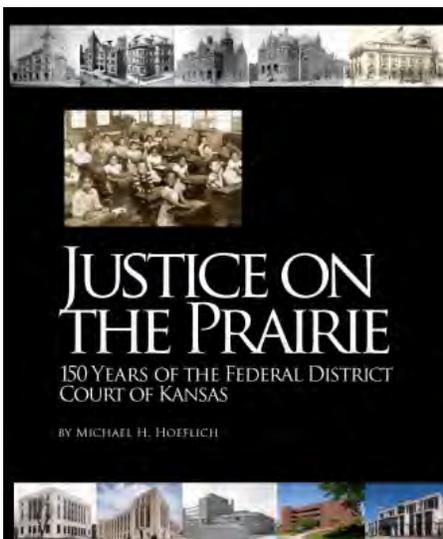


December 2011

## Michael Hoeflich to Discuss *Justice on the Prairie*

On **Tuesday, December 6, at 6:30 p.m.** the National Archives at Kansas City will host **Michael Hoeflich** for a discussion and signing of his book *Justice on the Prairie*.

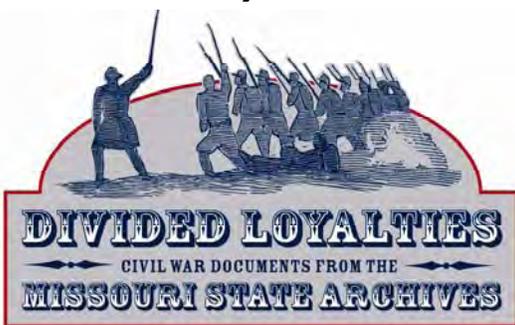
Born from the territorial judges who maintained the federal legal presence in the tumultuous territory of "Bleeding Kansas," the Federal District Court grew from a single judge to a complex system of judges who are the entry point in Kansas into the federal judicial system. *Justice on the Prairie* tells the story of the Federal District Court of Kansas, which for 150 years has faced issues such as Indian claims, antitrust cases, the enforcement and demise of prohibition, and the landmark civil rights case of *Brown v. Board of Education*. This book explores the rich history of the court, which came into existence in 1861 after the U.S. Congress admitted Kansas as a state. The National Archives at Kansas City holds the permanent records created within the U.S. District Courts from the state of Kansas.



A **6:00 p.m. reception** will precede this event. Copies of *Justice on the Prairie* will be available for purchase at The Kansas City Store onsite. Following the program the author will sign copies of his book.

Smartphone users can scan the QR code to make a phone reservation. **To register for this free event** call 816-268-8010 or email [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov).

## *Divided Loyalties* Exhibition to Open December 27, 2011



The National Archives at Kansas City will host *Divided Loyalties*, a traveling exhibit from the Missouri State Archives, from December 27, 2011 to April 28, 2012.

*Divided Loyalties* examines the upheaval and uncertainty that characterized Missouri during the Civil War era. This exhibit focuses on the social conflict that permeated the state for the two decades that followed the Kansas Border Wars

of the mid-1850s, going beyond the stories of battle and military strategy.

*Divided Loyalties* traces the lives of soldiers and civilians who faced discrimination and violence as a result of the tensions created by opposition in government, business, military, and social life. Even after the war, deep-seated sectional grievances continued to affect life in Missouri. The exhibit examines how the court system was used to resolve disputes into the 1890s, focusing on Missourians who resorted to vigilante violence when the system failed.

*Divided Loyalties* features records from both the Missouri State Archives and the National Archives at Kansas City. To schedule a group tour, call Mickey Ebert at 816-268-8013 or email [mickey.ebert@nara.gov](mailto:mickey.ebert@nara.gov)

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### Upcoming Events

All events are held at the National Archives  
400 West Pershing Road  
Kansas City, MO 64108

- DECEMBER 6 - 6:30 P.M.  
AUTHOR EVENT:  
MICHAEL HOEFLICH,  
*JUSTICE ON THE PRAIRIE*
- DECEMBER 9 - 10:00 A.M.  
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:  
*PRESERVING FAMILY MEMORIES*
- DECEMBER 27 - 9:00 A.M.  
EXHIBITION OPENING:  
*DIVIDED LOYALTIES*
- DECEMBER 31 - 5:00 P.M.  
EXHIBITION CLOSING:  
*PICTURE THIS!: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES*

## Gems for Genealogists

The National Archives at Kansas City will be offering the following **free** Genealogy Workshop during December.

