Researchers familiar with the National Archives at St. Louis usually think of it as a place to investigate the working lives of adults, since it is attached to the National Personnel Records Center. In fact our records cover people “both coming and going” and can illuminate entire life spans. Genealogical information found in our personal data series may include biographical details such as dates of birth and death, parentage, next of kin, and heirs. No Personally Identifiable Information (PII) will be discussed.

**Daria Labinsky** will discuss records series that contain information about pregnancy, birth, paternity, and children including: Project J Files, which may mention children who lived in Japanese internment camps in the Philippines; Chaplain Files, which record baptisms; Panama Canal personnel records and other civilian records series, which may contain information about pregnancies and children; and VA Claim Files, which can include information about paternity.

**Cara Moore** will focus on deaths incurred during civilian federal service as detailed in Record Group (RG) 146, Official Personnel Folders. These record series will range from Prohibition agents to Postal employees to Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees. Some records include information related to the individuals’ deaths, the witness statements around them, and how their services were handled. Through the records of death in service, genealogists can recover details surrounding the death -- from the circumstances of the event, to whom the next of kin was, to notification details.

www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair
Daria Labinsky, CA, is an archivist at the National Archives at St. Louis, where she has worked since 2010. She has Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees from Northwestern University and a Master’s in Library Science from Emporia State University.
Cara Moore has worked for the National Archives since 2013. She searches and provides access to the individual personnel records of former military and civil servants of the Federal Government as an archives technician. She is also a Ph.D. student at Saint Louis University and volunteers with the National Blues Museum. In prior positions, Cara has worked in a variety of museums and positions. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in History from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, and a Master’s Degree in History with a post baccalaureate certificate in Museum Studies from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville.
FROM THE CRADLE TO THE GRAVE:

Birth, Childhood, and Death in the National Archives at St. Louis

Daria Labinsky and Cara Moore

October 25, 2017
Introduction

• About the National Archives at St. Louis

Series to be discussed

• Courts-martial records
• VA claim files
• Chaplain files
• Project J files
• Military personnel files
• Civilian personnel folders

Genealogy hunts

National Archives Identifier (NAID) 192665, JFK Library
2. All concerned will be definitely informed that permission to marry is not dependent upon a state of pregnancy and that a state of pregnancy does not of itself establish the right of marriage."

From this it will be seen that while the approval of the Commanding General was given for the marriage of soldiers, certain conditions must exist and until those conditions were complied with, the approval of such marriages was withheld. A soldier marrying without such approval, was denied certain privileges and in most cases he was returned to the United States. This is a very different thing from forbidding, in express terms, the marriage of these soldiers, and attempting to try them for a violation of such orders. The Commanding General was well within his rights in withholding his approval in such cases and denying certain privileges when a soldier married without that approval. His policy in that regard was beyond criticism and he has never ordered the trial of a soldier for marrying without permission.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Sgt. Cosmos J. Rose
Army GCM 100029
Identifying documents exhibited as follows:

**Marriage certificate No. 189**, issued by the Standesamt, Ebreichstein, Germany on December 29, 1921; discharge certificate from U.S. Army dated 17 December, 1919, given by Lieut. Col. G. Kent, at Coblenz, Germany, showing Cosmos J. Rose to have been born at Newman, California; affidavit of husband, Cosmos J. Rose, stating that he is a native born American; references in the United States are: 1. Frank J. Rose Sr. (father).

If no American citizen is available, an alien known to the official may execute the affidavit of identification.

The nature of the documents exhibited to the official should be fully described, but should not be forwarded to the Department unless there is doubt as to their validity or character.

**Clay St., San Francisco, Cal.** 2. Mr. C.W. Phillips, Castorville, Calif. 3. Mr. M.P. Sousa, (Uncle), 8 Ford Ave., San Jose, Calif.
Deceased Veterans Claims (XC Files), 1917-1955

Record Group 15: Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs

NAIDs 12280123, 23904754, 26466267, 28894631

XC 831431, NAID 12280123
Charles Emory Withrow, Co. H, 4th Ohio, aka 166th U.S. Infantry—42nd (Rainbow) Division

Born July 23, 1904, died October 15, 1918

---

Dear little one, I sent you $40.00 and I get $3.20, then I will send some of it, because I don't need much money to get what will run my 50c is enough for my Dear. I take out should get killed and if I get disabled we will get enough to keep both of us and our little children.
Monthly Reports and Personnel Records, 1920-1950

