

# National Archives 2025 Genealogy Series



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
ALIEN REGISTRATION FORM

1. My name is Julilla Boys Thomas

2. I entered the United States under the name of Julilla Thomas

3. I have also been known by the following names: Julilla Boys

4. I was born on 18 King St. Salisbury, Maryland 1881

5. My present address is Salisbury, Md. Feb. 27, 1908

6. I was born to the father John St. Lawrence Spain

7. I am a citizen of Spain

8. I am a naturalized citizen of Spain 1908

9. I was born in Spain 1908

10. I was born to the father John St. Lawrence Spain

11. I was born to the mother John St. Lawrence Spain

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99. I was born to the mother John St. Lawrence Spain

100. I was born to the father John St. Lawrence Spain



Join us in May and June for our annual series on family history research!





# 2025 Genealogy Series

## Welcome!

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is pleased to present this educational series of lectures on how to conduct family research.

NARA's mission is to preserve and provide access to the records of the government of the United States of America. We are thrilled to share our records that relate to family history and to make those records available to you through the Genealogy Series.



# About the Sessions

Our presentations will demonstrate how to use federal resources at the National Archives and Records Administration for genealogical research.

National Archives experts are presenting from our locations across the United States. Sessions are intended for beginners to experienced family historians—all are welcome!



# Join the Conversation

Participate with the presenters and other family historians during a session's premiere

Live Chat on **YouTube**: Log in and type your questions and comments

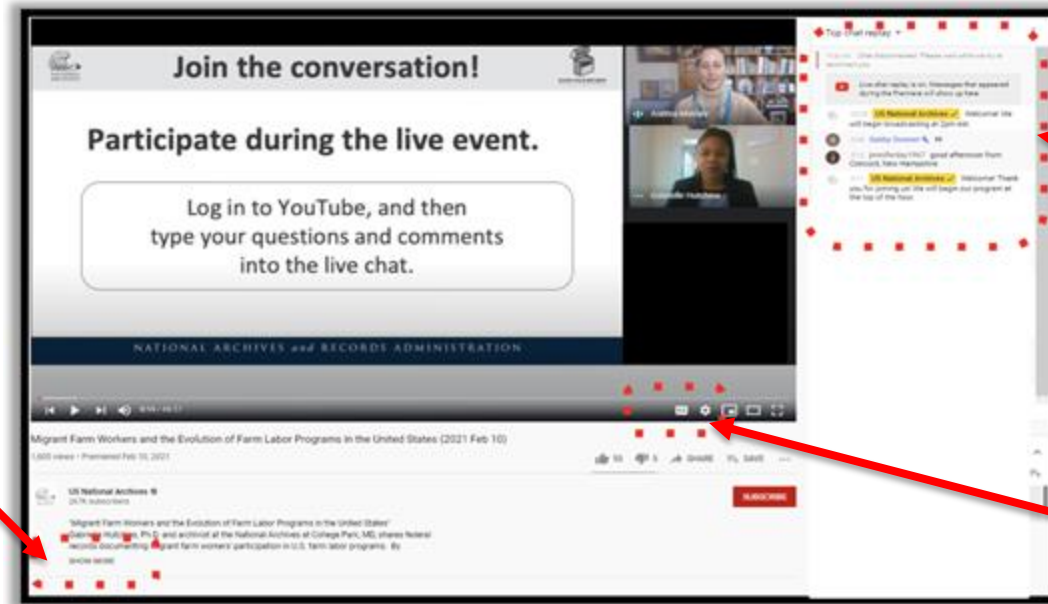
Follow **@USNatArchives** on X and join the Genealogy Series conversation using **#GenealogySeries2025**



# Instructions

## Show More

- slides
- handout
- evaluation



## Chat

- log in
- participate
- ask questions

## Closed Captions

**Videos and presentation materials remain available after the premiere date.**



# Schedule

Tuesday, May 13, 1 p.m. ET

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- ***Revealing Ties to Espionage in the Office of Strategic Services Records***  
Presenter: Molly Kamph

Wednesday, May 21, 1 p.m. ET

- ***From the Territory of Montana to the Republic of Vietnam; Researching Native American Veterans in the National Archives, 1881–1966***  
Presenters: Cody White, Kayla Dawkins, Rose Buchanan, and Leo Belleville

Tuesday, June 3, 1 p.m. ET

- ***Washington, DC, Law and Order: Cops and Robbers, 1861–1991***  
Presenter: M Marie Maxwell



# Schedule

Wednesday, June 11, 1 p.m. ET

- ***Disaster Preparedness and Response for Family Collections***

Presenters: Sara Holmes and Sara Leonowitz

Tuesday, June 17, 1 p.m. ET

- ***Researching Immigrant Ancestors: Alien Registration (AR-2) Forms***

Presenters: Elizabeth Burnes and John LeGloahec

- **Closing Remarks**



# Session Overview

## Researching Immigrant Ancestors: Alien Registration (AR-2) Forms

Alien Registration (AR-2) Forms were utilized from 1940 to 1944 in response to the 1940 Alien Registration Act, which required all immigrants aged 14 and up to register their noncitizen status with the federal government and be assigned an Alien Registration Number (A-Number). Participants in this session will learn who should have an AR-2, discover online search methods to determine whether records are available at the National Archives, and gain the skills to successfully place a request.



