

National Archives Eighth Annual Genealogy Fair
Branching Out: Exploring Your Family Tree
April 18 & 19, 2012

Below are the presenter names, session titles, links to handouts, and presenter biographies. We encourage attendees to download and print handouts for the sessions they plan to attend and bring them to the fair.

Presenter

Session Title

Handout(s)

Biography



*Everything You
Wanted to Know
About Fold3
(formerly
Footnote.com)*

[fold3](#)

Gordon Atkinson is the Director of Marketing and Customer Service at Fold3.com (formerly Footnote.com). He has worked with Ancestry.com/Fold3 for the past nine years. Gordon enjoys the opportunity to help make historical documents more readily available to all via the Internet. He also finds tremendous enjoyment at home with his wife and four children.

Atkinson, Gordon



*The United States
Census on
Ancestry.com by
Quinton Atkinson*

none

Quinton Atkinson has spent the last 14 years in the Content Department at Ancestry.com. Currently the Director of U.S. Content Acquisition and Partner Development, Quinton has also spent a number of years working in the international arena for Ancestry.com, traveling to the United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Germany, Italy, Australia, and China—and working with local and national archives. He works out of the Ancestry.com headquarters in Utah.

Atkinson, Quinton

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*Federal Land
Records*

Not available on website.

Request handout via
e-mail to kyr@nara.gov.

Claire Bettag, CG, is a certified professional genealogist who lectures on Federal land records, other Federal records, and French research. She serves on the editorial board of the National Genealogical Quarterly. She has also served on the boards of the National Genealogical Society, the Association of Professional Genealogists, and the Board for Certification of Genealogists.

Bettag, Claire



Alien Files (A-Files) [alien-files](#)

Elizabeth Burnes is the lead archivist for Alien Files (A-Files) reference at the National Archives at Kansas City . Prior to joining the National Archives staff she held positions at Harry S Truman National Historic Site, Missouri history Museum, Herman T. Pott National Inland Waterways Library, and Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum. She received a Bachelor's degree in history at Truman State University, and a Master's degree in history and Museum Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Burnes, Elizabeth

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*Naturalization
 Records in the
 National Archives*

[naturalization](#)

Patrick Connelly is the Archives Director of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) at New York City. Mr. Connelly received a B.A. in history from West Chester University in 1995 and a M.A. in American History from Villanova University in 1999. He previously served as an archives specialist in NARA's Mid Atlantic Region, Philadelphia, and as a local records archivist at the Library of Virginia. He has been employed by NARA since 2000 where he presents lectures on a variety of genealogical and historical topics.

Connelly, Patrick



*The 150th
 Anniversary of
 Washington, DC,
 Emancipation:
 Exploring Federal
 Records Relating to
 Slavery in the
 District of
 Columbia,
 Maryland, &
 Virginia*

Two handouts:
[1\) slavery-in-dc-courts-commissions](#)
[2\) dcslavery-prologue-article](#)

Damani Davis is an archivist at the National Archives Research Services Division (RD-DC) in downtown Washington, DC. Davis is a graduate of Coppin State University in Baltimore, MD, and received his M.A. in history at the Ohio State University in Columbus, OH. He has lectured at national, regional, and local conferences on African American history and genealogy. A Philadelphia native, Mr. Davis now resides in Baltimore, Maryland.

Davis, Damani

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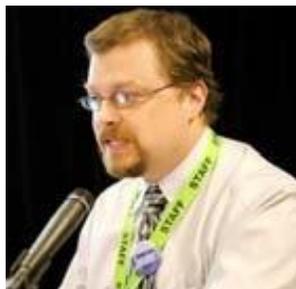
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Deeben, John

Army Service in the War of 1812

Three handouts:

- 1) [war-of-1812-american-pows](#)
- 2) [war-of-1812-volunteer](#)
- 3) [war-of-1812-bounty-lands](#)

John Deeben is a genealogy archives specialist with the Research Support Branch (RD-DC), Research Services, at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC. John provides reference assistance and orientations to research, and frequently lectures and writes about Federal records of genealogical interest. He holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in American History from Gettysburg College (1987) and The Pennsylvania State University (1990) respectively.



Gavin, Alison

The Centennial of the Sinking of the RMS Titanic: Passengers' Stories and What National Archives Records Hold

[titanic](#)

Alison Gavin received her M.A. in history from George Mason University in 2004. She was awarded the Verney Fellowship in Nantucket Studies to research her thesis. She has worked in the National Archives since 1995.

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Using the Congressional Serial Set for Genealogical Research

[congressional-serial-set](#)

Jeffery Hartley, Chief Librarian of the National Archives and Record Administration's Library Information Center, earned a B.A. in history from Dickinson College and an M.A. in history and M.L.S. from the University of Maryland, College Park. He has worked for the National Archives and Records Administration for 21 years, and has been Chief Librarian since 2004.

Hartley, Jeffery



Two Sessions:

- 1) *Introduction to Genealogy*
- 2) *Civil War Pension Files*

Two Sessions:

- 1) <http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/know-your-records/genealogy-fair/2012/handouts/introduction-to-genealogy.pdf>
- 2) [civil-war-pension-files](#)

Claire Prechtel-Kluskens has been an archivist at the National Archives since 1992 and a genealogical researcher since 1976. She specializes in census, immigration, military, and other records of high genealogical value.

Kluskens, Claire

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Nicholson, Catherine

*Preserving Your
Family Collections*

[preservation](#)

Catherine Nicholson has carried out conservation treatment on a wide range of paper and parchment materials. She supervises National Archives conservation staff. Her interests include watermarks and early prints of the Declaration of Independence.



**Petranek, Carol
Kostakos**

*What's New at
FamilySearch*

[familysearch](#)

Carol Kostakos Petranek currently serves as a Co-Director of the Washington, DC Family History Center and as a volunteer at the National Archives in Washington, DC. She is dedicated to researching her Greek ancestry and her husband's Czech and northern European ancestors. She writes a monthly family history column, "Turning Hearts," for *Meridian Magazine* online, maintains a blog at SpartanRoots.Wordpress.com, and is involved in several areas of community service.

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The 1940 Census

Three handouts:

- 1) [1940-census](#)
- 2) [1940-census-form-A-1](#)
- 3) [1940-census-form-B-1](#)

Diane Petro is an archives technician at National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC. For the past year she has been working on reference activities relating to the release of the 1940 census. Diane has a M.L.S. with a concentration in reference from Florida State University.

Petro, Diane



The 1940 Census

Two handouts:

- 1) [1940-census-handout](#)
- 2) [1940-census-fast-facts](#)

Constance Potter is a reference archivist at the National Archives in Washington, DC, specializing in Federal records of interest to genealogists. She worked on the release of the 1920 and 1930 censuses, and is a regular speaker at the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the National Genealogical Society, and the National Institute on Genealogical Research, as well as local genealogical groups in Virginia and Maryland.

Potter, Constance

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*Preserving Your
Family Collections*

[preservation](#)

Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler is Chief of Conservation at the National Archives. She has held previous positions at the Society of American Archivists and the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is the author of several publications, including *Preserving Archives and Manuscripts*, published by the Society of American Archivists.

**Ritzenthaler,
Mary Lynn**



*Navigating Online
Public Access (OPA)*

[opa](#)

Sara Schlanger is an archives specialist with the Online Public Access Staff in the Office of Information Services at the National Archives and Records Administration. She works with contractors in building and enhancing the online catalog to ensure that the functionality and design meet the needs of all users. She has been with the National Archives for over 13 years, and has worked on online public access projects for most of that time, including the Archival Research Catalog (ARC).

Schlanger, Sara

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*Methods, Means,
and Best Practices
for Oral History
Projects*

none

Guha Shankar is a folklife specialist at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. His responsibilities include educational outreach and skills-based instruction in cultural documentation methods for a range of community workers, students, and scholars, nationally and internationally.

Shankar, Guha



*Records Relating to
the Internment of
Japanese
Americans during
World War II*

Three handouts:

- 1) [japanese americans-1of3](#)
- 2) [japanese americans-2of3](#)
- 3) [japanese americans-3of3](#)

Rebecca Sharp is an archives specialist at the National Archives in Washington, DC. She specializes in Federal records of genealogical interest. She graduated with departmental honors in history from McDaniel College (established as Western Maryland College).

Sharp, Rebecca

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Canadian Border Crossings

[NGSNews07July](#)

Timothy Syzek joined the National Archives in 2005 as a librarian, and as of 2012, as an archives specialist. He holds an M.A. in history and an M.L.S. in library science.

Syzek, Timothy



Introduction to Genealogy

[introduction-to-genealogy](#)

Katherine Vollen is an archives specialist in the Washington, DC Research Support Branch, Customer Services Division. She specializes in Federal records of genealogical interest. Katherine holds M.A. degrees in European history from Pittsburg State University (Kansas) and George Washington University.

Vollen, Katherine

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*Freedmen's Bureau
Records*

[Black Family Research](#)

Reginald Washington is an archivist/ genealogy specialist with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). He lectures frequently on records and research procedures at the National Archives, and has served as the African-American Genealogy Subject Area Specialist at NARA. He has spoken at conferences of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, National Genealogical Society, Federation of Genealogical Societies, National Institute on Genealogical Research, and numerous local genealogical societies and clubs.

**Washington,
Reginald**



*Immigration and
Naturalization
Service (INS)
Naturalization
Correspondence
Files, 1906–1944*

none

Zack Wilske is a historian for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). His research interests include the history of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and the uses of INS records for genealogists.

Wilske, Zack

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*Treating the Sick
and Wounded:
Civil War Medical
Records*

[civil-war-medicine](#)

Nancy has worked for the National Archives and Records Administration since 2004 as a librarian in Washington, DC, and an archives specialist at the National Archives at Laguna Niguel and downtown Washington, DC. She has a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in Library and Information Science. Nancy serves on the board of her church library and archives, one of the largest on the East Coast; and did her internship at the Austrian National Library in Vienna. She thoroughly enjoys using her reference expertise to serve the public and considers good customer service to be of primary

Wing, Nancy