## 2018 Virtual Genealogy Fair Schedule

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|    | 10 a.m.   | Welcoming Remarks                                                       | David S. Ferriero  
Archivist of the United States of America                                                                                                 |
| 1  | 10:05 a.m.| Calling all Citizen Archivists! Getting the Most Out of the National Archives Catalog | Suzanne Isaacs and Meredith Doviak  
Community Managers for the National Archives Catalog  
National Archives at College Park, MD                                                                                                         |
| 2  | 11 a.m.   | Federal Records that Help Identify Former Slaves and Slave Owners        | Claire Kluskens  
Reference and Digital Projects Archivist  
National Archives in Washington, DC                                                                                                         |
|    | 12 p.m.   | All’s Fair in Love and War: The Civil War Widows’ Pension Files          | Alexandra Villaseran  
Processing Archives Technician  
National Archives in Washington, DC                                                                                                         |
| 4  | 1 p.m.    | How to Search for Photographs that Document Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camps and Activities | Kaitlyn Crain Enriquez, Archives Specialist and Kelsey Noel, Processing Archivist  
National Archives at College Park, MD                                                                                                         |
| 5  | 2 p.m.    | Tennessee Valley Authority Records: To St. Louis and Beyond!            | Cara Moore Lebonick  
Archives Technician  
National Archives at St. Louis                                                                                                               |
| 6  | 3 p.m.    | America's Military Made the Call: Hello Nurses!                         | Anna Csar  
Expert Archives Technician  
National Archives at St. Louis                                                                                                               |
|    | 4 p.m.    | Closing Remarks                                                         | Ann Cummings  
Executive for Research Services                                                                                                               |
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 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.
Tennessee Valley Authority
To St. Louis and Beyond!
Cara Moore Lebonick
24 October 2018
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.
Tennessee Valley and TVA Goals

- 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
• 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)

- 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
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
4 pages of a TVA application
Marion Hall from her OPF
**Left, cover of a TVA OPF file**

**Right:** Identification card for John W. Floyd

**Bottom:** Identification card for Thomas A. Floyd

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**Brothers!**

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

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
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

Tennessee Valley Authority

Search
Advanced Search
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
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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
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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
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

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