

One of 44 Lecture Series: Dr. James Willbanks to Discuss President Richard Nixon and the Fall of South Vietnam

On **Tuesday, December 4 at 6:30 p.m.** the National Archives will host **Dr. James Willbanks** for a lecture titled **President Richard Nixon and the Fall of South Vietnam**. A 6:00 p.m. reception will precede this event.

In the aftermath of the 1968 Tet Offensive, Richard M. Nixon narrowly defeated Hubert H. Humphrey for the presidency. After taking office in January 1969, he had to make good on his promise to end the war in Vietnam. However, the war would continue to rage until a cease-fire was called in January 1973. All U.S. forces were withdrawn by March of that year, but the war soon began again in earnest and continued until April 1975, when the South Vietnamese succumbed to what turned out to be the final North Vietnamese offensive. This presentation will focus on the wartime policies of Nixon that set the conditions for the fall of Saigon.



To make a reservation for this **free event** call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

Gems for Genealogists

The National Archives will offer two free genealogy workshops in December. *Introduction to Genealogy: Where to Begin* will be held on Saturday, December 8, from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. and *Why Can't I Find It?!: Ways to Search More Effectively through Online Resources* will be held on Wednesday, December 12 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Workshop Descriptions:

Introduction to Genealogy: Where to Begin

Saturday, December 8 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

If you are interested in starting your family history research, but aren't sure where to begin, this course will teach you how to start. The course covers the basics of what you need, where you can find information, what resources are available to assist, and how original records help tell your family's story.

Why Can't I Find It?!: Ways to Search More Effectively through Online Resources

Wednesday, December 12 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

With so many online resources, the World Wide Web is a sea of information waiting for you to set sail! Learn how to avoid common pitfalls to ensure that you successfully find, sort, and evaluate websites for genealogy research. This course will highlight a mix of Federal, state, local, and subscription-based websites with unique information.

To make a reservation for these **free workshops** please call 816-268-8000 or email kansascity.archives@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 4 - 6:30 P.M.
ONE OF 44 LECTURE:
PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON AND THE FALL OF SOUTH VIETNAM BY JAMES WILLBANKS
- DECEMBER 6 - 10:00 A.M.
RESEARCHER FORUM
- DECEMBER 8 - 10:00 A.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
INTRODUCTION TO GENEALOGY
- DECEMBER 12 - 10:00 A.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
WHY CAN'T I FIND IT?!
- DECEMBER 18 - 9:00 A.M.
CITIZEN ARCHIVIST WORKSHOP

You Are Invited

Researcher Forum

Thursday, December 6 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

National Archives at Kansas City

400 West Pershing Road

Kansas City, Missouri 64108



Above: *Bill Mayer, Researcher Services Executive.*
Photo courtesy of Bill Mayer.

- Meet Kansas City Archives Director Lori Cox-Paul and Research Services Executive Bill Mayer. Bill works out of both Archives I in Washington, DC and Archives II in College Park, Maryland.
- Learn more about the National Archives and the resources available for researchers.
- Ask questions about the National Archives.
- Provide feedback on your research experiences in Kansas City or at other National Archives locations.
- Refreshments will be served.

The event will be held in the multipurpose room on the lower level. The event is free and open to all. Call 816-268-8000 to RSVP or email kansascity.archives@nara.gov. Put the words “Researcher Forum” in the subject line.

Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

The Trials of Plenty Horses

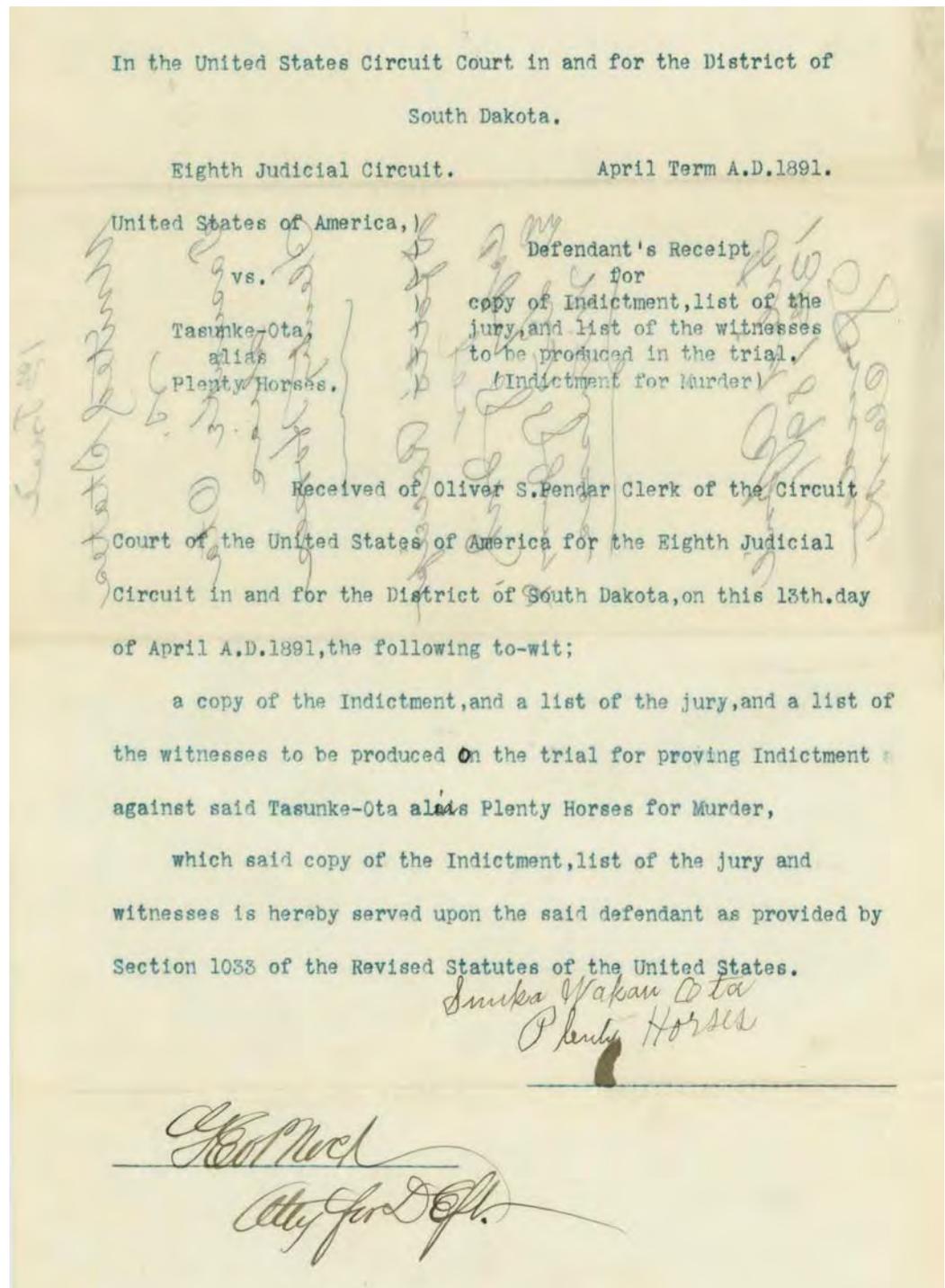
Tasunka-Ota, known as Plenty Horses in English, was born in 1869. A member of the Brulé Lakota Sioux, Plenty Horses grew up on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. At the age of 14, he entered the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania. At Carlisle, Plenty Horses was forbidden to speak in his native language and wear his native dress. He learned English, adopted modern dress, and worked as a farmer's assistant in the school's outing program. When Plenty Horses returned to Rosebud in 1888, he was unable to gain employment and returned to his pre-boarding school lifestyle. However, many members of the tribe ostracized Plenty Horses due to his Carlisle education.

Throughout 1889 and 1890, the rise of the Ghost Dance movement caused relations between the U.S. Army and the Lakota to grow increasingly tense. Worried that the movement would lead to armed resistance, efforts were made to suppress the movement and disarm the Indians. The suppression tactics led to the issuance of an arrest warrant for Chief Sitting Bull. When police officers at the Standing Rock Indian Reservation went to arrest the chief on December 15, 1890, shooting broke out resulting in the deaths of Sitting Bull and 14 other men.

