Directions

By Car

The facility is in downtown Manhattan, 4 blocks north of the Holland Tunnel, on the 12th floor at 201 Varick Street, just off the West Side Highway.

By PATH Train

Take the 33rd Street train to Christopher Street. Walk south on Hudson Street to Houston Street.

By Subway

Take the 1 train to Houston Street. C & E train to Spring Street.

By Bus

The M5, M6, and M21 buses stop on W. Houston near Varick. The M20 bus runs downtown on 7th and uptown on Hudson / 8th Avenue. Some, not all, downtown-bound M20s travel as far south as Houston. The M15 bus connects with the M5 and M21 at E. Houston. Take the M21 bus to Varick or M5 bus to 6th Avenue.

Mail and Telephone Inquiries

We will provide answers to specific inquiries made over the telephone or through electronic and regular mail only if the information desired is brief and easily obtainable. Otherwise, the records are made available for examination in our research rooms to individuals who must conduct their own research. Extensive research by our staff is not possible.

Hours

Monday through Friday, 8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

For any additional hours, call or check our web site.

We are closed Sundays and Federal holidays.

National Archives and Records Administration
General Information Leaflet Number 76 / 2006

National Archives
Northeast Region (New York City)

Family History Sources

201 Varick Street, 12th Floor
New York City, NY 10014-4811
Toll Free: 866-840-1752
E-mail: newyork.archives@nara.gov
Web site: www.archives.gov/northeast



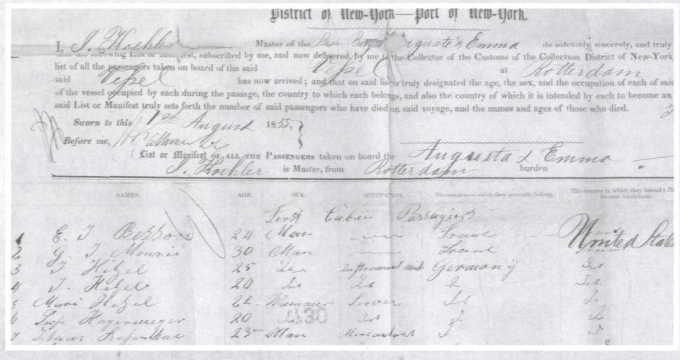
Introduction

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) safeguards records of all three branches of the Federal Government. Our mission is to ensure that all Americans have ready access to essential evidence that documents the rights of American citizens, the actions of Government officials, and our national history.

In support of this mission, the National Archives maintains a nationwide network of regional facilities. NARA's Northeast Region–New York facility has custody of the permanently valuable records of field offices and divisions of Federal agencies in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These records have continuing value for assisting in the necessary processes of government, for protecting public and private rights, and for providing scholars, students, and the general public with basic historical sources. They reflect the history and development of the agency or office that created them and provide information on American legal, economic, political, and social history.

NARA has reproduced on microfilm many of its most significant records, especially those with high research value. Microfilm publications serve the public's need for greater access to original source material by making duplicate copies easily available, and by maintaining security copies of the original records.

A significant portion of these records and microfilm contain materials of genealogical value. The most widely used records for family research are described inside.



District of New-York—Port of New-York.

I, S. Mueller Master of the Ship Augusta & Emma do solemnly, sincerely, and truly declare, that the following List or Manifest, subscribed by me, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs of the Collection District of New-York contains a true and perfect list of all the passengers taken on board of the said Ship at Rotterdam and of all who have died on board during the said voyage from the time of sailing from the said Port of Rotterdam to the time when the said Ship Hope has now arrived; and that on said list or manifest is truly designated the age, the sex, and the occupation of each of said passengers, as far as the same have been ascertained; the country of which they became inhabitants; the country to which they severally belong, and the country of which it is intended they shall become inhabitants; the place of the vessel occupied by each during the passage, the country to which each belongs, and also the country of which it is intended by each to become an inhabitant; and that the said List or Manifest truly sets forth the number of said passengers who have died on said voyage, and the names and ages of those who died.

