

## National Archives Building Research Center



Photo by Jermaine Scott

**T**he Research Support Branch (NWCC1) at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, has a multi-faceted program that is designed to inform researchers about the National Archives' (NARA) holdings pertaining to family and community history, as well as to assist researchers to locate files and develop research strategies.

## Publications



We are particularly excited about our efforts to expand the number of staff publications as a means of increasing the research community's awareness of NARA's holdings. We target state and local historical and genealogical societies with articles about the agency's holdings, hoping 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 published the following:

John Deeben (published):

"Veterans and Private Claims: Finding Pension Information in Congressional Records," *NGS NewsMagazine* 32:4 (October/November/December 2006): 33–37.

"Finding Family in Congressional Private Claims: The Pension Case of Nathaniel L. Greer of Morrill, Maine," *The Maine Genealogist* 28:4 (November 2006): 161–170.

John Deeben (accepted for publication):

"A Final Appeal to Capital Hill: The U.S. House's Accompanying Papers File, 1865–1903" (accepted for publication in the Spring 2007 issue of *Prologue*).

Claire Prechtel-Klusgens (published):

"New National Archives Microfilm Publications in 2006," *Fairfax Genealogical Society Newsletter*, Vol. 2, No. 3 (January 2007): 7–9.

"Autobiography of Charles M. Easton of Oak Grove, Livingston County, Michigan," *Livingston County Genealogical Society Quarterly Newsletter*, Vol. 21, No. 4 (Spring 2007): 5–6.

Rebecca Sorrell (accepted for publication):

"Enumerating Wisconsin's Civil War Veterans: The 1890 Special Census of Union Veterans," *Wisconsin State Genealogical Society (WSGS) Newsletter*, Vol. 52, No. 4 (April 2007).



Photo by Jermaine Scott

## Microfilm Publications



Staff members continue to process accessioned microfilm that documents arrivals into the United States, turning this film into National Archives microfilm publications. During the last quarter, Claire Prechtel-Klusgens completed the following National Archives microfilm publications:

- A3382, *Index to Alien Arrivals by Airplane at Miami, Florida, 1930–1942, 1900–1940* (68 rolls). 35mm. RG 85.
- A3434, *Indexes and Manifests of Alien Arrivals at Anchorage, Juneau, Skagway, and Tok Junction, Alaska, ca. 1910–ca. 1956* (1 roll). 16mm. Over 2,200 arrivals.
- A3435, *Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at (1947–1957) and Passenger Lists of Vessels Departing from (1946–1948) Alexandria, Virginia* (1 roll). 35mm. RG 85.
- A3438, *Passenger Lists of Airplanes Arriving at San Juan, Puerto Rico, December 1929–December 1941* (8 rolls). 35mm. RG 85.
- A3442, *Vessel and Organization Indexes to U.S. Navy Muster Rolls, 1892–1938* (2 rolls). 16mm. RG 24.
- A3443, *Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at Port Huron, Michigan, October 1929–January 1957* (2 rolls). 35mm. RG 85.
- A3444, *Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at Baudette, Grand Marais, International Falls, Ranier, and Warroad, Minnesota, 1946–1956* (1 roll). 35mm.
- A3446, *Lists of Chinese Passengers Arriving at Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, June 1929–January 1941* (10 rolls). 35mm. RG 85.
- A3447, *Manifests of Alien Arrivals at Chief Mountain, Cut Bank, Del Bonita, Gateway, Great Falls, and Roosville, Montana, 1923–1956, and of Alien Departures from Great Falls, Montana, 1944–1945* (5 rolls). 16mm. RG 85.
- A3448, *Manifests of Alien Arrivals at Havre, Loring, Opeheim, Raymond, Turner, Westby, and White Tail, Montana, 1924–1956* (10 rolls). 16mm. RG 85.
- A3449, *Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at Rouses Point and Waddington, New York, 1954–1956* (1 roll). 35mm. RG 85.
- M1916, *Applications for Headstones for U.S. Military Veterans, 1925–1941* (134 rolls). 16mm. RG 92.
- M2098, *Summaries of Vessel Casualties and Violations of Laws, Rules, and Regulations on the Great Lakes, January 1911–June 1937* (2 rolls). 35mm. RG 41.
- M2099, *Certificates of Registration Issued for Merchant Vessels at Great Lakes Ports, 1815–1872, and Related Master Abstracts of Registers, 1815–1910* (3 rolls). 35mm. RG 41.
- M2100, *Certificates of Enrollment Issued for Merchant Vessels at Green Bay, Manitowoc, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1851–1868* (1 roll). 35mm. RG 41.
- M2105, *Certificates of Enrollment Issued for Merchant Vessels at Cape Vincent, Dunkirk, French Creek, Genesee, Lewiston, Ogdensburg, Pultneyville, Rochester, Sackets Harbor, and Suspension Bridge (Niagara Falls), New York, 1816–1867* (3 rolls). 35mm. RG 41.
- M2106, *Master Abstracts of Enrollments Issued for Merchant Vessels at Saint Louis, Missouri, 1846–1870* (1 roll). 35mm. RG 41.
- M2107, *Master Abstracts of Certificates of Enrollment Issued for Merchant Vessels at Selected Great Lakes Ports, 1815–1911* (5 rolls). 35mm. RG 41.



