

Between the Rivers: Steamboating in Missouri and Iowa Exhibit Opens September 25 at the National Archives

With their roaring engines, belching smokestacks, splashing paddlewheels, and distinctive whistles, steamboats were an awesome power on the river. Come on deck and discover the history of steamboats in a new temporary exhibition, *Between the Rivers: Steamboating in Missouri and Iowa*, opening September 25.

Between the Rivers 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. Located between the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, the land and people of Missouri and Iowa have long been defined by these two great rivers. Together the rivers and their tributaries opened pathways to exploration, trade, settlement, industry, war, and freedom in the Midwest. But it wasn't just the river itself that was critical to western development—the invention of the steamboat brought about a revolution in American river commerce as significant as the railroad on land. Long before railroad tracks crisscrossed through the country, the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers served as major thoroughfares of transportation for people and cargo.

The exhibit will feature steamboat architecture and design, life adrift on the rivers, natural and steamboat disasters, government regulation of the industry, navigational improvement of the rivers, and the economic struggle between river and rail. *Between the Rivers* opens on September 25 and is available for viewing through April 27, 2013.



Above: Celebrating the visit of President Roosevelt, who arrived in St. Louis aboard the steamer *Mississippi*. President's Day on the river, St. Louis, Mo., c1907, Courtesy of the Library of Congress (6a27892U).

One of 44 Lecture Series

John Quincy Adams: "Mad Man or Man of Eloquence?"

On **Thursday, September 20, at 6:30 p.m.** the National Archives at Kansas City will host Dr. Joseph Fischer for a lecture titled *John Quincy Adams: "Mad Man or Man of Eloquence?"*. A **6:00 p.m. reception** will precede this event.

No one in the history of the United States came to the Presidency better prepared for the task than John Quincy Adams. Son of John Adams and Abigail, he had been classically educated with competency in six languages. Historians often view him as the nation's most successful Secretary of State yet, as President, he proved a failure, securing little of a program well beyond the political vision of his day. Beyond his Presidency, he found his voice becoming an energetic opponent of slavery. Labeled a "mad man" by his foes and "Old Man Eloquence" by his supporters, he lived a life of principle and perhaps for a politician, there can be no higher compliment.

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

Inside This Issue

ONE OF 44 LECTURE	1
GEMS FOR GENEALOGISTS	2
HIDDEN TREASURES	3
SCHOOL HOUSE TO WHITE HOUSE	4

Upcoming Events

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

- SEPTEMBER 8 - 10:00 A.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
TOWNSHIP, SECTION,
RANGE: LOOKING AT LAND
RECORDS
- SEPTEMBER 14 - 1:00 P.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
ORDER IN THE COURT:
FINDING YOUR FAMILY IN
FEDERAL COURT RECORDS
- SEPTEMBER 20 - 6:30 P.M.
ONE OF 44 LECTURE
SERIES: JOHN QUINCY
ADAMS: "MAD MAN OR
MAN OF ELOQUENCE?,"
DR. JOSEPH FISCHER
- SEPTEMBER 25 - 9:00 A.M.
EXHIBITION OPENING:
*BETWEEN THE RIVERS:
STEAMBOATING IN
MISSOURI AND IOWA*

Gems for Genealogists

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

Workshop Descriptions

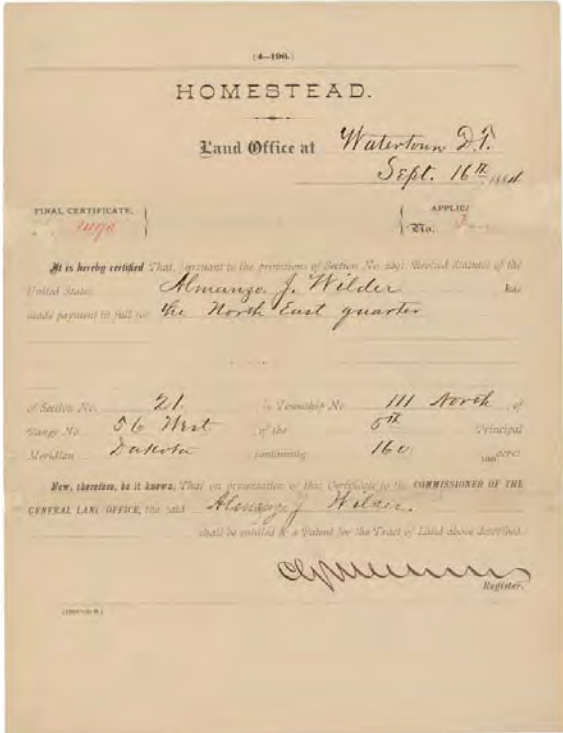
Township, Section, Range: Looking at Land Records
Saturday, September 8, from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Township 1, Range 43 West, Section 2. Does this make sense to you? Have you always been curious about the “secret language” of land records? Come learn about Federal land records and the difference between what you will discover at the National Archives versus the county or state archives. Topics include locating information about bounty land warrants, homestead files, land tract books, and other great land resources.

Order in the Court: Finding Your Family in Federal Court Records
Friday, September 14, from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

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.

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



Above: Final Homestead Certificate for Almanzo Wilder, 9/16/1884. Record Group 49, Bureau of Land Management, Land Entry Records for South Dakota, 1861-1908. Textual Archives Services Division, National Archives Building, ARC Identifier 1656514

Special Workshop at the Kansas City Public Library

Learn How to Research Your Family's Past Through the 1940 Census
Sunday, September 9, at 2:00 p.m., Central Library (Downtown)

The 1940 U.S. Census revealed that Missouri had 3.8 million residents, there were 1.8 million Kansans, and Kansas City, Missouri, was home to 400,000 people. This year the National Archives and Records Administration opened the 1940 U.S. Census records to great fanfare, creating a valuable resource for historians and genealogists. Using some notable area residents as examples, Archives Director Lori Cox-Paul will explain how the census can facilitate the search for your ancestors.

To make a reservation call 816-701-3407 or visit www.kclibrary.org.



Above original caption: Enumeration. Approximately 120,000 enumerators were employed, 1940-41. Record Group 29, Records of the Bureau of Census, Still Picture Records Section, Special Media Archives Services Division, National Archives at College Park, ARC Identifier 6200775.

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.

Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

Riding the Rail to the Future

A visitor to downtown Overland Park today will find a bustling hive of activity, with a city-scape of shops, apartments, restaurants, and an overwhelming number of cars. The hum and squeal of traffic never ceases, and the stores and farmers market maintain a steady stream of customers. Standing silently overlooking it all at the junction of Sante Fe Drive and 80th Street, is a statue of William Strang, founder of Overland Park, and the impetus behind Kansas City's growth into Johnson County, Kansas.

This advertisement from 1910 for the Strang Land Company reveals William Strang's vision for Overland Park. The virtues of the site are praised as scenic and maintaining the benefits of country living, with ready access to the heart of Kansas City. The superlatives for the site gush that "No praise of the beauty of this land can be too extravagant, nor can its possibilities of development be exaggerated." The central feature of the site was Strang's brainchild for Johnson County development, the Missouri and Kansas Interurban Railway, better known as the "Strang Line."

In 1906 Strang arrived in Kansas City, and immediately began the development of the interurban railway, which began at 39th Street and State Line Road, extending over private right of way through Wyandotte and Johnson Counties, through Lenexa to Olathe, Kansas, 21 miles away. He simultaneously purchased more than 600 acres of land around what is now 80th and Metcalf in downtown Overland Park, and founded the Strang Land Company to develop the newly accessible land. With the rail line came terminals, power houses, rail cars and other equipment, and with the land company plotted town sites, telegraph and telephone poles, extended gas and electric lines, and developed roadways. This expansion drew many of Kansas City's growing middle class, and land value around the Strang line jumped in a few years from \$100 an acre up to \$1,000 an acre.

The Strang Line operated until 1940, successfully bridging Johnson County with Kansas City. With the boom of automobile use in the 1920s and 30s, use of the interurban rail slowed, and finally ceased to be profitable. Though it was one of the last major interurban rail lines operating in the Kansas City area, few of its structures remain today.

Just down from Strang's statue in downtown Overland Park stands a former Strang Line carriage house, and north on Sante Fe Drive is the Traditions Furniture store in a limestone building that served as a Strang Line car barn and powerhouse. Strang's visions of interurban rail for greater Kansas City however are not dead, with fresh efforts being made to build new metro rail lines to enhance commuting options and spur new growth and development.

The National Archives maintains these records as part of Record Group 21, Records of the United States District Courts. This poster is from the United States Circuit Court for the District of Kansas, Topeka Division, Law and Equity Case Files, case #8719, *William Strang v The Missouri and Kansas Interurban Railway Company*.

For more information about this case email kansascity.archives@nara.gov or view the Archival Research Catalog at www.archives.gov/research/arc

OVERLAND PARK
ON THE OLATHE-KANSAS CITY ROCK TURNPIKE

KANSAS CITY'S NEW OBSERVATORY ADDITION
(125 FEET HIGHER THAN THE HIGHEST POINT IN KANSAS CITY)

SITUATED ON THE **"STRANG LINE"**
(The Missouri & Kansas Interurban Railway)

EXCELLENT SERVICE
Cars Leave Overland for Kansas City Every Hour From 6:05 a. m. to 10:15 p. m.

Take the **RED CARS** at Eighth & Walnut Streets Every Hour 7 a. m. to 11:15 p. m.

Beautiful Sites for Model Country Homes

A NEW TOWNSITE of 100 ACRES, occupying the most highly elevated overlooking Kansas City. A 2 1/2 mile ride from Eighth and Walnut Streets. The same distance from the President as Swope Park. The highest point in Johnson County, commanding a magnificent outlook over the beautiful Indian Creek and Turkey Creek Valleys, with a perfect view of Kansas City, stands ready here every foot of the property. In fact you can traverse the entire northern of Kansas City for 20 miles around and you will not find the equal of the splendid scenery for other home or investment purposes. Think what such a home spot offers. All the luxuries of a city, or the city situated directly on ideal surroundings, look as you wish, across a chosen to smoking view of wooded rolling fields and green valleys, banks, creeks, orchards, lawns and rock, rapid shade transportation - in fact everything to suit the taste of the city, day and night, making a happy delight.

You Can Buy Acreage Property in Overland Park,
at one-fourth the price of land here elsewhere, and low light, in the country recently included in the limits of Kansas City.

You Can Have all the Advantages of City Property at Overland Park without city taxes or special assessments

TERMS EASY

Important Points Worth Considering
79th Street in Kansas City (low city limit) extended due west here State Line passes through Overland Park

A ROCK TURNPIKE FROM KANSAS CITY TO OLATHE
passing directly through Overland Park has been approved by the State Government in connection with the turnpike.

LOTS SHOWN IN RED ARE SOLD

STRANG LAND COMPANY
Home Phone South 60 Bell Phone South 130
Overland Park and 1702 West 39th Street--Corner of Genesee Street

School House to White House

The Education of a President: John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson



Above: Kennedy (back row, third from left) was on the swim team while at Harvard. (John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives)

John F. Kennedy

As a child, John F. Kennedy attended several schools, finishing his secondary school studies at the Choate School in Connecticut. At Harvard he played several sports and concentrated on his studies. His senior thesis, "Appeasement at Munich," was later published as the book *Why England Slept*, which was a critical and financial success. In *School House to White House* visitors will see a report card from 1930, a health card written by his mother, Rose, and various class and team photographs from his youth.

Lyndon B. Johnson

Lyndon Johnson's mother, Rebekah, taught the future President to read by the age of four. He attended public school in Johnson City, Texas. He enjoyed playing baseball as a child, and he participated in a two-person debate team that won the county title during his senior year at Johnson City High School. After working for several years in California after high school, Johnson returned home and attended Southwest Texas State Teachers College (now Texas State University). In addition to various photographs from his childhood, the exhibit includes reproductions of Lyndon Johnson's third- and ninth-grade report cards as well as an invitation to his graduation from college.

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.

Report for year beginning	day of	191	and Ending	day of	191	Yearly	Final						
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Marched
Reading	A	A	A	A	A								
Spelling	B	A+	A+	A+	A+								
Writing	B	A+	A+	A+	A+								
Drawing													
Arithmetic	B	A+	A	A	A								
Grammar	A	B+	B	A	A								
Geography	C-	A	B	B									
Physiology													
Agriculture													
Texas History													
U. S. History													
Civics													
Composition													
Physical Geography													
Literature													
General History													
Algebra													
Geometry													
Physics													
Application													
Department													
Days Absent	1	0			4 1/2								
Times Tardy	1	1											

Above: Lyndon B. Johnson's third-grade report card. (Johnson City Foundation)



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.