

Since there was not time to get answers to the questions at the end of the webinar Rose and John graciously have provided written responses:

Are army service records separate/different from army military personnel folders? Or does that refer to the same thing.

The Army Official Military Personnel Folders (OMPFs) relate specifically to service in the 20th Century (World War I and later) and are located at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO. When we refer generically to other service records, we are usually referring to the Compiled Military Service Records (CMSRs) for state volunteers from the Revolutionary War through the Philippine Insurrection, which are located at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. Regular Army personnel for that earlier time period did not have service records, so you have to rely on the U.S. Army Register of Enlistments for general information pertaining to their service from 1798 to 1914.

Do the Old Man's Draft cards for the other states exist anywhere? I am in Texas

All of the original draft cards for the 4th Registration (Old Man's Draft) are located at the National Archives at St. Louis (a separate facility from the National Personnel Records Center, but they actually share the same building). The draft cards for states that were not microfilmed by NARA have now been digitized, including Texas, and are available online at Ancestry.com and Fold3.com. Records for eight states, however, no longer exist, including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. More information about all of the draft records held in St. Louis, and how to access them, is available on the NARA website at <https://www.archives.gov/st-louis/selective-service>.

Can you repeat the information on requesting an individual's passenger record from NARA - was it a Form 81?

Yes, researchers can request an individual's passenger arrival record using NATF Form 81. A copy of the form can be downloaded from our website at the following link: <https://www.archives.gov/forms>. Alternately, researchers can submit their requests online through the following link: <https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline>. Researchers must provide the full name of the individual, the port of entry, and the approximate date of arrival in order for our staff to do a search.

Can you comment on what other subscription databases might have some of your records, such as Find My Past, Heritage Quest Online, My Heritage Library Edition?

We do not have a list of all databases that might feature our records. A number of institutions, projects, and private individuals may have ordered copies of our records in the past, and then digitized those copies and made them available online. We do not have a way to track that. We do, however, have a list of organizations with which we have formal digitization partnership agreements. This list is available on our website at the following link: <https://www.archives.gov/digitization/partnerships.html>. For a list of the subscription-based databases that researchers can access for free at all NARA

research facilities, please see our website at this link: <https://www.archives.gov/research/databases>.

How should one prepare before coming to the National Archives to do genealogical research?

This is an excellent question! We definitely recommend that visitors to our facilities do some prior research before arriving, both to understand how our records fit into their research topics and how to manage their time while they are here. The first place researchers might want to go is to the tutorial on our website:

<https://www.archives.gov/research/start>. These pages will orient researchers to our holdings and help them decide if they need to make an in-person visit or not. As we noted in our presentation, a number of genealogical records in our holdings have been digitized and made available online, so researchers might not need to visit us in person if they want to explore, for example, census records. Other records might not yet be digitized in full, but indexes to those records might be available online and researchers might be able to request the records themselves remotely. This is the case with Civil War-era pension records, most of which are not yet available online in full. The indexes to these records have been digitized and are available online through [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) and [Fold3.com](https://www.fold3.com). The files themselves can be requested using NATF Form 85 (available to download at the following link: <https://www.archives.gov/forms>).

Our general research page (<https://www.archives.gov/research>) provides links to other online research tools, like the National Archives Catalog, that researchers might want to consult before they visit. The NARA Catalog (<https://catalog.archives.gov>) provides series-level descriptions of most records in our holdings nationwide, many of which have not yet been digitized and made available online. If researchers identify a series in the catalog that they would like to view during their visit, they should mark down the name of the series, the record group number, the MLR/HMS entry number, and the National Archives Identifier that are listed on the series description page (or just print out a copy of the series description page and bring it with them). That information will help our staff identify the correct records to pull. Tips for searching our catalog are available here: <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/catalog-guide>.

Researchers also need to prepare for some of the logistics of their visit. If they are visiting our facility here in Washington, DC, our hours are Monday through Friday, 8:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Researchers do not have to make a prior appointment to visit us in DC. However, some of our regional research facilities have different hours and do require advanced notice of an in-person visit due to limited seating in their research rooms. Anyone interested in visiting one of our regional facilities will want to check their specific websites for their operating hours and visiting policies. (A list of our regional facilities can be found on our website here: <https://www.archives.gov/locations>.) At our DC site, first-time researchers will have to go through our orientation process and obtain a researcher card before they can use our computers, view our microfilm publications, or request original records. They will need to show photo identification (like a driver's license or passport) during this process. Once they have their researcher card, the card is valid for one year. We are not staffed to pull original records in advance of

researchers' arrival, so researchers will need to build in additional time to fill out request slips once they are on site and have their researcher card. We have specific times throughout the day at which we retrieve original records from the stacks (currently, 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.), so researchers must keep these times in mind if they want to view original records. If they just want to use our public access computers or our microfilm publications, they do not need to wait for a specific pull time; our microfilm is self-service, and our computers can be used at any time during our regular operating hours as well.

Additional information related to handling and scanning original records, materials that are not allowed in our research rooms, group visits, and more can be found on our Information for Researchers page: <https://www.archives.gov/dc/researcher-info>. We strongly suggest that researchers review this page and those linked to it before their visit to familiarize themselves with our policies. Of course, if researchers have any questions about making an on-site visit to our DC site, they can email us at archives1reference@nara.gov.

From Kathy:

FDLP LibGuides has a genealogy guide at:

<https://libguides.fdlp.gov/GenealogyResources> which has many government related genealogy sites including links to all NARA Archives and Federal Record Centers. If you know of any other government sites which are not listed on the guide send those to FDLPOutreach@gpo.gov