

September 2011

“Freedom War” and the Civil War Panel Discussion

The National Archives at Kansas City will host a panel discussion with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) entitled “Freedom War” and the Civil War on **Thursday, September 22, at 7:00 p.m.** A 6:30 p.m. reception will precede the event. (**Please note:** The program start time is later than most National Archives evening events.)

A panel of scholars and community historians will examine the Civil War’s impact on the historical legacy of African Americans. This panel is being held in recognition of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. The panelists will examine the question: “When did the African Freedom War actually end?”

- A. In 1865 with ratification of the 13th Amendment?
- B. In 1965 with passage of the Voting Rights Act?
- C. In 2008 with President Barack Obama’s election?
- D. It has not ended.

Panelists include: **Dr. Shawn Leigh Alexander, Dr. Antonio Holland, Dr. Gary Kremer,** and **Joe Louis Mattox.** The panel will be moderated by **Larry Coleman.**

Records held at all locations of the National Archives include court documents, photographs, journals, and other materials that tell the story of the civil rights movement, including the Freedom War. Recently the National Archives created a traveling exhibition, *Documented Rights*, which highlights many of these records. It can be viewed at www.archives.gov/exhibits/documented-rights/ **To make a reservation for this free event** call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

Lee and Grant Speaker Series: The Presidency of U.S. Grant

On **Tuesday, September 27, at 6:30 p.m.,** the National Archives at Kansas City will host historian **Dr. Christopher Stowe,** from the U.S. Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth for a lecture entitled The Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant. A **6:00 p.m. reception** will precede the event. Attendees are encouraged to view the *Lee and Grant* exhibition prior to the lecture.

In 1877 Ulysses S. Grant reflected upon his two terms as President of the United States. "It was my fortune, or misfortune, to be called to the office of Chief Executive without any previous political training," he wrote in his final presidential address. The Grant presidency is remembered above all for its controversies and scandals, from 1869's Black Friday affair to the Whiskey Ring of 1875--events that, indeed, may have been less damaging to Grant's administration had he had shown more political judgment. Still, Grant's presidency saw its share of successes in domestic and foreign policy, from the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment and the Naturalization Act of 1870 to the Washington Treaty of 1871. Stowe will discuss the major events of Grant presidency, focusing upon the soldier-turned-politician whose abiding policy of “Let Us Have Peace” served a nation with mixed results during the Gilded Age.

To make a reservation for this free event, call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov.



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Upcoming Events

All events are held at the National Archives
400 West Pershing Road
Kansas City, MO 64108

- SEPTEMBER 22 - 6:30 P.M.
RECEPTION/PANEL DISCUSSION: “FREEDOM WAR” AND THE CIVIL WAR
- SEPTEMBER 27 - 6:00 P.M.
RECEPTION/LEE AND GRANT SPEAKER SERIES: CHRISTOPHER STOWE, THE PRESIDENCY OF ULYSSES S. GRANT
- OCTOBER 22 - 5:00 P.M.
EXHIBITION CLOSING: LEE AND GRANT

Educator Extras

- **Teacher Appreciation Day, Saturday, September 17** - The Museum Education Roundtable and the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum are sponsoring a special teacher day at the Truman Library on Saturday, September 17 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Teachers showing their school identification at the door will be let in free. Additional family members and friends will need to pay the normal admittance fee of \$8.00 per adult and \$3.00 for children ages 6-15. Area historical sites and museums will host information tables and share educational resources and activities with educators. Refreshments will be served. Teachers can sign up in advance via online registration at <http://11teacher.kcfed.org>



