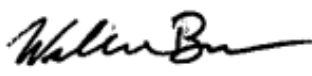




Inspector General

July 1, 2026

TO: Edward Forst
Acting Archivist of the United States

FROM: William Brown
Acting Inspector General 

SUBJECT: OIG Report: *Multiple Recoveries of NARA Holdings* (OIG Report 26-R-06)

The purpose of this report is to announce five recent successful recoveries of NARA holdings by the Office of Inspector General (OIG), Archival Recovery Team (ART). ART was established in 2006, by NARA OIG to assist the agency in investigating federal records stolen from NARA holdings by employees and researchers, as well as recover federal records alienated from NARA holdings. ART works closely with NARA custodial units, other Federal agencies, and the public to recover NARA holdings.

World War II POW Records

ART recovered approximately 300 pages of World War II American Prisoner of War (POW) interrogation reports and ancillary records. The reports document the experience of American soldiers who were held POW during World War II. The reports were located by a private homeowner, who brought the documents to local library for potential donation. Library staff suspected that these reports could be federal records and contacted NARA. ART traveled to Waterloo, NY, took possession of the documents, and turned them over to Research Services (R). The documents were placed with similar holdings within the Records of the Judge Advocate General (Record Group 153).

Apollo Records

ART recovered 145 U.S. Navy records compiled by an engineer who participated in several Apollo missions. The collection includes films, sound recordings, blueprints and booklets. The items were purchased by a collector in Tennessee, who contacted NARA. ART traveled to Nashville, TN to collect the records. The items were placed with similar Navy record group holdings in the Special Media Reference Branch.

President Franklin Pierce Signed Pardon

ART recovered a pardon signed by President Franklin Pierce, dated April 4, 1856, after identifying the pardon had been sold three years ago at an auction house. The auction house and the purchaser cooperated with ART in returning the pardon to NARA. The pardon is among dozens of similar pardons stolen by former National Archives-Philadelphia staff member Sean Aubitz in the late 1990s from the Records of the U.S. District Courts for the Mid Atlantic (Record Group 21). ART traveled to the auction house, recovered the pardon, and returned it to NARA-Philadelphia.

1812 Congressional Tally Sheet

ART recovered a House of Representatives secret vote tally sheet and related correspondence, dated April 9, 1812. The vote concerns the importation of British goods during the lead up to the War of 1812. An auction house had contacted ART with concern that the document might be an alienated federal record. NARA Center for Legislative Archives conferred with the Clerk of the House, who authorized NARA to recover the document. ART traveled to the auction house, recovered the documents and returned them to the NARA Center for Legislative Archives where they were placed the Records of the U.S. House of Representatives (Record Group 233)

Letter From Lieutenant J.E.B. Stuart to Secretary of War Jefferson Davis

ART recovered a letter sent by 2nd Lieutenant J.E.B. Stuart to Secretary of War Jefferson Davis, dated September 1, 1854. An auction house had contacted ART with concern that the document might be an alienated federal record. The letter pertains to Stuart's promotion to 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Both Stuart and Davis were notable figures in the Confederate States during the Civil War. ART determined that NARA possesses the cover sheet for the letter among the Records of the Adjutant General's Office (Record Group 94), but the letter had never been in NARA custody. ART traveled to the auction house, recovered the letter, and provided it to R. The letter has now been digitized and reunited with the cover page in Record Group 94.

As with all OIG products, we determine what information is publicly posted on our website. Consistent with our responsibility under the *Inspector General Act, as amended*, we may provide copies of our report to congressional committees with oversight responsibility over NARA.

Connect with ART

Visit ART's website to see listings of federal records identified as missing from NARA due to theft:
<https://www.archives.gov/research/recover>.

Connect with ART on social media: <https://www.facebook.com/archivalrecoveryprogram>.

Contact ART via email: missing.documents@nara.gov

Contact ART via telephone: 301-837-3153