Bruce Matthews and Steve Noll to Discuss
Kansas City: Our Collective Memories

On Monday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m., the National Archives, in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council, will host Bruce Mathews and Steve Noll, authors of Kansas City: Our Collective Memories. A free light reception will precede the program at 6:00 p.m.

Throughout our lives we collect things. Things we care about. These collections may start with a first doll, or a baseball glove from our childhood. Whether the collection consists of books or friendships, they become our memories and our link to the past. As a community, our collections reveal what makes us proud of where we live and whom we have lived with. A simple post card is a glimpse into the lives of those who came before. We see the streets they lived on, what their homes were like, how they dressed. What we collect, as a community, becomes a part of our collective legacy. These treasured items help reveal “who we are and where we have come from.” This new book by Mathews and Noll takes us on a journey of memories formed by each of us, to be cherished by all of us. The vast majority of items in the book have come from you, your neighbors or members of your own family. Many are unique, one of a kind. Some of these treasures bring tears to our eyes. Others make us laugh out loud. They are, after all, the fabric of our community. This program is offered in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council.

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

Alexander Heffner to Lecture on The Future of Civil Discourse

On Monday, May 1 at 3:00 p.m., the National Archives in collaboration with Park University and Kansas City Public Television, will host Alexander Heffner, for a public lecture on The Future of Civil Discourse. Admission is free and open to the public. The event will take place on the Park University campus, 8700 NW River Park Drive, Parkville, MO.

Heffner, host of the PBS program “The Open Mind” will talk about the millennial citizen; the space of old and new media; and the character of political discourse. From the formation of broadcasting to the emergence of social media, Heffner will consider a blueprint for “civic press.” He will also grapple with questions related to President Donald Trump and think about fresh ways young people can frame public policy, while reflecting on the 2016 campaign and how to improve the political process. Heffner’s conversation will navigate these areas of interest across civic life as the focus of Park University’s 25th annual Dr. Jerzy Hauptmann Distinguished Guest Lecture Series.
National World War I Museum and Memorial and National Archives
Commemorate Memorial Day Weekend

Memorial Day weekend will be celebrated May 28-29, 2017. Several free public events will be taking place at the National World War I Museum and Memorial, located at 2 Memorial Drive, Kansas City, MO. Details are below.

Sunday, May 28 at 2:00 p.m. - Finding Your World War I Connection
Many Americans had family members who served overseas during the Great War. Others had family members who were German or Austrian immigrants impacted by U.S. immigration policies during wartime. In this introductory session to WWI research, Dr. Mitch Yockelson of the National Archives, will offer some hints and tips on how to go about researching relatives that may have served or been affected during the war. Information on how to request copies of military service files via the National Archives will also be available. Reservations for this free event can be made at here.

Sunday, May 28 seating opens at 3:00 p.m. - Celebration at the Station (rain or shine)
Kick off your summer with the largest free Memorial Day weekend event in the Midwest. The Kansas City Symphony, led by Music Director Michael Stern, performs patriotic favorites against the backdrop of Kansas City’s historic Union Station. Celebration at the Station concludes with a fireworks display over the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum and Memorial.

Monday, May 29 at 2:00 p.m. - Walk of Honor Ceremony
More than 100 new Walk of Honor granite bricks will be dedicated during a special ceremony. Entertainment includes a performance from the Heartland Men’s Chorus; remarks from National Archives archivist, military historian, and author Dr. Mitch Yockelson; and an Honor Guard presentation from Fort Leavenworth. The Walk of Honor is divided into three sections: bricks dedicated solely to those who served in World War I; bricks dedicated to veterans of any military service; and bricks that honor civilian friends, family or organizations. Walk of Honor bricks are dedicated twice each year during Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies.

National Archives Announces New Document Analysis Worksheets

Document analysis is the first step in working with primary sources. Our worksheets can help teach students to think through primary source documents for contextual understanding and to extract information to make informed judgments. We have worksheets for several media types, available on our website which include photos, written documents, artifacts, posters, maps, cartoons, videos, and sound recordings. The National Archives originally created these student tools many years ago — and thousands of educators have made use of them.

Now we are happy to report that we have made some updates! Not only do the sheets have a new look, but they reinforce a standard progression while guiding students through the analysis process:

- Meet the document.
- Observe its parts.
- Try to make sense of it.
- Use it as historical evidence.

The National Archives is also pleased to announce that we have created some additional new worksheets to join the existing group. This set covers all the same document types, but the sheets are geared to early grades or those very new to the process. These tools guide students with simple language, answer choices, and colorful illustrations.

Analysis is just the foundation. Additional activities in which students use primary sources as historical evidence can be found on DocsTeach.org, our online tool for teaching with primary sources.
"Food will win the war" was the rallying cry of Herbert Hoover, then head of the United States Food Administration, long before he served as the 31st president. At the onset of World War I, Hoover was appointed to a newly created Federal agency known then as the U.S. Food Administration which was established on August 10, 1917, under the Food and Fuel Control Act. The agency’s functions were to regulate the supply, distribution, and conservation of foods during wartime, generally by voluntary means. This included commodity price controls set for goods like sugar and grain – along with other products that would be needed for soldiers fighting overseas and the Allied forces.

As a part of the Food Administration’s internal structure, State Food Administrators were hired and offices established to oversee regions. The National Archives at Kansas City holds records, including memos, correspondence/letters, and photographs, from the states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. Much of the work done within the Food Administration was geared toward publicity and propaganda efforts as the goal was to educate.

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Americans on understanding the importance of conserving food and other items that could be used in the war.

Within the series of records titled “Correspondence Concerning Publicity and Propaganda,” a memo with recommendations can be found from the Association of Manufactures of Confectionary and Chocolate from New York. The Association suggested specific ways candy sellers could display their products and that any desire for sweets could best be achieved by increasing one’s consumption of fruits. In addition, honey was often recommended as a substitute for sugar with editorial commentary running in local newspapers about the benefits of using honey. Recipes were even made available that did not use sugar as an ingredient, one suggestion is Tutti Frutti Balls and reads:

Tutti Frutti Balls

1 cup puffed rice or corn 1 tablespoon chopped angelica
1 cup seedless raisins or citron
1 cup stoned dates ½ cup chopped candied orange peel
1 cup figs
½ cup chopped nut meats 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Put the rice, fruits, peel and nut meats through a chopper, stir well, adding the extract. Make into small balls and allow to dry. Roll in shredded cocoanut.

Above: Recipes without sugar as a part of food conservation efforts during World War I. Record Group 4, Records of the U.S. Food Administration, Iowa State Food Administration, Correspondence Concerning Publicity and Propaganda, 1917-1919. National Archives Identifier 5106125, National Archives at Kansas City.

In addition to general conservation of sugar, flour and other materials, Americans were strongly encouraged to take The Hoover Pledge. The Pledge was a voluntary effort in which citizens signed a “pledge card” that stated they would participate by conserving food. This was a polite coercion attempt as wasting food was related to committing a sin. Women’s groups were a main target of the Food Administration as they were asked to “pledge” support with their signature. First Lady Edith Wilson was the first to sign a pledge card, which was helpful in spreading the message. And although some Americans noted this as “Hooverizing,” the correspondence from these groups is extensive as many wrote letters to state administrators noting that they had voted as an organization to “pledge” support. Archival records include letters written by Iowa women’s groups from the towns of Burlington, Decorah, Des Moines, Grinnell, Lenox, Marathon, Marshalltown, and Waterloo.

The phrase “Food Will Win the War” became popular as states often held a variety of public engagement events such as contests for the best recipes that did not require commodities. Prizes and awards were given to the winners, including signed certificates from Hoover as head of the Food Administration. Home Cards were another popular way to engage citizens. The Food Administration made them available for each home as they had suggestions printed on them on how to best save wheat, meat and fats, along with using milk and local foods wisely.

The notion of “Patriot’s Plenty” was implored upon Americas as they were asked to buy less and only cook what they needed. Statistics were included on the Home Card as a way to further explain the push to conserve; 17.5 million tons of food was needed to send overseas and the Home Card stated that “if you follow these rules, you will be eating at a common table with 120 million Allies.” Indeed the Food Administration programs were successful as domestic consumption of food was reduced by about 15% without forced rationing. This resulted in keeping the U.S. military fed and built up a surplus to prevent famine in Europe after the war.

Additional records found within the Food Administration state files include reports and complaints of known violators who were hoarding food or profiteering, investigations around the violations, and production and distribution reports on commodities like flour, sugar, and cereal. The U.S. Food Administration was abolished by Executive Order 3320 in August 1920, almost three years to the day it had been established.
All of the photos from the Record Group 4, Records of the U.S. Food Administration found at the National Archives in Kansas City have been digitized and are available for viewing through the National Archives Catalog. Additional information can be found online at the [Hoover Presidential Library](http://www.hoover.org). For more information about records related to World War I visit the [National Archives Catalog](https://www.archives.gov/).