

## Archives Library Information Center **ALIC**

By Jeff Hartley



Photo by Andrea B. Matney

National Archives Library, Washington, DC

This month, we are featuring the Archives Library Information Center (ALIC). ALIC provides published materials for researchers to use in conjunction with our records. With relevant collections in the National Archives Building in Washington, DC (Archives I), and the National Archives at College Park, MD (Archives II), ALIC is the place for beginning or seasoned researchers to obtain background information about their topic.

ALIC's collections number close to 200,000 volumes, relating to subjects such as American and world history, genealogy, archival science, naval science, military science, and political science. Approximately 25 percent of the general collection is available in room G-30 at Archives I, with the focus on U.S. and world history prior to World War I, genealogy, and state and local history. The rest of the collection is in the library on the 3rd floor at Archives II.

The library at Archives II also houses Government publications. This collection consists of many Federal agency annual reports, telephone directories, reports of programs, court case decisions, and other historical materials. Researchers can search this collection for contextual information about a Government official, program, or agency.

ALIC's online catalog is available on the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) web site at [www.archives.gov/research/alic/tools/online-public-access-catalog.html](http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/tools/online-public-access-catalog.html). Titles, authors, and subjects are all searchable. Researchers can also search by NARA records cited, by inputting RGxxx in the keyword box. For instance, typing 'RG059' retrieves all books that cite the records of the Department of State.

A similar service, the Quarterly Compilation of Periodical Literature Reflecting the Use of Records in the National Archives, is available on the Web at [www.archives.gov/research/alic/periodicals/nara-citations/2009.html](http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/periodicals/nara-citations/2009.html). The bibliography is composed of citations to periodical literature citing NARA records, and is updated quarterly. Older citations are compiled by record group cluster semiannually, at [www.archives.gov/research/alic/periodicals/nara-citations/index.html](http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/periodicals/nara-citations/index.html).

ALIC also subscribes to several commercial online databases, which are available to researchers onsite. These include HeritageQuest, Biography and Genealogy Master Index, Archive Finder, the Digital National Security Archive, ProQuest, JSTOR, digital editions of the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, and America: History and Life. For additional information about these resources, see [www.archives.gov/research/alic/tools/online-databases.html](http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/tools/online-databases.html).

Researchers are encouraged to use ALIC's resources. To increase access, materials can be moved between the two buildings, generally within 24 hours. For further information on any of these resources, please see the librarians at either reference desk, or send your requests to [alic@nara.gov](mailto:alic@nara.gov).

### ALIC Hours and Location Maps

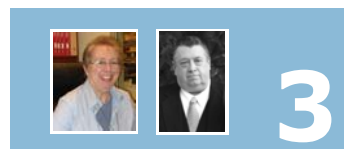
Archives I Library Washington, DC	Archives II Library College Park, Maryland
<b>Map:</b> <a href="#">Room G-30</a>	<b>Map:</b> <a href="#">Room 3000</a>
<b>Walk-in Address:</b> 7th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC	<b>Walk-in and Mailing Address:</b> Archives Library Information Center (NWCCA) Room 2380 8601 Adelphi Road College Park, MD 20740-6001
<b>Mailing Address:</b> Archives Library Information Center (NWCCA) Room 2380 8601 Adelphi Road College Park, MD 20740-6001	
<b>Reference Desk:</b> (202) 357-5018	<b>Reference Desk:</b> (301) 837-3415
Library staff members are available in the library ( <b>Room G-30</b> ) <b>Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Wednesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.</b>	Professional librarians are available in the library ( <b>Room 3000</b> ) <b>Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</b>

This newsletter is designed to provide you with the most up-to-date information needed to conduct research at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, and the National Archives at College Park, MD. For more information, please visit [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov).

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 ANNUAL GENEALOGY FAIR  
Save the date!  
April 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## Carolyn Gilliam



Photo by Randall D. Fortson

*Carolyn Gilliam grew up in Indianapolis, and received her undergraduate degree from St. Mary-of-the-Woods College in Terre Haute, Indiana. She moved to Vermont with her family, and taught fifth and sixth grades when her four children were in school. In 2002, she entered the University of Maryland's College of Library and Information Studies. That same year, she began her career at the National Archives as a student library technician at ALIC: the Archives Library Information Center. She received her Master of Library Science in 2004, and then became a permanent member of the ALIC family.*

As a student employee, Carolyn began learning how to meet researchers' needs for information in person, via e-mail, and by telephone. Searching for answers to a wide variety of questions that come in enabled her to become familiar with NARA's records. She still gets a great deal of pleasure from locating answers dealing with everything from Coast and Geodetic Survey markers to Works Progress Administration (WPA) projects from the 1930s.

For the past two years, Carolyn has worked primarily at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, where she has the opportunity to work with many researchers who are working on their family histories. In connection with this, she has attended the National Institute on Genealogical Research (NIGR) Conference, created a file of genealogical articles, developed a guide for incarcerated persons who are interested in their family histories, and has participated in the NARA Annual Genealogy Fair as a speaker and ALIC exhibitor.

Recently Carolyn has become involved in maintaining the ALIC web site, especially updating the Reference at Your Desk pages, which are available at [www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/](http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/). This has been a rewarding experience, and she hopes to extend this interest into ways to use technology to improve the library's accessibility to researchers and staff.

## Randall D. Fortson



Photo courtesy of Randall D. Fortson

*Randall Fortson began his career at the National Archives in 2001. As senior reference librarian with the Archives Library Information Center (ALIC), Randall schedules library coverage at both the Archives I and Archives II locations. In coordination with the Chief Librarian, he works closely with student employees by instructing them in library procedures and assigning tasks that are both vital to library functions and designed to provide them with realistic library reference experience. Many of these students have gone on to successful careers as librarians and archivists at NARA and throughout the country.*

Randall spends the majority of his time answering researchers' questions and directing them to sources of information. His primary area of research interest is the antebellum and Civil War periods of United States history. At NARA, this has translated into a love of working with published documents of the United States from the 19th century, and especially the Congressional Serial Set. He occasionally leads monthly book discussions and participates in the **Know Your Records** program, where he has presented talks on the *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion*.

