

June 2016

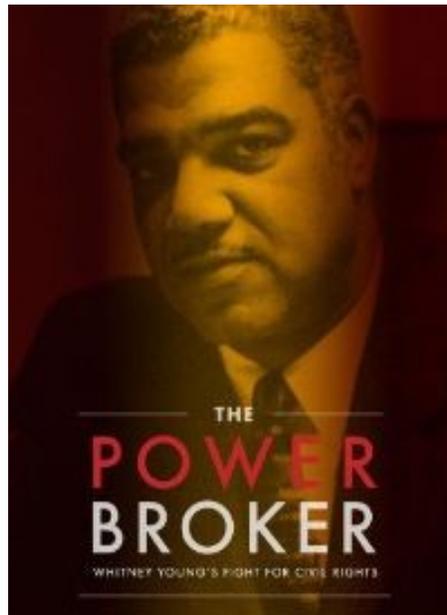
## National Archives to Screen *The Powerbroker: Whitney Young's Fight for Civil Rights*

On **Thursday, June 9 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives at Kansas City will screen the documentary *The Powerbroker: Whitney Young's Fight for Civil Rights*. Post-film discussion will be led by **Gwen Grant**, President and CEO of the Urban League. A free light reception will precede the film at 6:00 p.m.

Civil rights leader Whitney Young, Jr. has no national holiday bearing his name. You will not find him in most history books. In fact, few today know his name, much less his accomplishments. Yet, he was at the heart of the civil rights movement – an inside man who broke down the barriers that held back African Americans. Young shook the right hands, made the right deals, and opened the doors of opportunity that had been locked tightly through the centuries. Unique among black leaders, the one-time executive director of the National Urban League took the fight directly to the powerful white elite, gaining allies in business and government. In the Oval Office, Young advised Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon, and guided each along a path toward historic change.

*The Powerbroker* follows Young as he shuttles between the streets of Harlem and the boardrooms of Fortune 500 companies, tying the needs of Main Street to the interests of Wall Street. The film shows the pivotal events of the civil rights era - *Brown v. Board of Education*, the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, and the Vietnam War - through the eyes of a man striving to change the established powers in a way no one else could, from within. *This program is part of a film series presented in partnership with the Greater Kansas City Black History Study Group.*

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



## Please Pardon Our Dust!

Starting June 2, 2016, the National Archives at Kansas City will begin updating and upgrading public exhibit galleries and hospitality areas. The galleries will re-open in July 2016 to feature a new educational learning center and an introductory exhibition titled "We the People."

During renovation work the Research Rooms will be open for regular business hours for researchers. In addition public programs will continue to be offered. The National Archives normal business hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



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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 9 - 6:30 P.M.  
FILM SCREENING: *THE POWERBROKER: WHITNEY YOUNG'S FIGHT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS* WITH GWEN GRANT
- JUNE 15 - 6:30 P.M.  
FILM SCREENING: *UNIQUELY NASTY: THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S WAR ON GAYS* WITH POST-FILM PANEL DISCUSSION
- JUNE 25 - 8:00 A.M.  
EDUCATION WORKSHOP WITH HISTORYPIN\*
- JUNE 28 - 6:30 P.M.  
AUTHOR LECTURE: *THE NAZI TITANIC* WITH DR. ROBERT WATSON

\* DONOTES EVENT IS OFF SITE.

## Uniquely Nasty and the Pursuit of Equality Film and Panel Discussion

On **Wednesday, June 15 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives at Kansas City will screen the documentary film **Uniquely Nasty: The U.S. Government's War on Gays**. It will be followed by a panel discussion with equality policy advocates. A free light reception will precede the film at 6:00 p.m.

*Uniquely Nasty* explores a dark and little-known chapter of America's recent political past, when gays and lesbians were barred from working for the U.S. federal government. Through its "sex deviates" program, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) secretly collected hundreds of thousands of files on the sex lives of American citizens. The film includes never-before-seen government memos from FBI director J. Edgar Hoover and John Steele, a top lawyer for the U.S. Civil Service Commission asserting that gays were "not suitable" for federal employment. *Uniquely Nasty* is a Yahoo News documentary film produced by Michael Isikoff and Alan Springer.



Following the screening of the film a panel discussion will be moderated by **Christopher Leitch** with representatives from the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and Promoting Equality for All Missourians (PROMO).

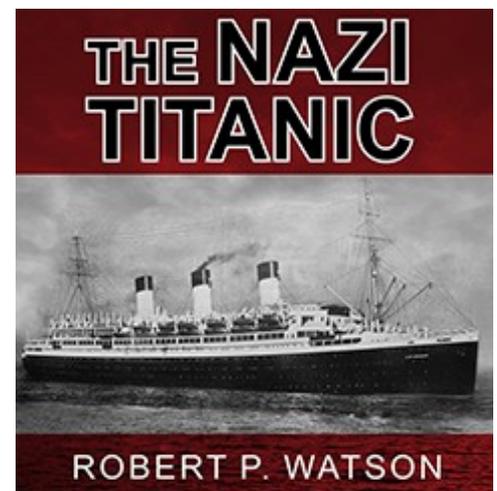
To make a reservation for this **free film program** email [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov) or call 816-268-8010. Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events.

*This program presented in partnership with the Gay and Lesbian Archives of Mid-America at the University of Missouri – Kansas City; the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce; and Promoting Equality for All Missourians (PROMO).*

## Dr. Robert P. Watson to Discuss *The Nazi Titanic: The Incredible Untold Story of a Doomed Ship in World War II*

On **Tuesday, June 28 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives at Kansas City will host **Dr. Robert P. Watson** for a discussion of his book ***The Nazi Titanic: The Incredible Untold Story of a Doomed Ship in World War II***. A free light reception will precede the program at 6:00 p.m.

Built in 1927, the German ocean liner *SS Cap Arcona* was the greatest ship since the *RMS Titanic* and one of the most celebrated luxury liners in the world. When the Nazis seized control in Germany, the ship was stripped down for use as a floating barracks and troop transport. Later, during World War II, Hitler's minister, Joseph Goebbels cast her as the "star" in his epic propaganda film about the sinking of the legendary *Titanic*. The German navy used the *Cap Arcona* to transport German soldiers and civilians across the Baltic, away from the Red Army's advance. In the Third Reich's final days, the ill-fated ship was packed with thousands of concentration camp prisoners. Without adequate water, food, or sanitary facilities, prisoners suffered, and many died, as they waited for the end of the war. Just days before Germany surrendered on May 8, 1945, the *Cap Arcona* was mistakenly bombed by the British Royal Air Force, and nearly all of the prisoners were killed in the last major tragedy of the Holocaust and one of history's worst maritime disasters. Although the British government sealed many documents pertaining to the ship's sinking, Watson has unearthed forgotten records, conducting interviews, referencing over 100 sources, including diaries and oral histories, to expose this story. *This program is presented in partnership with UMKC Truman Center; Midwest Center for Holocaust Education; and the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum.*



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

## Extras for Educators

### Historypin, the National World War I Museum and Memorial, and the National Archives Present a WWI App User-Design Workshop for Educators

The [National Archives](#) has teamed with [Historypin](#), the [National WWI Museum and Memorial](#), the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress and a growing number of cultural heritage partners to develop an engaging WWI website and tablet app to dynamically highlight WWI content, inviting people nationwide to contribute their own stories and play a part in the centennial commemoration of the First World War. Building on an amazing moving image archive being digitized and preserved especially for the centennial, a flood of rarely seen, public domain images and films will encourage discovery and creative reuse.



Teachers and educators are invited to a free workshop the morning of **Saturday, June 25**, at the National WWI Museum and Memorial's Edward Jones Research Center. Those attending will get an early, behind the scenes look at the alpha version of the app, with the aim of exploring realistic scenarios for how the app and its growing set of rich primary source materials can be used in a classroom setting. This is an opportunity to influence how the National WWI App will be used in classrooms across the country and in Europe.