- December 9 - 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - *Preserving Family Memories*

This workshop is a quick overview of three vital components in family history: oral interviews, physical preservation, and reading old script. Oral interviews coupled with family papers and heirlooms provide the foundation for any genealogist's family history research. Beginning at home with these pieces left by previous generations will launch you into other areas of research. Learn how to protect and preserve these precious assets for many generations to come. This workshop will be presented by Lori Cox-Paul, Director of Archival Operations, and Jennifer Audsley Moore, Archives Technician and Volunteer Coordinator.

The workshop is free, but reservations are suggested. For more information or **to make a reservation for this free event**, call 816-268-8000 or email [kansascity.archives@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.archives@nara.gov).

## News and Notes

- **U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program** - The National Archives at Kansas City will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for children to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program, through **Friday, December 16, 2011**. The public is invited to drop off toy donations at the National Archives at Kansas City, located at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO. The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November, and December each year and distribute those toys as holiday gifts to children in need within the community in which the campaign is conducted.



- **Document Your Environment Student Multimedia Contest** - The National Archives in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency is asking students aged 13 and up to snap a picture, write a poem, or create a video that is inspired by one of our many Documerica photos and enter it into the Document Your Environment contest on Challenge.gov. In the 1970s the Environmental Protection Agency hired freelance photographers to capture environmental issues and challenges in the United States. These photographs were created to raise environmental awareness and to document how people lived in the 1970s. Today the National Archives has digitized over 15,000 of these photos in the Archival Research Catalog and on Flickr.com. Students can enter the contest in three different categories: graphic art, video, and poetry. The contest runs through January 6, 2012. For contest guidelines and information visit <http://documerica.challenge.gov/>

- **National Council on History Education conference, March 22 - 24, 2012** - The National Council on History Education will host its annual conference in Kansas City, MO, in March. This year sessions will focus on the conference theme of *Reading the Past: Literature and Literacy in History*. Featured speakers include Jill Lepore, Eric Foner, and Ron Briley. For more information or to register for the conference go to <http://www.nche.net>

## Are you on the National Archives at Kansas City mailing list?

If the answer is "no," then send us an email with your U.S. postal mail information to [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov) or call 816-268-8000. By providing your address, you grant the National Archives at Kansas City permission to send you information about upcoming exhibitions, special events, and programs. Per the Privacy Act of 1974, we will not share your personal information with third parties.



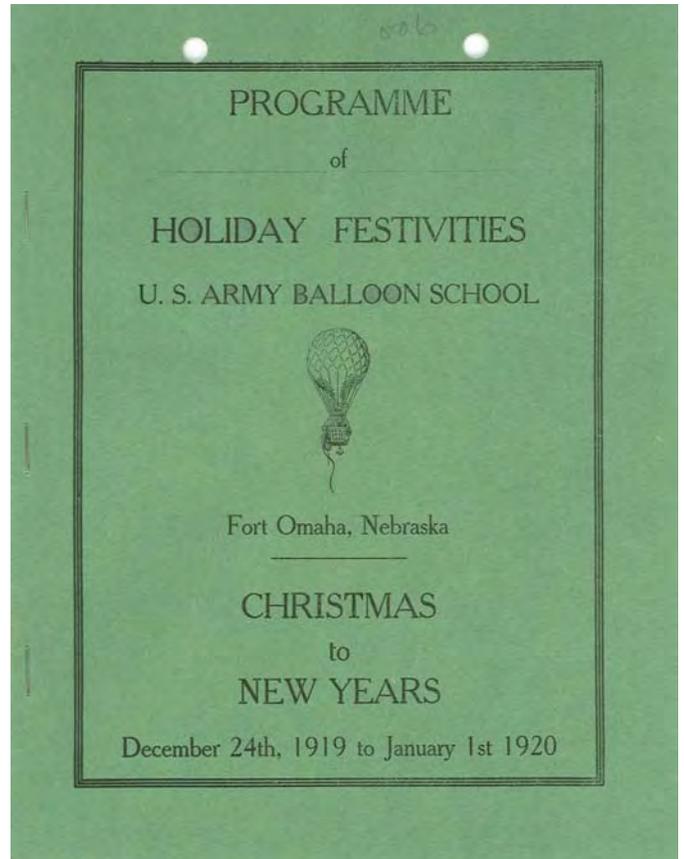
# Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

## Fort Omaha Balloon School Program of Holiday Festivities

The origins of the Fort Omaha Balloon School date back to 1905 when the U.S. Army Signal Corps transferred all of its balloon school activities there. In 1909 Fort Omaha became the first Army school for balloon observers. Operating from 1909 to 1921, it was the largest balloon school with some 16,000 men receiving training. Many of these men would see action during the First World War. Their work was dangerous as they served as the “eyes of the Army,” and with their hydrogen-filled balloons tethered to the ground, they were often the targets of the Germans from both land and air.