## Reference Reports

(Available at Archives I Only)

Staff members produce many one-page reference reports, directing researchers to NARA microfilm publications, textual records, NARA's web site, and printed government documents pertaining to numerous research topics. The reports are extremely useful for first-time researchers as a method to explain the types of records that are available for research, as well as for

suggesting a research path that can be tailored to the individual's need. Reports fall into several general categories, including Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, residents of the District of Columbia, Military Service, Citizenship, Hispanics, Immigration, and Civilian Federal Employees. Each category is color-coded for ease of reference.

## Reference Reports *(Cont.)*

During the last quarter, the staff completed 10 new reference reports: 2 pertaining to the military, 3 to immigration, 2 to general citizenship issues, and 3 to Federal employees. Our newest arrivals are:

### Military (green paper)

- Microfilmed Records of U.S. Military Post Returns, 1800–1916
- World War II Army Serial Number Merged Files

### Immigration (golden rod paper)

- Researching Immigrants Arriving at the Port of New York: Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), 1897–1957
- Researching Immigrants Arriving at the Port of New York: Records of the U.S. Customs Service, 1820–1897
- Databases Relating to Irish Ship Arrivals at the Port of New York During the Potato Famine, 1846–1851

### Citizenship (pink paper)

- Selected Records Relating to Presidential Pardons and Amnesty to Former Confederate Citizens, 1865–1877
- Selected Microfilmed Records Relating to Confederate Citizens During the Civil War, 1861–1866

### Federal Employees (blue paper)

- Microfilmed Records of the U.S. Senate Relating to Early Presidential Nominations, 1797–1811
- Using the Official Register of the United States to Research Federal Employees, 1816–1959
- Finding Employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Official Register of the United States, 1817–1925

## Enhanced Finding Aids

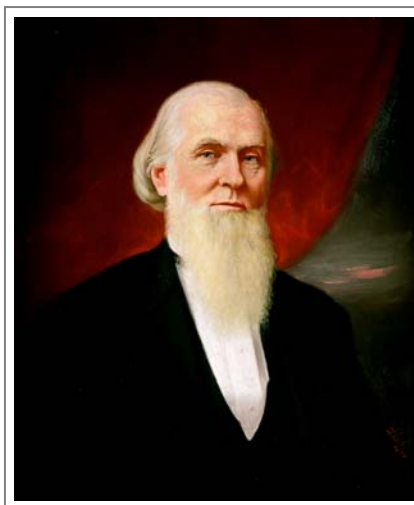
*This quarter, staff prepared one enhanced finding aid:*

**The Foreign Agricultural Service's Narrative Reports, 1955–61** (942 boxes). This container list completes a major part of the description of Record Group (RG) 166. Staff included the names of every country in each box, not just the first and last ones. This will make the list ARC-friendly. The reports include extensive files on the GATT and on European integration matters. A copy of the list is available in the Finding Aids Room.

