



The Civil History

The Regional Newsletter of
**The Friends of the National Archives and
National Archives Southeast Region**

Fall, 2006

Volume 5, Number 1

NARA Plans to Honor Veterans



NARA Employee Mike Conner, Wounded in Action in Vietnam.

November 10, 2006 – Save the Date

The Southeast Region will host an Open House and Recognition Ceremony for veterans and their families at the Morrow facility on Friday, November 10, 2006.

This event is part of a nationwide effort by the National Archives to hold Veterans' Open Houses in Washington and at all NARA facilities throughout the country.

Music, Food, Workshops!!

The ceremony in Morrow will include patriotic music, workshops on our military holdings and online resources, and assistance to veterans in the use of the NARA's E-VetRecords electronic system for ordering military records from St. Louis.

Veterans from all walks of life will be recognized for their contribution to our country. We are planning a special recognition for NARA employees, our volunteers, and members of our Friends group who have served their country in one of the branches of military service. We encourage all veterans to attend.

As soon as all details are worked out, FNAS members will receive a flyer in the mail about the event. In the meantime, watch our website, www.archives.gov and www.FriendsNAS.org for more information.

Planning a Family Reunion During the Holidays or Next Summer?

If you haven't selected a site for your next family reunion, have you considered the National Archives, Southeast Region? We offer a magnificent amphitheater on the site, a public dining area which can accommodate up to 100, and space to display your family photos and genealogical research materials.

Family members may come early and research their family history. NARA will provide guidance on research, information on preserving family records and photographs, and tips on writing your family's story.

To inquire about space use and facility availability, please contact the National Archives Southeast Region Facility Manager at 770-968-2535 or email morrow.resources@nara.gov.

For complete information see our Facility Resources Guide available on the FNAS website, www.friendsnas.org/eventSpace.htm.

The Civil History is back....

For those of you who have asked, we are pleased to report that *The Civil History* has resumed its publication schedule. We welcome contributions from all members of the Friends of the National Archives, Southeast Region. If you have a notice or short news story that you would like to submit, please mail it to: Editor, *The Civil History*, National Archives, 5780 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, GA 30260.

New Information on our Website

If it has been some time since you visited our website, www.FriendsNAS.org, we encourage you to logon again. New information on bankruptcy files, an updated listing of microfilm, and other information on the holdings of the Southeast Region as well as upcoming events has been posted. Thanks to our dedicated webmaster, Linda Geiger, for all of her hard work.

Georgia Humanities Council Seeks Hosts for *Key Ingredients: American by Food*

Key Ingredients is a traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution's Museums on Main Street program. The exhibit provides a provocative and thoughtful look at the historical, regional, and social traditions that merge in everyday meals.

Designed for small and rural organizations in communities of 20,000 or less, *Key Ingredients* will tour six selected Georgia communities. Organizations interesting in hosting the exhibition must complete and return a Host Site Application postmarked by November 1, 2006.

For further information or your eligibility to host the exhibition in Georgia, contact Arden Williams at awilliams@georgiahumanities.org.

The Georgia Humanities Council is a supporter of NARA's programs and exhibits, including two Teaching American History grants, and serves as the state sponsor for National History Day. The Georgia Humanities Council is dedicated to building community, character, and citizenship through humanities education.

"Eyewitness—American Originals from the National Archives" at the Carter Library

Our sister institution, the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library, is frequently host to world-class exhibits which travel the country. We are proud to announce that "Eyewitness—American Originals from the National Archives" will be on display at the Carter Library from February 2, 2007 – April 29, 2007.

"Eyewitness" contains gripping eyewitness accounts—in the form of letters, diaries, audio and film records—which chronicle dramatic moments in American history. Highlights of the exhibit include: George Washington's 1775 report on a threat of bioterrorism; the testimony of President Lincoln's doctor describing his patient's condition after he was shot on April 14, 1865; and a message telecast from lunar orbit in 1968 by the crew of Apollo 8.

Also included is the testimony of John Lewis in the court case *Williams v. Wallace*, in which Lewis describes his experiences in the march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965. These records are from the holdings of the Southeast Region here in Atlanta.

