

National Archives Building Research Center

The 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 (accepted for publication):

"The Flipside of Impressment: British Seamen taken by the U.S. Navy prior to the War of 1812," *The Journal of the War of 1812* 10: 1 (Spring 2006): 10-16

"Taken on the High Seas: American Seamen Impressment Records at the National Archives, 1789-1815," *New England Ancestors* 7: 4 (Fall 2006): 17-22. **This article appeared as the cover story for the issue.**



Ken Heger (accepted for publication):

"Educating Wisconsin's Deaf Children in the Nation's Capital: Wisconsinites in the Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, 1866-1927" *Wisconsin Genealogical Society Newsletter*, January 2006 (Vol. 52, No. 3): 1-4.

"A Capital Education for the Deaf: Ohioans in the Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, 1865-1928" *Ohio Genealogical Society Quarterly* June 2006 (Vol. 46, No. 2): 77-84.

"Overseeing the 1890 Census: Application Files for Census Supervisors in Florida," *The Florida Genealogist* April/June 2006 (Vol. XXIX, No. 2): 30-34.

Claire Kluskens (accepted for publication):

"Baptist 'Primary Societies' in Vermont, 1828." *Vermont Genealogy*, Vol. 11, No. 3 (July 2006): 168-172.

"Divorce Cases for Rutland County, 1840-1851." *Vermont Genealogy*, Vol. 11, No. 3 (July 2006): 173-174.

Matthew Law (published):

"Presidential Nominees for Federal Employment in New Mexico: The Senate Nomination Files, 1849-1949" *The New Mexico Genealogist* September 2006.

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 Kluskens completed the following seven National Archives microfilm publications:

- A3378, *Enumeration District Maps for the Twelfth through Sixteenth Censuses of the United States, 1900–1940* (73 rolls). 35mm. RG 29.
- A3415, *Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at Fairport (1952–1957), Huron (1955–1956), Lorain (1952–1965), Marblehead (1955), and Sandusky (1955–1958), Ohio* (6 rolls). 35mm (rolls 1–5) and 16mm (roll 6). RG 85.

- A3423, *Passenger and Crew Lists of Airplanes Arriving at Brownsville, Texas, 1943–1964* (22 rolls). 35mm (rolls 1–18) and 16mm (rolls 19–22).
- A3427, *Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at Rockland, Maine, January 1955–May 1969* (3 rolls). 35mm (roll 1) and 16mm (rolls 2–3). RG 85.
- A3433, *Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at Grand Haven, Manistee, Muskegon, and South Haven, Michigan, May 1948–December 1956* (1 roll). 35mm. RG 85.
- A3436, *Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at Piney Point, Maryland, August 1950–March 1956* (1 roll). 35mm. RG 85.
- M2101, *Certificates of Enrollment Issued for Merchant Vessels at Detroit, Michilimackinac, and Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan, 1818–18908, and Certificates of Registration Issued for Merchant Vessels at Detroit, Michigan, 1818–1831*. 8 rolls. 35mm. RG 41.

Reference Reports *(Available at Archives I Only)*

Staff members also produced 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. We make the reference reports available to the genealogy volunteers and any interested researcher. 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. We plan to expand the program to include reports on Hispanics, Land, and Immigration.

During the last quarter, the staff completed 19 new reference reports: 17 pertaining to African Americans, 1 to Native Americans, and 1 to general citizenship issues; and updated 9 reference reports to reflect newly microfilmed records, new hours of operation, and new finding aids. Our newest arrivals are:

Databases

To supplement these reference reports, the staff also creates special lists and databases to index the files. To date, staff have indexed approximately 200,000 case files on individuals. This past quarter staff added approximately 500 records to the database of Life-Saving Service employees. Another addition is the database *Index of the Student Case Files of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, 1879–1918* (RG 75, Entry 1327, PI 163), which lists 6,160 student files.

