



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### Records About Japanese Americans Relocated During World War II

#### Record Group 210

#### 1. What information is in these records?

These records contain information about Japanese Americans evacuated from the states of Washington, Oregon, and California to ten relocation centers operated by the War Relocation Authority during World War II. Each record represents an individual and includes information such as the individual's name, relocation project and assembly center to which assigned, previous address, birthplace of parents, occupation of father, education, foreign residence, sex and marital status, race of evacuee and spouse, year of birth, age, birthplace, occupations, file number, and other data.

#### 2. Why were these records created?

The War Relocation Authority (WRA) collected information on individual evacuees on WRA Form 26 and created a punch card containing information from WRA Form 26 for each evacuee. The WRA used the data to support the management of individuals and the relocation centers, in general. The series also served as a locator index to the separate series of individual evacuee case files created and maintained by the WRA. After conversion of the punch cards to an electronic format by the Bancroft Library of the University of California at Berkeley in the 1960s, in the late 1980s the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice used a copy of the data file to support distribution of reparations to former evacuees.

#### 3. Where were the evacuee camps located?

The relocation centers were located in the states of California (Tule Lake and Manzanar Centers), Idaho (Minidoka Center), Utah (Central Utah Center), Colorado (Granada Center), Arizona (Colorado River and Gila River Centers), Wyoming (Heart Mountain Center), and Arkansas (Rohwer and Jerome Centers).

#### 4. What are some of the limitations of these records?

The War Relocation Authority did not create new punch cards to replace those cards found to have erroneous information about the internee so some of the records contain obvious typographical and data entry errors. In addition, new punch cards were not created when internees transferred to other relocation centers. In general, the file does not contain records for persons born in the relocation centers or camps. However, there are some records of persons born in 1942.

5. How can I identify the records for all the members of a family?

Each record contains an "Individual Number" field which typically consists of five numbers and a letter. The members of one family usually have the five numbers in common, with the letter denoting the position of the person in the family. In addition, the file numbers for members of a family are usually in sequence. This information is located in the "File Number" field.

6. What version of the file is available on AAD?

The version on AAD consists of the original file, released in full, with all values now unmasked.

While preparing the file for AAD, staff found 23 rows/records to contain "dirty data" or blank records. Staff removed these records for the AAD version of the file. The file on AAD contains 109,377 records. Refer to Question 7 if interested in obtaining a copy of the unedited version of the file.

7. How can I access a copy of the full file?

The raw data file, along with the associated technical documentation, may be downloaded from the National Archives Catalog at: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>. You may locate the file by searching by the National Archives Identifier 1264228. Then click on the links in the file description to download the data and/or documentation.

Additional information about downloading electronic records from the Catalog is available at: <https://www.archives.gov/research/electronic-records/access-in-catalog-faqs>.

Please keep in mind that the data file consists of the raw structured data as loaded into AAD (i.e. the coded values without meanings), but without the AAD software that displays the meanings for coded values and field titles. For more details about using files containing raw structured data, you may wish to review our "Introduction to Raw Data" at: <https://www.archives.gov/files/research/electronic-records/raw-data-intro.pdf>.

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