

# Research at the National Archives and Records Administration

1-86-NARA-NARA or 1-866-272-6272

## Research Online

**www.archives.gov >> Research our Records >> Search The Catalog**

Search: Be as Specific as Possible Example: John McCain POW

Result: Photograph of John McCain after his release

Record Hierarchy

Record Group 428:

General Records of the Department of the Navy, 1941-2004

Select from menu: ALL Available Online Web Docs Images Video

Refine by: Data Source Level of description Type of Archival Materials

File Format Location Date

For onsite review: Search Requests- Record the following information for pull slips:

National Archives Identifier Record Group

Type of Record/Archival Materials Restrictions

For your information:

Location: Specific location of where the item is found in the Archives holdings

Examples: Archives 2, College Park MD. FDR Presidential Library Hyde Park NY

Email Address (for you to make contact if necessary)

Got to this webpage to learn search tips for the National Archives Catalog.

**[www.archives.gov/research/catalog/help/search-tips.html](http://www.archives.gov/research/catalog/help/search-tips.html)**

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## Genealogy Research

**www.archives.gov >> Research our Records >> Research Your Ancestry**

Explore the resources on the entire page. Don't miss "Browse Popular Topics" and "Tools for Genealogists."

**www.archives.gov >> Research our Records >> Access to Archives Databases (AAD)**

**<https://aad.archives.gov/aad>**

Genealogy/Personal History

Passenger lists – i.e. Irish famine

Prisoners of War General Search

**[www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/start-research/website.html](http://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/start-research/website.html)** What You Can Find Online

**Reference Information Papers (RIP)** are available as free downloadable PDFs. Find the complete list here. [www.archives.gov/publications/ref-info-papers](http://www.archives.gov/publications/ref-info-papers)

RIP of interest to family historians include:

Using Civilian Records for Genealogical Research (RIP 110)

[www.archives.gov/publications/ref-info-papers/rip110.pdf](http://www.archives.gov/publications/ref-info-papers/rip110.pdf)

Black Family Research (RIP 108) [www.archives.gov/publications/ref-info-papers/rip108.pdf](http://www.archives.gov/publications/ref-info-papers/rip108.pdf)

Military Service Records (RIP 109) [www.archives.gov/publications/ref-info-papers/rip109.pdf](http://www.archives.gov/publications/ref-info-papers/rip109.pdf)

Research in the Land Entry Files of the General Land Office (RIP 114)

[www.archives.gov/files/publications/ref-info-papers/rip114.pdf](http://www.archives.gov/files/publications/ref-info-papers/rip114.pdf)

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Obtain copies of records: genealogy, military, court, etc.

[www.archives.gov/research/order#genie](http://www.archives.gov/research/order#genie)

### **Ordering Copies of Military records**

Use the following website to order pre-1913 military service records from Washington, D.C.

<https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline>.

Or print out and mail in NATF Form 86. [www.archives.gov/files/forms/pdf/natf-86.pdf](http://www.archives.gov/files/forms/pdf/natf-86.pdf)

Order copies of federal pension claim files for military service from the American Revolution up to World War I. Also for copies of bounty land warrant applications for federal military service before 1856. <https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline>

Or print out and mail in NATF Form 85. [www.archives.gov/files/forms/pdf/natf-85.pdf](http://www.archives.gov/files/forms/pdf/natf-85.pdf)

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## **Research in Person**

**Archival Research Room, Archives I, Washington, DC**

**700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20408**

[www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) >> **Research Our Records** >> **Research in Person** >> **Plan Your Research Visit**

[www.archives.gov/research/start/plan-visit](http://www.archives.gov/research/start/plan-visit) Read all content carefully and thoroughly on the **Plan Your Research Visit** webpage and links. A successful research trip to NARA requires planning and preparation.

### **Mary's hints for researching on site:**

1. Plan your research trip! See website above.
2. Read everything on line about researching before your visit.
3. Note Record Group numbers, etc, ahead of time. This information is required for pull slips. Make a photocopy of your pull slip for your future reference and citation. If you do not finish with your research, ask for documents to be held. (Three to five business days.)
4. No records are retrieved on Saturdays. For first visit, go early on a weekday to get researcher identification card. The Research Center is open from 9 AM –5 PM, Monday through Saturday.
5. As of October 2017 pull times are: 9:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 11:30 AM., 1:00 PM, 2:00 PM, and 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday. A late arrival may not allow viewing of documents.