General Citizenship Matters (pink paper)

- Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Accident Reports, 1933–42. *Please note that there is a name-searchable database indexing approximately 7,600 names among these records.*

African Americans (salmon paper)

- Microfilmed Records of the Freedmen's Bureau for Alabama, 1865–1872
- Microfilmed Records of the Freedmen's Bureau for Arkansas, 1865–1872
- Microfilmed Records of the Freedmen's Bureau for Florida, 1865–1872
- Microfilmed Records of the Freedmen's Bureau for Georgia, 1865–1872
- Microfilmed Records of the Freedmen's Bureau for Kentucky, 1865–1872
- Microfilmed Records of the Freedmen's Bureau for Louisiana, 1865–1872
- Microfilmed Records of the Freedmen's Bureau for Maryland and Delaware, 1865–1872
- Microfilmed Records of the Mississippi Freedmen's Department (Pre-Bureau Records), 1863–1865
- Microfilmed Records of the Freedmen's Bureau for Mississippi, 1865–1872
- Microfilmed Records of the Freedmen's Bureau for Missouri, 1865–1874
- Microfilmed Records of the Freedmen's Bureau for North Carolina, 1865–1872
- Microfilmed Records of the Freedmen's Bureau for South Carolina, 1865–1872
- Microfilmed Records of the Freedmen's Bureau for Tennessee, 1865–1872
- Microfilmed Records of the Freedmen's Bureau for Texas, 1865–1874
- Microfilmed Records of the Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company (Freedmen's Bank), 1865–1874
- Microfilmed General Administrative Records of the Freedmen's Bureau, 1865–1872
- Finding Patients and Staff at the Freedmen's Bureau Hospital, Washington, DC, in the Federal Census, 1870–1930

Native Americans (lilac paper)

- Published Primary Sources Relating to Native Americans

**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



**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.

Military and Civilian Records

National Archives at College Park, MD

Last fall, in accordance with NARA's Strategic Plan, we undertook an ambitious initiative to eliminate a 30-year processing backlog of military records and 10-year backlog of civilian records. The purpose of this initiative is not only to preserve the records by putting them in archival housing, but to provide researchers with better access to these records, by updating the existing finding aids for these

records, placing descriptions of the records online in our Archives Research Catalog (ARC), thereby making the records easier to use.

The processing of the military and civilian records is a long-term project. In order to meet our goal of having 95 percent completed by 2016, nearly half of the reference staff has been asked to help in the processing of these records.

Current Military Processing Projects

Please note that with the exception of military personnel files, the National Archives (NARA) in College Park, MD, stores records of the Army (WWI and later), Army Air Forces, and Air Force; and of the Navy and Marine Corps (WW II and later).

- U.S. Army** Records of U.S. Army Operational, Tactical, and Support Organizations (World War II and thereafter) (Record Group 338) are being processed by the Military Processing team. Presently, the team is concentrating on the Corps records. After completing the Corps records, the team will process and describe the records of the various U.S. armies (1st Army, 2nd Army, etc.). *Descriptions of the processed Corps records are available in the Archives Research Catalog (ARC).*

Search by topic rather than by trying to determine "what's new." The Reference Staff may also be able to assist you.

- U.S. Navy** Ship Specification Files in the Records of the Bureau of Ships (RG 19) are also being processed by the Military Processing team. Descriptions of the records completed are available on ARC.

Holocaust-Era Assets Microfilming Records Project (HRP)

The HRP team has completed microfilming the Records of the American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas, 1942–1946 ("The Roberts Commission") (RG 239). The Commission cooperated with the U.S. Army in protecting cultural treasures and gathered information about war damage to such treasures, and compiled data on cultural property appropriated by the Axis Powers and encouraged its restitution.

Researchers interested in matters relating to art/cultural restitution matters will find many useful documents in this Record Group. All records of RG 239—including textual,

aerial photographs, and photographs—have been microfilmed onto 187 rolls of 35mm microfilm. The microfilm will be available for purchase in late February 2007 as National Archives Microfilm Publication No. M1944. In the meantime, the microfilm is available for use in the Microfilm Reading Room in the Research Complex at Archives II (Room 4050). The accompanying descriptive pamphlet for M1944 will be available online in late February and in paper form in May or June 2007. See further descriptions of these records at <http://www.archives.gov/research/holocaust/finding-aid/civilian/rg-239.html>.

■ German Captured Records

The microfilm copies of German captured records that have been recently returned to Bundesarchiv are now available as M2087, M2088, M2089, and M2112. They may be viewed in the Microfilm Reading Room or purchased through Order Online! Two new guides to microfilmed German

Navy records have been released: *Guide No. 4 – Records of the German Navy Operational Command in WWII* and *Guide No. 5 – Pre WWI Records of the Imperial German Navy and Its Predecessors, 1822–1919*. They are part of the *Guide to Microfilmed Records of the German Navy, 1850–1945* series.