- **National History Day** - The National Archives at Kansas City is pleased to participate in National History Day! Each year, thousands of middle and high school students and teachers participate in National History Day (NHD), a year-long educational program that culminates in a national contest in June. The National History Day program provides a unique opportunity for students to gain first-hand experience conducting historical research and producing historical exhibits, essays, documentaries, media projects, and performances. Participation in the NHD program begins at the local level, where regional activities feed state and national competitions. Students and teachers are encouraged to take advantage of the rich array of local history resources in our community — libraries, museums, and historic sites — to pursue topics of

local, regional, or national interest in conjunction with the 2012 theme: **Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History**. To learn more about the 2012 theme, and local events in your area, visit

www.nhd.org/AnnualTheme.htm

- **Interactive Distance Learning** - Teachers across the nation have the opportunity to bring the National Archives at Kansas City into their own classroom. By using Interactive Distance Learning, educators can choose from twenty lessons taught by the education specialist from the National Archives at Kansas City. Journal entries, correspondence, artifacts, and other documents help personalize history to the students. The interactive and document-based lessons are suitable for a wide range of ages. For more information, visit www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city/education/interactive-distance-learning.html or call Mickey Ebert, Education Specialist, at 816-268-8013.

News and Notes

- **NARAtions, Blog of the U. S. National Archives** - The National Archives has several web logs (blogs) available for the public to subscribe. The NARAtions blog focuses on online public access to the records held by the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration. The National Archives has custody of more than 9 billion pages of records. The public would love to see all of the records available online as high-resolution scans with full-text searchability and a variety of ways to tag, search, browse, and discover the documents, photographs, maps, and films. However, a variety of factors make this prohibitive. Therefore, NARAtions is an excellent resource for genealogy, research, and general history information. Subscribe today at blogs.archives.gov/online-public-access/
- **Footnote.com Becomes Fold3** - On August 18, Footnote.com announced it will focus on offering the finest and most comprehensive collection of U.S. Military records available on the internet. As a part of the new focus, Footnote.com is now Fold3. The name is derived from a traditional flag folding ceremony in which the third fold in the ceremony honors and remembers veterans for their sacrifice in defending their country. Going forward Fold3 will begin adding more U.S. military records that will help researchers and genealogists discover and share stories about those who served in the military.



- **Save the Date - Saturday, October 15** - The National Archives at Kansas City, in partnership with Kansas City Public Television, will be hosting an all day genealogy fair with workshops. Watch for more details in our October newsletter.

Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

Unsuspected Infamy: One German Nationalist's Role in the Attack on Pearl Harbor

Bernard Julius Otto Kuehn's Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary file, one of nearly 70,000 Leavenworth Inmate case files maintained by the National Archives at Kansas City, is one of the most historically significant. It bears directly on the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor. A former Nazi, Kuehn and his family used a system of codes to transmit vital location information on U.S. naval ships stationed in Pearl Harbor to Japanese officials from November 28 to December 3, 1941. His actions contributed to what President Roosevelt would later call "a day which will live in infamy." Using information culled from intelligence sources like Kuehn, the Japanese executed their surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. Just five days before, Kuehn submitted a letter to the Japanese consulate, detailing information about the vessels in Pearl Harbor.

According to his inmate file, the process of becoming a spy for Japan began long before 1941. Kuehn served in the German Navy in World War I and was inspired to join the Nazi Party around 1928, after listening to a speech by Adolph Hitler. Kuehn willingly resigned from the party in 1933. The Leavenworth Penitentiary file includes a comment from penitentiary staff in the admission summary, who doubt the validity that Kuehn ever left the Nazi Party, "He tells the typical tale of persecution by the Nazis, claiming that he was thrown into a concentration camp for a disagreement with the Nazis, and escaped from Germany. The story sounds well rehearsed."

