

National Archives Virtual Genealogy Fair

Wednesday, September 4, 2013

10 A.M.–5 P.M. (EDT)



Session 7:
10 A.M. on 9/4/13

Genealogy and the Freedman's Bank: Records of the Freedman's Savings & Trust Company

No Handout

If you are seeking freed Afro-American ancestors in the post-Civil War era, this talk is for you. Archivist Damani Davis shows you how the records of the "Freedman's Bank" (the Freedman's Savings & Trust Company, 1865–1874) are a valuable resource.

Damani Davis



Mr. Damani Davis is a reference archivist at the National Archives' Research Services Division in Washington, DC. Since 2005, Damani has lectured at various local, regional, and national genealogical conferences where he focuses on the African American presence in Federal records. He also has published articles in the National Archives quarterly journal, *Prologue*, in which he has highlighted the African American participation in the Revolutionary War, African American migration and search for landownership in the post-Reconstruction era, and slavery and emancipation in Washington, DC. An upcoming article will highlight Federal citizenship records that document the early 20th century immigration of blacks from the British West Indies. A native of Philadelphia, PA, and a veteran of the first Gulf War, Damani pursued his undergraduate studies at Coppin State University in Baltimore, MD, where he received his B.A. in history in 1998. He further pursued his studies at the Ohio State University where he received M.A. in history in 2001.

Session 8:
11 A.M. on 9/4/13

Military and Civilian Personnel Records: The National Archives at St. Louis

[Handout 1](#) [Handout 4](#)
[Handout 2](#) [Handout 5](#)
[Handout 3](#) [Handout 6](#)

Archivists Theresa Fitzgerald and Ashley Mattingly will discuss the military and civilian personnel records maintained at the National Archives located in St. Louis. They will explain what can be found in the personnel files of former military service members and civil servants, how to request reproductions of the records, and the difference between records that are open to the public and those that are not.

Ashley Mattingly &
Theresa Fitzgerald



Both have worked as archivists for NARA for five years. Theresa works with military personnel records and Ashley works with civilian personnel records.

Theresa Fitzgerald Bachelors in History – Oklahoma State University
Masters in History with a Certificate in Museum Studies – University of Missouri, St. Louis.
Before joining the National Archives, she worked as a data entry archivist with the Missouri Historical Society (Richard A. Gephardt Papers).

Ashley Mattingly Bachelors in History – Washington College, Maryland
Masters in Library and Information Science with a focus on Archival Administration – University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg. Before joining the National Archives, she worked for a variety of museums and historical societies as a costumed interpreter, education assistant, archivist, and collections management assistant. She started working for the National Archives as a preservation technician. Ashley is a Certified Archivist under The Academy of Certified Archivists.

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Session 9:
Noon on 9/4/13

Union Civil War Pension Files

[Handout](#)

Pension files for Union Civil War veterans provide valuable information about veterans' service during the war, about their lives, and the lives of their families after the war.

Claire Kluskens



Claire Kluskens is a genealogical projects archivist specializing in immigration, census, military, and other records of high genealogical value. She spearheaded the completion of more than 310 National Archives microfilm publications. She lectures frequently and has published extensively in national, state, and local genealogical publications. Claire has been a National Archives staff member since 1992 and has done genealogical research since 1976.

Session 10:
1 P.M. on 9/4/13

Federal Penitentiary Records

[Handout](#)

The National Archives maintains a large number of federal penitentiary inmate case files. These files can be packed with information providing unsurpassed biographical details on the life of its subject. Those who use prison records in their genealogical research will be rewarded with knowledge absolutely unavailable anywhere else on earth. This session will instruct on what records are available, from Alcatraz to Atlanta, inform on how to locate what inmate files are available, and explain what a researcher can find in these files.

Jake Ersland



Jake joined the permanent staff at the National Archives at Kansas City as an archivist in 2008 after previously working there as a student hire, contractor, and intern. He received both his Bachelor of Arts and Masters in History from Pittsburg State University. Jake oversees holdings maintenance projects, the accessioning of new records, handles reference requests, and writes descriptions of records, as well as performing other miscellaneous duties.

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Session 11:
2 P.M. on 9/4/13

Finding U.S. Colored Troops at the National Archives

No Handout

This talk will focus on records located at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, relating to soldiers who served in the U.S. Colored Troops during the Civil War. The speaker will walk researchers through records relating to black soldiers and will focus heavily on what to look for that is unique in records that are common to other soldiers and veterans such as compiled military service records and pension files. The records relating to service in the U.S. Colored Troops are a rich resource of information that provide information on not only the soldiers who served but also can lead researchers on the path to finding other family members as well. Please join us on September 4 to learn more about this ground breaking group of soldiers, many of them former slaves, who led the way for black soldiers to serve in the U.S. Army following the Civil War and paved the way for the abolishment of slavery and the right to vote.

Trevor K. Plante



Trevor K. Plante is the Chief of Reference at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. He is a supervisory archivist at the National Archives and Records Administration who specializes in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century military records. He is an active lecturer at the National Archives and a frequent contributor to *Prologue*. He compiled Reference Information Paper 109, Military Service Records at the National Archives. His articles have also appeared in *America's Civil War* and *Social Education Magazine*. He has participated as a speaker at national and state genealogical conferences and has spoken at the National Gallery of Art, National Museum of the American Indian, and several Civil War symposiums. He has appeared on the History Channel, the Discovery Channel, and NPR.

Session 12:
3 P.M. on 9/4/13

No Handout

After you've researched the basics of Navy personnel records, see what genealogical nuggets can be gleaned from the logbooks created by the U.S. Navy, and learn about the exciting ways NARA is making these available.

Mark Mollan



Mark C. Mollan is a Navy/Maritime Reference archivist with the National Archives where he has worked for 13 years. He is the author of two articles published in the National Archives publication *PROLOGUE* including, "The Army Medal of Army: The First Fifty Five Years," and "Honoring Our War Dead: The Evolution of the Government Policy on Headstones for Fallen Soldiers and Sailors." He is currently working on two projects including the digital imaging of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard logbooks, as well as developing a website to facilitate access to studying logbooks of all kinds in the holdings of the National Archives.

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

Oh, The Stories They Tell: Chinese Exclusion Acts Case Files at the National Archives & Records Administration

[Handout](#)

Susan Karren



Although the search for a Chinese Exclusion Act Case File may be difficult and challenging, the rewards can be great as these files may contain a treasure trove of information for the family and social historian. While limited to a specific ethnic group, the richness of the records will have everyone scrambling to find a reason to use them.

Sue Karren is the Director of the National Archives at Seattle. She has been with the National Archives for 26 years, 23 of them in Seattle. She has also worked in Washington, DC, and in Chicago. Sue received her M.A. in history from Brigham Young University.