

March 2011

**Nikes in Chicagoland (And We Don't Mean Shoes)**

Did you ever consider that in the not-too-distant past, multiple Nike missile bases were located both within Chicago and many suburbs such as Arlington Heights? Does it astound you to learn that a total of 23 anti-aircraft missile sites comprised the Chicago-Gary air defense system? Information on these and many other historical sites can be found at the National Archives at Chicago in Records of the Federal Property Resources Service, Record Group 291.

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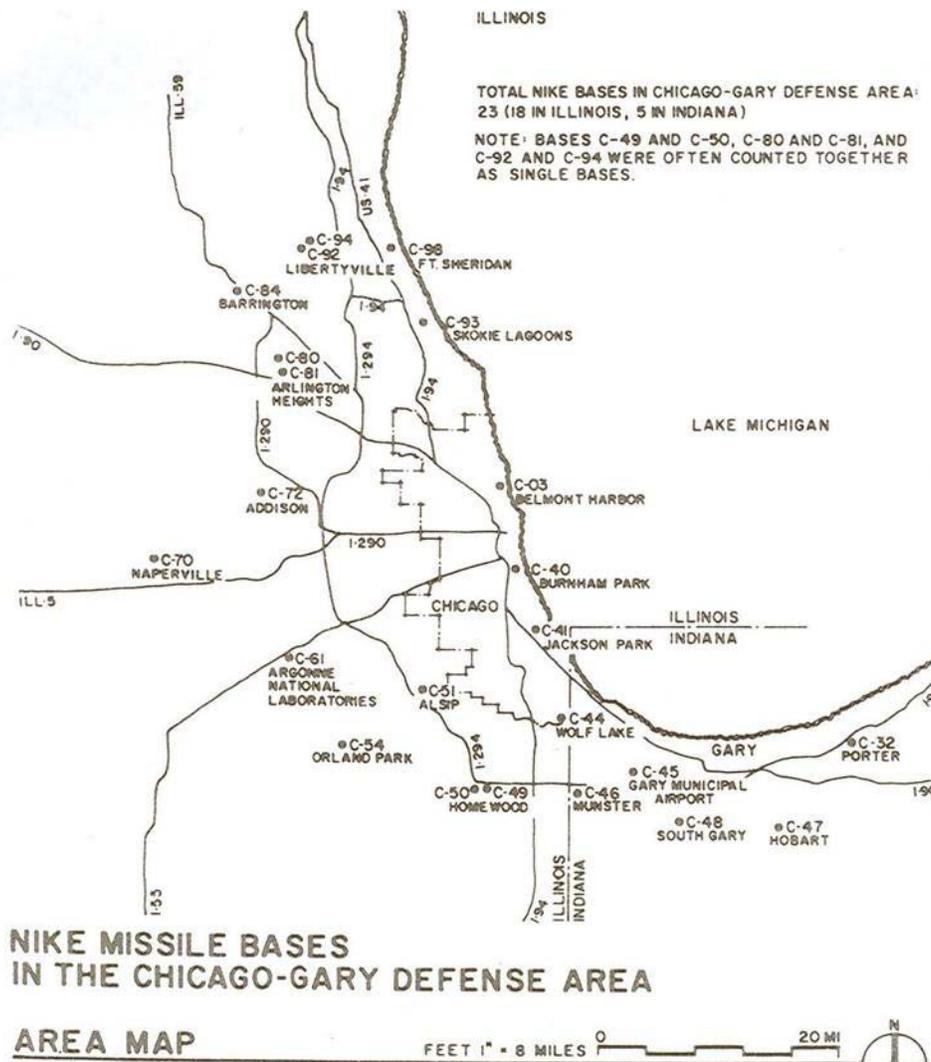
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**The National Archives at Chicago is located at:**

**7358 S. Pulaski Road  
Chicago, IL 60629-5898  
773-948-9001  
chicago.archives@nara.gov**

**The research rooms are open to the public Monday through Friday, and the second Saturday of every month, from 8:00 AM to 4:15 PM.**



[A map of the Chicago-Gary Defense Area from RG291 Records of the Federal Property Resources Service, Real Property Disposal Case Files, 1952-2008.]



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Many Americans can recall with great clarity the Cold War, which took a dramatic turn following the 1949 revelation that the Soviet Union had successfully tested an atomic bomb. Widespread concern that high-flying Soviet bombers would drop atomic bombs on major metropolitan areas and military sites led to the construction of a network of surface-to-air missile sites throughout the United States. These sites, equipped with Nike Ajax and Nike Hercules anti-aircraft missiles, served as the last line of civilian defense. At its peak in 1963, the Nike defense system had close to 300 installations nationwide, many of which included Nike Hercules missiles with both nuclear and conventional warheads.

Soviet development of ICBMs decreased the value of the Nike systems as the Cold War progressed. The U.S. Army consequently deactivated almost all of America's Nike bases during the late 1960's and 1970s. Despite being physically located near major population centers and often housing nuclear warheads, these bases were low-scale and relatively obscure facilities. Many were closed before local residents understood or were aware of the reality of what lay behind the exterior fencing. No longer needed by the Federal government, most of the buildings and land parcels were systematically sold off to local governments or private parties for repurposing.

Records of the Federal Property Resources Service, Record Group 291; documents the disposal of Federal property such as Nike installations and frequently offer researchers an enlightening glimpse into local history. These records consist largely of case files arranged by name of facility, and include correspondence, deeds, mortgages and newspaper clippings. Many case files also include photographs and property titles, as well as architectural and engineering drawings and maps.

[View National Archives film footage](#) of a 1959 NATO demonstration of Nike missiles and other military equipment in Murnau, Germany.

(ARC ID 28290).

Many other types of former Federal facilities are covered by these records, and include housing projects, industrial and ordnance plants, lighthouses, retired post offices, and Veterans Administration hospitals throughout the Great Lakes region. The National Archives at Chicago has over 470 cubic feet of records relating to the disposal of Federal property sold off in the six Great Lakes States (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin) between 1952-2008. Scholars, educators, History Fair students, and members of the general public alike will find enough material for hours of learning and enjoyment. For a more detailed list of these and other records related to Nike missile sites, see our website: <http://www.archives.gov/great-lakes/finding-aids/nike-missile-sites.html>. Also, stay tuned for an upcoming newsletter article of recently discovered operational records related to Nike missiles found in Record Group 338, Records of U.S. Army Commands.

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## **In Memory of Sandra Hargreaves Luebking**

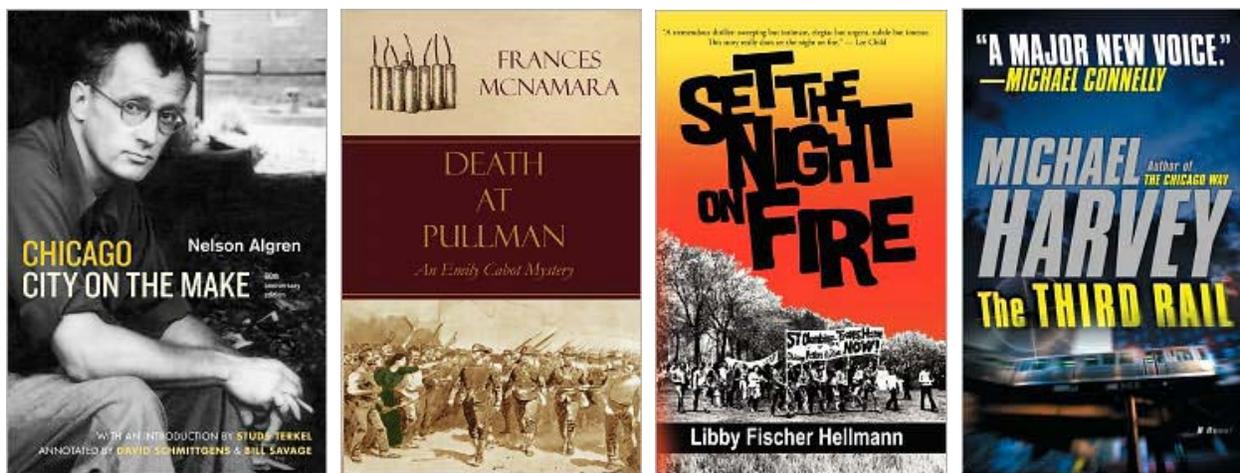
One of the Regional Archives first volunteers, Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, passed away on Thursday, February 17 at Lemont, Illinois. Sandra was a nationally known author, editor, instructor, lecturer, and researcher in the genealogical community. She is fondly remembered by the staff and volunteers at the National Archives at Chicago who worked with her as she helped thousands of people to find their family heritage. Sandra was a teacher of National Archives researchers, a mentor to our staff, a publisher of National Archives research guides, and our friend. The Federation of Genealogical Societies has established the Sandra H. Luebking Memorial as a way of remembering the work and achievements of an influential leader in the genealogy community. This memorial will help provide online access to the numerous War of 1812 pension files held by the National Archives.

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## Join Distinguished Mystery Authors at Sheffield's in Chicago!

On Wednesday, May 4, 2011 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM join distinguished Chicago mystery authors and writers, **Bill Savage, Frances McNamara, Libby Fischer Hellmann, and Michael Harvey** for a panel discussion on how local mystery authors conduct background research in Chicago's libraries and archives for their novels.

The program, sponsored by Sheffields Pub and Two Brothers Brewing Company, is free to the public and will be held at Sheffield's Pub in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood. To find out more about Sheffield's visit their web site at: <http://sheffieldschicago.com/>. Authors will have their books available for purchase and signing.



## Upcoming Genealogy Workshops

### Telling Your Family Story

**Saturday, May 14, 2011: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM**

As you conduct research and locate documents, have you wondered how to share this information with family members? Staff from the Chicago-based organization History Works, Inc. will discuss ideas for telling your family's tale. From the use of free print-on-demand software to the creation of an engaging, focused storyline, History Works' hints and "tricks of the trade" are sure to inspire and impress your relatives. The cost for this workshop is **\$10.00 per person**, payable at the door.

### Using Court Records to Find Local and Family History

**Saturday, June 11, 2011: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM**

Have you considered checking court records in your family history hunt? In this workshop, archivists from the National Archives at Chicago will give an overview of how court records can be used to uncover a wealth of information about people's lives as well as the social, legal, and economic issues that brought them to court. The cost for this workshop is **\$10.00 per person**, payable at the door.

### **Further Information and to Register for Genealogy Workshops:**

All workshops will be held at our facility near Ford City Mall and Midway Airport, **7358 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago**. Reserve your spot today!

To register, send your name, e-mail address, phone number, and mailing address to Kris Maldre, Education Specialist, at [kristina.maldre@nara.gov](mailto:kristina.maldre@nara.gov). Upon receipt we will confirm workshop registration via e-mail. If you have further questions, please contact us at 773-948-9001.

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### **Upcoming Teacher Workshops**

(for classroom and pre-service teachers)

#### **Activities of the World War II Home Front**

**Saturday, March 12: 10:00 AM – Noon**

Investigate the story of WWII mobilization and production efforts. From files demonstrating closed gated practices and the activities of the Fair Employment Practices Commission to ordnance plant propaganda pieces to celebrity draft cards, this workshop will feature documents that highlight various aspects of the WWII Midwest home front, as well as curricular components.

#### **To Register for Teacher Workshops:**

Each workshop offers CPDUs, is free to teachers, and will be held at our facility near Ford City Mall and Midway Airport, 7358 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago. Reserve your spot today!

To register, send your contact information to Kris Maldre, Education Specialist, at [kristina.maldre@nara.gov](mailto:kristina.maldre@nara.gov) at least one week prior to the workshop. Upon receipt we will confirm workshop registration via e-mail.

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### **The National Archives at Chicago will offer its Primarily Teaching Summer Institute on June 20-25, 2011.**

As a week-long summer institute Primarily Teaching provides access to the rich resources of the National Archives for upper elementary and secondary-level educators. Participants will learn how to access historical records at the National Archives and investigate methods to utilize them in their classroom in ways that sharpen students' skills and enthusiasm for history, government, and other humanities through hands-on activities.

There is no charge for Primarily Teaching, but please note participants are responsible for their own meals, lodging, and travel arrangements. Continuing education credits are available. Enrollment is limited to 10 participants.

For an application and further information, including a sample itinerary, please contact Kris Maldre, Education Specialist at the National Archives at Chicago, 773-948-9010 or via e-mail: [kristina.maldre@nara.gov](mailto:kristina.maldre@nara.gov).

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## THE 14th CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM & REENACTMENT

### 1861: THE WAR BEGINS!

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2011, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

**at The Cantigny First Division Foundation First Division Museum, Wheaton, Illinois**

Plan to join us for a combination of historical analysis on the first year of the Civil War combined with living history displays and outdoor activities. The speakers and presentations include:

**Ray Brown**, Manassas National Battlefield Park, on *The First Battle of Manassas*; **Steven J. Ramold**, Eastern Michigan University, on *Discipline in the Union Army*; **James I. Robertson**, Virginia Tech, on *Stonewall Jackson's nickname*; and **Mark A. Snell**, The George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War, Shepherd University, on the *1861 Campaign in Western (West) Virginia*.

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