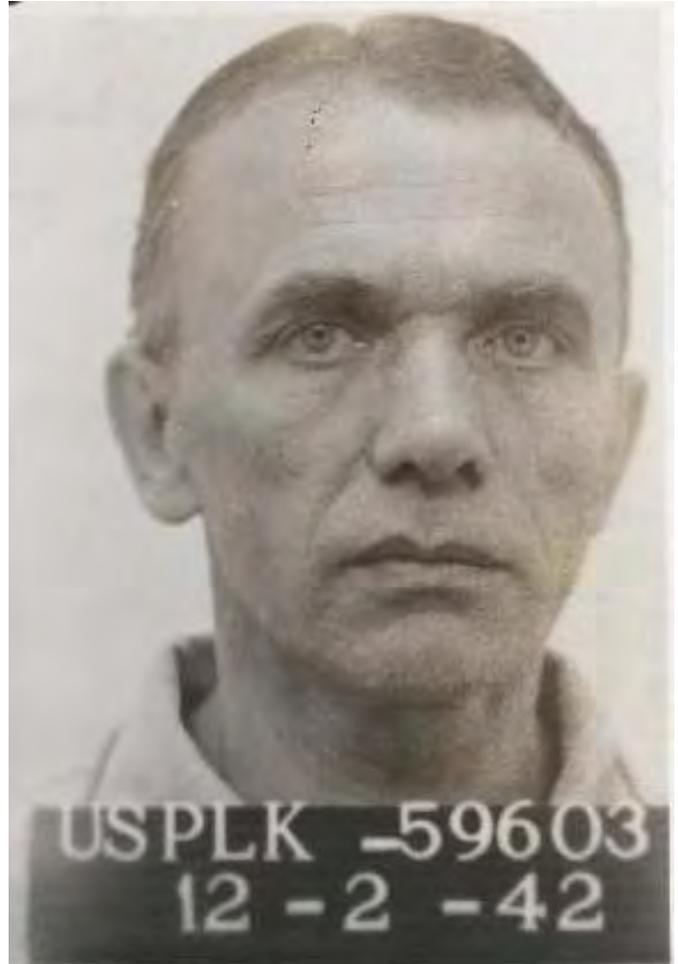
Nevertheless, Kuehn and his family moved from Germany to Honolulu in 1935. Kuehn was well-traveled; in July 1936 he visited Japan and became acquainted with Baron Kyogoku, a member of the Japanese nobility. According to court testimony, Kyogoku suggested Kuehn provide information on Honolulu for the Japanese government. Kuehn said he initially declined the offer.

According to a letter sent from the Pentagon's Adjutant General's Office to the warden at Leavenworth, Kuehn and his family had limited interaction with Japanese officials until 1940. In 1939, his lavish parties for U.S. high-ranking military, connections to Japanese and German officials, and no real occupation drew suspicion from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. When the family became financially strained in 1940, Kuehn supplemented his income with payments from various Japanese officials. Amounts of money transferred to Kuehn from these individuals ranged from \$6,000 to \$14,000.

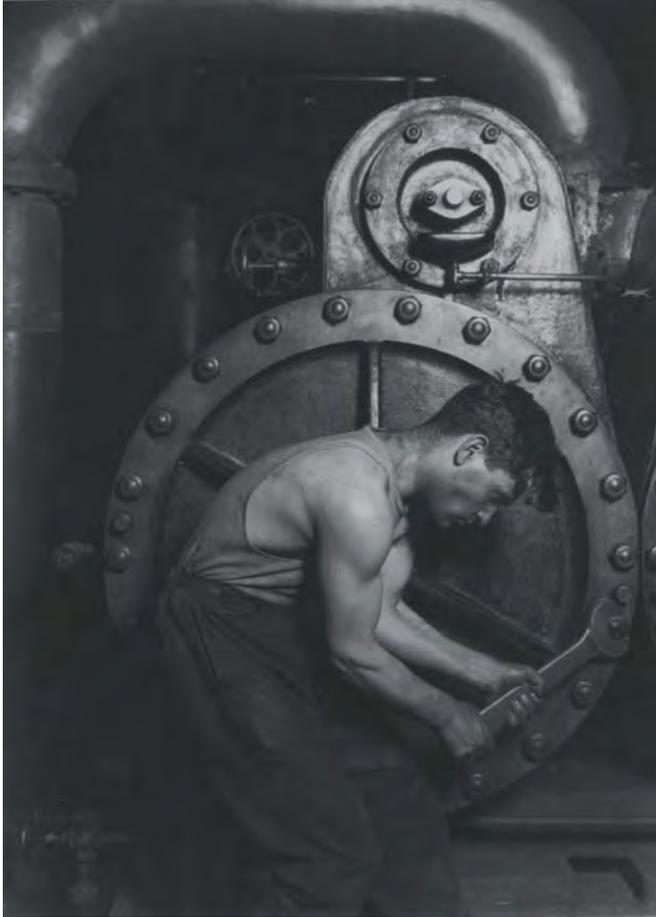
In exchange for money, Kuehn set up eight codes to transmit information on vessels in Pearl Harbor. For example, if a light shone out the dormer window of his Oahu home from 9-10 p.m., U.S. aircraft carriers had sailed. Kuehn also used regular household chores, like drying bed sheets on a clothesline at certain times to signal for the location of various ships. Five days before the attack, he sold written details on the fleet to the Japanese consulate. After the attack, special agents raided the Japanese consulate and found officials trying to destroy documents, documents that deciphered Kuehn's various codes. Kuehn was arrested the next day and sentenced on February 21, 1942.

