

National Archives Eighth Annual Genealogy Fair

Branching Out: Exploring Your Family Tree

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2012

TIME	CLASSROOM A TENT	CLASSROOM B TENT	
9 a.m.	Opening Ceremony: Please join us in the Welcome	Tent to kick off the Fair!	
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	<p><i>Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Naturalization Correspondence Files, 1906–1944</i>, by Zack Wilske</p> <p>Zack Wilske will provide an overview of INS naturalization correspondence files (1906–1944) and introduce a newly available name index for these records.</p>	<p><i>Preserving Your Family Collections</i> by Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler</p> <p>Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler will explain how to preserve family papers and photographs, how to safely mount them, and how to frame and display them. She will discuss the factors that cause damage to paper and photographs and how to store them in an environment that ensures their preservation.</p>	<p><i>Introduction to Genealogy</i> by Claire Kluskens</p> <p>Claire Kluskens will guide participants through an overview on census, military, immigration, and related records, and give tips and suggestions for successful research.</p>
11 a.m. – Noon	<p><i>Alien Files (A-Files)</i> by Elizabeth Burnes</p> <p>Learn about the Alien Files (A-Files), a rich source of biographical information for family research, and how to complete a successful request. Elizabeth Burnes will share how the A-Files contain United States immigration documents generated and collected since the mid-20th century and are a wealth of data, including visas, photographs, applications, affidavits, correspondence, and more.</p>	<p><i>Methods, Means, and Best Practices for Oral History Projects</i> by Guha Shankar</p> <p>Guha Shankar will provide insights and guidelines for documenting oral histories with a focus on interviewing techniques, current audio recording technology, and techniques for capturing and preserving materials in a sustainable manner.</p>	<p><i>The Centennial of the Sinking of the RMS Titanic: Passengers' Stories and What National Archives Records Hold</i> by Alison Gavin</p> <p>Alison Gavin will conduct an overview of the <i>Titanic</i> disaster in the context of records held by the National Archives and Records Administration. Record types include: textual, microfilm, audio, photographs, and passport applications. The audience will learn about the records the National Archives holds regarding the <i>Titanic</i>, which sunk 100 years ago (April 15, 1912). Of special interest is an audio recording from our holdings of an eyewitness account of the sinking of the ship.</p>
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	<p><i>Naturalization Records in the National Archives</i> by Patrick Connelly</p> <p>The process of naturalization confers citizenship upon those who apply. The resulting paper trail illuminates important details of the new citizen's past. Patrick Connelly will discuss the process of becoming a citizen, where to find records, and what information can be found.</p>	<p><i>The 150th Anniversary of Washington, DC, Emancipation: Exploring Federal Records Relating to Slavery in the District of Columbia, Maryland, & Virginia</i> by Damani Davis</p> <p>Federal records can be used to trace ancestors, "enslaved" and/or "slaveholding," who lived in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia from 1851 to 1863. Damani Davis will focus on the District of Columbia circuit court records and records relating to the eventual Emancipation Act of April 16, 1862.</p>	<p><i>Records Relating to the Internment of Japanese Americans during World War II</i> by Rebecca Sharp</p> <p>Rebecca Sharp will examine primary and secondary sources relating to individual internees, including evacuee case files as well as relocation center yearbooks and newspapers.</p>
3 – 4 p.m.	<p><i>Canadian Border Crossings</i> by Timothy Syzek</p> <p>Timothy Syzek will discuss Canadian border crossing records from 1895 to the 1950s using sources from the National Archives and Records Administration.</p>	<p><i>Freedmen's Bureau Records</i> by Reginald Washington</p> <p>Reginald Washington will discuss the value, use, and availability of Freedmen's Bureau records for genealogical research.</p>	<p><i>The 1940 Census</i> by Constance Potter</p> <p>Constance Potter will provide insights to the questions asked on the 1940 census. She will offer tips and suggestions on the use of enumeration district maps, descriptions, and other available resources.</p>

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9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	<p><i>Navigating Online Public Access (OPA)</i> by Sara Schlanger</p> <p>The Online Public Access (OPA) catalog is the portal to our records and records descriptions at the National Archives. It provides streamlined access to descriptions of the records, online holdings, and web pages from <i>Archives.gov</i> and the Presidential libraries. Learn how to search across various resources in the catalog, refine and share results, zoom and pan online holdings, and tag catalog records.</p>	<p><i>Using the Congressional Serial Set for Genealogical Research</i> by Jeffery Hartley</p> <p>This presentation will discuss the history and contents of the U.S. Congressional Serial Set, an often overlooked resource for genealogical information. The presentation will also provide a demonstration of the digital version of the serial set.</p>	<p><i>The 1940 Census</i> by Diane Petro</p> <p>This presentation will provide insights to the questions asked on the 1940 census. She will offer tips and suggestions on the use of enumeration district maps, descriptions, and other available resources.</p>
11 a.m. – Noon	<p><i>The United States Census on Ancestry.com</i> by Quinton Atkinson</p> <p>Learn about the new and improved experience of searching and viewing the United States Census on Ancestry.com.</p>	<p><i>Civil War Pension Files</i> by Claire Kluskens</p> <p>Civil War pension files provide valuable information about veterans' service during the war, about their lives, and the lives of their families after the war.</p>	<p><i>Introduction to Genealogy</i> by Katherine Vollen</p> <p>An overview on census, military, immigration, and related records, as well as tips and suggestions for successful research.</p>
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	<p><i>What's New at FamilySearch</i> by Carol Kostakos Petranek</p> <p>FamilySearch is the largest genealogical organization in the world. It provides free online access to over 1,000 record collections, research assistance, genealogical education, community forums, and an ever-expanding knowledge base (Wiki). This session will explore the many resources available online and at your local Family History Center.</p>	<p><i>Army Service in the War of 1812</i> by John Deeben</p> <p>An introduction to records relating to Volunteer and Regular Army service during the War of 1812, including compiled service records, registers of enlistment, unit and post returns, information about prisoners of war, and pension and bounty land files.</p>	<p><i>Federal Land Records</i> by Claire Bettag</p> <p>After the American Revolution, the United States acquired, surveyed, and disposed of public land, thus creating Federal land records. The National Archives holds land records for 30 public land states whose lands were once in the public domain. These records can help locate families, document land holdings, and provide family information.</p>
3 – 4 p.m.	<p><i>Everything You Wanted to Know About Fold3 (formerly Footnote.com)</i> by Gordon Atkinson</p> <p>Fold3 (formerly Footnote) is a web site that features searchable original documents mainly from the National Archives. The presentation will be an introduction and offer tips for using Fold3.</p>	<p><i>Treating the Sick and Wounded: Civil War Medical Records</i> by Nancy Wing</p> <p>From the creation of the medical department, learn how medicine progressed from the Civil War battlefield. Images of medical transportation, hospital sites, and important personnel who made a difference for both the Union and the Confederacy will be shown. Examples of NARA's Civil War medical records will be viewed in addition to published works that were created after the war.</p>	<p><i>Preserving Your Family Collections</i> by Catherine Nicholson</p> <p>Catherine Nicholson will explain how to preserve family papers and photographs, how to safely mount them, and how to frame and display them. She will discuss the factors that cause damage to paper and photographs and how to store them in an environment that ensures their preservation.</p>

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