Friends of the National Archives—Southeast Region 5780 Jonesboro Road Morrow, GA 30260

George Jacobs, President.....706-867-1940

Linda Geiger, Vice President.....706-268-3311

Salina Pavlovick, Treasurer.....770-891-1372

James McSweeney, NARA.....770-968-2505
Regional Administrator, james.mcsweeney@nara.gov

Richard Rayburn, NARA.....770-968-2525
Director of Archival Operation, richard.rayburn@nara.gov

Mary Evelyn Tomlin, NARA.....770-968-2555
Editor, *The Civil History*, mary.tomlin@nara.gov

Notes from North Carolina

Friends of the National Archives members will be interested to hear the latest from Dr. Charles Reeves, retired long-time director of Archival Operations. Charlie visits Atlanta periodically to see friends and family, but his official residence is in the mountains around Waynesville, North Carolina. A world traveler now, he and Diane spent several weeks in France this summer. Reportedly now he spends his time reading, working crossword puzzles, gazing at gorgeous scenery, and surfing the Internet for “entertaining” items to send to those of us who still come to the office every day and need a lift.

We offer a sampling of his latest emails:

“Did you hear about the two guys from Alabama who froze to death in a drive-in movie? They went to see “Closed for the Winter.”

Famous Last Words:

“It’s just a rash.”

“Watch this.”

“Nice doggy.”

“That’s odd; I wonder where the mother bear is.”

“This is the good kind of mushroom.”

and finally,

“I’ll hold it, you light the fuse.”

And the last one is easy:

“What do you call 40 guys watching the Super Bowl?” The Atlanta Falcons

Welcome, Rob



The Southeast Region is pleased to welcome a new archivist, Rob Richards. Rob comes to us from NARA’s Rocky Mountain Regional Office in Denver, Colorado, where he was an archives technician for four years.

Rob is a Westerner, born in California and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. A graduate of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, he also holds a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Illinois. He and his wife are the proud parents of four children (ages 7, 4, 2, and newborn). They are adjusting to life in their new home in Fayette County.

Rob will have specific responsibility for the records of the U. S. District Courts in South Carolina and the records of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Please stop by, introduce yourself, and welcome him to the South.



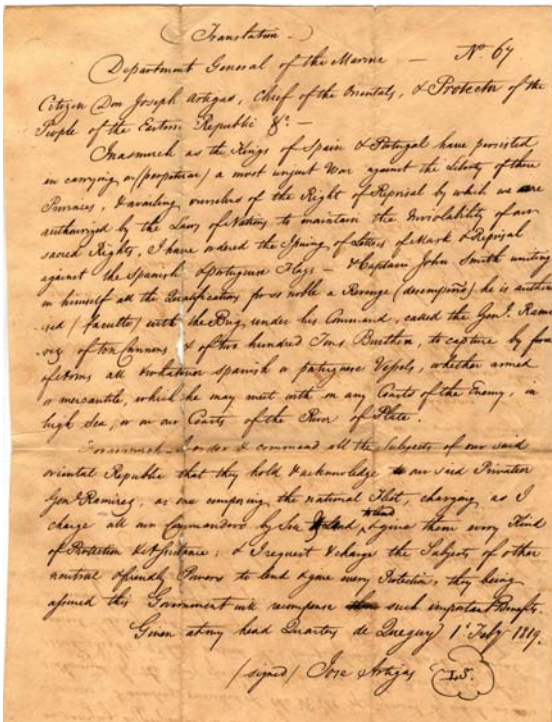
Celebrate the U.S. Constitution!

The National Archives celebrates the United States Constitution this month with public programming and with a special family event on Constitution Day—September 17. The original document continues to be safely preserved and displayed in the Rotunda of the National Archives Building. Part of the building, however—including the new William G. McGowan Theater—were badly damaged by flooding that occurred this past June. Repairs are under way, but the theater will not be ready in time for this month’s programs.

The United States Navy Memorial has generously donated the use of their theater, in the Memorial’s Naval Heritage Center, for NARA’s programs. The Southeast Region will partner with Clayton State University and the Federal Executive Board on various activities.

For more information, visit our website at www.archives.gov.

The Antelope



On the afternoon of June 29, 1820, Federal authorities spotted a ship drifting off the northern coast of Florida. A U.S. revenue cutter was dispatched to board the vessel, inspect its commission, and to inquire as to the captain's intentions. Once aboard, Federal authorities discovered that the ship, *The Antelope*, held nearly three hundred chained Africans that were intended for sale on the southern market. Because participation in the slave trade was a federal crime, the ship was escorted to Savannah, where its African captives were taken into U.S. custody to await a decision that would determine whether their future would be one of slavery or of freedom.