Sworn to this 1st August 1855.

Before me, [illegible]

List or Manifest of all the Passengers taken on board the Augusta & Emma whereof S. Mueller is Master, from Rotterdam for Hamburg

	NAMES.	AGE.	SEX.	OCCUPATION.	The country to which they severally belong.	The country in which they intend to become inhabitants.
			South Carolina			
1	E. J. Bellows	24	Male		France	United States
2	J. J. Mourin	30	Male		France	
3	J. Hegel	25	Male	Journeyman Tinsmith	Germany	Do.
4	J. Hegel	20	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
5	Mary Hegel	64	Female	Servant	Do.	Do.
6	Jos. Heppenheimer	20	Male	Do.	Do.	Do.
7	Isaac Hepenheimer	23	Male	Merchant	Do.	Do.



Resources We Have . . .

Census Records

Our facility has microfilm copies of the existing Federal population census schedules, taken every 10 years, for all states, 1790–1930 (nearly all of the 1890 schedules were destroyed by fire in 1921). There are Soundex indexes to the 1880, 1900, and 1920 census schedules and partial Soundex indexes to the 1910 and 1930 schedules. In addition, commercially published indexes are available in our research room for most states and census years, including print sources, online databases, and CD-ROM.

Naturalization Records

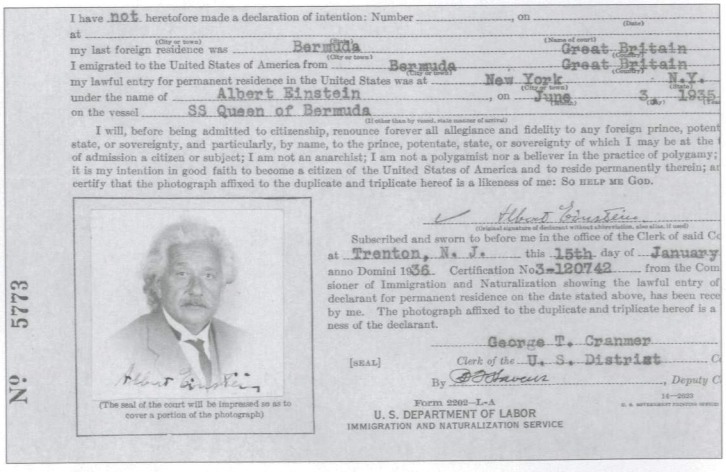
Our holdings include records of immigrants living in New York, New Jersey, and Puerto Rico who applied for American citizenship. Below is a list of these naturalization records, consisting of the original petition and some declarations of intention. Complete or partial indexes are available for some of the courts.

1. **Federal Court Records (U.S. District Courts and Circuit Courts)**

District of New Jersey–Camden
District of New Jersey–Newark
District of New Jersey–Trenton
District of Puerto Rico–San Juan Office
Eastern District of New York
Northern District of New York
Southern District of New York
Western District of New York

2. **Other Court Records**

Essex County, NY, Clerk's Office, 1799–1906.
Clinton County, NY, Clerk's Office, 1851–1906.
"Dexigraphs"–5 x 8 photostat negative copies of naturalization records from Federal, state, county, and municipal courts in the five boroughs of New York City, 1792–1906. A Soundex index is available.


I have not heretofore made a declaration of intention: Number ..... on .....
(Date)
at .....
(City or town) (State) (Name of court)
my last foreign residence was Bermuda Great Britain
(City or town) (Country)
I emigrated to the United States of America from Bermuda Great Britain
(City or town) (Country)
my lawful entry for permanent residence in the United States was at New York N.Y.
(City or town) (State)
under the name of Albert Einstein, on June 3, 1935
(Month) (Day) (Year)
on the vessel SS Queen of Bermuda
(If other than by vessel, state manner of arrival)

I will, before being admitted to citizenship, renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potent
state, or sovereignty, and particularly, by name, to the prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of which I may be at the t
of admission a citizen or subject; I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy;
it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to reside permanently therein; a
certify that the photograph affixed to the duplicate and triplicate hereof is a likeness of me: So HELP ME GOD.

Albert Einstein
(Original signature of declarant without abbreviation, also alias, if used)

Subscribed and sworn to before me in the office of the Clerk of said C
at Trenton, N. J. this 15th day of January
anno Domini 1936. Certification No 3-120742 from the Com
sioner of Immigration and Naturalization showing the lawful entry of
declarant for permanent residence on the date stated above, has been rece
by me. The photograph affixed to the duplicate and triplicate hereof is a
ness of the declarant.

George T. Cranmer
[SEAL] Clerk of the U. S. District C
By ....., Deputy C

(The seal of the court will be impressed so as to cover a portion of the photograph)

Form 2202—I.-A 14—2023
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

No. 5773

3. **Other Sources**

Microfiche of the N.Y. State Department of Health Index to vital records (ca. 1881–1955).
Electronic Index to Social Security Death Benefits, ca. 1970–2001.
Microfilm relating to concentration camp prisoners which includes: questionnaires, death registers, transport lists, discharge lists, and other information.
New York City Directories, 1869–1934.

Passenger Arrival Lists

Our holdings include microfilm copies of the lists for the ports of:

Baltimore, MD (1954–57)
Boston, MA (1820–91)
Canadian Border Crossings, (1895–ca. 1956)
Calais, ME (1906–52)
Fort Fairfield, ME (1909–53)
Galveston, TX (1896–1957)
New York, NY (1820–1956)
Philadelphia, PA (1883–1945)
Tampa, FL (1898–1945)
Thayer, TX (1928–55)
Van Buren, ME (1906–52)
Vanceboro, ME (1906–52)

Certain minor ports in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, the Great Lakes, the Gulf Coast, and South Carolina.

At least partial indexes exist for most of the above lists.

Customs Records

American seamen from New York are documented in U.S. Customs Service records. These records may provide place of birth, town of residence, physical description, and sometimes names of relatives. Specific records include crew lists, shipping articles (which document payments), and Marine Hospital returns of seamen (which document money withheld for dues). These are available for various New York and New Jersey ports, 1789–ca. 1950. Researchers will need to know what ports individual seamen may have shipped out of in order to effectively use these records. To locate crew lists it is usually necessary to know the vessel name, port name, and date of arrival or departure. Please inquire about using these records before visiting, since the records listed above do not exist for every New York and New Jersey port in all time periods.

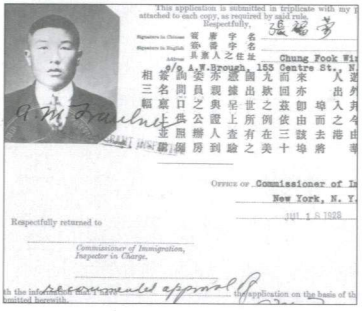
Draft, Military Service, and Pension and Bounty Land Application Records

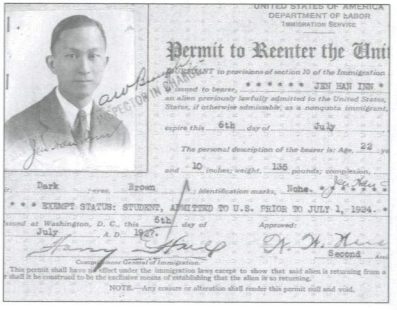
We have microfilm copies of the applications for pension and bounty land warrants issued to veterans of the Revolutionary War and military service records of those who served in the war. These records cover all states and include name indexes. We also have War of 1812 military bounty land warrants; an index to compiled service records of volunteer soldiers who served in the War of 1812; the pension index for veterans of the War of 1812, the "Old Wars," the Mexican War, and the Indian Wars, and Confederate soldiers, 1861–65, as well as a general index to pension applications, submitted between 1861 and 1934, for military service performed up to 1916. Abstracts of service records of naval officers for the period 1798–1893 and indexes to compiled service records of volunteer Union soldiers who served in organizations from New York and New Jersey are available. There

are also World War I draft registration cards and World War II draft registration cards (4th registration only) for New York, New Jersey, and Puerto Rico.

Chinese Exclusion Acts Case Files

Chinese Exclusion Acts case files are a valuable resource for the study of Chinese immigration and Chinese American travel, trade, and social and family history from the late 19th to the mid-20th century. The Act of 1882 established the basis for Chinese exclusion by suspending immigration of Chinese laborers for 10 years and prohibiting admission of Chinese petitioners to U.S. citizenship. Subsequent acts and treaties passed between 1884 and 1930 strengthened the restrictions on Chinese immigration. The acts were repealed in 1943. The records also document the "Chinese confession program," which encouraged immigrants who entered the United States as "paper sons" using false identities to confess without threat of deportation.





Our regional archives holds case files (ca. 1882–1960) resulting from the enforcement of the Chinese Exclusion Acts. The records document the entry into the United States of Chinese aliens and the reentry of U.S. citizens of Chinese ancestry under the acts. Most case files include correspondence, lists of related cases, transcripts of interrogations, and witness statements. Some files include birth certificates, coaching documents, family history forms, photographs, and marriage licenses. There is a detailed database index to the records containing fields for name and alias, hometown, age, marital status, sponsor, and other information extracted from the case files. Privacy Act restrictions may apply in some cases.

Records Relating to African Americans

Some of our holdings relate specifically to African American family research. We have microfilmed records of the assistant commissioners of the Freedmen's Bureau in the Southern States, Registers of Depositors in the branches of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Co., 1865–78 (with index), and marriage records of the Office of Commissioner, Washington Headquarters of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1861–69.

These records often provide considerable information regarding African American daily relations, marriages, births, deaths, occupations, and places of residence. They can contain the names of slave owners and information concerning African American military service, plantation conditions, manumissions, property ownership, and migration. Additional records include the compiled military service records of the 54th and 55th Massachusetts Infantry Regiments.

Records Relating to Native Americans

Our holdings include microfilm copies of the first roll of the Index to the Enrollment Cards for the Five Civilized Indian tribes, the New York segment of the Indian Census Rolls, and an Index to Cherokee "Rejected" and "Doubtful" Dawes Commission Application and Memorandum Case Files, 1899–1907. An act of Congress approved in 1893 established a commission to negotiate agreements with the Choctaw, Creek, Chickasaw, Seminole, and Cherokee Indian tribes. As part of a process to divide tribal land into plots to be divided among the members of the tribe, the Dawes Commission either accepted or rejected applicants for tribal membership based on whether the tribal government had previously recognized the applicants as members of the tribe and other legal requirements. Applicants were categorized as citizens by blood; citizens by marriage; minor citizens by blood; newborn citizens by blood; freedmen (African Americans formerly enslaved by tribal members); newborn freedmen; and minor freedmen. The final cards include both approved and rejected names. Most rolls give the name, age, sex, degree of Indian blood, and census card number of each person.

What We Do Not Have. . .

Despite the resources mentioned above, we are not primarily a genealogical institution. Apart from the vital records index, we do not have birth, death, marriage, or divorce records. These are either state or local records. Questions involving family histories, local records, records of the colonial period (1607–1789), church records, etc., should be directed to the proper state or local government agency or genealogical/historical society in the area in which you are interested.

Reproductions

For a fee, our staff will make or arrange for copies of records and provide certified copies for legal use. You may use self-service copiers for a fee to make copies from paper and microfilm.

Note: We do not search indexes, or any of our microform records, in response to telephone or written requests. They are available at our facility for the convenience of researchers in the New York City area who can visit our regional archives.

