

March 2015

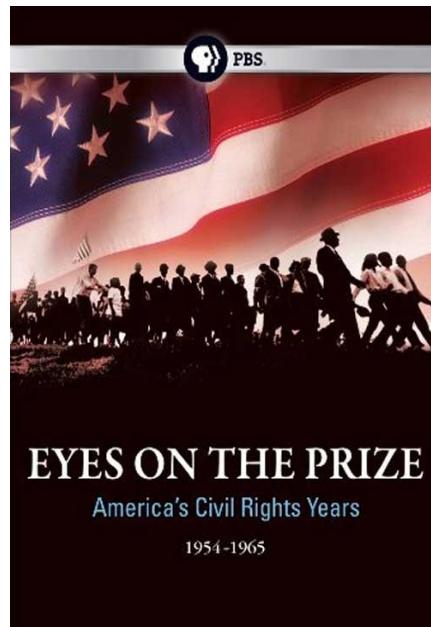
The Civil Rights Century: Milestones in Black History Series

Screening and Discussion of *Eyes on the Prize: Bridge to Freedom*

On **Thursday, March 19 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives will present, in partnership with Greater Kansas City Black History Study Group, **Dr. Clarence Lang** from the University of Kansas, who will provide commentary and discussion following a screening of *Eyes on the Prize: Bridge to Freedom*. A free light reception will precede the lecture at 6:00 p.m.

Eyes on the Prize is a PBS produced, American documentary, film series. The episode titled *Bridge to Freedom* focuses on the impact civil rights had in the protest marches led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. The film features interviews with those who were participants and opponents in the civil rights movement during the 1950s and 1960s. The title of the documentary series is derived from the folk song *Keep Your Eyes on the Prize*, which is used in each episode as the opening theme music. This month marks the 50th anniversary of the marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

This event is part of a program series titled ***The Civil Rights Century: Milestones in Black History*** and is presented in partnership with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) Greater Kansas City Black History Study Group. To make a reservation for this **free program** call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov. Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events.



Inside This Issue

GEMS FOR GENEALOGISTS	2
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THE ARCHIVES	2
HIDDEN TREASURES FROM THE STACKS	3-4

Upcoming Events

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

- MARCH 5 - 10:00 A.M.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP:
TOWNSHIP, SECTION,
RANGE: LOOKING AT LAND
RECORDS
- MARCH 19 - 6:30 P.M.
FILM SCREENING AND
DISCUSSION: *EYES ON THE
PRIZE* WITH DR. CLARENCE
LANG
- MARCH 24 - 6:30 P.M.
LECTURE AND DISCUSSION:
*STEM AND THE IMPACT ON
WOMEN'S EQUALITY*

Women's History Month Program

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and The Impact on Women's Equality

On **Tuesday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives will present, in partnership with American Association of University Women-Kansas City (MO) Branch, **Crystal Wolfe** and **Winnie Weinrich**, who will provide commentary and discussion regarding STEM and *The Impact on Women's Equality*, in recognition of Women's History Month. A free light reception will precede the lecture at 6:00 p.m.

Over the past century, women have made significant advances in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math. Yet to date, they do not make up even half of those who have careers in STEM related fields. Crystal Wolfe and Winnie Weinrich will discuss the history of women in the sciences and what the future holds for women pursuing STEM careers. Weinrich is the current president of the AAUW-Kansas City Branch; Wolfe is a mechanical engineering student at the University of Missouri and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) intern.

To make a reservation for this **free program** call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov. Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events.

March Gems for Genealogists

The National Archives at Kansas City will offer one free genealogy workshop in March. *Township, Section, Range: Looking at Land Records* will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2015, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri.

Workshop Description:

Township, Section, Range: Looking at Land Records

Thursday, March 5, 2015, 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 legal land descriptions? Learn about Federal land records and the difference between what you will discover at the National Archives versus county or state archives. Topics include locating information about bounty land warrants, homestead files, land tract books, and other land records.

To make a reservation for this **free workshop**, please call 816-268-8000 or email kansascity.archives@nara.gov. Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events.

Right: This record serves to document that a homesteader lived and worked on their land claim, it was part of the Homestead Application process. In order to finalize proving up, a homesteader would have to bring two witnesses to the Land Office to answer questions on their behalf. National Archives at Washington, D.C., Record Group 49, Records of the Bureau of Land Management, 1885 - 2006, Homestead Final Certificates, 1880 - 1907, Homestead Proof Testimony of Almanzo Wilder, 09/12/1884, National Archives Identifier: 595419

HOMESTEAD PROOF---TESTIMONY OF WITNESS.

O. J. Sheldon being called as witness in support of the Homestead entry of Alvaro J. Wilder for NE - 2 - 111-56, testifies as follows:

Ques. 1.—What is your occupation, and where is your residence?

Ans. Farmer See 10-111-56.

Ques. 2.—Have you been well acquainted with Alvaro J. Wilder the claimant, in this case ever since he made his Homestead entry No.

Ans. Yes for 5 months he had take his land at Zimmerman #3 under offer for 5 months.

Ques. 3.—Was claimant qualified to make said entry? (State whether the settler was a citizen of the United States, over the age of twenty-one years, or the head of a family, and whether he ever made a former Homestead entry.)

Ans. Yes citizen of U.S. over 21 yrs old.
Single - never made former no entry.

Ques. 4.—When did claimant settle upon the homestead and at what date did he establish actual residence thereon? (Describe the dwelling and other improvements, giving total value thereof.)

