

Between the Rivers Lecture Series:

David Hawley to Discuss the Discovery of the Steamboat *Arabia*

On **Tuesday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m.** the National Archives will host **David Hawley**, co-founder of the *Arabia Steamboat Museum*, for a discussion about the excavation, discovery, and preservation of the steamboat *Arabia*. A 6:00 p.m. reception will precede the lecture.



Built in 1853, the *Arabia* was a side wheeler steamboat which hit a snag in the Missouri River and sank near present day Parkville, Missouri. The boat averaged five miles an hour going upstream and traveled the Ohio and Mississippi rivers before it was bought by Captain John Shaw, who operated it on the Missouri River. Used to carry cargo and passengers, *Arabia* traversed the Missouri from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to Fort Pierre, South Dakota, and eventually up the Yellowstone River. In spring of 1856, the boat was sold to Captain William Terrill and William Boyd, and it made fourteen trips up and down the Missouri during their ownership. In March of that year, the *Arabia* collided with an obstacle, nearly sinking. A few weeks later the boat blew a cylinder head and had to be repaired again. The rest of the season was uneventful for the *Arabia* until September 5, 1856, when it hit a snag on the Missouri River and sunk.

In 1988, the Hawley family, along with family friends Jerry Mackey and David Luttrell, rediscovered the *Arabia* and its contents. Hawley will discuss the excavation and the artifacts recovered from the site. To make a reservation for this **free event**, call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

Swing into History: Baseball and American Culture Programs

The National Archives at Kansas City and the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum have partnered to present a program series this year on baseball and its impact on American culture. The following programs will be offered in April at the National Archives and Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. To make a reservation for either of these **free events** call 816-268-8010 or email kansasascity.educate@nara.gov.

- **April 4, 6:30 p.m. at the National Archives** - *Jackie Robinson: Stealing Home and History*, presented by Dr. Raymond Doswell. This lecture will focus on the baseball player's career and the impact he had on integrating the sport. Doswell's lecture precedes the nationwide movie release of *42*, a biographical film about Robinson, on Friday, April 12.
- **April 13, 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum** - Authors Dr. Christopher Lamb and Bill White, will discuss and sign their books, *Conspiracy of Silence: Sportswriters and the Long Campaign to Desegregate Baseball* and *Uppity: My Untold Story About the Games People Play*. Books will be available for purchase.

Inside This Issue

SWING INTO HISTORY PROGRAM SERIES	1
GEMS FOR GENEALOGISTS	2
HIDDEN TREASURES	3-4
BETWEEN THE RIVERS EXHIBIT	5

Upcoming Events

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

- APRIL 2 - 6:00 A.M.
ELECTION DAY: POLLING SITE
- APRIL 4 - 6:30 P.M.
SWING INTO HISTORY:
DR. RAYMOND DOSWELL,
JACKIE ROBINSON: *STEALING HOME AND HISTORY*
- APRIL 5 - 10:00 A.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
BROKE, BUT NOT OUT OF LUCK: EXPLORING BANKRUPTCY RECORDS
- APRIL 9 - 6:30 P.M.
BETWEEN THE RIVERS LECTURE: DAVID HAWLEY,
THE DISCOVERY OF THE STEAMBOAT ARABIA
- APRIL 25 - NOON
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
FEDERAL WEBSITES FOR GENEALOGISTS

Gems for Genealogists

The National Archives at Kansas City will be offering two free genealogy workshops in April. Both workshops will be held at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64108.

Workshop Descriptions:

Broke, But Not Out of Luck: Exploring Bankruptcy Records

Friday, April 5 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

The course of U.S. history has seen many economic “ups and downs.” Through bankruptcy records genealogists can learn what their ancestors owned, where they shopped, and which neighbors they borrowed from. The records of these tough times leave a wealth of details that can be found in few, if any other places. This class will take a look at what bankruptcy records are available, what researchers can expect to find, and provide instruction on how to research the records.

Federal Websites for Genealogists

Thursday, April 25 from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

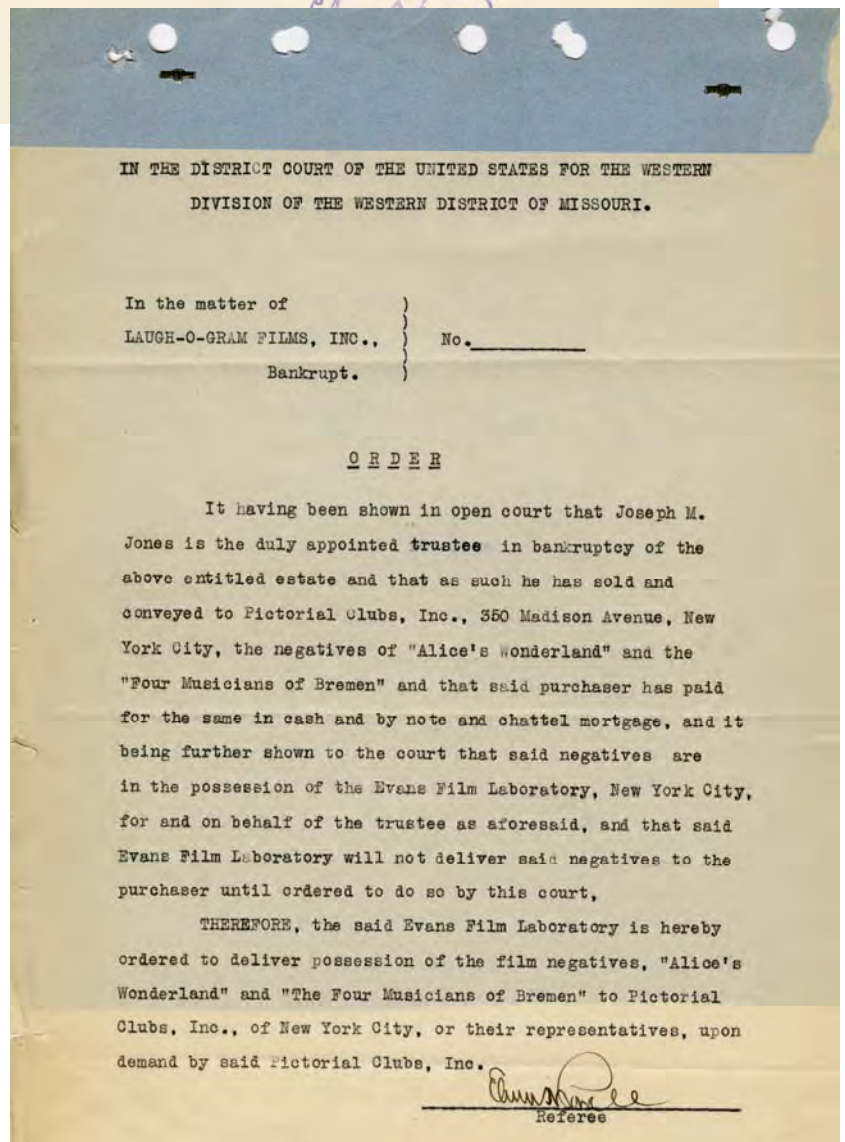
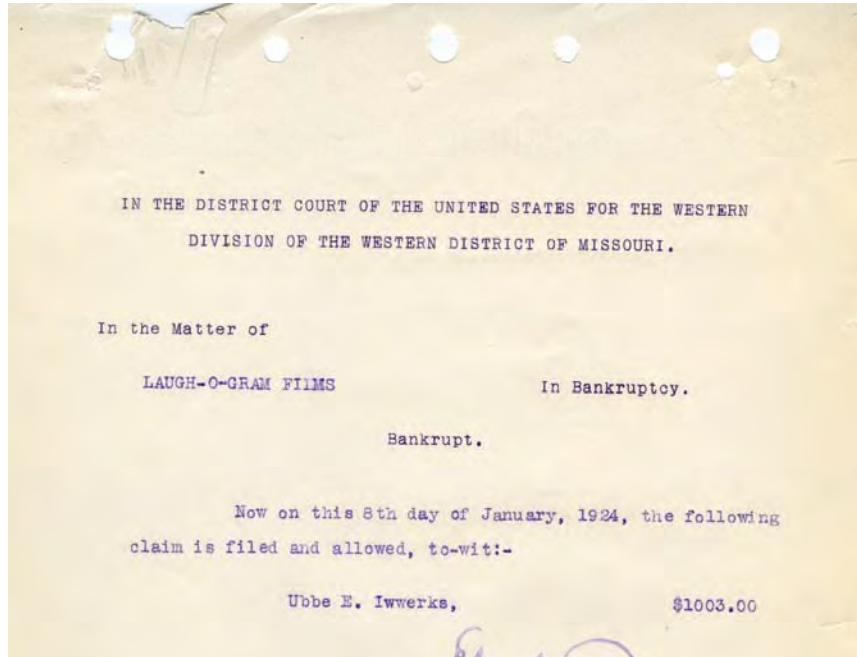
In the sea of subscription-based websites many Federal agencies continue to offer free webpages that are helpful to genealogists. The content ranges from tools to articles to indexes. Learn about the free resources available online and how they can benefit your research.

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

Right: These documents are filings in the Laugh-O-Gram Films, Inc. bankruptcy case. Laugh-O-Gram Films was owned and operated by Walt Disney in Kansas City from 1921-1923.

The company was contracted with Pictorial Clubs, Inc. to produce six fairy tale cartoons, but shortly after Pictorial Clubs went bankrupt. Disney created one last short, *Alice's Wonderland*, and filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 1923. He sold his equipment, purchased a one-way train ticket, and took an unfinished reel of *Alice's Wonderland* and moved to Hollywood, California. The case includes a list of creditors to whom he owed money. Ubbe Iwerks was an animator employed by Disney. Iwerks would continue to work with Disney for the next 40 years.

Record Group 21, Records of the U.S. District Court for the Western (Kansas City) Division of the Western District of Missouri, In the Matter of Laugh-O-Gram Films, Inc. 1922-1930.



Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

Free Speech during the Iran Hostage Crisis

On November 4, 1979, a group of Islamic revolutionaries attacked and overran the United States Embassy in Tehran, Iran, taking more than 60 Americans hostage and setting off a national crisis that would last 444 days. The revolutionaries demanded the former leader of their country be extradited from the United States in order to stand trial. The Shah's regime had been in power since 1953 following a U.S. backed overthrow of the previous



Above: Protesters from the VVAW placing a banner near the General Services Administrative building in St. Louis, Missouri. Record Group 21, Records of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern (St. Louis) Division of the Eastern District of Missouri, USA v. Richard Bangert and Alan Kandel.

the United States government in other countries' internal affairs. A Federal district court case from St. Louis in 1980, *U.S.A. v. Richard Bangert and Alan Kandel*, provides a good illustration of the actions taken by some members of this group during a time of national unease.

According to court records, on the morning of November 27, 1979 (23 days after the hostages were taken), several individuals were spotted outside the General Services Administration building in St. Louis taking down the American flag and replacing it with a banner that read: "U.S. Keep Your Bloody Hands Off Iran." One individual was seen placing the flag in a plastic bag and running to his car. As the car sped off, one eyewitness was able to catch the vehicle's license plate number. The car was later found to be registered to Richard Bangert, a member of the VVAW, and a former member of the Military Police stationed in Saigon during the war.

Several hours later a protest took place on the campus of Washington University in St. Louis, where Bangert and another man, Alan Kandel, were among protesters demonstrating against the actions of the American government towards Iran.

government. To the young revolutionaries, the Shah represented a quarter century of anti-Islamic, Western-influenced tyranny. These events have been chronicled in several movies over the years, most recently in the Academy Award winning film *Argo* from 2012.

Reactions to the attack varied widely throughout the United States, but most people expressed outrage at what they considered to be an unprovoked attack on innocent American citizens. One group in the minority of opinion, however, was the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). Formed in the late 1960s in opposition to the Vietnam War, the organization continued to operate following the conclusion of hostilities in Southeast Asia in order to protest what they perceived to be the meddling of



Above: Protesters preparing to burn a United States flag. Record Group 21, Records of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern (St. Louis) Division of the Eastern District of Missouri, USA v. Richard Bangert and Alan Kandel.

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The protesters carried a banner that was identical to the one placed on the flagpole at the Federal building earlier in the day. At some point a scuffle broke out between the anti-government dissidents and a group of counter-protesters and an American flag was burned, remnants of which were later recovered by FBI agents investigating the theft of the other flag.

On February 1, 1980, Bangert and Kandel were both arrested by the FBI and charged with destroying government property. Bangert also received a second charge of stealing government property. Both defendants pleaded not guilty and opted for a jury trial to prove their innocence. On March 10, the trial began with Bangert and his lawyer filing a motion to suppress identification. The motion urged the district court judge to suppress the out-of-court identifications made of Bangert by three separate witnesses on the day the flag was stolen. Bangert, while acknowledging his presence at the protest on campus, argued he was not present at the Federal building on the morning of the alleged



incident and that he had lent his car to another person the day before. His lawyer argued that the lineup of suspects provided to the witnesses was “suggestive and improper.” All three witnesses testified that they saw a white male with a beard at the scene of the crime, but of the seven suspects provided by the FBI in the lineup, three were women, two were African American, and only one had a beard. The judge denied the motion and the eyewitness testimony was allowed to stand.

On March 12, after 55 minutes of deliberation, the jury returned a guilty verdict for both Bangert and Kandel. The jury did not believe the arguments of the

Above: Remnants of a burned United States flag at a protest on the campus of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Record Group 21, Records of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern (St. Louis) Division of the Eastern District of Missouri, USA v. Richard Bangert and Alan Kandel.

defendants and neither did the judge. Several days later during sentencing, the judge delivered the maximum penalty allowed for both defendants, saying: “I do think, I’d observe that the jury believed, and I agree with them, that you are both liars, and in that regard, I believe you lied under oath....It’s one thing to violate the law and to accept responsibility for it, which I think you think you are doing. It’s a little different thing to flaunt the violation and then lie about it under oath.”

Richard Bangert received a prison sentence of 18 months and a fine of \$2,000 for the crimes of stealing government property worth less than \$100 and destroying government property worth less than \$100. Alan Kandel received a one year prison sentence and a fine of \$1,000 for destroying government property worth less than \$100.

Bangert and Kandel appealed the district court’s ruling to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals on September 12, 1980, citing the “suggestive and improper” eyewitness testimony and the political climate of the time, arguing that the sheer amount of news concerning the hostages in Iran compromised the opinions of the jurors. The appeal was denied on April 1, 1981, and the Circuit Court upheld the ruling of the lower court’s decision. One final appeal was made to the United States Supreme Court, but a writ of certiorari was denied in October 1981.

For more information about court records in the holdings of the National Archives, visit the Archival Research Catalog online www.archives.gov/research/arc/.

