

# THE CIVIL HISTORY

The Regional Newsletter of  
The Friends of the National Archives and  
The National Archives at Atlanta

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## Home School History at the National Archives at Atlanta

The third Wednesday of each month through May, 2010, the National Archives at Atlanta hosts its Home School History program where students age 11 through 18 are offered two different instructional sessions relating to American history or historical research. Morning sessions are from 10:00am until noon and afternoon sessions are from 1:00pm until 3:00pm.

Sessions for the Home School History program are taught by our Education Specialist or by one of our archival staff members and vary in instructional technique from lecture/interactive to hands-on primary source exploration to guided independent research. Students are also encouraged to develop historical research projects and display them at the upcoming Home School History Expo in April.

Since August, Home School History sessions have included *An Introduction to Research at the National Archives*, *Mining the Wealth: An Introduction to the Online Resources of the National Archives*, and *National History Day and the National Archives at Atlanta*.



Photo by Ashley Judy

Students take notes at a Home School History session.



Photo by Ashley Judy

Education Specialist Joel Walker instructs students during a Home School History session.

Averaging nearly 70 students and parents in attendance at each session since August, Home School History at the National Archives at Atlanta has been well-received by the home school community during the first three months of the school year. Home School History student Emily Vanchella of Atlanta said, "I loved going into the archives and seeing all those old books and documents... This program is so awesome, I can't wait for the next session!"

Students attending Home School History travel from nearby cities such as Jonesboro, Stockbridge, and McDonough, as well as from more distant cities such as Rome, Carrollton, and Monticello. "I am amazed that we are getting families from as far away as Rome, Georgia to these sessions," Joel Walker, the region's Education Specialist said, "plus it's very satisfying to see many of the same faces coming back each month."

There is no fee for participation in our Home School History program. Information and dates for upcoming sessions can be found at the National Archives at Atlanta Education website at [www.archives.gov/southeast/education](http://www.archives.gov/southeast/education). For more information about this and other education programs at the National Archives at Atlanta, please contact Joel Walker at 770-968-2530 or at [joel.walker@nara.gov](mailto:joel.walker@nara.gov)

## It's Coming!!!!

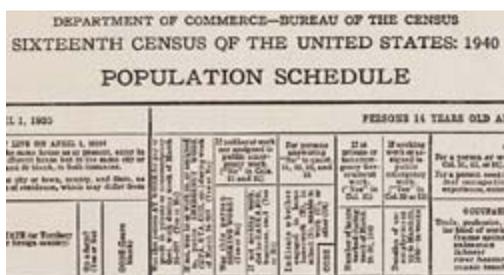
### The 1940 Federal Population Census will be released digitally on April 2, 2012.

Digital images of the 1940 Census will be accessible at NARA facilities nationwide through our public access computers as well as on personal computers via the internet on April 2, 2012.

The questions recorded on the 1940 census schedules are similar to the questions found on earlier census schedules. As the enumerators went door-to-door they recorded the location of the household and provided additional household data, such as the names for each member of the household and their relationships to the head of the household. Enumerators also recorded a personal description for each member of the household which included their age and sex; information about each individual's education; their birthplace and naturalization status; and a unique question asking about their residence on April 1, 1935.

In addition, all individuals over the age of 14 were asked questions about their employment and 5% of the population, those on lines 14 & 29, were asked fifteen supplementary questions. This sample survey included questions about their parents birthplace; earliest language spoken in the household; questions relating to veterans; social security; occupation; and a final section specifically for women, which recorded marital status and number of children born.

Watch for more information on our website at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) and for information on workshops and public programs in Atlanta on the 1940 Census and on our website at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov).



Be sure to check the Friends of the National Archives website regularly for finding aids and information on exhibits and coming events at NARA.

Recent additions include the new finding aid: **Researching Individual Native American Records in the National Archives at Atlanta.**

See [www.friendsnas.org](http://www.friendsnas.org) for the above finding aid and lots of other information.

## David Ferriero Confirmed by U.S. Senate as 10th Archivist of the United States

The United States Senate voted on November 6, 2009, to confirm David Ferriero as the 10th Archivist of the United States. Mr. Ferriero was the Andrew W. Mellon Director of the New York Public Libraries and is a leader in the field of library science. He was nominated by President Obama on July 28, 2009.

At the New York Public Library Mr. Ferriero was part of the leadership team responsible for integrating the four research libraries and 87 branch libraries into one seamless service for users, creating the largest public library system in the United States and one of the largest research libraries in the world.

Before joining the NYPL in 2004, Mr. Ferriero served in top positions at two of the nation's major academic libraries, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, MA, and Duke University in Durham, NC. In those positions, he led major initiatives including the expansion of facilities, the adoption of digital technologies, and a reengineering of printing and publications.

### The National Archives at Atlanta welcomes Mr. Ferriero!

#### Congratulations, Ashley!

Our own Ashley Judy, student employee and official office photographer, had two photographs featured in the Arts Clayton 2009 Juried Photography Competition. Her photograph, *In Bloom*, is of a beautiful pink lily.



"In bloom"  
By Ashley Judy

# The Deadly Virus



Typist wearing mask, New York City, October 16, 1918

The news media today is saturated with stories about the swine flu. However, many people don't know about the Influenza Epidemic of 1918. One fifth of the world's population was attacked by this deadly virus. Within months, it had killed more people than any other illness in recorded history.

World War I claimed an estimated 16 million lives. The influenza epidemic that swept the world in 1918 killed an estimated 50 million people.

The plague did not discriminate. It was rampant in urban and rural areas, from the densely populated East coast to the remotest parts of Alaska.

The plague emerged in two phases. In late spring of 1918, the first phase, known as the "three-day fever," appeared without warning. Few deaths were reported, and victims recovered after a few days.



When the disease surfaced again that fall, it was far more severe. Scientists, doctors, and health officials could not identify this disease which was striking so fast and so viciously,

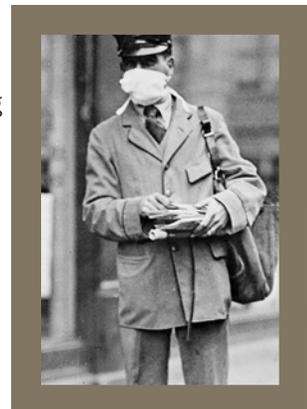
Street car conductor in Seattle not allowing passengers aboard without a mask. 1918

cluding treatment and defying control. Some victims died within hours of their first symptoms. Others succumbed after a few days; their lungs filled with fluid, and they suffocated to death.

In a military report notifying the Office of the Quartermaster General, the Division of Sanitation issued advice on treating the virus and how to avoid giving it to others. Most of the advice is the same as what we hear today—with one exception: "For the protection of others, if you are really sick stay home and remain there until the fever is over. Send for the doctor." Well, some things do change.

It is an oddity of history that the influenza epidemic of 1918 has been overlooked in the teaching of American history. Documentation of the disease is ample, as shown in the records selected from the holdings of the National Archives regional archives.

To view an online exhibit of photographs and documents related to this deadly virus, please see our website at [www.archives.gov/exhibits/influenza-epidemic](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/influenza-epidemic).



Letter carrier in New York City, 1918

WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.FRIENDSNAS.ORG

## Mark Your Calendar!

### Black Family History Day

Saturday, February 20, 2009

The National Archives at Atlanta, in partnership with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, will sponsor Black Family History Day on Saturday, February 20, 2010, at the National Archives at Atlanta, 5780 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, GA.

The event will serve as the closing ceremony for **Documented Rights** and will include an appearance by Martin Luther King III. Presentations include "From the Roots of a Tree: The Genealogy of MLK, Jr.", and representatives from Family Search and Generations Network will discuss the digitization projects to be undertaken with the National Archives at Atlanta. In addition, a former educator will discuss the history of Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Register online at [www.blackfamilyhistoryday.com/Home\\_Page](http://www.blackfamilyhistoryday.com/Home_Page).

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