Randall also oversees interlibrary loans for NARA staff and is a good person to know if you're having difficulty finding a book or article in the ALIC collection. If ALIC doesn't have it, he can identify owner repositories for researchers and usually obtain access via interlibrary loan for staff members in most cases.

Throughout his career, Randall has taught history and government to students, assisted researchers with requested information, or instructed them in various research techniques. He began as a high school social studies teacher and has worked as a reference librarian in public, academic, and special libraries. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education and a Master's Degree in History from the University of Georgia, and a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from the University of South Carolina.

Randall takes great pride in being both a Virginian and a native Georgian. He currently resides in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, just a few miles from where his family migrated south to Georgia in the late 18th century. He likes to visit historic sites, collect recipes, and follows high school football recruiting. He's also a tremendous fan of the University of Georgia and bleeds red and black for his Bulldogs.

# Did you know ?

## Interesting Facts and Tips About the National Archives

- Published unit histories of Confederate units are located in the reference section of the Archives I library in the series by Stewart Sikafis (E 546.S58). The series includes a volume covering Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri units organized directly by the Confederate government, as well as Indian units.
- The complete run (1811–49) of *Niles' Weekly Register*, a leading weekly U.S. news magazine of the antebellum era, is available in the Archives II library.
- ALIC maintains a collection of genealogical articles. They are available in the Archives I library; if you see one that interests you, please contact the librarian, who will gladly make a copy for you.
- You can locate the library web page by going to [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) and clicking on the "Researchers" or "Genealogists/Family Historians" links.



## Virginia's Freedmen Bureau Records Are Available Online

By Cynthia G. Fox

In July 2009, Governor Timothy M. Kaine announced that the historic Virginia Freedmen's Bureau records, the earliest major compilation of information on the African American community, have been extracted and indexed, and are now available online to historians and family history researchers. Under the direction of the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia and in collaboration with FamilySearch, volunteers indexed the records of names, marriages, educational pursuits, labor contracts, health care and legal services and other important information from the Virginia Field Office Records of the Freedmen's Bureau. **The records may now be viewed temporarily at the FamilySearch web site**, and negotiations are currently ongoing to permanently host the records through the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture.

This online publication is the ultimate goal for The Freedmen's Bureau Records Preservation Act of 2000 (Pub. Law 106-444). This law mandated a five-year effort on the part of the National Archives to preserve and microfilm all field office records of the Freedmen's Bureau (1865–72), totaling about 1.2 million

document pages. The microfilm was then digitized by the FamilySearch organization in Utah. In October 2006, Governor Kaine announced that Virginia would be the first state to participate in a historic project to index and digitize the Freedmen's Bureau records, allowing historians and descendants of emancipated slaves, freed blacks, and black Union soldiers to access historical data, much of which was never before available. By participation in this historically significant project, as well as collaboration with key national organizations, Virginia continues to maintain its prominent role in preserving America's history and legacies.

Building on Virginia's trailblazing effort, the project now moves to the remaining states in which the Freedmen's Bureau had established headquarters. FamilySearch, which initiated this project at the request of the National Archives and Records Administration, will provide direct administrative support for this important second phase of the Freedmen project.

The URL for the pilot of digitized Freedmen's Bureau records is <http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#c=141490&p=collectionDetails;t=searchable>.

The site requires Adobe Flash 10.



## Microfilm Rental Program

By Bob Coren

With technological changes in historical research moving from microfilm to digital images online, and the accompanying economic environment, **the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) ended its Microfilm Rental Program, effective August 31, 2009.** No new orders were filled after July 31. Customers were notified by letter, and customers with balances on deposit accounts—principally public libraries and local historical societies—received checks for the balances on those accounts.

Back in the 1970s and early 1980s, the Microfilm Rental Program was operated by the National Archives regional office in Ft. Worth, Texas. In 1983, NARA awarded a contract to run the program at no cost to the Government to PMDS, a recently formed, woman-owned small business in Annapolis Junction, MD. Under this contract, NARA provided the microfilm of U.S. Census records through 1910 and later provided microfilm of indexes to Revolutionary War military files, and records of the 1920 and 1930 U.S. Censuses. The most recent addition was approximately 1,100 rolls of microfilm of the state and local office records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands in Record Group 105.

NARA ended the program for two reasons:

- The amount of revenue produced by the rental program no longer supported its administration and management. We learned this when we attempted to extend the contract and learned that the program costs for PMDS's successor company, BrightKey, exceeded revenue.
- In addition, for the last several years, as more genealogical information has become available online, particularly from our partners Ancestry.com and Footnote.com, customer demand for renting these microfilm publications has diminished significantly.

This is yet another example of how technology is changing how we conduct historical research.



**Individual rolls or a complete set (all rolls in a publication) may now be purchased online, or by mail, telephone, fax, or purchase order (federal agencies).** Learn how at [www.archives.gov/research/order/microfilm-pubs.html](http://www.archives.gov/research/order/microfilm-pubs.html).



## New Microfilm Publications

by Claire Prechtel-Kluskens and Rebecca Crawford

The National Archives continues to process accessioned microfilm that provides information about arrivals into the United States and to make available new microfilm publications. Staff recently completed the following National Archives microfilm publications:

These are listed by Record Group (RG) then by microfilm publication number.

**Record Group 85, Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service**

- A3450. *Records of Aliens Pre-Examined at Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada, ca. 1917–ca. 1952, Prior to Admission at the U.S.-Canada Border.* 7 rolls. 16mm.

- A3482. *Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at Toledo, Ohio, August 1929–November 1958.* 28 rolls. 35mm.
- A3478. *Certificates of Identity Issued to U.S. Citizens Pre-examined at Winnipeg, Manitoba, who Entered the United States at Noyes, Minnesota, and Pembina and Walhalla, North Dakota, 1917–1929.* 2 rolls. 16mm.

**Record Group 101, Records of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency**

- C213, *The Freedman's Savings and Trust Company: Letters Received by the Commissioners, 1870–1914, Part 1: Correspondence, Loans, and Bank Books.* 24 rolls.

For a listing of microfilm publications from 2000 to the present, visit [www.archives.gov/genealogy/microfilm/2008.html](http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/microfilm/2008.html). To order publications, see [www.archives.gov/research/order/orderonline.html?microfilm](http://www.archives.gov/research/order/orderonline.html?microfilm).

## 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:

### John Deeben (published):

- "Defending the Southeastern Frontier: Georgia Militia Service in the Old Indian Wars, 1793–1842," *Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly* 45:1 (Spring 2009): 17–33.
- "Enumerating Religion in the Federal Census: The 1926 Census of Religious Bodies," *NGS Magazine* 35:3 (July–September 2009): 46–51.

### Alison Gavin (published):

- "In the King's Service: Hugh Finlay and the Postal System in Colonial America," *Prologue*, Vol. 4, No. 2 (Summer 2009): 6–9.



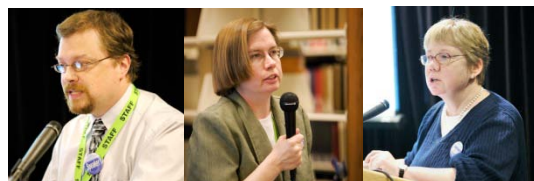
Alison Gavin

### Constance Potter (published):

- "Whatever Happened To . . . Brief History of the Records of the National Archives," *Association of Profession Genealogists Quarterly*, Volume XXIV, Number 2 (June 2009).

### Claire Prechtel-Kluskens (published):

- "Dig Deeper into Less Well Known Revolutionary War Records," *NGS Magazine*, Vol. 35, No. 2 (April–June 2009): 52–55.



John Deeben Claire Prechtel-Kluskens Constance Potter

Photos by Earl MacDonald

FROM THE

**ALIC**

# Archives Library Information Center

## New Civil War Books in ALIC

by Randall Fortson

The Archives Library Information Center (ALIC) is more than a traditional library. Recognizing that our customers no longer expect to work exclusively within the walls of a library, ALIC provides web pages that are designed to supply convenient access to content beyond the physical holdings of our two traditional libraries.

ALIC provides access to information on American history and government, archival administration, information management, and government documents to staff, archives and records management professionals, and the general public.

Our physical library locations are in the National Archives Buildings in Washington, DC, and College Park, MD.

[www.archives.gov/research/alic/visit/index.html](http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/visit/index.html)



Photo by Andrea B. Matney

Archives II Library, College Park, MD

The following books related to the Civil War were recently acquired by the Archives Library Information Center **collection at the National Archives at College Park, MD.**

- ***The Cherokee Nation in the Civil War***  
by Clarissa W. Confer  
Confer illustrates how the Cherokee Nation, with its sovereign status and distinct culture, had a wartime experience unlike that of any other group of people—and suffered perhaps the greatest losses of land, population, and sovereignty.  
Call Number E99.C5 C713 2007
- ***The Last Lincoln Conspirator: John Surratt's Flight from the Gallows***  
by Andrew C. A. Jampoler  
Jampoler traces the remarkable journey and the bitter legal proceedings against Surratt that bizarrely led to his freedom.  
Call Number E457.5.S972 J36 2008
- ***The Wanderer: The Last American Slave Ship and the Conspiracy That Set Its Sails***  
by Erik Calonius  
Calonius details the history of the black-market slave trade that persisted after the United States outlawed the importation of slaves in 1808.  
Call Number E438.C35 2006
- ***Encyclopedia of Civil War Shipwrecks***  
by W. Craig Gaines  
An essential reference work for Civil War scholars and buffs, archaeologists, divers, and aficionados of naval history.  
Call Number REF E591.G35 2008
- ***The Lincoln Assassination Conspirators: Their Confinement and Execution, as Recorded in the Letterbook of John Frederick Hartranft***  
edited by Harold Holzer and Edward, Jr. Steers  
Hartranft recounts the arrival of each prisoner and describes the prison routine.  
Call Number E457.5.L73 2009
- ***Lincoln and His Admirals***  
by Craig L. Symonds  
Craig Symonds, professor emeritus of history at the Naval Academy, examines the relationship between Lincoln and his naval leaders.  
Call Number E457.2.S94 2008
- ***Blue & Gray Navies: The Civil War Afloat***  
by Spencer C. Tucker  
Using recent scholarship, official records, and the memoirs of participants, Tucker examines the important roles played by the Union and Confederate navies during the Civil War.  
Call Number E591.T825 2006
- ***Camp Chase and the Evolution of Union Prison Policy***  
by Roger Pickenpaugh  
Pickenpaugh examines a major Union POW camp, which also served at various times as a Union military training facility and as quarters for Union soldiers who had been taken prisoner by the Confederacy and released on parole or exchanged.  
Call Number E616.C4 P53 2007
- ***Act of Justice***  
by Burrus M. Carnahan  
Carnahan contends Lincoln was no reluctant emancipator, authoring instead a truly radical document that treated Confederate slaves as an oppressed people rather than merely as enemy property.  
Call Number E453.C375 2007

Access to Archival Databases (AAD)



Enemy Base Area File (BASFA)

by Lynn Goodsell

The National Archives has added the Enemy Base Area File (BASFA) from the Vietnam War Operations Analysis (OPSANAL) System to the Access to Archival Databases (AAD) online resource. BASFA contains records that define enemy base area locations in South and North Vietnam on a monthly basis, and identify the current status of the base and actions taken against the base. Up to nine boundaries of each base are defined using Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates, allowing for the possibility to map out the location and dimensions of the base.

With these records, one can also trace, over time, the general actions taken against enemy bases, such as combat sweeps or reconnaissance missions, and whether the base was considered active, neutralized, or inactive.

BASFA, along with other electronic records series related to the Vietnam War, is available online for searching and viewing at [www.archives.gov/aad](http://www.archives.gov/aad).

Please contact the electronic records staff at [cer@nara.gov](mailto:cer@nara.gov) with any questions about AAD.



Upcoming *Know Your Records* Presentation

on Access to Archival Database (AAD) and Archival resource Catalog (ARC)

**TUESDAY**  
 January 12, 2010, 11 a.m.  
 Room G-24, Research Center  
 (Enter on Pennsylvania Avenue)

**THURSDAY**  
 January 14, 2010, 11 a.m.  
 Lecture Room B, Archives II  
 College Park, MD

**National Archives Online Resources at AAD and ARC**

Learn how to search online records on the National Archives' Access to Archival Databases (AAD) and Archival Resource Catalog (ARC). Lynn Goodsell and Rebecca Warlow will demonstrate how to use these online resources and the types of records available, such as archived databases and computerized records as well as selected historical documents, photographs, and images.



Lynn Goodsell

Photo courtesy of Lynn Goodsell



Rebecca Warlow

Photo by Andrea B. Matney



# Archival Research Catalog

by Kristen Albrittain



## Social Media

Over the past few months, the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) presence online has grown significantly, with several new social media and outreach initiatives under way. We are excited to announce that researchers, staff, and members of the public can now stay up-to-date with NARA events and research opportunities by visiting our new blog, **NARAtions**, as well as our web pages on **Flickr** and **Facebook**. If you have any questions, comments, or ideas about NARA's work with social media, please feel free to contact us at [socialmedia@nara.gov](mailto:socialmedia@nara.gov).



**NARAtions Blog:** We hope that you will share your own experiences, ideas, and questions about online historical research on *NARAtions*. Our plan is to post periodic discussion questions to get talk on what you like about online public access catalogs and where you think there is room for improvement. The ideas generated so far are great, and we look forward to keeping the discussion going! Visit the National Archives blog at <http://blogs.archives.gov/online-public-access/>.

**Facebook:** If you are already on Facebook, come visit NARA's new research page. On this page you can find links to our Flickr photostream, download *The Buzz* newsletter, view images and descriptions of highlighted ARC records, and pick up online research tips. While there, ensure that you will always get the latest news as soon as it's posted by becoming a fan! Visit the National Archives on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/pages/Research-at-the-US-National-Archives/129424269765](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Research-at-the-US-National-Archives/129424269765).

**Flickr:** Visitors are encouraged to share their knowledge, insights, and experience by adding tags and comments to the growing number of NARA images on the photo-sharing web site, **Flickr**. So far, the pilot project includes over 2,000 photographs from the Women's Bureau, the Environmental Protection Agency's DOCUMERICA project, historic images of NARA events and staff, a variety of "NARA Favorites," and, thanks to a suggestion sent in by a *NARAtions* reader, a set highlighting Americans at work in honor of Labor Day. All posted images include corresponding metadata and links to their online catalog descriptions in ARC. While these images make up only a small percentage of our more than 25 million photographs, we are enthusiastic about reaching out to new audiences as well as providing experienced researchers with a fresh perspective on access to the National Archives. Visit the National Archives on Flickr at [www.flickr.com/usnationalarchives/](http://www.flickr.com/usnationalarchives/)

Digital Project Update

## Partnerships Result in Major Holdings Online

by Cynthia G. Fox

Significant textual collections are now available online through the partnership of the National Archives and Records Administration with Family Search, Footnote.com, National Archives Volunteer Association, National Park Service, and The Generations Network. The collections come from records housed at the National Archives at College Park, MD, and Washington, DC.



### Civil War Widows' Pensions

In 2007, a five-year partnership agreement was announced to digitize case files of approved pension applications of widows of Civil War Union soldiers from the holdings of the National Archives. Since that time, the project has continued to expand the records accessible through online images.

Until this project, these records were available only at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. The widows' pension application files, a rich source of information about ordinary American citizens of the time, include supporting documents such as affidavits, depositions of witnesses, marriage certificates, birth records, death certificates, and pages from family bibles.

To get an idea of the scope of this project, imagine taking 1.28 million widow's certificate case files, individually scanning, correctly indexing, and then placing each online. With help from our partners, the pilot project successfully completed 500,000 images from September 2007 through April 3, 2008. Building on this accomplishment, the digitization process continued, and we now have more than 349,062 images online.

How and who helped to make this project a success? The Civil War Conservation Corps volunteers prepared 881 boxes of pensions for scanning. The National Archives Document Conservation and Special Media Labs prepared and digitized documents too large for the regular camera stand. Family Search volunteers digitized 594 boxes (683,155 images). Footnote.com then indexed and uploaded the online images that are available today.

See the October 2007 press release at [www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2008/nr08-16.html](http://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2008/nr08-16.html).

In addition, approved Navy pension applications for the same time period were digitized from the microfiche and are also available at Footnote.com.

### Southern Claims Commission Case Files

The Southern Claims Commission was established in 1871 to settle the claims of Southerners who remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War. These records contain valuable genealogical information and are among the most heavily researched of all House records. A typical case file contains the following types of records: a form petition; an application to have testimony taken by a special commissioner; a deposition or testimony of the claimant or a witness; a summary report of the Commissioners of Claims; and miscellaneous papers such as oaths, memoranda, and evidential documents. These give information regarding the claimant, the circumstances of the purchase or seizure of goods, and the value of each item.

In a partnership with Footnote.com, records relating to Southerners (both loyal and not so loyal) during the Civil War are now available online. Barred and disallowed southern claims were among the first records Footnote.com converted from microfilm and posted on the Internet. Following that project, allowed claims for Alabama, Georgia, Virginia, and West Virginia were converted and posted.

