National Archives Documents Useful for Genealogy Research

Presented by Carolyn Mankell Sowinski August 21, 2011 at NLLHA

On-line Family History Resources:

Online indexes and digitized records provide easier access to federal documents. Indexes may also access state, county, city, church, international and newspaper records.

Free—no subscription familysearch.org

Subscription fee**:

ancestry.com

heritagequestonline.com

fold3.com (primarily military records)

**Check local library or historical society which may have institutional access for card holders or members. Free access at any National Archives facility.

Government Documents which have Family History Information:

National Archives and Records Administration archives.gov

Census, 1790-1930; (1940 to be released in April, 2012)

Military Records:

- Personnel, Service, and Pension Files of Soldier
- Widow and Minor Pension Files (indexes to Military Pensions are online via fold3.com and ancestry.com or at National Archives. Researcher needs **Application** and/or **Certificate numbers**)

Homestead Files, may include Citizenship Papers:

- *glorecords.blm.gov* is an online index to Homestead Documents (click on "Land Patents") of the Bureau of Land Management
- To request file of the Land Patents, you must notate:
 State, Land Office, Authority (Type of sale: Homestead/Cash Sale/Bounty Warrant), and Document (Certificate) Number

Immigration (Ports and Border Crossings)

Native American, includes Five Civilized Tribes; Dawes Commission African Americans, includes Freedman's Bureau; Southern Claims Commission Japanese Internments

Courts

National Park Service *itd.nps.gov*

Online index to Civil War: soldiers, sailors, regiments, cemeteries and battles.

Non-Federal:

State Census

Vital Statistics (birth, marriage, death)

Courts

Other helpful websites:

findagrave.com cyndislist.com