

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

RESEARCHER NEWS

Summer 2014

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Researcher News is designed to provide you with the most up-to-date information needed to conduct research at the National Archives. For more information, please visit www.archives.gov.



Opening History National Archives Research Fellows

by David McMillen, Office of Strategy and Communications

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES HAS OVER 40 FACILITIES throughout the United States, and the stacks dominate each building. Those stacks are lined with boxes: each box holds file folders, and each file folder holds documents that record some action or decision about the workings of the Federal Government. Collectively, these boxes record the history of our Government and provide the documentation to recount and verify past actions.

Continued, page 2

National Archives Research Fellows

IN-DEPTH RESEARCH, ESPECIALLY IN OUR EXTENSIVE RECORDS, REQUIRES TIME and, due to the commitment period, often funding. Some researchers have been creative in getting research funded. Two examples are:

I. JACK AND LESLIE HAMANN

In 2002, Jack and Leslie Hamann, funded by a grant from their publisher, came to Washington, DC, to dig through archive boxes in search of the story behind the largest Army court-martial of World War II held at Ft. Lawton, Seattle, WA. A group of African American soldiers were court-martialed and convicted for lynching an

Italian prisoner of war. Months of digging through those archive boxes led to a book, *On American Soil* (Algonquin Books, 2005). Ultimately, their research led to the overturned conviction of the soldiers and the award of back pay with interest.

II. MARGO J. ANDERSON

During the 2012–2013 academic year,

Margo J. Anderson spent much of her time digging through the archive boxes of the legislative and executive branch collections of the National Archives. Funded by the American Statistical Association, Anderson updated her book *The American Census: A Social History* (the preeminent history of over 200 years of U.S. censuses).



National Archives Regional Residency Fellowship

IN 2011, THE FOUNDATION FOR THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES began making grants to support research through the National Archives Regional Residency Fellowship program. The Foundation recognized that providing seed funding to researchers was essential in promoting the use of National Archives records for historical research. In 2013, the Foundation provided funding to six researchers to support their research at our regional archives. These are their stories.

I. JAMES JENKS

During the last half of the 19th century, the Federal Government made many decisions that changed the lives of Native Americans. Treaties were signed and large groups of people were physically moved from their homes into newly created reservations. James Jenks, lead historian of the Montana Preservation Alliance, is

reviewing records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the General Land Office to document just what happened to a group of Cheyenne who had established homesteads in southeast Montana. In 1900, these Native American homesteaders were relocated to the newly created Northern Cheyenne Reservation. The homesteads in southeast Montana are

now the site of a proposed surface coal mine with new rail construction to serve the mine. Mr. Jenks hopes to document the rights of the Cheyenne families that would be affected by the mine. Using records at the National Archives at Denver, and with funding from the Foundation, he hopes to document their land's cultural and religious significance.

II. NICOLAS ROSENTHAL

Funding from the Foundation allows Nicolas Rosenthal to examine a different aspect of Native American history. Drawing on the records the National Archives at San Bruno and at College Park, Mr. Rosenthal is looking at the assimilation of Native Americans during the first half of the 20th century. He uses records on Native Americans to establish the extent of their assimilation by examining military service, entrepreneurship, and participation in New Deal programs like the Civilian Conservation Corps.

III. SUSAN BURCH

We know that at turn of the 20th century, there were asylums, boarding schools and homes, psychiatric hospitals, schools for the deaf and blind, and prisons. However, we do not know very much about the people within the walls of those institutions. Susan Burch, associate professor of American Studies at Middlebury College, is examining the records of the Hiawatha Asylum inmates at that time. The Hiawatha Asylum was populated primarily with Native Americans, and Ms. Burch uses records from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to document the removal and treatment of those in the Asylum. Funding from the Foundation allowed her to make extensive use of the records at the National Archives at Fort Worth to continue documenting this institution. The records show the forces motivating the removal of individuals to Hiawatha, documenting daily life at the Asylum, and exploring how inmates understood and expressed their experiences.

IV. ZONNIE GORMAN

Another project documenting personal perspective is that of Zonnie Gorman. Ms. Gorman is a daughter of one of the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers. While the Navajo Code Talker program has been studied extensively, Ms. Gorman has focused on the individuals — not the program. Funding from the Foundation allowed Ms. Gorman



to explore the Code Talkers Personnel Records at the National Archives at St. Louis. She used the St. Louis records to examine the role of individuals not previously studied as a part of the code talking program. Drawing on interviews with the original Code Talkers, Ms. Gorman identified Maj. Frank Shannon, United States Marine Corps Reserve (USMCR) and Robert Young as significant actors in the code talking program. Neither of those men had been studied before.

V. CLAIRE DUNNING

The political landscape of the second half of the 20th century is characterized by a continual struggle over the role of the Federal Government in helping families and individuals. Some argued that state governments better served this role, while others argued that help should have been provided by the private sector. Claire Dunning, a graduate student in history at Harvard University, examines records at the National Archives at Boston to chart the growth of the nonprofit sector. Funding

from the Foundation allows Ms. Dunning to also review records at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland, to illustrate the transition from Federal funding to state and private funding.

