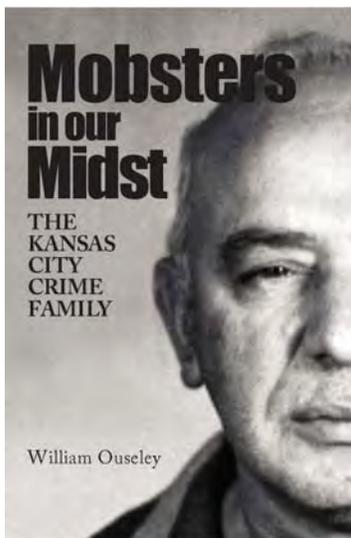


Upcoming June Author Events at the National Archives



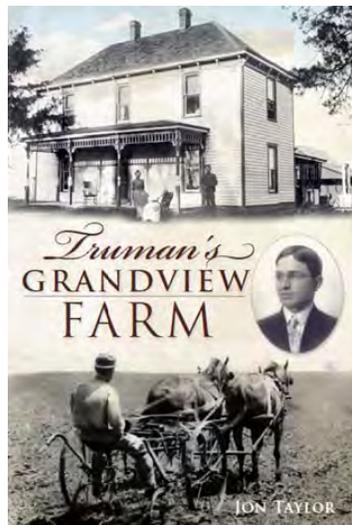
On **Tuesday, June 21, at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives at Kansas City will host author **William Ouseley** for a discussion and signing of his book *Mobsters in our Midst: The Kansas City Crime Family*.

Organized crime formed part of the political, economic, and social fabric of Kansas City for much of the 20th century and; the mob's power was never greater than in the three decades it was ruled by Nick Civella. *Mobsters in our Midst* tells the story of the rise and fall of Civella, Kansas City's longest-reigning mob boss, and his powerful crime family, as told by the Federal Bureau of Investigation agent who helped bring down Civella and his cronies. The book includes never-before-published detail of the crimes and investigations that led to the demise of Civella mob rule. In addition, National Archives records are used to tell the story, along with 20 pages of

archival photographs.

On **Wednesday, June 29, at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives at Kansas City will host author **Jon Taylor** for a discussion and signing of his book *Truman's Grandview Farm*. This program is presented in partnership with the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum.

Southern Jackson County still shelters the white and green farmhouse Harry Truman occupied in the days before his journey to the presidency. Truman moved to the farm in 1906 at the age of twenty-two, and after his father died in 1914, he shouldered the duties of a six-hundred-acre farm until he enlisted to serve in World War I. It was here that his nine-year courtship with Bess Wallace blossomed through the letters the couple exchanged from Grandview and Independence and through her occasional visits to the farm. Drawing on photographs, letters and even farm receipts, historian Jon Taylor pieces together a picture of the man from Missouri whose humble beginnings prepared him to lead the country.



A **6:00 p.m. reception** will precede both events. Copies of *Mobsters in our Midst* and *Truman's Grandview Farm* will be available for purchase onsite. Following each program the author will sign copies of their book. For more information or **to make a reservation for these free events**, call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

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 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.



Inside this issue

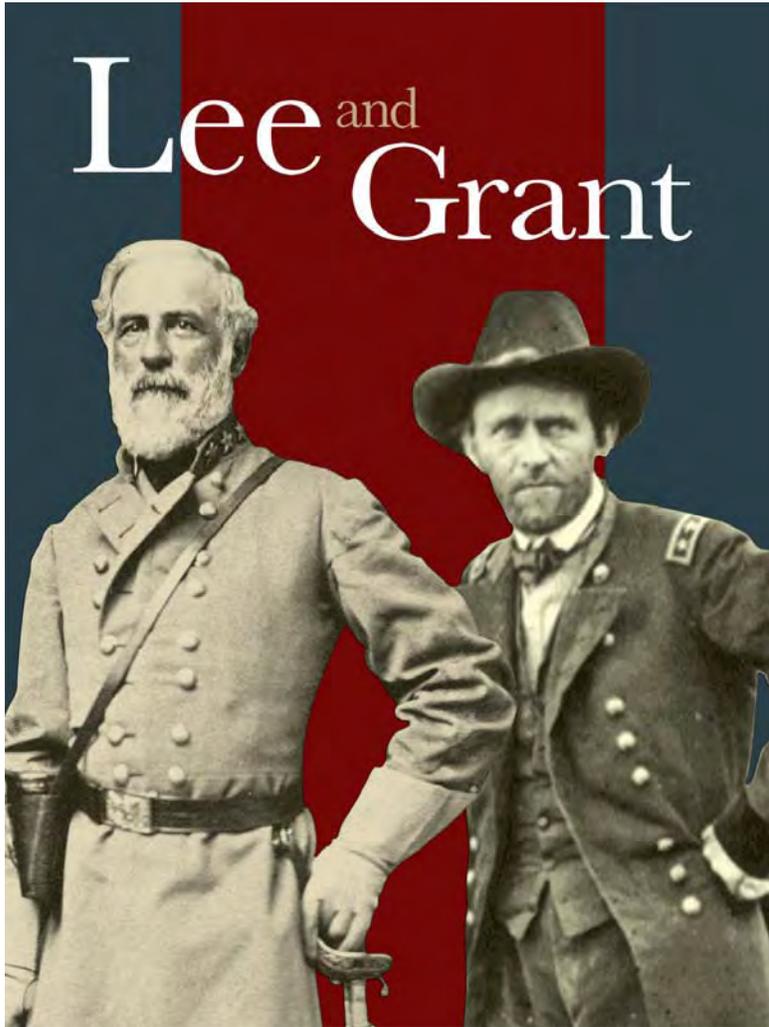
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Upcoming Events

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

- JUNE 10 - 1:00 P.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
INTRODUCTION TO BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS RECORDS
- JUNE 14 - 6:00 P.M.
LEE AND GRANT SPEAKER SERIES LECTURE:
ETHAN RAFUSE, ROBERT E. LEE BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR
- JUNE 21 - 6:00 P.M.
AUTHOR EVENT:
WILLIAM OUSELEY,
MOBSTERS IN OUR MIDST
- JUNE 29 - 6:00 P.M.
AUTHOR EVENT:
JON TAYLOR, TRUMAN'S GRANDVIEW FARM

Lee and Grant exhibition celebrates Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant



By the end of the Civil War, most Americans considered either Robert E. Lee or Ulysses S. Grant to be a hero. Since then, their reputations have risen and fallen, often in direct contrast to each other. Although much has been written about the Civil War careers of both men, few efforts have explored their lives and meaning over an extended period of time. What we think we know about them is sometimes based on familiar myths and stories as much as it is on historical reality. How should we evaluate these two crucial figures in the twenty-first century?

Lee and Grant encourages museum audiences to move beyond traditional, often sectionalist, readings of Lee and Grant and to get to know these men within the context of their own time, based on their own words and those of their contemporaries. Using historic photographs, paintings, prints, and other materials, *Lee and Grant* traces the lives, careers, and historical impact of the two Civil War generals in relationship to each other. This chronology runs through six primary thematic areas, including each man's early years and family background, the shared heritage of West Point, the impact of the Mexican War, the Civil War, and their lives after the war. In addition, crucial context issues, like the ongoing moral question of slavery, punctuate the narrative throughout the exhibition.

Lee and Grant's comparative biographical story provides a glimpse into how each man understood himself and his place in the world. It also encourages today's audiences to put themselves in each man's shoes, asking questions about

motivations, decisions, and consequences. By examining, side by side, how these lives interconnected and converged and how each man's image came to symbolize different things, *Lee and Grant* lets museum visitors make their own decisions about how to assess the historical significance of these two famous Americans today.

Lee and Grant will be on display at the National Archives at Kansas City through October 22, 2011. The exhibition has been made possible through NEH on the Road, as special initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. It was organized by the Virginia Historical Society, and was co-curated by William M.S. Rasmussen, Lora M. Robins Curator at the Virginia Historical Society, and Robert S. Tilton, Professor of English Literature at the University of Connecticut. It was adapted and is being toured by Mid-America Arts Alliance.

For additional information, call 816-268-8000 or visit: www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city. Docent-led guided tours are available for groups. To schedule a group visit call 816-268-8013 or email mickey.ebert@nara.gov.

Lee and Grant Speaker Series

Save the date for the following lectures offered in partnership with the Fort Leavenworth U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. A 6:00 p.m. reception will precede all events. To make a reservation for any of these **free events** call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

- **Tuesday, June 14** at 6:30 p.m. - Historian Dr. Ethan Rafuse lecturing on *Robert E. Lee Before the Civil War*.
- **Tuesday, July 5** at 6:30 p.m. - Historian Dr. Gregory Hospoder lecturing on *Ulysses S. Grant Before the Civil War*.
- **Tuesday, August 9** at 6:30 p.m. - Historian Dr. Terry Beckenbaugh lecturing on *Grant and Lee: A Study in Comparative Generalship*.

Gems for Genealogists

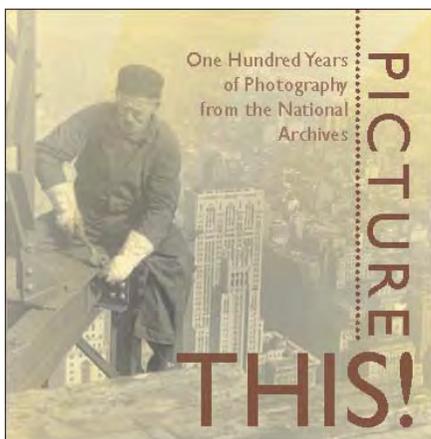
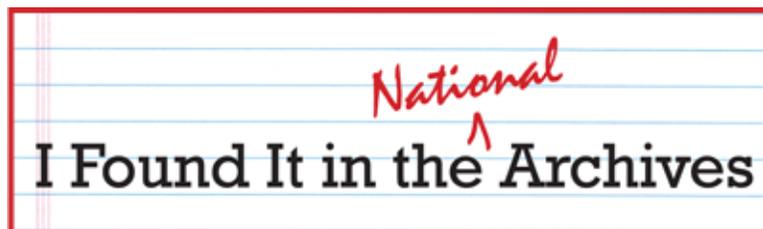
The following **free** genealogical workshop will be offered at the National Archives at Kansas City. To make a reservation or for more information call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov

Friday, June 10 --1:00 - 2:00 p.m. - Introduction to Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Research

This workshop will introduce researchers to the Bureau of Indian Affairs records located at the National Archives at Kansas City. Researchers will receive an overview of the different types of records available and how they can be used to research Native American ancestry. Topics covered in this presentation will include, Student Case Files, General Correspondence, Census Data, Allotment Records, and General Administrative Information. The National Archives at Kansas City has Bureau of Indian Affairs records from the following states: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

News and Notes

- **I Found it in the Archives** --The National Archives wants to hear what you've discovered in the Archives that has made a difference in your personal or professional life! Share your story with us during our "I Found it in the National Archives" contest and you could win a prize. Record the story of your quest for information, what made it important, and how you achieved success at the National Archives in the form of a 400-word essay or a video no longer than two minutes. Contest dates run from June 9 - August 9, 2011. For more information including rules and entry details, go to www.archives.gov/contest/found-it.html



- **Coming Soon Picture This! One Hundred Years of Photography from the National Archives** -- Opening July 5 – December 31, 2011, **Picture This!** is an exhibition created by the National Archives that highlights events of the 20th century through photographs. Included are images that are so familiar they have come to stand for an event in its entirety. Other images surprise us with their beauty, power, or original point of view. This exhibition presents a selection of photographs from the vast and varied holdings of the National Archives and Records Administration.

To schedule a group tour for *Picture This!* email Mickey.Ebert@nara.gov or call 816-268-8013.

- **Upcoming Midwest Family History Expo in July** -- Midwest Family History Expo will be held July 29-30, 2011, at the Overland Park Convention center in Overland Park, KS. Learn about aspects of researching your family history from expert speakers, including staff from the National Archives at Kansas City who will present on Alien Files, U.S. District Court Records, Preservation for Genealogists, and National Archives Online Public Access (OPA) databases. Plan to visit the exhibit hall, it is free and open to the public, and learn the latest in genealogical technology trends. Vendors include the National Archives, the Jackson County Genealogy Society, and RootsMagic. All will be available to answer your genealogy questions! For more information, or to register, go to www.familyhistoryexpos.com



- **Finding Aids Available Online** -- The National Archives at Kansas City has added more finding aids, specifically series title lists from over 40 record groups to our web site. To learn more or search the finding aids visit www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city/finding-aids/

Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

Disaster Strikes

The summer of 1951 saw record or near record rains for much of Kansas and Missouri, pushing the Kansas, Marais des Cygnes, Neosho, and Verdigris river basins to flood stages in early June. Heavy flooding began at Fort Riley, Kansas, and continued down the Kansas River, flooding Manhattan, Topeka, and Lawrence. Early on Friday, July 13, the river crested the levees first in the Kansas City area near the Argentine district, then continued to Armourdale. Soon thereafter, large portions of Kansas City were under water, the city's stockyards destroyed, and the floodwaters reached within four blocks of Kansas City's Union Station.

The aftermath of the flood revealed widespread destruction, with over 20 deaths and hundreds of thousands of people displaced across the Midwest. At the time the cost was calculated at over \$900 million dollars worth of damage (around \$7 billion dollars today). All told, millions of acres of land were flooded, two state capitals -- Topeka and Jefferson City -- were put under water, and over 150 communities were affected by the flood. In the aftermath efforts were made to prevent the same level of destruction in future floods. The Army Corps of Engineers constructed new levees, dams, and reservoirs throughout the Kansas River Basin to control the volume of water in the rivers. In Kansas City the flood brought about the creation of a new airport away from the flood zone. Kansas City International Airport now operates in Platte County, Missouri, safely separated from the waters of the Kansas and Missouri rivers.



The Corps of Engineers took numerous pictures of flood devastation in the Kansas City area and many aerial photographs showing the extent of the flood along the Kansas River Basin. The data gathered in documenting the flood was then used in numerous projects in an effort to prevent similar floods in the future. Taken by the Corps of Engineers on July 18, 1951, this photograph is one such document that demonstrates the

extent of the damage. The view is looking west from 12th Street and Liberty in Kansas City, Missouri, and is labeled as "Condition of street in the Central Industrial District prior to rehabilitation."

The National Archives at Kansas City maintains these records as part of Record Group 77, Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers. Included are the Corps of Engineer records from across the Midwest, including records from the Corps of Engineers' Kansas City District, Mississippi River Commission, Missouri River Division and Omaha District. Additional information can be found in the Guide to Federal Records on the National Archives website. For more information, email kansascity.archives@nara.gov or view the Archival Research Catalog at www.archives.gov/research/arc.



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