
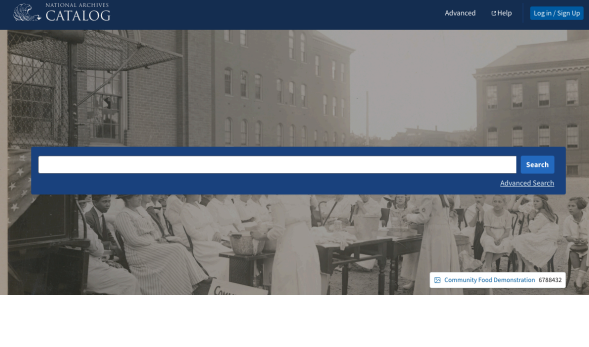


Exploring the National Archives Website for Family History Research

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Introduction to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

- Established by Congress in 1934
- Records created by the federal government: of interest to genealogists are census, immigration and travel, naturalization (federal courts), land, military service, federal employment. How did my ancestors interact with the federal government?
[archives.gov/research/genealogy/start-research/faqs](https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/start-research/faqs)
- "Archives I" (Washington, DC) and "Archives II" (College Park, Maryland); also regional facilities around the country and National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, Missouri; Presidential Libraries.
- Records maintained just as they were by federal agencies. Organized by Record Group (RG), creator, series, file unit, item. Original order and filing systems preserved

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| <p>archives.gov National Archives website For discovering more about the National Archives and its programs, guides and resources for genealogy</p> | <p>catalog.archives.gov National Archives catalog For searching for specific record series and items, reading record descriptions, and accessing digitized records</p> |

Resources for Genealogists

- Main page: [archives.gov/research/genealogy](https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy)
- Know Your Records recordings on YouTube: [archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records](https://www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records)
- Virtual Genealogy Fairs recordings and handouts: [archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair](https://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair)
- Prologue Magazine's Genealogy Notes articles - organized topically: [archives.gov/publications/prologue/genealogy-notes](https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/genealogy-notes)
- History Hub - ask your general or specific genealogy questions - NARA staff and other researchers will answer. Communities focused on immigration, military, land, Native American, African American research. historyhub.history.gov

Resources for Learning About Records

Microfilm

- Microfilm subject guides: [archives.gov/publications/microfilm-catalogs-0](https://www.archives.gov/publications/microfilm-catalogs-0)
- "Order Online" microfilm catalog has links to descriptive pamphlets for individual microfilm publications: eservices.archives.gov/orderonline
- Descriptive pamphlets are excellent; text may not be fully duplicated in NARA online catalog entries

Research Guides


- Finding Aids: [archives.gov/publications/finding-aids/guides.html](https://www.archives.gov/publications/finding-aids/guides.html)

News

- Social media - follow individual facilities: [archives.gov/social-media](https://www.archives.gov/social-media)
- Blogs - subscribe to "The Text Message" (textual records), "Unwritten Record" (audiovisual records): [archives.gov/social-media/blogs](https://www.archives.gov/social-media/blogs)
- What's New for Researchers (records moving from one location to another): [archives.gov/research/news](https://www.archives.gov/research/news)

What Records Can Be Viewed and Accessed Online?

Access to Archival Databases (AAD)

- Databases of electronic records: aad.archives.gov
- See databases listed under "Genealogy/Personal History"
- Read descriptive material about databases to find out how they connect to other records (link to description via  icon next to individual databases)

National Archives Catalog: catalog.archives.gov

- Quick video introduction to the catalog: youtu.be/-yycJiCqzbc
- Catalog guide for genealogists: [archives.gov/research/genealogy/catalog-guide](https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/catalog-guide)
- Catalog enables search of record series across NARA facilities (Archives I/II, regional facilities, Presidential libraries) and access to digitized records
- Not easily searchable by name – many series have not yet been indexed by name. If a name index exists, the series description will state this in "Finding Aid Type"; the index may only be available by contacting the NARA facility directly.
- When you do find something – read about the records, contact archivists
- NARA catalog newsletter: [archives.gov/research/catalog/newsletter](https://www.archives.gov/research/catalog/newsletter)
- When interpreting results from the NARA catalog, consider whether what you've found is on the "Series", "File Unit", or "Item" level. Most entries in the NARA catalog that have individual names will be on the "File Unit" or "Item" level, but the descriptive information about the records is at the "Series" level.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES CATALOG Theodore Ackerland

