Welcome!

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is pleased to present this educational series of lectures on how to do family research. As one of the nation’s premier genealogy institutions, it is our mission to inform the public about the National Archives’ holdings that relate to family history and to make those holdings available.
Lectures demonstrate how to use federal records and other resources for genealogical research for beginning to experienced family historians. Our presenters include experts from the National Archives nationwide representing our facilities in College Park, MD; Denver, CO; New York City, NY; St. Louis, MO; and Washington, DC.
Join the conversation!

Participate with the presenters and other family historians during the live event.

Live Chat on YouTube: log in and type your questions and comments

Join us at @USNatArchives on Twitter #GenieSeries2021
**May Schedule**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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</table>
| Tuesday, May 4        | Preserving and Digitizing Personal Photo Albums and Scrapbooks | Sara Holmes  
 Conservator in Preservation Programs  
 National Archives at St. Louis, MO |
| 1 p.m. ET             |                                                         | Noah Durham  
 Supervisory Preservation Specialist  
 National Archives at St. Louis, MO |
| Wednesday, May 12     | Finding Genealogy Resources and Tools on Archives.gov   | Sarah Swanson  
 Website Liaison  
 National Archives at College Park, MD |
| 1 p.m. ET             |                                                         | Missy McNatt  
 Education Specialist  
 National Archives in Washington, DC |
| Wednesday, May 19     | Tips and Tools for Engaging Family with Your Research Finds | Dorothy Dougherty  
 Virtual Public Programs Director  
 National Archives at New York City, NY |
## June Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, June 1</td>
<td>From Here to There: Researching Office of Indian Affairs Employees</td>
<td>Cara Moore Lebonick&lt;br&gt;Reference Archives Specialist&lt;br&gt;National Archives at St. Louis, MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 p.m. ET</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cody White&lt;br&gt;Archivist and Native American Related Records&lt;br&gt;Subject Matter Expert&lt;br&gt;National Archives at Denver, CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, June 8</td>
<td>Civil War Union Noncombatant Personnel: Teamsters, Laundresses, Nurses, Sutlers, and more</td>
<td>Claire Kluskens&lt;br&gt;Genealogy/Census Subject Matter Expert and Digital Projects Archivist&lt;br&gt;National Archives in Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 p.m. ET</td>
<td></td>
<td>Theresa Fitzgerald&lt;br&gt;Director&lt;br&gt;National Archives at St. Louis, MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, June 15</td>
<td>Merchant Marine Records at The National Archives at St. Louis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 p.m. ET</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
After the broadcast, the video presentation and handout will remain available.
Theresa Fitzgerald will introduce you to the core collection of Merchant Marine Licensing Files, which were recently accessioned and are now open to the public for the first time at the National Archives at St. Louis. She will go over our auxiliary collections of Merchant Marine records that are complex and closely connected.
Theresa Fitzgerald joined NARA in 2007 as a temporary student employee with the National Archives at St. Louis. Her position then transitioned to the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP), and she became a permanent archives technician upon completion of her education. Theresa was selected as an archivist under the Archivist Development Program (ADP) in 2010. She then became the reference supervisor for the National Archives in St. Louis in 2015 and was selected as the Chief of Archival Operations and Director of the National Archives at St. Louis in 2018.
Merchant Marine Records
at The National Archives at St. Louis

June 15, 2021
Theresa Fitzgerald
Formatting credit to: Corey Stewart
The Shipping Act of 1916 established the U.S. Shipping Board, the first federal agency tasked with promoting a U.S. Merchant Marine and regulating U.S. commercial shipping.

- Enacted in part because of the severe disruptions in shipping caused by World War I.

- Specifically established the Shipping Board “for the purpose of encouraging, developing, and creating a naval auxiliary and naval reserve and a Merchant Marine, to meet the requirements of the commerce of the United States with its Territories and possessions and with foreign countries; to regulate carriers by water engaged in the foreign and interstate commerce of the United States.”

www.maritime.dot.gov/outreach/history/short-history-maritime-administration
August 10, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt abolished the USSB and created the interim United States Shipping Board Bureau (USSBB) within the Department of Commerce.

- Roosevelt preferred that the regulation of U.S. shipping remain under partial control of a cabinet department.

Merchant Marine Act of 1936

- Replaced the USSBB with the independent regulatory body, the U.S. Maritime Commission.
- Referred to as the “Magna Carta of American Shipping.” As part of the New Deal, it intended to revitalize U.S. merchant shipping and strengthen the nation’s national defense.
- Created the United States Maritime Service (USMS), the organization responsible for mariner training.
February 7, 1942, President Roosevelt created the War Shipping Administration (WSA)

- To handle the operational demands that World War II placed upon the Maritime Commission.

Between 1939 and 1945, the Maritime Commission:

- Built 5,171 ships of over 2,000 gross registered tons.
- Oversaw the construction of the more modern “Victory” type cargo ships, tankers, combination passenger/cargo ships, tugs, barges, and military auxiliary vessels.
- The Maritime Commission used a variety of training programs to produce 262,474 mariners.
1946, Congress abolished the WSA, and its responsibilities reverted to the Commission.

May 24, 1950, Congress created the Maritime Administration and Federal Maritime Board (FMB) to replace the Maritime Commission.

- MARAD maintained all U.S. merchant shipping promotional programs and the NDRF
- FMB took on a regulatory role.

1961 Congress implemented Reorganization Plan No. 7

- FMB renamed the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC)
- Responsible for regulating U.S. international maritime shipping.
Series consists of individual files that document the service of merchant seamen licensed by the United States in 1967 or prior.

- Files consist of an envelope/jacket providing:
  - Seaman’s name and address
  - Place and date of birth
  - License numbers
- Also contains:
  - Vessels served on, seaman’s status, certification of identification number ("Z" number), continuous discharge book number, date and place issued, dates of renewal, as well as other certifications
- The record may contain:
  - Applications, certifications, licenses, correspondence, photographs, birth certificates, and documents related to union membership
National Maritime Center will issue benefits from the following records series:

- Merchant Marine Licensing Files
- Deceased Merchant Marine Licensing Files
- Officer Licenses

The Coast Guard National Maritime Center is the approving official for World War II Merchant Marine separation documents. United States Merchant Mariners who served in ocean-going service during December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, are considered “active duty” under the provisions of Public Laws 95-202 and 105-368. To determine eligibility for a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, DD Form 214, or a Report of Casualty, DD Form 1300, please refer to the National Maritime Center (NMC) website.
RG 26, Merchant Marine Licensing Files: Avery, Kenneth

NAME OF APPLICANT (LAST, MIDDLE, AND FIRST—PLEASE PRINT)

AVERY, RAYMOND KENNETH

ADDRESS OF APPLICANT

917 Park Ave., Bremerton, Washington

DATE OF BIRTH (DAY, MONTH, AND YEAR)

30 Nov. 1921

PLACE OF BIRTH (CITY, STATE, AND COUNTRY)

Bremerton, Wash.

HEIGHT

5' 10"

WEIGHT

140

COLOR

Blk

NAME OF NEXT OF KIN

Mrs. Lucile M. Avery

ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN

917 Park Ave., Bremerton, Washington

NAME OF VESSEL

UNITED STATES NAVY

NATIONALITY

200

SERVICE

39991

RATE

POT

DATE OF ISSUE

5/19/45

NO. OF ISSUE

54299

NAME OF CAPTAIN

RAYMOND KENNETH AVERY

NAME OF SHIP

UNITED STATES NAVY

Gross Tonnage

14,000

Hull No.

916

MAIL ADDRESSES

AVERY, RAYMOND KENNETH

917 Park Ave., Bremerton, Washington

STATE

WASHINGTON
I hereby swear (or affirm) that all the statements on this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief; that I have never received from the United States Government any documents, which I now make application; and I further solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully and honestly perform all the duties required of me by law and carry out the lawful orders of my superior officer on board.

I have accordingly issued the documents listed below.

I have this day examined the physical condition of... and have found him competent for the rating of...

Daniel J. Daley, M.D.
(U.S. Public Health Service Inspector in Charge)

1. Continuous discharge book No...
2. Certificate of identification No... for the waters of...
3. Certificate of efficiency as lifeboat man No...
4. Certificate as seaman No...
5. Certificate of service as Able Seaman No...
6. Certificate of service as Q. M. E. D. No...
7. Certificate of service as...

FINGERPRINTS

(Signed)
RG 26, Merchant Marine Licensing Files, Avery, Kenneth (continued)
RG 26 Merchant Marine Licensing Files, Avery, Kenneth (continued)

[Image of a certificate]

[Text on the certificate]

Name: Kenneth R. Avery

Address: 917 Park Ave., Ofstedlow

Rating: Ordinary

Department: Deck

Citizen of: U.S.A.

Date of Birth: Mar. 30, 1921

Place of Birth: Washington

Serial number of certificate: E619184

Date of issue of certificate: May 9, 1945

Los Angeles, Cal.