## Center for Legislative Archives Acquires Senate Collection

*The papers of Isaac Bassett, a 64-year employee of the United States Senate, have been transferred to the Center for Legislative Archives as part of the U.S. Senate Collection.*

On December 5, 1831, 12-year-old Isaac Bassett was selected by Senator Daniel Webster as the second person ever to serve as a page in the United States Senate. In 1838, Bassett was promoted to messenger, and in 1861, he was administered the oath as assistant doorkeeper to the Senate, a post he held until his death in 1895. Having a position on the floor of the Senate allowed Bassett to witness the



great debates leading up to the U.S. Civil War, Reconstruction, and the Gilded Age.

In preparation for writing a memoir of his experience working for the Senate, Bassett saved notes, anecdotes,

newspaper clippings, and personal observations. Although he never completed his memoir, his papers were preserved and eventually donated to the U.S. Senate. The Senate has transferred them to the Center for Legislative Archives, where they are maintained and preserved as part of the U.S. Senate Collection.

The records have been microfilmed and are available in the microfilm reading room at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC.

There are two finding aids for the collection—a subject index and a name index. Both finding aids are available on microfilm and online via the Center's web site: [www.archives.gov/legislative/](http://www.archives.gov/legislative/).



## Extended Research Hours in Washington, DC, and College Park, MD



### *2007 Research Room Extended Hour Schedule*

On the following Thursdays and Fridays, the hours will be 9 A.M.–8:45 P.M.

On the following Saturdays, the hours will be 8:45 A.M.–4:45 P.M.

#### *January–September*

January 18–20

February 15–17

March 15–17

April 19–21

May 17–19

June 21–23

July 19–21

August 16–18

September 20–22

The schedule for days with extended hours is also available at  
[www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)

## Pull Time Schedule in Washington, DC, and College Park, MD



# *ALERT*

*Effective October 2, 2006*

### *New Pull Time Schedule*

**10 A.M.**

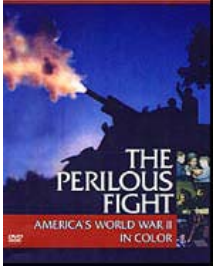
**11 A.M.**

**1:30 P.M.**

**2:30 P.M.**

Please note: Once per month on the extended research room hour days  
(Thursday and Friday) an additional pull time will be at 3:30 P.M.

## NARA's Motion Pictures Footage Featured in a PBS Series



The Motion Pictures, Sound, & Video Branch staff contributed many hours to provide copies of World War II color footage to the producers of *The Perilous Fight: America's World War II in Color*. This four-part series aired on PBS stations nationwide in February 2003.

Narrated by Martin Sheen, the series shows a portrait of the American battlefield and home-front experiences through original color-film footage, as well as through letters and diary entries.

The second World War was the first war to be recorded extensively on color film, mostly by Americans. For years, much of that color footage remained unknown and unseen. It wasn't until the late 1970s that the National Archives in Washington, DC, received film holdings from World War II. Much of the rare color footage shown had never been

shown publicly prior to this PBS series.

Recently, film researcher Polly Pettit contacted Les Waffan of NARA's Motion Picture, Sound, & Video Branch on behalf of series producer Martin Smith to express again their appreciation to NARA for work in making the series such a success. Pettit and Smith, along with archive film producer Adrian Wood, had ordered hundreds of reels of film from NARA while conducting their research on this project. NARA is credited as one of the archival footage sources.

The series has been broadcast 5,425 times on 425 public television channels and has been aired in every state of the union. It has been seen in 182 measured markets, 100 percent of the top 25 markets, and in 96 percent of the top 50 markets. It has passed 107,699,890 TV households, or 273,999,000 persons.

For further information on this series, please visit [www.pbs.org/perilousfight/](http://www.pbs.org/perilousfight/).

### Filling Vacancies at the National Archives in College Park

We are pleased to report that we are in the process of filling five new archives technician vacancies to assist in the area of pulls and refils. The addition of these five new employees will go a long way in providing the staff needed to support such a critical function. We hope that this will significantly improve researchers' experience.



#### Microfilm Publication Available at Order Online!

The National Archives announces a new microfilm publication (M1944), which includes records from Record Group 239, the Records of the American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas (The Robert Commission), 1943–1946. To order, visit Order Online! at <https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline/>.