THE **NATIONAL**  
**WWI MUSEUM**  
AND **MEMORIAL**

Historypin, the app developer, will be onsite to lead this small user design workshop and record critical feedback in preparation for the app's beta release at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year.

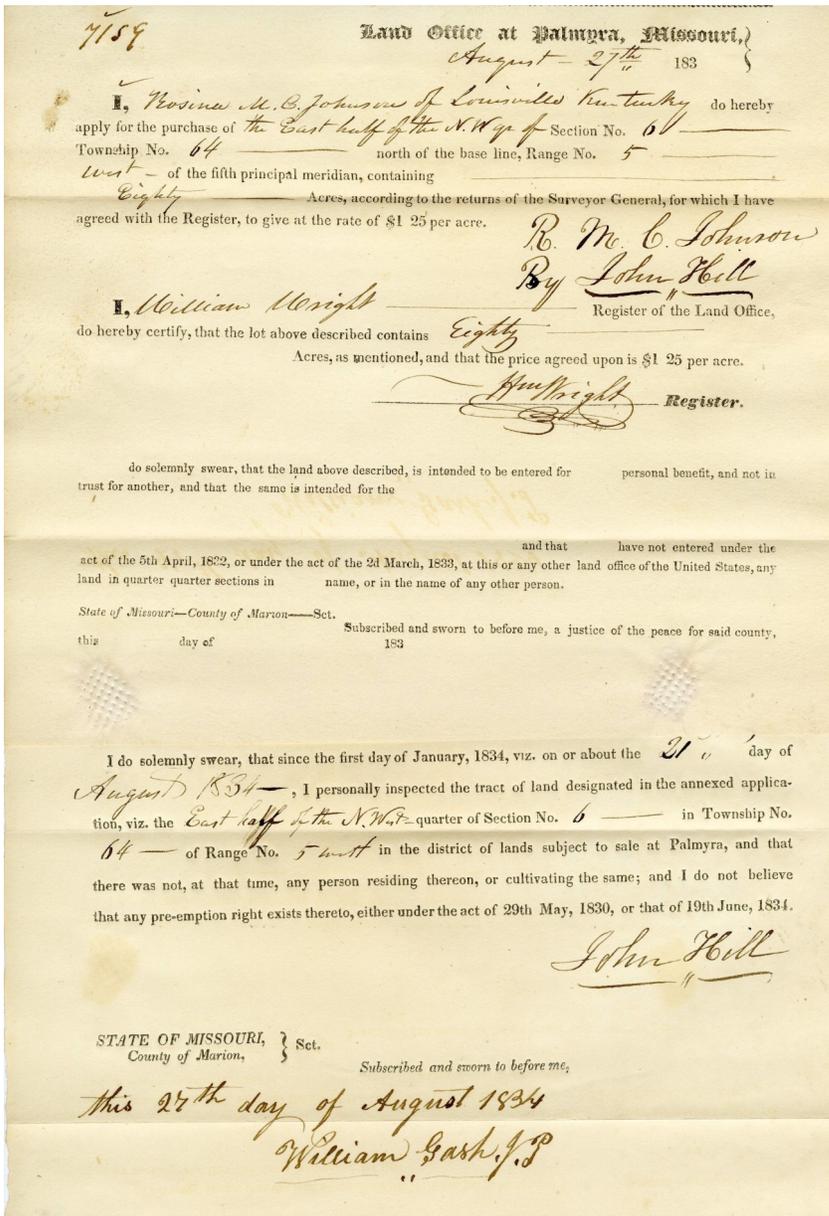
As the centenary of the United States' entering the Great War approaches, it becomes all the more important that students understand and acknowledge an event that spurred on such momentous change on a global scale. Educator experiences are invaluable to helping shape how the public might experience and share some of our nation's most interesting WWI content starting in late 2016.

If you are a teacher interested in 1:1 learning or working with iPads, being part of the design process, or would like to provide design input based on your in-class experience, we encourage you to join us for this fun and engaging workshop!

#### **Additional workshop details:**

- Date and time: **Saturday, June 25 at 9:00 a.m. - Noon**
- Location: National World War I Museum and Memorial, 100 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO
- Coffee, snacks, and lunch will be provided.
- Registration is **free, but limited**; please make a reservation by emailing [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov) or calling 816-268-8010. Educators will be asked to identify their school and district name with registration.
- The app is optimized for iPads for its initial iteration; if you have your own iPad, please bring it. If instead you have a laptop, please plan to use it. Using your own hardware is not required for registration, but is encouraged.

# New Finding Aid Available at the National Archives



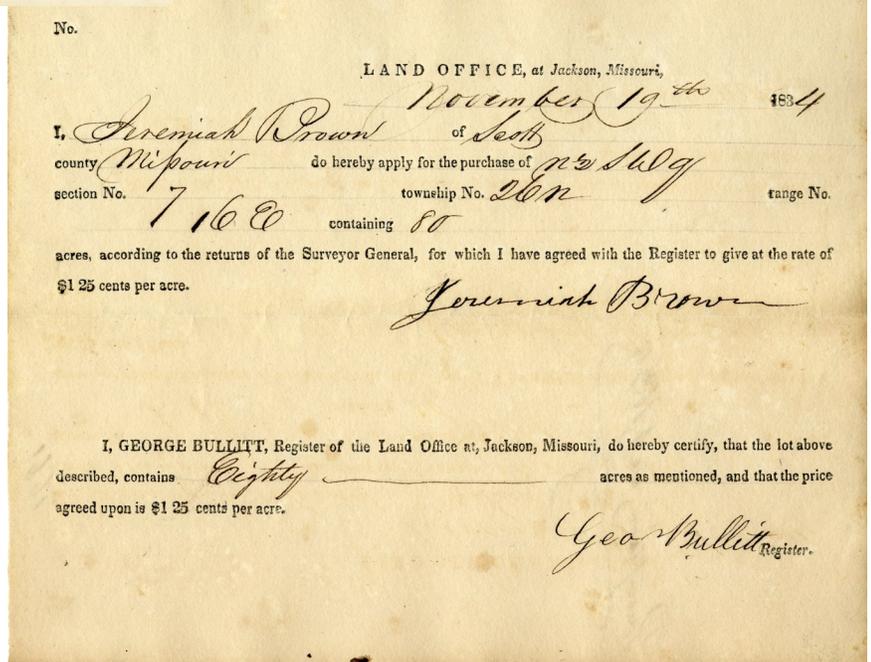
Above: Receipt for Rosina M.C. Johnson from the Palmyra (Missouri) Land Office dated August 27, 1834. Record Group 49, Bureau of Land Management, Duplicate Copies of Receipts for Land Entries and Cash Sales, 1818-1908 (NAID 5708655).

Right: Receipt for Jeremiah Brown from the Jackson (Missouri) Land Office dated November 19, 1834. Record Group 49, Bureau of Land Management, Duplicate Copies of Receipts for Land Entries and Cash Sales, 1818-1908 (NAID 5708655).

The National Archives at Kansas City is excited to share the completion of a large scale indexing project. In 2008, two volunteers, Judy Oakley and Esther Shelton, began data entry work for the 208 box series "Duplicate Copies of Receipts for Land Entries and Cash Sales, 1818-1908 (NAID 5708655)."

The handwritten receipts indicate completion of a variety of documentation, such as affidavits of preemption, applications for purchase, declaratory statements, and contested claims related to private entry and cash sale cases. Information found on each receipt could include name of the entryman, date of transaction, legal description of the tract, name of the Register and/or Receiver, and nature of request made. Additionally, there is occasional correspondence found with receipts regarding land disputes and inquiries about necessary qualifications to apply for land grants. The records were originally created and maintained by a variety of land offices in Missouri cities, including: Springfield, Franklin, Lexington, Fayette, Jackson, Milan, Palmyra, Plattsburg, St. Louis, Boonville, and Ironton.

After nearly eight years of hard work, Oakley completed the final index entry on April 26! There are 98,088 entries in total, and researchers are already putting the completed index to good use. Researchers interested in Missouri land records can email [kansascity.archives@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.archives@nara.gov) to learn more.



# Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

## John Schlitz. Sculptor. Artist. Inventor. Convicted Murderer.

### Early Life

Not much is known about the early life of Johann Schlitz (a.k.a. John Schlitz and John Mosher), inmate #15438. Born August 14, 1895 in Vienna, Austria to poor parents, Schlitz completed grammar school where he excelled in drawing, painting, and sculpturing.

After immigrating to America around 1914, Schlitz had a series of jobs which included working as a locksmith apprentice. Eventually moving to Wyoming to become a cowboy and work on cattle ranches, he ran into trouble with the law. In 1917, Schlitz was convicted of grand larceny and sent to the Wyoming Penitentiary on February 24, 1917. He was assigned to the penitentiary road camp, but escaped on May 4, 1919, and enlisted in the Army on July 5, 1919. After the armistice was signed, the Army transferred him to Germany to serve with the American Forces at Coblenz as a Private with the 9<sup>th</sup> Provisional Guard Company.

His army career was short. During a drunken fight in February 1920, Schlitz killed Sgt. Elwood Carr of the 13<sup>th</sup> Provisional Guard Co. and was placed in military prison. Incredibly, he escaped and was on the loose, engaging in a considerable amount of theft in Germany. Being jailed several times, and escaping from various jails once more, the military authorities apprehended him and returned him to Coblenz.

On May 24, 1920, Schlitz was sentenced by general court martial and given a dishonorable discharge. He was charged with murder and sentenced to life in prison. Additional sentences for the various escapes were also added to his record. He was received at Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary on August 16, 1920. By 1924, his sentences were commuted to 30 years.

Schlitz was assigned to the stone shop in the penitentiary in 1923. After discovering that sculpting was a way to pass the time and be creative, his behavior began to change.

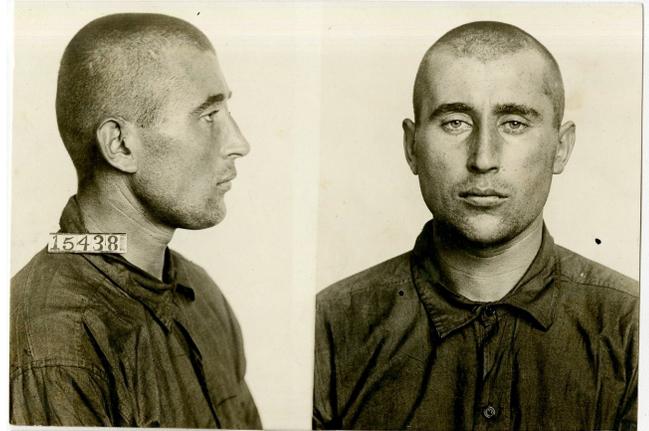
### Artist and Inventor

Schlitz made a name for himself being commissioned by the American War Mothers organization to carve several World War I memorials. One is located in the Quincy Memorial Park in Quincy, Illinois, and the other is located in General Pershing Park in Laclede, Missouri.

