



Welcome to the National Archives Know Your Records program!

Handouts

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Captioning

To access live, real-time captioning,
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into a separate browser window

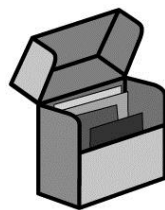
<http://www.streamtext.net/text.aspx?event=011416nara200pm>



About the National Archives



The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the nation's record keeper. Of all the documents and materials created in the course of business conducted by the United States Federal government, only 1%–3% are determined permanently valuable. Those valuable records are preserved and are available to you, whether you want to see if they contain clues about your family's history, need to prove a veteran's military service, or are researching an historical topic that interests you.



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THE KNOW YOUR RECORDS PROGRAM

consists of free events with up-to-date information about our holdings. Events offer opportunities for you to learn about the National Archives' records through ongoing lectures, monthly genealogy programs, and the annual genealogy fair. Additional resources include an online genealogy tutorial, reference reports for genealogical research, and the newsletter *Researcher News*.



January 14, 2016

***Online Resources
Relating to American Indians***

Meg Hacker

Meg Hacker, Archives Director for the National Archives at Fort Worth, highlights online resources available relating to American Indians. Broadcast live from Fort Worth into the McGowan Theater in Washington, DC and on YouTube.

Presenter's Biography



Meg Hacker

Archives Director
National Archives
at Fort Worth

Meg has been with the National Archives at Fort Worth since 1985. She received her B.A. in American History from Austin College and her M.A. in American History from Texas Christian University. Texas Western Press published her thesis, *Cynthia Ann Parker: The Life and The Legend*. She has presented to numerous historical and genealogical societies, archives and library associations, teacher in-services, and classrooms on a wide assortment of topics including: Chinese exclusion, repatriation oaths, genealogy, immigration records, Native American records, 19th century Fort Smith criminal cases, NASA records, maritime records, and basic strategies for researching at the National Archives.

Today's Objectives



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Researching American Indians and Alaska Natives

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- Introduce the *Researching American Indians and Alaska Natives* pages
- Navigate through the possible resources and records at your fingertips
- Learn what you *may* find
- Know how and who to contact for additional information

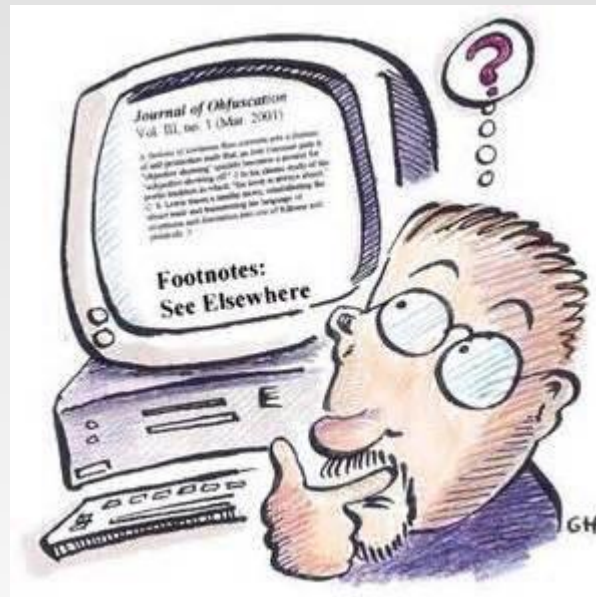
Project Background

- Team of National Archives staff from across the country
- Multi-year project—still a work in progress
- Collect finding aids, articles, lists, etc. focused on Record Group 75
- Developed collaborative innovative methods to write content and design pages

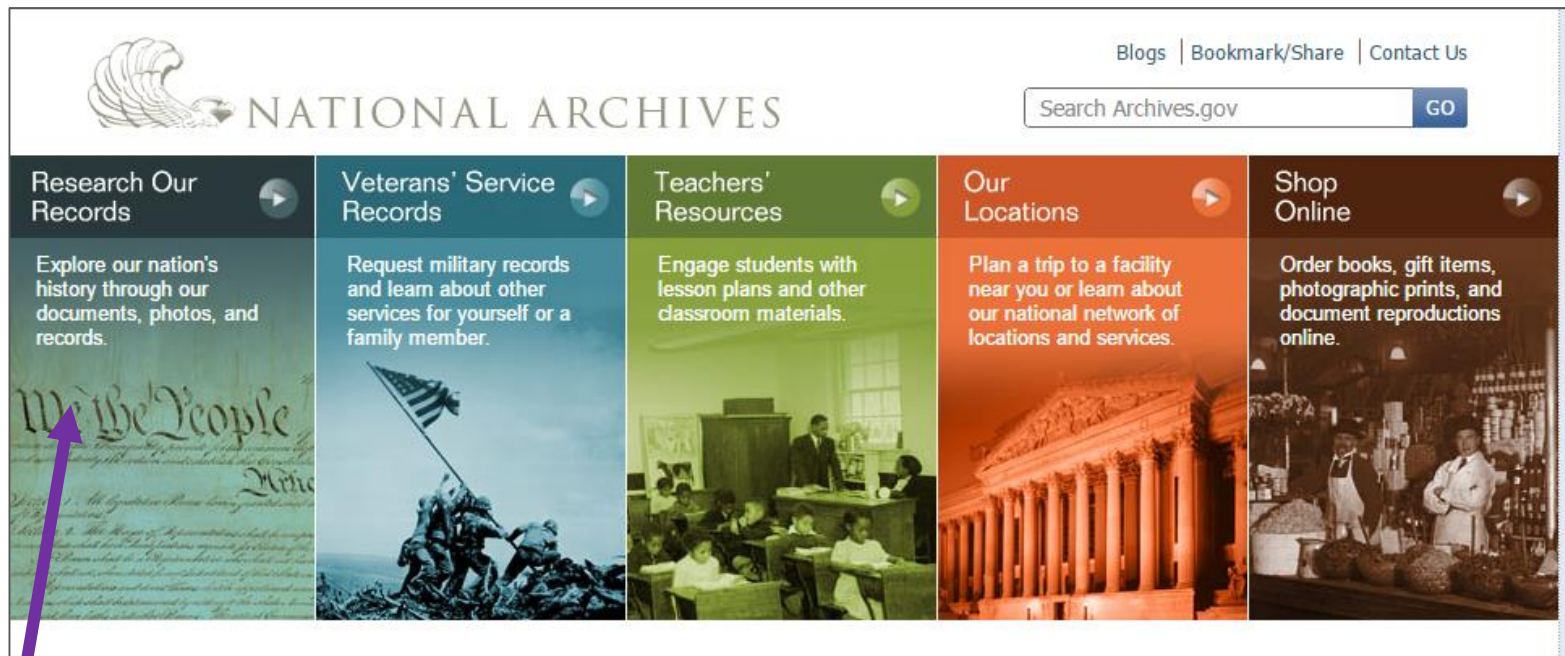


Major Misconceptions

- Availability of name index for individuals or employees: “one stop shopping”
- Everything is digitally available online, in one location



Let's start at the very beginning: www.archives.gov



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Highlights from Our Collection




