

One of 44 Lecture Series

A Boy Who Would Be President: Harry Truman at School, 1892 – 1901 presented by Raymond Geselbracht

On **Thursday, July 12 at 6:30 p.m.** the National Archives at Kansas City will host Dr. Raymond Geselbracht for a lecture titled *A Boy Who Would Be President: Harry Truman at School, 1892-1901*. A **6:00 p.m. reception** will precede this event.

Harry Truman's school records were all destroyed in a fire in 1939, or so Truman himself always said. As a result, the school days of a boy who would one day become President of the United States have always been something of a mystery. But some of Truman's school records did in fact survive and have recently come to light. They allow us, for the first time, to imagine the young boy sitting with his classmates in first and second grades, listening to his teacher; we know some of the subjects he studied and the grades he got. With the assistance of some remarkable essays from his high school English theme books, we can also grasp something of the character of the young man who would guide the country in the years following World War II.

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



Gems for Genealogists

The National Archives at Kansas City will be offering two free genealogy workshops in July.

Navigating the National Archives Website - Saturday, July 14, 2012, 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Given the depth and breadth of records available at the National Archives, it can be difficult to know where to look for resources on our website, www.archives.gov. This course will highlight portions of it, including: researching our records, locating veterans' records, and ordering online.

Researching African American Genealogy - Saturday, July 21, 2012, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Join researcher and author, Dr. Dorothy Witherspoon, as she teaches about genealogy research strategies and resources to help explore African American family history. The class will explore online resources, case studies, and use hands-on examples. Beginners and experienced family historians are welcome. Participants will have an opportunity to share information, conduct independent research, and consult with specialists in African American genealogy. Dr. Witherspoon will sign copies of her book, *Researching Slave Ancestry*, from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. Books must be pre-ordered prior to the event.

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

- JULY 12 - 6:30 P.M.
ONE OF 44 LECTURE:
A BOY WHO WOULD BE PRESIDENT: HARRY TRUMAN AT SCHOOL 1892-1901,
DR. RAYMOND GESELBRACHT
- JULY 14 - 10:00 A.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
NAVIGATING THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES WEBSITE
- JULY 21 - 8:30 A.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY

Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

On Tuesday, July 10, the city of Kansas City, Missouri will host the All-Star Game, an exhibition game usually played by the best players in the league midway through the American baseball season. Although Kansas City is excited as thousands flock to the Midwest metropolis known for bar-b-que and jazz music, the game of baseball has its own unique history that includes this patent court case found in the holdings of the National Archives at Kansas City.

Victor Sporting Goods Co. v. Rawlings Manufacturing Co. was filed in 1909 in the U.S. Circuit Court in St. Louis, Missouri, and the case compliant indicates that Victor was suing Rawlings over the patent rights for a catcher's mitt. Victor Sporting Goods was founded by Charles Whitney and Elroy L. Rogers in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1898. Elroy, and his brother Burt, were the two inventors at Victor Sporting Goods and specialized in creating catcher's mitts.

Rawlings Manufacturing Co. was founded in 1887 by George and Alfred Rawlings, two brothers that owned a retail shop in St. Louis, Missouri. Rawlings first catalog characterized the company as "Dealers in Fishing Tackle, Guns, Baseball, Football, Golf, Polo, Tennis, Athletic and General Sporting Goods." After a few years the store was destroyed by a fire and the Rawlings brothers moved into manufacturing in partnership with Charles Scudder, an investor. By 1907 they were providing baseballs to major league teams.

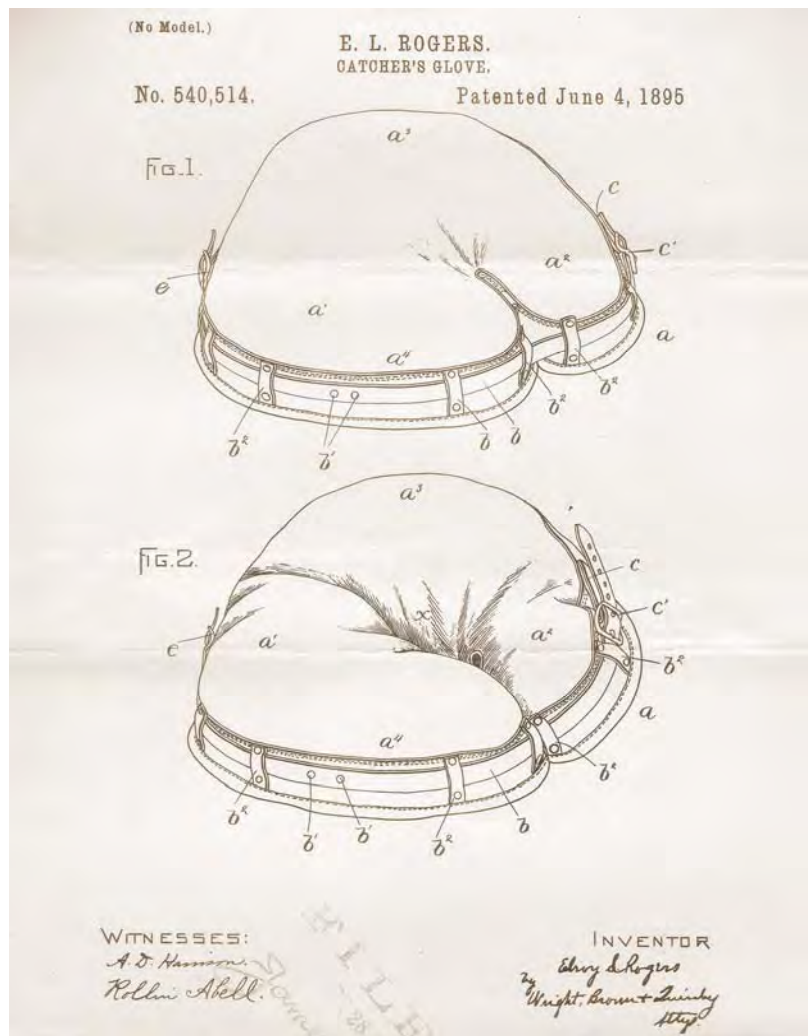
Throughout the nineteenth century baseball gloves, or mitts, were created to help protect the hands of catchers. Early baseball gloves were not as we know them today. They were usually work gloves made of leather. By the mid-1880s padding was added to the gloves for additional hand and finger protection.

In the complaint filed by Victor Sporting Goods, the Rogers brothers claim that Elroy L. Rogers was the "original and first inventor of a new and useful improvement in Catcher's Gloves." The complaint also indicates that no other inventor has been in possession of the patent and that the ownership paperwork was filed with the U.S. Patent Office. In addition, Victor Sporting Goods claimed that Rawlings was profiting from the patent by manufacturing gloves using the model created by Rogers.

During the time period from 1885 to 1895 over a dozen catcher's mitts were patented through the U.S. Patent Office. Rogers owned two of them, #528,343 filed in 1894 and #540514 filed in 1895. In their defense statement, Rawlings Manufacturing specifically referenced these patents in their answer to the complaint filed by Victor Sporting Goods. Rawlings noted that other patents, including their own #325,968, were the models used to manufacture and sell catcher's gloves. By 1911 the Victor Sporting Goods company had failed to prove to the court that Rawlings had unlawfully used Rogers' patent and the case was dismissed without proof.

The Victor Sporting Goods company eventually merged with Wright and Ditson in the 1920s and continued to manufacture various types of sporting equipment. The Rawlings company continued production of many gloves and continuously tried to "perfect" the catcher's mitt. Today, Rawlings is an official supplier to the major leagues and has been since 1977.

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



Above: E.L. Rogers' patent drawing for a catcher mitt. Record Group 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States.

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

The Jackrabbit: John Dillinger

John Dillinger earned a national reputation in a short, but prolific career as a bank robber. Called the “Jackrabbit,” he was known for leaping over bank counters and charismatically bantering with customers. Media exaggeration inflated his daring acts and larger than life persona, causing Dillinger to become the most famous criminal in the country.

His success brought heightened scrutiny from authorities, and Dillinger gang members were arrested in Tucson, Arizona, in January 1934. Dillinger was extradited to Indiana to face charges for murder, but he quickly escaped from the Lake County Jail in Crown Point, Indiana.

As he made his getaway, he stole the sheriff’s car and drove it across state lines. The escape catapulted him to the



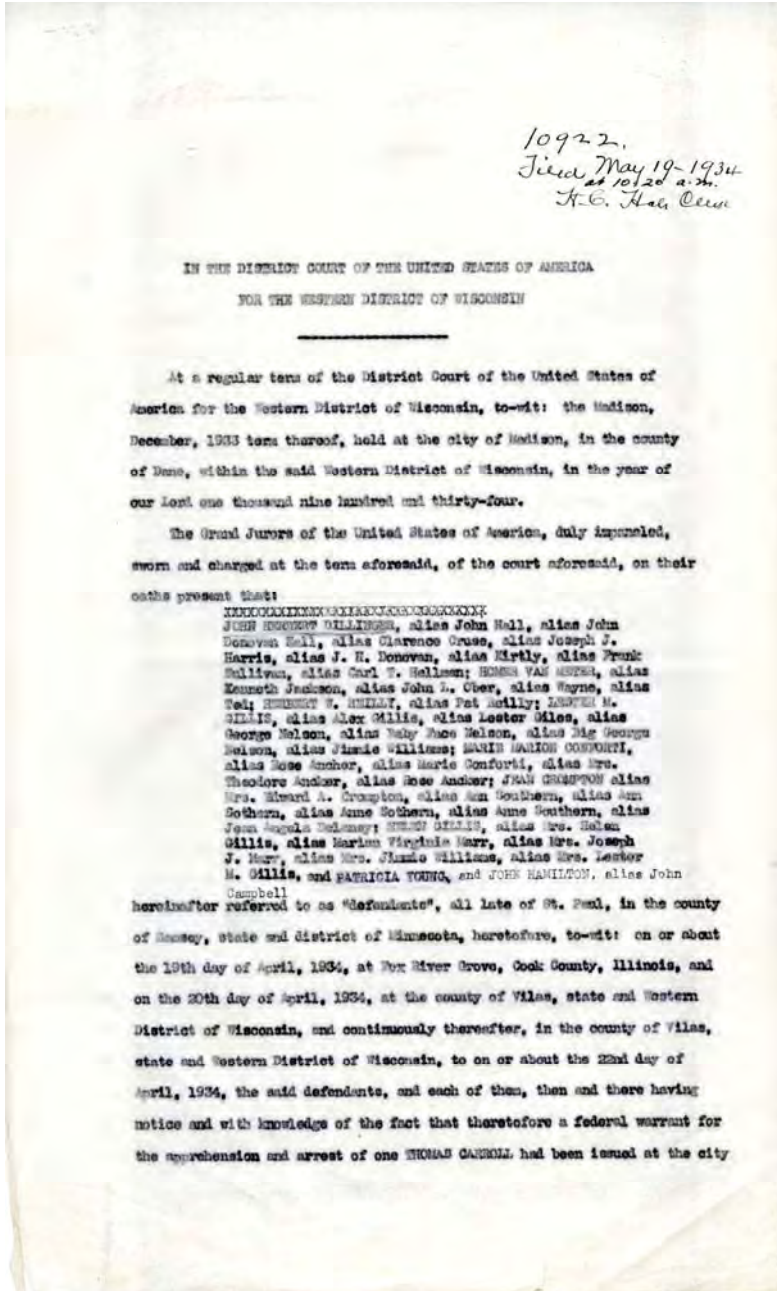
Above: John Dillinger and Special Prosecutor Robert Estill just days before his escape from the Lake County Jail, January 1934. Image courtesy of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

forefront of national news and triggered Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) involvement with the case.

Following his escape from the Crown Point jail, Dillinger moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, and formed a new gang. This gang proved just as successful in robbing banks, but also received more attention from the FBI.

In April 1934, Dillinger, Baby Face Nelson, and other gang members met at the Little Bohemia Lodge in northern Wisconsin. When the FBI converged on the lodge, a firefight broke out, resulting in the agents mistakenly shooting three local residents they thought were part of the gang. Dillinger and his gang escaped through the woods, much to the chagrin of the FBI.

This 1934 indictment exists today as a part of the government’s case against Dillinger for his involvement in the Little Bohemia Lodge incident. It is one of the many Dillinger-related documents on display in the exhibit “They’re Not Going to Get Me:” Crime in the 1930s, open through August 18, 2012. To schedule a group tour call 816-268-8013 or email mickey.ebert@nara.gov.



Left: Grand Jury Indictment, U.S. v. John Herbert Dillinger, et al., May 19, 1934. RG21, Records of the District Courts of the United States.

School House to White House

The Education of a President: Herbert Hoover and Franklin Delano Roosevelt



Herbert Hoover

Herbert Hoover spent his first years of education at a small public school in West Branch, Iowa. He was sent to live with an uncle and aunt in Oregon when he was 11, after his mother's death left him an orphan. He would later say, "Iowa, in those years as in these, was filled with days of school—and who does not remember with a glow some gentle woman who with infinite patience and kindness drilled into us those foundations we know today."

Later, Hoover became the youngest member of the first class at Stanford University, where he studied geology and met his future wife, Lou Henry. The exhibit features images from Hoover's childhood and young adulthood, including a picture of the Stanford University surveying squad, of which Hoover was a member.

Above: Herbert Hoover with the Stanford Surveying Squad, 1893. (Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives)

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Franklin D. Roosevelt's mother, Sara Delano Roosevelt, closely supervised his education, arranging for tutors and educational trips abroad. She also read a variety of children's books to FDR, including *The Great Panjandrum Himself* by Samuel Foote. He later inscribed in a companion volume, "My mother read these to me before I could read, but I took keen joy in them for many later years."

FDR attended the Groton School, where he did well in class and participated in sports and other extracurricular activities. He went on to Harvard, where he was secretary of the freshman Glee Club and manager of the baseball team, among many other student activities. The exhibit features documents and photographs of FDR's time in school, including a photograph of FDR with his fellow glee club members at Harvard.



Roosevelt (back row, third from right) stands with the Groton baseball team, 1899. (Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives)

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*, on display through February 23, 2013. To schedule a group tour call 816-268-8013 or email mickey.ebert@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.



The Boys of Summer: Baseball All-Stars in the Archives

As Kansas City welcomes the All-Stars of today, we share with you All-Stars of the past. Visitors to the National Archives at Kansas City can view a new special display of photographs and facsimile documents entitled *The Boys of Summer: Baseball All-Stars in the Archives*. The display is located in the main hallway on the concourse (lower) level near the *School House to White House* exhibition.

The first Major League Baseball All-Star Game was held at Comiskey Park in Chicago on July 6, 1933. Kansas City has hosted the “Midsummer Classic” two times—the first on July 11, 1960, at Municipal Stadium and again on July 24, 1973, at Royals Stadium. Kansas City will once again welcome the “Boys of Summer” to Kauffman Stadium on July 10, 2012, for the 83rd All-Star Game.



Above: Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig pose together on a visit to West Point, New York, on May 6, 1927. RG 111, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer. Still Pictures Record Section, Special Media Archives Services Division. National Archives at College Park. (111-SC-90389)

During the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, baseball was the most widely played sport in the United States and became known as “America’s game.” It is no surprise, then, to find records relating to the game itself and some of the game’s greatest players—Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Jackie Robinson, Mickey Mantle, and more—in the holdings of the National Archives.



From military records to photographs with American Presidents to Federal court cases, the National Archives preserves forever the game of baseball and its star players’ interactions with the United States government. The display will be available for viewing through the baseball season.



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.