RG 247, Records of the Office of the Chief of Chaplains

NAID 6016856

Monthly Reports

• Marriages

• Funerals

• Baptisms
Baptisms

- Records of baptisms
- Dates of birth
- Parents’ names
- Dates and locations of baptism
- Witnesses (godparents), often family members
Official Military Personnel Files

Army: RG 319: Records of the Army Staff
NAID 299741

Navy: RG 24: Records of the Bureau of Naval Personnel
NAID 299693

Air Force: RG 342: Records of U.S. Air Force Commands, Activities, and Organizations
NAID 30479766

Marine Corps: RG 127: Records of the U.S. Marine Corps
NAID 299715

Coast Guard: RG 26: Records of the U.S. Coast Guard
NAID 597218
You claim that I have not supported you and the children for three years which is true. The reason for not supporting you and the children was because you and Mr. R. W. Boggs moved so much that I could not keep up with you. I asked your sister what your address was, but everything I asked was kept a secret, so what could I do?

You do you still want me as a husband and a father for our children or do you still prefer Mr. Boggs? I am more than willing to make a home for you and the children if you wish it so.
Official Personnel Folders

Harry Walsh, Department of State

WALSH, Harry L.

Languages: Spanish, slight French

Married; to an American; 7 children.
Daughter born Aug. 14, 1912
Son born Aug. 9, 1915
Daughter born Jan. 30, 1919
Son born Oct. 18, 1920
  " " Sept. 3, 1923.
  " " Sept. 3, 1923.
Son born May 25, 1925
(Daughter born Feb. 19, 1927)

Resignation accepted effective the evening of August 18, 1933.

entirely harmonious. He is struggling on a small salary with a wife and seven children, and this, coupled with the drawbacks previously referred to, could not but affect his standing in a post other than the one he now holds where social and other standards are on a very low scale. His children barely speak English, and the entire household rather gives the suggestion of slipping downhill, which may be in large measure due to the economic situation of the officer himself.

(Date) August 1, 1927.

Alexander W. Waddell,
American Consul General.

Juarez. The size of Mr. Walsh's family would make his transfer to Europe exceedingly expensive and he would probably experience great difficulty on his salary in a European post. The Committee believes that the best means of complying promptly with Ambassador Morrow's request is to transfer Mr. Walsh to Hamilton, Ontario, and to assign to Nueva Laredo the present incumbent at Hamilton, Consul Richard F. Boyce.
Project J, Casualty File and Missing Persons Act Claim Files, ca. 1941 – 1964

NAID 12033994

RG 146: Records of the U.S. Civil Service Commission

“J” = Japan

February 1942
  400 children in Santo Tomas Internment Camp

February 1945 – 2,132 children
Sascha Weinzheimer & her brother, Walter
Lilleth DeCasseries

- Arrived in Panama when she was 10
- Widow with 2 children
- Panamanian marriage?
- Panamanian birth registers?
- Was Lipman maiden name?
- No hits in Census
- No hits for aunt
- Not in Ancestry International
- No Google hits

Sometimes you hit a dead end …
... OR DO YOU?

- Lillette DeCastas
- Born in Jamaica to Jamaican parents
- Race
- Ada Lipman – aunt
- Charles Lipman – uncle
- It’s a start
CIVILIANS’ DEATHS

- When thinking of death during service, military service people are often the first to come to mind
- Civilians’ deaths in federal service are also detailed in their Official Personnel Folders (OPFs)
- Record Group (RG) 146
- Whether serving during war time, such as Telephone Operators or Women’s Air Service Pilots (WASPS), or merely completing their everyday duty, such as delivering the mail or traveling from Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp to a night off, or in an actively dangerous position, such as Prohibition Agents, civil servants can die during service and the details of death become a part of their records
CORAH BARTLETT

- War Department, RG 146, textual
- Individual Deceased Persons File
- Telephone operator during WWI “Hello Girl”
- Only one to actually die while on duty overseas
WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY
GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE
WASHINGTON
Hoboken, N.J.

FROM: Chief, Graves Registration Service, Q. M. C.
To: Mr. Charles Sherman Bartlett (Brother) Union City, Mich.

Source: Remains of Corah H. Bartlett, Telephone Operator, S.C.

The records of this office show that you have requested that his body be returned to the United States and delivered to you at Union City, Mich.

If these are not the correct instructions, please correct them. Make corrections on reverse side of this sheet.

The nearest relative may choose between, (1) return of the body to any address in the United States; (2) interment in Arlington, Va., or any other National Cemetery; or (3) remain in Europe.

By authority of the Quartermaster General.

Charles C. Pierce, Major, U. S. A.