VI. MELANIE STURGEON

Melanie Sturgeon, State Archivist and Director of Archives and Records Management at the Arizona State Library, took a critical look at brothels, saloons, and prostitutes in the American West. Focusing on the Territory of Arizona, Dr. Sturgeon used records from the National Archives at Riverside, CA. In her research, she included records from the District Courts, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Internal Revenue Service, Office of the Surgeon General, U.S. Marshals Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs. Her research documents the business of prostitution and the women who engaged in this business throughout territorial Arizona. [Learn more at *Uncovering More than Meets the Legend: Riverside's 2013 Research Fellow, Dr. Melanie Sturgen* by Gwen Granados on page 4.]

Uncovering More than Meets the Legend: Riverside's 2013 Research Fellow DR. MELANIE STURGEON

by Gwen E. Granados, *National Archives at Riverside*

IN APRIL 2014, THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AT RIVERSIDE WAS VISITED BY OUR 2013 Regional Archives Fellow, Dr. Melanie Sturgeon and her research partner, Nancy Sawyer. The Fellowship was funded through the generous support of the Foundation for the National Archives.

Sturgeon and Sawyer were seeking to supplement the legendary tales, and often one-dimensional portraits, of madams and prostitutes in the frontier West through their research at the National Archives. As Melanie Sturgeon wrote in her "Research Grant Proposal" in March 2013, they were concerned that many of the extant writings were

bits and snippets of gossip from one author to another with little or no research to examine their veracity. Stories range from wistful male reminiscences to coy narratives bordering on the sensational.

From tales of three-story brothels inhabited by adventurous housewives to anecdotes romanticizing big-hearted dance girls, ladies of the night, and gun slinging "tough girls," these writings diminish and trivialize the experiences of these women.

They focused their research on the Arizona Territory, 1863–1912. Sturgeon and Sawyer spent a week pouring over multiple series of Arizona Territorial Court records, reviewing case files documenting major and petty crimes, and focusing on the application of the law in each

instance. Of particular interest were the applications of laws governing fornication and adultery. They also dove into our Territorial Tax Assessment Books, 1866–1874 (National Archives Identifier 7419226), looking for any legitimate tax payments by madams or their business colleagues.

One particularly interesting criminal case was that of William Green and Bertha Reed from the Fifth Judicial District of Arizona. Filed as exhibits were permits, issued by the City of Globe, permitting prostitutes to do business in town (National Archives Identifier 7788402).



Back row, left to right: Randy Thompson, archivist; Matthew J. Law, archivist; Dr. Melanie Sturgeon; Gwen E. Granados, Director; Jennifer J. Albin, archivist; Nancy Sawyer. *Front row, left to right:* Lynn Nashorn, archives technician; James Huntoon, archives technician. Date: 28 February 2014

Prologue as a Guide to Records



by Benjamin Guterman, *Communications and Marketing Division*

PROLOGUE, THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS

Administration (NARA), serves the essential role of publishing histories and stories based on the records of the National Archives. By demonstrating the value of our holdings for our national heritage, the magazine validates NARA's core mission of preservation and access to the records. But *Prologue* also serves a secondary role, that of a unique finding aid to record groups and series uncovered by its contributors. The spring 2014 issue shows us how.

An article by NARA archivist Nathaniel Patch about a kamikaze attack on the submarine USS *Devilfish* near Iwo Jima in March 1944 took some detective work. For such an obscure and rare event, Patch looked at a Submarine Operational History in the National War College Library, Records of Inter-service Agencies, Record Group (RG) 334; deck logs of two ships under attack nearby; and action reports and war diaries. The few extant images were in records of both the Department of the Navy and the Bureau of Ships.

Lester Gorelic, a docent at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, traces the artistic evolution of the *Declaration* and *Constitution* murals in the National Archives Rotunda. He researched artist Barry Faulkner's work with architect J. Russell Pope, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts,

and historian J. Franklin Jamison to submit and improve several studies for the final compositions. We learn of the sensitive debates to symbolically depict the diverse careers and contributions of the Founders. The text relies on correspondence and reports in Records of the Commission of Fine Arts, 1893–1981, RG 66. Images of Faulkner's studies were provided by the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Tim Rives, deputy director of the Eisenhower Library, investigated what General Eisenhower actually said as he made the decision to launch the D-day invasion. The general's precise words remain elusive, as Rives found after consulting the Pre-Presidential Papers of Dwight D. Eisenhower, the White House Central Files, and the Post-Presidential Papers at the Eisenhower Library, in addition to sources at other repositories.

The story of the Scottsboro Boys, nine African American youths falsely accused of rape in 1931, is told by NARA archivist Jay Bellamy. Their story of imprisonment, numerous trials, and even appeals to the President and the Supreme Court stirred national protest and awareness of racial injustice. Bellamy searched Justice Department and U.S. Secret Service records, as well as materials at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library.

These articles highlight the broad range of stories that our records can tell. But they also serve as selective and focused guides to the range of records available and as examples of the inventiveness and skill required of researchers as they attempt to explain the past.

Subscribe to *Prologue* at www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/

9/11 Records of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)—Available Online

by Mary Kay Schmidt, *Special Access and FOIA Staff*

IN FEBRUARY 2014, THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (NARA) posted over 8,700 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) electronic data files to its website. These files relate to the events of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against the United States. In response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, the FAA originally compiled, reviewed, and released these records, which they transferred to NARA in 2009. A general description of the series is available through NARA's Online Public Access catalog (www.archives.gov/research/search) under National Archives Identifier 749198: Open Files Relating to the September 11, 2001, Terrorist Attacks on the United States, 2001-2004.