# Presenter Biographies

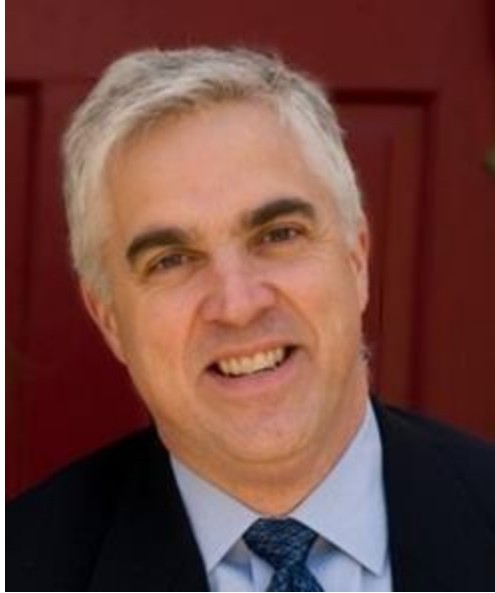


**Elizabeth Burnes**

Elizabeth Burnes is an archivist for the National Archives at Kansas City who serves as a Subject Matter Expert for Immigrant Related Records and is the lead archivist for Alien Files (A-Files) reference. She received a bachelor's degree in history at Truman State University and a master's degree in history and museum studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.



# Presenter Biographies



**John LeGloahec**

John LeGloahec, an archivist in the Electronic Records Reference Branch, has been with the National Archives since June 2006. He holds a master of library science from the University at Albany. John is very active professionally and currently serves as president of the National Archives Assembly and has served in leadership roles in several other professional organizations.





Research Services

# Researching Immigrant Ancestors: Alien Registration (AR-2) Forms

Elizabeth Burnes and John LeGloahec

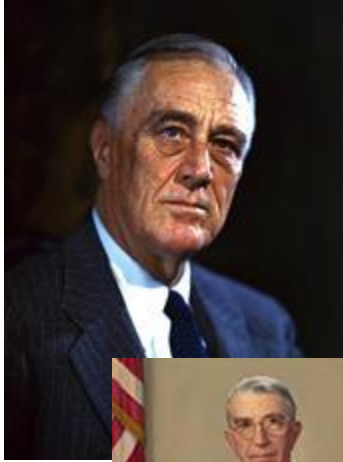


# Overview

- Background Information
- Understanding the Records
- Record Requests



# The Alien Registration Act of 1940



- Signed into law by President Franklin Roosevelt
- Also known as the Smith Act, named for Congressman Howard W. Smith (D-VA)
- Required all noncitizens to register their alien status with the federal government



*“The registration and identification of approximately three and one-half million aliens who are now within our borders do not carry with them any stigma or implication of hostility towards those who, while they may not be citizens, are loyal to this country and its institutions.”*

*-President Franklin Roosevelt*

Left: President Franklin Roosevelt (image courtesy of the [University of California Santa Barbara](#)).

Right: Congressman Howard W. Smith (image courtesy of [Biographical Directory of the United States Congress](#)).



# Alien Registration



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Form AR-2  
OFFICE USE

1048250

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
ALIEN REGISTRATION FORM

1. (a) My name is Jamillia Thomas (last name) Thomas (first name)  
 (b) I entered the United States under the name of Jamillia Thomas  
 (c) I have also been known by the following names:  
 (Include maiden names, if a married woman, professional names, nicknames, and aliases) Jamillia Duysa

2. (a) I live at 18 King Ct. Waterville, Kennebec, Maine  
 (b) My present address is Waterville, Maine  
 (c) I was born on Feb. 22, 1909  
 (d) I was born in (or near) Salomon, St. Leger, Syria  
 (e) I am a citizen or subject of Syria

3. (a) I am a (check one): ☒ Male ☐ Female  
 (b) My marital status is (check one): ☒ Single ☐ Married ☐ Widowed ☐ Divorced  
 (c) My race is (check one): ☒ White ☐ Negro ☐ Chinese ☐ Other