After Sitting Bull's death, many members of his band joined Chief Big Foot, also known as Spotted Elk, at the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation. On December 23rd, the group left Cheyenne River seeking shelter with Chief Red Cloud at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. On December 28th, the group was intercepted by the 7th Cavalry, and they made camp near Wounded Knee Creek. While trying to disarm the Indians the next morning, a gun discharged. At the conclusion of fighting, twenty-five members of the U.S. Army, as well as over 200 men, women, and children were killed in what is now known as the Wounded Knee Massacre.

Following the violence at Wounded Knee, Plenty Horses participated in the Drexel Mission Fight on December 30th which resulted in another engagement with the U.S. Army. On January 7, 1891, Lieutenant Edward W. Casey, the

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Above: This filing shows Plenty Horses' receipt for copies of the indictment, list of the jury, and list of the witnesses for his first trial. Record Group 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States.

leader of the Cheyenne Indian Scouts, while scouting Pine Ridge with two of his men, encountered a group of Lakotas that included Plenty Horses. They began to talk. When word of the meeting spread to Red Cloud, he sent a messenger back to Casey instructing him to leave immediately fearing for his safety. As Casey began to leave, Plenty Horses raised his rifle and fatally shot the officer.

Plenty Horses was arrested on February 19th and imprisoned at Fort Meade, near Sturgis, South Dakota. Plenty Horses freely admitted to shooting Casey and explained that he did so in order to try and gain acceptance back with his

tribe. A grand jury presented the indictment for murder on March 11th and the trial began on April 23rd at the U.S. District Court in Sioux Falls. In addition to Judge Alonzo Edgerton of South Dakota, Judge Oliver Shiras of Iowa sat on the case and served as the presiding judge.

Plenty Horses entered a plea of not guilty. As part of his defense, Plenty Horses' attorneys argued that a state of war existed between the Lakota and the United States. This allowed the two sides to attack and kill each other without the threat of criminal penalties. When the trial concluded, the jury was deadlocked and a new trial was ordered to begin on May 25th.

At the second trial, the defense called Captain Frank Baldwin, a friend of Casey to the stand. Baldwin testified that a state of war did exist between the two nations. Acknowledging Baldwin's testimony as fact, Judge Shiras directed the jury to return a verdict of not guilty. The jury complied without leaving their seats,

To the Honorable Judges U. S. Court
Sioux Falls S.D.

We the Jury in the case of Plenty
Horses find it impossible to agree
and beg of your Honors to excuse
us.

W. L. Dow
Foreman

Apr 30/1891

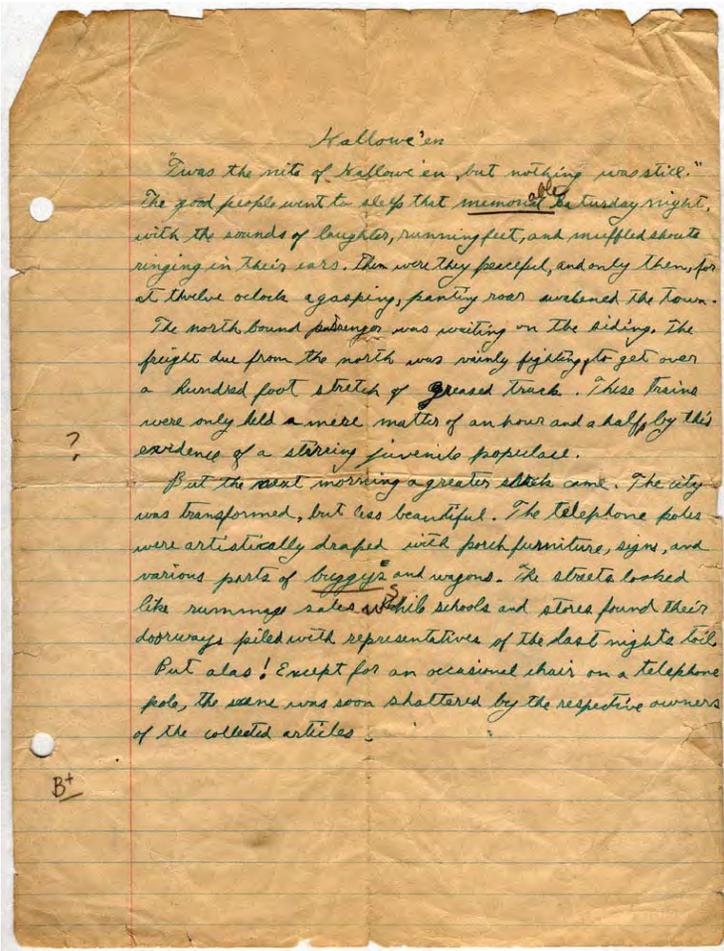
Above: The verdict handed down by the jury in the first trial. Record Group 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States.

and Plenty Horses was discharged from custody on May 28, 1891. After his release, Plenty Horses made few public appearances and remained at Rosebud until his death on June 15, 1933.

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

School House to White House Exhibition

The Education of a President: Ronald Reagan



Ronald Reagan

Like many of the modern Presidents, Ronald Reagan learned to read from his mother, Nelle. He attended public school and was a member of the 1928 class of Dixon High School in Dixon, Illinois. The *School House to White House* exhibit features a reproduction of a handwritten story, shown here, about Halloween that Reagan wrote in high school. Reagan wrote, "'Twas the nite of Hallowe'en, but nothing was still.' The good people went to sleep that memor[able] Saturday night, with the sounds of laughter, running feet, and muffled shouts ringing in their ears." Reagan later attended Eureka College in Illinois, where he played on the football, track, and swim teams and was a reporter for the school newspaper.

To learn more about the presidents and view photographs and documents from their youth, visit *School House to White House: The Education of the Presidents*, available for viewing through February 23, 2013. To schedule a group tour call 816-268-8013 or email mickey.ebert@nara.gov.

Left: Ronald Reagan's high school story "Hallowe'en." Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives.

News and Notes

- **Citizen Archivist Event on Tuesday, December 18 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** -- At the National Archives we continue to think of new ways to make our historical records more accessible to the public. We are reaching out to the members of our local community to utilize your insights and manpower to help with archival projects. Many of you may not have specific archival training, but your work on tasks such as description, transcription, and digitization will make it easier for our users to better understand and access what we have! The results of your work could appear in upcoming exhibits, be submitted to our online catalog, or serve as finding aids for future researchers. This half day event will include an exhibit tour with Exhibit Specialist, Dee Harris, and time in the research room to work on projects. The focus of the projects will be scanning/digitization. Additional opportunities to participate include genealogy research, image editing, and data entry. We are limiting attendance for the event to the first eight reservations received. Participants must provide their own laptop and flatbed scanner for project work. WiFi will be available for free in the research room. Reservations are required, please email or call Elizabeth Burnes at Elizabeth.Burnes@nara.gov or 816-268-8093 to make a reservation.



- **U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots** -- 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 14, 2012**. The public is welcome to drop off toy donations at the National Archives at Kansas City. 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.



Between the Rivers: Steamboating in Missouri and Iowa Exhibition

Between the Rivers, an exhibition currently available for viewing at the National Archives, explores the steamboat industry and its impact on the river environment, culture, and economy in Missouri and Iowa from the 1850s to the early 1900s.

The Federal government played a significant role in safeguarding river navigation on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. The Army Corps of Engineers, initially authorized by Congress in 1824 to clear snags and debris, quickly took on responsibility for improving river navigation. To deepen the river channel, the Corps rendered rapids navigable, redirected water currents, reduced sandbars, reinforced river banks, and re-routed meanders.

Between the Rivers: Steamboating in Missouri and Iowa features documents, photographs, postcards, and maps relating to the Federal government's role in improving navigation on the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. You can view the exhibit and original records (including the steamboat pictured here) on display through April 27, 2013. To schedule a group tour call 816-268-8013 or email mickey.ebert@nara.gov.



Above: *The U.S. Government Steamer Lieut. Gurney pushes a barge loaded with brush mattresses to shore up the banks of the Missouri River.* RG77, Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers.

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.



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/kansas-city. Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity.

HOURS OF OPERATION

RESEARCH ROOMS and EXHIBIT GALLERIES: Tuesday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Closed on Sunday, Monday, and Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs and weather.