

THE CIVIL HISTORY

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Regional Administrator Jim McSweeney, Joel Walker, Mary Evelyn Tomlin, Tom Mills, Lisa Royse, and Rob Richards officially cut the ribbon opening "Documented Rights."



Visitors to the exhibit view the section "A Change is Gonna Come" showcasing records related to Jackie Robinson, Ella Fitzgerald, and Martin Luther King.

If there is no struggle, there is no progress.

—Frederick Douglass

June 13, 2009—February 23, 2010

Documented Rights Exhibit Opens at National Archives at Atlanta

Drawn from the holdings of the 13 regional National Archives facilities coast to coast, **Documented Rights** presents records that give voice to the national struggle for human and civil rights. It features more than 80 documents, facsimiles, images and sound recordings, including:

- Selected documents from all five court cases that comprised **Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka**, the landmark Supreme Court ruling that ended school segregation;
- Court records of the schooner **Amistad**, that tell the story of 53 Africans who resisted enslavement, overpowered the ship's captain and were found off the coast of Long Island;
- A manifest of **Negroes, Mulattos, and Persons of Color**, who were moved from Baltimore to Mobile in 1844.
- Court records from San Francisco in the 1890s chronicling the citizenship odyssey of San Francisco-born **Wong Kim Ark**;
- The official logbook recording the WWII evacuation and relocation of **Aleuts** in Alaska;
- Court records reflecting the efforts of white residents of **Koinonia Farms**, Georgia, to overcome various forms of discrimination;
- An early Montgomery Improvement Association booklet by **Martin Luther King, Jr.**; and
- A court martial order for Second Lt. **Jackie Robinson** who refused to move to the back of the bus on a military post.

Stories from the Great Depression on YouTube!

Friends, researchers, and staff at the National Archives at Atlanta can now see themselves on YouTube. YouTube is a new technology probably unknown to some of the stars of *Stories from the Great Depression*. In June the National Archives formally launched the channel to showcase popular films.

At last count, *Stories from the Great Depression* had 1,021 views and five stars! Part of the "Touring 1930s America" section, it is one of the most popular sections of the National Archives site.

Check us out at www.youtube.com/USNationalArchives. Note: If FNAS members are not familiar with YouTube, ask your grandchildren to show you how to access it.

Activities for Students and Teachers

Fact or Fict? Try A Novel Approach!

From the Latin, *fact* is "something done" and *fict* is "something made." The National Archives at Atlanta invites students to *make something* from the stories behind the factual documents in the *Documented Rights* exhibit, on display at our facility until February 23, 2010 and also found online at <http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/documented-rights/>.

A Novel Approach: the *Documented Rights* Historical Fiction Project encourages students to write historical fiction inspired by the primary source documents found in this exhibit about the struggles and expansion of human and civil rights in the course of American history.

For more information on all education activities, please contact Joel Walker at 770-968-2530 or Joel.Walker@nara.gov.

"I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy . . . a real live nephew of my Uncle Sam born on the Fourth of July!"

For 88 new citizens representing 47 countries, these lyrics by George M. Cohan, took on special meaning on Tuesday, July 4, 2009.

The National Archives at Atlanta, in partnership with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service's Department of Homeland Security, hosted a Naturalization Ceremony at the Morrow archival facility. With an overflow crowd of 200 friends and family members watching, the new citizens took the "Oath of Allegiance" to the United States of America on the 233rd anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Three national television affiliates covered the ceremony and interviewed proud new citizens, with the region's *Documented Rights* exhibit serving as a powerful backdrop for their expressions of joy. One new citizen commented that "becoming a citizen at the National Archives on the Fourth of July was more than I could have imagined."



ATLANTA RESEARCHER WINS NARA'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN GENEALOGY !

Myron McGhee, Atlanta researcher, wins first place in NARA's genealogy contest!

In celebration of its 75th anniversary, the National Archives announced two awards to recognize achievements in genealogy research, based on genealogical records from the National Archives. Acting Archivist Adrienne C. Thomas presented these awards at the Fifth Annual Genealogy Fair at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, on April 22, 2009.

First place (\$1,000 award) was awarded to Myron McGhee of Decatur, GA, who is a Library and Information Science Masters student at Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA. Mr. McGhee's essay, "The Use of National Archives Holdings for Genealogical Research," traces his family's ancestry using Federal, state, and local government records.

Myron is a student in the Master of Library Science program at Valdosta State University and is the circulation specialist at Pitts Theology Library at Emory University.

Myron was encouraged to enter the contest by Maureen Hill, Archives Specialist at the National Archives at Atlanta.



Myron McGhee and Maureen Hill at NARA

Alvin C. York vs. IRS

Occasionally archival staff and researchers discover unique and interesting records that are a surprise—things we didn't know about tucked away in the thousands of boxes in the stacks. A case in point is a file discovered during routine processing relating to Alvin York's problems with the Internal Revenue Service.

Alvin York, the celebrated hero of World War I, is prominently featured in exhibits and programs of the National Archives at Atlanta because we hold his original draft card where he indicated that he "did not want to fight." He was subsequently drafted, and claimed an exemption as a conscientious objector—which was denied. Later his war experiences were chronicled in print and movies.

Did you know that York, like many Americans, had problems with his income taxes? In 1948 he filed a lawsuit against the IRS in the U. S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee in Nashville. He disagreed with the IRS over how his income from films and print media should be treated on his tax return. The file includes a carbon copy of the contract between York and Jesse L. Lasky, a major Hollywood film producer.

The court noted that the trial, originally set for August 1, 1949, was continued by reason of the illness of the plaintiff in an order entered on July 25, 1949. However, it appeared to the Court that since the plaintiff was well enough to attend the American Legion Convention at Chattanooga, Tennessee, "it should not impair his health to be required to attend court."

“. . . Without any intention or design on the part of the Plaintiff [Alvin York], because of his experiences as a boy and young man in the Tennessee mountains, and because of certain experiences he had in World War I, his life story assumed, acquired, and became possessed with a unique value to the extent that certain publishing concerns and certain motion picture producers desired to publish the story of certain events in his life and/or to produce on the motion picture screen certain events from his said life.”

Alvin c. York, Plaintiff vs. Lipe Henslee, Collector of Internal Revenue, Civil Case File 928, June 9, 1948; Records of the U. S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee (Nashville); National Archives at Atlanta.

Coming Events

Researching Individual Native Americans at the National Archives

Have you always heard that you are descended from a Native American Tribe? Would you like to know how to trace that ancestry? Join us for a workshop on records in the National Archives that document the heritage of Native Americans.

Presenter: Paul Graham
 August 14, 2009 • 10:00–12:00 • Free

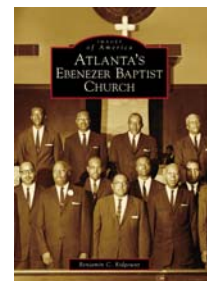


Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church

An Author Lecture/Book Signing by Benjamin C. Ridgeway

Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, is one of America's most historic churches. Join us for an event with the author of a new book on its history.

September 26, 2009 • 2:00 P.M. • Free



WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.FRIENDSNAS.ORG

GSU educator's photos show other side of Civil Rights Movement

Demonstrations, protests and sit-ins are images that typically come to mind when one thinks of the Civil Rights Movement.

But Doris Derby, director of African-American Student Services and Programs at Georgia State, shows other aspects of this turbulent time in our nation's history through her photography in a new exhibit.

As an active member of the movement during the 1960s, Derby captured African Americans working to reform health care, equalize the educational system, spark economic development and revitalize the art world.

Nearly 100 of her photographs will be on display over the next three months at the **Hammonds House Museum in Atlanta** in an exhibit titled, "Photo Griots: Doris Derby and Sue Ross."

For more information on her current exhibit, visit: <http://hammondshouse.org/exhibitions.html>

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