

the Record Group

The Volunteer Newsletter of the National Archives at Boston



National Archives and Records Administration at Boston

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Faces of Summer

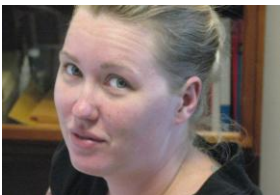
You may have recently seen our four summer staff Lindsay Fulton, Samantha (Sam) Hickson, Lindsey Fresta, and Amanda Zwolsky. All four dedicate their time to processing documents and moving us toward increasing the number of holdings identified in the Archival Research Catalog.

Lindsay Fulton began as a volunteer and soon became part of the staff. As a graduate student at UMass/Boston majoring in Public History, this work has reaffirmed her interest in pursuing a career as an archivist. She learned about NARA when she attended a history talk that Joanie Gearin gave at UMASS.



Her most surprising discovery since starting here was learning that this facility houses Coast Guard data and that we also have some more contemporary documents. Lindsay is thoroughly enjoying her work and says, "I would do this every day, all day, if I could."

Samantha Hickson is a history major, studying at Salem State College. She has worked at NARA for two summers. She processes documents, assists members of the public and does general searches and research. Her favorite of those activities is document processing.



While tending to some at risk documents containing fishing data last summer, Sam happened onto the scrapbook of a biologist who had been invited to the nuclear bomb testing on Bikini Atoll. Pictures of picnics, parties and the nuclear tests were included in the collection.

Sam intends to continue studying toward an archival career; her dream employment would be either at the Johnson Presidential Library (she is a native of Texas), or here in Waltham.

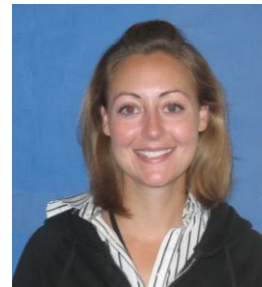
Amanda Zwolsky is a graduate student at Simmons College, working towards a Master's of Library Science. She loves the experience of researching with the original paper documents and seeing them *in situ*.



Amanda is originally from Cleveland, Ohio. Her undergraduate degree is in History and Spanish. She spent

two years teaching English in Spain, where she used to pass the Spanish Archives which holds documents from the time of the Conquistadors. If she could find employment there, it would be ideal! Amanda interned at NARA last fall and has also worked at the JFK library.

Lindsey Fresta is a graduate student at Simmons College working toward a Master's Degree on Archival Studies and History. She has particularly enjoyed examining the Navy photos from WWII, because she has a background in both photography and history.



Originally from Deighton, MA, in her spare time, Lindsey is a runner who just achieved her personal best of 60:47 minutes at the 7.2-mile Falmouth Road Race.

We are thrilled to have these highly qualified and enthusiastic student staff at NARA for the summer.

Census Microfilm Update

As visitors and volunteers at NARA have noticed, some of the microfilm holdings have been removed from the Public Research Room. This is a direct result of reduced use of the resource by the public and their availability online via ancestry.com, footnote.com and heritagequest.com.

All of these commercial programs are available free to the public at this facility.

The census microfilm continues to be available from our Pittsfield annex. For those who need access to the microfilm, it is simple to make a request at our reference desk, and the rolls will be sent to this facility.

Additional microfilm publications that are available online have also been retired from our holdings. And we continue to have a large microfilm publication collection, which is indexed and fully available to the public.

Our volunteers are more important than ever in assisting the public with their research using online resources, microfilm publications, and original records.

**OUR UPCOMING RENOVATION:
Public Meeting August 26th 10 am**

Please join us for a public meeting to learn about our upcoming renovation and to share your ideas.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- AUG** 3 Genealogy Lecture: Census, Passenger Lists, & Naturalization Records, 2 PM.
26 Public Meeting regarding our upcoming building renovation, 10 AM.
- SEPT** 4 No Saturday opening today. We are open Sat. Sept 11th.
6 NARA closed for Labor Day. Re-opens Tuesday, Sept. 7th.
11 NARA is open to the public.
17 National Constitution Day (since 1787). NARA is open.
- OCT** 5 Genealogy Lecture: Saving Your Heritage – Scrap Booking with Marcia Melnyk , 2 PM.
11 NARA closed for Columbus Day. Re-opens Tuesday, October 12, 2010.
- NOV** 4 Genealogy Lecture: Finding Local Civil War Ancestors in the Records of the Provost Marshall General’s Bureau, 2 PM.
11 NARA closed for Veterans’ Day. Re-opens Friday, Nov 12, 2010.

Meet the Archives Staff Horace Waters

For the past nine years, Horace Waters has worked at the National Archives at Boston. Unlike many of the full-time employees here, his background has nothing to do with history, archives or library science.

Horace’s past jobs have included document management, technical writing, management training, and during his three years in the army he was in the military police. He holds degrees in electrical engineering and biology and is a graduate of MIT. And Horace is an aficionado of folk music, having rubbed elbows with folk music’s greats during his years running a coffee house in western Massachusetts. (He shares a birthday with singer Taj Mahal!)

Perhaps because he grew up on Martha’s Vineyard, Horace’s primary interest at NARA is in the New England Maritime Records. The record group that most intrigues him is RG36 (Customs Records), because of the scope of the records it contains. There are shipping records, crew lists, passenger manifests, and much more!

Horace’s favorite document is the country’s first naturalization record from 1790 for Mr. Benjamin Lee—one of his ancestors acted as a witness.

Horace says that when pursuing research at NARA, as in so many endeavors, always remember to heed the basic rule of research: never give up!

See us at
www.facebook.com/nationalarchivesboston

For the Record

In April, May, June, and July, we had 22 active volunteers. Our volunteers contributed about 750 combined hours to the National Archives.

Look what we found!



While assessing and preparing documents for offsite storage, Horace Waters came across a large set of sheet music from various copyright cases. This one we particularly liked. The case is Skidmore Music v Hayes, Civil Action #630, Civil Action Case Files, RG 21.

The National Archives regional offices have new logos. Here's ours.

