

NARA Research in Kansas City

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About the National Archives - Kansas City

- Located in the historic Adams Express Building (est. 1913), serving Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota, plus records from other regions.
 - Home to federal documents from the 1820s–2000s; includes court, immigration, and military records.
 - Building underwent major renovation in 2007 with state-of-the-art archival storage.
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Planning Your Visit

Preparation:

- Schedule an appointment at kansascity.archives@nara.gov.
- Obtain a Researcher Card: Complete orientation online or in-person (bring photo ID).
- Research Room Hours: Mon–Fri, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (closed federal holidays).

Access Rules:

- Allowed: Clear sandwich size plastic bag, NARA-issued paper, pencils, laptops, phones, authorized scanners, necessary medical equipment.
 - Not Allowed: Pens, purses, book bags, food/drinks, books, flash drives without permission. Lockers provided for personal items.
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Key Record Groups and Collections

Record Group	Topics & Genealogical Value
RG 129 – Leavenworth Inmate	Prisoner files (incl. famous inmates); photos, family contact, discipline, sentencing, mail logs.

Record Group	Topics & Genealogical Value
RG 96 – Farmers Home Adm.	Depression-era farm loans, family data, photos, economic & medical records (great census substitute).
RG 21 – 566 Naturalizations	District court records/USCIS records
RG 566 – Alien Registration	Registration files for immigrants from various states; helpful for creating a timeline of migration, vital stats, biographical detail.

Examples: Genealogical "Gems"

- **Leavenworth Prison Files:** Detailed case files (e.g., Louis "Two-Strike," famous prisoner records, mail logs, disciplinary actions, parole).
 - **Farmers Home Admin. Family Information Schedules:** Vital information for Depression-era midwestern families, including education, photos of property and people, and occasionally blueprints.
 - **Alien & Citizenship Files (A-Files & C-Files):** Biographical info, visas, photos, affidavits, signatures, clubs/society memberships, and immigration timelines.
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Requesting Records

- Use NARA's online catalog to find holdings; request by RG and local identifiers.
 - Many records are stored off-site (in secure caves); allow a few days for retrieval.
 - Digital options limited but growing; some indexes and select files online.
 - Fees apply for scans and copies (see NARA fee schedule).
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Research Tips

- Create an inventory of files with Excel or research notes (OneNote suggested for digital records). Take photos of boxes/folder names
 - Plan breaks and meals; food area and microwave available, but not in the Research Room.
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