

National Archives Virtual Genealogy Fair

Tuesday, September 3, 2013

10 A.M.–4 P.M. (EDT)



Session 1:
10 A.M. on 9/3/13

Introduction to Military Records at the National Archives

[Handout](#)

This lecture provides an overview of basic records at the National Archives that document military service from the Revolutionary War to the late 20th century, including Volunteer and Regular service/enlistment records, pension records, draft records, and unit records from World War I to Vietnam.

John Deeben



John P. Deeben is a genealogy archives specialist with the Archives I Research Support Branch (RDC1) at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC. John provides reference assistance, orientations to research, and frequently lectures and writes about Federal records of genealogical interest. He has spoken at conferences of the National Genealogical Society (NGS), the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), Daughters of the American Revolution, the National Institute on Genealogical Research, and the National War of 1812 Symposium. Articles have appeared in numerous genealogical journals and magazines, including *Prologue*, *American Ancestors*, and *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*. He also serves as a board member and Secretary of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic. A native of Sunbury, Pennsylvania, he currently resides in North Beach, Maryland. John holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in American history from Gettysburg College (1987) and The Pennsylvania State University (1990).

Session 2:
11 A.M. on 9/3/13

Introduction to Genealogy: Civilian

[Handout 1](#)
[Handout 2](#)

This lecture provides tips for beginning your genealogical research in Federal records. Topics covered include census and immigration records.

Rebecca K. Sharp



Rebecca Sharp is an archives specialist in the A1 Research Support Branch, Customer Services Division. She specializes in Federal records of genealogical interest. She graduated with departmental honors in history from McDaniel College (established as Western Maryland College).

Session 3:
Noon on 9/3/13

Alien Files (A-Files)

[Handout 1](#)
[Handout 2](#)
[Handout 3](#)

Learn about the Alien Files (A-Files), a rich source of biographical information for family research, and how to complete a successful request. The A-Files contain United States immigration documents generated and collected since the mid-20th century with a wealth of data, including visas, photographs, applications, affidavits, correspondence, and more.

Elizabeth Burnes



Elizabeth Burnes is an archivist for the National Archives at Kansas City who serves as the lead archivist for Alien Files (A-Files) reference. Prior to joining the National Archives staff, she held positions at Harry S Truman National Historic Site, Missouri History Museum, Herman T. Pott National Inland Waterways Library, and Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum. She received a Bachelor's degree in history at Truman State University, and a Master's degree in history and museum studies at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

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Session 4:
1 P.M. on 9/3/13

Native American Records

No Handout

Michael Wright



Learn about the many types of records held at the National Archives that can further your research on Native Americans. Archivist Michael Wright will show you how to find records relating to Native Americans living in Indian Territory including the Dawes Roll and other related documents.

Archivist, National Archives at Fort Worth: Born and raised in the Dallas–Fort Worth area, Michael has been with the National Archives at Fort Worth since 2004. He received his B.A. in history (2008) and his M.A. in American history (2011) from the University of Texas at Arlington. In addition to being the preservation liaison for the region, Michael has worked extensively with NASA, BIA, and Federal Court records. He has presented programs on the National Archives, given countless tours, assisted with teacher in-services and classroom programs, as well as the Citizen Archivist Program.

Session 5:
2 P.M. on 9/3/13

National Archives Online Resources for Genealogy

[Handout](#)

Nancy Wing



Archives specialist Nancy Wing shows you tips on how to navigate archives.gov for your genealogy research in this lecture.

Nancy has worked for the National Archives and Records Administration since 2004 as a librarian in Washington, DC, and an archives specialist at the Regional Archives in Laguna Niguel, California, and downtown Washington, DC. She has a Bachelor's Degree in history and a Master's Degree in library and information science. Nancy completed an internship at the Austrian National Library in Vienna. Her specialty is in records of genealogical interest with an emphasis on Civil War medicine. She thoroughly enjoys using her reference expertise to serve the public and considers good customer service to be of primary importance. She is a California native; San Diego is her permanent home.

Session 6:
3 P.M. on 9/3/13

Citizenship Matters: Bureau of Naturalization Files at the National Archives

[Handout 1](#)
[Handout 2](#)

Zack Wilske



This presentation will use sample files and case studies to introduce researchers to the Bureau of Naturalization Correspondence files at the National Archives. The files document all aspects of citizenship policy from 1906 to 1946 and can provide researchers with in-depth information not found in court naturalization records. In addition to seeing sample cases, participants will receive guidance for exploring the records, including an introduction to two newly accessible indices that have made these previously under-utilized records practical for genealogy research.

Zack Wilske is a historian for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). His research interests include the history of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and the uses of INS records for genealogists. He regularly speaks about immigration and naturalization records and has published several articles on researching with INS records.