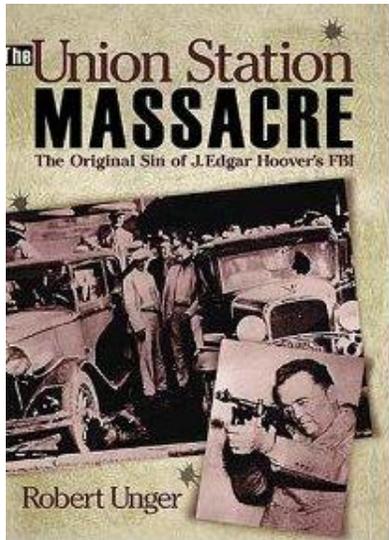


Robert Unger to discuss *The Union Station Massacre: The Original Sin of J. Edgar Hoover's FBI*



On **Thursday, June 14 at 6:30 p.m.** the National Archives at Kansas City will host Robert Unger for a discussion and signing of his book *The Union Station Massacre: The Original Sin of J. Edgar Hoover's FBI*. A **6:00 p.m. reception** will precede this event.

The Union Station Massacre tells the story of how a bloody shoot-out in Kansas City in 1933 became the lynchpin for J. Edgar Hoover's successful transformation of the FBI from a powerless subagency into a law-enforcement juggernaut. Using dubious authority and outright lies, Hoover's FBI turned the massacre case into a witch-hunt for "Pretty Boy" Floyd and Adam Richetti. Floyd was gunned down in a field in Ohio, and Richetti was convicted of murder and executed, based on perjured testimony and manipulated evidence. All the while, the FBI scrupulously avoided the truth. The Union

Station Massacre strips away years of legend to reveal what truly happened that June day in 1933.

Copies of *The Union Station Massacre* will be available for purchase via The Kansas City Store onsite. Following the program the author will sign copies of his book. To make a reservation for this **free event** call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov.



One of 44: 1812: Madison's Disastrous War presented by Dr. Richard Barbuto

The National Archives at Kansas City will be opening an exhibit on June 12 titled *School House to White House* which will focus on the education of the Presidents. In conjunction with this exhibition, the Archives will offer the One of 44 Lecture Series that will include topics related to U.S. Presidents (President Barack Obama is the 44th U.S. President) and the major decisions they faced during their term in office.

On **Thursday, June 28 at 6:30 p.m.** the National Archives at Kansas City will host Dr. Richard Barbuto for a lecture titled *1812: Madison's Disastrous War* as a part of the One of 44 Lecture Series. A **6:00 p.m. reception** will precede this event.



June 18 marks the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 and to coincide with this anniversary Barbuto will discuss the opening year of the War of 1812 and President James Madison. Barbuto will address the road to war, the surrender of Detroit, the debacle at Queenston Heights, and the farce at Buffalo. Duels, dirty politics, interesting characters, and high human drama will be highlighted.

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

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Upcoming Events

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

- JUNE 2 - 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP: CAN'T CATCH ME: LOCATING ANCESTORS IN COURT AND PRISON RECORDS
- JUNE 8 - 10:00 A.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP: INTRODUCTION TO GENEALOGY
- JUNE 12 - 9:00 A.M.
EXHIBIT OPENING: SCHOOL HOUSE TO WHITE HOUSE: THE EDUCATION OF THE PRESIDENTS
- JUNE 14 - 6:30 P.M.
AUTHOR EVENT: THE UNION STATION MASSACRE, ROBERT UNGER
- JUNE 28 - 6:30 P.M.
ONE OF 44 LECTURE: 1812: MADISON'S DISASTROUS WAR, DR. RICHARD BARBUTO

School House to White House to open June 12 at the National Archives

Our modern Presidents received educations and participated in school activities in ways as diverse as their backgrounds and their political philosophies. Some of the Presidents attended neighborhood public schools, and some of them learned in rural classrooms; others studied under tutors and attended prestigious private schools. Many of the Presidents participated in extracurricular activities and organized sports while they attended school.

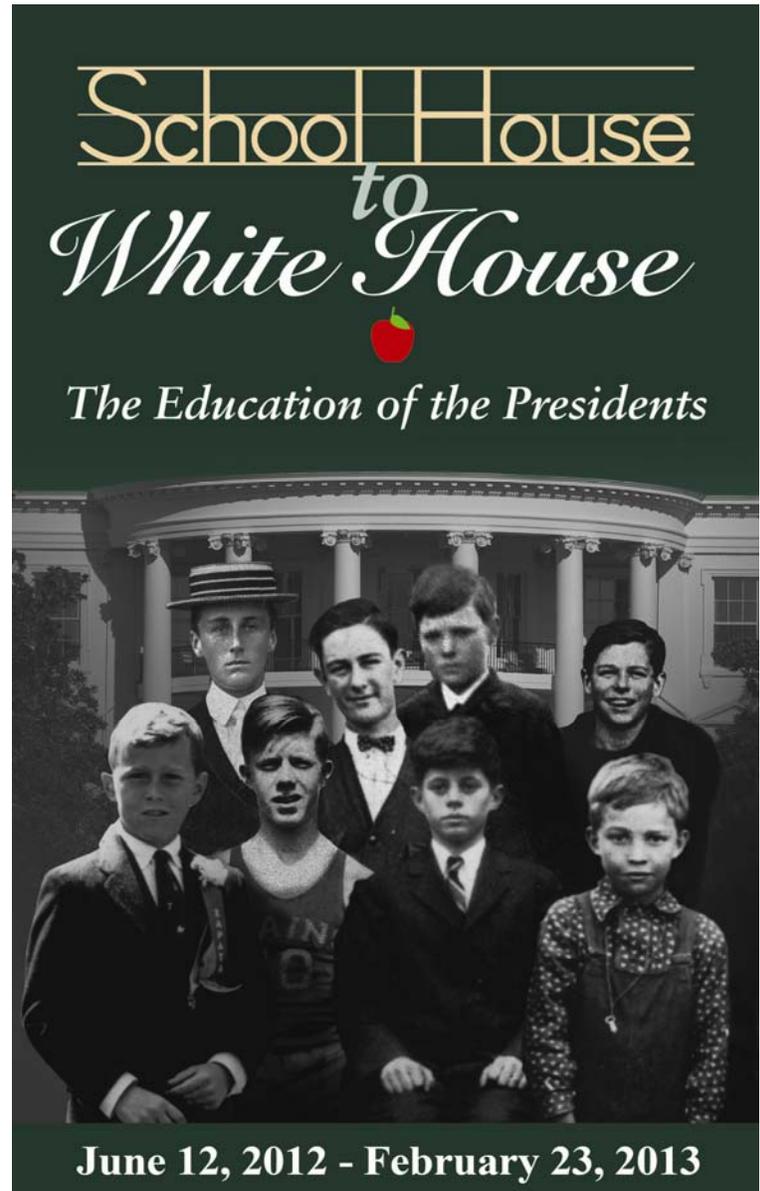
The challenges of studying various subjects, completing homework, forming new ideas, participating in extracurricular activities, and making friends are part of the common heritage of an American education shared by everyone - including our Presidents. This is the premise of the exhibit opening at the National Archives at Kansas City, titled *School House to White House: The Education of the Presidents*. It charts the educational experiences of our Presidents from Herbert Hoover to William J. Clinton, including such notable documents as:

- Herbert Hoover's diploma, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, 1896
- Franklin D. Roosevelt's letter home to parents while at Groton, September 27, 1896
- Harry Truman's second grade report card, Columbian School, Independence, Missouri, 1894
- Dwight Eisenhower's Abilene High School diploma, Abilene, Kansas, 1909
- Health records of John F. Kennedy, written by his mother, Rose Kennedy, 1917-28
- Lyndon Baines Johnson's high school graduation invitation, 1924
- Richard Nixon's school paper, "Autobiography," written in eighth grade, 1925
- Gerald Ford's letter to his mother, Dorothy Ford, wishing her a happy Mother's Day, May 12, 1933
- Jimmy Carter's Georgia School of Technology report card, Atlanta, Georgia, 1943
- Ronald Reagan's French exam, Dixon High School, Dixon, Illinois, ca. 1925
- Letter from Barbara Pierce (Bush) to Poppy (George H.W. Bush), Charleston, South Carolina, 1942
- Bill Clinton at Miss Mary's Kindergarten, Hope, Arkansas, May 6, 1950

Through the records of the presidential libraries - archival material, museum objects, and photographs as well as audio and visual material - *School House to White House* gives the public a new perspective on the presidency. It allows visitors to make connections and comparisons between their own education and the variety of educational experiences of our leaders.

Developed jointly by the museum and archival staffs of the presidential libraries and the museum staff of the National Archives Experience in Washington, D.C., the exhibit explores these future Presidents' activities in grade school, high school, college, and after graduation. Other sections of the exhibit focus on the importance of home life in their education and describe participation in extracurricular activities and sports as well.

School House to White House is open through February 23, 2013. To schedule a group tour call 816-268-8013 or email mickey.ebert@nara.gov.



Gems for Genealogists

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

Saturday, June 2 at 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – *Can't Catch Me: Locating Ancestors in Court and Prison Records*

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. – *Order in the Court: Finding Your Family in Federal Court Records*

Did your ancestor file for bankruptcy? Get tied up in a federal civil suit? Were they a defendant in a criminal case? Federal court documents are an underutilized set of records that help provide a snapshot of an individual or family at a particular juncture in life. Depending upon the type of case, documents can include lists of property, family members, testimony, and other insightful glimpses at events that may not be documented elsewhere. Come learn about the types of cases you can find at the National Archives and how to begin your research.

11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. – *Behind Bars: Penitentiary Records*

Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary has an infamous past, leaving behind a paper trail of inmates that crossed its threshold. The inmate case files document the individual's life from arrival to departure. Included are "rap" sheets, intake charts, correspondence sent and received, intercepted letters, mugshots, and more.

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. – Self-guided tour "*They're not going to get me:*" *Crime in the 1930's* exhibit

Friday, June 8 at 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. – *Introduction to Genealogy: Using Federal Census Records to Find Your Ancestors*

This course will introduce beginning genealogists to the United States Federal Census while providing direction with how and where to start researching your family history. Learn to discover clues, codes, and other telling details about your ancestors' lives.

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

News and Notes

- **DocsTeach App for iPad** - The National Archives has recently launched the DocsTeach App for iPad, a new tool for teaching with and learning from historical documents. The DocsTeach App is now available for free from the App Store. The app enables users to engage in several activities from the DocsTeach.org web site that feature documents from the holdings of the US National Archives. DocsTeach.org is an online tool for teaching and learning, featuring thousands of primary sources and learning activities. When registered for a free account, educators and other users can borrow from and modify an ever-expanding collection of activities, plus create unique ones using online templates. The app allows iPad users to choose a historical era or topic to find an activity based on primary source documents; participate in DocsTeach activities; and zoom and inspect individual pages of documents, drawings, maps, and photographs. For more information go to <http://docsteach.org/>.
- **Saying Thank You - Patrons Learn How Preservation Matters** - At the National Archives at Kansas City, we are always seeking ways to connect with our patrons in practical ways, and we hit a bonanza with "Preservation Matters: Caring for Personal Papers, Pictures, and Paraphernalia," on Saturday, May 5. The total attendance for the day was 117 patrons, with 87 of them arriving for the first session at 8:30 AM! Pitching in to produce a smoothly-run event, everyone on the Kansas City staff from archivists to students earned the appreciation



expressed by patrons all day long. In addition to attending some or all of the day's ten presentations, patrons brought interesting personal items to the "Preservation One-on-One Clinic" for preservation advice. The clinic was manned by NARA staff who saw an exciting variety of family treasures, including vintage photos, World War II memorabilia, Buzz Aldrin's signature, and a copy of a book owned by George Westinghouse, with his personal notations scribbled in the margins. Thank you to all who attended - we hope you learned a lot about preserving family heirlooms and memories!

Left: Archives Technician Jessica Schmidt (center) and Archivist Pam Anderson (right) offer storage advice in the "Preservation One-on-One Clinic."

Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

Dorrance v. Dorrance

There is an equity law case in the stacks at the National Archives at Kansas City that provides a glimpse of life in Missouri at the turn of the century. Enclosed in the box are a dozen photos of the idyllic life of John and Emma Dorrance in Chariton County, Missouri. One of those photos shows a white picket fence behind three men, one woman, and one boy. The woman is looking and smiling at the boy with such endearment it is easy to see the love she had for this boy in knickers. Another photo shows the smiling boy sitting on a man's lap. Then the questions pop into the inquisitive mind of the researcher. Why are these photos attached to this case? What happened to the boy and his family? Is there going to be a happy ending?



Above: *The Dorrance Family, Benjamin F. Dorrance et. al. v. Charles Francis Dorrance, ca.1915. RG21, Records of District Courts of the United States.*

These questions drive the researcher to find the answers, all of which are in the case files. The case, *Benjamin F. Dorrance et.al. v. Charles Francis Dorrance*, was an equity case filed in 1915. At stake was 1000 acres of land in Chariton County, Missouri. The fact that was disputed was the parentage of the boy, Charles Francis Dorrance. The suit was brought by his uncle, Benjamin Dorrance, and the other heirs of a rich grandfather from Pennsylvania. Whether Charles was the owner of the land depended on whether he was the natural son of John Dorrance, Benjamin's brother.

John confessed to his brother that he had taken the child from a foundling asylum in order to palm him off as a legitimate heir of the rich grandfather. John only confessed such facts after he became estranged from his wife in 1907. The heirs immediately had their attorneys gather testimonies from involved people. The suit was filed shortly after John died in 1914.

As revealed in the documents, the court selected three physicians to examine the wife, Emma, to determine whether she had ever given birth. They reported that she had not. A record from the foundling asylum shows that John Dorrance and wife adopted a child February 28, 1891. This preponderance of evidence helped the court declare that Charles F. Dorrance was not the heir to the land.

However, the District Court of Appeals reversed the decision five years later. It is noted in the case file (<http://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc38835/ml/71/>) that the father, John, "showed a character of uncontrollable waywardness, which soon developed into such depravity as to be best explained upon the basis that he was periodically insane." His life of debauchery was so revolting that the Appeals Court refused to put it in the report. It was shown that he had forged the record at the orphanage in order to punish his wife. The examination by the three physicians was thrown out because the birth was 25 years before.

The case is a study in human behavior and life at a time when an adopted child did not have the same rights as a birth child. A time where an insane, morally depraved man sought to hurt his wife by disowning their child. A time caught by photos and documents in the stacks of the National Archives.

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: *John Dorrance is the mustachioed man in this photo. RG21, Records of District Courts of the United States.*

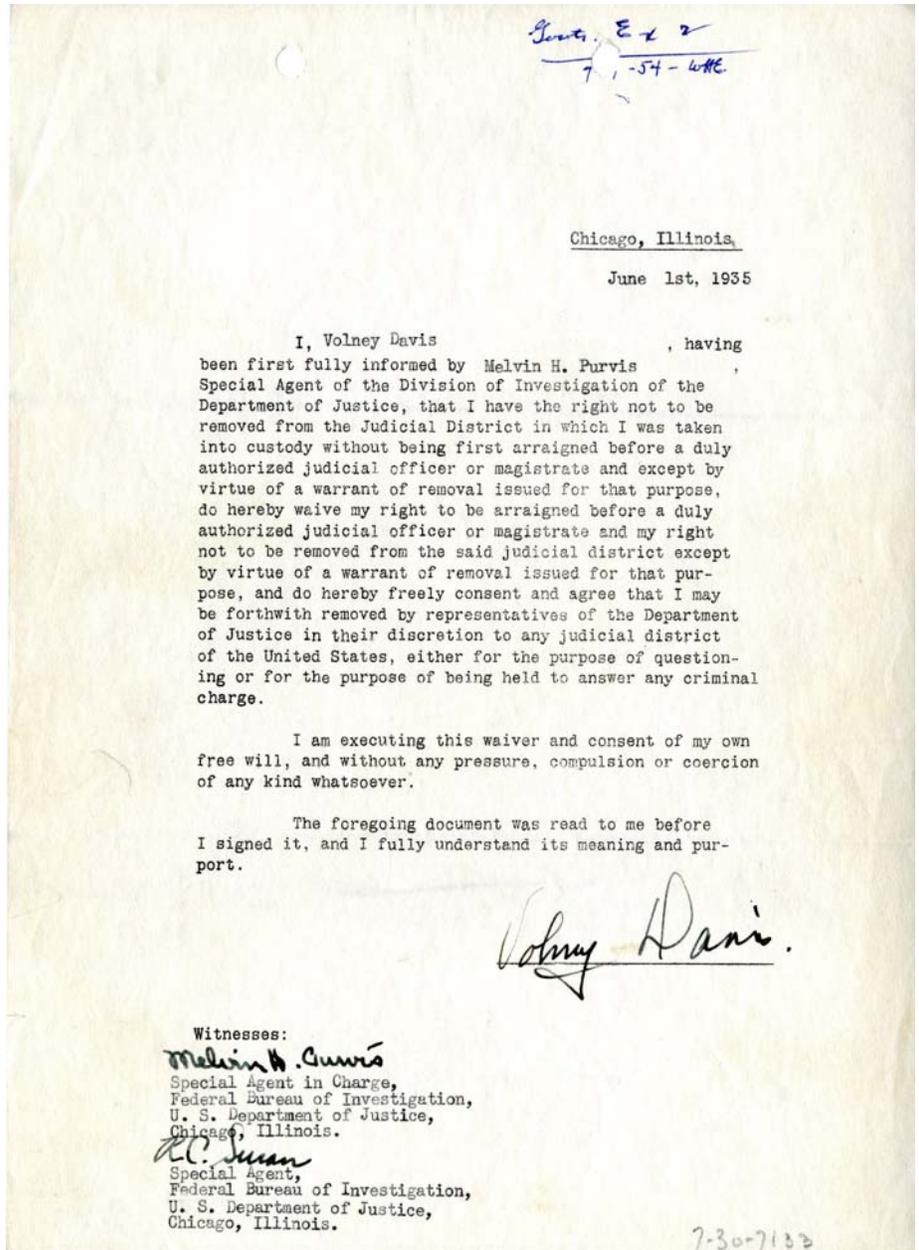
“They’re Not Going to Get Me:” Crime in the 1930s

Ace G-Man: Melvin Purvis and the FBI

Melvin Purvis achieved a higher level of notoriety than any other FBI field agent during the 1930s war on crime. Purvis joined the Bureau in 1927 and quickly moved up the ranks. His impressive work caught the attention of J. Edgar Hoover, who placed Purvis in charge of the Chicago office—the FBI’s most active branch in the war on crime. But his relationship with Hoover quickly soured as numerous gangsters slipped away from his grasp. On May 29, 1934, Hoover sent a memo to Purvis, stating: “I am becoming quite concerned over some of these developments in the Chicago district. We have had too many instances where surveillances have not been properly conducted, and where persons under surveillance have been able to avoid the same...I cannot continue to tolerate action of investigators that permits leads to remain uncovered, or at least improperly covered. It is imperative that you exercise the proper supervision over the handling of this case.”

Despite Hoover’s waning support, Purvis oversaw the FBI manhunts that caught Baby Face Nelson, Pretty Boy Floyd, and John Dillinger. Though such success should have prompted a promotion, Hoover grew further disenchanted when the media showered publicity on Purvis. By 1935 Purvis had found life in the FBI too uncomfortable and retired to practice law.

This statement by Volney Davis features the signatures of both Melvin Purvis and fellow agent R. C. Suran. It exists today as part of the government’s case against Davis and other members of the Barker-Karpis gang for kidnapping Minnesota banker Edward Bremer. It is one of the many documents on display in the exhibit “They’re Not Going to Get Me:” Crime in the 1930s, open through August 18, 2012.



Above: Signed witness statement by Volney Davis, witnessed by FBI Agents Melvin Purvis and R. C. Suran, U.S. v. Alvin Karpavicz, alias Alvin Karpis, et al., June 1, 1935. RG21, Records of the District Courts of the United States.



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.