

Research Room Information

The archival holdings are arranged by record group (abbreviated RG), a body of records from an agency or bureau, identified by an RG number. Selected finding aids, including a comprehensive guide to archival holdings, are available by mail and online: www.archives.gov/central-plaints/kansas-city/public/index.html Research can be initiated in person, by telephone, mail, fax, or electronic mail. Individuals who wish to use original records on-site will facilitate their research by calling before visiting.

Before using archival holdings, every researcher must obtain a researcher identification card, available upon first visiting. An applicant must show identification that includes a photograph, such as a driver's license, passport, or school or business identification card, and complete a short form giving name, address, telephone number, and a brief description of the proposed research topic. It must be presented during each research visit.

For a fee, the staff will make or arrange for copies of documents, unless the physical condition of the documents does not allow reproduction.

About the National Archives

The National Archives and Records Administration is America's records keeper, a public trust on which our democracy depends.

The records we hold play a vital role in our democracy. These records and millions of others give shape to the ideals outlined in the Declaration of Independence, the foundations of democracy laid down in the Constitution, and the freedoms guaranteed to American citizens by the Bill of Rights.

Not only do they document the actions of Government, making accountability possible, they document individual rights and entitlements. They tell the story of who we are as a people. They reveal the courage, determination, and spirit that have shaped our democracy throughout history.



For more information about any of the education programs at the National Archives - Kansas City, please contact:

National Archives and Records Administration
Central Plains Region
2312 E. Bannister Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64131
Phone: 816-268-8000
Email: kansascity.archives@nara.gov

National Archives

Central Plains Region

Kansas City, MO

National History Day 2007

Triumph and Tragedy

in History

National Archives
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Kansas City, MO 64131
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NHD This year the National History Day topic is *Triumph and Tragedy in History*. In preparation for students studying this topic/theme, the National Archives Central Plains Region has compiled a list of suggested research materials.

Please contact the archives for more information or to schedule a visit.

Canton Asylum for Insane Indians: In 1898, Congress passed a bill creating the first and only Institution for Insane Indians' in the United States. The Canton Indian Insane Asylum (sometimes called Hiawatha Insane Asylum) opened for the reception of patients in January 1903. Native Americans risked being confined in the asylum for drinking alcohol, opposing government or business interests, or being culturally misunderstood. A 1927 investigation conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs determined that a large number of patients showed no signs of mental illness. The asylum was closed in 1934. While open, more than 350 patients were detained there; sadly over one-third incarcerated at the asylum died there. (RG 75, Bureau of Indian Affairs)

Meintz vs Huntington: John Meintz, a US born citizen of immigrant parents from Denmark, chose to oppose WWI efforts by refusing to purchase additional war bonds. A pro-war mob tarred and feathered John Meintz for his alleged failure to purchase bonds in sufficient quantities, and Meintz sued. Meintz had been active in the Non-Partisan League, an Agrarian Populist group. This case graphically illustrates the "war hysteria" that flourished during the Great war and victimized many innocent Americans. (RG 21, USDC, District of Minnesota, Mankato Division)

Oliver Brown, et al. vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas: Elementary school student Linda Brown wanted to attend an all-white neighborhood

school rather than be bussed to an all-black school across town. Her father and others sued the board of education for equal access to education. This landmark civil rights case eventually went to the US Supreme Court. (RG 21, USDC, District of Kansas, Topeka Division)

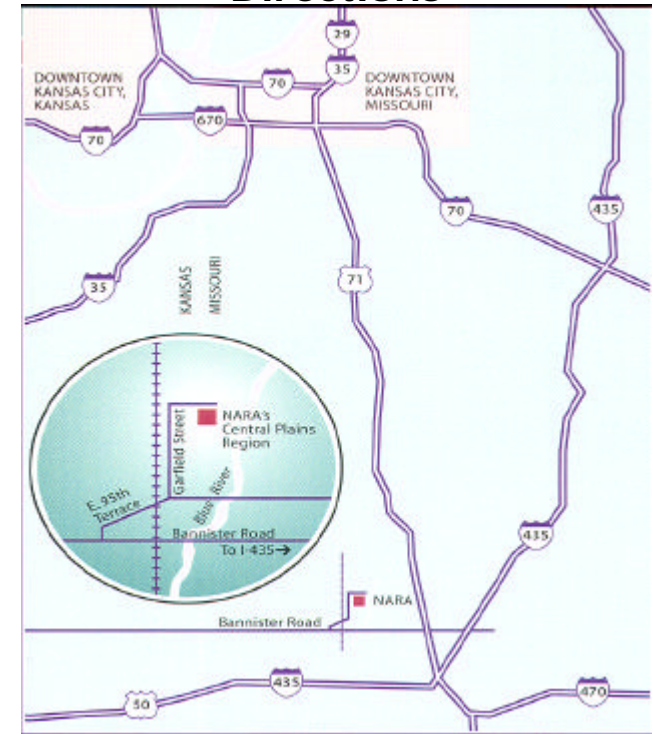
Records from the US Food Administration (RG4): Photos, posters, and correspondence document how Americans responded to the agency's drive to conserve foodstuffs, like beef, wheat, and sugar for the war effort. These records demonstrate the triumph of American patriotism during the Great War.

Tinker vs. Des Moines Independent School District: Students John and Mary Tinker planned to protest the war in Vietnam by wearing black arm bands to school. School administrators stopped the peaceful protest and ordered the students to either remove the armbands or be suspended from school. The Tinkers and a classmate refused and were suspended. The Tinker family filed suit against the school district. The case eventually went to the US Supreme Court. (RG 21, USDC, District of Iowa, Southern Division)

U.S. vs Hall & Heady and US vs. Davis: The 1934 kidnapping of banker Edward Bremer by the Karpis-Barker gang and the 1953 kidnapping of young Bobby Greenlease by a Missouri couple ended very differently: Bremer was released; Greenlease was brutally murdered. Both cases were tried in Federal court because they involved the transport of the victim across state lines. Each caused a sensation: Bremer's \$200,000 ransom was a true fortune in the midst of the Great Depression, while the \$600,000 ransom paid for Greenlease was the largest sum paid up to that time in US history. Ironically both cases had a presidential connection. Bremer's father was a friend and support of Franklin Roosevelt, and Dwight Eisenhower's brother Arthur assisted the Greenlease family with the preparation of the ransom payment. (RG 21, USDC, Western District of Missouri, Kansas City and USDC, District of Minnesota, Third Division, St. Paul)

U.S. vs Jack McCall: On August 2, 1876, in the Nuttal & Mann's #10 saloon in Deadwood, SD, McCall shot Wild Bill Hickok in the back of the head with a double-action .45-caliber revolver, shouting "Take that!" The killing was apparently over McCall's drunken resentment of an act of generosity by Hickok, who had offered McCall money to buy breakfast after McCall had lost it all playing poker the previous day. McCall claimed, however, that the killing was retribution for Hickok having previously killed McCall's brother in Abilene, KS. (RG 21, USDC, Dakota Territory, Deadwood, SD)

Directions



The National Archives is located in the southeast quadrant of Kansas City, 3 miles inside I-435, at 2312 East Bannister Road (within the Bannister Federal Complex). From Bannister, turn north on 95th Terrace (Entrance 4 to the complex). At the second stoplight, turn left onto Garfield and go north to Santa Fe Trail. Turn right (east) and proceed into the NARA parking lot.