Representatives from the Spanish and Portuguese governments filed claims for ownership of the Africans, asserting that they had been captured from aboard ships belonging to their citizens off the coast of West Africa. The United States filed to retain custody of the Africans with the intention of providing for their return passage to Africa. With a cast of characters that included European diplomats, South American revolutionaries, and prominent figures from American history, *The Antelope's* court records tell a dramatic story of international intrigue on the high seas. At the same time, they offer a revealing glimpse into a nation divided over the "peculiar institution" and the politics surrounding the international slave trade.

Background

The Antelope's story begins in December of 1819, when *The Columbia* set sail from Baltimore under an American flag. The ship carried commission papers signed by Uruguayan Revolutionary leader Jose Artigas that authorized its captain to make war on Spanish and Portuguese ships. Once at sea, *The Columbia* raised Artigas' revolutionary flag and sailed for West Africa, where it proceeded to menace, overtake, and plunder ships engaged in the slave trade.

On March 23, *The Columbia's* crew attacked *The Antelope*, which was at anchor at Cabinda, some 300 miles south of the equator. With *The Antelope's* crew held captive below deck, the crew of *The Columbia* raided three other ships trading in the same waters before consolidating their cargo onboard *The Antelope* and *The Columbia* and setting sail in tandem for the Americas. *The Columbia* was wrecked and stranded on their return, forcing *The Antelope* to continue the voyage alone.

The Supreme Court

After a lengthy appeals process, the case reached the Supreme Court in 1825, where the lower court's decision was reversed. John Berrien, recently elected to the U. S. Senate from Georgia, represented the Vice Consul of Spain, while former congressman John Jared Ingersoll represented the Vice Consul of Portugal. Attorney General William Wirt and Francis Scott Key, author of the national anthem, argued the case for the United States government.

Writing for the majority, Chief Justice John Marshall concluded that however "abhorrent" the trade may have been, it had "claimed all the sanction which could be derived from long usage and general acquiescence." For this reason, the United States was obliged to recognize the rights of other nations to participate in the slave trade. However, because a number of the Africans in question were captured from aboard an American vessel, the United States would retain possession of a portion of their total. Those Africans that were placed in U.S. custody were returned to Africa the following year. The Africans that remained were sold to American slave owners and their proceeds delivered to the Spanish and Portuguese claimants as restitution for their losses.

Various cases relating to *The Antelope* are in the custody of the Southeast Region and filed with the Records of the U. S. District Courts for Savannah.

--Edward Hatfield



Henry, Cobb, and Fayette Teachers Tour Washington, DC

For the past three years, the Southeast Region of the National Archives has been privileged to support the work of *Linking American History*, a Teaching American History Grant awarded to Henry, Cobb, and Fayette counties. From 2004 to 2006, over 72 classroom teachers participated in activities designed to enhance content knowledge and instructional strategies for effectively utilizing historical documents in teaching American history from 1945 to the present.

“Our program emphasized American history from 1945 to the present,” explains Robynn Holland, director of the grant program. “We found that teachers indicated they knew less about this period than others because they seldom teach it. This program has given them background in this very important period and allowed them to create lesson plans by including the wealth of materials we have right here in this area.”

The culmination of the grant was a week-long trip to Washington, D.C., with visits to the National Archives, Smithsonian, Library of Congress, White House, and Capitol.

Throughout the program, the teachers researched primary source documents at the Georgia Archives, the Southeastern Region of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), and the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library. This trip was an opportunity for the teachers in the program to continue their research.

At the National Archives, the group heard Daniel Rulli, Education Specialist, speak on using primary sources in the classroom. The teachers had an opportunity to review a packet of copies of original records, including a letter from Ho Chi Minh to President Harry S. Truman, 2/28/1946; a letter from Linda Kelly, Sherry Bane, and Mickie Mattson to President Dwight D. Eisenhower regarding Elvis Presley; and a letter from President Woodrow Wilson to the Secretary of War on the official name for the war that became known as World War I.

At the National Archives, Southeast Region, we have gotten to know all of the teachers in the grant, and we think of them as our friends and partners. We are pleased that they are all members of the FNAS, and we hope to continue our professional and personal relationship with all of them.

Creating a Nation: Seeds of Democracy

As the Linking American History grant ends, a second group of teachers from Fayette, Cobb, and Henry counties are participants in another Teaching American History Grant.

While the first grant dealt with the period from 1945 to the present, this second grant focuses on the Colonial period from 1607 – 1763. The purpose is to develop in educators a greater, more in-depth understanding of the creation of our nation, i.e., the *Seeds of Democracy*. The group will concentrate on Virginia, Massachusetts, and Georgia.



The Transformation of America, 1945 – 2000

The Clayton County Public School System also was awarded a three-year Teaching American History grant. This grant is entitled *The Transformation of America*, and the focus is the time period 1945 to 2000, with an emphasis on the Civil Rights Movement.

The terms of presidents from 1945 to 2000, Harry S. Truman through the Clinton administration, will anchor the content in chronological order and provide structure for understanding the Civil Rights Movement and the rise of America as a major player in world events.

Partners include the University of Georgia, Morehouse College, the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library, National Archives--Southeast Region, and the Atlanta History Center.



WWI Draft Registration Cards Available on Order Online!

Customers are now able to order copies of WWI Draft Registration Cards from the National Archives using Order Online!, the National Archives' online ordering web site. Order Online! provides an easy and convenient method for customers to request reproductions of records and pay for orders with most major credit cards.

What are WWI Draft Registration Cards?

The World War One Draft Registration Cards are the Southeast Region's most requested record group and most popular records with everyone—family historians but also casual visitors to the facility. They are 5 ¾ inch x 4 ½ inch two-sided forms used by the Selective Service System to record information from men who were required to register for the draft. All men born between September 12, 1872 and September 12, 1900 who were not in active military service by June 5, 1917 were required to fill out draft registration cards, regardless of their citizenship status.

What formats are reproductions available in?

WWI Draft Registration Cards are available as color digital images or as black and white photocopies. The color images are scanned at 200 dpi resolution and stored in .jpg format, which are made available for download, once reproduced, on Order Online! The image is suitable for framing. The cost is \$10 for a front/back scan of an individual card – what a bargain!

What are the benefits of Order Online!?

Customers can order through the Internet 24 hours a day, 365 days a year using a web browser on any computer.

“Smart forms” provide guidance for completing the online request.

Customers may establish and manage an Order Online! personal account, storing their information for future orders and enabling them to check their order status online.

Additional Information

Three cards containing slightly different questions were used during registration periods. Information on the card may include the registrant's name; address; age and date of birth; race; citizenship status; occupation and employer; claim of exemption by reason of dependency or occupation; name and address of nearest relative; a physical description of the registrant; the registrant's mark or signature; the registrar's signed report of any apparent disabilities of the registrant; the name, address, and coded serial number of the local board at which the registration occurred; and the registrant's order number and “red ink” or serial number.

The existence of a draft card does not necessarily denote military service. Registration is often confused with induction into the military; however, only a small percentage of those who registered were actually inducted into the military. The reverse is also true. All men who served in World War I did not necessarily register for the draft. Those who volunteered or those who were already in the military did not register.

How do customers get to Order Online!?

Order Online! can be accessed by visiting:

<https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline>

Interested users may continue to request photocopies of the cards for \$10 by sending an email to Atlanta.archives@nara.gov or mailing a written request to:

National Archives
Southeast Region
5780 Jonesboro Road
Morrow, GA 30260

Please specify the name of the draft registrant, alternate names or spelling, home address at the time of registration, and date of birth.

For those in the Atlanta area, we invite you to visit our research facility and make photocopies of cards for 15¢ per page.

Was Your Ancestor in the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary?

When Susan Sloan made her presentation at the Family History Fair in August, she told the attendees that “If you haven’t found any skeletons in your family tree, you haven’t looked hard enough.” Skeletons are in every family. While we know that none of our FNAS members have ancestors who served time, it’s possible that you may know someone who did.

New additions to our web site include a name index for the 14,006 inmates at the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary from 1902 to 1921. Members of the FNAS and volunteers spent years processing these files, and now they have all been indexed and added to the Archival Research Catalog and as a stand-alone finding aid on our website. The index lists the name, inmate number, race, age, court where the inmate was convicted, and crime.

This series consists of individual case files for each inmate who entered the U. S. Penitentiary in Atlanta before 1921. Information in the file may include full name, other names used, inmate number, age at date of sentencing, race, date of incarceration, place of conviction, crime, sentence, fine amount and court fines and costs (if any), full-term release date, actual release date, and dispensation of inmate.

Additional information also available on most prisoners includes a fingerprint card, a "mug shot" photograph of the inmate with front and profile views, physical description, citizenship, birthplace, level of education, birthplace of parents, and age at which the inmate left home.

Check out our website at www.archives.gov/southeast/finding-aids/atlanta-penitentiary for more information.

National Archives and Records Administration

Southeast Regional Archives

5780 Jonesboro Road

Morrow, GA 30260

