

13 Step-by-Step
Genealogy
Projects

FIND RELATIVES IN THE 1940 CENSUS

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013

52 WAYS TO DISCOVER YOUR ROOTS

6 Steps to ORGANIZE Your Ancestor Search

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Treasure HUNT



Unlock genealogy clues all year long. Each week, look for one of these 52 key family history sources that can turn up in the most surprising spots.

BY LISA A. ALZO



INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED

🐾 **WE SEEM TO** have an obsession with stuff—our own and other people's. You've probably tuned in to *Antiques Roadshow* and marveled at the value of that painting someone scored at a garage sale for \$5. Perhaps you've switched on an episode of *Hoarders* and thought "At least my house isn't *that* bad," or enjoyed *Pawn Stars*, *Storage Wars* or *Barter Kings*.

These shows are entertaining, but the reality for genealogists is that the line between "keep" and "toss" is often blurred. My own mother was the proverbial pack rat. After she and dad passed away, I had to clean out 40 years' worth of accumulated items from their house. It was hard work, but

truthfully, I'm glad she kept so much. Among the assorted dishes, collectibles and decades-old receipts were some genealogy gems—my grandparents' passports, Mom's school report cards, Dad's US Navy induction notice and discharge papers, and other treasures.

Similar clues to your own family history might be hiding right in front of you—in that basement, garage, storage locker or even in cyberspace. The 52 items we've listed here are worth hunting for. Break your search down and look for one per week this year, or keep an eye out for all these treasures at once if you're feeling especially ambitious.