

## Between the Rivers Lecture Series: James Rudy to Discuss The Engineered Missouri River System

On **Tuesday, March 19 at 6:30 p.m.** the National Archives will host **James Rudy**, area engineer from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Missouri River Area Office, for a discussion of *The Engineered Missouri River System*. A 6:00 p.m. informal reception will precede the lecture.

Rudy will lead a discussion of the Missouri River before and after construction of its public works, how public improvement projects have impacted river navigation and the region, and how the Missouri River Basin structure has shaped the river today. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is charged with maintaining support of the nation's navigational waters with emphasis on the Missouri River. Included in the presentation will be images of the Corps' work on improving navigation over the past 150 years.

To make a reservation for this free event, call 816-268-8010 or email [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov).

## Gems for Genealogists

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

### Workshop Descriptions:

#### Alien Case Files

Friday, March 8 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Learn about the Alien Files (A-Files), a rich source of biographic information for family research, and how to complete a successful request. The A-Files contain U.S. immigration documents generated and collected since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century with a wealth of data, including visas, photographs, applications, affidavits, correspondence, and more.

#### Navigating the National Archives Website

Thursday, March 21 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Given the depth and breadth of records available at the National Archives, it is challenging to look for resources on [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov). This course will highlight portions of the National Archives website including: research our records, locating veterans' records, and ordering online.

To make a reservation for either or both of these **free workshops**, please call 816-268-8000 or email [kansascity.archives@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.archives@nara.gov).



## Inside This Issue

BETWEEN THE RIVERS EXHIBITION	2
SWING INTO HISTORY PROGRAM SERIES	2
HIDDEN TREASURES	3-4

## Upcoming Events

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

- MARCH 8 - 10:00 A.M.  
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:  
ALIEN CASE FILES
- MARCH 19 - 6:30 P.M.  
BETWEEN THE RIVERS  
LECTURE: JAMES RUDY, THE  
ENGINEERED MISSOURI RIVER  
SYSTEM
- MARCH 21 - 10:00 A.M.  
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:  
NAVIGATING THE NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES WEBSITE

# Between the Rivers: Steamboating in Missouri and Iowa Exhibition

## Smokestacks and Paddlewheels

*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.



Steamer Quincy landing at Lansing, Iowa.

Above: Passengers and cargo on deck of the Steamer Quincy in Lansing, Iowa. Image courtesy the James E. York Postcard Collection and Riverboat Dave.

Physical characteristics of the rivers dictated the design, construction, and operation of steamboats. Paddlewheels allowed these boats to operate in the relatively shallow depths of Western rivers, and were located either on the sides or stern (back) of the boat. The pilot guided the boat from a pilot house located on the upper deck and communicated with the engine room through a system of bells. Below, firemen fed the high-pressure, wood- or coal-fired engine to supply steam power to turn the paddlewheel.

The deck, located at water level, was a cargo hold, living quarters for crew and deck passengers, and storage space for wood and

coal to fuel the engine. As the boat approached a landing, roustabouts lowered the gangplank (or stage) as the pilot maneuvered the boat into the landing. Crew unloaded the cargo as passengers disembarked or came aboard. Boats would stop at many landings along the river to pick up or drop off cargo and passengers.

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](mailto:mickey.ebert@nara.gov).



## Swing into History: Baseball and American Culture Program Series

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 March and April at the National Archives and Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. The series will continue during the 2013 baseball season. To make a reservation for any of these **free events** call 816-268-8010 or email [kanasacity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kanasacity.educate@nara.gov).

- **March 28, 6:30 p.m.** at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum - Author and local baseball legend, Frank White, will discuss and sign his book *One Man's Dream: My Town, My Team, My Time*. Books will be available for purchase.
- **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.

# Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

## At the Intersection of Love, Loss, and Law

United States immigration law and citizenship requirements have continually changed over the last two hundred years based on the influx of immigrants from across the globe. As a result, the definition and requirements of citizenship has shifted from including free white persons to a comparatively broader definition today, independent of race, socio-economics, and gender. The United States Federal Population Census helped to quantify immigration and citizenship statistics; questions related an individual's place of birth appear as early as the 1850 Census and citizenship status as early as 1870 Census. For historians these two columns within census records work in tandem to help tell the story of our immigrant ancestors.

An 1855 act held that “[a]ny woman who is now or may hereafter be married to a citizen of the United States, and who might herself be lawfully naturalized, shall be deemed a citizen.” In practice this meant that prior to September 9, 1922, women derived their citizenship status from their husband. Foreign born women gained their citizenship through their American born husband or the naturalization of their foreign born spouse. The laws were much less clear for woman born in the United States which lead to inconsistent interpretation by the courts. For example, it might be understood that if a woman who was a native-born U.S. Citizen that married a foreigner, she gave up her U.S. citizenship in favor of her husband's citizenship. This debate continued until 1907 when Congress passed the Expatriation Act, confirming that American born women assumed the nationality of their husband upon marriage.

PLACE OF ABODE.		NAME		RELATION.	SEX.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.		CITIZENSHIP.		EDUCATION.		Place of birth of each person and parents of each person.		
Household number.	House number or farm, etc. (See instructions.)	Number of dwelling house in family.	Number of the individual.	of each person whose place of abode on January 1, 1920, was in this family.	Male or female.	Color or race.	Age at last birthday.	Single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated.	Year of immigration, if naturalized or if citizen since 1892.	If naturalized, date of naturalization.	Whether able to read.	Whether able to write.	Place of birth.	Mother tongue.
27	5421	1	1	Gilts John Anna	Head Wife	M F	B 48 M 45				Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Texas Texas	
		2		Miller Isaac Martha	Stepson Daughter	M F	B 27 M 27				Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Texas Texas	
		3		William James Frances	Head Wife	M F	B 27 M 27				Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Oklahoma Louisiana	
		4		Yandey John Eva	Head Wife	M F					Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Texas Texas	
		5		Jefferson Irwin Nella	Head Wife	M F					Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Mexico Mexico	
	5422	2	6	Vaughan John Virginia	Head Wife	M F					Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Kentucky Kentucky	
		7		Finch Charles Mary	Head Wife	M F					Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Texas Texas	
		8		Orduna Henry Bessie	Head Wife	M F					Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Mexico Kentucky	
		9		Marie Elenzo	Daughter Son	F M					Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Kentucky Nebraska	
		10		King Lawrence Lillian	Head Wife	M F					Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Nebraska Nebraska	

Above: This image is from the 1920 Census which indicates the couples' alien status. Record Group 29, Records of the Bureau of Census.

Women's rights continued to change following the 1907 legislation. The August 18, 1920, passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment granted women the right to vote which resulted in a movement to change the laws relating to the naturalization of women. The passage of the Cable Act on September 22, 1922, came out of this movement. Also known as the Married Women's Independent Nationality Act, it reversed prior legislation that caused an American born woman to lose her citizenship when she married an alien.

It is in this context that we view the story of immigrant Henry Orduna and his Kentucky-born wife Bessie Hill who began their union in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on November 23, 1916.

In the 1920 U.S. Federal Census we find that Henry and Bessie were living in Omaha, Nebraska, with their two children, Marie and Elenzo. Due to the specificity provided by the Expatriation Act, both Bessie and Henry are noted as "AL" and "Alien" (indicating alien status) in the Census' citizenship column 14. Additionally, the enumerator listed that Henry was born in Mexico in column 19.



APPLICATION TO TAKE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE ACT OF JUNE 25, 1936, AS AMENDED, AND FORM OF SUCH OATH

This form is for use under the Act of June 25, 1936, as amended by the Act of July 2, 1940 (Public No. 704-76th Congress), by a woman residing within or under the jurisdiction of the United States, who was a native-born citizen of the United States and who has, or is believed to have, lost United States citizenship solely by reason of marriage prior to September 22, 1922, to an alien, and whose marital status with such alien has terminated, or who has resided continuously in the United States since the date of such marriage. A woman, residing elsewhere, who is otherwise qualified should take up her case with an embassy, legation, or a consular officer of the United States. The oath of allegiance prescribed herein may be administered by any naturalization court in the United States to which this application is made. This form, which constitutes the court record of the transaction, should be executed in triplicate. The original should be retained as the record of the court. The duplicate, duly certified by the clerk of court, should be forwarded to the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, Washington, D. C., through the proper District Director or Divisional Director of Immigration and Naturalization on the first day of the succeeding month. The clerk of court shall furnish to the applicant, upon her demand, at a cost not exceeding \$1, a certified copy of the proceedings, under the seal of the court, including a copy of the oath administered. The triplicate copy of this form, which should be duly certified by the clerk, may be furnished to the applicant who makes such demand. If no such demand be made, the triplicate, uncertified, shall be forwarded with the duplicate as provided above.

In the United States District Court at Omaha, Nebraska  
Before Honorable J. A. Donohoe, Judge, J., presiding.

I, Bessie Orduna, was born at Warren County, Kentucky  
(Give full name) (City or town, and State)  
on April 29, 1896, and was married on November 23, 1916 to  
(Month, day, and year) (Month, day, and year)

Henry Orduna then an alien, a citizen or subject of Mexico  
I lost, or believe that I lost, United States citizenship solely by reason of such marriage. My marital status with such alien has not been terminated, or was terminated, on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
(State by what means marital status with alien terminated)

I have resided continuously in the United States since \_\_\_\_\_ birth.  
The following available documents which support the foregoing facts are herewith exhibited by me:  
Affidavit by Mother of Applicant as to place and date of birth.  
Certificate of Marriage

I hereby apply to take the oath of allegiance as prescribed in section 4 of the Act of June 29, 1906 (34 Stat. 596; U. S. C., t. 8, sec. 196), to become repatriated and obtain the rights of a citizen of the United States.

Bessie Orduna  
(Signature of applicant)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of January, 19 41.

MARY A. MULLEN Clerk.  
By Verda V. Johnson, Deputy.

Upon consideration of the foregoing, it is hereby ORDERED and DECREED that the above application be granted; that the applicant named therein be repatriated as a citizen of the United States, upon taking the oath of allegiance to the United States; and that the clerk of this court enter these proceedings of record.

Dated January 10, 1941  
J. A. Donohoe  
U. S. District Judge.

I hereby declare on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom (which) I have or may have heretofore been a subject (or citizen); that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; SO HELP ME GOD. In acknowledgment whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature.

Bessie Orduna  
(Signature of applicant)

The foregoing oath was administered to the applicant in open court this 10th day of January, 19 41.

MARY A. MULLEN Clerk.  
By Verda V. Johnson, Deputy.

Above: Repatriation Oath of Allegiance form completed by Bessie Orduna. She notes on the form that she was born in the United States and lost her citizenship through marriage. Record Group 21, Records of the U.S. District Court.

“Application to Take Oath of Allegiance to the United States Under the Act of June 25, 1936.” According to the application, “This form is for use ... by a woman residing within or under the jurisdiction of the United States, who was a native-born citizen of the United States and who has, or is believed to have lost United States citizenship solely by reason of marriage prior to September 22, 1922, to an alien, and whose marital status with such alien has terminated, or who has resided continuously in the United States since the date of such marriage.” Bessie provided an “Affidavit by Mother of Applicant” and a copy of her marriage certificate to support her claim that she was born in the U.S. and successfully regained her citizenship.

Bessie’s story is one of love, loss, and law as she forfeited her citizenship for the first 25 years of her marriage to Henry. She is one of many women who “returned” to her country of origin through repatriation. To learn more about the quirks and changes in early 20th century naturalization laws view this National Archives blog post <http://blogs.archives.gov/online-public-access/?p=2815>.



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](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov) or visit [www.archives.gov/kansas-city](http://www.archives.gov/kansas-city). Find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/ationalarchiveskansascity](http://www.facebook.com/ationalarchiveskansascity).

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.