

THE CIVIL HISTORY

The Regional Newsletter of
The Friends of the National Archives and
The National Archives at Atlanta

July 2010

Teaching American History

If it's summer, then it must be time for teachers to visit the National Archives. In July, teachers in three Teaching American History Grant (TAH) programs came to hear speakers, review original primary sources, and tour the facility. For many it was their first trip to an archival facility.

For four days during the week of July 12, forty-two kindergarten through 3rd grade teachers from Fayette and Henry County Public Schools participated in the TAH grant "Building Connections" held at the National Archives at Atlanta. The grant presentations taught by Dr. Robert Pratt of the University of Georgia focused on the Georgia Social Studies Standards for those grades with historical content. One of the many highlights for the teachers was the tour of our regional Archives led by NARA staff members Mary Evelyn Tomlin and Joel Walker.



Photo by Sara Brewer

Teachers enjoy discussing what they learned among themselves .

For two days, thirty-four teachers from Sumter County, South Carolina, were immersed in primary sources at the National Archives at Atlanta. From sessions on our online resources and the Great Depression to sources on the Cold War and the early Civil Rights movement, these teachers explored our great wealth of documents.

"Thank you for the wonderful two days that our group spent at the Archives," said Sumter County Teaching American History grant director Judy Newman, "they really felt that they had learned a great deal about the Archives and obtained some good information, thanks for helping them feel so comfortable in your setting!" The group included fourth, fifth and eleventh grade American history teachers and 8th grade South Carolina history teachers.



Photo by Sara Brewer

Pictured, left to right, are Robert Pratt, University of Georgia; Robynn Holland, Project Director; Joel Walker, NARA Education Specialist; Rae Hobgood, Administrative Assistant; Cathy Geiss, Social Studies Coordinator for Fayette County; Sarah Brown, Education Consultant; James McSweeney, Regional Administrator at the National Archives at Atlanta; and Mary Evelyn Tomlin, NARA's public programs specialist.

Workshops, Academic Meetings, and Fun Programs

Digital Scrapbooking Workshop

July 31, 2010 9:30 – 4:00

The National Archives at Atlanta invites you to a workshop to learn more about organizing your research records and offers to produce high resolution scans of your documents and photographs. These photographs, taken in less than a minute, live on and outlast lifetimes. Through digital scrapbooking you can organize and preserve your family's history for your distant relatives and coming generations.

Instructors are:
Linda Woodward
Geiger, Certified
Genealogist,

Gin Shaw,
Consultant with
Heritage Makers.



This workshop is sponsored by the Friends of the National Archives Southeast. **Registration is required.** Registration form is available at <http://www.friendsnas.org>

Cost: \$25 plus 19¢ per item for scanned documents plus \$1 per CD

Finding Your Family Online

August 19, 2010 12:00 – 1:00

Hands-on workshop on using the National Archives website for family history information as well as other free Federal government websites. Registration is limited to fifteen. Free. Call 770-968-2555.

Ancestry Day

September 18, 2010 9:00 – 4:00

Presented in partnership with the Afro American Historical and Genealogical Society.

Presenters: Reggie Washington, National Archives at Washington, will discuss the Southern Claims Commission. Representative from Ancestry.com will discuss Slave Narratives and other resources available on Ancestry.com.

For more details, watch our calendar of events on our website at www.archives.gov/southeast

From Bunker Hill to Kabul:

The Search for One Family's Stories in the National Archives

November 6, 2010 10:00 – 3:00

Nathan Jordan, a National Archives at Atlanta employee, discusses his family's unique military history, beginning with his ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War and ending with his military service in Afghanistan. Following the formal presentation, there will be an "Open Recollections" session where attendees can share "war stories," memories about loved ones who served in the military, and stories about their ancestors. Guided research and assistance in ordering military files from the National Archives Military Records Center in St. Louis, MO, will also be available. **Special Guest: David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States (and Vietnam veteran)**

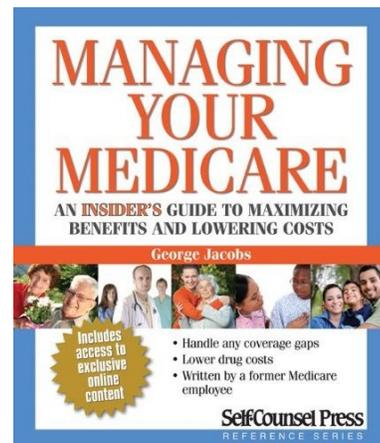
Author, Author!

George Jacobs, erstwhile president of the Friends of the National Archives Southeast, is also a retired Federal employee who worked for the Social Security Administration and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for over 30 years. Not one to sit around in his north Georgia mountain community, George has volunteered as a Medicare beneficiary counselor. He has been busy writing a book entitled *Managing Your Medicare*, which was published in January of 2010 by Self Counsel Press.

Complex rules and regulations can confuse users of the Medicare system. Whether you are a senior, the child of an aging parent, or even a health-care professional, *Managing Your Medicare* is the complete guide to understanding and taking advantage of the best Medicare plans to suit your needs. George explains in easy-to-understand language how the system works and what you can do to take advantage of it.

Plans are to have George make a presentation on Medicare at a later date.

Watch our calendar of events (www.archives.gov/southeast/public/workshops) for the date.



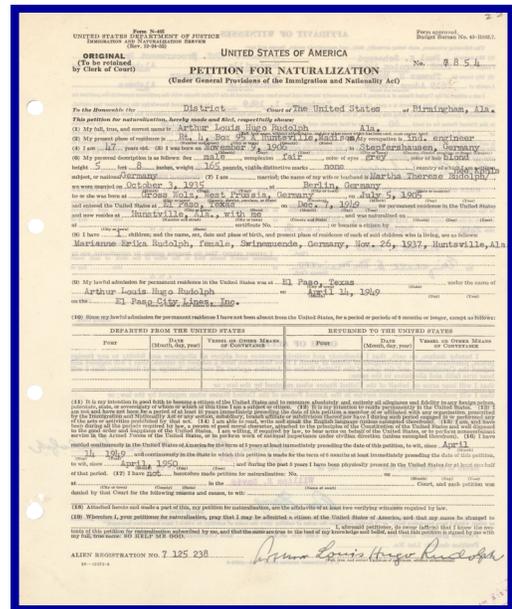
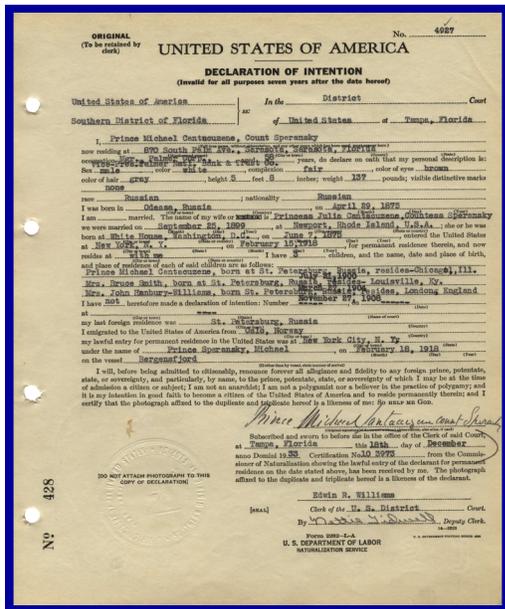
The Dream for a Better Life

“Far, we’ve been traveling far
Without a home, but not without a star”
America by Neil Diamond, 1980

We are a nation of immigrants. It has been said many times, but we are a country that many people want to make their own. Neil Diamond’s song captures the story of thousands of immigrants who came to America—people who came so far with a dream. Their reasons for coming were varied—turmoil in their homeland, persecution, discrimination. However, they all had one thing in common—a dream for a better life.

The National Archives at Atlanta, the official repository of the official records of the Federal government, is the custodian of the records that document the movement of immigrants into this country and their steps toward “becoming America.” Behind these seemingly innocuous records of the Federal government are stories—sometimes obvious and sometimes quite subtle—but each exciting, dreadful, or at least interesting.

Below are a few gems for the researcher.



In 1933, **Prince Michael Cantacuzene, Count Speransky** was living in Sarasota, Florida, when he declared his intention to file for citizenship. He was at that time the manager of Palmer Corp and the vice-president of Palmer National Bank & Trust Company. Count Speransky’s Declaration of Intention is one of the most interesting documents our staff has come across. He was born in Odessa, Russia and attended military schools. He was a general in the Russian army when World War I broke out. When Tsar Nicholas II’s regime collapsed in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, he and his family fled the city of St. Petersburg.

The document indicates that his wife was Princess Julia Cantacuzene, Countess Speransky. Princess Julia was formerly Julia Dent Grant and was born at the White House in Washington, D.C. on June 7, 1875. She was the granddaughter of President Ulysses S. Grant.

Arthur Louis Hugo Rudolph, a German rocket scientist for Adolph Hitler, helped develop and produce the V-2 rocket. After World War II, he was brought to the United States as part of “Project Paperclip” and worked for the U.S. Army and NASA. He was transferred to Huntsville, Alabama, with a large group of German scientists and worked on the Saturn V Moon rocket. He became an American citizen in Birmingham, Alabama. In the 1980s, the United States government investigated his background more thoroughly, and believed that his ideas on racial superiority, his participation in the Nazi Party, and his role in the treatment of prisoners at Mittelwerk were grounds for his deportation. He was forced to renounce his U. S. citizenship and return to Germany.

Rudolph and Cantacuzene and both well-known names. However, most naturalization records are for ordinary people whose names most people would not recognize. The naturalization documents are a gateway into the story of what was undoubtedly an interesting life. It’s up to the researcher to find the story.

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

Take Home a Piece of History!

The National Archives at Atlanta invites our guests to visit The Exhibit Shoppe, located in the main lobby. At the Shoppe, images from the National Archives are available for purchase which allow anyone to take home a piece of history.



Many resources are also available to help educate every mind about archival research, genealogy, and general American history. For questions about the Exhibit Shoppe, please see Amy Galli in the lobby or call her at 770-968-2100.

Please come visit us!

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