After ninety-five years, NOAA finds the wreck of the *USS Conestoga* three miles off the Farallons

San Francisco Chronicle, May 1, 1921, "Pacific Fleet Tug and Its Crew of Thirty Missing."

On March 23, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Navy announced the discovery of the USS Conestoga (AT 54) in the Greater Farallons National Marine Sanctuary off San Francisco, 95 years after the Navy seagoing fleet tugboat disappeared with 56 officers and sailors aboard. The discovery solves one of the top maritime mysteries in U.S. Navy history.

On March 25, 1921, Conestoga departed the Golden Gate en route to Tutuila, American Samoa via Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. When Conestoga failed to reach Hawaii by its anticipated arrival date the Navy mounted a massive air and sea search around the Hawaiian Islands, the tug's destination. Nearly two months later, on May 17, a merchant vessel found a battered lifeboat with the letter "C" on its bow off the Mexican coast leading to a search there.

For months, the ship's mysterious disappearance gripped newspapers across the country. Unable to locate the ship or wreckage, the Navy declared Conestoga and its crew lost on June 30, 1921. This was the last

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- Wright Brothers' Patent File has been found, will go on display at the National Archives in Washington, DC, starting May 20, page 4

Records Management

Making Use of General Records Schedules Crosswalks

NARA is currently working on a five-year project to revise and reorganize the General Records Schedules (GRS). For example, we reported in the last issue of *Pacific Currents* on the revised retention for contracts from six years and three months to six years. Revised GRS schedules are issued in GRS Transmittals as they are approved.

New schedules published in GRS Transmittals are not one-to-one replacements of old schedules. Crosswalks provide temporary bridges to help agencies understand what has changed in the GRS and how to convert superseded authorities to new authorities. Once the new GRS is completed and in place long enough for agencies to use it with agility, the importance of these crosswalks will diminish. Eventually, they will no longer be needed at all. But right now, they are your key to understanding the full scope of change.

Two types of GRS crosswalks trace conversion from both ends of the equation: old-to-new and new-to-

Records Management Training, April-September 2016

By Course Name *(for training by location, see next page)*

To register go to archives.gov/records-mgmt/training/*or email our training registrar at* laguna.workshops@nara.gov

For more information on our workshops, go to our training page by clicking here.

Basic Records Operations (BRO)

April 18, 2016, Riverside; August 8, 2016, San Diego.

Online: this class is also presented as an Online Webinar in four weekly sessions of 90 minutes each on: *May* 5, 12, 19, and 26 (at 7:00 a.m. PST); *June* 7, 14, 21, and 28 (at 7:00 a.m. PDT); *July* 7, 14, 21, and 28 (at 7:00 a.m. PDT); *August* 3, 10, 17, and 24 (at 7:00 a.m. PDT); and *September* 7, 14, 21, and 28 (at 7:00 a.m. PDT).

Vital Business Information (VBI)

Online: in four weekly sessions of 90 minutes each on: **April** 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2016; **July** 6, 13, 29, and 27; **September** 8, 15, 22, and 28.

Knowledge Area Classes:

Records Management Overview
(Knowledge Area 1)
June 6, Flagstaff; July 11, Denver

Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information (Knowledge Area 2)
April 19-20 , Riverside; June 7-8, Flagstaff; July 12-13, Denver; August 9-10, San Diego

Records Scheduling
(Knowledge Area 3)
April 21-22, Riverside; June 9-10, Flagstaff; July 14-15, Denver; August 11-12, San Diego

Records Schedule Implementation
(Knowledge Area 4)
May 16-17, Riverside; July 11-12, Flagstaff; July 18-19, Denver; September 12-13, San Diego

Asset and Risk Management
(Knowledge Area 5)
May 18-19, Riverside; July 13-14, Flagstaff; July 20-21, Denver; September 14-15, San Diego

Records Management Program Development (Knowledge Area 6)
Riverside; July 15, Flagstaff; July 22, Denver; September 16, San Diego

USS Conestoga

Gunnery crew, USS Conestoga

Records Management Training, *April-September 2016*

By Location (*for listing by course name, see previous page*)

To register go to archives.gov/records-mgmt/training/ *or email our training registrar at* laguna.workshops@nara.gov

For more information on our workshops, go to our training page by clicking here.

Denver (Broomfield), Colorado

Records Management Overview (KA1), July 11, 2016; **Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information** (KA2); July 12-13; **Records Scheduling** (KA3), July 14, 2016-July 15; **Records Schedule Implementation** (KA4), July 18, 2016-July 19; **Asset and Risk Management** (KA5), July 20, 2016-July 21; **Records Management Program Development** (KA6), July 22.

Flagstaff, Arizona

Records Management Overview (KA1), June 6, 2016; **Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information** (KA2), June 7-8; **Records Scheduling** (KA3), June 9-10; **Records Schedule Implementation** (KA4), July 11-12; **Asset and Risk Management** (KA5), July 13-14; **Records Management Program Development** (KA6), July 15.

Riverside, California

Basic Records Operations (BRO), April 18, 2016; **Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information** (KA2); April 19-20; **Records Scheduling** (KA3), April 21-22; **Records Schedule Implementation** (KA4), May 16-17; **Asset and Risk Management** (KA5 May 18-May 19; **Records Management Program Development** (KA6), May 20.

San Diego, California

Basic Records Operations (BRO), August 8, 2016; **Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information** (KA2); August 9-10, 2016; **Records Scheduling** (KA3), August 11-12; **Records Schedule Implementation** (KA4), September 12-13; **Asset and Risk Management** (KA5 September 14-15; **Records Management Program Development** (KA6), September 16.

Online Webinars

Basic Records Operations (BRO), **May** 5, 12, 19, and 26 (at 7:00 a.m. PST); **June** 7, 14, 21, and 28 (at 7:00 a.m. PDT); **July** 7, 14, 21, and 28 (at 7:00 a.m. PDT); **August** 3, 10, 17, and 24 (at 7:00 a.m. PDT); and **September** 7, 14, 21, and 28 (at 7:00 a.m. PDT).

Vital Business Information (VBI), **April** 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2016; **July** 6, 13, 29, and 27; and **September** 8, 15, 22, and 28.

USS Conestoga found after 95 years

Continued from page 1

U.S. Navy ship to be lost without a trace in peacetime.

In 2009, the NOAA Office of Coast Survey, as part of a hydrographic survey near the Farallon Islands 30 miles off San Francisco, documented a probable, uncharted shipwreck. In October 2015, NOAA confirmed the identification and location of Conestoga during a mission that included an archaeologist from the Naval History and Heritage Command, as well as several senior Navy officers. The team conducted part of its research at the *National Archives at San Francisco* (San Bruno) in *Mare Island Naval Shipyard* records documenting repair work on Conestoga just prior to her final voyage.

The Conestoga now rests on the seafloor as a military grave for its 56 crew, the remains of whom may remain entombed inside the hull.

The wreck remains a U.S. Navy vessel. This discovery has provided closure for the families of the Conestoga's crew, and the site is now marked and protected by the National Marine Sanctuary Act and the Sunken Military Craft Act.

Based on NOAA press release dated March 23, 2016.

Wright Brothers' Patent Found!

Starting on May 20, 2016, the National Archives will celebrate the 110th anniversary of the awarding of the Orville and Wilbur Wright "flying machine" patent with a special document display in its West Rotunda Gallery on Constitution Ave. NW, between 7th & 9th St., on the Mall in downtown Washington, DC.

The Wright patent was awarded on May 22, 1906 and assigned patent number 821,393. Portions of the file were last displayed in 1979 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Wright Brothers' first flight. However, after the loaned pages were returned to the National Archives the patent file went missing.

The missing patent file was located last month following a search after having been misfiled among more than 269 million pages of patent records held by the National Archives.

Portions of the patent file were last displayed at the Smithsonian Institution's Air and Space Museum in 1978 and 1979 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Wright Brother's First Flight.

The loaned pages were returned to the National Archives but subsequently the entire patent file could not be located and has been highlighted as missing until now. The National Archives holds more than 107,600 cubic feet of patent files. This patent file was inadvertently refiled in the wrong box.

GRS Crosswalks

Continued from page 1

old. Crosswalks attached to each new schedule compare new items to old ones. These list new items on the left and old (superseded) items on the right. Going the opposite direction is a single crosswalk tracking old-to-new conversion (.pdf) for the entire old GRS. It shows old items on the left, and superseding new items on the right.

How to read a crosswalk

Each "side" of the crosswalk contains schedule and item numbers, an abbreviated retention statement, and the legal authority for the disposition. See this annotated pdf for details on how the two sides match up.

How to make use of crosswalk information

1. Use crosswalks to update your agency records disposition manual. If your manual imports GRS items verbatim, you need to know when they have been superseded. Use crosswalks to search for and identify superseded GRS items and update your manual with current, authoritative information.

2. Use crosswalks to update your agency records disposition manual. If you reference GRS disposition authorities or have approved deviations to GRS items, you need to determine if those GRS items have been superseded by a new GRS transmittal.

This is particularly true if your agency uses big-bucket schedules. Big buckets frequently incorporate records covered by the GRS into larger units for simplicity of scheduling. NARA requires you to inform it within 120 days of each new GRS transmittal if you intend to continue using your approved big-bucket items based on old GRS items instead of newly published items superseding those old items on which your bucket item was based.

Here's where to look for links between agency items and GRS items.

- If your agency has an approved deviation to the GRS, the superseded GRS item(s) should appear on your approved schedule (SF-115 or equivalent) under superseded authorities.
- If you have a big-bucket schedule, supersession of GRS items should appear in its crosswalk as well as in the schedule under superseded authorities.
- If your agency manual includes items drawn directly from the GRS but incorporated into your manual for ease of one-stop shopping, check your manual for items whose authority is the GRS item. Agency records disposition manuals should cite the underlying disposition authority for the records, including GRS disposition authorities.

Updating disposition authorities and manuals will likely prove time consuming, particularly if your agency has not updated its manual in several years. The GRS Team wants your experience to be as painless as possible and stands ready to help. If you have any questions on how to do this comparison or why we mapped items to certain schedules, please contact us at GRS_Team@nara.gov. For additional information on the GRS, visit the main GRS page at https://www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/grs/

This information was originally posted on the NARA blog Records Express, News from NARA's Office of the Chief Records Officer.