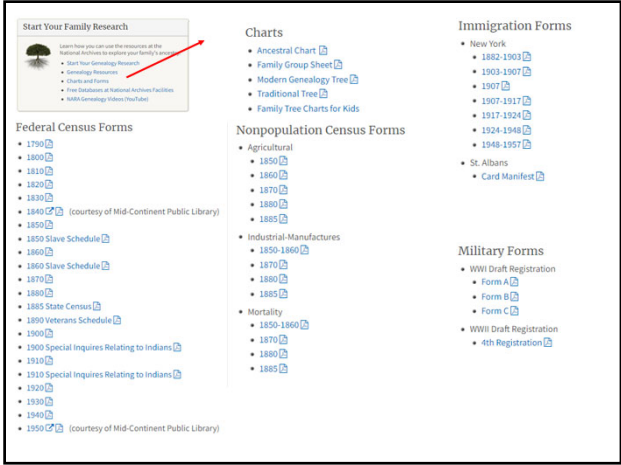
EXPLORE & COLLABORATE

The 1950 Census

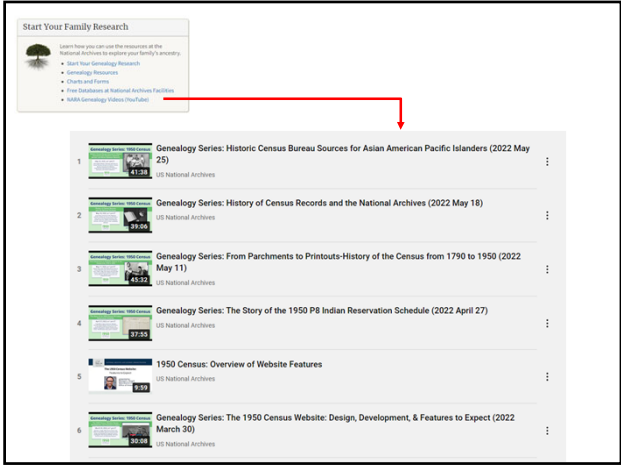
View questions asked on the 1950 Census, instructions for enumerators and the public, blank census forms, information and training videos, and more!

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Popular Topics




- Census Records
- Military Service Records
- Immigration Records
- Naturalization Records
- More Topics and Record Types →


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?


Search Censuses by Year and Ancestor's Name

Learn about Census Records

Order Copies of Census Records

Ask a Question at History Hub's Census Community

Visit a NARA Research Room

Hire an Independent Researcher

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Genealogy

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Census

Census Main Page

About Census Records

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1790 Census FAQs

1930 Census FAQs

1940 Census

1950 Census

1850-1940 Census Clues

1790-1840 Census Clues

Nonpopulation Census

1935 Business Census

Indian Census Rolls

Presidents in the US Census Records

Census Links by Year

Resources

Soundex Coding System

Blank Census Forms and charts

Order Census Copies Online

Using Census Microfilm

Ask Census Questions at History Hub

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.

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 restriction on access to 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

Search Census Records Online



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

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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, 1840 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.

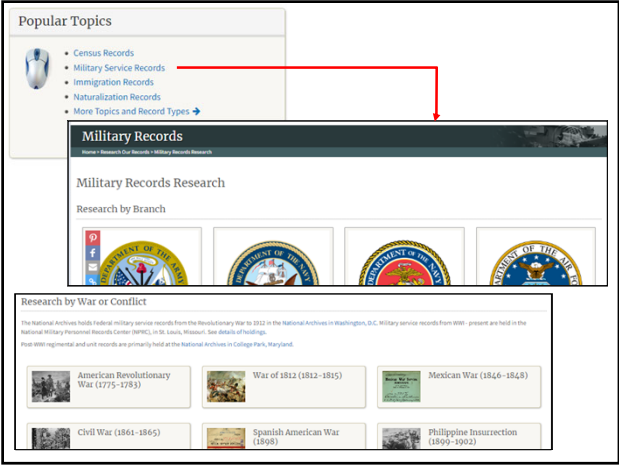
Number of children

- 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.

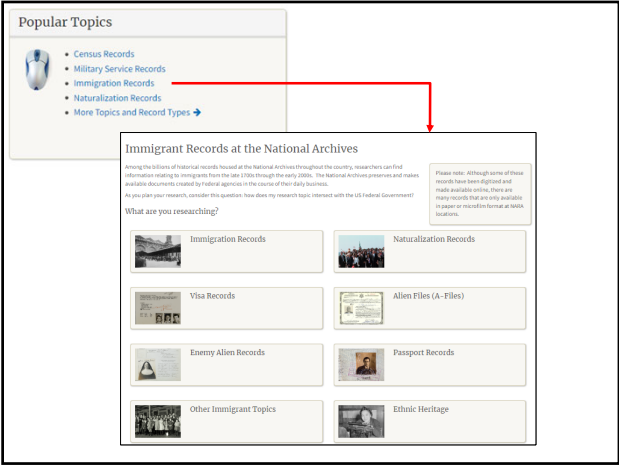
https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1850-1940

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Brue Family Learning Center

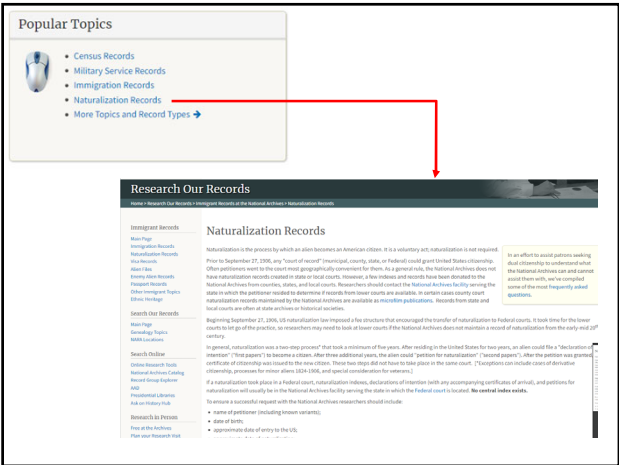
15



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Popular Topics

- Census Records
- Military Service Records
- Immigration Records
- Naturalization Records
- More Topics and Record Types →

Genealogy Research Topics

- African-American Research
- Aliens
- Bankruptcy Case Files
- Caring for your Family Archives
- Census Records (1790-1940)
- Chinese Immigration
- Citing records in the National Archives of the United States
- Congressional Records: Private Claims and Private Legislation
- Court Records
- Electronic Records for Genealogy or Other Personal Research
- Ethnic Heritage Research and Resources
- Exploration and American Expansion
- Federal Employees
- Immigration Records
- Income Tax Records of the Civil War Years
- Internal Migration
- Japanese Americans

- Land Records
- Maps of interest to Genealogists
- Maritime
- Microfilmed Records
- Military Records
- Native American Records
- Naturalization Records
- Naval Records
- Passenger Lists
- Passport Applications
- Post Office Records
- Pre-Federal Records
- Prisons
- Social Security Records
- State Department Records of Genealogical interest
- Tax Records
- Vital Records
- Women

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Tools for Genealogists

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Tools for Genealogists

- Catalog Guide for Genealogists | Search the Catalog
- Electronic Records for Genealogy | Search AAD
- DIY
- My
- Re
- Mo

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 90% of our records, described at the series level. This means you can find basic information about the records, including date 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 individual names; however, the National Archives still might have records about your ancestors. It may be necessary to consult other records to determine if a record in the Catalog is the one you are looking for.

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 hold facilities – not just selected facilities.
- 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.

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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

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 this, please review the frequently asked questions (FAQ).
- 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 316: Records of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations

- Records of Duty Locations for Naval Intelligence Personnel, 1942 - 1945**
Accession Number: 623333
Also see: 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 I Army Enlistment Records, 4/1/1918 - 9/30/1918**

AAD

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES

RESEARCH OUR RECORDS

VETERANS' SERVICE RECORDS

EDUCATOR RESOURCES

VISIT US

Research Our Records

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 nationwide in 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](#).

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

Other Online Research Tools

- Guide to Federal Records
- Access to Archival Databases (AAD)
- Free Databases at NARA facilities
- Links to Records Digitized by our Partners

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

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Access to Archival Databases (AAD)

Access to Archival Databases (AAD)

AAD TOOLS

Search AAD

Advanced Search

Getting Started Guide

Search by Category

Genealogy / Personal History

- Census
- Civilian Personnel
- Immigration
- Photographs
- Technical Records

Private Sector

- Businesses
- Foundations
- Labour Unions
- Services
- Other
- Guards
- States
- Churches
- Civilian Records
- Zoo Codes

Wars / International Relations

- Conf. War
- World War II
- European War
- United States
- Conf. War
- Other
- Government Spending
- Grants and Assistance

Time Spans

- 1800-1900
- 1900-1940
- 1940-1950
- 1950-1960
- 1960-1970
- 1970-1980
- 1980-1990
- 1990-present

What's New?

Numerical Identification Files (NUPIDENT)

This series contains data from the Social Security Administration's Numerical Identification Files (NUPIDENT). The series includes information extracted from Social Security file or death claims for 52 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 NUPIDENT claim records and 72 million NUPIDENT registration SSN-2 records already on AAD.

[Index to the Correspondence](#)

This series consists of index that contain information about letters received by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of the Secretary from 1963 - 1980. 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 House of Representatives. The index covers the terms of Secretaries Samuel Hays, Jack Kemp and Henry Cisler.

AAD Highlights

Most Popular

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

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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 CSP	566,865
<input type="checkbox"/> Russians to America Passenger Data File, 1834 - 1897	527,394
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 CSP	607,822
<input type="checkbox"/> Famine Irish Passenger Record Data File (FIPRS), 1/12/1846 - 12/31/1851	604,596
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 CSP	4,108,378
<input type="checkbox"/> Germans to America Passenger Data File, 1850 - 1897	4,068,907
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 CSP	884,839
<input type="checkbox"/> Italians to America Passenger Data File, 1855 - 1900	845,368
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 285	26,213
<input type="checkbox"/> 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
<input type="checkbox"/> Application (SS-5) Files, 1936 - 2007 (Last Name A through S)	8,962,060
<input type="checkbox"/> Application (SS-5) Files, 1936 - 2007 (Last Name C through Z)	8,837,364
<input type="checkbox"/> Application (SS-5) Files, 1936 - 2007	7,614,534

Social Security Application Files

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SS-5 Application Numident File Example

FIRST NAME OVERFLOW		
SECOND NAME	JOSEPH	JOSEPH
THIRD NAME OVERFLOW		
LAST NAME	OWEN	OWEN
LAST NAME OVERFLOW		
BIRTH NAME		
DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH)	06	June
DATE OF BIRTH (DAY)	11	11
DATE OF BIRTH (YEAR)	1887	1887
SEX	M	Male
RACE	W	White
FATHER'S FIRST NAME	CATHERINE	CATHERINE
FATHER'S LAST NAME		
FATHER'S BIRTH NAME		
FATHER'S BIRTH DATE		
FATHER'S BIRTH CITY		
FATHER'S BIRTH STATE	CLANCY	CLANCY
FATHER'S BIRTH COUNTRY		
FATHER'S BIRTH NAME	MARTIN	MARTIN
FATHER'S BIRTH DATE		
FATHER'S BIRTH CITY		
FATHER'S BIRTH STATE		
FATHER'S BIRTH COUNTRY		
FATHER'S BIRTH NAME	OWEN	OWEN
FATHER'S BIRTH DATE		
FATHER'S BIRTH CITY	BOSTON	BOSTON
FATHER'S BIRTH STATE		
FATHER'S BIRTH COUNTRY	MA	Massachusetts

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Tools for Genealogists

Catalog Guide for Genealogists | Search the Catalog

Electronic Records for Genealogy | Search AAD

Digitized by Partners

Microfilm Catalog

Reference

More On...

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. This list will be updated as additional materials are digitized.

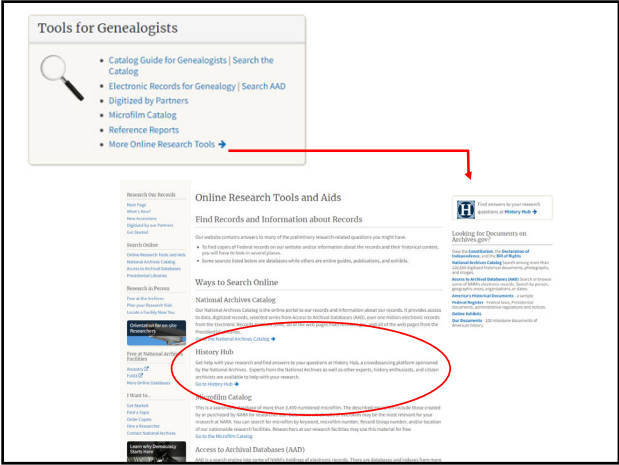
Please note: FamilySearch.org is only accessible to those who have a FamilySearch account. Ancestry.com and Fold3.com are both subscription services that allow free searches of some or all of the records for each title. Free access to Ancestry.com and Fold3.com is available in all research rooms at national archives locations, including those in our regional archives and reference libraries. All of the digitized records included 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 Supply" 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 100 results

Search

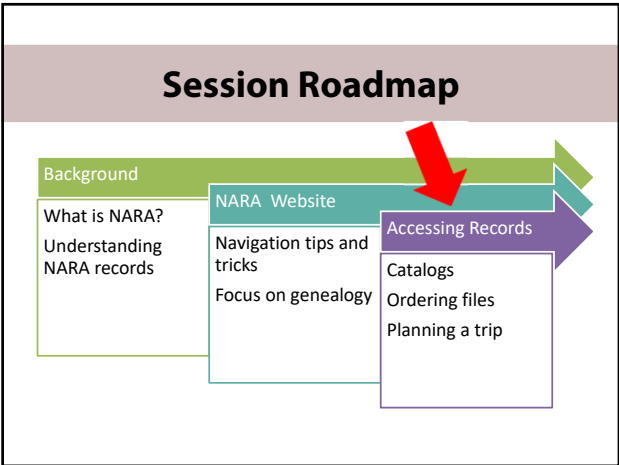
Index Number	Microfilm Publication Number	Microform Publication Title (and Link to Images in Catalog if Available)	Fold3.com Link	Ancestry.com Link	FamilySearch.org Link	Other Partner Link	Record Group	NARA Completion Status
201032	Original Records	Defendant Jacket Files for U.S. District Court, Western, Division of Arkansas, Fort Smith Division, 1866-1900		Ancestry.com			51	Not Started
200017	11286	Records of the Department of Navy Relating to Internal Affairs of the Soviet Union, 1939-1939	Fold3.com				59	Complete
251747	Original Records	Environment Cards for the New England States (Dwain Environment Cards), 1908-1924		Ancestry.com			75	Not Started



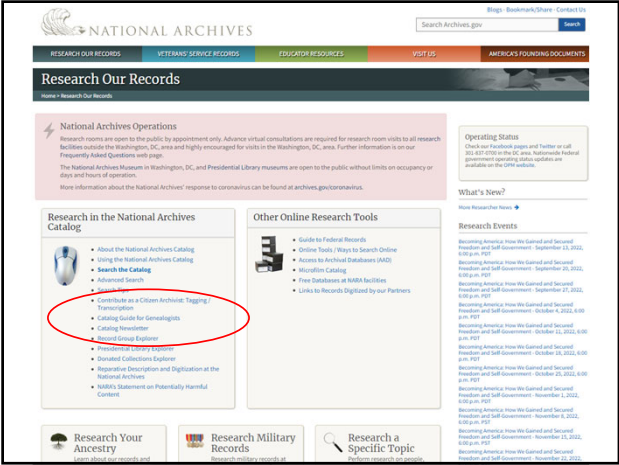
61



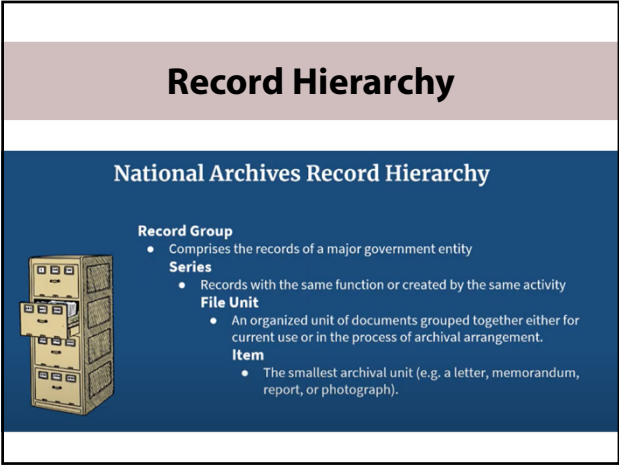
62



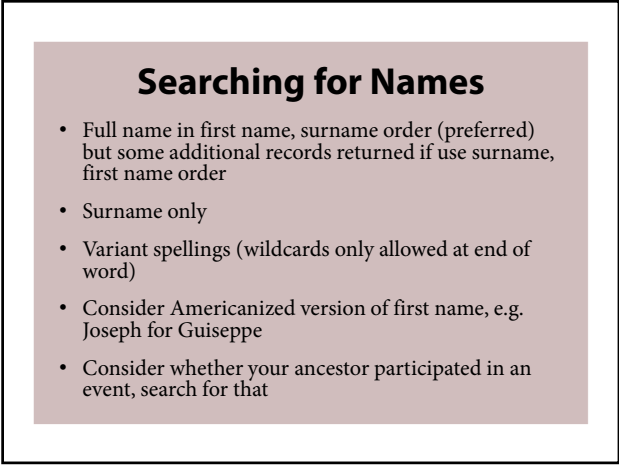
63



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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.	

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Keywords for Searching	
Topic	Suggested Keywords
African-American	<ul style="list-style-type: none">"Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands"SlaveSlavery
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">AlienChinese AND immigrationImmigrationManifestsNaturalization"Passenger lists"

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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 [name of war, ex: Civil War]Veteran
Native Americans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">[name of tribe, ex: Cherokee]AND “census card”“Indian allotments”“Indian funds”“Indian school”

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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]

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

Advanced Search

1 - 13 of 13 results in 0.90 seconds. Did you mean "plowman, George" OR "George plowman" AND pension?

Refine By: Data Source: Available Online Web Pages Documents Images Videos

Refine By: Level of Description: Archival Descriptions with Digital Objects (12) Archival Descriptions (1)

Refine By: Type of Materials: Textual Records (1)

Refine By: File Format: Image (JPEG) (12)

Refine By: Location: National Archives Washington, DC: Archives I Textual Reference (12) National Archives at St. Louis (1)

Plowman, George H: April 22, Year: 1862 - Sixteenth Infantry, G-2

Cardinal Records Showing Military Service of Soldiers Who Fought in Volunteer Organizations During the American Civil War

National Archives Identifier: 1016022 NNS Entry Number(s): P17-120

Creator: War Department, Record and Pension Office, 1892-5/13/1904

Plowman, George - 2nd Infantry, Company K

From RG: 94

Index 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: 1016022 NNS Entry Number(s): P17-120

Creator: War Department, Record and Pension Office, 1892-5/13/1904

Plowman, George - 4th Infantry, Company I

From RG: 94

Index to the Carded Records of Soldiers Who Served in Volunteer Organizations During the Civil War

The volunteer's Enlistment Rank is listed as 2 Lt and the Discharge Rank is listed as 2 Lt.

National Archives Identifier: 1016022 NNS Entry Number(s): P17-120

Creator: War Department, Record and Pension Office, 1892-5/13/1904

Plowman, George - Unit: 6th Heavy Artillery, Company C - Enlistment Rank: Pvt, Discharge Rank: Pvt

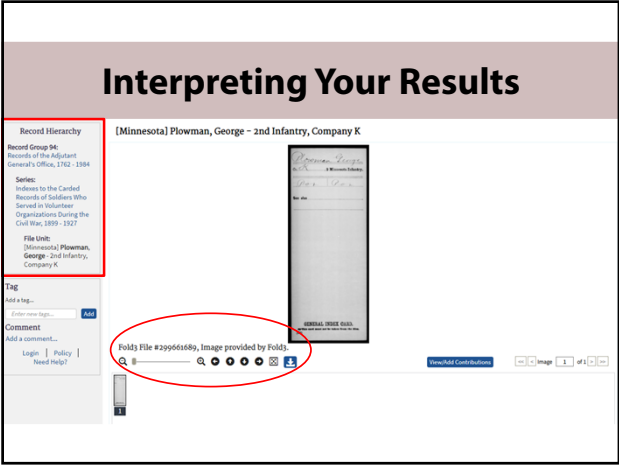
From RG: 94

Index to the Carded Records of Soldiers Who Served in Volunteer Organizations During the Civil War

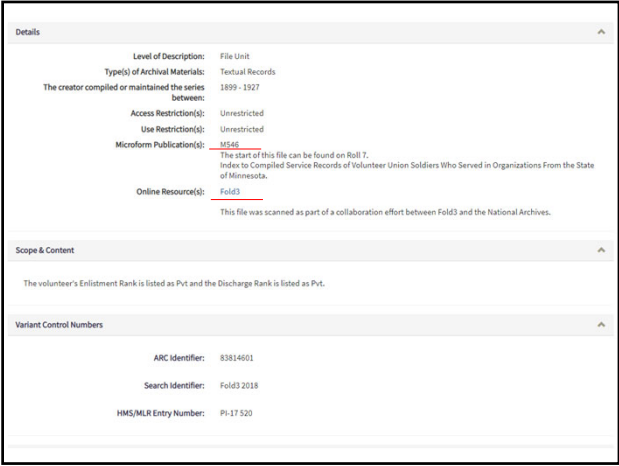
National Archives Identifier: 1017103 NNS Entry Number(s): P17-120

Creator: War Department, Record and Pension Office, 1892-5/13/1904

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



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

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Step 1: Choose the Record Type

England Historic Genealogical Society,
Ancestry.org; produced by The
Family Learning Center

ReviewAdd to CartPay & ShipReview & SubmitOrder Complete

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

Save & Finish LaterCancel Order

Continue to Pay & Ship

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

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

Do you need to ship, 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

Veteran's First Name

Veteran's Middle Name

Veteran's Last Name

Year of Birth (YYYY)

Year of Death (YYYY)

Place of Birth (City, County, State, etc.)

Place of Death (City, County, State, etc.)

Place(s) Veteran Lived After Service:

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:

Service Description - General

Branch of Service in Which he Served:

Rank:

Kind of Service:

War in Which he Served:

State From Which he Served:

Service Description - Army

Arms in Which he Served:

If Other, Please Specify:

Company:

Regiment:

Service Description - Navy

Service Description - Marine Corps

Application Information

Pension File Number:

Name of Widow or Other Claimant:

Step 5: File in the details

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

Back Order Details

Submit Order

Order No: 3095-0029

Expires: 03/31/2019

Veteran's Identification

Veteran's First Name

Veteran's Middle Name

Veteran's Last Name

Year of Birth (YYYY)

Year of Death (YYYY)

Place of Birth (City, County, State, etc.)

Place of Death (City, County, State, etc.)

Place(s) Veteran Lived After Service:

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:

Service Description - General

Branch of Service in Which he Served:

Rank:

Kind of Service:

War in Which he Served:

State From Which he Served:

Service Description - Army

Arms in Which he Served:

If Other, Please Specify:

Company:

Regiment:

Service Description - Navy

Service Description - Marine Corps

Application Information

Pension File Number:

Name of Widow or Other Claimant:

Review

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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

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Completing a Pull Slip

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

From the Catalog

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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

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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/99397341114>

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 (WWII-present).

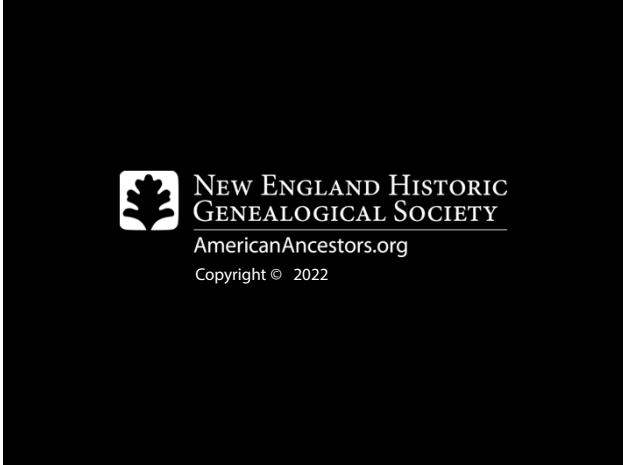
October 12 - Class 3: Federal Land Records: Records 1 and 2 and Federal Elms and Homesteads

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

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THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org



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