



Genealogical Institute on Federal Records

2025

GEN-FED PROGRAM • AUGUST 10–16, 2025

Zoom Pre-program Release Videos		
<i>Released after final registration</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
10 Aug 2025	Research in Federal Records: Getting to Know Your RG	Rebecca Whitman Koford
	Meet Your New Best Friend: NARA Finding Aids	
	What If I Was There? A Virtual Retrieval Workshop	
10 Aug 2025	Student Orientation with Meet & Greet	7 pm EST @ Hilton
<i>Time</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
Monday, August 11th — ROOM 105 ON MEZZANINE LEVEL		
9:00–9:05	Opening Remarks from Director	Rebecca Whitman Koford
9:05–9:20	Welcome from the Archivist Representative	James Byron, Senior Advisor
9:20–9:30	Welcome from Gen-Fed Alumni President	Gary Zizka
9:30–10:30	A Federal Family Tree: A Case Study of Federal Records	Mary O'Brien Vidlak
10:30–10:40	10-MINUTE BREAK	
10:40–11:50	NARA's Records—Coast to Coast	Trevor K. Plante
11:50–12:40	LUNCH	
12:40–1:00	CLASS PHOTO	
1:00–2:15	Mining Land Entry Records	Angela Packer McGhie
2:15–2:20	5-MINUTE BREAK	
2:20–3:35	Reward for Service: Bounty Land Records	Angela Packer McGhie
3:35–3:45	10-MINUTE BREAK	
3:45–4:45	Decoding the National Archives' Catalog	Claire Kluskens
5:00	BUILDING CLOSES	
6:15–8:30*	Tour of Library of Congress—arrive by 6:15 at Carriage Entrance, enter at 6:30	
Tuesday, August 12th		
9:00–9:15	Opening Remarks from Directors	
9:15–10:30	Underused Sources at the National Archives	Debra Hoffman
10:30–10:35	5-MINUTE BREAK	
10:35–11:50	Introduction to Military Records at NARA	John Deeben
11:50–2:00	LUNCH & RESEARCH TIME	
12:00–1:00*	LEARNING LUNCH—PROGEN STUDY GROUP DISCUSSION	
2:00–3:15	Military Pension Records: Revolution to the Civil War	Rebecca Whitman Koford
3:15–3:20	5-MINUTE BREAK	
3:20–4:45	Military Records of Modern Conflicts: WWI & WWII	Rebecca Whitman Koford
5:00	BUILDING CLOSES	
6:45–8:30*	Tour of Federal Records on the National Mall—meet in hotel lobby, tour leaves at 7:00	

* Events listed with an asterisk are optional.

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Time	Class	Presenter
Wednesday, August 13th		
9:00–9:15	Opening Remarks from Directors	
9:15–10:30	Immigration & Naturalization: Beyond Basics	LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson
10:30–10:40	10-MINUTE BREAK	
10:40–11:40*	How Do I...? Q&A with Archivists	Plante & Kluskens
11:40–2:00	LUNCH & RESEARCH TIME	
12:00–1:15*	LEARNING LUNCH—BCG Board Certification: Your Questions Answered	
2:00–3:15	Still Photography in Federal Records	Archives II Staff
3:15–3:20	5-MINUTE BREAK	
3:20–4:35	Blasting Brick Walls with Legislative Records	Richard G. Sayre
5:00	BUILDING CLOSES	
Thursday, August 14th — COLLEGE PARK NARA, 8601 ADELPHI RD., COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740		
7:45 am	Meet in Hotel Lobby. Depart by Bus at 8:00 am Students travelling locally meet at College Park facility by 9:00 am	
9:15–10:30	Intro to Holdings of Archives II	Archives II Staff
10:30–10:35	5-MINUTE BREAK	
10:35–11:50	Unique Map Holdings of NARA	Richard G. Sayre
11:50–12:00	10-MINUTE BREAK	
12:00–1:00*	Intro to Federal Records on Native Americans	Kenneth Heger
1:00–2:30	LUNCH & RESEARCH TIME	
2:30 BUS	FIRST BUS DEPARTS AT 2:45 for students returning to Archives I	
2:30–4:45	RESEARCH AT COLLEGE PARK	
4:45 BUS	SECOND BUS DEPARTS AT 5:00 to return to hotel	
Friday, August 15th		
9:00–9:15	Opening Remarks from Directors	
9:15–10:30	Researching Enslaved African Americans in Federal Records	LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson
10:30–2:00	LUNCH & RESEARCH TIME	
2:00–3:15	Court Records: Making a Federal Case Out of It	Judy G. Russell
3:15–3:20	5-MINUTE BREAK	
3:20–4:35	Busted, Bankrupt, Banged Up: Stories in Federal Court Records	Judy G. Russell
4:35–4:45	Closing Session & Certificates	
5:00	BUILDING CLOSES	
TBD*	Alumni Reception	
Saturday, August 16th		
10:00–11:40*	Introduction to the DAR Library (DAR)	Olivia Millunzi
11:00–5:00*	RESEARCH TIME AT DAR	

** Events listed with an asterisk are optional.*