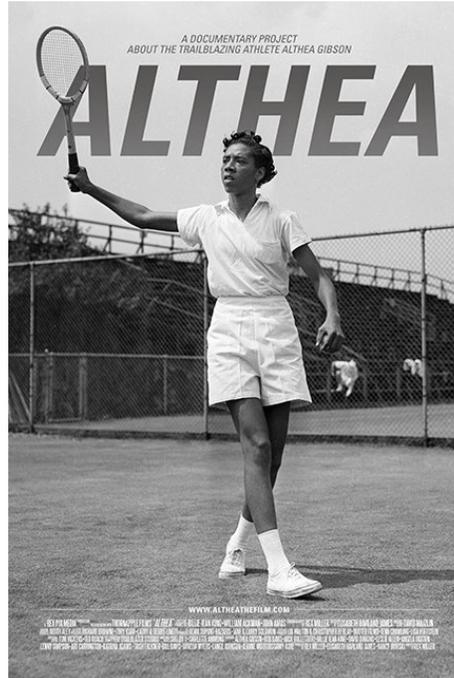


## Althea Film Screening and Discussion

On **Wednesday, February 1 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives the National Archives will host a film screening of the PBS American Masters documentary, *Althea*, with post-film discussion led by local tennis pro and coach **Daniel Wellington**. A free light reception will precede the program at 6:00 p.m.

*Althea* chronicles the life of Althea Gibson (1927-2003). Gibson was a troubled young woman who emerged from the rough streets of Harlem, New York, to become an unlikely champion of the very segregated sport of tennis in the 1950s. She was the first African American to play and win at Wimbledon and the U.S. Nationals. Following the film, Wellington will discuss the implications Gibson had on the sport and how her legacy created an impact. *This program is presented in partnership with the Greater Kansas City Black History Study Group.*

Reservations are requested for this **free film** by emailing [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov) or calling 816-268-8010. Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events.



## Moderated Conversation on *New Directions in the Study of the Underground Railroad*

On **Monday, February 27 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives in partnership with Park University, will host the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Spencer Cave Lecture with **Dr. Spencer Crew** and **Dr. Matthew Pinsker**. A moderated conversation about the Underground Railroad will be this year's focus. A free light reception will precede the program at 6:00 p.m.

The Underground Railroad was neither underground nor an actual railroad. Its name reflects the activities which were carried out in secret, using darkness or disguise, and because railway terms were used by those involved with the system to describe how it worked. Various routes were lines, stopping places were known as stations, those who aided along the way were conductors and their charges were known as packages or freight. The network of routes extended through 14 Northern states and "the promised land" of Canada—beyond the reach of fugitive-slave hunters. Historians Crew and Pinsker will talk with **Dr. Timothy Westcott**, of Park University, about the past, present and future initiatives to engage, teach and preserve local, regional and national historic sites related to the Underground Railroad. *This program is presented in partnership with Park University's Program of History and the Organization of American Historians.*

Reservations are requested for this **free program** by calling 816-268-8010 or emailing [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov). Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events.

### February 2017

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16TH ANNUAL SPENCER CAVE LECTURE	1
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#### Upcoming Events

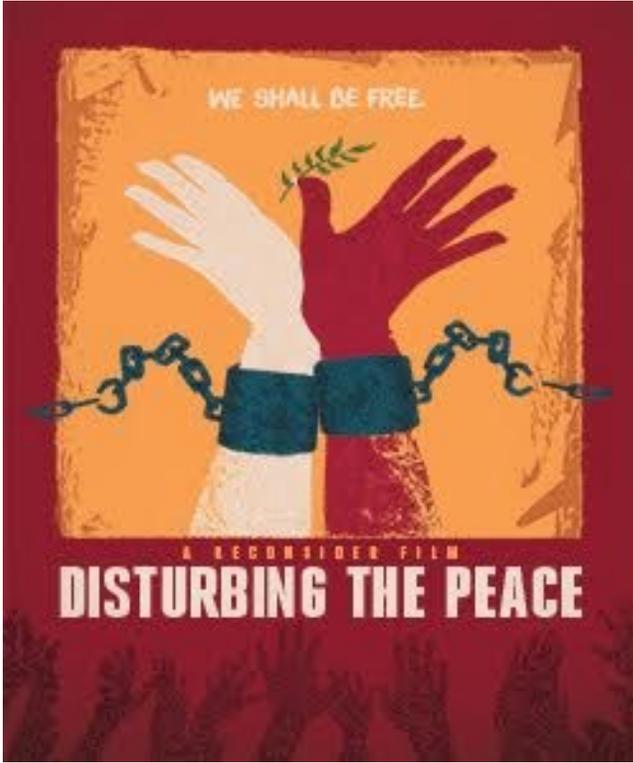
Unless noted, all events are held at the National Archives  
400 W. Pershing Road  
Kansas City, MO 64108

- FEB. 1 - 6:30 P.M.  
FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION: *ALTHEA*
- FEB 9 - 1:30 P.M.  
AFTERNOON LECTURE:  
*DISTURBING THE PEACE*  
PANEL DISCUSSION\*
- FEB. 23 - 6:30 P.M.  
FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION: *BIRTH OF A MOVEMENT*
- FEB. 27 - 6:30 P.M.  
MODERATED CONVERSATION: *NEW DIRECTIONS IN THE STUDY OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD*  
\* PROGRAM IS OFFSITE

## Disturbing the Peace Film Screening and Discussions

The National Archives at Kansas City, in collaboration with a group of Kansas City organizations and civic leaders, have united to bring a thought-provoking film and panel discussion to the region.

On **Tuesday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m.**, [Disturbing the Peace](#), a film that follows former enemy combatants - Israeli soldiers from elite units and Palestinian fighters, many of whom served years in prison, will be screened at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts' Helzberg Hall in Kansas City, Missouri. Following the screening, the film's directors, producers and cinematographer, along with members of Combatants for Peace (featured in the film), will take the stage for a panel discussion. Tickets for the event are \$20 and can be purchased through the Kauffman Center at [www.kauffmancenter.org](http://www.kauffmancenter.org). A 50% off discount code: PEACE4ALL is available while supplies last.



In addition, on **Thursday, February 9 at 1:30 p.m.**, the panelists will come together again for a **free program** about creating peace out of conflict at the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri. The conversation will feature clips from *Disturbing the Peace*. While this event is free and open to the public, registration is requested at <https://disturbthepeace.eventbrite.com>.

*Disturbing the Peace* (view the film's trailer at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mimF59sPHc>) is about people born into conflict, sworn to be enemies, who challenged their fate. The film follows everyday people who took extraordinary actions by standing for what they believe in. The movie will challenge attendees to understand the narratives they live within, to look at current roles in society and decide what role they will play in creating a more humane world. The film reveals the transformational journeys of the former enemies - from soldiers committed to armed battle to nonviolent peace activists - leading to the creation of Combatants for Peace. For more information about

the film, the combatants and the filmmakers, visit <http://disturbingthepeacefilm.com/>.

The screening and public discussions are presented in partnership with A Great Collaboration, the National World War I Museum and Memorial, Park University, Rainy Day Books, and Reconsider; with additional support from the Welch Family Foundation.

## Birth of a Movement Film Screening and Discussion

On **Thursday, February 23 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives in partnership with Kansas City Public Television, will host a film screening of the PBS Independent Lens documentary, *Birth of a Movement*, followed by post-film discussion. A free light reception will precede the program at 6:00 p.m.

In 1915, Boston-based African American newspaper editor and activist William M. Trotter waged a battle against D.W. Griffith's technically groundbreaking but notoriously Ku Klux Klan-friendly *The Birth of a Nation*, unleashing a fight that still rages today about race relations, media representation, and the power and influence of Hollywood. *Birth of a Movement*, based on Dick Lehr's book *The Birth of a Movement: How Birth of a Nation Ignited the Battle for Civil Rights*, captures the backdrop to this prescient clash between human rights, freedom of speech, and a changing media landscape. Post-film discussion will be led by **Kevin Willmott**, filmmaker and professor of Film and Media Studies at the University of Kansas; **Michelle T. Johnson**, writer and playwright, former attorney and journalist; and **Eric Wesson**, senior staff writer at *The Call*. *Birth of a Movement* is produced by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Sam Pollard. This program is presented in partnership with Kansas City Public Television and PBS Independent Lens.

Reservations are requested for this **free film** by calling 816-268-8010 or emailing [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov). Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events.

# Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

## Over the Top

*Editorial note: In 2017, the United States will commemorate the 100th anniversary of its involvement in World War I, known as The Great War. Throughout 2017, in each issue of this monthly newsletter, the National Archives at Kansas City will highlight materials from our holdings that illustrate various aspects of the War - either on the home front or abroad.*

The January 2017 issue highlighted records of the U.S. American Expeditionary Forces. This month's article features records from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Archived issues of this newsletter can be found at:

[www.archives.gov/kansas-city/press](http://www.archives.gov/kansas-city/press)

Just under 100 years ago, the United States entered into one of the deadliest conflicts in human history. When Congress voted to declare war on Germany in April 1917, Europe had already been suffering the rages of World War I since August 1914. The Great War, as the conflict was then known, saw battlefields on a scale never before witnessed, as trenches for the Germans and Anglo-French Allies stretched from the French border with Switzerland to the English Channel. By the time the United States joined the war, millions of men had died 'going over the top' of these trenches in assaults on enemy positions.

In the fall of 1918, the United States had finally amassed a vast enough army in France to conduct large scale attacks of its own against the German lines. The salient at Saint Mihiel in France was the objective of one of these offenses. On September 12, 1918, the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) launched an assault on this bulge in the German defensive line, making quick progress advancing through the enemy trenches. Among the soldiers making their way across 'No Man's Land' was a young Native American from the Potawatomi Agency (near Mayetta, Kansas), Jack Cody Hale.

A letter written by Hale from a hospital in France on October 21, well over a month after the close of the offensive, tells of his experience in the attack. His account is colorful and full of clichés commonly associated with warfare, and the World War I experience. He reports that he was part of the assault on September 12 on the Saint Mihiel sector, and that "us Mayetta boys were right in the center of the fight."

Hale experienced close misses from snipers after "we went 'over the top' at 4:30 a.m. and took the No Man's Land in Indian Style." His unit passed over three lines of enemy trenches before arriving at a forest. From there, they advanced "going through the brush and trees falling by heavy shells and over dead bodies."

Fighting in the brush, Hale encountered a German machine gun position that nearly claimed his life. After he thought he had eliminated the threat, he moved toward the machine gun, only to find much to his "surprise the gun pointed toward and began to sing "dead song" to me." Hale quickly took cover behind a tree, and answered the gunfire with a hand grenade, which silenced the position. For Hale, "a rifle and a hand grenade are my best friends yet agoing as they will do as you want them if you don't weaken."

For many of the millions that served on the Western Front, the horrors that they saw and lived could not be described in a colorful manner. The trauma of the fighting scarred the land, as well as the bodies and spirits of those that fought and survived. Jack Cody Hale likewise survived, and returned to Kansas. Whether or not as he claimed in his letter to have had "39 (Germans) to his belt so far" likely mattered far less to him than the fact that he had survived his experience "going over the top."

The National Archives at Kansas City maintains this letter, on pages 4 and 5 below, as part of Record Group 75, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It is part of the series Correspondence with Individual Indians, 1895-1936. For more information on these records please visit the National Archives Catalog [here](#).

Somewhere in France, Mon. Oct. 21, '18

Dear Sir:

Just a few lines to say that I am still alive and enjoying the weather "over here".

Well I'm of the lines in the Hospital and sure is a nice place here I get plenty to eat and getting fleshy enough to down 39 more Huns. Well no doubt you saw in the paper on that drive that was made on Sept. 12 on the St. Miheil Sector well us Mayetta boys were right in the center of the fight. I had some time picking snipers from trees they even have machine guns up in the trees and wait till the soldiers pass then fire behind us. Well I had some awful close calls with snipers we went "over the top" at 4:30 A. M. and took the No Man's Land in Indian style and next up to the first line, then the second and third line then came the timber fight going through brush and trees falling by heavy shells and over dead bodies. Well I've all I think. Well Mr. Garber I got a D. S. C. medal coming to me for capturing a machine gun alone and getting the three Huns for a present. I had to do it or call myself a coward, so into the brush I went and along the trench expecting to meet a German and----- in the works and turn in the trenches of-----it took me some time to do it as I had to locate the gun first and I just got close enough to see the gunner operating his gun a different direction and downed him the first shot through the chest, thinking he was the only one left I got out of the trench and over and crept up a little closer and to

my surprise the gun pointed toward and began to sing "dead song"  
to me-of course you can imagine how quick I went for a tree close  
by and I could only see three in the pit. I had to be <sup>a</sup> quick  
job so I threw a hand grenade and the rest was easy. Believe  
me a rifle and a hand grenade are my best friends yet agoing  
as they will do as you want them if you don't weaken ha ha.

Well give my regards to all the people and that Con. Boy  
Jack has 39 to his belt so far.

Well I must close I am yours truly

Jack Cody Hale (Indian)

Hospital No. 727

Above: Second page of soldier Jack Cody Hale's letter describing his experiences during the Great War. Record Group 75, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs 1793-1999, Correspondence with Individual Indians 1895-1936, Potawatomi Agency 1921-1947; National Archives at Kansas City, National Archives Identifier 2173190.



NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES

KANSAS CITY

GENERAL INFORMATION: 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.