



2018 Virtual Genealogy Fair Schedule



#	TIME (ET)	SESSION	PRESENTER(S)
	10 a.m.	Welcoming Remarks	David S. Ferriero Archivist of the United States of America
1	10:05 a.m.	<i>Calling all Citizen Archivists! Getting the Most Out of the National Archives Catalog</i>	Suzanne Isaacs and Meredith Doviak Community Managers for the National Archives Catalog National Archives at College Park, MD
2	11 a.m.	<i>Federal Records that Help Identify Former Slaves and Slave Owners</i>	Claire Kluskens Reference and Digital Projects Archivist National Archives in Washington, DC
	12 p.m.	<i>All's Fair in Love and War: The Civil War Widows' Pension Files</i>	Alexandra Villaseran Processing Archives Technician National Archives in Washington, DC
4	1 p.m.	<i>How to Search for Photographs that Document Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camps and Activities</i>	Kaitlyn Crain Enriquez , Archives Specialist and Kelsey Noel , Processing Archivist National Archives at College Park, MD
5	2 p.m.	<i>Tennessee Valley Authority Records: To St. Louis and Beyond!</i>	Cara Moore Lebonick Archives Technician National Archives at St. Louis
6	3 p.m.	<i>America's Military Made the Call: Hello Nurses!</i>	Anna Csar Expert Archives Technician National Archives at St. Louis
	4 p.m.	Closing Remarks	Ann Cummings Executive for Research Services



2018 Virtual Genealogy Fair



Tennessee Valley Authority: To St. Louis and Beyond!

Skill Level: Intermediate

With this year's 85th anniversary of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), this presentation will cover the wealth of genealogical resources maintained in the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis for the TVA Official Personnel Files, and other TVA information kept across the National Archives nationwide.



Cara Moore Lebonick

Cara Moore Lebonick 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 an American Studies Ph.D. student at Saint Louis University. 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 Masters Degree in History and Post baccalaureate in Museum Studies from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville.



NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

Research
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NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION



Tennessee Valley Authority

To St. Louis and Beyond!

Cara Moore Lebonick

24 October 2018



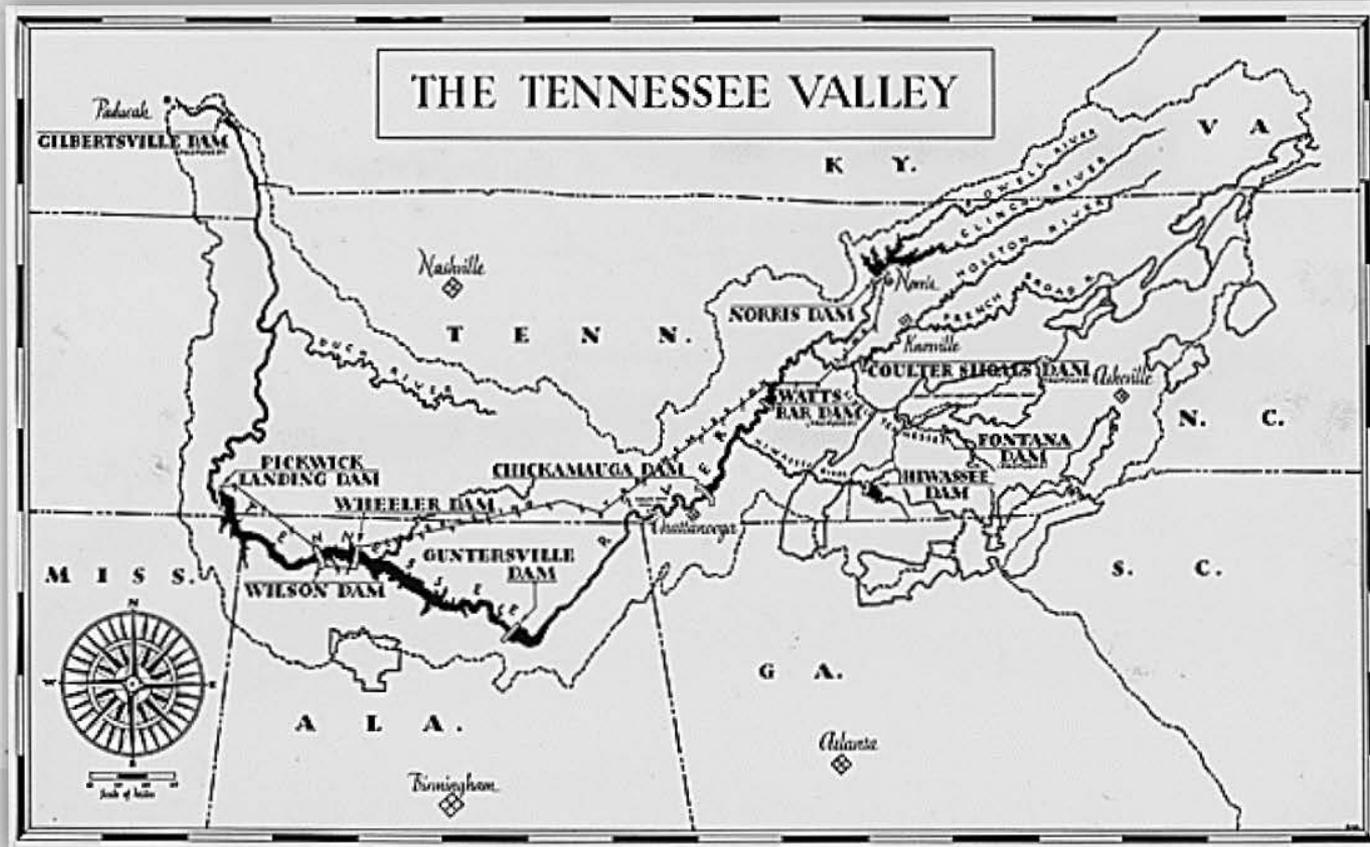
Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

- The TVA was created in 1933 as one of the many “alphabet agencies” of the New Deal. It employed men and women alike for many different jobs from the well-known dam constructions to science labs and textile plants.
- It was one of the first agencies with such an overstated regional focus. Within one short year of establishment, more than 9,000 people were employed over the seven state areas of Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia.
- The TVA’s focus on employment as well as on the development and modernization of rural land makes the federal records that remain a sophisticated way to track families from that time and area.



Research
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Map of the TN Valley from:
<https://juliamccartney.weebly.com/new-deal---tennessee-valley-authority.html>





Tennessee Valley and TVA Goals



The 1930s
With the country reeling from the Great Depression, President Roosevelt created the "New Deal" to help America recover. The Tennessee Valley Authority was founded to help the hard-hit Tennessee Valley, where it was tasked with improving the quality of life in the region.



The 1940s
Against the backdrop of World War II, TVA launched one of the largest hydropower construction programs ever undertaken in the United States.



The 1950s
Serving as the nation's largest electricity supplier, TVA benefited from 1959 legislation that made our power system self-financing.



The 1960s
Accommodating unprecedented economic growth, TVA began building nuclear plants to expand our capacity and spur innovation.



The 1970s - 80s
A difficult decade affected by rising fuel costs led to innovative thinking about energy conservation. Working successfully to stop a steady rise in energy costs, we paved the way for a long period of stable rates.



The 1990s
Through a period of restructuring, TVA kept wholesale electric power affordable and reliable while unveiling a new clean air strategy.



The 2000s
With power demand growing, TVA turned its attention back to clean nuclear energy, renewing an old reactor to service, and paving the way to fresh construction of another. We also launched the first green power program in the Southeast.



The 2010s
We continue to carry out our mission of serving the people of the Tennessee Valley region, to make life better through our work in energy, the environment and economic development.

TVA timeline from tva.gov

- The TN Valley is made up of rugged mountains and hills and lowlands
- Part of the Appalachian chain makes up about half of the TN Valley
- The hills and lowlands were mostly occupied by poor white and black families
- The TN River, 5th largest in the U.S., wraps through these several states that make up the valley, creating a giant drainage basin and regular flooding
- Thus, the first of three major goals of the TVA were created:
 1. Build dams to stop the flooding and loss of home and lives
 2. Dams were to generate electric power in order to serve low-cost electricity across the valley
 3. Resulting lakes and water systems of the dams would allow for water travel the length of TN

The function of the dams and inevitable profitability meant the TVA would be more than an “Alphabet Agency,” but a federal corporation.



Federal Corporation

- Arguments reared through Congress both for and against a government-owned corporation
- There was a fear of private companies taking over the unfinished Wilson Dam in Muscle Shoals, AL and not having the benefit of the people at heart
- There was worry about the government having control of a profitable agency and abuse of power through eminent domain
- There was worry, regardless of private or federal ownership, over people being moved off their land, forcibly and coerced
- Timing was critical for the success of the government-run TVA. The Great Depression had many looking to the government for aid and responsibility of care for its constituents, with many largely in favor of the entire New Deal campaign



CCC Camp, TVA #22, near Esco, Tennessee, 11/17/1933
Series: Lewis Hine Photographs for the Tennessee Valley Authority
(TVA)
RG 142

- The TVA was slated to be set up as a government-controlled agency, but operated like a private company. This meant federal employment opportunities, as well as oversight from a board of directors not employed by the federal government
- On May 17, 1933, Congress passed the bill for the TVA and May 18, 1933, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) signed it
- Work began immediately, with the government paying people for land and home, helping them move, and moving in new equipment, technology, and vast employment
- Now, in 2018, we are celebrating the incredible 85th anniversary of the TVA

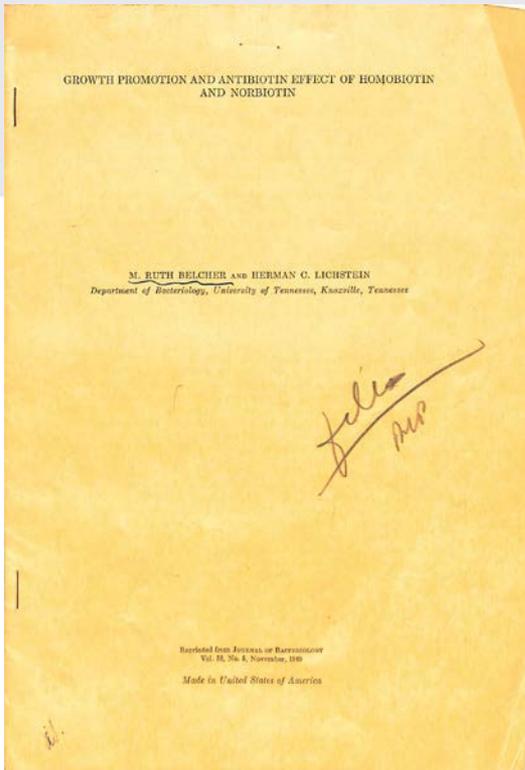


Official Personnel Folders (OPFs)



William Magness, photo from TVA
OPF, National Archives at St.
Louis

- The National Archives at St. Louis holds the civilian federal employee records for those who separated from service prior to 1952
 - This includes the War Department, which was in control of the construction of Wilson Dam prior to July of 1933
- Unlike other New Deal agencies, the TVA is still active! This means there are plenty of employee records with service after 1951 through today. These OPFs are maintained by the National Personnel Records Center-Civilian Personnel Records in Valmeyer, IL
- Handing over of OPFs for maintenance by the National Archives is not mandatory, and due to the continuing operation of the TVA, they have maintained some of their employment records
 - They operate an open and continuing TVA register of employees and applicants. This is done for regular and critical demand for specific skills



Mary Ruth Belcher Boyd's publication,
located in her TVA employment file,
National Archives at St. Louis

The original provisions of the TVA did not require it to adhere to the Civil Service Act, meaning it was not required to maintain OPFs on employees. It still maintained employment folders, though, which are very similar to those OPFs created by other agencies and, thus, we will refer to them as OPFs.

TVA OPFs can have:

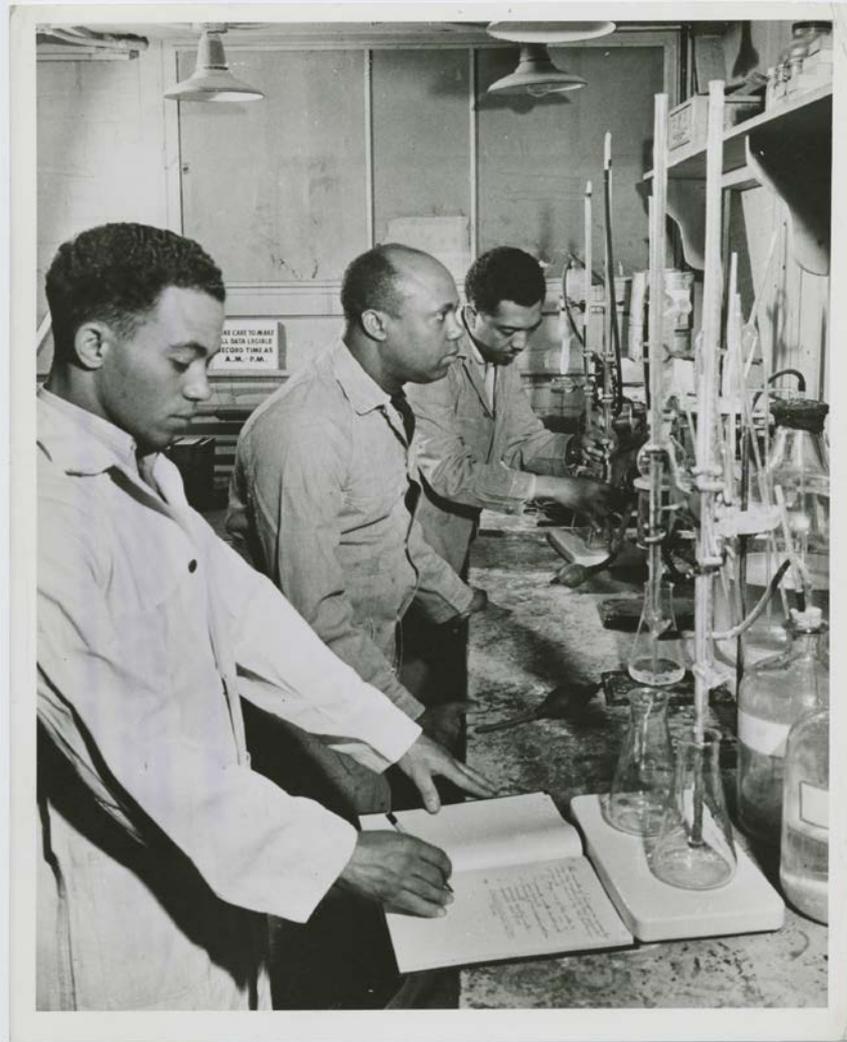
- Applications
- Family members also employed
- Supporting evidence for employment

Once you know more about the specific work your ancestor did, you can then move on to learn more about the specific projects from other select archives.



Above: photo from OPF of George Washington Richardson, chemical research engineer for the TVA, at the National Archives at St. Louis, RG 146

Left: Photo from the collections at The New York Public Library picturing George W Richardson and two others at work in a chemistry lab



FLOYD, JOHN W.

0030

0-21
TVA 1718 (PD-4-42)
IMPORTANT

Right:
Identification
card for John
W. Floyd

Bottom:
Identification
card for
Thomas A.
Floyd



Brothers!

*Relative
See File*

**EMPLOYED
TERMINATED
RE-EMPLOYED
TERMINATED
RE-EMPLOYED**

9121 B
7441 B

MAR 14 1942

RELATIVES
SEE FILE

RELATIVES
SEE FILE



Relatives!

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Present this card, with your photograph pasted in the space at the right at the examination room on the date and at the time specified on the other side.

Take to the examination room 2 pencils and eraser, or pen and ink (but no paper).

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car



Above photograph taken 1-7-1939 (Date)

The blanks below must be filled out in the examination room.

Examination Number 64374

Applicant's signature John W. Floyd

I certify that the attached photograph appears to be a correct likeness of the applicant.

Langley
Examiner.

I certify that the attached photograph appears to be a correct likeness of the appointee.

Signature _____

Official title of appointing officer _____

(READ BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD)

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Present this card, with your photograph pasted in the space at the right at the examination room on the date and at the time specified on the other side.

Take to the examination room 2 pencils and eraser, or pen and ink (but no paper).

Unless you paste an unmounted photograph of yourself (taken within two years) within this space and present this card to the examiner, you may not be examined. Proofs, small pictures which do not show features plainly, tintypes, or group photographs will not be accepted. Photographs will not be returned to applicants. Before pasting, write your name and the kind of examination on the photograph, for identification in case.



Above photograph taken 1936 (Date)

The blanks below must be filled out in the examination room.

Examination Number 54588

Applicant's signature Thomas A. Floyd

I certify that the attached photograph appears to be a correct likeness of the applicant.

Cowan
Examiner.

I certify that the attached photograph appears to be a correct likeness of the appointee.

Signature _____

Official title of appointing officer _____

(READ BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD)

10. Age 29 Date of birth APRIL 22, 1910
 Sex Female Race white Height 5' 2" Weight 112
 11. Nationality and descent Irish / AMERICAN
 12. Place of birth Coalmont Grundy Tennessee
 13. Legal residence Chattanooga Hamilton Tennessee
 14. Are you an American citizen? Yes If foreign born, when did you come to the United States? _____
 When, where, and how naturalized? _____
 15. Married, single, widowed, or divorced? Married No. of children one
Buhler; 11 years of age
 16. If related in any way to an employee of the Tennessee Valley Authority, state _____
 Give position, salary, and location if known none

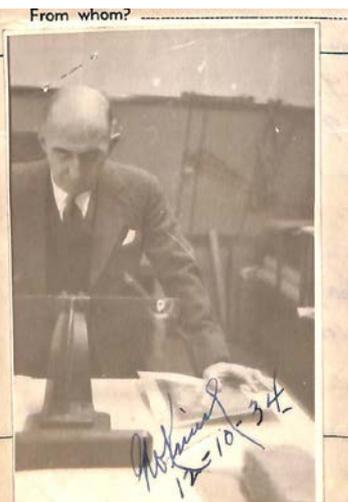


Violet Nelson July 13, 1939

*Mr. Williams, Mr. Hupstetter and I interviewed
 Mrs. Page - we agree that she will be good for staff
 Miss Page as soon as possible
 available for work now
 JFW*

9904	Harold B. Posey	9920	Eugene N. Montana, Jr.
9905	Raymond H. Sitter	9929	Mary Sue Roberts
9906	Frances P. Hardy	9930	George A. McCroskey
9907	Helen F. Dickey	9931	W. Felix Sherrod
9910	Lounita R. Anthony	9932	Helen Leach Jackson
9911	Anne S. Grismitt	9933	Jimmie Lou Stribling
9912	Lyra G. Walters	9934	Jean J. Dulces
9913	Christene H. Crockett	9936	Geraldine Fouts
9914	M. Louise Leak	9937	Dorothy D. Keenum
9915	Andrew Mac Cochran	9938	M. Evelyn Whitley
9916	James W. Fennell	9939	Tommie M. Stanphill
9917	Julia C. Isbell	9940	Marguerite H. Pettus
9919	Arlene L. Lipscomb	9941	Cora D. Thompson
9920	Mary Hilton Black	9942	Ruth E. Hopwood
9921		9943	
9922		9944	

Top: Violet Cotter photo; Christine Page note taken during interview referring to her as a "good nurse"; Payroll dept. roster; all from TVA OPFs



_____king for temporary or permanent employment? Permanent
 _____lowest salary you will accept on permanent work? \$3.00 per month
 _____lowest salary on temporary work? \$3.00 " "

7. What is the lowest salary you will now accept?
 For temporary work 2900 per year For permanent work 2600 per year

Bottom: George W Kneisly, aerial photo civil engineer pictured with photo reader equipment; Florence Hawley, one of first ever Anthropologists to work on dendrochronology; all from TVA OPFs

Top: \$3/month minimum salary desired=\$36/yr; (bottom) \$2600-\$2900/yr minimum salary desired; all from TVA OPFs

Record Group 142 and the National Catalog

National Archives at Atlanta-Morrow, GA

- 268 series in accordance with their status of holding records created by federal agencies in TN, AL, MS, GA, NC, KY

Lyndon B Johnson Presidential Library

- Papers relevant to TVA created during LBJ's time in public office 1963-1968

National Archives at St. Louis

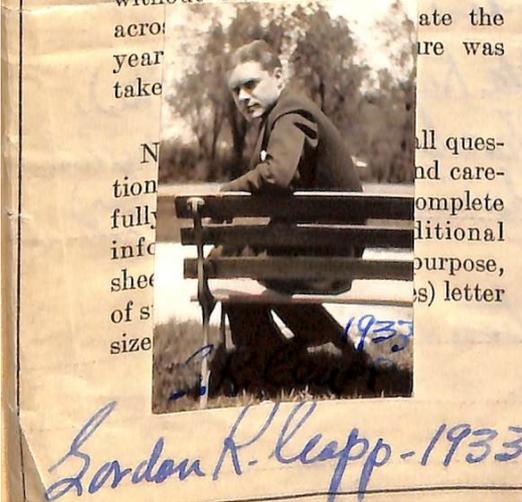
- Official Personnel Folders (OPFs) prior to 1952
- Limited to those federally employed

National Personnel Record Center

-Civilian Personnel Records

- Official Personnel Folders (OPFs) post 1952

Gordon R Clapp, photo; Gordon R Clapp appointment to Board of Directors and cease of federal employment, both from TVA OPF National Archives at St. Louis



Clapp, Gordon R. 1418 N. Union Appleton, Wisc.		ANALYSIS 27-Pers. Admin. Int. A 8-Educ. Admin. Jr. A 23-Public Adm. & Survey Int. A		ADM.	EXP. CODE	
EMPLOYED FILES AUG 13 1937				TECHN.		
1905	AB '27 Lawrence Coll. MA '33					
YEAR	EDUCATION	Educ. Admin. U of Chicago.				
Some grad. work toward PhD in Educ. Admin.						
DATE	SALARY	RATING WIC/A	TITLE	FIRM OR DIV & SECTION	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	CODE
27	3200				Personnel officer-director of Publicity, assistant Dean-Lawrence College, Wisc.	
TVA						
7/33	3300				Asst. to Director of Personnel-reclassified 4/35-\$6000.	
1/36	7200				Director of Personnel.	
1/37	7500				Same.	
7/37	7750				"	
7/38	8000				Same.	
10/1/39	9500				Genl. Mgr., Knoxville.	
11-2-46			Term.		Appointed to Board of Directors by Presidential Order.	



Research
Services

Record Group 142 and the National Catalog

- **National Archives at College Park-Cartographic**
- **National Archives at College Park-Still Pictures**
 - Includes complete collection of Lewis Hine's photographs available digitally
- **National Archives at College Park-Motion Pictures**



"Part of the family of Hugh Noe, a renter on a farm near Andersonville, Tennessee."

Lewis Hine Photographs for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), RG 142



The National Archives Catalog

Search the [National Archives Catalog](#) and other National Archives resources at once for information about our records.