THESE FILES CONSIST OF:

- correspondence
- electronic mail
- forms
- general notices
- Notice to Airmen issuances
- transcripts
- flight strips
- accident packages
- memorandums
- letters
- maps
- charts
- graphs
- radar plots
- handwritten notes
- waivers
- advisories
- flight requests
- computer printouts
- news articles
- military and police reports
- press releases
- radar data
- voice recordings

The files cover the period from 1999 through 2004 and contain information relating to the actual terrorist attacks; the FAA's involvement in the monitoring of United Airlines Flights 175

and 93; monitoring of American Airlines Flights 11 and 77; and the Federal Government's subsequent actions in the aftermath of the September 11 events.

Each file begins with a number from one through seven. This number identifies specific files associated with each of the following subseries:

1. American Airlines Flight 77
2. United Airlines Flight 93
3. American Airlines Flight 11
4. United Airlines Flight 175
5. Miscellaneous
6. N47BA
7. Records Received After

Deadline

Within the subseries, the files are further grouped by accident package, voice recordings, transcripts, radar data, and miscellaneous related information designated as "other." Researchers may search for information regarding a specific FAA facility by using the alphabetical code assigned to that facility (for example, "DCA" represents Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport). Files beginning

with the number "6" relate to the October 25, 1999, crash of Learjet 35A N47BA near Aberdeen, South Dakota, in which professional golfer Payne Stewart and five others died.

Some documents contain redactions made by the FAA as part of the FOIA review conducted while the records were in their custody. Researchers may file a written FOIA request with NARA's Special Access and FOIA Staff to have those redactions reviewed. It is also important to note that some digital files are not readable because the equipment (hardware or software) is not currently available to NARA.

Audio files are available in mp3 (Moving Picture Experts Group Layer-3 Audio) format, while textual records generally exist in software programs Microsoft Word, Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF), and Microsoft Notepad.

RELATED RECORDS:

- The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the

United States (9/11 Commission) also maintained a website during its years of operation. This website is available at www.9-11commission.gov and managed on behalf of NARA.

- The Center for Legislative Archives (<http://www.archives.gov/legislative/cla/>), located at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, maintains the records of the 9/11 Commission. Additional information regarding the Commission's records is available at <http://www.archives.gov/research/9-11> and in the Online Public Access catalog.

Contact information:

Special Access and FOIA Staff
RD-F Room 5500

National Archives and Records Administration

8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001

Telephone: 301-837-3190

Email: specialaccess_foia@nara.gov or inquire@nara.gov

Holocaust-Era Assets Collection Now Free on *Fold3.com*

by Chris Naylor, *Archival Operations, Research Services—Washington, DC*

IN 2000, NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (NARA) STAFF MET WITH leading art provenance and claims researchers to identify key series of records critical for research regarding Nazi-era looted art. Following this meeting, the National Archives engaged in a multiyear project, known as the Holocaust-Era Assets Records Microfilming Project (HRP), to describe and microfilm many of the series and files identified during this meeting.

These records, totaling over 2.3 million pages, document the activities of several U.S. Government agencies involved in the identification and recovery of looted assets during and after World War II, including:

- the Office of Strategic Services (OSS)
- the American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historical Monuments in War Areas (The Roberts Commission)
- U.S. occupation forces in Germany and Austria

The materials also contain captured German records regarding the seizure of cultural property, such as the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR) albums, card file, and related photographs.

Over the past several years, *Fold3.com* has been digitizing and indexing all NARA Microfilm Publications created during the HRP Project. These digitized records are now available online and for free anywhere in the world through the *Holocaust-Era Assets Collection*.

You may access these records on *Fold3.com* by creating a free member account or visiting any NARA facility. This online collection is a valuable resource for anyone researching Nazi art looting and



Partial screen shot from Fold3.com

postwar Allied restitution activities. They are part of NARA's contribution to the *International Research Portal for Records*

Related to Nazi-Era Cultural Property and are described in more detail on NARA's *website*.

WHAT'S NEW *on AAD*

by Lynn Goodsell, *Electronic Records Division*

THE ACCESS TO ARCHIVAL DATABASES (AAD) (WWW.ARCHIVES.GOV/AAD) PROVIDES *online access to a selection of the National Archives' electronic records from archival databases. This resource allows you to search and view electronic records.*

The 1977 electronic Department of State telegrams are now available for searching online via the Access to Archival Databases resource at www.archives.gov/aad. These records are part of the Central Foreign Policy Files of the Department of State. More than 300,000 releasable 1977 telegrams are available for searching. For example, there are telegrams relating to President Carter's visit to Poland to meet First Secretary Edward Gierek in December 1977.

The Central Foreign Policy Files, also on AAD, include the 1973–76 electronic telegrams and indices to related microfilmed material. Additional information about the Central Foreign Policy Files is available at <http://www.archives.gov/research/foreign-policy/state-dept/rg-59-central-files/faqs.pdf>



Jimmy Carter and Edward Gierek, First Secretary of Poland, National Archives Identifier 177308

Electronic Records Files Online

by Lynn Goodsell, *Electronic Records Division*

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES CONTINUES TO ADD ELECTRONIC RECORDS FILES ONLINE
and for downloading on our website: <http://www.archives.gov/research/search/>.