Current Civilian Processing Projects

■ State Department/Foreign Relations Records

The Civilian Processing team has described 79 series of the Record of the U.S. Foreign Service Posts (Record Group 84) in ARC. This description project of the pre-1936 consular posts is 92 percent completed. This project was greatly assisted by four NWCC1 staff members who assist in the data collection.

The team has also described 13 series of the Records of the U.S. Information Agency (Record Group 306) in ARC.

■ Other Records Described in ARC

The ARC team has been busy describing previously processed records in ARC. The record groups with series described are as follows: Record Groups 3, 9, 17, 32, 35, 48, 59, 60, 65, 69, 83, 140, 202, 278, 337, 338, 381, 453, 494, and 499.

■ Civilian Records Reference Team

The Civilian Records Consultation Room has a new Reference Handbook, which is a compilation of reference reports and "cheat sheets" to help researchers locate records on various popular topics, including education records, housing records, records relating to Japanese internment during World War II, NASA records, the Titanic disaster, and Nazi gold and looted art. This is a work in progress, and many more topics will be added.



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. Genealogy workshops are offered mostly on Saturdays.

Since 2005, we have held several symposia on Hispanic and African American records; hosted our annual genealogy fair; and in September 2006, launched a monthly book group.

Examples of topics discussed at these lectures are:

- State Department records
- Hell ships and the Ultra secret (World War II)
- Railroad records
- Women in the Revolutionary War
- Brief history of the National Archives and the fate of select Federal records
- World War II naval records
- Using records to assist veterans
- The Presidential library system
- Federal records and civil rights



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

JANUARY–MARCH 2007

GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS

✿ **Using Federal Records for African American Genealogical Research** – Reginald Washington, staff archivist, will give a workshop on using Federal records for African American genealogical research. He will discuss census records, military service and pension files, Freedmen's Bureau records, and other records. *Saturday, February 17, 2007.* 10:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m. Jefferson Room. Enter on Constitution Avenue at the Special Events entrance.

Reservations are required, and a fee of \$20 is payable by cash or check at the door. Call 202-357-5333

✿ **Effective Internet Searching** – Liz Kelly Kerstens, CG, CGL, will provide instruction on how to search the internet when conducting research. Participants will learn ways to creatively and effectively search the Internet for hidden tidbits that will help them progress in their family history research. *Thursday, March 22, 2007.* 10:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Jefferson Room. Enter on Constitution Avenue at the Special Events entrance.

Reservations are required, and a fee of \$20 is payable by cash or check at the door. Call 202-357-5333

✿ **Beginning Your Irish Research in U.S. Sources** – Liz Kelly Kerstens, CG, CGL, will cover the basics of finding Irish ancestors using resources available in the United States. She will present strategies for working in passenger lists, immigration records, military records, census records, city directories, and other original sources of value. *Friday, March 23, 2007.* 10:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m. Jefferson Room. Enter on Constitution Avenue at the Special Events entrance.

Reservations are required, and a fee of \$20 is payable by cash or check at the door. Call 202-357-5333



JANUARY–MARCH 2007

LECTURES

Free

- What's New in the Archives Research Catalog (ARC)?** Jill James, David Wallace, and LaTasha Tucker will discuss searching tips and new descriptions in ARC. *Tuesday, January 23, 2007, 11 a.m.*, 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, January 25, 2007, 11 a.m.*)

- Records of the Washington, DC, Metropolitan Police Force at the National Archives.** John Deeben will cover personnel and case files, including descriptions of the activities of officers, as well as criminals. *Tuesday, January 30, 2007, 11 a.m.*, 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, February 1, 2007, 11 a.m.*)

- On the Road to Freedom: Pre Freedmen's Bureau Records, 1862–1864.** Genealogy Archives Specialist, Rebecca Sharp, will examine records created by wartime superintendents of freedmen that shed light on the experiences of African Americans during the Civil War. *Tuesday, February 6, 2007, at 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, February 8, 2007, at noon.*)

- Federal Records Relating to Civil Rights in the Post-World War II Era (Reference Information Paper (RIP) 113).** Archivists Walter Hill and Lisha Penn will discuss their work on RIP 113, which provides descriptions of the records of Federal agencies, commissions, and courts that formulated civil rights guidelines, programs, and judicial decisions between 1945 and 1981. Ms. Penn will cover her work with records of the Justice, Labor, and Commerce departments—dealing specifically with records about the integration of the University of Alabama (Autherine Lucy); the murders of Civil Rights workers Goodman, Chaney, and Schwerner; and the problems that African Americans experienced in the South while registering to vote. Dr. Hill will give an historical overview of the modern Civil Rights era and will cover Congressional and Supreme Court records. *Tuesday, February 20, 2007, at 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, February 22, 2007, at noon.*)

- Electronic Records for Genealogy.** Archives Specialist Lynn Goodsell will offer an introduction to electronic ("digitally-born") records of interest to genealogists and how to access the records online via the Access to Archival Databases (AAD) resource. *Tuesday, February 27, 2007, at 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, March 1, 2007, at noon.*)

NOTE:

New Time for Lectures in February and March – noon

News from ALIC



ALIC Web Site Updates

The following ALIC web pages have recently been updated:

<http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/books/2006-12.html> – the New Books list, listing recent acquisitions at Archives I and Archives II. The items listed can be found on the new book shelf in each location.

<http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/periodicals/nara-citations/2006.html> – the latest edition of the Quarterly Compilation of Periodical Literature Reflecting the Use of Records in the National Archives (QCOM), comprising 127 citations.

<http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/periodicals/nara-citations/index.html> – 34 years of QCOMP citations, arranged by record group cluster.

New Reference Source

Both Archives I and Archives II recently accessioned a copy of Bud Hannings' *Forts of the United States: An Historical Dictionary, 16th through 19th Centuries* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co., 2006). This work provides a history of the primary fortifications established during 400 tumultuous years in what would become

the United States of America. The entries are arranged alphabetically by state, and images of some of the installations are sprinkled throughout the volume. Also present are a number of valuable appendices, including Washington, DC's Civil War defenses, Florida Seminole Indian War Forts, Pony Express Depots, Spanish Missions and Presidios, twentieth-century U.S. forts, posts, bases and stations, a chronology, and a bibliography. The book is shelved in each reference collection at UG410.H36 2006.



From The Records Book Group

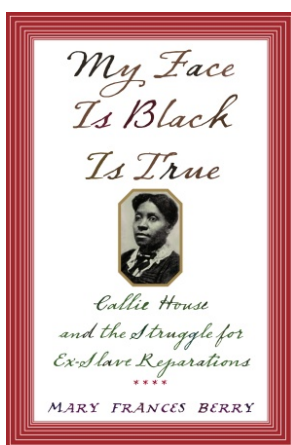
On September 20, 2006, the Know Your Records Program launched its monthly book group by discussing the book *After the Glory: The Struggles of Black Civil War Veterans*, by Donald R. Shaffer. **October's book was *The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History***, by John M. Barry. And during Veterans' Month, in November, the group discussed *Presidents at War*, by Gerald Astor and John P. Murtha.

The From the Records Book Group meets at **noon on the third Wednesday of each month**, in Room G-24 of the Research Center at the National Archives Building. Non-fiction books are chosen because of their direct relationship to NARA records. This free discussion is open to NARA staff and the public.

If you would like to suggest a title for the Book Group to discuss, please contact Jeffery Hartley at 301-837-1795 or at jeffery.hartley@nara.gov

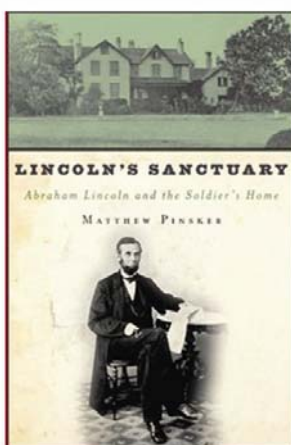
Please check the Archives Shop (202-357-5271) for book availability and a special discount for book group participants.

The 2007 schedule is listed below:



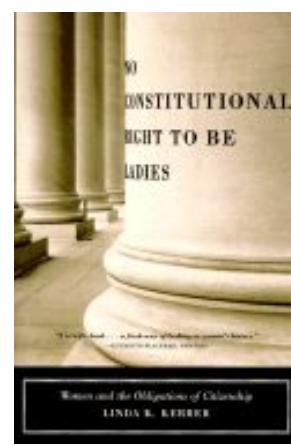
January 17, 2007

My Face Is Black Is True: Callie House and the Struggle for Ex-Slave Reparations, by Mary Frances Berry