Issued by Officer in charge, Marine Inspection at

(ACTG.) MERCH J\N\RE NA\V\E

INSPECTOR IN CHARGE

(To be forwarded to Bureau) Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection
(If a food handler) 
Examined physically and found free from communicable disease

(Date)
Signature of Seaman

Thumb Print

Kenneth R. Avery
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Seaman</th>
<th>Avery, Kenneth Raymond</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>917 Park Ave., Bremerton, Wash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate of Identification No.</td>
<td>Z-609 916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous Discharge Book No.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port of Issue</td>
<td>Los Angeles, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Issue</td>
<td>5-19-45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Birth</td>
<td>11-30-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of Birth</td>
<td>Bremerton, Wash.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OFFICER’S LICENSES**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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</thead>
</table>

**SEAMAN’S CERTIFICATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ISSUED AT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Deceased War Casualty Seaman’s Records, RG 26
Series consists of individual files that document the service of merchant seamen licensed by the U.S. who died during the period 1937–1950, many as a result of enemy action during World War II.

- Files consists of an envelope/jacket providing:
  - Seaman’s name and address
  - Place and date of birth
  - Date of death
- If the loss was due to war casualty, the name of vessel, date lost, and seaman status (missing, deceased) is noted.
- Also contains:
  - Identification number (“Z” number), continuous discharge book number, date and place issued, dates of renewal, as well as other certifications, applications, licenses, and correspondence relating to the circumstance of death and notification of next of kin
- The record may contain:
  - Photographs and documents related to union membership
The Coast Guard National Maritime Center is the approving official for World War II Merchant Marine separation documents. United States Merchant Mariners who served in ocean-going service during December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, are considered “active duty” under the provisions of Public Laws 95-202 and 105-368. To determine eligibility for a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, DD Form 214, or a Report of Casualty, DD Form 1300, please refer to NMC’s website.

Section 401 of Public Law 95-202, The GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977, authorized the Secretary of Defense to determine whether the service of members of civilian or contractual groups should be considered active duty for the purposes of all laws administered by the Veterans Affairs (VA).
RG 26, Deceased
War Casualty
Seaman’s Records,
Rocchio, Dominico
Records of Licenses Issued to Merchant Marine Officers, RG 26
Records of Licenses Issued to Merchant Marine Officers, 1910–1946

- Forms contain the following information:
  - Seaman’s name and address
  - Place and date of birth
  - Place and date license issued
  - If naturalized, date, place, and court of naturalization are shown
- Also provides:
  - Type of license (first assistant engineer, chief engineer, second mate, first mate, master, pilot, or motor vessel operator)
  - Type of waters for which the license is valid (lakes, bays, sounds, rivers, or oceans)
- The card may contain:
  - Licenses renewals or increases in rank
RG 26, Licenses
Issued to Merchant
Marine Officers,
Billings, Daniel
RG 26, Licenses
Issued to Merchant Marine Officers,
Billings, Daniel
(continued)
RG 26, Licenses
Issued to Merchant
Marine Officers,
Billings, Daniel
(continued)
Merchant Marine Enrollee Files, RG 146
Records of the Civil Service Commission, RG 146
- 1940; a training division was created within the U.S. Maritime Commission.
- February 28, 1942; this division was transferred to the U.S. Coast Guard.
- July 11, 1942; the training functions were transferred to the Training Organization of the War Shipping Administration.
  - With the increased need for experienced seamen, training for both licensed and unlicensed seamen was planned.
  - Three types of schools were operated: Merchant Marine Cadet Corps Division, Merchant Marine Service Division, and the State Maritime Academies Division.
- 1946; with the termination of the War Shipping Administration, the Division of Training was reestablished in the US Maritime Commission.
  - Later became the Division of Maritime Training and Office of Maritime Training.
  - Currently all maritime training is under the US Merchant Marine Academy.
The National Archives at St. Louis holds records for the Training Organization—U.S. Maritime Commission

- Civil service employees in the various administrative offices. Records date to 1952
- Most of the staff at the schools, including instructors, as well as those in training (students, cadets, seamen, etc.) were not civil service appointees. They were “Trainee Enrollees,” with instructors and supervisory personnel called “Administrative Enrollees.” Their records date 1938–1955
RG 146, Merchant Marine Enrollee Files, Bridges, Lee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Lee Bridges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residence</td>
<td>Florida, Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of birth</td>
<td>Savannah, Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of birth</td>
<td>June 10, 1898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizenship</td>
<td>Naturalized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital status</td>
<td>Married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependants</td>
<td>Wife &amp; Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military service:</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous enrollment, Maritime Service:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of sea service:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>License (or) Certificate (or) Grade of License (or) Certificate:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military and naval record:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Record of arrests and convictions, if any:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Record of service on merchant vessels:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RG 146, Merchant Marine Enrollee Files, Bridges, Lee (continued)
RG 146, Merchant Marine Enrollee Files, Bridges, Lee (continued)

APPLICATION FOR PROMOTION IN THE U. S. MARINE SERVICE
(Under Supplement 1 to General Order No. 39)

From: Bridges, Lee


Via: Official channels.

I hereby make application for promotion in the U. S. Maritime Service, submitting the following information, which I certify to be full and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

1. Official address: 779 Florida Avenue, S. E., Atlanta, Georgia.

2. Mailing address: Same

3. Date of birth: June 10, 1909

4. If ever known by any other name(s), list: None

5. Present rank in the U. S. M. S.:

6. Date of last physical examination in the U. S. M. S.:

7. Present license or certificate:

8. Present vessel:

9. Reason for request for promotion:

10. It is requested that I be furnished with the articles of uniform checked below if I am entitled to them:

   (a) Officer’s dress coat
   (b) Officer’s overcoat with insignia
   (c) Blue service uniform with insignia
   (d) Uniform cap with insignia

   (One blue and one white cap cover included.)

11. I (do) (do not) desire active duty as an instructor in a War Shipping Administration Training Unit, if vacancies occur.
The appropriation act governing expenditures for the Maritime Service provides that “No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be used to pay the salary or wages of any person who advocates, or who is a member of an organization that advocates, the overthrow of the Government of the United States by force or violence.” Provided, That for the purpose hereof an affidavit shall be considered prima facie evidence that the person making the affidavit does not advocate, and is not a member of an organization that advocates, the overthrow of the Government of the United States by force or violence: Provided further, That any person who advocates, or who is a member of an organization that advocates, the overthrow of the Government of the United States by force or violence and accepts employment the salary or wages for which are paid from any appropriation contained in this Act, shall be guilty of a felony, and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than $1,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both: Provided further, That the above penalty clause shall be in addition to, and not in substitution for, any other provisions of existing law.” The Hatch Act, 2 August, 1939, provides in Section 9A that “It shall be unlawful for any person employed in any capacity by any agency of the Federal Government, whose compensation or any part thereof is paid from funds authorized or appropriated by any act of Congress to have membership in any political party or organization which advocates the overthrow of our constitutional form of Government in the United States” and “any person violating the provisions of this section shall be immediately removed from the position or office held by him, and thereafter no part of the funds appropriated by any act of Congress for such position or office shall be used to pay the compensation of such person.”

AFFIDAVIT

I, Lee St. Clair Bridges, do hereby swear or affirm that I have read and understand the foregoing; that I do not advocate the overthrow of the Government of the United States by force or violence; that I am not a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the Government of the United States by force or violence; and that during such time as I am an employee of the Federal Government I will not advocate nor become a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the Government of the United States by force or violence.

Lee St. Clair Bridges

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me at WD, Atlanta, Georgia this 3rd day of March 1945.
How to Request Records
General Request for Records

In order to request the record of a Merchant Marine, please provide the following information:

• Full name of service member
• Z number, if known
• Dates of service
• Date and place of death, if death occurred while in mariner service

You may send your request to: stl.archives@nara.gov or send a letter to:
National Archives & Records Administration
National Archives - St. Louis
ATTN: RRPOR
P.O. Box 38757
St. Louis, MO 63138-0757
Requests for benefits should be sent to the National Maritime Center (NMC). If the NMC determines St. Louis holds the record they will contact us. We will supply a watermarked scan of the record for them to create a separation document to obtain benefits.

They may be reached at: National Maritime Center
Attn: Correspondance (NMC-41)
100 Forbes Drive
Martinsburg, WV 25404
After the broadcast . . .

Email questions to

stl.archives@nara.gov

Video recordings of lectures and downloadable handouts will remain online at

www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair
We value your opinion.

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

Thank you!

Event Evaluation:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/KYREventEval
Educational resources on how to access and do research using U.S. Federal Government records held at the National Archives and Records Administration.

Know Your Records

www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records

Videos and Handouts on YouTube
Thank You Genealogy Series Staff!

**Presenters**
- Session 1  Sara Holmes
- Session 1  Noah Durham
- Session 2  Sarah Swanson
- Session 3  Missy McNatt
- Session 3  Dorothy Dougherty
- Session 4  Cara Lebonick
- Session 4  Cody White
- Session 5  Claire Kluskens
- Session 6  Theresa Fitzgerald

**Production**
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- Declaration’s Article Editor  Victoria Blue
- Victoria Macchi

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- Writer  Brandi Kent
- Writer  Hime Captioning
- Writer  Melissa Moore
- Writer  Tara Stromberg
Questions & Answers in Chat

Please stay if you have questions.

Although this concludes the video portion of the broadcast, we will continue to take your questions in Chat for another 10 minutes.