European Americans




Chinese Americans



African Americans



Native Americans



Japanese Americans

Ethnic Heritage Research

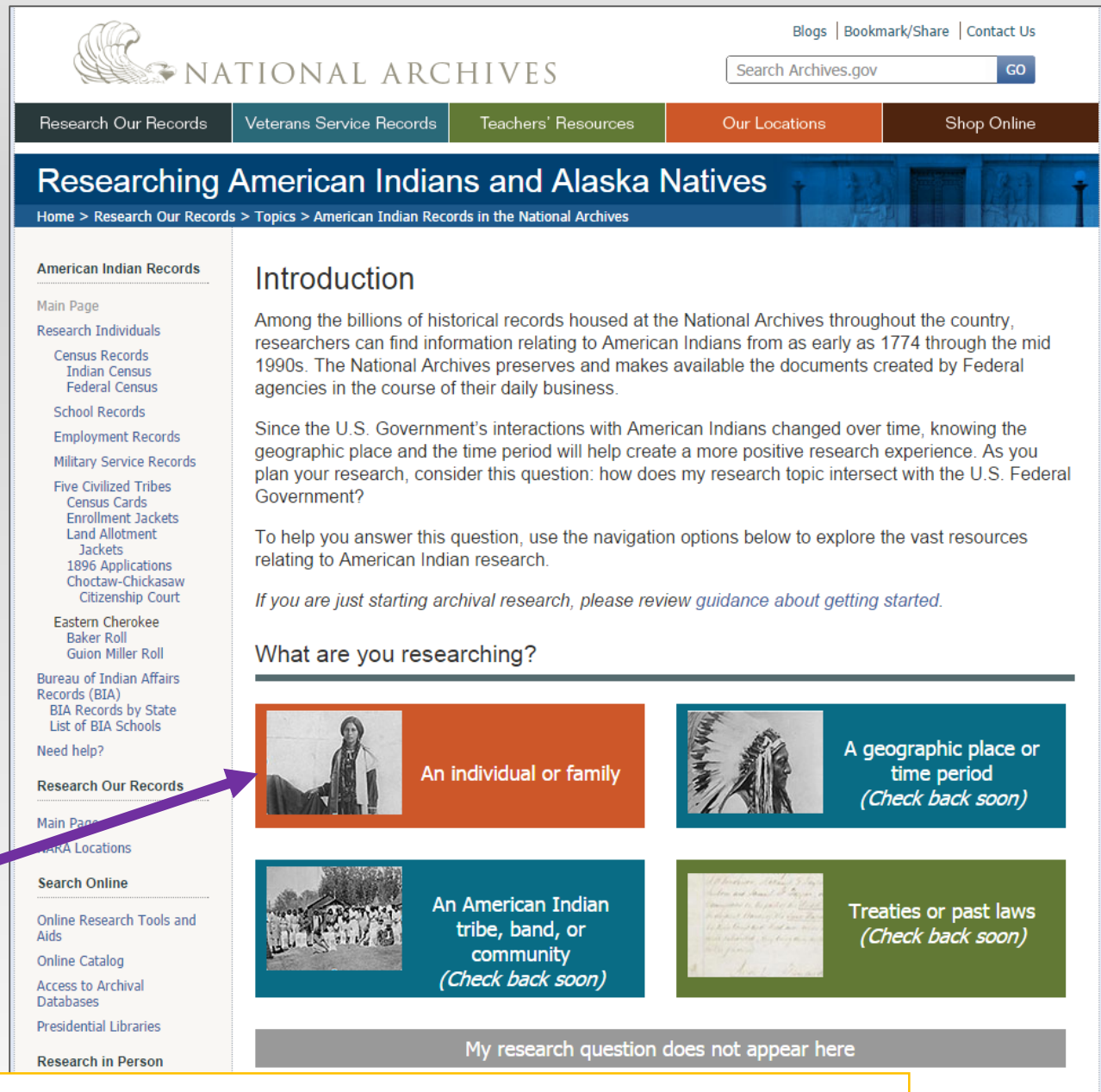
- African American Heritage
- American Indian Heritage
- Chinese Heritage
- Hispanic Heritage
- Japanese Heritage
- Other Ethnic Groups/Nationalities (Canadian, Eastern Europe and Russia, England, Scotland, Ireland, Jewish, Western European)
- Ethnic Heritage Links
- Records for the Study of Ethnic History in the National Archives at San Francisco

Related Topics

- Immigration Records

Select
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...ta-da!



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Introduction





Among the billions of historical records housed at the National Archives throughout the country, researchers can find information relating to American Indians from as early as 1774 through the mid 1990s. The National Archives preserves and makes available the documents created by Federal agencies in the course of their daily business.

Since the U.S. Government's interactions with American Indians changed over time, knowing the geographic place and the time period will help create a more positive research experience. As you plan your research, consider this question: how does my research topic intersect with the U.S. Federal Government?

To help you answer this question, use the navigation options below to explore the vast resources relating to American Indian research.

If you are just starting archival research, please review [guidance about getting started](#).

What are you researching?

-  **An individual or family**
-  **A geographic place or time period**
(Check back soon)
-  **An American Indian tribe, band, or community**
(Check back soon)
-  **Treaties or past laws**
(Check back soon)

My research question does not appear here

<http://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/index.html>

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Researching an Individual or Family

Federal documents related to American Indians at the National Archives can include information about tribal members, federal officials, Indian agents, military personnel, teachers, nurses, and laborers. Some records may even reference a person who was involved in Indian affairs because of his/her geographic proximity to a tribe or agency, such as a minister, medical doctor, or social worker.

Consider these key questions to help you identify what information you are seeking:

- Do you know their name(s)?
- Do you know the tribe of the individual or family?
- Do you know roughly where and when the individual or family lived?

Keeping these questions in mind will frame how to proceed and which records will be most beneficial to your research.

Learn more about researching an individual and family in American Indian records ➔

As with all research, the most effective strategy involves identifying the known and unknown facts about the individual or family.

Types of Records	Topics in Records	People Found
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Censuses • Correspondence • Enrollments • Financial • Leases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth and death • Marriage and Divorce • Health • Land and property • Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal members • Employees • Religious ministers • Teachers • Legal professionals



Family and goods in wagon. White Earth Res., Minnesota, 1934
National Archives Identifier 285179

Learn more about researching an individual and family in American Indian records

Learn about specific tribes in each state.

Questions about *current topics* such as benefits, adoption children, semi-current

Types of Records	Topics in Records	People Found in Records:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Censuses • Correspondence • Enrollments • Financial • Leases • Maps • Reports • Resolutions • And more! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth and death • Marriage and Divorce • Health • Land and property • Education • Employment • Inheritance • And more! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal members • Employees • Religious ministers • Teachers • Legal professionals • Social workers • Medical personnel • And more!

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Ancestry.com

Fold3

HeritageQuest through

Researching an Individual or Family

Records relating to American Indians at the National Archives may help you locate information about an individual or family such as names, dates, location, and more. A variety of Federal agencies created these documents in the course of daily business.

Click on one of the tabs below: Census Records, Bureau of Indian Affairs Records (BIA), School Records, Employment Records, and Military Service Records and to learn about the research process and documents.

Census Records

Indian Census Rolls and Federal Population Censuses

Bureau of Indian Affairs Records (BIA)

Allotment Records, Case Files, Employment and Financial Documentation, and Reports

School Records

Student Case Files

Employment Records

Headquarters and Field Office Employees, Agents, Superintendents, and Officials

Military Service Records

Discharge Papers, Official Military Personnel Files, and Pension Files

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- Census Records
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Records
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Census Records

Federal Population Censuses and Indian Census Rolls

Indian Census Rolls, 1885-1940

Agents and superintendents at American Indian reservations annually submitted census rolls starting in 1885. These rolls include individuals and families who maintained a formal connection with Federally recognized tribes. To research these records, you will need the name of the individual or family.

Compared to the Population Census, the questions found on the Indian Census Rolls and the process for collecting the information were not standardized, and therefore vary between years, tribes, and agents and superintendents. Please note: there is not a census for every reservation or every tribe for every year.

More information about Indian Census Rolls

Federal Population Censuses, 1790-1940



Native Americans from
Southeastern Idaho, ca.

The Federal Population Census can provide the building blocks of your research, allowing you to confirm information and learn more about an individual or family. Currently, researchers can access the Censuses from 1790 through 1940.

Researchers generally begin with the most recent Census and work backwards in ten year increments to locate individuals or families in previous generations. To search you will need the name and location of the individual or family. Try to find your individual or family on as many Censuses as possible as certain questions change for each Census.

The National Archives does not have online name indexes to Census records. Please visit our partner organizations for digitized images and

[Click here for blank Census forms to help decipher the questions asked for each census year.](#)

[The Census Bureau periodically compiled additional censuses for American Indians and specific nations or tribes. Click here to learn more.](#)



Little Chief, his wife Minnie, and son in native dress, ca. 1925. National Archives Identifier: 285628

Indian Census Rolls

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Census Record

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The questions found on the Indian Census Rolls and the process for collecting the information were not standardized, and therefore vary between years, tribes, and agents and superintendents.

Note: there is not a census for every reservation or every tribe for every year.

Indian Census Rolls can include:

- Name (American Indian and/or English)
- Gender
- Age
- Birth date
- Agency /Reservation name
- Marital status
- Tribe
- Family Relation

The Indian Census Rolls, 1885-1940, are available online at Ancestry.com and Fold3.com. Prior to digitization, these records were accessible via microfilm publication M595. Knowing the tribe can help narrow the search results on Ancestry and Fold3. (All National Archives facilities provide free on-site access to Ancestry.com and Fold3.com.)

For detailed information on the Indian Census Rolls and the microfilm publication


Looking for Information Prior to the 1885 Indian Census Rolls

Depending on the tribe you are researching, there may be earlier census or annuity rolls available (in general, earlier rolls contain less data). In many cases, the agent only listed the American Indian's

For researching American Indians at the National Archives, the following records are often used:

- Indian Census Rolls
- Federal Population Censuses

Sample from Indian Census Rolls



From Microfilm M595
Indian Census Rolls

Federal Population Census

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Census Records

Federal Population Censuses

Federal Population Censuses, 1790-1940

Researchers generally begin with the most recent Census and work backwards in ten year increments to locate individuals or families in previous generations. To search you will need the name and location of the individual or family. Try to find your individual or family on as many Censuses as possible, as certain questions change with each Census. Please visit our partner organizations for digitized images and indexes.

Census records can include:

- Name
- Age/birth information
- Gender
- Race
- Location
- Family relation
- Tribe
- And more!

Special Notes

Location and race can be useful in determining American Indian ancestry; however, key details may differ from what you know about the individual or family. Discrepancies can be caused by the following:


- Individual's response and self-identification
- Who reports the information to the enumerator
- Enumerator's error
- The individual or family may be listed by their English or American Indian name

If they are not identified as a tribal member on the Federal Population Census, the individual or family may actually still be American Indian. Continue your search with Indian Census Rolls and followed by Bureau of Indian Affairs records.

For researching American Indians at the National Archives, the following records are often used:

- Indian Census Rolls
- Federal Population Censuses

Click here for blank Census forms to help decipher census questions.



Page from the 1920 Federal Population Census in South Dakota

Read "Native Americans in the Census, 1860-1890" from Prologue for additional information.

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Bureau of Indian Affairs Allotment Records, Applications, Case Files, Rolls

Background on the Bureau of Indian Affairs

The National Archives (NARA) maintains historically significant and permanently valuable records created by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and its predecessor agencies from as early as 1793. Tasked with federal oversight of American Indians, the BIA interacted with many individuals and families.

Most American Indian-related records held by the NARA primarily relate to administrative matters and the management of tribal and individual resources by the Federal government.

Records created by the BIA can be found at many of the NARA facilities throughout the country. There is no comprehensive index to these records. It is important to know the Indian tribe and/or BIA agency to locate potentially relevant records.

Each agency's records includes various record series, usually arranged chronologically, alphabetically, numerically, or by subject. Research can require extensive time or repeat visits. Some records have been microfilmed and/or digitized. For research assistance, visit our [Online Catalog](#) or [Contact Us](#).



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Photograph from an industrial survey report of Fort Bidwell Agency, California. The photograph presumably depicts Bieber Quinn, Leroy Quinn, Sally Ann Quinn, and Sally Jack Quinn on a front porch, ca. 1924. (National Archives Identifier 296316)

Allotment Records

Applications & Case Files

Rolls

Learn about BIA records available for each state and its agencies, bands, and tribes.

Learn about records from BIA schools in each state.

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Bureau of Indian Affairs Allotment Records

Allotment Records

For a time, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) was responsible for administering the financial affairs of American Indians. As a result, the BIA created numerous allotment records that document land, finances, goods, and properties disbursed by the Agency. These records describe transactions including actions, appropriations, audits, expenditures, and obligations.

The records can provide information on the name of the individual/allottee; the tribe; dates; and goods, lands, or properties being transferred. Allotments can be recorded in indexes, ledgers, cards, rolls, schedules, maps, and plans. Many of these records are not yet digitized, nor are they available on microfilm.

Searching in the Online Catalog for Allotment Records

Search in NARA's Online Catalog for more information using the phrase "allotment." Note which federal agency created the records and which NARA office maintains the records. Using the Advanced Search, you can restrict your results to a single federal agency, record group, or archival facility. Records created by the BIA are part of Record Group 75.

Tips for Successful Searches

For Allotment records for American Indian tribes in Oklahoma, contact the [Oklahoma Historical Society](#).

Financial and Property Allotment Records

Allotment records can document both financial and property transactions administered by the BIA. Property can include buildings, finances, and timber. The financial records can include descriptions of expenditures for items such as supplies, the dates of the transactions, the actual amounts of money allotted, and running totals.

Tips for searching Allotment Records:

- Name (American Indian and Anglicized)
- Tribe
- Time period

Note: Not all individuals living with a tribe or on a reservation received allotments.



Frank Wildcat, 1922 - 1922
National Archives Identifier:
282261

Information on the land allotment records for the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma

Examples of Financial and Property Allotment Records

- Allotment Heirship List, ca. 1896 - ca. 1920, from the Shoshone Agency, National Archives Identifier: [1525380](#)
Contact the [National Archives at Denver](#) for more information.
- Allotment Ledger Sheets, 1941 - 1951, from the Warm Springs Agency, National Archives Identifier: [1276252](#)
Contact the [National Archives at Seattle](#) for more information.
- Land Allotment and Heirship Case Records, 1912-1925, from the Reno Agency, National Archives Identifier: [296194](#)
Contact the [National Archives at San Francisco](#) for more information.

- Financial and Property Allotment
- Land Allotment

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Bureau of Indian Affairs Records Applications and Case Files

The National Archives maintains many applications and case files that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) received and processed from American Indians and other individuals from the early 1800s through the late 1900s. The BIA created these records for a variety of purposes including:

- Education or training
- Finances
- Land, lease, mining, timber
- Removal of restrictions
- Social welfare, benefits, and
- Tribal citizenship, enrollment

Generally, these records may include supporting materials including government forms, and reports.

To begin your search:

- Know the name and tribe
- Identify what type of information (e.g., enrollment)

For additional resources, explore:

- [Online Catalog](#)
- [Navigating Record Groups](#)

Research Tips:

- Evaluate whether or not the individual or family lived on or near a BIA agency
- Try alternate name spellings

Finances	Land, Leases, Mining, Timber, Water	Tribal Citizenship, Enrollment, Membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ledger of Applications for Expenditures, 1908 - 1911, La Pointe Agency, National Archives Identifier: 5730607 (National Archives at Chicago)• Applications for Individual Indian Money Expenditures, 1915 - 1918, Cushman Indian School, National Archives Identifier 2790591 (National Archives at Seattle)• Applications for Kansas Claims of New York Indians, 1901 - 1904, Office of Indian Affairs, Finance Division, National Archives Identifier: 1949009 (National Archives at Washington, D.C.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water Use Applications, 1911 - 1921, Flathead Indian Agency, National Archives Identifier: 2546054 (National Archives at Denver)• Registers of Mining Applications, 1900-1916, Five Civilized Tribes, National Archives Identifier 731325 (National Archives at Fort Worth)• Applications, 1865 - 1871, Office of Indian Affairs, Land Division, National Archives Identifier: 2007276 (National Archives at Washington, D.C.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cancelled Choctaw-Chickasaw Applications, 1903-1904, Office of the Commissioner of the Five Civilized Tribes, National Archives Identifier: 2431775 (National Archives at Fort Worth)• Applications for Enrollment, 1910 - 1918, Vermillion Lake Indian School, National Archives Identifier: 7269298 (National Archives at Kansas City)• Records Relating to Applications for Identification as a California Indian, 1929-1931, Mission Agency, National Archives Identifier: 561749 (National Archives at Riverside)

Examples of Applications and Case Files

Majority of these records are not currently digitized or microfilmed.

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Bureau of Indian Affairs Records Rolls

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) gathered, collected, and/or created numerous rolls involving American Indians to identify members of various tribes and bands, including Freedmen. These rolls were created as a result of allotments, legislation, removals, treaties, and other activities. The BIA then used these rolls to create additional documentation--often using the same rolls for multiple purposes. Since the purpose of the rolls vary; the information collected also varies.

They can contain names, enrollment numbers, ages, family relations, locations, and more. Below is a sample of available rolls.

Detailed Information on Select Rolls

- Baker Rolls, 1924-1929 Eastern Cherokee
- Indian Census Rolls, 1885-1940 Multiple Agencies and Tribes
- Roblin Roll, 1911-1919 Indians in Western Washington not enrolled or allotted to an Indian Agency
- Kern-Clifton Roll of Cherokee Freedmen, 01/16/1897
- Revised Copy of the Wallace Roll, ca. 1890 - ca.1896
- Dawes Rolls, 1896-1914 Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma
- Guion Miller Rolls, 1906-1911 Eastern Cherokee

Research Tips

- Know the tribe, and understand how the tribe's name and geographic location may have changed
- Understand the historical context in which these rolls were created
- Recognize that the rolls may include information about Freedmen and/or slaves
- Not all rolls are available online

Examples of Rolls Related to American Indians

Roll	Tribe(s)	Additional Details	Contact for more information
Cherokee Emigration Rolls, 1817-1838	Cherokee	National Archives Identifier 595427 Sample Register of Cherokee Indians who have Emigrated to the West	National Archives at Washington, D.C.
1830 Armstrong Roll (Also known as Census Concerning Choctaw Removal)	Choctaw	National Archives Identifier 2124153	National Archives at Washington, DC
Muster Rolls Concerning Indian Removal, 1832-1846 (Also known as Miscellaneous Muster Rolls)	See description for the complete list of tribes.	National Archives Identifier 2124810	National Archives at Washington, DC
Eastern Cherokee Census Rolls, 1836-1884 (This is a compilation of multiple rolls)	Cherokee	National Archives Identifier 2110769 or microfilm publication M1773	National Archives at Washington, D.C.

