



***Passport Records:  
Passport Applications at NARA, 1790s–1925***

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Since 1934, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has held in trust for the American people the permanently valuable records of the United States federal government.

**National Archives and Records Administration Main Website – [archives.gov](https://www.archives.gov)**

- Passport applications and related records are part of Record Group 59, General Records of the Department of State, [catalog.archives.gov/id/388](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/388) (RG 59).
- Passport Applications information page – [archives.gov/research/passport](https://www.archives.gov/research/passport)
- Records that are digitized must be viewed digitally. For access to RG 59 records that are not digitized, contact [archives2reference@nara.gov](mailto:archives2reference@nara.gov).
- Information about obtaining a research appointment, the researcher registration process, research room rules, and more is at [archives.gov/college-park](https://www.archives.gov/college-park).

**TYPES OF PASSPORTS**

1. **Regular Passports**
2. **Emergency Passports.** These passports were issued abroad from 1874 to 1926 to native and naturalized U.S. citizens by diplomatic and consular officials for emergency purposes only and were valid for only six months. They were discontinued by the Act of Congress of July 3, 1926 (44 *Statutes at Large* 887).
3. **Special** (diplomatic personnel and government officials traveling abroad).

**INDEXES AND REGISTERS**

**NARA Microfilm Publication M1371, Registers and Indexes for Passport Applications, 1810–1906 (13 rolls).**

- Available on FamilySearch – [familysearch.org/search/catalog/500311](https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/500311).
- Available on Ancestry – “U.S., Passport Applications, 1795–1925” database.
- Includes these series:
  - Registers and Indexes for Passport Applications, 1810–1906 (National Archives Identifier: 579314), [catalog.archives.gov/id/579314](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/579314).

- Index to Emergency Passport Applications, 1874–1905 (Rolls 10–11) (National Archives Identifier: 1187502), [catalog.archives.gov/id/1187502](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1187502).
- Index to Special Passport Applications, 1829–1894 (Roll 12) (National Archives Identifier: 1145611), [catalog.archives.gov/id/1145611](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1145611).
- Registers of Special Passports, 1836–1869 (Roll 13) (National Archives Identifier: 1145657), [catalog.archives.gov/id/1145657](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1145657). Includes:
  - Register of special passports issued at New York, 1862–1869
  - Register of special passports granted by Secretaries of State, 1836–1864
  - Register of special courier passports, 1865–1869
  - Passport account of J. B. Nones, 1867
  - Passport account of George F. Baker, 1864–1869.

**NARA Microfilm Publication M1848, Index to Passport Applications, 1850–1852, 1860–1880, 1881, 1906–1923 (61 rolls).**

- Available on FamilySearch – [familysearch.org/search/catalog/500311](https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/500311).
- Available on Ancestry – “U.S., Passport Applications, 1795–1925” database.
- Includes these series:
  - Index to Passport Applications, 1850–1852 (Rolls 1–28), created by NARA staff decades ago, duplicates information on M1371, Rolls 2–4.
  - Index to Passport Applications, 1860–1881 (Rolls 28–29), created by NARA staff decades ago, is incomplete for those years and only partially duplicates the information on M1371, Rolls 3–4.
  - Index to Passport Applications, 1906–1923 (National Archives Identifier: 2555168), [catalog.archives.gov/id/2555168](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/2555168), created by State Department staff.

**Passport Master Index, January 1, 1906–December 31, 1959 (National Archives Identifier: 45512452), [catalog.archives.gov/id/45512452](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/45512452) (not digitized).**

- Index cards relating to passport issuances, registrations, consular reports of births, certificates of witness to marriage, and related passport correspondence.
- The contents of the cards vary, but generally contain the name of the individual, birth dates, travel dates, and the person’s current residence or birthplace. Some cards also contain descriptive information about the individual such as the person’s height, hair color, and eye color.
- This series serves as an index to Passport Applications, 1906–1925 (National Archives Identifier: [583830](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/583830)); Passport Correspondence, 1910–1925 (National Archives Identifier: [1251973](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1251973)); Decimal Files, 1910–1949 (National Archives Identifier: [2555709](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/2555709)); and Passport and Citizenship Correspondence Files, 1906–1925 (National Archives Identifier: [91520493](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/91520493)).

**Register of Passports Issued by U.S. Ministers in London, August 14, 1796–June 12, 1812** (National Archives Identifier: 1187507), [catalog.archives.gov/id/1187507](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1187507) (not digitized).

- Chronological register of passports granted by the U.S. Minister in London showing the date and duration of the passport, name of the applicant, and kind of citizenship evidence submitted.

**Card Index to Emergency Passports, 1895–1902** (National Archives Identifier: 1187504), [catalog.archives.gov/id/1187504](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1187504) (not digitized).

- Index to passport applications received at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin with the applicant's name and date of application.

**Index to Passports Issued Abroad, 1906–1918** (National Archives Identifier: 2555182), [catalog.archives.gov/id/2555182](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/2555182) (not digitized).

- Arranged alphabetically by surname of applicant, indicating name, passport number, date, and location where issued.

**Index to Passport Extensions, 1917–1920** (National Archives Identifier: 2555177), [catalog.archives.gov/id/2555177](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/2555177) (not digitized).

- Arranged alphabetically by surname of applicant, indicating name, passport number, date of issuance, reason for extension, consulate location, and initials of the official in charge.

**Registers of Suspended Passport Applications, 1866–1875** (National Archives Identifier: 1187480), [catalog.archives.gov/id/1187480](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1187480) (not digitized).

- Arranged alphabetically by name and then chronologically by date of suspension. The registers show the date and passport number, name of applicant, reason for the suspension, amount enclosed, and disposition of the case.

**Register of Special Passports Issued, September 21, 1894–May 1, 1897** (National Archives Identifier: 1145933), [catalog.archives.gov/id/1145933](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1145933) (not digitized).

- Shows the name and official title of each person to whom a passport was issued and the number and date of the application.

## REGULAR PASSPORT APPLICATIONS

**NARA Microfilm Publication M1372, *Passport Applications, 1795–1905* (694 rolls)**

- Covers the periods October 31, 1795–November 30, 1812; February 22, 1830–November 15, 1831; and May 13, 1833–December 31, 1905.

- Letters and form applications for passports, including supporting letters and affidavits concerning the applicant's citizenship, residence, and character. The typical letter or application also has information regarding the applicant's immediate family, date and place of birth, and date and place of naturalization if foreign-born, occupation or business, and physical characteristics.
- Digitized in the National Archives Catalog at [catalog.archives.gov/id/566612](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/566612).
- Available on FamilySearch – [familysearch.org/search/catalog/500311](https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/500311).
- Available on Ancestry – “U.S., Passport Applications, 1795–1925” database.

**NARA Microfilm Publication M1490, *Passport Applications, January 2, 1906–March 31, 1925 (2,740 rolls)*** (National Archives Identifier: 583830), [catalog.archives.gov/id/583830](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/583830).

- Form applications, supporting materials, and photographs (beginning December 21, 1914).
- Available on FamilySearch at [familysearch.org/search/catalog/500311](https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/500311).
- Available on Ancestry – “U.S., Passport Applications, 1795–1925” database.

**Passport Applications for Declarants, 1907–1911 and 1914–1920** (National Archives Identifier: 1244178).

- Arranged chronologically by year and then numerically by application number. These are applications submitted by aliens who had filed their “Declaration of Intention” to become naturalized citizens of the U.S.
- Digitized in the National Archives Catalog at [catalog.archives.gov/id/1244178](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1244178).
- Available on Ancestry – “U.S., Passport Applications, 1795–1925” database.

**Passport Applications, 1914–1925 (National Archives Identifier: 1146000).**

- Arranged by city, then chronologically and numerically. Correspondence and applications submitted at passport offices in Chicago, New York City, New Orleans, San Francisco, and Seattle.
- Digitized in the National Archives Catalog at [catalog.archives.gov/id/1146000](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1146000)
- Available on Ancestry – “U.S., Passport Applications, 1795–1925” database.

**Passport Applications Filed at U.S. Territories and Possessions, 1907–1925** (National Archives Identifier: 1244181).

- Arranged by territory, then chronologically by year, then numerically by application number.
- Applications filed at passport offices in Honolulu, the Philippine Islands, and Puerto Rico.
- Digitized in the National Archives Catalog at [catalog.archives.gov/id/1244181](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1244181).
- Available on Ancestry – “U.S., Passport Applications, 1795–1925” database.

**Passport Applications for Travel to China, 1915–1925** (National Archives Identifier: 1244180).

- Arranged by year and then numerically by application number.
- Applications made in the United States for persons intending to travel to China. The forms are the same as those used in the regular passport applications but the word “Chinese” is written in the upper right corner.
- Digitized in the National Archives Catalog at [catalog.archives.gov/id/1244180](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1244180).
- Available on Ancestry – “U.S., Passport Applications, 1795–1925” database.

**Applications for Certificates of Identity for U.S. Citizens Living in Germany, 1920–1921** (National Archives Identifier: 1244185), [catalog.archives.gov/id/1244185](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1244185).

- Applications for certificates identifying U.S. citizens who were residents of Germany, especially persons of long-term residence abroad who resided in Germany during World War I.
- “Certificate of Identity” is usually written at the top of the form.
- An “Affidavit to Explain Protracted Foreign Residence and to Overcome Presumption of Expatriation” is often included with the application.
- Available on Ancestry – “U.S., Passport Applications, 1795–1925” database.

**Passport Applications of Wives of Members of the A.E.F. (American Expeditionary Forces) in Europe, 1919–1920** (National Archives Identifier: 1244184).

- Applications for certificates allowing foreign women who married U.S. servicemen to depart for the United States after World War I.
- Includes the names of the applicant and any minor children, dates and places of birth of the applicant and her husband, emigration information on the husband if applicable, date and place of marriage, military service data on the husband, names and places of birth of the parents of the applicant, applicant’s places of residence outside the United States and intended place of residence in the United States, and a physical description of the applicant.
- Digitized in the National Archives Catalog at [catalog.archives.gov/id/1244184](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1244184).
- Available on Ancestry – “U.S., Passport Applications, 1795–1925” database.

**Originals and Copies of Passports, 1794–1901** (National Archives Identifier: 1187509), [catalog.archives.gov/id/1187509](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1187509) (not digitized).

- Arranged chronologically.
- Includes original passports (most unclaimed by applicants) issued by the Department of State, U.S. Ministers and consuls, mayors of cities, Governors of states and territories, and other officials.

- Many earlier passports were issued by the U.S. Minister in London.
- Information may include the applicant's name, descriptions, dates of passports, and purpose of visits abroad. For 1817–1834 there are also record copies of passports.

**Letters Received, January 1, 1862–February 16, 1862** (National Archives Identifier: 1253159), [catalog.archives.gov/id/1253159](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1253159) (not digitized).

- Letters of application received by the passport office in Boston numbered from 416 to 647.

**Letters Received, 1861–1862** (National Archives Identifier: 1251977).

- Letters of application received by the passport office in New York City numbered from 1 to 2761.
- Digitized in the National Archives Catalog at [catalog.archives.gov/id/1251977](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1251977).

**Insular Passport Applications, 1901–1911** (National Archives Identifier: 1187483).

- Applications for passports by natives or residents of U.S. insular possessions, often filed at American consulates.
- Digitized in the National Archives Catalog at [catalog.archives.gov/id/103406618](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/103406618).
- Available on Ancestry – “U.S., Passport Applications, 1795–1925” database.

**Insular Passport Applications for Residents of Puerto Rico and Philippines, 1913–1925** (National Archives Identifier: 1244179).

- Applications for residents of the Philippine Islands and Puerto Rico who applied for passports at one of the offices in the continental United States or at U.S. consulates abroad, along with correspondence and other supporting documents.
- Digitized in the National Archives Catalog at [catalog.archives.gov/id/1244179](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1244179).
- Available on Ancestry – “U.S., Passport Applications, 1795–1925” database.

## **EMERGENCY PASSPORT APPLICATIONS**

**NARA Microfilm Publication M1834, *Emergency Passport Applications (Passports Issued Abroad), 1877–1907*** (56 rolls) (National Archives Identifier: 1187503), [catalog.archives.gov/id/1187503](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1187503).

- Arranged by country, then chronologically, then by name of diplomatic post.
- The amount of documentation varies. Information includes the applicant's date and place of birth, occupation, permanent U.S. residence, date of departure from the United States, place of residence abroad, purpose of the application, and the length of time the applicant intended to reside abroad. In most cases, applicants desired a passport for purposes of identification.

- Applications by naturalized citizens also include the original date and ship of immigration to the United States; the date and place of the ship's embarkation; the date and court of naturalization; the applicant's current foreign travel, including the date of departure from the United States, the ship's name, the arrival date, and the foreign port of destination.
- Available on Ancestry – "U.S., Passport Applications, 1795–1925" database.

**Emergency Passport Applications, 1906–1925** (National Archives Identifier: 1244183).

- Arranged mostly alphabetically by name of country (political unit) then chronologically and numerically.
- Digitized in the National Archives Catalog at [catalog.archives.gov/id/1244183](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1244183).
- Available on Ancestry – "U.S., Passport Applications, 1795–1925" database.