Allowed claims submitted from the remaining states including Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee were never

microfilmed so are not online at this time. Footnote.com and Family Search has partnered with us to digitize these remaining claim files.

See the January 2007 press release at [www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2007/nr07-41.html](http://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2007/nr07-41.html).

### Death Notices in State Department Records

From the earliest days of the republic, one of the duties of U.S. consular officers was to report to the Department of State the names of U.S. citizens who died within their consular districts. These death reports commonly provide acceptable documentation in the English language for cases in which satisfactory proof of an American death might be very difficult to obtain in any other form.

In partnership with The Generations Network, death reports of American citizens abroad are being published online at Ancestry.com. The reports are part of several series including Records of Death Notices (Index), 1835-55 [entry 848]; Notices of Deaths of U.S. Citizens Abroad 1857-1922 [entry 849]; Death Reports in State Department Decimal File, 1910 to 1962; and Reports of Deaths on American Citizens [Abroad] 1963-74 [entry 5166].

Online access to these records is free to researchers using public access computers at any National Archives facility in the United States.

To learn more about records of deaths of U.S. citizens in foreign countries, see [www.archives.gov/genealogy/vital-records/american-deaths-overseas.html](http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/vital-records/american-deaths-overseas.html).



# Know Your Records!

KYR@nara.gov

The *Know Your Records* program offers opportunities for staff, volunteers, and researchers to learn about National Archives records through lectures, ongoing genealogy programs, workshops, symposia, the annual genealogy fair, a genealogy tutorial, and editions of *Researcher News*.

## SEE OUR OFFERINGS AT

- National Archives *Calendar of Events*:  
[www.archives.gov/calendar](http://www.archives.gov/calendar)
- *Know Your Records* home page:  
[www.archives.gov/dc-metro/know-your-records/](http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/know-your-records/)

### Free

**Lectures** describe National Archives' records; explain how and where to locate the records; and demonstrate how to use the records for research. Each one-hour lecture is delivered twice within the same week:

#### TUESDAYS

National Archives Building  
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20408

#### THURSDAYS

National Archives (Archives II)  
8601 Adelphi Road  
College Park, MD 20740

Most sessions are videotaped and made available for viewing. Please contact us to learn how at [KYR@nara.gov](mailto:KYR@nara.gov).

### Free

**Genealogy programs** include monthly workshops and lectures from our staff archivists with extensive experience in genealogy. We provide lectures on basic genealogical research and techniques and one-on-one assistance. Programs take place each month on the **first and third Wednesdays** and **third Saturday** at the National Archives Building.



Save the date!

April 14 & 15, 2010

The **Annual Genealogy Fair** is held every April at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. The fair is a **free, two-day open house**, with guidance on a wide variety of genealogical research topics.

### Free

The **Annual Genealogy Fair** is held every April at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. The fair is a free, two-day open house, with guidance on a wide variety of genealogical research topics. The **next fair** will take place on April 14 & 15, 2010. **Save the date!**

### Free

The **From the Records Book Group** will meet in Spring 2010 on the third Tuesday of February, March, and May. In order to provide an introduction to the topic of the month's book, we will hold a related program at 11 a.m. before the book group discussion, which begins at noon in the Adams Room, National Archives Building, Washington, DC. *Enter on Constitution Avenue, between 7th and 9th Streets, NW, via the Special Events entrance.* The books may be purchased anywhere; the Archives Shop offers a discount to those who are participating in the book group.

**Symposia** are one- or two-day programs on specific genealogy research topics. Past topics included Hispanic and African American genealogy information and guidance for seasoned professionals and novices alike.

**Genealogy Programs**

Room G-24, Research Center (Enter on Pennsylvania Avenue)

**Free**

**ONGOING GENEALOGY PROGRAMS:**

You are invited to attend genealogy programs taking place each month on the first Wednesday and the third Saturday in Room G-24, Research Center of the National Archives Building, Washington, DC (Enter on Pennsylvania Avenue). *These programs are free and open to all.*

**Introduction to Genealogy**

On the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 11 a.m. and the third Saturdays at 10 a.m., staff archivists present one-hour lectures on basic genealogical research and techniques, including an introduction to census, military, and immigration records.

**"Help! I'm Stuck"**

In the afternoon of the third Saturday each month, an archivist with extensive experience in genealogy and the records of the National Archives will be available to assist with your research questions. Upon arrival, please sign up for a 20-minute appointment in the Research Center.

**November 2009**

Wednesday, November 4, 11 a.m.–Noon	<b>Introduction to Genealogy</b>
Saturday, November 21, 10–11 a.m.	<b>Introduction to Genealogy</b>
Saturday, November 21, Noon–4 p.m.	<b>"Help! I'm Stuck"</b>

**December 2009**

Wednesday, December 2, 11 a.m.–Noon	<b>Introduction to Genealogy</b>
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**January 2010**

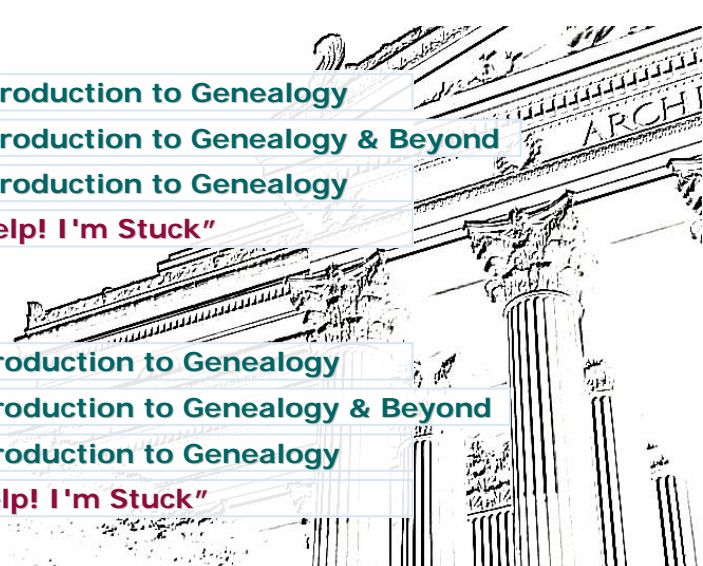
Wednesday, January 6, 11 a.m.–Noon	<b>Introduction to Genealogy</b>
Wednesday, January 20, 11 a.m.–Noon	<b>Introduction to Genealogy &amp; Beyond</b>
Saturday, January 16, 10–11 a.m.	<b>Introduction to Genealogy</b>
Saturday, January 16, Noon–4 p.m.	<b>"Help! I'm Stuck"</b>