Search the National Archives Catalog

[Advanced Search](#)

▼ Refine By: Data Source

- Archival Descriptions (303)

▼ Refine By: Level of Description

- Series (303) 

▼ Refine By: Type of Materials

- Textual Records (258)
- Maps and Charts (28)
- Photographs and Other Graphic Materials (25)
- Architectural and Engineering Drawings (7)
- Data Files (2)
- Moving Images (2)
- Sound Recordings (2)

▼ Refine By: Location

Lewis Hine Photographs for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), 1933 - 1933

 This series has been digitized and is now fully available online. Hyperlinks to digital images are found below in the Details section.

Additional Information About this Series

National Archives Identifier: 532624

Local Identifier: 142-H

Creator(s): Tennessee Valley Authority. 1933- (Most Recent)

From: Record Group 142: Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority, 1918 - 2000

Contact(s): National Archives at St. Louis (RL-SL)
1 Archives Drive, Room 340
St. Louis, MO 63138
Phone: 314-801-0850
Fax: 314-801-9187
Email: stl.archives@nara.gov



National Archives beyond RG 142

- **Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library**

- Papers relevant to TVA creation and execution during FDR's time in public office

- **Harry S. Truman Library**

- Papers relevant to TVA created during Truman's time in public office 1920-1945; possibly

- Most Presidential Libraries will have some relevant papers due to the ongoing nature of the TVA, though they do not all fall within RG 142

Other important holdings facilities

- The TVA! - <https://www.tva.gov/>
- University of Tennessee
- State historical societies
- County historical societies and courthouses
- Local historical societies, museums, libraries and/or archives
- And more!



Image from Parks & Recreation on NBC; S2E8



NATIONAL
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Research Services

Currently the National Archives at St. Louis responds to requests for employees with service prior to 1952, which are open to the public.

If service ends after 1952 they are not open to the public and only open to the employee, next of kin, or service agency. Later records have been appraised to be permanent, but not released by the Office of Personnel Management at this time.

The National Personnel Records Center Annex responds to requests for service ending after 1951.

www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/civilian-non-archival

If you are unsure of the end of service, please send us a request and we will find out for you!

How to request: <https://www.archives.gov/st-louis/civilian-personnel>

Questions and requests can also be sent to: stl.archives@nara.gov

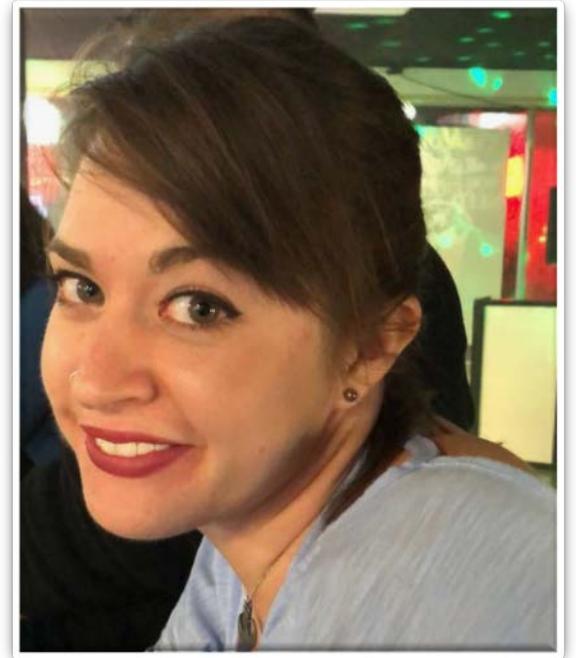
OPF Reproduction fees:

\$25 for 5 pages or less

\$70 for greater than 5 pages

Questions?

Cara Moore Lebonick





2018 Virtual Genealogy Fair



**Thank you for attending!
Please stay tuned for the next session.**

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

**Video recording and handouts
will remain available at
www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair**



Feedback



We value your opinion.

Please take a few minutes to complete a short evaluation. Your comments help us maintain the quality of our services and plan future programs.

Click ⇒ **Event Evaluation**

www.surveymonkey.com/r/KYREventEval