

**BECOME YOUR FAMILY'S DETECTIVE**  
**NATIONAL ARCHIVES SEVENTH ANNUAL GENEALOGY FAIR**  
**Day 1 – Wednesday, April 20, 2011**

**9 a.m. OPENING**

**Welcome Tent on Pennsylvania Avenue** *Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony*

Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero will cut the ribbon to open the fair.

**9:30–10:30 a.m. SESSIONS**

**Room G-24** *Customs Records by Patrick Connelly*

The Customs Bureau is one of the Federal Government's oldest and most extensive agencies. The Bureau employed thousands of citizens and was responsible for collecting fees, seizing contraband, processing immigrants, and documenting vessels. This session will explore the variety of family records that can be found in the National Archives' vast holdings.

**Library** *Civil War Provost Marshal Records: A Snapshot in Time by Jake Ersland*

The Provost Marshal General's Bureau was created in 1863 to streamline the process of filling the ranks of the Union Army through the draft and state level units. In the process of carrying out these tasks, the Provost Marshal recorded a wealth of information on men eligible for military service during the Civil War. This presentation will discuss how to research this gold mine for genealogists, who can use the records of Provost Marshal General's Bureau to learn fascinating details about their ancestors and what their lives were like during this crucial time in American history.

**Room 105** *Introduction to Genealogy\* by John Deeben*

An overview on census, military, immigration, and related records, as well as tips and suggestions for successful research.

**11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. SESSIONS**

**Room G-24** *Introduction to Researching Federal Employees at the National Archives by Rebecca Crawford*

This lecture will provide basic instructions for researching Federal Employees and will provide a limited number of examples representing the different records found in the National Archives holdings.

**Library** *Individual Service Records—Military and Civil\* by Bill Seibert*

This lecture will provide information about the holdings of military and civilian personnel records maintained by the National Archives at St. Louis. It will also give a brief update on the new archival repository being built to house these records.

**Room 105** *INS Policy, Correspondence, and Case Files (1906–57) by Zack Wilske*

This series of INS records contains an overwhelming amount of material documenting nearly every aspect of American immigration history. This presentation will provide an overview of the records and search strategies focusing on subjects of interest to genealogists, including exclusion appeal files, deportation files, and investigation files.

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**12:45–1:45 p.m. SESSION**

**Room 105** ***Exploring Our Ancestors' History with Petitions* by Daniel Carpenter**

Professor Carpenter will introduce the audience to the massive petition collections in the National Archives and around the country—hundreds of thousands of petitions with millions of signatures, the vast majority never touched since they have been archived. Through digitization and signature transcription, today's Americans can examine the history of their ancestors' civic participation. Examples include the debates over slavery and discrimination; religious liberty; property rights, public lands and public works programs; civil rights and female suffrage; military service, foreign affairs and benefits; temperance and Prohibition; and financial policy and consumer protection.

**2–3 p.m. SESSIONS**

**Room G-24** ***Court Records* by Patrick Connelly**

Court records are an often disregarded resource for family history. Federal courts were responsible for adjudicating land disputes, personal bankruptcies, criminal violations, and civil actions. This session will help you explore this vast resource and determine where family records might be found.

**Library** ***Headstone Records for U.S. Military Veterans (1862–2011)\**  
by Claire Prechtel-Klusens**

Records of headstones (gravestones) provided for U.S. military veterans can supply useful information about the veteran's date of death and place of burial, military service and pension, and limited family information.

**Room 105** ***Ancestry.com\** by Quinton Atkinson**

This presentation will focus on the work being done by *Ancestry.com* and the National Archives to bring records from the National Archives facilities around the country to your own home.

**3:30–4:30 p.m. SESSIONS**

**Room G-24** ***Citing Sources: Why & How\** by Jennifer Dondero**

Whether you're a beginner or just don't fully understand citing sources, this session is for you. Learn why each part of a citation is important and see examples.

**Library** ***Federal Land Records\** by Claire Bettag**

The presentation discusses Federal land records at the National Archives that are most relevant for genealogical research. It focuses on land entry papers and touches briefly on bounty land warrants and private land claims.

**Room 105** ***Alien Files (A-Files)\** by Elizabeth Carrington**

Learn about the Alien Files (A-Files), a rich source of biographical information for family research, and how to complete a successful request. The A-Files contain a wealth of data in the United States immigration documents generated and collected since the mid-20th century, including visas, photographs, applications, affidavits, correspondence, and more.