

# THE CIVIL HISTORY

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

## Archives Shelves its One Millionth Box



PHOTO BY ASHLEY JUDY

Allen Weinstein and NARA staff Rob Richards and Roger Miller.

### **One Million Boxes!!!**

Often, when people think of the National Archives, they picture the mammoth buildings in Washington, D.C. and College Park, MD, and they see in their mind rows and rows of boxes. That's correct--the holdings in the Washington area are massive. But the National Archives is much more.

Via a nationwide network of regional facilities from Boston to Anchorage, the agency houses millions of documents (outside of Washington, D.C.). Those boxes contain documents which detail the work of the Federal government in specific parts of the country.

### **And, those regions now hold 1 million cubic feet of records!!!**

The Southeast Region was recently honored by a visit by the Archivist of the United States, Allen Weinstein, to ceremoniously shelve the 1 millionth cubic foot of holdings

in the regional offices of the National Archives. He was ably assisted by Roger Miller and Rob Richards. And, for those interested, the Atlanta box contains civil case files from the U. S. District Court in Louisville, Kentucky.

### **Looking Ahead**

In June, 2009, the Southeast Region will host a one-day event: "Documented Rights: A Symposium on the Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement." The program will conclude with the opening of a National Archives exhibit on civil and human rights, featuring original federal documents gathered from our facilities across the country.

While in Atlanta, the Archivist took time to review the civil rights section of the exhibit in our lobby in anticipation of the upcoming symposium and exhibit.

In reading the documents associated with the march from Selma to Montgomery, he told the staff an interesting story about the backpack that John Lewis wore during the march. Lewis told him that people often ask about the backpack—why did he have it and what was in it. John Lewis replied that he knew he would be going to jail and that he would need a few personal things.



PHOTO BY ASHLEY JUDY

Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States, with David McMillen, Congressional Affairs, National Archives.

## Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers

If you haven't searched Footnote.com, be sure to experiment with it on your next visit to the National Archives. Footnote is a paid subscription service which is available free to National Archives visitors. The goal of Footnote is to digitize and make available on the web all NARA microfilm publications. Their progress in achieving this goal has been impressive. The system now contains Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the States of Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Alabama, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. These records are labeled with each soldier's name, rank,

NARA Microfilm Publication Number	State	Percent Complete
M0266	Georgia	98%
M0267	South Carolina	98%
M0268	Tennessee	95%
M0269	Mississippi	94%
M0270	North Carolina	98%
M0311	Alabama	99%
M0320	Louisiana	96%
M0323	Texas	100%
M0324	Virginia	99%

and unit, with links to revealing documents about each soldier. In addition Footnote includes compiled service records of Confederate officers and enlisted men who did not belong to any particular regiment, separate company or comparable unit, or special corps.

## Students Contribute to Work of the Southeast Region

To ensure the timely delivery of archival programs to our patrons, we rely heavily upon college students. Luckily we are blessed with a group of talented, dedicated students who literally make it possible for us to open the doors everyday.



PHOTO BY GUY HALL

From left to right are Ashley Judy, Sara Brewer, Erica Bethel, Lisa Frazier, and Maureen Hill.

We thank you all for the wonderful work that you do! You are a vital part of the Southeast Region.

**Sara Brewer** first came to us as an undergraduate history student at the University of Georgia. She is now enrolled in the online Library and Information Science graduate program at the University of South Carolina. Sara is responsible for the textual research room. She is currently working on creating a database of TVA negatives.

**Maureen Hill** is currently enrolled in the graduate online Library and Information Science program at Valdosta State University. She often serves the public in the Finding Aids Room, but she has additional duties in accessioning records. Maureen has traveled to Little Rock for the Southeastern Museum Conference and will be representing

the Southeast Region at the Southern Historical Association annual meeting in New Orleans in October.

**Erica Bethel** is a senior at Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta and has been with us since 2005. Her major is technical communication with a concentration in digital media and graphics. She is our computer and graphics whiz and is the layout editor for *The Civil History*. She also takes care of the recordkeeping associated with the FNAS.

**Shane Bell** is the latest in a series of talented students from Clayton State University. He is a graduate student in history. Shane's special areas of interest are early American history and NASA. He will be traveling to Philadelphia to present a paper on the African Slave Trade at a professional conference in October.

**Ashley Judy** is a graduate student in history with a concentration in public history at the University of West Georgia. We recently discovered that Ashley is a talented photographer, and several of her photographs appear in this edition of *The Civil History*.

