

# National Archives

- The National Archives was established in 1934 by Congress.
- Purpose – to centralize federal record keeping.
- Mission – to preserve, maintain and make accessible federal material that documents American history back to 1775.
- NARA records belong to the public and their mission is to ensure the public has access so they can discover, use and learn from the government records.
- NARA is working to digitize selected records, including those most requested by researchers.
- In 1949, the name changed to National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).
- Only 1 to 3 percent of records generated by the US government are preserved.
- NARA administers the main archives:
  - Archives I in Washington, DC
  - Archives II in College Park, MD
- Ten affiliated archives
- Thirteen presidential libraries
- Nineteen regional records centers
- Thirteen - now twelve regional archives (as of summer 2014)

## Frequently-requested Family History Records

- Federal Military Pension Files especially for the Revolutionary War through the Civil War
- Bounty Land Warrant Applications
- Compiled Military Service Records through the Spanish-American War
- Federal Land Entry Files

## Use the following websites to access National Archive Records:

- FamilySearch.org (free)
- Ancestry.com (\$)
- Fold3 (\$)

To see the list of microfilm and original records digitized by FamilySearch, Ancestry & Fold3 posted on the NARA website (possibly other partners in the future) – use this web address:

<http://www.archives.gov/digitization/digitized-by-partners.html>

## NARA Partners

- ***EMC Corporation***
  - John F. Kennedy Library Foundation Newsletter (Fall 2006)
  - John F. Kennedy Library
- ***Fold3.com (formerly Footnote)***
  - NARA Press Release (January 10, 2007)
  - Fold3.com (\$)
- ***Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU)***
  - NARA Press Release (October 23, 2007)
  - FamilySearch.org (Free)
- ***Ancestry.com***
  - NARA Press Release (May 20, 2008)
  - Ancestry.com (\$)
- ***Google***
  - NARA Press Release (February 24, 2006)
  - National Archives Multimedia Works
  - Google – National Archives YouTube
- ***University of Texas***
  - NARA Press Release (February 15, 2007)
  - About the Presidential Timeline Project

- Presidential Timeline of the Twentieth Century
- **American University**  
Partnership Agreement (2013)
- **Find My Past**  
Partnership Agreement (2015)
- **Royal Commission of the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (“RCAMS”)**  
Partnership Agreement forthcoming