The Online Public Access (OPA) resource is the online public portal to our records and information about our records. The OPA prototype currently provides access to nearly one million electronic records preserved in the Electronic Records Archives (ERA), which are not available elsewhere online. More electronic records from ERA will be included in OPA in the coming year.

Recent additions to OPA include:

HOME MORTGAGE DISCLOSURE DATA FILES, 1981-2009

<http://research.archives.gov/description/2456161>

The Home Mortgage Disclosure Data Files contains raw data on home purchase and home improvement loans reported from 1981 to 2009. The Federal Reserve System collected this data under the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, which requires lending institutions to report public loan data. There are 129 data files with records for about 436 million loans. These records are available for downloading.

MORTGAGE LENDING ASSESSMENT DATA FILES, 1990-2009

<http://research.archives.gov/description/4700101>

The Mortgage Lending Assessment Data Files includes demographic, income, and housing information. The Federal Reserve Board used this information to help determine if financial institutions are meeting the credit needs of the communities in which they operate. There are 20 data files available for downloading.



Aerial view of Three Mile Island, April 10, 1979

RESEARCH DATA FILES [FROM THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THE ACCIDENT AT THREE MILE ISLAND], 4/11/1979-12/31/1980

<http://research.archives.gov/description/644051>

These research data files consist of survey responses of those affected by the Three Mile Island nuclear plant accident in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, on March 28, 1979. The President's Commission on the Accident at Three Mile Island used these surveys to study the attitudes and behavioral responses of those affected by the accident.

DISASTER HISTORY FILES (DHF), 1964-1995

<http://research.archives.gov/description/596221>

The Agency for International Development compiled data on foreign disasters to help with coordinating the development of emergency management strategies and future disaster foreign aid. The files contain data mostly on disasters dating from

1964 to 1995, but also on major disasters dating as early as 1900. The records include information on the location, date, and type of disaster, and the number of people impacted by the disaster.



New Orleans, LA, September 7, 2005 - "A chinook helicopter drops sandbags into a breached levee which is now flooding a residential neighborhood following Hurricane Katriana. Jocelyn Augustino/FEMA"

A list of all the series available for download are available at:

<http://www.archives.gov/research/electronic-records/access-in-catalog.html>

Please contact the electronic records staff with questions about accessing and downloading electronic records files online at cer@nara.gov.

Finding Heroes

by Marene Baker, National Archives at Denver

PEOPLE OFTEN GET A GLAZED LOOK WHEN I RESPOND TO “WHAT DO YOU DO for a living?” with, “archivist.” And they say “oh, that’s interesting ... [insert pause] what is that?” Over the years I gave the same answer, but I recently had an epiphany. Why am I trying to “dummy down” my professional accomplishments? Shouldn’t I say what I really do? I ought to say that I am on the front line of preserving our country’s historical legacy and that sometimes, when really lucky, I find my heroes.



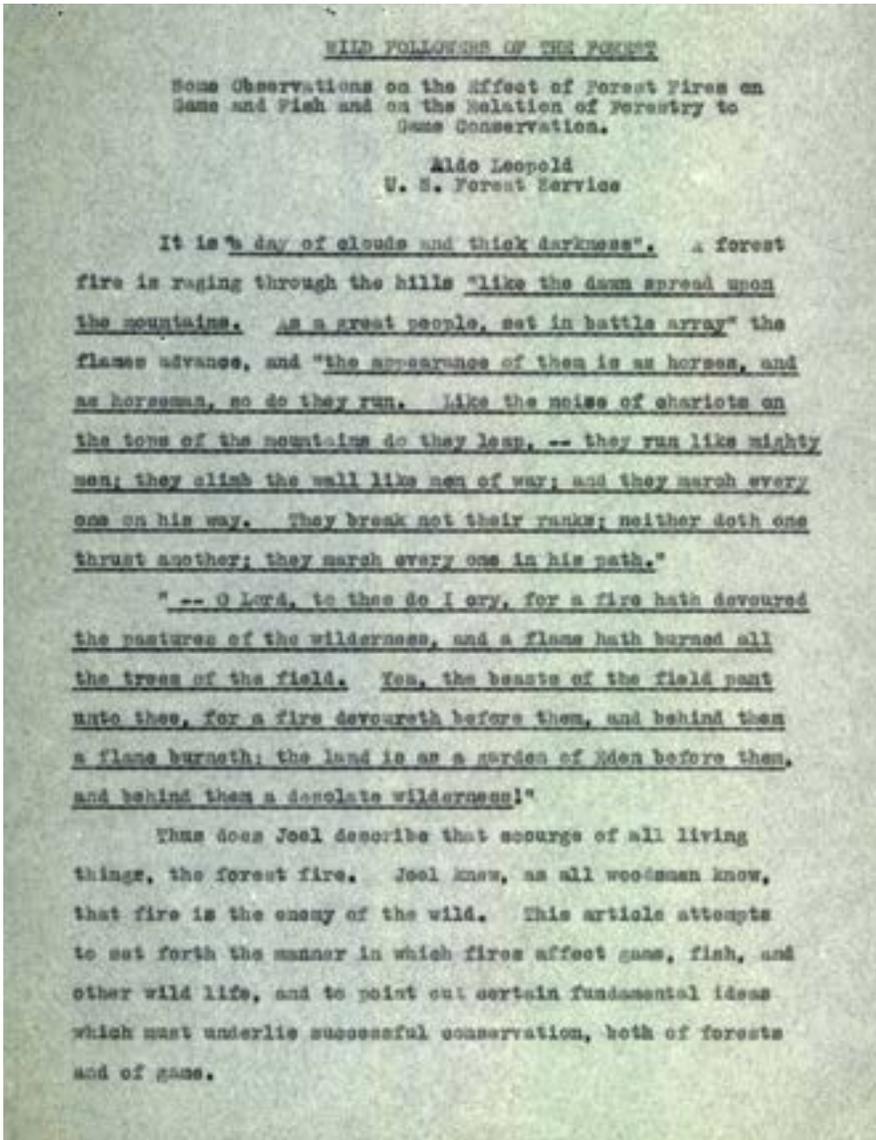
Left: Santa Fe National Forest Staff photograph 1908. Right: Forest Pioneer, Yale Alumni Meet

I have the privilege of screening approximately 2,000 cubic feet of *unscheduled records* [<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol3/pdf/CFR-2011-title36-vol3-sec1232-16.pdf>] from the Forest Service for the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). These records date from the beginning of the Forest Service in 1906 until the mid-1970s. The Federal Records Center (FRC) decided to accept them, even though unscheduled. It

seems surprising that the FRC would accept unscheduled records, but at one point, believe it or not, NARA was trying to fill up the space. For the most part, these records have not been touched in over 50 years by the agency or researchers. As you can imagine, they are filthy boxes with an unusual hodgepodge of records. However, the records are undeniably marvelous and contain amazing records from the early history of the Forest Service.

They include decision-making processes, wild land fires, Smokey Bear—and one of my personal heroes.

Early in my project, I ran across an innocuous-looking folder from the Gila National Forest that reads, “W-Management-Mammals 1920–1954.” Inside the folder is a document titled “Determining Kill Factor for Blacktail Deer in the Southwest” for the *Journal of Forestry*, 1920, by Aldo Leopold. Many



Leopold publication Wild Followers of the Forest

consider Aldo Leopold to be a father of the environmental conservation movement. I knew that he had spent time working at the Apache and Carson National Forests for the Forest Service in its early days and later at the Southwest Regional Office (Region 3) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. As a 1909 graduate of the Yale School of Forestry, Leopold quickly rose within the U.S. Forest Service ranks. At age 24, he was serving as supervisor of the Carson National Forest in Taos, NM. By 1922, he was instrumental in the development and designation of the Gila National Wilderness. It was a new type of national

forest and the first of its kind. Leopold was a Federal employee until 1933. He then accepted a newly established chair at the University of Wisconsin in Game Management. Passing away suddenly in 1948, Mr. Leopold's posthumous book *A Sand County Almanac* became one of the most influential books for the conservation movement. His book promotes the ideology that the natural world is "a community to which we belong."

My find of this first record was one of those moments that most of us in the archival community live for — finding a record of a historical figure to whom we have a

great affinity. I knew that Mr. Leopold had worked for the National Forests in our area, but had never found records in our processed series for records covering the midwest region. Luckily, it was not the only record I found of him. I have since found reports with his distinctive handwritten comments scattered throughout these records, and his signature in our Region 3 records. The last and final record is a poignant one. It is a 1965 letter from his widow Estella Leopold regarding the proposed dams along the Colorado River. Mrs. Leopold closed her letter with this statement "I know that my late Husband, Aldo Leopold, would be as shocked over this as I am, so will you help us by informing people on the subject." It is moments like this, finding your hero in the collection, that endure and inspire you onward.

So the next time someone asks me "what do you do for a living," I will tell them, "I am an Archivist at the National Archives!" And when they get that glazed look, I will startle them with, "I find records of my heroes. Who do you admire? I bet I could find yours too!"

