

One of 44 Lecture Series: Dr. Mark Hull to Discuss *Bypassed by Greatness: The Warren Harding Years*

ONE OF 44

On **Tuesday, January 15 at 6:30 p.m.** the National Archives will host **Dr. Mark Hull** for a lecture titled ***Bypassed by Greatness: The Warren Harding Years***. A 6:00 p.m. reception will precede this event.

Warren G. Harding (1872-23) was an unlikely President in so many ways and, until being eclipsed by President Richard Nixon and Watergate, his administration was most often associated with what is perhaps the worst national corruption scandal, Teapot

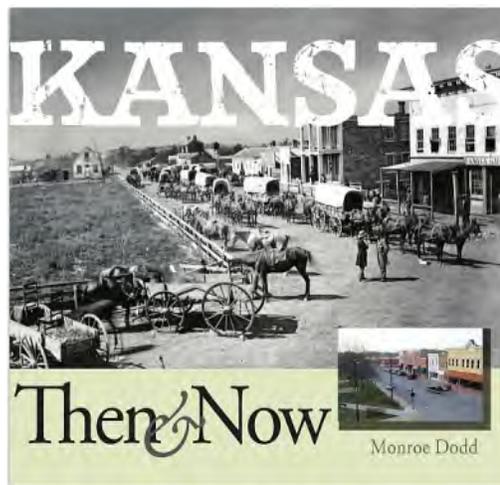
Dome. Harding's death in office in 1923 likely saved him from even more damaging public revelations about his personal life. Harding rose from relative obscurity and was the perennial compromise candidate. He grew to political maturity in the "Gilded Age" of party bosses and widespread graft even as these practices were losing to the new tide of progressivism. Harding inherited a United States in conflict. America was one of the victorious Allied nations in World War I, yet it was burdened by pressing domestic issues: civil rights, women's rights, Prohibition, and with an economic collapse just over the horizon. Although his abbreviated administration had a few notable successes, many historians consider Harding the worst president in the history of the Republic.

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

Monroe Dodd to Discuss *Kansas Then & Now*

On **Tuesday, January 29 at 6:30 p.m.** the National Archives will host **Monroe Dodd** who will discuss his book ***Kansas Then & Now***. A 6:00 p.m. reception will precede this event. Dodd will sign copies of the book after the program.

In *Kansas Then & Now*, a photography book, Dodd highlights scenes from Kansas history from territorial days to the late 20th century, and photographed each of the same scenes today, as closely as possible from the place the original photographer stood. Included are places where momentous events occurred and famous people strode the earth as well as everyday places featuring everyday people who did the most extraordinary thing - they created a community out of prairie and plain. The results are fascinating. Cattle and horses travel a dirt-packed Massachusetts Street in Lawrence; covered wagons prepare to move out in downtown Paola; buffalo hunters gear up outside the newly built courthouse in Great Bend. Dozens upon dozens of villages, towns and cities, spanning the entirety of Kansas, are featured in these pages.



Copies of *Kansas Then and Now* will be available for purchase onsite via The Kansas City Store. To make a reservation for this **free event** call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

Inside This Issue

GEMS FOR GENEALOGISTS	2
BETWEEN THE RIVERS EXHIBITION	3
HIDDEN TREASURES	4-5

Upcoming Events

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

- JANUARY 15 - 6:30 P.M.
ONE OF 44 LECTURE:
BYPASSED BY GREATNESS:
THE WARREN HARDING
YEARS BY MARK HULL
- JANUARY 16 - 10:00 A.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
ORGANIZING GENEALOGY
RESEARCH
- JANUARY 23 - 10:00 A.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS
- JANUARY 29 - 6:30 P.M.
AUTHOR EVENT:
KANSAS THEN & NOW BY
MONROE DODD
- JANUARY 30 - 10:00 A.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
READING OLD SCRIPT
- FEBRUARY 6 - 10:00 A.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
BASIC PRESERVATION
TECHNIQUES

Gems for Genealogists

The National Archives at Kansas City will start 2013 with *New Year, New Skills*, a four-part genealogy series in January and February. All classes will be held Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. beginning on January 16 through February 6, 2013. Attend one or all of these free workshops. Participants who complete all four will receive a certificate.

Workshop Descriptions:

Keep it Simple: Organizing Your Genealogy Research

Wednesday, January 16 at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Have you ever become frustrated looking for that scrap of information but cannot remember where you put it? The cornerstone of every good genealogist is good organization methodology. Learn how to organize your notes and copies to more efficiently maximize your efforts as you continue your family history research. Participants will benefit by learning how to group names, dates, families, geography, and other relevant genealogy research information into a more uniform method.

Something to Talk About: Including Oral History Interviews in Your Family History

Wednesday, January 23 at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Oral tradition is a centuries old method of passing information from one generation to the next. Seize the opportunity to keep the tradition alive for another generation by conducting family history interviews. Learn about interview techniques to compile a valuable gift: an oral history that will be enjoyed by future generations for years to come.

Deciphering the Code: Reading Old Script

Wednesday, January 30 at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

What does that old letter say? Did grandma have lovely handwriting you cannot quite make out? Learn how to decipher the code! This course will teach you how to recognize and analyze old handwriting that may prove challenging to genealogists. Learn about common misconceptions and popular abbreviations.

Basic Preservation Techniques

Wednesday, February 6 at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Learn how to properly care for and store your precious family documents, photographs, and other items. This course will teach you the proper methods for storage and types of supplies appropriate for use in your home archives to make your family papers last well into the future.

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



Above and left: National Archives at Kansas City Research Services staff discuss and demonstrate how to properly care for and store family history documents, photographs, and heirlooms as a part of basic preservation techniques.



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.



Above: Aerial view of boats along river bank, Mississippi River Flood, 1927. Record Group 77, Records of the Chief of Engineers, St. Louis, Missouri, District.

Floods have affected people along the rivers for centuries. Since 1900, floods have taken more than 10,000 lives in the United States, and were the number one type of natural disaster in terms of property damage and deaths in the twentieth century. The catastrophic river flood of 1927 was one of the most destructive floods in the history of the United States. With 500 people killed and 600,000 left homeless, the Mississippi River flood waters claimed more than twenty-six thousand square miles and spread over 80 miles wide in places. Economic losses were estimated to be one billion dollars. Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover directed the Red Cross and other flood relief operations, contributing to his landslide election as the thirty-first president of the United States. Congress passed the Flood Control Act in 1928.

government's role in improving navigation on the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. You can view the exhibit and original records on display through April 27, 2013. To schedule a group tour call 816-268-8013 or email mickey.ebert@nara.gov.

Between the Rivers: Steamboating in Missouri and Iowa features documents, photographs, postcards, and maps relating to the Federal

School House to White House Exhibition

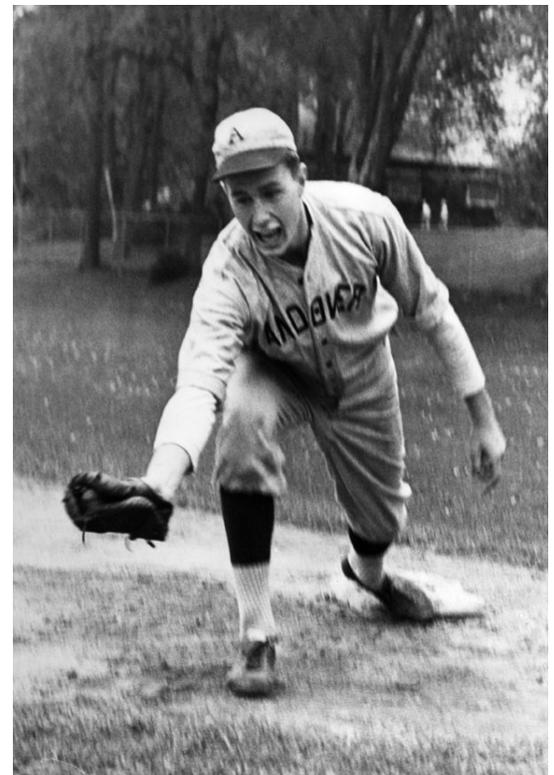
The Education of a President: George H.W. Bush

George H.W. Bush

George H. W. Bush attended a small day school in Connecticut before he was enrolled, at age 13, in the Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. While there, Bush was a popular student who participated in many extracurricular activities, including organizing local charity drives and serving as the editor of the school newspaper. After graduating from Phillips, he was accepted at Yale University before leaving to serve in World War II. Bush returned to Yale after the war in an accelerated program that allowed him to graduate in two and a half years. His Yale baseball team played in the first two College World Series, and as the team captain during his senior year, Bush was able to meet Babe Ruth before a game. He was also accepted into Phi Beta Kappa while at Yale. *School House to White House* contains numerous photographs from Bush's time at Phillips Academy and Yale, including images of his wife, Barbara, and his son George W. Bush.

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.

Right: George H.W. Bush played baseball while at the Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives.



Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

The Inside Job

On May 26, 1926, three masked men held up the Montgomery County National Bank in Cherryvale, Kansas. They collected \$25,108.68 in cash and nearly another \$45,000 in stocks and bonds. The total haul amounted to around \$70,000, equivalent to roughly \$880,000 today.

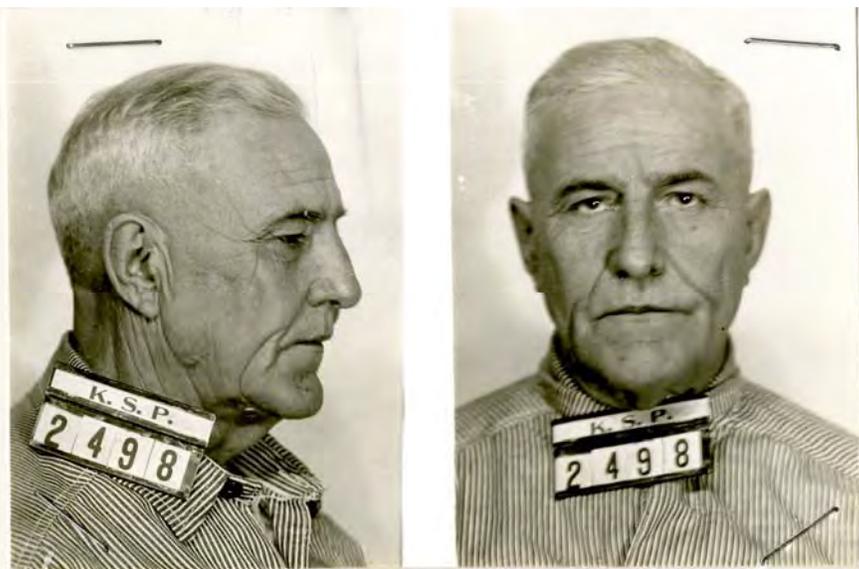
The story became front-page news in newspapers across the country and investigators stated they had few leads to go on. On May 27, *The Iola Daily Register* wrote, "The Cherryvale job is believed by local officials and bankers to be one of the cleverest bank robberies ever executed in this section of the country." Officials believed the perpetrators headed south to rendezvous at the Blue Canyon near Nowata, Oklahoma, which had previously harbored the Dalton gang, Henry Starr's gang, and Al Spencer's gang. A bank robbery at nearby Winfield, Kansas, further confused investigators who theorized the same group of bandits held up both banks.

On June 19, a little less than a month after the Cherryvale robbery, the bank's assistant cashier Clarence Howard confessed that the robbery was an inside job, planned with former bank president George C. Robertson and a handful of ex-convicts. Investigators had closed in on Howard; he was the only one present during the robbery and acted suspiciously in the weeks after. According to Howard's confession, in November 1925 he was working for the bank when Robertson, president of the bank, presented a plan to arrange a fake hold-up of the bank by ex-convicts and then split the proceeds. The men met with H. H. Zittle in Springfield, Missouri, who recommended Lyman Ford, Charles Mayes, and Lee Flournoy to act as the robbers. Robertson left his position as bank president in January 1926, but stayed in communication with the others.



Above: Former assistant bank cashier Clarence Howard, convicted of robbery. Record Group 129, Records of the Bureau of Prisons.

After the heist, Robertson went to St. Louis, Missouri, Howard stayed in Cherryvale, and the three thieves spread across the southern United States. On June 7, Flournoy and Mayes were killed during a drunken gunfight with officers in Picher, Oklahoma. Both of the men were wanted for various charges in three different states. After Howard's confession, Robertson turned himself in the next day and was arrested in Independence, Kansas. Ford was arrested in Carrizozo, New Mexico, on October 8, 1926.



Above: Lyman Ford, convicted bank robber who served multiple stints in prison. He was later convicted again for robbery in Belle Paine, Kansas. Record Group 129, Records of the Bureau of Prisons.

After a series of trials, Ford, Howard and Robertson were all sentenced to Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary. Their files are among the 70,000 inmate case files maintained by the National Archives at Kansas City. Zittle was tried and acquitted on May 9, 1928. Although the three Leavenworth Penitentiary inmates were incarcerated for the same crime, their files and stories are very different from one another.

Ford, 53, was sentenced to two years and three months in Leavenworth for violating National Banking Laws. He entered the penitentiary on May 3, 1927, and was discharged on Feb. 21, 1929. This was Ford's tenth incarceration, and after the bank heist story spread, private detective agencies contacted Leavenworth officials to possibly tie Ford to unsolved crimes.

(continued on the next page)

(The Inside Job continued)

Paperwork within his file indicates that in 1931, two years after his release, Ford was charged with robbing Valley State Bank in Belle Plaine, Kansas.

Howard, 30, was sentenced to four years and six months for violating National Banking Laws. As the bank's assistant cashier, Howard served as a witness for several individuals' wills. When these former clients died while he was in prison, a notary was sent to the penitentiary to execute the final documents. As a result, several copies of wills made their way into his inmate case file. Howard also had payroll books mailed to him by the Veco Pipeline Company, as he had worked on their books prior to his incarceration. The company petitioned the warden to allow him to work on the books while he was behind bars. Howard entered the penitentiary on May 16, 1927, and was paroled on May 16, 1929. As a parolee, he went to work for the Veco Pipeline Company, earning anywhere from \$76-\$180/month (\$986-\$2335/month in today's money).



Above: Former bank president George C. Robertson convicted of planning the bank robbery of the Montgomery County National Bank in Cherryvale, Kansas in 1926. Record Group 129, Records of the Bureau of Prisons.

Robertson, 35, was sentenced to five years in Leavenworth for violating National Banking Laws. He entered the penitentiary on December 14, 1927, and was paroled on May 16, 1929. Prior to his incarceration, Robertson had served as a cashier and as a vice president at several banks in Kansas and Oklahoma. As a parolee, Robertson went to work as a salesman for a baby bed manufacturing company in Dallas, Texas. According to parole documents, the job paid well. Robertson earned anywhere from \$150-\$215/month (\$1946-\$2800/month in today's money).

For more information on the Bureau of Prisons and nearly 70,000 Leavenworth Penitentiary Inmate Case files email kansascity.archives@nara.gov or visit www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2010/summer/leavenworth.html. Search Leavenworth Inmate Case files by surname at www.archives.gov/kansas-city/finding-aids/leavenworth-penitentiary/index.html.

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.