Ans. About Oct 1st 1879 same time house & barn about 12 ft square. 2 doors & windows. Stable, granary, well, water cellar. never broken & cultivated some tree. Value least \$300.

Ques. 5.—Have claimant and family resided continuously on the homestead since first establishing residence thereon?

Ans. Single man. Residence continuous.

Ques. 6.—For what period or periods has the settler been absent from the land since making settlement, and for what purpose; and if temporarily absent, did claimant's family reside upon and cultivate the land during such absence? At time

Ans. Was temporarily absent working at the R.R. and visiting in Minn. not more than about 2 months at a time.

Ques. 7.—How much of the homestead has the settler cultivated, and for how many seasons did he raise crops thereon?

Ans. Crops or part 4 years breaking 5 yrs.

Ques. 8.—Are there any indications of coal, salines or other minerals of any kind on the Homestead? (If so, describe what they are, and state whether the land is more valuable for agricultural than for mineral purposes.)

Ans. No W.W.W. more valuable for agriculture

Ques. 9.—Has the claimant mortgaged, sold, or contracted to sell, any portion of said Homestead?

Ans. Not to my knowledge

Ques. 10.—Are you interested in this claim; and do you think the settler has acted in entire good faith in perfecting this entry?

Ans. No we are I in any way related to claimant
trust he has acted in good faith. O. J. Sheldon

I hereby certify that the witness is a person of respectability; that the foregoing testimony was read to him before being subscribed, and was sworn to before me this

day of September 1884

(SEE NOTE ON FOURTH PAGE.)

W. J. Barnes
Jury Commissioner
Court Clerk
Kingsbury Co., Dak.

We Want You! - To Volunteer at the National Archives



Are you an experienced genealogist? Would you be willing to volunteer and help other genealogists with their research?

The National Archives at Kansas City is seeking volunteers to assist in our Public Access Computer Room on Wednesdays, Fridays, and/or Saturdays. We are looking for individuals with knowledge of Ancestry.com, Fold3.com, FamilySearch.org, and a broad understanding of family history research.

If you are interested or know someone who may be a good fit please visit <http://www.archives.gov/kansas-city/volunteer.html> or contact Elizabeth Burns, Interim Volunteer Program Coordinator, at 816-268-8093 or elizabeth.burnes@nara.gov.

Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

Underwear in the Archives?!

When thinking about the National Archives, millions upon millions of two dimensional paper documents usually come to mind, stored and organized neatly in boxes on shelves. Chances are you would never imagine something like “knitted underwear” to be found amongst the textual records. But it is true! Occasionally three dimensional artifacts arrive with court cases, inmate files, even records from the U.S. Food Administration.

The “knitted underwear” seen here was a court exhibit in a 1936 Equity Case File from Minneapolis, Minnesota, that involved Mary Neilson and the Winget Kickernick Company in suit against the Strutwear Knitting Company. The case claimed that the Strutwear Knitting Company was at fault for patent infringement of Neilson’s patent for “improvements in an undergarment for women” by selling products that included characteristics of Neilson’s patented features. Neilson’s patent related to “an undergarment for women, and has for its object to provide an undergarment with a closed crotch and an opening along the side of the leg which shall be adapted to have the legs closed to produce a bloomer construction, which shall be of inelastic material such as muslin or nainsook, which shall fit the wearer no matter what the position of the body without any strain or tension at any point, and which shall be particularly comfortable and satisfactory when worn.” The case documents indicate that Mary Neilson held her patent for the knitted underwear and allowed the Winget Kickernick Company to produce and sell garments that included her patented improvements.

The Strutwear Knitting Company defended their products claiming that their undergarments had none of the improvements listed in Neilson's patent.



Above: The above patent drawing shows the various designs of the ladies undergarments created by Mary Neilson. National Archives at Kansas City, Record Group 241, Records of the Patent & Trademark Office, Patent Case Files 1836-1993, (National Archives Identifier 302050) Patent number 1680267.

(continued on next page)

(continued from page 3)

In addition, they claimed that the Winget Kickernick Company arbitrarily included a patent notice on their stock items that did not have any patented features, and that the patents Neilson held were unlawful because the features were not new or novel. Despite including 26 other patents that purportedly demonstrated Neilson's improvements were already widely used in the garment industry, the case was ruled in favor of Mary Neilson and the Winget Kickernick Company on December 2, 1936.



The knitted underwear found with this case is not the only artifact held at the National Archives at Kansas City related to the garment and fashion industry. You can learn more about the garment industry and see additional records relating to patents in a new exhibition entitled *All Sewn Up*. The exhibit features cases that have made their way through the legal system relating to the garment industry in the Midwest. It is free and open to the public Tuesday-Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. To schedule a group tour email mickey.ebert@nara.gov.

For more information about the case visit the National Archives online catalog at <http://www.archives.gov/research/catalog/>.

Left: This pair of knitted underwear was submitted by the Strutwear Knitting Co. as evidence they did not infringe upon Neilson's patent. National Archives at Kansas City, Record Group 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States, U.S. District Court for the Fourth (Minneapolis) Division of the District of Minnesota, Equity Case Files 1913-1938, (National Archives Identifier 079903), Winget Kickernick Co. v. Strutwear Knitting Co., Equity Case No. 2812 .

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.



NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

KANSAS CITY

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 is located at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri, 64108.

The National Archives at Kansas City 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. Tweet us @KCArchives or #KCArchives