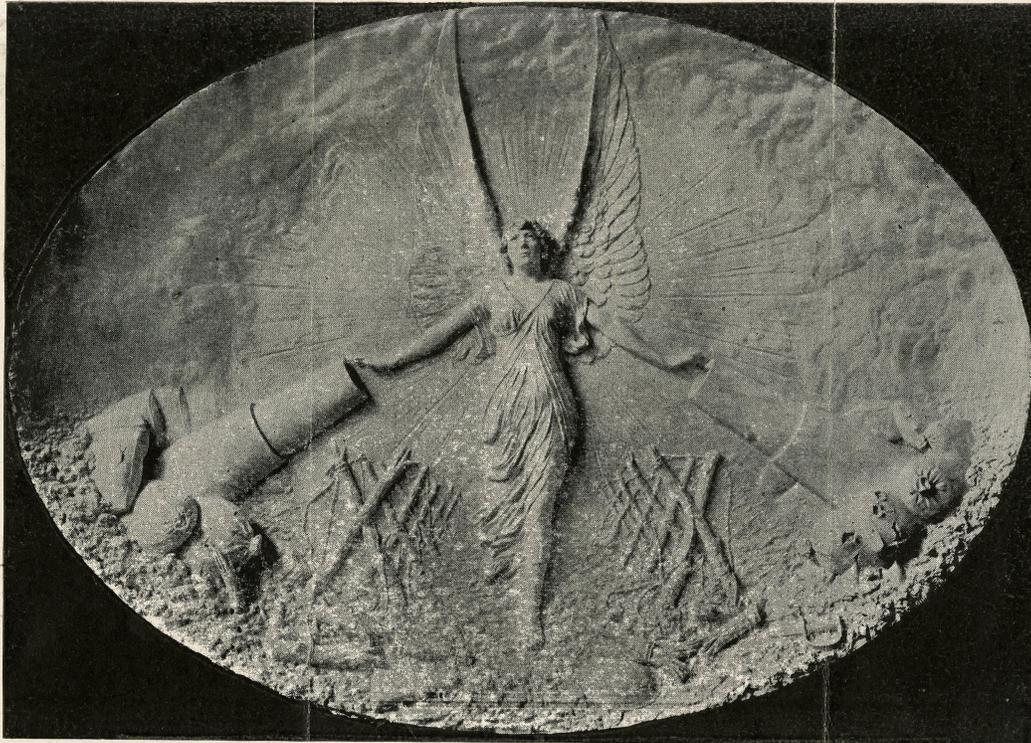
The Quincy Memorial Park (Cemetery) Winged Sculpture is titled "Peace." The oval piece is carved in high-relief and is made from a solid five ton piece of Carthage limestone. According to an article in the *Quincy Herald-Whig* titled *Impressive Rites Dedicate Beautiful Peace Monument in Quincy Memorial Park*, Schlitz thought that his sculpture would show the youth of America that war was not all about uniforms, brass bands, marches or silken flags, but was about "war's death-dealing guns, war's body-lacerating entanglements and war's life-destroying gasses."

The dedication of the Peace Monument in Quincy Memorial Park was attended by a large number of people.

(Continued on next page.)



Above: John Schlitz #15438 Mugshots. Record Group 129, Records of the Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Inmate Case Files, 1895-1952; Inmate Case File for John Mosher #15438. National Archives Identifier 571125.



All features, model and design, fully protected by copyright 1924,—1926,—  
1929, by JOHN SCHLITZ, Sculptor.

#15438

Above: Photograph of the “Peace” World War I Monument located in Quincy Memorial Park, Quincy, Illinois. Record Group 129, Records of the Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Inmate Case Files, 1895-1952; Inmate Case File for John Mosher #15438. National Archives Identifier 571125.

given is that it was “convict labor” and “prison made goods.” It found a home in General Pershing Park and was dedicated by the American War Mothers of Missouri as a tribute to all the mothers who gave their sons and daughters to war. The memorial is titled “The American War Mother” and is an imposing structure that shows a seated mother holding a torch symbolic of the fire of self-immolation and an olive branch symbolic of everlasting peace. It is located in the primary day-use area of the park.

Schlitz’s talent was not limited to the artistic. He also requested to work in the sign shop and the machine shop. The reasoning behind this request to work in the machine shop was to become acquainted with the various machines and learn how they worked. Besides having a growing art career from behind bars, Schlitz filed his inventions with the U.S. Patent Office and became the owner of the following patents:

- Epicycle Engine, filed 7/5/1935, date of patent 8/30/1938, patent #US2,128,33
- Fraud Preventing Paper (to prevent counterfeiting), filed 11/24/1931, date of patent 10/10/1933, patent #US1,929,828
- Pintle Lock, filed 9/4/1934, date of patent 8/10/1937, patent #US2,089,300
- Combination Lock, filed 11/1/1932, date of patent 10/29/1935, patent #US2,018,745
- Combination Lock, filed 9/15/1930, date of patent 6/14/1932, patent #US1,863,503

### Accolades

Despite Schlitz being unschooled and self-taught with regards to his artistic abilities, his work won the praise of many famous sculptors of his day. Prominent sculptor Lorado Taft considered Schlitz to be a sculptor and not an amateur. He believed that if Schlitz were to get out of prison, he would take his place among other honored sculptors in the United States.

There were speakers, the local high school mixed chorus, and a group of Gold Star mothers. The Gold Star Mothers Club was formed shortly after World War I to help provide support for mothers who lost their sons or daughters in the war. Schlitz received an invitation, but obviously was unable to attend.

The other World War I memorial is located in Laclede, Missouri, in General Pershing Park. It was initially offered to be located in Kansas City, but was rejected and returned to the prison. The reason

(Continued from page 6.)

The accolades about Schlitz continued. Gutzon Borglum, the sculptor behind the creation of Mount Rushmore, stated in an article in *The Art Digest* dated July 1, 1931, "I am greatly in sympathy with any steps which may result in the release of John Schlitz, giving him an opportunity to be at liberty, and of larger service to mankind, to himself, and to become a valuable member of society. We have too few of such in the world."

On July 19, 1945, Schlitz was paroled from Leavenworth Penitentiary and was released from parole in 1946. Schlitz received a full and unconditional pardon for his convictions from the President of the United States on December 23, 1959.

After Schlitz became a free man in 1946, he settled into a normal life. In 1951, he married Tidney Lindholm and moved to Barre, Vermont. They had no children. He worked at Peerless Granite Company creating memorials and sculpture work.

Finally, on November 14, 1960, John Schlitz became a naturalized citizen of the United States.

The National Archives at Kansas City holds many records related to the Bureau of Prisons. For more information, please visit [www.archives.gov/research](http://www.archives.gov/research).

Right: Application for U.S. Letters Patent Petition. Record Group 241, Records of the Patent and Trademark Office, 1836-1978; Patent US#1,929,828. National Archives Identifier 302050.

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8331 U.S. Patent Office  
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APPLICATION FOR  
U. S. LETTERS PATENT  
**PETITION**

To the Commissioner of Patents:

Your Petitioner ..... John Schlitz, .....  
of ..... Austria, ..... citizen  
residing at ..... Leavenworth, .....  
in the county of ..... Leavenworth, ..... and State of  
..... Kansas, ..... and whose Post Office address  
..... is P. O. Box 7, Leavenworth, Kansas, .....

pray, that Letters Patent may be granted to ..... him ..... for improvements in  
..... FRAUD-PREVENTING-PAPER, .....  
set forth in the annexed Specification.

And, he ..... hereby appoint .....  
CLARENCE A. O'BRIEN  
Of Washington, D. C.

Register No. 11216, his Attorney, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application;  
to make alterations and amendments therein, to sign his name to the drawing to receive  
the Letters Patent, and to transact all business in the U. S. Patent Office connected herewith.

Signed at ..... Leavenworth ..... in the  
County of ..... Leavenworth ..... and State of  
..... Kansas, ..... this ..... day of ..... 19 .....

(Sign here with  
First name in Full.) John Schlitz

SPECIFICATION.

To All Whom it May Concern:

BE IT KNOWN that I, John Schlitz,  
a  
citizen of ..... Austria,  
residing at ..... Leavenworth,  
in the county of ..... Leavenworth,  
and State of ..... Kansas,  
have invented new and useful  
improvements in ..... FRAUD-PREVENTING-PAPER,  
of which the following is a specification:

**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](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/nationalarchiveskansascity](http://www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity). Tweet us @KCArchives or #KCArchives.



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KANSAS CITY