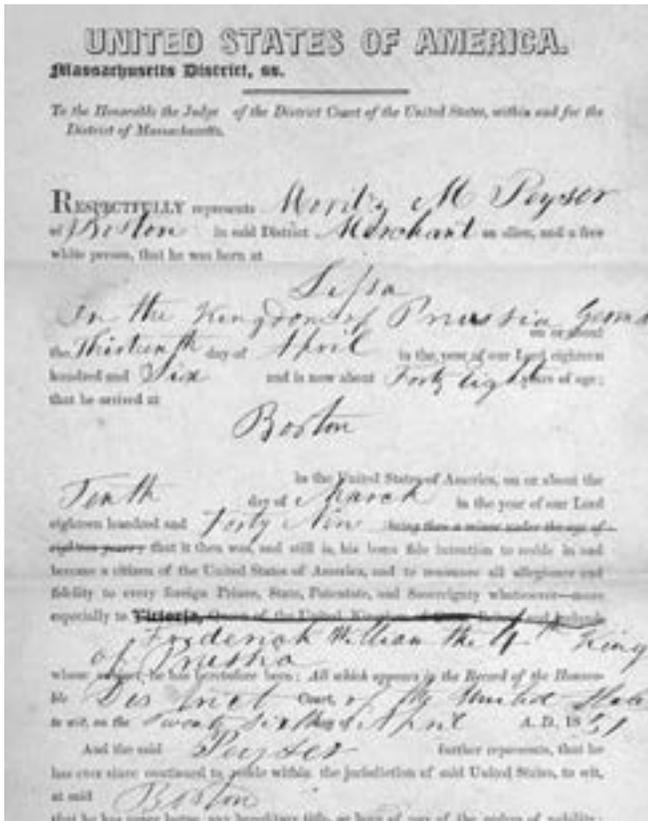
Aldo Leopold records

- a. NRG-95-09-035 Box 82 (95-59A0372 box 2, O-13, FS-22-G) W-Management-Mammals 1920-1954 (Aldo Leopold Article "Determining Kill Factor For Blacktail Deer in the Southwest" For the *Journal of Forestry*, 1920)
- b. NRG-095-10-081 Region 3- Division of Information and Education, Historical Files, 1953-1969 1630 Written Information F.Y. 1965 (letter from Aldo Leopold's Widow)
- c. RMDV-095-12-014 Box 128 (95-60A0024 boxes 100, 102, 103 and 104) RI-RM Timber Processing, Project L-134-LJ4, 1925-1927 (Aldo Leopold signature)

EARLY NEW ENGLAND Naturalization Records

by Joe Keefe, National Archives at Boston

THE SEARCH FOR 19TH-CENTURY NATURALIZATION RECORDS USED TO BE ONE OF the more frustrating aspects of genealogical research. Before September 27, 1906, naturalizations were carried out in a haphazard way, each court asking its own set of questions. Some courts asked nothing other than a person’s name and the date they were becoming a citizen. Thousands of courts Federal, state, county and local, carried out naturalizations, with each keeping their own records in their own ways. However, researchers tracking down naturalized individuals in New England have an advantage.



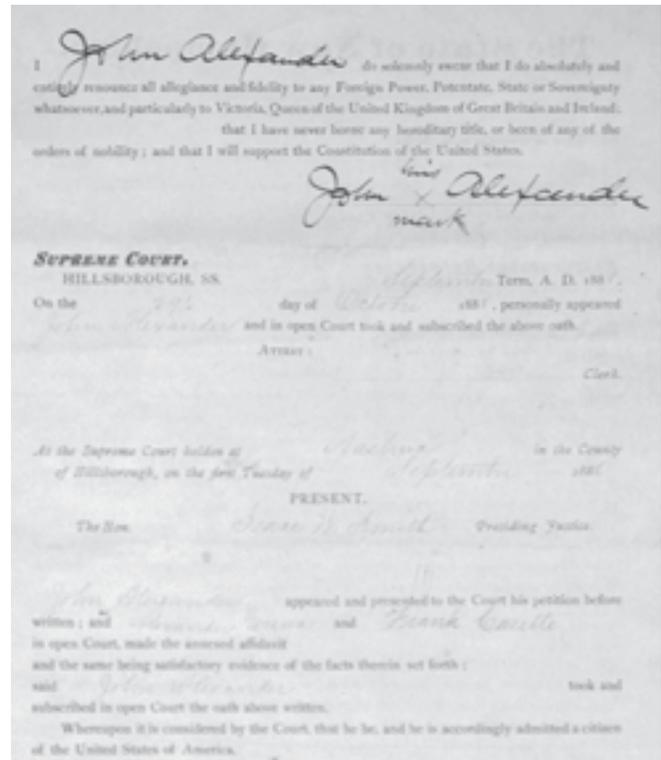
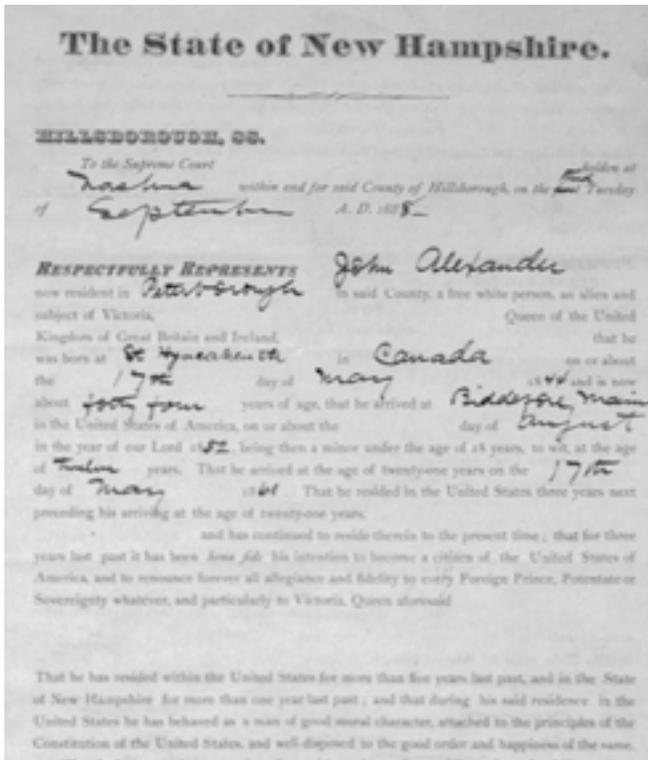
Naturalization Petition for Morris Poyser, United States District Court Boston, Volume 11, page 19, Record Group 85: Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1787-2004, Copies of Petitions and Records of Naturalization in New England Courts 1790-1906, National Archives Identifier 4752894

The National Archives at Boston has a unique set of records that brings together naturalization documents created in various New England courts. These records consist of photostatic copies called “dexigraphs” made in the 1930s. The

dexigraphs include naturalization proceedings held between 1790 and September 26, 1906, in all Federal, state, county, and local courts. The local court records include five states in New England; Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode

Island, and Vermont. These unique records have been digitized, and are available to the public for free at [Familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org).

Why did the National Archives at Boston have these records in the first place? During the Great Depression, many opportunities



Naturalization Petition for John Alexander, Supreme Judicial Court of the Second Judicial District, Nashua, Hillsboro County, New Hampshire, Docket #1, Entry 446, Record Group 85: Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1787-2004, Copies of Petitions and Records of Naturalization in New England Courts 1790-1906, National Archives Identifier 4752894

for relief with organizations or employment were limited to U.S. citizens. For example, anyone looking for work in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was required to prove U.S. citizenship. Additionally, civil service, old-age pensions, the right to vote, and other benefits and privileges were reserved for citizens, as well as many opportunities in private industry.

This requirement became a problem for those who had become U.S. citizens as wives or children of naturalized citizens. Before September 26, 1906, courts recorded only the name of the person becoming a citizen, but not those who were deriving their citizenship. How could any of these people prove their citizenship?

To assist those who needed to document citizenship, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) used a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project to photograph, from all of the courts, “something” recording the fact of naturalization. Under this project, various courts in Maine,

Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont made their naturalization records available to the INS. Clerical staff then summarized critical data on index cards to create an index, and WPA workers copied the naturalization records using the dextrigraph reproduction system. The WPA started with New England, New York, and Illinois, but the start of World War II halted the project before it could get to courts in other regions.

By 1961, the INS had no further use for these records and agreed that the dextrigraphs could be sent to the paper mill for destruction. Luckily for genealogists researching New England records, employees of the paper mill determined that the paper used in the dextrigraphs could not be used by the mill and refused to accept any further shipments for destruction. By January 1964, the records were transferred to the National Archives in Washington, DC, as part of Record Group 85, Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The records remained there until transferred to NARA’s regional archives in Waltham, Massachusetts (near Boston), in the 1980s.

For genealogists or historians who are conducting work on families in the New England area, this collection is now available for free from our partners at Familysearch.org. Working for over a year, the Familysearch.org team digitized the entire collection of over 500 shoe box-sized containers, most holding thousands of naturalization dextrigraphs. Familysearch.org has made available the index for these records and the records themselves. Naturalization records can be a great resource for genealogists and historians alike. They often record a wealth of information difficult to locate in other records. Log onto Familysearch.org and click on “New England Petitions for Naturalization, 1787–1931” to get started and view some of the more unusual records held by the National Archives and Records Administration.

KNOW YOUR RECORDS PROGRAM

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES CUSTOMER SERVICES DIVISION PRESENTS THE KNOW YOUR Records (KYR) program. The program consists of free events about our holdings. The program offers opportunities for staff, volunteers, and researchers to learn about the National Archives' records through weekly lectures, ongoing genealogy programs, our genealogy fair, online lectures, an online genealogy tutorial, reference reports for genealogical research, and editions of *Researcher News*.

PROGRAM LOCATIONS

National Archives Building (Archives I) Room G-25 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20408	National Archives at College Park (Archives II) Lecture Room 8601 Adelphi Road College Park, MD 20740
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JULY-SEPTEMBER 2014 SCHEDULE

TIME	ARCHIVES I DATE	ARCHIVES II DATE	EVENT TITLE
11 a.m.–noon	Wednesday, July 30		<i>Genealogy Using Online Resources of the National Archives</i>
11 a.m.–Noon	Wednesday, August 6		<i>Introduction to Genealogy at the National Archives</i>
11 a.m.–Noon	Wednesday, August 27		<i>Genealogy Using Online Resources of the National Archives</i>
11 a.m.–Noon	Wednesday, September 3		<i>Introduction to Genealogy at the National Archives</i>
11 a.m.–Noon	Tuesday, September 9	Thursday, September 11	<i>Atlas of the Battlefield of Antietam</i>
11 a.m.–Noon	Tuesday, September 16	Thursday, September 18	<i>Getting to Know Fold3</i>
Noon–4 p.m.	Saturday, September 20		<i>“Help! I’m Stuck” Genealogy Consultation</i>
11 a.m.–Noon	Tuesday, September 23	Thursday, September 25	<i>Using WW II Naval Records for Genealogical Research</i>
11 a.m.–Noon	Tuesday, September 30	Thursday, October 2	<i>World War II Enemy Aliens Program</i>

CONTACT KNOW YOUR RECORDS STAFF:

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Visit us at www.archives.gov/dc-metro/know-your-records

News from the Archives Library Information Center (ALIC)

by Jeffrey Hartley, Archives Library Information Center

Where Are The Books?

WHERE ARE THE BOOKS? VISITORS TO ROOM G-26 AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES BUILDING in Washington, DC (Archives I), may well ask that question. The books were moved in early March to the National Archives at College Park, MD (Archives II), to make space for other activities. Certain titles remain to support reference activities at Archives I in the following areas:

RESEARCH COMMONS AREA MATERIALS

- All titles in the Library of Congress subclass CS, Genealogy
- Washington, DC, directories Room 203 titles
- *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* and supplemental volumes
- Basler, *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* – E457.91 1953
- Nicolay & Hay, *Complete Works of Abraham Lincoln* – E457.91 1905

FINDING AIDS ROOM OTHER REFERENCE TITLES

- Eicher & Eicher, *Civil War High Commands* – E467.E35
- Roberts, *Encyclopedia of Historic Forts* – UA 26 .A45
- Fremont-Barnes & Ryerson, *Encyclopedia of the American Revolution* – E 208 .E64
- Hannings, *Chronology of the American Revolution* – E 209 .H37
- Malcomson, *Historical Dictionary of the War of 1812* – E 354 .M25
- Heidler & Heidler, *Encyclopedia of the War of 1812* – E 354 .H46
- Hannings, *The War of 1812* – E 355 .H36
- *Encyclopedia of the Mexican-American*

- War* – E 404 .C93
- *Encyclopedia of the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars* – E 715 .E53
- *The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War* – E 464 .U581
- *Atlas of Early American History: The Revolutionary Era, 1760–1790* – G 1201.53 .A8
- *Rand McNally Atlas of the American Revolution* – G 1201.53 .N4

Public access personal computers (PCs), formerly housed in the library space, are now in other areas of the public research areas at Archives I.

As part of an ongoing focus on support for Research Services nationwide, ALIC staff will concentrate on expanding online library services across the country and highlighting the print collections that are available for all researchers and staff at Archives II. Researchers wanting to use any of the printed books or journals should contact ALIC through alic@nara.gov, or telephone (301-837-3415).

Quarterly Compilation of Periodical Literature Reflecting the User of Records in the National Archives (QCOMP)

The January–March issue of the QCOMP has been compiled and can be found on the ALIC web site at <http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/periodicals/nara-citations/2014.html>.

This quarter's list contains 55 citations on various topics such as:

- Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in Arizona
- snake hunting in South Dakota
- under-ice operations in the Arctic
- Spiro Agnew

Copies of articles are available through ALIC at the National Archives at College Park, MD (Archives II).

Reference at Your Desk

The "Reference at Your Desk" web pages by the Archives Library Information Center ALIC on the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) website are recompiled and updated. In an attempt to provide quick access to the type of ready-reference tools needed by researchers and staff, the pages contain links on various subjects such as archives and records management, space exploration, time, and war crimes. Check them all out at <http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/>.

New Publications by Staff

PERIODICALLY, STAFF PUBLISHES ARTICLES IN ORDER to expand research community awareness of the National Archives' holdings. By targeting state and local historical and genealogical societies with articles about the agency's holdings, we hope to reach people who otherwise would not think of the National Archives as a resource for their research. During the past few months, the staff has published the following:

DAMANI DAVIS

- "Ancestors from the West Indies: A Historical and Genealogical Overview of Afro-Caribbean Immigration, 1900–1930s" *Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives* 45:3/4 (Fall/Winter 2013): 64–71.

Available online at <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2013/fall-winter/west-indies.pdf>

JOHN DEEBEN

- "Pensions and Bounty-Land Claims: Marylanders and the War of 1812," *Maryland Genealogical Society Journal* 55:1 (April 2014): 7–24.
- "Records of the Post Quartermaster: Military and Civilian Burials at Fort Randall, South Dakota, 1856–1892," *South Dakota Genealogical Society Quarterly* 33:2 (May 2014): 6–10.

MEG HACKER

- "When Saying 'I Do' Meant Giving Up Your U.S. Citizenship," *Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives and Records Administration* 46:1 (Spring 2014): 56–61.

PRESS RELEASES

NATIONAL ARCHIVES PRESS RELEASES ANNOUNCE MANY news items. This is a select list regarding plans, online tools, records, and films that could assist your research.

JULY 2014

- *Information Security Oversight Office Releases its Annual Report to the President* 7/7/14

JUNE 2014

- *Attorney Jason R. Baron Wins Major Award for Work at the National Archives: Recipient of Justice Tom C. Clark Award for Outstanding Government Lawyer* 6/26/14

MAY 2014

- *National Archives Awards \$2.62 Million in Grants for Documentary Editing and Archival Projects* 5/19/14
- *National Archives Issues Fourth Volume of President Obama's Public Papers* 5/12/14
- *National Archives Office of the Federal Register Offers New Online Training* 5/5/14

MARCH 2014

- *Statement by Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero* 3/11/14

Visit www.archives.gov/press for the entire listing of press releases.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES RESEARCH CENTERS NATIONWIDE

RESEARCH IN PERSON—LOCATIONS

- National Archives in Washington, DC
- National Archives at Atlanta, GA
- National Archives at Boston, MA
- National Archives at Chicago, IL
- National Archives at College Park, MD
- Denver Federal Records Center
- National Archives at Denver, CO
- National Archives at Fort Worth, TX
- National Archives at Kansas City, MO
- National Archives at New York City, NY
- National Archives at Philadelphia, PA
- National Archives at Riverside, CA
- National Archives at San Francisco, CA
- National Archives at Seattle, WA
- National Archives at St. Louis, MO
- National Personnel Records Center (Civilian Records)
- National Personnel Records Center (Military and Civilian Records)
- Federal Register
- Washington National Records Center

NATIONWIDE NETWORK OF ARCHIVES FACILITIES

www.archives.gov/locations

SUBSCRIBE TO RESEARCHER NEWS

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