

February 2016

20th Century Civil Rights and Liberties Film Series

Spies of Mississippi

On **Thursday, February 4 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives at Kansas City will screen the documentary *Spies of Mississippi*. Post-film discussion will be led by **Dr. Rebecca Miller Davis** of the University of Missouri-Kansas City. A free light reception will precede the film at 6:00 p.m.

It is the spring of 1964 and a long hot Mississippi summer is about to explode. The civil rights community is gearing up for a major operation nicknamed Mississippi Freedom Summer. Hundreds — if not thousands — of mostly white student activists from the North are preparing to link up with dozens of mostly black freedom workers in the Magnolia State to accomplish what the Mississippi power structure fears the most: registering black people to vote. The state's entrenched white power structure has a different name for Freedom Summer — they call it an "invasion" and they are ready to fight back. For the segregationists, Freedom Summer is nothing less than a declaration of war on the Mississippi way of life. The state responds by fortifying its Highway Patrol and 82 county sheriff offices with hundreds of newly sworn-in deputies, stockpiling tear gas and riot gear in larger cities and preparing prison wardens and county jailers to expect an influx of summer guests. However the most powerful leaders in the state have another weapon in their arsenal — a secret so well kept it is known to only a small circle of insiders: The state of Mississippi has entered the spy business. A no-nonsense group called the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission has quietly created a secret, state-funded spy agency answering directly to the Governor. The Commission has infiltrated the civil rights coalition, eavesdropping on its most private meetings, and pilfering its most sensitive documents. The spies' method of obtaining such sensitive information can be traced to an even more explosive secret known only to a handful of state officials that oversee the Commission and its anti-civil rights spy apparatus. The Commission's most potent weapon is a cadre of black operatives who have infiltrated the movement, rooting out its future plans, identifying its leaders, and tripping up its foot soldiers. This program is part of the 20th Century Civil Rights and Liberties Film Series presented in partnership with the Greater Kansas City Black History Study Group.



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Upcoming Events

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

- FEBRUARY 4 - 6:30 P.M.
FILM SCREENING: *SPIES OF MISSISSIPPI* WITH DR. REBECCA MILLER DAVIS
- FEBRUARY 21 - 6:30 P.M.
AUTHOR LECTURE: *KANSAS CITY'S HISTORIC NORTHEAST NEIGHBORHOODS* WITH KENT DICUS
- MARCH 1 - 6:00 P.M.
FILM SCREENING: *GIRL RISING*

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

Kent Dicus to Discuss *Kansas City's Historic Northeast Neighborhoods*

On **Tuesday, February 23 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives at Kansas City will host **Kent Dicus** for a discussion of *Kansas City Historic Northeast Neighborhoods* published by the Northeast Kansas City Historical Society. A free light reception will precede the discussion at 6:00 p.m.

Nestled in a pocket of Kansas City, an area just east of downtown Kansas City known as the Northeast, is home to six early neighborhoods that make up a vibrant and eclectic part of town that also includes the Kansas City Museum. All were established between the



Above: Photos of a residence located at 308 Garfield Avenue in Kansas City's historic Northeast neighborhood. The photo on the left was taken around 1915, the house was actually built in 1887. Dicus will present many earlier and modern images like these as a part of the program presentation. Image courtesy of Kent Dicus.

1880s and the 1920s. This latest publication from the Northeast Kansas City Historical Society features select properties from the six neighborhoods. The hardbound book contains many vintage and current photos, as well as brief histories of those properties throughout the Northeast and a bit beyond. Featured neighborhoods include Independence Plaza, Indian Mound, Lykins, Pendleton Heights, Scarritt Renaissance and Sheffield.

Copies of *Kansas City's Historic Northeast Neighborhoods* will be available for purchase. 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.

Save-the-Date: Film Screening of *Girl Rising* on March 1



On **Tuesday, March 1 at 6:00 p.m.**, the National Archives at Kansas City will screen *Girl Rising*, a film from Academy Award-nominated director **Richard Robbins**. A free light reception will precede the discussion at 5:30 p.m.

Girl Rising journeys around the globe to witness the strength of the human spirit and the power of education to change the world. Viewers will watch the stories of nine girls living in developing countries who confront challenges and overcome impossible odds to pursue their educational dreams. Film running time is 1 hour and 40 minutes.

A moderator question and answer discussion with the audience will follow the film screening. This program is presented in partnership with United Nations Association - Kansas City Chapter, University of Saint Mary - Starr Global Studies Institute, Safehome, and the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault.

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

Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

Show Me The Money: Helpful Information for Researching Bankruptcy Case Files

Background

Bankruptcy case files were created by the Federal court to contain the records of the case proceedings. The content varies depending on the type of bankruptcy and the time period. There have been five major Bankruptcy Acts by the Federal government: 1800, 1841, 1867, 1898, and 1978. They are organized by state, there under by court, there under by Bankruptcy Act, and there under by case number.

Accessioned Bankruptcy case files from as early as 1800 recently found a new home at a storage facility in Kansas City. At this time, the majority of accessioned bankruptcy case files from across the United States have been moved to the Kansas City regional facility, including southern California and Puerto Rico. The records from the states of California (northern and central), Nevada (except Clark County), and Hawaii, and the territories of American Samoa, and Guam are located at the National Archives at San Francisco.

Accessioned means that the records have been taken permanently into the legal and physical custody of the National Archives. Generally speaking, the most recent bankruptcy case files accessioned into the custody of the National Archives are those that took place 1995 and prior. Non-accessioned bankruptcy case files are still in the custody of the court, but are typically stored in and retrieved by the Federal Records Centers (FRC), a division of the National Archives.

Submitting a Request: Archives Accessioned Bankruptcy ***Generally Includes Cases Through 1800-1995***

Please provide the following information:

- name of the court where the case was filed;
- case number and name(s) of parties on the case; and
- time period the case was filed.

For bankruptcy cases filed 1978 and after, a FRC transfer number is required. This can be obtained by contacting the court where the bankruptcy was originally filed. Submit your request via email at kansascity.archives@nara.gov

There is no charge to perform a search. Digital and paper reproductions from the case file may incur a charge. Do not send any money when you make your initial request. Staff will communicate the fees prior to making the copies.

Researchers are invited to view the files in person at the National Archives at Kansas City research room. As these records are stored off-site, requests for bankruptcy case files must be made two business days in advance of your anticipated use. Research room hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. If you are unable to travel to Kansas City, you may find a [local researcher for hire](#).

Submitting a Request: Non-Accessioned Bankruptcy ***Generally Includes Cases Through 1995-2012***

Submit your request using a standard form. The form also includes: a link for placing your order online, a description of fees, and a listing of where the request should be sent. You will need to contact the court where the case was originally filed for additional details if you are unable to adequately provide the information requested by the form.

Sampling Project*

Generally, bankruptcy case files opened 1940 and prior are permanent records. Case files opened after 1940 may be subject to a 2.5% sampling. This is dependent on the type of filing. The goal of the sampling is not to save specific individual cases, but to save sufficient cases to provide researchers with the resources to identify historical trends, such as what types of people file for bankruptcy (e.g., the poor, the working class, male, female, urban, rural, etc.), why they file (e.g. medical bills, luxury items, job loss), where they live, what their jobs are, how bankruptcy filings are affected by national, regional, or local economic conditions, and similar issues.

