

October 2013

## Preservation Matters: Dos and Don'ts, Digital Records and Disaster Response on Saturday, October 5

Have you ever wondered how you would save your family heirlooms in the event of a disaster? Have you ever been overwhelmed by the sheer volume of digital files you have stored on your electronic devices?

Have you ever worried you damaged that important document you had laminated? These and other preservation issues will be addressed at the *Preservation Matters* event on **Saturday, October 5**. Attend any or all of the morning workshops offering practical advice and tips on how to preserve your family heirlooms, photographs, documents, and digital files.

A *Preservation One-on-One Clinic* will be offered in the afternoon. When you reserve a 15-minute time slot at the *One-on-One Clinic*, you may bring in a single item and receive personal advice on how to preserve it. This event is **by reservation only**. To reserve your spot, please call 816.268.8000 or email [kansascity.archives@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.archives@nara.gov).

### Workshop Schedule:

**8:30 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.**

*Preservation Myths: The Things We Do...and What We Should Do Instead*

**9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.**

*Caring for Your Family Treasures*

**10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.**

*Preserving Your Digital Heritage*

**11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

*All Wet! Responding to Floods, Leaks, and Other Damp Disasters*

**12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

*Preservation One-on-One Clinic* **by reservation only**. Reserve your 15-minute time slot to bring a single item to the *Preservation One-on-One* clinic, and receive personal advice on how to preserve it.

Only a few seats left!

National Archives at Kansas City  
**Preservation Matters**  
Saturday, October 5, 2013  
Workshops 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
One-on-One Clinic 12:30 - 2:30 PM

*Dos and Don'ts, Digital Records, and Disaster Response*  
RSVP to [kansascity.archives@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.archives@nara.gov) or 816.268.8000.

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### Upcoming Events

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

- OCTOBER 5 - 8:30 A.M.  
*PRESERVATION MATTERS, MULTIPLE WORKSHOPS*
- OCTOBER 8 - 6:30 P.M.  
LECTURE: JACK JOHNSON: CONTRADICTIONS TO HISTORY FROM A HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION'S UNPUBLISHED PRISON MANUSCRIPT WITH PHIL DIXON
- OCTOBER 17 - 10:00 A.M.  
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP: MORE THAN JUST SHIP PASSENGER ARRIVAL LISTS
- \*OCTOBER 28 - 6:00 P.M.  
MODERATED DISCUSSION: DIFFERENT DIAMONDS: BASEBALL'S NON-TRADITIONAL SETTINGS WITH TIM RIVES AND BILL STAPLES
- OCTOBER 30 - 6:30 P.M.  
LECTURE: HOW FRED HARVEY'S CONCEPTS CHANGED THE RAILROAD DINING INDUSTRY WITH CHRIS CRUZ
- \* THIS PROGRAM WILL BE HELD AT THE NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL MUSEUM.

## Gems for Genealogists

The National Archives at Kansas City will offer one free genealogy workshop in October. The workshop will be held at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri.

### Workshop Description:

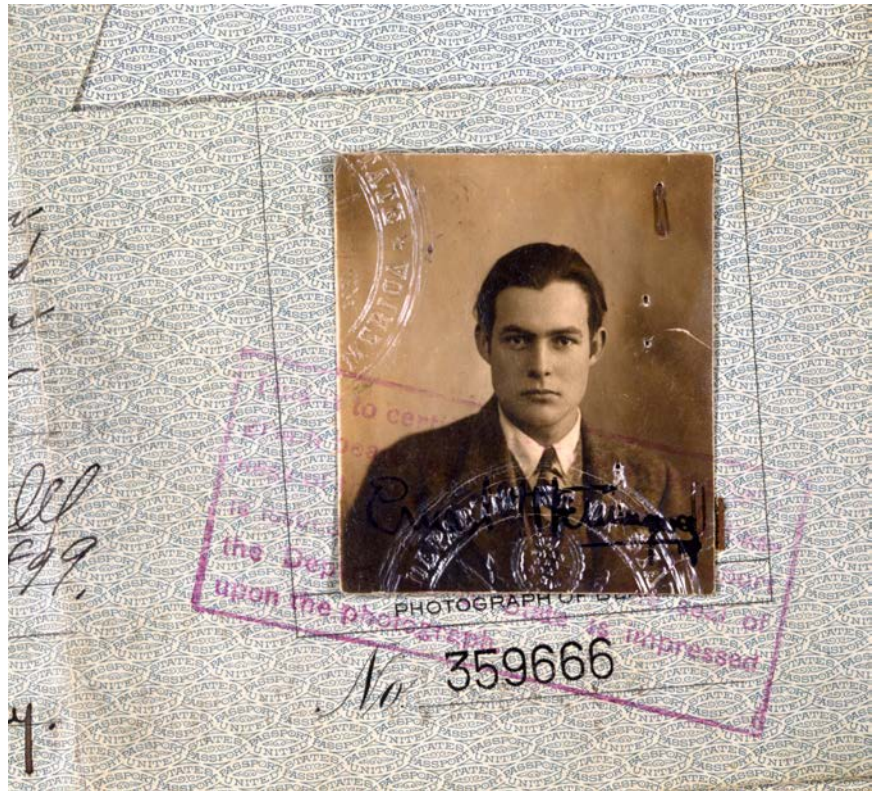
#### *More Than Ship Passenger Arrival Lists*

Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 10:00-11:30 a.m.

The breadth of immigration records available online and in archives can seem overwhelming. Come learn what original records you can find at the National Archives and what you can discover online. Records range from passport applications, naturalization documents, ship passenger lists, and more!

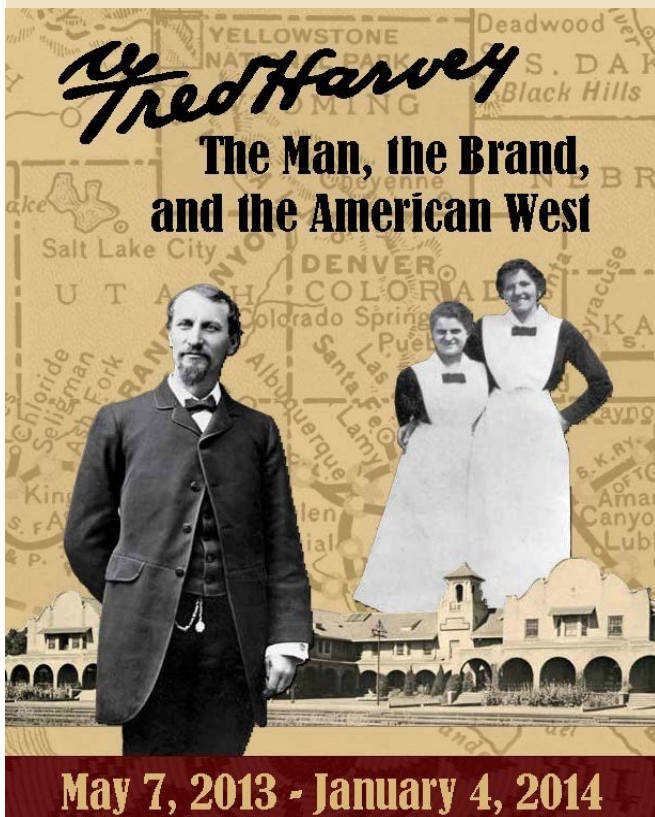
To make a reservation for this free workshop, please call 816-268-8000 or email [kansascity.archives@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.archives@nara.gov).

Right: Ernest Hemingway 1923 Passport Photograph. John F. Kennedy Library, Ernest Hemingway Collection, Photographs: Paris Years, 1922-1930.



## Chris Cruz to Discuss How Fred Harvey's Concepts Changed the Railroad Dining Industry

On **Wednesday, October 30 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives at Kansas City will host Chris Cruz for a lecture titled *How Fred Harvey's Concepts Changed the Railroad Dining Industry*. A 6:00 p.m. reception will precede the lecture. This program is presented in conjunction with the exhibit *Fred Harvey: The Man, the Brand, and the America West*.



Chris Cruz, collector and railroad historian, has written several articles concentrating on artifacts and railroad history. His interest in the Santa Fe led to collecting Fred Harvey artifacts and researching the Harvey Company history. Although Fred Harvey is best known for establishing his concept for meals and service along the Santa Fe, his influence impacted other railroads who worked to compete with the Harvey operation. Most notable in this effort includes the Rock Island, the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas, and several lesser known operations and News Services that were contracted by the railroads. Cruz will discuss these operations and display some of their artifacts. Fred Harvey revolutionized the rail dining industry and the public demanded higher expectations from other rail lines. This discussion will focus on these changes.

To make a reservation for this **free** event call 816-268-8010 or email [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov).



