

February 2011

Winter Film Series continues at the National Archives

The National Archives at Kansas City will screen the following films on Saturdays during the month of February. All films begin at 1:00 p.m. with an introduction by National Archives staff who will explain how the film's content is evident in the holdings of the National Archives. For more information or **to make a reservation for the free film series**, call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

• **February 5** - *In Cold Blood* After a botched robbery results in the brutal murder of a rural family, two drifters elude police, in the end coming to terms with their own mortality and the repercussions of their vile atrocity. Based on the novel *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote. *

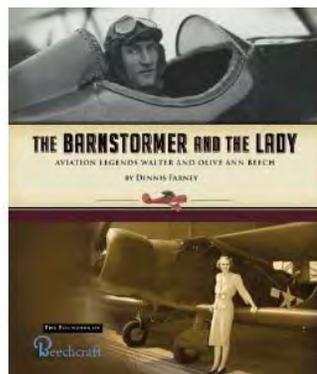


• **February 12** - *Ride with the Devil* Jake Roedel and Jack Bull Chiles are friends living in Missouri when the Civil War starts. Jack Bull's father is killed by Kansas Union jayhawkers. As a result the two boys join the Missouri irregulars known as "bushwhackers" or "border ruffians" – informal units loyal to Missouri, not willing to fight someone else's war in Virginia. They battle Jayhawkers using guerrilla tactics and hide out during the winter months. Based on the novel *Woe to Live On* by Daniel Woodrell. *

* *In Cold Blood* and *Ride with the Devil* have a MPAA rating of "R" for violence and language; viewer discretion is advised.

Dennis Farney and Mary Lynn Oliver to discuss *The Barnstormer and The Lady*

The National Archives at Kansas City will host author **Dennis Farney** and special guest **Mary Lynn Oliver**, daughter of Beechcraft Aviation founders Walter and Olive Ann Beech, for a discussion and signing of his book *The Barnstormer and The Lady* **Thursday, February 24, at 6:30 p.m.** Farney will be available to sign copies of his book after the discussion. A **6:00 p.m. reception** will precede the event.



The Barnstormer and The Lady tells the story of Walter and Olive Ann Beech, the remarkable couple whose careers spanned virtually the entire history of American aviation. It is also the story of a marriage of opposites. Walter was a charming rascal, a hard-living barnstormer. Olive Ann was a small-town Kansas girl who hid her shyness behind an imperious manner and a backbone of steel. Together they founded Beech Aircraft Corp. in the midst of the Great Depression and guided their company to fame and fortune. Their lives intersected with the giants of aviation: Amelia Earhart, Charles Lindbergh, Jimmy Doolittle, and many others. Beechcraft customers ranged from Arthur Godfrey to Lyndon B. Johnson, from Hollywood stars to Pentagon generals and the company did much to transform Wichita, Kansas, from a dusty cowtown to an international aviation industry leader.

Copies of *The Barnstormer and The Lady* are available for purchase at The Kansas City Store at the National Archives. For more information or **to make a reservation for this free event**, call 816-268-8010 or email: kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

* NOTE: Listen to KCUR radio, 89.3 FM in Kansas City at 10:00am on Friday, February 4, to hear Dennis Farney talk about *The Barnstormer and The Lady* on *The Walt Bodine Show*.

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Upcoming Events

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

- FEBRUARY 5 - 1:00 P.M.
WINTER FILM SERIES:
IN COLD BLOOD
- FEBRUARY 12 - 1:00 P.M.
WINTER FILM SERIES:
RIDE WITH THE DEVIL
- FEBRUARY 15 - 9:00 A.M.
EXHIBITION OPENING:
COWBOYS, QUACKS, AND
CAROUSELS: STORIES OF
KANSAS
- FEBRUARY 18 - 1:00 P.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
INTRODUCTION TO ALIEN
FILES
- FEBRUARY 22 - 6:00 A.M. -
7:00 P.M. ELECTION DAY:
POLLING SITE
- FEBRUARY 24 - 6:00 P.M.
AUTHOR EVENT: *THE
BARNSTORMER AND THE
LADY*
- FEBRUARY 26 - 10:00 A.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
AFRICAN -AMERICAN
GENEALOGY

Cowboys, Quacks, and Carousels: Stories of Kansas opens February 15

Kansas history is filled with all types of people, from the famous to the infamous and the ordinary to the extraordinary. Do you know the cowboy who brought longhorn cattle north into Kansas? Would you consider visiting a doctor known for his goat gland cures? Have you ever ridden on a carousel made in Kansas? Joseph McCoy, Dr. John R. Brinkley, and C. W. Parker are just a few of the individuals that appear in the timeline of Kansas history.

