

The National Archives Website: An Overview

Fairfax Genealogical Society, 29 Oct. 2005

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You can play online for the rest of your life, but you *really do* need to personally visit the National Archives and dig into real original records. Laid side to side, pages in our holdings would circle the Earth over 57 times! Because of the cost to digitize such a volume of materials, only a small percentage is available for research online. Our web site offers tools and guides to help you locate these documents. To complete your research and use the records, you should want to visit us.

NARA Home Page

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

Splash page with lots of links to the most popular parts of the website

NARA Genealogy Home Page

<http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/>

links you to all kinds of information about great genealogy stuff available from NARA.

NARA How to Obtain Copies of Records

<http://www.archives.gov/research/order/#genie>

Tells you your options: online, by mail, in person, by hiring a private researcher....

Order Online!

<http://www.archives.gov/research/order/orderonline.html>

"Made to order" reproductions of original records are done in specific response to information you provide during the ordering process for these records:

*Census Pages

*Immigration Records

*Land Files

*Military Service and Pension Records

*Native American Records

Microfilm Catalog: (Order Online)

<http://www.archives.gov/research/order/orderonline.html>

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

Our microfilm catalog is now (almost) fully online. Click on the microfilm tab. Using advanced search, you can search for microfilm by number, title, keyword, record group, and other features. When you find a title of interest, click on the title, then click on important publication details which will allow you to download a PDF file of the descriptive pamphlet or roll list. Note that newer microfilm publications, that is, those issued in the one, two, or three years, may not yet be online (but hopefully will be sometime in 2006 work is ongoing).

Note: You do NOT have to register to use the microfilm search functions.

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MicrofilmNew NARA Microfilm Publications Issued in 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, and 2000

<http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/microfilm/2005.html> gets you to the 2005 page and you can go to previous years from there. The current year (and previous years) are updated from time to time. This will help you get information that is not yet in Order Online!

Guide to Federal Records in the National Archives of the United States (Washington, DC, 1995), 3 vols., \$95 when you buy the print version, has a free online web version at <http://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/>

General Information Leaflet 17, Citing Records in the National Archives of the United States at <http://www.archives.gov/publications/general-info-leaflets/17.html> will help you craft a citation that will help you and future researchers find that great nugget you found.

Archival Research Catalog (ARC)

<http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/>

The online catalog of NARAs nationwide holdings in the Washington, DC area, Regional Archives and Presidential Libraries. ARC allows you to perform a keyword, digitized image, and location search. ARCs advanced functions also allow you to search by organization, person, or topic. The content continues to grow.... Do visit again....

Access to Archival Databases (AAD) System

<http://www.archives.gov/aad/>

AAD has approximately 400 data files. AAD gives you:

- * Online access to a selection of nearly 50 million historic electronic records created by more than 20 federal agencies on a wide range of topics;
- * the ability to search for records with the specific information that you seek;
- * important contextual information to help you understand the records better, including code lists, explanatory notes from NARA archivists, and for some series or files in AAD, related documents.
- * AAD highlights: Various series regarding military personnel in World War II, Korean Conflict, Vietnam Conflict; also Irish Famine Immigrants (1840s).

Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives and Records Administration

<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/>

Prologue Genealogy Notes Page

<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/genealogy-notes.html>

If you dont subscribe to, or read, *Prologue*, you are missing a great deal of useful information about unique and useful records just minutes from you ... at the National Archives.

NARA Archives Library Information Center (ALIC)

<http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/>

The Archives Library Information Center (ALIC) is more than a traditional library. ALICs webpages are designed to provide NARA staff and researchers nationwide with convenient

access to content beyond the physical holdings of our two traditional libraries. ALIC provides access to information on American history and government, archival administration, information management, and government documents. **Our physical library locations** are in the National Archives Buildings in Washington, DC, and in College Park, MD.

Guides to Research by Selected Topic

<http://www.archives.gov/research/topics.html>

Links to information about selected topics in NARA records. Please note that this represents only a small fraction of possible research topics in the records of the National Archives.

NARAs Regional Archives Selected Guides and Research Aids

<http://www.archives.gov/locations/finding-aids/>

Links you to lots of guide to records held by our 13 Regional Archives.

NARA Publications Home Page

<http://www.archives.gov/publications/>

links you to information about free and fee publications from NARA.

NARA Published In-Print or Online Finding Aids

<http://www.archives.gov/publications/finding-aids.html>

Links to available Guides, Inventories, Preliminary Inventories, Reference Information Papers, and Special Lists.

NARA Digital Classroom (Educators and Students) Homepage

<http://www.archives.gov/education/>

The Teaching with Documents link gets you to lesson plans on various aspects of U.S. history. Brush up on your own education and see some great historical records here.

NARA Calendar of Events

<http://www.archives.gov/calendar/>

Speakers, movies, and more, and mostly free!

NARA Online Exhibit Hall

<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/>

Index to the Final Rolls of Citizens and Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory (Dawes Roll)

<http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/native-americans-final-rolls.html>

Index to the Applications Submitted for the Eastern Cherokee Roll of 1909 (Guion Miller Roll)

<http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/native-americans-guion-miller.html>

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World War II Casualty Lists

<http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/ww2/>

Guide to the Records of the U.S. Senate at the National Archives (Washington, DC: 1989) (Record Group 46) is online at <http://www.archives.gov/legislative/guide/senate/table-of-contents-short.html>

Guide to the Records of the U.S. House of Representatives at the National Archives (Washington, DC: 1898) (Record Group 233) is online at <http://www.archives.gov/legislative/guide/house/table-of-contents-short.html>

Elsewhere:

The American State Papers, U.S. Serial Set, Statutes at Large, and much more at the Library of Congress American Memory website.
A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1875.
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html>