1-20 of 45 results for *Theodore Ackerland* in 0.59 seconds. Results per page: 20

Filter by: **All records** (44) Available to access online (44)

Sort by: **Most Relevant**

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File Unit
Theodore Ackerland
 NAID: 118767669
 Creator: Department of Agriculture, Farm Security Administration, Rural Rehabilitation Division, Region 2, Milwaukee (Wisconsin), 1937-1946
 Record Group 96: Records of the Farmers Home Administration
 Series: Farm Ownership Case Files

This search for records for "Theodore Ackerland" turns up a "File Unit" entry from the series "Farm Ownership Case Files".

Record Group 96: Records of the Farmers Home Administration >> Series: Farm Ownership Case Files

File Unit **NOT YET AVAILABLE ONLINE**

Theodore Ackerland

NAID: 118767669 | Textual Records

Not Yet Available Online
 This File Unit contains records, none of which are available online.

On the file unit webpage, "Series: Farm Ownership Case Files" is linked to the series webpage. The series webpage has a Function and Use information - providing you with background about WHY the records were created - and Scope and Content information - which tells you WHAT is in the records.

Digitization

- Goal of 500 million pages digitized by 2026: [archives.gov/digitization](https://www.archives.gov/digitization)
- Yet this is still a very small part of the total records held by NARA
- Interest in digitizing/transcribing records that are of greatest interest to researchers, or indexes that will help open up other record sets
- Citizen Archivist program to transcribe records. Participate in "missions" (transcribing records suggested by NARA staff) or find digitized records that fit your interests: [archives.gov/citizen-archivist](https://www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist)
- "What's New in the Catalog": [archives.gov/research/catalog/whats-new](https://www.archives.gov/research/catalog/whats-new)

Digitized by Partners and Third Parties

- Many microfilm and physical records that have been digitized by partners are listed here: [archives.gov/digitization/digitized-by-partners](https://www.archives.gov/digitization/digitized-by-partners)
- This list is not complete - there are records on third party websites that do not appear on this list because they were digitized outside of a partnership agreement

Connecting the Dots - What's Online on Ancestry and FamilySearch

Ancestry and FamilySearch have digitized and/or transcribed many records from the holdings of the National Archives. It's essential to map what you find to what's at the National Archives, for a more complete understanding of the record you've identified.

- On Ancestry, read Source Information and the About notes for each record
- On FamilySearch, click into the Document Information tab -- see example at right →
- Look for National Archives Identifiers (NAID) or microfilm publication numbers (start with M or T, e.g., M1476 or T458)
- Take these identifiers and plug them into the National Archives catalog and the microfilm catalog to find more descriptive information about the records.
- FamilySearch often includes microfilm descriptive pamphlets at the start of the run of digital images.

| Document Information | | ^ |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| Affiliate Film Number | 2 | |
| Affiliate Publication Number | A3408 | |
| Affiliate Publication Title | Registers of Japanese, Filipinos, and Hawaiians Held for Boards of Special Inquiry at San Francisco, California, September 1928-February 1942 | |

Further Resources

"Finding Genealogy Resources and Tools on Archives.gov" webinar by NARA web team member Sarah Swanson, May 12, 2021: youtu.be/-pAm2B0IQW0

Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives of the United States edited by Anne Bruner Eales and Robert M. Kvasnicka, 3rd ed., 2000. Full text available on HathiTrust: catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/003834362

The Twelve Key: [twelvekey.com](https://www.twelvekey.com) Blog and incredible compilation of resources by retired NARA archivist and genealogy expert Claire Kluskens