Cowboys, Quacks, and Carousels: Stories of Kansas includes:

- Fourth Draft Registration Card for Walter Beech, founder of Beechcraft Aviation;
- Court cases surrounding John R. Brinkley, a quack known as the “goat gland doctor;”
- Homestead applications for early Kansas homesteaders;
- Letters written by William Barclay “Bat” Masterson while serving as U.S. Marshal;
- Native American naturalization documents for members of the Delaware tribe members seeking U.S. citizenship; and
- Court documents indicting Kate Richards O’Hare for violating the Espionage Act of 1917.

Cowboys, Quacks, and Carousels: Stories of Kansas offers visitors a glimpse at some of the people, places, and events that have become lasting vignettes in the timeline of Kansas history. The exhibition features letters, journals, maps, reports, receipts, court documents, postcards, photographs, and artifacts from the holdings of the National Archives at Kansas City, the Kansas State Historical Society, the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, the C.W. Parker Carousel Museum, the National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame, and private collections.

The exhibition is organized in four major themes: **It’s a Hard Country**, **Traveling the Trails, Rails, Roads, and Skies**, **Business is Booming**, and **Fame, Fortune, and Fury**. Beginning with early Federal records for Kansas Territory, **It’s a Hard Country** explores the process of making a life in Kansas, from native inhabitants to homesteading to living on the land in the twentieth century. **Traveling the Trails, Rails, Roads, and Skies** features people and events that helped to build the state, including the cattle trade, railroads, and airplanes. **Business is Booming** looks at economic growth in Kansas through the individuals and businesses that appear in Federal holdings from court cases to war resource records. **Fame, Fortune, and Fury** features a diverse cast of characters who have made Kansas their home, including such notable individuals as James Lane, Wild Bill Hickok, and William Allen White.

Cowboys, Quacks, and Carousels: Stories of Kansas is curated by the National Archives at Kansas City and celebrates the 150th anniversary of Kansas’ statehood.



Celebrate 150 years of Kansas history

**Cowboys, Quacks, and Carousels:
Stories of Kansas**

February 15 - May 28, 2011

Gems for Genealogists

The following **free** genealogical workshops will be offered at the National Archives at Kansas City. To make a reservation or for more information call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov

Friday, February 18, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. - *Introduction to Alien Files*

Alien files contain United States immigration documents generated and collected since the mid-20th century with a wealth of data, including visas, photographs, applications, affidavits, correspondence, and more. The National Archives at Kansas City houses alien file records prior to 1909 for immigrants who lived throughout the entire United States.

Saturday, February 26, 10:00 a.m. - Noon - *Researching African American Genealogy*

Taught by researcher and author Dr. Dorothy Witherspoon, author of *Researching Slave Ancestry*, this workshop will cover genealogy research strategies and resources to help those interested in exploring African American family history, including overcoming roadblocks caused by slavery. Using case studies, and hands-on examples, participants will learn about using primary research documents such as the Federal census. Information will be shared on tools useful in discovering the untold history of generations of African Americans seeking to trace slave ancestry. Witherspoon will be available after the workshop to sign copies of her book, available for purchase at The Kansas City Store at the National Archives.

Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

What's Love Got To Do With It?

Can historical documents answer that long sought question that Tina Turner asks: "What's love got to do with it, got to do with it?" There are some great love stories to be found in the primary sources at the National Archives. There are over 800 love stories waiting to be read using Enemy Alien Registration Affidavits found in the Records of U.S. Attorneys and Marshals. These registration forms provide evidence of a love so great that women were willing to give up something very precious to marry the men they loved; they gave up their U.S. citizenship.

On the day that the 65th Congress declared war on Germany, President Wilson defined for the American people the alien enemies who lived amongst them. All males older than 14 years-old who were still "natives, citizens, denizens, or subjects" of the German Empire became alien enemies of the United States. Wilson issued 12 regulations, and the most far-reaching regulation involved the requirement for the estimated 520,000 un-naturalized Germans to register as alien enemies. On April 16, 1918, an act of Congress included this registration to women aged 14 and older.

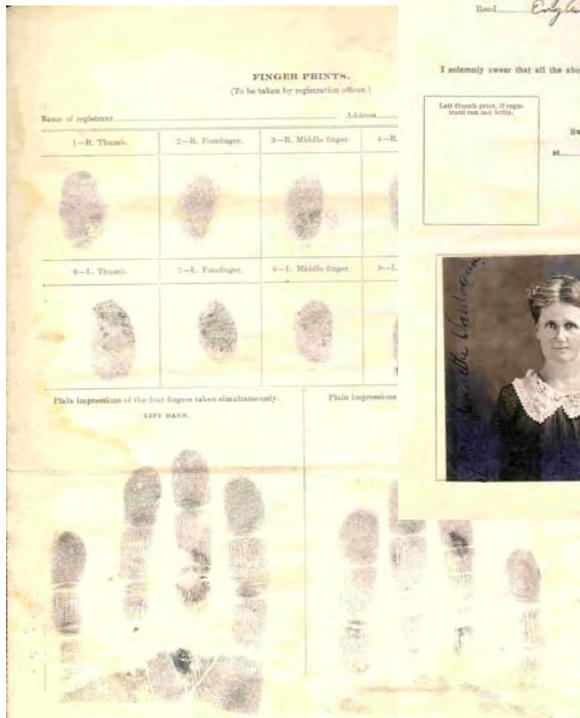
Under the Expatriation Act of March 2, 1907, all women acquired their husband's nationality upon marrying, thus losing hers'. Although there were statutes that might have said otherwise, many courts classified married women as aliens, even before 1907.

Out of the almost 6,000 registration forms that are held by the National Archives at Kansas City, almost 900 belong to the women who were U.S. citizens until

their marriage to an alien. Their photos, fingerprints, and personal information are preserved as a testament to a life in the towns and on the plains, prairies, and flint hills of Kansas in 1918.

What did women like Jessie Jennetta Nichols sacrifice to marry German born B.J. Varelmann? Even though both of Jessie's parents were born and raised in Terra Haute, Indiana, and were U.S. citizens, their daughter surrendered her rights as an U.S. citizen to marry. On the 24th of June, 1918, Jessie filled out her registration form as an alien. On the form she noted her son was fighting in World War I, for the country she no longer could claim as her own.

The National Archives at Kansas City has hundreds of documents that relate to Alien Enemy Registration Affidavits. For more information, email kansascity.archives@nara.gov or view the Archival Research Catalog at www.archives.gov/research/arc. A digital copy of Jesse Varelmann's file is available through the [Archival Research Catalog Identifier 286870](#).



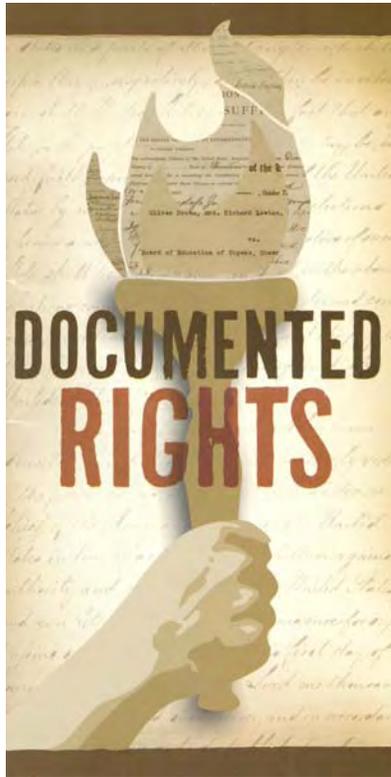
News and Notes

- **More Finding Aids Online** - The National Archives at Kansas City recently added finding aids, specifically series title lists from over a dozen record groups. To learn more or search the finding aids visit <http://www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city/finding-aids/>
- **So Who Do You Think You Are?** - Many famous persons have been featured recently on the hit NBC show, *Who Do You Think You Are?*. It returns to network television for its second season, on Friday, February 4, at 7:00 p.m. CST.
- **Announcing Foursquare!** - On February 1, the National Archives at Kansas City will officially launch its presence on foursquare.com. The public is invited to “check-in” when visiting the Archives and take advantage of the “tips” offered visit <http://foursquare.com/venue/1690016>
- **Election Day, Tuesday, February 22** - In 2011 the National Archives at Kansas City will be a voting location for those who live in Jackson County, MO, Ward 1, Precincts 6 and 7. Polling hours are 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.



Documented Rights exhibition open through March 19, 2011

The National Archives at Kansas City recently opened **Documented Rights**, an exhibition featuring documents from the holdings of the 13 regional National Archives facilities that give a voice to the national struggle for human and civil rights. It features more than 80 documents, facsimiles, images, and sound recordings, including:



- Documents from the five court cases that comprised *Brown v. Board of Education*, the landmark Supreme Court ruling that ended school segregation;
- The story of the schooner *Amistad* and the revolt of its 53 enslaved Africans, told through 1839 court records;
- Slave compensation files from former slave owners seeking monies from the U.S. government after the Civil War;
- Court records for *John Elk v. Charles Wilkins* and *Standing Bear v. General George Crook*, two cases focusing on the civil rights and liberties of Native Americans;
- Petition from relocated Aleuts during WWII, protesting their poor living conditions, that ultimately resulted in a 10% death rate;
- Booklet outlining nonviolent protest of racial segregation by Martin Luther King; and
- A court martial order for Second Lieutenant Jackie Robinson who refused to move to the back of the bus on a military post.

Since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, our rights as citizens of the United States have been debated, contested, amended, and documented. *Documented Rights* will be available for viewing at the National Archives at Kansas City through March 19, 2011. For more information about *Documented Rights* visit www.archives.gov/exhibits/documented-rights



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 or email kansascity.archives@nara.gov. Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity