

THE CIVIL HISTORY

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

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The National Archives is 75!

“To bring together the records of the past and to house them in a building where they will be preserved for the use of men and women in the future, a Nation must believe in three things. It must believe in the past. It must believe in the future. It must, above all, believe in the capacity of its own people so to learn from the past that they can gain judgment in creating their own future.”

—Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 1941

The National Archives is 75! To celebrate our birthday, special events, exhibits, and program are planned. Find out about defining moments in the agency’s history during the decades through photo galleries, personal stories, and notices of special events throughout the nation. A special section of our website is devoted to the 75th Celebration. Visit www.archives.gov/75th for stories about the early days of the National Archives.



The National Archives Building in Washington DC at night: This view from Pennsylvania Avenue shows two statues titled "The Past" and "The Future."



Archivist R.D.W. Connor (right) receives a master print of the epic film "Gone With The Wind" from Carter Barron, Loew's Eastern Division Manager of Theaters on January 30, 1941. Looking on is Senator Walter Franklin George of Georgia.



The contestants and winner of the 1966 Miss Archives on stage at the National Archives Building Theater. Miss Archives, Eve Walking, is the one wearing the crown.

Friends of the National Archives

Southeast Region

Annual Meeting—April 18, 2009

Featuring a special presentation by Kenneth H. Thomas entitled:
This Property is Condemned!

Time: 10:00 (Brief business meeting followed by program)

Where: National Archives—Southeast Region
5780 Jonesboro Road
Morrow, GA 30260

No, Ken Thomas is not talking about the Tennessee Williams play! He will be discussing an often overlooked, and rich, source of family history information—land condemnation records. Land condemnation is the legal process by which the government uses its power to take private property for the purpose of public use upon payment of “just compensation.” Examples of land condemnation files are the government’s taking of land to build military bases, national parks, dams, and government facilities.

The files of the Southeast Region are full of land condemnation court cases. They often contain important information on the families who occupied the land and can include letters, photographs, and lineage charts.

Examples of land condemnation case files for Fort Benning, Georgia, and various other sites will be on display.

Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr. retired in 2006 after 33 years as Historian with the Historic Preservation Division of the Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources. He continues to write, since 1977, the Genealogy column in the Sunday ***Atlanta Journal-Constitution***.

A native of Columbus, Georgia, he began his genealogy and local history interest by going with his grandparents to Fort Benning and hearing the stories of how the family land was taken over by the government, leaving only the family cemetery as a reminder of that lost world.

*He is the moderator of the Georgia Professional Genealogists, and the author of **Columbus, Georgia, in Vintage Postcards** (2001) and **Images of America: Fort Benning** (2003) both by Arcadia Publishing. He lives in Decatur, GA.*



From Sacred Harp to Elvis: Music in the Archives

The Southeast Region is pleased to present an exhibit of documents relating to music in our society. The exhibit will be open to the public beginning March 7, 2009, and continuing until April 30, 2009. These documents and images tell the story of the diversity of music in the South and offer a small window into the lives of a few notable musicians. Like all Americans, some musicians achieved great fame and fortune, others spent time in court, some were drafted, and some met presidents. But all enriched our lives with their talent.

We invite all visitors to the Southeast Region to take a few minutes and enjoy seeing documents related to our musical heritage—from the Sacred Harp music in rural areas of the South to Elvis, the King of Rock 'n Roll.

What was Going on at Steve's Pine Room on Route 2?

In 1973, for an admission fee of \$2, one could hear Bob Dylan, Janis Joplin, and Johnny Nash on the jukebox at Steve's Pine Room on Route 2, Waycross Highway, in Blackshear, Georgia.

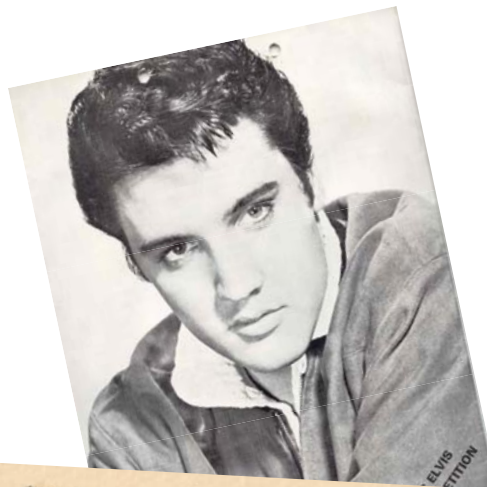
An interesting file in the Records of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia, Waycross Division is full of "big names," interesting sheet music, and a Janis Joplin 45 rpm of *Cry, Baby*. Big Sky Music, Strong Arm Music, Cherry Lane Music Co. and Miles Ahead Music all sued Herman Charlie Todd and Steve Bawkin of Waycross. Todd was the owner of a place of business for public entertainment, accommodation, amusement and refreshment known as Steve's Pine Room, and located on Route 2, Waycross Highway, in Blackshear, in the State of Georgia. The music companies charged that performances of musical compositions by famous musicians were "each rendered upon a jukebox" at Steve's Pine Room. Todd and Bawkin did not obtain a license from the publishing companies allowing them to perform the copyrighted works.

Published!

Shane Bell, NARA Southeast Region archives technician and graduate student at Clayton State University, is the author of "The Apollo-Soyuz Test Project: Détente and the Cold War" published in the current issue of *Quest: The History of Spaceflight Quarterly*.

For those unfamiliar with the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, it was a partnership between the Soviet Union and the United States to join technology in space and enter into a new era of cooperation and trust.

Good work, Shane!



In January, 1953, a young student at Humes High School in Memphis, Tennessee, registered for the draft. At the time, he lived with his family at 698 Saffarns, a rooming house in Memphis. That was a long time before he moved to a mansion on Elvis Presley Boulevard.

Welcome, Joel!



The Southeast Region is pleased to welcome a new staff member. Our new Education Specialist, Joel Walker, joined our staff on February 2nd. He will be responsible for working with teachers and students in our eight-state area.

From the Great Plains, Joel was born in Nebraska and taught middle school for ten years in Kansas after graduating from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. He has been a park ranger with the National Park Service and an education coordinator at the Kansas State Museum. From 2000 to 2009 he served as Education Director at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. His main duty there was serving as state coordinator of National History Day in South Carolina.

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

Coming Soon!

Documented Rights

**An Exhibit Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the
National Archives**

Since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, our rights as citizens of the United States have been debated, contested, amended, and documented. These rights, documented in records held by National Archives locations across the country, give voice to our national struggle for individuals' freedoms and rights.

The National Archives at Atlanta

June 13, 2009 – February 23, 2010

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