**General Emergency Passport Applications, 1907–1923** (National Archives Identifier: 1244182).

- Applications filed at U.S. diplomatic posts abroad, mostly before 1915.
- Arranged chronologically by year or several years grouped together, then alphabetically by name of city or county, and then by application number. For many cities and countries there is more than one numerical run of applications within a single year or group of years.
- Digitized in the National Archives Catalog at [catalog.archives.gov/id/1244182](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1244182).
- Available on Ancestry – "U.S., Passport Applications, 1795–1925" database.

**SPECIAL PASSPORT APPLICATIONS**

**Special Passports, 1829–1894** (National Archives Identifier: 1145638), [catalog.archives.gov/id/1145638](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1145638) (not digitized).

- Copies of special passports for U.S. Foreign Service officers, military attachés, secretaries of legations, other government officers, and other officials.

**Special Passport Applications, 1914–1925** (National Archives Identifier: 1150696).

- Arranged numerically by application number.
- Applications for passports issued to military personnel, civilian government employees, and their dependents.
- Digitized in the National Archives Catalog at [catalog.archives.gov/id/1150696](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1150696).
- Available on Ancestry – "U.S., Passport Applications, 1795–1925" database.

**Special Diplomatic Passport Applications, 1916–1925** (National Archives Identifier: 1150702).

- Arranged chronologically.

- Applications filed by Foreign Service personnel and their dependents.
- Digitized in the National Archives Catalog at [catalog.archives.gov/id/1150702](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1150702).
- Available on Ancestry – “U.S., Passport Applications, 1795–1925” database.

## OTHER RECORDS

**Applications for Extension or Amendment, 1918–1925** (National Archives Identifier: 2555158).

- Arranged in two subseries. The first subseries has passport applications arranged numerically by passport number, from 1 to 514,089, with gaps. The second subseries is arranged by subject. There are applications correspondence, memoranda, lists, etc.
- Digitized in the National Archives Catalog at [catalog.archives.gov/id/2555158](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/2555158).
- Available on Ancestry – “U.S., Passport Applications, 1795–1925” database.

**Letters Requesting Passports, 1791–1910** (National Archives Identifier: 1187481), [catalog.archives.gov/id/1187481](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1187481) (not digitized).

- Arranged chronologically.
- Letters and related enclosures received from persons requesting issuance or renewal of passports. The series also includes some passport application forms and suspended passport applications.

**Letters Concerning Issued Passports, 1874–1880** (National Archives Identifier: 1187482), [catalog.archives.gov/id/1187482](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1187482) (not digitized).

- Arranged chronologically and then numerically.
- Letters and related enclosures received from persons to whom passports were issued.
- These papers were detached from passport application forms but bear the corresponding passport application numbers. If a person was issued a passport during 1874–1880, the year the passport was issued plus the passport application number are the two pieces of information needed to search these records.

**Passport Correspondence (Cutter File), 1910–1925** (National Archives Identifier: 1251973), [catalog.archives.gov/id/1251973](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1251973) (not digitized).

- Correspondence between U.S. consular and diplomatic officers and the State Department concerning citizenship and passport matters.
- After 1925, files removed by the Department for administrative use were filed with post-1925 records in other record series unless they related to more than one person. For that reason, some files are not present, even if an index card points to this series.
- Arranged under the decimal number 130, followed by a letter and number designating the surname, and then chronologically.

- **How to determine if there is a file for an individual:** Request that [archives2reference@nara.gov](mailto:archives2reference@nara.gov) search the 1910–1929 segment of the **Name Index to the Central Decimal File** (National Archives Identifier: 581008), [catalog.archives.gov/id/581008](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/581008) (not digitized). Include the person’s name, place of U.S. residence, and your contact information.
- Cards with the number “130” relate to Passport Correspondence, 1910–1925, discussed above, while cards with other numbers relate to the Central Decimal Files, 1910–1963 (National Archives Identifier: 302021), [catalog.archives.gov/id/302021](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/302021), which is partially digitized.

**Passports Surrendered to U.S. Customs Officials, 1917 (National Archives Identifier: 1145560).**

- Passports issued to men going to France on a construction project in 1917 and surrendered to customs officials upon their return. Included with the passports are French visas.
- Digitized in the National Archives Catalog at [catalog.archives.gov/id/169048088](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/169048088).
- Available on Ancestry – “U.S., Passport Applications, 1795–1925” database.

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