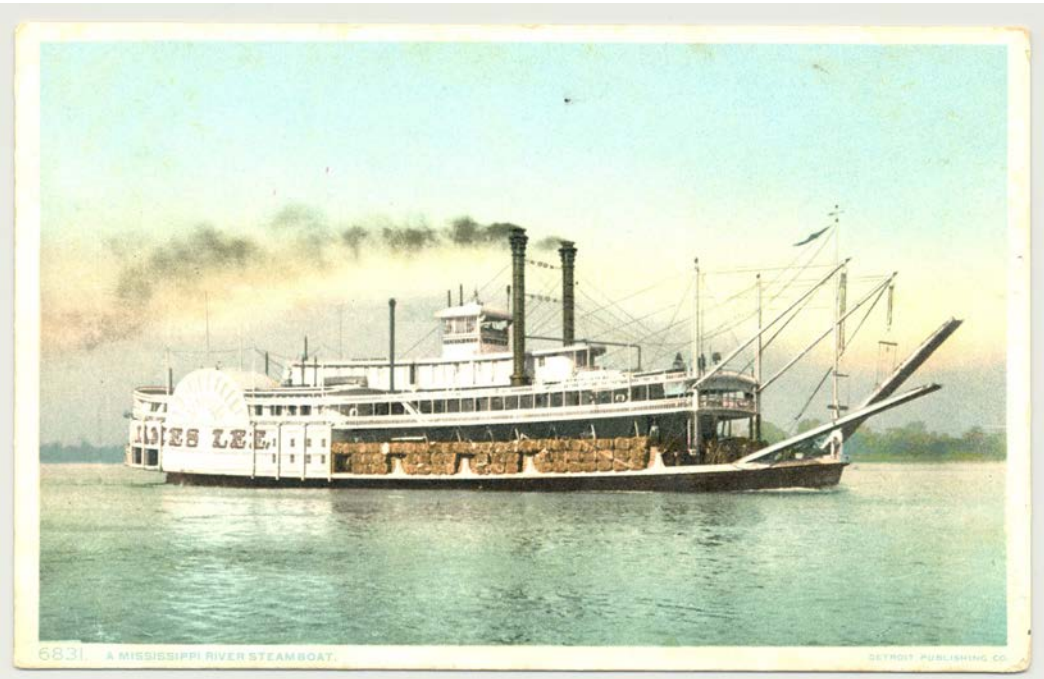
## Between the Rivers: Steamboating in Missouri and Iowa Exhibition Closes October 26

Steamboat travel reached its golden age in the decade before the Civil War. For nearly forty years in the West, no other mode of transportation rivaled the steamboat in speed and comfort. By the 1860s, the rising prominence of railroads, the bridging of rivers to connect rail lines, heavy losses from steamboat disasters, and increased government regulation all combined to spell the beginning of the end for western steamboats as the leading mode of transportation. Freed of the seasonal limitations of shipping by water, the competitive advantages of faster railroads resulted in significant increases in

passenger travel and freight shipments by rail, to the eventual detriment of the steamboat trade. By the turn of the twentieth century, steamboat operations had declined by nearly 80% from its peak. The rise of more efficient towboats and barges as a form of water shipment by the early 1900s would spell the final end of the steamboat as a significant source of transportation.



Above: In the absence of bridges, steamboats ferried railroad engines and cars across the rivers, as shown in the photograph from Williston, North Dakota, 1913. Record Group 77, Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers.



Above: Steamer James Lee loaded with cotton. Image courtesy of Tom Taylor.

Steamboating in Missouri and Iowa explores the steamboat industry and its impact on the river environment, culture, and economy in Missouri and Iowa. Featuring original records, certificates, maps, crew lists, and photographs (including the images pictured here), *Between the Rivers* is nearing the end of its year-long run at the National Archives at Kansas City. You can still catch the exhibit before it closes on October 26, 2013.

The exhibit *Between the Rivers:*

October is American Archives Month and nationwide the National Archives will be offering programs in field locations across the United States as well as the Presidential Libraries and Washington D.C. Below are two programs that will be offered in the Kansas City area in celebration of American Archives Month.

## Phil Dixon to Discuss *Jack Johnson: Contradictions to History from a Heavyweight Champion's Unpublished Prison Manuscript*

On **Tuesday, October 8 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives at Kansas City will host Phil Dixon for a lecture titled *Jack Johnson: Contradictions to History from a Heavyweight Champion's Unpublished Prison Manuscript*. A 6:00 p.m. reception will precede the lecture.

Much has been written about America's first African American heavyweight champion, Jack Johnson. However, we very seldom hear of first-person accounts from Johnson himself. While a prisoner at Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary in 1921, Johnson attempted to journal his own life's story and document his highly controversial career in boxing. In Johnson's handwritten manifesto, penned on prison stationery, he not only explained the inside story of his fights and the boxers he faced; but also outlined his many experiences outside the squared circle, including accounts of Johnson's personal opinions toward segregation. His is a story the public was never allowed to read, one written in defiance of all that was said against him, then, and now, as the world's first African American heavyweight champion, unintentional activist, and proud American. Dixon will discuss his research on Johnson's manuscript found within the Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary inmate case files at the National Archives at Kansas City.

To make a reservation for this **free** event call 816-268-8010 or email [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov).

## Tim Rives and Bill Staples to Discuss *Different Diamonds: Baseball's Non-tradition Settings*

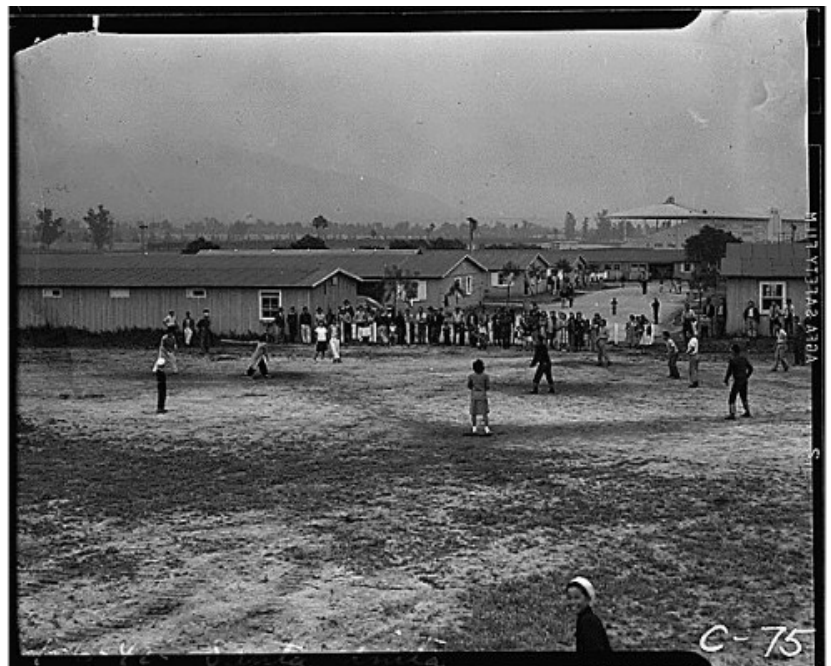
On **Monday, October 28 at 6:00 p.m.**, the National Archives at Kansas City in partnership with the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, will host **Tim Rives and Bill Staples** for a discussion titled *Different Diamonds: Baseball's Non-traditional Settings*.

Throughout baseball history games have often been played in stadiums, parks, and even neighborhood sand lots. Not commonly considered are more unusual locations such as Federal prisons and War Relocation (internment) Camps. Rives and Staples will speak about these venues and how the game of baseball was played in non-traditional settings with much participation and fanfare.

The National Archives at Kansas City and the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum have partnered to present the *Swing into History* program series this year. The focus is on baseball and its impact on American culture. The series has been presented throughout the 2013 baseball season.

To make a reservation for this event call 816-268-8010 or email [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov).

\*Museum admission rates will apply. For Negro Leagues Baseball Museum hours, directions, and admission fees visit [www.nlbn.com/s/hours.htm](http://www.nlbn.com/s/hours.htm).



Above: Arcadia, California. An impromptu baseball game is held by young evacuees of Japanese ancestry at Santa Anita Assembly center. Record Group 210, Records of the War Relocation Authority, Central Photographic File, compiled 1942-45.

# Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

## A Building Fit For An Archives

For the past three years, the National Archives at Kansas City has dedicated this space in each issue of the newsletter toward featuring an item from the stacks. This month we deviate from that practice and feature our building, originally known as the Adams Express building. In 2014 the Union Station complex will be 100 years-old. In honor of that significant anniversary the story of our building follows.

Originally built for the Adams Express Company in 1914 and currently occupied by the National Archives, the structure was intended to house freight from the nearby railroad lines as it was shipped from city to city. The Adams Express Company was like most freight and cargo companies of its time, one that handled and insured materials being sent. It operated similarly to the National Express and American Express companies. Adams Express was originally founded in 1839 by Alvin Adams who had failed as a produce merchant, and instead found success with a shipping business between Boston and Worcester, Massachusetts.

Adams Express was used by abolitionist groups in the 1840s to deliver anti-slavery newspapers from northern publishers to southern states; in 1849, a Richmond, Virginia slave named Henry "Box" Brown shipped himself north to Philadelphia and freedom via Adams Express. The South was almost entirely covered by the Adams Express service in 1861 when the Civil War necessitated the splitting off of another company under Henry B. Plant, which for political reasons was given the name, Southern Express.

The Adams Express Company was successful from New England and the mid-Atlantic to the far Western plains during the late 1800s. Its stock holdings were enormous and, in 1910, it was the second largest stockholder in the Pennsylvania Railroad and the third largest in the New Haven Railroad, besides owning large blocks of American Express, Norfolk and Western Railroad and other shares. Its antebellum employment of Allan Pinkerton to solve its robbery problems was a large factor in building up the famed Pinkerton National Detective Agency. Along with the other expresses, its shipping interests were merged by the government during World War I into the American Railway Express Company, which later became the Railway Express Agency. Adams Express continues its corporate existence today as a wealthy investment trust and maintains its headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland.

Over the years of its existence the Adams Express building accommodated a variety of tenants. Records from the Kansas City Terminal Railway Company indicated that demands for increased milk distribution convinced the Alfalfa Creamery Company to locate its facilities with the Adams Express building in 1918. Other industry oriented businesses continued to seek space in the building, including the U.S. Gypsum Company and the Excel Auto Radiator Company. During World War II a portion of the building was used as a temporary morgue for soldiers who had been killed in action.

In the early 1970s Union Station was nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. By this time the station had declining passenger rail service and deferred maintenance issues. At one point demolition was considered an option. The station had been built as a part of the City Beautiful Movement in the early 1900s when Chicago-based architect Jarvis Hunt was hired to design the complex, which included the main station and various express buildings. The City Beautiful Movement was a mode of urban planning which involved "deliberate use of naturally scenic topography whenever and wherever possible."

*(continued on page 6)*



Above: This image shows Union Station under construction in 1913-14 and was taken looking south. In the far upper left corner of the image are the early buildings for General Hospital and what is now known as Children's Mercy and Truman Medical Center Hospital Hill Campus along with Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church. The Liberty Memorial is not in the photo as it was not constructed until 1926. Image courtesy of George A. Fuller Collection, Western Historical Manuscript Collection, State Historical Society of Missouri.



On October 30, 1914, Union Station opened to a large crowd. Hunt had designed the station using the Beaux-Arts Classic style which was popular in the early 20th century. It is noted that “architect Hunt devised a scheme for comprehensive development of the station site and the area extending south to Twenty-Seventh Street, three long blocks south of the station.

His plan called for a civic center and what might have been the center for all Kansas City’s major public buildings.” The idea came to partial fruition with the building of Liberty Memorial and the National World War I Museum.



Above: The Adams Express Building, originally constructed as a part of the Union Station complex, currently occupied by the National Archives. Image courtesy of Cody Lovetere.

In 2004 the remaining complex buildings surrounding the station were nominated and accepted to the list of National Historic Register of Places. This includes the Railway Express Building, now the United States Postal Service; the Adams Express Building, now the National Archives at Kansas City; and the Power House, now the Kansas City Ballet. In 2007 adaptive reuse was pursued by the General Services Administration in partnership with the National Archives and DST Realty in order to provide the Archives with a new location that could meet the stringent preservation requirements of housing archival materials. In spring 2009, the Archives officially moved in to the Adams Express building and has since put to good use the space, by making records available to the public that document American history.

Sources for this article include the National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, filed 1971, from the Landmarks Commission, City of Kansas City, Missouri; and the National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, filed 2004, from Union Station of Kansas City, Inc. For more information about the National Archives at Kansas City email [kansascity.archives@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.archives@nara.gov).

## Are you on the National Archives at Kansas City electronic mail list?



The National Archives is going green. For the remainder of 2013 the Archives will only send out information regarding programs and workshops via email. If we don’t have your address on file, please send an email with your preferred email address to [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto: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



The National Archives at Kansas City is one of 15 facilities nationwide where the public has access to Federal archival records. It is home to historical records dating from the 1820s to the 1990s created or received by Federal agencies in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. For more information, call 816-268-8000, email [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov) or visit [www.archives.gov/kansas-city](http://www.archives.gov/kansas-city). Find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity](http://www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity).

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Tuesday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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