Five Civilized Tribes: Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole Tribes in Oklahoma

Dawes Records

Researching American Indians and Alaska Natives

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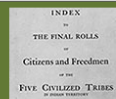
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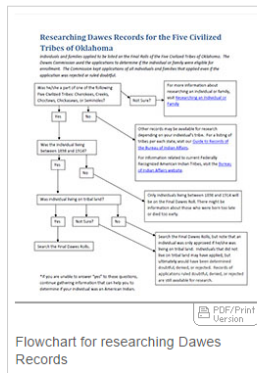


Five Civilized Tribes--Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole Tribes in Oklahoma: Dawes Records

Background on the Dawes Commission

The Dawes Act of February 8, 1887 marks a turning point in determining tribal citizenship. This Act developed a Federal commission tasked with creating Final Rolls for the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma (Cherokees, Chickasaws, Choctaws, Creeks, and Seminoles). The Commission prepared new citizenship rolls for each tribe, incorporating names of approved applicants while simultaneously documenting those who were considered doubtful and ultimately rejected. Upon approval of the Rolls, the Dawes Commission allotted a share of communal land to the approved individual members of these Tribes. The Dawes Commission required that the individual or family reside in Indian Territory to be considered for approval.

While the official process started with the 1896 Applications, these were eventually declared null and void. Two years later, the Curtis Act amended the process and required applicants to re-apply even if they had filed under the original 1896 process. With new guidelines in place, the Commission continued to accept applications from 1898 through 1907, with a handful accepted in 1914. The list of approved applications created the "Final Rolls of the Citizens and Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory".



Flowchart for researching Dawes Records

Dawes Records

The most requested Dawes Commission records are Census Cards, Enrollment Jackets, and Land Allotment Jackets. Researchers generally start with Census Cards and then continue with Enrollment Jackets and Land Allotment Jackets. These three records can include:

Click here for information related to the current tribal enrollment process

Census Cards (Enrollment Cards)

Available on Ancestry.com and

Enrollment Jackets (Dawes Applications or testimonial packets)

Land Allotment Jackets

Available on FamilySearch.org

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Dawes Records

The most requested Dawes Commission records are Census Cards, Enrollment Jackets, and Land Allotment Jackets. Researchers generally start with Census Cards and then continue with Enrollment Jackets and Land Allotment Jackets. These three records can include:

Click here for information related to the current tribal enrollment process

Census Cards (Enrollment Cards) Available on Ancestry.com and Fold3.com	Enrollment Jackets (Dawes Applications or testimonial packets) Available on Ancestry.com and Fold3.com	Land Allotment Jackets Available on FamilySearch.org
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Name and variant spellingsNames of parents and extended familiesResidence or nearby post officeTribal enrollmentAge and genderCensus card and enrollment card numbersOccasional annotations regarding birth, death, changes in marital statusOccasional cross references to other census cards or actionsFor Freedmen: the applicant's previous owners and the owners of the applicant's parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Census card and enrollment numbersName and variant spellingsNames of parents and extended familiesResidence or nearby post officeTribal enrollmentTranscripts of testimonies and correspondence regarding the applicationOccasionally information regarding birth, death, marriages, divorcesOccasionally affidavits from family members, friends, or neighbors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enrollment numberName of applicantNames of parents and extended familiesPhysical location of landLegal definition of landDescription of improvements on landPrinted annotated plat mapsCorrespondence regarding the landNotices of contested allotment selections
Click here for more information and samples of Census Cards.	Click here for more information and samples of Enrollment Jackets and Land Allotment Jackets.	

*Rejected Applications will have a Census Card and Enrollment Jacket; however, it will not have a Land Allotment Jacket.

For a *Prologue* article about the Dawes Commission's enrollment of the Creek Indians, please see: Snakes & Scribes: The Dawes Commission and the Enrollment of the Creeks.

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Dawes Records: Census Cards (Enrollment Cards)

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Dawes Records

Census Cards Pertaining to Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole Tribes in Oklahoma

[Click here for Dawes Enrollment Categories and Abbreviations.](#)

Didn't find your individual or family in the Dawes Rolls? Try these additional sources:

- Check the microfilm publication T529, Final Rolls of Citizens and Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory for individuals or families who were rejected, stricken, or judged doubtful for enrollment. This microfilm is not online as of May 2014.
- Check the 1896 Applications to determine if an earlier application had been submitted.
- Check earlier tribal rolls. Select publications are available online.

Census Cards (Enrollment Cards)

The Dawes Commission prepared Census Cards for each "family group" to record information about the applicants and actions taken by the Commission and the Secretary of Interior.

Many researchers begin by examining Dawes Census Cards before searching Enrollment Jackets and Land Allotment Jackets. From the Census Cards, note following:

- Tribe and enrollment category - [Click here for a listing](#)
- Census Card Number - Located in the corner.
- Enrollment Number - Found on the card for approved applicants.

These details can be found throughout the Dawes Rolls. They will help you track the same individual or family.

Locating the Index and Census

- A digitized copy of the original Index of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory (Dawes Rolls) is available at the National Archives. This index provides the enrollment numbers for each family group.
- The individual Census Cards are in the database titled *Native American Enrollment Cards*.
- Prior to digitization, these records were held in the Census Cards of the Five Civilized Tribes.
- Visit our Online Catalog for the full text of the Dawes Rolls.
- The National Archives at Fort Worth holds the individual's or family's name, tribe, enrollment number, and card number.

Deciphering the Census Cards

Each sample includes both an original and an annotated copy.



PDF/Print Version

Approved Dawes Census Card Sample
This PDF includes a sample of an original document followed by an annotated copy.



PDF/Print Version

Rejected Dawes Census Card Sample
This PDF includes a sample of an original document followed by an annotated copy.



PDF/Print Version

Denied Freedmen Dawes Census Card Sample
This PDF includes both sides of an original document followed by an annotated copy.

Approved Dawes Census Card Sample

1 RESIDENCE: Pontotoc COUNTY: Stonewall, Ind. Ter. 3 **Chickasaw Nation. Chickasaw Roll.** (Not including Freedmen.) CARD No. _____

2 POST OFFICE: Stonewall, Ind. Ter. 4 FIELD No. 16

5	6	7	8	9	10	11 TRIBAL ENROLLMENT.			12 TRIBAL ENROLLMENT OF PARENTS.					
Dr. No. Roll No.	NAME.	Relationship to Person first Named.	AGE.	SEX.	BLOOD.	Year.	County.	No.	Name of Father.	Year.	County.	Name of Mother.	Year.	County.
46	Brown, Levi	24	20	M.	Full	1897	Pontotoc	50	Jesse Brown	Dead	Chickasaw	Lucy Brown	1897	Pontotoc
47	" Elizabeth	26	22	F.	Full	1897	Pontotoc	39	Leas	Dead	"	Maria Hudson	1897	Pontotoc
48	Brown, Rosa	8	4	"	"	1897	"	39	Chelou Brown			No. 2.		
49	Brown, Scott	5	1	M.	"	born			No. 1.			No. 2.		
50	" Andy	2	1	M.	"	born			No. 1			No. 2.		

14 **ENROLLMENT.**
OF NOS. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 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2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081,



Dawes Records

Enrollment and Land Allotment Jackets Pertaining to Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole Tribes in Oklahoma

Enrollment Jackets

(Also known as Dawes Applications or Testimonial Packets)

Enrollment Jackets contain the application and supporting documents that the individual or family submitted to the Dawes Commission in order to be included on the Dawes Rolls.

Many researchers start their search by locating the [Dawes Census Card](#) before seeking an Enrollment Jacket. From the Census Card note the following:

- tribe
- enrollment category
- name
- Census Card number

These pieces of information will be found throughout the Enrollment Jacket. Matching these details will verify that you have located records for the same individual or family described on the [Census Card](#).

Enrollment Jackets can contain one to many pages. Start at the beginning of the folder and read each page carefully to understand the application and the Dawes Commission's subsequent decision(s).

These individual documents are indexed and available online at [Ancestry.com](#) (database titled *U.S., Native American Applications for Enrollment in Five Civilized Tribes, 1898-1914*) and at [Fold3.com](#) (database titled *Dawes Packets*). Prior to digitization, these records were accessible via microfilm publication M1301. Applications for Enrollment of the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes, 1898-1914.

Visit the Online Catalog for the full archival records description: [National Archives Identifier 617283](#).

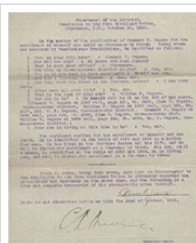
Contact the National Archives at Fort Worth for more information.

[Click here for Dawes Enrollment Categories and Their](#)

Land Allotments Defined: (Dawes Act, 1887)

The Dawes Commission only issued land allotments to approved individuals or family members.

"To each head of a family, one-quarter of a section; To each single person over eighteen years of age, one-eighth of a section; To each orphan child under eighteen years of age, one-eighth of a section; and To each other single person under eighteen years now living, or who may be born prior to the date of the order of the President directing an allotment of the lands embraced in any reservation, one-sixteenth of a section..."



Sample Enrollment Jacket, Application for Enrollment in the Five Civilized Tribes, William P. Rogers, Census Card 4747 National Archives Identifier: 4662501

Dawes Records: Enrollment and Allotment Jackets

Land Allotment Jackets

Land Allotment Jackets detail land given to approved members of the Five Civilized Tribes. Arranged by enrollment number (not Census Card number), these Jackets provide information on the legal description, value, physical improvements on the land, etc. They often include correspondence, plat maps, and testimony involving the land.

The applicant's name, Dawes Census Card number, and other family identifiers can be found throughout the Jacket to verify that you have located the same individual or family between the records.

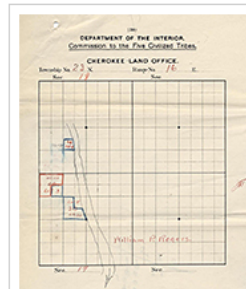
These records were not microfilmed prior to digitization by [FamilySearch.org](#) (database titled *Oklahoma Applications for Allotment, Five Civilized Tribes*). Using this free resource, you will need to select the tribe/category, and enrollment number range, then "scroll" through the records until you find the folder that starts the land allotment jacket you are seeking. The digitized copy of these records on Familysearch are not currently indexed.

Visit our Online Catalog for the full archival records description: [National Archives Identifier 559520](#). Contact the [National Archives at Fort Worth](#) for more information.

Dawes Allotment Maps for the Five Civilized Tribes

Search the legal description of land in Indian Territory in the Online Catalog for printed colored maps that identify allotments, townsites, and railway rights of way.

[National Archives Identifier 652462](#)



Sample Land Allotment Jacket, Application for Allotment, William P. Rogers, Enrollment Number 11384 National Archives Identifier: 4662504

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Baker Roll, 1924-1929 Eastern Band of Cherokee

An act of Congress of June 4, 1924 (43 Stat. 376), established the Eastern Cherokee Enrolling Commission to determine membership for the Eastern Band of Cherokees and to place its tribal lands into Federal trust.

Charged with identifying membership for the Eastern Band of Cherokees, the Commission created, collected, and compiled data from older rolls and tribal censuses. Known as the Baker Roll, after Fred A. Baker, these records include indexes, applications, testimony, correspondence, decisions of the Eastern Enrolling Commission, and reports. Note, the roll can include deceased individuals.

Information in the applications includes:

- Applicant's name, age, and degree of Indian blood (Includes maiden name if applicable)
- Name of ancestor(s) and relationship from whom claiming descent (Includes evidence for Cherokee lineage)
- Degree of Indian blood and residence of mother and father
- Names of children
- Spouse name and degree of Indian blood
- Residences
- Individual enrollment number
- Cross-referenced numbers from the Hester and Churchill Rolls
- Remarks

These records are indexed and available online at Ancestry.com (database titled *U.S., Cherokee Baker Roll and Records, 1924-1929*). Prior to digitization, these records were accessible via microfilm publication M2104, *The 1928 Baker Roll and Records of the Eastern Cherokee Enrolling Commission, 1924-1929*. A brief history of the Baker Roll can be found on Ancestry.com and the microfilm publication. Visit our Online Catalog for the full archival records description: [National Archives Identifier 2124048](#).

[Larger View](#)

Sample Page from the Baker Roll
National Archives Identifier:
2124048

Earlier rolls used to compile the final Baker Roll:

- 1835 Census of Cherokees Living East of the Mississippi River
- 1851 Chapman Roll
- 1884 Hester Roll (Fold3.com)
- 1907 Council Roll
- 1908 Churchill Roll
- 1909 Guion Miller Roll

With the exception of the Hester Roll, these records are not currently digitized. Census Rolls related to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians are available on Microfilm M1773, *Eastern Cherokee Census Rolls, 1835-1884*.

Check the [National Archives microfilm catalog](#) to identify the nearest facility with this publication.

For records documenting early U.S. government interaction with the Cherokees:

- Selected Records Pertaining to Cherokee Removal, 1836-1839
- Selected Records Pertaining to Eastern Cherokee Enumeration

Baker Roll, 1924-1929

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Guion Miller Roll, 1906 - 1911 "Eastern Cherokee Court of Claims"

The U.S. Court of Claims ruled in favor of the Eastern Cherokee Tribe's claim against the U.S. on May 18, 1905. This resulted in the appropriation of \$1 million to the Tribe's eligible individuals and families. Interior Department employee Guion Miller created a list using several rolls and applications to verify tribal enrollment for the distribution of funds.

The applications received documented over 125,000 individuals; the court approved more than 30,000 individuals to share in the funds.

To be approved for funds the individual must:

1. Be alive as of May 28, 1906
2. Establish that he/she was a member or descendants of a person that had been included in the forced removal to Indian Territory, known as the "Ross Party"
3. Not be affiliated with a tribe other than the Cherokee
4. Submit an application that had to be received by August 31, 1907. Parents or guardians were given the opportunity to apply for minors and persons of unsound mind. Most of these later applications were rejected due to late receipt; however, all contain important individual and family history information.

These applications include:

- Applicant's English and Indian names, date and place of birth
- Names and ages of brothers and sisters
- Place of birth and date of death of parents and grandparents
- Residence
- Spouse and children
- Names of extended family

The National Archives provides a [free online name index](#) to the applications submitted for the Guion Miller Roll. The Guion Miller Roll and associated information are available at Fold3.com (database titled *Guion Miller Roll*). Prior to digitization, these and related records were accessible via the following microfilm publications:

- [M1104](#) Eastern Cherokee Applications of the U.S. Court of Claims, 1906-1909

Important facts about this roll:

- There was no residency requirement unlike the Dawes Records.
- Individuals from foreign countries even applied.
- Since there was a cash award, many people applied regardless of their eligibility.



Sample Guion Miller
Application
Eastern Cherokee
Application #9735 of Will
Rogers
National Archives Identifier:
301644

Guion Miller Roll, 1906-1911

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Navigating Record Group 75 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Records

Records created by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) document the U.S. Federal government's interaction with American Indians.

Though administrative in nature, the records can include:

- Account ledgers
- Case files
- Censuses
- Correspondence
- Enrollments
- Estate cards
- Issuances
- Leases
- Reports
- Resolutions and more

These records can provide information regarding:

- Agricultural work
- Agriculture
- Birth
- Buildings
- Conservation
- Divorce
- Education
- Employees
- Employment
- Equipment and supplies
- Health
- Indian allotments
- Inheritance
- Law enforcement
- Leases



[Larger View](#)

Chemawa Indian School
Baseball Team, 1939.
National Archives Identifier:
5585776



[Larger View](#)

Native Americans from
Southeastern Idaho, ca. 1897.
National Archives Identifier:
519208

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- Florida
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- Hawaii
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- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
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- Maine
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- Agricultu
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Locating specific records can be tricky, due to the continual changes in reservations, tribes, and geographic areas. In many instances, tribal records are split between National Archives (NARA) offices and affiliated archives. Given the complexity of BIA records, this research tool was created to help identify the locations of agency, office, and school records within NARA. More specific information relating to our records can be found by [contacting the NARA facility](#) listed in parentheses next to each agency, office, or school. Additional resources can be identified using our [Online Catalog](#).

If you are having difficulty finding information on this guide related to your research, please [contact the National Archives](#) with the nature and scope of your research question, your name, and your personal email address and phone number.

About this Navigational Resource:

NARA staff throughout the country compiled this resource to better direct researchers to the appropriate NARA facility or affiliated archives. It is arranged geographically by state and thereunder by tribe or band. Under each entry for a tribe or band is a list of the BIA offices which had a jurisdictional relationship with that tribe, and which NARA office holds records. It has been impossible to include the name of every subagency and special agency. The most significant omissions are the agencies and subagencies established during the early years of a superintendency, when agents were moved about without permanent assignments to a particular tribe or locality.

Additional Resources:

- National Archives Guide to Bureau of Indian Affairs Records:
<http://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/075.html>
- Current Bureau of Indian Affairs regional offices:
<http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/RegionalOffices/index.htm>
- Current Federally-recognized tribes:

<http://bia.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/OIS/TribalGovernmentServices/TribalDirectory/>

- Records maintained by the American Indian Records Repository, visit:
http://www.doi.gov/ost/records_mgmt/american-indian-records-repository.cfm

- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
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- Vermont
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- Wisconsin
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Navigating Record Group 75 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Records

BIA Schools

Children from Indian Nations across the country attended schools operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Students were often sent to schools by the Indian Agency which had jurisdiction over their tribe. Records about schools and the students who attended them may be found with the originating agency as well as in the materials created by the school. This listing contains information about schools operated by the BIA.

Churches, local communities and even the tribes themselves also operated schools, which are not listed here. Please contact the corresponding National Archives facility for more information about the records related to your research.

Alaska

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1941-1983 | Mount Edgecombe Boarding School (National Archives at Seattle) |
| 1956-1975 | Wrangell Institute (National Archives at Seattle) |

Arizona

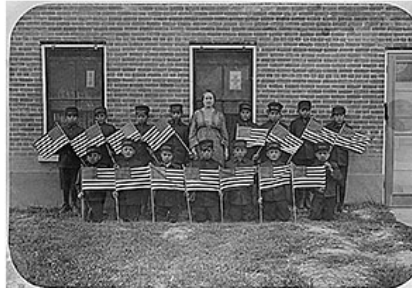
- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1968-1989 | Cottonwood Day School under the Chinle Subagency (National Archives at Riverside) |
| 1895-1922 | Navajo Training School under the Navajo Agency (National Archives at Riverside) |
| 1891-1990 | Phoenix Indian School (National Archives at Riverside) |
| 1927-1939 | Theodore Roosevelt School under the Fort Apache Indian Agency (National Archives at Riverside) |

California

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1898-1930 | Fort Bidwell Indian Boarding School under the Fort Bidwell School and Agency (National Archives at San Francisco) |
| 1913-1928 | Fort Yuma Indian Boarding School under the Fort Yuma Agency (National Archives at Riverside) |

[Learn about the types of school records available](#) ➔

[Return to List of BIA Records, Arranged by State](#)



Very early class of young boys with flags at the Albuquerque Indian School., ca. 1895
[National Archives Identifier 292873](#)

American Indian School Records

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School Records Student Case Files

Student Case Files from Non-Reservation Boarding Schools

While many American Indian students attended day schools, boarding schools, and mission schools located on their own reservations, beginning in the 1880s the Bureau of Indian Affairs established non-reservation boarding schools for vocational education. These schools enrolled students from many different tribes located all over the United States. Academic classes were offered for the primary grades through high school. Advanced students chose vocational training such as agriculture, masonry, carpentry, leatherworking, blacksmithing, printing, homemaking, sewing, cooking, and, in later years, plumbing, electrical work, welding, mechanics, food services, and office education.

In addition to administrative records, most of these non-reservation schools created and maintained a case file for each student. The information found in these case files generally includes:

- Student's name
- Degree of Indian blood
- Tribal affiliation
- Names and tribal affiliations of the student's parents or guardians
- Home address
- Religious affiliation
- Dates of attendance

While the specific documents can vary widely, the records may include applications for enrollment, medical examination forms, attendance and grade reports, examples of student work, newspaper clippings, documents related to student employment, and correspondence. Photographs generally do not appear in student case files.

Find out how to [Request School Records](#)

[Learn about administrative records pertaining to American Indian School](#)

A Note About Privacy Restrictions

Student case files and other student-related documents that are less than 75 years old may contain personal information about individuals who are still living. These records are restricted under Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Exemption (b)(6), and must be screened by National Archives staff before being released to researchers. Personal information may be redacted. Learn more about FOIA.

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Teacher with picture cards
giving English instruction to
Navajo day school
students

National Archives Identifier
295158

Reservation Day Schools and Boarding Schools

Records related to students attending reservation-based schools may be found in the administrative records of the Indian agency overseeing that reservation. While individual student case files seldom exist for these schools, student information may appear in records such as:

- Annual reports
- Attendance registers
- Correspondence
- Group photographs
- Lists of students
- School censuses

For a list of schools for which the
National Archives holds records,
please see the [List of American
Indian Schools](#)

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School Records Requesting Student Case Files

How to Request Indian Student Case Files

To request information on individual students, please contact the National Archives facility holding the records for the pertinent school, according to the state-by-state [Guide to Record Group 75, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs](#). The National Archives staff will assist you further with your researching needs.

When submitting a request to the National Archives, please include the individual's date of birth, as well as variant spellings of his or her name. Additional information, such as the names of parents or tribal affiliation, may be helpful in identifying a match.

If the person you are researching attended a mission school, please contact the mission agency or denomination that established and operated that school.

If the person you are researching attended a government day school or boarding school located on his or her own reservation, please contact the National Archives facility holding the administrative records for the Indian agency overseeing that reservation, according to information provided on the [List of Indian Schools](#).

For other questions regarding Indian schools, please contact us.

Tips for locating student case files:

- Consider where the individual and his/her siblings lived when choosing which schools to search. Case files can often include correspondence referring to multiple family members.

- If the first school you checked has no record of his or her attendance, look for other schools in the same or neighboring states.

- Understand when the school was in operation and how that coincides with your individual's school attendance.

A Note About Privacy Restrictions

Student case files and other student-related documents that are less than 75 years old may contain personal information about individuals who are still living. These records are restricted under Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Exemption (b)(6), and must be screened by National Archives staff before being released to researchers. Personal information may be redacted. Learn more about FOIA.

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Administrative Records Related to American Indian School

In addition to the Student Case Files, researchers can locate administrative records pertaining to American Indian schools at many National Archives facilities nationwide. These records can include correspondence, reports, school censuses, attendance records, and photographs created and maintained by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), its field agencies, and non-reservation boarding schools.

These records often include information about local American Indian students attending non-reservation boarding schools. These record series may include:

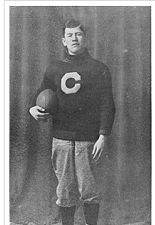
- Annuals, journals and publications
- Correspondence
- Financial documents
- Medical records
- Registers
- Reports
- School applications

Examples of Records Available:

For other records, visit our Online Catalog and search for "Indian schools."

- Applications for Enrollment in Indian Schools, 1905-1951 (Created by Fort Berthold Agency)
National Archives Identifier 6995951
Contact the National Archives at Kansas City for more information.

- School Attendance Records, 1920-1920 (Created by Sisseton Agency)
National Archives Identifier 7551457
Contact the National Archives at Kansas City for more information.



Photograph of Jim Thorpe
Standing in his Carlisle Indian
School Football Uniform, 1909 -
1909
National Archives Identifier:
519348

Indian School Photographs

Thousands of individual photographs related to Indian schools are digitized and available in our Online Catalog. Many more photographs are not yet digitized. These are available by contacting the appropriate regional National Archives facilities, or the Still Picture unit at the National Archives at College Park, MD.

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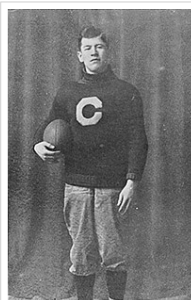
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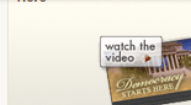


Photograph of Jim Thorpe
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American Indian School Records Continue

- School Censuses, 1895-1953 (Created by Pine Ridge Agency)
National Archives Identifier [1151862](#)
Contact the [National Archives at Kansas City](#) for more information.
- Commencement Programs and Related Records, 1928-1945 (Created by Sherman Institute)
National Archives Identifier [563586](#)
Contact the [National Archives at Riverside](#) for more information.
- Subject Files Relating to Education, 1912-1936
(Created by Eastern Navajo Agency)
National Archives Identifier [295099](#)
Contact the [National Archives at Riverside](#) for more information.
- Descriptive Statements of Children, 1889-1907 (Created by Blackfeet Agency)
National Archives Identifier [1184821](#)
Contact the [National Archives at Denver](#) for more information.
- Quarterly School Reports, 1910-1939 (Created by Office of Indian Affairs Education Division)
National Archives Identifier [National Archives Identifier: 1822378](#)
Contact the [National Archives in Washington, DC](#) for more information.

Indian School Journal from Chilocco Indian School, Oklahoma

Indian School Journal, 1904-1926 (National Archives Identifier [1105265](#)) was published by students and printed at Chilocco Indian School. The magazine included articles about the Indian service, various tribes, stories, poems, inspirational pieces, and many photographs of students, faculty, school buildings, Indian houses, and artifacts. [The complete Indian School Journal is digitized and available in PDF format on our Online Catalog.](#)

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Employment Records

Headquarters and Field Office Employees, Agents, Superintendents, and Officials

Finding, Navigating, and Exploring Employment Records



Thousands of individuals worked in federal offices responsible for the administration of American Indians including reservations, agencies, and related affairs. While some employees such as agents, officials, and superintendents were appointed to their positions, many people like teachers, nurses, and construction workers submitted applications.

Here are just a few areas to research for documents related to individual employment.

Official Register of the United States, 1817-1925

- Contains a listing of civilian, military, and naval employees, officers, and agents of the federal government
- Includes Indian Agents, inspectors, special Indian agents, and allotting agents
- To look up an individual by name, contact Archives Library and Information
- Available at many Federal Depository Libraries
- More information about Native American Employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Official Register of the U.S.

Employee Appointments, 1849-1907

- Appointments to federal agencies by the President and the Secretary of the Interior Department
- Includes Indian Agents, inspectors, special Indian agents, and allotting agents
- Listing of resources about Indian Agents and Superintendents, 1849-1907 
- Information on Interior Department Employees: Records of the Appointments Division, 1849-1907 

Rosters of Employees, 1848-1963

- Includes information on Indian Agents, superintendents, and other field officials
- More information on Rosters of Indian Affairs Employees

Official Personnel Folders (OPFs), 1850-1951

- The functions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs have fallen under the Department of the Interior since 1849.
- Official Personnel Folders (OPFs) and service record cards are available to the public. OPFs detail the employment history of civil servants while service record cards offer a summary of employment to include appointments, promotions, demotions, transfers, and separation from service.
- Learn about accessing and obtaining copies of these records

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Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), 1933-1942

From 1922 -1942, the CCC hired thousands of young men to improve local infrastructure and participate in conservation projects. Within the organization, the CCC operated a subdivision that employed only American Indians--the Civilian Conservation Corps - Indian Division (CCC-ID). The CCC and CCC-ID were each responsible for maintaining records related to their employees and projects.

Locating the records:

- CCC and CCC-ID records are kept and accessed separately.
- CCC "Individual Records" are available from the National Archives at St. Louis. [Learn more about these documents and make a request for copies.](#)
- CCC-ID records were maintained by the individual Bureau of Indian Affairs agencies overseeing the reservations where the work occurred. CCC-ID records include personnel files, rosters, reports, and lists of enrollees. Consult the [Guide to Record Group 75, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs](#) to determine the location of records of interest.



CCC-ID banquet, 1939
[National Archives Identifier 285420](#)

Prologue Articles about the CCC

- *Dangers in the Civilian Conservation Corps, Accident Reports, 1933-1942* highlights the challenges faced by the employees.
- *Into the Woods: The First Year of the Civilian Conservation Corps* discusses the early years of the CCC.

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PDF files require the [free Adobe Reader](#).

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Rosters of Indian Affairs Employees

Rosters of Indian Affairs employees list individuals who worked for the Department of the Interior assisting in the administration of reservations and agencies. The information collected in the rosters varies by office location, but can include name, gender, age, race, marital status, position, previous occupation, birthplace, residence, place of employment, dates of service, and salary.

Rosters of Indian Affairs employees are available at many National Archives facilities. Search our [Online Catalog](#) using the phrase "roster of employees" to locate relevant records. Take note of the federal agency that created the records and which National Archives office maintains the records. Using the [Advanced Search](#), you can restrict your results to a single Federal agency, record group, or archival facility. To limit your search to Bureau of Indian records, input "75" into the record group field.



Irrigation Service employees, Flathead Irrigation Project. (National Archives Identifier 293353)

[Larger View](#)

Examples of records available at the National Archives in Washington, DC

These records were maintained by the Headquarters of the Department of the Interior. The Employees Section of the Bureau, known as the Appointments Section until 1911, had charge of matters relating solely to field employees of the Bureau. For questions related to these materials contact archives1reference@nara.gov.

- Rosters of Field Employees, 1848–1950 (Entry 974).
[National Archives Identifier: 2062287](#)
- Roster of Superintendents and Agents, 1853–1963 (Entry 975).
[National Archives Identifier: 2062649](#)
- Rosters of Field Officials, 1849–1911 (Entry 976).
[National Archives Identifier: 2062670](#)

Examples of records available at National Archives Field Offices

These records were created and maintained by individual agencies and reservations under the Department of the Interior.

- Rosters of Employees, 1899–1922 (Created by Leech Lake Agency).

[National Archives Identifier: 4750040](#)

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Military Service Records

Discharge Papers, Official Military Personnel Files, and Pension Files

Military Service Records

From the earliest years of United States history, American Indians have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Ever since General George Washington noted the American Indians' skills as scouts and light troops during the Revolutionary War, they have participated in every major conflict, including both sides of the American Civil War. In unique services such as U.S. Army Indian Scouts and the U.S. Army and Marine Corps code talkers in both World Wars, American Indians have participated with distinction throughout America's military history. The service and pension records of these men and women can be found at the National Archives.



Apache scouts drilling with rifles, Fort Wingate, New Mexico
National Archives Identifier 530918

Locating Service and Pension Records

- **Prior to 1917:** These records are located at the [National Archives in Washington, DC](#), and can be requested by fax or by mail.
- **From WWI through today:** These records are located at the [National Personnel Records Center](#) in St. Louis, Missouri, by fax or by mail.
- Veterans, as well as their next of kin, can **request service records online** using the eVetRecs system.

For more information visit the [National Archives Veterans Service Records](#). *NOTE: Many of the older military records are digitized, indexed, and fully searchable on [Ancestry.com](#) and/or [Fold3.com](#). Online access to both of these websites is free at all National Archives research facilities.*

Locating Other Military Records Related to American Indians

The National Archives is also the home for military records detailing the general activities of the U.S. Armed Forces in both times of peace and war. Visit [Research in Military Records](#) for



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Indian Scouts, Companies, and Code Talkers



From the earliest years of United States history, American Indians have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, participating in every major military conflict, including both sides of the American Civil War. They have filled unique roles as U.S. Army Indian scouts, as well as U.S. Army and Marine Corps Code Talkers in both World Wars. Relevant service and pension records, along with related correspondence, reports, and other documents, can be found at the National Archives.

Visit [Military Service Records](#) to learn about American Indians who served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Army Indian Scouts

In 1866, one year after the Civil War ended, Congress authorized the President to *enlist* a limited number of American Indians as U.S. Army scouts. Army commanders also *hired* American Indians as civilian scouts, often for short expeditions lasting only a few weeks. Whether *enlisted* or *hired*, hundreds of Indian scouts served from the 1860s until 1947, when the last one retired. Contact the [Oklahoma Historical Society](#) to ask for information related records about Indian scouts who served in Oklahoma.

[Enlisted Indian Scouts](#)

[Hired Indian Scouts](#)

Army Indian Companies

In the 1890s, some American Indians served in short-lived Indian companies attached to Regular Army infantry and cavalry regiments. The members of these companies often acted as scouts for their regiments, operating separately from the enlisted and hired Indian scouts.

[Indian Companies](#)

Code Talkers

During World Wars I and II, American Indians joined the U.S. Armed Forces, where many used their traditional languages to encrypt military communications.

The first Code Talkers were Choctaw soldiers serving overseas with the Army during World War I, playing an important role in several Allied victories.

During World War II, the Army recruited even more Code Talkers. Individuals from Comanche, Choctaw, Hopi, Cherokee, and other tribes served with the Army, while the U.S. Marine Corps established a formal Code Talking School for the Navajo tribe.

[Indian Code Talkers](#)



Members of the 3rd and 4th Division Navajo code talker platoons of World War II, dressed in their unit's uniform, pose for a group photo during a commemoration of the landing on Iwo Jima, 02/21/1987
National Archives Identifier: 6428371

A Note About Privacy Restrictions

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Enlisted Indian Scouts Enlistment Papers

The Army Reorganization Act of 1866 authorized the President to "enlist and employ in the Territories and Indian country a force of Indians not to exceed one thousand to act as scouts, who shall receive the pay and allowances of cavalry soldiers, and be discharged...at the discretion of the department commander."

Scouts typically enlisted for three to six months at a time, although many served multiple terms such as Arapaho Chief Sharp Nose, who enlisted 20 times between 1876 and 1890. Enlisted Indian scouts served during the late nineteenth century, and continued until 1947, when the last scout retired.

Please note, these records have not yet been digitized. Contact the National Archives at Washington, DC for more information about these records.

Index to Enlistment Papers, Indian Scouts, 1866-1914

This index provides the individual's enlistment number(s), which is used to locate the subsequent enlistment paper(s). The records are arranged in four parts, based on the geographical area in which they served:

- Arizona, 1866-1914
- Indian Territory and Oklahoma, no date
- New Mexico, 1866-1874
- Northern [Plains, e.g. Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming], 1874-1914

The index lists scouts alphabetically by name and provides the enlistment number. If he enlisted multiple times, he will have multiple enlistment numbers. Visit our Online Catalog for the full archival records description and contact information: National Archives Identifier [593964](#).

Enlistment Papers, Indian Scouts, 1866-1914

These documents are arranged by the initial letter of the scout's surname, and then numerically by enlistment number. The papers provide information, including:

More on Enlisted Indian Scouts



Sharp Nose, noted Chief of Arapahoes, ca. 1881 - ca. 1885
National Archives Identifier: [533045](#)



Enlistment Papers of Bull Eagle, 08/21/1874
National Archives Identifier: [594450](#)

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Hired Indian Scouts

Index to Scouts Mentioned in Reports Reports of Persons and Articles Hired

In addition to enlisting Indian scouts, the U.S. Army also hired them. Hired scouts were typically paid a monthly wage and could be rehired after their contract expired.

Please note: these records have not yet been digitized.

Index to Scouts Mentioned in Reports of Persons and Articles Hired, 1861-1891

The index provides the scout's name and file number. If a scout was hired for multiple contracts, he will have multiple file numbers. The file number(s) can be used to access the Reports of Persons and Articles Hired, which include information about a scout's service and pay.

Visit our Online Catalog for the full archival records description and contact information: National Archives Identifier [656479](#).

See the "[Lead the Way](#)" article in *Prologue* for more information on Enlisted Indian scouts.

Information on [Enlisted Indian Scouts](#)

Reports of Persons and Articles Hired, 1818-1905

These records contain information on Army quartermasters who hired scouts, guides, interpreters, and other individuals for specific jobs, including non-American Indians. For hired Indian scouts, the information includes:

- File numbers
- Names
- Dates of their contracts
- Salary
- Locations where they were hired
- Remarks

A file number from the *Index to Scouts Mentioned in Reports of Persons and Articles Hired* is required to search these records. Visit our Online Catalog for the full archival records description and contact information: National Archives Identifier [656447](#).

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Indian Companies Records of U.S. Regular Army

Issued March 9, 1891, the War Department General Order No. 28 authorized the U.S. Army to enlist American Indians to serve in Indian companies within infantry and cavalry regiments. Collectively, these companies often acted as scouts for their regiments.

Please note, these records have not yet been digitized. For more information about these records contact the National Archives at Washington, DC.

Records Created by the U.S. Regular Army Mobile Units

These records include descriptive books and muster rolls related to Indian companies. Descriptive books contain lists of noncommissioned officers and those who were discharged or had died. They can also show the individual's name, age, physical description, birthplace, enlistment date and location, and payroll information.

Examples of these records:

- Descriptive Books for Companies A-C and F of Indian Scouts, 1872-1886 (National Archives Identifier: [3098724](#))
- Descriptive Lists for a Battalion Consisting of Companies A-D of Indian Scouts, 1882-1884 (National Archives Identifier: [3099478](#))
- Descriptive Rolls of Warm Spring and Chiricahua Indian Bands, 1884-1885 (National Archives Identifier: [3103751](#))
- Descriptive Book for a Detachment of Seminole Indian Scouts, 1889-1893 (National Archives Identifier: [3103753](#))

Records Created by the War Department

Regular Army Muster Rolls, 1866-1912

The Regular Army muster rolls include Indian companies. These records provide the company's locations during the reporting period, but also names of those individuals who had deserted, died, or been discharged.

Knowing the state or territory in which a scout served, and preferably his company or military post, can make the research process easier.

- Visit [Military Service Records](#) to learn about American Indians who served in the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Read the article "[Lead the Way](#)" from *Prologue* for more information on Regular Army Indian companies.

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Code Talkers

During World Wars I and II, the U.S. military needed to encrypt communications from enemy intelligence. American Indians had their own languages and dialects that few outside their tribes understood. During the wars, the Army and Marine Corps recruited American Indian men as Code Talkers. Researching their wartime contributions is a key part of understanding their history.

World War I

Stationed in the Infantry Regiment

At the time, the Army communicated with the enemy through radio and telephone. Leaders of the regiment for the purpose of supervising a tribal member of the Choctaw and Allied leaders.

Leaders of the regiment

For the remainder of the war, soldiers from the Cheyenne, Navajo, and other tribes to encrypt messages for the Army and Marine Corps.

World War II

When the U.S. entered World War II, military leaders remembered the success of the Choctaw Code Talkers and enlisted new recruits from the Navajo, Kiowa, Hopi, Creek, Seminole, and other tribes to encrypt messages for the Army and Marine Corps.

World War II

Working with Navajo leaders, the Marine Corps initially recruited 29 Navajo men to train as Code Talkers in specially designed courses. By the end of the war, the Marines had over 400 Navajo men trained as Code Talkers, many of them serving in the Pacific Theater. The Army had similar training programs for its Code Talkers, who generally served in Europe and North Africa.

World War II

Visit [Military Service Records](#) to learn more about American Indians in the U.S. Armed Forces.

World War II

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During World War I in Choctaw as the enemy "could not decipher the messages.", 01/23/1919 - 01/23/1919
National Archives Identifier: 301642



Photograph of Navajo Indian Code Talkers Henry Bake and George Kirk, 12/1943
National Archives Identifier: 593415



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Code Talkers

Subject Files and Photographs

Subject files and photographs capture the administration, management, and tasks related to or involving Code Talkers during World War I and World War II.

Subject Files

Subject Files typically compile records on a variety of topics into a single record series, arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

"Code Talkers" is one of the many subject headings that could be found in this type of series. The following are two examples.

"Navajo Code Talkers," Subject Files Relating to World War II, c. 1920-1955

This file is part of a larger group of records from the Marine Corps. Visit our [Online Catalog](#) for the full archival records description and contact information: National Archives Identifier [785109](#). These records have not yet been digitized.

Use of American Indians as Communication Linguists, 1943-1944

This file is part of a larger group of records relating to intelligence. General topics include codes and ciphers (allied, enemy, and neutral nations); signals equipment; history of intelligence activities; code breaking by the allies; code breaking by the enemy; captured documents; military operations; interrogations; and personalities. Visit our [Online Catalog](#) for the full archival description and contact information: National Archives Identifier [2765793](#).

Photographs

The National Archives holds photographs of Code Talkers from World Wars I and II, as well as later memorial events.

Photographs of Navajo Indian "Code-Talkers" in the U.S. Marine Corps, 1943-1948

These photographs originated with the U.S. Marine Corps, but were compiled by the Defense Audiovisual



Military Records Continued

Resource Pages

- Selected National Archives Record Groups Related to American Indians:
<http://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/record-groups.html>
- Tips for Successful Searches, Navigating Record Group 75 and Online Catalog:
<http://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/tips.html>
- Tips and Tools for K-12 Teachers and Students:
<http://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/tips-for-k-12.html>
- Tips and Tools for Undergraduate, Graduate, and Postgraduate Researchers:
<http://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/tips-for-students.html>

Questions & Answers

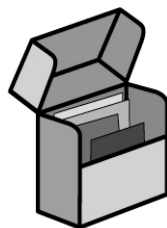


Meg Hacker

Archives Director
National Archives
at Fort Worth

Thank you for attending!

Today's video recording and materials
will remain available at
www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records



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