**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 continuing access to the essential documentation of the rights of American citizens and the actions of their government.

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.

**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

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.
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). These are found in indexes to the 1880, 1900, and 1910 census schedules and in 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–Trenton
   - 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.
   - Dutchess County, NY, Clerk's Office, 1856–1906.

3. Other Sources
   - Microfilm of the N.Y. State Department of Health Index to vital records (ca. 1881–1953).

Our facility has microfilm 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.

Resources Relating to Native Americans
Some of our holdings relate specifically to African American family research.

1. Census
   - Indian Census Rolls
   - Dawes Roll Indian Census Index

2. Other Sources
   - Microfilmed rolls of Dawes Commission applications for the Five Civilized Tribes, the New York segment of the Dawes Rolls
   - Microfilm copies of the first roll of the Dawes Roll Indian Census Index

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, divorce or adoption records for either state or local records. Questions involving family histories, local records, records of the colonial period (1647–1789), 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.

Public Programs
Tours, lectures, and workshops on genealogy, using Federal Records for research, and using historical documents as teaching tools are available. Educators, historians, genealogists, students, and interested community members should contact us for more details.
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–Cumberland
   - District of New Jersey–Newark
   - District of New Jersey–Trenton
   - District of Puerto Rico–San Juan Office

2. Other Court Records
   - Essex County, NY, Clerk's Office, 1799–1906.
   - Clinton County, NY, Clerk's Office, 1851–1906.

"Designates,"(5) x 8 photocast 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.

3. Other Sources
Microfilm of the N.Y. State Department of Health Index to vital records (ca. 1881–1953).
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:
   - Boston, MA (1820–91)
   - Calais, ME (1806–52)
   - Fort Myers, FL (1890–53)
   - Cape Ann, MA (1806–52)
   - Philadelphia, PA (1883–1945)
   - Tampa, FL (1889–1945)
   - New York, NY (1820–1956)
   - Charleston, SC (1871–1953)
   - St. Louis, MO (1820–55)
   - Boston, MA (1820–91)
   - Calais, ME (1806–52)
   - Fort Myers, FL (1890–53)

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, 1790–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 at 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 index names. We also have War of 1812 military service and bounty land warrants 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 Confederate soldiers. We have the final cards of the Pension Rolls containing information of veterans 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 pension number of each person.


Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Records
We have film copies of the records for the following offices:
   - Baltimore, MD (1854–57)
   - Calais, ME (1806–1917)
   - New York, NY (1820–1936)
   - Philadelphia, PA (1883–1945)
   - Trenton, NJ (1889–1945)
   - Annapolis, MD (1806–52)

Our holdings include microfilm copies of the first roll of the Index to the Department of the Interior's Pension Records. The Department of the Interior has records documenting 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.

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, and divorce records of 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.

Public Programs
Tours, lectures, and workshops on genealogy, using Federal Records for research, and using historical documents as teaching tools are available. Educators, historians, genealogists, students, and interested community members should contact us for more details.
**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 continuing access to the essential documentation of the rights of American citizens and the actions of their government.

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.

**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

**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 trains 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.–4:30 P.M.

For any additional hours, call toll free at 866-840-1752, or check our web site at www.archives.gov/northeast/nyc/. We are closed Sundays and Federal holidays.

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.