Welcome to the National Archives Know Your Records program!

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 online reference reports for genealogical research, and the newsletter Researcher News.

www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records
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.

www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records
March 23, 2017

Dead Men (and Women) Sometimes do tell Tales

“Death Records from the Numerical Identification System” for Genealogical Research

John LeGloahec will highlight the recent release of the Death Files from the Numerical Identification System (NUMIDENT) and discuss their use in genealogical research. He will also draw parallels to other records in our Access to Archival Databases (AAD) as well as other NUMIDENT files, which will be available soon.
John LeGloahec joined the National Archives in June 2006, as an Archives Specialist in the Electronic Records Division. Since 2013, he has been a full-time member of the Electronic Records Reference Branch. He holds a Masters in Library Science (MLS) from the University at Albany and a Masters in Social Studies Education (MS) from Long Island University. Prior to joining us, John worked at the International Monetary Fund Archives and the Rockefeller Archive Center, where he was Supervisor of the Nelson A. Rockefeller Papers Project. John is very active professionally and has served as Treasurer and Chair of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference. He has also served as President and Treasurer of the National Archives Assembly.
DEAD MEN (AND WOMEN) 
*sometimes* do tell tales

The numerical identification files (NUMIDENT) available through the National Archives Access to Archival Databases (AAD)
THE ELECTRONIC RECORDS DIVISION

• The Division has been accessioning the “born-digital” records of the federal government for nearly half a century

• Most of the records are raw statistical data – one of the processing steps is to identify those records that would be good for inclusion in AAD
ACCESS TO ARCHIVAL DATABASES (AAD)

• Sixty-five different series, in excess of 900 different files, and more than 172 million individual records
• 2.6 million “hits” on AAD in the previous fiscal year
• Daily average of about 9,000 queries per quarter
HOW TO FIND RECORDS IN AAD

• AAD is very easy to use
• Free text
• Browse by category
• Getting Started FAQs
• Handout on searching
• What’s New
The NUMIDENT Death Files were added to AAD in November 2016.

- Nearly 50 million files, significantly upping the total files available through AAD.
- NOT the Social Security Death Index.
SEARCHING NUMIDENT

- Social security number
- First Name
- Last Name
- Zip code
• Date of birth
• Date of death
DEAD PRESIDENTS

• Lyndon B. Johnson
  1908–1973

• Richard Nixon
  1913–1994

• Gerald Ford
  1913–2006

• NUMIDENT record for Elvis Presley, born 1935 and really, really died in 1977
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., 1929–1968

- Assassinated in Memphis, TN in April 1968
- Death record entered into system in 1988
NANCY LEGLOAHEC

- Nancy Woodside LeGloahec, 1930–2006
- Last name is misspelled, though all other information is correct
WHY CAN’T I FIND THE INFO I NEED?

• The death record is a state-reported death
• The individual never had or received a social security number
• Automated processing of the records led to an incomplete or missing record
• Spelling errors or other inaccuracies
• Searching the right file (or multiple files?)
WHAT’S NEXT?

• Application files
  more than 72 million files

• Claim records
  more than 25 million files
FOR FURTHER READING AND MORE INFORMATION

• NUMIDENT FAQs
  https://aad.archives.gov/aad/content/aad_docs/rg047_numid_faq.pdf

• The Story of the Social Security Number, by Carolyn Puckett, Social Security Bulletin, Vol. 69 • No. 2 • 2009
  https://aad.archives.gov/aad/content/aad_docs/rg047_num_sup_doc.pdf
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

QUESTIONS?
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE ELECTRONIC RECORDS DIVISION REFERENCE BRANCH AT CER@NARA.GOV OR BY PHONE AT 301-837-0470
YOU MAY ALSO CONTACT THE PRESENTER DIRECTLY AT JOHN.LEGLOAHEC@NARA.GOV
Thank you for attending!

If we did not get to your question, you may submit it to inquire@nara.gov

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