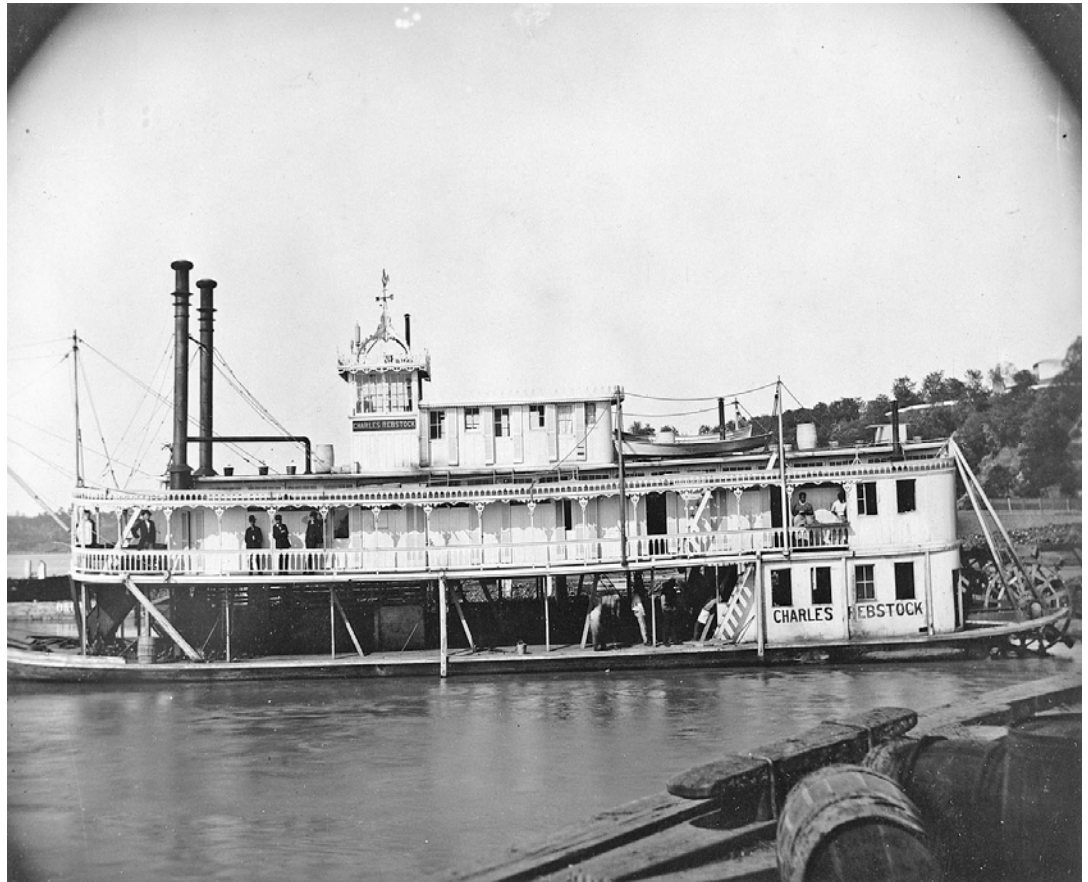
Between the Rivers: Steamboating in Missouri and Iowa Exhibition

Living Life Adrift

Life on the river was a world apart from life on land. Boat crews led a hard life as they guided their cargo to its destination, constantly on the lookout for eddies, sunken trees, and river pirates. Steamboats typically ranged from 80 to 140 feet long and 10 to 20 feet wide. Made of wood, their construction featured internal masts with supports to keep the hull from sagging and a second deck called the "Texas Deck" that provided passenger accommodations. Its crew included the master, pilot, mates, watchmen, engineers, firemen, rousters, deck hands, cooks, and cabin boys.

Passenger boats also carried a full complement of crew to serve guests, including waiters, chambermaids, bartenders, and servants. Officers were quartered in the cabin deck, while the crew who served cabin passengers usually bedded down on the saloon or dining room floor. The boatmen were left to fend for themselves on the deck.

Between the Rivers: Steamboating in Missouri and Iowa features documents, photographs, postcards, and maps that explore the steamboat industry and its impact on the river environment, culture, and economy in Missouri and Iowa. The exhibit, which includes original records and photographs such as the one above, is available for viewing through October 26, 2013. To schedule a group tour call 816-268-8013 or email mickey.ebert@nara.gov.



Above: Officers, chambermaids, and deck crew aboard the *Charles Rebstock*. Image courtesy of the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse.

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: 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.