Kuehn was originally sentenced to "death by musketry," but had his sentence commuted and served 50 years of hard labor due to the stipulation that the United States was not at war when the crimes occurred. He served four years in Leavenworth before he was deported to Germany in 1946. Upon returning to Germany it is unknown what happened to Kuehn and his family.

For more information on the Leavenworth Penitentiary Inmate Case files email kansascity.archives@nara.gov or visit www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2010/summer/leavenworth.html Search Leavenworth Inmate Case files by surname at www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city/finding-aids/leavenworth-penitentiary/.



Picture This!: One Hundred Years of Photography from the National Archives through December 31



Available for viewing through December 31, *Picture This!: One Hundred Years of Photography from the National Archives* chronicles major events of the twentieth century-- immigrants arriving at Ellis Island, the Wright Brothers' first flight, construction of the Empire State Building, Depression-era soup lines, the landing at Omaha Beach, the mushroom cloud from the atomic bomb, Lyndon Johnson taking the Presidential oath, U.S. Marines in Da Nang, and footprints on the moon. Some of these images are so famous that they are seared in our collective memory and have become synonymous with the events themselves. Other photographs offer us surprise historical glimpses from the past, and still others chronicle the changing technological landscape over the century.

Drawn from the National Archives and Records Administration's vast archives of more than 8 million images, *Picture This!: One Hundred Years of Photography from the National Archives* features color and black and white photographs celebrating 100 years of American life.

The exhibition is arranged chronologically and depicts many of the momentous events of the century, as well as larger social trends. Also showcased in the exhibition are six portfolios of noted photographers, well represented in the holdings of the National Archives. Included are the portfolios of: Lewis Wicks Hine; George Ackerman; Walter Lubken; Dorothea Lange; Charles Fenno Jacobs; and Danny Lyon.

This Lewis Hine image titled "Power house mechanic working on steam pump" shows a strategically placed man, which suggests that this was not a random shot. *Picture This!* illustrates how photographs have not always been considered art, but yet over time great photographers have gained recognition as artists.

Additional Information

The exhibition will be available for viewing at the National Archives at Kansas City through December 31, 2011. To schedule a group tour, call Mickey Ebert at 816-268-8013 or email mickey.ebert@nara.gov.

Are you on the National Archives at Kansas City mailing list?

If the answer is "no," then send us an email with your U.S. postal mail information to kansascity.educate@nara.gov or call 816-268-8000. By providing your address, you grant the National Archives at Kansas City permission to send you information about upcoming exhibitions, special events, and programs. Per the Privacy Act of 1974, we will not share your personal information with third parties.



The National Archives at Kansas City is a regional facility that serves as a repository for more than 50,000 cubic feet of historical records dating from the 1820s to the 1990s created or received by nearly 100 Federal agencies. Serving the Central Plains Region, the archives holds records from the states of Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. These records are available for public research and use. The facility is located at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO 64108.

HOURS OF OPERATION

RESEARCH ROOMS: Tuesday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

EXHIBIT GALLERIES: Tuesday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Closed on Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs and weather.

For more information, call 816-268-8000, visit our web site www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city or email kansascity.archives@nara.gov. Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity