



Pacific Currents

A Regional Newsletter

National Archives and Records Administration - Pacific Region

San Bruno, Laguna Niguel, and Riverside, California

archives.gov/pacific/

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San Bruno archives hosts interns from "In Search of Roots" program

Last month, we hosted a group of interns from the "In Search of Roots" program, learning to search immigration records to find information about their families. "Roots," celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, is a cultural heritage program for young Chinese-Americans whose ancestors immigrated from the Pearl River Delta in Guangdong Province. Over 90% of Chinese immigrants to America before World War II came from this region.

In the first portion of the yearlong program, interns discover more about Chinese and Chinese-American history and learn how to piece together their own families' stories. An important part of this process is surveying the records of the National Archives, searching for information about their ancestors' immigration and naturalization.

The regional archives' holdings of the former Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (Record Group 85) include the case files of many Chinese investigated and detained under the Chinese Exclusion Acts active from 1882-1943. In these records, Roots interns find photographs of grandparents and great-grandparents, copies of birth and death records, and even transcripts of their ancestors' immigration interviews.

Enlightened by this knowledge about their families' journey to the United States, interns prepare to travel to China to visit their ancestral villages. San Bruno archivist Marisa Louie, a 2004 alumna of the Roots program, visited her maternal grandfather's village in the Hoiping



Der Quock came to the United States in December 1909. Photo from his immigration records in the National Archives San Francisco. (Case File 40894/5-17, ARC 296445, RG 85, NARA-SF.)



Marisa Louie, NARA staff archivist, visits her ancestral village in 2004 as part of the "Roots" program. Marisa is Der Quock's great-granddaughter.

Save the Date: May 9, 2011

COME TO RENO!

Preserving GIS data conference set for May 9

Geographic Information Systems, or "GIS" as they are commonly known, have become pervasive throughout government, industry, and higher education.

Records used to manage a host of activities and problems, from highway construction to law enforcement, wildlife management and major social programs, depend on data embedded in this technology, much of it with vital long-term value. But like all electronic records, the long-term preservation of GIS data is far from assured.

On the afternoon of Monday, May 9, the National Archives will present a series of two panel discussions on the problems and prospects for GIS preservation. We have assembled a distinguished group of experts, including John Radke of U.C. Berkeley, Steve Morris of North Carolina State University, Elizabeth Perkes of the

"In Search of Roots"

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(Kaiping) area.

"It was incredible to see the house where my grandfather was born. He immigrated to the United States as a teenager in 1947, and the family home was abandoned not long after. So it was really like stepping back in time," Marisa says. "The most meaningful part of my village visit was paying respects at my great-grandmother's grave."

Within months of their China trip, interns create an exhibit about their trip to share with their families and the community. Reproductions of NARA documents are often featured in the exhibit. This year's exhibit, featuring the journey of 2010 Roots interns, will be open at the Chinese Culture Center in San Francisco through April 20, 2011.

For more information about the In Search of Roots program, visit <http://www.insearchofroots.org/>.

To research immigration and naturalization records at the Regional Archives in San Bruno, contact sanbruno.archives@nara.gov.

ROOTS exhibit in San Francisco Chinatown

If you're in SF Chinatown anytime between now and April 20, be sure to check out the Roots exhibit. You won't want to miss the stunning tree sculpture. The interns have also re-created a typical "living room" that they encountered in their village visits. Reproductions of RG 85 records are included in the exhibit, too. Read about it at <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/03/04/BAKU113J17.DTL>

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GIS Conference in Reno May 9

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Utah State Archives, and John Faundeen of the U.S. Geological Survey's EROS Center.

The meeting is being hosted as the opening plenary session of the Nevada Geographic Information Society's annual meeting. In addition to NARA and the NGIS, co-sponsors include the Nevada State Archives and U.C. Berkeley's Geographic Information Science Center. The cost for this session alone is \$75.00; if you attend the entire conference, \$150 (by April 3). REGISTER at <http://www.ngis.org/>

Conference location:
Atlantis Casino Resort and Spa
3800 S. Virginia St
Reno, Nevada 89502

In 2006, NARA and U.C. hosted a similar symposium on this topic on the Berkeley campus. We had an array of speakers from government and academia. The 2011 conference will try to assess the progress we have made in the past 5 years, in what is arguably the most difficult area for electronic records preservation.

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Records Management Training, May-September, 2011

To register go to archives.gov/records-mgmt/training/
or email our training registrar at laguna.workshops@nara.gov

Basic Records Operations

May 17, 2011, Riverside
June 8, 2011, Fresno
July 14, 2011, Reno
August 10, 2011, San Francisco

Records Scheduling (Knowledge Area 3)

August 4-5, 2011, San Diego

Records Schedule Implementation

(Knowledge Area 5)

Aug 31-Sept 1, 2011, San Diego

Emergency Planning and Response for Vital Records and Essential Information

May 18-19, 2011, Riverside

Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information (Knowledge Area 2)

August 2-3, 2011, San Diego

Asset and Risk Management (Knowledge Area 4)

August 29-30, 2011, San Diego

Records Management Program Development (Knowledge Area 6)

September 2, 2011, San Diego

For more information on our workshops, go to
<https://nara.learn.com/learncenter>

FRC Digital Capture Program

The Riverside Federal Records Center's Digital Imaging Staff produces digital copies of temporary records to make customer agency operations more efficient. For more information, contact:

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News from the Riverside archives

We are on Facebook!

We launched our Facebook page on February 5, 2011. We are excited to use this forum to communicate with researchers and the general public.

Bankruptcy Case File Project

We are currently working on an indexing project for our holdings of Bankruptcy Case files from the following courts: Los Angeles, San Diego, Phoenix, Tucson, Prescott and Globe, from the first part of the Twentieth Century. With a complete index to these records, we will be able to better serve researchers looking at family history, the history of individual businesses and the ebbs and flows of industry in our region.

NARA's new logo

We have a new logo, based on architectural detail of the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C.



4 Records Transfer, Reference and Digital Capture Workshops

Phoenix, AZ, April 19 & 20
Las Vegas, NV, June 28 & 29

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Hosted by
Bureau of Land Management

There is no cost for this training

To register and for location information:
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