

# THE CIVIL HISTORY

The Regional Newsletter of  
The Friends of the National Archives—Southeast Region and  
The National Archives at Atlanta

October 2011

## It's Coming in 167 days, 15 hours, 58 minutes, 05 seconds

**Mark your calendars...** As we went to press, the NARA website noted that there are 167 days until April 2<sup>nd</sup>. That's an important date for family historians and for our users.

April 2<sup>nd</sup> is the date the 1940 census is available for public viewing. Closed by law for 72 years, the 1940 census population schedules will be available free of charge at NARA facilities or on your home computer on April 2, 2012, beginning at **9:00 AM** (Eastern Daylight Time).

Normally closed on Monday, the National Archives at Atlanta will open at 8:30 to assist census users.

### Old-Fashioned Research

There is no name index so users will have to use old-fashioned research. Users can locate people by identifying the enumeration district in which they lived in 1940 and then browsing the census population schedules for that enumeration district.

The National Archives has placed copies of the enumeration district maps and descriptions in its Archival Research Catalog. For more information go to "How to Start Your 1940 Census Research" at [www.archives.gov/research/census/1940](http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940)

### Questions Asked on the 1940 Census

Many of the questions on the 1940 census are the standard ones: name, age, gender, race, education, and place of birth. However, the 1940 census also asked many new questions. Enumerators were asked to record the name of the person furnishing the information about the family; whether the person worked for the CCC, WPA, or NYA the week of March 24-30, 1940; and income for the 12 months ending December 31, 1939. The 1940 also has a supplemental schedule for two names on each page.

### Supplemental Schedules

The supplemental schedule asks the place of birth of the person's father and mother; the person's usual occupation, not just what they were doing the week of March 24-30, 1940; and for all women who are or have been married, whether this woman has been married more than once and age at first marriage. For more information, contact the National Archives at [1940Census@nara.gov](mailto:1940Census@nara.gov).

A card puncher, an integral part of the tabulation system used by the Census Bureau to compile thousands of facts gathered by the Bureau.



## A Treasure Trove of History Waiting to be Discovered

The Friends of the National Archives-Southeast Region, in partnership with the National Archives at Atlanta, will present the fourth in a series of webinars related to records in the National Archives. The fourth webinar deals with the somewhat complicated subject of military service records.

**When:** Monday, November 14, 2011

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Where:** From your home

The presenter is Kevin Pratt. Pratt retired as a Commander from the United States Coast Guard in 2006 after twenty-one years of service. He served as Vice President of Client Services at John Sibbald and Associates after his retirement until returning to government service at the National Personnel Records Center in the fall of 2007. During his successful career in the Coast Guard he served at units across the country including two tours in Hawaii.

Mr. Pratt currently serves as the Manager of Reference Core Two at the National Personnel Records Center and as an Adjunct Professor for Columbia College.

The webinar is free, but registration is required. The public is invited to listen and join the conversation.

### Registration:

Register at <http://www.friendsnas.org>

### [Save the Date](#)

Martin Luther King, Jr. Film Festival

We invite everyone to join us on Saturday, January 21, 2012, for our annual MLK program. This year we will feature a number of films profiling Dr. King's life and work.

Refreshments: Popcorn and drinks

Admission: Free

## [Good-bye World War II Draft Registration Cards](#)

The World War II Draft Registration Cards are presently being transferred to the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. That includes the registration card for Elvis Presley, Martin Luther King, Jr., Strom Thurmond, and William Faulkner—as well as your relatives. Reference has been discontinued on the cards while they are prepared for shipping.

Once the cards are in St. Louis, researchers may contact St. Louis at the following address for access.

National Archives and Records Administration  
National Archives at St. Louis  
ATTN: RL-SL  
P.O. Box 38757  
St. Louis, MO 63138

 footnote.com  
is now

 fold3 

**Why the change?** Footnote has refocused its efforts on a large collection of military records. The name reflects military history and honor.

**What does it mean?** Traditionally, the third fold in a flag-folding ceremony honors and remembers veterans for their sacrifice in defending their country and promoting peace in the world.

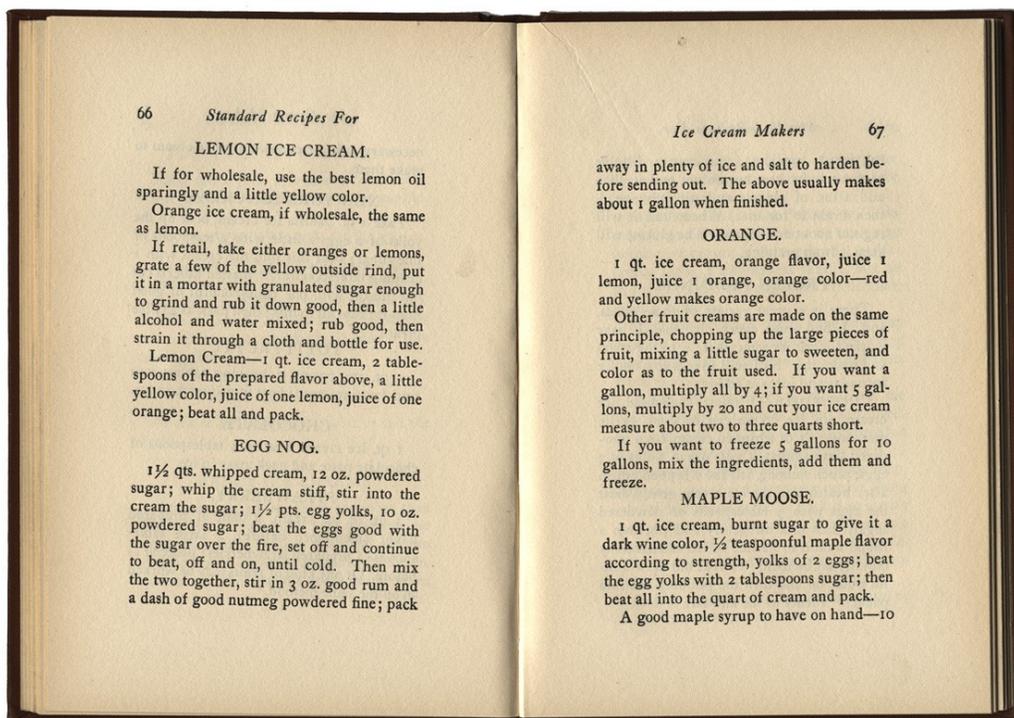
### [Carter Library to host lecture and book signing by Harry Belafonte and Tom Brokaw](#)

On November 16, 2011, the Carter Library will host Harry Belafonte, one of the greatest entertainers of our time; he will deliver a lecture and sign copies of his new book, *My Song: My Memoir*.

On November 17, 2011, the library will host Tom Brokaw who will discuss his new book, *The Time of our Lives*. The book is a conversation about America and how to capture the American dream.

See <http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov> for complete details.

## Fried Chicken, Grits, Cornbread, Peach Cobbler: The Foods of Our Lives



Standard Recipes for Ice Cream Makers, 1909. RG 21

“Speak to me of food....I was born country, so I know about frying just the right chickens because the preacher was coming to dinner and about all-day sings-with dinner-on-the-grounds.... One of the saddest failures of my life was the time I tried to delight my little family . . . with home-made ice cream.”

—Wyatt Cooper  
Southern Sideboards

One of the most successful programs and exhibits in the history of the National Archives in Washington is “What’s Cooking, Uncle Sam?” Thousands of individuals have viewed the exhibit and attended special programs associated with it. Hundreds of newspapers have featured it, and a restaurant has opened in Washington featuring food based on the exhibit. All of this speaks to the nation about everyone’s favorite subject—food.

Food is important to all of us. It reminds us of family—grandparents, great grandparents, and lost loved ones. Ask someone what his favorite foods are, and he usually will reel off foods his grandmother made—from scratch, of course. When you lift your fork to eat a slice of pecan pie, a thousand recollections of things past filter through your mind.

The South is a diverse area. It is made up of immigrants who settled here, each bringing their food heritage and contributing to what is called “Southern cooking.” Africans who came to this country as slaves brought their traditions—collard greens, okra, sweet potato pie, etc. Acadians, who came south to Louisiana from Nova Scotia, brought a unique blend of spicy food. And catfish is popular all over the South.

### “What’s Cooking, Uncle Sam”

We demand that our government ensure that food is safe, cheap, and abundant. In response, government has been a factor in the production, regulation, research, innovation, and economics of our food supply. It has also attempted, with varying success, to change the eating habits of Americans.

From the farm to the dinner table you may explore the records of the National Archives exhibit “**What’s Cooking, Uncle Sam,**” which traces the government’s effect on what Americans eat. View the exhibit at <http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/whats-cooking>

### Don’t miss the family history information

Many of the documents in the “What’s Cooking, Uncle Sam” exhibit are from the Records of the U. S. Food Administration. Interestingly, the records contain much genealogical information. If your great-great grandfather owned a grocery store or had a café, you may find letters from him and information on his business, providing personal details about his life.

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

## Upcoming Webinars

Nov. 14, 2011	Military Records (Kevin Pratt)
Dec. 9, 2011	Searching the NARA website (Mary Evelyn Tomlin)
Jan. 9, 2012	1940 Census (Connie Potter)
Feb. 13, 2012	African-American Genealogy
Mar. 12, 2012	Irish Research
April 9, 2012	Civil War Records (Shane Bell/ Trevor Plante)
May 14, 2012	Social Networking: New Horizons for Genealogists
June 11, 2012	Railroad Retirement Records

All webinars start at 7:00 pm and last for one hour. There is no charge, but registration is required at [www.friendsnas.org](http://www.friendsnas.org)

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

Helen Lissimore, Secretary.....404-817-3436

Tricia Sung, Treasurer.....[tricia808@gmail.com](mailto:tricia808@gmail.com)

Jim McSweeney, NARA.....770-968-2505  
Regional Liaison, [james.mcsweeney@nara.gov](mailto:james.mcsweeney@nara.gov)

Mary Evelyn Tomlin, NARA.....770-968-2555  
Editor, *The Civil History*, [mary.tomlin@nara.gov](mailto:mary.tomlin@nara.gov)



### Friends of the National Archives

Southeast Region

5780 Jonesboro Road

Morrow, GA 30260