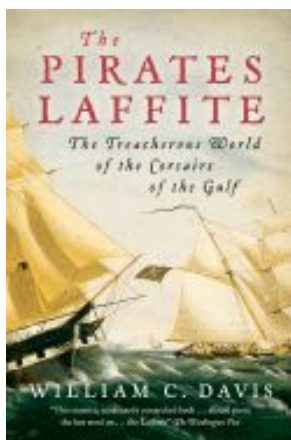
February 21, 2007

Lincoln's Sanctuary: Abraham Lincoln and the Soldiers' Home, by Matthew Pinsker



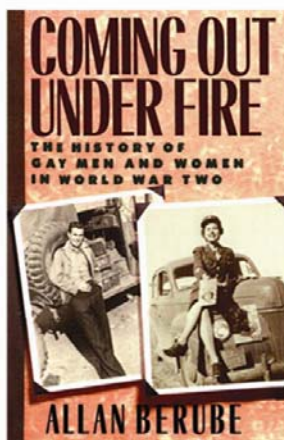
March 21, 2007

No Constitutional Right to be Ladies: Women and the Obligations of Citizenship, by Linda K. Kerber



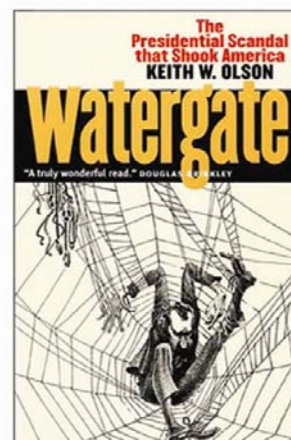
April 18, 2007

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



May 16, 2007

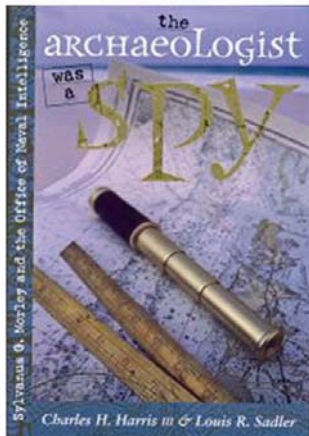
Coming out Under Fire: The History of Gay Men and Women in World War Two, by Alan Berube



June 20, 2007

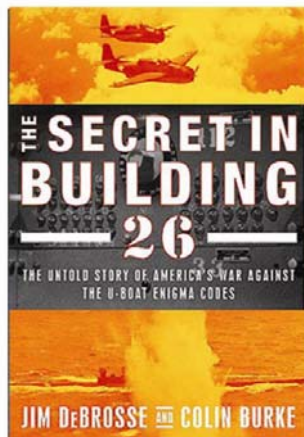
Watergate: The Presidential Scandal that Shook America, by Keith W. Olson

The 2007 schedule (continued):



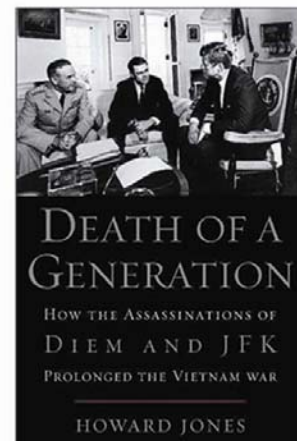
September 26, 2007

The Archeologist was a Spy: Sylvanus G. Morley and the Office of Naval Intelligence, by Charles H. Harris III and Louis R. Sadler



October 17, 2007

The Secret in Building 26: The Untold Story of America's Ultra War Against the U-boat Enigma Codes, by Jim DeBrosse and Colin Burke



November 14, 2007

Death of a Generation: How the Assassinations of Diem and JFK Prolonged the Vietnam War, by Howard Jones

ANNUAL GENEALOGY FAIR

Save the Date!

Buried Biography: Bring 'Em Back to Life!

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) presents its annual genealogy fair! *This year's focus is 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 demonstrate how discovering these sometimes obscure records can aid researchers who are writing family histories and biographies. Session topics include records concerning: **immigration, naturalization, weather as it affects families and communities, and black emigration.**

There will also be presentations on published government documents and how to use the Serial Set; finding information about births and deaths in Federal records; and a case study about biography using records documenting the life of Laura Ingalls Wilder. Demonstrations and ongoing exhibits include Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services records; special media records; how to use a digital camera in research; conducting oral histories; NARA's beginning genealogy tutorial; preserving your important papers and photographs; and demonstrations of databases: the Archival Research Catalog (ARC) and Access to Archival Databases (AAD).



Enter on Pennsylvania Avenue. **Wednesday, April 11, 2007.**
9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.