## Document Scanner/Copier Available Soon at Archives II

A **new document scanner/copier** will be coming to the “copier corral” in Room 2000 at the National Archives at College Park later this month. Developed by the Digital Library Systems Group (a division of Image Access Corp.), the KIC (Knowledge Information Center) consists of a Bookeye® 3 planetary document scanner capable of copying documents up to 25 in. by 35.4 in. at up to 400 dpi, and outputting the image to either a digital color printer or USB flash drive (e.g., a jump



or thumb drive). The controls consist of a touch-screen kiosk, a flat-screen monitor, and a computer. The prices for the scan and the color copy will be comparable to the current prices for the digital book scanner and color copier. *It will be available for researcher use after a period of staff training and testing.*

## New Staff at the Archives Research Complex

### Bob Borland



Photo by Jermaine Scott

We are pleased to introduce and welcome Robert (Bob) Borland to the National Archives at College Park. As our Customer Services specialist for the Textual Research Room, Bob is responsible for managing the operations in the Research Room.

Bob received a Master of Arts degree in Communications from California University of Pennsylvania and has 20 years of experience in customer services. Prior to coming to College Park, he worked in NARA's Public Programs Division (NWE) and assisted with the opening of the National Archives Experience Museum to the public. He has also worked for the

National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, and the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site. Outside of work, Bob enjoys hiking, camping, traveling, socializing with friends, and riding his Harley Davidson.

The knowledge and skills that Bob brings with him will strengthen and facilitate the growth of our customer services operations. We are happy to have this great new addition to our team and look forward to the future success he will bring to NARA in meeting the needs of our customers.





# Know Your Records Program

In the fall of 2004, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) introduced the Know Your Records Program. The initial program offered weekly lectures and monthly genealogy workshops to staff, volunteers, and the public. Featured speakers described NARA's records, explained how and where to locate the records, and demonstrated how to use the records for research.

Currently, each one-hour lecture is delivered twice within the same week – on Tuesdays at the National Archives Building at 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC, and on Thursdays at the National Archives (Archives II) at 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD. Most of these sessions are videotaped and made available for interlibrary loan through NARA libraries and regional facilities throughout the United States. Most, but not all, of the genealogy workshops are offered on Saturdays.

In addition to providing opportunities for staff, volunteers, and researchers to learn about NARA's records through lectures, genealogy workshops, and the From the Records Book Group discussions, this quarter the Customer Services Division (NWCC) is announcing the **third annual Genealogy Fair** and a new edition of *Researcher News*.



We publicize our offerings in NARA's *Calendar of Events* at [www.archives.gov/calendar/](http://www.archives.gov/calendar/) and on our web page at [www.archives.gov/dc-metro/know-your-records/](http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/know-your-records/). See this quarter's schedule below.

## APRIL–JUNE 2007

### LECTURES and GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS

**Free** \* **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act.** The General Counsel's access staff is responsible for processing FOIA and Privacy Act requests for NARA's operational records (records the agency creates or receives in carrying out its mission). Ramona Branch Oliver will discuss NARA's FOIA and Privacy Act issues and give information and advice on access issues. *Tuesday, April 17, 2007, noon*, in Room G-24, Research Center, National Archives Building.

(This lecture will be repeated at the National Archives at College Park, MD, in Lecture Room B, on *Thursday, April 19*, at noon.)

**Free** \* **The Electronic Records Archives Program: A Progress Report.** Over the last decade, NARA and its partners have been working toward building the archives of the future: the Electronic Records Archives. ERA will capture, preserve, and provide access to electronic records and safeguard them for the future. Rita Cacas will introduce the ERA program and give an update on its development, and a presentation about ERA research will be given in the Archives I and Archives II Virtual Archives Laboratories. *Tuesday, April 24, 2006, noon*, in Room G-24, Research Center, National Archives Building.

(This lecture will be repeated at the National Archives at College Park, MD, in Lecture Room B, on *Thursday, April 26*, at noon.)



## APRIL–JUNE 2007

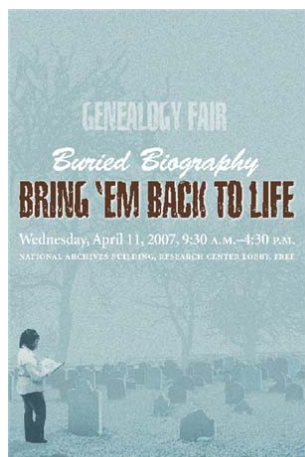
### LECTURES and GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS (cont.)

- Free** \* **Mexican War Records at the National Archives.** Timothy Duskin will discuss records dealing with military service in the Mexican War, both army and naval, found at the National Archives. *Tuesday, May 8, 2007, 11:00 a.m.*, in Room G-24, Research Center, National Archives Building. Enter on Pennsylvania Avenue.  
(This lecture will be repeated at the National Archives at College Park, MD, in Lecture Room B, on *Thursday, May 10, at 11:00 a.m.*)
- \* **An Introduction to Genealogy: An African-American Perspective.** Deborah Daniels, *American Legacy* magazine, and Reginald Washington, staff archivist, will present a workshop on basic genealogical research and techniques. They will discuss the use of oral history, pedigree charts, family group sheets, and other resources, including Federal, state, and local records available for African-American family research. *Saturday May 19, 2007, 10:15 a.m.– 1:15 p.m.*, William G. McGowan Theater. Enter on Constitution Avenue.  
Reservations are required, and a fee of \$20 is payable by cash or check at the door.
- Free** \* **Records of the U.S. Coast Guard Relating to Legal Matters, 1909–1941.** Angie Philson, LaTasha Wagstaff, Rechelle Jenkins, Andrew Brethauer, Nicole Price, and Britney Crawford will discuss the database they developed for Record Group 26 – Records of the U.S. Coast Guard Relating to Legal Matters, 1909–1941, and Records of Court Martials, 1904–1941. These files consist of records of legal matters of members of the Coast Guard who have been tried and found guilty of various charges. Information collected includes the case file number, full name, alias, place of court martial, date of court, rank, ship/cutter name, and box number. *Tuesday, May 22, 2007, 11:00 a.m.*, in Room G-24, Research Center, National Archives Building. Enter on Pennsylvania Avenue.  
(This lecture will be repeated at the National Archives at College Park, MD, in Lecture Room B, on *Thursday, May 24, at 11:00 a.m.*)
- Free** \* **Records Relating to the Battle Of Midway.** To commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Midway, Nathaniel Patch will discuss NARA's records relating to this World War II battle. *Tuesday, June 12, 2007, 11:00 a.m.*, in Room G-24, Research Center, National Archives Building. Enter on Pennsylvania Avenue.  
(This lecture will be repeated at the National Archives at College Park, MD, in Lecture Room B, on *Thursday, June 14, at 11:00 a.m.*)
- Free** \* **The Nixon Tapes.** The Nixon Presidential materials staff is the custodian of the historical materials of the Nixon administration created and received by the White House during the administration of President Richard M. Nixon (1969–1974). John Powers will discuss the over 950 reels of audio tapes in this collection. *Tuesday, June 26, 2007, 11:00 a.m.*, in Room G-24, Research Center, National Archives Building. Enter on Pennsylvania Avenue.  
(This lecture will be repeated at the National Archives at College Park, MD, in Lecture Room B, on *Thursday, June 28, 2007, at 11:00 a.m.*)

For further information on lectures and workshops, visit  
[www.archives.gov/dc-metro/known-your-records/](http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/known-your-records/)



## 2007 Genealogy Fair



### ***Buried Biography: Bring 'Em Back to Life!***

**WHAT:** The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) will host its third annual Genealogy Fair on Wednesday, April 11, 2007. This year's theme, *Buried Biography: Bring 'Em Back to Life!* will focus on Federal records located at the National Archives that relate to genealogy and cannot be researched online. Speakers will encourage family historians to come to Washington, DC, and NARA's regional archives to further explore their family history. Speakers will also demonstrate how discovering these sometimes obscure records can aid researchers who are writing family histories and biographies. Topics addressed will include immigration, naturalization, weather as it affects families and communities, black emigration, NARA regional records, and family histories. The fair will provide information and guidance for experienced genealogy professionals and novices alike. **This event is free and open to the public.**

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 11, 2007, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. For a schedule of lectures and demonstrations please visit [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) and click on "genealogy news and events."

**WHERE:** National Archives Building, Research Center Lobby, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, between 7th and 9th Streets, Washington, DC. Government-issued photo identification is required to enter the building. The closest Metro stop is the Archives/Navy Memorial stop on the Yellow and Green lines. The National Archives is fully accessible. If you need to request an accommodation (e.g., sign language interpreter) for a public program, please e-mail [reservations.nwe@nara.gov](mailto:reservations.nwe@nara.gov) or call 202-357-5000 at least two weeks prior to the event to ensure that proper arrangements are secured.

**WHO:** Speakers include Marian Smith, historian at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and NARA staff Kenneth Heger, Constance Potter, Jeffery Hartley, Claire Kluskens, Damani Davis, and Patrick Connelly.

**BACKGROUND:** The National Archives holds the permanently valuable noncurrent records of the Federal government. These include records of interest to genealogists. For information on NARA's holdings see [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov).

## 2007 Genealogy Fair

## Concurrent Lectures

*Buried Biography*  
**BRING 'EM BACK TO LIFE**

## Concurrent Lectures

9:30–10:30 A.M.

*Introduction to Genealogy at the National Archives*, Claire Prechtel-Klusken, speaker (Room G-18)

*Access to Archival Databases (AAD): Using NARA Electronic Records on the Web for Your Family Tree*, Lynn Goodsell and Daniel Law, speakers (Room G-24)

*Buried Births: Finding Birth Information in Federal Records*, Susannah Brooks, speaker (Room G-30)

10:30 A.M.—*Raffle* (Registration Area)

10:45–11:45 A.M.

*Archival Research Catalog (ARC): NARA's Online Door to the Archives*, Jill James, speaker (Room G-18)

*Hidden Treasures in the National Archives' Mid Atlantic Region (Philadelphia): Part 1*, Patrick Connelly, speaker (Room G-24)

*Using the Congressional Serial Set for Genealogical Research*, Jeffery Hartley, speaker (Room G-30)

11:45 A.M.–12:45 P.M.—*Lunch on your own*

12:45–1:45 P.M.

*Hidden Treasures in the National Archives' Mid Atlantic Region (Philadelphia): Part 2*, Patrick Connelly, speaker (Room G-24)

*Stormy Weather*, Kenneth Heger and Constance Potter, speakers (Room G-30)

2–3 P.M.

*More than Microfilm: Immigration and Naturalization Records at the National Archives*, Marian Smith, speaker (Room G-24)

*Exodusters: The Origins of Black Migration*, Damani Davis, speaker (Room G-30)

3 P.M.—*Raffle* (Registration Area)

3:15–4:15 P.M.

*Events Over Time: Using Immigration and Naturalization Records in Writing Biographies*, Marian Smith, speaker (Room G-24)

*Little House in the National Archives: Federal Records Relating to Laura Ingalls Wilder*, Constance Potter, speaker (Room G-30)

**Information Tables**

(Research Center Lobby)

Access to Archival Databases (AAD)

Archival Research Catalog (ARC)

Footnote.com

Help, I'm Stuck: Getting Started

Handouts and Special Databases

NARA Library

Online Genealogy Tutorial

Preservation

Special Media

You and Your Digital Camera

*NOTE: Please visit our registration desk and pick up your 15% discount coupon for our Archives Shop.*

## Archives Library Information Center

# Online Resources in ALIC

Many researchers, especially those at Archives I, are familiar with the online genealogical resources Ancestry Library Edition and HeritageQuest that are provided through ALIC. However, ALIC also provides the following resources on the public access PCs in the research rooms:



## Biography and Genealogy Master Index

Comprehensive index to nearly 12 million biographical sketches in more than 2,700 volumes

## ArchivesUSA

- **Directory of Archives and Manuscript Repositories in the United States**, with information on over 5,480 repositories and 132,300 collections of primary source material across the United States
- **National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC)**: published since 1959, and contains over 93,100 records
- **National Inventory of Documentary Sources – US (NIDS–US)**: complete indexing of over 58,600 records