**Christina Chiknas** is a student at Georgia State University, majoring in history and philosophy with a focus on European cultural history and thought from the late 19th century. She works on indexing naturalization petitions from Louisville, Kentucky, and the upkeep of Farm Ownership case files.

**Lisa Frazier** is a graduate student in women's studies with a focus on African-American women and religion at Georgia State University. She works on indexing slave manifests, Savannah court records, and Native American records.

**Do you know a college student who likes history and is interested in earning money to help pay tuition?**

The National Archives employs hundreds of college students each year in all of our locations around the country. In the Southeast Region interested students should send an e-mail and resume to Rob Richards at [rob.richards@nara.gov](mailto:rob.richards@nara.gov).

# CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

The Civilian Conservation Corps began as part of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal on March 31, 1933. The CCC, also known as the Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) Act, was established to combat two growing problems in the United States in the 1930's; increasing numbers of unemployed young men and declining natural resources. The CCC would become one of the most successful and remembered experiment of the New Deal, employing over three million young men.

On April 5, 1933, Robert Fechner, a union vice-president, was hand-picked by Roosevelt to be the National Director of the ECW. In addition, an Advisory Council composed of representatives of the Secretaries of Labor, Agriculture, War and Interior, was established. By April 7, 1933, only 37 days after Roosevelt signed the bill, the first enrollee was inducted into the CCC. A separate division of the CCC, initially known as the Indian Emergency Conservation Work (ICEW), was approved by Roosevelt on April 27, 1933. After 1937, it was known as the Civilian Conservation Corps - Indian Division (CCC-ID) and worked in conjunction with the Soil Conservation Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The first hurdle the CCC had to overcome was transporting thousands of men, supplies and equipment from the eastern U.S., where the majority of the unemployed men were, to the western U.S., where most of the work needed to be done. This challenge was met through the cooperation and efforts of four U.S. government organizations, the Army, the Department of Labor, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior. Together, they selected and enrolled applicants, moved thousands of enrollees from induction centers to working camps, and planned work projects to be completed.

By 1935, over 2,650 camps had been established in all states, as well as, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands; and more than 600,000 people were working for the CCC. In national and state parks, the enrollees built roads and bridges, constructed fire breaks and drainage ditches, cleared



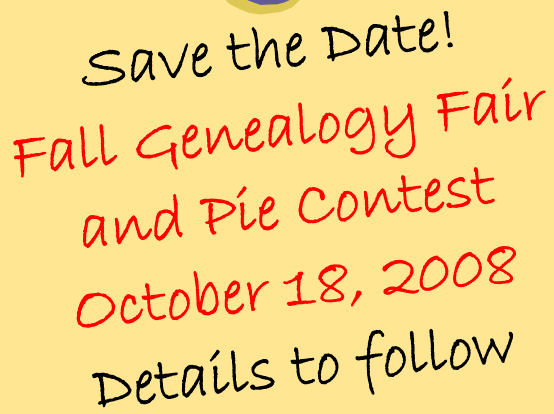
campgrounds, planted trees and tried to control insect populations. Despite the success of the CCC, on September 25, 1935, President Roosevelt instructed Fechner to gradually reduce the number of men and camps in order to cut costs. Over the next several years, attempts were made by Roosevelt and his supporters to make the CCC a permanent federal agency; however, his attempts failed.

Another blow came in 1939, when CCC Director Robert Fechner submitted his resignation and shortly thereafter, died of a heart attack. James L. McEntee, the executive assistant director of the CCC, replaced Fechner as the Director. By mid-year 1941, due to desertion, lack of applicants and poor public opinion, the CCC was in a serious decline. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, focus shifted away from the CCC's domestic improvement projects to national security issues. As a result, on July 1, 1942, Congress abolished the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Government agencies connected to the CCC generated financial records, correspondence, enrollee information reports and other various items, such as project proposals and land maps. These government agencies included the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Many of the archived records for the aforementioned agencies are held by the National Archives Southeast Region. Items related to CCC business affairs at the Archives were located and detailed in this finding aid. A brief history of each agency and their relationship with the CCC is provided, followed by the location and description of the CCC records.

~ Maranda Gilmore  
University of Alabama, SLIS

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WWW.FRIENDSNAS.ORG



Save the Date!  
Fall Genealogy Fair  
and Pie Contest  
October 18, 2008  
Details to follow

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