4. I am 4 feet 11 inches in height, weigh 129 pounds, have Gray hair and Blue eyes.

5. (a) I last entered the United States on Jan. 10, 1911  
 (b) I came in by Sea, Virginia  
 (c) I came as a (check one): ☒ Passenger ☐ Crew member ☐ Seaman ☐ Other  
 (d) I entered the United States as a (check one): ☒ Permanent resident ☐ Temporary resident ☐ Alien ☐ Subject of a foreign government ☐ Subject of a foreign government ☐ Other

6. (a) I last entered the United States on October 10, 1911  
 (b) I have lived in the United States a total of 20 years  
 (c) I expect to remain in the United States Permanently

7. (a) My usual occupation is Housewife (b) My present occupation is Same

8. (a) My employer for registering parent or guardian is Self  
 (b) My address is 18 King Ct. Waterville, Maine  
 (c) My telephone is None

9. (a) My signature is Jamillia Thomas  
 (b) My signature is Jamillia Thomas

10. (a) My signature is Jamillia Thomas  
 (b) My signature is Jamillia Thomas



Left to Right: AR-2 for Jamillia Thomas from A-File [A1048250](#) and Actress Anna Lee completing the alien registration process (image courtesy of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services [USCIS] Historical Library).



# Alien Registration

- Registration included a questionnaire (AR-1 form) and fingerprints (AR-4 form).
- Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) then assigned an Alien Registration Number (A-Number) (ex. A1234567).
- An Alien Registration Receipt Card (AR-3 form) with the A-Number was mailed to each registrant as proof of registration.
- The Alien Registration Program registered over 5.6 million noncitizens between August 1, 1940, and March 31, 1944, when the AR-2 records series closed. Alien Registration continued after April 1, 1944, but on different forms filed in a new series of individual records, [Alien Files \(A-Files\)](#).



Alien Registration (AR-3) Receipt Card for Jamillia Thomas, [A1048250](#).



# Alien Registration (AR-2) Forms

- INS utilized multiple iterations of Alien Registration Forms from 1940 to 1944:
  - Alien Registration Form (AR-2)
  - Alien Registration Foreign Service Form (AR-102, completed at consular offices)
  - Alien Registration Seaman Form (AR-102-S)
- All iterations of the form are included in the [Alien Registration \(AR-2\) Form](#) series.
- AR-2 forms can document an individual's presence in the United States during the early 1940s. The Alien Registration Program registered many resident noncitizens between 1940 and 1941 who had been living in the United States for decades. Although AR-2 forms are not official [arrival records](#), the AR-2 form may be the only INS record of immigrants who arrived as early as the 1880s. For many others, the AR-2 form may be their only other immigration-related record after their initial immigration arrival record.



# AR-2 Countries of Birth

## Countries with the most AR-2s

- Mexico
- Canada
- Italy
- Germany
- Russia



# Understanding the Records



NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES

Research Services

1000000

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
ALIEN REGISTRATION FORM

1. My name is Anna Lapidus Lapide

2. I entered the United States under the name of Anna Lapidus

3. I have also been known by the following names (include maiden name if a married woman, professional names, nicknames, and aliases):  
Anna Slesonsk

4. I was born at 113 Regolia Avenue Elizabeth Ohio New Jersey

5. My pre-war address is Elizabeth, New Jersey

6. I was born on December 10, 1892

7. I was born in Russia

8. I was born in Russia

9. I am a citizen of Russia

10. I was a subject of White English Married Divorced

11. My race is White English Japanese Chinese Other

12. I am 5 feet 8 inches in height, weigh 170 pounds, have Blue hair and Brown eyes.

13. I last entered the United States at Ellis Island on August 10, 1913

14. I came to by Steam-ship of which I forgot

15. I enter as a subject under: Passenger Alien Business Other

16. I entered the United States as a subject under: Permanent resident Alien Visitor Student Teacher Foreign government official Other

17. I was granted by the United States on August 10, 1913

18. I have lived in the United States a total of 23 years

19. I expect to remain in the United States Indefinitely

20. My usual occupation is Business

21. My present occupation is Business

22. My occupation for engineering, patent or copyright is None

23. My address is 230 Lincoln Avenue Elizabeth New Jersey

24. My address is Elizabeth

Left: AR-2 for Anna  
Lapidus ([A1000000](#)).

Right: AR-102 for  
Manuel Candel  
([A7759123](#)).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
ALIEN REGISTRATION FORM  
FOREIGN SERVICE FORM

1. My name is Manuel Candel

2. I have also been known by the following names (include maiden name if a married woman, professional names, nicknames, and aliases):  
Manuel Candel

3. I was born at Hotel Bristol New York New York

4. I was born on April 2, 1898

5. I was born in Cuba

6. I was a subject of Spain

7. I was a subject of Spain

8. I am 5 feet 8 inches in height, weigh 170 pounds, have Blue hair and Brown eyes.

9. My first arrival in the United States was on November 12, 1913

10. I have lived in the United States a total of Just visited

11. I expect to remain in the United States Two weeks

12. My usual occupation is Business

13. My present occupation is Business

14. My occupation for engineering, patent or copyright is None

15. My address is St. George's, Bermuda

16. My address is Bay Contractors

17. I was granted by the United States on None

18. I have lived in the United States a total of None

19. I expect to remain in the United States None

20. My usual occupation is Business

21. My present occupation is Business

22. My occupation for engineering, patent or copyright is None

23. My address is St. George's, Bermuda

24. My address is Bay Contractors



# What's on the AR-2

- Question 1 asked the respondent's name, including the name under which they entered the United States and any other names by which they were known.
- Question 2 asked where they were living in the United States.
- Question 3 was for their date of birth and place of birth.
- Questions 5 and 6 were for other vital statistics, including sex, marital status, race, height, weight, and hair and eye color.



# What's on the AR-2

- Question 7 asked for how the individual arrived in the United States and what their status was on their arrival.
- Question 8 asked how long they have lived in the United States and how long they plan to remain in the United States.
- Question 9 asked their occupation and employer.
- Question 10 asked what activities they may have been involved in.
- Question 11 asked about military service.



# What's on the AR-2

- Question 12 asked if they have applied for citizenship.
- Question 13 asked if they had relatives living in the United States.
- Question 14 asked about any criminal offenses they may have been involved in.
- Question 15 asked about their involvement in organizations affiliated with a foreign government.



# More Than Just an AR-2

- The alien registration processes included multiple Alien Registration Form parts:
  - AR-1: Instruction and specimen form
  - AR-2: Alien registration form
  - AR-2a: Follow sheet for additional data
  - AR-3: Receipt (or identification) form
  - AR-3a: Extra receipt form
  - AR-4: Fingerprint form
  - AR-5: Official regulations and fingerprint instructions
- Electronic copies of additional form parts can occasionally be found with the electronic AR-2 digital images. The original paper copies of all the AR forms can sometimes be found in [Alien Files \(A-Files\)](#). In many cases the additional form parts are no longer extant.



# AR Form Parts

Form AR-2a  
REVISED 1955

5764457

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET  
ALIEN REGISTRATION FORM

Use this sheet only if there is not enough space to complete the answers to any of the questions on Form AR-3. Indicate on Form AR-3 that the answer is continued on Form AR-2a. Then complete the answer on this sheet and attach it to Form AR-3.

Signature of registrant, or of person registering the alien, and official stamp must be properly retained on the other side of this sheet.

My name is Vincenzo Meloni (name) Meloni

From the 10 State of Italy

Additional Information

*I have belonged to the State of Italy since 1918. I did not knowingly conceal this nationality when I filled out my application at the 30th Street Station Post Office. I cannot have understood the question as I do not understand English very well when it is spoken too fast for me.*

*I never intended to leave the U.S. until March 1955.*

*Joseph L. Meloni*

*Naturalization Division*

Left: AR-2a Supplemental Sheet for Vincenzo Meloni, [A5764457](#).

Form AR-4  
4405260

ALIEN REGISTRATION ONLY  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALIEN

NAME Kleffman, Fred (Name) male Classification male

CITY Yonkers

Nationality German Color White Sex Male Reference

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT PLAINLY:

1 (a) Name Fred Kleff

1 (c) Aliases unknown

2 (a) Address Yonkers State Hospital  
(Street address or rural route)

3 (a) Date of birth 1918 (Month) 10 (Day) 10 (Year)

3 (b) Birthplace unknown

4. Citizenship None. Last a citizen of US

6. Height 5 ft. 10 in. Weight 170

Complexion Medium Build Tall

16. Name of nearest relative or person to be notified by US

Address Box 76 (Street) Box 76

17. Ever been fingerprinted? unknown When?  Where?

IMPORTANT CENTRAL TRA

Impressions taken by: Hand 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20

Date impressions taken March 19, 1955

FOUR FINGERS TAKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY

Left hand

Right hand

PLEASE DO NOT FOLD THIS CARD

Right: AR-4 Fingerprint Form for Fred Kleffman, [A4495260](#).



# AR-2 Forms Available at NARA

Alien Registration Number (A-Number)	Description
A1000000 to A5980116	Resident noncitizens and Delayed registration, August 1940–March 1944
A5981000 to A6099999	<i>No AR-2 forms in this series**</i>
A6100000 to A6132126	Railroad workers, 1942–1943
A6133000 to A6999999	<i>No AR-2 forms in this series**</i>
A7000000 to A7043999	Children under 14 years of age, resident in United States (not all children were registered), August 1940–March 1944
A7044000 to A7499999	<i>No AR-2 forms in this series**</i>
A7500000 to A7759142	Newly arriving immigrants (Consular registrations), August 1940–March 1944
A7760000 to A8999999	<i>No AR-2 forms in this series**</i>
A9000000 to A9999999	Seaman, August 1940–December 1952

\*\*There may be an AR-2 form in the individual's A-File.



# U.S.-born Registrants

- Over 90,000 people listed the United States as their country of birth on their AR-2.
- Many of the individuals were women who had married noncitizen men (often Canadian citizens) and later realized they had lost their U.S. citizenship.
- Some of the men in the records went to Canada to join the Canadian armed forces (to fight in World War II) and, as a result, surrendered their U.S. citizenship.



# Microfilm Digitization Application System (MiDAS)

- The Alien Registration Division of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) created the original [Flexoline Index \(Flex\)](#) in 1940 to index AR-2 forms.
- INS microfilmed the completed AR-2 forms. Most of the original AR-2 forms were subsequently destroyed. However, some original AR-2 forms ended up in A-Files opened under the same A-Number when the subject immigrants had subsequent interactions with INS.
- After the microfilm was converted to an electronic format, the AR-2 digital images and Flexoline were managed by INS, later United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), as a component of the Microfilm Digitization Application System (MiDAS).



# The Flexoline Index on Access to Archival Databases (AAD)

- The [Flexoline Index](#) on AAD: contains records of noncitizens registered under the Alien Registration Act of 1940.
- Consists of 8.2 million records for about 5.6 million individuals born over 100 years ago. Serves as an index to the Alien Registration (AR-2) Forms.



The screenshot shows the National Archives Access to Archival Databases (AAD) website. The header includes the National Archives logo and navigation links. The main content area is titled "Fielded Search" and provides information about the Flexoline Index Data File, 1940 - 1955. It includes a search box and a table of search fields.

**Fielded Search**  
File unit: Flexoline Index Data File, 1940 - 1955  
in the Series: Flexoline Index Database, created ca. 2000 - ca. 2003, documenting the period 1940 - 1955 - Record Group 565  
(G65)

The Flexoline Index is an index to the World War II era Alien Registration forms and some Alien files. You may wish to [View the FAQs](#) for more details and how to search the index.

The [Alien Registration \(AR-2\) Forms](#) page provides information on how to request WWII era Alien Registration records.

**Not all Flexoline Index entries correspond to this set Alien Registration (AR-2) forms.** There are no AR-2 forms in this set for, but not limited to, A-numbers that begin with A5981 through A6099, A6133 through A6999, A7044 through A7499, and A7760 through A8999. See [FAQ 1.5](#).

Search this file

Search [Advanced Search](#)

Enter values below to search within fields.

Field Title	Enter Values
First Name	with all of the values <input type="text"/> <a href="#">Sample Values</a>
Last Name	with all of the values <input type="text"/> <a href="#">Sample Values</a>
A-Number	with all of the values <input type="text"/> <a href="#">Sample Values</a>
Birth Year	with all of the values <input type="text"/> <a href="#">Sample Values</a>
State of Respiration (transcription added)	with all of the values <input type="text"/> <a href="#">Sample Values</a>
Country of Birth (all formats) (transcription added)	with all of the values <input type="text"/> <a href="#">Sample Values</a>

[Clear Form](#) [Search](#)




# Live Searching in AAD

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# Requesting Records/Fulfilling Orders



Research Services



Left: Completed AR-2 forms received in the mail at INS from post offices across the United States.

Right: The original Flexoline Index in the INS Central Office.

(Images courtesy of the USCIS Historical Library.)





# Flex and FOIA

- In most cases, the Flex records in our custody do not have access restrictions—as the records are of individuals who have been deceased for more than 100 years—so the records do not require a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.
- If you are seeking the record of an individual who was born less than 100 years ago, you will need to file a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request and provide proof of death for the individual.
  - Acceptable forms of proof of death include: published obituary, a copy of death certificate, letter from a funeral home, or documentation from another recognized source, such as: Ancestry, Genealogy Bank, Proquest, or the Social Security Death Index. Any proof of death documentation must include the name of the deceased individual, the birth date, and the date of death. **We cannot release records without proof of death.**



# What Do You Need From Me?

- Name of individual, including possible spelling variations
- Country of birth of the individual
- Date of birth or estimated birth year range of the individual
- A-number of the individual, if known
- The state the individual was living in the 1940s, if known
- Estimated year when the individual entered the United States, if known



# What *Else* Do You Need From Me?

- Your billing address so we can prepare a price quotation
- Email address so we can provide records via e-delivery, where we send you a link so you can download the records
- Indicate if you require certified copies of the records and include your shipping address



# You Have My Record, Now What?

- Would you like a PDF?
  - \$20 for one record
  - \$17 for 2–10 records
- Would you like a certified record?
  - \$15 for each certification (+ record fee)
- NARA's Electronic Records Division can provide you with a price quotation—**if** you provide us with your billing and shipping address.
- NARA's Electronic Records Division only found a Flex entry, but that's OK. We can certify that too.
- The records are photocopies of microfilmed records so you may not be able to clearly read everything.
- Some of the records may be handwritten or may contain handwritten notations.



# You Have My Record, Now What?

- Immigration Records, in general:

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

- NARA's Electronic Records Division does NOT have naturalization records:

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

- NARA's Electronic Records Division does NOT have A-Files:

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

- NARA's Electronic Records Division can provide a negative search letter, BUT only for a negative search of the AR-2 forms.



# You Didn't Locate My Record, Now What?

- The individual did not fill out an Alien Registration Form for some reason.
- The form may have been moved to a different file or was not included when microfilmed.
- If there was an AR-2 form, it may have been moved to the individual's A-File.
- The AR-2 forms were completed during World War II in the time period 1940–1944. It is also possible that if the individual naturalized or passed away before August 1940 they would not have completed the form



# You Didn't Locate My Record, Now What?

- The Flexoline Index contains inaccurate information, which makes it difficult to search for and locate records. Individuals completed the AR-2 forms to the best of their knowledge, but may have misremembered their birthdate, country of birth, or other names they had gone by.
- INS manually indexed the Alien Registration forms so typos may have occurred as staff transcribed the information.
- There are known gaps in the Flexoline Index. There are about 1.25 million A-numbers associated with the AR-2 forms that are not listed in the Flexoline Index.



# AR-2 Reproduction Services

NARA Reproduction Services	Fee
Minimum reproductions order (1 PDF)	\$20.00
Born-digital files (2–10 PDFs)	\$17.00 per file
Record certification (Record certification is an add-on service, the cost of which is not used to determine minimum reproduction order fees.)	\$15.00 per certification

NARA's Electronic Records Division can usually fulfill orders for PDFs and certifications within one to two weeks of receiving a request. When individuals order a certification, we also provide a PDF copy as a courtesy. PDFs are provided electronically via e-delivery, and certifications are mailed via USPS.

If you order a PDF now and order a certification later, you will pay \$20 now and then \$35 later—we suggest that you order the certification at the same time.



# Alien Files (A-Files)

- On April 1, 1944, INS began using Alien Registration Numbers (A-Numbers) to create individual case files, called [Alien Files or A-Files](#).
  - In some cases the original paper AR-2 form was the first document placed into a newly created A-File.
- The files reflect the interaction of an immigrant with the federal government throughout their time in the United States up to the time of any final action, which could include death, departure, deportation, permanent resident status, or citizenship.
- A-Files are eligible for transfer to NARA when the subject of the file's year of birth is 100+.
  - Currently NARA maintains A-Files for individuals born 1925 and prior (with gaps).



# AR-2 Forms in A-Files

Form AR-2  
OFFICE USE

4212197

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

ALIEN REGISTRATION FORM

1. (a) My name is Maria Ferraro

(b) I entered the United States under the name of Maria Ferraro

(c) I have also been known by the following names (include maiden name if a married woman, professional names, nicknames, and aliases): Maria Barbano

2. (a) I live at 315 Mill Avenue Brooklyn New York

(b) My post-office address is Same

3. (a) I was born on May 10 1900

(b) I was born in (or near) Casale Alessandria Italy

4. (a) I am a citizen or subject of Italy

5. (a) I am a (check one): ☒ Male ☐ Female ☐ Single ☒ Married ☐ Widowed ☐ Divorced ☐ Other

(b) My race is (check one): ☒ White ☐ Negro ☐ Japanese ☐ Chinese ☐ Other

6. I am 5 feet, 4 inches in height, weigh 150 pounds, have Gray hair and Brown eyes.

7. (a) I last arrived in the United States at New York City, New York on July 1 1900

(b) I came in by E. S. Dante Alighieri

(c) I came as a (check one): Passenger ☒ Crew member ☐ Stevedore ☐ Other

(d) I entered the United States as a (check one): Permanent resident ☒ Visitor ☐ Student ☐ Treaty merchant ☐ Seaman ☐ Official of a foreign government ☐ Employee of a foreign government official ☐ Other

(e) I first arrived in the United States on July 1 1900

8. (a) I have lived in the United States a total of 20 years.

(b) I expect to remain in the United States Permanently

9. (a) My usual occupation is Housewife (b) My present occupation is Same

(c) My employer (or registering parent or guardian) is Myself

where address is \_\_\_\_\_

and whose business is \_\_\_\_\_

ALL forms must be completed by persons 14 years of age or older. For children under 14 years of age, only the items marked with a star (\*) must be completed by the parent or guardian. All answers must be accurate and complete.

10. I am, or have been within the past 5 years, or intend to be engaged in the following activities:  
In addition to other information, list memberships or activities in clubs, organizations, or societies

None

11. My military or naval service has been None

12. (a) Have not applied for first citizenship papers in the United States. Date of application \_\_\_\_\_

First citizenship papers received \_\_\_\_\_

Filed petition for naturalization \_\_\_\_\_

13. (a) I have the following specified relatives living in the United States:

Parent(s) None Husband or wife Yes Children Seven

14. Have not been arrested or indicted for, or convicted of any offense (or offenses). These offenses are:

Nature of offense \_\_\_\_\_ Date of arrest \_\_\_\_\_ Place of arrest \_\_\_\_\_ Disposition of case \_\_\_\_\_

15. Within the past 5 years I have not been affiliated with or active in (a member of, officer of, a worker for) organizations, devoted in whole or in part to influencing or furthering the political activities, public relations, or public policy of a foreign government.

AFFIDAVIT FOR PERSONS 14 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER

I have read or have had read to me the above statements, and do hereby swear (or affirm) that these statements are true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Maria Ferraro

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me at the place and on the date here designated by the official post-office stamp below.

Jenneth Whittemore

AFFIDAVIT FOR PARENT OR GUARDIAN ONLY

I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of the above-named alien, who is \_\_\_\_\_ and have made the above statements for him (or her). I have read or have had the same read to me, and do hereby swear (or affirm) that they are true and complete to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me at the place and on the date here designated by the official post-office stamp at the right.

PRINT NAME ADDRESS, AND NUMBER OF PRISON DURING THIS AFFIDAVIT IN YEAR, ABOVE.

Stamp: SAUCOTT, N. Y. OCT 31 1940 REGISTERED

AR-2 for Maria Ferraro  
from A-File [A4212197](#).



[Catalog](#) Entry  
Interpretation  
Guidance.

# A-Files Online Catalog Search Result

National Archives Identifier


Individual's Name

Alien Registration Number &  
Accession/Box Info



**File Unit**  
**Alien Case File (A-File) for Abdul Moomin**

The following is some of the information contained in the alien case file: Birth Date: 11/16/1912 Date of Entry: 10/30/1997 Port Of Entry: Los Angeles, CA (IA) Country of Birth: Sri Lanka Father's Name: Abdul Mother's Name: Samara Naturalization Date: 4/20/1999 Naturalization Location: Los Angeles, CA

 NAID: **74764167** | 
  Container ID: **1003** | 
  Local ID: **A41214911/566-17-0189/Box1003**





 Creator: **Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 6/14/1940-3/1/2003**

 Series: **Alien Case Files**

Note: Always read the "Scope & Content" note to learn more about the subject of the file.

Be sure to scroll to the bottom  
of the catalog entry to review  
the Location of Record

**National Archives at Kansas City[A]**

 Kansas City, MO, 64108 
  (816) 268-8000 
  (816) 268-8038 
  [Afileskansascity@nara.gov](mailto:Afileskansascity@nara.gov)

Copy	Copy Status	Specific Media Type
1	Reference, Reproduction, and Preservation	Loose Sheets (Container 1003)



# A-File Catalog Search


- Alien Registration Number (A-Number) search from Catalog main page (<https://catalog.archives.gov/>):
  - A-Number must be formatted as A1234567
- When no A-Number is known, “search within” the A-File series:
  - National Archives at Kansas City A-Files, National Archives Identifier: [4488912](#)
  - National Archives at San Francisco A-Files, National Archives Identifier: [6105565](#)
  - Suggested search term combinations: Surname
    - First Name and Surname
    - Surname and Year of Birth (ex. Grande and 1875)
    - First Name and Year of Birth
    - Exact Date of Birth (ex. 9/5/1903 or 09/05/1903)



# Alien Files (A-Files) 2024 Genealogy Series Program

## Alien Files (A-Files): Researching Immigrant Ancestors at the National Archives

- [Presentation slides](#)
- [Video](#)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
ALIEN REGISTRATION FORM

1. NAME: Thea Hoelting  
2. BIRTH: 1894  
3. PLACE OF BIRTH: Germany  
4. DATE OF ARRIVAL: 1924  
5. DATE OF REGISTRATION: 1924  
6. DATE OF EXPIRATION: 1929  
7. DATE OF RENEWAL: 1929  
8. DATE OF CANCELLATION: 1929  
9. DATE OF REENTRY: 1929  
10. DATE OF DEPARTURE: 1929  
11. DATE OF RETURN: 1929  
12. DATE OF REENTRY: 1929  
13. DATE OF DEPARTURE: 1929  
14. DATE OF RETURN: 1929  
15. DATE OF REENTRY: 1929  
16. DATE OF DEPARTURE: 1929  
17. DATE OF RETURN: 1929  
18. DATE OF REENTRY: 1929  
19. DATE OF DEPARTURE: 1929  
20. DATE OF RETURN: 1929



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
Permit to Reenter the United States

1. NAME: Bessie Rudd  
2. BIRTH: 1894  
3. PLACE OF BIRTH: Germany  
4. DATE OF ARRIVAL: 1924  
5. DATE OF REGISTRATION: 1924  
6. DATE OF EXPIRATION: 1929  
7. DATE OF RENEWAL: 1929  
8. DATE OF CANCELLATION: 1929  
9. DATE OF REENTRY: 1929  
10. DATE OF DEPARTURE: 1929  
11. DATE OF RETURN: 1929  
12. DATE OF REENTRY: 1929  
13. DATE OF DEPARTURE: 1929  
14. DATE OF RETURN: 1929  
15. DATE OF REENTRY: 1929  
16. DATE OF DEPARTURE: 1929  
17. DATE OF RETURN: 1929  
18. DATE OF REENTRY: 1929  
19. DATE OF DEPARTURE: 1929  
20. DATE OF RETURN: 1929




THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
TO BE FORWARDED TO:  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
Certificate of Naturalization

1. NAME: Leonardo Bulawin  
2. BIRTH: 1894  
3. PLACE OF BIRTH: Poland  
4. DATE OF ARRIVAL: 1924  
5. DATE OF REGISTRATION: 1924  
6. DATE OF EXPIRATION: 1929  
7. DATE OF RENEWAL: 1929  
8. DATE OF CANCELLATION: 1929  
9. DATE OF REENTRY: 1929  
10. DATE OF DEPARTURE: 1929  
11. DATE OF RETURN: 1929  
12. DATE OF REENTRY: 1929  
13. DATE OF DEPARTURE: 1929  
14. DATE OF RETURN: 1929  
15. DATE OF REENTRY: 1929  
16. DATE OF DEPARTURE: 1929  
17. DATE OF RETURN: 1929  
18. DATE OF REENTRY: 1929  
19. DATE OF DEPARTURE: 1929  
20. DATE OF RETURN: 1929

Left to right: AR-2 form for Thea Hoelting, [A4953144](#); Permit to Reenter the United States for Bessie Rudd, [A7192905](#); view into box of A-Files; and Certificate of Naturalization for Leonardo Bulawin, [A22142420](#).



# USCIS for Genealogists

- United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Genealogy Program: [www.uscis.gov/genealogy](http://www.uscis.gov/genealogy)
  - Alien Files (A-Files) (numbered below eight million)
  - Certificate File (C-Files)
  - Registry Files
  - Visa Files
- United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Program: <https://www.uscis.gov/records/request-records-through-the-freedom-of-information-act-or-privacy-act>
  - Alien Files (A-Files) (numbered above eight million)



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services



# Contact Info

**AR-2 Forms** - Electronic Records: [cer@nara.gov](mailto:cer@nara.gov)

**Website:** <https://www.archives.gov/research/immigration/alien-registration-ar-2>

**A-Files** - Kansas City: [afiles.kansascity@nara.gov](mailto:afiles.kansascity@nara.gov)

**A-Files** - San Francisco: [sanbruno.archives@nara.gov](mailto:sanbruno.archives@nara.gov)

**Website:** <https://www.archives.gov/research/immigration/aliens>



# After the Broadcast

Email questions to [inquire@nara.gov](mailto:inquire@nara.gov)

Video recordings of lectures and downloadable handouts  
will remain online at

[www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-series/2025](http://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-series/2025)



# Feedback

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Thank you!

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[www.surveymonkey.com/r/KYREventEval](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KYREventEval)



# Thank You Genealogy Series Team!

Huge thanks go to:

- the presenters,
- the AV team,
- the Communications and Marketing Division,
- employees throughout Research Services, and
- everyone else who contributed to the success of this program.

We could not produce the Genealogy Series without your support!





# KNOW YOUR RECORDS

National Archives and Records Administration

Educational resources on how to access and conduct research using U.S. federal government records at the National Archives and Records Administration.

[www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records](http://www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records)



# Questions and Answers in Chat

**Please stay if you have questions.**

Although this concludes the video portion of the broadcast, we will continue to take your questions in **chat** for another 10 minutes.