Archiving the Archives

Next week is Public Service Recognition Week! As we honor the men and women across the country who serve as government employees, we are also taking a moment to recognize the archivists who make up the history of the National Archives.

Did you know the records of the National Archives are in the National Archives? We preserve the permanent records of all federal government agencies, and that includes the National Archives.

In Record Group 64, Records of the National Archives and Records Administration, you will find the records documenting the work done here by the people who make up our agency. Among these records you can find photographs of the construction of our buildings, materials related to our exhibitions, reports, agency evaluations, memorandums, official forms, publications and photographs of National Archives staff carrying out their duties.
What interesting records can you find in Record Group 64? Let us know at catalog@nara.gov.

Discover more about our agency's history from Jessie Kratz, the Historian of the National Archives, on the Pieces of History blog.

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**Transcription Challenge: Notaries of the District of Columbia**

Speaking of our colleagues, many of our Citizen Archivist missions come from ideas that staff have suggested. One of our newest transcription missions features records from the Notaries in the District of Columbia, which contain details about the appointments of notaries public in Washington DC from 1899-1911.

![Image of a record from the Notaries of the District of Columbia](image)

We asked our colleague Denise Henderson to tell us more about the interesting records in this transcription challenge:

*In my position as a program analyst in the Office of Innovation's Digitization Division, I'm always looking for ways to find efficiencies in NARA's digitization program so that we can Make Access Happen for more and more records. One of the best ways to do that is through pilot projects and that's kept me busy for the last couple of months. I'm fortunate to work with a variety of records that cover the gamut of topics.*
By far, some of my favorite records are late 19th century / early 20th century Department of Justice records which I was lucky enough to work with when I was a processing archivist. Since I'm familiar with the materials, they're ripe candidates for some of my pilot efforts to streamline workflows and identify lessons learned.

Recently, our Imaging Lab digitized index cards that captured information about people appointed as notaries in the District of Columbia between 1899 and 1911. While not the most important of records, this small series holds value for genealogists who may have ancestors who were in the D.C. region in the early 1900s. The handwritten cards have details such as names, addresses, appointment dates, and sometimes even the place of business where the appointee worked.

Transcription will enhance the searchability of each card - who knows you might find out that you have a D.C. public notary hanging around in your family tree. You won't know until all the cards are transcribed! Help us today!

Ready to accept the challenge? Start transcribing.

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Tune into the National Archives with Facebook Live!

Learn more about historical events and exhibits, and get research tips from our expert staff broadcast to you live on Facebook.

Here are a few of our most recent broadcasts:
This week curator Michael Hussey gave a sneak peek at our new display about the Peace Corps in honor of President John F. Kennedy's 100th birthday. JFK's nephew Stephen Kennedy Smith and historian Douglas Brinkley discussed JFK's legacy of public service.
Archivist Mitch Yockelson shared favorite World War I photos from the Still Pictures Branch in College Park, MD.

From the National Archives at New York City, archivist Dorothy Dougherty discussed using World War I records for genealogical research.
Christine Blackerby, co-curator of "Amending America," and Jessie Kratz, historian of the National Archives, took us through the exhibit and shared more about Presidential elections, amendments, and the Electoral College.

Missed a Facebook Live event? Not to worry! Catch up on completed broadcasts on the National Archives Facebook page. And be sure to follow the National Archives on Facebook to be notified about upcoming live events and broadcasts.

Questions or comments? Email us at catalog@nara.gov.