

June 2014

Dr. Melvin Goodman to Discuss *Presidents and the CIA: From Truman to Obama*



On **Tuesday, June 3 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives will host **Dr. Melvin Goodman** who will present a lecture titled *Presidents and the CIA: From Truman to Obama*. This program is presented in partnership with the Truman Library and Museum, and the Truman Center for Governmental Affairs at the University of Missouri–Kansas City. A **6:00 p.m. reception** will precede the program, which will take place at the National Archives, 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri.

Dr. Goodman will describe the intelligence and operational successes and failures of the Central Intelligence Agency from the perspective of the relationship between the U.S. Presidency and the CIA. Special attention will be given to

President Harry S. Truman's establishment of the CIA in 1947; President Dwight D. Eisenhower's expansion of covert action in the 1950s; and President John F. Kennedy's misuse of the CIA at the Bay of Pigs in 1961. More recent events will include the Reagan administration's policies regarding Iran-Contra; the CIA's intelligence failures regarding the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 and the terrorist attacks in 2001. Finally, Dr. Goodman will discuss the Bush administration's challenges with the CIA in the run-up to the Iraq War and in the global war on terror, and the Obama administration's failure to seek accountability for CIA transgressions. The presidential appointment of various CIA directors over the past six decades will be assessed.

To make a reservation for this **free program** call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov. This lecture continues the UMKC Truman Center's Legacy Series that looks at policy and institutional developments dating back to the Truman Presidency.

Genealogy Webinar Workshops Now Offered

The National Archives at Kansas City is pleased to announce free online interactive webinars. To participate you will need internet and telephone access on the day of the presentation. Specific directions for access will be sent the week of the presentation via email. Reserve your "seat" early, as space is limited. All webinars will take place from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Central Daylight Time. Below is information on upcoming webinars.

Reservations are required for these **free webinars**, call 816-268-8000 or email kansascity.archives@nara.gov.

June 11 - 1:00 - 2:30 p.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 help to 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.

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Upcoming Events

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

- JUNE 3 - 6:30 P.M.
LECTURE: *THE PRESIDENTS AND THE CIA WITH DR. MELVIN GOODMAN*
- JUNE 4 - 10:00 A.M.
GENEALOGY
WORKSHOP: *BAMM! BUSINESS, AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURING, AND MORTALITY CENSUS SCHEDULES*
- JUNE 11 - 1:00 P.M.
GENEALOGY WEBINAR: *FINDING YOUR FAMILY IN FEDERAL COURT RECORDS*

Gems for Genealogists

The National Archives will offer one free genealogy workshop in June. *BAMM! Business, Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Mortality Census Schedules* will be held on Wednesday, June 4 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri.

Workshop Description:

BAMM! Business, Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Mortality Census Schedules
Wednesday, June 4 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

BAMM! Add “explosive” details to your genealogy by utilizing non-population census schedules of Business, Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Mortality. Authorized by Congress, these records cover very specific time periods and locations during the 19th and early 20th centuries and provide unique insight into the communities where our ancestors lived and worked. Learn about the information available and how to access these documents. For a sneak peek on the topic, visit: <http://www.archives.gov/research/census/nonpopulation/>.



Above: Field of flax and farm house, ca. 1920. Record Group 54, Records of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, 1853-1977, Flax Project: Photographs, 1908-1977, NAID 283900.

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

Are you on the National Archives at Kansas City electronic mail list?

If we don't have your address on file, please send an email with your preferred email address 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

United States v. St. Louis Mafia in the early 1980s

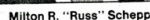
All three counts stemmed from an incident six months earlier in which a bomb was placed under the car of a local union organizer and known underworld enforcer by the name of Paul J. Leisure. The bomb went off on the morning of August 11 with Leisure sitting inside his car while he was parked outside his mother's house. Leisure was severely wounded in the blast, suffering facial lacerations and eventually losing his left foot and part of his right leg to amputation. Michaels and Schepp were brought up on charges of conspiracy, making an explosive device,

The defendants were tried separately due to the sudden disappearance of Schepp. Michaels' trial commenced on October 12, 1982, in Little Rock, Arkansas. His lawyer successfully pleaded for a change of venue due to the enormous amount of media coverage concerning the trial. In order to prove the guilt of the defendant the government had to rely solely on circumstantial evidence.

Below: U.S. Attorney and Marshal prisoner custody, detention, and disposition form. Record Group 21 Records of the District Courts of the United States, U.S. District Court for the Eastern (St. Louis) Division of the Eastern District of Missouri, Criminal Case Files, 1864-1980, 80-00044 CR (1), U.S.A. v. *James Anthony Michaels III* and *Milton Russell Schepp*.

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Schepp will be arraigned Thursday before U.S. District Judge John F. Nangle on charges that he plotted the car bombing, which maimed Pauline Leisure, an underworld enforcer, in August 1981. Schepp was released on \$50,000 bond after surrendering Monday.

Schepp is charged with conspiracy, making an illegal firearm and using a bomb to blow up a car. If convicted on all three counts, he could face a

maximum prison term of 35 years.

The bombing took place on Aug. 11, 1981. The next week, Schupp disappeared. A federal indictment in February 1982 charged Schupp, 44, and James A. Michaels III, 30, of Arnold, with the same three felony counts.

Michaels was convicted last October on the conspiracy charge but acquitted on the other two. He was sentenced to five years but remains free on \$50,000 bond while appealing to the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis.

On Monday, Schupp gave authorities an address in Barnhart, about 20 miles south of St. Louis. U.S. Attorney Thomas E. Dittmeier said he had had no idea where Schupp had been until Monday. Neither did federal agents

investigating the case.

"Off and on for the last four or five months, we heard from time to time that he might turn himself in," Dittmeier said. "But then he didn't."

Dittmeier said he had been in touch periodically with J. Martin Hadican, Schepp's attorney.

Dittmeier said he was notified by Hadican in a telephone call Monday morning that Schepp intended to surrender.

Dittmeier said there were no indications that Schepp's surrender implied that he was willing to cooperate with authorities. Dittmeier said he had not spoken to Schepp.

Agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms "certainly spent a lot of time, a lot of effort and a lot of money" to get Schepp, Dittmeier said.

resources trying to locate him while he was a fugitive," said James W. Elder, the bureau's special-agent-in-charge here.

Since the car bombing, Elder said, agents had received reports of several sightings of Schep in the area. The most recent was in October. All along, authorities said they were certain that Schepo was alive.

Schepo looked fit and trim in a dark blue suit when he appeared Monday before U.S. Magistrate David D. Noon for his bond hearing. The major change in his appearance was a "fuzzy perm" hair style. His hair had been straight when he disappeared 19 months ago.

Schepo told the magistrate that he was unemployed, married and had six children.

To cover his \$50,000 bond, Schepp posted his house in Barnhart. A relative, Mary H. Schepp, also posted her house in Affton.

Michaels' trial was held in Little Rock, Ark., because of pre-trial publicity in St. Louis. Schepp was mentioned frequently in testimony at the trial. The government argued that the conspiracy had begun when Michaels vowed to avenge a car bombing that had killed his grandfather, James A. Michaels Sr., the chieftain of an underworld faction in St. Louis.

Witnesses testified that Schepp was an associate of the Michaels family, although Michaels testified that he had

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No eye-witnesses came forward, and no physical evidence linked Michaels to the crime scene. The government argued that Michaels had a motive for the crime based on an incident which took place in September 1980, which could be viewed today as the spark that ignited the mayhem in St. Louis.

Michaels' grandfather, James Anthony Michaels, Sr., was killed by a car bomb while driving down Interstate 55 in St. Louis in September 1980. During the younger Michaels' trial, the government produced a witness who testified that Michaels had made the statement, "somebody was going to have to pay for this," shortly after his grandfather's death. The witness also implied that Michaels would not go to the police if he found out who was responsible, insinuating that he would take matters into his own hands. Michaels denied making any such statements, but the testimony of the witness was admissible in court. Other evidence would be produced against Michaels as well, including a rented apartment in Arnold, Missouri, where FBI agents found materials in a trash dumpster used in the manufacture of a bomb.

As the circumstantial evidence was pieced together, the Federal government was forced by the defendants' lawyers to legitimize its jurisdiction in the case. Michaels' lawyer argued that it was a fallacy for the Federal government to be involved in the prosecution of the case because no Federal laws had been broken. However, the government prosecutors pointed to the Interstate Commerce Clause in Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution. Using a broad interpretation of the law, the prosecutors argued that the victim of the crime, Paul J. Leisure, had had his property destroyed which was used in the course of interstate commerce, namely his automobile. From the crime scene, the government produced as evidence several scraps of paper dealing with the business activities of Leisure. The government successfully argued that as a union organizer, Leisure used his car for business purposes in conducting meetings throughout a three-state area. This argument would be brought up again by Michaels' lawyer during his appeal to the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis.

On October 19, 1982, after a seven-day trial, James Anthony Michaels III was found guilty on only one of the three counts against him. The unreliable nature of the circumstantial evidence played in his favor when it came to the charges of making an explosive device and discharging said explosive device. However, he was found guilty of being involved in a conspiracy. For that crime he was given five years in the Federal Correctional Institution at Milan, Michigan. His conviction was upheld by the 8th Circuit Court, and he was denied a writ of certiorari by the United States Supreme Court. He was subsequently released from Federal custody on January 15, 1988.

After 19 months of being on the run, Milton Schepp voluntarily turned himself in to authorities in March 1983. Like Michaels, Schepp was granted a change of venue due to the overwhelming publicity surrounding the case, and the trial was moved to Kansas City, Missouri. Unlike Michaels, however, the circumstantial evidence against Schepp was much stronger and he was convicted on all three counts against him.

Milton Russell Schepp was the former police chief for the city of St. George, Missouri. His brother-in-law was a man by the name of Robert Peters, who was close to the Michaels family. During the five-day trial, which began on August 5, 1983, Schepp admitted that he went with Peters to the rented apartment in Arnold several times during the summer of 1981, but he said he was simply "hanging out and drinking beer." On August 17, 1981 – six days after the car bombing – Schepp left Missouri for California. Under testimony, he said he left for California because he heard the Leisure family was going to take reprisals against anyone who had been in the rented apartment. The government, on the contrary, saw his actions as fleeing the scene and not behaving as a police officer, but rather a "hoodlum."

Schepp's motive for being involved in the bombing is still not clear to this day. Although the government asserted Schepp's motive was money, there was no evidence linking him to a murder-for-hire scheme. After exhausting all of his appeals, he was sentenced to ten years at the Federal Medical Center in Rochester, Minnesota. He was released early on January 10, 1991, at the age of 75. For more information about court records in the holdings of the National Archives, visit the Online Public Access catalog online at <http://www.archives.gov/research/search/>.



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.

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

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