## ProQuest Direct

Citations, abstracts, and/or full text of over 1,000 newspapers and journals, including:

- Newspaper abstracts and/or full text from 1985– (including the full text *New York Times* for the most recent 90 days)
- Full text of the *Washington Post* from 1877–1989
- Full text of the *New York Times* from 1851–2002
- Abstracts for over 1,000 journals from 1986–present
- Full text for over 700 journals from 1992–present



*ALIC staff at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, and at the National Archives in College Park, MD, can provide search help as requested.*



# From The Records Book Group

The Know Your Records Program launched its monthly book group in September 2006.

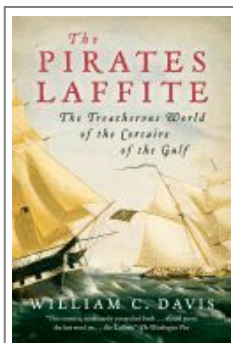
**The From the Records Book Group meets at noon on the third Wednesday of each month, in Room G-243 of the**

**Research Center at the National Archives Building, Washington, DC.** Non-fiction books are

chosen because of their direct relationship to the NARA records. *This free discussion is open to NARA staff and the public.*

Please check the Archives Shop (202-357-5271) for book availability and a special discount for book group participants.

## This quarter's books are:



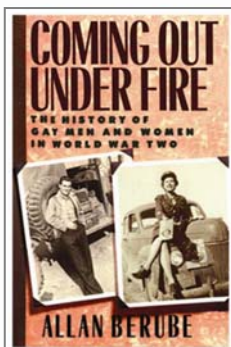
**April 18, 2007**

*The Pirates Laffite: The Treacherous World of the Corsairs of the Gulf,*  
by William C. Davis

Mr. Davis recounts the true story of New Orleans privateers Jean and Pierre Laffite, from about the time of the Louisiana Purchase through the 1820s. He separates fact from fiction as he relates the brothers as complex, if ruthless businessmen, who, while savaging the trade of Spanish merchants on the gulf, formed the foundation for a profitable syndicate. Their associates included leading citizens and government officials on the take. The Laffites themselves, however, became notorious only when they courted the Spanish and betrayed their allies.

**May 16, 2007**

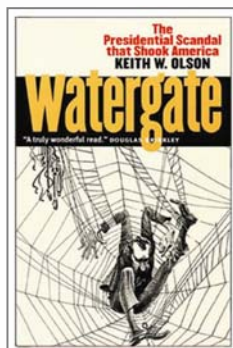
*Coming Out Under Fire: The History of Gay Men and Women in World War Two,*  
by Alan Berube



This major study chronicles the struggle of homosexuals in the U.S. military during WWII where they found themselves fighting on two fronts: against the Axis and against their own authorities, who took extreme measures to stigmatize them as unfit to serve their country. From 1941 to 1945, more than 9,000 gay servicemen and women purportedly were diagnosed as sexual psychopaths and given "undesirable" discharges. Based on documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, augmented by 75 interviews with gay male and female veterans, the author recounts the purges in the military into the Cold War era when homosexuality was officially equated with sin, crime, and sickness. The book reveals that the first public challenge to the military's policy came not from the gay-rights movement but from military psychiatrists who studied gay servicemen and women during World War II.

**June 20, 2007**

*Watergate: The Presidential Scandal that Shook America,*  
by Keith W. Olson



More than 30 years after the June 17, 1972, break-in at the Democratic Party's National Committee headquarters in Washington, DC, historians continue to struggle with how a third-rate burglary led to a massive White House cover-up that forced President Richard M. Nixon to become the only person to resign the presidency. The author chronicles the forces that drove the Nixon White House to embark on an unprecedented domestic intelligence-gathering operation.



For a listing of the 2007 selections, please visit:  
[www.archives.gov/dc-metro/newsletter/2007-january.pdf](http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/newsletter/2007-january.pdf)

For descriptions of the books, please visit our web page at  
[www.archives.gov/dc-metro/know-your-records/#book](http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/know-your-records/#book)