Marilyn Irvin Holt to Discuss Cold War Kids: Politics and Childhood in Postwar America, 1945-1960

Please note: this is a rescheduled event as the program was postponed from its original February date.

On Wednesday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m., the National Archives at Kansas City will host Marilyn Irvin Holt who will discuss her book Cold War Kids: Politics and Childhood in Postwar America, 1945-1960. A free light reception will precede the lecture at 6:00 p.m. Today we take it for granted that political leaders and presidential administrations will address issues related to children and teenagers. But in the not-so-distant past, politicians had little to say, and Federal programs had less to do with children—except those of very specific populations. Holt shows how the Cold War changed it all. Against the backdrop of the postwar baby boom, and the rise of a distinct teen culture, Cold War Kids unfolds the little-known story of how politics and Federal policy expanded their influence in shaping children’s lives and experiences—making way for the youth attuned political culture that we have come to expect.

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

Are you connected to National Archives at Kansas City?

Due to the increased costs of printing and postage the National Archives will rarely send information through U.S. postal mail. We encourage our patrons to use electronic mail and social media to connect with us. Our Facebook address is www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity. In addition, you can tweet us on Twitter @KCArchives or #KCArchives.

All information about upcoming events and programs are emailed to patrons on our electronic mailing list. If we do not have your address on file, please send an email with your preferred 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.
May Gems for Genealogists

The National Archives at Kansas City will offer one free genealogy workshop in May. All Wet!: Responding to Floods, Leaks, and Other Damp Disasters will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2015, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri.

Workshop Description:

All Wet!: Responding to Floods, Leaks, and Other Damp Disasters
Thursday, May 7, 2015, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

It’s bound to happen. A pipe will burst or a leaky roof will drip, and family papers, books, and photos will be awash in water. Learn quick response tips to salvage sodden heirlooms, and stop or prevent mold damage. Pick up practical advice on spotting disasters just waiting to happen.

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.

Above and left: These images provide an example of what can happen when water related incidents occur. The above album has suffered water damage, followed by mold growth. The pipe to the left has burst and will create problems for the documents, photographs, and other materials nearby. National Archives staff will provide tips and suggestions to avoid these types of disasters.

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 Burnes, Interim Volunteer Program Coordinator, at 816-268-8093 or elizabeth.burnes@nara.gov.
In 1878, the Levi Strauss Company filed a lawsuit against Meyer and David Lindauer. Seeking to obtain an injunction for patent infringement, the Levi Strauss Company contended they held letters patent to certain “improvements in pantaloons,” including the use of metallic rivets.

The court agreed the defendants had infringed upon the exclusive rights of Levi Strauss and ruled that the defendants “are enjoined and restrained from directly or indirectly making, using, or vending to others to be used or transferring in any way any pantaloons, overalls or other garments embracing the improvements secured to these Complainants by said letters patent, to wit: ‘fastening for pocket openings, whereby the sewed seams are prevented from ripping on starting from frequent pressure or strain thereon; said fastening consisting in the employment of a metal rivet or eyelet at each edge of the pocket opening to prevent the ripping at the seam at those points.’”

This patent drawing was filed with the case, illustrating one of the earliest versions of the famous Levi Strauss blue jeans that are still in production today. You can view the patent and additional materials from this court case on display in the exhibit All Sewn Up: The Garment Industry Goes to Court, at the National Archives at Kansas City. All Sewn Up is available for viewing Tuesday-Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Admission is free. To schedule a group tour call 816-268-8013 or email mickey.ebert@nara.gov.

Genealogists are well aware of the value in naturalization records. A popular document to fill a variety of gaps in the family tree, the naturalization record often contains elusive details such as birth dates, marriages, children, places of birth, port of departure, ships, and witness names that connect researchers deeper into the lives of their ancestors both before and after immigrating to the United States. However, a less known record connects researchers to an incredibly important but often forgotten aspect of American history: citizenship of women. Beginning in 1855, a foreign born woman who married a U.S. citizen automatically received naturalization upon her marriage. The same was true for an immigrant couple. If the husband naturalized, his wife was considered a citizen as well. She held no papers in her own name. The Immigration Act of February 20, 1907, ushered in a new and shocking setback for American-born women.

The March 2, 1907, addendum to the Immigration Act on Expatriation specified “That any American woman who marries a foreigner shall take the nationality of her husband…” Simply stated, an American-born woman lost her citizenship. A woman could resume American citizenship upon termination of the marriage or hope that the husband would naturalize one day, thereby restoring her to citizenship.

This state of affairs for U.S. women with foreign husbands continued until 1922 when it was repealed as part of the Immigration Act of 1922 which stated that “a woman citizen of the United States shall not cease to be a citizen of the United States by reason of her marriage after the passage of this act, unless she makes a formal renunciation of her citizenship before a court having jurisdiction over naturalization of aliens.”

Women seeking to regain citizenship in the initial decade after the law was repealed filed...
petitions for naturalization. Eventually this mass repatriation of women precipitated the creation of a new form in 1936, “The Application To Take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States.” Women filed the form in a United States District Court just as an immigrant would a naturalization petition. The form required a woman to state her date and place of birth, date of marriage, name of husband, citizenship, and the status of her marriage. Documentation to support her birth and marriage were required. Most commonly, women submitted affidavits from mothers, sisters, and aunts who were present or could testify to their domestic birth. The oath was signed and dated, and a woman could thereby exercise her rights as a citizen of the United States.

The National Archives at Kansas City has name indexes for women in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. If you are searching for a woman married to a foreign-born, non-naturalized man between 1907-1922, these records may contain a bit of family history you did not realize existed. For more information about repatriation oaths please visit the National Archives online catalog at www.archives.gov/research/catalog/.

National Archives Recognizes Volunteers

On Wednesday, April 22, staff at the National Archives at Kansas City recognized genealogy and project volunteers for their accomplishments during the current fiscal year which began in October. To date, volunteers have contributed 1,015 hours of service working with visitors in our public access computer research room and completing data entry to help us create finding aids for researchers.

This has been a year of goodbyes and hellos. We are grateful for the years of service provided to us by Alice Bordy (22 years), Don Ireland (22 years), and Betty Wood (6 years) as they depart; and we are excited to welcome new volunteers Don Hellstern, Frank Nitz, and David Nowlin.

Another wonderful hello came this year as we received a new ScanPro microfilm reader into the research room – an effort years in the making that was originally suggested by our volunteers!

We thank each of our volunteers for offering their time, talent, and skills in service to our researchers and staff. We could not achieve all that we do without the support of volunteers!

Above: National Archives volunteers gathered for the annual recognition event.

Above: Volunteers Carol Hartegan and Stephanie Holthaus were each recognized for five years of service.

Left: Departing volunteers Alice Bordy, Don Ireland, and Betty Wood were honored for their many years of service to the National Archives.
National Archives at Kansas City Staff Honored with Awards

Research Services staff of the National Archives at Kansas City have won two Archivist Awards. The Archivist’s Awards Ceremony is a prestigious event that recognizes exemplary accomplishments of National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) staff, volunteers, and citizen archivists. The awards celebrate our people, how we serve our customers, and accomplish our mission.

Pamela Anderson, Jennifer Audsley-Moore, Greg Bognich, Joyce Burner, Elizabeth Burnes, Lori Cox-Paul, Jake Ersland, Jessica Hopkins, Sarah LeRoy, and Steve Spence were awarded an Outstanding Achievement Group Award for exceptional service at the National Archives for preparing and overseeing the move of 60,000 cubic feet of Historic Bankruptcy Records to Subtropolis, an offsite storage facility.

In addition, Joyce Burner and Jessica Hopkins were honored with an award for exceptional service at NARA for Creating and Improving National Archives Webpages for Researching Records Relating to American Indians.

These Kansas City staff members will receive their awards at a special ceremony hosted by the Archivist of the United States, David Ferriero, on Thursday, May 7. Research Services Executive, William A. “Bill” Mayer, will be in Kansas City for the event.

Above: Research Services staff members (back row, left to right) Greg Bognich, Jake Ersland, Steve Spence, Joyce Burner, and Pamela Anderson. Front row (left to right): Elizabeth Burnes, Sarah LeRoy, Jennifer Audsley-Moore, Jessica Hopkins, and Lori Cox-Paul.

Left: Research Services staff members Jessica Hopkins and Joyce Burner.

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