

National Archives at Kansas City

**FREE**

# Genealogy Programs



January - June 2013

# JANUARY

## New Year, New Skills: Four-Part Genealogy Series

Start the new year by compiling and organizing your genealogy research. Attend all classes, January 16 - February 6, to receive a certificate of completion.



### Wednesday, January 16 – Keep it Simple: Organizing your Genealogy Research at 10:00 – 11:00 AM

The cornerstone of good research is good organization. Learn how to organize your notes and copies more efficiently. Participants will benefit by learning how to group names, dates, families, geography, and other relevant genealogy research information into a more uniform method.

### Wednesday, January 23 – Something to Talk About: Including Oral History Interviews in Your Family History at 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Oral tradition is a centuries old method of passing information from one generation to the next. Seize the opportunity to keep the tradition alive for another generation by conducting family history interviews. Learn about interview techniques to compile a valuable gift: an oral history that will be enjoyed by future generations for years to come.

### Wednesday, January 30 – Deciphering the Code: Reading Old Script at 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Did grandma have lovely handwriting you cannot quite make out? Learn how to decipher the code! This course will teach you how to recognize and analyze old handwriting that may prove challenging. Learn about common misconceptions and popular abbreviations.



### Wednesday, February 6 – Basic Preservation Techniques at 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Learn how to properly care for your precious family documents, photographs, and other items. This course will teach you the proper methods for storage and types of supplies appropriate for use in your home archives to ensure that your family records last for generations to come.

# FEBRUARY



## Friday, February 8 – United States Colored Troops During the Civil War at 10:00 – 11:30 AM

African Americans provided vital support and service during the Civil War. President Lincoln commended African Americans as playing an important role in the Union's victory. Their service and participation can be explored through many types of Federal records. Come learn about your African American ancestors and their contributions to the Union during the Civil War.

## Wednesday, February 20 – Exploring Civil Rights and Wrongs in the Holdings of the National Archives at Kansas City at 12:00 – 1:00 PM

The National Archives at Kansas City has a wealth of resources available for historians, students, educators, lawyers, and the general public. This session will explore the vast array of civil rights court cases that document the struggle for civil rights and demonstrate the many “wrongs” that took years to overcome in the holdings of the National Archives at Kansas City.

## Thursday, February 21 – African American Census Research at 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Tracking African American ancestors through the U.S. Federal Census can be challenging because of the slave heritage of the 1800s. Learn how to evaluate data on the Census to learn more about African American ancestors that were free and slaves.

## Thursday, February 28 – Becoming a U.S. Citizen: A Look at Naturalization Records at 10:00 – 11:30 AM

Throughout U.S. history, immigration and naturalization laws have ebbed and flowed with the political climate. As a result, tracking down documentation and evidence of your ancestor's path to citizenship can be challenging. Learn about the paperwork involved with the process and how naturalization encompassed a variety of individuals.



# MARCH

**Friday, March 8 – Alien Case Files (A-files) at 10:00 – 11:00 AM**

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 U.S. immigration documents generated and collected since the mid-20th century with a wealth of data, including visas, photographs, applications, affidavits, correspondence, and more.



**Thursday, March 21 – Navigating the National Archives Website at 10:00 – 11:00 AM**

Given the depth and breadth of records available at the National Archives, it is challenging to look for resources on [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov). This course will highlight portions of our website including: researching our records, locating veterans' records, and ordering online.

# APRIL

**Friday, April 5 – Broke, But Not Out of Luck: Exploring Bankruptcy Records at 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

The course of U.S. history has seen many economic ups and down. Through bankruptcy records genealogists can learn what their ancestors owned, where they shopped, and which neighbors they borrowed from. The record of these tough times leave a wealth of details that can be found in few, if any other places. This class will take a look at what bankruptcy records are available, what researchers can expect to find, and provide instruction on how to research the records.



**Thursday, April 25 – Federal Websites for Genealogists at 12:00 – 1:00 PM**

In the sea of subscription-based websites many Federal agencies continue to offer free webpages that are helpful to genealogists. The content ranges from tools to articles to indexes. Learn about the free resources available online and how they can benefit your research.

## MAY

**Saturday, May 11 – Finding Females with Professional Genealogist Valerie Eichler Lair at 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.**



One of the most difficult tasks in genealogy research is finding the maiden names of female ancestors. Learn some ways of how to overcome the barriers in finding your female ancestors. They weren't always known as "Mrs. Jones!" Visit [www.valroots.com](http://www.valroots.com) to learn more about Lair.

**Wednesday, May 15 – Coming to America: Ship Passenger Arrival Lists at 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

Ship passenger arrival lists have been created for different purposes throughout U.S. history, but are useful when seeking information related to the arrival of your ancestors. This course will cover types of ship passenger arrival lists, dates, forms, and search techniques.

## JUNE

**Thursday, June 6 – Military Service Records at 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

From the Revolutionary War to the Vietnam War, the National Archives maintains service and pension records for the men and women of the armed forces. Learn where the records are located, what information is necessary to order the file, and how to place an order. This class will also address privacy and access.

**Saturday, June 15 – Exploring Resources Related to African American Genealogy Research during the Civil War and Reconstruction Era with genealogist Lyle Gibson at 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

The consequences of the Civil War directly impacted former slaves and impoverished whites, destroying the South, and leaving many without homes and jobs. The U.S. government established the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (the Freedmen's Bureau) to assist these individuals. Documents from this agency include: local censuses, marriage records, and medical records which provide freed people's full names and former masters, and more. Join Gibson as he discusses records found in the Freedmen's Bureau and other resources related to African American genealogy.

