

April 2012

1940 Census Opening at the National Archives

Since the opening of the 1930 Census in 2002, National Archives staff and patrons have anxiously awaited the availability of the 1940 U.S. Federal Census. The 1940 Census will open to the public on Monday, April 2, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. EST, 8:00 a.m. CST. This will be the first time that the Census will be accessible from any computer for free. During the initial months following its release, researchers will conduct their searches via enumeration districts as opposed to name indexes. Conducting successful searches will require some advanced planning. The National

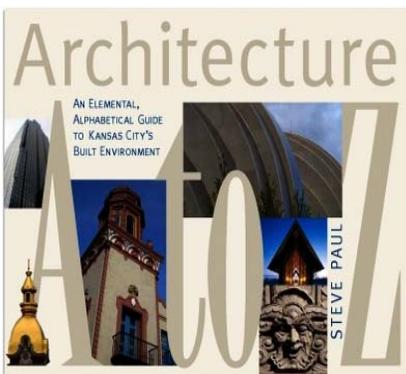


Original 1940 caption: A census enumerator takes information from a family living in a railroad car.

Archives at Kansas City is offering a series of workshops explaining how to search and what information researchers will find on the 1940 Census. Workshops will be held on **Monday, April 2 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.** and **1:00 - 2:30 p.m.** An additional workshop will be offered on **Thursday, April 5 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.** Advanced registration is requested, call 816-268-8000 or email kansascity.archives@nara.gov.

The National Archives at Kansas City will be open to the public on Monday, April 2, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Staff and volunteers will be available to provide assistance to researchers. For more information on the 1940 Census, such as the questions asked on the Census, frequently asked questions, instructions to enumerators, and Bureau of Census movies, visit <http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/index.html>.

Steve Paul to discuss *Architecture A to Z: An Elemental, Alphabetical Guide to Kansas City's Built Environment*



On **Thursday, April 26 at 6:30 p.m.** the National Archives at Kansas City will host Steve Paul for a discussion and signing of his book *Architecture A to Z: An Elemental, Alphabetical Guide to Kansas City's Built Environment*. A **6:00 p.m. reception** will precede this event.

With a keen and creative eye, Paul takes readers into scores of nooks and crannies and beneath the surface of well-known buildings, places and spaces. Through more than 200 photographs and detailed descriptions, he invites readers to look at our surroundings with a new awareness

of history, detail and the endless variety and place-making influences of architecture.

Copies of *Architecture A to Z* will be available for purchase via The Kansas City Store onsite. Following the program the author will sign copies of his book. **To register for this free event** call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

Upcoming Events

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

- APRIL 2 -
8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
RESEARCH ROOM EXTENDED HOURS
- APRIL 2 - 10:00 A.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
INTRODUCTION TO THE 1940 CENSUS
- APRIL 2 - 1:00 P.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
INTRODUCTION TO THE 1940 CENSUS
- APRIL 3 -
6:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.
ELECTION DAY: POLLING SITE
- APRIL 5 - 1:00 P.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
INTRODUCTION TO THE 1940 CENSUS
- APRIL 10 - 6:30 P.M.
LECTURE: TERRY BECKENBAUGH,
THE BATTLES OF BOONVILLE AND WILSON'S CREEK
- APRIL 18 - 6:30 P.M.
LECTURE: JAMES SPAWN,
RUNNING WITH BONNIE AND CLYDE: THE RED CROWN AFFAIR
- APRIL 26 - 6:30 P.M.
AUTHOR EVENT: STEVE PAUL,
ARCHITECTURE A TO Z
- APRIL 27 - 10:00 A.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
INTRODUCTION TO BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS RECORDS
- APRIL 28 - 5:00 P.M.
EXHIBITION CLOSING:
DIVIDED LOYALTIES

Gems for Genealogists

The National Archives at Kansas City will be offering three free genealogy workshops in April. *Introduction to the 1940 Census* will be held on Monday, April 2 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. An additional workshop will be on Thursday, April 5 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. *Introduction to Bureau of Indian Affairs Records* will be held on Friday, April 27 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Introduction to the 1940 Census

Monday, April 2 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Monday, April 2 from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 5 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

On April 2, 2012, the 1940 Census will celebrate its 72nd birthday and become available to researchers for the first time. Learn what questions were asked, what is new since the 1930 Census, and what you need to know in order to successfully search for your ancestors. Explore what your ancestors' lives were like in 1940 by discovering this “new” record.