6. Know what sort of equipment is allowed in researcher's room. I.e. No flash camera; no wand scanner. Learn more here: [www.archives.gov/publications/general-info-leaflets/71-06-dc-area-records.html](http://www.archives.gov/publications/general-info-leaflets/71-06-dc-area-records.html)
  7. Take something to work on while your request is being filled.
  8. Add money to your researcher identification card to use the Archives photocopier.
  9. Carry the minimum with you. Your belongings are required to be stored in lockers.
  10. The researcher's room provides paper and pencils.
  11. Keep good notes on records and record groups consulted, so you can retrace your steps.
  12. Use the finding aids located in the research center to help you in your research.
  13. Sit at a non-reserved table.
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### Online Databases Available for Free in the Research Rooms

- The Archives Library's Online Public Access Catalog
- America: History & Life
- Ancestry.com
- ArchivesUSA™
- Family Search
- Fold3 (formerly Footnote.com)
- GaleNet's Biography and Genealogy Master Index
- Heritage Quest
- ProQuest/UMI Heritage Quest Online
- ProQuest Direct

<b>Subjects for some of the Finding Aids available on site in Research Room at Archives 1 in DC</b>	
<b>Immigration and Naturalization</b>	
1	Immigration Records ( Ship Passenger Arrival records)
2	On line Searchable Records -Genealogy /Personal History Passenger Lists Russians, Irish Famine Refugees, Germans, Italians
3	Example of Individual Passenger List Record
4	Chinese Immigration into the Port of San Francisco
5	Japanese- Internee Database File
6	Irish Ship Arrivals at Port of NY during the Irish Potato Famine
7	Immigration and Naturalization Service Accessioned Microfilm
8	Missing INS Passenger Arrival Records 1945-1954
9	Immigrants Arriving at Port of NY-Records of US Custom Service
10	Passport Applications 1795-1925
11	Research Guide to Selected Bureau of Naturalization Case and Correspondence Files
12	Enumeration of Inhabitants of Puerto Rico

	<b>Native Americans</b>
13	Published Government Sources Relating to Native Americans
14	Online Records Relating to Native Americans
15	Records Relating to the Five Civilized Tribes
16	Enumeration of Seminole Indians in Florida 1880-1940
17	Native Americans in the Bureau of Census Records 1857-1907
18	Enumeration of Pueblo Indians 1790-1939
19	Native Americans in the Federal Decennial Censuses 1790-1910
20	The Cherokee Removal -Trail of Tears 1836-1839
21	Eastern Cherokee Enrollments and Census Enumeration 1835-1940
22	Chippewa Enumeration 1895-1940
	<b>African-Americans</b>
23	Slave narratives
24	Bureau of Refugees, Freedman and Abandoned Lands -Freedman's Bureau of Virginia
25	General Administration Records of the Freedman's Bureau
26	Military Service in the United States Colored Troops (USCT)
27	Patients and Staff at the Freedman's Hospital, DC in the Federal Census 1870-1940
28	Records Pertaining to the Buffalo Soldiers
	<b>Military Service Records</b>
29	Enlisted Service in the Regular Army 1789-1914
30	Officers in the Regular Army 1789-1916
31	Enumeration of Rev. War and CW veterans and pensions 1840,1890,1910, 1930
32	Officers US Navy 1789-1925
33	Sailors in the US Navy 1798-1885
34	Records for Revolutionary War Military Service and Patriotic Service
35	Impressed American Seamen 1789-1815
36	Voluntary Military Service During the War of 1812
37	Selected Records Military Service-Hispanic Volunteers- Old Indian Wars -1835-1855
38	Selected Records Military Service-Hispanic Volunteers- Civil War - 1861-1865
39	Pensions for Military Service in the Army of the Confederate States of America
40	Southern Claims Commission: Approved Case Files
41	Textual Records -Military Service Records Puerto Rico Volunteers 1899-1901
42	Military Service During Spanish American War 1898-1899
43	Military Service During Philippine Insurrection 1899-1902
44	WWI Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards 1917-1918
45	WWII Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards: 4 <sup>th</sup> Registration 1942
46	WWII Casualty Lists
47	Prisoners During the Revolutionary War

48	Partial List of Prisoners of War, Andersonville Prison 1864-1865
49	Register of Paroled Union Prisoners c. 1862-1863
50	Register Name of Prisoners, Including both Confederate and Union Deserters '61-'63
	On line Searchable Record for Prisoners of War
51	WWII; prisoners of the Japanese WWII; Korean War; Killed in Action, Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Viet Nam War
	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>
53	Pathfinder to Women's History
54	President Pardons and Amnesty to Former Confederate Citizens
55	Confederate Citizens During the Civil War
56	Headstone Research for US Military Vets Buried in non-Federal Cemeteries
57	How to request info about a Veteran Burial site in a National Cemetery after CW

## **Genealogy Research Beyond Ancestry.com**

### **General suggestions**

Search in Federal Records, State Archives and Libraries, Public Libraries with Special Collections, Historical and Genealogical Societies, Military Museums, American Legions and Veterans of Foreign War. Look at cemetery records, church records, courthouse records, county, community, church and family histories and newspapers.

### **50 Free Genealogy Sites to Search Today**

<https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-resources/50-free-genealogy-sites/>

### **Military Records**

American Battle Monuments Commission -search AMBC burials  
[www.abmc.gov/database-search](http://www.abmc.gov/database-search)

Arlington National Cemetery ANC Explorer  
<http://ancexplorer.army.mil/publicwmv/index.html>

Descendants of Point Lookout POW Organization  
[www.plpow.com](http://www.plpow.com)

Medal of Honor Recipients  
<https://history.army.mil/index.html> **military Times**

Military Times Homes of Heroes Awards and Citations Database  
[www.homeofheroes.com/verify/recipients\\_br.html](http://www.homeofheroes.com/verify/recipients_br.html)

National Archives World War II Records  
[www.archives.gov/research/military/ww2](http://www.archives.gov/research/military/ww2)

WWII Army and Army Air Force Casualties | National Archives  
[www.archives.gov/research/military/ww2/army-casualties](http://www.archives.gov/research/military/ww2/army-casualties)

National Park Service Soldiers and Sailors Database (Civil War)  
[www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm](http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm)

New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center  
<https://dmna.ny.gov/historic>

Official Record of the War of the Rebellion  
<http://ebooks.library.cornell.edu/m/moawar/waro.html>

Valley Forge Muster Roll  
<http://valleyforgemusterroll.org/muster.asp>

U.S. Southern Claims Commission Master Index, 1871-1880 (Ancestry, fee. Free at the library.)  
<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1216>

### **Miscellaneous Examples**

Illinois State Genealogical Society  
<https://ilgensoc.org>

Library of Virginia collections  
[www.lva.virginia.gov/siteIndex.asp](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/siteIndex.asp)

Library of Virginia online collections  
[www.virginiamemory.com](http://www.virginiamemory.com)

Genealogical Records at the Library of Virginia  
[www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/Generesearch.pdf](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/Generesearch.pdf)

Arlington Library Local History  
<https://library.arlingtonva.us/center-for-local-history>

State Archives of North Carolina digital collections  
<http://digital.ncdcr.gov>

Fairfax County Circuit Court  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/circuit/civil-case-information/civil-records](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/circuit/civil-case-information/civil-records)  
Examples- Land records, Marriages, Wills

### **Virginia Room Reference books - examples**

*Heritage of Braxton County, West Virginia 1995*, by Braxton County Heritage Book Committee.  
VREF 929.3754 BRAX

*Colonial families of Anne Arundel County, Maryland*, by Robert William Barnes.  
VREF 929.3752 ANNE

*A History of Rowan County, North Carolina containing sketches of prominent families and distinguished men, with an appendix*, by Jethro Rumble. VREF 975.67 R

### **BOOKS in the Virginia Room**

*Brothers and Cousins: Confederate Soldiers and Sailors of Fairfax County*  
Compiled by William Page Johnson. VREF 929.3755 FAIR

*Beginning at a White Oak: Patents and Northern Neck Grants of Fairfax County, VA*  
by Beth Mitchell. VREF 929.3755 FAIR

*Fairfax County in 1860: A Collective Biography.* by Edith Moore Sprouse. VREF 929.3755 FAIR

*Stories in Stone: A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography.*  
by Douglas Keister. VREF 731.76 K

*A Graveyard Preservation Primer,* by Lynette Strangstad. VREF 731.76 S

*Cemeteries of Fairfax County Virginia 2002-2003,* by Brian Conley. VREF 929.3755 FAIR

## **INTERNET SEARCHES**

Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association website:  
**[www.honorfairfaxcemeteries.org](http://www.honorfairfaxcemeteries.org)**

On line Fairfax County cemetery information:  
**[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/vr/cem](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/vr/cem)**

Find a Grave website – over 50 million graves recorded:  
**[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)**

Billion Graves **<https://billiongraves.com>**

Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest are available FREE online at Fairfax County Public Libraries.  
HQ is also accessible remotely with your FCPL card.

Fold3 **[www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com)** Available remotely with LVA card. Register for card online.

Symbolism on markers. **[www.gravestonestudies.org/faq.htm](http://www.gravestonestudies.org/faq.htm)**

Family search website- search by region **[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)**

Circuit Court Archives  
**[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/courts/circuit](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/courts/circuit)**

Virginia Room City of Fairfax Regional Library  
**[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/virginia-room](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/virginia-room)**

Tombstone Transcription  
**[www.usgwtombstones.org/virginia/fairfax.html](http://www.usgwtombstones.org/virginia/fairfax.html)**

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
**[www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov)**

## **NEWSPAPERS**

Local newspapers articles are available on microfilm at the Virginia Room.  
Headlines/ Topics can be searched on line.  
**[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library\\_newsindex](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library_newsindex)**

Historical Washington Post and New York Times newspapers are available on line with a library card.  
**<https://research.fairfaxcounty.gov/az.php>** Click on “N” for NYT, “W” for WaPo.

Library of Congress Chronicling America. Digitized newspapers, free search 1789-1943  
**<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers>**

Newspaper.com **[www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com)** Subscription required.