



## National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

- <https://www.archives.gov>

- Select



- New Catalog preview: <https://www.archives.gov/research/catalog/ngc-preview>

Online Catalog are not genealogically focused

Most of NARA Content is not digitized

Divided by Record Groups and numbered entries or series

### What to do before searching:

- ✓ Write down your research question.
- ✓ Decide what topic you want to browse.
- ✓ Think of possible ways your ancestor interacted with the Federal Government. (i.e. bankruptcy, passenger lists, etc.)

### What does the catalog search?

- ✓ Keyword Searching
- ✓ Exact Phrase Searching
- ✓ Wildcard Searching
- ✓ Stemming
- ✓ Search Expansions
- ✓ Advanced Searching
- ✓ Relevancy Ranking

### Records Hierarchy

- ✓ Record Group
- ✓ Series
- ✓ File Unit
- ✓ Item

### How to Search

- ✓ Keyword searches: <https://www.archives.gov/research/catalog/help/search-tips#opasearch>
- ✓ Filtered Searches
- ✓ Advanced Search “bounty land” – digital objects



### Better search results

- ✓ Search on the person's full name in first name-last name order.
- ✓ Search for last name – first name within quotes
- ✓ Search on the surname only. Again you can use quotes.
- ✓ Search on spelling variations using the search operator OR. This works well when searching name variations such as: Burkett OR Burkette.
- ✓ Search on variant spellings of the first name, including "Americanized" versions.
- ✓ Example: Joseph Maggio OR Guiseppe Maggio.
- ✓ Keep in mind that most descriptions in the National Archives Catalog do not include the names of people mentioned in the record. If you know an individual participated in event, search for related keywords and look within the records. You will need to read them to see if your ancestor is mentioned.
  
- ✓ Shift your focus from people to topics.
- ✓ This is strongly recommended by the National Archives. You are much more likely to get a greater number of results because people aren't usually named in descriptions.
- ✓ Be sure to read the description carefully to see if the item will be helpful and worth requesting.

### Access to Archival Databases (AAD)

- ✓ Search
- ✓ Category
- ✓ Browse by subject

**Record Group Explorer (RG 85 Immigration, RG 93 Revolutionary war, R 109 Confederate, RG 29 Bureau of the Census, show cntl +F, list view)**

### Links to Records Digitized by our Partners

History Hub (2016): <https://historyhub.history.gov/welcome>

### Request Veteran Records



- Request records (not all Servicemen records are digitized), ask for all records
- Must be related
- Not on living people

### Research your ancestors help:



### Research Military Records:



Are all the records in NARA also in Ancestry & FamilySearch? Partner have subsets.