In 1919 with the Great War behind them, the men stationed at Fort Omaha could truly enjoy the holidays. This “Programme of Holiday Festivities” provides an exhaustive (and exhausting!) listing of all of the activities that were offered from December 24 to January 1. Christmas Eve featured the lighting of the Christmas tree and “presents for all the men.” It also included a visit from Santa Claus.

For Christmas Day, activities included a lavish meal (the menu is reproduced here). By December 27, the “feature event” of the day was a snow battle followed by a “Hard Boiled Mask Dance.” For December 29 there were wrestling and boxing matches. December 30 offered bobsled and skating parties. The program for December 31 made special mention of the fact that it was payday, and following the expected late night, for New Year’s Day the program noted that there would be “No Reveille Today.”



All of these fun activities were planned by a large organizing committee led by Lieutenant Colonel Jacob W. S. Wuest, Commanding Officer. Our records also contain Colonel Wuest’s special holiday greeting to his men: “The Commanding Officer extends his best wishes for a Merry Christmas to each and every officer, enlisted man, and civilian employee, and their families, at this station. At this time of peace and good will it is fitting to look forward to the future, resolving to cooperate with each other for a better company, a better Army, and a greater Nation.”

In only two short years, the Omaha balloon school would be but a memory, as the Army moved the entire balloon school to Scott Field in Belleville, Illinois. The “lighter-than-air” crafts would be discontinued entirely in 1937.

The National Archives at Kansas City has numerous series of records relating to the balloon school and other Air Force installations. These records can be found in Record Group 18. The records include correspondence, general and special orders, memorandums, reports, and rosters. For a complete list of these records, please visit our website

[www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city/finding-aids/#4-65](http://www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city/finding-aids/#4-65)

## Picture This!: One Hundred Years of Photography from the National Archives to Close December 31, 2011



Caption above: "Bonus Marchers" and police battle in Washington, DC. The marchers came to Washington, DC, to demand their veterans "bonus" payment early from Congress. After several months of camping near the Anacostia River and after several confrontations with police, Federal troops drove the marchers from the city. Photo by an unknown Associated Press photographer, July 1932.



Caption right: 'Exercise Desert Rock.' Troops of the Battalion Combat Team, U.S. Army 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division, watch a plume of radio-active smoke rise after a D-day blast at Yucca Flats, as the much prepared 'Exercise Desert Rock' reaches its peak." Photo by Cpl. McCaughey, Las Vegas, Nevada, November 1, 1951

**Picture This!: One Hundred Years of Photography from the National Archives** chronicles major events of the twentieth century immigrants arriving at Ellis Island, the Wright Brothers' first flight, construction of the Empire State Building, Depression-era soup lines, the landing at Omaha Beach, the mushroom cloud from the atomic bomb, Lyndon Johnson taking the Presidential oath, U.S. Marines in Da Nang, and footprints on the moon. Drawn from the National Archives and Records Administration's vast archives of more than 8 million images, *Picture This!: One Hundred Years of Photography from the National Archives* features color and black and white photographs celebrating 100 years of American life. The exhibition will be available for viewing at the National Archives at Kansas City through December 31, 2011. To schedule a group tour, call Mickey Ebert at 816-268-8013 or email [mickey.ebert@nara.gov](mailto:mickey.ebert@nara.gov).



The National Archives at Kansas City is a regional facility that serves as a repository for more than 50,000 cubic feet of historical records dating from the 1820s to the 1990s created or received by nearly 100 Federal agencies. Serving the Central Plains Region, the archives holds records from the states of Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. These records are available for public research and use. The facility is located at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO 64108.

### HOURS OF OPERATION

RESEARCH ROOMS: Tuesday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

EXHIBIT GALLERIES: Tuesday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Closed on Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs and weather.

For more information, call 816-268-8000, visit our web site [www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city](http://www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city) or email [kansascity.archives@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.archives@nara.gov). Find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity](http://www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity)