



Using the National Archives Websites (Plural)

(June 2021 edition)

Claire Kluskens

National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC

Ask a Question

- inquire@nara.gov
- History Hub: <https://historyhub.history.gov/welcome>

National Archives and Records Administration Main Website – www.archives.gov

- Information about the records in our custody
- Site information for planning a trip – in the future – varies by site and changes slowly....
- Resources for teachers
- America's founding documents – Declaration of Independence, Constitution, Bill of Rights
- **Important Links for Genealogists:**
 - Resources for Genealogists – <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy>
 - Virtual Genealogy Fair, 2013-2019 & 2021– lectures plus handouts – <https://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair>
 - Military Records – <https://www.archives.gov/research/military>
 - Archives Library Information Center (ALIC) – <https://www.archives.gov/research/alice>
 - Reference Reports for Genealogy – <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/reference-reports.html> – Guides to microfilmed records on various subjects
 - *Prologue: Magazine of the National Archives* – <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/index>
 - *Guide to Federal Records in the National Archives of the United States* – provides a high level overview of each federal agency and the records they created – <https://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records>
 - Microfilm Publications and Original Records Digitized by Our Digitization Partners – <https://www.archives.gov/digitization/digitized-by-partners>
 - Record Group Explorer – <https://www.archives.gov/findingaid/record-group-explorer> tells you how much has been digitized.
 - Veterans' Service Records – <https://www.archives.gov/veterans> – Although primarily aimed at living veterans who need their records, it also provides links to information on older military records.
 - Educator Resources – <https://www.archives.gov/education>
 - Calendar of Events - <https://www.archives.gov/calendar>

National Archives Catalog – <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

- NOT every name in every record!
- Just like you search for *authors, subjects, or titles* in a library catalog, you need to think in terms of searching for *creators, record groups, and series titles*.

- Can also search for microfilm publication numbers (like T627 for 1940 census)
- Can also search for geographic names, personal names, key words of your choosing – these may show up in descriptions or user-created tags.
- As a “citizen archivist” – you can “tag” (index) and/or transcribe records: first you create an account – <https://catalog.archives.gov/registration>
- Search tips – <https://www.archives.gov/research/catalog/help/search-tips.html>
- Guide for Genealogists and Family Historians – <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/catalog-guide>
- Record Group Explorer – <https://www.archives.gov/findingaid/record-group-explorer> indicates how much has been digitized.
- 132.6 million digital objects (images) of textual records as of April 2021 - and growing, but that’s still only 1+% of the estimated total number of possible images.

NARA Microfilm Catalog (part of “Order Online”) –

<https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline>

- You do NOT need to register or buy anything
- Click on the “Microfilm” tab
- Basic Search by microfilm publication number or keyword
- Advanced Search by microfilm publication number, title, record group, record group title, and other options
- Browse everything – probably overwhelming!

Access to Archival Databases – <https://aad.archives.gov/aad/index.jsp>

- Social Security NUMIDENT (“Numerical Identification Files”)
- Electronic versions of the indexes to 19th–20th century immigrants by Ira Glazier and P. William Filby, including *Germans to American*, *Russians to America*, *Italians to America*, etc.
- World War II enlistment records, prisoners of war, duty locations of naval intelligence personnel, and more
- Korean War dead and wounded Army casualties
- Defense Casualty Analysis System Extract Files, 1950–2006
- Vietnam War databases – deaths, MIA, POWs, awards and decorations, etc.
- and much more!

History Hub – collaboration with Library of Congress – <https://historyhub.history.gov/welcome>

- Ask a question
- Different interest groups/sections for different kinds of records
- Follow the Genealogy Blog – <https://historyhub.history.gov/community/genealogy/blog>
- Follow the Census Record Blog for 1950 census and other information - <https://historyhub.history.gov/community/genealogy/census-records/blog>

1940 Census – two places on our websites

- **1940 Census – Official 1940 Census Website:** <https://1940census.archives.gov/> – enables browsing of maps and ED descriptions along with the census pages
- **National Archives Catalog:** Population Schedules for the 1940 Census / Sixteenth Census of the United States (NAID 1660414) – <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/16660414> – this version allows you to tag images so that people’s names, etc., are indexed.

NARA Blogs

- Links to all NARA blogs: <https://www.archives.gov/social-media/blogs>
Rediscovering Black History: <https://rediscovering-black-history.blogs.archives.gov/>
NARAtions: <https://narations.blogs.archives.gov/>
Pieces of History: <https://prologue.blogs.archives.gov/>
The Text Message: <https://text-message.blogs.archives.gov/>
Unwritten Record Blog: <https://unwritten-record.blogs.archives.gov/>

NARA YouTube Channels

- Links to all NARA YouTube channels: <https://www.archives.gov/social-media/youtube>
“The U.S. National Archives” - <https://www.youtube.com/USNationalArchives>
Historic motion pictures, educational programs, author interviews, etc.

Presidential Libraries of the Modern Presidents

- F. D. Roosevelt – <https://www.fdrlibrary.org/>
- Truman – <https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/>
- Eisenhower – <https://www.eisenhowerlibrary.gov/>
- Kennedy – <https://www.jfklibrary.org/>
- Johnson – <http://www.lbjlibrary.org/>
- Nixon – <https://www.nixonlibrary.gov/>
- Ford – <https://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/>
- Carter – <https://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/>
- Reagan – <https://www.reaganfoundation.org/library-museum/>
- G. H. W. Bush (Bush 41) – <https://www.bush41.org/>
- Clinton – <https://www.clintonlibrary.gov/>
- G. W. Bush (Bush 43) – <https://www.georgewbushlibrary.smu.edu/>
- Obama – <https://www.obamalibrary.gov/> (virtual, no physical site)
- Trump – <https://www.trumplibrary.gov/> (virtual, no physical site)

Other Websites with Useful NARA Information

- The Twelve Key – <https://twelvekey.com> – blog and website of articles and research guides by Claire Kluskens
- Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center – National Archives Finding Aids – <https://www.genealogycenter.info/nara/> – Digital copies of **selected** NARA legacy Preliminary Inventories (PIs), Special Lists (SLs), Research Guides, Microfilm Publication Catalogs, and Microfilm Descriptive Pamphlets (DPs).

Selected Digitized NARA Legacy Published Subject Guides on Hathitrust

- *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*, 3d ed. (2001), online at <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015071221272>
- Henry Putney Beers, *The Confederacy: A Guide to the Archives of the Government of the Confederate States of America* (1986), online at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015015323671>
- Robert W. Coren, et al., *Guide to the Records of the United States Senate at the National Archives* (1989), RG 46 only, online at <https://www.archives.gov/legislative/guide/senate/table-of-contents-short.html>
- Edward E. Hill, *Guide to Records in the National Archives of the United States Relating to American Indians* (1981), online at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015005513836>
- Kenneth W. Munden and Henry Putney Beers, *The Union: A Guide to Federal Archives Relating to the Civil War* (1986), online at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015037053884>
- Debra Newman, *Black History: A Guide to Civilian Records in the National Archives* (Washington, DC, 1984), online at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015015342754>
- Charles E. Schamel, et al., *Guide to the Records of the United States House of Representatives at the National Archives* (1989). RG 233 only, online at <https://www.archives.gov/legislative/guide/house/table-of-contents-short.html>
- Charlotte Palmer Seeley, et al., *American Women and the Armed Forces: A Guide to the Records of Military Agencies in the National Archives Relating to American Women* (1992), online at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015029450338>
- Charles E. Taylor and Richard E. Spurr, Special List No. 25, *Aerial Photographs in the National Archives* (1971), online at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015061658947>
- G. S. Ulibarri and J. P. Harrison, *Guide to Materials on Latin America in the National Archives of the United States* (1974), online at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.3511220302488>
- Howard H. Wehmann and Benjamin L. DeWhitt, *Pre-Federal Records in the National Archives* (1989), online at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015015328449>