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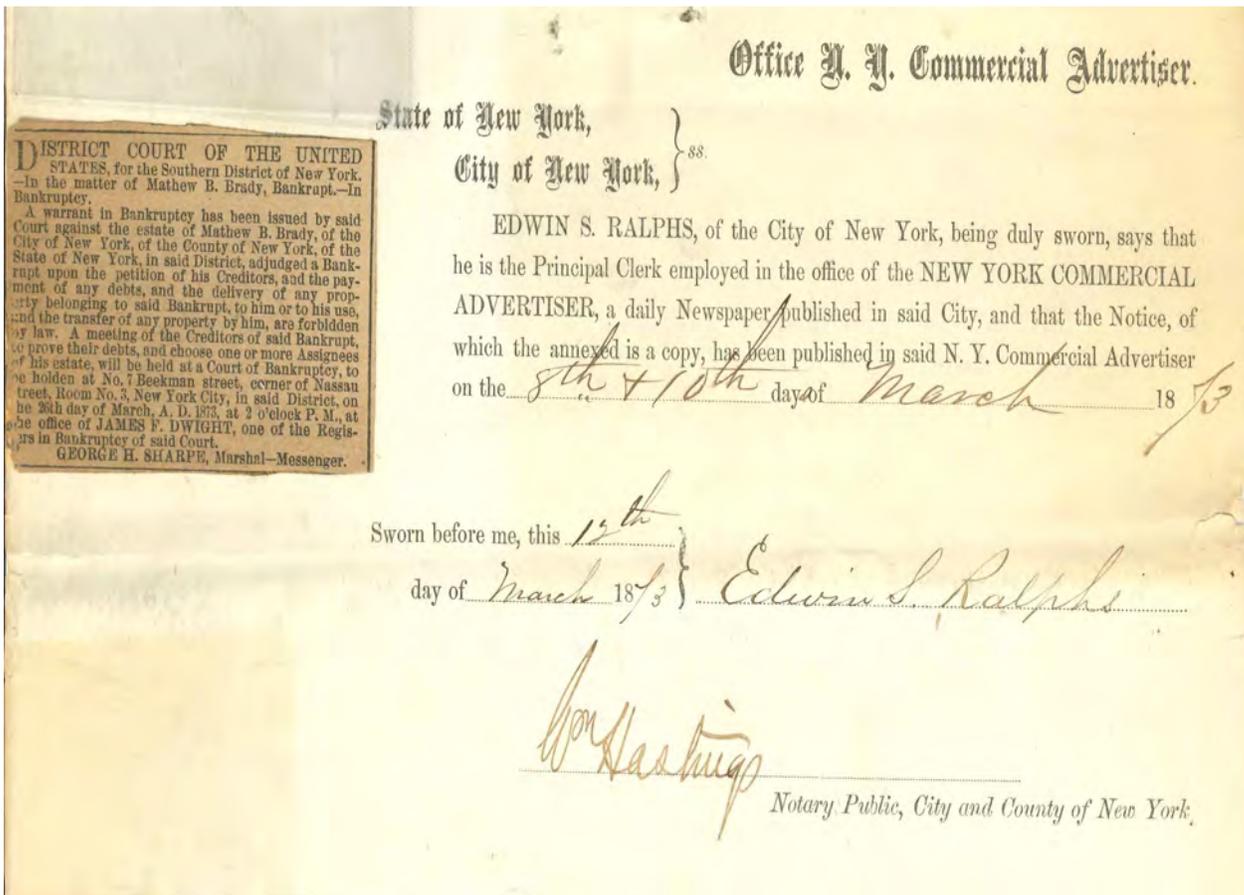
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*Some courts initiated earlier sampling projects with earlier acts. Questions about sampling should be directed to the National Archives at Kansas City.

Special Preservation Issues

Court records created in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are often tri-folded. Occasionally National Archives staff will perform some preservation work on documents before they are available for research.

Be on the lookout for the March 2016, *Treasure in the Stacks* article to learn more about the bankruptcy case file for famed Civil War photographer Mathew Brady.



Left: A sample of a document from the bankruptcy case file for Mathew Brady including a newspaper clipping announcing the warrant for bankruptcy against Brady's estate. National Archives at Kansas City, Record Group 21, Records of the United States District Court, United States District Court, Southern District of New York, Bankruptcy Act of 1867 Case Files, Case 3833, in the matter of Mathew B. Brady #3833.

HOURS OF OPERATION: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed on weekends 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.

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