Introduction to Bureau of Indian Affairs Records

Friday, April 27 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

The National Archives holds an amazing assortment of government-created records detailing the lives of a variety of American Indian tribes. Each tribe has a unique set of documents pertaining to its members. These records include: allotment, annuity, land, census, student case files, and more.

To make a reservation for these **free events**, please call 816-268-8000 or email kansascity.archives@nara.gov.

News and Notes

- **Election Day, Tuesday, April 3** - In 2012 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.
- **Twitter** - The National Archives at Kansas City is now on Twitter. Follow us @KCArchives and the Archives will keep you informed of the latest genealogy workshops, public programs, exhibitions, and educational activities happening at the National Archives at Kansas City.



Preservation Matters: Caring for Personal Papers, Pictures and Paraphernalia

Have you collected or inherited valuable family papers, photographs, or heirlooms? Do you have questions about how to store and preserve these family treasures? If so, you'll want to stop by the **free**, all day Preservation Matters event on Saturday, May 5, at the National Archives at Kansas City.

Professionals from the National Archives, University of Kansas Stannard Conservation Lab, and Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering, and Technology will be available to answer your questions about how to preserve and record your family memories. Attendees will hear advice on a variety of preservation specialties, such as print photographs, scrapbooks, quilts, and other unique heirlooms. There will also be sessions on oral history techniques and tips on how to organize your genealogy research. Attendees are welcome to come and go as they please, so stop by for one presentation or all. Space is limited, those interested in attending should register by phone 816-268-8000 or by email kansascity.archives@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.

“They’re Not Going to Get Me:” Crime in the 1930s

“Machine Gun” Kelly: Committed for Life

George R. Kelly was a 1920s-era bootlegger and small-time bank robber turned kidnapper. Born George Kelly Barnes in Memphis, Tennessee, Kelly grew up in an upper middle-class Chicago family, married Geneva Ramsey, and fathered two children. Trouble at home caused a move to Kansas City, Missouri, and a subsequent divorce from Geneva. He then changed his name to George R. Kelly and began a small bootlegging business. His arrest in 1927 for selling liquor on an Indian reservation earned him three years in Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary.

Upon release, Kelly met and married Kathryn Thorne, a woman with visions of glamour and notoriety that would forever change his life. According to legend, she bought Kelly his first machine gun, later boasting how he could skillfully write his name in bullets. The Kellys celebrated their three-year wedding anniversary eluding police after the high-profile kidnapping of Charles Urschel that would put them and 19 other individuals behind bars.

Of all the criminals of 1933-34 crime wave, Kelly had the shortest career and was the first to be captured. This form committing George R. Kelly to a United States Penitentiary for the term of his natural life survives today as a part of the court case that was brought against Kelly for the Urschel kidnapping. The indictment, verdict, and commitment forms for George and Kathryn Kelly are on loan from the National Archives at Fort Worth. You can view them in the exhibit “They’re Not Going to Get Me:” Crime in the 1930s, open through August 18, 2012.

District Court of the United States
WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

At Oklahoma City, in said District, on the 12th day of October,
A. D. 1933, the following, among other proceedings were had, the Honorable EDGAR S. VAUGHT, Judge
of said Court, presiding, as shown by the records in my office, to wit:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff,	No. <u>10478</u> Criminal.
vs.	
<u>George R. Kelly, alias George Kelly,</u> Defendant.	Indictment for violation of Section 408A Title 18 U. S. C. A. (By Wilfully kidnapping and hold- ing for ransom one Chas. F. Urschel)

It is thereupon by the Court here considered, ordered, and adjudged that the defendant,
George R. Kelly, for the crime by him committed, as charged in the
indictment, be committed to the custody of the Attorney General of the
United States, or his authorized representative, for confinement in a
United States Penitentiary, during his natural life.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the
seal of said Court, in my office at Oklahoma City, in said District,
this 12th day of October, A. D. 1933.

Theodore M. Filson,
Clerk.

By Gran G. Butler
Deputy.

Commitment form for George Kelly, U.S. v. George and Kathryn Kelly, October 12, 1933. RG21, Records of the District Courts of the United States. On loan from the National Archives at Fort Worth.

Crime in the 1930s Lecture Series

The following lecture will be offered in conjunction with the *Crime in the 1930s* exhibition.

Wednesday, April 18 at 6:30 p.m. - *Running with Bonnie and Clyde: The Red Crown Affair* presented by James Spawn. A 6:00 p.m. reception will precede the event. To make a reservation for this **free event** call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

Steamboat Disaster!

What started as competitive fun between steamboat captains ended in fiery carnage on the Mississippi River in a deadly antebellum drag race gone wrong. The *Ocean Spray* and *The Hannibal City* left the St. Louis, Missouri, riverfront at about 4:00 p.m. on April 22, 1858, headed seventeen miles upriver to Alton, Illinois. Both ships' crews and passengers cheered the impromptu race with excitement. The *Ocean Spray's* boilers were stoked with turpentine-soaked wood to increase heat and speed. When a spilled barrel of turpentine sent ignited fuel rolling across the ship's deck, Captain Waldo Marsh immediately turned the *Ocean Spray* toward shore to allow passengers to escape the inferno. In the process, the *Ocean Spray's* churning paddle wheel ran into the docked steamboat *Keokuk*, setting it ablaze. Burning debris floated down the Mississippi to the St. Louis riverfront, igniting a third steamboat, the *Star of the West*. Twenty-three people died in the disaster, attracting national attention and outrage.

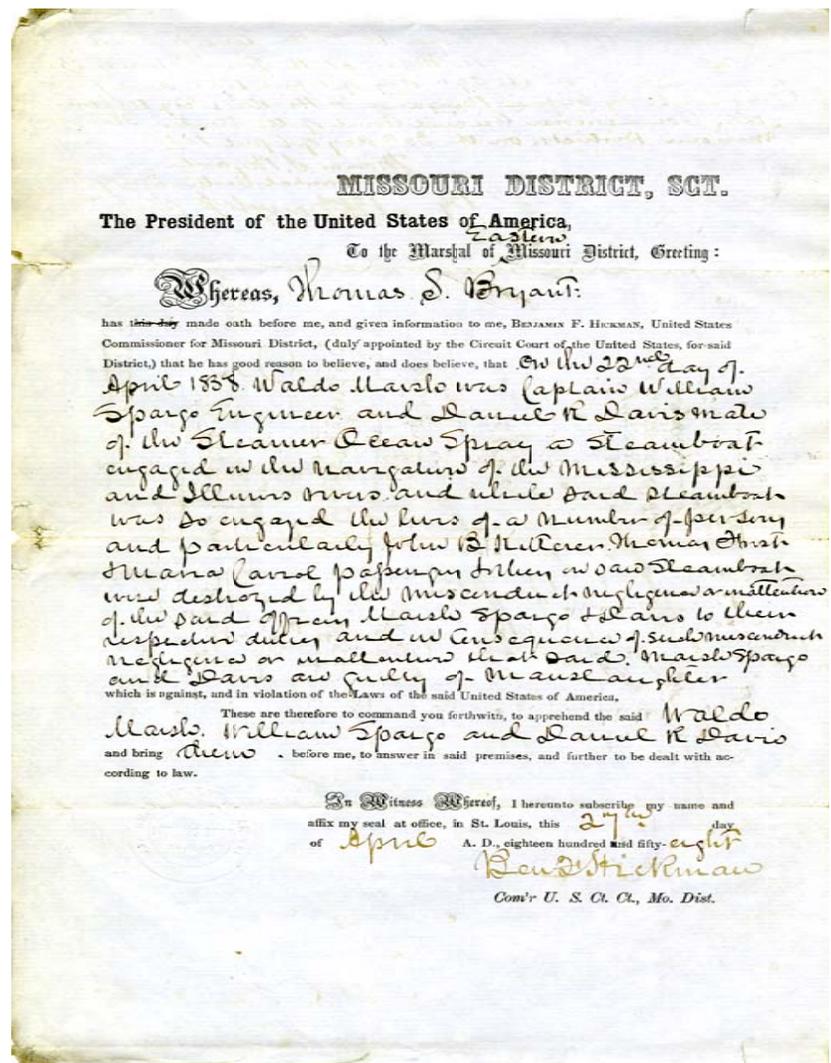
"We do not hesitate to pronounce the conduct of the officers of that ill-fated boat murder," ran a story in the *New York Times* on April 28, 1858. "...He who performs acts likely to take human life, in a spirit of careless mischief, or reckless disregard, is justly placed in the same category with the willful murderer. In what respect was the conduct of the Captain and mate of the *Ocean Spray* better than that of him who fires a gun at random and thus destroys his fellow man?...Is not the instant sacrifice of scores of unsuspecting passengers to a whim of rivalry between competitive steamers, a capital offense?" Local newspapers in St. Louis covered the story extensively, sparking an investigation. Charges of manslaughter were filed against Captain Marsh, mate Daniel Davis, and engineer William Spargo. Marsh's bail was set at \$4,000, and Davis's and Spargo's bail at \$2,000 each.

The cases were tried in the United States Circuit Court for the District of Missouri at St. Louis in April and May, 1859. The judgments are recorded in the Court Record Book, and in the two case files: #1151, U.S. vs. Waldo Marsh, and #1150, U.S. vs. Daniel R. Davis, which includes the charges files against Spargo. The U.S. District Attorney declined to prosecute Captain Waldo Marsh further. Mate Daniel Davis was sentenced to serve one year hard labor at the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, and engineer William Spargo was fined \$250 and lost his steamboat engineer's license.

The great-great granddaughter of William Spargo, a genealogist, uncovered the dramatic story behind these handwritten Court records, putting them together with articles gleaned from historic newspaper archives at the Missouri History Museum Library and Research Center in St. Louis. She also discovered an 1858 pictorial map of the St. Louis riverfront featuring the *Ocean Spray*, and contacted the National Archives at Kansas City for the U.S. Circuit Court records that completed the picture. She wrote up her fascinating story and submitted it to the Great Missouri Treasure Hunt contest sponsored by the Missouri State Archives, where she won the Family History category (www.greatmissouritreasurehunt.com/)!

The National Archives at Kansas City has thousands of documents related to proceedings in U.S. Circuit and District Courts in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and North and South Dakota. For more information, email kansascity.archives@nara.gov or view the Archival Research Catalog at www.archives.gov/research/arc.

Right: Warrant for the arrest of Waldo Marsh, Daniel Davis, and William Spargo, setting out the charges against them. RG 21, Records of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District, St. Louis, MO, Law, Equity, and Criminal Case Files.



PRESERVATION MATTERS

CARING FOR PERSONAL PAPERS,
PHOTOGRAPHS, AND PARAPHERNALIA

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2012

8:30-9:30 AM

Practical Preservation:
Easy Tips to Use at Home

Pamela Anderson, National Archives at Kansas City

9:30-10:30 AM

Caring For Your Print Photographs

Lucinda Adams, Kansas City Public Library

10:30-11:30 AM

From Scrapbooks to Quilts:
Preserving Family Keepsakes

Jessica Schmidt and Dee Harris, National Archives
at Kansas City

11:30 AM-12:00 PM

Vital Records in a Digital World

Christopher Magee, National Archives at Kansas City

12:00-12:30 PM

Tips on Organizing Your Genealogical
Documents, Records, and Files

Evie Bresette, Certified Genealogist

12:30-1:30 PM

Preserving Your Family Heirlooms

Roberta Woodrick, University of Kansas Stannard Conservation Lab

1:30-2:30 PM

From Greeting Cards to Posters:

Preserving Paper Ephemera

Whitney Baker, University of Kansas Stannard Conservation Lab

2:30-3:30 PM

Preserving Digital Images: Caring for
Your Photos in the Digital Age

Keri Cascio, Linda Hall Library of Science, Technology
and Engineering

3:30-4:30 PM

Something to Talk About: Preserving Family
Memories through Oral History Interviews

Lori Cox-Paul, National Archives at Kansas City

10:00AM-2:00 PM

“Preservation One-on-One” Clinic

You're invited to bring in one personal or family item for practical advice on preserving it. National Archives staff members will offer one-on-one consultations on preserving your family photo, letter, scrapbook, quilt or other heirloom. No appraisals will be given. Limit one item per person.

THE NATIONAL
ARCHIVES AT
KANSAS CITY

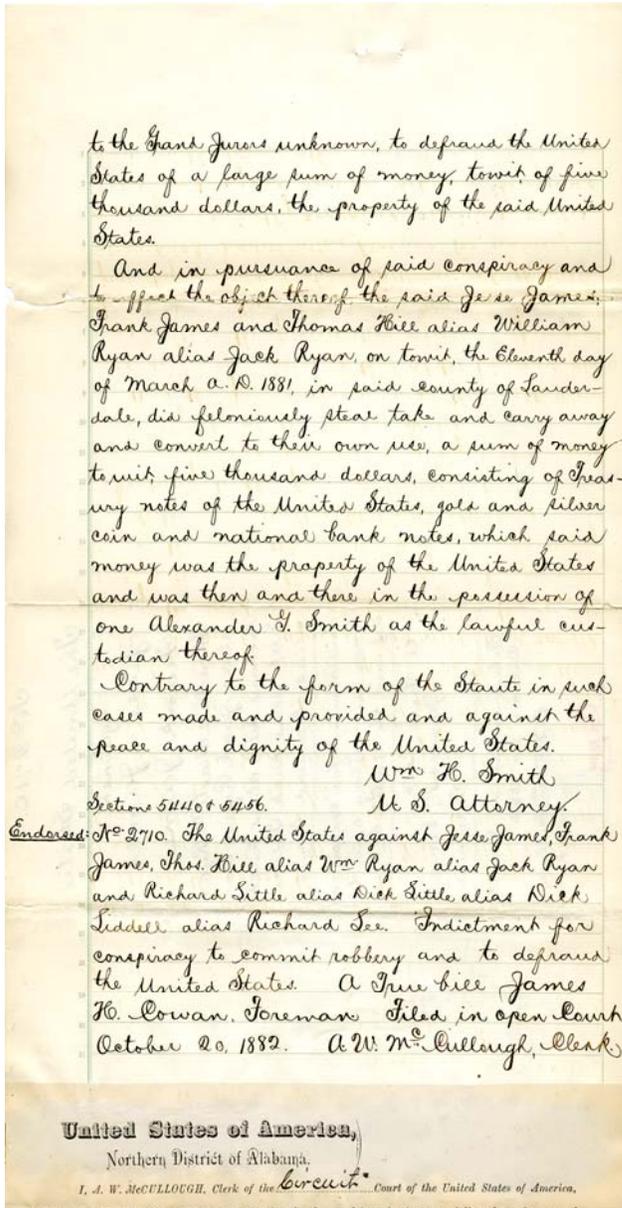
National Archives at Kansas City
400 W. Pershing Road
Kansas City, MO 64108
816-268-8000
www.archives.gov/central-plains

FREE!

Reserve Your Seat Today! Call 816-268-8000 or
email: kansascity.archives@nara.gov

Divided Loyalties Exhibition

Last Chance: *Divided Loyalties* Open through April 28



Above: Indictment, U.S. v. Jesse James, Frank James, Thos. Hill alias Wm. Ryan alias Jack Ryan and Richard Little alias Dick Liddell alias Richard Lee, October 20, 1882. RG21, Records of the District Courts of the United States.

Divided Loyalties Lecture Series

The following program will be offered during April in conjunction with the *Divided Loyalties* exhibition.

Tuesday, April 10 at 6:30 p.m. – *Missouri at War: The Battles of Boonville and Wilson's Creek* presented by Dr. Terry Beckenbaugh. A 6:00 p.m. reception will precede the event. To make a reservation for this **free event** call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

Visitors have just one month left to see *Divided Loyalties*, an exhibit examining the upheaval and uncertainty that characterized Missouri during the Civil War era. *Divided Loyalties* focuses on the social conflict that permeated the state for the two decades following the Kansas border wars of the mid-1850s. Visitors will learn how the court system was used to resolve disputes and settle grievances over crimes committed during the war, including murder, theft, vandalism, and slander. It features court documents relating to post-war vigilante groups like the Bald Knobbers and Frank and Jesse James, who resorted to violence and crime when the court system failed.

On October 20, 1882, Frank and Jesse James, Thomas Hill, and Richard Little were indicted for conspiracy to commit robbery and to defraud the United States during a robbery of a Federal payroll belonging to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that occurred in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. The Federal indictment for this crime is on display in *Divided Loyalties*. Although Jesse James died before being brought to trial, his brother Frank was acquitted of the crime. Because many of the James brothers' crimes had been against Federal entities or supporters of the Union and Radical Republicans, defeated Confederates in Missouri saw them as folk heroes long after the war's end.

You can view this document and other original Civil War-era documents from the holdings of the National Archives at Kansas City on exhibit in *Divided Loyalties*, on display through April 28. *Divided Loyalties: Civil War Documents from the Missouri State Archives* is a traveling exhibit developed by the Missouri State Archives. It has been augmented with 40 original documents from the holdings of the National Archives at Kansas City.



The National Archives at Kansas City is one of 15 facilities nationwide where the public has access to Federal archival records. It is home to historical records dating from the 1820s to the 1990s created or received by Federal agencies in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. For more information, call 816-268-8000, email kansascity.educate@nara.gov or visit www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city. Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity

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.