If all blank spaces below are not filled out, it will necessitate a return of this paper and a SERIOUS DELAY in the shipment of this body. State in each case WHETHER these relatives are STILL LIVING.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#8 soldier married?</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soldier's wife</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soldier's children 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soldier's children 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father</td>
<td>Deceased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
<td>Deceased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father</td>
<td>Charles Sherman Bartlett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother</td>
<td>Charles Sherman Bartlett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother</td>
<td>Arthur E. Bartlett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother</td>
<td>Elmer L. Bartlett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister</td>
<td>Josephine Bartlett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relation</td>
<td>Brother</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Date: Dec. 6/1921

Address: Union City, Mich.

Note of surviving family

CORAH BARTLETT
NELSON VOSS

- Post Office Department, RG 146, textual
- Substitute Mail Carrier and Clerk
- Post Office is such a large employer that not every employee had an OPF created, some just have Service Record Cards
- Voss probably would not have had an OPF had it not been for his death in service
- Death while working job, but determined to NOT be related to his service
United States Employees' Compensation Commission  
Washington  

August 2, 1933  

The Postmaster,  
Edwardsville, Illinois  

Dear Sir:  

The Commission has your letter of July 16, 1933 reporting the death of Nelson Voss on July 15, 1933 while employed as a temporary rural carrier.  

There are herewith enclosed the Commission's Forms C.A. 2, 3, and 5 and also a copy of the Commission's Regulations for your instruction in preparing the necessary reports on this case. A certified copy of the death certificate and also a copy of the burial expense bill should accompany Mrs. Voss' claim for compensation.  

Very truly yours,  

W. H. Carpenter  
Chief/Claim Examiner  

At the time, he was supplied with a stamp kit, containing five dollars' worth of stamp stock issued to him while serving this route. This stamp kit, and two parcels, were taken from his automobile.  

It was afterward established that the parcels were taken by the girl who killed him, and her twelve-year old sister, but nothing whatever has been determined as to the disposition of the stamp kit and stock.  

On September 19th, I wrote to the First Assistant Postmaster General, in reference to these matters, asking if this amount should be collected from estate of the carrier, or if the Department would allow this office credit for the amount involved.
WILLIAM C. BATLEY

- Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), RG 146, microfilm
- CCC enrollee, Veteran
- Involved in fatal motor vehicle accident while at camp
WILLIAM C. BATLEY

Exhibits list
detailing accident
and witness statements

Cover page with
biographical info
Q. Was anybody standing up in the rear of the truck before it turned over?
A. No Sir. They were all sitting down.

Q. Do you know of any unusual occurrences that happened?
A. No Sir. It happened so quick I could not tell much about it.
EDITH KEENE

- Department of the Army/Air Force, RG 146, textual
  - Women's Air Service Pilot (WASP)

- WASPs were employed as civilians during WWII and trained as pilots
- Killed in flight as passenger

"I have known Miss Keene since August 1943. I know that she was a capable pilot, and in my opinion, one of the better Service Pilots of the Women's Airforce Service Pilots personnel. She was very conscientious about her work and was determined to improve her flying ability. She grasped every chance she had to ride in or pilot an airplane."

Sworn to and subscribed before me, at Moore Field, Mission, Texas, on this the 27th day of April, 1944.

[Signature]

Paul L. Blake
Captain, Air Corps
Investigating Officer
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS II—Continued</th>
<th>ARTICLES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Safety razor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Overnight bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fountain pen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pt. baby oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Box talcum powder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bottles cologne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bottles nail polish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jar foundation cream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jar hand cream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jar cold cream</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sample of list of effects sent home

Separation by Death
HAZEL YING LEE

- WASP
- Full military burial due to fatality while performing duty
WILLIAM M. PARKER

- Department of Commerce, Department of the Treasury, RG 146, textual
- Lighthouse Keeper
- Often keepers and their families lived in or very near the lighthouses in order to maintain constant surveillance because a constant beam was so vital to incoming and passing ships
WILLIAM PARKER

waters of the bay, for burial by the friends who had assisted her in reaching her home, and they were being guided by the light which for 26 years he had attended.

William Taylor and his wife have been keeper and assistant keeper of Chincoteague Light since it was established 26 years ago. Never had the government received any complaint as to its management and the keeper and his wife, although northerns, were esteemed by all who knew them. William received his training under Captain Anderson, keeper of Assateague Light, and he was one of the first to notice that Chincoteague Light was not shining.

Clipping From The Baltimore "AMERICAN", January 27, 1910.

Note:- The name of the keeper is William H. Parker, instead of William Taylor, as reported in the newspaper clipping.

In a few moments their fears were realized, for they found Taylor kneeling at his bedside as if in the act of prayer. He was dead.

The light shown last night, garded by Taylor’s wife, who knew that, as she watched, the body of her husband was being carried across the
DALE KEARNEY

- Department of Justice, Department of the Treasury, RG 146, textual
- Prohibition Agent
**Dale Kearney**

**Service Record Card**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REFERENCE</th>
<th>NATURE OF ACTION</th>
<th>POSITION AND GRADE</th>
<th>SALARY</th>
<th>EFFECTIVE DATE</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT OR ESTABLISHMENT</th>
<th>OFFICIAL STATION</th>
<th>TOTAL SERVICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discharge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enlisted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hon. Disch.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F. of D. Chg.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7/7/29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transferred</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2300</td>
<td>3/15/30</td>
<td>Trans., Pro., Denver, Colo.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Killed in line of duty</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2300</td>
<td>7/1/30</td>
<td>Justice, &quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7/6/30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EDUCATION:**
- COMMON SCHOOL: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
- HIGH SCHOOL: 1 2 3 4
- COLLEGE: 1 2 3 4
- DEGREES, IF ANY:
- SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS:
TREASURY DEPARTMENT
U. S. PROHIBITION SERVICE
DENVER, COLO.
July 29, 1930.

Director of Prohibition,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

You will find enclosed United States Compensation
Commission Forms C. A. 5 and C. A. 5, in the matter of the
death of Dale F. Kearney, Federal Prohibition Agent, who was
killed in line of duty at Aguilar, Colorado, on July 6, 1930,
at 12:00 A.M., to which forms are attached the following papers:

Certified Copy of Death Certificate
Certified Copy of the Birth Record of Kathleen Mary Kearney

Itemised bill in duplicate of E. G. Sipe Undertaking Co.

Shaw Memorial Chapel

Longmont Cemetery Association.

Voucher Form No. 1012 for travel and other expenses from
June 1, 1930 to June 30, 1930, which has not been paid
by this office.

Kindly let us know if you desire any other forms or
information in connection herewith, as we are very anxious that
Mrs. Kearney's compensation shall commence being paid her as soon
as possible.

I. S. B. Gregg,
Acting Prohibition Administrator.

Necessary documents for death entitlement claim
Funeral bill
RAY SUTTON

- Bonus edition
- Prohibition Agent-MIA
Ray Sutton

Signature page for badge

Final check endorsement
Hon. John S. Hurly,
Assistant Director,
Alcoholic Beverage Unit,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I am the wife of Ray Sutton, Prohibition Agent, who disappeared August 28th, 1930. Every thing goes to show that he met his death by whiskey racketeers while in the Government service, although his body has never been found.

Under the law I am entitled to thirty-five per cent of Mr. Sutton’s salary. Is there some way whereby I may get this pension started? I have in my possession government checks that were drawn in favor of Mr. Sutton prior to the time he disappeared. A salary check in the amount of $290.00 for the last half of August, 1930, and an expense check in the amount of $113.00. If there is some way whereby these checks may be cashed, I surely would appreciate it.

Whatever you can do for me at this time will be appreciated for I am much in need of this help.

Very respectfully,

Ann Sutton
Requesting our records

- National Archives at St. Louis processes archival OMPFs, OPFs, and auxiliary records
  - An archival OMPF means that a veteran’s service ended on today’s date 62 years ago or prior (sliding date). For archival OPFs, employee’s service must have ended before 1952

- How to request:
    - Questions and requests can also be sent to stl.archives@nara.gov
- List of most Federal agencies: [https://www.archives.gov/st-louis/civilian-personnel](https://www.archives.gov/st-louis/civilian-personnel)
- OPF/OMPF Reproduction fees:
  - $25 for 5 pages or less
  - $70 for greater than 5 pages
Requesting our records

National Archives & Records Administration
Attn: Archival Programs
P.O. Box 38757
St. Louis, MO 63138

Fax: (314) 801-9187
email: stl.archives@nara.gov

Reproduction Fees (non-OMPF/OPF):
$.80/page, $20.00 minimum

$3.50 Copy of a photograph

$20.00 Enhanced digital copy of a photograph
Visit our Archival Research Room:

1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, Missouri
Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
(314) 801-0850  Fax: (314) 801-0608
email: stlarr.archives@nara.gov

More information on the records available through the Archival Research Room can be found at
http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/archival-programs
Thank you for attending!

If we did not get to your question, you may submit it to inquire@nara.gov

Today’s video recording and materials will remain available at www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair