

2021 Genealogy Series

Welcome!



The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is pleased to present this educational series of lectures on how to do family research. As one of the nation's premier genealogy institutions, it is our mission to inform the public about the National Archives' holdings that relate to family history and to make those holdings available.



About the Lecture Series



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GENEALOGY SER

Lectures demonstrate how to use federal records and other resources for genealogical research for beginning to experienced family historians. Our presenters include experts from the National Archives nationwide representing our facilities in College Park, MD; Denver, CO; New York City, NY; St. Louis, MO; and Washington, DC.



Join the conversation!



2021

ENEALOGY

Participate with the presenters and other family historians during the live event.

Live Chat on YouTube: log in and type your questions and comments



Join us at @USNatArchives on Twitter #GenieSeries2021





May Schedule





Date	Session Title	Presenter
Tuesday, May 4 1 p.m. ET	Preserving and Digitizing Personal Photo Albums and Scrapbooks	Sara Holmes Conservator in Preservation Programs National Archives at St. Louis, MO Noah Durham
		Supervisory Preservation Specialist National Archives at St. Louis, MO
Wednesday, May 12 1 p.m. ET	Finding Genealogy Resources and Tools on Archives.gov	Sarah Swanson Website Liaison National Archives at College Park, MD
Wednesday, May 19	Tips and Tools for Engaging Family	Missy McNatt
1 p.m. ET	with Your Research Finds	Education Specialist National Archives in Washington, DC
		Dorothy Dougherty
		Virtual Public Programs Director National Archives at New York City, NY



June Schedule



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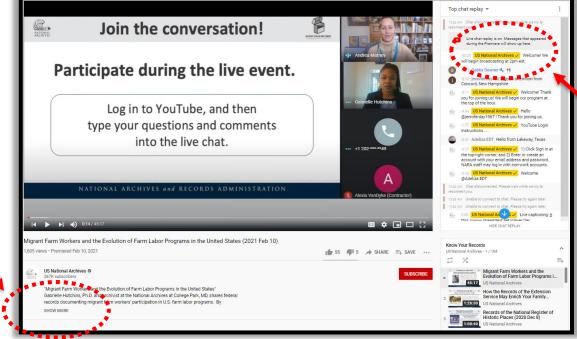
Date	Session Title	Presenter
Tuesday, June 1 1 p.m. ET	From Here to There: Researching Office of Indian Affairs Employees	Cara Moore Lebonick Reference Archives Specialist National Archives at St. Louis, MO Cody White Archivist and Native American Related Records Subject Matter Expert National Archives at Denver, CO
Tuesday, June 8 1 p.m. ET	Civil War Union Noncombatant Personnel: Teamsters, Laundresses, Nurses, Sutlers, and more	Claire Kluskens Genealogy/Census Subject Matter Expert and Digital Projects Archivist National Archives in Washington, DC
Tuesday, June 15 1 p.m. ET	Merchant Marine Records at The National Archives at St. Louis	Theresa Fitzgerald Director National Archives at St. Louis, MO



Chat, Captioning, Handout & Event Evaluation

Show More

- captioning
- handout
- evaluation



After the broadcast, the video presentation and handout will remain available.

Chat - log in to

- participate
- ask questions



Merchant Marine Records at the National Archives at St. Louis



2021 G

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Theresa Fitzgerald will introduce you to the core collection of Merchant Marine Licensing Files, which were recently accessioned and are now open to the public for the first time at the National Archives at St. Louis. She will go over our auxiliary collections of Merchant Marine records that are complex and closely connected.



Presenter Biography





Theresa Fitzgerald

Director

National Archives at

St. Louis, MO

Theresa Fitzgerald joined NARA in 2007 as a temporary student employee with the National Archives at St. Louis. Her position then transitioned to the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP), and she became a permanent archives technician upon completion of her education. Theresa was selected as an archivist under the Archivist Development Program (ADP) in 2010. She then became the reference supervisor for the National Archives in St. Louis in 2015 and was selected as the Chief of Archival Operations and Director of the National Archives at St. Louis in 2018.





Merchant Marine Records at The National Archives at St. Louis

June 15, 2021

Theresa Fitzgerald

Formatting credit to: Corey Stewart



Merchant Marine Records History/Background

The Shipping Act of 1916 established the U.S. Shipping Board, the first federal agency tasked with promoting a U.S. Merchant Marine and regulating U.S. commercial shipping.

- Enacted in part because of the severe disruptions in shipping caused by World War I.
- Specifically established the Shipping Board "for the purpose of encouraging, developing, and creating a naval auxiliary and naval reserve and a Merchant Marine, to meet the requirements of the commerce of the United States with its Territories and possessions and with foreign countries; to regulate carriers by water engaged in the foreign and interstate commerce of the United States."

www.maritime.dot.gov/outreach/history/short-history-maritime-administration



Merchant Marine Records History/Background

August 10, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt abolished the USSB and created the interim United States Shipping Board Bureau (USSBB) within the Department of Commerce.

 Roosevelt preferred that the regulation of U.S. shipping remain under partial control of a cabinet department.

Merchant Marine Act of 1936

- Replaced the USSBB with the independent regulatory body, the U.S. Maritime Commission.
- Referred to as the "Magna Carta of American Shipping." As part of the New Deal, it intended to revitalize U.S. merchant shipping and strengthen the nation's national defense.
- Created the United States Maritime Service (USMS), the organization responsible for mariner training.



Merchant Marine Records History/Background WWII

February 7, 1942, President Roosevelt created the War Shipping Administration (WSA)

 To handle the operational demands that World War II placed upon the Maritime Commission.

Between 1939 and 1945, the Maritime Commission:

- Built 5,171 ships of over 2,000 gross registered tons.
- Oversaw the construction of the more modern "Victory" type cargo ships, tankers, combination passenger/cargo ships, tugs, barges, and military auxiliary vessels.
- The Maritime Commission used a variety of training programs to produce 262,474 mariners.



Merchant Marine Records History/Background Post WWII

1946, Congress abolished the WSA, and its responsibilities reverted to the Commission.

May 24, 1950, Congress created the Maritime Administration and Federal Maritime Board (FMB) to replace the Maritime Commission.

- MARAD maintained all U.S. merchant shipping promotional programs and the NDRF
- FMB took on a regulatory role.

1961 Congress implemented Reorganization Plan No. 7

- FMB renamed the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC)
- Responsible for regulating U.S. international maritime shipping.



Merchant Marine Licensing Files, RG 26



RG 26: Merchant Marine Personnel and Licensing Records, 1967 and prior

Series consists of individual files that document the service of merchant seamen licensed by the United States in 1967 or prior.

- Files consists of an envelope/jacket providing:
 - Seaman's name and address
 - Place and date of birth
 - License numbers
- Also contains:
 - Vessels served on, seaman's status, certification of identification number ("Z" number), continuous discharge book number, date and place issued, dates of renewal, as well as other certifications
- The record may contain:
 - Applications, certifications, licenses, correspondence, photographs, birth certificates, and documents related to union membership



Benefits

National Maritime Center will issue benefits from the following records series:

- Merchant Marine Licensing Files
- Deceased Merchant Marine Licensing Files
- Officer Licenses

The Coast Guard National Maritime Center is the approving official for World War II Merchant Marine separation documents. United States Merchant Mariners who served in ocean-going service during December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, are considered "active duty" under the provisions of Public Laws 95-202 and 105-368. To determine eligibility for a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, DD Form 214, or a Report of Casualty, DD Form 1300, please refer to the National Maritime Center (NMC) website.



RG 26, Merchant Marine Licensing Files: Avery, Kenneth

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	Mrs. Lucile M. Avery Address of Next of KIN						
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RG 26, Merchant Marine Licensing Files: Avery, Kenneth (continued)

(To be administered) hereby swear (or affirm) that all the statements on this application are true and correct to the	ATH d by issuing officee) e best of my knowledge and belief; that I have never received from the United States Government hat I will faithfully and honestly perform all the duties required of me by law and carry off the
lawful orders of my superior officers on shipboard.	19 1945, 19, at Los Angeles, Calif.
-Subscribed and sweet-ite, Gallifirmed) before me this day of	내용하다 전봇을 마음하면서 경우들이 하는 것이 없는 것이 되는 생각이 없는데, 그는 그 가는 바람이 하지 않는데, 이렇게 다 살아 다른데 그렇게 되었다.
I have accordingly issued the documents listed below.	(Stenuture again title of Issuing The Colling (ACTE) MERCHANT MARINE
	(ACTG.) MERCHANT MARINE INSPECTOR IN CHARGE
I have this day examined the physical condition of Avely H.	And have found him competent
for the rating of	Daniel J. Daley, M.D.
	(Surgeon, U. S. Public Health Service)
	ATE ISSUED write in this space)
1. Continuous discharge book No	5. Certificate of service as Able Seaman No.
2. Certificate of identification No. 3 609 916	for the waters of
3. Certificate of efficiency as lifeboat man No	
4. Certificate as tankerman No.	7. Certificate of service as Ordinant Scamer No. 8619194
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NAVGG-719-B REV, 7-44 (BACK)	10—0002-1 BL-E-SOVERMENT PRINTING OFFICE



RG 26, Merchant Marine Licensing Files, Avery, Kenneth (continued)

FORWARD THIS COPY TO HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES COAST GUARD	Name of Seaman American R. Charles
Certificate of Discharge	Citizenship 11 & 12 Certificate of Identification No. z 609916
2/ house A/R/	Rating O, S.
(Signature of Seaman)	Date of Shipment (Capacity in which employed)
Z 2.6 Voolo M (Master of Vessel)	Place of Shipment Jan Cicho Cal.
(Master of Vessel) I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above entries were made by me and are correct and that the signatures hereto were witnessed by me.	Date of Discharge
Doted this 25 days well with	Place of Discharge Corthan II ora
Bated tills day of the state of	Name of Ship Sindair Publisher
United States Shipping Commissioner. On Master of Vessel) NOTE — Whenever a master performs the duties of the shipping	Official No. 340993 Class of Vessel Sham
commissioner under this act, the master shall sign the certification on the line designated for the shipping commissioner's signature.	Nature of Voyage (Steam, Motor, Sail or Barge)
	Nature of Voyage (Foreign, Intercoastal or Coastwise

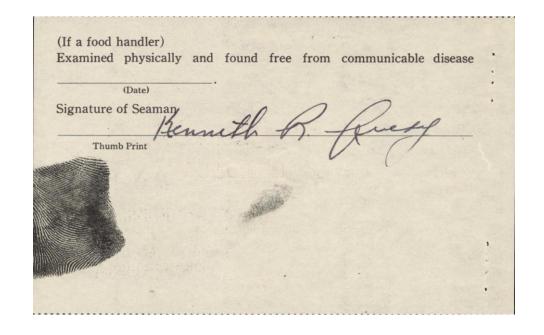


RG 26 Merchant Marine Licensing Files, Avery, Kenneth (continued)

	NAVCG 884 NAVCG 884 RECORD OF CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE ISSUED TO SEAMAN
	Name Kenneth R. avery Department Decks Address 917 Park ave. Affermentor Citizen of U.S.A. Native, naturalized or alien
	Date of Birth Mov. 30,19 Thace of Birth Moshing Tow Serial number of certificate E619184 MAY 99 1945
•	Issued by Officer in charge, Marine Inspection at (ACTG.) MERCHANT MARINE
,	(To be forwarded to Bureau) Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection



RG 26, Merchant Marine Licensing Files, Avery, Kenneth (continued)





RG 26, Merchant Marine Licensing Files, Avery, Kenneth (continued)

Certificate of Identification No. 2-609 916	
Continuous Discharge Book No.	
Port of Issue Los Angeles, Calif.	
Date of Issue 5-19-45	
Date of Birth 11-30-21	
Place of Birth Remerton, Wash.	

Name of SeamanAddress917 Park		THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE	1936 1941 1946	1937 1942 1947	1938 1948 1953	1939 1944 1949 1954	1945 1950	Certificate of Identification No. 2-609 916 Continuous Discharge Book No. Port of Issue Los Angeles, Calif. Date of Issue 5-29-45 Date of Birth 11-20-21 Place of Birth Bremerton, Wash.
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Deceased War Casualty Seaman's Records, RG 26



Deceased and War Casualty Merchant Seamen's Records (continued)

Series consists of individual files that document the service of merchant seamen licensed by the U.S. who died during the period 1937–1950, many as a result of enemy action during World War II.

- Files consists of an envelope/jacket providing:
 - Seaman's name and address
 - Place and date of birth
 - Date of death
- If the loss was due to war casualty, the name of vessel, date lost, and seaman status (missing, deceased) is noted.
- Also contains:
 - Identification number ("Z" number), continuous discharge book number, date and place issued, dates of renewal, as well as other certifications, applications, licenses, and correspondence relating to the circumstance of death and notification of next of kin
- The record may contain:
 - Photographs and documents related to union membership



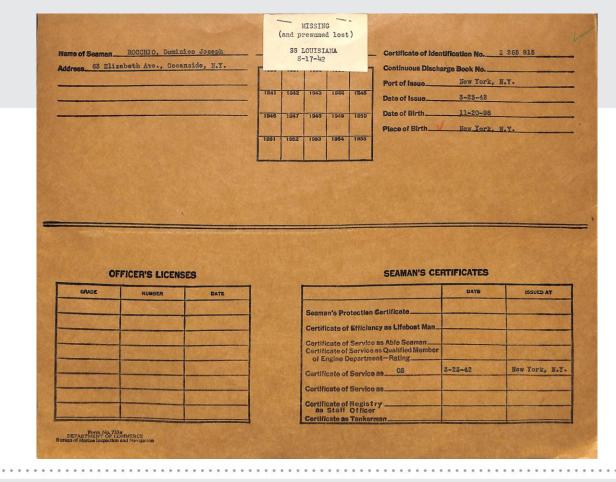
Deceased and War Casualty Merchant Seamen's Records (continued)

- The Coast Guard National Maritime Center is the approving official for World War II Merchant Marine separation documents. United States Merchant Mariners who served in ocean-going service during December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, are considered "active duty" under the provisions of Public Laws 95-202 and 105-368. To determine eligibility for a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, DD Form 214, or a Report of Casualty, DD Form 1300, please refer to NMC's website.
- Section 401 of Public Law 95-202, The GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977, authorized the Secretary of Defense to determine whether the service of members of civilian or contractual groups should be considered active duty for the purposes of all laws administered by the Veterans Affairs (VA).

NATIONAL ARCHIVES, RESEARCH SERVICES



RG 26, Deceased War Casualty Seaman's Records, Rocchio, Dominico





Records of Licenses Issued to Merchant Marine Officers, RG 26



Records of Licenses Issued to Merchant Marine Officers, 1910–1946

- Forms contain the following information:
 - Seaman's name and address
 - Place and date of birth
 - Place and date license issued
- If naturalized, date, place, and court of naturalization are shown
- Also provides:
 - Type of license (first assistant engineer, chief engineer, second mate, first mate, master, pilot, or motor vessel operator)
 - Type of waters for which the license is valid (lakes, bays, sounds, rivers, or oceans)
- The card may contain:
 - Licenses renewals or increases in rank



RG 26, Licenses Issued to Merchant Marine Officers, Billings, Daniel





RG 26, Licenses Issued to Merchant Marine Officers, Billings, Daniel (continued)





RG 26, Licenses Issued to Merchant Marine Officers, Billings, Daniel (continued)





Merchant Marine Enrollee Files, RG 146



Merchant Marine Enrollee Files

Records of the Civil Service Commission, RG 146

- 1940; a training division was created within the U.S. Maritime Commission.
- February 28, 1942; this division was transferred to the U.S. Coast Guard.
- July 11, 1942; the training functions were transferred to the Training Organization of the War Shipping Administration.
 - With the increased need for experienced seamen, training for both licensed and unlicensed seamen was planned.
 - Three types of schools were operated: Merchant Marine Cadet Corps Division, Merchant Marine Service Division, and the State Maritime Academies Division.
- 1946; with the termination of the War Shipping Administration, the Division of Training was reestablished in the US Maritime Commission.
 - Later became the Division of Maritime Training and Office of Maritime Training.
 - Currently all maritime training is under the US Merchant Marine Academy.



Employment Records

The National Archives at St. Louis holds records for the Training Organization—U.S. Maritime Commission

- Civil service employees in the various administrative offices. Records date to 1952
- Most of the staff at the schools, including instructors, as well as those in training (students, cadets, seamen, etc.) were not civil service appointees. They were "Trainee Enrollees," with instructors and supervisory personnel called

"Administrative Enrollees." Their records date 1938–1955

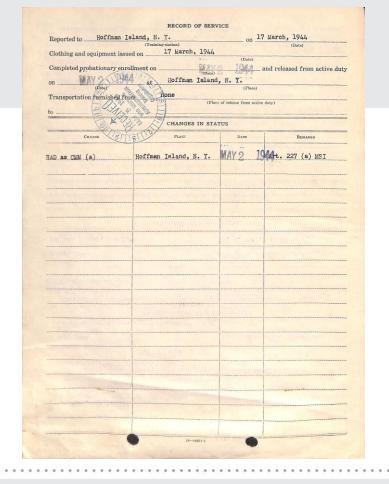


RG 146, Merchant Marine Enrollee Files, Bridges, Lee

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Residence 478	name) Flo	(Given name)	(Middle	name) Atlanta	Georgia (Years)
(Number	er Georgia	(Street)	(City or	of birth Ju	me 14, 1909
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				(Place)	(Date)
Race White	Marit	tal status Mar	ried	Depende	nts (2), Wife & Chi
Name and address of ne	arest relative:	Mrs. Nellie	Loza Bridges	The state of the s	
		Misex	10770 CA 1	(Name)	
	ationship)		Same (Address)	
Military service: Yes	Nor	ne X			
Previous enrollment, M	aritime Service	e: Yes	Date of enro	llment	None X
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RG 146, Merchant Marine Enrollee Files, Bridges, Lee (continued)



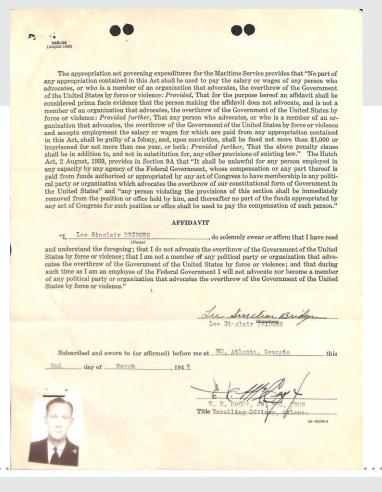


RG 146, Merchant Marine Enrollee Files, Bridges, Lee (continued)

	PROMOTION IN TH			CE
			Manual 773	1-
		Date _	March 31	, 19_45_
From: BRIDGES	Lee (First pan			liar
		ne)	(Middle	name)
To: The Commandant, U. S. Maritin	ie Service.			Mean
Via: Official channels.				
I hereby make application for pron mation, which I certify to be full and co				following infor-
1. Official address 1478 Florida A	venue, S.E., Atl	anta, Geor	gia	
2. Mailing address Same				
7	71 011			
3. Date of birth June 14, 1909	Place of bir	tnbasser	, veorgia	
4. If ever known by any other name (s), list None			
5. Present rank in the U.S. M. S. Mai	rrant Machinist	U. S.	M. S. Service No.	4401-00711
6. Date of last physical examination	in the U.S.M.S.	ecember 2	1944	0
7. Present license or certificate:				
7 %.				
3rd Assistant Engineer A	Any mage or hp.)	Ocean (Waters)	A-3251	Serial number)
(Issue number)	avannah, Georgia (Pert)	on	(Date)	, 19 111
8. Present vessel SS Lawrence J. (Name)	Gallagher (Official number)	Present po	sition Third As	sistant Enginee
9. Reason for request for promotion	Hold Third Assist		(Give full detail	s) (Service must be
one half months sea time from substantiated by letters from employers)		A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR		
the same capacity. Also prese	ently assigned as	Third Ass	sistant Enginee	r aboard the
SS LAWRANCE J. GALLAGHER for	a voyage.			
10. (To be filled out only if the applica				
It is requested that I be furnished (a) Officer's cravanetted topcome		niform check	ted below if I am e	7 + /3
or		Check on	e; not both.	2+1-
Officer's overcoat with insi]		
(b) Blue service uniform with	Commence of the same of the sa			
(e) Uniform cap with insigni (One blue and one white		•		
11. I (do) (ab not) desire active duty vacancies occur.	as an instructor in a	War Shippin		
U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-39517-1		au s		Budge
* * OPERAGE PRINTING OFFICE 10-0011-1		Lee Sinc	liar BRIDGES	



RG 146, Merchant Marine Enrollee Files, Bridges, Lee (continued)





How to Request Records



General Request for Records

In order to request the record of a Merchant Marine, please provide the following information:

- Full name of service member
- Z number, if known
- Dates of service
- Date and place of death, if death occurred while in mariner service

You may send your request to: stl.archives@nara.gov or send a letter to:

National Archives & Records Administration

National Archives - St. Louis

ATTN: RRPOR P.O. Box 38757

St. Louis, MO 63138-0757



Request for Benefits

Requests for benefits should be sent to the National Maritime Center (NMC). If the NMC determines St. Louis holds the record they will contact us. We will supply a watermarked scan of the record for them to create a separation document to obtain benefits.

They may be reached at: National Maritime Center
Attn: Correspondance (NMC-41)
100 Forbes Drive
Martinsburg, WV 25404



After the broadcast . . .



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NEALOGY

Email questions to stl.archives@nara.gov

Video recordings of lectures and downloadable handouts will remain online at

www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair



Feedback



2021

SENEALOGY S

We value your opinion.

Please take a minute to complete a short evaluation. Your comments help us maintain the quality of our services and plan future programs.

Thank you!

Event Evaluation:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/KYREventEval







using U.S. Federal Government records held at the National Archives and Records Administration.

Know Your Records

Educational resources on how to access and do research

www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records

Videos and Handouts on You Tube



Thank You Genealogy Series Staff!

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Questions & Answers in Chat



G E N E A L O

Please stay if you have questions.

Although this concludes the video portion of the broadcast, we will continue to take your questions in **Chat** for another 10 minutes.