

U.S Marshals

Record Group 60: General Records of the Department of Justice
National Archives at College Park, MD

1. Entry A1 9, Letters Received, 1809-1870
Includes letters received from Marshals in various judicial districts, most of which do not date before 1818; letters pertain to substantive issues and cases, as well as to administrative matters, such as oaths of office, resignations, requests for leave, statistical reports, and authorizations for expenditures.

Finding Aids:

Entry A1 6, Register of Letters Received, 1809-1863

Entry A1 7, Register of Letters Received, Mar. 2, 1861- Dec. 31, 1870

Entry A1 57, Registers of Letters Received on Judiciary Accounts, 1849-1887

2. Entry A1 56, Source Chronological Files (Letters Received), 1871-1884
Includes letters received from Marshals in various districts. Arranged by source and thereunder chronologically.

Records relating to Alabama, Arkansas, the Dakota Territory, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia have been digitized and are available in the National Archives Catalog: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/4687929>.

Finding Aids:

Entry A1 55, Registers of Letters Received in the Source Chronological Files, 1871-1884

Entry A1 57, Registers of Letters Received on Judiciary Accounts, 1849-1887

3. Entry A1 72, Year Files, 1884-1903
Letters received. Arranged numerically by subject or case file.

Finding Aids:

Entry A1 59, Registers of Letters Received in the Year Files, 1884-1903

Entry A1 60, Index to Letters Received in the Year Files and Straight Numerical Files

4. Entry A1 112, Straight Numerical Files, 1904-1937
Letters received and sent. Arranged numerically by subject or case file.

Finding Aids:

Entry A1 60, Index to Letters Received in the Year Files and Straight Numerical Files

Entry A1 93, Card Index to Letters Received and Sent, July 1908-June 1910
Entry A1 101, Card Index to Names of Persons in General Departmental Files, 1917-1930
Entry A1 96, Records Slips

5. Entry A1 12 and A1 77, Instruction Books, 1867 - 1904
This series contains fair and carbon copies of letters to U.S. Attorneys and Marshals instructing them in the performance of their official duties.

These records have been digitized and are available in the National Archives Catalog:
<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/4966451>.

Finding Aids:

Indexes in the front of each volume; reproduced as microfilm publication M710 (Letters sent by the Department of Justice: Instructions to U.S. Marshals and Attorneys, 1867-1904)

6. Entry A1 10 and A1 76, General and Miscellaneous Letter Books, 1818 - 1913
This series contains letters from the Attorney General to the President, heads of departments, U.S. Attorneys and Marshals, judges, clerks of courts, state officials, and private citizens.

Records from 1818-1904 have been digitized and are available in the National Archives Catalog:
<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/4958551>.

Finding Aids:

Indexes in the front of each volume; reproduced as microfilm publication M699 (Letters Sent by the Department of Justice: General and Miscellaneous, 1818-1904)

7. Entry A1 80, Executive and Congressional Letter Books, 2/16/1871 - 6/30/1904
This series contains fair and carbon copies of letters from the Attorney General to the President, heads of executive departments, other executive officials, and members and officers of Congress concerning such matters as the manner in which U.S. Attorneys and Marshals performed their duties, the instructions to be given them, the initiation and conduct of civil and criminal cases.

These records have been digitized and are available in the National Archives Catalog:
<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/5024057>.

Finding Aids:

Indexes in the front of each volume; reproduced as microfilm publication M702 (Letters Sent by the Department of Justice to Executive Officers and Members of Congress, 1871-1904)

8. Entry A1 356, Correspondence Concerning Deputy Marshals, 1898-1937
Arranged by judicial district and thereunder chronologically.
9. Entry A1 350, Records Relating to the Appointment of Federal Judges, Marshals, and Attorneys, 1853-1901
Arranged by judicial district, thereunder chronologically by presidential administration, then alphabetically by applicant.
10. Entry A1 312, Appointment Clerk Letter Books, 1884 - 1934

Copies of correspondence relating to the applications, appointments, and discharge of Marshals and other officials. Arranged chronologically in two subseries: 1884-1889 and 1890-1934

11. Entry A1 119, Judicial Districts Administration Files, 1912-1938
Includes administrative correspondence relating to U.S. Marshals and Deputy Marshals. Arranged according to a numerical filing scheme; for example, File 45E 337 pertains to the political activity of Deputy Marshals in the Eastern District of Texas.

Finding Aids:

A digital copy of the Judicial District Administration Filing Manual can be provided by reference staff.

12. Entry A1 189, Returns of Fees and Expenses of U.S. Marshals and Deputy Marshals, June 1896- June 1912
Arranged by Judicial District.
13. Entry A1 61, Card Index to Records Relating to Administration of Judicial Districts, 1884-1912
Includes the names of Marshals and the relevant Department of Justice file numbers. Arranged judicial districts and thereunder by office and date of appointment.
14. Entry A1 70, Card Index to the Files of U.S. Attorneys and Marshals, 1900-1912
Gives names of Marshals, Department of Justice file numbers, and judicial districts in which they served. Some Deputy Marshals listed.
15. Entry A1 346, Card Index to U.S. Marshals, 1789 - 1960
Includes the name of the Marshal, the date of his nomination, the date of his commission, the judicial district in which he served, the name of his predecessor, and the source of this information.

These records have been digitized and are available in the National Archives Catalog:
<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/5540617>.

Record Group 206: Records of the Solicitor of the Treasury
National Archives at College Park, MD

1. Entry PI-171 42, Letters Received from U.S. District Attorneys, Marshals, and Clerks of the Court, 1801-1899.
Arranged by judicial district and thereunder chronologically by date of letter.
2. Entry PI-171 44, Letters Received from U.S. Marshals, 1839 - 1845
This series contains letters reporting on the volume of work performed in the various judicial districts, requesting blank forms for use in reporting, and explaining delays in sending reports. Arranged by state, thereunder by judicial district, and thereunder chronologically.
3. Entry PI-171 153, Reports of U.S. Marshals, 1821-1885, includes "Marshals Returns."
Reports submitted to the Solicitor, informing them that proceedings had been initiated in which the U.S. was a party or had an interest. The reports are arranged by judicial district and thereunder chronologically.

Record Group 217: Records of the Accounting Offices of the Department of the Treasury

National Archives at Washington, DC

1. Entry A1 316, Emolument Returns for District Attorneys, Clerks of Courts, and Marshals, July 1842- March 1907.

Arranged alphabetically by name of state and thereunder by type of official. Returns consist of abstracts approved by the Attorney General showing source and amount of funds received by the official, services they performed, approved mileage charges, and miscellaneous expenses for which he was entitled to compensation. The abstracts for Marshals also show the names of Deputy Marshals and the amounts to which they were entitled as fees, salaries, and expenses.

Deputy Marshals

In order to undertake a search for information about individual Deputy Marshals, we need to know the individual's full name, the time period of their service, and the judicial district or at least the geographical area where they worked. Depending on the time period of service, information about individual Deputy Marshals can sometimes be found in the following series of records:

1789-1841

Information about individual Deputy Marshals during this time period is extremely limited. The names of Deputy Marshals are sometimes mentioned in Letters Received, 1809-1870 of the records of the Office of the Attorney General, and Letters Received Related to Judiciary Accounts, 1849-1889.

1842-1896

An initial search would start with the emolument returns of U.S. Marshals among the Records of the First Auditor's Office in RG 217. RG 217 is at the National Archives at Washington, DC.

For the time period 1871-1884, researchers should consult the Source Chronological Files under the state or judicial district. From 1884 onward, researchers should consult the Year Files, 1884-1903.

1897-1937

Returns of Fees and Allowances of U.S. Marshals and Deputy Marshals, 1896-1912, give the names of Deputy Marshals and the expenses incurred by each.