**February 2010**

Wednesday, February 3, 11 a.m.–Noon	<b>Introduction to Genealogy</b>
Wednesday, February 17, 11 a.m.–Noon	<b>Introduction to Genealogy &amp; Beyond</b>
Saturday, February 20, 10–11 a.m.	<b>Introduction to Genealogy</b>
Saturday, February 20, Noon–4 p.m.	<b>"Help! I'm Stuck"</b>

**March 2010**

Wednesday, March 3, 11 a.m.–Noon	<b>Introduction to Genealogy</b>
Wednesday, March 17, 11 a.m.–Noon	<b>Introduction to Genealogy &amp; Beyond</b>
Saturday, March 20, 10–11 a.m.	<b>Introduction to Genealogy</b>
Saturday, March 20, Noon–4 p.m.	<b>"Help! I'm Stuck"</b>



## KNOW YOUR RECORDS PROGRAMS

### NOVEMBER 2009

#### TUESDAY

November 10, 2009, 11 a.m.  
Room G-24, Research Center  
(Enter on Pennsylvania Avenue)

#### THURSDAY

November 12, 2009, 11 a.m.  
Lecture Room B, Archives II  
College Park, MD

#### Panoramic Photographs of the Alaskan Frontier, 1911–1932

Richard Schneider, National Archives analyst, will discuss the preservation project to reformat deteriorating nitrate film negatives taken by U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) surveyors and topographers of various Alaskan regions in the early 20th century. The project was completed in 2008, so this will be the first public viewing of these panoramas. The discussion will cover preservation, textual records, cartographic records, and access.

### JANUARY 2010

#### TUESDAY

January 5, 2010, 11 a.m.  
Room G-24, Research Center  
(Enter on Pennsylvania Avenue)

#### THURSDAY

January 7, 2010, 11 a.m.  
Lecture Room B, Archives II  
College Park, MD

#### DOCUMERICA

Jerry Simmons, National Archives archives specialist, discusses his article "DOCUMERICA: Snapshots of Crisis and Cure in the 1970's" featured in the Spring 2009 issue of *Prologue* magazine. In the article, Mr. Simmons, takes us back to the environmental crises of the 1970s and the EPA's photodocumentary project to chronicle changes in the national landscape.

#### TUESDAY

January 12, 2010, 11 a.m.  
Room G-24, Research Center  
(Enter on Pennsylvania Avenue)

#### THURSDAY

January 14, 2010, 11 a.m.  
Lecture Room B, Archives II  
College Park, MD

#### National Archives Online Resources at AAD and ARC

Learn how to search online records on the National Archives Access to Archival Databases (AAD) and Archival Resource Catalog (ARC). Lynn Goodsell and Rebecca Warlow will demonstrate how to use these online resources and the types of records available, such as archived databases and computerized records, as well as selected historical documents, photographs, and images.

#### TUESDAY

January 19, 2010, 11 a.m.  
Room G-24, Research Center  
(Enter on Pennsylvania Avenue)

#### THURSDAY

January 21, 2010, 11 a.m.  
Lecture Room B, Archives II  
College Park, MD

#### National Archives Records on Footnote.com

Laura Prescott from Footnote.com will discuss National Archives records recently scanned and published online through the partnership between the National Archives, Family Search, and Footnote.com.

#### TUESDAY

January 26, 2010, 11 a.m.  
Room G-24, Research Center  
(Enter on Pennsylvania Avenue)

#### THURSDAY

January 28, 2010, 11 a.m.  
Lecture Room B, Archives II  
College Park, MD

#### Patent Records

Ashley Bucciferro, archivist at the National Archives, discusses some of the more famous patent records held at the National Archives in recognition of the 130th anniversary of Thomas Edison's light bulb patent.

**FEBRUARY 2010**

■ **TUESDAY**  
 February 2, 2010, 11 a.m.  
 Room G-24, Research Center  
 (Enter on Pennsylvania Avenue)

**THURSDAY**  
 February 4, 2010, 11 a.m.  
 Lecture Room B, Archives II  
 College Park, MD

**Declassified Records**

Neil Carmichael, National Archives supervisory archivist for the Initial Processing and Declassification Division, will discuss the lifecycle of classified national security information from creation through the declassification process within the executive branch of the Federal Government.

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■ **TUESDAY**  
 February 9, 2010, 11 a.m.  
 Room G-24, Research Center  
 (Enter on Pennsylvania Avenue)

**THURSDAY**  
 February 11, 2010, 11 a.m.  
 Lecture Room B, Archives II  
 College Park, MD

**African American Genealogy on Ancestry.com**

Sabrina Petersen, Business Operations Manager from Ancestry.com, will discuss African American genealogy resources available in Ancestry.com from National Archives records.

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■ **TUESDAY**  
 February 16, 2010, 11 a.m.  
 Room G-24, Research Center  
 (Enter on Pennsylvania Avenue)

**THURSDAY**  
 February 18, 2010, 11 a.m.  
 Lecture Room B, Archives II  
 College Park, MD

**“Face to Face with History” – African American Civil War Surgeons**

Jill L. Newmark, exhibition specialist and registrar in the History of Medicine Division at the National Library of Medicine, discusses her article “Face to Face with History” in the Fall 2009 issue of *Prologue* magazine. In the article, Ms. Newmark shares her discovery of William P. Powell, Jr.’s story as an African American surgeon during the Civil War and how National Archives records provide a glimpse into a rarely studied part of history.

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■ **TUESDAY**  
 February 23, 2010, 11 a.m.  
 Adams Room, Archives I  
 (Enter on Pennsylvania Avenue)

**THURSDAY**  
 February 25, 2010, 11 a.m.  
 Lecture Room B, Archives II  
 College Park, MD

**George Washington in the Records**

In celebration of George Washington’s birthday, Timothy Duskin, National Archives archives technician, will explore the many records held at the National Archives on the first President of the United States. On Tuesday, February 23, please stay in the Adams Room for a noontime discussion on the book *The Valley Forge Winter: Civilians and Soldiers in War* by Wayne K. Bodle.

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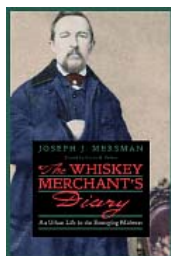
**From The Records Book Group and Lectures** **Free**



In order to provide an introduction to the topic of the month's book, we hold a related program at 11 a.m. before the book group discussion, which begins at noon.

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

**2009 WINTER SCHEDULE**



**Tuesday, November 17, 2009**

Room G-24, Research Center (Enter on Pennsylvania Avenue)

**11 a.m. – Pre-Program**

**Noon – Discussion**

Carolyn Gilliam, National Archives reference librarian, will lead a discussion on *The Whiskey Merchant's Diary: An Urban Life in the Emerging Midwest* by Joseph J. Mersman (edited by Linda A. Fisher).

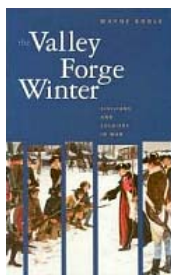
Joseph J. Mersman was a liquor merchant, a German American immigrant who aspired—with success—to become a self-made man. The diary he kept from 1847 to 1864 provides an intriguing account of life in Cincinnati and St. Louis—America's emerging frontier. Outside of Gold Rush diaries and emigration journals, few narrative records of the antebellum period have been published. As a record of both the man and the time in which he lived, *The Whiskey Merchant's Diary* is a valuable resource for social historians, providing significant details about bachelorhood, whiskey making, ballroom dancing, circus history, card games, steamboat transportation, gender roles, theater history, and Victorian etiquette. The diary is also the story of a man who confronted serious disease, and his descriptions of cholera and syphilis are exceptional. The late Linda A. Fisher was a public health physician and a trained documentary editor.

**2010 SPRING SCHEDULE**



Starting in 2010, the book group will take place in a room where we can have refreshments during the program. Please join us in the Adams Room, National Archives Building, Washington, DC. Use the Special Events entrance on Constitution Avenue between 7th and 9th Streets, NW.

This is a lunchtime program, so bring your refreshments to enjoy during the program starting at 11 a.m. with a related presentation followed by a noon book discussion.



**Tuesday, February 23, 2010**

National Archives Building, Washington, DC, Adams Room. Use Special Events entrance on Constitution Avenue between 7th and 9th Streets, NW.

**11 a.m. – Pre-Program**

**George Washington in the Records**

In celebration of George Washington's birthday, Timothy Duskin, National Archives archives technician, will explore the many records held at the National Archives on the first President of the United States.

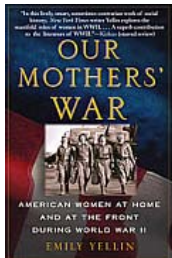
**Noon – Discussion**

In celebration of George Washington's birthday, we will discuss *The Valley Forge Winter: Civilians and Soldiers in War* by Wayne K. Bodle.

Bodle presents a very different picture of Valley Forge—one that revises both popular and scholarly perceptions. Far from being set in a wilderness, the Continental Army's quarters were deliberately located in a settled area. And although there was a provisions crisis, Washington overstated the case in order to secure additional support. (A shrewd man, Washington generally succeeded at keeping his army supplied with food, clothing, and munitions. Farmers from the interior provided food that ensured that the army didn't starve.) As for von Steuben's role in training the soldiers, Bodle argues that it was not the decisive factor others have seen in the army's later victories. The freshness of Bodle's approach is that he offers a complete picture of events both inside and outside the camp boundaries. We see what happens when two armies descend on a diverse and divided community. Anything but stoically passive, the Continentals were effective agents on their own behalf and were actively engaged with their civilian hosts and British foes. *The Valley Forge Winter* is an example of the "new military history" at its best—a history that puts war back into its social context.

**From The Records Book Group and Lectures Free**

**2010 SPRING SCHEDULE**



**Tuesday, March 16, 2010**

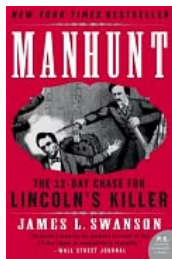
National Archives Building, Washington, DC, Adams Room. Use Special Events entrance on Constitution Avenue between 7th and 9th Streets, NW.

**11 a.m.** – Pre-Program

**Noon** – Discussion

In recognition of Women's History month, we will discuss *Our Mothers' War: American Women at Home and at the Front during World War II* by Emily Yellin.

*Our Mothers' War* is an eye-opening and moving portrait of women during World War II, a war that forever transformed the way women participate in American society. Never before has the vast range of women's experiences during this pivotal era been brought together in one book. Now, *Our Mothers' War* re-creates what American women from all walks of life were doing and thinking, on the home front and abroad. These heartwarming and sometimes heartbreaking accounts of the women we have known as mothers, aunts, and grandmothers reveal facets of their lives that have usually remained unmentioned and unappreciated.



**Tuesday, May 18, 2010**

National Archives Building, Washington, DC, Adams Room. Use Special Events entrance on Constitution Avenue between 7th and 9th Streets, NW.

**11 a.m.** – Pre-Program

**Noon** – Discussion

In recognition of the 145th anniversary since President Lincoln's assassination, we will discuss *Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson.

The murder of Abraham Lincoln set off the greatest manhunt in American history—the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth. From April 14 to April 26, 1865, the assassin led Union cavalry troops on a wild, 12-day chase from the streets of Washington, DC, across the swamps of Maryland, and into the forests of Virginia. *Manhunt* is a fully documented work, but it is also a fascinating tale of murder, intrigue, and betrayal. A gripping hour-by-hour account told through the eyes of the hunted and the hunters, this is history as you've never read it before.



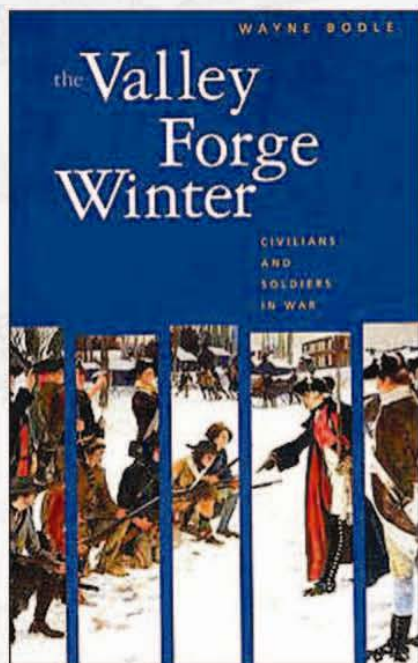
# From the Records Book Group

## 2010 SPRING SCHEDULE

National Archives Building, Washington, DC,  
Adams Room

Use Special Events entrance on Constitution Avenue between 7th and 9th streets, NW  
Lunch Break Program

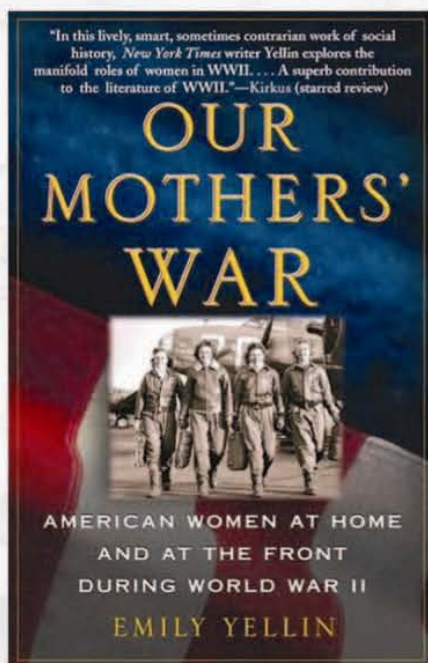
Bring your refreshments to enjoy during the program  
11 a.m. related presentation is followed by a noon book discussion



**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

*In celebration of George Washington's birthday . . .*

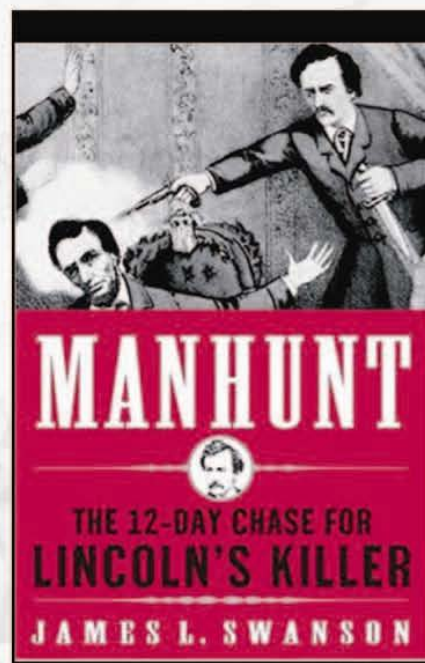
*The Valley Forge Winter:  
Civilians and Soldiers in War*  
by Wayne K. Bodle



**TUESDAY, MARCH 16**

*In observance of Women's History month . . .*

*Our Mothers' War:  
American Women at Home and  
at the Front During World War II*  
by Emily Yellin



**TUESDAY, MAY 18**

*In observance of the 145th anniversary since  
President Lincoln's assassination . . .*

*Manhunt:  
The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer*  
by James L. Swanson

Books are available at the Archives Shop (202-357-5271)  
with a special discount for book group participants.

Contact the Customer Services Division Know Your Records staff at [KYR@nara.gov](mailto:KYR@nara.gov)

Visit us at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)



**CONTACT US**  
at [KYR@NARA.GOV](mailto:KYR@NARA.GOV)

Are you looking for a way to present research work done at the National Archives? The *Know Your Records* program staff would like to hear from you. Through this program, lecturers present programs designed to educate researchers, staff, and volunteers about the various holdings found within the National Archives. You can submit your ideas for a presentation to [KYR@nara.gov](mailto:KYR@nara.gov) or 202-357-5333.

### RESEARCH ROOMS HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

November 2009–March 2010

#### NOVEMBER

- November 25 – Early closure on the day before Thanksgiving at 5 p.m.
- November 26 – Closed on Thanksgiving Day

#### DECEMBER

- December 24 – Early closure on Christmas Eve at 3 p.m.
- December 25 – Closed on Christmas Day
- December 26 – Closed on day after Christmas
- December 31 – Early closure on New Year's Eve at 5 p.m.

#### JANUARY

- January 1 – Closed on New Year's Day
- January 18 – Closed on the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

#### FEBRUARY

- February 15 – Closed on Washington's Birthday Holiday

Cafeteria at Archives I

Cafeteria in Washington, DC



Now Open Saturdays  
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

**NEXT ISSUE:** Look for the Spring Issue  
in March 2010